



The LNMIIT Jaipur's Response to COVID-19

An overview of the Institute's pro-active and swift response



Introduction

- Greetings from all of us at the LNMIIT Jaipur!
- Purpose of this document is to share several initiatives and proactive measures taken by the Institute as part of its constantly evolving strategy in a fluid and uncertain environment **caused by this pandemic.**
- Giving highest priority to the safety of its students, faculty and staff, the Institute was closed for on-campus teaching-learning operations in mid-March, prior to lockdown announcement.

- Through the Institute, many faculty and staff have donated one or more days' of salary to the **Chief Minister's Relief Fund for COVID-19**.
- In addition, many faculty, staff and graduate students have paid their one or more day's salary / fellowship / stipend / assistantship to the **Prime Minister's PM CARES fund**.
- Aligning with safety recommendations, campus has been kept **in minimal operations mode and except for essential services** like medical, cleaning, Electricity, Water-supply, Security etc. (with minimum staff). No one is allowed to enter or exit campus unless there is real need or a medical emergency.
- About **90% plus staff and almost 100% of faculty are working from home**.
- At various places of entry and exit, **as per need, thermal scanning and basic sanitisation support has been enabled**. Fogging is being repeated once every week. **Ambulance and Medical Centre are regularly sanitised apart from frequented areas and gates**.

- We have made arrangements of **WhatsApp based requests for grocery, vegetables and fruits delivery** through one of the on-campus vendors to campus inmates and PayTM/ UPI based payments, in order to get the supplies taken care of and yet ensure physical safety via distancing.
- We are **regularly communicating with faculty, staff and students** and sharing efforts being taken by the Institute to assist them. At least one communication / update reaches them every month.
- Through a set of response teams including one for medical safety led by the Resident Medical Officer and one for Estate Safety & Security, led by in-charge Estate Officer, a set of protocols were created and implemented for ensuring safety of all involved.
- **All salaries are being paid on time**, as usual. The involved team has been advised to ensure that **poor workers, third-party workers (like cleaning, some office staff, security staff etc.) and daily wagers too get paid** without delay and without deduction other than statutory ones, as it is particularly hard time for them.

Mental Health Care

- In addition, through our **Centre for Wellness and Positive Health**, we have taken up an initiative to enable online and telephonic support to any LNMIIT student, faculty or staff for seeking help related to anxiety and stress related problems or any other psychological difficulty, through our existing counsellors and volunteer colleagues.
- In addition, the Resident Medical Doctor enabled any required support that campus community locally required.

Finance & Support

- Since hostels had to be closed for ensuring students' own safety in March 2020, except for handful students who could not travel and had to stay in hostels, regular mess services were not run.
- Institute ensured proportionate refund of mess charges, as per rules, directly into their bank accounts, before start of the Odd (Fall) Semester.
- Even though hostels were closed, in order to ensure welfare, in spite of a fall in the revenue, the Institute has maintained the salaries of all hostel (and related services) staff and other obligations. This has resulted in an increased financial burden. (Also, as per existing contract with the ISPs, the Institute had to pay significant Internet charges, even though students had left hostels by March.)
- In spite of these costs, in order to help students in these times, 52 days' of hostel and related charges were proportionately computed and refunded to graduating students and adjusted against the payable semester fee of the odd (Fall) Semester for continuing students, effectively lowering the amount they had to pay as fee.
- With a view to support even further, Fee for all continuing students was brought back from the well-announced planned budgeted level to the level of previous academic session leading to no change in fee in spite of escalation of costs incurred by the Institute.

- **Due to the closure of the Institute in view of pandemic-caused safety threats to students, all classes were duly re-planned and were conducted in online mode, using live online and flipped interaction based models.** Tablets / e-Pads and stylus were provisioned for instructors for effective online instruction..
- For almost all classes, **interaction recording** was made available online to all students, apart from any other applicable class materials like notes, presentation and additional reference materials etc. depending upon course and teachers.
- **Some post-Mid-Semester componen were converted into online elements.**
- Several competing solutions were explored for identifying the best way of **remote-proctored online examinations and one of those was finalized and adopted.**
- **It helped a lot in running entire Summer Term, in fully online mode, both teaching wise and proctored examination wise.**

- Original planning included the conventional-mode invigilated end-term / comprehensive examinations, in separate batches, in staggered mode ensuring both physical distancing and safety of everyone, other modes of evaluations including term papers, mini-projects, and viva-voce etc. were kept open.
- Students who were / are unable or unwilling to take online option either due to lack of required online connectivity or physical resources or their plain disagreement), have been and are being accommodated in one of the later regular semesters, once the situation returns to normal, provided they agree in writing or through email to a deferred graduation plan as necessitated by making choice.
- A **revised academic calendar** adapting to COVID-19 driven circumstances has been created for the academic session 2020-21.
- After being run through standard internal deliberation and approval process, this has been, now, announced to all faculty, staff and students.

Placements, Training & Internships

- **Through our Training and Placement Office, we are keeping in constant touch with both students and recruiters so that our students do not face any hardships, to the best of our ability,** in spite of situations caused by COVID-19 leading to certain withdrawals of previously made internship and job offers.
- The Institute, has also created an internal mechanism to provide online project-based internship facility through the LNMIT Summer Internship Programme (LUSIP) to interested students, in select areas of mutual interest of faculty and students.
- In addition, a few online workshops were conducted to train interested students and faculty, alongside some outside participants, in couple of basic and advanced VLSI Design area in collaboration with industry and also in Robotics in collaboration with a media group.

Relevant Research, Development & Outreach

10

- Some small teams of faculty and staff at the LNMIIT Jaipur, cutting across departments and centres, worked on design, development and prototyping of some devices:
 - creation of 3-d printed face-shields,
 - 3-d printed face-masks,
 - mobile building/campus sanitiser device,
 - Mist-based innovative disinfection chamber / hut.
- Three of these have already reached prototype stage and have been in pre-test stage.
- A set of faculty and students are working towards creation of a Machine-Learning driven accurate prediction and mapping model to help the Government and local authorities to help prepare timely strategies and handle timely intervention.



27-07-2020

(C) LNMIIT, Jaipur

Summary



- The Institute not only took timely, well thought and yet swift steps in interest of all its students, faculty and staff but also tried its level best to take care of both safety and essential service needs in spite of numerous constraints.
- Not only even (Spring) semester was systematically completed and closed with care but also its results were announced such that graduating students do not face delays in joining their jobs / higher studies.
- Summer Term was also enabled, in fully online mode.
- Students were given several flexibilities of academic kind, particularly if they faced / anticipated device or connectivity issues or simply wanted to learn later in traditional ways, in spite of the Institute's operating in online, flipped mo of instruction.