



JAIN
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INAUGURAL SESSION

The Inaugural Programme of the International Conference marked the beginning of an enlightening and inspiring two-day academic event. The session was graced by distinguished personalities in the field of education and social sciences, creating an atmosphere of anticipation and intellectual curiosity among the attendees. The inaugural segment of the conference set the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across various domains. The introductory remarks eloquently highlighted the widespread repercussions on public policy, international politics, art, literature, economy, institutions, education, and technology, among others. The acknowledgement of the exacerbation of non-traditional threats such as climate change, human security, and trafficking reflected the gravity of the challenges faced globally.

The symbolic lighting of the lamp by dignitaries and the invocation song performed by Yashashwini Sedde added a ceremonial touch, heralding the auspicious beginning of an event that promised to be a platform for meaningful discussions, insights, and collaborative efforts to shape the post-pandemic world order. The stage was set for an engaging and enlightening conference that would navigate the complexities of a world emerging from the shadow of the pandemic. The event began by welcoming the dignitaries starting with a welcome address from **Dr. Jitendra Kumar Mishra, Registrar, JAIN (Deemed-To-Be University)**. He delivered his speech encapsulating the theme of the conference in totality.

Prof. (Dr.) Sushma Yadav, Pro Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Haryana, served as the Guest of Honour. Her presence added immense value to the event, symbolising a collaborative spirit in the academic community. Prof. Yadav's insights and experience undoubtedly contributed to the significance of the occasion. She focused on the issues and challenges of the post-pandemic world order. Her address covered a spectrum of topics, emphasizing the impact of COVID-19 on various aspects of our lives. Dr. Sushma Yadav commenced her address by eloquently portraying the subtle yet profound alterations in the global landscape following the pandemic. She articulated how the concept of the state has transformed, becoming more insular and self-centric. This, she contended,

signifies a paradigm shift in our perception of the world, revealing a tapestry where interconnectedness is both palpable and intricate.

Delving into the intricate fabric of individual lives, Prof. Yadav brought to attention the physical toll exacerbated by the COVID-19 virus. Her discourse illuminated the intricate ways in which the pandemic has influenced the overall wellbeing of individuals, not merely as a health crisis but as a pervasive force with far-reaching implications on the human experience. Drawing historical parallels, Prof. Sushma Yadav drew attention to the aftermath of World War II, suggesting a similar trajectory in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. She postulated that the aftermath of the virus might witness the emergence of new global powers. While acknowledging the survival of the fittest, she emphasized the resilience and strong will that are indispensable for both individuals and nations alike in navigating these transformative times.

Public philosophy and sustainable consumerism and venturing into the realm of philosophy, the distinguished speaker invoked the timeless concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the World Is One Family) advocating for a world where humanity recognises itself as one interconnected family. Furthermore, she reflected on the notion of "Tena Tyaktena Bhunjitha," urging a more moderate and balanced approach to consumption. Notably, she expounded upon the rising ethos of sustainable consumerism, heralding a new era of responsible and mindful consumption. She expressed her confidence in the power of collective thinking, lauding the quality of papers presented at the conference. She envisioned the collaborative efforts of participants as a potent force capable of generating effective solutions and recommendations for the multifaceted challenges articulated during the deliberations. In a poignant reflection, she contended that the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the interconnectedness of humanity. Despite geographical, cultural, and political differences, she urged a collective move towards a world that embraces co-dependency, fostering unity rather than isolation.

Concluding her address, Prof. Sushma Yadav expressed her pleasure at being a part of the conference,

conveying her best wishes for its success. She painted a vision of a future where collaborative efforts transcend past developmental achievements, steering humanity towards a more co-dependent, sustainable, and interconnected world. She addressed the immediate concerns of the post-pandemic era, offering a profound exploration of interconnectedness, resilience, and sustainable progress. As the conference progresses, the anticipated richness of discussions and the collective intellectual endeavor are poised to yield valuable insights and recommendations for navigating the complexities of the future.

The Chief Guest for the event was Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor of the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences. Prof. Deepak Behera could not be in person but sent his address which was read out with the theme of the event, setting the tone for a thought-provoking discourse.

The inaugural day of the two-day international conference continued with an enlightening address by Hon'ble *Vice-Chancellor of JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)*, **Dr. Raj Singh**, as he delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. Singh's address delved into the evolving landscape of social sciences and its profound impact on contemporary society. His insights provided a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, encouraging the audience to engage in critical reflection. Dr. Singh's speech focused predominantly on the impacts of the post-COVID world order, touching upon various facets that have reshaped our global reality.

Dr. Raj Singh commenced his discourse by reflecting on the unexpected shift to online learning during the initial days of the pandemic - Transition to Online Learning and the National Education Policy (NEP). He noted that, despite initial skepticism about the efficacy of online education, circumstances compelled the academic community to embrace this medium. Coincidentally, this period coincided with the launch of the National Education Policy (NEP), leading to increased acceptability of online education.

