



A brief report on activities carried out by Tezpur University to combat COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 has taken everyone by surprise. The pandemic nature of the virus has compelled the country to undergo a national lockdown. Tezpur University by following Govt. of India/MHA and MHRD advisories has taken several steps to make the campus free from COVID-19 outbreak.

1. **Postponement of Mid Term Examinations and vacating the hostels:** The Mid Semester Examinations, which scheduled for 14.03.2020 was postponed w.e.f 17.03.2020 until further order. The students including the students of Ph. D programme and Project staff residing in hostels have been vacated by 18.03.2020. However, the foreign students were allowed to stay in the hostels.
2. **Online classes for students/Work from home:** The faculty members were advised to conduct online classes. Accordingly, 95% of the teachers including contractual/ Guest teachers have conducted online lectures through different digital platforms such as Zoom/ WebEx/ Goto, Google Classroom, YouTube etc. All employees worked from home during the lockdown period.
3. **Constitution of COVID-19 task force:** A COVID-19 Task Force was constituted in the University to deal with COVID-19 related issues. The Task Force maintained a strict vigil on the situation and offered valuable inputs taking consideration of advisories issued by WHO, GoI and Govt. of Assam from time to time.
4. **Postponement of Tezpur University Entrance Examination (TUEE):** TUEE, which was scheduled to be held during the period of 29-31 May 2020 was postponed and fresh dates will be notified in due course of time as soon as there is some clarity on the COVID-19 situation. The dead line for the (online) submission of application has been extended upto 20th May 2020.
5. **Constitution of Mental Health Task Force:** As per advisory of MHRD, a Mental Health Task Force has been constituted. The Task Force is monitoring the mental health

of the students, especially those who are on the campus during lockdown period. In addition to this, the faculty members were also requested to carry out conversations with their respective mentees, through emails, WhatsApp, telephone calls, etc., during this period.

6. **Distribution of food packets & voluntary donation to PMcare fund:** The employees of the University has voluntarily donated one day's salary to PMcare fund. In addition to the voluntary donation to the PMcare fund, the employees of the University have also distributed food packets to nearby villages, viz. Amolapam, Napam, domestic helper to TU families, Sulab personnel (people engaged in sanitation work) working during lockdown in campus and some were distributed to "Naba Pravat Orphanage" at Ketekibari, Tezpur.
7. **Face shields for medical staff to fight COVID-19:** The University made two uniquely designed face shields for medical staff to fight against COVID-19. One face shield is 3D printed and the other was made manually in the central workshop of the University.

- a. **3D printed face shield:** The 3D printed face shields were jointly developed at Embedded Systems and Robotics Lab and Applied Photonics and Nanophotonics Lab at the University, which are supported under the funding of The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and eYantra Project (IIT Bombay) and Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi respectively.



- b. **Manually prepared face shields:** The manually prepared face shields were

designed in such a way that the front visor can cover the complete face along with the ears and down to the chest and it is adjustable. The face shield also has a better air circulation from the top to the bottom giving comfort to the user while inhale and exhaling.



The University has dispatched the face shields to Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Gauhati Medical College, Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Borgang Catholic Hospital, Civil Hospital, Tezpur.

8. Aerosol box for medical staff: In order to help the health-workers/medical

staff fighting against COVID-19, the University developed low-cost, relatively light-weight aerosol box for health-workers currently handling COVID-19 patients. The boxes have been fabricated manually at the central workshop facility of the University. A team under the supervision of Prof. Pabitra Nath of Dept. of Physics made the Aerosol boxes aiming at reducing exposure to medical personnel by blocking aerosols. The University has dispatched first batch of boxes to Tezpur Medical College & Hospitals (TMCH) and Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHMS), Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh.

9. Centrifuge Machine for medical staff: Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology has shared with Tezpur Medical College & Hospital (TMCH) a centrifuge machine and some other resources for testing of COVID-19 samples at TMCH lab which is recognised by ICMR.

10. Functioning of Administrative Departments w.e.f. 22.04.2020: As per the Ministry of Home Affairs directive, the administrative wing of the University reopened maintaining 33% roaster. However, the academic departments & library of the University remained closed.

11. Setting up of Zonal quarantine centre at Tezpur University: The District Administration of Sonitpur has set up a zonal screening venue at the University to screen people returning from outside the state to five northern Assam districts of Udalguri, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. A quarantine camp has also been set up on the campus occupying hostel and school building of the University.
