



# THE PULSE OF HBTU

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Year II

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## HELPING HANDS

Harcourtians, from every walk of life, from students to faculty members to staff members have always come forward to be a helping hand in every facet of life.

In these grave times a lot of students came forward to help the needy from providing essentials to impecunious to working 24x7 to provide information about covid resources in real time. In this unprecedented situation when the system started to fray around to deepest level, everyone helped in the capacity they could.

One of these initiatives was started by PSMSC members, across all the seniority levels, what started as an idea between four people turned into a team of over 300 people who worked round the clock to maintain database and provide covid resources to the needy, they leveraged the conduit of internet and social media to make this work, students from first to final year, faculty members, staff members joined and in turn they helped more than five hundred patients and their family members.

Alumni Association (ASCPC) also started an initiative named CovidAid to help the people in need, students from association, Alumni from across the world came together to make this possible



An initiative by HBTU Students to conjure the student force to help people in dire needs




[Covidaid.org](https://Covidaid.org)



# NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL

## FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

### Mamata wins West Bengal but loses in Nandigram



TMC garners over 48% of votes; Left-Congress alliance rejected. Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee led her party to one of its biggest political victories in the past three decades by single-handedly stopping the BJP juggernaut in Bengal, paving the way for her return as Chief Minister for a third consecutive term. The West Bengal Assembly polls saw a high-voltage campaign with the BJP putting all its might into the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders campaigned vigorously in the State holding several public meetings and roadshows. This was the one of the biggest victories of the Trinamool Congress with over 48% of all votes polled. In the 2016 Assembly polls, the TMC had won 211 seats and the percentage of votes polled was about 44.9%. The victory also puts the 66-year-old Trinamool Congress chairperson at the forefront of national politics with all the leaders of Opposition parties congratulating her for the massive win. There was a close contest in Nandigram. The Election Commission of India, on its website, said Ms. Banerjee lost by a margin of 1,956 votes. It said 1,08,808 votes were recounted in her favour while Suvendu Adhikari polled 1,10,764 votes.

### India lashed by Tauktae - strongest cyclone to ever hit west coast as it reels from Covid disaster



India was slammed on May 17 by the strongest storm on record to reach its west coast, hampering authorities' response to the Covid-19 crisis in some of the country's hardest hit regions. Tropical Cyclone Tauktae, a storm with wind speeds equivalent to a high-end Category 3 hurricane that formed in the Arabian Sea, made landfall Monday night local time in Gujarat. It strengthened slightly as it hit the western state with maximum sustained winds of 205 kilometres per hour (125 mph), according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). The cyclone has killed at least 26 people across the coastal states of Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra, according to state authorities. The deaths were due to drowning at sea, house collapses, lightning strikes and other accidents linked to the severe weather, according to states' disaster management authorities. This comes as India reels from its second wave of coronavirus, which has infected millions and killed tens of thousands since it began in mid-March. Though daily case figures began declining over the past week, Covid-related deaths continue to break record highs and the crisis is far from over – especially in rural areas with fewer resources and medical supplies.

### IPL 2021 suspended after players test positive for Covid-19



The Indian Premier League was suspended indefinitely on May 5 after multiple Covid-19 cases were reported in its bio-bubble, ending a month-long relatively smooth run for cricket's most glamorous and cash-rich event in the middle of a raging pandemic. "The tournament has been suspended indefinitely. We will try to conduct the event in the next available window but this month is unlikely," said league chairman Brijesh Patel. The announcement came after Sunrisers Hyderabad's wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha tested positive for Covid-19 along with Delhi Capitals' veteran spinner Amit Mishra. "We will take stock if we can find a suitable window later during the year. It could be September but these are all speculations. As of now, we are not conducting it any further," said BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla. The league organisers also issued a formal statement and said that the safety of its players and staff is paramount. "The Indian Premier League Governing Council (IPL GC) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in an emergency meeting has unanimously decided to postpone IPL 2021 season with immediate effect," the statement read. "The BCCI does not want to compromise on the safety of the players, support staff and the other participants involved in organising the IPL. This decision was taken keeping the safety, health and well-being of all the stakeholders in mind," it added.

