IISSM NEWS

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First Webinar of the IISSM

Road Safety: Challenges & Emerging Paradigms in Loss Prevention

On 17 April '21, IISSM organised its first webinar of the year 2021, focusing on how to develop new strategies and formulate de-novo approaches towards road safety, meeting the challenges related to the implementation of regulatory issues and enforcement of the laws, and look at the opportunities afforded by the new technologies being developed. This webinar also aimed to generate awareness, raise issues, draw valuable lessons and act on the suggestions that can be implemented. The webinar had two keynote speeches and one panel discussion by experts in the field of Road Safety. This time IISSM has been



Mr. K K Kapila, Giving his Keynote Address



Mr. Nitin Gadkari, hon'ble minister, Addressing the participants at inaugural function

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able to bring in the best minds from the global community through this Webinar. It is heartening to report that Mr. Paul Retter, AM, Non Exceutive Director, Certis Group Boards, from Australia and Mr. K K Kapila, President (Emeritus), International Road Federation (IRF), Geneva & Chairman and Managing Director of Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt Ltd delivered their Keynote Addresses on 'The Need for a New Approach to Road Safety' and 'The Strategy and Enforcement of 5 Es for Road Safety' respectively. The Panel was headed by seasoned Safety Consultant Dr. Vijay Kumar and a great deal of intellectual discussions held among the eminent panellists namely Dr. Indrajit Ghosh, IIT Roorkie, Vijay Balakrishnan, Global Chief Data Officer, Michelin, Mr. Arvind Pathak, EHS Trailblazer from Nokia (India) and Mr. Rohit Verma, International Risk Mitigation Consultant.

and Highways, & Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Valedictory Address was deliverd by Mr. R K Singh, MOS (Independent Charge) Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.



Mr. R K Singh, MOS (IC) during Valediction Function

There were over 500 plus single login participants. Many schools and colleges also participated and watched the proceedings. There were many foreign participants who logged in from Africa, Europe and USA.



Mr. Nitin Gadkari and Mr. R K Sinha exchanging views

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Mr. R K Sinha, Executive Chairman, IISSM Giving introductory notes

Overall, it was grand success.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport





Ambience of the Virtual Auditorium



Mr. Rajan K Medhekar, DG, IISSM giving Vote of Thanks



Mr. S K Sharma, Chairman, IISSM, giving his concluding remarks

Dear Readers,

Greetings to you all!

With the Baishaki, Poila Boishakh, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa and Bihu the summer has made an official entry into India. But this year it came with a deadly attack of Covid19 with it's new and mutant variant (B.1.617) which were silently making inroads into some of the states like Maharashtra, Puniab, Tamil Nadu etc in the initial days of March to mid April'21, but suddenly the bomb exploded all over the country by mid of April'21. Last year, in the month of April'20, we were going through the first phase of nationwide hard lockdown and the impact of the same was there for all to see. We could contain the spread of the virus and remained limited to the cities/towns and villages were spared. But this time it is not limited to cities or towns only but made ingresses into deep interior villages. The attack of virus was so harsh, sudden and deadly that it affected one and all. Almost every family in India across the length and breadth from Kashmir to Kanva Kumari, and Moreh (border township in Manipur bordering Myannmar) to Morvi (small township on Kathiwawad Peninsula in Gujarat on the western coast) are/were affected. This surge created an unprecedented demand of beds in hospitals which were

overwhelmed in no time. coupled with very high demand of Oxygen cylinders. From mid April to mid May'21, it was month of mayhem wherein thousands lost lives because hospitals were short in supply of oxygen. Many hospitals did increase the number of beds but without the life saving supply of oxygen. Simply it was bad! It was giving a sense of helplessness prevailed all over the country as people were collapsing just because there was no Oxygen. The pressure on the hospitals was soaring higher and higher with each passing day and doctors, nurses and paramedic staffs started collapsina. Dead bodies were pouring into the cremation and burial grounds which were found incapable of handling so many for the first time in their living memory....it was collapse of entire system in the country. The government agencies were found wanting in all spheres of activities....It was complete failure of governance or so it appeared. On top of that, black marketers played merpubrv hell with lic....everything they hoarded and sold off at a sky rocketing premium...so much greed...or shall we say failure of humane behaviour! Total absence of moral values....be it Remdesivir injection, Faviflu ... or even steroids or Blood thincylinners....oxygen ders...Concentrators...everyt hing was being sold at black.

