

## Digital payments

To promote transparency, the Government of India has launched the Digital Payments Mission under which all monetary transactions in educational institutions shall use digital modes of payment (online IMPS/BHIM/debit cards/AEPS). IISc has already adopted payment of salary and wages through individual bank accounts. Student payments are increasingly being made digital. Chairs and faculty members are being issued electronic cash cards that can be “loaded” with funds when drawing “cash” advances. All amenities and facilities on campus have been asked to have at least one mode of electronic payment. Students are encouraged to educate the various amenities to use the BHIM application, by linking their bank accounts with mobile number/Aadhar number.

## New women’s hostel

It is encouraging to find more and more women students joining various degree programmes in the Institute. IISc is strengthening its infrastructure to accommodate them, and is planning a new 500-room women’s hostel, proposed to be constructed as three blocks in the Arjuna Marg area. The project is expected to be supported partly under private funds. The groundwork is expected to start this year and the project will be executed on a fast-track mode.

## Road safety and regulated parking

The number of private vehicles using institute roads has reduced considerably in the last three months. Unorganised parking has been streamlined and more parking lots have been created, leading to reduced stress and increased ease for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The CCMD has marked the major roads (Gulmohar Marg, Tala Marg and Madhura Marg) with reflective paint. Scientific marking of parking areas near the JN Tata auditorium, amenities and departments is underway. The main gate and ingress road are being re-engineered for rigorous screening of vehicles. The institute community is requested to follow all safety norms such as adhering to the speed limit (30 km), and using helmets, seat belts and low beams at night, to make campus roads safer.

## Desilting of cross drains and culverts

Some of the hostel areas were flooded during recent rains. While cleaning, some drains were found choked by the entry of roots from adjacent trees. All cross drains around M, N and Kaveri hostel blocks have been cleared. Construction of alternate drains is in progress. The CCMD has initiated action for clearing silt deposits in cross drains and culverts to facilitate free flow of water.

## Regular fogging for mosquito control

The nursery has been entrusted with fogging the campus to get rid of mosquitoes. The Technical Officer uses the safest chemicals for this purpose. A weekly schedule has been drawn up to cover the entire campus. The number of dengue cases has been reducing each year. The institute community is requested to ensure that there is no stagnation of water in their surroundings, in order to prevent mosquito breeding.

## Upgradation of guesthouse facilities

A new kitchen and dining facility has been introduced at the CVH, for the benefit of guests staying there. People desirous of organising lunch or dinner are required to give at least one-day notice to the reception at CVH. The Assistant Registrar, Students’ and Guest Housing, may be contacted for further details. Maintenance of the rooms at MGH has also begun. Currently only 14 deluxe rooms are available for occupation, until the maintenance of other rooms is completed.