

IIT BBS commences classes for new academic year online

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BHUBANESWAR: IIT Bhubaneswar has commenced classes for the new academic year amid Covid-19 pandemic. It has started first year classes of postgraduate (PG) students and next semester of existing BTech, MTech and MSc students.

PG first year classes have been started from Thursday, while next semester classes of existing undergraduate (UG) and PG students were started from August 17. All the classes are now being live streamed without the physical presence of students on the campus. IIT Bhubaneswar director RV Raja Kumar said the present semester has started almost on time, with only a delay of three weeks compared to the normal or non-pandemic situation. "We will bring students to the campus by following a standard operating procedure (SOP) after improvement of the situation," he added.

He said they were left with the only challenge of commencing the classes for fresh and 2020-21 batch of BTech students. Now the JEE Mains and JEE (Advanced) examinations are scheduled for September 1 to September 6 and September 27 respectively. "We will be able to admit the students, and commence their classes after a couple of months and save the academic year of the BTech freshers," he added.

Raja Kumar said the pandemic forced them to start the new academic year through online mode. "It has some drawbacks and some advantages too. We will minimize the disadvantages and capitalize on the

advantages. We are focusing on effective on-line teaching, interacting with students and other innovative practices for quality education," he added.

The practicals in laboratory will be done once the students return to the campus. "But some concurrent on-line laboratory training too will be provided now itself alongside the theory classes, so that their learning is not affected due to the delayed laboratory practice," said the statement of the institution.

Pravas R Sahu, dean (Academic) said his institution has completed its education of the last academic year without any compromises. "We conducted live streaming of classes and conducted conventional examinations by creating and adopting a unique and very innovative online method for all of its students, despite the Covid-19 pandemic," he added.

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