

## **About the Lecture**

As the misery, chaos and uncertainty grows in the wake of Corona crisis, studies have established the anthropogenic link to zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19. While Covid-19 is dominating discussion on all aspects of human existence, there is another global challenge looming larger, waiting to be addressed since three decades—the issue of climate change. Changing climate has adversely affected millions, damaged infrastructure and increases development deficits every year globally. In the wake of COVID-19 crisis, the world economy has weakened and so has multilateralism and global governance structures which will greatly impact global public goods such as climate change. The oil prices have stooped to low levels creating uncertainty of it outcompeting the renewables.

As countries turn inwards to rebuild their economies and infrastructures, there is serious risk of environmental concerns including climate change being side-lined. The lecture highlights the impacts, challenges of climate change and coping mechanisms that India has adopted to deal with climate crises. It is also argued how the ongoing crisis has delayed the momentum for climate action for vulnerable countries such as India to treat climate change with even greater urgency and take environmental concerns into post- COVID scenario economy rebuilding. The global pandemic continues to overhaul economic activities and puts a question mark on the issues of food security, sustainable development and intra-generation equity. In doing so, the lecture attempts to define the “new normal” and offers ways and means to step up actions on climate change while at the same time ensuring a switch to resilient, equitable, sustainable and inclusive economies.

## **About the Speaker**

Dr. Vijeta Rattani works on issues of environment, climate change and natural resource management. Currently, she works with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India and is based in New Delhi. Prior to this, she was associated with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) where her work profile included research and analysis on different aspects of climate change including global climate negotiations, mitigation, adaptation and climate policy in general. She has written extensively on the subject in newspapers and magazines including *Down to Earth*. She holds a PhD from JNU and has been a visiting scholar at Freie University (Berlin), Vrije University (Brussels), Bremen International Graduate Institute of Social Sciences, University of Bremen, and University Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. She is recipient of the prestigious DAAD fellowship during her PhD research.