

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SHYAM LAL COLLEGE

Programme organized by the Department of History (2019-2020)

ACADEMIC YEAR (2019-2020)

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National Webinar on "Diseases, Epidemics and Pandemics in Indian History: Lessons for Present" on 20th May, 2020.

In the wake of worldwide Covid-19 pandemic the Department of History, SLC organized a National Webinar on the topic "Diseases, Epidemics and Pandemics in Indian History: Lessons for Present" on 20th May, 2020. The theme was aptly chosen to stimulate the minds of historians and students of history to revisit many ardently held views and assumptions regarding factors shaping human history and society. The role of environmental factors more particularly biological factors such as diseases, epidemics and pandemics was chosen by drawing upon contemporary experiences was chosen and its wider implications in the various phases of Indian history was sought to be understood. The Teacher-In-Charge, Mr. Pankaj Kumar Chaudhary welcomed the Guest of Honour, Principal, SLC Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar and the eminent speakers present to deliver their lectures. Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, SLC inaugurated the webinar. Prof. Jigar Muhammad, Former Dean of Social Sciences, Jammu University delivered the keynote speech. Dr. Vipul Singh, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Delhi and Dr. Sourav Rai, Research Officer, Teen Murti were other guest speakers on the occasion. There were 150 participants who attended the webinar. The webinar was anchored by senior faculty Dr. Gayatri Chaturvedi. Prof. Jigar Muhammad in his keynote speech defined and differentiated between the three terms namely, diseases, epidemics and pandemics and maintained that while diseases and epidemics were common in ancient and medieval periods, pandemics are more of a modern phenomenon in human history. Dr. Vipul Singh held that since 16th c European discoveries of the new world, has led to biological exchanges across the globe subsequently leading to transmission of diseases across the continents. The beginnings of pandemics could be traced to this process of global biological exchange. He reviewed various pandemics that have since afflicted humankind such as plagues, cholera, influenza and more recent coronavirus

diseases. He briefly discussed the way they were managed in the past and how these are managed today. Dr. Sourav Kumar Rai elaborated upon the steps taken to control diseases and epidemics in ancient and medieval periods in Indian history by drawing upon textual sources. During colonial period in the absence of medical intervention government had to rely on a multi-pronged preventive measures such as isolation, quarantine, border control aimed at containment of the disease. He suggested that the present advancement in medical science and researches and in combination with the lessons drawn from past practices and colonial period experiences more effective strategies to combat prevailing Covid pandemic can be devised. At the end of the illuminating session a host of questions to each speaker was put forth by the audiences which were duly answered. Thereafter, Mr. Nishant Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor in the department delivered the vote of thanks to all.



SLC (UNIVERSITY OF DELHI)
SHYAM LAL COLLEGE
Department of History



Present

A National Webinar On

**Diseases, Epidemics and Pandemics
in Indian History: Lessons for Present**

on

Wednesday, 20th May, 2020, Time: 3:00 pm

SPEAKER'S:

Prof. Jigar Muhammed
Former Dean Social Sciences
Jammu University
Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Dr. Vipul Singh
Associate Professor
Department of History
University of Delhi

Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai
Senior Research Assistant
NMML
(Nehru Memorial Museum & Library)

Mr. Pankaj Kumar Chaudhary
Convenor

Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar
Principal, SLC

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A vertical list of participant thumbnails. From top to bottom: a purple circle with the letter 'M' and a red microphone icon; a pink circle with the letter 'R' and three green dots; a video thumbnail of a man with a beard and glasses, with three green bars indicating audio; and a dark circle with a white bell icon and three green dots.

Mohd Wasim (You)

Rohan Mandal



suman jha



Rinki choudhary



Others in the meeting (149)