

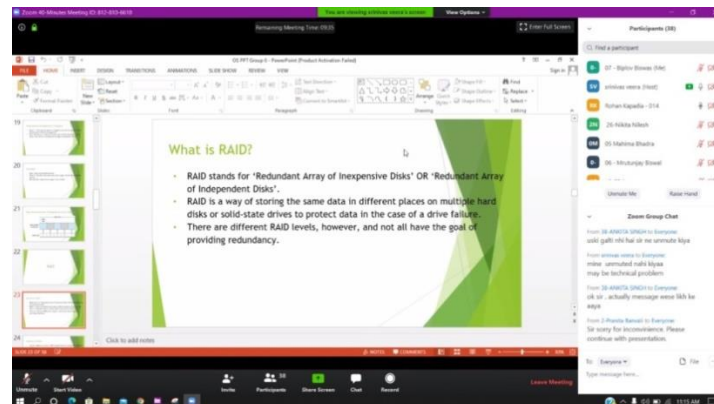
K J Somaiya Institute of Management – Crisis Management

The outbreak of the Coronavirus disease or COVID-19 has affected every angle of human life. The virus has spread globally within a very short span of time. Activities across the world came to a standstill due to this pandemic, and the fear has spread more than the virus itself. Proper sanitization and social distancing remain the only ways to stop the spread of these viruses.

As the first case was recorded in India, K J Somaiya Institute of Management started explaining the need for social distancing and installed sanitizers at all the entrances of the institute. Canteen and Hostel mess staff were provided with masks. As the situation became more critical and after the W.H.O declared the situation as a pandemic, the institute followed the government directive and closed the institute.

Online Lectures:

Though the institute was closed, Faculty & Staff members continued to work from home. The institute management took a call to switch to e-learning mode overnight. The pending syllabus of every class was completed via online learning platforms like Zoom, Google Hangouts, Google Classroom, etc. The institute also decided to evaluate the students on internal assessments through different methodologies. Group presentations were converted into practical work from home assignments. All the faculties put extra effort to complete their subjects. Pedagogy was modified so that the students could understand the concepts without the physical presence of a faculty. Special doubt clearing sessions were arranged online. WhatsApp groups, Google Classrooms, and emails were used for formal communications, to send out notes, submissions and various other academic purposes. As the situations worsened all the trimester exams were postponed to ensure the safety of the students.



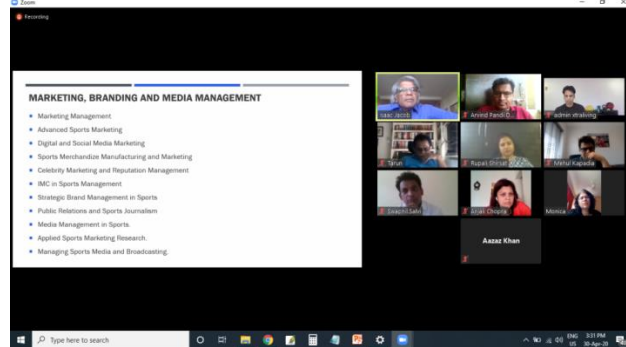
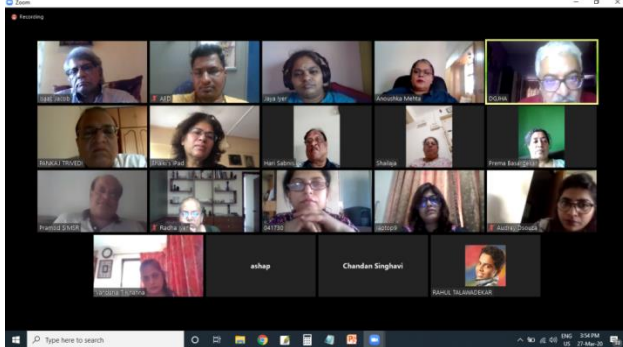
Summer Internships:

Although, all summer internships had been finalised by first week of March, 2020 for over 517 students, the Career Management and Corporate Relations team offered to re-open the placement window for those who were keen to look for newer opportunities; pending the uncertainties arising of the fact that 'field' internships were not doable. In view of the foregoing, the CMCR Team and Placement Committee got into action. Multiple online meetings, followed by back and forth consultations, resulted in evolving a broad strategy to ensure resumption of opening opportunities for interested students. The Student Placement Committee and CMCR team worked closely in tandem reaching out to newer companies and organizing and facilitating the processes seamlessly. Ultimately by 10th May, 2020, over 90% of the students had their summer internships

moving on track. The institute has also proposed that first-year students will have to compulsorily register for a certificate course of their choice on Coursera. Coursera has offered their online courses free for university students upto Sept 2020 as a special privilege extended during the global pandemic lockdown period.

Meetings & Brainstorming Session:

The management and various departments organized multiple meetings to take stock. Brainstorming sessions were held to evaluate and plan the way forward. Board of Studies meetings were held online with participants logging in from across the globe.

