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Modi calls for self-curfew on Sunday, urges social distancing

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday appealed to citizens to observe a day-long self-curfew on March 22 to test the nation's resolve at social isolation to prevent the spread of Covid-19, even as he cautioned against being complacent.

In an address to the nation, Modi also announced setting up a Covid-19 Economic Response Task Force led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to meet the economic challenges posed by the contagion.

In a bid to convey the seri-

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ousness of the pandemic, Modi said even the First and the Second World War did not impact as many countries as the novel coronavirus has, and urged citizens not to be complacent in the fight against the "growing crisis".

"Today, I ask 130 crore Indians — I want your next few weeks... Till now science has not found a confirmed treatment or vaccine to combat coronavirus. It is therefore natural to be worried," the prime minister said, asking everyone to remain vigilant.

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