Highlighting a pivotal moment of projections for the Post-COVID time in 2021, Dr. Singh referred to a survey conducted by the prestigious science journal Nature. Virologists and scientists predicted that the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic would persist for at least a decade, accompanied by the emergence of variants and a myriad of associated issues. This forecast encompassed the profound impact on all segments

and sectors globally. He presented Global Statistics and India's Response through sobering statistics, citing data from December 6, where the World Health Organization reported 7 million deaths and 772 million confirmed cases globally. Transitioning to the Indian context, he underscored the significant toll on the nation, with 5 crore people affected and 5.33 lakh deaths. Despite these challenges, Dr. Singh lauded the efforts of the scientific community and emphasized the role of universities in driving innovation and solutions.

Reflecting on debates of globalisation, self-reliance, and sustainability, Dr. Singh delved into the socio-political scenario, referencing the ideological shift prompted by the Prime Minister of India towards "Atma Nirbhar" or self-reliance. This led to debates on globalisation versus deglobalisation, with a renewed emphasis on local goods and sustainability. The strengthening of local supply chains became a notable example of adapting to the evolving global landscape.

'Impact on Multi-Civilisation World and Changed Equations', quoting Samuel Huntington's paradigm shift from a two-civilization world to a three-civilization world, Dr. Singh highlighted the post-COVID impact on the equation of economics, politics, and military. He pointed out the foresight in Huntington's predictions, evident in events such as the rise of Hamas and Chinese expansionist policies. The multi-civilization world, he argued, has redefined global dynamics.

Focussing on the effects on democracy, digitalization, innovation ecosystem, and well-being; Dr. Singh emphasised the changing state of democracy with single-leader countries altering the democratic landscape. He further outlined the impact of digitization, the rise of a robust innovation ecosystem, and a heightened emphasis on health and well-being. Mental health issues and character-building gained increased attention, showcasing both the positive and negative facets of humanity. The significant impact on human rights, noting a surge in custodial deaths and violations were emphasised. He highlighted the shortage of medicines and associated challenges as contributors to human rights violations. Despite the challenges, he also acknowledged the positive side of the pandemic, including the release of several schemes aimed at addressing these issues.

Dr. Raj Singh's address provided a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted impacts of the post-COVID world order. The insights shared by him set the stage for thoughtful contemplation and collective efforts towards a better future.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the organising committee, **Dr. Priyanca Mathur**, *Head and Associate Professor at CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University)*, delivered the vote of thanks. Dr. Mathur acknowledged the distinguished guests, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions to the event. Her words conveyed a sense of appreciation for the collaborative efforts that made the inaugural session a resounding success.

Official Release of Newsletter: 'The Social Science Perspective'

A highlight of the Inaugural Session was the release of 'The Social Science Perspective', a significant publication in the field of humanities and social sciences. This CeRSSE Newsletter, a testament to the collective wisdom and scholarship of the academic community, has been a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, and students alike. In a moment of pride for the entire CeRSSE team, the International Conference witnessed the official release of its quarterly newsletter, 'The Social Science Perspective' (TSSP). This marked a significant milestone as TSSP obtained its ISSN number, a notable achievement and the first of its kind in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University).

Having published 11 editions since its inception in July 2021, the newsletter serves several crucial objectives:

- **Enhancing Research Productivity:** TSSP provides a dedicated platform for researchers, students, and faculty members to publish academic articles, opinions, and commentary, thereby contributing to the overall research productivity.
- **Disseminating Information:** The newsletter aims to disseminate information on various domains of social sciences and address issues of national and international political relevance.
- **Highlighting Perspectives:** TSSP brings to the forefront the social science perspective from around the world, with a specific focus on India and Karnataka. It acts as a medium to showcase diverse viewpoints on critical issues such as climate change, gender equality, migration, and more.
- **Amplifying Voices:** The platform provides a space for voices from grassroots communities and student contributors, ensuring a well-rounded representation of perspectives. The honor of formally releasing TSSP with its ISSN number was bestowed upon the esteemed dignitaries on the dias along with

the Board of Editors present at the event: Prof. M. J. Vinod, Prof. Surendra Kumar, Dr. Pratip Kumar Chattopadhyay, Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Dr. Amrita Purkayastha, Dr. Rubina Pradhan and Ms. Sneha Yadav. This ceremonial act symbolised the commitment to scholarly dissemination and the pursuit of knowledge in the field of social sciences. The release of TSSP with an ISSN number further solidifies its status as a recognised and valuable contribution to academic discourse.

The Inaugural Programme set a promising tone for the ensuing sessions of the event. The convergence of esteemed personalities, the release of a noteworthy publication, and the insightful addresses collectively marked the commencement of a knowledge-sharing platform that promises to enrich the academic and intellectual landscape. As participants eagerly look forward to the subsequent sessions, the inaugural address undeniably laid the foundation for a stimulating and enriching academic experience.