

REPORT

Special Lecture Series in Life Sciences (SLS-LSc, NSOU)

School of Sciences

Netaji Subhas Open University

Date and Time:	7 th October, 2020; 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Lecture Series:	SLS-LSc, NSOU
Lecture Code:	P1-20/02
Lecture Topic:	<i>“Paradise lost” to “Paradise regained” a long haul to know many unknowns of COVID-19</i>

Speaker: Prof. Syamal Roy, Professor and Dean, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Kolkata, INDIA

BACKGROUND

Organizer: Organized by the Life-Science Faculties of School of Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University, West Bengal, India. The Organizing Committee members are –

- Prof. Kajal De, Professor, Director, School of Sciences [Chairperson]
- Dr. Anirban Ghosh, Associate Professor in Zoology [Organizing Secretary]
- Mr. Sandip Das, Assistant Professor in Botany [Convener]
- Dr. Bibhas Guha, Assistant Professor in Zoology [member]
- Mr. Niladri Sekhar Mondal, Assistant Professor in Environmental Sciences [member]
- Mr. Ashif Ahamed, Assistant Professor in Zoology [member]
- Prof. Nanda Dulal Paria, Professor in Botany [Advisor]
- Dr. Sanjay Mondal, Associate Professor in Zoology [Advisor].

Platform: The information and communication technology (ICT) partner of the University, namely, M/S. School Guru extend the LMS platform for this SLS-LSc programme. The advertisement of the programme through banner/flyer had been circulated in the NSOU website with Registration links. The lecture was performed in a Zoom application based environment in the LMS domain of the University, followed by a Feedback and Certificate generation process for the participants.

About the Programme: The Special Lecture Series in Life Sciences (SLS-LSc, NSOU) is a web-based lecture series by the eminent academicians and scientists who are invited and commissioned by the SLS-LSc, NSOU organizing committee to deliver their precious knowledge to the audiences. This SLS-LSc, NSOU initiative had been conceptualized during the Covid-19 pandemic driven lock-down period when all regular academic activities were stalled and only the web-based virtual platforms were available to interact and exchange knowledge between the learned community and learners. Then such a lecture series had been planned to enrich the faculties, counsellors, learners and for anyone interested in the higher learning and understanding who are associated with this University and simultaneously, to others from different Universities and institutes. The lecture topics and speakers had been planned to

choose in such a fashion so that the series of lectures can highlight the frontier developments and trends in different arenas of Life Sciences and thereby disseminating such knowledge and understanding to the greater periphery of Open University learners and society.

With the kind approval from the Honourable Vice-Chancellor of the University and the guidance from the Director of School of Sciences, the eminent speakers from India and abroad are empanelled and scheduled for their lecture followed by an interaction session with the organizers and participants in the virtual platform provided through the ICT domain of NSOU, documented and archived for future. This programme is intended to continue in post-COVID neo-normal academic environment and expected to reach a larger audience beyond Netaji Subhas Open University with its quality and appeal.

Target Audiences: This programme is for anyone who is interested to know the current developments and frontier trends of Life-Science researches and advancements. Primarily, this is a learning environment which is expected to cater anyone interested in higher learning in life-sciences and to understand present trends of researches in the domain. Specifically, the post-graduate students, research scholars, faculties and counsellors of different Universities, institutes and colleges are the target audience for this lecture series.

ON THE SPECIAL LECTURE EVENT ON 07.10.2020

About the Speaker: Prof. Syamal Roy is a Professor and also the Dean of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), Kolkata. NIPER is a part of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India and a premier research institute of our country. Prof. Roy has also graciously worked previously as the Vice Chancellor of Coochbehar Panchanan Barma University, West Bengal. He is one of the most renowned Immunologist not just in India, but throughout the globe. His research interest is mainly on Host-pathogen interaction in leishmaniasis. In his long and successful career, he has been awarded and honored by different national and International institutions. Some of these awards and honors are as follows:

- Calcutta University Gold Medal -1976
- Arthritis Foundation Fellowship Award, Massachusetts Institute of Technology -1986
- Member, Indian Delegation, UNDO-US vaccine action program, NIH, Bethesda, USA 1994
- United Nations Development Project Fellow, Cornell University Medical Center, Jan- 1995
- A. K. Mukherjee Memorial Oration, Physiological Society of India, Kolkata, 2003
- P. C. Sen Gupta Memorial Oration, The Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata-2005
- Sr. Immunologist Oration, Indian Immunology Society, PGI, Chandigarh – 2005
- Rajendra Memorial Oration, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute(ICMR), Patna, 2008
- A. N. Bhaduri Oration, Society of Biological Chemists, India, Calcutta Chapter, 2011
- A. G. Dutta Oration, Kalyani University, Kalyani, West Bengal, 2012
- U.C. Goswami Oration, Department of Zoology, Guwahati University, 2016
- Fellow, West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology (FNAScT)
- Sir J.C. Bose Fellow, Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India
- Fellow, Indian Academy of Sciences (FASc)
- Fellow, Indian National Science Academy (FNA)
- Fellow, The National Academy of Sciences (FNASc)

