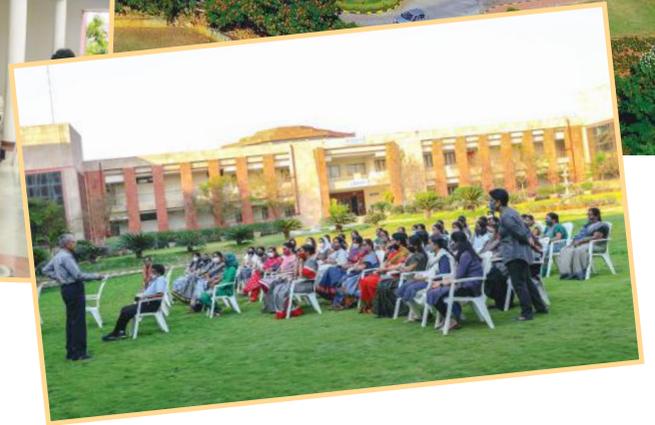
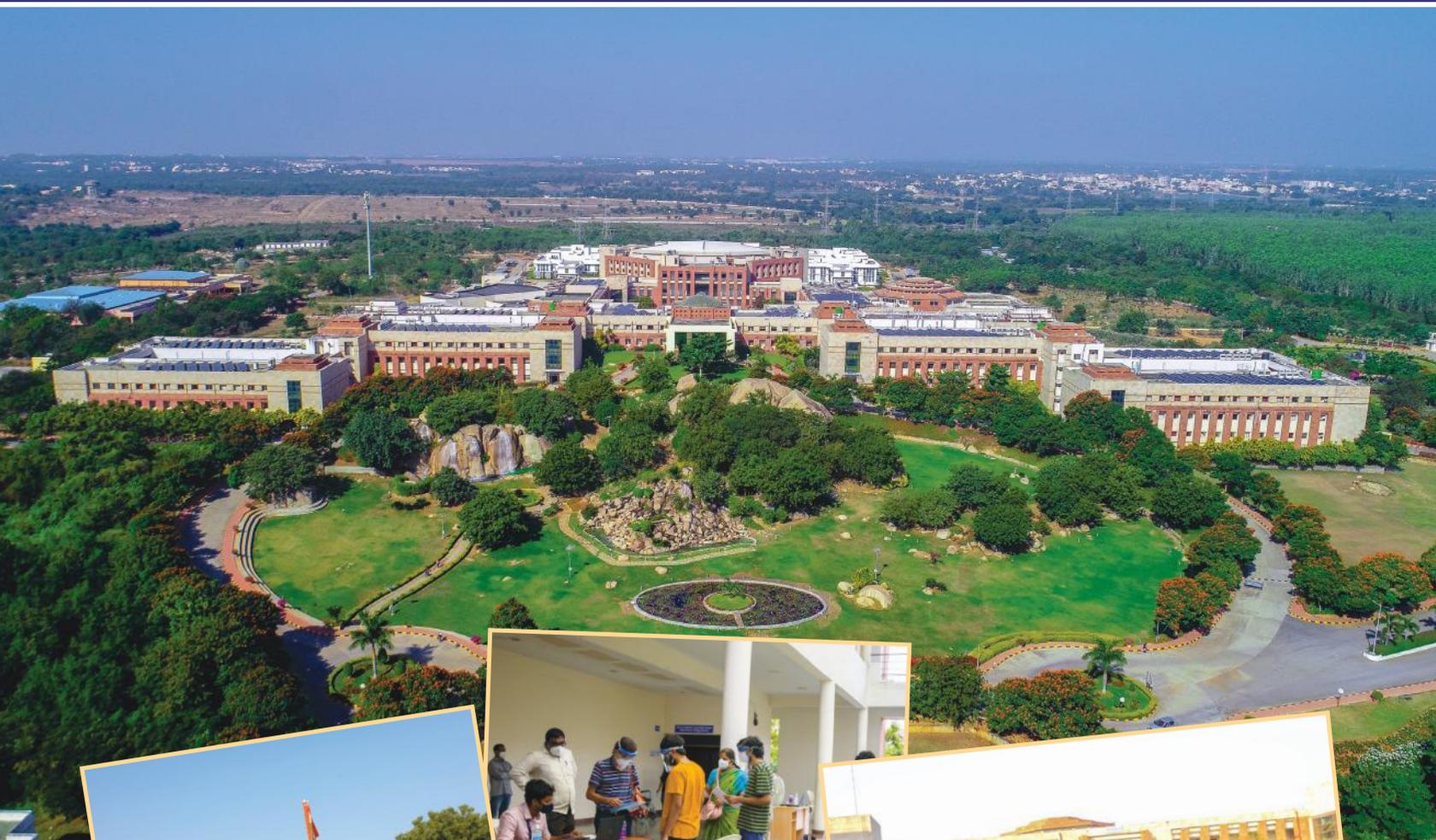


# bitscan

## Hyderabad Campus



# Confluence of Academic Ideas, Intellect and Information (Workshop/ Conferences/ Symposiums)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in Economics and Finance (March 11-12 & 18, 2021)

The Department of Economics and Finance conducted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual conference on March 11-12 & 18, 2021. The conference was held in online mode owing to the ongoing Covid crisis. The keynote speakers included Prof S Chandrashekhar (IGDR, Mumbai), Prof Lekha Chakraborty (NIPFP, New Delhi), and Prof M Jayadev (IIM, Bangalore). The speakers delivered talks on various pertinent issues like fiscal policy in current pandemic times, migration, child poverty and welfare, economic legislation and corporate governance, etc. The conference also consisted of one session where our PhD scholars presented their ongoing research work; which was very well received by other distinguished speakers. Although held in online mode, the conference witnessed good participation.



**BITS Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in Economics and Finance

Department of  
Economics and Finance



**Department of Economics and Finance,  
BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus**  
in Collaboration with  
**Economics Association**



**Prof. Gurbachan Singh**  
Visiting Faculty (ISI Delhi), Former  
Faculty (JNU, New Delhi)



**Prof. S. Chandrashekhar**  
IGDR, Mumbai



**Prof. Lekha Chakraborty**  
NIPFP, New Delhi



**Prof. Chinmay Tumble**  
IIM Ahmedabad

This year's conference is focused on promoting the discussion related to the Indian economy, particularly focusing on the current scenario. Eminent persons from various institutions are invited to share their views. This is surely expected to be an enriching experience for all!

<b>March 11, 2021 (Thursday)</b>	
Prof. Gurbachan Singh	10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM
Prof. S. Chandrashekhar	11:00 AM TO 12:00 AM
Prof. Lekha Chakraborty	2:30 PM TO 3:30 PM
Prof. Chinmay Tumble	3:30PM TO 4:30 PM
<b>March 12, 2021 (Friday)</b>	
Ms. Navya Kumar	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
Mr. Athary Janiso	
Ms. Keerti Mallela	
Mr. Arindam Das	
Prof. Saipriya Kamath	2:30 PM TO 3:30 PM
Prof. Shailen Nandy	3:30PM TO 4:30 PM
<b>March 18, 2021 (Thursday)</b>	
Prof. M Jayadev	2:30 PM TO 3:30 PM
Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay	3:30PM TO 4:30 PM

**Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani - Hyderabad Campus** is one of the premier technical and science institutes of higher learning in India. The Hyderabad campus was established in 2008. BITS Pilani was among the first institutes to be awarded the Institute of Eminence status.

The Department of Economics and Finance was established in 2013 (earlier a part of the Department of Economics, Humanities and Languages). The department offers M.Sc. Economics, Minor in Finance and Ph.D. programme. The department has a team of 16 faculty members from areas of economics, finance, and management. The department adheres by the BITS Pilani legacy of excellence in teaching and research.

The Economics Association is the association for the M.Sc. Economics students at Hyderabad campus. The primary aim of the association is to inculcate and nurture interest in the economics and finance world among all students on campus through various events, talks, workshops, blogs.



**Prof. Saipriya Kamath**  
London School of Economics



**Prof. Shailen Nandy**  
Cardiff University



**Prof. M. Jayadev**  
IIM Bangalore



**Prof. Saumen Chattopadhyay**  
JNU, New Delhi

 **March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>**

 **Meet code: jze-wvfj-kqg**

**CONTACTS:**  
Dr. Dushyant Kumar, 040-66303711, [dushyant@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in](mailto:dushyant@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in)  
Dr. Sunny Kumar Singh, 040-66303698, [sunny.singh@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in](mailto:sunny.singh@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in)  
Dr. Bheemeshwar Reddy A, 040-66303648, [bheem@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in](mailto:bheem@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in)

Department of Economics and Finance  
BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus  
Jawahar Nagar, Kapra Mandal, Hyderabad- 500078, India  
Website: [www.bits-pilani.ac.in](http://www.bits-pilani.ac.in)

## Divyang Warrior Skilling Program

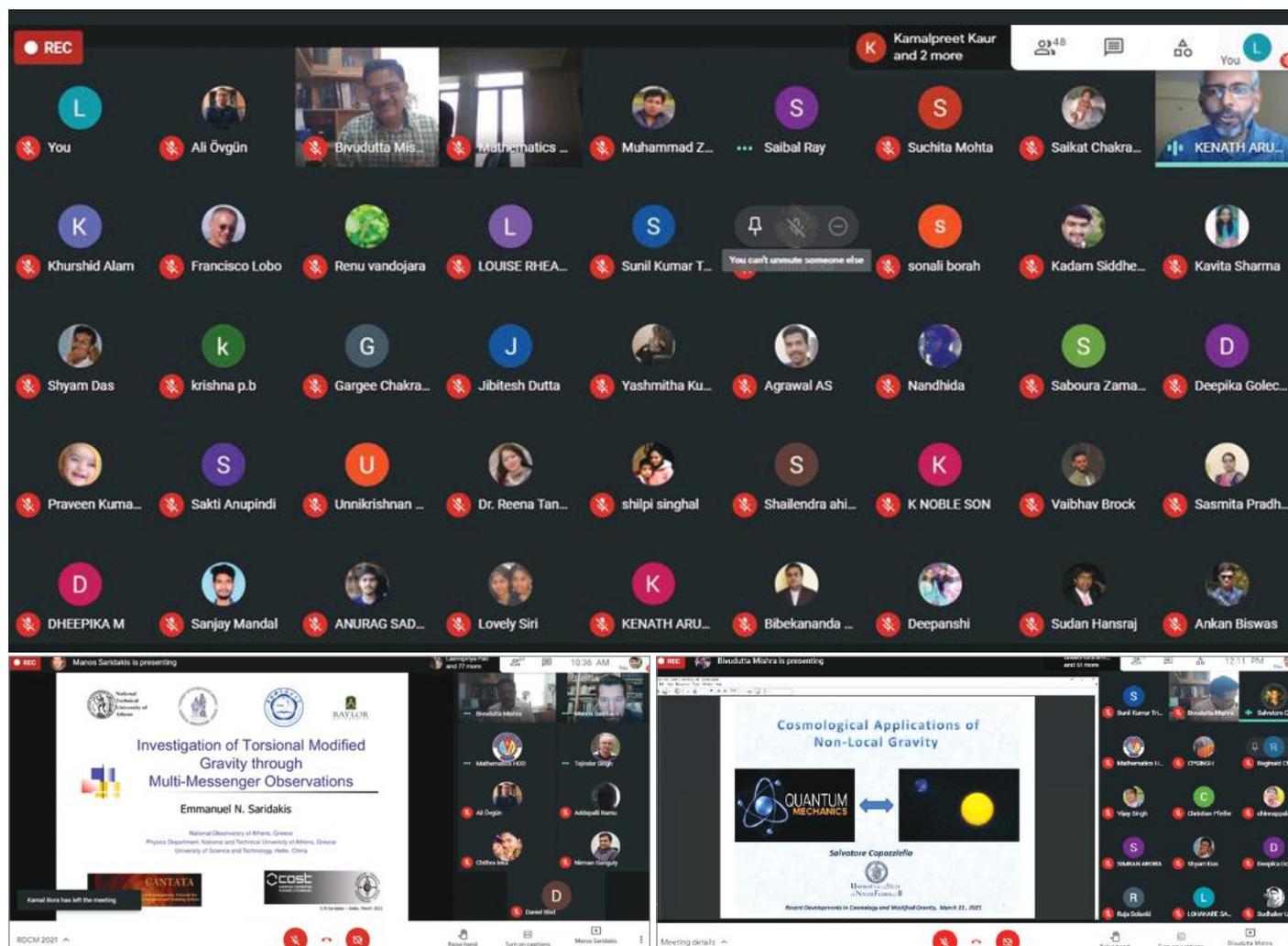
The objective of the program was to provide requisite IT skills for the further employment of divyang warriors. The course consisted of the following modules:

- **Basics of Computers and MS Office:** In this module, the participants learnt the various components of computers and their functions. They have also learnt to use Google search, book tickets, file income tax returns, install and use software such as MSWord, Power Point, and Excel.
- **Photoshop:** In this module, the participants were taught to use basic photo editing techniques like masking, color adjustments, objects / background removal with adobe premiere pro. This module has enabled the participants to create banners, posters, postcards and enhance pictures.
- **Video Editing:** This module aimed to provide necessary video editing skills, including optimizing the workstation and the application (Adobe Premiere Pro) according to the project requirements. They have also learnt to enhance, stylize, re-time footage, integrate audio, and render the final output.

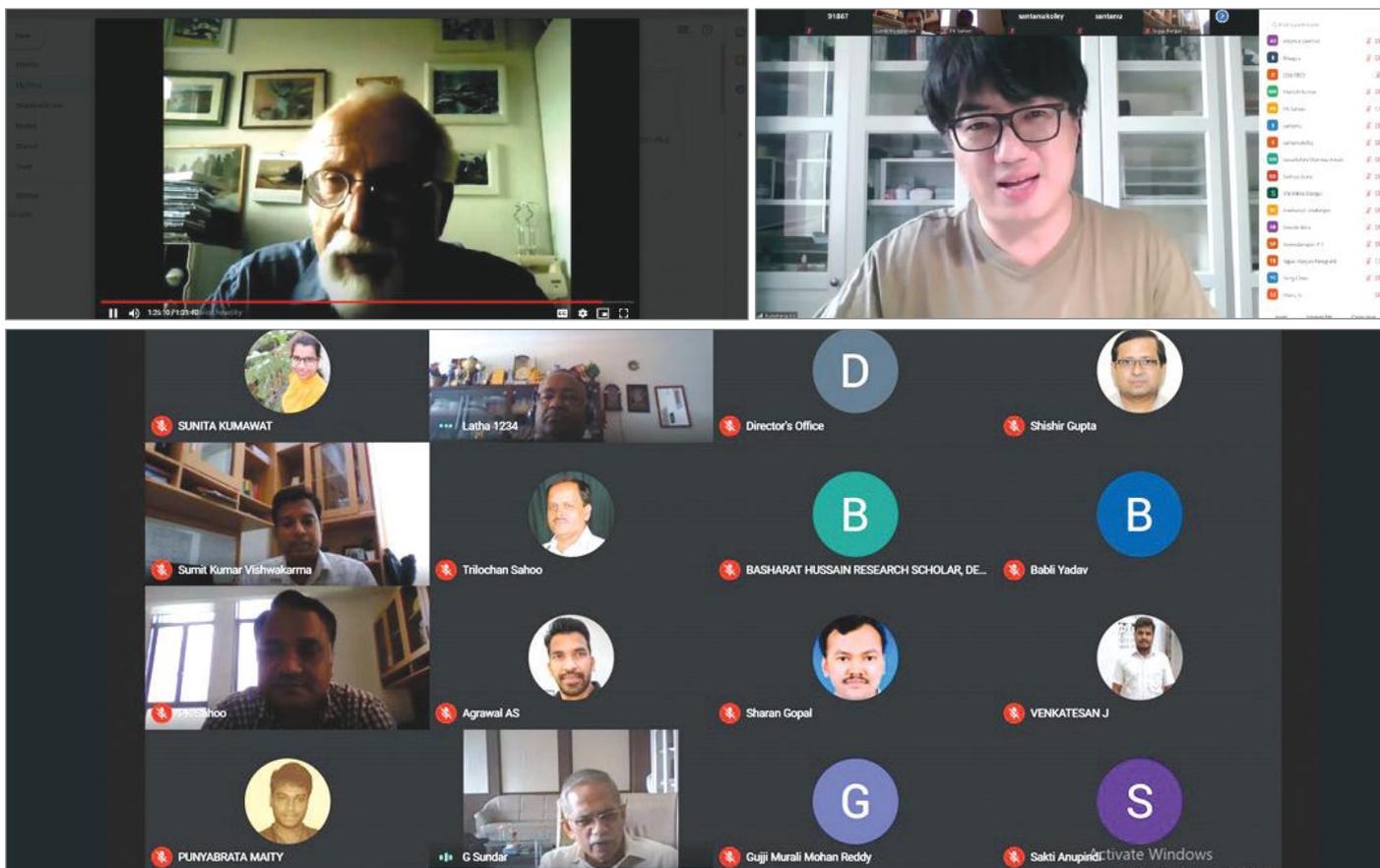


### 3-days International Webinar on Recent Developments in Cosmology and Modified Gravity, (RDCM-2021) conducted by the Department of Mathematics

Department of Mathematics, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, conducted a 3-day International webinar on Recent Developments in Cosmology and Modified Gravity, (RDCM-2021) from March 9-11, 2021. The focus of the webinar was on the possible solution to the recent claim of accelerated expansion of the universe. The conveners of the webinar were Prof B Mishra and Prof P K Sahoo. The webinar started with the inaugural session, where Prof T P Singh, TIFR Mumbai, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Prof G Sundar, Director BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, also addressed the participants and resource persons. The webinar was divided into invited talk and paper presentation sessions. There were nine invited talks given by leading scientists from around the globe and 72 research papers were presented by researchers. There were 274 participants from 18 different countries in the webinar. The webinar concluded with the valedictory session, Prof M B Srinivas, Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, BITS-Pilani, addressed the participants as the chief guest of the occasion.

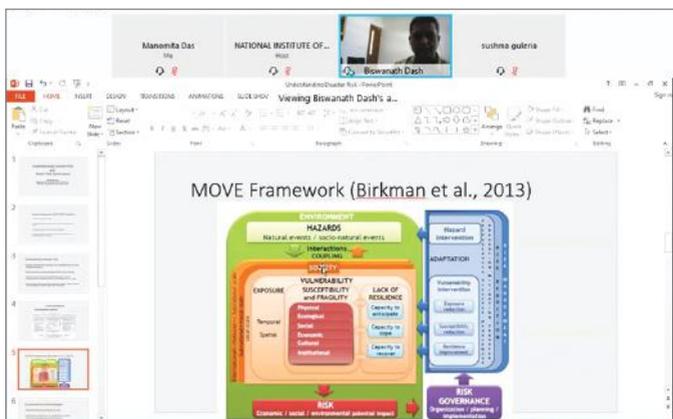


Another international webinar on Contemporary Problems on Mechanics and Vibrations (CPMV-2021) was conducted by the Department of Mathematics under the guidance of Dr Sumit Vishwakarma, Dr Santanu Koley's and Dr T S L Radhika from May 20 to 22, 2021. The themes of the conference included Mathematical Modelling, Differential and Integral Equations, Waves in Solid/Fluids, Continuum Mechanics, Data Analytics and Statistical Applications. The registration for paper – presentation and to attend the conference was free. The webinar had eight invited talks (4 foreign and 4 Indian speakers) and 25 paper presentations divided into six different sessions, with the overall participation of 160 researchers from across the globe. A cash award of INR 1000 for the best paper presentation was given to an outstanding paper.



### Joint Webinar conducted by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and National Institute of Disaster Management (MHA), New Delhi

A Webinar titled 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Translating Priority One to Two' was held on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 between 11 am and 1 pm, as a joint initiative of National Institute of Disaster Management (MHA), New Delhi and Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus. This was attended by 164 participants from across the country. Starting the session, Dr Sushma Guleria from NIDM provided an overview of the evolution of disaster management in the country and how this process shaped disaster policy and institutional framework. She also discussed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), 2015 and highlighted its objectives. Following this, Dr Biswanath Dash, from BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad, discussed the Priority 1 of SFDRR and elaborated on 'Understanding Risk'. Drawing reference from different disasters which occurred in the past few decades, Dr Dash illustrated the need to anticipate risks and carry out systematic risk assessments in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction.



## Webinar on 'Creativity and Dissent' by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Department of Humanities and Social Science organised a webinar titled Creativity and Dissent: A Literary detour of Benyamin's *Al Arabian Novel Factory* by novelist Benyamin on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Benyamin has six novels and two short stories to his credit. His most famous novels include the phenomenal *Goat days* (2008) and the *Jasmine Days* (2018). He is a recipient of several Literary Awards. The discussion was on Neo - Orientalism, Media Framing, Oil Politics. Issue of Censorship, and Gulf Diaspora.

**BITS Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
BITS Pilani (Hyderabad Campus) invites you  
to the WEBINAR:

***Creativity and Dissent:***  
***A Literary detour of Benyamin's***  
***Al Arabian Novel Factory***

**BENYAMIN**  
Recipient of the JCB Prize for  
Literature (2018),  
Crossword Book Award (2018),  
Kerala Sahitya Award Academy  
Award (2009)  
Author: *Goat Days*, *Jasmine Days*,  
*Abeesagin*, *Euthanasia*, *Nishabda*,  
*Sancharangal*

15TH  
Feb,  
2021  
MONDAY  
11 AM  
Meet link:  
<https://meet.google.com/ogi-tvhh-amk>

The Department of Humanities and Social Science organised a webinar titled *Cognitive and Socio-emotional Development in Young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children* on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Wednesday, at 1 pm. The talk was delivered by Dr Evelien Dirks (Programme leader, Dutch Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child, The Netherlands).

