

**ECHO** ...*the college newsletter*  
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**From the Editor's Desk....**

It is the best of times; it is the worst of times. There has been a paradigm shift all of a sudden. Teaching and learning online has become the new normal. Seminars have been replaced by Webinars. Masks, sanitizers and social distancing have become vitally significant. The session began with online as well as offline admissions. Classes commenced online for the first semester as well as the other semesters. Activities for students were also done in the online mode. Physicality of the classroom was being missed and online was being sort of used to norm now. It has been truly said that 'When the going gets tough then the tough get going'.

**NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology conducted an orientation program for the students of B.Sc.SemI on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020, through online mode on Google meet application. Mr. Rohan Thaware gave a brief introduction about the college and the department. Dr. B. A. Mehere, Head of the Department delivered the welcome address and wished them well for their future.

A guest lecture entitled Career guidance webinar on various competitive examinations was held on 26th October 2020 through Google meet application. Mr. Rahul Vaidya, Director, Gadget the Career Tool (GCT) was the resource person. He informed students about the scope and opportunities in competitive examinations. 44 students attended the lecture under the guidance of Dr B A Mehere Head of the department and Dr Utpal Dongre Assistant Professor.

A virtual program for student awareness about competitive exams for M.Sc.Life Sciences course was arranged by the department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology on the 30th October 2020 with alumnus of the department Ms. Mrinali Paradkar who completed her M.Sc. in Biotechnology from IIT Roorkee and attempted National exams including the most coveted UGC-CSIR NET, amidst Covid guidelines set by the Maharashtra state government. More than 85 students participated in the event on GoogleMeet under the stewardship of Dr. D.N. Begde.

On 25th November 2020 an Online activity was organized by the Seeding labs for the First year B.Sc. students. The activity included an Introductory webinar and a Quiz competition.

Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, organized one day International Webinar on “Expert Directives and Experiences to Develop Global Research Career in Biological Sciences” on 24th August 2020. Resource persons were; Ms. Snehal Raut, Doctoral student, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Amarrilo, Texas, USA, Mr. Sujeet Bhoite , Doctoral Student, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA., Dr. Ansul Lokdarshi, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Von Arnim, Lab of Biochemistry, & Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, Dr. Sunayana Mitra, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Michigan state university, USA and Dr. Dipanwita Pal, Post-Doctoral Scientist, Shriners Hospitals for Children , Oregon Area, USA.

Keeping in mind the need for academic attachment with students in the nationwide lock down due to covid19 pandemic, the department of Zoology & Botany conducted a webinar focusing on the future prospects and opportunities in the subjects on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The eminent speakers were Dr. Yoganand Barve, Vice President, Plant Science R&D. AVT Natural Products, Bengaluru, India. His topic of discussion was Make Yourself Industry Ready. The other topics of discussion were -- Guidance for Preparation of IFS by Ms. Aditi Bharadwaj IFS (2017) Maharashtra Cadre, Lesser-Known Opportunities, Dr Sameer Phale Director & Chief Mentor, Dr Phale Medical Entrance Institute, Nagpur. Data & Life Sciences in view of Statistics by Mr. Sahin Gurnule Statistician, Community Medicine, Chalmeda Anandrao Institute of Medical Sciences, Karimnagar, India. Multi-omics in Sustainable Agriculture, Dr Lavanya Gunamalai Visiting Scientist, Postharvest & Fresh Produce Dept.

Agriculture Research Organization, State of Israel, Collocutor: and Ms. Priyanka Srivastava was the rapporteur, Editor, Education Times, TOI, New Delhi. The organizing secretary, Dr. DVNS Suresh conducted the program with Dr. R S Bagade, Convener; Dr. S. R. Somkuwar, co-convener and Dr A. A. Meshram, joint secretary.

American Chemical Society (ACS) Intl. Student Chapter of the College organized a Webinar on Stress Management. Resource person Dr Rashmi Bansal from Learning & Development Consultant and Life Coach explained types of stress and various factors which lead to stress. Throwing light upon day-to-day situations she ably guided students on how to face competition positively and be a fearless person. Around 100 students derived benefit from the program.

Department of Chemistry under the aegis of ACS (American Chemical Society) organized a national level quiz on lab safety skills in Chemistry. The week-long event was managed online from 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world. It was first officially recognized on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1970, to demonstrate support for environment protection, to raise awareness about environmental issues, and remind people that we all need to contribute to a sustainable planet. To mark the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day was observed as ACS Chapter Celebrates Earth Week – Nature Network from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Environment Day was celebrated online on 5th June 2020 in a different way with an element of human touch and harmony but not by competitions and quizzes, such as planting a tree, painting a scene, raising healthy slogans on environment etc.