### DRDO's 1st batch of anti-Covid drug 2DG launched

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh and health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on May 17 released the first batch of Anti-Covid drug 2DG developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). With the support of DRDO and in the leadership of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, this (Anti-Covid drug 2DG) may be our first indigenous research-based outcome to fight against Covid-19. It will reduce recovery time and oxygen dependency," Dr Harsh Vardhan said. This all has come after the Drugs Controller General of India (DGC) approved the oral drug for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in moderate to severe coronavirus patients. Earlier on May 8, the defence ministry said the clinical trials of the drug, 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), showed that it helps in a faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence. "In the ongoing second Covid-19 wave, a large number of patients are facing severe oxygen dependency and need hospitalisation. The drug is expected to save precious lives due to the mechanism of its operation in the infected cells. This also reduces the hospital stay of Covid-19 patients," the ministry had said.



### Centre increases gap between two doses of Covishield to 12-16week

The Union health ministry on Thursday increased the time gap between the two doses of Covishield to 12-16 weeks from the earlier 6-8 weeks based on the recommendation of an expert panel. THE National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) had recommended that the time interval of Covishield doses should be increased but did not suggest any change for the dosage interval of Covaxin. Live updates :Covid-19 pandemic

### Covid-19 vaccine registration now open for all adults: Here's how to register on Co-WIN portal & Aarogya Setu app



**Covid-19 vaccine registration:** All Indian adults can now register themselves to be vaccinated using the CoWIN platform or Aarogya Setu app. All those above 18 years of age can now register for vaccination against Covid-19 using the CoWIN platform or Aarogya Setu app. The COVID-19 vaccine is being provided for free at government hospitals, while at private hospitals you will have to pay for the vaccine. Here's what you need to know ahead of the registrations.

Covishield, Covaxin being administered, Sputnik V could be used soon. There are currently two COVID vaccines being administered in India. These include the Covaxin that has been developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, and Covishield that has been developed by the Oxford-AstraZeneca and is being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. Sputnik V which was developed in Russia and is imported and sold in India by Dr Reddy's Laboratories – has also been approved by the Indian drug regulator, though it is not yet administered.

#### How to register for the COVID-19 vaccine

Here is how users can get themselves registered for the vaccine using the CoWIN portal and the Aarogya Setu app.

#### How to Register through CoWIN portal

1. Visit the CoWIN website and click on Register/Sign in yourself.
2. Add your mobile number and click on Get OTP. After receiving the OTP, type the digits on the site, and click on 'Verify'.
3. Enter all your details, including photo ID proof, name, gender, and year of birth on the 'Register for Vaccination' page. Once this is done, hit Register.
4. After you register, you will get the option to schedule an appointment. Click on 'Schedule' next to the name of the person registered.
5. Add your pin code and click on Search. The centres in the added pin code will appear.
6. Select the date and time and click on 'Confirm'.

#### How to Register through the Aarogya Setu app

1. Open the Aarogya Setu app and click on the CoWIN tab present on the home screen.
2. Select 'Vaccination Registration' and then enter your phone number. You will receive an OTP and then you can proceed to verify yourself.
3. On the 'Register for Vaccination' page, enter all details, including photo ID proof, name, gender, and year of birth. Click on 'Register'.
4. After you register, you will get the option to schedule an appointment. Click on Schedule next to the name of the person registered.
5. Add your pin code and click on Search. The centres in the added pin code will appear.
6. Select the date and time and click on 'Confirm'.

# IN & AROUND

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

## PLACEMENTS



infoedge



Eleven students from Computer Science, Information Technology, Chemical Engineering and Paint Technology have been placed at Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, It offered the salary package of 8.4 lacs per annum.

1. Shubham Shukla (CSE)
2. Gaurav Lakhota (IT)
3. Somendra Tripathi (CHE)
4. Nikhil Agrawal (CHE)
5. Shalabh Agarwal (CHE)
6. Swapnil Pandey (CHE)
7. Aman Mishra (CHE)
8. Akarshan Shukla (PT)
9. Vanshika Poddar (PT)
10. Rishab Agrawal (PT)
11. Prakhar Tiwari (PT)

Four students from Chemical Engineering have been placed at Yara Fertilizers. It offered the salary package of 5.9 lacs per annum. Placed candidates:

1. Mayank Sharma (CHE)
2. Devesh Baranwal (CHE)
3. Yash Awasthi (CHE)
4. Sparsh Chaurasia (CHE)

One student from Computer science has been placed at Info Edge Ltd. Salary Package offered: 12 lpa

Placed candidate:  
Saurabh Gupta (CSE)

Two students from Computer Science have been placed at Rebel Foods. Salary Package offered: 10 lpa Placed candidates:

Ashish Singh (CSE)  
Atul Kumar Mishra (CSE)

Two students from Chemical Engineering have been placed at a PSU: GAIL.

Placed Candidates :  
Gaurav Kumar (CHE)  
Prateek Yadav (CHE)

## OBITUARY



Mr. Raghendra Pratap Singh (Mr. R.P. Singh), 59, passed away the early morning of Saturday, 24th April 2021, due to complications arising from COVID-19, suffering a cardiac arrest in Jhansi just six months shy of turning 60. Born on 25th October 1961 in his native village where his last rights were performed the same morning by his son, Aditya. Having spent over 35 years of his life working for HBTU, known for his honesty and strong ethics, was a very well-respected employee and colleague. He was one of the longest-serving employees of the institute, excelling in his field of work.

A devoted son, loving husband, and caring father, a selfless man, putting the needs of everyone else above his own. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Seema Singh, Son: Aditya Singh, two Daughters: Prachi Singh, Mrs. Pratiksha Singh, and Son-in-Law Mr. Shantanu Katiyar.

He will always be in the hearts and loving memory of his family and friends.



धी - धीरज के धनी थे  
रे - रेखा सा सीधा था जिनका चरित्र  
न् - नत मस्तक थी जिनके सामने नम्रता  
द्र - द्रष्टा से कार्य करने की थी जिनकी शैली  
नि - तिनका मात्र भी ना होती थी उनके लिये कोई भी तकनीकी पहली  
वा - वाणी से जिनको आता था रिश्ताना  
री - रीती - रिवाज जिनको आता था निभाना  
ऐसे इन्सान को "DNT Sir" के नाम से जानता था जमाना

DNT sir was wonderful professor of Oil Technology and also a graduate of OT batch 1981.

# EDITORIAL

## FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

### Book Review: Why I am a Hindu



Who is a Hindu? What are the real ethos of Hinduism? Why should a Hindu be good? What unequivocally is 'Bhartiya Culture'? This book by 'Shashi Tharoor' is very categorically divided into three sections in which he enunciates the theological, geographic, philosophical and intellectual experiences of Hinduism and Nationalism. In the first part - 'My Hinduism' he takes the readers through various facets of Hinduism ranging from personal anecdotes to references from some great scholars. He reassures that being Hindu does not mean confining to peculiar dogmas and tenets, he goes on elaborating Hindu philosophy and its development throughout the history. This section is a pleasure to read. This section of the book reveals- the accepting and inclusive nature of Hinduism and its assimilation of various cultures and beliefs in its fold. Mr. Shashi Tharoor has written the second section - 'Political Hinduism' in a manner that is expected from member of political party, he excoriated the right wing Hindu nationalist, he is arduous at convincing what he feels is right with 'partial' logical and systemic reasoning but his constant cribbing against them makes it a monotonous rant. He seems to be limited by a particular frame of thought. He talks about how RSS is not inclusive and not true to Hindu philosophy. Isn't it a contradiction? First part of the book is spent in talking about inclusiveness and self-sustaining nature of Hinduism, then does it not mean that RSS cannot find place in his inclusive Hinduism? In last section - 'Taking back Hinduism' He again contradicts the first section of book. Society is still practising Hinduism with its flaws, of what he talks about \*Taking Back\*. He has elaborated the fact that Hinduism is a living, breathing culture-which assimilates everything in it. And yet, he's afraid of a single organisation. In the last sections, he unabashedly takes a Congress view. He ignores the facts about UPA government's tenure and decay by taking facts of similar order of BJP government.