Abstract of the lecture: In the realm of infectious diseases, a pandemic is the worst case scenario. Several extraordinary epidemics have impacted human civilization where the last one is the “COVID-19”. The disease is caused by virus SARS CoV2. From the earliest times to the present, epidemics have affected human history in myriad ways: culturally, politically, financially, and biologically. Epidemics, much like wars or natural disasters, profoundly influence the course of history. Covid-19 will have its own lasting effects in all spheres of our life. Unfortunately, we do not have effective drug or vaccine to combat the current SARS-CoV2 pandemics. There are several vaccines are in the pipeline in the different phases of development. It is expected that either vaccine or natural infection would help us to develop hard immunity to stop the spread of the disease.

Proceedings of the Lecture on 07.10.2020:

The day’s programme started at 11:00 am as per schedule. This was the second lecture of this SLS-LSc, NSOU initiative. A total number of 83 participants were recorded in the web platform where a considerable number of participants were found from different other institutes apart from the participants associated with NSOU.

Participants were welcomed by Dr. Anirban Ghosh as the Organizing Secretary of the programme. With his short introductory note the motto of the programme had been briefed to all and he also mentioned some rules of the webinar to the participants. Then Dr. Ghosh, invited Prof. Kajal De, Director, School of Sciences to chair the session. In her brief address Prof. De briefed the development of this programme, highlighted the significance of this present effort and appreciated the association of the committee members and acknowledged the presence of participants. Prof. De particularly thanked the day’s distinguished speaker for his acceptance of invitation for this programme. Her inspiring words set the pulse of the programme ready for the speaker.

In presence of Prof. Kajal De, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, SLS-NSOU, Dr. Ghosh had taken the charge to introduce the honourable speaker Prof. Syamal Roy to all participants. Then Dr. Ghosh transferred the platform to the day’s speaker Prof. Roy for his lecture.

Prof. Roy started his lecture with reference to few of the popular printed and screened creations by famous writers and artists previously. He started by mentioning the epic poem of the 17th century by the English Poet John Milton - ‘Paradise lost’. He then explained how we are being enveloped in darkness of several extraordinary epidemics like plague, small pox, yellow fever, cholera, tuberculosis and flu from time to time and this time it is COVID-19, which has again pushed us in the darkness. He talked about how the pathogens in ‘Satan’ form can affect and destroy the entire immune system of human. Then after a brief explanation on Corona virus and the COVID-19, he touched upon the fact of herd immunity and its nature. At the latter half of his lecture he also talked about how the different institutions and companies are using different facts and tools to bring out a potent vaccine against this virus in the market. Prof. Roy, from his vast experience in immunity and vaccine research, explained audiences how such vaccines are developing strategically against the virus, how they can be used and show probable reactivity on human race. He also predicted on the vaccination programmes and fate of the virus in following years. Speaker’s in depth knowledge and deep insight in the area made the talk an enjoyable and understandable experience to the participants of all levels.

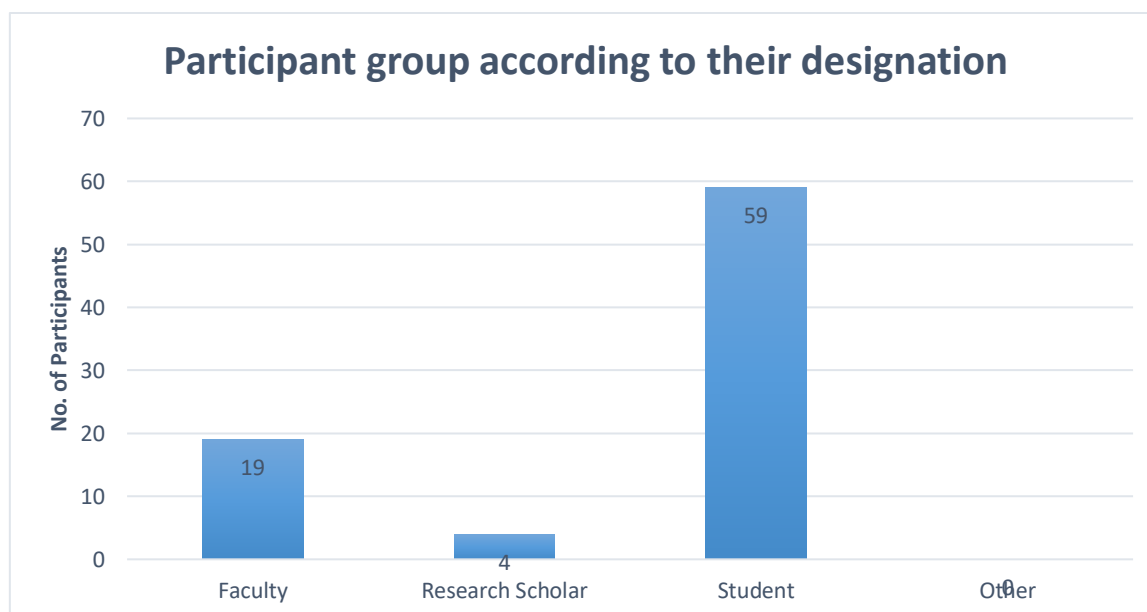
Prof. Roy’s lecture were very much informative and discussed about almost all the queries on different aspect of the immunological in this novel COVID-19 virus infested situation over the total human race globally. After the elaborate explanation on the pathogenic reaction in the host’s body and attempts to develop different vaccines worldwide to tame the pandemic and panic, he also enlightened the audience about the optimistic future as ‘Paradise to be regained’.

