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Top Higher  
Education  
Listings  
2020

## COVER STORY

- Mapping digitization through learning

## SPECIAL FEATURE

- Digitalization a new phenomenon in Higher Education

**Dr. Madhu Chitkara**  
Pro-Chancellor  
Chitkara University  
Punjab

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## **Message**

This is very heartening to note that DigitalLEARNING, published by Elets Technomedia, is organizing Higher and Technical Education Conclave – a Virtual Event to bring key higher and technical education experts from West India to discuss the finest practices and challenges of India's Higher Education landscape.

I believe that such initiatives are very significant, especially in the times of COVID-19 when the education sector is going through tough times and working tirelessly to address the various issues.

In the wake of COVID-19, it is of utmost importance to keep the morale of students high, and higher education institutes have got a huge responsibility to continue working towards their goals and ensure that the impact of this crisis is not much on the students and their studies. Such a platform will surely enable us all to come together and learn the best practices from across the institutes.

I wish DigitalLEARNING all the best and look forward to addressing the virtual gathering.

**Satej (Bunty) D. Patil**



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*Dr Ravi Gupta*

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Dr Ravi Gupta

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# EDITORIAL

## Sparkling revolution in Higher Education

In COVID-19 pandemic, each level of education sector faces its unique challenges, it is the higher education segment that may end up, triggering a learning revolution. Universities are distinctive in that their students are both old enough to handle the rigours of online work and technologically savvy enough to navigate new platforms. The real challenge lies for the Higher Educational Institutions. Can traditional, campus-based universities adapt by choosing the right technologies and approaches for educating and engaging their students? The successes and failures that unfold should give us all a better grasp of what is possible.

Video-conferencing apps like Zoom, Microsoft Teams Google Meet are throwing universities a lifeline. However, Teachers are still struggling to maintain the same depth of engagement with students they could have in a classroom setting. They need to find solutions – and fast – to avoid a dip in the quality of education they are providing. Online education platforms can play a useful role by tapping their expertise in online programme design, choice of tech platform, and digital marketing to develop the best content either with or for the traditional players.

Education institutions have quickly realized that remote learning is just a baby step experiment in the long journey to offering online education that has been conceived as such, which includes effective student engagement tools and teacher training. Some of the partnerships sparked between universities, online education companies and tech providers may continue beyond the pandemic.

In this month's issue on Top Higher Education Listings, we have tried to highlight how higher educational institutions have tackled the pandemic. With admission and placement season almost over, how the institutions have tried to inculcate the effect of Coronavirus.

Our special story talks out the challenges and opportunities for higher education institutions. With dedicated listing pages for placement, infrastructure and admission, this issue of digital-LEARNING Magazine will help parents and students to select better.

With host of articles by industry leaders and special story, we hope our latest endeavor would evoke invaluable feedback of our esteemed readers.



**Dr Ravi Gupta**

Editor-in-Chief, digitalLEARNING magazine  
and Founder Publisher and CEO  
Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd

# MAPPING DIGITIZATION THROUGH LEARNING

Chitkara University encouraged students, parents and other stakeholders to remain active through various online modes says **Dr. Madhu Chitkara**, Pro-Chancellor, Chitkara University, Punjab in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many sectors to shift their bases online including education, where numerous schools and colleges have started teaching their students through online platforms all across the world. In India, however, when most of the educational institutions were in search of alternate way of teaching, Chitkara University was equipped with its own initiative "Online Chitkara University" for giving on-line sessions on streaming, trending and state-of-art topics to the students to support their educational and employability skills. Sometimes these sessions were planned as a series of hands-on sessions. Experts from outside were invited to give industry perspectives on emerging new normal. At times, simulations packages were run online for giving insights into a complex topic. Very many cases of team teaching could be witnessed in these live seminars, thus benefitting the students multifold.

To start with, all departments at the university uploaded complete calendar for the online classes. This was done to save the students getting overwhelmed with too much coming their way. For live tutorial sessions, the university used GotoWebinar,

“

*Live tutorial sessions/lectures were then planned in line with already announced time-table for the online university.*

”

Zoom and Microsoft platforms. Live tutorial sessions / lectures were then planned in line with already announced time-table for the online university. Prior to this, live training sessions were given to students and faculty members for their complete preparedness. The students were incentivized to ask questions during these sessions and if they took part in online discussions. These sessions were recorded and the recorded sessions were available as the repository for the students. An administrative policy was framed and announced for safe use of IT infrastructure.

A year back, when the concept of team teaching was introduced at the University, they started recording the lectures of some excellent teachers. These recorded lectures came in handy when the Online University initiative was launched. These, along with other prerecorded lectures from the MOOC platforms such as NPTEL, Swayam, Coursera, Udacity were used to evolve blended learning models. Pre recorded lectures were also used to set up flipped classes, where students attended the online class after seeing the video lectures, and the synchronous session was conducted for fruitful discussion based on the lecture. The flipped approach witnessed an





increase in the engagement of the students.

"We realized that in addition to webinars, and one way seminars, the students needed to engage in one-to-one sessions with the faculty members – especially to clear their doubts. These sessions were named as doubt-sessions. Besides these doubt sessions, other one-to-one sessions included conducting viva voce and other formative assessments to gauge the engagement levels of the students", said Dr Madhu Chitkara Pro Chancellor, Chitkara University.

Structured feedback practices were introduced to take feedback on the online sessions. The survey was conducted in two modes – filling of online forms and the other in online one-to-one sessions. The questions were included to gauge the students understanding of ease of use of technology, ease of understating of online-material, and overall feedback on other online sessions. Sometimes these feedback sessions were conducted in small groups. Another purpose of these sessions was to mentor them and counsel them, if the students struggled with any psychological issues due to home confinement. The teachers also gave them feed back on their online performance.

During this pandemic when most of the Universities and HEIs were closed, Chitkara University encouraged their students, parents and other stakeholders to remain active through online mode. The University's timely investment in IT infrastructure supported this move and as a result most of the students were able to complete their internship through online mode with collaborating industry partner.

Chitkara University started the new online "Explore" series of lectures and interactions with eminent personalities Chetan Bhagat, Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, mythologist and illustrator Devdutt Pattanaik and many illustrious speakers addressed the students and staff. Thanks to the rebust IT infrastructure of the University.

#### Chitkara University has added many achievements in its list:



1. Chitkara University is the only university from North India to feature in the top list of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2020 and ranked 59th rank globally in SDG-07: Affordable & Clean Energy. Apart from SDG7, the university was able to secure good positions in other SDGs also, 101-200 in SDG5: Gender equality, 201-300 in SDG09: Industry, Innovation and infrastructure and SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities for development for making progress in 'social impact' aligned with the UN's sustainable development goals.



2. Chitkara University was recognized as first Indian university for E-Learning Excellence for Academic Digitization (E-LEAD) Certification from QS IGAUGE, the Indian arm of global rankings and ratings agency Quacquarelli Symonds for its readiness & excellence in online education.



3. Chitkara University was the only University from India to have made it to the top 8 finalists for the category – 'Technological Innovation of the Year' for the prestigious Times

Higher Education Asia Awards 2020. Touted as the "Oscars in Higher Education", in which 150 globally renowned institutions across 30 Asian territories participated, Chitkara University proudly announced achieving this milestone, third in line this year, among the league of top recognitions and rankings it has bagged thus far.

4. Chitkara University was ranked in top 100 universities by NIRF with 38th rank in Pharmacy and 75th rank in Management.

Chitkara University, Punjab has been very active in supporting its five adopted villages and distributed ration packets amongst the families of Jhansla village who could not provide for themselves in this lockdown. Apart from this, "the university has supported more than 1 Crore Rupees to PM Care Fund, CM Relief Fund, District Administration and Corona warriors through cash and kind. The New generation Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (NewGen IEDC) supported by DST, Gol at Chitkara University is also making face shields and cloth masks for onward distribution to front line corona warriors. "It is our responsibility support the national fight against COVID 19, in all possible ways", said Dr. Archana Mantri, Vice Chancellor, Chitkara University, Punjab.



Another major initiative in the line is Radio Chitkara FM 107.8, only radio station in India and world now, broadcasting round the clock programmes on Corona awareness for the community in the region including five adopted villages of Chitkara University in Punjab state since last week of March 2020. Radio Chitkara identified immediately that the priority was to disseminate information regarding spread of coronavirus, its symptoms, and possible preventive measures to be taken by the public for avoiding community transmission in India.

Ever since initiative was taken by Radio Chitkara, the response from the audience (Patiala District, Mohali District in Punjab and Ambala Cantt District of Haryana) has been great to the station. 24 x 7 ongoing transmission within a diameter of 15 kms covering three political constituencies has reached more than 1.5 million listeners through terrestrial transmission.

State government's efforts for people during the Corona crisis are highlighted and do's and don'ts to stop Coronavirus is played again and again in radio to reinforce the habit among the audience. The spots of central, state government on Covid-19 is also played in between programmes so that information can reach to listeners in crisp form.

Efforts of Radio Chitkara are fully supported by Chitkara University Leadership Team. Recently, Chitkara University Chancellor Dr. Ashok K. Chitkara and Pro Chancellor Dr. Madhu Chitkara have declared funding support of Rs. 1 Crore (more than hundred thousand US Dollars) through CURIN (Chitkara University Research and Innovation - Centre of Excellence) for NOVATE+2020 which was the biggest platform in the region where innovative project ideas from all over the country were showcased to find the solutions for problems arising because of the pandemic. **DL**

# COVID-19 EFFECT: A CHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Most colleges are not looking to open properly until the end of the year, and many in the United States, Europe, Australia and Canada are even considering waiting till early next year, says **Aditya Berlia**, Co-Founder and Pro Chancellor, Apeejay Styta University in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

The Covid-19 pandemic in many ways will completely change how higher education is delivered and received. With an economic contraction across the world now more than ever people will require better credentials to take up 21st Century jobs. Regulators as well have been jolted and progressive ideas long left dormant or thought not possible will become available. It remains to be seen if this will lead to lasting reform or if they will try to bounce back to old outdated ways as soon as possible.

At the same time, we will witness in the next years the greatest number of closures and bankruptcies of institutions across the world. In India, particularly there has been an oversupply of education institutions which have not been set up with the right intention or foundation.

Covid-19 has lifted the veil of many even “well known” institutions which kept insisting on their marketing materials they were “innovative” and “world-class” but struggled even to deliver simple online learning through video conferences.

Apeejay Styta University and Colleges were lucky on that note to have been able to in a few days start full online classes with the entire timetable and even conduct examinations without pause. It is the testament to grit and training of professors and administrators to have been able to stand up to the challenge presented.

For students who were looking at foreign education over the next year, it will be a challenge. Most colleges are not looking to open properly until the end of the year, and many in the United States, Europe, Australia and Canada are even considering waiting till early next year. Now is the time to search for local options that can give excellent foundations with an international academic system that allows easy transfers in the second year and beyond.

There shall also be a job crisis which will cause countries to pare down their acceptance of immigrants and work permits will be hard to come by for several years.

It is essential thus for students to ensure they can gain practical



experience through not only traditional internships and projects but also through freelance work. Those who are able to use this valuable time to bolster their CV will stand apart from other graduates as well as even older candidates demonstrating their adaptability to the situation.

The good news is students who are just entering college will enter a better more robust job market two to four years from now, but the skills required would be fundamentally different.

It is therefore vital to focus on an education that encourages through a demonstrated system lifelong learning empowering students to face dramatic changes in the world with confidence.

Picking the correct institution, therefore, is more important than ever and students and their parents who embark on this journey should look beyond the facade of marketing and truly try and understand how the academic system and design of their course will allow them to reach their true potential and meet their aspirations. **DL**

# DIGITALIZATION A NEW PHENOMENON IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Lockdown changed the perspective of schools. With schools closed for months, e-learning came to the forefront, across the world. Even in developed countries, students have been the primary movers of this initiative. Teachers followed the new trend, hoping to return to the classrooms soon. Here is a detailed report by **Pankaj Samantray** of **Elets News Network**.



Education plays an important role in the development of stable and civilized society, polishing human skills, developing the personality of individuals. With technology as a catalyst, education is moving from a knowledge-transfer model to a collaborative, active, self-directed, and engaging model. Due to the Corona crisis, there is a surge in digitalization witnessed in higher education. Technology is stamping its authority in higher education day by day.

The modes of teaching in higher education have drastically changed in last few years. While some old guards still stay with the old chalk and talk technology, it is very rare that in these days professors do not use some modern technology in class-room delivery. But with Corona crisis, faculty members are compelled to use technology in education. Abundant information on any subject is available on such

sources as Youtube, Facebook, Wikipedia, and Google.

In India there are many institutions that have in recent years opened satellite campuses abroad or have signed MOUs with some foreign universities to offer online education.

By 2030, India will be amongst the youngest nations in the world. With over 140 million people in the college-going age group, one in every four graduates in the world will be a product of the Indian higher education system.

Over the last two decades, India has remarkably transformed its higher education landscape. It has created widespread access to low-cost high-quality university education for students of all levels.

