



**SANTOSH**  
Deemed to be University



# Global Perspectives in Bioethics

2016-2023



Celebrating

25 years  
Since 1990

# INTRODUCTION

Engaging on a captivating exploration of the ethical landscape within the arena of dentistry, In a recent milestone event, the "Global Perspectives In Bioethics" conference, hosted by Santosh Deemed to be University under the esteemed National Dental Bioethics Program, illuminated the path to conscientious and compassionate dental practice. This international gathering showcased the remarkable work and accomplishments, both institutional and collaborative, shaping the ethical framework of dentistry on a global scale. As we delve into this enriching experience, we invite you to join us in celebrating the commitment of dental professionals worldwide, guided by principles of informed consent, confidentiality, and utmost respect for patient autonomy. This edition of our newsletter unfolds the narratives and insights from this influential conference, emphasizing the pivotal role played by the National Dental Bioethics Unit and the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. Together, let us traverse the ethical dimension of dentistry, appreciating the dedication and collaborative efforts that fuel our shared journey towards better oral healthcare for all.



**SANTOSH**  
Deemed to be University



**Under Aegis Of National  
Dental Bioethic Unit & Bioethics Unit**

Presents

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IN BIOETHICS

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 | Time: 10:00 AM

CHIEF GUEST

Dr. Rui Nunes

GUEST OF HONOUR

Russel D'Souza

Mary Mathew

Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra

Dr. Vivek Mady



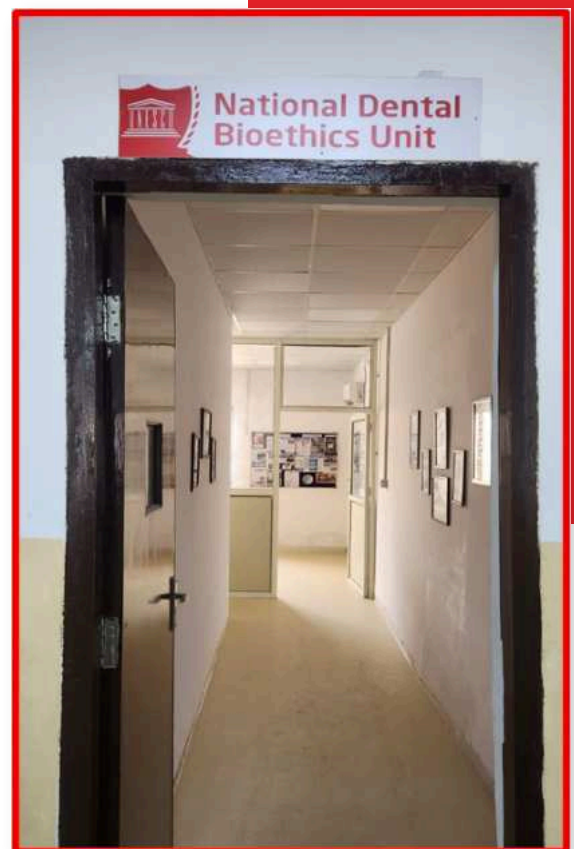
# ABOUT NATIONAL DENTAL BIOETHICS UNIT

The National Dental Bioethics Unit, inaugurated in 2016 at Santosh Deemed To Be University, stands as a guiding light for ethical practices in dentistry. Rooted in the commitment towards quality healthcare and patient-centric services, this unit has made significant strides in spreading awareness not only regionally but also nationally and internationally. Operating under the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa, it has played a pivotal role in promoting ethical standards in dentistry on a global scale.

Through initiatives like the “Global Perspectives In Bioethics” conference, hosted by .Santosh Deemed to be University, the National Dental Bioethics Unit has showcased groundbreaking research and accomplishments. This includes addressing ethical considerations in patient care, advocating for responsible technology use, and ensuring the protection of participants in dental research. These efforts underscore the unit’s dedication to integrating ethical principles seamlessly into the fabric of dental care.

