I hope you had an enjoyable one month at home with your family/friends/in NIT’ hostel (some of you are here). As you know, these are unprecedented times as something like this has never happened in the life time of three generations! You are seeing history being made, on demand innovations happening, nature recuperating from our onslaught; money, power and wealth loosing significance.

We at the Institute, have been struggling hard to keep the momentum going on all fronts, for all stakeholders. The academic calendar is being reworked, the placements are intact for almost all, researchers are working online and offices are working with skeletal staff.

The Student community across the globe is going through a crisis at this juncture. As a student of NIT Tiruchirappalli, you can be rest assured that we are making the best possible efforts to see that the COVID pandemic will not affect your future plans.

1. **Academics:** A committee is working on the Academic calendar to complete the activities as early as possible. Alternate examination and evaluation strategies are also being worked out. Please spend time to refresh your fundamentals. There is no withdrawal of offer letters as of now, hence no need to worry about placements. Be in touch with your Faculty advisor and Head of Department for updates.

2. **Connectivity:** The connectivity to digital resources is becoming extremely important and hence it is advised to equip yourself with suitable connectivity for seamless transition to online classes/examination/ and evaluation, which is becoming the new normal.

3. **Productive use of time:** Make the best use of this time, by registering for online courses and equip yourself with the skill sets required to survive in the new emerging environment, the new economy, the new work norms, the new social restrictions.

4. **Learn something new:** Spend some time every day to learn something new, say a new language, develop a new hobby, write, read, sketch, sing, blog, involve in craft activities, design interactive games, develop methods to educate the masses who are not as privileged, develop positive campaigns that can be of use to society at large.

5. **Help at home & society:** Spend some time to have dialogue with parents, help with home chores, be it cooking, cleaning, washing, taking care of senior citizens, neighbours, and more important, volunteer to keep the toilets disinfected.

6. **Stay healthy and be kind to Nature:** At this moment, the most important aspect is to stay healthy, don’t undertake any activity, which will reduce your immunity. Think what is the lesson you learned from this pandemic, what changed in your life in terms of protecting Mother Nature?

Hope to see you back on Campus, soon! Till then, stay at home and stay safe.

Don’t hesitate to show this letter to your parents/guardians.

Best wishes...... Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli