

**THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AND OTHER COMPANION JUDGES**  
**OF THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

**SUBJECT: LETTER PETITION**

Lordships,

The Applicant most respectfully showeth:

1. That with utmost respect to this Hon'ble Court, the Applicant, as a final year law student, beg to submit that vide notification dated 06.07.2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs ('MHA) permitted the conduct of examination by Universities and Institutions. The MHA in the said notification has notified that the final term examinations are to be compulsorily conducted as per the University Grant Commission's ('UGC') Guidelines on Examination and Academic Calendar for the Universities; and as per the Standard Operating Procedure ('SOP') approved by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A copy of the notification dated 06.07.2020 issued by MHA, is annexed herewith and marked as "**Annexure A**".
2. That the UGC has issued revised guidelines on examination and Academic Calendar for the Universities on 06.07.2020 ("Revised Guidelines") wherein it has provided for conduction of terminal semester/final year examination by the end of September 2020, in offline (pen & paper)/online/ blended (online + offline) mode following the prescribed protocols guidelines related to COVID-19 pandemic. A copy of the Revised Guidelines dated 06.07.2020, is annexed herewith and marked as "**Annexure B**" and a copy of the letter dated 08.07.2020 issued by the Secretary UGC, is annexed herewith and marked as "**Annexure C**".
3. That it is most humbly stated that the revised guidelines are in sheer violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India, as it fails to consider the principles of health, safety, fair and equal opportunity for the students.
4. That in view of unprecedented health emergency and rising numbers of the Covid-19 cases in the country, the conduct of examination (either online/offline/blended) will expose the examinees to a great risk and will undeniably sacrifice basic principle of integrity by neglecting equal basis and treatment to all examinees. The conduct of offline exam will entail

students (who have already travelled to their hometown) to migrate from one place to another, in order to attend the examination. This will also involve risk of staying in shared accommodation as various colleges and hostels have been converted into quarantine centers. In this regard, copy of news articles are annexed herewith and marked as “**Annexure D**”.

5. That further, it will be absolutely unjust to neglect the problems that will be faced by thousands of students, who will sit for online examination as the same will indubitably work against the interest of students whose access to internet is precarious and who do not have personal computers or laptops in their house, which are imperative to conduct online examination.

6. That it is pertinent to note that in view of the Covid induced lockdown, a lot of parents have undergone substantial pay cuts and even layoffs and in light of the same, it will be extremely difficult for a large section of the students to pay their examination fee or to bear stay and travel expenses to the source where the examination will be conducted.

7. That the suggested model of conduction of compulsory examination takes the students backwards rather than forward. It effectively brings in second phase of postponement of examination, which creates a cloud of uncertainty for the states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and West Bengal, which already decided to cancel examination.

8. That it is most humbly submitted that the Revised Guidelines not only provides for a model which is extremely dangerous for the lives of thousands of attendees (students of final-year/semester cohorts) but at the same time it is extremely dangerous for the Professors who will be invigilating the exams. In this regard, a copy of the newspaper article of Times of India, dated 19.04.2020, is annexed herewith and marked as “**Annexure E**”.

9. That it is relevant to note that the UGC has cited examples of top-ranking Universities such as MIT, Cambridge for conduction of examination during Covid-19 Pandemic. However, by doing so, the UGC has totally neglected the unprecedented difficulties that our country is facing in times of pandemic. To say the least, in these testing days, a section of our society is not able to arrange bread and butter for a day. Therefore, in view of the current difficulties that our country is facing, it is quite unrealistic to justify the reasoning of conduction of

virtual examination by relying on examples of the premier institutions of the world. In this regard, a copy of an article published by 'The Print' is annexed herewith and marked as "Annexure F".

10. It is further most humbly submitted that the execution of the Revised Guidelines, in the current scenario of pandemic, will be in gross violation of the fundamental rights enshrined under Article 14 (right to equality) and Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution of India.

11. It is further most respectfully submitted that even while 'Unlock-Phase -II' has commenced in the country vide MHA Order dated 29.06.2020, various states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra have declared complete lockdown, owing to the constant rise in the Covid-19 cases. Therefore, it is most humbly submitted that in view of the present situation, it is absolutely unfair to prescribe deadline (30.09.2020) for compulsory conduction of examination by totally neglecting the health, safety and most importantly the life of the students.

In view of the aforesaid, it is most humbly **prayed**:

- a. that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to take *suo-moto* cognisance in the matter and may be pleased to keep the Revised Guidelines issued by the UGC dated 06.07.2020, in abeyance, till the situation of Covid-19 normalises;
- b. this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to take steps for alternative system of evaluation to be formulated in the country, so as to do complete, equal and fair justice to the students and to exclude possibility of discrimination, disadvantage and risk of life;
- c. pass any other Order, as deem fit to this Hon'ble Court

I sincerely hope that this Hon'ble Court will be pleased to issue appropriate direction in order to avoid unfair, unjust and unequal treatment to the students.

