

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

Friday, 30 April, 2021 / St Joseph's College (Autonomous) / Vol : 14 ; Issue :110 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

Facebook clarifies removal of #ResignModi posts

Sudarshani

Facebook (FB) revealed in its statement made on Thursday, April 29 that posts with the hashtag ResignModi were blocked on its platform by mistake and not due to the requests of the Modi government.

Many netizens noticed that the posts with this hashtag were hidden temporarily, and later restored. Facebook in its statement said, "We temporarily blocked this hashtag by mistake, not because the Indian government asked us to, and have since restored it." The company's communications manager Andy Stone said, "This hashtag has been restored and we are looking into what happened."

Olivia Solon, Tech Investigation Editor at the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), addressing the issue on her twitter handle added, "FB India is currently censoring posts calling for the resignation of the Prime Minister. I just used a VPN to check and this is still active. Outside of India, most posts using this hashtag are about censorship. There's a possibility this hashtag was excluded in error, but given the company's history in India it doesn't look great. FB excludes hashtags with misinformation."

Siddaramaiah criticises govt's inefficiency

Akshara DM

The Leader of opposition in Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Siddaramaiah took to Twitter on Wednesday to share his letter to the Chief Minister of the state in which he criticised the government's inefficiency while urging it to be more transparent and accountable.

The former chief minister of the state in his letter rued, "The central government as well as the state government ignored the reports issued by the standing committee regarding the measures that had to be taken against the second wave of Covid-19."

Stressing on the need for oxygen supported beds and ventilators, he advised, "we



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must increase the availability of ventilators, oxygen cylinders and beds by 30-40 percent and if not available in

states and centre we must import it from other countries and it should be done within 3-4 days. Until then we must

make use of what is available to its full potential."

Speaking about the sale of medicine in the black market

he added, "There is news that many life saving medicines are being sold in black market. The Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSO) and the police should conduct frequent raids and take strict action against the same."

He further added, "Private hospitals are charging 40-50 thousand for treatment from each patient. The government must provide necessary guidelines concerning this and punish those who don't abide by it."

Emphasising on transparency in work by the government, he demanded that all the information regarding increase in beds, ventilators and oxygen cylinders must be published regularly.

US extends Covid-19 aid to India

Arakkal Shada Amina

The United States is set to send assistance flights to provide Covid-19 relief and supplies worth \$100 million to India to help battle the second wave of the virus in the country starting from April 29, said the US Embassy in a statement.

According to the statement, the assistance flights will reportedly carry oxygen support, oxygen concentrators, oxygen generation units, 15 million



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N95 masks, Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs), and 20,000 treatment courses of

Remdesvir. Additionally, Astra Zeneca vaccine manufacturing supplies

which will enable the production of 20 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine will also be provided.

Oxygen Support will include an initial delivery of 1100 oxygen cylinders, 1700 oxygen concentrators, and multiple oxygen generation units that support up to 20 patients each, in addition to the oxygen cylinders locally procured by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and distributed in coordination with the government of India, noted the statement.

Actor Siddharth faces death threats from TN BJP

Nishitha Rachel

South Indian actor, Siddharth, on Thursday afternoon revealed on Twitter that he received death threats and calls of abuse after his number was leaked by members of Tamil Nadu BJP. This comes to light as the actor was vocal about the government's lack of commitment towards the current Covid crisis.

In his statement on Twitter, Siddharth said that he and his family have been receiving over 500 calls with abuse, rape and death threats for the past 24 hours and vowed that he won't be silent on the issue. He even tagged PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah in the tweet.

In an additional tweet, the actor shared a screenshot of one of the profile names that leaked his number on social media. He translated the comment in the screenshot which had his phone number and read, "this fellow must never open his mouth again."

Siddharth has been vocal in expressing his dissent against the ruling BJP government on social media over their Covid crisis management.

Ramadan traditions dimmed by second wave of Covid-19

Athul Krishna

The second wave of Covid-19 witnessed across the country has affected the family traditions observed during the holy month of Ramadan, rued the people from Kerala.

The Islamic month of Ramadan witnesses families coming together to break the fast, special holy prayers in mosques, giving charity etc. But the recent hike in the number of Covid-19 cases and the resulting restrictions impose limitations on this year's Ramadan traditions.

"Waiting for the holy month of Ramadan has always been



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a delight. Family gatherings during iftar and sharing happiness feels like a long-time memory. This pandemic

took away everything, making us unable to see our loved ones," said Amisha Kabeer, a final year UG

student from Alappuzha. Shahida Samad, a literature student from Kottayam said, "During the month of

Ramadan, we used to have family meetups and iftar where we prepare a variety of dishes after the long day of fasting. Covid protocols had placed barriers over these kinds of happy rituals."

Aysha Muhammed, a student from Kochi said, "From frantically preparing delicacies for iftar to performing Taraweeh with family, the month of Ramadan has changed a lot over these trying times. Yes, we may not be able to celebrate Ramadan like we used to. But that doesn't take away the sense of harmony and togetherness from from this year's Eid."