Speaker  
**Dr. Evelien Dirks**  
Program Leader, Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Research and Development Program,  
Dutch Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing Child (NSDSK),  
Amsterdam the Netherlands

**Abstract**  
The use of hearing technology such as hearing aids and cochlear implants and family-centered early intervention positively affect the language growth in children who are deaf or hard of hearing. However, in comparison with their typical hearing peers they still encounter more difficulties in their development. In the presentation, an overview of the language, social-emotional and cognitive development of young children who are deaf or hard of hearing will be given. The importance of caregivers to promote this development will be emphasized.  
The use of new eye-tracking technology to examine language learning in deaf and hard of hearing children will be discussed.

## Online Workshops conducted by the Department of Biological Sciences

Online workshops on Cell Biology of Apicomplexan Parasites (CAU, Beijing), conducted during the months of March, April, May & June, 2021.

Weekly online lectures, seminars and technological demonstrations were organized, which aimed to bring together the molecular parasitology groups at CAU (Beijing), HZAU (Wuhan) and at BITS-Pilani Hyderabad campus. There were several sessions involving interactions with research scholars from all universities, which has proved pivotal in seeding new collaborations and in obtaining a range of project-specific biological reagents and instilling state-of-the-art methodical skills. A repertoire of research-oriented lectures and seminars in advanced molecular parasitology has enabled a smooth transition of the newly-recruited doctoral fellows at BPHC.

Another online workshop and live tour from CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh - Bioprocess Technology was conducted on March 24, 2021.

A workshop on fermentation and cell culture along with a virtual tour of fermentation facilities was organized on March 24, 2021. Scientist E Senthil Prasad from CSIR-IMTECH gave insights into new developments in the field of fermentation and cell culture methodologies. The event was organized at the Department of Biological Sciences, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad campus by Dr Kirtimaan Syal. Participants gave excellent feedback on the demo.

This workshop was aimed to improve the employability of the participants and expose them to the up-to-date applications of bioprocess technologies. Dr. Krishna Gopal Thakur and Dr. Senthil Prasad from CSIR-IMTECH are acknowledged for helping with the tour of the instrument facilities of the institute.

### Book Discussions conducted by the Department of Economics and Finance

A series of book discussions was conducted by the Department of Economics and Finance.

- **Book Discussion:** The Economics of Small Things (<https://econsmallthings.com/>)

**Main Speaker** (Author of the Book) – Prof Sudipta Sarangi, Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech

**Date and Time** – Thursday, January 28, 2021, 7.00 PM – 8.00 PM

- **Book Discussion:** The Political Economy of Government Statistics (CUP)

**Main Speakers** (Authors of the Book) – Dr Ankush Agrawal, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Dr Vikas Kumar, Associate Professor, Azim Premji University.

**Date and Time** – Monday, February 22, 2021, 4.00 PM – 5.00 PM

- **Book Discussion:** Macroeconomics: An Introduction (CUP)

**Main Speaker** (Author of the Book) – Dr Alex M Thomas, Azim Premji University.

**Date and Time** – Thursday, April 15, 2021, 03:30 PM – 04:30 PM

### Online symposium conducted by Department of Physics

The Department of Physics conducted a One-day Online Symposium on the Physics of Neutron stars. The Symposium was organised by Prof Sarmistha Banik, on June 16, 2021. Leading scientists, both observers and theoreticians, working on neutron stars, pulsars and gravitational waves from India and abroad presented in seminars on the latest developments in their respective fields.

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI  
HYDERABAD CAMPUS

**1-day Online Symposium on Physics of Neutron stars**  
**June 16, 2021**  
Schedule

Speaker	Affiliation	Title of Talk
	Inauguration: Bikash Sinha, VECC, Kolkata	
Sukanta Bose	IUCAA, Pune	Inputs from gravitational-wave observations for constraining neutron star matter
Bhal Chandra Joshi	NCRA, TIFR, Pune	Precision Pulsar timing in presence of profile changes and propagation effects
Sudip Bhattacharyya	TIFR, Mumbai	Signature of stable stellar-mass black holes
Prasanta Char	Liège, Belgium	Dense Matter Equation of State from Multimessenger Observations
Luciano Rezzolla	ITP, Frankfurt	Modelling the merger of binary neutron stars
Bijay Agarwal	SINP, Kolkata	Bayesian analysis of Equation of States
Matthias Hanuske	ITP, Frankfurt	Neutron star collisions and gravitational waves
Horst Stöcker	FIAS, Frankfurt	MAGIC hot analogies between Heavy Ion- and binary Neutron Star Collisions
Jürgen Schaffner-Bielich	ITP, Frankfurt	Strange Matter in Neutron Stars at Higher Order

Reminiscence: 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Prof Debades Bandyopadhyay, SINP, Kolkata

**Organised by**  
Sarmistha Banik  
Department of Physics, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, India

[meet.google.com/omh-yang-jcq](https://meet.google.com/omh-yang-jcq)



The Symposium was inaugurated by Padma Bhushan awardee Prof Bikash Sinha. Some of the distinguished speakers from India were Prof Sukanta Bose (Senior Professor at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and the Chair of the LIGO-India Scientific Collaboration), Prof Sudip Bhattacharyya (Payload Manager or PI, Soft X-ray Telescope, Astro Sat Space Mission, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai).

The distinguished speakers from abroad spoke at the event. They are – Prof Luciano Rezzolla, Chair of Theoretical Astrophysics at the Institute for Theoretical Physics (ITP) of the J W Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Senior Fellow at the Frankfurt Institute of Advanced Studies (FIAS) and The Andrews Professor of Astronomy at Trinity College

Dublin), Prof Horst Stöcker (Judah M Eisenberg Professor Laureatus for Theoretical Physics, Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies (FIAS), J W Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main & Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung mbH (GSI) at Darmstadt/Germany.

### Dept of Electrical & Electronics Engineering

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics conducted a 2-day workshop on Intel India LEAD Program - FPGA (Online mode) on March 26 and 27, 2021.

Intel FPGA Online Workshop is conducted on March 26, 27 March on Intel FPGAs and Quartus Tool Flow along with SoC FPGAs and SoC EDS Tool Flow for the FD and HD degree students.

### Dept of Pharmaceutical Science

A webinar on Introduction to Injectable Packaging and Overview on Delivery Devices was organised in collaboration

with West Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, on June 26, 2021. Mr Alagu Subramaniam and Mr Vikrant Chadawar from West Pharmaceuticals delivered the lectures through online mode.

### Activities conducted by TLC (Teaching Learning Centre)

- TLC conducted an Intensive Teaching Workshop for the newly inducted faculty on March 13, 2021 Prof Rahul Nigam talked on 'Important aspects of online teaching', Prof Anasua and Prof N L Bhanumurthy covered a session on 'Online lab sessions' and Dr Radhika discussed 'Aspects of flipped classrooms and technology - based teaching'.
- The center also conducted a workshop for the PhD and HD students titled 'Aspects of Online Teaching' on 12 April, 2021.
- TLC released the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the video magazine 'Spark'.

## Foundation Day Celebrations 2021

Foundation Day was celebrated on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 and the following non-teaching staff were awarded with the Consistent Contributor Award:

1. J Geethanjali, Technician
2. Guduru Sreevani, Jr Office Assistant
3. PVL Narasimha Rao, Sr Computer Operator
4. Soleti Bhaskar Reddy, Technician
5. N Ravi, Sr Driver
6. B Haritha, Jr Professional Assistant
7. YVVS Narayana, Jr Technician
8. Tahasildar Yadav, Sr Technical Assistant
9. Bhaskar M, Technician
10. Gouthami Poloju, Jr Office Assistant
11. R Srinivas, Assistant Office Superintendent

## Colloquium Talks



**BITS COLLOQUIUM TALK**

**DR. RAMANAN LAXMINARAYAN**

**CURRENTLY :** Director at CDDEP; Senior Research Scholar at Princeton University; Founder/Board Chair at HealthCubed; Board Chair at GARDP

**EDUCATION :**

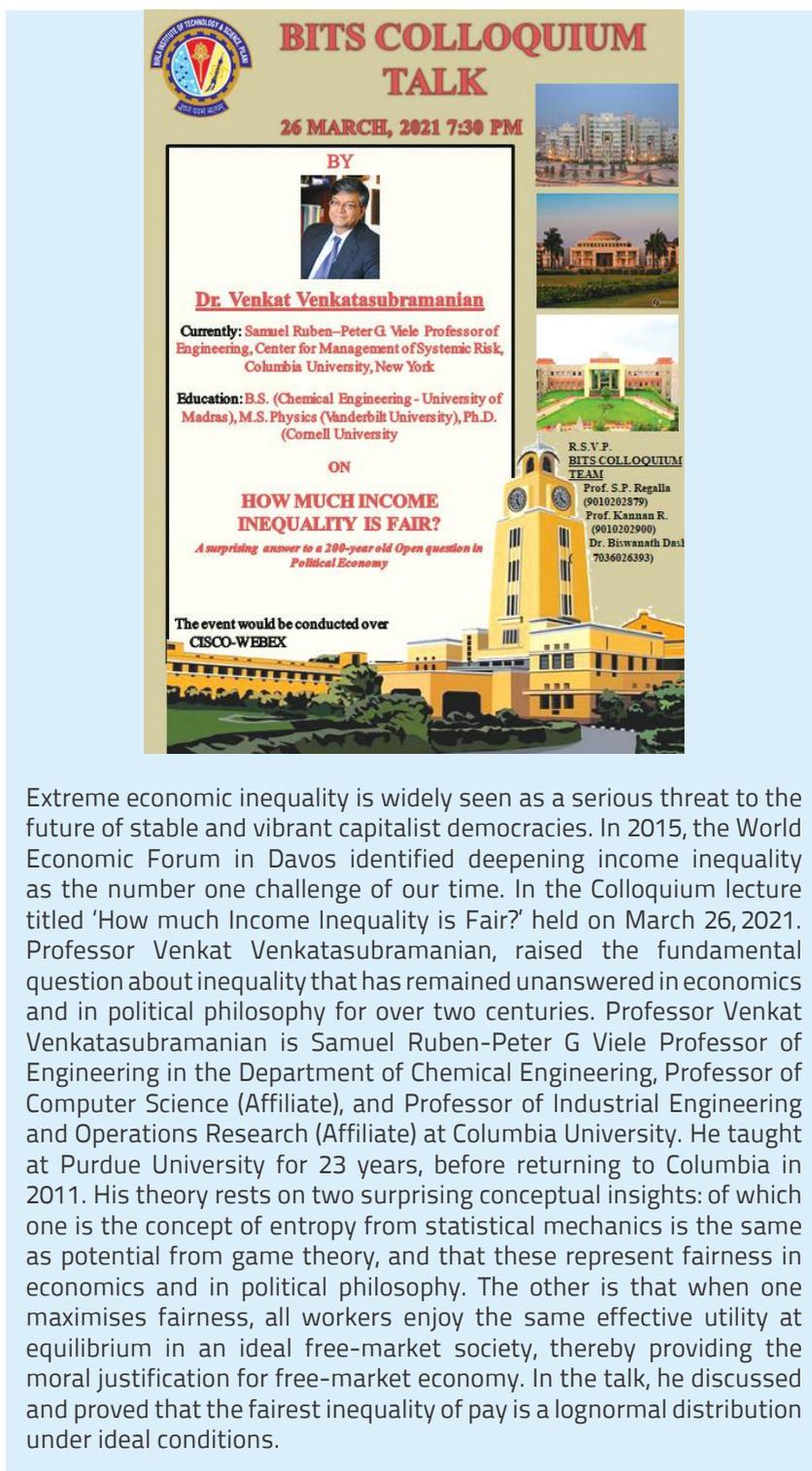
- BE from BITS Pilani,
- MPH (Master of Public Health) and PhD in Economics from University of Washington.