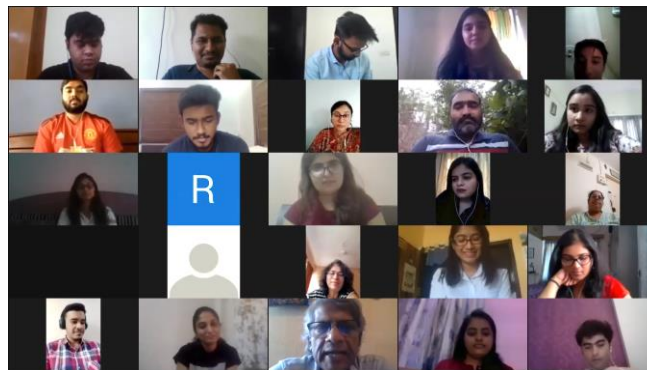


Online Exams:

Considering the second-year students will have to join their respective organisations sooner or later, the institute conducted the online exams successfully. Exams for third year MIM, MFM, MMM & MHRDM students were also conducted online.

Students' Committee Handovers:

The institute has 28 students' committees and clubs and most of the committees handed over the baton to the next team online. Committees presented their annual report and work done during the past one year to the faculty heads and the student committee members.



Other Activities:

In order to make use of this lockdown, the following committees switched to digital mode for knowledge sharing:

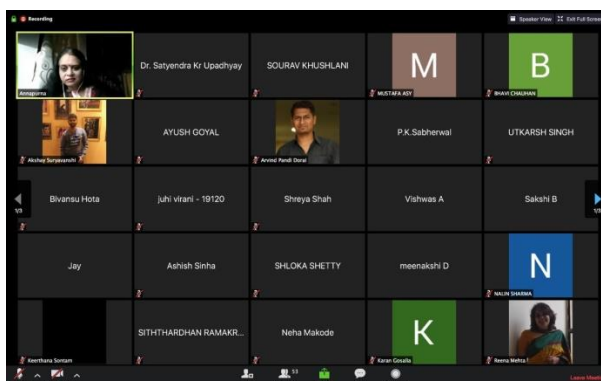
The Alumni Committee & SIMSR Alumni Association started organizing online knowledge sharing session for the alumni and students. They kicked off with an Interview series called 'AlumSpeaks On The Go' with the topic 'Jobs & Career Post COVID-19'. Based on its success, the team organized a new series of panel discussions called 'Ask the Alums', a series of Q&A sessions with the Alumni Experts evaluating the Impact

of COVID-19 on different business dimensions. Five sessions were conducted that thoroughly analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on HR, IT, Operations, Finance & Marketing and also talked about the way forward. An additional session on New Sandbox & New Business Models saw eminent global Alumni Experts from London, California, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Mumbai joined to discuss on what's in store for the future to power businesses and careers with new insights. They also organized an online mentoring session for alumni entrepreneurs.

The Guest Lecture Committee organized a guest lecture on 'Opportunities Post COVID-19' by Ms. Annapurna A, a HR Thought Leader, Founder & CEO, Emotionalytics and Chairperson, WEEF ASSOCHAM. She shared her thoughts on the employment opportunities post the pandemic and enlightened the audience on what the students need to develop in order to achieve their goals.

Team MarCquest and BigWigs organized the very first event of the year - The BigWigs Speak Live! The Guest Speaker, Mr. Praveen Jaipurkar, CEO of Continental Coffee spoke on the topic 'The New Normal for a Marketer: A vision beyond crises'

In spite of the lockdown, the Alumni Committee & Finstreet Committee have been consistently publishing their newsletters on time.



Hostel:

From the time lockdown was announced, i.e. 20th March 2020, all the international students were informed about the pandemic situation and they were instructed about the measures and precautions to be taken. Hostels and food mess have been regularly sanitized. Each of the hostel entrances has a sanitizer bottle stationed. The hostel security guards scan temperatures of incoming students at the entrance and make sure students are following the rules of lockdown. Students who came back to the hostel were tested for COVID-19 and were kept in isolation.

The food arrangement in the hostel mess is operational in the same way as before the lockdown, students are provided with 4 meals a day i.e. breakfast, lunch, snacks & dinner, at the same time, social distance during meal hours is also practiced. Hostel and mess staff is ensuring the comfort of the students and the provision of meals are not compromised. For instance, once the gas pipeline broke during the lockdown, the hostel management rented resources in order to make sure food arrangements were not hampered. This being the month of Ramadan, the hostel mess has been providing breakfast to students as early as 3:00 am. All the necessary items are available in the hostel mess in order to avoid unnecessary movement of students outside the campus. For years, the campus has numerous stray pet dogs, and they are usually fed by students. During this lockdown, the students at hostel have taken up the responsibility of feeding these stray dogs. Students and hostel staff take turns to refill the feeding bowls. The administration is putting in extra effort to ensure the students do not feel any discomfort or panic during this lockdown. Satellite Hospital in Maitreya Hostel is operational 24*7 with the provision of a doctor and a nurse. An operational ambulance has been stationed on campus, which is available 24*7.

Mentors of international students schedule video calls twice a week to keep their morale high. They counsel students on various online courses they can do during this lockdown. To maintain a sense of community, students come together once a week to offer global prayer in the amphitheater.



K J Somaiya Institute of Management continues to stand strong in this critical situation by not compromising on its academics and safety of students, thereby reassuring the students with their future.