With well-planned expansion and a student-centric learning-driven model of education, India has not only bettered its enrolment numbers but has dramatically enhanced its learning outcomes.

With the effective use of technology, India has been able to resolve the longstanding tension between excellence and equity.

Digital technology classrooms require a shift from a teacher-centered to student-centered environment where the faculty member must take on multiple new roles.

### There are huge challenges in digitalization of higher education:

#### Resource and Internet connectivity:

One of the main challenges for digital education in India is poor internet connectivity in rural areas and some part of urban areas. Majority of population across India has still no access to internet and a large population in rural areas is still illiterate in the field of digital technology.

#### Shortage of trained teachers:

There is a shortage of teachers, formally trained on digital technology. In some of the academic institution in rural areas, school teacher and college professors are not interested in using digital tools for conducting classes. With Corona crisis, many of them have adopted the digital learning.

#### Language and content related challenges:

Language is one of the main barriers for the development of digital education in India, there are several different languages in different state have been spoken all across country, pushing all the digital content in all these regional languages some time becomes difficult for the agencies. Most of the ed-tech content is available in English which can be constrain for many.

#### Poor maintenance and upgradation of digital equipment:

In rural areas maintenance and upgradation of digital equipment is one of the major challenge. This is largely due to budgetary constraints.

#### Insufficient funds:

Digital education involves effective and efficient usage of appropriate and latest hardware and software technology available in the market. In developing countries like India, digital technology implementation into education systems is a difficult task as it requires huge funds and infrastructure..

In this corona crisis a trend of emerging digitalization education has emerged:

#### Digitalized classroom:

“

*One of the main challenges for digital education in India is poor internet connectivity in rural areas and some part of urban areas. Majority of population across India has still no access to internet and a large population in rural areas is still illiterate in the field of digital technology.*

”

Teachers teaching in the classroom can capture the students and the full strength in the class by digital screens, thus facilitating each child to get the same base content and input from the teachers. This feature of digital era has increased the student engagement as it combines various instructional styles. The aim of must be to engage students.

#### Video based learning:

Video-based learning is a part of digital marketing has geared up in Indian Education Sector and has made education engaging, entertaining and exploring. It enables learning with a pedigree of learning out of leisure with creativity, fun and entertainment on cards via the wonderful Apps, podcasts, video, interactive software, e books and online interactive electronic boards.

#### Massive open online course (MOOCs) & Other distant learning programs:

A massive open online course (MOOC) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. India is considered to be the biggest market for MOOCs in the world. Since the population of India is huge, massive open online course (MOOC) are said to gateways for a lot of Indians in term of bringing an educational revolution. Online distant learning programs give a great opportunity to avail high quality learning with the help of internet connectivity.

Digital classrooms are considered as the vital element in promoting and improving the traditional methods of teaching and learning. So all universities must focus on it, and try to attract more virtual students. So they apply the most friendly user software and technology with skillful teachers and engineers to fulfill this aim. In fact digital class transforms the education process, and cause universal interactivity between teacher and learners as well as among learners themselves, all around the world. **DL**



# COVID ADMISSIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The government of India announced lockdown across the country to curb the spread of Coronavirus. All the educational institutions were closed mid-March.

In a matter of no time, the corridors of W have fallen silent, canteens lie abandoned, and no more sounds of laughter emanate from the grounds. The Covid-19 pandemic has left the universities bereft of the presence of the students.

Even as the country battles the pandemic with a lockdown, educators have not forsaken their primary responsibility to the students which is a continuity in their education with the same exacting standards. Overnight, educators have had to change track and adopt steps to keep the ball rolling.

With the lockdown suspending classes, the annual academic calendar has been hit hard, especially as the March-April period signifies the crucial tail end of an academic session and this is also the time for roll outs for the new session.

Due to COVID, the mobility of students will be immensely affected. The admissions will get affected as the many exams are postponed or cancelled. This is also a very crucial time for the admission processes for the next academic session. Some institutes have made their admission process 100% online. To ensure the safety of prospective students, parents and their staff, these institutes have adopted a range of online virtual methodologies to facilitate the entire admission process.

They have categorized various sub-processes of the admission procedure and are implementing online solutions for each of this sub process. Higher Education Institutions are using webinars for sharing information on programs, video calls for one-to-one interactions, and virtual campus tours to showcase the campus life and facilities available. Only e-applications are being accepted from candidates desirous of applying for these programs followed by virtual interviews. The results are declared online and the fees payment and other admission formalities are also completed online.

With campus shutdowns putting both summer and fall admissions for the upcoming academic year into limbo, international universities have also replaced their classroom programmes with online versions until January. A large chunk of India's admission system is fractured and most of the students in India rely on the offline process for admissions. It is a known fact that most people in the country do not have access to high-speed WiFi and most of the students in small cities/towns/ villages prefer the offline admission process. Convincing migrating students to stay with domestic options post-Covid though, will require sweeping reforms in the education system. Over the last two decades, Indian students' access to tertiary education has improved greatly through private sector presence, with the number of colleges and universities rising fourfold. **DL**



# Institutions with top admission listings 2020

Organisation	City	State
Amity University, Noida	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
Apeejay Styra University	Gurugram	Haryana
Chitkara University	Chandigarh	Punjab
Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune	Pune	Maharashtra
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research	Mysore	Karnataka
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
KLE University	Belgaum	Karnataka
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	Manipal	Karnataka
OP Jindal Global University	Sonipat	Haryana
SRM University	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Symbiosis International (Deemed University)	Pune	Maharashtra
Thapar University	Patiala	Punjab
Vellore Institute of Technology	Vellore	Tamil Nadu





# PLACEMENT CAN BE HUGE CHALLENGE FOR HIGHER INSTITUTIONS

COVID-19 is bringing about a whole set of new challenges in every possible realm; higher education being just one. Given the rapidly evolving situation around the pandemic, has this forced shift from offline to online mode of teaching-learning given us a peek into the reality ahead? How will COVID-19 transform the future of teaching-learning?

Technology-enabled teaching is definitely the future we are looking towards, but will it be easy to make this transition? How should different stakeholders contribute to ensure a smooth transition?

It is important to identify key challenges for students and teachers in the current scenario. Once identified, academic leadership and the government can address these through innovations in focus areas.

Some companies are rescinding job and internship offers after being negatively impacted by COVID-19. Junior students are finding it harder to find internships, especially foreign research opportunities, which play a key role in interdisciplinary research and exposure to global research facilities.

New project opportunities by universities and within government institutions should be floated and due recognition given. In the long run, leadership within universities and

government institutions should push policies to motivate and support an entrepreneurial ecosystem within colleges by setting up more innovation and incubation centres, grants/fellowships to pursue start-up ideas and flexible policies for deferred placement for start-up enthusiasts.

The private institutions are finding it difficult to provide placement assistants to students. Many firms have withdrawn or deferred their offers given to students. It's been hard times for many institutions in this crisis.

In the case of technical courses as well as in commerce and management disciplines, students have to do internships with industry as part of course requirements. How would students be fruitfully able to undergo internship when academic institutions and industries are closed due to lockdown. Some industries may reopen in course of time, but would they be able to comply with internship requirements, concerned as they are with productivity and sales?

There have been no comparable breakthroughs from Indian universities, and to the extent that studies on India have been done, most have been carried out by scholars based in foreign universities rather than those working in Indian universities.

Coming days will be hard for many institutions and students as the economic slowdown looms over the globe. **DL**

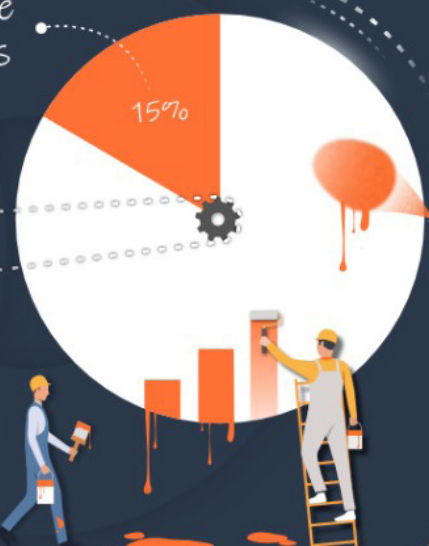
# Institutions with top placements listings 2020

Organisation	City	State
Amity University	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
Apeejay Styra University	Gurugram	Haryana
BITS Pilani University	Pilani	Rajasthan
Chitkara University	Chandigarh	Punjab
KL University	Vijayawada,	Andhra Pradesh
KLE University	Belgaum	Karnataka
Maharishi Markandeshwar University	Mullana	Haryana
Nirma University	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
PSG College of Technology,	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
S P Jain Institute of Management & Research, BharatiVidya Haven's	Mumbai	Maharashtra
SRM University	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
SVKM'S Narsee Monjee Institute of management studies, School of business Management(SBM)	Mumbai	Maharashtra
Symbiosis International (Deemed University)	Pune	Maharashtra
Thapar University	Patiala	Punjab
Vellore Institute of Technology(VIT),	Vellore	Tamil Nadu

# PLACEMENT



employable  
graduates



# HAVING THE RIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS

Infrastructure plays an important role in education sector. Classroom design, auditoriums, laboratories, campus area etc. are crucial elements of a learning environment. Classroom and interior design of Higher Educational Institutions have a major impact on a student's learning and thus the outcome. There is strong evidence that high-quality infrastructure facilitates better instruction, improves student outcomes, and reduces dropout rates, among other benefits..

With the COVID-19 taking a toll, institutions have started virtual classrooms, labs, high-speed internet provider as digital infrastructure is developed across the globe.

Poor building conditions especially in Higher Education Institutions such as dark classrooms with no proper ventilation, broken furniture, leaky washrooms, poorly maintained cafeterias and pantry areas, messed-up library arrangement creates a negative environment and this adversely affects student's learning outcome.

Classroom environment is one of the most important predictors of a student's achievement, where environment and design elements of the institution infrastructure have considerable impact on student's academic progress.

Having realized the importance of infrastructure in educational institutions, many are giving importance to this aspect of the institutions as well.

Effective infrastructure planning for educational institutions is one factor that creates positive and conducive atmosphere for a student's learning. Be it a theory or a practical class, it must encourage students to get actively involved.

Classrooms are the backbone of any education institution. Classrooms must also be well equipped with the latest technology like AV systems, projectors, and Wi-Fi hotspots. Classroom arrangements must encourage students to work individually and as a team as well. A flexible learning place is

the new trend that enables all of these.

Seating and furniture must also be given equal importance while planning classroom design. Well designed seatings are comfortable and thus provide relaxed and convenient seating to the students. This in turn leads to better attention and concentration in the class.

Well-equipped labs encourage students to perform lab activities more effectively. It prompts students to translate their theory learning into practical results. Having a well-planned and designed lab can avoid clutter and provide space for students to store materials conveniently.

The library is a resource for any educational institution. It has an important role to play in both learning and teaching. Libraries must also be flexible to incorporate technologies like e-library, digital books, access to central library and libraries across the campus in various locations. With the onset of Coronavirus, e-library and digital books are the need of the hour. There should be designated spaces that allows for reading and discussions as this enhances collaborative efforts among students.

Infrastructure should not just focus on facilities for students, but also for teachers.

Institutions must consider recreational centers such as space for indoor activities, studios for musical performances, gym, etc. as an integral part of education infrastructure rather as an add-on. Recreational centers with the right kind of furniture that helps create conducive atmosphere for students to spend time inside the campus for longer duration.

The playground is another vital component of education infrastructure. It contributes to the physical and mental wellness of a student and creates a positive atmosphere in the campus. Playgrounds must be multi-functional, flexible and safe. It must also be spacious enough to support various sports at the same time. **DL**



# Institutions with top infrastructure listings 2020

Organisation	City	State
Amity University	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
Apeejay Styra University	Gurugram	Haryana
Bennett University	Greater Noida	Uttar Pradesh
Chandigarh University	Chandigarh	Punjab
Chitkara University	Chandigarh	Punjab
Jain University	Bengaluru	Karnataka
KL University	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
Lovely Professional University	Jalandhar	Punjab
Manipal University	Manipal	Karnataka
O P Jindal University	Sonipat	Haryana
Presidency University	Bangalore	Karnataka
Sharda University	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
SRM University	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
Symbiosis University	Pune	Maharashtra
Vellore Institute Of Technology	Vellore	Tamil Nadu



# HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19

The Higher Educational Institutions have to develop innovative strategies to distribute students into small groups and engage them in various academic processes says **Anup K Singh**, Director General, Nirma University, Ahmedabad in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Anup K Singh**  
Director General, Nirma University, Ahmedabad

A pandemic like COVID-19 occurs only once in several centuries. Unfortunately, when it happens, it disrupts the human life drastically. It stuns and stupefies people at large and leaves them helpless and hopeless. In addition, it changes economic, social, political, and developmental paradigms prevalent in the different parts of the world. Today the humanity is caught unaware and scrambling for finding effective survival and growth strategies. What are the answers to long-term challenges posed by this pandemic?