One day National Webinar was jointly organized by the Department of English of Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur jointly with Manoharrao Kamdi Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur, on Myths and Mythology in Indian English Novels on 10th July 2020. The Webinar focused on the valuable content regarding how mythological happenings are still relevant and areas of further research was also reflected upon. The Webinar had two sessions conducted by eminent speakers Mrs. Deepti Mujumdar, Patkar College, Goregaon, Mumbai and Prof. Tarangini Gupta, Mithibai College, Mumbai. The programme commenced by welcoming the guest speakers and Introduction of the Resource Persons by Dr. Shailesh Bahadure, Head, Department of English. Dr. Pratibha Siriya, Officiating Principal, gave the welcome address. The opening remarks were made by Dr. Mrs. Usha Sakure, Principal MKC, Nagpur. The keynote speaker for the webinar was Dr. M.S. Wankhede, Coordinator, AESI- Western Zone. On this occasion, Mrs. Priti Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of English, summed up and proposed the vote of thanks. 355 participants from various Institutions in an around the state were actively involved in the captivating two hours lecture through interactive exercise. Digital certificates were given to all participants.

One day International Webinar on “Large Scale Sample Surveys and Data Analysis” was organized by Department of Statistics & Department of Computer Science in association with Field Operations Division, National Statistical Office, Nagpur on the occasion of 14th National Statistics Day to celebrate 128th birth anniversary of Padma Vibhushan Prof P.C. Mahalanobis. The main objective of this webinar was to disperse education to students all over India and abroad in these troubled times of crisis of COVID-19. Planned to impart knowledge about sampling surveys, different sample survey techniques, uses of collected data, analysis of collected data and coverage of data analysis for National Planning Commission, the Webinar particularly highlighted the use of collection and analysis of data related to socio-economic aspects for government and for commercial use as well. It also broadly focused on how data analysis is used for drawing different timely and relevant conclusions which further help in decision making.

The keynote speaker for this webinar was Dr. Rajeeva Karandikar, Ex Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute and renowned psephologist. The three eminent speakers for this webinar were Shri. Ashok Toprani, Addl. Director General (Retd.), N.S.O., FOD, New Delhi; Shri. Rajant Meshram, Senior Manager, YouTube Creator, Google, Singapore; Shri. Rajendra

Gautam, Dy. Director General, N.S.O., F.O.D., Nagpur Zone. Webinar was hosted by organizing secretary, Mrs. A. M. Badar, Associate Prof., Dept. of Statistics.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to a near total closure of more than 90% of the schools, colleges, universities temporarily as a measure to control the spread of novel coronavirus. In response to closure of the colleges some teachers immediately shifted to online classes to complete their syllabus. The transition to online teaching was so swift that it hardly gave any time to them to do any planning for it. Without any proper planning, this changeover posed a challenge to the teachers because the backbone for online teaching learning was not ready and the curriculum was not designed for such a situation in our country. Considering teaching-learning and other aspects related to students during lockdown, the faculty members of the Dept. of Statistics of Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur, undertook a survey on students' life during lockdown for COVID-19.

The objectives of the survey were:

- To know the problems faced by the outside students after announcement of the lockdown.
- To know the economic and social stress faced by the students and the parents during lockdown.
- To know how students are affected and the extent by which they are affected by the lockdown.
- To know the difficulties faced by the teachers and the students during transition from classroom teaching to online classes.
- To know whether teaching learning outcomes are achieved or not.
- To know the advantages of online classes from the students' perspective.
- To know the apprehensions faced by the students regarding their university examinations, future job opportunities etc.
- To know how students, utilize lockdown period for their self-development.
- To know contribution of student community to society, healthy ecosystem etc.
- To know whether students understand the importance of human values during such crisis or not.

A National Webinar on "Opportunities in career After Covid-19" was organized by the Department of Commerce in association with COJAG Smart Technology Pvt. Ltd. Nagpur on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The main objective of this webinar was to understand the current scenario in career opportunities and how to deal with it. To develop necessary skills and to grab opportunities in career after Covid-19 in growth-critical sectors to make them globally competitive. Eminent guest speaker Mr. Krunal Kalbende (IIT, Kharagpur Alumni) CEO, COJAG Smart Technology Pvt. Ltd., in his address explained the impact Covid pandemic various sectors and how students can take decisions regarding their career keeping the current economic situation in mind. Officiating Principal and Chairperson of the webinar Dr. Mrs. Pratibha. M. Siriya welcomed the guest. Convener & Coordinator was Dr. Durga Puttewar, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce. 95 participants attended the webinar.

