Agents of Change Rising to Provide Relief in Crisis

Tauheed Khan is an effervescent local of Mirzapur, a small town in Uttar Pradesh. He is a field member, under the Work 4 Progress (W4P) programme of la Caixa Foundation and Development Alternatives, which supports entrepreneurship in the area. In a time when the world grapples with a contagion that has left everyone anxious and afraid, lock-downed in their homes, Tauheed approached the district authorities within a day of the lockdown announcement, for permission to distribute food, grocery, and live meals along with five of his peers. Since then, he has distributed meals to over 200 residents of villages near Mirzapur and has been working with the *Pradhan* (leader of the local government) of village Akori and Work 4 Progress entrepreneurs to provide sanitisers and masks.

Undeterred in his mission, Tauheed continues to actively make arrangements to provide relief packs with rice, wheat, and potato to the 100 new residents of Gopalpur and Shivpur - sanitation workers and daily wage laborers who are living by the day.

Having spent two months in a coma in Varanasi's Trauma Centre after he met with a gruesome road accident few years back, Tauheed thinks of his recovery as a chance at a second life to help others. He shares his experience of rising above all, **"We are taking care of people in their sad condition, with our own capital. And we will do so, as long as we can."**

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