Collaborative in nature, the National Dental Bioethics Unit fosters global connections by bringing together dental professionals from around the world. The unit emphasizes an international perspective on bioethical challenges and solutions, creating a platform for shared insights and experiences. The conference serves as a testament to the commitment and dedication of individuals working collectively to enhance the ethical dimension of dentistry.

Undoubtedly, the unit’s collaborative efforts, coupled with the continuous support and guidance from the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, have made it a vital resource for dental professionals, educators, researchers, and students interested in bioethics in dentistry. As it continues to spread awareness and uphold ethical standards, the National Dental Bioethics Unit at Santosh Deemed To Be University remains a cornerstone in the global pursuit of ethical dental practices and the betterment of oral healthcare for all.



# FOREWORD



**Dr. P Mahalingam**

Chairman  
Santosh Group Of Institutes  
& Hospitals

I am pleased to address you all on the successful completion of the Conference on Global Perspectives in Bioethics, held at Santosh Deemed to be University. This conference was a platform for intellectual exchange and deep discussions on the ethical challenges faced in the field of healthcare on a global scale. Taking cognizance of the importance of bioethics in healthcare, It was a vision in 2016 to establish the National Dental Bioethics unit at Santosh Deemed to be University. Slow and steady progress propelled the National Dental Bioethics unit to assume National leadership. The arrival of all international luminaries to jointly attend the conference at Santosh Deemed to be University was testimony to the collaborative efforts of all.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Rui Nunes, International Head of Bioethics and our esteemed Chief Guest. Your valuable insights and expertise in the field of bioethics have enriched this conference and provided us with a broader perspective on the subject. Your presence has been truly invaluable, and we are truly grateful for your support.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr Russell D'Souza, the International Guest of Honor. Your contribution and extensive knowledge in the field of bioethics have greatly enhanced the discussions at the conference. Your presence has immensely benefited all the attendees, and we are deeply grateful for your participation.

I would like to express our gratitude to Dr Vedprakash Mishra, our esteemed Guest of Honor. Your presence at the conference was an honor for us, and we are genuinely thankful for your insights and wisdom that you shared with the audience.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Dr Mary D'Souza and Dr Vivek Mady for their contributions to the conference. Your expertise and dedication have played a crucial role in making this event a great success.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr Rajiv Ahluwalia, who has been instrumental in successfully organizing this conference. Your meticulous planning, attention to detail, and leadership have ensured that this event ran smoothly. Your hard work and dedication are truly commendable.

To all the participants and attendees of the conference, thank you for your active engagement and for sharing your knowledge and experiences. The success of this conference would not have been possible without your enthusiasm and support.

This conference has initiated important discussions on bioethics and fostered opportunities for collaborative research and networking among researchers and practitioners. It is our hope that the insights gained from this conference will contribute to advancements in the field of bioethics and improve healthcare practices worldwide.

Once again, I express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in making this conference a grand success. Together, we have made a significant contribution to the field of bioethics, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in the future.

# PREFACE



## Dr. Rui Nunes

Head of the International  
Chair in Bioethics

As the Head of the International Chair in Bioethics, it was an enormous pleasure, but also a distinguished honor, to have the opportunity to make a speech at Santosh Deemed to be University, on 5 December 2023. A speech about the Global Perspective in Bioethics, as a Chief Guest. It was the opportunity to contact the amazing vision of Dr. P. Mahalingam - Honorable Founder and Chairman of the Santosh Group of Institutions and Hospitals - who intends to do the perfect intersection between education, research, and clinical assistance for those in need.

Together with the other Guests of Honor, Prof Russell D'Souza, Prof Vedprakash Mishra, Prof Mary Mathew, and Prof Vivek Mady - symbols of the fundamental importance of the Indian culture on global development - a high international level event was organized with the active collaboration of teachers, students and other relevant members of the Santosh community. An event that was superiorly coordinated by

Chancellor Prof Manoj Goyal and that eventually became much more than a conference. The International Chair in Bioethics, the largest organization in the world in the field of bioethics and medical ethics, is very proud to be a part of the construction of the bioethics education process in India through the development of units of excellence such as the one created a few years ago at Santosh Deemed to be University. Its pedagogical activity, the educational process, and the active involvement of students in bioethics active learning are an example to other centers all over the world.

