



Message from the Vice Chancellor



Dear Students and Colleagues,

Humanity is facing an unprecedented challenge of our time. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, millions of people worldwide have to endure trauma, both physical and psychological. This crisis has affected almost every aspect of life; the teaching-learning process is no exception.

Indeed, we are all missing our lively and interactive classrooms and laboratories, but something must be done to ensure continuity and creativity in our academic journey. To address the present situation, the University of Delhi has intensified its efforts to reorient its outreach mostly through virtual engagement with its students. All teachers have been encouraged to share reading materials, class notes, etc. with their students through email or WhatsApp and host lectures by using Google Class Room or other video-conferencing platforms. Off-campus access to library resources has been extended to all faculty and students. Moreover, the hostel and health Centre administration is on alert and ready to help those who reside in the campus. A DU Task Force meets regularly online to discuss problems and solutions concerning COVID-19. We are vigilant and respond to the calls of the government to deal with the situation.

Given the contagious nature of COVID-19 pandemic, the capacity of the state to contain the spread of Coronavirus and minimize its effects has been tested to the core. A lot has been done and a lot more can be done by all of us to mitigate the apprehensions and suffering of all our fellow beings. We have to ensure that we all remain cautious, aware, healthy, and, most important, optimistic.

At this juncture, we must act prudently and perform one of our pertinent Fundamental Duties:

'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India — To ... render national service when called upon to do so.'

Undoubtedly, this is a fortuitous time for all of us to rise to the occasion and do whatever is required to the best of our abilities, to fulfill our duties with grit and resilience.

At an Individual level, small things such as practicing physical distancing and personal hygiene, avoiding public and open spaces, discouraging panic buying, ensuring no one is hungry in our neighborhood, spreading only credible information through social media, taking care of persons with special needs, and extending all cooperation to the administration can make a big difference.

At the Institutional level, we have to foster solidarity in our fight against COVID-19. Voluntary contribution of one day's salary by our faculty and staff is a testimony of this solidarity. We urge you all to contribute extraordinarily in the coming days as well. As a creative mind and sensitive human being, you may do so in myriad other ways. You may intensify your study and research and initiate discourses about various challenges posed by COVID-19 spread that may be helpful to various stakeholders. Collection of accurate data, identification of appropriate research topics, application of sound research methodologies, and publication of high-quality research in top journals are necessary to meet our responsibility as an Institution of Eminence. Let us innovate. Let us produce more knowledge. Let us enrich our society intellectually.

At the International level, we must rekindle our civilisational value of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. COVID-19 has shown us that we all share a common destiny. We must stand in solidarity with every victim of COVID-19, whether they are in India or abroad. We must explore possibilities of collaboration with educational institutions in different parts of the world to deploy our collective strength to defeat the menace of COVID-19. In this regard, the University intends to take initiatives under the auspices of the Delhi School of Transnational Affairs, the Delhi School of Public Policy & Governance, the Delhi School of Public Health, and others.

Through these steps the University will be able to render a yeoman service to humanity.

Let's not forget that epidemics or disasters may expose the fragility of human life but also offer an opportunity to exhibit the infinitude of human potential. Let's demonstrate this aspect of humanity within each of us. Keep us posted about your efforts by writing to us at UnitedAgainstCorona@du.ac.in

Study and Research at Home. Stay safe, healthy, contribute and enrich.

Best wishes

Yogesh Tyagi