PRESS RELEASE

BITS Pilani Alumni Association (BITSSAA) Organizes the 4th BITSAA Global Meet (BGM) in Goa

BITS Pilani Alumni Association, BITSSAA, with their alma mater BITS Pilani, organized the 4th edition of Global Meet of its alumni at the BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus. BITSSAA has over 84000 alumni spanning over six decades.

BGM which was held between 17-19 January 2020, was attended by over 1100 participants which included alumni of the four different campuses where BITS Pilani is present namely, Pilani, Dubai, Goa and Hyderabad. This BGM followed in the footsteps of the three previous successful BGMs which were held in Delhi, Hyderabad and Dubai starting from 2011 at an interval of three years. The current edition of the event was unique as it has many firsts to its credit.

The educator, innovator & ecowarrior, Sonam Wangchuk set the tone for the event with an inspiring vision of simplicity and sustainability. The event matched his vision of environment consciousness in the best way – it was eco friendly and used no disposables or single use plastics and instead used steel bottles, water dispensers and reusable crockery. A gutsy move that proved that if people can take a little inconvenience, we can make dramatic changes to our consumption.

Using technology to reach a much wider audience, the entire three day event was available over a phone app which connected the organisers, who are alumni themselves, with the delegates, and all main events were telecast live to reach worldwide audiences.

The Chancellor, Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla in his welcome note called upon alumni as brand custodians to “come together as an active entity to infuse new ideas and possibilities” and to benchmark themselves with the alumni of the most prestigious schools globally. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Souvik Bhattacharya exhorted the alumni to work together on the journey to excellence in his welcome address.
An alumnus of the institute, Revathi Advaithi, CEO of Flex, a US 25 billion dollar company with over 177,000 employees and ranked amongst the top 50 most powerful women, presented great insights into managing businesses - with repeatable processes and consistent goals, inspiring the girls to break all ceilings and students to pursue their dreams. The articulate cricketer and engineer Anil Kumble enthralled the audience with his journey with his plan B, cricket. Plan A of course was engineering.

The theme of the event was Finding Purpose, Creating Value, Inspiring Excellence. Each of these themes inspired multiple sessions running in parallel tracks. Speakers and topics ranged from India’s space odyssey, building unicorns and careers in social causes and sports and startup pitches under BITS spark. Alumni mentored the present students in a special session. An interaction with the current directors of all campuses and the alumni relations team gave a view on the current goings on in the campuses and future plans.

Running multiple tracks under the hobBITS umbrella unearthed extraordinary and powerful stories of individuals who set out to do something different.

Alumni in civil services discussed their challenges and contributions for the country. Sanjay Jalona, CEO L&T Infotech, received recognition as a distinguished alumnus of the institute.

Proving that engineers can be creative too, exhiBITS showcased charcoals, sketches, oil paints, digital art photography and book covers by the alumni.

Arko Mukhaerjee, a world musician captured the evenings with his mellifluous rendition of folk songs in many languages and contemporary music that had the participants spontaneously break out dancing under the stars.

Ramanan Laxminarayan of Princeton University, another Distinguished Alumnus of BITS Pilani, delivered an electrifying valedictory address exhorting current students to embrace the massive technology trends that will change our world and to build their careers around solving some of the greatest challenges mankind has ever faced.

Lively performances by the alumni, students of dance, drama, mime and art clubs added to the fun elements. The event ended on a high with an electrifying and charging drum circle and a surprise dance performance by the students.

The logistics of the events were massive involving coordinating people moving across Goa and were managed smoothly by the organising team.

With something for everyone, an opportunity to learn, network, relax and reconnect, the event hit the sweet spot with the alumni and set new high standards for global reunions.

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