



**BITS** Pilani  
Pilani Campus

ISSUE 46

Semester-II notes 2024-25

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Pilani Campus



## EDITOR'S INSIGHT

This semester at BITS Pilani has been a celebration of progress, purpose, and pride. The highlight was the distinguished visit of Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor, BITS Pilani, who graced our campus as Guest of Honour. His presence marked the launch of three transformative initiatives - Project Vistaar, the AI+ Campus in Amaravati, and BITS Pilani Digital - each a bold stride toward expanding our physical footprint, technological prowess, and inclusive educational outreach.

Equally momentous was the Convocation Ceremony 2025, where we were honoured to host Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Former Chief Justice of India, as Chief Guest. His inspiring address reminded us of the enduring power of knowledge and justice in shaping society.

This issue also captures the vibrant spirit of our community through the celebrations of Founder's Day and International Yoga Day, reinforcing our commitment to heritage and holistic well-being. The signing of several new MoUs with international universities and organizations further strengthens our global academic network.

We also spotlight the commendable efforts of our academic departments and divisions, which organized a series of international conferences, Management Development Programs (MDPs), workshops, and invited lectures. These events witnessed enthusiastic participation from scholars and professionals across the globe, enriching the academic discourse on campus.

Our faculty and students have continued to shine, bringing home accolades from prestigious competitions and research forums. Apogee 2025, our flagship technical festival, dazzled with innovation and energy, while the 43rd Blood Donation Camp stood as a testament to our social responsibility.

As we turn the page on another remarkable semester, we carry forward the legacy of excellence and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

**Prof. Gajendra Singh Chauhan**

Faculty In-charge, Publications and Media Relations

## Convocation 2025 held at BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus

BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus held its Convocation Ceremony on July 13, 2025, celebrating graduates of the First Degree, Higher Degree, and Ph.D. programmes. Led by Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, the event awarded degrees to 1,706 students—1,324 undergraduate, 279 postgraduate, and 103 doctoral. Outstanding performers were honored with medals: Mr. Kulkarni Dev Shree received the Gold Medal, Mr. Yash Pandey, the Silver Medal, and Mr. Adarsh Goel, the Bronze Medal.

Convocation ceremony in main auditorium



Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor, BITS Pilani, honoring the outstanding performers with gold, silver &amp; bronze medals



Campus in Amaravati, and BITS Pilani Digital—to expand physical, technological, and inclusive education.



**Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud**, Former Chief Justice of India, Chief Guest at the Convocation, urged ethical and inclusive innovation, warning against risks like AI bias and deepfakes.



**Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao**, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, outlined BITS's major research milestones, expanding global partnerships, the ₹60 crore DST-funded SATHI project, a

161% rise in research funding, new Centres of Excellence, and a \$100 million alumni endowment campaign.



**Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai**, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, highlighted the Campus's continued commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

The BITS Ratna Award was presented to two distinguished alumni for outstanding contributions to technology and entrepreneurship:

1. Prem Jain (B.E. Electrical, 1973), a global technology leader known for innovations in networking and data centres.
2. Sid Mookerji (B.E. Electrical & Electronics, 1988), entrepreneur and venture capitalist, founder of Software Paradigms International, serving top global retailers like Macy's and Walmart.

The Distinguished Alumnus Awards (DAA) 2025 have been conferred upon eminent alumni, along with the BITS Young Achievers Awards 2025, which honored alumni under 40 for outstanding professional and social impact.

The Distinguished Services Awards 2025 were presented to: Mr. Navaratna (Norton) Kothari (1969), Mr. Venu Palaparthi (1992), Mr. Tanmaya Lal (1987), Mr. Kailash Gupta (1985), and Mr. Rakesh Suri (1983).

The Memorial Awards 2025 recognized academic excellence across disciplines:

- Shubham Arun Salunkhe (Prof. Suman Kapur Memorial Award)
- Devendra Kumar Vishwakarma (VNMM Award)
- Gopalchettu Tejaswi and Gudepu Rajeswari Ananya (Shri Bahadur Chand Memorial Award)
- Sanskar Sharma and Ravisha Gambhir (Sneh Vardhan Memorial Award)

In the end, Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus delivered the Vote of Thanks.

- Alumni awards 2025



## Conference on Translating Pharmaceutical Innovations to Reality (TPIR) 2025

The highly anticipated 'Translating Pharmaceutical Innovations to Reality (TPIR) 2025' conference was successfully organized by the Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on January 17 – 18, 2025, in association with the Translational Biomedical Research Society (TBRS), and BITS-Technology Enabling Centre. The conference was an amalgamation of expert from academia, industry, and research, providing a remarkable platform to explore advancements in the pharmaceutical sector and actionable strategies for translating pharmaceutical innovations into real-world applications.

- TPIR 2025



The first day of the conference began with an inspiring inaugural ceremony held at the J.C. Chaudhary NAB Auditorium, graced by the presence of the chief guest, Mr. Sushrut Kulkarni, Global Head, R&D, Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, and Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus. Prof. Rajeev Taliyan, Head, Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani, and Conveners of the conference, Prof. Deepak Chitkara and Prof. Murali Monohar Pandey highlighted the legacy and achievements of the pharmacy department at Pilani Campus. Mr. Sushrut Kulkarni, in his inaugural talk, highlighted the importance of deep research leading to innovations, the barriers faced in translation, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector, vis-à-vis the industry expectations from academia. The event featured a series of engaging impact talks on recent research, a panel discussion on bridging gaps in Academia, Industry, and Society, and a Masterclass to train the young generation. As part of BITS Pilani's celebration of 60 years of excellence, TPIR 2025 stood as a testament to the institute's enduring commitment to fostering innovation and addressing global healthcare challenges.

## 76th Republic Day Celebrations at BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus

The 76<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated in BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. The Programme began at 9:00 am with the National song. Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani, performed the flag hoisting, a

moment of pride for all the participants. Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, and Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus graced the event.

The Programme was attended by both faculty and students. The Guard of Honor was given by Mr. Kishore Singh, the Chief Security Officer, and his team. The fervor of patriotism, unified diversity, and rich cultural heritage of India was beautifully brought forth through the songs sung by the students under the guidance of Dr. Anil Rai, and the poem recited by Prof. Sushila Shekhawat.

The National Pledge, an oath of allegiance to the Republic of India, was administered by Ms. Ananya. The Programme ended with the National anthem sung with enthusiasm by all. The event was coordinated by Prof Sushila Shekhawat, Faculty In-charge, Institute Functions.

- 76th Republic Day Celebrations



## BITS Pilani Hosts Prestigious Five-Day Leadership Programme for School Leadership Transforming Education and High Impact Leadership (TEACH 2025)

The Teaching Learning Centre, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus hosted "Transforming Education and High Impact Leadership (TEACH 2025)," a 5-day residential event (January 25–29, 2025) aimed at advancing educational methods and leadership, targeting educators across key domains including leadership, change management, HR, communication, entrepreneurship, innovation, counseling, and stakeholder engagement.

- TEACH 2025



Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, spoke on the evolution of higher education and NEP 2020's transformative role, stressing ethics in AI-driven learning.

Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus highlighted the university's educational impact, perseverance, vision, and youth entrepreneurship culture, urging full engagement in TEACH 2025.

Prof. Shibani Khanra Jha, Faculty-In-Charge, TLC, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus emphasized creative thinking, strategic leadership, and educators' role as future architects, outlining NEP 2020's SEAT and ARM frameworks for skill development and adaptability.

- Prestigious Five-Day Leadership Programme



Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, underscored collaboration and knowledge sharing, while Mr. Prodipta Hore, Programme Director, ABEA, extended warm regards.

The eminent speakers at TEACH 2025 were:

- Mr. R. Subrahmanyam (IAS) - Former Secretary to the Govt, Higher Education and the Social Justice departments
- Prof. Jandhyala B. G. Tilak - ICSSR National Fellow & Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi

- Mr. Pradeep Sethi-Former CEO & MD Corporate Insight
- Dr. Vinnie Jauhari - Director Education -WW Public Sector, Microsoft Corporation Pvt Ltd
- Dr. Vipul Vyas- Sr. Facilitator, Life Coach & Director, The Mind Academy
- Prof. Neerja Pande -Professor, Communication and Leadership, Dean, IIM Lucknow Noida Campus (Former)
- Mr. Arvind Soundarajan - Chief Human Resource Officer, IIM Bangalore.

### Celebration of 74<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day

BITS Pilani celebrated its 74th Founder's Day on February 2, 2025, with great enthusiasm. The event began with floral tributes to Founder Chairman Late Shri G.D. Birla, followed by Thyagaraja Aradhana by Ragamalika.

A grand cultural event was organized in the Central Auditorium in the evening. Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, Prof. Sushila Shekhawat, Faculty In-charge - Institute Functions, along with Mr. Ahan Bansal, President-Student Union, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, and Mr. Aryan Khorana, General Secretary - Student Union, lit the traditional lamp. This was followed by a recital of the Saraswati Vandana. The institute honored teaching and non-teaching staff for 25+ years of service, presented the Prof. V.S. Rao and Prof. S. Venkateswaran Best Employee Award, seven Best Performance Awards, and fifteen Certificates of Appreciation. Retiring staff were also felicitated, and past awardees were invited to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Sushila Shekhawat, marking a joyful and memorable occasion.