Another National Webinar on “AatmNirbhar Bharat-MSME Package: Opportunities and Challenges” was organized by Department of Commerce in association with Micro Small and Medium Enterprise-Development Institute, Nagpur on 13th July 2020. The main objective of this webinar was to understand the recent government announced economic stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore and big-bang systemic reforms under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (self-reliant India). The intended objective of this plan is two-fold. First, interim measures such as liquidity infusion and direct cash transfers for the poor will work as shock absorbers for those in acute stress. The second, long-term reforms in growth-critical sectors to make them globally competitive and attractive. Together, these steps may revive the economic activity, impacted by Covid-19 pandemic and create new opportunities for growth in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Another objective was to enlighten the various features, opportunities and challenges of this scheme so that all stakeholders can benefit and understand the mechanism in place. It has given the participants an insight into the process of development of self-reliant India and overcoming the financial crisis faced in the pandemic. The eminent speakers for this webinar were Shri P.M. Parlewar Director, Micro Small Medium Enterprises-Development Institute, Nagpur and Shri. Pradeep Nath DGM, Small Industries Development Bank of India, Chennai Regional Office. Mrs Shefali Rai, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, conducted the webinar.

The department of Social Sciences viz. Economics, History, Pali-Prakrit & Political Science organized an International Webinar on “India-China Relations In Post Covid-19” on 17th July 2020 via Zoom Meeting. Keynote speaker Dr. Vijay Khare, Director, International Center, Savitribai Phule, Pune University, Pune Professor of Defense & Strategic Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune said that the topic selected is very relevant where we have chosen to understand in India-China relations in the context of present scenario. He spoke about the expansionist policy of China and the CPEC, that is China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Chinese global ambitions.

Guest speaker Dr. Shrinivas Khandewale, Economist and Director, R. S. Ruikar Institute of Labour & Socio-Cultural Studies, Nagpur, threw light on “The Future of Indian Economy in a post covid -19mwith reference to income and employment”. He said that as far as Indian economy is concerned the results have been affected due to continuous lockdowns. Now the question in the cities is how to start the production with a small number of workers available. The decision is difficult amidst the current scenario. 580 participants registered for this webinar from India as well as America, Australia, Nigeria & Pakistan. Feedback was received by 422 participants. 1100 views were seen on You Tube channel. 55 students of the college joined the webinar on you tube channel E-Certificates were given to all participants. Dr. Mrs. Pratibha Siriya, Officiating Principal welcomed the guests. Convener of the Webinar Dr.GautamKamble, Head, Dept of Economics conducted the programme. Vote of thanks was given by Co-Organizing Secretary of the Webinar Dr. Mohan Wankhade, Head Deptt. of Pali- Prakrit. Dr. AvinashFulzele, Co-Convener, & Head, Dept of History and Ms. Vidya Chourpagar Co-Organizing secretary,Head dept. of Political Science, Dr. S. J. Bahadure, Dept of English, Mr. KamalleshKhairkar, Mr. Ashish Moraskar, Mr. ShudhodhanDeshbhratar took efforts for the success of webinar.

A Webinar on “YUVA SAMVAD, SENSITIZING YOUNG INDIA” was organized by Department of Law on 28th July 2020 on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day. The aim was to create awareness about the importance of immunity during the period of Covid-19 Pandemic and to encourage the participants to live a hearty life, and follow a good diet. Dr. Kavita Bakshi, Convenor, Indian Dietetics Association handled the first session on Eat Right. She elucidated the importance of having a well-balanced diet containing sufficient protein, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants. Dr. Kavita Gupta, Secretary, Indian Dietetics Association, speaker of the second session spoke on, Be active. She discussed about the problems of childhood obesity, increasing screen time, smart phone addiction etc. Dr. Renuka Mainde, Treasurer, Indian Dietetics Association was the speaker for the third session. Her topic for discussion was Fit Liver. She discussed the importance of Liver as the Inspecting gate and chemical plant of our body as it flushes out toxins from our body. A total of 132 participants had registered.