**Swarn Srivastava**  
III B.Tech Chemical Engineering  
Senior Editor, PSMSC

### The Impact of Capitalism on the system

The idea of capitalism is based on decentralization. Capitalism provides financial incentive that triggers innovation. Because of this innovation, in the last 100-200 years, in the capitalism, we have seen a level of technological development that we had not seen in the 2000 years of human history. Many people will list these benefits of capitalism and will promote the ideology without a second thought. They will promote privatization. The first failure is Monopoly and Income Inequality. Large business often takes over small business. It is possible that one business buys out all its competition and they become only one company. If there is no more competition and one company rules the entire sector it is monopoly. Once a company establishes a monopoly, it is terrible for the consumers because the company may increase the prices and may even exploit its consumers. Where the rich people and rich companies have all the wealth and the small business cannot compete with them in reality. Though there is competition in capitalism but how can small business compete with these monopolistic great companies? In the last 30-40 years since the neoliberalism ideology staged a comeback globally, income inequality has risen rapidly across the world.

The next failure and probably the greatest failure of capitalism has been environmental destruction and social destruction. The four laning of the NH4A and double tracking of the railway line are two out of the 30 projects that has been cleared by the Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change during the lockdown. The projects are likely to cause a loss of 170 hectares of protected forest lands in Goa. While the projects have been passed in the name of public interest, the ground reality tells a different tale. These projects, according to activists, allegedly serve the vested interests of corporates and investors who aim to convert Goa into a coal transportation hub. The speed of deforestation, extinction of biodiversity and increasing climate change is unprecedented and this happened because in capitalism, companies focus only and only on their profits. They are not concerned about the global effects of deforestation. This craving for profit is not only destroying our planet but it also negatively affects our society tremendously. Companies bombard us with advertisement's which changes the mindset of entire society. In fact, to earn profits companies have misled consumers into buying things which were not even needed by them. System works on infinite consumption where in reality the resources are finite. And this is a reason why we are seeing a large-scale environmental destruction because of capitalism. This system attack at our insecurities to sell products.

And finally comes the failure of capitalism to protect democracy worldwide. When companies get so huge and have so much wealth that they become more powerful than the government. In such cases, the companies can easily bribe the government, buy the government and even help in manipulating the elections. If the companies feel that they will benefit if the particular politician wins, they will fund that politician and support this election campaign. Company might pay to government coercing them to sell forest land to them. Companies can ask them to change rules in such a way that though the citizens may suffer, the companies are benefitted. As in the case of the farms laws that came into act in the government would comply. The government would merely become a puppet in the hands of the companies. The recent protests by farmers are a response to the years of government rule and their favour of the capitalist's class over the working class. The government should never abdicate its power to tame ardently avaricious capitalism.

**Yashvi Jain**  
III B.Tech Chemical Engineering  
Senior Journalist, PSMSC

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

### Facebook users raise over \$15 million for COVID-19 relief in India



Facebook last month said it was partnering with the Indian government to roll out a vaccine finder tool on its smartphone app. Social media has played a crucial role in helping connect people with urgent COVID-19 requirements. Facebook and Instagram users have raised more than \$15 million on the platforms in the past two weeks, towards relief for India's COVID-19 crisis. India has been severely affected by the second wave of COVID-19 infections that has left people in several states scrambling for oxygen supplies, hospital beds, drugs and vaccines. Social media has played a crucial role in helping connect people with urgent medical requirements. Facebook users made more than 24 million mentions of the country's crisis on the platform in the past week, the company said in a tweet, indicating widespread conversations across the globe. Instagram introduced the Guides feature in November last year to enable accounts to collate leads for hospital beds, oxygen concentrators, and emergency drugs in one source. The feature witnessed three times more engagement in the past few weeks, according to parent Facebook. Several users also set up fundraisers on Facebook and Instagram, with 'Covid Oxygen Concentrator for India' by non-profit organisation Sewa International USA raising more than \$7 million. The Arizona-based institution is run by Indian-Americans and was launched in April. Tech giant Facebook last month said it was partnering with the Indian government to roll out a vaccine finder tool on its smartphone app, which will help people identify places nearby to get inoculated.

