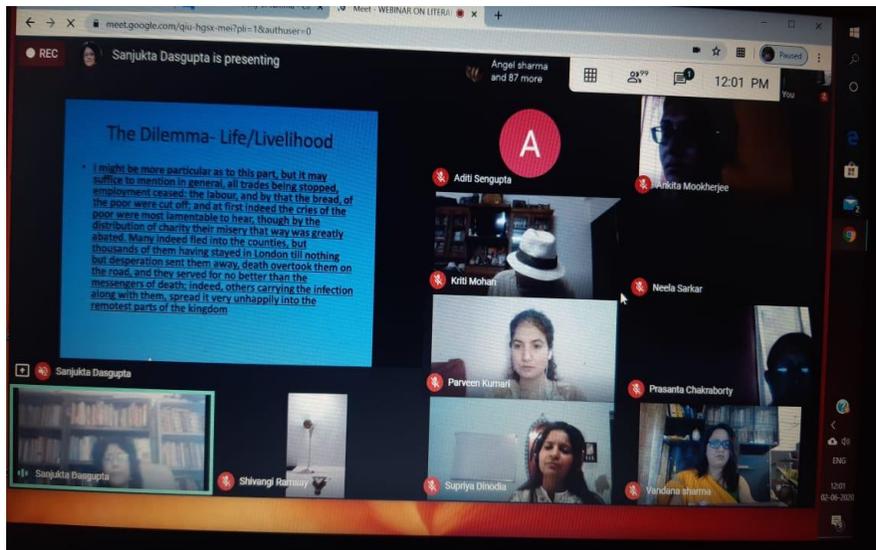


# International Webinar on 'Literary Spaces and COVID-19' hosted by CUJ



International webinar on ‘Literary Spaces and COVID-19: Predicaments and Possibilities’ was hosted by Department of English, Central University of Jammu on 2 June, 2020.

The Webinar investigated how COVID-19 is a paradigm-shifting phenomenon opening immense possibilities in the entrenched institutional practices in teaching and learning wherein distinguished speakers from India, US and Australia deliberated over the onslaught and the outcome of this pandemic and its various ramifications on life in general and in the domains of literature and Humanities in particular.

Prof. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, CUJ delivered the inaugural address wherein he underscored the significance the digital mode and particularly such webinars which address the issue being confronted by institutions of higher learning, which is not limited to ensure survival of its stake holders but also to uplift their mental, moral, creative and critical faculties. Prof. Aima further stated that literature with its therapeutic and compassionate appeal is one of the strongest mediums to usher in a resilient society.

Dr. Vandana Sharma, HOD, Department of English and webinar convener highlighted the significance of literary spaces which have a vital role to play in framing our responses to the COVID-19 pandemic during the unprecedented and testing times when the unseen threat to humanity is lurking outside.

The Key note Speaker, Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, a distinguished academic and an erudite scholar from Calcutta University and all other well acclaimed speakers, Prof. Nishi Chawla from Thomas State Edison University New Jersey; Prof. Pankaj Sharma and Prof. Anu Shukla from Choudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Dr. Andreas Armbrough from Sydney and Dr. Om Dwivedi from AURO University, Surat deliberated over overarching aspects of the pandemic related to literary imagination vis-à-vis pandemic, digital humanities, virtual spaces and superheroes, apocalyptic narratives and Pandemic Poetry reading session of Prof. Nishi Chawla. Around 240 participants from across the length and breadth of country participated in the webinar.

The faculty members of the department of English, Dr. Neena Vij, Dr. Raj Thakur and Dr. Parveen Kumari moderated the sessions and facilitated smooth conduct