

Email from the Director to all IITG students and guardians on 08/06/2020

We have received an email from GS Technical Board regarding concerns of students and guardians. I am reproducing the concerns below with my replies. You will see from my replies, that I cannot give any definite answers to these queries. We will be guided by what the Govt. of India and the Govt. of Assam gives as guidelines and orders in this matter. The Govt of India mentioned in its order of May 30 that a decision on re-opening of educational institutions will be taken in July. So we have to wait for such a decision.

However, please be prepared mentally to take your end-sem exams of the last semester at the end of July (July 27 - August 2), as our current plan is to hold those exams either physically on campus or through online mode. Further, we are planning to start the next semester on August 3.

There are three possibilities:

- a) all students come to the campus and the semester starts normally
- b) some of the students come to campus and the rest study from home. We will hold online classes in real-time with live video streaming. Who can come to campus will be decided after the situation becomes clear.
- c) No student can come to campus. We will hold online classes in real time with live video streaming.

So, in case of b) or c), you have to prepare for the following:

- i) your laptop works perfectly
- ii) you are in a place with decent 4G connectivity (if your home does not have this, start exploring going to a relative's place where connectivity is good).
- iii) you have adequate privacy to attend classes online and to study. Parents and guardians are requested to look into this aspect and make arrangements accordingly.

First Year students are likely to be ready to join by October 1 (as JEE Advanced is on August 23). Please pay your fees for next semester as soon as possible. The Institute needs your financial support to continue providing good service. We are in a bit of a cash flow problem right now!

Finally, please do not get stressed. We are all in the same boat, and we will all get to the other side together. No one will have to get off this boat of ours.

1. Preparedness of Institute upon arrival of the students (Given that most of the students will be returning from different parts of the country).

We are prepared to receive students. What protocol needs to be followed depends on advice and directions we receive from Govt. Currently, students coming into the hostel are undergoing home quarantine in their rooms as that is the current guideline.

2. Ensuring social distancing especially during examinations/classes most importantly overcrowded hostels.

Once, again, the answer depends on the guidelines the Govt. places on educational institutions. If Govt. allows 2 students per room, we are fine. If there is to be only one person per room, not all students can come to campus. We cannot force students to come to campus if the Govt. does not allow. Further, even if the Govt. lets Institutes decide whether to allow students to come to campus we will take into consideration the ground realities and your concerns before taking a decision.

3. Possibility of cancellation of end-term examinations for the winter semester 2020 citing the case of other Institutes in India and abroad.

We are considering online end sem exams in case students are not able to come to campus. So please continue to prepare for your end sems.

Please understand that parents are equally concerned about sending their children. I hope you kindly look into the same and address the student community accordingly and as soon as possible (Since, ticket prices are increasing which is also a concern).

We understand everyone's concerns. Please read my message at the beginning.