

## IITBBS to start UG first-year classes from November 18

BHUBANESWAR: IIT Bhubaneswar will start classes of first-year undergraduate (UG) students from November 18.

All 475 seats of the institution have been filled up in the three rounds of admission. IIT Bhubaneswar director R V Rajakumar said they had decided to start first-year UG classes after holding orientation programme for the newcomers. “We will organise the orientation programme between November 15 and November 17, after registering students on November 15,” he added.

The institute has 475 seats for six programmes this year, up from 419 seats last year. Seats have been increased by 18 per cent across IITs. After the first round of seat allocation on October 17, only 22 seats were left. As many as 21 seats were filled up during the second round of allocation on October 21. The last seat was filled up in the third round on October 26.

“We will continue with online classes till the government allows us to start physical classes. We are ready to bring back students any time. We will not shorten the programme, and will carry on with classes according to the normal course schedule,” said the director.

He said there would be no compromise on the syllabus. “We will use the vacation to complete the courses, but we will not impose any pressure on students by using up their weekly holidays. We are planning to complete the first-year programme by July 15,” he added.

The institution had conducted its orientation programme in July last year. This time, it has been delayed by three months. The orientation and rejuvenation programmes will be organised by the institute for students to make them aware of soft skills, future careers and the process of rejuvenation of body and mind before focusing on study and other curricular activities.

“The motivating talks and activities will help students focus on the courses,” Rajakumar said, adding that lectures on introduction to engineering courses and workshops on failures and successes will be held.

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