**Topic : State of the World's Antibiotics in 2021**

**Date : 12/04/2021 | Time : 5 PM IST**

**Platform : CISCO-WEBEX**

Hailed as one of the most important achievements in medicine, the discovery and subsequent introduction of antibiotics meant that people could be treated and cured of once-fatal bacterial infections. The overuse and abuse of antibiotics is a growing public health concern, both in the United States and across the globe. Over time, bacteria have evolved to develop resistance to drugs that normally would kill them or limit their growth. As a consequence, many antibiotics have become less effective and are enabling untreatable strains of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and other bacteria to survive and multiply. As a part of the Institute Colloquium Series, Dr Ramanan Laxminarayan, Director at CDDEP, senior Research Scholar at Princeton University discussed this problem and potential solutions during the lecture titled, 'The State of the World's Antibiotics in 2021' on April 12, 2021.



**BITS COLLOQUIUM TALK**

**26 MARCH, 2021 7:30 PM**

**BY**

**Dr. Venkat Venkatasubramanian**

**Currently:** Samuel Ruben–Peter G. Viele Professor of Engineering, Center for Management of Systemic Risk, Columbia University, New York

**Education:** B.S. (Chemical Engineering - University of Madras), M.S. Physics (Vanderbilt University), Ph.D. (Cornell University)

**ON**

**HOW MUCH INCOME INEQUALITY IS FAIR?**

*A surprising answer to a 200-year old Open question in Political Economy*

**R.S.V.P. BITS COLLOQUIUM TEAM**

Prof. S.P. Regalla (9010202879)  
Prof. Kannan R. (9010202900)  
Dr. Bivwanath Das (7036026393)

**The event would be conducted over CISCO-WEBEX**

Extreme economic inequality is widely seen as a serious threat to the future of stable and vibrant capitalist democracies. In 2015, the World Economic Forum in Davos identified deepening income inequality as the number one challenge of our time. In the Colloquium lecture titled 'How much Income Inequality is Fair?' held on March 26, 2021. Professor Venkat Venkatasubramanian, raised the fundamental question about inequality that has remained unanswered in economics and in political philosophy for over two centuries. Professor Venkat Venkatasubramanian is Samuel Ruben–Peter G. Viele Professor of Engineering in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Professor of Computer Science (Affiliate), and Professor of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (Affiliate) at Columbia University. He taught at Purdue University for 23 years, before returning to Columbia in 2011. His theory rests on two surprising conceptual insights: of which one is the concept of entropy from statistical mechanics is the same as potential from game theory, and that these represent fairness in economics and in political philosophy. The other is that when one maximises fairness, all workers enjoy the same effective utility at equilibrium in an ideal free-market society, thereby providing the moral justification for free-market economy. In the talk, he discussed and proved that the fairest inequality of pay is a lognormal distribution under ideal conditions.

## Vaccination Drive in the Campus

The vaccination drive against COVID-19 was conducted successfully in BITS Hyderabad Campus, in June and July 2021, with an interval of 30 days. COVAXIN was administered to employees of BITS and their dependents. Students over the age of 18 were also vaccinated. Patients who had contracted COVID-19 were administered the first dose of vaccine after 4 to 6 weeks of recovery.

The vaccination drive was conducted in partnership with Rainbow Hospital. Expression of interest was sort from staff and students for the vaccination drive. An email was sent with links to google registration and online payment. There was a good response from the community to be vaccinated.

Once the date of vaccination was finalized, another email was sent with the scheduled time slots. On the day of the vaccination drive, the organizing team, including the BITS medical staff and other support staff, made necessary arrangements at the venue. Appropriate preparations were made to handle any medical emergency.

The first dose of COVAXIN was administered on the June 7, 2021, and the second dose was administered on the July 7, 2021. There were no significant complaints of any adverse reactions following both the doses of the vaccine.



## Covid Action Group

As the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage through India, several patients struggle to find beds, oxygen and medicines. In such a time, social media and various internet resources have come up to help people connect with services and know more about standard operating procedures around COVID-19. Nirmaan took the initiative to consolidate all the viable resources from BITSians, alumni and various social media resources for various cities. Volunteers constantly monitored the stocks, viability of every source and availability of resources. These resources were made available for everyone to use.

## Relief Measures provided for the Pandemic by BITS

When the entire country was running short of oxygen concentrators to save lives of COVID-19 victims, BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus fraternity rose to the occasion and extended support to city based health centers and supplied oxygen concentrators and oxygen cylinders.



Utilization Details	Beneficiaries	Utilized Amount
5 Liters Oxygen Concentrators-05	TIMS Hospitals	10,53,700/-
5 Liters Concentrators-02	Yashoda Hospitals	
5 Liters Oxygen Concentrator-01	PHC Shamirpet	
RO based Water Purifier-01, Doppler-01, Samsung Tabs-02	PHC Jawahar Nagar	
Turbido meter with reagent	TIMS Hospital	
Oxygen Cylinders-05 / BIPAP-01	Rainbow Hospitals	
Sree Rama Chandra Kuchibhatla Director, Credit Suisse Business Analytics (India) Private Limited donated 04 Oxygen Concentrators to BITS and these were further distributed to the following hospitals		
5 Liters Oxygen Concentrators-01	KIMS Hospitals	
5 Liters Oxygen Concentrators-01	Paramitha Hospitals	
5 Liters Oxygen Concentrators-01	Unicorpus Hospitals	
5 Liters Oxygen Concentrators-01	PHC Jawaharnagar	

## International Conferences (Online) Attended by the Faculty (Jan-Jun 2021)

### Dept of Biological Sciences

Dr Ruchi Jain Dey from the Department of Biological Sciences, presented a paper on 'BCG and cyclic dinucleotides join hands in fight against Tuberculosis and viral diseases' Scitalk and Poster presented at Keystone Symposia's eSymposia on 'Innovative Vaccine Approaches', June 28-30, 2021.

Dr Manish Gehani and Dr Suman Kapur, from the Department of Biological Sciences, presented a paper on Point-of-care antenatal screening of asymptomatic bacteriuria for reducing preterm birth and low-birth-weight, Best Oral paper award at 4th Global Public Health Conference (Globeheal 2021) being held on Feb 25-26, 2021.

### Dept of Civil Engineering

Prof Arkamitra Kar, from the Department of Civil Engineering presented a talk on 'RRT7: Steel/Fiber Reinforced Alkali Activated Concrete', as global leader of the round-robin tests on fiber-reinforced alkali-activated concrete, RILEM TC MPA Meeting via Zoom, April 9, 2021.

Dr Venkateswarlu, T., Abdul Hannan, Maitreyee Talnikar, Jagadeesh Anmala, from the Department of Civil Engineering, presented a paper on Significance of classification and regression tree (CART) models in the prediction of river water quality, XXV HYDRO 2020 International Conference (Hydraulics, Water Resources & Coastal Engineering) held at N.I.T Rourkela, March 2021.

Dr Raghu Piska, from the Department of Civil Engineering, presented a talk on Hybrid phase-field damage model for the analysis of thick plates subjected to transverse loads, International Webinar on Contemporary Problem on Mechanics and Vibrations (CPMV-2021), BITS Pilani Hyderabad campus, May 20-22, 2021.

Dr Ekanshi Agrawal, Prof Jabez Christopher and Prof A Vasan Arunachalam, presented a paper on 'Recognition through Voting on Expressions in Multiple Facial Regions', Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART 2021), February 04-06, 2021, Vol. 2, 1038-1045, ISBN: 978-989-758-484-8.

### Dept of CSIS

Dr Dipanjan Chakraborty, from the Department of CSIS, presented a paper on 'Learnings from an Attempt to Build an NLP-based Fake News Classification system for Hindi', ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS) (COMPASS '21), June 28-July 2, 2021, Virtual Event, Australia. ACM.

Dr Raghunath Reddy Madireddy, from the Department of CSIS, presented a paper on 'On the Geometric Red-Blue Hitting Set Problem', The 37<sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Computational Geometry (EuroCG 2021), Saint-Petersburg University, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2021.

Dr Nikumani Choudhury, from the Department of CSIS, presented a paper on 'Low-power DSME based Communication and On-board Processing in UAV for Smart Agriculture', 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Information and Communication Technology for Competitive Strategies. (virtual mode), 2021.

Dr Manjanna B, from the Department of CSIS, presented a paper on 'Interference Reduction in Directional Wireless Networks', The 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Distributed Computing and Internet Technology (ICDCIT), Bhubaneswar, India, January 7-10, 2021.

### Dept of Economics & Finance

Dr Shreya Biswas, from the Department of Economics & Finance, presented a paper on 'Bank Board network and Financial Stability in Emerging Markets' (co-authored with Rajnish Kumar) at 28<sup>th</sup> Global Finance Conference 2021 organized by Global Finance Association, USA, May 27-29, 2021.

Dr Mini Thomas P. from the Department of Economics & Finance, presented a paper on 'Impact of financial development on international trade in India, via sectoral value additions' (co-authored with Ms. Ummu Habeeba Chaliyan) at the online Hagen Workshop on Global Economic Studies, organised by Fern University in Hagen, Germany, from May 25-26, 2021.

Prof R Raghunathan, from the Department of Economics & Finance, presented a paper 'Understanding learning styles to enhance learning outcomes – Does it matter in development of management education in virtual environment?' (co-authored with Bindu Kulkarni) at the International Conference on Role of HR in the New Normal, organized by IMT Nagpur, held on April 9, 2021.

Dr Bheemeshwar Reddy A, from the Department of Economics & Finance, presented a paper 'Explaining Gender Gap in Unpaid Household Work and Care Work in India' (co-authored with Janiso Athary and Prakash Kumar Shukla) at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference, Virtual Conference, Quito, Ecuador, held on June 22-25, 2021.

Dr Rishi Kumar, from the Department of Economics & Finance, presented a paper 'Urban Low-Income Households' Savings: Understanding Issues and Challenges in Indian Context' in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dvara Research Conference organized from 7 -11 June, 2021.

### **Dept of Humanities and Social Science**

Dr Santosh Mahapatra, from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled 'EST Textbooks in India: A Saga of Systemic Failures', in LSPPC6: 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Asia-Pacific LSP & Professional Communication Association, organized by City University of Hong Kong during June 3-5, 2021.