- 74<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day



## BITS Pilani Hosts International Conference on Greener Technologies in Mechanical Engineering (ICGTME-2025)

The International Conference on Greener Technologies in Mechanical Engineering (ICGTME-2025), hosted by BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on February 3, 2025. The conference was inaugurated by Chief Guest Prof. Pradip Dutta (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), Guest of Honour Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stephan Kabelac (Leibniz University Hannover), Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, Prof. NVM Rao, Dean (Administration), BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, Prof. Srikanta Routroy (Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering), and Conference Conveners Prof. Chennu Ranganayakulu and Prof. Arun Kumar Jalan.

The pre-conference workshop on "Greener Technologies and Sustainable Assessment" was organized on February 2, 2025, featuring 32 external participants and an outreach session for school students.

Prof. Geeta Bhatt highlighted BITS Pilani's commitment to sustainable engineering, while Prof. Srikanta Routroy detailed the department's Programmes, collaborations, and infrastructure. Prof. S.K. Barai noted the institute's global impact, with over 7,500 alumni leading startups, and emphasized mechanical engineering's role in green technologies through academia-industry collaboration. Prof. NVM Rao stressed sustainability in engineering education, and Prof. Pradip Dutta along with Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stephan Kabelac shared global insights on renewable energy and circular economies. Prof. Arun Kumar Jalan closed with a vote of thanks, calling the conference a milestone for India's green-tech ecosystem.

- ICGTME-2025



## BITS Pilani Hosts Digital India Talk Show to Promote Digital Transformation in Higher Education

On February 11, 2025, BITS Pilani hosted the Digital India Talk Show at its Pilani Campus with Goa, Hyderabad, and Mumbai Campuses joining online. The event promoted

awareness of digital initiatives in academia, governance, and institutional transformation.

The talk show commenced with opening remarks by Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, followed by talks from experts from Digital India Corporation and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) on India's digital advancements.

Key Highlights of the event included:

- Introduction to Digital India Initiatives – Address by Mr. Gaurav Khare and Ms. Swarna Prava Swain
- Session on DigiLocker, ABC-NAD (APAAR ID), API Setu, Open Forge/Collab with Gov – Led by Ms. Swarna Prava Swain
- Session on UMANG, MyScheme, NCB-MANAS, and Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme – Presented by Ms. Kritvi Paliwal
- Session on Cybersecurity & Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 – Conducted by Mr. Priyanshu Yadav

Prof. Barai thanked the speakers and stressed digital transformation's importance in higher education. Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus and Prof. Sandip Deshmukh, Dean (SWD), highlighted digital governance for streamlining processes across domains.

Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their active participation.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ashish Gupta, Deputy Registrar, BITS Pilani.

The event was hosted by Mr. Abhay Awasthi, Assistant Registrar, BITS Pilani, who ensured the smooth flow of the sessions.

- Digital India Talk Show



## Management Development Programme (MDP) on "Innovation and Commercialization of Business Ideas"

The Ministry of MSME (Jaipur), AICTE Innovation Center, and BITS-Technology Enabling Centre, in collaboration with Lakshmi Niwas Mittal Institute of Information Technology (LNMIIT), organized a five-day Management Development Programme on "Innovation and Commercialization of Business Ideas" during February 11–15, 2025, in Jaipur. 25 participants from academic incubators and IICs across Rajasthan attended. Designed by BITS Pilani as a knowledge partner, the programme featured workshops and case studies on innovation management, commercialization, and funding. Mr. Rajneesh Kumar – Head, Technology Transfer Office, BITS Pilani, spoke about the Financial sustainability of the academic incubators.

Shri. Gaurav Joshi, Joint Director & HoD, Ministry of MSME, emphasized peer learning among regional incubators.

The event concluded with a networking session promoting Rajasthan's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

### - Management Development Programme



## Civil Engineering Department of BITS Pilani Hosts ASMMI 2025 Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure

BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus hosted the "Advances in Sustainable Materials, Modelling, and Infrastructure (ASMMI-2025)" conference during February 17 to 19, 2025. The event was inaugurated by Padma Shri Laxman Singh (Secretary, Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya, Jaipur, Rajasthan) as the Chief Guest, and Prof. Manoranjan Parida (Director, CSIR- CRRI, New Delhi, President, Indian Road Congress) as the Guest of Honor.

The conference was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani

Campus, Prof. Dipendu Bhunia (Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Pilani Campus) and organizing convener Prof. Subhasis Pradhan.

The conference, sponsored by ANRF-SERB, Springer Nature, ICI, Y Access Equipment, Earthcon Systems, and Spotlite, aimed to promote academia-industry collaboration in sustainable infrastructure.

### - ASMMI 2025



During the inauguration, Prof. Subhasis Pradhan welcomed delegates, affirming BITS Pilani's commitment to sustainability, while Prof. Dipendu Bhunia outlined the Civil Engineering Department's delivered a plenary on sustainable transport infrastructure, and Padma Shri Laxman Singh spoke on caring for Earth and Nature as a spiritual duty.

## Conference on Recent Trends in Drug Discovery - 2025 Successfully Hosted at BITS Pilani

The Department of Pharmacy at BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus successfully hosted the Conference on Recent Trends in Drug Discovery - 2025 held during February 24 to 25, 2025. The two-day event attracted over 100 participants. The conference focused on the evolution of drug discovery from natural products to a hypothesis-driven, target-based approach, emphasizing the impact of molecular biology and AI-driven models in streamlining drug development.

The conference marked a significant milestone as BITS Pilani celebrated its 60 years, while the Department of Pharmacy celebrated its 75 years of academic excellence. The event was inaugurated by Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus along with esteemed guests, including Prof. Sanjay M. Jachak (Professor, NIPER S.A.S Nagar), Dr. Hemraj S. Nandanwar (Scientist, IMTECH Chandigarh), Dr. Lakshmikant Bajpai (Director and Head Analytical Research and Development, Bristol Myers Squibb, Bengaluru), Prof. Devesh Sawant (Professor, Central University of Rajasthan), Mr. Manish Kumar (Senior Manager, Jubilant, Noida), Prof. Raj Kumar (Professor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda) and Dr. Sandip Bharate (Senior Principal Scientist, IICT, Hyderabad).

Prof. Atish T Paul (Organising Secretary) and Prof. Rajeev Taliyan (Head, Department of Pharmacy) highlighted the legacy of the department. The sessions featured insightful lectures on Ayur-informatics, MDR bacterial metabolism, cross-coupling reactions, anticancer research, Phytopharmaceutical development, and industry challenges in pharmaceutical project management.

Prof. Hemant Jadhav led a panel on translating research from bench to bedside with experts from academia and industry. The conference featured poster presentations coordinated by Prof. Sandeep Sundriyal, Prof. Gautam Kumar, Prof. Jagpreet Sidhu, and student volunteers. The valedictory session was coordinated by Prof. S. Murugesan.

- Conference on Recent Trends in Drug Discovery - 2025



### 6<sup>th</sup> National Workshop on Analytical Instruments and Computations for Engineers and Scientists (WAICES-2025)

The Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus organized the 6<sup>th</sup> National Workshop on Analytical Instruments and Computations for Engineers and Scientists (WAICES-2025) during March 24 - 26, 2025. The workshop provided a platform for young students and researchers across India to be ignited by expert lectures of eminent scientists. This workshop aimed to cover six top-notch analytical instruments such as GC-MS, Single crystal-XRD, XPS, FESEM, NMR spectroscopy, and Physisorption-Chemisorption System in the first two days. COMSOL, DFT (Quantum Espresso), and MD (GROMACS) simulation techniques were covered on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus welcomed participants, highlighting the importance of analytical instruments and computational tools in high-quality research, and noting BITS Pilani's selection for the ₹60 crore SATHI project alongside IIT Bombay and IIT Hyderabad.

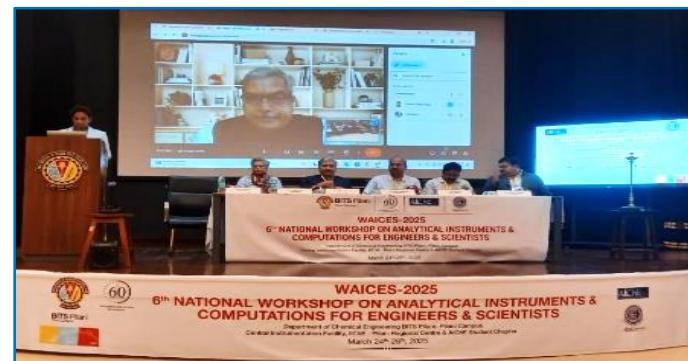
Prof. NVM Rao, Dean of Administration, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus emphasized that the workshop would enhance researchers' creativity and problem-solving through exposure to advanced instruments. Prof. Banasri Roy

thanked the speakers, participants, and sponsors, encouraging researchers to push scientific boundaries.

In his address, Chief Guest Prof. Sunando Dasgupta (IIT Kharagpur) praised the organizers for hosting a valuable event, while Guest of Honor Prof. Rajesh Khanna lauded BITS Pilani for exemplifying strong industry-student collaboration.

WAICES-2025 conveners—Prof. Somak Chatterjee, Prof. Sarbani Ghosh, Prof. Mohit Garg, and Prof. Jay Pandey—thanked the delegates, committee, speakers, and sponsors, including Rigaku, Thermo Fisher, Bruker, Shimadzu, Lenovo, and others, wishing participants an enriching learning experience.

- WAICES-2025



### International Conference on Neurological Disorders Held at BITS Pilani

The Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus successfully organized a two-day International Conference on Neurological Disorders, during March 21 to 22, 2025. The conference served as a dynamic platform for global experts to discuss recent advancements in understanding, diagnosing, and treating neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and ALS.

- International Conference on Neurological Disorders



The event commenced with an inaugural session graced by Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, Prof. NVM Rao, Dean (Administration), BITS

Pilani, Pilani Campus, Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani, Prof. Rajeev Taliyan, Head of the Department and Convenor, esteemed speakers, and faculty members. Prof. Barai underscored the significance of neuropharmacology in addressing pressing challenges in neurological research and treatment. Prof. Taliyan provided an insightful overview of the department's remarkable achievements over the past 75 years.

The conference was graced by the presence of Dr. Chandrashekhar Ranga, Joint Drug Controller, CDSCO, Delhi, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Ekta Kapoor, Scientist-F and Head, National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority, DST, Delhi, as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Kapoor emphasized the pivotal role of Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) in advancing neurological research, ensuring precision and reliability in scientific investigations.

- Participants at the International Conference on Neurological Disorders



The event attracted over 100 delegates from across India, with eminent speakers from the USA and Taiwan. Notable speakers included Prof. Deepak Kumar Sharma (CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh, India), Dr. Pankaj Seth (National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, Gurgaon), Dr. Vinay Parikh (Director, Neuroscience Programme, College of Liberal Arts, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA), Dr. Onkar Prakash Kulkarni (Department of Pharmacy, BITS Hyderabad Campus) Dr. Chih-Hao Yang (Taipei Medical University, Taiwan), and Dr. Anil Kumar (Panjab University, Punjab, India).

The successful execution of the conference was led by Prof. Rajeev Taliyan, Prof. Anil Gaikwad, Prof. Pragyanshu Khare, and student volunteers. The event was supported by the BITS-Technology Enabling Centre, BITS Pilani.

**BITS Pilani Alumni, Raju Reddy, donates \$1 Million to establish Kakatiya Rural Innovation, Technology and Implementation Centre on June 11, 2025**

BITS Pilani has launched the Kakatiya Rural Innovation, Technology and Implementation (KRITI) Centre to empower students and alumni driving social impact across India. Funded by a \$1 million endowment from alumnus Mr.

Raju Reddy and his wife Mrs. Neerja, both accomplished change makers and deeply involved in rural development initiatives. Mr. Raju Reddy is a visionary entrepreneur, angel investor, board member, and former Chairperson of BITSAA International. The centre's vision is being shaped with support from Mr. Phanindra Sama, redBus founder and fellow alumnus.

- BITS Pilani alumnus support for the Kakatiya Rural Innovation, Technology and Implementation Centre



KRITI will expand BITS Pilani's social impact efforts, building on alumni-led initiatives like Sattva, Nirmaan, Thinkerbell Labs, and Ashoka Changemakers, to create sustainable, scalable solutions for rural and social challenges.

"The establishment of KRITI marks a pivotal moment in BITS Pilani's journey," stated Prof. Ramgopal Rao, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani. "It affirms our commitment to nurturing socially responsible innovators who will transform rural India. We are deeply grateful to Neerja and Raju Reddy for their visionary support and belief in our community's power to drive change."

Mr. Raju Reddy said, "For India to become an economic superpower, its districts must drive growth. We hope KRITI will harness the ideas and entrepreneurial spirit of BITS students, alumni, and innovators to create large-scale rural impact."

- KRITI to advance BITS Pilani's social impact and rural development initiatives



KRITI will focus on nurturing value-based leadership, incubating high-impact ventures, fostering engagement with social enterprises and innovators, and promoting empathy and responsible citizenship. Key initiatives include launching a Rural and Social Impact Club across Campuses, specialized incubation efforts, an annual innovation showcase, fellowships for emerging leaders, curriculum integration of social projects, a central knowledge hub, and sustained funding from alumni, corporates, and government partners.

**Prof. Lung-Jieh Yang, Director of the Science and Technology Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC), India, visited BITS Pilani**

Prof. Lung-Jieh Yang, Director of the Science and Technology Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC), India, visited BITS Pilani on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, to explore potential avenues for academic and Research and Development collaboration between India and Taiwan. Prof. Yang was accompanied by Ms. Eva Ya-Hui Chang, Executive Officer at the Science and

Technology Division, TECC India. The delegation was keen to interact with BITS faculty and researchers engaged in emerging technologies and deep tech domains.

**International Day of Yoga 2025**

BITS Pilani celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga on 21st June 2025, at the Central Hall of the Students' Activities Centre at the Pilani Campus. A live telecast of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was displayed in the hall. After his address, the event started with a brief speech from the event's Chief Guest, Col. Soumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.), Registrar, BITS Pilani.

Ms. Priyanka Agarwal, a certified yoga trainer, conducted the 45-minute yoga session per protocol. Around 100 participants — including students, staff, faculty, and their children — enthusiastically took part in the event. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. Navin Singh, Associate Dean, Student Welfare Division, followed by the National Anthem.

- International Day of Yoga 2025



## Received TechEDU India Awards 2025 for Excellence in Higher Education

- Prof. Shibani Khanra Jhai receives TechEDU India Award



The 2nd Edition of the TechEDU India Awards 2025 was received by Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, under the categories Outstanding Private Institute / Deemed-to-be University and Excellence in Faculty Training & Professional

Development Programme (University-Wide). The awards were accepted on behalf of the institute by Prof. Shibani Khanra Jha, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, and Faculty In-Charge, Teaching Learning Centre, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus.

BITS Pilani was recognized for its sustained excellence in academics, research, faculty strength, student engagement, and industry collaboration. Recognition under the Excellence in Faculty Training & Professional Development category was conferred for the institute's continued commitment to learning, upskilling, and pedagogical innovation. Through comprehensive training Programme and modern teaching methodologies, a culture of academic excellence, inclusivity, and professional growth is being fostered across the university.

4. Collaborative Programmes across UG, PG, and PhD levels
5. Shared access to cutting-edge infrastructure like IISc's CeNSE

The MoU was signed by Prof. V Ramgopal Rao, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani and Prof Govindan Rangarajan, Director, IISc, Bengaluru, in the presence of Prof Suman Kundu, Director BITS Pilani - K.K. Birla Goa Campus, Prof Radhika Vathsan, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani - Goa Campus, Institute-wide Dean of Undergraduate Studies, BITS Pilani, and Prof. Shankar Kumar Selvaraja, Prof. Sushobhan Avasthi, Prof. V. R. Supradeepa and Prof. Dhavala Suri all from the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc.

As Prof. V Ramgopal Rao, Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani, mentioned:

"By combining the strengths of both institutions, we aim to nurture a new generation of innovators and researchers." This is more than a partnership — it's a commitment to shaping the future of science and technology in India.

Prof Rangarajan, Director of IISc, added, "Collaborations like this are essential to drive impactful research and innovation. We are excited to create opportunities for knowledge exchange and to jointly contribute to solving some of the most pressing scientific and societal challenges."

- Partnership between the IISc and the BITS Pilani



## BITS Pilani Hosts Solar Synergies Round Table: Advancing Research, Innovation & Technology Transfer

On February 19, 2025, BITS Pilani, in collaboration with the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) and the BITS Technology Enabling Centre (TEC), hosted a high-impact round table discussion on Solar Synergies: Advancing Research, Innovation & Technology Transfer under the leadership of Prof. Rajneesh Kumar from the Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering. BITS-TEC, established with support from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, serves as an innovation hub fostering industry-academia

## MOU Memorandum of Understanding

### Partnership between the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

This landmark MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is a key partnership that brings together two of India's leading Institutes of Eminence to advance collaborative research and academic excellence.

This collaboration sets the stage for:

1. Joint research projects tackling critical challenges
2. A unified focus on innovation, IP management, and impact
3. Exchange of students and researchers

collaboration to accelerate research, technology development, and commercialization.

The event brought together German scientists, industry leaders, NSEFI representatives, and academicians from BITS Pilani to discuss future-oriented solar energy solutions and promote Indo-German collaboration. The discussions centered on application-oriented research in photovoltaics, energy storage, power electronics and grids, green hydrogen, and climate-neutral heat solutions—critical areas for a sustainable energy future.

- Advancing Research, Innovation & Technology Transfer



Dr. Jochen Rentsch highlighted Germany's Technology Evaluation Centers (TECs), which bridge laboratory innovations with industrial applications. These centers play a crucial role in ensuring that pioneering technical solutions are seamlessly integrated into society.

Dr. Theresa Anne Magorian Friedlmeier introduced the Centre for Solar Energy and Hydrogen Research Baden-Württemberg (ZSW) as a key partner in R&D, commercial research, and renewable energy consulting. Dr. Niklas Martin discussed the role of the German Renewable Energy Research Association (FVEE) in transforming global energy systems through nationwide cooperation among research institutes.

- Attendees at the Solar Synergies Round Table: Advancing Research, Innovation & Technology Transfer



Dr. Niklas Martin elaborated on the role of the German Renewable Energy Research Association (FVEE – ForschungsVerbund Erneuerbare Energien) in transforming the global energy supply. He emphasized a nationwide cooperation structure of research institutes

focused on enhancing energy generation, system components, and utilization efficiency.

