NEWS CLIPS

MARCH 1-31, 2020

IIT Delhi postponed JEE-Advanced) 2020 that was scheduled to be held on May 17, 2020

March 31, 2020 https://indiaeducationdiary.in/iit-delhi-postponed-jee-advanced-2020-that-was-scheduled-to-be-held-on-may-17-2020/

IIT Delhi, the organising institute for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Advanced) 2020, has postponed the entrance examination that was scheduled to be held on May 17, 2020. It will be rescheduled after JEE (Main) 2020: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

COVID-19: IIT Delhi Institutes Benevolent Fund

March 31, 2020 https://www.ndtv.com/education/covid-19-iit-delhi-institutes-benevolent-fund-to-help-people-of-the-lower-economic-strata-within-cam-2203640

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has institutes the IIT Delhi Benevolent Fund to receive voluntary contributions in a formal and transparent manner for meeting the needs of the people of the lower economic strata that depend on the campus community.

COVID-19: IIT Delhi institutes Benevolent Fund to help people of the lower economic strata within campus

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has institutes the IIT Delhi Benevolent Fund to receive voluntary contributions in a formal and transparent manner for meeting the needs of the people of the lower economic strata that depend on the campus community.

"As Governments across the world are working hard to contain the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic, IIT have the moral responsibility to focus is on our very own campus, where there is immediate need for us to exhibit our generosity and goodwill," a release from IIT Delhi said.

Beneficiaries would include the informal service providers of the campus (including rickshaw pullers, night mess workers, presswalas, dhobis and kabari-walas), construction workers and other workers employed by contractors providing service to the institute (such as house-keeping, solid-waste management and workers in campus commercial outlets), daily-wage and contractual employees of mess under BHM, and other daily-wage and contractual group-4 level employees under security, estate and works, establishment, and research project staff under IRD.

After verifying the credit of the amount to the account, an official receipt would be prepared and sent to the donor, the Institute said.

Application deadline for PG and PhD admission extended by IIT Delhi
March 27, 2020 https://www.brainbuxa.com/education-news/application-deadline-for-pg-and-phd-admission-extended-by-iit-delhi-10231

The application deadline for the PG and PhD admissions has been extended by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the deadline has been extended until April 20, 2020.

"IIT Delhi has extended the last date of submission of online applications for PhD and PG admissions

up to 20th April 2020 in view of COVID-19 outbreak," the Institute has tweeted.

The application process for the same began on March 2.

To get admission into PG and PhD programs candidates are required to qualify entrance test which is conducted by the IIT Delhi. The institute has suspended all of its classes and events until March 31.

In another development, researchers at IIT Delhi have developed a method to detect COVID-19 which is significantly cheaper and will be available to a large section of society. The "probe-free detection assay" developed by the researchers has been optimized and tested for sensitivity at the research laboratories of the Institute.

Covid-19: IIT Delhi makes anti-infection fabric to curb hospital infections

March 27, 2020 https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/covid-19-iit-delhi-makes-anti-infection-fabric-to-curb-hospital-infections-120032700500_1.html

The team claims to have developed an affordable, novel textile-processing technology, which converts regular cotton fabric into infection-proof fabric

However, the team has been working on the project for over a year with support from the government's Department of Science and Technology.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here has developed an "infection-proof fabric" to be used at hospitals to prevent hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). The development by "Fabiosys Innovations", a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi, comes at a time when the world is dealing with the deadly coronavirus outbreak. However, the team has been working on the project for over a year with support from the government's Department of Science and Technology.

According to official statistics from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for every 100 hospitalised patients in developing countries, 10 acquire HAIs and the risk is even higher at the time of a coronavirus outbreak.

The team claims to have developed an affordable, novel textile-processing technology, which converts regular cotton fabric into infection-proof fabric. "We take rolls of cotton fabric and treat it with a set of proprietary-developed chemicals under a set of particular reaction conditions, using the machinery already commonly available in textile industries. The fabric, after undergoing these processes, gains the powerful antimicrobial functionality," Samrat Mukhopadhyay, a professor at the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering in IIT-Delhi, said.

"What is interesting about the Fabiosys' fabric is that even after washing multiple times, it does not lose its functionality. This fabric can be stitched into various articles such as bedsheets, the uniforms for patients, doctors and nurses and even curtains. The fabric satisfies the Indian washing standards in terms of number of washing. It is also completely non-toxic and affordable," he added. IIT has collaborated with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for a pilot run of the product.

