

Christ Church College, Kanpur

A POSTGRADUATE COLLEGE OF THE CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA, DIOCESE OF AGRA, WITH FACULTIES OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE, AFFILIATED TO THE C. S. J. M. UNIVERISTY, KANPUR, ESTABLISHED IN 1866

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

organised Webinar Series On

Corona Virus: Insight on COVID-19 and its impact May 27-29, 2020

Department of Chemistry, Christ Church College, Kanpur organised a WEBINAR SERIES on "CORONA VIRUS: INSIGHTS ON COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT" from 27th – 29th May 2020 at 10:30 A.M. (IST) on Google Meet platform. This webinar to bring Academicians, Researchers, Industrialists and representatives from Pharmaceutical Companies all on one e-Platform during the Lockdown for effective deliberations on Environmental Restoration and Sustainability for the benefit of students and society.

This pandemic has not just resulted in loss of lives but has had an adverse impact on business, commerce and the global economies on account of lockdowns and restricted movement. The outbreak of Covid-19 however has brought the societies and economies around the world to a halt. As the world is passing through an unprecedented time of worldwide lockdown and facing the mass challenge of global crisis of COVID-19, In order to be safe and overcome the situation we as academic leaders are committed to provide constant guidance to our academic fraternity and inspire them to make productive use of this period. Therefore by adopting ICT for next generation as socially responsible leaders we hereby abide to the UGC Quality Mandate for improving the quality in Higher Education Institutions and therefore online international and national Webinars are being organised by various colleges, universities and research institutes. This webinar holds the vision of engaging academic fraternity in meaningful assignment and will contribute towards in intellectual wealth of the nation.

First day of the Webinar started with the prayer offered by the **Secretary, Governing Body of the College, Rev. Samuel Paul Lal** for the well-being of the people and uninterrupted flow of the webinar proceedings.

Principal, Dr. Samuel Dayal said that at this time of crisis these webinars are a form of making us stay connected. We are able to hear our experts from various fields and can enrich ourselves from the deliberations.

Head of the Chemistry Department, Dr.Sudhir Gupta pointed out that Corona virus is a buzzword going around the world. It has not only locked us in our homes but also making us lose our near and dear ones. The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War II.

Convenor of webinar series, Dr.Anindita Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry highlighted that despite the difficult times that our world is going through today, there are, undeniably some lessons that can be learnt for the future. We can learn that to cope with crisis, we need to be strong mentally and be optimists at heart. Despite social distancing we can benefit from a feeling of social cohesion. There is some good news around- the air is becoming less polluted, countries the world over are coming together with that unprecedented sense of oneness and the walls of disparities in the different strata of society are melting away.

The first distinguished speaker on the inaugural day was Dr. Dipankar Saha, Former Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi. Presently he is an Expert Member, Environmental Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Environment, **Forest** and Climate Change.He emphasized thatthe key principle sustainabledevelopment underlying all others is theintegration of environmental, social, andeconomic concerns into all aspects of decisionmaking. Environmental sustainability concerns the natural environment and how it endures and remains diverse and productive. Since natural resources are derived from the environment, the state of air, water, and the climate are of particular concern. Environmental sustainability requires society to design activities to meet human needs while preserving the life support systems of the planet.

The second speaker of the webinar series was **Dr. Nibedita Mukhopadhyay. At present she is a freelancer and works as an independent aquaculture research consultant.** She pointed out that due to severe manipulation of nature by human beings, several environmentalissues including but not limited to air and water pollution, ozone layer depletion, global warming, change of biodiversity & ecosystem (including wildlife conservation) have been occurring. The worldwide lockdown to avoid community transmission of the virus has led to a positive effect on the world's environment. Temporary closedown of industries and zero emission of greenhouse gases had changed the level of pollution in the biosphere drastically, and consequently, has partially recovered our ecosystem. The talk focussed on how this slow, but significant environment revival is affecting the biosphere, and would focus on its effect on animal-life.

The third speaker, **Dr. Anindita Bhattacharya, Convenor of the webinar** opined thatPandemic COVID-19 came with a nationwide lockdown imposed in India initially for three weeks from 24th March 2020 to 14th April 2020 and later extended up to 3rd May 2020. This was again extended up to 17th May 2020. Due to the forced restrictions, pollution level in cities across the country drastically slowed down just within few days which magnetize discussions regarding lockdown to be the effectual alternative measures to be implemented for controlling air pollution. It was seen that during lockdown air quality is significantly improved. Among the selected pollutants, concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} have witnessed maximum reduction (>55%) in compare to the pre-lockdown phase. In comparison to the last year (i.e. 2019) data during the said time period, the reduction of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} is as high as about 60% and 39% respectively. Amongst the other pollutants considered NO₂ (-52.68%) and CO (-30.35%) levels have also reduced during-lockdown phase. About 40% to 50% improvement in air quality is identified just after four days of commencing lockdown. Lockdown may be considered as one of the ways to heal the environment.

The fourth speaker, **Dr. Sushmita Bhattacharya** was from Pharmaceutical industry. She is **Head, Medical Writing, ICON Clinical Research India Private Limited, Bangalore, India.** She said that pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a robust BCP, ensuring a global footprint in drug safety specialists, efficient technology solutions and a strong and proactive intelligence management process. It prompted regulatory agencies to reconsider their requirements and have emphasized the importance of electronic reporting to ensure data exchange for patient safety. A dedicated safety intelligence team enables an established communication channel with authorities and the support of local teams enables prompt and proactive communication with established contacts at regulatory agencies to arrange alternative measures in a short time frame, which is of the utmost importance during this period. She also had a segment dedicated for the students. She told them about the Options for life sciences students in the Clinical research/pharmaceutical industry. She also told them how to prepare themselves for the interviews and how they should approach the global pharmaceutical markets for job.

With this we came to an end of the Webinar series. Around 450 participants attended the webinar on all three days using google meet and liveYouTube streaming. The sessions were very informative and valuable thoughts were exchanged on the platform.