Applicant:



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Madhya Pradesh Circle Head  
Youth Bar Association of India (Student Wing)  
Final Year student of B.A. L.L.B. (Hon's)

Career College of Law, Barkatullah University, Bhopal (M.P.)

S/o S.K. Dubey;

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Bhopal (M.P.) - 462001

Email address - [yashdubey1502@gmail.com](mailto:yashdubey1502@gmail.com)

**Signatories :**

1. Adiva Khan, Chhatarpur
2. Sheetal Rangwar, Bhopal
3. Yashi Verma, Bhopal
4. Yachika Mehta, Bhopal
5. Aditi Singh Baghel, Rewa
6. Akshay Simhal, Bhopal
7. Anjali Pathak, Chhatarpur
8. Palak Litoriya, Lalitpur
9. Shubham Sarkar, Bhopal
10. Prateek Bhosle, Bhopal
11. Shashank Bisen, Balaghat
12. Rohit Patel, Bhopal
13. Ashish Tripathi, Bhopal
14. Richa Pandey, Bhopal
15. Sandesh Sharma, Vidisha
16. Soumya Jain, Bhopal
17. Pooja Pal, Bhopal
18. Shashank Sharma, Bhopal
19. Suchita Lakra, Vidisha
20. Neha Jain, Bhopal
21. Aman Katiyar, Bhopal
22. Kuldeep Singh Meena, Bhopal
23. Satyam Thakur, Bhopal
24. Shubendra Panwar, Bhopal
25. Rohit Meena, Bhopal
26. Anuj Yadav, Bhopal
27. Firdos Khan, Raisen
28. Kratika Menghani, Bhopal
29. Prabhat Thakur, Seoni
30. Sakshi Mishra, Jabalpur
31. Yogesh Bharti, Bhopal
32. Ashish Kumar Tiwari, Bhopal
33. Rohit Singh Meena, Bhopal
34. Shubham Chouhan, Raisen

**ANNEXURE - A**

**pib.gov.in**

**“5” (Home-MHA)**

**Press Information Bureau**

**Government of India**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Ministry of Home Affairs permits conduct of examinations by Universities and  
Institutions**

**New Delhi, July 6, 2020**

Ministry of Home Affairs, in a letter to Union Higher Education Secretary, today permitted conduct of examinations by Universities and Institutions. The final Term Examinations are to be compulsorily conducted as per the UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities; and as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

**\*\*\*\*\***

**NW/RK/PK/AD/DD**

**UGC Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar  
for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Introduction**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent Lockdown on 29th April, 2020. In these Guidelines it was proposed to conduct the examinations in July 2020. The said Expert Committee was requested to revisit the Guidelines for Examinations and Academic Calendar as the number of COVID cases are still rising and likely to increase further. The Report of the Expert Committee was considered and approved by the Commission in its emergent meeting held on 6th July 2020.

In continuation to earlier Guidelines issued on 29.04.2020 and based on the Report of the Expert Committee, the following *Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic* were also approved by the Commission in its emergent meeting held on 6th July 2020:

**GUIDELINES**

In view of the emerging situation related to COVID-19 pandemic in India, it is important to safeguard the principles of health, safety, fair and equal opportunity for students. At the same time, it is very crucial to ensure academic credibility, career opportunities and future progress of students globally. Academic evaluation of students is very important milestone in any education system. The performance in examinations gives confidence and satisfaction to the students and is a reflection of competence, performance and credibility that is necessary for global acceptability.

**1. Mode of Terminal Semester/ Final Year Examinations (2019-20)**

The universities are required to complete the examinations by the end of **September, 2020** in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online + offline) mode following the prescribed protocols/ guidelines related to COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. Provision of Examination through Special Chance**

In case a student of terminal semester/ final year is unable to appear in the examination conducted by the University for whatsoever the reason(s) may be, he/she may be given opportunity to appear in special examinations for such course(s)/ paper(s), which may be conducted by the university as and when feasible, so that the student is not put to any inconvenience/ disadvantage. The above provision shall be applicable only for the current academic session 2019-20 as a one-time measure.

### **3. Backlog of Papers in Respect of Terminal Semester(s)/ Final Year Students**

The students of terminal semester/ final year students having backlog should compulsorily be evaluated by conducting examinations in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online + offline) mode as per feasibility and suitability.

4. The guidelines regarding intermediate semester/ year examinations will remain unchanged as notified on 29th April, 2020.

