**International Conference on Human Dignity and Mental Health in the New Normal**

**(17-18 December 2021)**

The Department of Psychology, Utkal University hosted in online mode today the Two-day International Conference on Human Dignity and Mental Health in the New Normal. The Inaugural Function was held at 10 am on 17.12.2021 (FRIDAY). Dr SudhanshuSarangi, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Railway and Coastal Security, Govt of Odisha was the Chief Guest.Professor Sabita Acharya Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Utkal University, presided over the function.

About 55 papers are going to be presented in the Conference. Four Invited Talks of Resource Persons of International Repute are scheduled over two days of the conference.Shri SubrotoBagchi, Honble Chairperson, Odisha Skill Development Authority, is scheduled to grace the Valedictory session of the Conference as the Chief Guest.

Prof Bhaswati Patnaik, Convener of the Conference rendered the Welcome address in the inaugural session. Mrs SunandaPattnaik,Organising Secretary of the conference offered thanks to all present in the inauguration.

The Valedictory Function of International Conference on Human Dignity and Mental Health in the New Normal (ICDMH 2021) organised by the Department of Psychology, Utkal University was held at 4pm on 18.12.2021 (Saturday).Shri Subroto Bagchi, Hon’ble Chairperson, Odisha Skill Development Authority, addressed the gathering as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the importance of Psychologists in generating hope and sense making in the common people as the humanity undergoes a crisis during the pandemic. His address inspired the conference participants to understand the pandemic in terms of coping spirit demonstrated by the human race in disasters and crisis from time immemorial be it a war or any natural calamity. Professor Jagneshwar Dandapat, Director, Research & Development, Utkal University presided over the function and opined that both Human dignity and mental health assume significance in the new normal as we rebuild lives and the economy worldwide.

On this occasion, Dr. Manaswini Dash, Assistant Professor, Dept of Psychology, Utkal University, who retired recently, was felicitated for her lifetime contribution for the growth and development of the Department. Prof Bhaswati Patnaik, the Convener of the Conference welcomed everyone and Mrs Lucy Sonali Hembram, Organising Secretary of the conference, offered vote of thanks.

