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Corona effect

IT'S STUDY FROM HOME NOW!

Making best use of technology and showcasing perfect team efforts, institutes in City conducting virtual classes for students in times of social distancing

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

● **Soumika M Das**

When professionals across the globe are 'working from home', students of some major institutes in the City are 'studying from home.' No, we aren't talking about self-study! They are attending classes from home, virtually! But, how? Well, on Thursday as the clock struck 2.30pm, middle-aged electrical engineering professor, Bharatram, of IIT Bhubaneswar enters the classroom, sharp on time-as per the normal schedule.

There weren't many students in the classroom-most of them have left the campus following the corona advisories. Only a few left-who chose to stay back for safety or couldn't leave due to various reasons-were sitting inside the 'sterilised' classrooms. Unlike, the regular days, the professor doesn't browse through the books first. His topmost priority was to log in to a software from Microsoft that facilitates virtual communication and exchange of data or material among a group of individuals. Soon after logging in, he recorded his lecture on 'adaptive signal processing' using a webcam for the virtual combine class of B.Tech final and M.Tech first year students-attending the session from different corners of the country. In the next couple of minutes, queries from students start popping up on his monitor. That's how the virtual classroom functions.

Since social distancing is the need of the hour, the institute's director believes that teachings can be carried on effectively using technology.
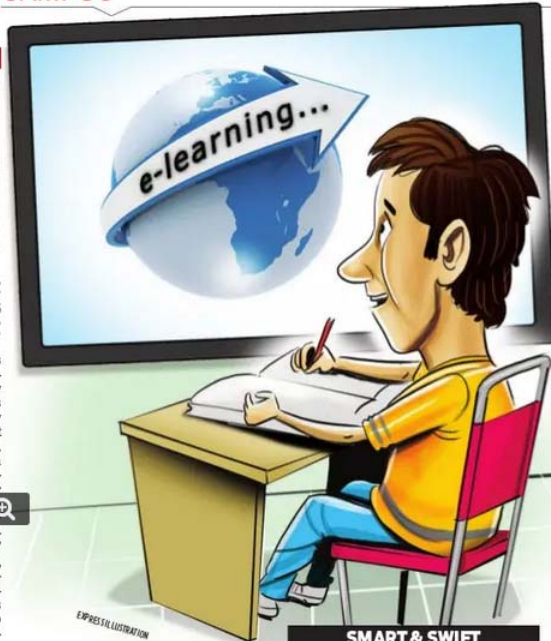
"The faculty members are using webcam and microphone to teach in their respective classrooms, they even share material to students. For instance, for ex-

changing of PowerPoint presentations take place. The Students can ask and interact with faculty members. The faculty and students can see each other, students can unmute and clarify their doubts by using microphone or using their chat tool to interact or share their things. This tool allows two way communication to take place between faculty and students, they can even see what the teacher is writing on the blackboard. Here the faculty has a choice to see the student or not but for students they have to mandatorily see the faculty as he is teaching," explained IIT Bhubaneswar director, Professor RV Rajakumar. "In all classrooms, laptops and camera have been arranged and put in place, the classrooms also include the offline students who have stayed back at the Institute and preferred not to go to their homes.

According to an advisory issued by the institute, proper sanitation of classrooms, tables, door handles, railings, dustbins is being strictly carried out. "We are spraying of Virex II 256 disinfectant which is EPA's registered antimicrobial products for use against Novel Corona virus.

Various equipment like thermal screening scanners, fumigation apparatus etc have been procured on priority basis to deal with the current situation as well as any future eventuality," he added. Measures were taken up after an emergency meeting on March 14.

IIT Bhubaneswar isn't the only institute that's following the virtual teaching methodology. Similar, efforts have been put in place at KIIT University as well. "Most of the students have left for their homes. But, we are teaching them online using a software called Zoom. Faculty members have been asked to stay in touch with the students. Both, the stu-

dents and faculty members are prepared for online tests also," said director of student services at KIIT, Dr Shyam Sundar Beura.

Faculty and technical staff of CV Raman Global University claimed to have modified an application to support the virtual teachings. Besides, the institute is using Zoom software for conducting four to five classes per section in a day. "We have also started conducting practical for software labs, all virtually," said the varsity's Head of the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Department, Priyadarshi Kanungo.

SMART & SWIFT

Institutes like IIT Bhubaneswar, KIIT and CV Raman Global University have made arrangements for online teaching, tests

Software like Microsoft Team and Zoom are being used

Around 100 students and a teacher can log in to the application simultaneously from different locations

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— Professor RV Rajakumar, IIT-BBS Director