**BITS Pilani transferred an innovative cutting-edge patented technology to Highness Microelectronics Ltd.**

BITS Pilani, an Institute of Eminence, formally transferred its patented "Copper Nanocomposite" technology to Highness Microelectronics Ltd. on March 3, 2025. This move strengthens their long-term collaboration for research and development. The partnership aims to advance research from the lab to commercialization and boost industry-academia interaction, including joint R&D in digital imaging, automobiles, and semiconductors.

The indigenous technology, titled "Method of Producing Uniform Mixture of Copper and Carbon Nanotube in Bulk for Copper Metal Nanocomposite," was developed by Prof. Sachin U. Belgamwar (BITS Pilani) and Prof. Niti Nipun Sharma (Manipal University, Jaipur)

- Signing an innovative cutting-edge patented technology



The innovation uses electro co-deposition to mix carbon nanotubes (CNTs) with copper. This creates a composite material with enhanced mechanical properties and electrical resistivity, offering commercial potential for electromagnetic interference shielding and improving thermal characteristics in smart digital displays and electronics used in railways, automotive, and defense.

- BITS Pilani transfers patented "Copper Nanocomposite" technology to Highness Microelectronics Ltd.



Highness Microelectronics, will use this technology to enhance highly sensitive copper wires. The company is investing in India's semiconductor ecosystem and plans for a manufacturing plant in Goa. Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor of BITS Pilani, emphasized the institute's

commitment to bridge the gap between academia and industry. BITS Pilani actively works to commercialize its nearly 500 IPRs.

### **BITS Pilani and University of Manchester Partner to Transform and Drive Next-Gen STEM Learning.**

The University of Manchester delegation was led by Prof. Stephen Flint, Associate Vice President (International), along with Prof. Aravind Vijayaraghavan, Professor of Nanomaterials in the Department of Materials and Head of Internationalisation, Faculty of Science & Engineering; Prof. Radha Boya, Professor of Nanoscience; and other senior leaders. The visit featured strategic meetings with Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, Prof. Soumyo Mukherjee, Director Hyderabad Campus, and other key academic leaders, culminating in the signing of an MoU. Dual/joint degree Programmes, Faculty and student exchange, Collaborative research with global funding, and Future-ready tech-enabled education are the major highlights of the collaboration.

Prof. Stephen Flint called it "a significant step in co-creating high-quality science and engineering Programmes with India's premier private institution." Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao added, "This collaboration empowers students to think beyond boundaries and address global challenges."

This is a major milestone in building globally connected classrooms, research-driven solutions, and a new generation of STEM leaders.

[- Collaboration between BITS Pilani and the University of Manchester to drive next-gen STEM learning.](#)



### **BITS Pilani, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and UltraTech Cement received DST Grant**

BITS Pilani, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and UltraTech Cement, has received a collaborative grant of ~₹34 crores - ₹25 crores from the Department of Science & Technology, Government of

India, and the remaining amount from industry partner UltraTech Cement, marking a significant step in India's industrial decarbonization efforts. Recognizing the critical need to decarbonize the cement sector, DST had launched a call to mobilize Academia-Industry consortia for Carbon Capture Utilization (CCU) technologies.

This special call aimed to develop and deploy CCU test beds with integrated CO<sub>2</sub> capture and utilization units in industrial setups through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Five CCU test beds have been approved, combining top research institutions and cement manufacturers.

[- Collaborative event of BITS Pilani, IIT Madras, and UltraTech Cement](#)



As part of this initiative, BITS Pilani, IIT Madras, and UltraTech Cement will set up a 1 TPD pilot plant for CO<sub>2</sub> capture coupled with mineralization. The announcement was made on Technology Day, May 11, 2025, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Honorable Minister of Science and Technology, and Minister of Earth Sciences, GOI, presented the awards.

The award was received by Prof. Manu Santhanam (IIT Madras), Dr Raju Goyal (Executive President & CTO, UltraTech Cement), and Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy (Lead PI for BITS Pilani from K K Birla Goa Campus). The event was also graced by Prof. Satyapaul Singh (BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus) Dr. Surender Singh (IIT Madras) and Prof. Pratik Sheth (BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus).

This success was made possible by the dedication of the following other members of the BITS Pilani team across all Campuses:

Prof. Subhasis Pradhan, Prof. Smita Raghuvanshi from Pilani, Prof. (Dr.) RANJIT S. PATIL, Prof. Devendra Patil, Prof. Neena Goveas, Prof. (Dr.) N.N.Ghosh from Goa. Prof. Srikantha Dinda, Prof. Vikranth K. Surasani, Prof. Srinivas Appari, Prof. Raghuram Ammavajjala, Prof. Anasua GuhaRay from Hyderabad Campus.

This achievement was strengthened by the mentorship of Prof. R. R. Sonde (BITS Pilani, Goa Campus) and by the efforts of Prof. Manu Santhanam and the IIT Madras team. The BITS Pilani team further extends its appreciation to Dr.

Anita Gupta, Dr. Neelima Alam, Dr. Sanjai Kumar and the DST staff for their continued support, and to Mr. Raj Narayanan (Business Head & Chief Manufacturing Officer, UltraTech Cement), Dr. Ram Narayanan, Sagar Gulawani and Dr. Prakash Mathur of ABSTC Company Limited for their valuable contributions.

### **BITS Pilani and USC Viterbi Partner to Drive Global Research and Education**

On June 5, 2025, the MoU was formalized at USC (University of Southern California)'s Olin Hall of Engineering, bringing together two world-class institutions to foster academic collaboration and global engagement.

Representing BITS Pilani were Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor; BITS Pilani, Prof. Arya Kumar, and Mr. Sachin Arya. From USC, the signatories included Yannis Yortsos (Dean), Anthony Bailey (Global and Online Initiatives), Raghu Raghavendra (Vice Dean, Global Academic Initiatives), Kelly G. (Senior Associate Dean, Admission & Student Engagement), and William Schwerin (Director, Graduate Recruitment).

- MoU signing between BITS Pilani and USC Viterbi



The partnership includes:

- A dual-degree BE-MS Programme for BITS students
- Joint research in AI, quantum computing, and sustainability
- Student and faculty exchanges
- Academic and cultural immersion Programmes

Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, said "This partnership is a key step in creating global opportunities and fostering innovation through collaboration." Yannis Yortsos, Dean of USC Viterbi stated, "It reflects our commitment to global alliances that address the world's most pressing scientific and technological challenges." Harpreet Kalra, Director Strategy – India, USC Viterbi added "We're proud to engage with India's brightest engineering minds through this landmark collaboration." Together, BITS Pilani and USC Viterbi are building a platform for high-impact research, global learning, and future-ready talent.

- BITS Pilani and USC Viterbi exchange MoU to promote global research and educational collaboration.



### **BITS Pilani signs MoU with PJTAU, Hyderabad**

BITS Pilani and Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTAU), Hyderabad have partnered to advance research, education, and technology-led initiatives in agriculture and rural development. The MoU was signed at PJTAU in the presence of Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, Prof. Sanket Goel (Dean, Research and Innovation – Institute-Wide), Prof. Kumar Pranav Narayan, Prof. Sridev Mohapatra, Prof. Radhika Sudha, Prof. Abhijit Das, and Prof. Aritra Mukherjee, along with PJTAU leadership.

Key Focus Areas:

- Joint research and innovation in Agri-tech
- Faculty and student exchanges
- Collaborative academic events and outreach
- Technology-driven sustainable farming solutions
- Empowering rural communities through strong industry-academia partnerships

The collaboration will apply AI, IoT, drones, blockchain, mobile apps, and genomics to boost precision farming, smart irrigation, climate-resilient agriculture, and digital finance, beginning a transformative journey toward more innovative, more sustainable farming practices.

- BITS Pilani signs MoU with PJTAU



## **BITS Pilani has signed and MoU with ICRISAT, Hyderabad.**

The MoU was signed at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, in the presence of Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, along with Prof. Sanket Goel (Dean, Research and Innovation – Institute-Wide), Dr. Surender Mohan, Dr. Radhika Vangala, Prof. Nilanjan Dey, Prof. Gireesha Mohannath, Prof. Dr. Satish Kumar Dubey, Prof. Dr. Nikumani Choudhury, and Prof. K Rajitha, alongside ICRISAT's leadership.

- MoU signed for the Semi-Arid Tropics



### **Key Focus Areas:**

- Joint R&D in climate-smart agriculture.
- Exchange of students, researchers, and professionals.
- Joint courses, studies, and publications.
- Innovation Programmes like hackathons and workshops.
- Establishing a Centre of Excellence.
- Collaborative funding proposals.

## **BITS Pilani Signs MoUs with IIT Tirupati and IISER Tirupati.**

On 21st April 2025, BITS Pilani signed separate MoUs with the IIT Tirupati and IISER Tirupati to strengthen academic and research collaboration, which aligns with the Ministry of Education's vision.

Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani and Prof. Sanket Goel (Dean, Research and Innovation – Institute-Wide) attended on behalf of BITS Pilani, along with senior leadership from both partner institutions.

### **Key Objectives:**

1. Promote education and research in Engineering and Sciences.
2. Enable student and faculty exchange, with resource sharing on mutually agreed terms.

3. Develop joint faculty proposals and co-supervise PhD/master's research.
4. Conduct collaborative workshops, seminars, and courses.
5. Foster innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship.

The collaboration begins with faculty alignment and joint initiatives in focus areas, paving the way for co-guided research and impactful outcomes.

