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Editorial

## We will not give in...

“Therefore, thus says the Lord, Behold, I am bringing disaster upon them that they cannot escape. Though they cry to me, I will not listen to them.” (*Jeremiah 11:11*). This is a quote from Bible regarding the dooms day. Are we then facing the nemesis? Well the dire, bizarre and horrendous statistics pouring in from all corners of our country makes us almost convinced that the apocalypse is round the corner. But is Lord responsible for all miseries? Certainly not, it is man, callous, unpragmatic creature who has turned this pristine world into a catacomb. Let us zero in on India. Even after having the learned law makers and the policy makers and the political heads of the country who have rightfully enforced their power and onus to control the infection, India, now tops the chart of the highest COVID infected population of the world and the consequent death that follows. “Hindsight” is a word that means taking lessons from an event that has happened previously but blissfully we preferred to be the “*Dhritarashtras*” and predicted that the tsunami might come but we, the Indians will be floating in the Noah’s ark. Sadly however our ark is almost on the verge of capsizing. Let us discuss in detail. We are fighting with these resources. Namely, in India only 2.3 critical care beds for every 100,000 populations<sup>1,2</sup> and less than one doctor for every 1,000 citizens<sup>3,4</sup>.

“As a doctor told me: “when someone dies because you could not provide him oxygen, that is not a natural death; this is murder.”<sup>5</sup>. What can be more appropriate a sentence to begin our discussion than a noted journalist from India , by quoting a doctor , reflects how we have paved our way to our dire destiny. NO OXYGEN, NO MEDICINES, NO BEDS , NO AMBULANCE, NO TESTS...” plethora of ‘NOS’ are being showered on us because and only because we preferred to live in a fool’s paradise. In a democracy, people get the government they deserve and they deserve what they get – goes a saying. But do we deserve this? No, but only holding the government responsible for the disaster is like shaking off the responsibility off my own shoulder and simply holding the other responsible for the nemesis. Truly this year’s election was no exception. But are we a pack of gullible crowds who can easily forget the disaster that we have just faced and still walking through the fire? Blissfully opting to ignore the pandemic preventive norms we responded to the calls of the “Pied pipers of Hamlin” and flocked in huge numbers at the assemblies almost without masks and social distancing as if like throwing a brazen insolence and defiance against the invisible gargantuan devil. The result - As of 8<sup>th</sup> May Coronavirus Cases : 21,892,676, Deaths : 238,270, Recovered : 17,930,960<sup>6</sup>. The

country of 1.4 billion is sinking beneath the weight of infections<sup>7</sup>.

Super spreading took place when thousands filled cricket stadiums and millions of people took a dip in the Ganges during the Kumbh Mela festival. India went ahead with five state elections in April, and an unmasked politicians held huge rallies. Cherished brand of Indian exceptionalism bred complacency. A presumption of national greatness has led to a lack of preparedness, most notably in vaccine production. The west had encouraged India to become a linchpin in global drug-making. China and the US are now manufacturing more COVID-19 vaccines than India<sup>8</sup>. What an irony? The country being the highest manufacturer of vaccine falls short of vaccinating their own population.

In the first wave, Covid struck India's cities, but it is now moving to rural areas also. As with many of the countries hit hardest, India's death toll was largely avoidable. India is a big, complex and diverse country that is difficult to govern during a national emergency. It is now suffering from parallel epidemics of coronavirus and fear. To contain biological and social contagions requires credible reassurance, to quell panic, and for people to wear masks and obey rules of physical distancing. The end result is that the political hubris met pandemic reality in India. A new "double mutant" variant, named B.1.617, has emerged in a devastating

corona virus second wave which has seen hospitals run out of beds and oxygen. Mortuaries are so full that bodies are left to decompose at home. Charities warn that the dead risk of being left on the streets. The hecatomb reminds us of those famous lines from Julius Caesar –

*“With Ate by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines with a monarch’s voice  
Cry “Havoc!” and let slip the dogs of war,  
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth  
With carrion men, groaning for burial.”*

According to an article published in Indian Express, “Our vaccine policy reflects an adhoc social Darwinism, where the strong do what they can and the weak suffer because they must”<sup>9</sup>. There is an urgent need to fix several policies. But what do policy proposals mean, when all policies are mere publicities without executions. There is a need to fix accountability. But how does accountability get fixed? This is not the time of mudslinging against each other it is time to reconsolidate and empower and fight with all force against the monster.

The only empowering thought in this context has been the splendid work that professionals, frontline government workers, health professionals and

### Vaccinations

From [Our World in Data](#) · Last updated: 2 days ago



### Vaccinations by location

From [Our World in Data](#) · Last updated: 1 day ago

Worldwide ▾

Location	Doses given	Fully vaccinated	% of population fully vaccinated
<b>India</b>	154M	27.5M	2.0%
China (Mainland)	275M	-	-
United States	246M	105M	31.9%
United Kingdom	49.8M	15.3M	23.0%
Brazil	43.2M	13.8M	6.5%

## Daily change

From JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data · Last updated: 1 day ago



volunteers are doing.. The extraordinary mobilization of civic action whether in supplying oxygen or cremating the dead has been exemplary. Undeniably the depth of commitment of these civic workers is the only healing force against the looming pessimism. This civic commitment has helped mitigate suffering to some extent. To sum up, India has been attacked by alien forces many times before and She has shown gumption and solidarity against such forces to mitigate their onslaught. Let us all put our hands together and

with the help of the other countries of the world , willing to stand by us as allied forces, combat the invisible Satanic virus. Let us build a strong wall of resistance and resilience to counter the attack and work together to establish a brighter future.

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