5. The relevant details, if need be, pertaining to the Admissions and Academic Calendar in the universities and colleges shall be issued separately in place of those mentioned in the earlier guidelines issued on 29th April, 2020.

6. Notwithstanding the above guidelines regarding conduct of examination and commencement of next academic session, every university/ institution has to ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary protocols/guidelines/directions/advisories issued by the Central/State Governments and MHRD/ UGC from time to time, in view of COVID-19.



प्रो. रजनीश जैन  
सचिव  
Prof. Rajnish Jain  
Secretary



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
**University Grants Commission**  
(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)  
बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110002  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002  
Ph.: 011-23236288/23239337  
Fax: 011-2323 8858  
E-mail: secy.ugc@nic.in

D.O.No.F.1-1/2020 (Secy)

8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Conduct of Examinations**

Respected Madam/Sir,

The University Grants Commission (UGC) vide letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 has issued 'UGC Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic'. As per the letter the Universities have been asked to complete the conduct of Terminal Semester(s)/ Final Year examinations by the end of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

In addition, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India vide Office Memorandum F.No.16-16/2020-UIA, dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 has issued instructions for conduct of examinations wherein the MHRD has formulated detailed SOP for conduct of examinations with measures to be taken in view of COVID-19 situation, duly vetted by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare. A copy of the above mentioned Office Memorandum along with detailed SOP for Conduct of Examinations (**Annexure-I**) and UGC Revised Guidelines (**Annexure-II**) are enclosed for necessary action.

Looking forward for your kind cooperation.

With kind regards,

Encl.: As above.

Yours sincerely,

(Rajnish Jain)

To

1. The Vice Chancellors of all Universities
2. The Principals of all Colleges

**Copy for kind information to:**

1. The Principal Secretary/Secretary to the Governors of all States/Lt. Governors of all Union Territories.
2. The Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of Higher Education, all State Governments/Union Territories

(Rajnish Jain)



ANNEXURE - I

F. No. 16-16/2020-U1A  
Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of Higher Education

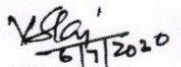
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Date the 6th July, 2020

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Instructions for conduct of examination –regarding.**

A large number of examinations of the Universities, IIT-JEE (Mains & Advance), NEET etc are scheduled to be held in the coming months. In order to ensure safety of the examinees, as also their academic interest, the following action may be taken.

1. Final Term Examinations should be compulsorily conducted as per UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities dated 29.04.2020 which have been again resolved today i.e. 06<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.
2. All examination may be conducted by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.
3. Taking into consideration the academic interest of large number of students, MHA has agreed to the request of MHRD and granted exemption for the opening of educational institutions for the purpose of holding examinations/ evaluation work for Final Term Examinations of the Universities/ Institutions.
4. MHRD has formulated detailed SOP for conduct of examinations with precautions to be taken in view of COVID – 19 situation. This has been vetted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A copy of the same is enclosed to ensure safety of all.
5. Previous instructions regarding "Work From Home" sent vide letter dated 30.06.2020 will not apply to the officers, faculty and non-Teaching Staff who are involved in Examination/Evaluation/Admission work.

  
(Vidya Sagar Rai)  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Encls: As above.

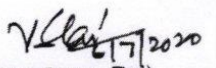
To

1. Prof. D. P. Singh, the Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi.
2. Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, the Chairman, AICTE, New Delhi.
3. Shri Vineet Joshi, Director General, NTA, Noida, (UP).

Copy to: The Chief Secretaries/Secretary(Education) of States/UTs.

CC:

1. Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary, North Block, New Delhi.
2. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, M/o Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PS to HRM.

  
(Vidya Sagar Rai)  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India



## **Guidelines for Conduct of Examinations**

### **Background**

Universities and other educational institutions across the country have been closed since 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, as one of the measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. In April, 2020, the University Grants Commission (UGC), has issued "*Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent Lockdown*". In these guidelines it was proposed to hold the examination from July, 2020 onwards. The Guidelines provided various options for conduct of examinations to be decided finally by the University.

Presently, several universities have already conducted/planned the examinations in online/offline (pen & paper)/ blended (online + offline) mode.

Top ranking universities of the world have opted for the final exams to be done remotely. Like Princeton and MIT (USA); University of Cambridge, Imperial College of London (UK); University of Toronto and McMaster (Canada); University of Heidelberg (Germany); and University of Hong Kong have resorted to the online technology based mode of examinations. International universities like National University of Singapore, University of Adelaide of Australia, Oxford University for Final Semester have scheduled their exams in take home format. Alternative form of assessment like Open Book, Term Paper, Continuous Assessment; Presentations, Assignments, time-limited exams have been preferred as a substitute for exam in select countries of Asia and Europe.

