

**Doon University organised a online webinar under “Academic Forum for Combating covid-19” as part of Friday lecture series.**

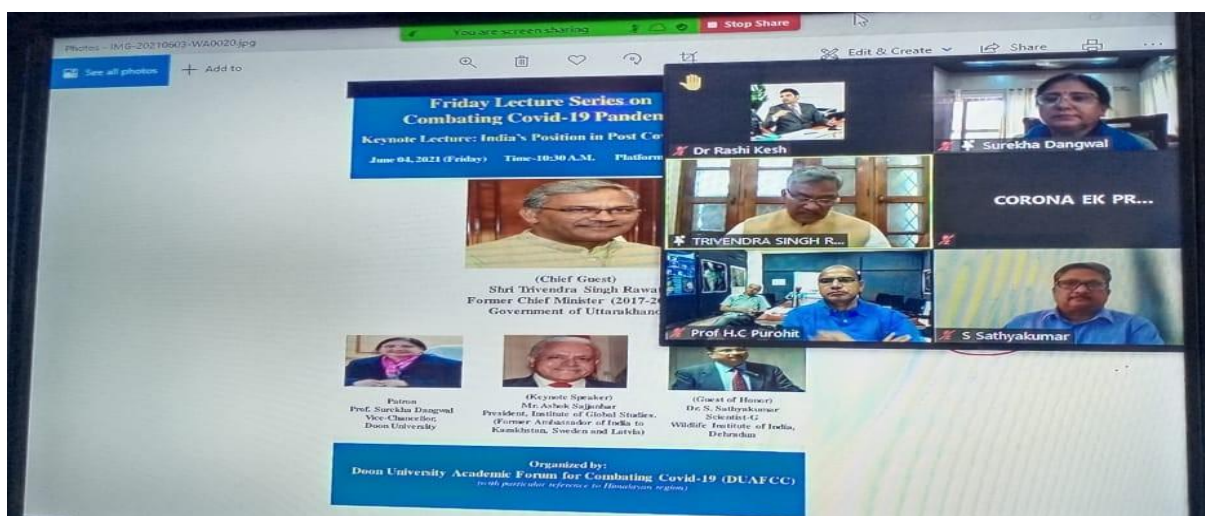
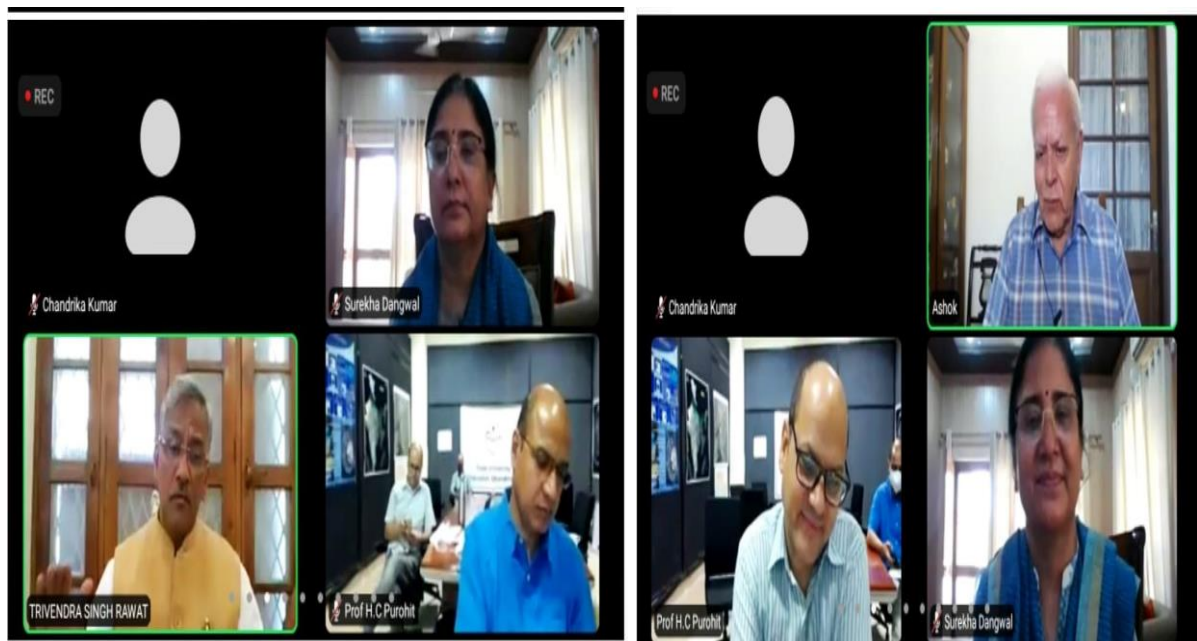
Chief guest of the occasion was former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr. Trivendra Singh Rawat. Addressing the professors and students, Mr. Rawat said that the first case of covid-19 epidemic was reported in March 2020. At that time the health system of the state was inadequate. There is a need to make people aware about covid appropriate behaviour. Universities and all other educational institutions should come forward for this. The government made all arrangements including construction of covid-19 hospitals on a war footing. The result was that the state was able to face the first wave well. During this, big decisions like lockdown were also taken. People moulded themselves according to the guide line. It is due to negligence in our behaviour, the number of patients of covid-19, which was decreasing continuously, started increasing again due to which the second wave spread very fast not only in the state but in every region of the country. Universities and educational institutions should conduct public awareness campaigns through students and make the public aware about the use of vaccine and adopting behaviour according to covid-19. To deal with the third wave, he suggested that vaccination should be accelerated and vaccination should be made compulsory for all. And separate wards should be made for the children where there is also arrangement for their parents to stay. He told that there is a shortage of paediatricians in Uttarakhand, which is a cause of trouble. State universities should conduct research in the context of covid-19 to help the government in formulating key plan to deal with it.

