

## **Covid, Compulsion coupled with Carelessness gave Termites A Free run to Ruin JNU Lab**

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Days are ahead, more and more awareness, news; blogs are popping up on any tangible issue in our day to day life, inclusive say the termite invasion in research laboratories, even. The digital revolution has immensely empowered the citizens and common people to share their woes, as citizen journalists. Youtube, blogs, whatsApp, twitter, facebook – all such digital tools played a major role in this, besides the conventional newspapers/ magazines.

Readers can view the following links, clips, news for getting more information on this grave issue. Be aware, who knows, the next terror attack by termites is in your premises, lab or your near and dear neighbors’?

### **The Youtube clip**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHBvErpR7is>

Very lucidly, this demonstrates the damage caused by termites in JNU lab, depicting the plight of Ph D scholars. This is visited by 2.7K as on today (11-Dec 2020).

**News Clips** (*The Indian Express, Times of India, On 7-Dec, 2020*)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/jnu-lab-closed-due-to-covid-termites-ruin-students-work-7094575/>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/delhi-termites-destroy-research-samples-at-jnu-laboratory/articleshow/79600705.cms>

Valuable research activities of students, Ph D scholars were destroyed by termite infestation at JNU’s TL/OSL/OSL laboratory. The lab was set up on investigation of earth’s climate, unique in the country, which was compelled to shut in March this year, due to corona pandemic. It is alleged that this was left unattended, and as such students were not allowed to the set-up, termites got a free run to ruin everything, their hard toiled research samples.

We are shortly coming out with termite management advisories for such eventualities. Please visit our web portal (Main menu bar: Management: Construction). We detailed therein, the control aspects for rural structures, urban-, agricultural-, dams/dykes and others. Hope, the info will be useful. During the tenure of my Nodal Officer of Termite Control, in IARI Main Campus (2009-2016), we dealt some laboratories for termite proofing, both pre-construction and post-construction scenario, Central Museum of IARI (Library Building), NBPGR Complex, and many other structural set-ups. Termite control is quite a tricky affair, demands detailed planning and execution, for a successful implementation.