Finally, a very special word of gratitude to Prof Rajiv Ahluwalia for his hospitality and leadership during my stay in India. My gratitude is extensive to Prof Parvinder Kaur and Prof Sumita Giri. On behalf of the International Chair in Bioethics, I can only wish that excellence remains the genetic fingerprint of the Bioethics Program at Santosh University.



# PREFACE



## **Dr. Russell D'Souza**

**Head and Chair  
Department of Education,  
International Chair in Bioethics**

Bioethics requires an organised and structured outline to work within the realms of medicine. There is a deviation in focus from the traditional to the current doctor-patient relationships. Medical professionals have a greater sense of responsibility weighing on them. Doctors and healthcare professionals are confronted with an array of ethical issues, and it is essential to be prepared to deal with them.

Incorporating bioethics education in the medical field aims to enhance the students' moral competencies. The students are exposed to the application of philosophy, religion, culture, science, technology, and law to arrive at the best possible decision for tackling an ethical issue that may present during their medical practice.

Bioethics education's horizontal and vertical integration is supported (R.F D'Souza et al; 2018). At the outset, the horizontal arm introduces students to the codes, needs, and scope of bioethics that has evolved over the history timeline. It lays emphasis on the need to exercise empathy and uphold autonomy, informed consent, and informed refusal. The gradual introduction of the challenges to professionalism, ethical decision-making, research ethics, and the various ethical dilemmas are familiarized in this domain. They are taught to confront the realities regarding the morality of healthcare providers, errors in healthcare management, breaking bad news, sexual harassment, cultural issues, and ethical conflicts.

The vertical or subject-wise curriculum has the ethical principles of the core curriculum as its foundation (R.F D'Souza et al; 2018). This reflects all the undergraduate medical subjects that form the preclinical, paraclinical and clinical phases. The benefit of this curriculum was further validated through several workshops that reviewed it, refined it, and offered practical suggestions to integrate subject-related ethical principles to teach and assess the methodologies in implementation.

The bioethics curriculum has targeted seamless integration into the teaching and assessment of undergraduate students (R.F D'Souza et al, 2018). It has aimed to develop core competency among medical students to inculcate critical reasoning and a sense of moral justification to aid ethical decision-making in health care. Attention is given to nurture appropriate, effective, and considerate communication. The understanding of bioethical principles and envisage any value setbacks in appropriate situations. Hence, the goal of grooming empathetic and responsible healthcare professionals is accomplished.

In conclusion Training in bioethics should be an integral part of medical, dental, and other allied health courses. Effective curriculum implementation is feasible only with a structured curriculum suitable for each discipline, delivered by trained and dynamic faculty through effective teaching methods to the upcoming healthcare professionals.



# PREFACE



## **Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra**

**Pro-Chancellor,  
Datta Meghe Institute of Higher  
Education and Research  
(Deemed to be University),  
Nagpur**

It was indeed a matter of joy and pleasure for me to have participated as Guest of Honor at International Meeting of the International Chair in Bioethics and WMA Coordinating Center, and the Association of Medical Educators of India organized by the Santosh Deemed to be University, Ghaziabad U.P. On 5th December, 2023 in an exemplary and emulative manner. It is noteworthy that Santosh University is the only Deemed to be University, which has been created under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 through an appropriate Notification by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the recommendations of the UGC. The nature of the work that has been dispensed in the domain of Bioethics by the University stands tall as a milestone in its own right.

