

# ROYAL HARBINGER

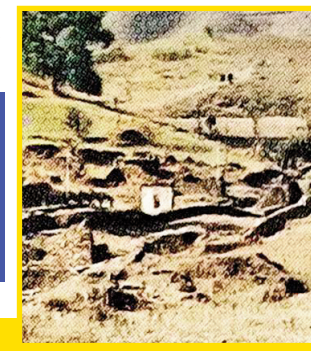
Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



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## Journalism Needs to Be a Natural Ally of the People: Prof. M. Shafey Kidwai

**Udaipur:** Not surprisingly but conspicuously the cross commercialization, corporate capitalism and political maneuvering impel media to dish out a skewed version of truth and abandon its much-touted role of the watchdog or arbiter. The all-pervasive new information technology creates a new episteme for making human discretion subservient to the ever-increasing demagoguery, and means of communication hardly resist the attempts to exploit human vulnerability to emotions and they no longer write against the efforts to pit one section of the people against the other. The predominance of subjectivity unfailingly forces one to look for texts that wipeout the miasma of untruth.

The nuanced discourse of pluralism, human dignity, and equality with perspicuous critical analysis remains elusive. The celebrated author Hemendra Chandalia seeks to supplement what has been missing and he produces a judicious mix of article, commentary, feature, report, anecdotes, obituary, book and theatre review. The across genre writings set off his new book, *The Power of Pen*.

Unraveling noticeable thematic variations with an abiding concern for human values, the book carries seventy five laconic sections that showcase Professor Chandalia's deep commitment to the values and cultural ethos that India stand for. The writings shining with academic rigour and analytical

acuity zero in on the reality that is willfully suppressed by the omnipresent and omnipotent contemporary media.

The clichéd expression about pen being mightier than the sword now breathes uncertainty as the incisive pen triggers collapse of many autocratic and democratic governments but the threat posed by the power yielding institutions or individuals leave Salman Rushdie, Taslima Nasreen and the like on the run. The age of information carries its own Mr. Hyde and it is none other than media, the greatest purveyor of misinformation, and the veteran author Hemendra having 17 books and a plethora of research papers to his credit



refers to it. He urges us to address the ever-growing hiatus between concrete facts and emotional response. His book tries to comprehend the bewildering contradictions and set out to find the answers. The author through his evocative prose exhorts the reader how to act, and more candidly tells him how not to respond.

For him journalism once regarded as the vocation of conscious and conscientious people now being used to create an atmosphere where emotions, dogmatic beliefs and self-serving opinions influence people more than facts. At the outset (preface) professor Hemendra wants journalism to be the natural ally of people.

It is a cherished desire that hardly translates into reality. Paradoxically the media up to a large extent has refused to be the saviour of the common people as it seeks to glorify the anti-people policies. The author consciously avoids generalization and all his assertions are aptly supplemented with facts and pertinent observation. Not infrequently the

present time is described as the more stifling and harrowing than the emergency and this proverbial generalization does not go well with the author. He does not question it but provides incontrovertible evidence to show how the state, the corporate world, big media houses and private institutes of higher learning joined hands to spell doom for the ordinary citizens. The opening article of the book titled, "Are the dark shadows of emergency back", forcefully asserts, "In the dark period of emergency the state was the culprit which snatched away the freedom of press and expression. Therefore it was easy to identify the enemy and target it. Now it is the owner of the industry, the big media

houses, and the corporate owners of private universities who have curbed the rights of the employees and punished those who have dared to raise voice for their legal demands". Yes, it is a deliberate collective coercive strategy for usurping the rights guaranteed by the constitution and it requires immediate remedy alas remains elusive. Besides writing incisively on the issues having a direct bearing on day today life, Professor Chandalia perceptively recalled the seminal contribution of Marx, Lenin, Jawaharlal Nehru, Birs Munda, Mahatma Shweta Devi, Bhagat Singh, Che Guevara (curiously consumer society has reduced to a fashion icon), KA Abbas, BLSinghvi, Mahavir Samta Sandesh,

Pandit Janardan Rai Nagar, Sri Latha Swaminathan and Dr. Alam Shah Khan vividly.

The de-democratization of media, ruination of social values and steep down turn of the universities hit professor Hemendra where he locates and identifies himself. His abiding concern for human sufferings is evident across the book. Occasionally rhetorical flourish surfaces but as a whole the assortment of articles seems to be witty, intelligent and insightful exploration of the world we live in.

(From the foreword to the book *The Power of Pen*) by Dr. M. Shafey Kidwai, Professor & Chairman, Department of Mass Communication Aligarh Muslim University)

## Bengal Elections Blocked BJP's Agenda of Hindu Rashtravaad

What has been the biggest outcome of the Bengal Election? There could be numerous answers to this question. Often people would respond in terms of Mamta Banerjee's rise as the tallest opposition leader. But if one were to analyse in terms of the country and the national politics, it would become clear that the results of Bengal Assembly election 2021 have blocked the agenda of Hindu Nationalism propagated and practiced vehemently since BJP came to power in the centre with complete majority in 2019. Not to undermine the victory of Mamta Banerjee who fought single handedly against the huge army of BJP led by the Prime Minister who behaved as a star campaigner for BJP forgetting even the simple courtesy and grace of the position of the Prime Minister of India. It was evident in the speeches and gestures of both Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Despite the entire force including CBI, ED, Income Tax led by several ministers of Union Cabinet BJP could not come up to even half of the tall claims made by its leaders.