Dr Spandan Bhattacharya, from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled 'Transgressing Boundaries, Transforming Cultures: A Note on the Bedeni films of West Bengal' (under the panel 'Intimations of the Vernacular: Reframing Regional Indian Cinema') in the international conference organized by the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), University of Oklahoma, March 4-21, 2021.

Dr Lavanya Suresh, from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled 'A Search for Ecological Alternatives: A Case Study of the Politics of Water and Scarcity in Andhra Pradesh, India' at the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) 2021 - Water Commons Virtual Conference hosted by Arizona State University, USA, May 19-21, 2021.

Dr Anhiti Patnaik, from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled 'Warrior as Witness: The Martial Sublime in Lord Byron's Poetry' at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Byron Conference hosted by the International Association of Byron Societies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, on June 29, 2021.

Dr Suchismita Satpathy and Dr Pranesh Bhargava, from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled 'Urban Water Economics: An Anthropological Analysis of Water Situation in Indian Cities', at the International Conference on 'Sustainable Water Resources (SWR-2021)', on February 1, 2021.

### **Dept of Mathematics**

Dr Manish Kumar, from the Department of Mathematics, presented a paper 'A framework of linear canonical transforms on pseudo-differential operators and its application in engineering problems' in Contemporary Problems on Mechanics & Vibrations (CPMV) 2021 via online mode during May 20-22, 2021, organized by Department of Mathematics, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, India.

Dr Koley, S., from the Department of Mathematics presented a paper 'Water waves trapping by poroelastic finite plate over undulated seabed', PACE-2021, Turkey, June 20-23, 2021. (Paper Published in PACE-an International Congress, ISSN: 2791-6405).

### **Dept of Mechanical Engineering**

Dr L Ramayee, Dr Bonu Praneeth, Dr Tota Gautham Reddy & Dr Supradeepan K., from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, presented a paper 'Performance Comparison of Wind Turbine with various Duct geometries' – iCRAFT-2020.

Dr Kachaita Kohli, Dr. Madhu Meghana Chavvakula, Dr Neha Khadolia, Dr. Harsha Sai Pulagam, Dr Pardha, S Gurugubelli & Dr Supradeepan K, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, presented a paper 'CFD Simulation of a rising bubble using CLSVF method' – iCRAFT-2020.

Dr Prudviraj K, Dr Sandip Deshmukh, & Dr Supradeepan K, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, presented a paper 'Hydrodynamic Behavior of the Falling-Film over Horizontal Tubes under Different Distribution Conditions – iCRAFT-2020.

### **Dept of Electrical & Electronics Engineering**

Dr Mithun Mondal, from the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, presented a paper at 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Power Electronics and Energy (IEEE-ICPEE) at KIIT Bhubaneshwar (Jan 2-3, 2021).

Dr R N Ponnalagu from the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, presented a paper at International Conference on Automation, Robotics and Applications (ICARA 2021), Prague, Czech republic (Feb 4-6 2021).

Dr Saroj Mondal from the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, presented a paper at 34<sup>th</sup> International Conference on VLSI Design and 2021 20th International Conference on Embedded Systems (VLSID), Guwahati, Feb. 2021, IIT Guwahati (Feb 20-24, 2021).

Dr Venkateswaran Rajagopalan from the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, presented a paper at American Academy of Neurology 2021 in San Francisco, USA (April 17-22, 2021).

Dr Aivelu Manga Parimi from the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, presented a paper at 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Control, Automation and Robotics (ICCAR 2021), Singapore (April 23-26, 2021)

### Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr Kanan Panchal, Sumeet Katke & Akash Chaurasiya, from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a paper on Development & characterization of BTK inhibitor

loaded liposomes, Abstract accepted for oral presentation in the international conference - 2021 CRS Virtual Annual Meeting, July 25-29, 2021.

Dr Sumeet Katke, Mrunali Mahalpure & Akash Chaurasiya, from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a paper on Development and formulation of azacitidine drug loaded nanocarrier systems for the treatment of Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), Abstract accepted for oral presentation in the international conference - 2021 CRS Virtual Annual Meeting, July 25-29, 2021.

## Faculty Awards / Achievements

### Dept of Biological Sciences

- Prof Suman Kapur was awarded the prestigious of DMA All India Women Entrepreneurs Award 2021 in the category of Super achiever for the year 2021, awarded by DMA, Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021
- Two Indian Patents has been filed by Prof Suman Kapur Herbal mouthwash formulation: Patent Application No.: 202011014641, Dt 01/06/2021 and Herbal mouthwash formulation: PCT Application No.: PCT/IN2021/050532 Dated : June 01, 2021
- Prof Nishith was Gupta awarded Wellcome Trust - DBT Senior Fellow (2021)
- Dr Kirtimaan Syal was awarded DBT-Ramalingaswami Re-Entry Fellowship-2021
- Dr Ruchi Jain Dey was Awarded global scholarships to attend the following 4 International conferences: Keystone Symposia's eSymposia on Integrating Metabolism and Immunity - EK16 January 25-28, 2021/Keystone Symposia's eSymposia, 'The Microbiome: From Mother to Child' January 18- 20, 2021 / Keystone Symposia's eSymposia on Synthetic Biology: At the Crossroads of Genetic Engineering and Human Therapeutics - EK41, May 3 - 4, 2021/ Keystone Symposia's eSymposia on Innovative Vaccine Approaches, June 28-30, 2021

### Dept of Chemistry

- Dr Tanmay Chatterjee received the Best Presentation Award for presenting a research paper in an international conference on 'Green Technologies for Sustainable Development' (GTSD - 2021), organized by Dharmasinh Desai University, Gujrat on 9-11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021
- Prof Subit Kumar Saha received Bharat Shiksha Gaurav Puraskar, 2021 by KTK Outstanding Achievers and Education Foundation for outstanding achievement and remarkable contribution in the field of education held at New Delhi online on June 27, 2021
- Dept of Chemistry, BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus has been recommended for FIST support of Rs 187.0 L

### Proposals Accepted:

- Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 1,2,3-triazole Hybrids as Novel Quorum Sensing Inhibitors by Prof K V G Chandrashekhar, from CSIR
- Development of Cost-effective, Electrophilic Trifluoromethylating Reagents and Their Application to the Syntheses of New Classes of Medicinally Potential Trifluoromethylated Heterocycles by Tanmay Chatterjee from CSIR

### Dept of CSIS

US Patent on 'Method and electronic device for providing image-based captcha challenge' granted to

Dr. Venkatakrishnan Ramaswamy, jointly with Ajit Rajwade, Vishal Agarwal and Lalduhbera Hlychho at IIT Bombay

### Dept of Mathematics

- Dr Manish Kumar received Certificate of Reviewing Award by Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. in Feb 2021
- Dr Manish Kumar received Certificate of Reviewing Award by Optics Lasers and Engineering, Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands in May 2021
- Dr Santanu Koley got recognition from ZAMM Journal (Zeitschrift für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik) published by Wiley Publication for his article 'Integral equation technique for water wave interaction by an array of vertical flexible porous wave barriers' got the Editor's choice status

### Dept of Mechanical Engineering

- Drs Abhishesh Pal, Madhusudan B Kulkarni, Satish K Dubey, R N Ponnalagu and Sanket Goel, A Portable Real-Time Colorimetric Detection Device And Method Of Using The Same, Indian Patent filed in April-2021, Application Number: 202111015698

### Dept of Electrical & Electronics Engineering

- Dr Sayan Kanungo received the Golden Reviewer for IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices/01.01.2021
- Dr Saroj Mondal appointed as the Senior Member, IEEE

- Prof Sanket Goel was awarded with prestigious Dr. C. R. Mitra Best Faculty Award/Feb 2021
- Dr Rajesh Kumar Tripathy appointed as the Associate Editor for IET Electronics Letters/April 2021
- Dr Parikshit Sahatiya appointed as the Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry/April 2021
- Dr Alivelu M Parimi appointed Senior Member, IEEE

### Dept of Pharmaceutical Science

- An Indian Patent by Drs Dwati Biswas, Balaram Ghosh and Ms Preeti Kumari was granted on 05.04.2021. Title: A Hydrophilic Redox-Responsive Polymeric Micelle Comprising Chlorin E6 for Photodynamic Therapy
- An Indian Patent has been filed by Drs Balaram Ghosh, Swati Biswas, Sravani Pulya, Ganesh Routholla, Tarun Kumar Patel on May 20, 2021. Title: Hydrazide based HDAC3 selective inhibitors Patent Authority BITS-Pilani: Indian Patent Application Number 202111022553
- An Indian Patent has been filed by Prof Venkata Vamsi Krishna Venuganti, Deepanjan Datta. Dual drug delivery patch. Indian Patent application number 202111026738, 16.06.2021
- An Indian Patent has been filed by Prof Venkata Vamsi Krishna Venuganti, Bandi Sony Priyanka. Drug delivery patch. Indian Patent application number 202111022554, 20.05.2021

## Student Awards / Achievements

### Dept of Biological Sciences

- Ms Ramya Sri Poosala (2020PHXP0404H) (Gupta Lab) cleared the DBT-JRF (March 2021).

### Dept of Chemistry

- Abhinav Maheshwar Joshi (2020B2PS1621H) - National Mathematics Olympiad - Gold Medal (2020)
- Anmol Kalantri (2017B2AA1494H) – Selected for the International Linkage Degree Program, 2020 (ILDP Start plus, 2020), an international Student Exchange program hosted by Hiroshima University, Japan.
- YashSaravgi (2019B2A31530H)
  - a) Internet Archive Open Library Fellowship
  - b) Flipkart GRiD 2.0 | Semifinalist
- Anamol Bajpai - 2019B2A81542H - Flipkart Grid 2.0 - Semi Finalists for Robotics

### Dept of Economics & Finance

- Aastha Dave (2017B3AA0959H) got selected and participated in Micron Technology's Global Women's Mentorship Program (2021).
- Pratik Kamdar (2017B3A70976H) got Best and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Research Award at SRC'21, IIT Kanpur.
- Nimish Prabhune (2018B3AA0940H) got selected as a Research Intern in the Department of Economics and Public Policy at ISB Hyderabad under Dr Aaditya Dar from May 2021 to July, 2021.
- Jui Pradhan (2018B3A70984H) was one of the 10 students selected globally among thousands of applicants, to

work on a four-month research programming project mentored by researchers and engineers on the Real World Reinforcement Learning team at Microsoft Research NYC. Research stipend of 10,000 USD for developing the open source project: Vowpal Wabbit.

### Dept of Electrical & Electronics Engineering

- Mohit Assudani (2018A3PS0284H) 15-06-2021 Cisco Thingqator Challenge - Top 80 teams all over India. Project Title : 'Lower limb exoskeleton '.

### Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences

- Ms. Kanan Panchal, (2020RSTEMP0042H) JRF-ICMR, got selected and attended the prestigious 'Novartis Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) 2021" (January 10-13, 2021)
- Ms. M S K Srujana (2018A5PS0490H) (2018 batch) received the TATA Medical and Healthcare Scholarship (20-21) in March 2021
- Ms Samhita Sai Veda Koduganti (2017HS461168H) (2017 batch) also received the TATA Medical and Healthcare Scholarship for 2021
- Ms Sneha Das also (2017HS461191H) (2017 batch) received the TATA Medical and Healthcare Scholarship (20-21).
- Ms Sonakshi Gupta (2017A5TS1173H) (2017 batch) received the TATA Medical and Healthcare Scholarship for 2021

## Sanctioned Projects During Jan-June 2021

Sr no	Title of the project	Name of Principal Investigator	Department	Co-PI	Funding Agency	Sanctioned Date	Amount (Rs)
1	A pilot study for evaluation of 15 Copy Number Variants (CNVs) among schizophrenia patients from India	Prof Naga Mohan K	Biological Sciences		ICMR	12 Feb, 2021	2700000
2	Quality audit report	Prof Sridhar Raju	Civil Engineering		Roads and Buildings Telangana Project	4 Jan, 2021	250000
3	In-vivo experiments pertaining to pharmacokinetic studies on new conjugates)	Prof Sajeli Begum A	Pharmacy		Wipro	01 Jan, 2021	50000
4	Investigation of functional role and therapeutic potential of nesfatin-1 in Chronic Kidney Disease	Dr Arti Dhar	Pharmacy	Dr Onkar Kulkarni	ICMR	19 Feb, 2021	2900000
5	Synthesis of novel coumarin-based lignans targeting pro-inflammatory cytokines for the treatment of chronic kidney disease	Dr Sajeli Begum A	Pharmacy		DST	29 Jan, 2021	2700000
6	Developmental studies on Evaluation of paint for composite substrate	Prof Ramesh Babu A	Chemical Engineering	Dr Kurra Suresh	DRDO-CARS	25 Feb, 2021	1624000
7	DST FIST		Chemistry		DST FIST	05 Mar, 2021	18700000
8	Defend Internet of things baased cyber espionage through analysis of encrypted or encrypted network traffic using machine learning	Dr Rajeev Ranja Maity	CSIS		DST SERB	25 Mar, 2021	3344000
9	Women's Falling Participation in Labour Force in India: A Ground Level Investigation into Factors and Obstacles in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana	Dr Rishi Kumar	Economics and Finance	Dr Archana Srivastava , Dr Sudatta Banerjee, Dr Swati Alok	NHRC - National Human Rights Commission	23 Mar, 2021	1186290
10	Post-COVID Workplace: Implications of Long-Term Work from Home in India's IT sector"- in collaboration with Goa Institute of Management	Dr Sreerupa Sengupta, Dr Swati Alok, Dr Sudatta Banerjee & Dr Ananya Chakraborty	Economics and Finance		Goa Institute of Management	02 Feb, 2021	405000
11	Real time Investigation of various analytes using droplet microfluidics integrated with high-speed vision	Dr Arshad Javed	Mechanical Engineering		NSM R&D-HPC	12 Mar, 2021	2122560
12	Therapeutic potential of spironolactone loaded light-responsive sustained-release gel depot in treating diabetic retinopathy	Dr Nirmal J	Pharmacy		ICMR	18 Jan, 2021	2753000
13	Novel Therapeutic Approaches for the treatment of Leukemia	Dr Akash Chaurasiya	Pharmacy	Dr Nirmal J	ICMR-DHR	05 Mar, 2021	4200000

14	Investigating the Equation of State of Neutron Stars via emitted Gravitational Wave	Dr Swastik Bhattacharta	Physics	Dr Sarmistha Banik	DST SERB	09 Mar, 2021	2221134
15	ECON'S DINI (Diet-Infection -Nutrition immunity) Axis approach proof of concept : Immuno modulatory nutritional intervention of CRC management	Prof Kumar Pranav Narayan	Biological Sciences		Esoerer Onco Nutrition (EON)	19 Apr, 2021	2000000
16	Development of Cost-effective, Electrophilic Trifluoromethylating Reagents and their Application to the Syntheses of New Classes of Medicinally Potential Trifluoromethylated Heterocycles	Dr Tanmay Chatterjee	Chemistry	Dr Balaram Ghosh	CSIR	19 Apr, 2021	2679000
17	Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 1,2,3-triazole Hybrids as Novel Quorum Sensing Inhibitors	Prof K V G Chandra Sekhar	Chemistry		CSIR	19 Apr, 2021	1800000
18	Development of Nucleic acid detection technologies	Prof Sanket Goel	EEE	Dr Vidyasagar M	Albot Technologies Pvt Ltd	12 Apr, 2021	744000
19	Device Development with optimized circuit to Comprehend Fast Charging from Supercapacitors	Prof Sanket Goel	EEE	Dr BVVSN Prabhakar Rao	CARS DMSRDE	10 Jun, 2021	980000

## International Programmes & Collaborations Division (IPCD)

- Twenty-seven students did their off-campus thesis abroad. Of these students, IPCD has provided the 'Partial Financial Support' to five students in the second semester of 2020-21.
- Three undergraduate students for ILDP-Study Abroad Program, one PhD student for ILDP-Joint Supervision, three undergraduate students for ILDP-Start Plus 2021 Program are selected to undergo and five undergraduate students were selected for ILDP-Internship during the period of May-Aug 2021 at Hiroshima University.

### Online Events organized by IPCD:

- Webinar on Graduate Programs in Civil and Environmental Engineering with Northeastern University College of Engineering, Massachusetts on January 7, 2021.
- Information session in English introducing the university, various programs, scholarships, financial aid, student life, housing options, requirements for admission, visa and health insurance and other topics with Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel on January 17, 2021.
- Master class on Complexity and Simplicity in Market Design with Tel Aviv University on January 19, 2021.

- France's first live e-event in India this year, Night of Ideas with The French Institute in India, IFI Jaipur on January 28, 2021.
- Graduate Information Session on higher studies and collaborative research with NYU, Tandon School of Engineering on January 28, 2021.

### Image of virtual session with NYU, Tandon on Jan 28, 2021



- Webinar on Kick starting your Academic Career with Campus France with The French Institute in India, IFI Jaipur on February 6, 2021.

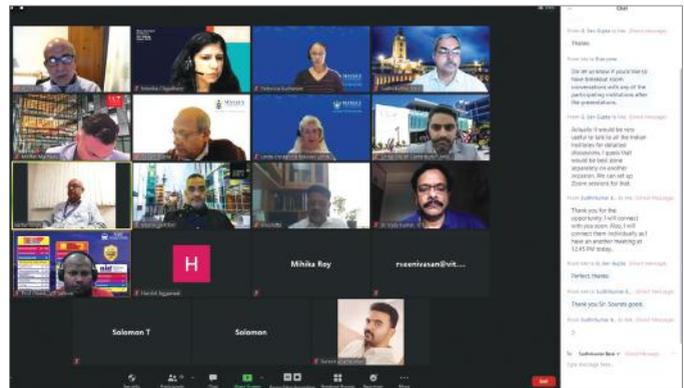
- Webinar on German Academic Exchange Opportunities with DAAD Germany on February 18, 2021.
- Webinar on Higher Education opportunities in France with N+I network of institutions on February 18, 2021.
- Information session with United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), on the 'Fulbright-Nehru and Other Fulbright Fellowship Opportunities in Academic Year 2022-2023" on March 15, 2021.

Image of virtual session with USIEF on March 15, 2021



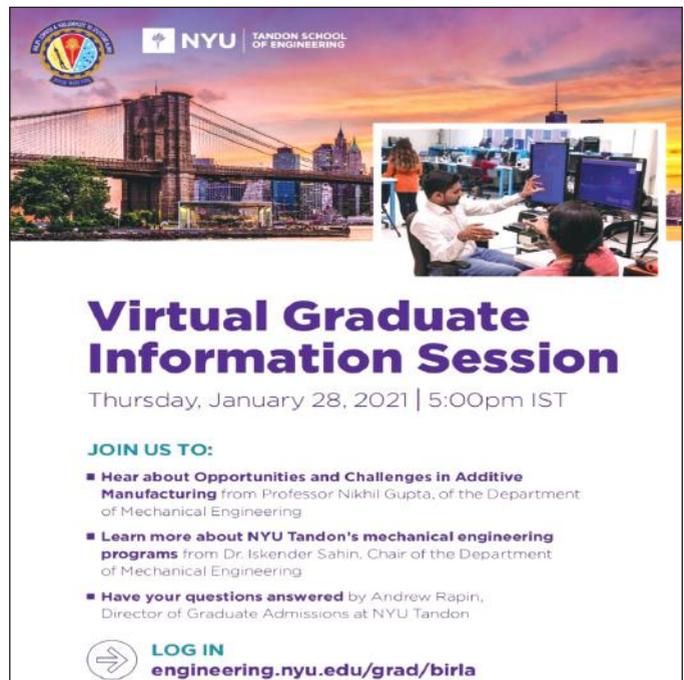
- Exclusive informative session for students about programs, entry requirements, fees and scholarships, life at UQ and more with The University of Queensland, Australia on March 23, 2021.
- Session on the visiting International Student Program for BITS-Pilani students with University of Wisconsin-Madison on March 26, 2021.
- Interaction with peers from German universities and experts on how to do a doctorate in Bavaria, Germany with Bavarian-Indian Centre for Business and University Cooperation, Karnataka on May 5, 2021.
- Webinar on Creative Economy Scholarships British Council, UK on May 27, 2021.
- Virtual STEM Guest Lecture series in different discipline areas with Australian National University, Canberra, June 3-30, 2021.

- Engineering Roundtable session on June 17, 2021 with Education New Zealand. BITS-Pilani and six other Universities from India and New Zealand.



New Zealand India Universities Roundtable-Engineering on June 17, 2021.

- Virtual UK University Fair exclusively for Indian students on admission process, Scholarship information, etc. with SI-UK, New Delhi on June 25, 2021.