### **Rationale**

In order to safeguard the larger interests of students related to their academic and career progression, particularly those who are in their terminal semester/final year, the institutions are required to chart out a plan for conduct of examinations in online/offline (pen & paper)/ blended (online + offline) mode, after making a comprehensive assessment of their level of preparedness, residential status of the students, status of COVID-19 pandemic spread in different region/ state and all other such factors, to deal with any sort of exigency. The performance in examinations brings in scholarships and awards and translates into better job placement. This would not only give them more confidence and satisfaction, but also ensure merit and lifelong credibility.

### **Some Concerns**

The higher educational institutions should address the following concerns:

1. The implementation of instructions and directives regarding safety and health issues by the central and state government departments.
2. Uncertainty among students regarding modes of teaching learning, completion of courses, examinations, evaluation, declaration of result, academic calendar, admissions, opening of institutions, etc.



3. Anxiety and stress developed during lockdown period and fear of COVID-19 after opening of campuses.
4. Safety measures including sanitisation of premises, thermal screening, ensuring physical distancing, mask wearing, hand washing etc.
5. Preparation for risk assessment and subsequent actions which varies - whether the institution is fully residential, partially residential or non-residential. The higher risk and bigger challenge is faced by non-residential institutions where the students will leave daily and come back next day.
6. Besides students, the risk of serious illness due to COVID-19 is faced by the faculty, counsellors, and other technical and non-teaching staff who face the students regularly.

#### **Standard Operating Procedure for conduct of Examinations**

1. The instructions, guidelines and orders issued by the central and state governments concerning the opening of educational institutions and safety and health should be abided by the universities and colleges. However, they may develop more stricter provisions and guidelines, if they find it necessary.
2. In case there is a restriction on movements in certain areas, admit/ identity cards issued to the students should be treated as a pass for the movement of students. State Governments should issue instructions to all local authorities to issue movement passes to invigilators and all personnel engaged in the conduct of examination.
3. Entire examination centre floors and walls, doors, gates, should be sprayed with disinfectant.
4. Fresh mask and gloves to be used by exam functionaries after staff verification is done.
5. Sanitizer bottles should be arranged at the entry gate, examination rooms, staff/observer room, etc. and should be replenished regularly.
6. All liquid handwash bottles should be replenished in restrooms and entry gate whenever required
7. Candidate Seating Area should be thoroughly sanitized (desk and the chair) after every session.
8. All the washrooms should be cleaned and disinfected.
9. All door handles, staircase railing, lift buttons, etc. should be disinfected.
10. Wheelchairs, if present at the examination centres, should be disinfected.
11. All the trash bins should be cleaned.
12. Staff verification and self-declaration as suggested below must be done as soon as they report at the Centre
  - a. Exam functionary must submit self-declaration about health status.
  - b. Thermo gun temperature check must be done at staff entrance point
  - c. If any Examination functionary fails to meet the self-declaration criteria, or thermo gun check, he/she will be asked to leave the examination centre immediately
  - d. Exam functionary needs to wear the mask and gloves at all time
13. Cleanliness and hygienic conditions as per safety and health advisories of the concerned government departments are to be maintained at all places.
14. Proper signages, symbols, posters etc. should be displayed at appropriate place to maintain social distancing.



15. Downloading of 'Arogya Setu' App may be advised for every staff and student of the university and college.
16. Adequate arrangements of thermal scanners, sanitizers, facemasks, and hand gloves at all entry and exit points including the reception area. Wherever possible, students should be given fresh face masks by the Invigilators in the examination room itself.
17. Avoid crowding at entry and exit points.
18. Opening all the gates, of entry and exit, in case HEIs have more than one gate.
19. Senior staff should monitor the entry and exit. There should be proper markings with at least 2 meter distance where students stand while waiting for opening of the college gate. Exit of students should be permitted one by one only.
20. Thermal Screening of students, wearing of face mask, sanitizing of hands etc. be ensured.
21. The Invigilators, while on duty, should be continuously wearing mask, and proper hand gloves.
22. The students should be asked to sanitize their hands before and after signing the Attendance Sheet.
23. Students having symptoms of fever, cough and cold should be either made to sit in a separate room or given a chance to appear on another day.
24. Hand washing stations with facilities of liquid soap should be made available so that every student can wash her/his hand frequently.
25. Keeping in view the physical distancing, institutions should have adequate rooms capacity to meet the proper seating arrangement for examination. Minimum distance between two students should be 2 meters. **Sample seating plan is annexed.**
26. Adequate arrangements for safe drinking water be made on the campus.
27. Adequate supply of water in toilets and for hand washing be ensured.
28. Dustbins must be cleaned and covered properly.
29. Proper sanitization of buses, other transport and official and vehicles of the institution.
30. **At the end of the day-**
  - a. Used gloves and masks should be disposed only in a pedal push covered bin at the Examination Centre and outside the examination room/hall :
  - b. Safely dispose off all used masks and gloves discarded at the examination centres or outside the examination centre in trash bin bags at suitable place and as per standard guidelines issued by health authority
31. Maintain record of all exam functionaries
  - a. Record of all exam functionaries will be maintained in the system for future reference and traceability.
  - b. Invigilator records are maintained in the system through staff verification processes.

