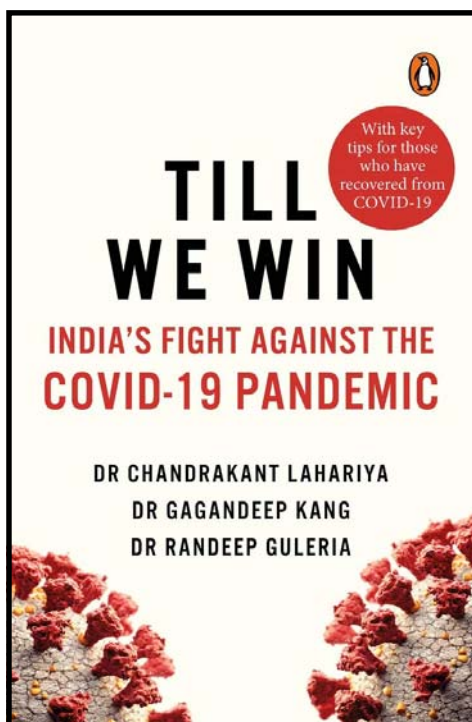


Book Review



“Till We Win” by Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, Dr Gagandeep Kang and Dr Randeep Guleria, Published by Penguin Random House India, 7th Floor, Infinity Tower C. DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon 122002, Haryana, India, 20 Cm x 13 Cm, pp 1-308, Rs 299.00.

In the present pandemic situation when the entire world is suffering from anxiety and fear, when normal life has been incapacitated, ‘Till We Win’ the book jointly ventured by Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, a leading public policy and health system expert, Dr Gagandeep Kang, a world famous vaccine researcher cum virologist and Dr Randeep Guleria, the Director of AIIMS, Delhi is an appropriate answer to the queries, most people are placing to the health sector.

The book efficiently deals with the history of Pandemic, its inevitability, its impact on the humanity, its presentation, the importance of lockdown, specific health initiatives taken to tackle the situation, balancing the unlock in regard to safety and economy, the challenges faced and the lessons learnt, drug therapy, community participation, the effect of pandemic on the societal and mental health, the problems faced by the health fraternity, the vaccines and the ways to fight to victory.

The book is picturesque, enigmatic, descriptive with positivity and surely will have immense impact not only on the community but the entire global health leadership as well.

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Letter to the Editor

[The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by the correspondents]

JIMA : Vol 119, No 6, June, 2021

SIR, — In the editorial in the June issue of JIMA, you have done very well to highlight the role played by the doctors and HCWs. Their dedicated work and sacrifices to save lives cannot be praised enough. Paramedics and also Police have done great work. I would salute them all. Hundreds of doctors have lost lives due to COVID and they deserve appreciation and their families some empathy and condolences.

However, I am sad that IMA lacks the national pride on the handling of the COVID 19 pandemic by India. Western countries praised India for it. Just consider the COVID deaths figure; USA with >12 ICUbeds /100,000, and with a population of 32.82 crores only has had 6.05 lakh death as of today (2-7-2021), while India with less than 1 ICU bed/100,000 population, with 4 times the population of USA, has had only 4.01 lakh deaths –two third of US deaths ! We need to be proud too that India developed its own vaccine against corona virus and was not only the first to immunize its population but was generous enough to share it with other countries. Many countries appreciated it but not the IMA.

Talking of the lack of ICU beds in India, it is true we need more of them. But then, looking at the current scenario, we do not have enough intensivists, ICU nurses, technicians, needed for the existing number of ICU beds; they are being managed by junior doctors and untrained nurses. Remember we do not even have enough MBBS doctors! Who will manage the additional

thousands of ICU beds?

If the government efforts are not effective, it is largely because our people disobey the protocols. Leaders do not care about their followers’ safety. Look at political rallies in West Bengal last month. However, the Kumbhamela, which was well controlled by the government, incidence was only 0.7% +ve cases among those tested from the 48.5lakh devotees (The Hindu). We the Indians are averse to rules; look at our road traffic infringements. Majority of road deaths are due to driver’s or pedestrian’s breaking traffic rules; but they all find fault with the Government, police, roads and so on.

We do not need any aliens from outside; unfortunately, we have enough and more of them amongst us in India itself for centuries. You see them in history and even present days. Insatiable greed for money (and power in some cases) is their DNA. ICU beds being sold for Rs40,000-60,000 in Bangalore, inflating the hospital bill with unnecessary, repeated CT scans and investigations etc, spreading false rumours about vaccinations, huge scams of recent past are only some examples of the actions of such aliens.

I always try to look at the half full glass rather than the half empty glass. My belief is that the only way to counter these aliens is for us all to introspect seriously, and develop a pride for our culture and our nation. IMA must lead the way at least for medical fraternity.

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