The future of the human race depends largely on high quality education and health. Education is the spirit of the mind, whereas health provides the elixir to the body.

Higher education – like several economic and social activities – has suffered severely from COVID-19. Teaching and examination activities have been hampered. There is no telling when regular academic activities will ensue. Admission processes are delayed. Most unfortunately, placements of students have either slowed down or revoked, creating despair and dismay for the youth.

Peter Drucker – the foremost management thinker – is attributed to have said that the modern university is a relic and will disappear soon. His prediction did not prove true for many

decades. Nevertheless, the modern university is poised to get its new Avatar. Higher education has been affected by the corona pandemic in three ways. Firstly, higher education professionals have realised the inevitability of online education. Previously, classroom learning and online learning were like water and oil, and they hardly mixed. Online learning has now been found a valuable tool that is going to stay in higher education forever. On-campus teaching and online teaching are meeting and merging like never before. Of course, many efforts are required to make this conflating more effective. Better communication and information technologies are needed; teachers need to be trained to optimise the online teaching-learning process; students have to be more efficient self-learners; and, governments are required to change the regulations to facilitate higher education institutions (HEIs) in enhancing their impact.

Secondly, the HEIs have to develop innovative strategies to distribute students into small groups (say 30 and below) and engage them in various academic processes. Thus, we are heading towards a paradoxical situation. While students will attend online lectures in large groups (say 100 to 500), they would also do other academic activities (tutorials, lab work, simulation, career development, etc.) in numerous small groups. It implies that the HEIs have to invest massively in equipment, facilities and production of digital learning materials. In the future, learning would not be counted in terms of class credits – the clock hours that students spend in the classroom – but in terms of learning credits – the hours the students engage in learning units.

Thirdly, examinations and assessments have to be redefined and be treated as learning. There will be a greater need for more assessments, so that learning is assured. At the same time, it cannot be – and should not be – a source of stress. It has to be as natural and smooth as learning.

A new paradigm will emerge – slowly and steadily. Sensemaking and agility will assist academics in developing the new paradigm of higher education. It also implicates that various HEIs must collaborate together and design new teaching methods, redefine and rework assessment techniques, and plan and develop new modes of learning. Long back, Lord Buddha presciently observed: Only change is permanent. **DL**

# EFFECTIVE DIGITAL LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN

With the advent of digital data many of the above roles of education appear baseless. It is now well understood that Education is nothing but making our students knowledgeable or Wise says **Dr Balakrishna Shetty**, Vice Chancellor, Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

For a long time we thought Education is Teaching and Learning, Data Collection, Grasping, Memorizing, reproducing in the Exams and getting good marks etc. With the advent of digital data, all the above roles of education appear baseless. It is now well understood that Education is nothing but making our students knowledgeable or Wise.

In this context digital learning is increasingly becoming popular with students. The present situation in India and abroad has given an opportunity for all of us. Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education has taken special measures to help the students:

- All faculty members are requested to outline the curriculum for the 21 days and asked to prepare their online lectures. Where ever not possible they are asked to identify similar lectures from National or International Universities/ Digital Education providers.
- Answer first and discuss next methodology: All students are asked to study the subject, prescribed by the faculty through digital lectures of our University. About 15- 20 questions were given to all students at the end, answers collected and common mistakes are clarified by the faculty members through online chat software.
- Flipped Class Rooms: Instead of one-way lectures in the classrooms students are asked to learn at home from online lectures. Lecture notes and PPTs of the faculty members are shared with the students whenever necessary.
- Student and faculty members involvement are evaluated on daily basis by the HOD/ Academics Head.

**These methodologies will:**



**Dr Balakrishna Shetty**

Vice Chancellor, Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education

- Flip the education from Classroom to Home and Teaching to Learning.
- Remove the apprehension in the minds of faculty members to finish the syllabus. This concept is known as uncovering the syllabus instead of covering the syllabus.
- Remove the compulsion of attendance.
- Enhance the intellectual energy of students, improve the level of understanding, help in grasping the concepts easily, ensure better comprehension of crucial concepts and learn Practical Applications.
- Changes the students' mindset from data Collection to Knowledge and Knowledge to Wisdom.

Finally, the faculty members had an inherent apprehension in implementing digital education and this forced lockdown has enhanced the opportunities for digital education and better acceptance by the faculty members. **DL**

# TECHNOLOGY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COUNTERING COVID

Technology played a decisive role in unleashing its potential to address almost all crucial issues for SIESCOMS and establish a symbiotic relationship between students and teacher using digital platforms says, **Dr Bigyan Verma**, Director of SIES College of Management Studies in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

“When things don’t go our way, every challenge - every adversity - contains within it the seeds of opportunity and growth.”



**Dr Bigyan Verma**  
Director of SIES College of Management Studies

This lesson guided SIES College of Management Studies (SIESCOMS) to deal with the monstrous COVID-19 when it hit us all in the 2nd fortnight of March 2020 and the entire academic plan was brought to a standstill. Mastering the world that engulfed us became necessary to overcome fear, frustration, confusion and the future of students at stake.

Along with many educational institutions all over the world, we too had to abruptly halt our functioning to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, especially at a time when we were about to complete the last-minute rigmarole of teaching, assessments, capstone viva, enrolments, research activities and preparation of new academic calendar. Driven by the mission that imparts quality education should never be interrupted, no matter what, SIESCOMS used the lens to mitigate immediate challenges and prepare strategies for the future.

## A holistic response to COVID-19 challenge

Technology played a decisive role in unleashing its potential to address almost all crucial issues for SIESCOMS and establish a symbiotic relationship between students and teachers using digital platforms. While regulatory bodies were still grappling to look for a solution to handle learning outcomes and assessments, SIESCOMS addressed all such deliverables in several innovative ways in the first fortnight of April 2020 itself. The onset of pandemic affected not just the existing students and also the ones who had dreams to pursue management education from a prestigious business school like us. Series of lockdowns complicated the matter for even further. Remote digital tools were quickly adopted to conduct personal interviews for new enrolments. SIESCOMS joined hands with Coursera, a world-renowned platform for offering MOOCs and made it an integral part of curriculum.

Internships are a critical piece of experiential learning in business schools. However, one of the most painful fallouts of COVID-19 was the absence of a traditional format of face-to-face internship experience. Without losing time, internship offers of corporate were changed to virtual internships for all students to expand their knowledge and experience of working in an organization. For students, what could be better when they often find that there is no end to the workday (and learn) when one works remotely.

## The Responsible B- School

COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of many poor people and communities. Collaboration at this hour to tackle the menace in unison remains most vital for all. Driven by the values of South Indian Education Society (SIES), we continued to work at the highest level of its emotional quotient (EQ) and spiritual quotient (SQ) to help the weaker sections of people in our neighbourhood. In addition to donating thousands of masks and beds made of cardboard, member of SIES society, students and faculty went out of their way to donate food, sanitary pads to underprivileged and needy also donations for PM Care fund.

As we continue to live in the world of many unknown unknowns, planning for the future in these uncertain times is tricky, at best. Extrapolating the scenario that prevails today, our experience of how we handled the crisis will help us deal with the future in the most effective way. Walt Disney was right when he said “All our dreams come true if we have the courage to pursue them”. **DL**

# COVID IMPACT: ONLINE TEACHING IS THE ONLY SOLUTION

With a few exceptions where the faculty or the students do not have adequate internet access the theory part of all the courses have been covered to our maximum satisfaction says **Dr Harcharan Singh Dhaliwal**, Vice Chancellor, Eternal University, Himachal Pradesh in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Most of the faculty, staff and students of the Eternal University from 19 states of India had gone home during mid-semester Holi vacations for a week from March 8-15, 2020 and could not return and join the University due to closure of all the educational institutions in Himachal Pradesh from March 16-31, 2020. We had extended our Even semester of the Academic Session for fifteen days till 30th June, 2020 by reducing the summer vacation accordingly. All the postgraduate and Ph. D. students staying behind at our residential campus were allowed to stay in the hostels as per the notification of the Himachal Pradesh Government. As you are aware that the educational institutions have still not been opened in the country due to series of lockdowns from March 22 onwards till to date and are still likely to remain closed for longer time. Keeping in view the last and crucial semester of our nearly one-third students, like any other HEI in the country, we directed all our faculty and IT staff to find the ways and means of teaching the students online all the courses of all the colleges as per the academic calendar of the university with effect from April 1, 2020 and were asked to submit their weekly progress reports.

With a few exceptions where the faculty or the students do not have adequate internet access the theory part of all the courses have been covered to our maximum satisfaction. In fact the COVID-19 has proved as a blessing in disguise as the faculty and students highly reluctant to online learning and teaching of MOOCs, SWAYAM, NPTEL portals resorted to the use of Zoom, WhatsApp, Learnea, EULearning portal and email etc. from home. It has, however, been not possible to teach the practical parts or laboratory courses online due to the lack of expertise, practical videos and virtual laboratories but the same will be dealt with as soon as the universities open and the faculty and students come to the campus before the declaration of the results. We have also conducted the mid-term examination of all the theory courses online using a very safe and secure software for the same developed by our own staff.

Being a residential campus Baru Sahib, a single entry with thermal monitor has been maintained since the lockdowns with very strict quarantine facility in the 200 beds Akal Charitable Hospital. Some very crucial field and laboratory works by faculty and research scholars at the campus have been taken by strictly



**Dr Harcharan Singh Dhaliwal**  
Vice Chancellor, Eternal University, Himachal Pradesh

following the safety guidelines and social distancing. All the faculty and students have been advised to use Aarogya Setu apps for monitoring and avoiding their contact with any potential Coronavirus affected person. Wish the lockdowns should have been planned well and launched very carefully with advanced notices without affecting the teaching and examination work in the nation. It will be better to open the educational institutions at the earliest without any loss or delay of the academic year and admission for the next session. Nearly one-third of the final year students of all the HEIs in the country must get their degrees by July end by completing all the requirements which can never be done online and hence the HEIs must open within June. I am very happy to share the good news that due to the commitment and efforts of all the stakeholders not a single case of COVID-19 has occurred among the families of our faculty, staff and students. **DL**

# A University Of pristine future

**Dr. D N S Kumar**, the vice-chancellor of Ansal University is a renowned person in the field of higher education, where the theoretical perspective blends with the practical experience. He describes that today's education scenario holds more importance to conventional approaches of education. However, today relevance of education needs to be applied. The market demands applied learning and considering the fact that students are much ahead of time with the technology emerging alongside. That is, we cannot afford to make higher education a conventional, teacher, student centric. Today, in every scenario of critical inquiry teacher, student, and faculty members, all should unlearn. Therefore experiential learning is required in the classroom.

We have asked Dr. Kumar as a set of questions that deal with the future of business and management schools, where his perspective will help us look at the Indian education theatre in a different way.

**Q Ansal University has started its journey from 2012, after becoming the Vice-Chancellor, what are the areas you want to put more focus?**

Three key aspects of business education: firstly academic rigor; secondly, research driven deliberations; and thirdly, the continuing education. Wherein, people want to unlearn. The corporates are looking for newer skills.

**Q What are the new courses are you planning to introduce?**

At this stage, we want to consolidate and just focus on three things mentioned earlier and integrate technology driven experiences.

**Q We are aware that the B-schools are focusing on niche management forces. AI has been playing a significant role in the industry. How do you plan to develop the skill set among the students?**

Beyond the hard and soft skills, creating an integrated skills with technology integration would be our focus. Such as financial engineering, risk management, IT audit etc. When such relevant skill are imbibed an attitudinal formation emerges among the budding managers. We have plans to integrate professional certificate courses in to the main stream programs. When the students go to the corporates, they will see 60-70 percent of the companies have adopted the technology. The faculty member also will be trained for the same.



**Q When students are joining B-schools, their aspirations also start building up, to be placed with a good job and decent package, as it is an investment from their side as well. How do you manage to bridge the gap by providing a good placement cell?**

Not only students but parents also aspire to this. But they should keep in mind that, higher educational institutions are not employment provides but facilitators in higher learning. Our endeavor is to imbibe in them good skills and competency. However, keeping note of the developments and acute competitiveness among B-school across the country and activities related to placements, we have an independent Centre for Corporate Resource that enables in internships and final placement of our students. Where we have reached to more than 1000 corporates in Gurugram, NCR, and across the country & outside.

**Q As we have seen, that Ansal University's architectural school has been ranked as number one constantly over the years. How do you plan to focus on other schools as well, so that they can get the tag of number one, down the line?**

We want to create healthy competitiveness and look beyond. Look for new areas which are relevant, opportunity to test, without comparing or benchmarking with others. This is how school of architecture over-a-period of time emerged as the flagship program of Ansal University. Towards this, our mantra is improvement-innovation-invention.

**Q You have already introduced the international exchange program with the most reputed universities. How do you plan to broaden the horizon in this area?**

With seventeen international collaboration, good number of students, exchange programs currently on, we wish to establish an exclusive office of international affairs and facilitate our students, faculty, and enhance our dialogue with our collaborators on academic, research and other activities.

