

Director IIT Kharagpur

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IIT Kharagpur has started the 4th phase of COVID relief distribution this week. Supported by the alumni, this initiative will span over the last week of August and the first week of September to distribute essential items to the underprivileged community who have been affected by the pandemic. The Institute has been distributing relief materials to about 150-200 persons daily keeping in mind the issues related to community spread of #COVID19, social distancing, the safety of the security personnel managing the activity, and the relief recipients. Added to this is the monsoon which is at full blow at this time of the year. I am sharing the experience and views of our Registrar and Security Officer.

"We have requested all temporary workers and those who have been dependent on the campus for their livelihood, to collect relief materials. To facilitate the large volume of people, we have scheduled the activity on a daily basis, excluding the state lockdown days. We will carry on this activity and hope to reach out to the large number of people who look up to us for support and empathy in these dire times. We would like to tell the people to maintain order and calm. However, we need to ensure that our relief work does not add to the burden of COVID by means of any unplanned and random acts to avoid the rush. Be assured, we will not miss any of those for whom this enormous yajna has been organized." - Prof. Bhrigu Nath Singh, Registrar

"The distribution work is being managed by the Institute security personnel despite the COVID threat. We have been maintaining proper queues and the 6 feet distance in addition to making sure people are wearing masks and not crowding in a place as per Govt. guidelines. But we have observed that some outsiders have been trying to break into this group and collect the materials in inappropriate ways. This has been causing chaos and we are dealing with such miscreants strictly. All cardholders are being duly checked and handed over the materials. We have been telling the people not to hurry in the attempt to collect the items. We have made proper planning of the number of people for whom these materials are meant and the scheduling of the distribution. The monsoon has been disruptive but thanks to our dedicated Security staff who are working as corona warriors and deserve appreciation. Due to their sincere efforts, we have been able to conduct this noble job for society during this pandemic period." - Mr. S S Jha, Security Officer.

Relief distribution will be carried over a period of 10 days excluding lockdown days and holidays. We will be covering about 2000 families who are directly or indirectly dependent on the IIT Kharagpur campus. In the past two phases distribution was conducted and 4000 packets were distributed successfully.

The funds have been donated generously by the alumni of IIT Kharagpur under an initiative led by the IIT KGP Foundation USA.

Ministry of Education Dr.Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank PMO India