- BITS Pilani Signs MoUs with IIT Tirupati and IISER Tirupati.



## **BITS Pilani has signed MoUs with Divgi Torq Transfer Systems Ltd. and Schapenberg Industries GmbH.**

Divgi Torq Transfer Systems Ltd. (DTTS) is a Tier 1 Indian automotive firm focused on advanced drivetrain systems and Schapenberg Industries GmbH is a Germany-headquartered company with over 12 years of experience in castings, precision machining, forgings, and international supply chain management across Germany, India, and Turkey.

- BITS Pilani has signed MoUs with Divgi Torq Transfer Systems Ltd. and Schapenberg Industries GmbH



The MoUs were signed on 22nd March 2025 at Pune by Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani, Mr. Jiten Divgi, Managing Director, DTTS, and Mr. Nagesh Dhumma, Co-Founder & CTO, Schapenberg Industries GmbH.

These collaborations will facilitate joint research, industry initiatives, and experiential learning opportunities for students, faculty, and researchers.

The BITS Pilani leadership team present at the signing ceremony included Prof. Suman Kundu, Director, K. K. Birla

Goa Campus, Prof. Arya Kumar, Dean – Alumni Relations, Prof. Annapoorna Gopal, Dean – Practice School, Prof. Meenal Kowshik, Dean (Administration), Goa Campus, and Mr. Sachin Arya, Head – Alumni Relations.

These collaborations reflect BITS Pilani's ongoing commitment to bridge academia with industry.

### **BITS Pilani Signs Collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, an Autonomous DST Institution**

BITS Pilani and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institution established in 1989 by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, have entered a collaboration to promote research, technology development, and knowledge exchange.

This partnership will drive joint projects, industry-focused solutions, advanced training, and a Cotutelle Joint PhD Programme, creating significant opportunities for students, researchers, and the broader innovation ecosystem.

Benefits for students and the community:

- Hands-on internships and exposure to cutting-edge technologies
- Co-supervised PhD Programmes with top-tier faculty
- Industry-linked research and real-world problem-solving
- A thriving ecosystem for breakthrough innovation

This collaboration marks a step toward shaping future leaders in STEM while contributing to nation-building and global research excellence.

Collaboration between BITS Pilani and JNCASR



## **Academia: a confluence of ideas**

### **Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, and Training Programmes: Enriching the Learning Experience Through Faculty Visits**

**Prof. Chennu Ranganayakulu, Department of Mechanical Engineering**, as a Convener of ICGTME conference, conducted an international conference on "Greener Technologies in Mechanical Engineering" at BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus with several foreign delegates, and presented a few papers with students' works of BITS Pilani, during February 3 to 4, 2025.

**Prof. Trilok Mathur, Department of Mathematics**, visited The Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, USA for a collaborative research work titled "Integration of Fractional Order Neural Networks and Data Envelopment Analysis with Applications" under University Exposure Abroad 2025 (UEA) Programme, of BITS Pilani during May 22 to July 13, 2025.

**Prof. Shuchita Goyal, Department of Mathematics**, attended the MERU Combinatorics Conference and chaired a session by Prof. Murali K. Srinivasan of IIT Bombay at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus during May 28 to 30, 2025. She also attended the NCM workshop on "Topics in Geometric Combinatorics" and served as a tutor at Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) during June 30 to July 05, 2025.

**Prof. Balakumaran Chandrasekar, Department of Biological Sciences**, visited Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Germany during June 5 to July 31, 2025.

**Prof. Kamalesh Kumar, Department of Civil Engineering**, presented a paper titled "Dynamic Poisson's Ratio Estimation of Pilani Soil Using Ultrasonics" at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Advanced Research and Innovations in Civil Engineering ARICE 2025 organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, Muthoot Institute of Technology & Science (MITS), held at Muthoot Institute of Technology & Science (MITS), Kochi, Kerala, India during June 5 to 6, 2025.

# Accolades and Achievements: Academic attainments of Faculty

**Prof. Trilok Mathur, Department of Mathematics,** visited Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ, USA during June 23 to 26, 2025 to presented a paper titled “Modeling Gambling Behavior Dynamics with Fractional-Order Analysis: Insights into Prevention and Control Strategies” in the Fourth International Nonlinear Dynamics Conference (NODYCON 2025). He also presented a paper titled “An expected value approach in Efficiency Assessment through Integration of DEA with Rough Set Theory” in the same conference.



**Prof. Shuchita Goyal, Department of Mathematics,** was invited for a research collaboration by Prof. Subhash of the Mathematics department at IISER Tirupati, she was also cited in the research article “Homotopy types of Vietoris-Rips complexes of hypercube graphs” by Feng, Z., published in Journal of Topology and Analysis Open-source preview, 2025.

**Prof. Mukul Joshi, Department of Biological Sciences,** co-chaired a session on the “theme 3: Abiotic Stress Biology, in the Symposium on Current Trends and Challenges in Plant Biotechnology” held at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus during February 24 to 26, 2025.

**Prof. Syamantak Majumder, Department of Biological Sciences,** chaired a session entitled “Vascular niche and regulation of endothelial responses” in The Vascular Biology Symposium, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, during April 17 to 18, 2025 and also chaired a session at the 7<sup>th</sup> Bio-Group India Meeting, at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, during July 11 to 12, 2025.

**Prof. Soumitra Ghosh, Department of Biological Sciences,** chaired scientific sessions at the 7th Bio-Group India Meeting, at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, during July 11 to 12, 2025.

**Prof. Balakumaran Chandrasekar, Department of Biological Sciences,** was awarded the Max Planck India Mobility Grant to initiate collaboration and conduct research at MPIMP, Potsdam, Germany, for three years (2025-2028, 5000 EUR/Year) and was also awarded the Travel Grant Award to deliver the research work at the MPMI conference, Cologne, Germany.

**Prof. Ashis Kumar Das, Department of Biological Sciences,** was selected as an expert to review the Malaria IVD performance evaluation protocol by ICMR in 2025 and was also selected as a member of the seven Project Review Committee Meetings, ICMR- MERA India; Intramural Grants; Extramural Grants.

**Prof. Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences,** was invited as a PhD Viva-voce Examiner by the Department of Botany, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, on June 28, 2025.

**Prof. Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Department of Biological Sciences,** visited Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani, as an external examiner to evaluate the research reports of the M.Sc. Biotechnology students of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester, on May 28, 2025, and also visited as an external examiner to the Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh, to conduct the dissertation viva voce of M.Sc. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Nutrition Biology, on June 5, 2025.

**Prof. Prabhat Nath Jha, Department of Biological Sciences,** was invited as the guest of honor to the DNA Day Celebration at Central University, Haryana, Mahendragarh, on April 25, 2025.

**Prof. Ashis Kumar Das, Department of Biological Sciences,** participated in the Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Malaria and Other Communicable Diseases, held at ICMR National Institute of Malaria Research, Dwarka, New Delhi (Plenary talk) during January 31 to February 2, 2025, Prof. Ashis Kumar Das, also participated in the 9th International Conference on Plasmodium vivax Research, hosted by the ICMR- Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry, India, during February 12 to 14, 2025.

**Prof. Ashis Kumar Das, Department of Biological Sciences,** participated in the Illumina Innovation Day on March 8, 2025, Sheraton, New Delhi and Prof. Das was also invited for Oxford Nanopore WYMM Tour at Bangalore on March 25, 2025. He was invited to visit as an expert at Illumina Solution Centre, Bengaluru, on March 26, 2025.

**Prof. Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences,** was invited as a PhD Viva-voce Examiner, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur, on February 17, 2025.

**Prof. Chandra Shekhar, Department of Mathematics**, was honored with the IARS Research Excellence Award 2024 in recognition of significant contributions to Operations Research, Queueing Theory, Inventory Theory, and Supply Chain Management. The award was conferred by the Indian Association of Reliability and Statistics (IARS) during the International Seminar organized by the Department of Statistics, M.D. University, Rohtak, on March 1, 2025.

- Prof. Chandra Shekhar receives the IARS Research Excellence Award



**Prof. Kamalesh Kumar, Department of Civil Engineering**, received multiple recognitions for his outstanding contributions as a peer reviewer in reputed journals. He was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing by the Journal of Engineering Research and Reports for his exceptional role in maintaining the journal's quality standards.

The STM Journals, Journal of Geotechnical Engineering (ISSN: 2394-1987), has conferred many Review Certificates on Prof. Kumar for his thorough peer reviews of significant research papers. These include "Geotechnical Analysis and Performance Evaluation of Subgrade Materials in Road Construction", "Geotechnical Influence Factors in Empirical Design of Highway Pavement: The A123 Ilorin–Lokoja Highway, Nigeria Case Studies", "Efficacy of Strain Wedge Method Against Traditional p–y Method for Analysis of Piles Subjected to Different Load and Soil Condition – A Review", and "Analysis of Elevated Liquid Storage Tank on Sloping Ground with Variable Heights".

Prof. Kumar was also awarded Best Researcher Award in the Field of Civil Engineering by the Scientific Laurels Committee in recognition of his exceptional achievements and outstanding contributions to Research and Development in March 2025.

**Prof. Hitesh Datt Mathur, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering**, was awarded a Fellowship Grant from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi in



April 2025 to accelerate community innovations in battery energy storage in India. The fellowship aims to foster innovation in battery energy storage, focusing on community-level applications that enhance energy accessibility, sustainability, and resilience.