"While talking to a few patients at the AIIMS, we got to know that they became more sick after getting admitted there. When we started researching, we found that hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) are a grave problem, especially in developing countries like India, where the tropical climatic conditions are suitable for the growth of bacteria. "I was surprised to see that many patients are not even aware about HAIs. People usually become aware of any cross-contamination when it has already taken the form of an outbreak or epidemic. The recent case of coronavirus is one such example," Yatee Gupta, a BTech graduate from the institute who is working on the innovation, said.

According to Gupta, one of the major ways these infections spread is through contact from contaminated surfaces and a patient in a hospital is surrounded by a variety of fabric in the form of bedsheets, the uniforms for patients, doctors and nurses etc. and these textile surfaces actually become the breeding ground for pathogens, which do not get killed even while washing in hot water.

"We are currently in the process of conducting large-scale manufacturing trials in the Delhi-NCR region. We have collaborated with AIIMS, Delhi to pilot our products. We are also in early talks with some of the largest hospital chains in India for further pilots and strategic collaborations. We have been financially supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Human Resource Development, IIT Delhi and Department of Biotechnology in the form of grants and fellowships," Gupta said.

APEDA Signs MoU with IIT Delhi, QCI, ICFA, SGT University and Pearl Academy to Implement Agri Export Policy

March 23, 2020 https://www.grainmart.in/news/apeda-signs-mou-with-iit-delhi-qci-icfa-sgt-university-and-pearl-academy-to-implement-agri-export-policy/

APEDA signed MoU with IIT Delhi, QCI, ICFA, SGT University and Pearl Academy to Implement Agri Export Policy. APEDA has taken several measures to provide better price realization to farmers by implementing AEP.

MoU Signed by APEDA

APEDA signed MoUs on 4th march 2020 with specialized institutions to utilize their expertise. Besides, it will make coordinated efforts in agriculture and allied sectors to bring better value to the stakeholders. In addition, it has formed thirteen cluster level committees at the state level to address certain issues related to specific plantations in that cluster.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)

APEDA singed MoU with IIT Delhi to avail benefits from scientists, researchers, and engineers of the institution. Hence, it would cooperate with the institute to assess, develop technology and disseminate early spoilage detection techniques of agriculture produce.

APEDA Signed Signs MoU with IIT Delhi, QCI, ICFA, SGT University and Pearl Academy

Further, efforts will be made to develop cost and energy-efficient farm machinery and tools by sharing laboratories for research. Also, the collaboration will work on developing protocols for exporting horticulture produce to distant international markets through sea route.

Quality Council of India (QCI)

APEDA signed MoU with QCI to develop training material on various schemes. It would operationalize capacity building program to various stakeholders through workshops in consultation with APEDA. Further, the organization will assist in implementing the bench marking process as per GLOBAL G.A.P. requirements.

Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) Association with APEDA

ICFA collaborated with APEDA to identify the gap areas in the quality and production of different exportable agricultural produce. Further, it will also support agriculture-related startups to scale their businesses and commercialize their products. Besides, it would help in networking trade bodies overseas to organize commodity-specific trade events. In addition, it will assist in organizing conferences, fruit festivals, exhibitions in India and other countries.

SGT University and Pearl Academy MoU with APEDA

SGT will assist APEDA in developing exportable quality varieties of potatoes, groundnut, moringa and high TSS onion varieties. The cooperation will work on developing disease and crop resistant varieties of the crop. Pearl Academy, a fashion-design and media institute will develop a promotion strategy for APEDA. This will help APEDA to increase exports through digital marketing.

To conclude, APEDA has relentlessly engaged with almost every state government to implement AEP. These partnerships will help farmers to develop high yielding and better quality produce that will increase their income.

2 IIT Delhi chemistry lab technicians make 50 litres of hand sanitisers

March 22, 2020 https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/2-iit-delhi-chemistry-lab-technicians-make-50-litres-of-hand-sanitisers/articleshow/74758412.cms

Unhappy with the unavailability and high price of hand sanitisers as India fights the coronavirus pandemic, two IIT Delhi Chemistry lab technicians produced 50 litres of hand sanitisers "meeting WHO standards" as certified by IIT Delhi professors. JP Singh, technical superintendent and Rajbir Singh, junior lab assistant of the Chemistry Department at IIT Delhi took the initiative. "At IIT Delhi, we were facing issues getting hand sanitizers in large quantities. Even when they were available, vendors were charging exorbitant amounts and quality was suspect. Out of frustration, I told one of our Chemistry professors, why don't you guys prepare them in IIT, why is it such a big deal? He replied, for such a small thing, you don't need an IIT Professor, it can be done by our technical staff. Lo and behold, in flat two days, we have 50 litres of hand sanitisers meeting WHO standard (certified by IIT Profs). All at a negligible price," said V. Ramgopal Rao, director, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in a post that he shared on LinkedID.