**Q Research, contemporary programs and innovation are the USP of your university, how do you plan to inculcate this culture in your students?**

We want to start with incubation centers, where you will draw participants from corporates and execute the program. This is where the unlearning of the faculty, students and innovative practice emerge.

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# CORONA SCARE: CT UNIVERSITY OPTS ONLINE EDUCATION

The free digital content along with relevant links, resource materials are made available to students without any charges says **Harsh Sadawarti**, Vice-Chancellor , CT University in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

The novel coronavirus disease has become the gravest public-health threat across the globe and on March the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a pandemic. Like in other nations, it has put India on the super alert mode. Almost all organizations and departments, public or private, are now working from home. As a preventive measure and to ensure social distancing, faculty members, staff and students have been given break till further orders under the instructions of the government of India, Higher Education Department and UGC. The CT University is fully concerned that the pandemic situation which is beyond control and should not cause academic loss of students. It has discontinued classroom instruction and moved classes online as one of the ways to help students continue their studies when the university is closed.

The free digital content along with relevant links, resource materials are made available to students without any charges. The content is in conformity with the curriculum and has been devised to impart chapter wise and topic wise learning and assessment. Online access is available either on android mobile, phone, tablet, laptop or desktop. The teachers have prepared daily task format on Google sheets and the same is followed and monitored by higher authorities on a daily basis.

The faculty members are delivering online deliberations in interactive mode – video conferencing, and Skype. The subject matter notes, resource material, questionnaire, etc., are provided to students through the Google Class Rooms generated by the ERP System of the University. The links of useful video clippings, webinars, simulators, PPTs, slide shows and recorded talks are being shared among students. The students interact ask questions and take part in the discussion with their teachers during the live classes.

The students, who are still in hostels have been provided wireless internet hotspots facilitating them to use Wi-Fi to complete course work and attend classes. The PPTs are loaded with voice over for topics relevant to the courses.

Assignments topics are being shared with students on the assignment panel. Students are made to work and submit their



**Harsh Sadawarti**  
Vice-Chancellor , CT University

assignments online on the given deadline. The daily progress is being monitored successfully. The administrative and gubernatorial departments are also working online to help students in case of need. The students are reaping the benefit and faculty members are ensuring that their education is not affected in any way due to the persistent lockdown. The university has made arrangements for appraisal of assignments, quizzes and online tests. The Semester will be clubbed with the ensuing Summer Session so that the students are able to complete their programme without academic loss. The CT University pleads its students, faculty members and staff to observe all precautions and stay protected against the spread of Coronavirus. **DL**

# THE WORLD IS UNITED ON THE INTERNET

A window of promotion to the next class in schools and colleges for those who opt and for such promotion and for those who do not opt, an exit examination conducted, must be explored says **Dr SS Mantha**, Chancellor, KL University in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

The whole world is vexed with Corona the biotic Trojan. There's an old saying that goes: "when you shut one eye, you also don't hear everything". This is a wakeup call!! This virus is assuming monumental proportions the world over, with almost half a million cases recorded with the number increasing by the day, out of which almost a staggering 24,000 dead with redemption nowhere in sight.

Every conceivable business has been disrupted affecting the economy, as no business downturn can. March – April of any year is a very busy time for the students and the faculty.

Universities and Colleges will all be abuzz with activity, not this year though. They have all been hit with the students having returned to their homes and the faculty waiting for the Corona shadows to disappear. Activities that are time-bound cannot be deferred. What is the way out? Remember, we are in a world completely networked and connected, be it by the Web or otherwise. It is time we fall back on those initiatives. Churchill during the WW-II made a profound statement. "Never let a good crisis go waste" Can we turn this crisis into an opportunity?

Without going into the rhetoric of what this means and keeping it simple, can we suggest that the schools must either own up responsibility of ensuring that the corona does not infect their campus, or they must disclaim that a single student or employee infected as a result of this will not touch seats, or bus handles or table tops which of course is impossible.

Schools must shift to online teaching. It is simple; the teachers now at their own homes, record their lessons on video and send it to the students on WhatsApp. That also prepares a digital library of content for the schools. The students can visit that content several times rather than over a single limited period in the class. This is the paradigm waiting to blow conch unless we want to ignore the war cry of COVID! Like organizations and companies allow their employees to work from home, our colleges too must allow learning and assessment from home in these highly distressing times.

Several Online providers have made their content available free to whoever needs it, at least till end of June. The content of credible players like TCS, Coursera can be used to tide over in the technical education domain. Edutech major BYJU'S on Wednesday said it will provide free access to its complete app to school students till April. Free access to Academic textbooks on Cambridge Core, Cengage and Wiley online library is also available. The opportunity must be used by every Institution / College / University to reach out to students so that they complete whatever is left at the time of the disruption. It will optimise education,



**Dr SS Mantha**  
Chancellor, KL University

bring the cost of education lower, release stressed infrastructure and provide much better referenceable archives than the current classroom system provides. Gutenberg invented the printing press and with that, the Bible left the church and reached homes. The churches stay as does the Bible in homes. Only the realm of God expanded in the process!!

The universities must also explore conducting online Examinations and Assessment wherever possible. Desperate times seek desperate solutions. A window of promotion to the next class in schools and colleges for those who opt and for such promotion and for those who do not opt, an exit examination conducted, must be explored.

COVID 19 and the World Wide Web in one stroke, have turned the world into the proverbial "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam", the former by the capacity to destruct and the later by its benevolence to engage. A most the endearing flip side to the malaise of Corona would be, on one side a complete obliteration of the differences that religions, races and castes bring about and on the other, the web uniting all human beings as one.

Corona will not leave the readers any opportunity to fight, let alone the defenses, to continue attending the schools, keeping the children and staff and all those who serve the country to raise our economy and GDP vulnerable. **DL**

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# OP JINDAL UNIVERSITY, RAIGARH DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This sudden paradigm shift is set to disrupt the university functioning and creating lots of issues, challenges and conflicts, but at the same time it offers an opportunity to evolve ourselves and transform the Higher Education Sector across the globe, says **Dr RD Patidar**, Vice Chancellor, OP Jindal University, Raigarh in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

COVID-19 pandemic has affected every sector of life across the globe, be it economy, businesses, manufacturing or education. The rapidly evolving situation around the pandemic poses a whole lot of challenges to the functioning of higher education institutes in India. Probably universities and regulatory bodies never thought of such a situation and we did not have a contingency plan in place. The Universities, under such unprecedented situations, don't have many options and are forced to go online. But the challenge is that all the Institutes and universities of India are not fully prepared to leverage digital tools and technologies. This sudden paradigm shift is set to disrupt the university functioning and creating lots of issues, challenges and conflicts, but at the same time it offers an opportunity to evolve ourselves and transform the Higher Education Sector across the globe.

After the declaration of closing the institution on 16th of March 2020 by government of India and further announcement of lockdown 1.0 on 24th March 2020, followed by lockdown 2.0 and lockdown 3.0, the OP Jindal University (OPJU), Raigarh quickly adapted to the situations and continued all its operation without any interruption.

OPJU is a multidisciplinary university offers Diploma, Under Graduate (UG), Post Graduate (PG) and Ph D programs across its three schools namely School of Engineering, School of Management and School of Science and have 65+ full time faculties, 10 visiting faculties and 1200+ students. During the lockdown period faculty have undergone the process of technology adoption and students are involved with various online modes of learning. There was lots of fear, anxiety, concern and consciousness among students and faculty regarding COVID-19.

The following major activities have been brought under the umbrella of new functional model for the university operations in order to come out unaffected and stronger during COVID-19 and lockdown:

1. Online Teaching and Learning: At the time when students were asked to leave the campus, the university session was running and the courses were in the middle of completion. It was really challenging to



**Dr RD Patidar**  
Vice Chancellor, OP Jindal University, Raigarh

complete the syllabus and keep the students engaged meaningfully. Usually any change is resistive and changing the mindset is difficult, especially of the faculties. The tools used by faculty members during lockdown for teaching- learning online are - Zoom, Google Hangouts/meet, Skype, Google classrooms, Moodle Learning Management System (LMS), Google forms, YouTube, etc. We conducted online Faculty development programs to gear up to adopt changing pedagogies and instill positivity among faculty during the crisis.



2. Examination and Evaluation: The conduct of examinations is now a major challenge for universities in India if the lockdown continues and/or universities remain closed for next few months. University Grant Commission (UGC) too recommended conducting online examinations if the university has the required resources and competencies. We at OPJU are having good IT infrastructure and competent people to conduct the end semester examination in online mode. A pilot project and Proof of Concept (PoC), we have already successfully conducted a mid-semester examination of some of our students in the last week of April 2020. This Pilot project was implemented across all the schools of the university for around 40 subjects from all years and the duration of the examination was 1 hour. Two types of questions were asked in the mid semester examination i.e. Objective type (Multiple choice, True False, Matching, One word) and subjective type (Short & Medium Answer).

3. Internship: At OPJU, an internship is a "Learning by Doing" experience that is aimed at enhancing a student's academics, career progression and personality development and is part of the curriculum. Every student undergoes minimum 02 internships and we have a provision for a semester long internship as well. COVID-19 situation and subsequent guidelines from UGC and All India Council of Technical education (AICTE) encouraged us to evolve our own model for internships, which is apt for the situation and changing scenario.

4. Campus Placement: We at OPJU could sense the campus recruitment problems during the pre-lockdown period itself and shifted our strategies accordingly. In the sudden change of scenario, we were forced to cancel few of the scheduled drives, but soon we started figuring out the companies whose business is on rise during COVID-19 and quickly adapted to the new online norms. We extended companies all the help and support for conducting virtual campus drives from arranging online tests over OPJU MOODLE to Group Discussions (GDs) and Personal Interviews (PIs) in a virtual online fashion. By the time lockdown started our approx 80% students had already been placed.

5. Research Activities: Working From Home (WFH) has given the university administration an opportunity to engage our faculty not only in online classes but also to sustain their continued interest in research and development. Ph D course work classes are being conducted online and progress of all the Ph D scholars is being

discussed and supervised in an online manner. During this crisis, OPJU has been selected by NITT Aayog to establish ACIC under its flagship program Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

6. Virtual Conferences, Workshops and FDPs: COVID-19 outbreak forced us to cancel scheduled Faculty Development programs (FDPs) and Workshops but at the same time offered us an opportunity to think out-of-the-box and come-up with new solutions, which works in the current scenario. OPJU was quick to shift from physical in-person sessions to virtual sessions. In the process, we researched many online platforms and learnt using these communications tools effectively and intelligently. We conducted many workshops and FDPs over Zoom and skype for faculty and students.

7. Webinar and Sessions: Our leadership team has made this time more interesting and meaningful by featuring webinars on different technical and career oriented topics. Leadership team along with the reputed experts from industries, corporate and academia leaders delivered many sessions to make students and faculties aware of the contemporary and future needs of the industry and market. During this period OPJU hosted around 50 webinars on different topics and our members delivered 10+ webinars as a panelist organized by reputed organizations and agencies.

8. Admission Process: Admissions is one of the most important activities for any university, which directly affects the financial health and growth plans of the university. The pandemic has forced people's movements and confined them to their homes. This drastic change in behavior of people affected badly the admission process everywhere and OPJU is not an exception. COVID-19 came as an absolute surprise for the admission team, which forced them to work from home and has a major effect on its working style. However, this impact is not just limited to the admission teams but thousands of prospective students and their parents as well.

As we are all witnessing that covid19 has shaken the economies and industries, we see a paradigm shift in skill set and manpower requirements in the recruitment market. In order to address the market demands and make our students' jobs ready for the post-covid scenario, we at OPJU are revamping our entire curriculum in consultation with industry and academic leaders.

The world after post-covid will be a different one and so the OP Jindal University- Different, Better, Brighter. **DL**

# ONLINE EDUCATION CAN HELP STUDENTS IN LOCKDOWN

Regarding sharing the e-content of the offered courses with registered students, the loss of laboratory component will be compensated by students to use virtual labs says **Shyamlal Soni**, Director, NIT, Uttarakhand in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

The Coronavirus pandemic has created a lot of hassle around the nation; we at NIT Uttarakhand have taken the following measures:

All academics, co-curriculum and extra-curriculum activities including project work, attendance requirement of M.Tech. and Ph.D. scholars, laboratory work etc. stand suspended till 14th April, 2020.

All stakeholders of the institute are required to regularly check the Institute website and respective email inbox.

All the faculty members are required to stay in the station at both the campuses i.e. at Parent campus Srinagar (Pauri-Garhwal) and Satellite Campus (MNIT Jaipur)

Regarding sharing the e-content of the offered courses with registered students, the loss of laboratory component will be compensated by students to use virtual labs.