It took couple of weeks for the governments (centre and states) to sort out the mess and get the acts together in right direction. Due to heavy crackdown on black marketers, some people also lost lives as the guaranteed supply to tide over the pseudo crisis vanished overnight and government could not ensure smooth supply of scarce resources like oxygen cylinder or Remdisvir at that critical moment. By the time situation of demand and supply got in order, many families had lost their near and dear ones. Meanwhile, foreign aids started pouring in and thus critical condition of oxygen situation was stabilised. Here it is important to mention that Indian industries (Oxygen producers) diverted their entire production towards the people which needed additional infrastructures and logistics.

The government of India pressed the Defence forces into the service. They created new hospitals with DRDO and opened up military hospitals for civilian population, although they were unable to accept their own dependents across India specially in Delhi. Indian Air Force heavy cargo lifters like C-17 Globe Master and IL-76, even small helicopters and other transport aircrafts are/were making sorties 24x7 and ferrying much needed relief (oxygen, medicine, Vaccines, oxygen plants and cylinders) from all over the world. Indian Naval ship INS Jalashwa is also ferrying huge cargos from many countries. These efforts have brought the numbers (new cases) down from over 4 lakhs to below 3 lakhs per day, but we are far away from the end of the crisis. Because villages have been impacted badly. Reports and personal experiences and their stories flashed over the electronic media across the alobe showing the ordeal, a very gloomy picture all across the country!

I would like not to speak about the numbers of deaths....because official figures can never be nearer to the truth...pictures of the cremation/burial grounds be it in Delhi, Mumbai or any metro...or the riverside cremation Ghats along the Ganges (specially in UP and Bihar)...or floating corpses speak a very different story. Since none in the country, be it the state government or the Central agency or any NGO or even WHO has any authentic data, it is futile to count the losses. Many families have been wiped out completely and there were none to do the last rites.

The whole world is watching us as we have been making

progress with the vaccination process across India and helping other countries with vaccines despite we have a huge demand. Although, the vaccine diplomacy were being criticised but as a nation, we know our responsibilities and surely the outcome of these philanthropic acts will pay off sooner than later. Entire globe has extended helping hands in this hour of crisis. In addition, aovernment has given go ahead to administer a new drug 2DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose) developed by the Indian Nuclear Medicine and Applied Sciences (INMAS under DRDO). It is expected that this will change the scenario dramatically. So far the vaccination is concerned, it is another mammoth exercise and now the system is in place and by the year end India is likely to get the 'herd immunity'. It goes without saying that all of us whosoever has taken the vaccine has experienced the benefits and were better equipped to fight Covid-19.

At the end, I would like to say that we must not lower the guard and maintain all the Covid protocols as other complications like Mucormycosis (Black Fungus) has appeared as a major side effect, threatening to become an another pandemic.

At the end, I wish you all a very good health. Stay safe and stay healthy! Thanks and Best Regards,

Col (Dr.) MP Sen

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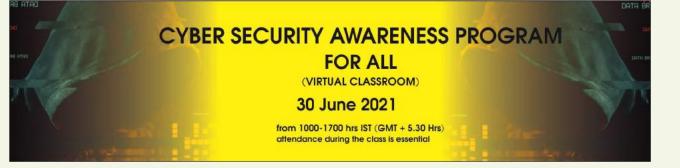
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SCHEDULE OF IISSM COURSES : JUNE 2021