



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Officer on Special Duty

विशेष कार्य अधिकारी

Date: 25.04.2020

Announcement Regarding Webinar on Covid-19 and the Challenges of the Visually Impaired

As you may be aware that University of Delhi had undertaken an initiative to ensure support to students and faculty members with disabilities in its departments and colleges in the wake of Covid-19. The Deans, Heads of Departments and college Principals were advised to get in touch with such students and faculty members and help resolve any problems that they may be facing due to the present unprecedented situation.

Based on the feedback received from this initiative, it has been decided to hold a webinar on Covid-19 and the challenges of the visually impaired. This webinar will focus on teaching-learning issues faced by the visually impaired in the light of online classroom teaching and e-learning materials which are being provided by teachers in many instances. A number of technologies/applications which can be used by the visually impaired to overcome reading/access challenges will also be discussed. Further, the webinar will focus on sources of e-materials and some subject issues. The medical and psychological aspects of Covid-19 will also be addressed.

The opening address will be delivered by **Ms. Shakuntala D. Gamlin**, Secretary, Disability Affairs, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. **Dr. Prabodh Seth**, Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India will outline the Government initiatives regarding persons with disabilities. Other prominent speakers in the webinar will include:

1. **Prof. Anil K. Aneja**, Department of English; O.S.D., Equal Opportunity Cell; Nodal Officer, PwD; Grievance Redressal Officer, PwD; University of Delhi. (who will also be moderating the webinar)

TOPIC: Changing Environments and Innovative Approaches: Challenges & Solutions in the Context of the Visually Impaired



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2. **Prof. Sanjeev H.M.**, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi.

TOPIC: Alternative Modes of Communication

3. **Prof. Kusumlata Malik**, Department of Hindi, University of Delhi.

TOPIC: Teaching-Learning Strategies During the Present Times

4. **Dr. Nachiketa Rout**, Officiating Director, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun

TOPIC: Covid-19 and the Role of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD)

5. **Mr. Dipender Manocha**, President, National Association for the Blind (Delhi); Director, Developing Countries Programme, Daisy Consortium; Managing Trustee, Saksham Trust.

TOPIC: Assistive Technology & Access to E-Resources

6. **Dr. Nikhil Jain**, Assistant Professor, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi.

TOPIC: Specific Challenges of the Visually Impaired at the Undergraduate Level

7. **Dr. Bipin K. Tiwary**, Department of Political Science; O.S.D., Equal Opportunity Cell; Deputy Dean, Works; University of Delhi.

TOPIC: The Initiatives of the Covid-19 Taskforce

8. **Dr. Sunil Thakur**, Chief Medical Officer, W.U.S. Health Centre (North Campus), University of Delhi.

TOPIC: Medico-Psychological Aspects of Covid-19

The webinar will be conducted on Zoom App. Around 125 students, faculty members, media representatives, and others are expected to participate in the event. The webinar will be held



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from 3:00-5:00 PM on Monday, 27th April, 2020. We will try to make available the recording of the webinar on the Delhi University website(www.du.ac.in) for future access.

For registrations and any other queries/clarifications, please contact Prof. Anil K. Aneja (9871495050) or Dr. Bipin K. Tiwary (9811426337) or send an e-mail to osdeoc@gmail.com

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Prof. Anil K. Aneja & Dr. Bipin K. Tiwary

Officers on Special Duty, Equal Opportunity Cell,
University of Delhi.