It is very gratifying to note that the programme had Professor Dr. Rui Nunes Head Faculty of Medicine Porto University and Head International Chair in Bioethics (Formerly UNESCO Chair ) and WMA Collaborating Centre Porto University International Chair as the Chief Guest along with Dr. Russell D'Souza Head and Chair Asia Pacific Division and Director International Department of Education International Chair in Bioethics, Professor Dr. Mary Mathew Deputy Head Department of Education all of the International Council of the Global Network for Medical, Health Professions Bioethics Education as the Guest of Honor. The nature of observations that came to be made by learned luminaries were mind starring and the message that came to be generated was impactful. The entire structuring of the programme including the mode and manner in which it was organized brings

out a subtle and solid story about the comradery that the University people harbour amongst themselves and a true reflection and depiction of their team's spirit.

The initiatives that have been taken up in the affective domain of the curriculum for the courses under its domain is noteworthy. The initiative which has been taken by the International Dental Bioethics Unit led by Dr. Rajiv Ahaluwalia is one of its type in the country, inspite of the fact that competency based dental education still is not a statutory notified entity but the mode and manner in which it has been worked out at the University is a story, which is inspiring in all its manifestations.

I am sure the initiatives undertaken by the University specially in the Dental stream and the experiences generated there to, would be availed by the decision makers in the country for structuring and formulating the 'Competency Based Dental Education' for its operational implementation. The impact of the function so organized would always be everlasting in my memory and I revere the same.

I find my words at bay to record my appreciation for the entire organizing team and the key officials of the University including its Hon'ble Chancellor, Hon'ble Founder Chancellor and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor as well. I record my salutations for the same.



# PREFACE



## **Dr. Mary Mathew**

Deputy Head , India, International Chair of Bioethics

The International Meeting of the International Chair in Bioethics and WMA Coordinating Center, and the Association of Medical Educators of India held at Santosh University commenced with the dignitaries expounding on the need for ethics in patient care and medical education. This was followed by the launch of the book on Healthcare as a Universal Human Right and Sustainability in Global Health by Professor Rui Nunes Head of the International Chair in Bioethics from Portugal.

I would like to congratulate Santosh University for a very unique, fruitful and enriching experience and promoting bioethics in the field of health sciences.



## **Dr. Vivek Mady**

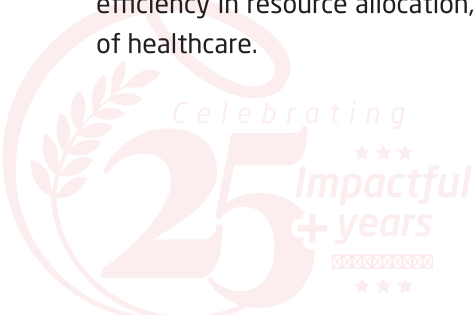
Experienced Gynaecologist and legal advisor

The right to access to healthcare is considered as an expression of the dignity of a human being and may well be one of the most important achievements of modern civilisation. We attribute disease, disability, and incapacity as restrictions to opportunities that would otherwise be available to the individual. To materialise the proposal of a universal right to healthcare and therefore to universal health coverage with global justice vision of health for all, each nation state must use its endowed resources to its maximum, not withstanding eventual support from the international community.

Despite a gradual improvement in living conditions, large disparities still exist between and within countries regarding human development indicators because of economic globalisation and social circumstances

within each society. Despite the existence of global governance institutions, there are no comprehensive mechanisms for global implementations of a transnational healthcare cooperation.

I suggest that any proposal for the implementation of universal health coverage must be based on an "Ethical Platform", namely on the principles of the UNESCO Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human rights with special emphasis on the principles of fair equality of opportunities in access, solidarity in financing, effectiveness of interventions and efficiency in resource allocation, thus guaranteeing to all citizens irrespective of individual income access to basic level of healthcare.





# PREFACE



## Dr. Rajiv Ahluwalia

Head of  
National Dental Bioethics Unit  
Member  
International Advisory Council

In an era where scientific advancements transcend borders, the intersection of bioethics demands a truly global dialogue. This event “Global Perspective of Bioethics” at our esteemed university serves as a platform for cultivating insightful discussions, fostering collaboration, and deepening our understanding of the ethical implications surrounding cutting-edge developments in the field of medicine.

As we navigate the complexities of bioethics together, I am confident that this event will contribute significantly to the broader discourse and inspire a collective commitment to responsible innovation.

The “Global Perspectives of Bioethics” conference, attended by luminaries like Dr. Rui Nunes, Dr. Russel D’Souza & Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra added notable accolades to our unit’s global prominence. As the head of the bioethics unit, witnessing this evolution is both gratifying and a testament to our commitment to excellence.

In our comprehensive exploration of the ethical landscape in dental practice, this conference addressed all the pivotal principles of bioethics. Collaborative efforts by field experts aimed to raise awareness and offered practical guidance for intricate ethical dilemmas, embodying our dedication to advancing ethical standards in dentistry.

We witnessed the culmination of brilliant minds, conveying the message of significance, urging the leaders in healthcare to unite to play a pivotal role in guiding ethical considerations within the realm of life sciences and healthcare. Serving a moral compass, ensuring that advancements in

medical research align with human values and societal wellbeing. By addressing dilemmas related to medical treatments, and research protocols, Bioethics safeguards individual rights, fosters transparency, and promotes responsible innovation. In essence, it is the cornerstone that harmonizes scientific progress with ethical principles, ultimately shaping a more humane and equitable future.

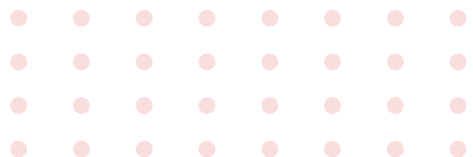
The University has assumed National leadership in dental bioethics and is steering the course of spreading awareness at all levels. University have also Incorporated the Bioethics in its curriculum for dental students and is the first institute to do so. Many collaborations with specialty associations have been done to spread awareness. Both the national dental Bioethics unit and Bioethics unit at Santosh Deemed to be University are one example of how symbolized efforts can give good outcomes.

I express gratitude to C.M.D. Sir Dr. P. Mahalingam and Vice Chairman sir Dr. Santosh Mahalingam for their esteemed vision and support to fulfill their passion. I also thank the National Dental Bioethics Committee and dedicated institution faculties for showing due diligence in bioethics.



# EXPLORING SANTOSH HOSPITAL'S CUTTING-EDGE FACILITIES

A visit to the multi super speciality Santosh hospital located in the heart of Ghaziabad was a must for our guests Dr. Rui Nunes, Dr. Russel D'Souza and Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, who were given an elaborate tour of the following. Dr. Manish Sabharwal, Dr. Alka Aggarwal & Dr. Alpana Aggarwal led the tour, paused at various locations, to further enumerate the workings of the place. Passing through the nurse stations, Radiology Departments, OPDs and many more, Dr. Rui, Dr. Ved and Dr. Russel were further able to visualise the functioning and working of our hospitals in person. The sanitation of our isolation rooms, the detailed patient care given by us were just a few things witnessed by them. Conversing with the various heads of specialities, this successful visit ended on a positive outlook towards the conditions of the private hospitals in our region.



# SANTOSH SYMPOSIUM'S SPIRITUAL PRELUDE

Before commencing any work, it is auspicious to take the blessings of "Pratham Pujiniya" Thus our esteemed guests were taken on a short spiritual journey to one end of the campus. Inspired by the ancient Tamilian architecture, the Dravidian Architecture, this temple offers a deep insight into the vivid and bright culture of South India. This was our sole chance to let our guests soak in the aura of our culture . After being honoured with redflower garlands they met the priest who blessed their wishes. They even got to experience the small intricacies of the place, such as the Lord Saraswati's, Lord Laxmi's and manymore sculptures that were carved in the roof. The Mooshak or mouse, the mount of Lord Ganeshha which is also present as a sculpture made our guests delighted. This experience only added to their special day in Santosh Deemed to be University Dental Bioethics Symposium.



## CHRONICLES OF THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IN BIOETHICS CONFERENCE

5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. An ordinary Thursday for most people, but an historic one for Santosh. "Global Perspective in Bioethics" conference was successfully held in the Maharaja Hall of Santosh Deemed to be University, one which was lined in red and white print patterns to celebrate the occasion. The event was graced by the presence of the extraordinary Dr. Rui Nunes, Head International Chair in Bioethics, accompanied by the honourable Dr. Russell D'souza, Head of the International Department of Education, International Chair in Bioethics, alongside Dr. Ved Prakash Mehra, the Pro Chancellor at the Datta Meghe Institute in higher education and research. Dr. Mary Mathew and Dr. Vivek Mady also blessed the incident by their irreplaceable presence.



For an event as huge as this, the presence of our very own Founder & Chairman, Santosh Group of Institutes & Hospitals, Dr. P. Mahalingam was one of utmost importance. Granting everyone's wishes, students stood with their ritualistic thaalis in place, as Dr. P. Mahalingam was given a grand welcome as he walked down the corridors lined with the red carpet, adorned in colourful flowers and warm smiles of the faculty and staff eagerly awaiting his presence. Soon after, Dr. Rui Nunes, Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra and Dr. Russell D'Souza followed through.



# A MOSAIC OF MEMORABLE MIRTH



# BILINGUAL BRILLIANCE: LAUNCHING 'BIOETHICS IN DENTISTRY' A LITERARY HORIZON

At this prestigious gathering, a momentous occasion unfolded with the launch of the bilingual masterpiece, "Bioethics in Dentistry." This meticulously crafted book, presented in both Hindi and English, seeks to bridge cultural boundaries and touch the hearts of diverse communities across India. Within its pages lies the captivating saga of the National Dental Biotics Unit – a narrative tracing its inception in 2016 to the thriving period of 2023.

This literary gem not only chronicles the unit's evolutionary journey but also highlights its resounding success in fostering awareness, both nationally and on the global stage. From the heartland of our nation to international recognition, the book reflects the unit's impactful strides. It is our earnest desire that this narrative acts as a catalyst, inspiring a multitude to contribute passionately to the realm of bioethics in dentistry. May it stand as a testament to dedication and ignite the spark of enthusiasm in future trailblazers in this noble field.



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to access the books:



The historical lamp lighting ceremony and the Saraswati Puja was held once everyone had settled in, to mark the inauguration of the event. Garnering all the blessings one could, the attention of the room was immediately snatched by the felicitation of our prestigious guests. Draped in gold shawls, the beauty and gratitude meant to be best owed upon them was certainly conveyed as their smiles lightened up the room.



Delivering the first address of the day, Dr. P Mahalingam, set the tone for the evening with him clearly emphasizing the importance of Bioethics and its need in the global medical practices. Honest and heartfelt, his deep dive into the impact of bioethical issues led the way for the informative speeches of Dr. Rui, Dr. Ved, Dr. Russell's and a few more speakers.



# OCCASION EXTRAVAGANZA CAPTURES





Dr. Rui Nunes elaborated on the need for bioethics in this world. Enumerating various potential horrors in a world without bioethics, he underlines the probability of inhumane acts which at some point has been witnessed in human history. He warned us about the dangers of living in a world without bioethics, subsequently highlighting the importance of it.



Adding to the depth of this subject Dr. Russell D'Souza spoke about the history of bioethics and its journey through the ages. From the coining of the term back in 1927 to having the motto of "Protecting Future Generations" in the present day, it had been a long journey. Further on, the need of efficiency was also brushed upon by Dr. Russell in his speech.