Prof. Mathur was also selected for the highly prestigious Scientific High-Level Visiting Fellowships (SSHN) 2025, awarded by the Embassy of France in India. This distinguished fellowship recognizes leading Indian researchers' exceptional contributions and seeks to strengthen Indo-French scientific collaboration.

As part of the SSHN fellowship, Prof. Mathur will undertake an academic visit to CentraleSupélec, Gif-sur-Yvette, France, one of Europe's most reputed engineering and research institutions. His visit will focus on advancing collaborative research in smart grids, renewable energy systems, and battery energy storage technologies, paving the way for innovative solutions and creating new avenues for impactful international research partnerships.

## Invited Lectures/Talks by Faculty

**Prof. Chennu Ranganayakulu, Department of Mechanical Engineering**, presented a technical paper at the International Conference on Fluid Mechanics, Heat Transfer and Thermodynamics (ICFMHTT-25), Hamburg, Germany. She also covered an invited talk at Institute of Thermodynamics, Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany, during May 9 to 10, 2025.

**Prof. Shuchita Goyal, Department of Mathematics**, delivered a talk on "Graph Complexes" in the Mathematics Colloquium at IIT Delhi on July 31, 2025.

**Prof. Sudeshna Mukherjee, Department of Biological Science**, delivered a lecture on "Introduction to Regulatory bodies for biosafety, IBSC, and bio-waste management" during a training Programme on "Biosafety and Biohazards" organized by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) & Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on March 22, 2025.

**Prof. Soumitra Ghosh, Department of Biological Sciences**, delivered a lecture on "Regulations and Guidelines for Recombinant-DNA Research" during a training Programme on "Biosafety and Biohazards" organized by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) & the Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on March 22, 2025.

**Prof. Shilpi Garg, Department of Biological Sciences**, delivered a talk on "Cell Death Mechanisms in eukaryotes with special emphasis on malaria parasite" for Lecture

Series 5 on Chronological Genetic Update, 2024-25, organized by the Department of Genetics, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana, on February 10, 2025 and she also delivered a lecture on "Regulations and Guidelines for Biocontainment and Waste Management" during a training Programme on "Biosafety and Biohazards" organized by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) & Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on March 22, 2025.

**Prof. Syamantak Majumder, Department of Biological Sciences**, delivered an invited talk entitled "Nitric Oxide Defines the Epigenetic Landscape of Endothelial Cells Through Protein S-nitrosylation" at the National Conference of the Society for Nitric Oxide and Allied Radicals, held at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee during February 21 to 22, 2025 and also delivered an invited talk entitled "S-Nitrosylation of EZH2: A Key Regulator of PRC2 Complex and Endothelial Homeostasis" at the Vascular Biology Symposium, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, during April 17 to 18, 2025. Prof. Majumder also delivered an invited talk titled "S-Nitrosylation Dependent Regulation of PRC2 Complex to Maintain Vascular Homeostasis" at the 7th Bio-Group India Meeting, at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, on July 11-12, 2025.

**Prof. Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences**, delivered a keynote lecture on "Harnessing the amazing potential of fungi" at the National Conference on Innovation and Frontiers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Materials: Bridging Science and Sustainability (IFSTEM-2025), Department of Applied Sciences, JIET, Jodhpur, during May 30 to 31, 2025

**Prof. Ashis Kumar Das, Department of Biological Sciences**, participated and delivered a Plenary talk in the Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Malaria and Other Communicable Diseases, held at ICMR National Institute of Malaria Research, Dwarka, New Delhi, during January 31, 2025 to February 2, 2025 and also delivered an invited talk entitled "Severe Plasmodium vivax malaria: myth or reality?" at an International Conference on Sustainable Healthcare from Biological Resources, organized by the Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus held during May 20 to 22, 2025

**Prof. Prabhat Nath Jha, Department of Biological Sciences**, was invited as the guest of honor to the DNA Day Celebration where he delivered a talk on "Invisible Associates: Microbiome as a critical player in host health" at Central University of Haryana, Mahendragarh, on April 25, 2025.

**Prof. Balakumaran Chandrasekar, Department of Biological Sciences**, delivered an invited talk on "Soybean-Macrophomina interactions at the cell wall interface", CTCPB at BITS Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus on February 25, 2025, and also delivered an invited talk entitled "Mechanistic Insights into Soybean-Macrophomina interactions at the cell wall interface: Glycomics and Proteomics Approaches", at IIT Mandi, India, on March 8, 2025. He delivered an invited talk titled "Decoding the Sugary secrets during Plant-microbe interactions at the cell wall interface", during Bioingene, an online webinar, India, on May 17, 2025.

**Prof. Mukul Joshi, Department of Biological Sciences** delivered an invited talk on "Transcriptomic approach for identification of heat shock proteins from Prosopis cineraria, their interaction studies and crop improvement" at the 46th Annual Meeting of Plant Tissue Culture Association (India) and Symposium on Current Trends and Challenges in Plant Biotechnology held at BITS Pilani, K. K. Birla Goa Campus during February 24 to 26, 2025.

## Distinguished Lectures

1. **Prof. Souvik Bhattacharjee**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, delivered an invited talk on "Essentials of Biosafety in a laboratory environment" during a training Programme on "Biosafety and Biohazards" organized by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) & Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on 22 March 2025.
2. **Dr. Amulya K Panda**, Associate Director, Panacea Biotec Limited, delivered a lecture on "Translating Innovation in Biotechnology".
3. **Dr. Senjuti Sinharoy**, Scientist, National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi, delivered a lecture on "The Dynamic Duo: Controlling Immunity and Switching to Biological Nitrogen Fixation Inside a Root Nodule".
4. **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar**, President, Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad, delivered a lecture on "Industry-Academia Partnership – Lessons from a Few Case Studies".
5. **Prof. Santosh S. Mathapati**, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, delivered a lecture on "Biomimetic Tissue Implants: Bridging Bench and Bedside".
6. **Prof. Saravanan Matheshwaran**, BSBE, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, delivered a lecture on "Targeting Mycobacterium tuberculosis LexA: To Combat Antimicrobial Resistance".

7. **Dr. Saurabh Chandra**, Associate Director, DABUR Research Foundation, Ghaziabad, delivered a lecture on "Regulations for Drug Development".

8. **Prof. Rupesh Deshmukh**, Head, Department of Biotechnology, Central University of Haryana, delivered a lecture on "Exploration of Multi-Target Genome Editing for Translational and Basic Research in Plant Science".

9. **Dr. Amitava Das**, Senior Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, delivered a lecture on "Stem Cell Therapies: Intricacies and Application".

10. **Prof. Sumit Kumar Hira**, University of Burdwan, delivered a talk on "Combating Immune Resistance in Cancer: Leveraging Dendritic Cell Therapy to Overcome Tumor Evasion" at the Department of Biological Sciences on February 20, 2025

## Significant Projects

S.No.	Principal Investigator	Department	Title of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount in INR
1	Dr. Pratik N Sheth	CHEM ENGG	Biomass to green Hydrogen: Development of 100KG/Day H2 Production via oxy-steam-CO2 gasification integrated with catalytic CO Conversion and continuous H2 separation using a mixed matrix hollow fibre membrane System	MNRE	4,27,00,200.00
2	Dr. M S Dasgupta	MECH ENGG	Sustainable cooling and heating in India	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	95,50,000.00
3	Dr. Soumitra Ghosh	Bio.Sci.	"Exploring androgen signalling in Oral cancer: a mechanistic approach to address gender bias and develop targeted therapy	SERB	71,90,064.00
4	Dr. Pragyanshu Khare	PHA	An investigation on alpha2B adrenergic receptor blockage together with pharmacological cold mimicking against insulin resistance and related metabolic complications	SERB	59,90,400.00
5	Dr. Syed Mohammad Zafaruddin	EEE	An Integrated Free Space and Underwater Optical Quantum Communication System	Department of Telecommunication	55,83,050.00
6	Dr. Asish Bera	CS&IS	Development of a Vision-Language Model for in situ Plant Health Diagnosis Using Visual and Soil Information	SERB	54,23,054.00
7	Dr. Rajdeep Chowdhury Co-PI-Dr. Syamantak Majumder	Bio.Sci.	Deciphering molecular crosstalk between cancer and endothelial cells crucial to mesenchymal to epithelial transition (MET) and colonization of circulating tumor cells	DBT	52,02,160.00
8	Dr. Ankit Jain	PHA	Chemo-photothermal therapy for skin cancer using surface-active ionic liquid-assisted nanogel of gossypol: A non-invasive, multi-pronged delivery approach	SERB	50,54,400.00
9	Dr. Sumanta Pasari Co-PI Dr. Udayan Chanda, Dr. Ashish Patel	MATH	15 Minute Interval Day-Ahead Solar Generation Forecasting with ML-Driven Weather and Inverter Analytics	Avaada Energy Pvt Ltd	41,34,240.00
10	Dr. Monika Sandhu	Bio.Sci.	"Validation of Polychlorinated biphenyl degrading consortia-based bioformulation TETRABAC-MAPB under simulated field trials."	DST	38,81,000.00
11	Dr. Sushila Shekhawat Co-PI Dr. Rayson K Alex, Goa Campus	HSS	Digitization of Environmentally Sustainable Practices of the Bishnoi Community for wider Knowledge Dissemination and Effectiveness	DST	38,31,028.00
12	Dr. Jagat Sesh Challa	CS&IS	AI for Banking, Finance and Insurance domain	Impactsure Technologies Pvt Ltd	33,57,975.00
13	Dr. Sachin Belgamwar Co-PI Dr. Jitendra Singh Rathor	MECH ENGG	Large Scale Deployment and Scaling up of Power Assisted Hybrid E-Trike for People with Disability PAH E-TRIKE Phase II	DST	30,05,600.00
14	Dr. Aritra Banerjee	PHY	Unravelling Ultra-Relativistic Symmetries: Connecting Horizons and Flat Bands	SERB	27,49,232.00

