## <u>Liability of Corporations in Environmental Protection -</u> <u>An Indian Context</u>

In the words of Environmentalist Robert Swan "Greatest menace to our environment is the optimism that someone else will save it".

The Commerce Department of Janki Devi Memorial College with immense delight organised a Webinar on The Topic - "Liability of Corporations in Environmental Protection - An Indian <u>Context</u>" by Dr Shabnam Mahalwat (Associate Professor, Law centre 2, University of Delhi) and Mr Vikas Kumar (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi) on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 (Friday) from 2:00 pm-4:00 through Zoom platform. The session was organised for all the faculty members and students irrespective of their courses and years. The session was attended by over 50 teachers and students.

The session began with a warm welcome of the speakers and a virtual bouquet was presented as a token of love by Team **MOHUR.** The Teacher-in-charge, **Prof. Chanchal Chopra** Mam welcomed the guests and thanked them for their benign presence. She initiated the session by giving a brief introduction about the topic. She discussed how environmental protection is the need of the hour and how industries are destroying precious resources for their own benefits.

The speaker Mr. Kumar then took the session further and told us about the concept of Harm Environment. He further added how human- induced activities and natural calamities and around the globe have caused mass damage to the environment. He discussed how businesses interact with the natural environment and how corporations influence the environment by almost all its actions undertaken. According to him, it has become inevitable to understand the corporate Responsibilities towards protecting the environment. He added many forms in which humans are inflicting harm on the environment - loss of wetlands, pollution of rivers, degradation of land, atmospheric pollution, global warming. We got to know about the environmental movement which began in 1960s wherein environmental responsibility was looked upon by the corporates as a prime social responsibility towards public and societal interests. Various disasters were also discussed like Toxin exposure at Love Canal, Bhopal Gas Tragedy and many more. Further, a very detailed discussion about Corporate Responsibility took place. He threw light upon Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER), Environmental Liability. He later talked about the CER Programme and it's components which includes : tree plantation drive, Drinking water facilities etc.

Dr. Shabnam also shared her views on how the protection of the environment is a responsibility and an opportunity. Human beings have plundered and destroyed the natural environment for economic development and their immediate interests. The statutory responsibility imposed on corporations of preventing the environment is based on the idea that one who has the capability of causing the harm must invoke necessary precautions, remedies, and actions to minimize the same. She addressed audience's queries sincerely. It was a very informative and interesting session. Pictures were also taken which are attached later in the document.

# (2.9.2022) Webinar on Liability of Corporations in Environmental Protection



(2.7.2022) TIC Dr. Chanchal Chopra Mam addressing the audience

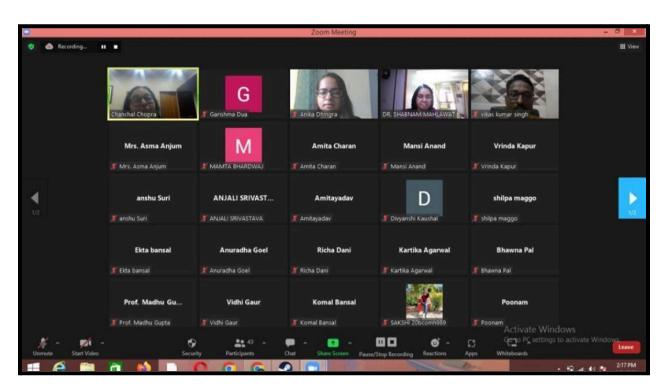




#### (2.7.2022) Dr. Shabnam taking the session forward

#### (2.7.2022) Mr.Vikas Sharma explaining the topic





### (2.7.2022) Teachers, students and the guest speakers together