



IIT BBS completes its academics for 2020–21 amid Covid challenge

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BHUBANESWAR: Despite the unprecedented challenges thrown up by Covid-19 pandemic, the IIT Bhubaneswar has completed its spring end semester examinations of 2020–21 on May 15 for all of its students except for the B Tech first year. The institution stated that it ran its academics in uncompromised standards to complete the examinations.

Sources said B Tech first year examinations will take a month and half more due to late admission and late starting of the semester across all the IITs.

“In March last year, before lockdown was announced, the institute had switched to online education without any gap due to prior planning, innovations and execution. It had developed a unique and innovative online method to hold comprehensive pen and paper examinations and conducted the end-semester examination in May last year. Since March last year, it did not alter its academic regulations and standards,” said the official sources of the national institute.

IIT Bhubaneswar director RV Raja Kumar said theory classes for the entire 2020–21 were conducted online due to the pandemic situation. It was a challenge for the institute to conduct hands - on laboratory training for science and engineering students. However, it organized this training with physical presence of students and via online mode by live streaming or pre-recorded video of demonstration of experiments performed on the lab table by the faculty members, he added.

In the second method, students were provided with the live video streaming of the demonstration of an experiment during the laboratory class according to the time table. All students except for the fresher were brought to the campus to attend full lab sessions with physical presence in the campus between February and April this year. Due to the onset of the second wave of the pandemic, the lab practice with physical presence of the fresher has been postponed and it will be completed as soon as it is conducive, said Raja Kumar.

He said the extra academic activity (EAA) including Yoga classes and practice of the first year B Tech students could be done online in a very innovative and unique way during the pandemic. Project and research seminars, evaluations of UG, PG and PhD programs have been conducted over online platforms, he added.

The director said IIT Bhubaneswar campus has been kept Covid-free except for five cases in September last year, up to seven cases in April and five cases in May. The institute has been honored with the ‘University of the Year’ award by FICCI recently for its performance during the pandemic.

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