IIT Hyderabad supports villages adopted under 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' with COVID-19-related activities & preparedness

Institute is conducting awareness programmes on Social Distancing & conducting relief programs in 5 villages it has adopted under 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'

HYDERABAD, 7th MAY 2020: Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad is supports villages adopted under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme with COVID-19-related activities and preparedness to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. It is also sharing awareness material in Telugu language to the Community stakeholders.

The Institute has undertaken relief programs in the five villages it had adopted under 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan,' namely Bujarampet, Mohammed Nagar, Knnavaram, Anthram and Salabatpur in Medak District.

The faculty are constantly interacting with local stakeholders to ascertain their needs. During these interactions, the villagers informed that they have commenced work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Speaking about the Institute initiatives in the local community, Prof B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said, "Since the outbreak of COVID-19, IIT Hyderabad has kept a strong focus on how best we can use our technical expertise to serve the nation, especially in the surrounding regions to IITH. In this direction, the Institute has worked with the villages adopted by it under the UBA program. IITH has been conducting COVID-19 awareness programs along with supply of basic safety needs like sanitizer and masks in these adopted villages. This will be continued until the situation comes to normal."

The Mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions.

Dr. Prasad Onkar, UBA Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Department of Design, IIT Hyderabad, is coordinating the activities in the five villages. The faculty are also urging the village community to download 'Arogya Setu' App and 'Kisan Rath' App, which connects farmers and traders with transporters, as requested by Government of India, and Regional Coordinating Institute – National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad.

A team from IIT Hyderabad coordinated relief programs in Anthram village on 5th May 2020. Dr. Neelakantan and Dr. Shiva Ji, Faculty, Design Department, IIT Hyderabad, spoke with the villagers about the precautions to protect themselves from COVID-19. They also distributed supplies of masks, gloves and food kits. The faculty also distributed hand sanitizers made in IIT Hyderabad under the guidance of Dr. Jyotsnendu Giri, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad.

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About [IIT Hyderabad](#)

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is one of the six new Indian Institutes of Technology established by the Government of India in 2008. In a short span of around a decade, the institute built on an imposing 570-acre campus and has been ranked among the top ten institutes for four consecutive years in the [National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF)](#) released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. The Institute was also ranked #10 in the first edition of [Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements](#) (ARIIA) introduced this year by MHRD to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development' among students and faculties.

IIT Hyderabad has close to 210 full-time faculty, 2,855 students of whom 20 per cent are women, nearly 200 state-of-the-art laboratories and five research and entrepreneurship centers. The Institute has a strong research focus with more than Rs. 500 crore of sanctioned research funding while Ph.D. scholars account for about 30 per cent of total student strength. IITH students and faculty are at the forefront of innovation with more than 1,500 research publications and patent disclosures, 300 sponsored/consultancy projects and 50 industry collaborations. IITH has MoUs with 50 universities in the U.S., Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Europe. IITH has been pioneering change in pedagogy with fractal academic programs that atomizes course modules, encourage interdisciplinary learning spanning innovative technology, fundamental science, liberal arts and creative arts like photography, theatre and painting.

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