The hand sanitiser is alcohol based. The formulation contains three chemicals along with Aloe Vera and the major component is isopropyl alcohol (around 75%).
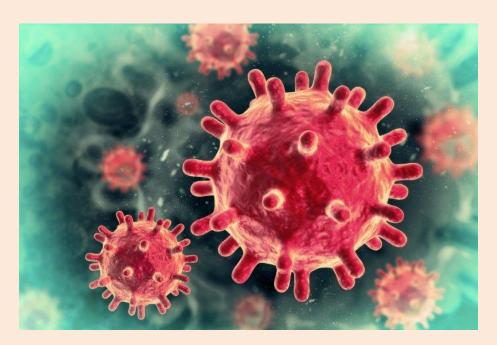
"Head, Chemistry sent an email to all other departments saying anyone who needs them, can come and collect. That is the 'spirit' needed to fight Corona," Rao added.

"Alcohol rub sanitizers containing at least 70% alcohol are known to kill microorganisms on hands within 30 seconds to one minute after application," said Prof Anil J Elias, head, Department of Chemistry.

Meanwhile, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) have also developed their own hand sanitiser, in line with the standards recommended by WHO and Centre for Disease Control (CDC), for students and faculty. Around 10 litres of this hand sanitiser has been distributed in the campus.

IIT-Delhi researchers develop affordable test for COVID-19

March 22, 2020 https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/iit-delhi-researchers-develop-affordable-test-for-covid-19-816358.html

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology here have developed a method to detect COVID-19 which can significantly reduce the test cost making it affordable for large sections.

The National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune is in the process of validating this test on clinical samples. The "probe-free detection assay" developed by the researchers at the prestigious institute's Kusuma School of Biological Sciences has been optimised and tested for sensitivity at the research laboratories of the Institute.

According to the team, considering the scale of the ongoing pandemic, development of indigenous kits is the need of the hour.

The central government on Saturday recommended that the maximum charge for each COVID-19 test by private laboratories should not exceed Rs 4,500.

All private laboratories which have NABL accreditation for real-time PCR SA for RNA virus will be allowed to conduct COVID-19 tests, according to the guidelines issued by the Indian Council of

Medical Research (ICMR) for COVID-19 testing in private laboratories, which were notified by the Health Ministry on Saturday night.

However, the team at IIT claims that their test can be performed at a much cheaper cost and hence will be aordable for general public.

"Using comparative sequence analysis, we have identified unique regions in COVID-19. These unique regions are not present in other human coronaviruses providing an opportunity to specifically detect COVID-19," Professor Vivekanandan Perumal, lead member of the team told PTI.

"Once the NIV validates the assay, it can be quickly scaled up to meet the increasing need in our country," he added.

According to Professor Manoj Menon, the current testing methods available are "probe-based" while the one developed by the IIT team is a "probe-free" method, which reduces the testing cost without compromising on accuracy.

"Primer sets targeting unique regions in the spike protein of COVID-19 were designed and tested using real time polymerase chain reaction. The primers designed by the group specifically bind to regions conserved in over 200 fully sequenced COVID-19 genomes. The sensitivity of this in-house assay is comparable to that of commercially available kits" said Parul Gupta and Prashant Pradhan, members of the team.

"This assay can be used as a qualitative (yes or no) assay without the need for extensive instrumentation. In addition, it can also quantitatively assess virus loads. We propose the use of this assay for specific and aordable high throughput screening of COVID 19," they added.

The research team includes—PhD scholars Prashant Pradhan, Ashutosh Pandey and Praveen Tripathi, post-doctoral fellows Drs Parul Gupta and Akhilesh Mishra and professors Vivekanandan Perumal, Manoj B. Menon, James Gomes and Bishwajit Kundu.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 16,911 samples from 16,021 individuals have been tested for SARS-CoV2 as on March 21 and a total of 315 individuals have been confirmed positive among suspected cases and contacts of known positive cases.

IIT-Delhi says no to request for quarantine shelter

March 18, 2020 https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/coronavirus-iit-delhi-asks-eight-staffers-two-guests-to-self-quarantine-6319572/

Even as institutes like Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay and Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad were chosen to be quarantine shelters, IIT-Delhi refused to become one.