All faculty members, trainee teachers & research scholars are utilizing this period for various research/academic activities such as: a) Development of online content, online teaching (PPTs/video conferencing etc.) and online evaluation; b) Giving home assignment of course material to all students of their classes for the remaining course content; c) Assessment of the home assignments submitted by the students and awarding the marks to the students; d) Carry on research; e) Writing articles, papers or proposals etc. f) Preparing innovative questions for "Question Bank"; g) Preparing innovative projects on "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat", Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and other activities; h) Preparing lesson plan and developing instructional material for the courses to be offered during next academic year/next semester.

The students have to appear in three exams per semester namely two mid-term exams and one end-term exam. The students have already appeared in 1st mid-term exams. The 2nd mid-term exam will be held online during this period. The End-term exam will be held as soon as the situation is under control, off-line or on-line if the situation is not under control. This will save their semester and job acquired.

All students and employees who have travel history to Corona affected regions or who are suspected to have come in contact with any Corona patients during the last 14 days should remain self quarantined and confined to their home. The students will prepare their lessons at home during this quarantine period.

The students, who are still in the hostels, particularly other state students, are allowed to continue in their hostels and advised to take all necessary safety precautions as and when notified by the Govt. /



**Shyamlal Soni**  
Director, NIT, Uttarakhand

Institute authorities.

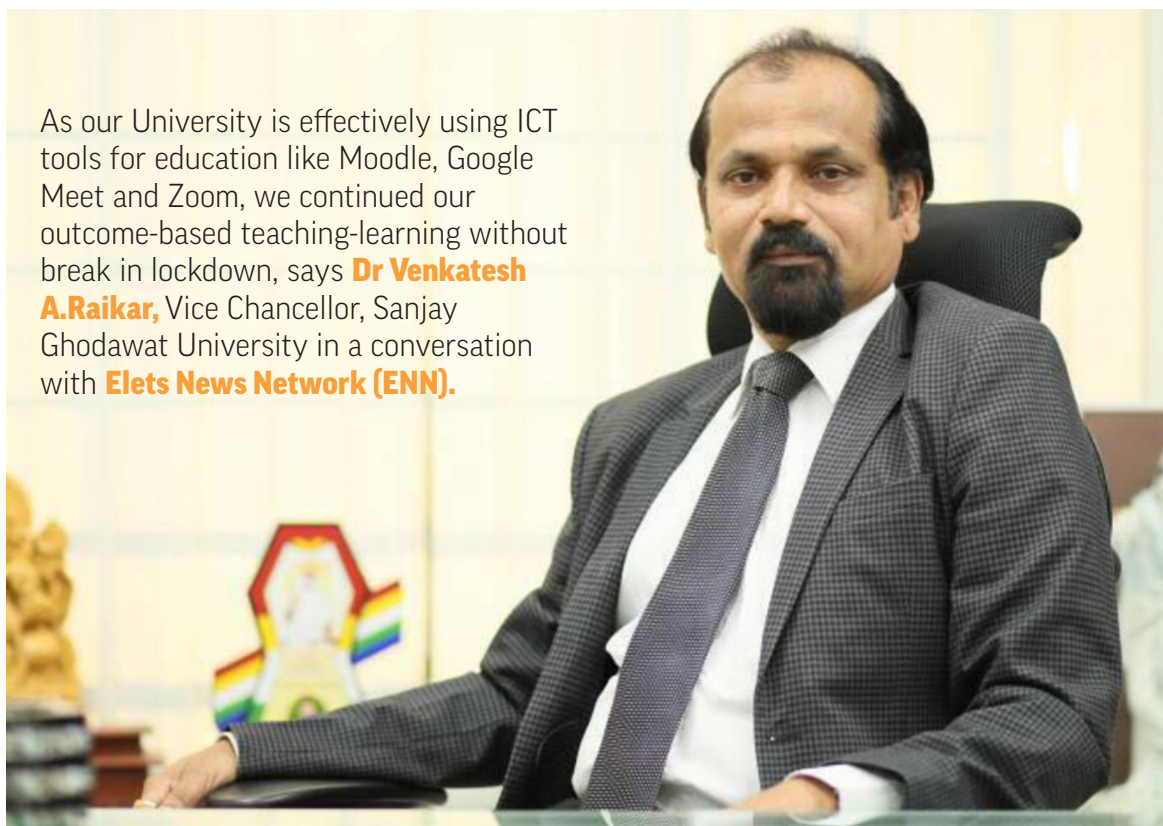
The students who are not staying in the campus are advised not to visit the campus during the period and are also advised to report to the nearby medical facility, if they are suspecting Coronavirus (COVID-19) like symptoms.

Students have been advised to inform their respective faculty advisors if restrictions of movement due to suspension of public transport, lockdown, curfew etc. are imposed beyond 14th April, 2020 in their areas.

While at home, all employees and students are advised to restrict their movement and limit only to bare essential activities and follow the instructions and other health advisories issued by the Government from time to time. **DL**

# E-LEARNING HELPED US TO TACKLE THE CRISIS

As our University is effectively using ICT tools for education like Moodle, Google Meet and Zoom, we continued our outcome-based teaching-learning without break in lockdown, says **Dr Venkatesh A.Raikar**, Vice Chancellor, Sanjay Ghodawat University in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



After lockdown announced SGU had taken many measures to overcome this situation. We had been using Learning Management System, Moodle as a regular practice in SGU. This LMS helped us for continuing the learning of students. Each student and faculty members have their own account on MOODLE and it can be accessed from anywhere using internet. Faculties could upload their lessons & notes in the form of PDF or PPTs, or in the form of videos.

Students solved quizzes and submitted assignments which were given by faculties. We conducted CAT-II on MOODLE successfully. On the other hand, faculties used to conduct online interactions with students by using software like ZOOM, Google Meet, YouTube etc. As our university has its own G-Suit account we have facility to use Google Meet account easily without any time limitation and it also works on low bandwidth.

Our faculties are always in touch with students and parents through WhatsApp and phone to provide all the updates. Our university has already established Swayam NPTEL local chapter to conduct various MOOC courses offered by NPTEL and students are taking benefit of this platform for their learning. We have provided

facility to our students and faculties to enroll themselves to various courses offered by <https://www.coursera.org/> which is USA based MOOCs provider.

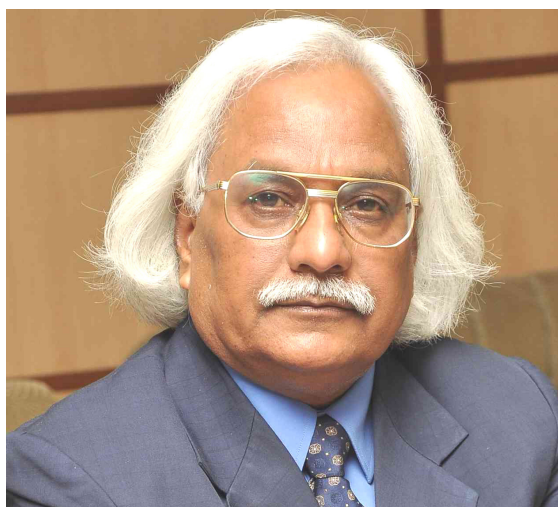
We have established Coursera Campus program in our university. More than 400 student and faculties still taking advantages counting 2,562 of learning hours, and 4,680 lessons. SGU had organised Faculty Development Program on “LaTeX” in association with Spoken Tutorial Project, IIT-B in which more than 1400 faculties across India and abroad enrolled and completed this FDP. A number of Webinar on current issues / educational scenario were conducted by faculty and University officers.

In the face of a crippling pandemic, technology has emerged as a major lifesaver. Communication is a major key to our interconnected existence and technology is the driving force that maintains our connections.

For education, that means creating content and delivery systems that harness and utilize technology to its fullest. Perhaps, education may become more flexible and accessible, relinquishing its over-reliance on rigid structures that we currently consider necessary. **DL**

# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Covid lockdown gave a great opportunity to educational institutions at all levels, from primary schools to universities and institutions of higher learning to make a rapid shift to digital learning says **Prof PB Sharma**, Vice-chancellor, Amity University, Gurugram in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Prof PB Sharma**  
Vice-chancellor, Amity University, Gurugram

The age of Digital India has arrived and a revolution is already in the making for digital transformation, be it trade, commerce, service, governance or even education everywhere digital transformation is clearly visible. But what is not visible is the emphasis on Integrity, Compassion and Empathy that is Aatmiyata as the "Trinity of Divinity" for organisational effectiveness that govern human behaviour.

India for long was looking for effective interventions to impact people's behaviour to build responsible citizenship and a community that lives up to its age-old basics of human excellence based on Satyamev Jayate, Service above Self and to its deep rooted conviction in Oneness of Diversity and Diversity of Oneness so beautifully ordained in its Upnishadic thoughts. The time to integrate Integrity, Compassion and Aatmiyata into Digital Transformation is now and we must act fast in India says eminent academician Prof PB Sharma who is the Founder Vice-Chancellor DTU and RGTU and currently the Vice-Chancellor of Amity University, Gurugram.

Importance of integrity and Aatmiyata is now better understood in e-commerce and e-business as customer satisfaction and the trust of stakeholders have emerged as prime considerations for the business to grow and flourish worldwide. In governance too the digital transformation should increasingly focus on taking people

on board and on Governance with Aatmiyata should become the buzz of Good Governance.

Integration of Integrity and Aatmiyata as non-negotiable in governance shall build islands of good governance that besides catering for governance efficacy shall build trust and pride in the government in a democracy like ours whose constitution guarantees liberty, equality and justice. We should make no mistake that the government in a democratic set up is the reflection of the mood and mindset of people at large and their behaviour largely impact both the formation and also the functioning of the government. As such it is important that we pay a much greater attention to people's behaviour and their attitude to assure good governance that ensures governmental efficacy and governance with Aatmiyata. This will help us succeed in solving very many pressing problems including long impending issues such as compliance to environmental laws, protection of environmental health, improving poor quality of civic services, loss of trust in governance and above all increasing arrogance and apathy in the society.

In the education sector, the digital transformation has arrived. The Covid lockdown gave a great opportunity to educational institutions at all levels, from primary schools to universities and institutions of higher learning to make a rapid shift to digital learning and the interest with which the online classes, online workshops, online conferences, online panel discussions and millions of webinars that have been conducted during the last 3 months give a clear signal of rapid change in educational space and the role of digital learning shall play to improve the quality and relevance of education from here after.

But let this euphoria and love for digital connect and digital learning does not disappear as we begin to open our campuses in July or soon thereafter depending upon our success to effectively concur Covid pandemic.

We need to increasingly echo and that too loudly the importance of Integrity, Compassion and Aatmiyata as the core human values to build an education system that effectively shall transform a man into a human with humanity, humility and personal and professional integrity at the core of human instinct.

The digital transformation in education should not let go of this great opportunity of integrating integrity and Aatmiyata in digital learning. The time to act in this direction is now and we must act fast to grab this great opportunity that we all educators have with us today, says Prof Sharma who is also the past President of Association of Indian Universities, AIU. **DL**

# CHANGING ACADEMIC DELIVERY IN TIMES OF CORONA

We do not want to hamper students' careers and thus want to effectively engage them further in teaching-learning the entire new semester has been planned effectively for conducting online sessions for all the theory classes says **Bharat Agarwal**, President, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Bharat Agarwal**  
President, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology  
Pune

VIT Pune has been on the forefront of digitization of its activities and its operations for almost three years now. We have successfully developed and implemented an ERP system to manage All our establishment and faculty work successfully.

Also, a lot of time has been spent and a lot of efforts have been taken to train our faculty members to use digital tools as well as a lot of social media tools so as to engage students better in the teaching-learning process. We were working earlier on the Google Classroom platform as a learning management system for our students, but later on, moved on to a platform called VOLP and have been using it for almost a year before Covid-19 happened. The students were very, very enthused with the implementation of digital technologies because their grasp and the adaptation to anything that is digital was very, very natural and easy for them. Faculty members had to be trained, and I'm very happy that most of our people adapted to it, in fact, improvised on a lot of initiatives that we had undertaken. With the crisis coming, the education institutes were being the first one to be closed. Subsequent to that, everything in our environment shifted online that too very smoothly. This was because of the already established processes and learnings of the digitization tools that we had established. VOLP integrated Zoom in its activities and thus all our lectures were conducted on Zoom App.

After about 15 days of the lockdown, we took the feedback from the students, more than 75% of students felt their feedback that the engagement on VOLP platform was good. The Zoom lectures that were happening were useful. They were able to understand most of the concepts. In fact, faculty was more personal to them than ever before. We also conducted assessments on the VOLP platform in the form of multiple-choice, match the following type of questions and fill in the blank type of questions. And also, a few online Viva verse was done on Zoom. Obviously, one important part of on-campus education is the students learn from each other, which we call peer learning that I believe was missed in the entire process. Because college life is not only about what we learn in class, but it's also from what we learn from each other and apart from only learning, we also have fun in college. I'm sure the students miss the fun portion, miss the entertainment portion, miss the social activities, miss the Cultural & sports activities.

