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IIT Bhubaneswar: IIT BBS completes its education for 2020-21 amidst Covid challenge

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BHUBANESWAR: Despite the unprecedented challenges thrown by the Covid-19 pandemic, IIT Bhubaneswar has completed the Spring End Semester Examinations of 2020-21 on May 15 for all its students except B Tech first year. The institution said that it conducted its academics to the standards without compromising to complete the examinations.

Sources said that due to late admission to B.Tech first year exams and late commencement of semester in all IITs, it will take one and a half months.

“In March last year, before the lockdown was announced, the institute switched to online education without any gaps due to prior planning, innovations and execution. It had developed a unique and innovative online method for conducting comprehensive pen and paper exams and conducted the semester exams in May last year. Since March last year, it has not changed its educational rules and standards,” official sources at the national institute said.

IIT Bhubaneswar director RV Raja Kumar said that due to the epidemic situation the theory classes were conducted online for the entire 2020-21. Organizing experimental laboratory training for science and engineering students was a challenge for the institute. However, it conducted this training with the physical presence of the students and through online mode live streaming or pre-recorded videos of experiments performed on laboratory tables by faculty members, he said.

In the second method, students were provided live video streaming of the demonstration of an experiment during the laboratory class according to the time table. All students, except fresher, were brought to the campus between February and April this year to attend a full laboratory session with physical presence on campus. Raja Kumar said that due to the onset of the second wave of the epidemic, laboratory practice with the physical presence of the fresher has been postponed and will be completed as soon as it is favorable.

He said that additional academic activity (EAA) including yoga classes and practice of BTech first year students during the epidemic can be done online in a very innovative and unique way. He said that project and research seminars, evaluation of UG, PG and PhD programs have been conducted on online platforms.

The director said that except for five cases in September last year, seven cases in April and five cases in May, the IIT Bhubaneswar campus has been kept Kovid-free. The institute has recently been awarded the ‘University of the Year’ award by FICCI for its performance during the epidemic.

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