## Distinguished Online Talks / Lectures

Guest Lecture by	Organization	Topic of the Talk	Department	Date
Dr Gargi Pal	Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biological Sciences, City University of New York and Weill Cornell Medicine, NY. And Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York, NY	The Role of Alternatively Spliced Transcripts of PVT1 in Prostate Cancer	Biological Sciences	Mar 8, 2021
Dr Sakshi Batra, MBBS, MD (Chest Specialist)	Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi	COVID-19	Biological Sciences	Mar 8, 2021
Dr Karthika Rajeeve (Microbiologist)	RGCB, Trivandrum	Chlamydia Infection	Biological Sciences	Apr 19, 2021
Prof Arijit Kumar Dey	IISER Mohali	Witnessing choreography of molecules by shedding	Chemistry	Feb 29, 2021
Prof D Venkataraman	Advanced Laboratory for Iontronic, Electronic, and Nanomaterials (ALIEN), Univ of Massachusetts, Department of Chemistry, Amherst, USA.	Hybrid Perovskite Solar Cells: Promise and Challenges.	Chemistry	Mar 17, 2021
Prof Surendra K Martha	Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad	Lithium-manganese rich based Ni-Mn-Co oxide cathode materials for high energy-density lithium-ion batteries	Chemistry	Mar 27, 2021
Mr Gonnabathula Sai Avinash	Masters at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	Gate Prep Talk	Civil Engineering	Apr 17, 2021
Mr G Harihara Iyer	University of Wisconsin-Madison, and President of Indian Association of Energy Management Professionals (IAEMP).	Green Building Efficiency	Civil Engineering	Apr 20, 2021
Dr ArkamitraKar, Mr Hridyesh Tewani, Mr Shashank Gupta	Prof at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, Masters at Imperial College London and Masters at Politecnico di Milano, respectively.	Masters Guide Session	Civil Engineering	Sep 23, 2020
Ms Ritika Sridharan	Georgia Tech	Research Approach and Presentation	Civil Engineering	Oct 22, 2020

Guest Lecture by	Organization	Topic of the Talk	Department	Date
Dr Jimmy Thomas	Geotechnical Consultant	Earth Retaining Structures Overview and Case	Civil Engineering	Sep 24, 2020
D Piyush Samui	D Piyush Samui	Artificial Intelligence in Geo-data modelling	Civil Engineering	Oct 01, 2020
Dhruv Jain	University of Washington	Sound Sensing and Feedback Techniques for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People	CSIS	Mar 13 2021
Dr Agha Ali Raza	Lahore University of Management Sciences	The Internet of the Orals	CSIS	Mar 18, 2021
Prof V Sree Hari Rao	FSRTI, Hyderabad	Mathematical thought process of real world – opportunities for Mathematicians	Mathematics	Jan 15, 2020
Prof Hadi Susanto	University of Essex, UK and Khalifa University, UAE	Patterns and Pattern formation	Mathematics	Jan 29, 2020
Prof Sanjeev Kumar	Institute of Basic Sciences, Agra	Fuzzy sets, fuzzy logic theory, and its applications	Mathematics	Feb 12, 2021
Prof B N Mandal	ISI, Kolkata	Integral Equations and Applications	Mathematics	Feb 25, 2021
Prof Rajendra Bordia	George J Bishop III Chair Professor of Ceramics & Materials Engineering, Clemson University.	Sintering of Ceramics	Mechanical Engineering	Feb 24, 2021
Prof Roland Larsson	Professor and Head of Subject, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden	The new film parameter – a way to predict if full film lubrication can be achieved	Mechanical Engineering	May 5, 2021
Mr M Rajeshwara Chary & Mr K Narender	Manager Production & Manager HR, BHEL Hyderabad.	Introduction to the different divisions and their working environment of BHEL Hyderabad	Mechanical Engineering	Jun 4, 2021
Mr Srinivasa Ramakrishna	Intel (Series of Lectures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Single compute design</li> <li>▪ Generic 5 stage pipeline and Current Pipeline design</li> <li>▪ Example to walk through generic programs and how various stages of the pipeline interact.</li> </ul>	Electrical Engineering and Electronics	May 8, 23, 29, 2021
P Maruthi Rao	Vidcentum Pvt Ltd	Industrial Internet of Things: Protocols and Applications	Electrical Engineering and Electronics	Apr 17, 2021
Prof Vamsi Venuganti	Controlled Release Society Event, CRS-IC Webinar	Micro needle patches and self-assembled polymeric films for the localized non-invasive drug delivery	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Aug 5, 2021

## Student Events

### Embryo Talks

Pride month saw BITS Embryo organize an interactive talk session with R Balaji in association with Queer Consortium, BPHC, on June 27. R Balaji is a gender-fluid person(They/Them) and narrated his wonderful journey of becoming a TEDx Speaker.

BITS Embryo, in collaboration with The Queer Consortium, BPHC organized an interactive session with the world's first openly gay prince, Manvendra Singh Gohil, of the erstwhile Princely State of Rajpipla Gujarat on June 12, 2021.

BITS Embryo hosted an interview session on June 7 with the cast and crew of TVF Aspirants. Sunny Hinduja, Abhilash Thapliyal, and Apoorv Singh Karki shared their unique experiences during the shoot and the stories of their lives.

Rohit Saraf has donned many hats on our screens over the years. The students got the opportunity to interact with him on April 23, 2021, through BITS Embryo. He provided insight into the behind-the-scenes work of movies and his work from home experience.

To provide the students with an insight into the civil services, on March 28, 2021, BITS Embryo organized a talk with Mr Saurav Pandey, a 2020 batch IAS and a BITS Pilani Alumni who cracked UPSC-2019 with an AIR 66.

On March 25, 2021, BITS embryo organized an interview with Priyanka Srivastava, who played an important role in NASA's latest Mars mission, 'Perseverance.' She talked about her journey from doing her master's from Michigan University to working as an intern in NASA's to working as a system engineer for the Mars rover Perseverance.

BITS Embryo organized an insightful session on PPO for non-tech roles with prominent alumni on June 20, 2021. The talk included several BITS alumni: Shabaan Karim, who got offers from Revolut and PPO from Global Risk Nomura and currently at Fractal Analytics; Aaditya Srinivasan, the captain at Duathlon, intern at Card up Singapore and the Finalist at the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards and now a Product Manager at CRED; Uddeshya Chaudhary, former president of the Wall Street Club, who landed PPOs at Futures First, Daikin, and JP Morgan.

The CAT webinar conducted by BITS Embryo on February 10 provided deep insights into one of the modern world's most challenging and rewarding exams. Toppers Aman Taneja and Shobhit Vijayvergia shared strategies, experiences.

BITS EMBRYO hosted the GRE talk on January 31, 2021. The event featured two students: Shreyam, ECE, BITS Hyderabad, who scored 331/340, and Digvijay Singh, ECE, BITS Hyderabad, who scored 329/340 in GRE 2020.

To educate students about developments in Health Economics, BITS Embryo and Panacea BPHC organized a talk on March 20, 2021, by IQVIA (an American multinational health company) on the topic- RWE and HEOR: bridging the gap between education and industry by the speakers Richa Goyal and Aditi Aggarwal.

### Vaccine Safety Talk by Dr P Ponnammal

The vaccination drive in India was greeted with several apprehensions and questions over safety as well as efficiency of vaccines. To provide assurance regarding the safety of the vaccines, NSS BPHC, in association with Panacea organised an informative talk by Dr. P. Ponnammal on March 13. Dr Ponnammal, who has been actively involved in the Disease Control Unit in Telangana during the whole pandemic, clarified all the apprehensions, misconceptions the general public had with regards to the vaccination drive. Her words filled students with a sense of safety and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they become eligible.

### Re imagining Adoption

Re imagining adoption is an initiative taken up by NSS BPHC along with Families of Joy Foundation (FoJ) to educate the civic society about safe adoption by setting up training camps, regular adoption camps, and webinars. They aim to erase negative stereotypes created in modern media and cinemas and misconceptions in regards to child adoption. There are about 60 million destitute children in India, out of which fewer than 4000 children are legally adopted. FoJ is endeavoring to #Re imagining Adoption by shifting the focus on adoption from Childless Middle-Aged couples to finding a family for every child in need. An awareness session was conducted by NSS and FoJ in an attempt to educate our students and many other people and develop a positive thought among our younger generation regarding child adoption.

### Mentorship Programme

A mentorship programme consisting of 20 students from the schools – KSR ZP Unatha Patashala (Guntur) and ZP Girls High school (Naidupeta Nellore) was initiated by the volunteers of NSS BPHC. Our students spent two months

interacting and tutoring various students via online platforms during the covid pandemic. They covered a wide syllabus including Public Speaking, Behavior in public, Hygiene, Awareness on Social Media, Career guidance, and some fun time activities such as Arts, Crafts, and other games, puzzles, and riddles. This mentorship program aimed to expand their reach to anyone in need of quality education. Our volunteers thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the spectrum of enthusiastic and curious students they reached out to and hope to touch the hearts of many more students through this initiative.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Drive**

The importance of getting vaccinated in the present-day simply cannot be overstated. Hence, to spread the awareness of the same, 7 volunteers from the National Service Scheme, BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus took the initiative to distribute pamphlets in schools in a couple of cities across India starting from the month of March. The pamphlets contained information regarding the vaccination drive, registration and other details. These were distributed in the states of Andhra Pradesh (Prakasam Dist, Guntur Dist, Vizag and Nellore), Telangana (Ameerpet and Peddapalli) and Punjab (Bathinda). The efforts of these volunteers served as a vital contribution to the fight against COVID-19. Educating the grass roots of the country, that is our youth, ensures that unscientific rumours concerning vaccines are quashed from ground zero, as we attempt to secure the best of health for us all.

The volunteers: Sireesha Rallabhandy, Mahavishnu Polishetty, Deepika Kanneganti, Nikhil Kumar Ollala, Aditya R Goyal, Dedeepya Alla, Khushi Kabra.

### **Verba Maximus**

The annual literary fest of the Campus, Verba Maximus was organised on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April of this year with a neon dystopian theme - Cyberpunk. It was held online via a Discord server with almost 15 events. The Journal Club, SaFL and Hindi Tarang collaborated by hosting events of their own such as - By the Laws, Bamboozled, BolBacchan, etc. A collaboration with the Gender Champions group also led to a Paper Presentation Event focusing on the areas LGBTQ+ and mental health among others. A guest talk featuring eminent author Meghna Pant was also held a day prior to the fest on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Besides the fest's flagship event Sherlocked, the event Fallen: ARG (alternate reality game) was one of the biggest highlights of this year's fully online fest.

### **Pearl Parliamentary Debate**

BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus conducted the very first edition of its Parliamentary Debate, held from March 26 to 28. The event was held online via a Discord server where speakers and adjudicators of over 40 institutes from India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines participated. Several notable adjudicators from the parliamentary debate circuit were invited to oversee the event. Workshops were also conducted prior to the event to make things familiar for newer participants while refreshing the basics of the more experienced participants. The event was conducted independently with the help of the funds from the registration fees with cash prizes for best speakers, adjudicators and teams.

# TEDx BITS Hyderabad

## Panel Discussions and Colloquium Talks

### The Politics of Gender: Panel Discussion

The Gender Champions' Team works to promote equality on campus and to spread awareness about the gender-based issues prevailing in today's society. They work on a multitude of topics including gender-based violence, LGBTQ+ rights, artistic ways to promote equality, gender-related research, etc. Following are the events they have organised in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, 2020-21.

### Gender Champions' Team for Volunteering

The Gender Champions sought out to form a team of like-minded individuals to promote equality on campus and achieve the goals of the Gender Champions initiative. The recruitment process saw huge interest from the general body, and a total of 11 students were selected to be a part of our team for the second semester 2020-21. This team has contributed not only to the events listed here but also various other gender-related events held by other student bodies like the Pride Month interviews by BITS Embryo.