Whilst this is going on, we do not want to hamper students' careers and thus want to effectively engage them further in teaching-learning the entire new semester has been planned effectively for conducting online sessions for all the theory classes. Most of the practicals are simulated and the programming labs are already linked to the VOLP platform through simulation tools and compilers and only for on-field practicals, some remedial teaching and some group work the students would be required to come to college. That might be only one day in a week or so. We also are now pushing VOLP team to better have collaboration opportunities for students because we want to collaborate online and do a lot of group study online. That would be group-based assignments and there would be group assessments. Thus, we believe by doing so, we will be able to make the students talk to each other meet each other and also have fun with each other.

Collaboration with the Nanyang Technology University wherein we believe we will develop a few courses with collaboration with their faculty, and offer them as extra credits to our students. We are already into an association with Harvard Business School Online, wherein courses from Harvard Business School online will be delivered to our students for extra credits. We thus look forward that although the crisis that has hit us, we should not and would not allow the crisis to hit the students studying for the long term. We believe that the cooperation of the students and parents and the efforts of our teachers, we will be able to shape up the careers of our students in the same manner as we would have done otherwise on the campus. **DL**

# VIRTUAL THE NEW NORMAL: PREPARING THE FUTURE INSTITUTIONS



The Virtual new normal has revolutionized teaching and learning process and have become popular due to its agile characteristics that accelerates the channels of communication among the masses located at remote places of the globe says **Dr Niranjan Hiranandani**, Provost, HSNL University, Mumbai in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Despite the world's renowned doctors and leading research institutions' day and night efforts, we have not been able to decode the New COVID 19 virus and its ability to spread. With the rising level of infection among masses, it has disrupted primary and secondary sectors of the economy, which has ultimately stemmed up hardship of a common & poor man, a labourer, a daily wage earner belonging to the marginalized and economic poor background and an average Indian.

This has created a turbulent effect and disputed the economies of the world. Contrary to this, it could not shackle the world of education. In fact, due to advancement in the information & communication technologies, professionals, who had underestimated the power of technologies, got in action, grabbed the opportunities, made the enormous use of virtual new normal and reached to the unreached and impossible remotest areas across the world.

The Virtual new normal has revolutionized teaching and learning process and have become popular due to its agile characteristics that accelerates the channels of communication among the masses located at remote places of the globe.

Virtual new normal is the future. It is going to boom educational discourses, as these mind-blowing and going to be convenient today, tomorrow and for forever. It also has the potential to revolutionize knowledge transfer beyond our imagination. Virtual New normal is driven by a mouse click away, we need to embrace and nurture it and make it a habit and culture of learning in our entire educational set up.

To upgrade the quality of education, its scale, speed and scope, we have to construct the organizational structure of Virtual New Normal, SupplyOnlineResources, Integrated Devices and Hardware Resources to facilitate the comprehensive & complete online educational systems.

India can do it, contemporary leading universities and educational institutions governed by government and non-governmental agencies, if engaged in true partnerships, through joint ventures and collaborations can do the impossible as I am possible, the only need is to have a proactive invisible leadership directed by the principles of mission accomplishment towards the vision, "Education for All".

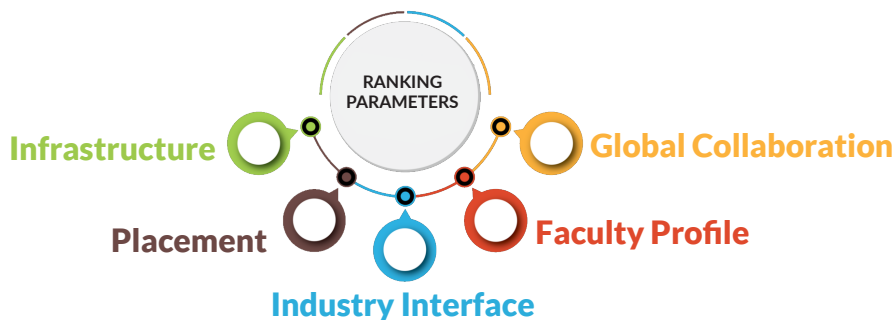
"Education for All", Vision of national education commission 1992 is still a distant dream for all Indians, we can achieve this by introducing the this virtual new normal, each teacher can play a significant role as an institution itself with the help of this new normal, the need is to prepare an action plan a strategic plan, free from biases, bureaucracy, political obstacles, hindrances, complex government compliances, profiteering by corporates in their educational setups, commercialization of education, exploitation of students by charging high fees for their core educational needs.

Instead, we need social organizations civil society volunteers, dedicated to working for the cause of human welfare and intention to serve humanity, an army of social soldiers to work within the society's set up and upgrade the quality of education with the virtual new normal a weapon or tool to achieve each Indian's vision, "Education for All". **DL**



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**ENGINEERING  
RANKING**  
SPECIAL EDITION

Elets Education Magazine's Top Engineering Institutes of India Ranking Survey 2020



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### INCREMENT RATE IN ADMISSION

While taking admission, every student need to know which colleges have good placement records and produce quality oriented graduates.

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- ♦ Ranking results will be announced to professional members of Elets Media network and will be available for download.
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# HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION VIRTUAL CONCLAVE, RAJASTHAN: EDUCATORS CALL TO CREATE QUALITY E-CONTENT FOR STUDENTS



**PROF. ANIL D. SAHASRABUDHE**  
Chairman  
All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Over 1.5 billion students and youth across the globe are affected by school and university closures. These nationwide closures are impacting over 72% of the world's student population. Governments around the world are making efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and to facilitate the continuity of education for all through remote learning.

Once the world opens back up again, educational institutes should keep the value added to the education provided by online tools and work towards developing 'blended models' of learning which provide the right balance of both. While only time will tell the lessons the world learned from these truly extraordinary times, digital learning

has made it clear it's here to stay in the mainstream for good, in one form or another.

Elets Technomedia and digitalLEARNING Magazine organized a Higher and Technical Education virtual conclave, Rajasthan which was first of its own kind in the country. The conclave was graced by Dr Shuchi Sharma, Higher and Technical Education secretary, Govt of Rajasthan and many other eminent speakers. In the conclave over representatives of over 20 universities in India and outside presented their views over the ongoing crisis.

The conclave was opened by Elets Technomedia Editor in chief Dr Ravi Gupta, who welcomed all the esteemed speakers. Dr Shuchi Sharma hailed Elets Technomedia for organizing such a conclave in this Corona pandemic. She even said the conclave is first of its own kind. She emphasized the use of technology in the education sector. She also asked faculty members to create quality e-content for students across the globe. She even went on to laud the AICTE for its new

curriculum and said it is more focused on employability. The challenges are admissions and conducting exams for students. Ed-Tech firms to be included in the system, she added.

AICTE Chairman Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe said "Everything cannot be taught online. Colleges will have to adopt blended learning after the crisis. Internships can be done online mode. We have an internship portal for students as industries are not allowing students in his pandemic. New curriculum has been introduced for students."

He also said institutions must try to bridge the digital divide within students.

Hemant Sahal, Founder and CEO, Collpoll emphasized on the blended learning and it's a solution for institutions in this crisis. He even said Collpoll will provide assistance to educational institutions in every way including assessments, study materials, data and many more. He even said the technology will play an important role in the education sector in the coming days.

Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary-General, Association of Indian Universities said "There will be a new normal in every sector after the Corona crisis. Many of our teachers embraced technology. To tackle the crisis, universities must develop digital infrastructure, training teachers to teach online, choosing a learning platform, assessment and evaluation online tools."

She also said students must keep in mind, knowledge will be important not a degree in the coming days.

She also said "teachers must learn to develop unique content. Varsities need to



**DR. PANKAJ MITTAL**  
Secretary General  
Association of Indian Universities

improve higher education for students. The Corona crisis has created many opportunities for higher education. “

In the second session was on “Academia to Leverage Technology to Engage Students” was graced by various VC from the state.

Prof (Dr) Arun Patil, Academic Dean, Victorian Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia said “The students are missing the campus. The situation has forced us to take up technology so we must focus largely on the engagement of students. The priority is exams and how to assess students but there are many grey areas in assessments. We



**PROF. (DR) ARUN PATIL**  
Academic Dean  
Victorian Institute of Technology  
Melbourne, Australia

are working new ways to assess students online.”

He also said “students are going through much stress and they require counselling in this crisis. Students may feel uncomfortable with online exams as it is new for them. “

He also said universities must conduct feedback sessions to understand how students are adapting the online classes.

Rahul Singhi, Co-Founder, Poornima University & Director, Poornima Group said



**RAHUL SINGHI**  
Co-Founder  
Poornima University & Director  
Poornima Group



**R A GUPTA**  
Vice Chancellor  
Rajasthan Technical University

“There is a quick adoption of technology in academia. People who will adopt the change will survive in coming days. There is a huge surge in video sessions in last two months. Survival of the fittest will be the new norm.”

He also said things are going to be changed in the coming days.

RA Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, Rajasthan Technical University said “There is a complete transformation from classroom learning to digital learning. Students have a huge time to adopt the technology. Offline classes cannot be completely substituted by online classes. Rural students cannot connect with



**PROF. DR. HN VERMA**  
Vice Chancellor  
Jaipur National University

colleges due to internet issues.”

He also said “The quality of content is a huge issue. We need to identify good teachers who all can provide quality content. We need to have a panel of teachers who can tap the quality of content.”

He also said “In the month of July, University will conduct the exams. We will increase the weightage in next year.”

H N Verma, Vice-Chancellor, Jaipur National University said “All the teachers have adopted the technology gracefully.

There were some issues with students with internet connectivity but most of them adopted very well. We conducted two mock tests online and have hired an agency to conduct exams.”

He also said “The students are having some mental stress so we need to take care of these issues. We need to mentor our students regularly. The online classes and assessments will be the new normal in coming days.”

HD Charan, Vice-Chancellor, Bikaner Technical University said “We were eyeing to



**HD CHARAN**  
Vice Chancellor  
Bikaner Technical University

complete the pending syllabus and provide summer internships to students in next few days. Online classes cannot be replaced by offline classes. The AICTE has asked to have 20 pc studies through online mode. Our teachers are ready with presentations to provide study materials to students. “

He also said we can also start counseling online on Happiness. We have counselled students for one week in the crisis.

In the third session, the panel discussed “Tackling the Innovation in Admission, Enrolment, Assessment & Accreditation.”

Dr Abhay Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IEC University, Himachal Pradesh said “We have installed online process and targeted the local students. Accreditations can be done through virtual labs. Online exams can be done through a hybrid process. Online teaching is an innovation, which will stay with us. We have arranged mental health wellness classes. We need to reach all the students in rural students.”

Prof (Dr) K P Yadav, President/Vice Chancellor, Sangam University, Bhilwara, Rajasthan said “There must be university



**DR. ABHAY KUMAR**  
Vice Chancellor  
IEC University  
Solan, Himachal Pradesh

app and portal for admission and there must be flexible admission test. Around 30 pc students come from rural areas in our university. We need to apply an alternate way for the admissions of students. We need to embrace technology for teaching. We have to provide education at the doorsteps of students."

We need to improve the quality of education. The virtual labs can be used in assessments. With govt's support we can use this crisis to opportunity, he added.

Dr S Srikanta Swamy, Academic Consultant - Research & Analysis Wing,



**PROF. (DR.) K P YADAV**  
President/Vice Chancellor  
Sangam University  
Bhilwara, Rajasthan

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) said "Our technology has reached the urban areas, not the rural ones. Technology can be used to make admission effectively. We need to focus, how to minimize the time frame and to make transparent our admission process."

Online teaching cannot be compared to offline teaching and a good teacher cannot be replaced, he added.



**DR. S. SRIKANTA SWAMY**  
Academic Consultant  
Research & Analysis Wing National  
Assessment and Accreditation Council  
(NAAC)

He also said the evaluation will be more compressive in coming days. A paradigm



**DR ASHOK GADIYA**  
Chairperson  
Mewar University

shift is witnessed in education.

Technology and innovation must be given more focus, he said.

Dr Ashok Gadiya, Chairperson, Mewar University said "The admission will be huge challenge for many universities. The govt must permit us for online admissions and counseling. Online teaching is an issue in rural areas so govt must allow us to provide study materials through radio also. Every



**PROF O P CHHANGANI**  
Vice Chancellor  
Apex University, Jaipur

university must build a radio station within its campus. We need to provide study materials to students in rural areas."

He also said universities must bring new innovations in their way of teaching in coming days.

Prof O P Chhangani, Vice Chancellor, Apex University, Jaipur said "Admissions are done through a digital platform and physical footfall. There is an issue with assessment with students. Assessment is the silent killer of learning. We have to create something for higher level of learning. We need to take the help of technology to capture of data for future usage."

He also said things will change drastically in coming days for universities and students.

In the next session, the panel discussed on "How Higher & Technical Education Institutes dealing with COVID19 Pandemic."

