

# How univs are gearing up for battles ahead

Mohammad Ibrar  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Higher educational institutions, which lost many staff members to Covid-19 during the past two months, have begun preparations for a possible third wave by rejigging health centres, acquiring oxygen concentrators and conducting vaccination drives.

On May 19, JNU dean of students Sudheer Pratap Singh in a virtual discussion infor-

med that there were no Covid-positive students on the campus anymore. He added that students in isolation centres would return to the campus. The administration had formed a Covid Response Team in April to issue advisories and manage the Covid-19 situation.

Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor M Jagadeh Kumar said the varsity was now gearing up for a possible third wave. In an appeal to alumni, he stated, "There is

an urgent need to upgrade the existing infrastructure. We want to establish a well-equipped Covid Health Centre, for which funds are required." The university has asked the alumni to donate to the JNU Endowment Fund that was set up in February 2020.

After the deaths of several professors and academics, other universities had also formed Covid response teams for providing assistance and relief to employees.

Delhi University has seen the most number of deaths with over 30 teachers succumbing to Covid-19, including three senior administration members. The Covid Task Force that was formed for issuing advisories and notices has also pushed for restarting the 'Teachers' Welfare Fund. A post-Covid recovery centre was also inaugurated at Patel Chest Institute. However, many teachers, including DU Teachers' Associa-

tion members, raised objections saying they wanted the university to set up a Covid relief centre for staff members.

Janki Devi Memorial and Hansraj colleges have offered infrastructure for setting up Covid care facilities. DU plans to convert its hostels into a 200-bed healthcare facility in a statement, DU said, "We will set up an oxygen plant that can fill 50-80 cylinders per day using the PSA technology, which is cheaper, safe and needs minimal clearances and approvals from the government."

Waseem Ahmed Khan, proctor of Jamia Millia Islamia and chairman of the corona control committee, said, "The Ansari Health Centre has been conducting Covid-19 tests and vaccination drives for staff members. We plan to improve our health centre and get more oxygen concentrators and other essential healthcare items to issue to our employees and their families when they require it. The proctorial team has two ambulances on standby. The committee is also looking at options for vaccinating those aged between 18-44."

At Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), medical, physiotherapy and mental health tele-consultations were organised for staff members. Daily yoga sessions were also held for the administration members. The university now plans to conduct vaccination drives and set up a 40-bed healthcare facility.

AUD vice-chancellor Anu Singh Lather said, "An intelligent assessment of the situation based on scientific inputs followed by humane policies on the ground have helped us so far. The pandemic is unprecedented. The only way we can see some hope on the horizon is by taking responsibilities collectively and standing by each other in such difficult times."

## DOING THEIR BIT IN DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC

### DELHI UNIVERSITY

#### What Has Been Done

- > Task force constituted to conduct contact tracing, keep an eye on movement of students and teachers
- > Free distribution of essential medicines, food to BPL citizens
- > Social service camps under 'Care for Neighbour' initiative
- > Teachers' Welfare Fund restored
- > Oxygen concentrators, cylinders on some campuses
- > Vallabhbai Patel Chest Institute converted for post-Covid respiratory ailments

#### Plans Ahead

- > Setting up Covid-care facilities at its colleges
- > Signing MoUs with path labs to strengthen its health centres
- > Setting up an oxygen plant that can fill 50-80 cylinders per day, using the PSA technology that will cost less, is safe in a campus setting and needs minimal clearances and approvals from the government

### AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI

#### What Has Been Done

- > Quick response team constituted
- > Collaboration with district administration to organise a RT-PCR test camp on Kashmere Gate campus for all the employees
- > Facility to for tele-consultation with doctors and physiotherapists established for employees
- > Ehsaas, a psychotherapy clinic of the university, restarted its online and phone helpline for mental health

#### Plans Ahead

- > Organising a vaccination camp for its employees in coordination with GNCTD
- > Revamping its medical infrastructure with plans to buy equipment like oxygen concentrators and setting up a 40-bedded facility



File photo

### JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

#### What Has Been Done

- > Corona Control Committee established in April to make sure government advisory and SOPs were followed
- > Testing, vaccination drives conducted
- > Ansari health centre catered to staff members and provided them with ambulance, hospital facilities, medicines, etc

#### Plans Ahead

- > Jamia to further revamp the Ansari health centre to make it viable for Covid treatment
- > Procure oxygen concentrators for staff, their families
- > Planned roster to be developed for administrative activity

### JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

#### What Has Been Done

- > Covid Resource Team established in April that helped in conducting tests on campus and managing student quarantine
- > Health centre conducted vaccination drives for staff members on a regular basis
- > Campus announced curfew and limited student movement

#### Plans Ahead

- > To establish a Covid health centre, alumni asked to contribute for procurement of thermometers, masks, etc
- > JNU is in touch with government authorities to start vaccination drive for 18-44 age group