



PM Cares Funding Dropped in 2022-23

[Source: IE](#)

A study of the [Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund \(PM-CARES Fund\)](#)'s audited statements reveals that voluntary contributions dropped to **Rs 912 crore in 2022-23**, the lowest since its establishment in **March 2020**.

- Contributions peaked at **Rs 7,184 crore in 2020-21**, then fell to **Rs 1,938 crore in 2021-22** as the [Covid-19](#) threat diminished.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

(In Rs crore)

Year	Voluntary	Foreign
2019-20	3,076.85	0.39
2020-21	7,183.77	494.93
2021-22	1,896.76	40.12
2022-23	909.64	2.57
Total	13,067.02	538.01

Source: pmcares.gov.in

PM CARES Fund

▪ About:

- It is a **Public Charitable Trust** registered on **27th March 2020** under the **Registration Act, 1908**.

▪ Objectives:

- It aims to **provide relief or assistance** including **public health crises such as [Covid-19](#), [natural disasters](#), or [man-made calamities](#)**, and facilitate the development of healthcare, pharmaceutical infrastructure, and other essential facilities.
- It offers **financial assistance, grants, or other necessary support** to affected populations.

▪ Members and Governance:

- **Chairperson:** [Prime Minister](#) (ex-officio).
- **Trustees:** Defence, Home, and Finance Ministers.
- **Additional Trustees:** Appointed by the Chairperson; serve on a non-profit basis.

▪ Tax Exemptions:

- Contributions are eligible for **100% tax exemption** under **Section 80G** of the [Income Tax Act, 1961](#) and are considered eligible [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) expenditures under the [Companies Act, 2013](#).
- It is also exempt under the [Foreign Contribution Regulation Act \(FCRA\)](#) to receive foreign donations, similar to the [Prime Minister's National Relief Fund \(PMNRF\)](#).

▪ Criticisms:

- **Transparency:** Not audited by [Comptroller and Auditor General \(CAG\)](#) and exempt from [Right to Information \(RTI\) Act](#).
- **Purpose Duplication:** Overlaps with [PMNRF](#).
- **Underutilization:** Funds remain unspent despite needs (eg: Rs 202 crore ventilator refund).
- **Foreign Donations:** Raises concerns about external influence on domestic policymaking.

Read More: [PM - CARES Fund](#)

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