



## **NATIONAL WEBINAR ON EPIDEMICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH: COLONIAL INDIA'S EXPERIENCE**

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The national webinar was organised by the Department of History, Loyola College on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, from 11 am to 12 pm. Prof. Deepak Kumar, Former Professor of History of Science and Education at Z H Centre for Educational Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi was the guest speaker.

Prof. Deepak started by describing the 'pandemics' as defining events in history. He started with the Indus Valley civilisation and then traced the history of diseases, famines and health until the rise of colonialism in India. In a comical note, he even compared the 'Jain mouth coverings' to the modern day 'masks'. He told that by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, 80% of the world was colonised and the duty of maintaining health of the entire world was vested with the few colonial powers.

He informed us that the Medical Board of East India Company was initially responsible for the health of Indian colony. This was also the time when 'germ theory of diseases' was gaining traction in Europe (resulting in its spread to the colonies). The colonists did not care much about diseases, until it threatened them or their rule (Indians were to fend for themselves).

Prof. Deepak even recalled the times when commissions were formed to fight diseases (like cholera commission of 1860's). He took us to the times of plague and Spanish flu in India. It was indeed surprising to know that even Gandhiji had contracted Spanish flu and somehow escaped death and then went on to lead the entire nation to freedom. It was very disturbing to hear 'how the colonial era medical colleges used common people (like coolies of Assam plantation) as lab rats to test the vaccines and other drugs'. Prof. Deepak concluded his views by explaining the interplay of health and education in modern society and by laying emphasis on the importance of scientific history. On the whole, it was a very informative and interesting webinar.



LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

# WEBINAR

ON

## EPIDEMICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH : COLONIAL INDIA'S EXPERIENCE

FREE REGISTRATION

Registration Deadline May 28,2020

\* E-Certificate will be given to  
registered participants



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SPEAKER

**PROF. DEEPAK KUMAR**

FORMER PROFESSOR,  
HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION  
Z H CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL STUDIES  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY  
NEW DELHI.

CONVENERS

**DR.D.ANURADHA**  
HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**MR.J.RANGANATHAN**  
CO- ORDINATOR , DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TIME:  
11 - 12 PM

DATE:  
2ND JUNE 2020