Name and number of other staff such as Housekeeping, Security Guards, etc will be maintained.



## SAMPLE SEATING PLAN

Col.1	Col.2	Col.3	Col.4
Candidate's Roll No.	Candidate's Roll No.	Candidate's Roll No.	Candidate's Roll No.
1	4	7	10
Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
2	5	8	11
Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
3	6	9	12
Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty





## **UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**

### **UGC Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic**

#### **Introduction**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent Lockdown on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. In these Guidelines it was proposed to conduct the examinations in July 2020. The said Expert Committee was requested to revisit the Guidelines for Examinations and Academic Calendar as the number of COVID cases are still rising and likely to increase further. The Report of the Expert Committee was considered and approved by the Commission in its emergent meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

In continuation to earlier Guidelines issued on 29.04.2020 and based on the Report of the Expert Committee, the following *Revised Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic* were also approved by the Commission in its emergent meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020:

#### **GUIDELINES**

In view of the emerging situation related to COVID-19 pandemic in India, it is important to safeguard the principles of health, safety, fair and equal opportunity for students. At the same time, it is very crucial to ensure academic credibility, career opportunities and future progress of students globally. Academic evaluation of students is very important milestone in any education system. The performance in examinations gives confidence and satisfaction to the students and is a reflection of competence, performance and credibility that is necessary for global acceptability.

#### **1. Mode of Terminal Semester/ Final Year Examinations (2019-20)**

The universities are required to complete the examinations by the end of **September, 2020** in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online + offline) mode following the prescribed protocols/ guidelines related to COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **2. Provision of Examination through Special Chance**



In case a student of terminal semester/ final year is unable to appear in the examination conducted by the University for whatsoever the reason(s) may be, he/she may be given opportunity to appear in special examinations for such course(s)/ paper(s), which may be conducted by the university as and when feasible, so that the student is not put to any inconvenience/ disadvantage. The above provision shall be applicable only for the current academic session 2019-20 as a one-time measure.

**3. Backlog of Papers in Respect of Terminal Semester(s)/ Final Year Students**

The students of terminal semester/ final year students having backlog should compulsorily be evaluated by conducting examinations in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online + offline) mode as per feasibility and suitability.

4. The guidelines regarding intermediate semester/ year examinations will remain unchanged as notified on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
  5. The relevant details, if need be, pertaining to the Admissions and Academic Calendar in the universities and colleges shall be issued separately in place of those mentioned in the earlier guidelines issued on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
  6. Notwithstanding the above guidelines regarding conduct of examination and commencement of next academic session, every university/ institution has to ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary protocols/guidelines/directions/advisories issued by the Central/State Governments and MHRD/ UGC from time to time, in view of COVID-19.
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### Students, colleges in fix as hostels turn Covid centres

In a bid to increase its bed capacity, the state government is converting college hostels into Covid Care Centres.

Published: 02nd July 2020 06:47 AM | Last Updated: 02nd July 2020 06:47am



Students from Bangalore University vacate their hostel after authorities decided to turn the premises into a Covid centre | vinod Kumar T

By Pearl Maria D'Souza

Express News Service

BENGALURU: In a bid to increase its bed capacity, the state government is converting college hostels into Covid Care Centres. A hurried decision was taken on Tuesday, leaving both students and college managements in a tight spot. Student unions have claimed that students were asked to pick up their luggage and leave, on short notice. College administrations are expecting complete closure of campuses to facilitate turning hostels into quarantine centres, which not just delays resumption of academic activities but also spreads a sense of fear among students.

At the University Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, girls had to be hurriedly moved into the boys' hostel. "It was stressful," said UAS Vice-Chancellor Rajendra Prasad. The institute has three girls' hostels which can accommodate 600 inmates. While many have gone



home, some researchers, including students from ICAR, Kota, and even foreign students, have stayed back to complete their experiments for Kharif crops.

Doctors started arriving on campus on Tuesday, leaving students agitated. Those who had left their belongings in the hostel and gone home, are struggling to move them to safer places. Many of them said they had left behind valuables. “There is a need to keep their belongings safe,” said Students’ Federation of India state secretary K Vasudevareddy. “Also, why are gender and caste minority hostels being used for this?”

