

## **IIMB leverages technology as programs go online**

Although the commencement of academic programmes and associated activities could not take place as planned and scheduled prior to the pandemic, IIM Bangalore has transitioned to alternative ways of resuming the academic year for students of its various programmes.

“IIMB’s resourceful faculty, students, administrators and staff have geared up for the challenge. IIMB is leveraging technology to continue the work of teaching, learning, and community-building through the virtual mode,” said Prof. Abhoy K. Ojha, Dean (Programmes) at IIMB.

The first cohort to commence virtual classes was the second-year class of the Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise

Management (PGPEM), on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. These 74 students have completed a full term (quarter) of classes as well as evaluations in the virtual mode and entered the next virtual term on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This was followed by 73 students of the one-year fulltime MBA programme, the Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP), who have been attending virtual classes since May 08<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and will complete a full term by mid-July.

The third cohort that commenced its virtual term comprised first-year students of the Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. These 75 students will complete their full term of classes and evaluation by the end of July 2020.

Next to commence classes on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 virtually were 24 students of the one-year fulltime Master of Management Studies (Public Policy), or the Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM). Among them, 16 are sponsored by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, and they have been deputed from various government departments across the country.

The latest and largest cohort to commence the virtual academic term on July 08<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was the second-year batch of the fulltime MBA programme, the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP). These 434 students will attend their full academic term in the virtual mode, until the end of September 2020.

We are preparing to welcome three more fresh cohorts of students who have joined

our Doctoral programme (PhD), two-year fulltime MBA and two-year fulltime MBA (Business Analytics) programmes. Around 545 of these students will commence their academic journey at IIMB from early August 2020 onwards.

Based on the evolving situation and Government's directives, students may be invited to campus for regular face-to-face classes in the future months.

Apart from the regular academic programmes, several Executive Education Programmes are being offered in the virtual mode.

Given the virtual mode of classes for all its academic programmes until further notice, IIMB has trained many of its employees as 'professional online learning facilitators' to ensure a seamless experience. Students and faculty have

adapted to the 'new normal' owing to the unavoidable situation.

“I thank all stakeholders – faculty, students, administrators, staff - who have risen to the occasion to adapt to new modes of functioning and supported each other during the successful transition,” Prof. Ojha added.

IIMB faculty members have redesigned their courses and evaluation parameters. Similar to classes conducted on campus, online sessions also follow a schedule allowing frequent breaks to prevent monotony on either side. These virtual sessions include academic activities such as case discussions, quizzes, polls, debates and group activities typical to face-to-face classes conducted on campus.

Watch this space for further updates.

