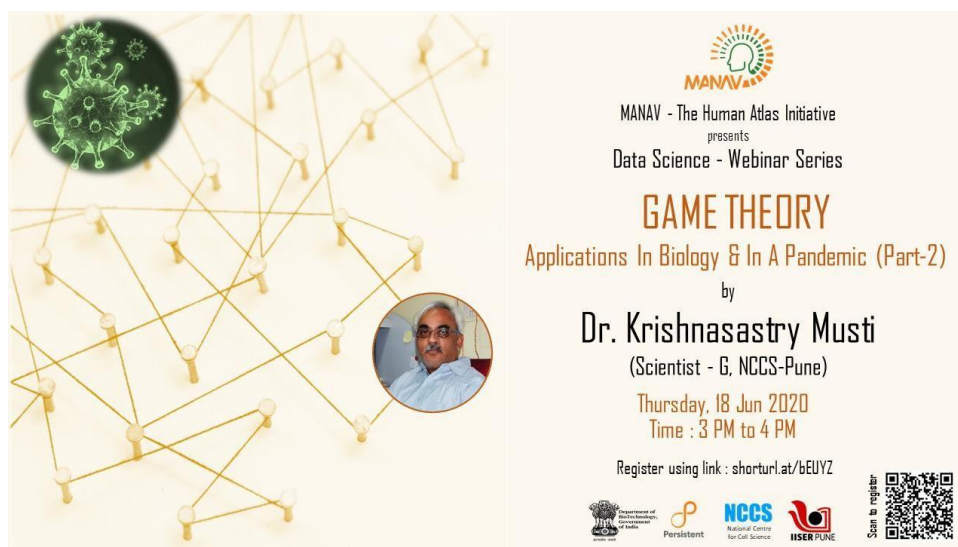


Applying Game theory to understand pandemics.



New Delhi, June 25: Many times authorities face very tricky situations particularly in pandemics like the present one where a new viral infection is relentlessly sweeping across the world. They need to make crucial decisions. But, that is easier said than done: what may be best for the population as a whole may not necessarily be the best for individuals, and vice versa. The game theory, which is typically used in economics, could help address this dilemma.

A senior scientist at the Department of Biotechnology's National Centre for Cell Science (DBT-NCCS), Dr. M. V. Krishnasastry, conducted a webinar to give science enthusiasts a glimpse into how game theory can be applied in biology also. The two-part programme was held on June 11 and 18. Titled "Game Theory: Applications in biology & in a pandemic", the online class was part of a weekly 'Data Science' webinar series organised under "Manav - The Human Atlas Initiative", a collaborative project between DBT-NCCS, IISER-Pune and Persistent Systems. This weekly webinar series is open to all and is free. Interested participants are invited to register at the link: <http://shorturl.at/bEUYZ>.

The programme was initiated to meaningfully engage students and other science enthusiasts in an interactive educative experience during the lockdown, and help increase scientific awareness about how data science is used as a tool in health sciences and biology in general.

It was kick-started at the end of April with a webinar on "R0: How scientists quantify the intensity of an outbreak". This was followed by webinars on diverse topics, including "Data Science Approaches for Genomics and Pandemics", "Biomedical NLP at Scale: Automated

inference of Biological Networks”, “The Future Research Scientist in the Age of AI and Big Data”, and “When and where to divide to conquer: Personalized medicine using systems and machine-based biology approaches”. This series has been hugely successful, having attracted well over a thousand registrations, mainly from students.

The ‘Manav’ initiative, exemplary of a public-private partnership, is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and co-funded by Persistent Systems. It aims to annotate the extensive data from the scientific literature related to the human body, to initiate steps towards creating a virtual human atlas eventually. The project will help students across India to learn how to comprehend and extract relevant information from scientific literature using a digital annotation tool. Students and researchers interested in participating can learn more from the project’s website (<https://manav.gov.in/>) and social media - Twitter: Manav Human Atlas & Facebook: MANAV Human Atlas.

Links related to this story -

Twitter: @DBT_NCCS_Pune

https://twitter.com/DBT_NCCS_Pune/status/1271338115081203714

Facebook: DBT - National Centre for Cell Science

<https://www.facebook.com/DBT-National-Centre-for-Cell-Science-509782325747597/>

IndiaBioscience announcement:

<https://indiabioscience.org/events/the-webinar-on-game-theory-applications-in-biology-and-in-a-pandemicpart-2>

DBT-NCCS website: <https://www.nccs.res.in/>

Phone: +91-20-2570 8000

Contact Person & Contact Details: Communication coordinator: Jyoti Rao (jyoti@nccs.res.in)