The name of IIT-Delhi was also proposed. However, many in the institute allegedly objected to the idea raising concerns about the safety of their international students and faculty.

In Mumbai, the buildings that were taken over included the hostels of Bhaba Atomic Research Centre. Many students and the administration were actually opposed to the idea. At MANUU too, many students had objected to the idea alleging that this would put them at risk.

A senior member of IIT-D, on condition of anonymity, said, "We received a mail from the lieutenant governor's office informing us that they would be needing our campus to be used as a quarantine centre. But we informed them that it cannot happen as we have a huge number of international students still in campus and we also have our faculty whom we cannot put at risk."

The administration also informed the LG office that they have only 45 rooms in their guest house which would not be sufficient for them. IIT-D is however yet to get a response from the government on this. The institute had already asked their students to vacate the hostels by March 15 midnight.

COVID-19: IIT Delhi to help alumni stranded in foreign universities

March 20, 2020 https://news.careers360.com/covid-19-iit-delhi-help-alumni-stranded-in-foreign-universities

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has extended help to recent alumni of the institute who are pursuing higher studies in the US or other foreign universities and stranded in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

A large number of universities in the US and Europe have been closed down due to the pandemic. Students have been asked to vacate the campuses and classes have shifted online. Even coming back to India will be a problem as students in the Philippines and Malaysia already know. India will not let any commercial foreign flight land after March 22.

This has greatly increased problems for Indian students abroad who now have to deal with finding accommodation outside campuses, which can be expensive, along with the anxiety cause by a progressing pandemic. IIT Delhi will help alumni thus stranded find accommodation.

Alumni affairs

On its social media account, IIT D has announced that those alumni who "are struggling to find accommodation and facing problems" must write to the dean of alumni affairs and international programmes. Their office will then try to locate "senior alumni" located close to them who may be willing to help.

However, the dean's office has requested that the alumni affected by closure of universities abroad ping them only if they really need help. This is because these requests would be taken seriously and the institute will spend time and resources in tracking down the senior alumni and requesting their assistance.

IIT Delhi
✓@iitdelhi

· Mar 19, 2020

"This message is intended for those recent alumni of IIT Delhi who are doing higher studies in the US or other foreign universities. A large number of universities in the US and Europe have closed down and students may have been asked to vacate their dormitories.

IIT Delhi
✓@iitdelhi

If you are struggling to find accommodation and facing problems, please write to 'deanaaip@iitd.ac.in'. We shall try to locate senior alumni close to you who may be willing to help you at this time.

22
4:29 PM - Mar 19, 2020

In India, the government has suspended all exams and evaluation and Government has ordered the closure of all institutions of education for both staff and students. IIT Delhi has itself asked its students to leave the vacate the campus and allowed only international students to stay on. This move to vacate campuses - adopted by several IITs and universities - has been criticised by public health experts who believe it increases the risk of the virus spreading in the communities to which the students return.

Currently, India has a total of 195 confirmed cases with 171 "active cases" and four deaths. World Health Organization (WHO) has declared coronavirus a pandemic.

CNBC has reported that the coronavirus continues to spread outside of China, the origin of the outbreak. According to data compiled by John Hopkins, COVID-19 cases have surpassed 2,00,000 worldwide as on March 18, 2020, doubling in two weeks from March 6, when the number of infections across the world stood at around 100,000 (as per WHO's data).

Coronavirus: IIT-Delhi tightens entry norms, asks hostelers to pack bags and leave
March 19, 2020 https://in.news.yahoo.com/iit-delhi-tightens-entry-norms-205059756.html

IIT-Delhi Wednesday decided to restrict entry to the campus by shutting all but one gate and issued orders asking all students, except international students, to vacate their hostel rooms. This comes a day after the institute asked eight staff members and two guests to self-quarantine after it was found a person, who tested positive for COVID-19, had stayed in one of the institute's guesthouses. IIT-D has also kept five students who returned from the US on March 10 in isolation within the campus for 14 days as a precautionary measure.

"The Dean of Students said they were taken to RML Hospital yesterday, and doctors asked them to stay in isolation for 14 days. We have kept them in some one-room apartments on campus," said Professor V K Aggarwal, chairman of IIT-D's hospital advisory committee.

A student with a travel history to Norway was also sent for a check-up to RML Tuesday but was sent back without any advice for self-isolation.