The Election Commission too did not have a fair conduct which is evident in the way the Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Arora was appointed as the Governor of Goa. Massive rallies were allowed despite the spread of Corona and no cognizance was taken of the violence and verbal assault on Mamta Banerjee.

The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) won 213 seats. The party, which had 209 members in the outgoing Assembly, improved its 2016 tally. The state has a 294-member Assembly but election was countermanded in Shamsheganj and Jangipur constituencies due to the death of candidates. A party needed 147 seats for a simple majority in the House with an effective strength of 292. Mamata Banerjee took the oath as the chief minister of the state for the third time in a row. The mercurial leader, however, lost by 1,956 votes in Nandigram to former protegee-turned-BJP adversary Suwendu Adhikari. Meanwhile, challenger Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fell way below its expected number of seats; it has won 77.

The Trinamool Congress which scored a landslide victory in the assembly elections was successful in consolidating the Muslim votes and that had a direct impact on the results of the election. Of the 63 Muslim dominated assembly constituencies elections were held in 61 constituencies and the Trinamool Congress won 58 of them leaving two for the BJP and one for the Sanjukata Morcha. The bulk of the Muslim dominated seats are mostly in four districts -- Murshidabad, Malda, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. While Murshidabad has 16 Muslim dominated seats among the total 22 Assembly seats the rest of the three districts have 9 assembly seats each. However, elections were held in 61 of these total 63 seats because elections in two districts - Shamsheganj and Jahangirpur - were deferred because of the death of candidates. Among the rest of the 61 seats the Trinamool Congress managed to get 58 seats.

The CPI(M)-led Left Front and the Congress party, which ruled the state for nearly six decades between them, faced an unprecedented rout in West Bengal assembly elections. Neither could open its account. An alliance with the newly-formed ISF did not seem to have helped the CPI(M)-led Left Front and the Congress. This is a big set back for the people of Bengal. So far the politics of Bengal had remained more or less secular. With BJP winning 77 seats and becoming biggest opposition party a new era of communal politics in Bengal will begin.

- Dr.H.S.Chandalia



## UP Panchayat Election Results Show Resurgence of Samajwadi Party



The results of Panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh have shown a clear decline in the hold of BJP while Samajwadi Party has shown the indications of resurgence. Out of a total of 3050 Zila Panchayat wards Samajwadi Party led by Akhilesh Yadav could win 782 while the ruling BJP which had won 1000 wards in 2015 toppled down to almost half and could win only 580 wards. BSP won 361 while Indian National Congress got only 61 which is a sign of its losing ground despite the fact that both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have been representing this state in the Lok Sabha and Priyanka Gandhi is in charge general secretary of UP. The emergence of independents is also indication of people's loss of faith in all political parties. Independents have won 1266 wards which is the biggest number won by any political party. What is more important is the fact that BJP has lost in Banaras, Ayodhya and Gorakhpur while Samajwadi party has taken a lead in these districts. The BJP has won just eight out of the 40 zila panchayat seats in Ayodhya, a disappointment for the ruling party in the district on which the Centre and the state government have lavished much attention. The opposition Samajwadi Party claimed to have made major gains in the panchayat elections held last month, saying candidates it backed won 22 district level seats here. The Aam Adami Party has entered the UP Panchayat elections and has had a good debut with nearly 70 wards. This will expand its canvas and will be an alarm to the four major political parties in UP. Uttar Pradesh is going for assembly polls in 2022. This could be a wake up poll for BJP and Congress if they have to perform well in 2022.

- Dr.H.S.Chandalia

## RTU Vice Chancellor R.A. Gupta Helps 50 Oxygen Concentrator to Medical College Kota

**An exemplary effort of the first technical university of the state RTU, while discharging social responsibilities, made a provision of 1 crore to help the corona victims.**

**Kota:** Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, under the direction of Dr. Subhash Garg, Minister of Technical Education and Raj Bhavan, Jaipur. Prof. Gupta has made life-saving work by giving a letter of consent to help 50 oxygen concentrators to the medical college quota facing the Corona crisis in the wake of the second dangerous wave of current global pandemic Covid-19 under University Social Responsibility. Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, playing a leading role in social services, has the distinction of being the first technical university in the state to come forward with the help of Corona victims. Vice Chancellor Prof. RA Gupta immediately accepted the appeal of Medical College Kota Principal Dr. Vijay Sardana for the Concentrator and agreed to give him the help of the Oxygen Concentrator. Pro. This social concern of Gupta will give life to the crumbling breaths of over 50 lives and benefit the innumerable Corona-afflicted siblings, the university is expanding its social service, the university in its hour of crisis for medical college quota 01 Crore budget has been provisioned for crores so that whatever further help is possible, the university will do it. At the same time,

the Vice Chancellor has appealed to all the engineering colleges affiliated to Rajasthan Technical University to help everyone as much as possible in this national calamity and discharge their social responsibilities. This appeal has been welcomed by all the affiliated colleges and has described it as an important step in the direction of human survival.