### 'Gender and Literature' - Paper Presentation Competition



Research work involving gender and its intersection with other identities plays an essential role in the struggle of building a more equal and liberated society, as it helps us understand, present, and attempt to solve these issues in a scientific way. In an endeavour to encourage such research, the English Language Activities Society (ELAS), in collaboration with the Gender Champions of BITS-Pilani,

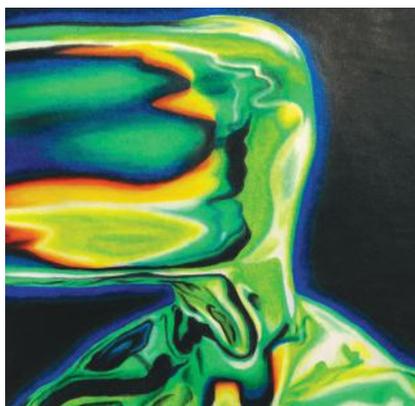
Hyderabad Campus invited papers from undergraduate and postgraduate students from universities all over India on the theme 'Gender and Literature', for Verba Maximus '21. Themes that were explored in the competition included but were not limited to the intersections of caste and gender, sexual politics of language, gender and the subaltern, gendered reading and analysis of various writings, etc. The two rounds of the competition were judged by a panel consisting of Prof Shilpaa Anand, Dr Aswathy Raveendran, and Prof MG Prasuna. The papers titled 'Struggling Identities: Representing Suppressed Freedoms of Today's Superwomen' (by Anushka Pragya from Delhi University) and 'Of Floating, Flying, and Hoping, as Women' (by Sreemoyee Bhattacharyya from Ashoka University) won a total of Rs. 3000 in prize money after competing against 21 other participants from various universities across India.

### 'Labels & Terminologies' - An Interactive Talk



The interactive talk was hosted in collaboration with The Queer Consortium (the LGBTQ+ support group in BITS Hyderabad). It was aimed at acquainting the general body with the various terms and labels used in the LGBTQ+ community. A Q&A session followed, in which the hosts answered queries from the audience, following some productive discussions relating to the broader aspects of related topics like pronouns, gender pay gap, harassment targeted towards queer individuals, stereotypes and gender roles, mental health, etc. The session saw a turnout of around 75 people which includes faculty members.

## Artwork during the Pandemic



Esha Shekar, Medium Color Pencils



Ananya Bose, Medium Watercolor



Abhinav Jagan Polimera, Digital



Abhinav Jagan Polimera; Digital Art



Ananya Bose, Medium Watercolor



Nimish Prabhune, Medium Oil Painting



Siddhant Shrotiya, Digital Art



YSN Kiran, Digital Art



Abhinav Jagan Polimera, Digital Art

## New additions in the campus



Football ground



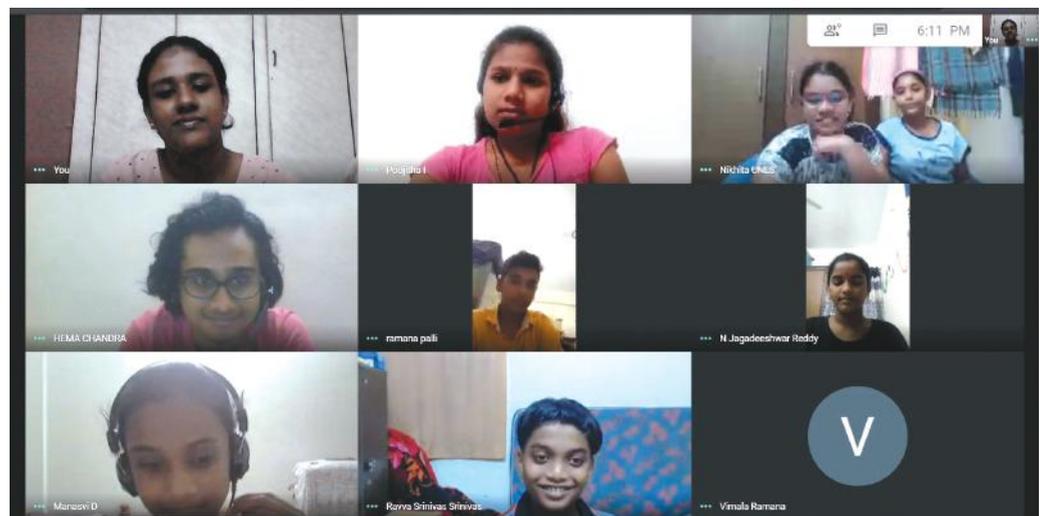
Swimming Pool

## Project Parishkar

Project Parishkar is a year-long event conducted for the kids of non-teaching staff residing in the BITS campus. It involves tutoring sessions taken by the volunteers of NIRMAAN regularly, helping with the academics of the kids. These sessions involve some fun activities as well; the volunteers and kids bond well with each other over the year. This semester, we had 25 kids whom 50 dedicated volunteers tutored.

Though it was an online mode, many of the kids had a great time interacting, learning with us, and forming a special bond.

Nirmaan believes that education is one of the most valuable virtues to be shared, and Project Parishkar is our consistent small effort towards it educating people.



## Joy of Giving Week

Joy of giving week, also called the Daan Utsav, was organised off-campus in the second week of March in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam to celebrate the art of giving and spread love. This edition of JOGW was inaugurated by our very own Mr Yashveer Singh, Forbes 30 under 30, who currently leads the 'Ashoka Young Changemakers' program at Ashoka.

As a part of JoGW-21, local volunteers visited orphanages and nursing homes in Hyderabad and Vizag. They spent a great time interacting with the 40 kids of Anand Marga Ashram, Vizag and the kids of Valmiki foundation children home, Bowenpally, Hyderabad. They spent time with the elderly in Amma orphanage in Hyderabad as well. At the onset of the current pandemic, Nirmaan pooled donations from our General Body, Donors and contributed food supplies, essential academic books and stationery.



## Community Welfare Activities

### Republic Day Celebrations 2021



### Women's Day Celebration 2021



This women's day came at a poignant moment as it followed the first wave of the pandemic and was at the beginning of the second wave. The women faculty and staff gathered, along with the director and dean of the institute, to remember women's struggles against exploitation and social, political and economic alienation. It was the day to remember the long and rich history of sacrifice and repression that has been overcome. Whether it was working-class women struggling for maternity leave or suffragettes who were asking for the right to vote, all of it has enabled women today to live better lives. Women throughout the world waged struggles to improve their working conditions and to end exploitation. Over the last few years, the women's movement has acquired newer

dimensions and addresses myriad issues that affect women. This included women's rights over their bodies and breaking the silence against domestic violence or sexual harassment in the workplace.

The event was marked by talks given by the Director Prof G Sundar, Prof Vidya Rajesh, Dr Swati Biswas, Dr Afkham Mir, Dr Sudatta Banerjee, and many female staff members. Their message was about recognising privilege, working towards women empowerment and building solidarity within our community. It was felt that women's day should be celebrated by all faculty members, regardless of gender, and that concrete steps needed to be taken to bring about empowerment for all.

## Introducing New Faculty (January-June 2021)

These are the six faculty members who have joined between Jan 01 to June 30, 2021.

PSRN	Name of the Faculty	Designation	Department	Date of Joining
H0783	Sayan Ghosh	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Mathematics	23-Mar-21
H0785	Nilanjan Dey	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Chemistry	01-Apr-21
H0787	K Srinivasa Prasad	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Pharmacy	07-Apr-21
H0790	Ramendra Kishor Pal	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Chemical Engineering	30-Apr-21
H0794	Arijit Mukherjee	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Chemistry	15-May-21
H0797	Rabindra Mohanty	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Electrical & Electronics Engg	23-Jun-21

## Editorial Team



Prasanth Inturi



Lavanya Suresh



Maya Vinai



Santosh Mahapatra



Nimish Prabhune



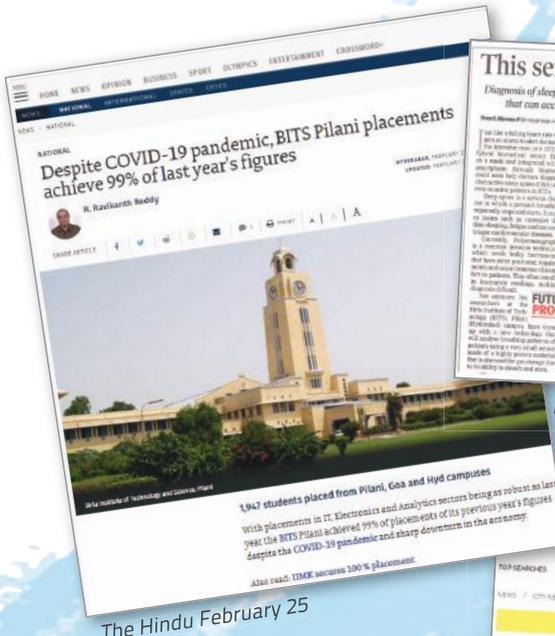
Pratyush Mallick

innovate

achieve

lead

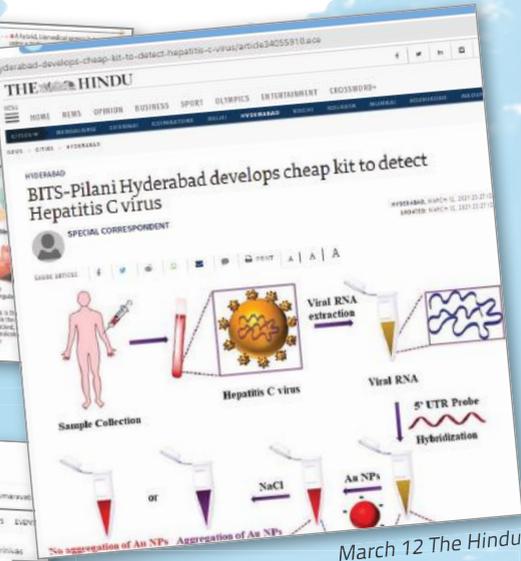
# BITS in Media



The Hindu February 25



February 22, Times of India Page 2



March 12 The Hindu



Eenadu



Tool improve pedestrian safety, March 22 The Times of India

Title: Mrs. Yogeewari Perumal's Research Work Lauded.

Mrs. Yogeewari Perumal was born in Tamilnadu, Madurai. Her father, Mr. Perumal was employed in the Pharmacy sector, and her mother, Mrs. Velammal, is a house wife. Her father wanted to see his daughter as a Doctor. As a student, Mrs. Yogeewari loved Engineering. However, she passionately pursued her research in Pharmacy. With her father's guidance and inspiration, she got excellent marks and went ahead to receive a gold medal from Chief Minister, Karunanidhi.

In 2001, she joined as an Assistant Professor at BITS Pilani (Pilani Campus), and later in 2008, she joined the BITS, Hyderabad campus. One of her core areas of research focuses on cancer. She received the 'Shri B. K. Birla and Smt. Sarala Birla (BKBSB) Chair Professor' in 2019. Knowing her research potential, Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla encouraged her a lot. Currently, twenty one students are doing their Ph.D under her guidance.

Translated by: P. V. L Narasimha Rao



The New Indian Express May 31



July 15, Times of India



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