Dr. Panckaj Garg, Founder & Adviser, Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University, Jaipur said "The Covid crisis has forced us to think, why we were established. Except Higher Education sector, every other sector is contributing to the govt in this crisis. We need to bring innovative ideas and provide



**DR. PANCKAJ GARG**  
Founder & Adviser  
Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's  
University Jaipur

recommendations to the govt in this crisis. We need to identify the needs of the society and provide research-based solutions. We need to support the govt in this pandemic."

He also said we need to have e-notes for every programme. In the next five years, we need to map the supply and demand in human power. The data is not organized in our country. Trained human resources is the most important for the country, he added.

He also said there is a gap in demand and

supply and we need to fill the gap.

Ashish Mathur, Deputy Director - Training & Placement and Public Relations, NIMS University said "Corona is a blessing in disguise. Online classes were the only solution in this crisis. We have also sent PDF and other materials to students. We have tied up with many firms for online internships for our students. The next challenge is conducting exams and we are working on it."



**AASHISH MATHUR**  
Deputy Director  
Training & Placement and Public Relation  
Nims University Rajasthan, Jaipur

He also said adopting the new technology was not easy for all of us. Training faculty members to teach online was also a huge challenge.

We must adopt hybrid learning in coming days. Placement is a very dynamic thing and need to start internships every year. We need to add skill sets every year, he added.

Prof. MK Ghadoliya, Vice Chancellor, Shri Khushal Das University said "We started 'College band hai knowledge nahi'. We started online classes on Facebook live. Initially, we took up spoken English, confidence building, public speaking for students. These sessions were attended by many students. Faculty



**PROF. MK GHADOLIYA**  
Vice Chancellor  
Shri Khushal Das University



**SCOTT DAHL**  
Master's Program Director, Les Roches  
Global Hospitality Education

members were directed to make e-content so that classes can be taken."

He also said we need to reduce the timings of online classes. Online delivery is a big issue for varsities. There is no readymade solution with the govt and need to coordinate to prepare one. A new definition of distance education will emerge in coming days, he added.

Scott Dahl, Master's Program Director, Les Roches Global Hospitality Education - Switzerland said "We started online classes when the lockdown announced. The transition was seamless and formed small



**DR PARAG SANGHANI**  
Vice Chancellor  
P P Savani University, Surat

groups to teach our students. The govt was very clear over its policies. Most of the institutions were not prepared. We will be not bringing students back soon."

He also said Swiss govt is very supportive and it took many preventive measures to curb the virus.

He also said there is huge opportunity in this crisis. It is important to learn new things in this crisis, which can be a blessing in disguise.

In the second half of the conclave, the

panel discussed over "Survival Strategies of Institutions in Covid19 crisis: Emergent Resource & Implementation."

Dr. Parag Sanghani, Vice Chancellor, P P Savani University said "Higher educational institutions will be impacted due to the Corona. Universities are struggling to provide quality e-content. All the higher education institutions must think to optimize



**SURJA RAM MEEL**  
Chairman  
Swami Keshvanand Institute of  
Technology, Management &  
Gramothan, Jaipur

the resources. We need to optimize our resources well to tackle the crisis."

He also said mobile phones can be the new classroom for students. We need to provide quality e-content to students.

Surja Ram Meel, Chairman, Swami Keshvanand institute of Technology, Management and Gramothan, Jaipur said "There is huge challenge everywhere. We have to accept these challenges and have to deal with it. Students in rural areas are learning through mobile. This crisis I expected till July. There is an opportunity with every challenge."

He also said a change in mid-set is required and varsities must make all the required changes for future.



**DR. NARENDRA SINGH RATHORE**  
Vice Chancellor  
Mohanlal Sukhadia University and  
Maharana Pratap University of  
Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur



**DR VIKAS MISRA**  
Campus Director  
Geetanjali Institute of Technical Studies  
Udaipur

Dr Narendra Singh Rathore, Vice-Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology said “We need new resources in our institutions. Our traditional way of teaching will be affected. There are lots of issues we need to address them all. We need to change our ways as it is the need of the hour. Most of the students will not go for the traditional way of teaching. We need to bring change in the curriculum.”

Dr. Vikas Misra, Campus Director, Geetanjali Institute of Technical Studies, Udaipur said “Corona has affected every



**PRADEEP KUMAR BORAD, IAS**  
Commissioner, College Education,  
Special Secretary, Sanskrit Education,  
Government of Rajasthan

sector. We have achieved huge progress in online learning in last two months. Now, the virtual classroom is a reality. We must adopt blended learning. We must develop digital infrastructure.”

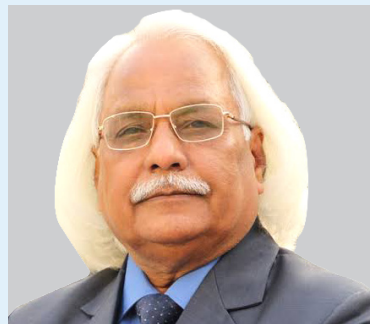
He also said firms will have to go for virtual placements.

In the closing session, the panel discussed over “Mental & Social Wellbeing of Students, Teachers & Parents during COVID19 crisis.”

Pradeep Kumar Borad, IAS, Commissioner, College Education, Special Secretary, Sanskrit Education, Government of Rajasthan said “We have been working on how to improve the quality of education.

We need to focus on skill training and sessions for students. We have created a new calendar for colleges. We have started College Community programme as PTMs in schools. We have started creating e-content from the month of September.”

He also said people are looking towards govt colleges and will try to improve education in colleges. The govt colleges have set a benchmark in the crisis and progressing well.



**PROF PB SHARMA**  
Vice Chancellor  
Amity University, Gurugram

Prof PB Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Gurugram said “The crisis is a blessing in disguise. It will be a great advantage for industries. We have second-largest Higher Education sector in the world. We must understand the deeper meaning of learning. Digital learning is an interactive one; it's not just jotting down notes in the class. We need to bring innovativeness and new things to the classroom.”

He also said students' community need to understand the usage of technology in



**AAKASH CHAUDHRY**  
Director and CEO  
Aakash Educational Services Limited  
(AESL)



**DR. PANKAJ GUPTA**  
President  
IIHMR University, Jaipur

their studies.

Aakash Chaudhry, Director and CEO, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) said “Teachers are facing huge challenges in delivering content. Teachers need to change their mid-sets. They need to understand the difference between offline and online teaching. Content designing is very important for students. With online classes, parents are more involved.”

He said the crisis will bring lots of benefits for students and must focus on quality content and blended learning.

Pankaj Gupta, President, IIHMR University said “The ‘joy of giving’ must be implemented well. Money to meaning is more important. Teachers have to transform themselves to Gurus. Teachers cannot be replaced. Online learning is the need of the hour.”

While concluding the session Dr Shuchi Sharma said “Over 20 lakh college students will have to mandatorily volunteer for social cause from the coming academic session. Cleaning their campuses or teaching slum children will fetch students' academic credits under the state higher education department's programme “Anandam” aiming to sensitize students towards social service.”

She also said this programme will develop a great sense of understanding towards social issues which will remain with them forever. The panel discussed the opportunities and challenges, the Universities are facing in this pandemic. The discussion was elaborate and many of them provided the solutions for the students and teachers in this crisis. The speakers also emphasized on the new role of technology in the education sector. The panel also discussed the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, and potential solutions when the campus will be re-opened. **DL**

# COVID-19 IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The delivery would be far superior than almost any online learning systems offered by other universities. We call it Premium Learning Online or PLO says **Mr Nitish Jain**, President, S P Jain School of Global Management in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



**Nitish Jain**  
President, S P Jain School of Global Management

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has caused a great deal of uncertainty in higher education. Students don't know if campuses would open or if they would need to continue studying online. If online, then what would the experience be like? If they had to return to campus, then how would social distancing mar their experience? Would they be at risk of catching the virus? The list of questions and concerns goes on.

Sadly, there are more questions than answers at this point. Universities – right from those in the US to Australia – are grappling to find solutions. However, unless one can predict how the virus would continue to spread in the coming days or months, it is not possible to give accurate replies.

What have we done at SP Jain? We have addressed uncertainty with flexibility. Consider that for a four-year undergraduate program, students have the choice of studying the first 2 years in Singapore, Mumbai, Dubai or Online. 4 options! I am not aware of any school in the whole world that is giving so many options to its students. Students from Southeast Asia who don't want to travel outside the region could study in Singapore. Indians would prefer to study in

Mumbai. And, those from Dubai would naturally prefer Dubai. In addition, there are many who would prefer to avoid going to a campus for the next year or so. For such students, there is an online option! They also have the option to switch from online to on-campus or move from one campus to another when the time is right. Giving so much flexibility gives them comfort and peace of mind.

Speaking of online – SP Jain's online learning system is not something ordinary. The delivery would be far superior than almost any online learning system offered by other universities. We call it Premium Learning Online or PLO. This has been designed by SP Jain to surpass face-to-face learning in very clever ways. To popularise this, the School offers several short courses. These are mostly 3-week course that leads to the development of in-demand skills, and are taught live by an expert.

Many new models would emerge and it is safe to say the education would never be the same again! **DL**



# EDUCATORS CALL TO ADOPT BLENDED LEARNING

The Coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented halt in the education sector. The government of India has imposed a lockdown in the country till May 3, 2020 for the safety of general public. If the educational institutes are further closed down, then it will have a direct impact on the remaining board exams of different states. They will be further delayed, which will again impact the ongoing academic session.

Elets Technomedia and digitalLEARNING Magazine organized a webinar on "COVID 19: Paradigm shift in education sector and role of Technology for continued learning" with eminent speakers from the education sector.

Speaking over the issue, Dr Sayalee Gankar, Vice-Chancellor, DY Patil University said "The Covid-19 has created a great impact on higher education. The challenge was to complete the courses and to engage students. Not only that, but faculty preparation was also a challenge. Faculties and students used technology wisely. The infrastructure of digital education is very poor and can create a hindrance in adopting online education."

She also said dealing with uncertainty is the main challenge in this issue. No one knows when will the university will open and things will get normal, she added.

Dr Gankar also said internships and placement will be a major challenge for universities. With the lockdown the placement season is over but honoring the offers will be also a challenge for firms.

She also said blended education is need of the hour and content development is also important for facilities.

Not only virtual classes, but assessments of students' are also a huge issue for universities as every subject exam cannot be taken online.

She also emphasized on Trans-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary methods for universities.

Dr. M. N. Patel, Provost, Parul University, said "The COVID-19 has created a crisis in global learning. Online teaching is the only option of the hour. We have conducted exams through the online system. But the assessment remains a challenge for all. There is uncertainty and need to find alternatives."

He also said the Covid-19 has accelerated the pace to adopt the technology in education. A lot of e-content is available and students must opt for 20 pc digital learning, he added.

Raghav Gupta, Managing Director - India & APAC, Coursera said "Close to 3.7 million students are sitting home due to Covid-19. The impact of Corona is huge and long-lasting on the sector. Many institutions are going for digital classes to ensure studies for their students. Technology has been changed a lot in the last few years. We need to change the mid-set of faculties, as technology is not a threat to them."

He also said Technology can be used as a resource in learning and can open new opportunities in the education sector.



He also said Coursera is the leading online learning platform for higher education, where over 56 million learners from around the world come to learn skills. Over 200 of the world's top universities and industry educators partner with Coursera to offer courses, certificates, and degree programs.

Dr Rajan Saxena, Vice-Chancellor, NMIMS University, Mumbai said "Completion of semester is a huge challenge. The universities are trying to cope up with the crisis and students are doing their best. The mobility of students will be hugely affected. The challenge is faculty competency in handling online classes. The online has transformed education. Not only in India it's a global crisis. For every question, there is an answer and we need to find it. We need to transform the education sector."

He also said technology is just a facilitator and we must use it wisely for providing education to students. The emergence of technology has brought a cutting edge to the education sector.

Prof. (Dr.) Navin Sheth, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Technological University, said "There is an uncertainty over the current situation. The universities have no proper infrastructure to conduct online exams. Taking exams will be the main challenge for universities. Earlier only 3 pc were going for online learning but now it surged to 1000 pc. Technology has reshaped the education sector."

He also said we cannot totally opt for virtual learning to complete the syllabus. The colleges must adopt blended learning.

Bharat Agarwal, President, Vishwakarma University, said "The basic challenge is how to complete the syllabus and engage students. Students are ready to accept online classes. The main challenge remains the assessments of students, which has created huge hindrances. Students will miss the peer to peer learning. The education system has become more serious and monotonous."

We must take care of the safety and hygiene of students before opening the universities. Blended learning will be the next big thing. The mobility of students will be a huge challenge for colleges as it will affect the admissions, he added.. **DL**

# FOCUSED ON THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN CORONA PANDEMIC

In our transition from offline to online, we continued to focus on the needs of the students and adapted towards innovative methods to engage students in the online sessions, says **Dr Neha Patel**, Director, Som-Lalit Education and Research Foundation, Ahmedabad, in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



Som-Lalit Institute of Business Management Studies (SLIBM) is a name synonymous in the area of Management in Gujarat since more than 20 years. We, at Som-Lalit believe in an all-inclusive development of the students. In the two years that the students are with us, they undergo a metamorphosis in their thought process, goal formulation, approach towards life and society. One of the major reasons for our success is the relationship enjoyed between the faculty and the students and our strong alumni of more than 3000 students can assure that.