This speech was followed by an elaborate interaction and discussion session. That session was moderated by the Convener Mr. Sandip Das of SLS-LSc, NSOU and two of the members Mr. Ashif Ahamed and Mr. Niladri Sekhar Mondal. They presented a number of questions to the speaker after screening the queries from the participants and also conveyed their own questions to make the interaction session very interactive. Prof. Roy discussed the queries in details and shared many of the views and thoughts with the team in front of the audiences.

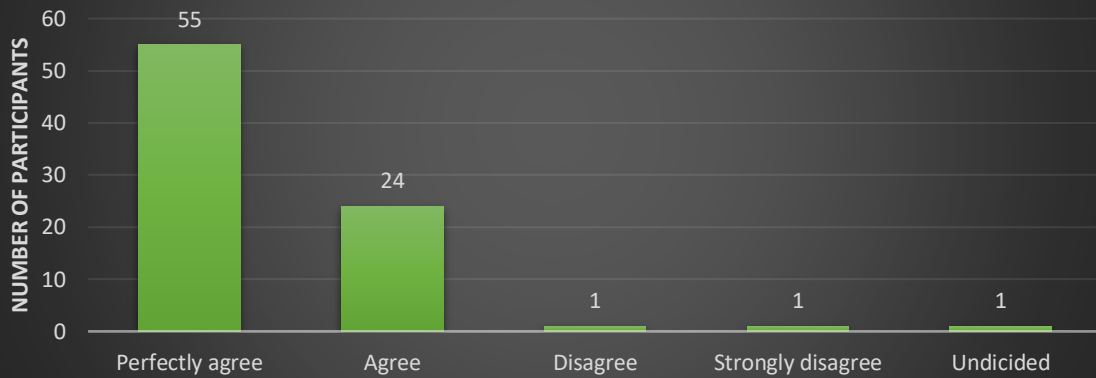
Finally, Mr. Sandip Das, convener of the programme expressed the ‘Votes of Thanks’ to all. The team was indebted grateful to the speaker Prof. Roy from NIPER, Kolkata for sharing time from his busy schedule to deliver his precious lecture to the audiences hosted by NSOU. The convener, expressed his gratitude to the honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar for his support and approval and he also thanked Prof. Kajal De, Director of School of Sciences, NSOU for her constant encouragement and guidance to make this programme a success. He expressed thanks to the audiences who make this second SLS-LSc, NSOU lecture a success by their presence and also expressed thanks to ‘School Guru’ for their ICT support.

Finally, Dr. Anirban Ghosh announced the closer of the session with a request to the participants to fill the feedback forms and inviting all to participate in the next lecture which will be announced within weeks. The programme ended at 1:00 pm.

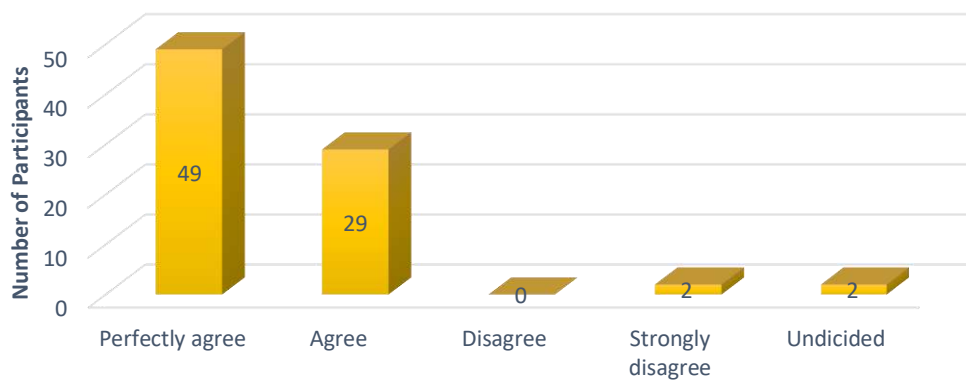
Feedback Analysis



Response to the statement-"I enjoyed the lecture"



Response to the statement-"This event was well organised"



Response to the statement- 'Will you participate if such lecture is conducted online in future?'