The Postgraduate and Research Students’ Union, Bangalore University, had also written to the V-C against converting hostels on the university campus into Covid facilities, when a team led by the vice-chancellor and BBMP commissioner inspected the hostels on June 29. Two girls’ hostels in Bangalore University — BDA Hostel and North East Hostel — have been earmarked as quarantine centres for 200 inmates. Bangalore University V-C KR Venugopal said an oral request was made to the health department to take over the hostels only after all hotels in the city are filled up.

The university has decided to allow all teachers to work from home till July 31. This short notice has created tension among students, said Apoorva CM, vice-president, AIDS O Bengaluru District Committee, adding that those who reside in districts like Kalaburagi, Bidar, Dharwad were deeply distressed. Citing practical difficulties due to the ongoing examination at its main campus, PES Institute of Technology has decided not to allocate hostels there. However, Chancellor Prof MR Doreswamy said the boys’ hostel on the second campus at Electronics City and free to quarantine 100 inmates.

### **Corona care in Seven more institutions**

With the number of coronavirus cases on the rise in Bengaluru, BBMP had decided to convert more institutions into Covid Care Centres, where those suspected to be infected and asymptomatic patients will be accommodated. The BBMP commissioner directed officials from these institutions to meet BBMP officials and undertake necessary measures

### **No quarantine centre at IISc women’s hostel**

A women’s hostel at IISc was being considered for a quarantine centre, but the idea was put on hold after an unfavourable response from students. An IISc official said the initiative was for the welfare of students and the institute. IISc has already reported three positive cases on campus, and stopped re-entry of students. “The initial cases were among

the staff. The management has released a circular warning about expulsion from hostels if students do not follow rules. How is that logical when a person under quarantine is asked to leave hostel?” a student said.

**7,000 beds Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, 10th Mile, Dasanapura, Tumakuru Main Road, Bengaluru**

**3,000 beds Palace Grounds, Ballari Road, Jayamahal**

**350 beds Jnana Bharathi, Ladies Hostel, Bangalore University, Mysuru Road**

**400 beds Jnana Bharathi, Ladies Hostel, Bangalore University North, Mysuru Road**

**250 beds Koramangala Indoor Stadium**

**250 beds Hostels of Dayananda Sagar Univeristy, Kumaraswamy Layout**

## **Plan to isolate those coming from other States**

### **THOOTHUKUDI**

With the influx of people from the northern States increasing heavily, the district administration has created quarantine facilities at 9 places in the district to isolate for two weeks those who are coming from other States, Collector Sandeep Nanduri has said.

Speaking to reporters here on Monday, Mr. Sandeep said hostels of 9 colleges had been converted into quarantine facilities with adequate number of beds and medical facilities as the number of returnees from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and Rajasthan was swelling everyday. A total of 700 beds had been created in these places.

He said the district administration had put in place all possible measures to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities and the medicines to the residents in 11 containment zones in the district.

On giving e-passes to the SSLC students to enable them to write the public examination to commence on June 1, Mr. Sandeep said 800 SSLC students from the district and the teachers, who are all now stranded in other district, would be given e-pass ahead of the date of examination.

Of the 8,700 migrant workers in Thoothukudi district, 2,500 labourers had been sent back to their home States such as Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh in special trains, the Collector said.

Since all government offices had been allowed to function following relaxation in lockdown, thermal scanners had been installed at the Collectorate.

## **COVID-19: Assam University Asks Students To Collect Belongings As Hostels Become Quarantine Centres**

**Lockdown: Assam University administration will either shift students and staff or make arrangements for them.**

Education | Edited by Mridusmita Deka | Updated: May 24, 2020 8:38 pm IST | Source: Careers360



New Delhi:

Assam University, or AU, Silchar, has asked residents of its hostels to collect their belongings from the hostel rooms to make way for COVID-19 quarantine centres.

As per a notice issued by Assam University, “boarders are allowed to take their belongings from the respective hostels on May 25 and May 26 between 10 am and 4pm”.

The notice further added that boarders will be required to produce their identity cards at the security gate and make proper entry in the register. In case a student is not able to come, any authorised person with an authorisation letter can collect the belongings but must first produce a valid photo identity card.

For students who have already left and have no one to collect their belongings, the district administration will arrange for those items to be properly packed and marked and can be collected at a later date.



**ASSAM UNIVERSITY::SILCHAR  
NOTICE**

Sub: Collection of belongings from student's hostel by boarders.

