

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

## *IIT-Bhub completes semester exams amid Covid*

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 20:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bhubaneswar has completed its spring end semester examinations of 2020-21 for all of its students except for the first year BTech despite the Covid-19 pandemic, an official said.

The first year students' examination will take a month and half more due to late admission and late beginning of the semester across all the IITs in the country.

The spring end semester examinations of 2020-21 have been completed for all other students May 15.

Last year in March 2020, before lockdown was announced, the premier institute switched to online education without any gap due to prior planning, innovations and execution, a senior official familiar with the development said.

The institute also developed a



very unique as well as innovative online method to hold comprehensive pen and paper exams, trained its faculty and applied the same very successfully to hold the end-semester examination, in May 2020, said the official.

"Due to the very tough pandemic, the theory classes for the entire 2020-21 too were conducted online, timely for all the students. For science and engineering students hands-on laboratory training is important and carrying

out the same during the pandemic posed a serious problem," IIT-Bhubaneswar director Raja Kumar said.

He said the lab courses were organised for students with both physical presence with hands on experience and online by live streaming or pre-recorded video of demonstration of experiments performed on the lab table by the faculty members.

In the later method, students were provided with the live video streaming of the demonstration of experiments during the lab class as per the timetable, he pointed out.

All students except for the freshers were brought to the campus and they had their full lab sessions with physical presence in the campus during February-April 2021 successfully.

Due to the onset of the second wave of the pandemic in a severe form, the lab practice with physical presence of the freshers has

been postponed and it will be completed as soon as it is conducive, the director said, adding that even the extra academic activity (EAA), including Yoga classes and practice of the first year BTech students, could be done online in a very innovative and unique way during the pandemic.

Projects and research seminars, evaluations, of UG, PG and PhD programmes have been conducted over online platforms, he said.

Stating that maintaining good health and protection from the pandemic is more important than running the academics in standards, Raja Kumar said, "IIT-Bhubaneswar campus has been kept Covid-free except for five cases in September 2020 and up to seven cases in April 2021 and five cases in May 2021, through a very strict and spirited implementation of the Covid protocols, awareness campaigns and participation of the whole fraternity in the same."