

From the Editor-in-Chief

To fight back against all odds is the essence of the very existence of mankind.

In the past sixteen months, the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has caused major disruptions, loss of human life and livelihood all across the world. Though the number of cases and fatality rates among and within the countries vary, the pandemic has triggered a wave of depression, panic and anxiety in people all around the world.

During the year 2020, we accepted and adjusted to the idea of the “new normal” way of life. The term “Global Village” has gained significance as the participative and collaborative work of researchers, administrators and other stakeholders from across the world is acknowledged to have helped in arriving at the strategies to combat the pandemic. Since the beginning of the year 2021, the world has experienced a ray of hope with the launch of phase-wise vaccination drive initiated in different parts of the world, including India, affirming the hope towards normalcy and revitalization of life.

But the second wave of SARS-CoV-2 since March 2021, has left many countries grappling with the pandemic, yet again. This wave has now endangered the lives of even young adults and children along with its threat to the lives of the older population. India, a majorly affected country under the second wave, is struggling to cope with the ever soaring numbers of COVID infected cases, with 3,14,835 new cases in 24 hours reported on April 22, 2021. This dire situation has once again created a strong need for attention and a close and firm coordination at all levels with the necessity for a plan to look for the ‘path ahead’ to mitigate such situations.

Focusing upon the multiple dimensions and facets of the global pandemic, the theme of the April, 2021 issue of the journal is ‘**COVID-19: Impact, Implications and Path Ahead**’. The articles included in this issue engage with topics like, vaccines for COVID-19, technologies and products developed by DRDO to combat COVID-19,

what has the pandemic taught us in the past one year and the necessity of a good public health care system. The issue of mental health, which is by and large silently endured and often trivialized, has also been addressed in some of the articles included in this issue.

The Book Review section focuses on the book *The Plague* written by Albert Camus during World War II and published in 1947. It talks about a rich cerebral experience about what goes on in the minds of people affected by the bubonic plague. Another book *And We Came Outside and Saw the Stars Again* (2020) is a compilation of stories where authors take readers on a refreshing voyage to more than thirty different countries and witness the reactions of ordinary men, women, their struggles and coping mechanisms to the COVID-19 pandemic. The book *Psychiatry of Pandemics: A Mental Health Response to Infection Outbreak* (2019) provides readers with an in-depth understanding of the psychological issues faced by people during pandemics such as SARS, N1H1 flu, Ebola and Zika virus.

The papers, articles, book reviews included in this issue aim at providing a holistic view of the current situation and attempt to propose alternative ways of managing the pandemic at an individual, societal and national level.

I sincerely thank our external reviewers who critically reviewed the papers and gave their valuable suggestions and feedback towards the same.

I hope this issue will greatly enrich our diverse readers and open new areas of research and dialogue.

© The Author(s) 2021.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) which permits its use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.