In a circular issued Wednesday, security officer Sandeep Sharma said, "Keeping in view the increasing cases of COVID-19, it has been decided...to close the gates of the institute with immediate effect until further orders." The gates which have been shut include the Mehrauli gate (Shani Mandir), Hostel gate and Vishwarkarma Bhawan gate. "It has also been decided that pedestrian gate(s) will remain closed. Katwaria Sarai and Jia Sarai gates will also remain closed till further orders," said Sharma, adding that "visitor entry will be restricted till further orders".

Auto-rickshaws and cabs would only be allowed to enter and exit from the main gate, and domestic workers can enter on showing their identity cards issued by IIT-D, the circular said.

In a separate notice, Assistant Registrar Mukesh Chand said, "It has been decided that all students, except international students, will have to leave the hostel positively by March 19."

The institute earlier asked most students to vacate hostels, but made exceptions for PhD students (except those who are in their first year of research).

On Tuesday, IIT-D officials wrote to all faculty members, saying they tried to get the eight contractual staff and two guests tested for coronavirus but got no response from the helpline number. Asked if the tests were conducted Wednesday, Aggarwal said he had not received any information yet. He said it was not possible to quarantine staff members in the institute due to a lack of support infrastructure. When contacted, RML Hospital did not respond to queries on the matter.

Coronavirus: IIT-Delhi asks eight staffers, two guests to self-quarantine

March 18, 2020 https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/coronavirus-iit-delhi-asks-eight-staffers-two-guests-to-self-quarantine-6319572/

An email in this regard was sent by the Dean (Infra) K C Iyer and Associate Dean (Infra) J T Shahu to all faculty members Tuesday.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has asked eight staff members and two guests to self-quarantine after it was found that a guest who tested positive for coronavirus, with a history of travel to Italy, had stayed in one of the institute's guesthouses.

An email in this regard was sent by the Dean (Infra) K C Iyer and Associate Dean (Infra) J T Shahu to all faculty members Tuesday.

"It has come to our notice today that one guest from Milan, declared asymptomatic of Covid-19 at the airport screening on March 6 but advised home isolation for 14 days, had stayed in Gulmohar (Faculty Guest House) from March 7 afternoon to March 8 morning in Room no. 209. As per the newspaper report, he tested positive on March 16 at Bhubaneswar and is moved to isolation ward there," they said.

"From check-in time to check-out time of this guest, eight staff members had come in direct/indirect contact with this guest. Later, two more guests stayed in this room from March 9 to March 13, but they checked in only after 24 hours of the check-out of the previous guest. The room is vacant since then," they added, clarifying that "till now, no staff or guest of the Gulmohar has reported with any symptoms of Covid-19".

"We have requested the host faculty to instruct the two guests who stayed from March 9 to March 13 to undergo self-quarantine. Also, as advised by CMO (Chief Medical Officer), 10 recently appointed faculty members who are staying in Gulmohar are being asked to self-quarantine," the Dean said.

They said that IIT had "tried our best" to get the right staff members "tested in the hospital today but none of the helpline numbers were working" and that they were "hopeful that we will be able to get these staff tested tomorrow".

"In the meantime, as a precautionary measure and as advised by the CMO IIT Delhi, these eight staff members have been directed to self-quarantine at home starting from today for 14 days and they have been granted special leave during the quarantine period. Most of these staff are contractual and their employers have also been informed about our decision," they said.

The institute said there were also "indications" that the SDM (South Delhi) "might take over Gulmohar in a day or two for quarantine of general public".

"Due to this, around 10-12 new faculty staying in Gulmohar have been asked to shift to Amaltas (guest house). Hence, we have stopped taking new bookings for both Amaltas and Gulmohar till further instructions. We have also cancelled all bookings," they said in the email.

IIT Madras, Delhi, Mumbai lead race for patents in 2019-20

March 15, 2020 https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/iit-madras-delhi-mumbai-lead-race-for-patents-in-2019-20/story-uhXUXu8HthLJPkJH4GCk9K.html

Top policymakers in the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry are examining the latest data to find ways in which research and innovation in the country's best technical institutions can receive a boost.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has emerged as the country's leading technical institution in creating new knowledge, as 186 patents were filed in the academic year 2019-20. The IITs of Delhi and Mumbai are ranked next, with 152 and 135 patents, respectively.

IIT-Kanpur has increased its tally of patents from 47 in 2018-19 to 78 in 2019-20. The number of patents registered at IIT in Roorkee and Guwahati was 42 and 26, respectively. While the older and established IITs have been improving their patents score,the newer ones are lagging behind.

