

## NIT TIRUCHIRAPPALLI RESPONDS TO COVID-19

Dear Sir/madam

As Covid-19 nationwide lock down enters its fourth week, NIT Tiruchirappalli is multiplying efforts to cope with the pandemic. Director, Mini Shaji Thomas laid out some of the measures taken.

The Institute is all set to produce low cost reusable face-shields that are 3D printed at its Centre for Manufacturing Technology. Work is also underway to design and develop an IoT-based smart ventilator to meet the growing demand for these life-savers. The first batch of these ventilators are expected to roll out in July.

The frontline workers including the security, health, and sanitary staff have been issued face masks to carry out their routines. Volunteers are making face covers and reusable cloth masks for the faculty and students. A task-force has been set up to monitor the campus through tele-surveillance and data gathering for early detection and effective management of potential Covid-19 cases. A clinical psychologist has also been engaged to handle stress and wellness related problems of the students.

NIT Tiruchirappalli was among the first institutes to prepare hand sanitizers in-house according to WHOguidelines. With social distancing becoming mandatory, arrangements have been made for door delivery of essential commodities. The theory course coverage is complete with online teaching and uploading of material on dedicated in-house servers.

Deliberations are going on at several levels to assess the viability of migrating to the online platform for teaching and evaluation till normalcy returns. The administration is also mobilizing its research teams to come up with innovative solutions for the campus and the nation at large.

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