Vice Chancellor Prof. RA Gupta said that apart from granting degrees, universities also have their social responsibilities, activism in social concerns is the hallmark of progressive universities. The roles of universities have been outlined in the national disaster from time to time.

Universities have an obligation to realize social responsibilities and contribute to them. Universities must present themselves as a powerful medium to deal with the current Corona epidemic and its challenges. In the Corona period, the role of social responsibility of universities has emerged, it is time that the universities of the state come forward in the work of human



service and become a part of this social campaign. In the present times, we have to explain our contribution towards society by making appropriate policies and a positive environment for social obligations so that the state of Rajasthan's higher and technical education can contribute to the prevention of the corona epidemic. While expanding this campaign, RTU Kota has also appealed to its affiliated colleges to ensure their participation in this campaign.

Masks, ration materials, infrared thermometers, masks, pedestal sanitizer machines and sanitizer liquid cans have been distributed among the villagers in the adopted villages Moruklaan and Chhiparda by Rajasthan Technical University, Kota. Also, Mahatma Gandhi Govt. (English Medium), Vocational School Nayapura, Kota provided the means of corona rescue for the staff and all the students. Awareness campaigns, camps and social and health counseling programs were successfully organized under the direction of the Vice Chancellor to create awareness among local villagers about corona infection.

It was publicized by the university team continuously visiting rural areas. To bring awareness to the general public about corona infection, this social campaign was carried out in a phased manner by Prof. Gupta, which has been widely appreciated by the villagers in rural areas.

## Fever FM Flags 'Project Plasma' Campaign For COVID-19 Eradication

To bring under control the havoc caused by COVID-19 in common life and assets, Fever FM has come forward with an active campaign to spread Plasma Donation awareness in the city of Delhi. In this noble task, the city's Delhi Capitals IPL Cricket Team is working together with the radio channel to achieve expected response and participation from the people who are healed from this deadly infection.

The move is thought to be much needed in the current 2021 circumstance of second COVID-19 wave, in which the Capital City of India is badly affected amongst other major areas. Plasma donation procedure is a clinically verified alternative medical support system that can be used to cure COVID-19 patients. In this way, the treatment load as well as recovery rate can be optimized quickly. To make it possible, recovered patients should extend their helping hand to stay beside the sufferers.

Fever FM is a popular radio broadcasting channel amongst the city's people that has taken a consistent responsible role to spread awareness and necessary officially declared precautionary measures in general public to prevent the pandemic. Added to this, its latest campaign where Fever FM is reaching to the recovered COVID-19 patients through supportive messages conveyed by the Delhi Capitals Team Members. Main objective of 'Project Plasma' is to utilize the Plasma of these recovered patients for curing the sick COVID-19 people.

Things to Know about Plasma Therapy:  
It is medically known as 'Convalescent Plasma Therapy'. As observed, the COVID-19 patients from Delhi and Mumbai are showing positive responses so far in this treatment.

How the treatment Done?  
Plasma with useful antibodies is collected from recovered patient's blood. It is injected to the sick patients under doctor's supervision. Once these antibodies mix in patient's blood, they help to kill the harmful SARS COV-2 virus. The procedure takes around 2 hours of blood transfusion.

What are the essential cautions for this Therapy?  
To take this treatment, both patient and the donor should undergo thorough health check-ups to ensure their physical compatibility for this therapy. Previous medical history of any other infectious diseases should be properly evaluated before making Plasma Therapy blood transfusion.

- Arkaprava Das

## Dr. Ambareesh Sharan Vidyarthi appointed Vice Chancellor of BTU



Jaipur, Governor and Chancellor Shri Kalraj Mishra have issued an order appointing Dr. Ambarish Sharan Vidyarthi to the post of Vice Chancellor at Bikaner Technical University, Bikaner in consultation with the State Government. Governor Shri Mishra has granted this appointment to Dr. Vidyarthi

for three years or till the completion of the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. Assistant Public Relations Officer Vikram Rathore told that the newly appointed Vice Chancellor Prof. Vidyarthi Senior Educationist and Director, Nanhi Pari Engineering Institute, Pithoragarh has been associated with the planning and execution of many research and teaching programs in Biotechnology and Bioprocess Engineering for the last 2 decades. Prof. Vidyarthi is members of various advisory committees and boards of studies of various leading educational institutions in the country.

Dr. Vidyarthi is members of the Biotechnology Advisory Committee of Jharkhand State Biotechnology Board, Jharkhand State and nominated members of the Task Force for various Central Ministries. Dr. Vidyarthi has been elected as a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India) and the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (India) and is a member of the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), Biotech Research Society of India (BRSI) and the Association of Microbiologists.