A National Webinar on Transformative Constitutionalism was organized by Department of Law on 1st August 2020. Eminent Supreme Court lawyer, Dr. Gautam Bhatia in his address recognized the fact that that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Head of the Drafting Committee had a far-sighted vision of transformation that forms the basis of the framing of the Constitution of India, leaving his imprints on significant part of Transformative nature of the Constitution of India. Mr. Gautam Bhatia also discussed issues like alteration of Art. 370 of the Constitution, Distribution of funds between the Centre and the States in India during the Covid-19 crisis etc. officiating principal Dr. P.M. Siriya gave the welcome address. Dr. H.V. Menon, Head, Department of Law delivered the introductory address. Dr. Varsha Deshpande conducted the proceedings and Dr. Mrs. Sandhya Kalamdhad proposed the vote of thanks. 646 participants attended the webinar through Zoom Meeting and You-tube Channel.

### **REPORTS FROM CELLS**

LegalAid Clinic collaborated with Choo Le Aasman, an NGO for a Webinar on Domestic Violence, on 30th July 2020. The main theme of the webinar was do we know our rights. Resource person Prof. Dr. Varsha N. Deshmukh, a Women Activist and Motivational Speaker, addressed the participants regarding provisions given under Domestic Violence Act.

The Social Outreach Cell of the College in association with “NAVTEJ” an initiative by Parindey Youth Foundation (PYF) conducted a scrap collection drive in which all the waste paper is collected and donated to P Y F in order to raise the funds for the initiative. Under this initiative, PYF organizes a DIWALI celebration with underprivileged children who come together from several orphanages across the city.

Under the Social Outreach Programme, Departments of English, Computer Science, and Law donated grains and daily essentials to housekeeping services personnel and security personnel on 20<sup>th</sup> June & 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. Staff members present were Dr. A.P. Joshi, Dr. H.V. Menon, Dr. S.J Bahadure, Dr. P.V. Nimbalkar, Mr. Vinit Anandpawar and Mr. Aashish Moraskar.

As a joint activity by the Social Outreach Cell and Dr. Ambedkar College Sports Academy, sanitizers, gloves and sports material were distributed at different places in the city. Beginning with the nearest one, sanitizers were distributed to the entire staff and some kept in reserve at Bajaj Nagar Police station. The premises of the police station were also sprayed with disinfectant. Shri. Raghavendra Kshirsagar, PI, Bajaj Nagar police station and staff members thanked the college staff. Sanitizers and hand-gloves were also given as a safety measure to the office of the Commission of Police. Shri. Ravindra Kadam, Joint CP and Staff received the donation and expressed thanks for the initiative taken by the college. Shri Kadam said that educational institutions have played a significant role in fighting the Covid - 19 pandemic where NCC cadets have also contributed their time and energy into it. Surgical gloves and sanitizers were also donated to the health workers of Super Specialty Hospital, Nagpur. Sanitizers were distributed to the police personnel on duty at Variety Square, Sitabuldi, Nagpur.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND NCC**

National Sports Day was celebrated by Dr. Ambedkar College Sports Academy on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020 with the launch of Sincere Tennis Academy in their Tennis ground. Sincere Tennis Academy will be conducting Tennis Coaching under the aegis of Dr. Ambedkar College Sports Academy. The opening ceremony was graced by Dr. A.P Joshi, Vice Principal, Mr. Ankit Kedia, guest of honor. Head Coach Sachin Patil, Founder, Sonal Gole from Sincere Tennis Academy, Champion players Sara Gajbhiye, Khasdar Krida Championship Winner, Achintya Verma Holder of Remarkable Asian Tennis Federation Ranking, State and AITA tournament players Heramba Pohane, Armaan Patil and Aarzo Patil also attended this event.

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

A Guest Lecture on ‘Soft-Skills for Effective Communication’ was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019 by Ms. Rasika Shende alumni, Department of English -PG, Ms. Rasika spoke on the types of communication such as verbal and non-verbal communications and its routine usage in everyday life.

While almost everyone was trying his level best to lend a helping hand to the affected people due to corona outbreak in the nation, Alumni Association of NCC Cadets, Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur too joined in the noble work. The alumni from 2004 batch

onwards are active on WhatsApp group and many of them have not met each other, but the spirit of 'unity and discipline' that is the motto of the cadet organization keeps them all bound together. An initiative started by two senior cadets, Mr. Suresh Shende, Tax consultant, Nagpur, and Mr. Milind Meshram with Maharashtra Police, Nagpur and former Associate NCC Officer Dr. Shailesh Bahadure received immediate and prompt responses from many of them. Cdt. Pravin Badole, Cdt. Manish Tambe, Cdt. Rahul Butke (Now serving in Territorial Army) and Cdt. Madhuri Warudkar-Shende and many others contributed funds for this noble work.