In a brave and a loud voice, Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra told us about the importance of integrating bioethics in the everyday education of our students. Highlighting the need for a comprehensive syllabus for kids of all groups and ages, he went on to say that every achievement done in this field till date would be of null importance if the knowledge isn't passed on the future generations. Followed by Keynote speeches by Dr. Mary Matthew & Dr. Vivek Mady



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## MANCHTANTRA SPOTLIGHT: THEATRE CLUB SHEDS LIGHT ON BIOETHICS ESSENTIALITY

Following the grand book launch, a captivating educational nukad natak unfolded, skillfully enacted by the enthusiastic fellow students. Their theatrical performance skillfully wove a narrative that intricately drilled the core principles of bioethics in dentistry into the consciousness of the gathered audience. Amidst the crowd, the simplicity yet profundity of their words left an enduring impact, resonating with the essence of ethical practices in the field.

As the students weaved through the audience, their compelling performance reached beyond mere entertainment, serving as a powerful medium to convey the importance of ethical considerations in dental practices. The crowd was held in rapt attention as the actors seamlessly blended artistry with a potent message, leaving everyone in awe of both their talent and the crucial message they ardently delivered. The artistic endeavor of the students not only showcased their creativity but also became a catalyst for reflection, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the principles of bioethics in dentistry among the attendees.





# CONCLUDING GRATITUDE

In the final speech of the day, Dr. Naresh Sharma, the registrar, Santosh Deemed To Be University delivered the final crescendo of thanks to everyone attending the event, but primarily the esteemed guests. Expressing his gratitude for everyone's time and understanding, he concluded the last moments of the day thanking the crowd for their wonderful presence and extremely needed patience.

This event merely acted as evidence to solidify the hold Santosh Deemed to be University has in the Department of Bioethics. Being a huge advocate and making active efforts to bring more awareness in this department, the impact of this university would be felt eons down the line.



# EVENT SPECTACLE SNAPSHOTS









# MEDIA SECTION

LOKMAT TIMES

Home > Business > Santosh Deemed To Be University

## Santosh Deemed To Be University Puts India on the Global Medical Map with Epochal Global Bioethics Symposium

By ANI | Published: December 20, 2023 07:20 PM

NewsVoir New Delhi [India], December 20: Santosh Deemed To Be University, among the top medical colleges in India and ...

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New Delhi [India], December 20: Santosh Deemed To Be University, among the top medical colleges in India and an epitome of bioethical excellence, launched the prestigious Epochal Global Bioethics Symposium recently. The event was attended by luminaries such as Dr. Rui Nunes, Head International Chair in Bioethics (Formerly UNESCO Chair ), Dr. Russel D'Souza, Head of the International Department Of Education, International Chair In Bioethics, WMA, Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Pro Chancellor Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, Dr. Mary Mathew, Manipal University and Dr. Vivek Mady.

Dr. P Mahalingam, Founder Chairman, Santosh Deemed to be University, led the programme with a speech.

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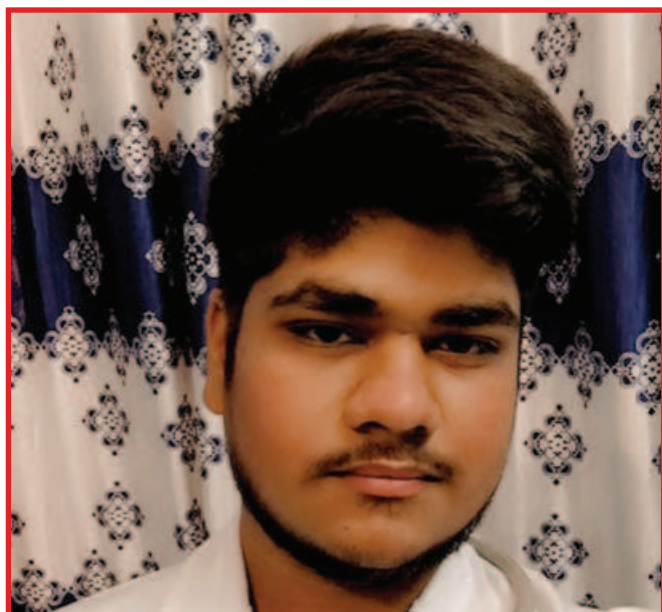
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