This is for information of all boarders of Assam University Student's Hostels that the District Disaster Management (DDM) in exercise of the power vested upon it vide section 34, subsection (a) and (j) of the District Disaster Management Act 2005 vide order no. DDMA/42/CHR/2020/Part-II/19 dated 21.05.2020 has requisitioned all the Students hostel of the University for Quarantine Centres and COVID Care Centres in the University. The boarders of the University hostels are therefore allowed to take their belongings from their respective hostels on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 between 10 AM to 4 PM. **No extension of time will be granted.** Following guidelines are to be strictly adhered in regard to it.

1. The students have to bring their Identity Cards and produce the same at Security gate and make proper entry into Register and also to respective wardens before collection of items from the hostels.
2. In case any student is not able to come, then in absence of the student, authorized guardian (authorization letter by the student is a must) may collect the same by production of Adhar card/Voter Id Card/Passport of the authorized person. The authorized guardian should also carry Identity card of the students and the keys of the room of the concerned boarders. Authorised person should co-operate with University authorities for necessary checks and queries, if made.
3. Boarders or authorized guardians have to abide by norms of social distancing as notified by Government from time to time.
4. Boarders/Authorised persons visiting from outside the campus are not allowed to visit any other buildings/facilities of the University. They are also not allowed to visit any canteen in the University.
5. Boarders/authorized persons visiting from outside the campus are not allowed to meet any other Boarders/staff/guardians inside the campus.
6. Boarders who are not able to collect their belongings need not worry. District Administration shall open the doors of their hostel rooms and collect the items and separately pack and mark their belongings for collection at a later date to be notified later.
7. Boarders/Staff who are staying in hostel premise at present need not worry about their stay. University administration shall shift them or make proper arrangement as per protocol of quarantine centres as and when necessary as per advice and in consultation with District Administration.

This issues with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Pradosh Kiran Nath  
Registrar i/c

Dated : 24.05.2020

F.No.AUR/21-1/2020/31

Copy to:

1. DSW/Wardens of various hostels for information and necessary action
2. President/General Secretary, AUSU for information and circulation amongst students.
3. All teachers/non-teaching staff for information.
4. Director, Computer Centre for uploading in University website.

Registrar i/c  
Assam University, Silchar

According to the data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Assam has a total of 329 COVID-19 cases as on May 24.

With classes on hold and many hostel residents at home due to the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19, campuses of various educational institutes have been turned into quarantine shelters.

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, or IIT Bombay, Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIM Shillong) hostels are some of the institutes functioning as quarantine centres in India.

## **MANIT hostels converted into quarantine centre: No assurance for safety of belongings, says student**

*As per the order issued, all buildings and rooms of MANIT were supposed to be sanitized and handed over to SDM TT Nagar Rajesh Shukla and this has left thousands of students with outrage and devastating stage.*

**By Venisha Sah**

Published on :Wed 10th June 2020, 08:56 PM



**New Delhi:** In view of the possibility of expected 48 thousand corona positive cases in Bhopal, the district administration started preparing the *Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology* (MANIT) the biggest quarantine center of the state, as per earlier reports.

Moreover, this was also being done due to the possibility of getting 10,000 active patients at the same time. The order had been issued by Additional Collector Ashish Vasistha. As per the order issued, all buildings and rooms of MANIT were supposed to be sanitized and handed over to SDM TT Nagar Rajesh Shukla. On May 27, 2020, 200-room Hostel Number-11 was already being handed over to the SDM.

After converting 300 hostel rooms in a quarantine centre, the management has left thousands of students with outrage and devastating stage. On the instructions of the district administration, Director Narendra Singh Raghuwanshi broke the locks of all the rooms of the hostel and put the belongings of the students in the warehouse and arranged for a bed to keep the relatives of the infected patients in the rooms.

**Over this, students of MANIT have protested against the decision by showing their rage on the twitter handle of the Bhopal Collector Tarun Pithode.**

On the condition of anonymity, one of the Engineering students told *Newsd* that he including every student is concerned about all important documents and laptops kept in the hostel rooms and states that “what will happen if something is lost or damaged, who will be responsible for that?”

No assurance has been given by anyone, the student said, ” All the hostels are converted into quarantine centre without any assurance for the safety of our belonging inside the hostels. All the students had left their rooms on 23th of March as per the order from the college to vacate the hostels.”

The student also said, as the university hostels are made quarantine centre, the risk has been increased due to which the Ph.D. and M Tech. students are looking for places outside the campus on rent to stay in the city.

When asked about the response from the college administration, the student said “Students have talked to the administration but they just have one reply that during this situation we can’t help and the local authorities have taken over the college so it’s impossible to stop them doing so. Faculty and college staff are also opposing this step because they also live inside the campus premises.”