Management is a course which focuses on holistic learning of the student. In our transition from offline to online, we continued to focus on the needs of the students and adapted towards innovative methods to engage students in the online sessions. At SLIBM, we believe that being in the line of education is not merely a job but we are responsible for shaping these students to not just become successful professionals or leader but also better citizens. Since the college campus closed from the third week of March 2020; 1) our campus was given to volunteers who prepared food packets for distribution 2) Our students created positive videos to spread the message of being positive which we uploaded on social media. 3) Our senior students took it upon themselves to guide first year management students.

On the academic front, a) the faculties provided the students with individual assignments related to their subjects. The assignments were practical in nature but involved the application

of the concepts taught. The assignments were unique, interesting and individual in nature ensuring that each student worked to their best capacity b) There were also online test conducted periodically to ensure that the students keep themselves updated with the different courses taught in their semester. Depending on the nature of the course c) Few faculties video recorded their classes and sent it to the students and the conducted doubt solving sessions post that. These proved to be very effective for courses like Research Methodology and Production Operation Management. d) Generic on line sessions were conducted with the students to address their concerns regularly. They were encouraged to hone other skill sets which were important from their future career prospects e) Aptitude as well as concept based test were conducted regularly with an eye kept on the performance of each student f) Summer Internships is mandatory for all students wherein they work under their mentors in the industry/corporate for six to eight weeks to gain practical exposure. The guidelines issued mandated that the students were not to venture out for their summer internships but the institutes were to give them projects. Our faculties discussed with students about their areas of interest and assigned projects to them wherein weekly reporting was mandated.

The institute has worked on the philosophy of being for the students, by the students and of the students and whether we are in the offline or online space, we have always strived to never leave our focus from the well being of our students. **DL**

# HOSTELS OF SINHGAD INSTITUTES ALLOCATED FOR USE AS QUARANTINE FACILITIES

The need of the hour is to overcome the grave challenge by containing and then eliminating the coronavirus for which the medical professionals, scientists and the entire government machinery are totally focused on says **Prof M.N.Navale**, Founder President of Sinhgad Technical Education Society, Pune in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

Promptly, responding to the national emergency to control the Coronavirus outbreak Sinhgad Institutes, Pune allocated four hostels from their Vadgaon Campus and two hostels from Kondhwa Campus at Pune. There is also a dedicated parking lot to serve this purpose. The hostels were cleaned up in compliance with the stringent requirements, before being re-purposed into government quarantine facilities for suspected cases of Coronavirus. The need of the hour is to overcome the grave challenge by containing and then eliminating the coronavirus for which the medical professionals, scientists and the entire government machinery are totally focused on. The best solution is social distancing and to quarantine the people who could be suspected to have the disease. To do this, the government requires as much quarantine facilities as possible across the country.

Contributing his mite to this great cause and lauding the efforts of the doctors, nurses, all health care workers, sanitation workers, media personnel, journalists at the forefront updating on the situation from time to time to ensure availability of credible news, Prof. M.N. Navale, the Founder President of Sinhgad Technical Education Society, says that giving the hostel facilities for quarantine is not just national service but service to humanity.

Government has initiated these measures to ensure sufficient quarantine facilities under any given situation. Today, not only our beloved country, but the entire world is under threat. Even the most developed nations in the world are reeling under the threat of corona notwithstanding the best of facilities available with them. The Indian culture of self-discipline, our life values to live



**Prof M.N.Navale**  
Founder President of Sinhgad Technical Education Society,  
Pune

frugally will help us to maintain social distancing and break the spread of coronavirus. We, all of us, need to stay safe and healthy taking all the required precautions as directed by the government authorities". **DL**

# AMIDST COVID -19: RESPONDING TO THE NEW NORMAL

The new normal brought several new yet in-depth exercises such as curriculum revision with reference to Industry 4.0, course outcome and program outcome mapping says **Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan**, Director General, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.

The coronavirus crisis has posed a unique challenge to the education sector in Gujarat, a state riding high on its entrepreneurial zeal and aspirational dreams. The “Vibrant Gujarat” drive which witnessed several MoUs between academia, industrialists and the government is threatened by the pandemic in curtailing several visionary initiatives launched in the recent past. One of the “not so familiar methodology” which surfaced during the pandemic is the reality of our online teaching-learning process & Evaluation. The Ministry of Education, GoG has been quick to get this lacuna addressed by bringing several measures including policy measures to engage with the stakeholders through online teaching, learning and evaluation methodology. The teaching fraternity has risen to the occasion to fill this gap in the best possible way in such a short span of time. This remediation effort has built an inclusive system of governance, highly complementary and truly rewarding exercise as far as HEIs are concerned.

PDPU emerged with a new teaching-learning methodology through Google classroom, Zoom and CISCO based webex interactions to cover the curriculum through online lectures, and continuous assessment modes through assignments, case studies and Group discussions. The only module that suffered is laboratory exercises. The new normal brought several new yet in-depth exercises such as curriculum revision with reference to Industry 4.0, course outcome and program outcome mapping, incorporating mandatory experiential learning into the new curriculum, appropriating 5 to 10% of credits through online modules (Swayam platform), new initiatives in the cyber-physical system including augmented and virtual reality lab exercises, 3D printing for prototype development etc.

Other major initiatives involve training the trainers’ program for automotive manufacturing, automotive electronics through our MarutiSuzuki-GoG-PDPU International center of excellence in Automobile Engineering, a 75 Crore newly launched initiative. PDPU also engaged along with the ministry of education, GoG in actively organizing Webinars on IPR, and on thrust areas of research in Energy, communications, IT, Industrial IoT, Biomedical



**Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan**  
Director General, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University,  
Gandhinagar, Gujarat

health care, Modern methods of instrumentation, AI, BlockChain, Geothermal and in Petroleum Engineering.

Further in order to augment the mandatory industrial training program for students, PDPU endorsed Innovation and Incubation cell (IIC) to replace the industry training with HACKATHON for all the engineering disciplines. Over 350 student groups participated to solve problems posed by over 10 leading companies, otherwise our potential recruiters.

The new normal has brought a sense of togetherness in all aspects of teaching learning methodology. We greatly value the input and leadership provided by all the Stakeholders of Gujarat Government and the Ministers of Higher education in particular and the principal Secy. of Higher education for shouldering the new initiatives. **DL**

# FOCUS TO MAKE STUDENTS INDUSTRY READY

At SSBF, we have robust curriculum which caters to the requirements of the industry. During the journey of MBA program, students imbibe qualities like patience and perseverance, says **Dr Manisha Ketkar**, Professor and Director, Symbiosis School of Banking and Finance in a conversation with **Elets News Network (ENN)**.



## Having worked in the pharmaceutical companies for the 16 years, what inspired you to join Symbiosis School of Banking and Finance?

I am a Cost Accountant and worked with an European multinational pharmaceutical company in Mumbai for about 11 years. I had earlier worked with a private pharmaceutical company for about 5 years. My experience included supply chain management and product costing. I was always interested in teaching and, as part of my job, had imparted small and big trainings to juniors, and made a numerous presentation to seniors from various parts of the world. I had attended a few training courses myself in India and abroad where I got insights into training methodologies, and the dos and don'ts. While considering our family's move to Pune, I had decided to pursue a career in educational field, particularly in supply chain / material management and costing.

Symbiosis is a reputed institution in India and has a strong base in Pune. I joined them in 2006 in Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB) as a lecturer for the subjects

in supply chain / material management and costing. I grew to become its Deputy Director and then the Officiating Director. I then got the opportunity to work with Symbiosis School of Banking and Finance ("SSBF") as its Director from 2015. While in academics, I soon learnt that having a doctoral degree was a must. I therefore received my Masters in Business Sciences from the Pune University and received my Ph.D. in 2015 from Symbiosis International University.

While there are perceptible differences between industry employment and a teaching career, I found a few similarities too. High ethical values are the first one. I had worked in organisations with highest value system, and the same is applicable here with Symbiosis. Second, the basic managerial qualities required for efficiently running a division of a pharma company and a management institute are considerably similar. In short, my employment experience greatly helped my career in academics in multiple ways and I am thoroughly enjoying my stint here where I get to do what I love to do.

### What makes your Institution different from other competitors offering similar programs?

Symbiosis School of Banking and Finance (SSBF), is a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU). SSBF offers a full time, two year residential MBA program in Banking and Finance. The focus of study is to prepare the students as industry ready professionals to pursue career in Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector. SSBF has always kept itself abreast of the latest changes in the industry. In order to cater to the requirements of the dynamic finance sector, SSBF tunes its curriculum by soliciting inputs from the Industry stalwarts. Hence, it is not surprising that SSBF has eminent and experienced people from the industry on the advisory board and alumni who provide inputs to keep our curriculum relevant and updated as per the demands of the industry.

At SSBF, we have robust curriculum which caters to the requirements of the industry. During the journey of MBA program, students imbibe qualities like patience and perseverance. They develop analytical mindset through various exercises and activities. Students are introduced to various technological tools and platforms like Bloomberg, Capitaline, R programming, SQL, Advance Excel etc. which help them familiarize with technological advancements. Through experiential learning, students learn problem solving and decision making skills and broaden their outlook. As per the feedback received from companies, our students are productive in the first month because of their efforts and qualities imbibed at SSBF. Because of the diverse culture on the campus, students learn to respect diversity and empathy towards each other. Through various events and activities students learn to be a team player and lead the team, if needed.

SSBF has patterned with EduCBA (Online training provider) to provide 700+ online modules in the finance domain to the students to have an edge over other MBA students. It ensures to gain additional knowledge on various aspects of Finance domain. It gives our students an edge over other MBA graduates.

We encourage students to appear for industry relevant certifications such as CCRA certification, Bloomberg certification, NISM certifications etc. Students get firsthand industry experience during Internship. Dissertation is a mandatory part of the curriculum where students get to research on chosen topic. Guest lectures by international faculty are also arranged to broaden the outlook of the students.

SSBF updates the curriculum every year to meet the requirements. SSBF have eminent and experienced people from the industry on the advisory board and alumni who provide inputs to keep our curriculum relevant.

### What are the career opportunities for students offered at SSBF?

SSBF students excel in career in the field of Banking, Finance and Insurance. Having core in depth domain knowledge our students thrive in their work. Our students work in the profiles like Credit Management, Financial Risk Management, Project Finance, Micro

Finance, Product managers in Banks, Life and General Insurance companies, Relationship Management, Business Analyst etc.

### Every year, you have outstanding placement records for the students who pursue different courses from your institution. Give us an insight about the courses and their benefits to the students.

Symbiosis School of Banking and Finance (SSBF) is a reputed business school which exclusively caters to the needs of Banking, Finance and Insurance sector and hence, encourages candidates to join the Institute who aspire to make career in this domain. As SSBF caters to the specially designed course in Banking and Finance, students looking for a career in this sector are benefited from it. Students from PAN India aspiring to build a career in BFSI sector enroll with our institute.

Apart from regular subjects of Banking, Finance and Insurance, subjects like Corporate Governance and Ethics, Legal Aspects of Business, Advance Excel, Business Analytics, Digital Marketing, Financial Product Design etc. enrich students' knowledge and increase the probability of getting placed. Various activities are conducted by faculty with the help of students such as financial literacy workshops for undergraduate students of other institutes, live projects, simulations, problem solving exercises, participate in competitions, field visits, research paper discussions, article / report writing, financial and statistical lab activities

The institute has robust placement committee which work to place all eligible\* students. For last three years SSBF could achieve 100% placement of eligible students. (\*Eligibility based on attendance, no backlog etc.)

### What are your global objectives? Tell us about your collaborations with international institutions.

Internationalization of education and co-curricular activities is one of the central values at Symbiosis International (Deemed University) and thus at SSBF. We have created a community of students, staff, and faculty in which cross-cultural and international knowledge, attitudes, experiences, and action are part of the present and heritage for the future. Our mission is to help students develop a world view, see and analyze issues from various perspectives, understand the broad range of human experience and celebrate the diversity of the human spirit.

The faculty at our schools is chosen based on their positive attitude towards education. Our faculty members also need to be technology friendly and experts in their specific subject areas.

#### Collaborations:

- Macquarie University, Australia - M.Sc. Banking and Finance - Semester Exchange program
- Nuremberg Tech University, Germany - Faculty exchange, joint research opportunities
- University of Pompeu Fabra, Spain - Study India Program - Microfinance
- BSEL, Berlin - Winter School
- University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada - Summer School. **DL**

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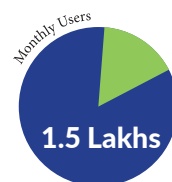
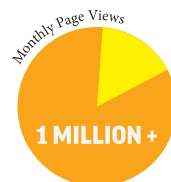
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