S.No.	Principal Investigator	Department	Title of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount in INR
15	Dr. Sushil Yadav	PHA	Designing of Fodder Pellets using locally available leaves: An approach to doubling farmers income	NABARD	26,18,000.00
16	Dr. Sajal Mukherjee	PHY	Gravitational waves from binaries in generic orbits	SERB	23,36,400.00
17	Dr. Suvanjan Bhattacharyya	MECH ENGG	Addressing Thermal Challenges under marine conditions: The Impact of Roll, Pitch, and Yaw motion and ship-induced Vibration on Heat Exchanger Performance in a ship	SERB	23,25,992.00
18	Dr. Tribeni Roy	MECH ENGG	From Farm to Filament: Extracting Innovative 3D Printing Materials from Agricultural Residues	DST	23,21,660.00
19	Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Subhasis Pradhan Co-PI Prof. Dipendu Bhunia, Prof. S. N. Patel, Prof. Gaurav Watts, and Prof. Aneesh A. M.	CIVIL ENGG	Design optimization of Composite Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) Pressure Vessel	Siemens Energy IN Ltd	22,89,200.00
20	Dr. Hitesh Dutt Mathur Co-PI Dr. Ashish Patel	EEE	Energy data analysis and energy savings	Global Energy Management & Solutions	22,08,960.00
21	Dr. Ashutosh Bhatia Co-PI Dr. Kamlesh Tiwari, Dr. Arun Kumar Jalan, Dr. Yashwardhan Sharma	CS&IS	Rotor Balancing through Digitalization @Digital Twin	Siemens	20,93,910.00
22	Dr. P R Deepa	Bio.Sci.	Leveraging Diet and Modifiable Risk Factors to combat Metabolic Syndrome (MetS): Multi-omics Mechanistic approach to Validate Calorie Restriction Mimetics (CRMs) for Pharmacological and Nutritional interventions	ICMR	19,50,932.00
23	Dr. Bharti Khungar	CHE	Fluorescent probes for bioimaging of potential biomarkers in parkinson's disease	DST Rajasthan	18,61,000.00
24	Dr. Deepak Chitkara	PAH	Compositional Delineation, Process Optimization and Characterization of selected marketed products	Anta Capital Holding Private Limited	17,92,694.00
25	Dr. Prateek	HSS	Between Ritual and Theater: Swang Performance in Buksa Tribal Tradition	ICSSR	15,00,000.00
26	Dr. Aniruddha Roy	PHA	Development of stand-alone fully automated device for making sterile autologous cell grafted bioscaffold spray for skin transplants	DBT	14,60,000.00
27	Dr. Anil Jindal	PHA	Development of antibiotic nanoformulation for the prevention and treatment of udder infection in dairy animals	DST Rajasthan	14,31,000.00
28	Dr. Rajesh Kumar	MATH	Study of a Prion Dynamics model in the presence of Interferon and Chaperone	DST Rajasthan	14,18,400.00
29	Dr. Sundaresan Raman	CS&IS	Developing AI models for identifying multiple retinal diseases based on fundus images. Ensuring compatibility with multiple	Seva Foudation	11,47,500.00
30	Dr. Pratik N Sheth Co-PI Dr. Anupam Singhal	CHEM ENGG	conducting audit of City Action Plans in line with the guidelines of National Knowledge Network (NKN) & Institute of Reputes (IoRs) under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).	Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board	7,50,000.00
31	Dr. Achint Nigam	ECO&FIN	Generative AI for skill development	GUS Global Services Pvt LTd	5,90,590.00
32	Dr. Aneesh A M	MECH	"Experimental Investigation of Condenser Tubes with Micro-, Mini-, and Macro-Sized Fins for Two-Phase Immersion Cooling"	Experiqs	5,83,000.00
33	Dr. Byomkesh Debata	ECO&FIN	Study of usage and implementation of published Indian standards in Banking and Financial Services Sector	Bureau of Indian Standards	5,25,000.00
34	Dr. Leela Rani	MGMT	Evaluation of CSS Schemes in Package 6- Drinking water and sanitation sector	Ipsos Research Pvt Ltd	5,00,000.00

# Student round up

## The 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Blood Donation Camp was successfully held

The 43rd edition of the Blood Donation Camp (BDC) was successfully held, continuing a proud tradition at BITS Pilani. Organized annually by NSS BITS Pilani in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, the BDC stands as one of the country's largest student-driven blood donation

- Blood Donation Camp organized by NSS BITS Pilani in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi



The event was inaugurated by Prof. N. V. M. Rao, Dean (Administration), BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, alongside Registrar Col. Saumyabrata Chakraborty (Retd.). The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. A. P. Singh, Dean (AUGSD), Prof. Navin Singh, Associate Dean (SWD), Prof. Shamik Chakraborty, Associate Dean (AGSRD), Prof. R. P. Mishra, Chief Warden, and other esteemed faculty members.

The campaign leveraged digital platforms to spread awareness, share testimonials, and encourage participation through interactive posts, countdowns, and informative

drives, addressing the crucial need for a steady blood supply in healthcare. The camp not only promoted voluntary blood donation among youth but also raised awareness about the life-saving impact of regular contributions. By providing an accessible platform for students and faculty to donate blood, it fostered a strong culture of altruism and social responsibility within the Campus community.

content that debunked common myths about blood donation. The camp was further supported through collaborations with Care Today, LG India, CSB Pilani, Midtown Pilani, and 301°F BITS Pilani.

The two-day drive witnessed an overwhelming response from students, faculty, and residents, with a remarkable 669 units of blood donated. With continuous improvements in strategy and execution, the Blood Donation Camp remained a testament to the collective spirit of the BITS Pilani community in advancing this noble cause.

## APOGEE 2025

**BITS Pilani, March 28, 2025** – The much-anticipated 43rd edition of APOGEE, BITS Pilani's premier technical festival, began with a grand inauguration ceremony, bringing together distinguished personalities, cutting-edge technology, and a vision for innovation.

The festival was honored by the presence of Hon'ble Justice Ranjan Gogoi, the 46th Chief Justice of India, as the Chief Guest. A key figure in shaping India's judiciary, Justice Gogoi's landmark judgments have left a lasting impact on the nation. His insights during the event provided thought-provoking perspectives to the audience.

Adding to the grandeur of the inauguration, Anil Kumar Gupta, a pioneering advocate of grassroots innovation and sustainability, and Dilip D'Souza, an acclaimed writer and journalist, were also present. Mr. Gupta, known for empowering countless innovators at the grassroots level,

was expected to offer internship opportunities to deserving students, while Mr. D'Souza shared his sharp analyses of social and political issues. Both delivered exclusive talks during the festival, offering deeper insights into their respective fields.

APOGEE 2025 featured keynote lectures by industry leaders, workshops on cutting-edge technologies, hackathons pushing the boundaries of innovation, quizzes challenging knowledge, and professional shows for entertainment and engagement. The festival provided a stimulating environment for learning, interaction, and showcasing talent.

Following the inauguration, attendees witnessed a breathtaking Clock Tower Audio-Visual Show at the Rotunda. This spectacular fusion of lights, sound, and motion graphics brought the iconic Clock Tower to life in a mesmerizing display.

As APOGEE 2025 unfolded, BITS Pilani once again established itself as a hub of technical excellence,

innovation, and creative expression, delivering an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

- APOGEE 2025



### BITS Pilani Team Wins TATA National Hackathon.

In a remarkable display of interdisciplinary innovation, a team of Mechanical Engineering students from BITS Pilani secured the first position at the esteemed TATA Consulting Engineers (TCE) ACE Hackathon.

The trio — Parth Pravin Hande, Aditya Dar, and Mohd Abdullah Wasif — competed under the name “BITSolution” and emerged victorious among ten finalist teams from premier institutions, including several NITs and IITs.

The competition, held at TATA Consulting Engineers' Mumbai office, challenged participants to devise strategies for accelerating the deployment of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across India — a critical component in the nation's pursuit of sustainable mobility. The BITSolution team distinguished themselves by presenting a comprehensive approach that integrated innovative business models with advanced engineering solutions.

- Wins TATA National Hackathon



This victory highlighted the exceptional talent nurtured at BITS Pilani and served as an inspiring example of how young engineers could contribute to sustainable development through multidisciplinary collaboration. The team's motto, “Adapt, Improvise, Overcome,” encapsulated their approach, reflecting resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges.

Their proposal featured detailed financial projections and an AI-driven optimization model incorporating a novel metric, exemplifying the fusion of mechanical engineering principles with business acumen and artificial intelligence. This methodology not only addressed the technical

challenges of expanding EV infrastructure but also ensured economic feasibility and scalability. As winners, the team was awarded a cash prize of INR 50,000. The TCE ACE Hackathon is renowned for its rigorous selection process, which in 2025 narrowed approximately 200 participating teams down to ten finalists through multiple screening rounds.

### Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Award 2025

The Mechanical Engineering Department of BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus organized the Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Award function on April 27, 2025, at the J.C. Chaudhry NAB Auditorium. The occasion was graced by Prof. N.V.M. Rao, Dean (Administration), BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, Prof. Srikanta Routroy, HOD of Mechanical Engineering, along with other faculty members, students, and the family members of the late Mr. Chitrarth Dagar. Mr. Dagar, a bright student from the 2011–15 batch, had a keen interest in music and was an active member of Gurukul.

- Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Award 2025



The function commenced with a welcome note, followed by the screening of a short film on Chitrarth, highlighting his participation in various events and activities at BITS Pilani. The Gurukul team then performed a musical tribute, which was followed by a minute of silence in memory of Chitrarth Dagar.

Prof. Routroy, HOD of Mechanical Engineering, explained the procedure for selecting the best-performing Mechanical Engineering student and announced the recipient of the Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Award for 2025: Mr. Amarthya Guru (2022A4PS0449P). The award for the best-performing Gurukul student was presented to Mr. Aditya Anand (2021AAPS0251P). Both awards were conferred by the Dagar family along with Prof. N.V.M. Rao.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. T.C. Bera, marking a heartfelt remembrance of Chitrarth Dagar's legacy and celebrating the achievements of current students.

**Chetan V N (P20220403)** received the Best Oral Presentation award in the Plant Microbe Interaction thematic area at the 46th Annual Meeting of Plant Tissue Culture Association (India) and Symposium on Current

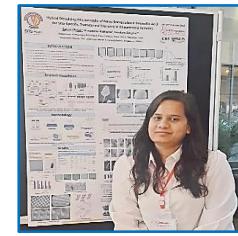
Trends and Challenges in Plant Biotechnology-2025, held during February 24 to 26, 2025.

**Ms. Sakshi Priya (2021PHXF0459P)** showcased her research titled “Design and characterization of surface modified nanoparticles embedded gel for enhanced skin permeation and site-specific delivery of anti-arthritis molecule” and won the Best Poster Presentation Award with the cash prize of ₹ 5000 at the Translating Pharmaceutical Innovations to Reality (TPIR) 2025 conference, jointly organized by the Department of Pharmacy and BITS-TEC Team, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus during January 17-18, 2025.



**Navya Kommuri (2024A7PS0594P), Tarooshna Singh Chauhan (2024B4PS0995P), and Navtej Sai Singh Dua (2024ADPS1219P)** were finalists in Videsh Neeti (a nationwide case competition organized by IIT Kanpur) at IIT Kanpur on February 1, 2025.

**Ms. Sakshi Priya (2021PHXF0459P)** was awarded the “Best Poster Presentation Award (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)” with the cash prize of 100 \$ at the CR Singapore Connecting Continents in Delivery Science 2025 conference held during February 19 to 21, 2025 at the National University of Singapore, Singapore for presenting her innovative research work on “Hybrid Dissolving Microneedle of Nano-Encapsulated Boswellic Acid for Site-Specific Transdermal Delivery in Rheumatoid Arthritis”.



**Muthusaravanan S (P20220006)** was awarded the first position for the Best Poster Presentation in the Plant Microbe interaction thematic area at the 46th Annual Meeting of Plant Tissue Culture Association (India), and Symposium on Current Trends and Challenges in Plant Biotechnology-2025 held during February 24 to 26, 2025.

**Shradha Bhatnagar (P20210009)** received ICPvR Travel Grant to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Plasmodium vivax Research in Puducherry, India, held in February 2025.

**Sampreeti Tahbildar (P20190407)** received the Best Poster Presentation award in the 9th International Conference on Plasmodium vivax Research held in Puducherry (ICPvR 2025), India, February 2025. She also received ICPvR Travel grant to attend the conference, held in February 2025.

**Saurabh Singh (P20200426)** received ICPvR Travel Support to attend the 9th International Conference on

Plasmodium vivax Research (ICPV 2025) in Puducherry, India, held in February 2025.

**Kanika Hada (P20220007)** received ICPV Travel Support to attend the 9th International Conference on Plasmodium vivax Research (ICPV 2025) in Puducherry, India, held in February 2025.

**Sri Aurobindo Panda (2021PHXF0058P)** received Best Paper Presentation award in International Conference on



Advances in Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology (ICANN)-2025, held at the Oxford College of Science, Bangalore University, Department of Chemistry, association with Core-Facility Center for Photochemistry & Nanomaterials, Gyeongsang National University (GNU), South Korea (Online Mode), held during March 5 to 6, 2025.

**Garima Singh (P20190418)** received the BITS International Travel grant for the Microbiology Society Annual Conference 2025, Liverpool, United Kingdom held during March 31 to April 3, 2025, and she also received the FEMS MICRO Congress Attendance grant to attend FEMS MICRO 2025 Congress & Exhibition held during July 14-17, 2025 in Milan, Italy, for a Flash Talk and poster presentation.

**Shreya Bhatnagar (P20210009)** received a Travel Grant from the Indian Society of Extracellular Vesicles for an Oral presentation at AIIMS New Delhi during the Conference - EVOLVE, organized by InSEV, the Indian Society of Extracellular Vesicles, held during March 24 to 26, 2025 and also received the ICMT Travel Grant for poster presentation in the International Society of Extracellular Vesicle ISEV 2025 Annual Meet, Vienna, Austria, held during April 24 to 27, 2025.

**Sayantani Chatterjee (P20200474)** received a travel grant to attend the EMBL Conference: BioMalPar XXI – Biology and Pathology of the Malaria Parasite, held at EMBL Heidelberg, Germany, during May 20 to 22, 2025.

**Shreyas M Iyer (P20200005)** got the Best Poster Award at the International Conference on Challenges and Advancements in the Treatment of Neurological Disorders (ICCATND'25), organised by the Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus during March 21 to 22, 2025 and she also got the Best Poster Award in the International Conference on Sustainable Healthcare from Biological Resources organised by the Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus held during May 20 to 22, 2025.

**Tripti Joshi (P20190441)** received the Best Poster Presentation award (3rd prize) in the Symposium on

“Striving towards innovation and entrepreneurship: Identifying the pathways” organised by the School of Interdisciplinary Research and Entrepreneurship (SIRE) and Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), BITS Pilani- 2025.

**Sonali J Jain (P20220402)** received the IGSTC (Indo-German Science & Technology Centre) PhD Industrial Exposure Fellowship (PIEF) 2025.

**Palash Verma (2025A7MM0224P)** was granted a patent in the digital technology domain. As he was a minor at the time of filing, the patent was registered under his parents' company. The patent, No. 562342, is titled “A Noise Reduction and Face Isolation System and Method Therefor”, reflecting Palash's innovative contribution to advanced digital solutions.



**Ms. Sakshi Priya (2021PHXF0459P)** was awarded with Special Mention Award for 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) - Communicate Your Research in 180 Seconds, on Research Scholars Day, held on July 23, 2025, organized by BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus. She presented titled “Microneedle-assisted transdermal systems for effective rheumatoid arthritis therapy” demonstrated her ability to convey complex scientific research in a simple, engaging, and impactful manner within just three minutes.



**Bhavya Tripathi (2020PHXF0011P)**, received appreciation gift for poster presentation titled “Biochar production from Cotton and Neem agro waste: production, characterization and soil amendment” in the event Research scholar day on July 23, 2025, at Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus.



**Priyanka Roy (P20200424)** received an ICGEB Fellowship to attend the IV Molecular Biosystems Conference on Eukaryotic Gene Regulation and Functional Genomics, held in Puerto Varas, Chile, held during September 29 to October 3, 2025, and also received the MPS Travel Grant to participate in the 36th Annual Meeting of the Marine Biological Laboratory (MPM XXXVI), Woods Hole, USA, 2025.

## INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

S.No	Name of Faculty	Designation	Department
1.	Aditya Singh	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Chemical Engineering
2.	Saikat Bhattacharjee	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Chemical Engineering
3.	Md Rushdie Ibne Islam	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Civil Engineering
4.	Gopal Singh Phartiyal	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Computer Sci & Information Sys
5.	Rakhi Agrawal	Professor of Practice	Computer Sci & Information Sys
6.	Rajesh Kumar	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Computer Sci & Information Sys
7.	Yash Sinha	Assistant Professor, Gr-II	Computer Sci & Information Sys
8.	Sambangi Ramesh	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Electrical & Electronics Engg
9.	Saurabh Gandhi	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Electrical & Electronics Engg
10.	Shubha Sharma	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Electrical & Electronics Engg
11.	Hricha Rashmi	Visiting Assistant Professor	Humanities and Social Sciences
12.	Susan Haris R	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Humanities and Social Sciences
13.	Shriya Raina	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Humanities and Social Sciences
14.	Abhishek Verma	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Management
15.	Daitri Tiwary	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Management
16.	Ankan Pal	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Mathematics
17.	Deepak Bhoriya	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Mathematics
18.	Sudarshan Santra	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Mathematics
19.	Gaurav Sharma	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Mechanical Engineering
20.	Yogesh Singh	Assistant Professor, Gr-I	Mechanical Engineering

### EDITOR



**Prof. Gajendra Singh Chauhan**  
Faculty In-charge, Publications and Media Relations

### Special Thanks



**Mr. Ramesh Sharma**  
Publications and Media Relations