In protest against the action of the MANIT administration and the district administration, the students had sent an e-mail to the Prime Minister, Raj Bhavan and the President’s Office, complaining and seeking intervention, and also took this to the twitter but so far no action has been taken in this matter.

“Yet no response from the local authorities has come regarding the issue and students are demanding that no hostel room should be taken for the quarantine centre as they already have departmental buildings and classrooms for the same”, students said.

*Newsd* tried to reach out to the Registrar of the MANIT University to talk on this issue, however, he didn’t respond. The story will be updates as and when we hear from him.



### ‘Promote students, exams risky’

TNN | Apr 19, 2020, 01.25 PM IST

BHOPAL: Professors have demanded general promotion for college students in Madhya Pradesh on the ground that it is dangerous to ask students to appear in exams as it can put them at risk for Covid-19. Stating that universities are planning to conduct exams after lockdown ends, the professors called it a wrong step. Professors said they will refuse to take exams if they are asked to do so.



President of Madhya Pradesh College Professors’ Association, Prof Kailash Tyagi, said there is an urgent need of general promotion for the students. “If general promotion is given to school students citing the reason that it won’t be possible to conduct exam, the same applies to the college students also,” said Prof Tyagi.

He added that the professors’ biggest concern is the fact that students will have to sit in a classroom for the examinations.

Sources said the management of Barkatullah University has now proceeded to prepare for the examinations. BU has proposed to conduct these exams from May 28 to June 28. University Registrar B Bharti said that the final decision is in the hands of the government, but the university is completely prepared for the exams. Notably, around 1.25 lakh students are studying in colleges affiliated to BU.

Registrar Bharti opined that this time, the academic calendar should be extended by two more months.

On the contrary, professors felt that if universities decide to organise exams, they may not attend. A senior professor, who did not wish to be named, said, “This is a sensitive situation. I will not put my life in danger by invigilating in the exams.”

**UGC cites top universities like MIT, Cambridge to justify decision to hold final-year exams**

UGC issued a circular Thursday, detailing SOPs for colleges and that they conduct a risk-assessment before holding exams. Health of students and staff to be monitored too.

**KRITIKA SHARMA** 9 July, 2020 4:48 pm IST



UGC building in New Delhi | Photo: Manisha Mondal | ThePrint

**New Delhi:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has sought to justify its decision of making final-year exams mandatory for college and university students by citing top-ranking global institutes such as MIT and Cambridge University which conducted exams during the Covid pandemic.

The UGC's decision, announced Monday, drew a lot of flak from students, parents and faculty members, who questioned the need to conduct exams when the country is faced with a health emergency.

Following this, the UGC Thursday issued a circular to colleges and universities, explaining the rationale behind its decision.

“Presently several universities have conducted/planned exams in online/offline/blended mode,” the circular said.

“Top-ranking universities of the world have opted for final exams to be done remotely. Like Princeton and MIT, University of Cambridge, Imperial College of London, University of Toronto and McMaster, University of Heidelberg and University of Hong Kong have resorted to the online technology-based model of conducting exams,” it added.

The UGC also gave examples of other universities like University of Oxford and National University of Singapore that conducted exams in ‘take-home’ format, apart from some other universities that used methods like term paper, open book, presentation, assignments and time-limited exams.

“In order to safeguard the larger interest of students, related to their academic and career progression, particularly those who are in final year/terminal semester, the institutions are required to chart out a plan to conduct exams,” the circular added.

### **SOPs for colleges**

The circular also detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for institutes with regard to conducting exams.

It asked education institutes to do a risk-assessment before conducting the exams if they are holding them in offline mode. The SOPs said the level of risk should be perceived differently for residential and non-residential students as the risk is higher for the latter.

“Higher education (institutes) should address the following concerns — preparation of risk-assessment and subsequent actions which varies, whether the institution is fully residential, partially residential or non-residential. The higher risk and bigger challenge is faced by

institutions that are non-residential, where students will leave daily and come back the next day,” the circular read.

The circular also asked colleges and universities to make sure they monitor the health of their faculty members, counsellors, and other technical and non-teaching staff, who will interact with students regularly.

It also asked institutes to make sure they follow the basic safety measures such as sanitisation of the premises, thermal screening, safe physical distance and wearing of masks.

### **12 students in one room**

Some of the other SOPs for institutes include making sure that sanitizers are available at each desk and everyone — students and invigilators — are wearing masks all the time.

Exam functionaries have also been asked to wear gloves at all times, especially while distributing the question papers. Downloading Aarogya Setu app has also been advised for all staff and students.

Further, the commission has given a sample seating arrangement plan to colleges, which they can follow.

According to the plan, only 12 students should be made to sit in a room. Students should also be made to sit one seat apart from each other.