**IIT Bhubaneswar Starts New Academic Year in Online Mode Amid COVID-19**

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The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar has started the new academic year for the present as well as newly enrolled postgraduate students.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, **IIT Bhubaneswar** has decided to conduct the classes in online mode and avoid any physical contact. The institute said in a statement, "*The present semester has started almost on time, with only a delay of 3 weeks as compared to a normal semester in a non-pandemic situation. The students will be called to campus through an SOP as the situation improves and permits.*"

The only challenge left in front of IIT Bhubaneswar is the commencement of classes for B.Tech students belonging to the new batch 2020-21. As **JEE Main** and JEE Advanced are scheduled in September this year, the institute is planning to admit the students in a couple of months and save the academic year of the B.Tech aspiring students.

IIT Bhubaneswar Director RV Raja Kumar said, "*I have personally addressed the faculty and advised them to do effective online teaching, maintain 'connect' and interaction by adopting the best practices and also add some innovation and experimentation in the online mode. For participatory learning, right problem-solving assignments with feedback to students can be done online.*"

As presents, online laboratory training will be provided alongside the theory classes, so that the lab practice is not delayed. However hands-on laboratory practice will be provided once the physical classes commence at the II Bhubaneswar campus.

IIT Bhubaneswar Academic Dean, Dr. Pravas R Sahu divulged that the **institute completed its education of last academic year** via live streaming of classes, conducted remaining lab classes and thesis work, and also adopted a unique and innovative online method of conducting conventional examinations. Despite the COVID-19 prevalent situation, the institute didn't compromise on the educational needs of the students.

Director Kumar also said that students should be aware that one has to be entrepreneurial in arranging a device and connectivity and also put extra effort into making one's learning from online education effective.

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