### Reliance Jio joins global consortium to build undersea cable network

Telecom operator Reliance Jio on Monday said it is constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India with global partners and submarine cable supplier Sub com to cater to increased data demand. The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets through Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia and the other one with Italy, middle and North Africa region. To meet the demands of Streaming Video, Remote Workforce, 5G, IoT, and beyond, Jio is taking a leadership role in the construction of the first of its kind, India-centric IAX and IEX sub-sea systems." Reliance Jio President Mathew Oommen said in a statement. These high capacity and high-speed systems will provide more than 200 Tbps (terabits per second) of capacity spanning over 16,000 kilometres, according to the statement. The IAX system that will connect India from Mumbai from Mumbai and Chennai to Thailand, Malaysia, and is expected to be ready for service by mid-2023 and the IEX system that will extend India's connectivity to Italy, landing in Savona, and additional landings in the Middle East and North Africa is expected to be ready for service in early 2024. "Apart from the seamless connection of the IAX and IEX sub-sea systems, the two systems are also connected to the Reliance Jio Global Fiber Network beyond Asia Pacific and Europe

### India's PC market records highest ever first-quarter shipments



India's PC market recorded the highest ever first-quarter shipments in the March ending quarter 2021, driven by continued demand for notebooks. The PC shipments in the country surged 73.1% to 3.1 million units in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the previous year, according to a report by research firm IDC. HP's shipments doubled to 10.2 lakh units in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the previous year. The California-based firm managed to win key customers and improved supplies to reclaim the leading position. Dell's PC shipments expanded 45.4% year on year with 6.7 lakh units shipped in the March ending quarter. The Texas-based company secured the second position in the commercial segment, however, slipped to the third spot in the consumer segment. Lenovo shipped 5.2 lakh units in the first quarter of 2021 with a growth of 73.4% year-over-year. The Chinese firm was able to get allocations on time that helped it to register growth in the consumer and small and medium-sized business segments, the report noted. Apple recorded its biggest quarter for PC shipments in the country. The tech giant's shipments grew 335.5% to 1.6 lakh units in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the previous year. It tied for the fifth spot with Asus in the overall PC market and replaced the latter to take the fourth position in the consumer segment. In spite of registering high shipments in the first quarter, going forward, "PC vendors are staring at uncertainty for the next few months, with new lockdowns impacting consumer sales, delaying government projects, and limiting supplies into the country."

### Microsoft investigated Gates before he left board: report



The Wall Street Journal reported that Gates resigned before the board's investigation was finished, citing another person familiar with the matter. Board members at Microsoft Corp. made a decision in 2020 that it wasn't appropriate for its co-founder Bill Gates to continue sitting on its board as they investigated the billionaire's prior romantic relationship with a female Microsoft employee that was deemed inappropriate, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal. Citing unnamed sources, The Journal reported online Sunday that board members looking into the matter hired a law firm in late 2019 to conduct an investigation after a Microsoft engineer alleged in a letter that she had a sexual relationship with Gates over several years. An unnamed spokeswoman for Gates acknowledged to The Journal that there was an affair almost 20 years ago, and that it ended "amicably." The spokeswoman told The Journal that "his decision to transition off the board was in no way related to this matter." When he left Microsoft's board last year, Gates said he was stepping down to focus on philanthropy. In an email sent to The Associated Press late Sunday, Microsoft said that it "received a concern in the latter half of 2019 that Bill Gates sought to initiate an intimate relationship with a company employee in the year 2000. A committee of the Board reviewed the concern, aided by an outside law firm, to conduct a thorough investigation. Throughout the investigation, Microsoft provided extensive support to the employee who raised the concern." Earlier this month, Bill and Melinda Gates announced that they were divorcing after 27 years of marriage but would keep working together at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the largest charitable foundations in the world. Gates was formerly the world's richest person and his fortune is estimated at well over \$100 billion. The Times reported that on at least a few occasions, Gates made overtures to women who worked for him at Microsoft and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Times cited people with direct knowledge of his behaviour.

### Tesla suspends vehicle purchases using Bitcoin

Electric carmaker Tesla will no longer accept Bitcoin for car purchases, CEO Elon Musk said on Wednesday, stating concerns about emissions due to use of fossil fuels to mine the cryptocurrency. "Cryptocurrency is a good idea on many levels and we believe it has a promising future, but this cannot come at great cost to the environment," Musk said in a tweet. Tesla began accepting the world's most-traded digital currency as payment in February. Prior to the move, the EV maker bought Bitcoin worth \$1.5 billion. However, the company's decision was criticised by environmentalists as they saw Tesla's move could turbo-charge the global use of cryptocurrencies. They view that mining cryptocurrency caused pollution as it used fossil fuel to mint Bitcoin. Musk faced severe backlash for supporting Bitcoin, despite projecting himself as an evangelist for clean energy. Musk has also been influential in popularising another cryptocurrency, the meme-based Dogecoin. Just two days before his announcement, he asked Twitter users whether Tesla should accept Dogecoin as a form of payment, to which over 78% respondents said yes. Earlier this week, Musk announced its aerospace services company SpaceX will start accepting Dogecoin as payment to launch a lunar mission next year.