The IITs at Mandi and Ropar, which are comparatively much younger institutions, registered five and seven patents, respectively, but did better than many other peers.

Top policymakers in the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry are examining the latest data to find ways in which research and innovation in the country's best technical institutions can receive a boost.

"The performance of institutions in creating new research is a key parameter in evaluating their global standing. A key thrust area of the ministry, under HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, is to boost international rankings. The ministry is looking at ways to comprehensively boost creation of new knowledge in technical institutions," said a senior ministry official, who didn't wish to be named.

According to the latest data accessed by HT, the IITs in Patna, Jodhpur and Hyderabad registered four patents each in 2019-20.

The IIT in Gandhinagar and Bhubaneswar registered eight and three patents, respectively, in 2019-20. The IIT in Indore secured two patents, while the IIT (Indian School of Mines) in Dhanbad had three to its name in this academic year.

Most IITs have shown an upward trend towards registering patent in the last five years.

The official, however, clarified that while these were the latest figures, there could be a marginal increase as the academic year is drawing to a close. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, also consistently scores high on research and registering patents.

The older IITs have the advantage of having more students enrolled in their Ph.D programmes and are also publishing more research papers.

For instance in 2019-20, IIT-Mumbai awarded 385 Ph.Ds, while IIT-Delhi gave 331. IIT-Ropar awarded 28 Ph.Ds during the corresponding period. IIT-Mumbai published 2,498 research papers, while the tally for IIT-Jodhpur was 147.

Data shows the faculty strength is another reason that explains the gap in the publication of research papers. The IITs of Delhi and Mumbai have a faculty strength of around 600-700. While, the corresponding figure for the younger institutions is around 200. IIT- Hyderabad's faculty strength is 212, but it would be much less in other institutions.

"The aim is to bring out the best research from institutions in a bid to sustain a continuous process of critical thinking," said the senior official quoted above.

Coronavirus fear makes IIT Delhi shut down hostels, JNU, Jamia suspend classes

March 13, 2020 https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/coronavirus-fear-makes-iit-delhi-shut-down-hostels-jnu-jamia-suspend-classes/story-QQuoRpLs12wPtayBl2IEeL.html

IIT Delhi had announced the suspension of classes and examinations until March 31 on Thursday. It has also suspended all board events including inter-hostel events till March 31.

In an effort to stem the rapid spread of coronavirus, the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi (IIT-D) has asked all its students to vacate hostel rooms till March 31 with the exception of foreign students and PhD scholars. The rooms are to be vacated by Sunday night.

An email sent by IIT-D Assistant Registrar Mukesh Chand on Friday asked students of B Tech, M Tech, MSc, MBA and other courses to leave the hostels by midnight of March 15.

"This also applies to students currently living in Nalanda, IP Apartments and off-campus (Katwaria Sarai and Ber Sarai)," the email stated.

The email said students were allowed to leave their stuff locked in their rooms.

"The students are required to lock their rooms properly before leaving the hostel and fill the entry/exit register of the hostel concerned and the mess rebate form," the email said.

The Institute had announced the suspension of classes and examinations until March 31 on Thursday. Besides, IIT-D has also suspended all board events including inter-hostel events till March 31.

The institute has allowed international students and those enrolled in PhD programmes "in case their research is in a crucial stage" to stay back. However, they will need prior permission from their supervisors.

As a precautionary measure, the technology institute has also prohibited the entry of visitors in hostels without prior permission from the warden.

The institute also announced that the mess facilities for off-campus students will also remain suspended from Monday till further orders.

"All Night Canteens and Juice Centers in hostels will remain closed from 16.03.2020 to till further orders. Extra Vigilance be exercised on a daily basis on Mess Workers and cleaning staff that they should not suffer any symptoms of Corona Virus (Runny nose, Headache, Cough, Sore throat, Fever, General Feeling of being unwell, Shortness of Breath)," the email added.

Students have also been advised to take necessary precautions while travelling and even otherwise.

Earlier today, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) announced suspension of classes and examination till March 31.

"In view of the situation arising out of coronavirus (COVID-19), it is hereby notified that all lectures, class presentations and examinations at JNU are suspended until March 31 with immediate effect," JNU Registrar Pramod Kumar said in a statement.

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) also suspended classes till March 31 and advised students to avoid large gatherings in the wake of the outbreak. The ongoing university exams, however, will continue as per the schedule.

"Teachers should make study material available to students, who need any assistance, online. Teachers should contact the students via email for reference of study material available online," university Registrar AP Siddiqui said in a statement.