Dr S Satya Kumar, Senior Scientist of Wildlife Institute said that the educational institutions of the country and the world are working fast on the COVID-19 pandemic. In India also, many educational institutions are conducting research on the impact of this epidemic and various sectors affected by it such as economy, hospitality and tourism, environment, biotechnology, nanotechnology and vaccine production etc. He said that there is a need to provide reliable information to the people in common language by conducting research related to covid-19 by the university. To stop the spread of COVID-19, activities on campus should be reduced and high quality virtual learning should be made available.

On this occasion, former Ambassador of India to Sweden, Ashok Sajjan Har, while highlighting the growing influence and popularity of India at the global level in the era of covid-19, said that we hold an important place in the emerging economies of the world and in the times to come. Our image will be better at the international level. He said that India has been successful in establishing its presence as an important partner and partner in various regional and multi-purpose international organizations of the world. Bilateral relations with many countries including India-US, India-Russia, India-Japan and India-UK have also come to the fore quite strongly. He said that when the first wave came in the country, at that time there was a lack of resources to deal with this disaster, such as there were not enough masks and PEP kits, but very soon enough production started in India and these were imported all over the world. was done. He also expressed the possibility that the covid-19 virus could be a chemical weapon invented by China. He told that initially some people did not trust the vaccine made in India due to many rumours and people were hesitant to apply the vaccine. That is why the Government of India has transported many vaccines to foreign countries under the "Vaccine Friendship" program so that it can be used before the expiry date of the vaccine.

Welcoming the guests, Professor Surekha Dangwal, Vice Chancellor, Doon University said that it is our vision to take the University to the pinnacle of academic excellence and we are striving to achieve this goal with the help of the academicians and students of the University of the country.

The Vice Chancellor said that the university is constantly moving towards establishing dialogue with the experts, teachers and society in this context about how to control the challenges of covid-19. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of Uttarakhand Open University, Professor OPS Negi, Higher Education Adviser of the department Opportunity KD Purohit Dr. SP Sati, Prof. Kusum Arunachalam, Dr. Rishikesh, Registrar Dr. Mangal Singh Manderwal, Controller of Finance Mr. Lohani, Deputy Registrar Mr. Narendra Lal, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Rajesh Bhatt, Dr. Naresh Mishra from various universities. Teachers and students were present, the program was conducted by the Dean of the University, Student Welfare Prof HC Purohit and the convener of the Vote of Thanks program, Prof Harsh Dobhal.



# Vaccination, protecting children key in 3rd wave, says Trivendra

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Citing the efforts of the state government for successfully containing the first wave of the pandemic of Covid -19 in Uttarakhand during his term in office, former chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that mass vaccination and making arrangements for protecting children would hold key for success in tackling the expected third wave.

He was addressing an online seminar on combating Covid-19 organised by the Doon University here on Friday. Rawat said that when the pandemic hit the state in March last year the health facilities were inadequate. The construction of Covid-19 hospitals, ICU, oxygen cylinders, PPE kits, manufacture of sanitisers, ambulances, isolation wards and other things were taken on war footing. He said that the Asha workers visited every household, the movement of people was restricted and the provisions of the disaster act were enforced which proved effective.

The former CM opined that laxity resulted in an increase in cases and the second wave swept through the state and the country. He said that the universities and colleges should undertake awareness cam-

paigns for vaccination and Covid appropriate behaviour. Rawat suggested that compulsory vaccination and preparing separate wards for children in hospitals with arrangements for stay of their parents and appointment of paediatricians are essential for combating contagion during the third wave of pandemic.

The senior scientist of wildlife institute of India, S Satya Kumar advocated setting up bio bubbles in universities, increasing online programmes, tackling false information on social media platforms in his address. Former ambassador to Sweden, Ashok Sajjan said that the vaccine diplomacy under which India provided vaccines to other countries elevated the position of the country in the world. He exuded confidence that soon vaccines would be available in sufficient numbers. The vice chancellor (VC) of Doon University, Surekha Dangwal said that the university is dedicatedly working in the direction of achieving academic excellence. The VC of Uttarakhand Open University, OPS Negi, advisor, higher education KD Purohit, SP Sati, Kusum Arunachalam, registrar M S Mandrawal and others were present on the occasion.