### Organ transplant recipients vulnerable to COVID-19 even after vaccination: study

"Based on our findings, we recommend that transplant recipients and other immunocompromised patients continue to practice strict COVID-19 safety precautions, even after vaccination," said study lead author. Although two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine confer some protection for people who have received solid organ transplants, it's still not enough to enable them to dispense with masks, physical distancing and other safety measures, according to a study. This is a follow-up study to an earlier one in which the researchers reported that only 17% of the participating transplant recipients produced sufficient antibodies after just one dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine regimen. The researchers noted that people who receive solid organ transplants, such as hearts, lungs and kidneys, often must take drugs to suppress their immune systems and prevent rejection. Such regimens may interfere with a transplant recipient's ability to make antibodies to foreign substances, including the protective ones produced in response to vaccines, they said. The latest study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), evaluated this immunogenic response following the second dose of either of the two mRNA vaccines — made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech — for 658 transplant recipients, none of whom had a prior diagnosis of COVID-19. The researchers found that only 98 of the 658 study participants (15%) had detectable antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 at 21 days after the first vaccine dose. This was comparable to the 17% reported in the March study looking at immune response after only one vaccine dose. At 29 days following the second dose, the number of participants with detectable antibodies rose to 357 out of 658 (54%), the researchers said. After both vaccine doses were administered, 301 out of 658 participants (46%) had no detectable antibody at all while 259 (39%) only produced antibodies after the second shot, they said. The researchers also found that among the participants, the most likely to develop an antibody response were younger, did not take immunosuppressive regimens including anti-metabolite drugs and received the Moderna vaccine. These were similar to the associations seen in the March single-dose study, they said. "Given these observations, transplant recipients should not assume that two vaccine doses guarantee sufficient immunity against SARS-CoV-2 any more than it did after just one dose," said study co-author Dorry Segev, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

### Facebook still gives low priority to elections in India and other countries, says whistle blower Sophie Zhang

Sophie Zhang worked as a Facebook data scientist for nearly three years before she was fired in the fall of 2020. On her final day, she posted a 7,800-word memo to the company's internal forum — such farewell notes, if not the length, are a common practice for departing employees. In the memo, first published by BuzzFeed, she outlined evidence that governments in countries like Azerbaijan and Honduras were using fake accounts to influence the public. Elsewhere, such as India and Ecuador, Zhang found coordinated activity intended to manipulate public opinion, although it wasn't clear who was behind it. Facebook, she said, didn't take her findings seriously. Zhang's experience led her to a stark conclusion: "I have blood on my hands." Facebook has not disputed the facts of Zhang's story but has sought to diminish the importance of her findings. Here are a few insights from an interview taken (edited).

1. This might sound very important to the average person, but at Facebook I was a very low-level employee. In addition, this work was not my official job. I was conducting it entirely in my spare time, with the knowledge and acquiescence of leadership, of course.
2. I know that many of the decisions they have made have had impact in the countries that they worked on. The U.S. is still deeply affected by what happened in 2016 with Russian manipulation on Facebook. For many countries like Honduras or Azerbaijan, this is their own Russia. But it's done not by a foreign power, but by their own government — and without even bothering to hide.
3. It's not a hard and fast rule. Facebook does takedowns in small countries, too. But most of these takedowns are reactive, by which I mean they come from outside groups — tips from opposition groups, tips from NGOs, reporter investigations, reports from the CIA, etc. What happened in this case was that no one outside the company was complaining.
4. There's also a self-selection bias. If you think that Facebook is evil, you aren't likely to join Facebook. But there are many people also who joined Facebook because they wanted to make it better. I was very upfront with them when I joined. I don't think Facebook is making the world a better place. And I told them I wanted to fix it. Google tests feature to help find beds, medical oxygen amid COVID-19 pandemic

### Google is testing a new Q&A function in Maps feature that will allow users to ask and share information on availability of beds and medical oxygen supplies.

The tech giant said in a blog post that it may be required to verify the accuracy and freshness of the information as the content will be user-generated, and not from authorised sources. In addition to showing 2,500 testing centres on Search and Maps, Google will now share the locations of over 23,000 vaccination centres across the country, in English and eight Indian languages. The company said it is working closely with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to make this information available throughout India. The second wave of COVID-19 has hit India badly with reports of over three lakh cases every day, and more than 3,500 fatalities. Google has been displaying update on the pandemic for over a year, and now it shows information on vaccine safety, efficacy, side-effects and registration information by directing users to the Co-WIN website. Additionally, users can find information on prevention, self-care, and treatment under the Prevention and Treatment tab, from authorised medical sources and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. To help non-profits with donations, Google has rolled out a COVID Aid campaign on Google Pay, featuring non-profit organizations like Givelandi, Charities Aid Foundation, Goonj, Save the Children, Seeds, UNICEF India (National NGOs) and United Way. "As India battles this devastating wave, we'll keep doing all we can to support the selfless individuals and committed organizations on the front lines of the response," Google said.

### A new species of snake from Tamil Nadu and an old naming confusion from London

Detailed investigation of unpublished manuscripts, paintings and even CT scanning old specimens showed that the Banded racer and Anamalai wolf snake were misidentified. An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of racer snake from Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and also solved a naming confusion that existed for nearly two centuries. The new species named *Platyceps josephi* (after late herpetologist Naveen Joseph), has distinct white bands on its body and irregular white spots on its head. Less than a metre in length, it is a non-venomous terrestrial snake, so far only known from Tamil Nadu. Its diet chiefly consists of geckos, lizards and small rodents. The team writes that *Platyceps josephi* should be considered a species in the vulnerable category according to the IUCN criteria. "While writing about this find, we noticed that another snake species named Banded racer had an unstable taxonomic history. The specimens were named based on drawings done in the 1700s by Patrick Russell — who is considered the Father of Indian Ophiology. "English zoologist George Kearsley Shaw first described the species in 1802. The confusion started when another herpetologist Albert Günther made a misidentification in 1858. Günther referred to another painting of Russell and wrongly attributed it to a different species. The team has now helped give the correct scientific names to both the snakes. The banded racer has now been named *Platyceps plinii* and the wolf snake as *Lycoodon fasciolatus*.

# CREATIVE CLUSTER

## FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

**The Unnoticed**

Most of the things are left neglected  
 I think which must be contemplated.  
 Many of us listen about heaven or hell  
 Do they really exist?  
 Or they only are our imagination well.  
 To be aware of something is not so  
 achieving  
 Instead, to be a part of that thing is more  
 persisting.  
 Having something good or bad is not so  
 important  
 But what we have; must not be forgotten.  
 If everything has a reason behind it  
 So why we never mind it?  
 These above line may seem groundless  
 But I'm making sure that.....  
 They won't let your life feel meaningless.



**Anshika Tripathi**  
**I B.Tech Electronics**  
**Engineering**

**Niranter Harsh**  
**I B.Tech Mechanical Engineering**

☉ Women have lots of care and concern.  
 People judge weak, As her nature overconcern  
  
 Times may come to save her honor and pride.  
 One must not left her alone in painful fright.  
  
 She inherited in herself sweet loving qualities.  
 Pinch of her holy virtue, Bless life with festivity  
  
 Sweet smile of her swell hearts with satiation.  
 Hide in herself resplendent vivid complexion.  
  
 Statistics goes fall in defining inner mystery.  
 Love, Respect & Honor needed to get, our entry.  
  
 Born with strong body & soul, Might feel alone.  
 If not even single hand put on her, to console.  
  
 Supports friends and family with infinite zeal.  
 Beauty lies in her, nowhere in world we feel.  
  
 Silently suffers anguish pain of those days.  
 Never complains, Peacefully deals with ease.  
  
 Respect and dignity give to her with adoration.  
 Feeling bless to cover in her safest protection



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**Technology**

**Samiksha Singh**  
**II B.Tech Biochemical**  
**Engineering**

**Sneha Agarwal**  
**I B.Tech Chemical**  
**Engineering**