Convocation 2025 K K Birla Goa Campus



Pilani | Dubai | Goa | Hyderabad | Mumbai



BITS Vision

"What do we propose to do here? We want to teach real science whether it is engineering, chemistry, humanities, physics or any other branch. We want to develop a scientific approach in Pilani, which means there would be no dogma. There will be a search for truth. What we propose to do here is to cultivate a scientific mind."



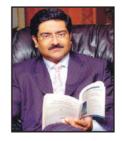
--The Late Shri G. D. Birla Founder Chairman, BITS Pilani.



"....to prepare young men and women to act as leaders for the promotion of the economic and industrial development of the country and to play a creative role in service to humanity."

--The Late Dr. K. K. Birla Former Chancellor, BITS Pilani.

"What is it that can empower our nation? The most obvious answer is education. Education that enhances livelihoods but also education that is value-based. Education that gives roots and gives wings as well."



--Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla Chancellor, BITS Pilani

innovate achieve lead

MINUTE TO MINUTE PROGRAMME OF CONVOCATION 2025 27 July 2025

9:15 AM	Senate members assemble in the auditorium lobby in two columns as per the specified
	sequence after wearing robes
9:22 AM	Wearing of robes by the Chief Guest, Vice-Chancellor, Directors and Registrar
9:30 AM	Introduction of the Senate members to the Chief Guest by the Vice-Chancellor and the
	Director
9:48 AM	Vice-Chancellor declares the Convocation open
9:50 AM	Chancellor's message
10:10 AM	Vice-Chancellor presents the report on the activities of the Institute
10:27 AM	Director presents a report on the activities of the K K Birla Goa Campus
10:43 AM	Chief Guest delivers his Convocation address
11:03 AM	Vice-Chancellor presents a memento to the Chief Guest
11:04 AM	Release of a Coffee Table Book celebrating 20 years of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa
	Campus
11:05 AM	Chief Guest presents alumni with Young Achievers Awards
11:08 AM	Award of degrees and medals
12:48 PM	Administration of the oath to recipients of degrees by the gold medallist
12:51 PM	Graduation speech by Mr. Ashman Mehra
12:56 PM	Dean Administration presents the vote of thanks
01:00 PM	Vice-Chancellor declares the Convocation adjourned
01:01 PM	The National Anthem
01:04 PM	Academic procession led by the Registrar departs the Convocation Hall

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INTRODUCING BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI AND THE K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS

The Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, declared a Deemed to be University in 1964 and an Institution of Eminence in 2020, was established by combining the colleges of Engineering, Arts, Science, Commerce and Pharmacy, which had originally evolved from a pathshala that was started in 1901. The qualities of innovation, enterprise, commitment to excellence, adherence to merit, and transparency have characterised the Institute all through its journey towards its eminence. The guiding principles of the Institute, as envisioned by the founding fathers, emphasize on its role "to provide for and otherwise promote education and research in the fields of Technology, Science, Humanities, Industry, Business, Public Administration and to collate and disseminate in such fields effective ideas, methods, techniques and information as are likely to promote the material and industrial welfare of India"; while doing so, the Institute resolves to "train young men and women able and eager to create and put into action such ideas, methods, techniques and information".

The Institute was initially registered as a Society under the Rajasthan Societies Registration Act of 1958 on the 13th of May 1964. Subsequently, by notification published in the Gazette of India dated the 27th of June 1964, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, declared that the Institute, being an institution for higher education, shall be "deemed to be a University". The Institute started functioning with effect from 1st July 1964, with late Shri G.D. Birla as its Founder Chairman.

The Institute was initially a small "Pathshala" (village school) in Pilani way back in the year 1901, started by Seth Shiv Narainji Birla with only one teacher, for educating his grandsons, late Shri G.D. Birla and late Shri R.D. Birla. Pilani was then a small, isolated desert village in Rajasthan. The Pathshala evolved slowly and steadily into a High School in 1925 and became an Intermediate College in 1929.

The Intermediate College developed into a degree college in 1943. In 1947, this college was raised to a postgraduate level. In 1950, Pharmacy courses were started in this college, and in 1952, it was bifurcated into the College of Arts and the College of Science, Commerce and Pharmacy.

During World War II, the Government of India established a Technical Training Centre at Pilani for the supply of technicians for the Defence Services and industry. In 1946, the late Shri G.D. Birla decided to convert it into an engineering college with degree programmes in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. The master's programme in Electronics was started in 1955. B.E. programmes in Civil Engineering and Chemical Engineering were started later. In 1964 with the inception of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, the colleges, viz., Birla College of Science, Commerce and Pharmacy, Birla College of Arts and Birla College of Engineering situated at Pilani, as also all properties, movable and immovable, together with educational facilities, hostels, staff quarters, playgrounds, etc. became part of the Institute. During the early years of its inception, i.e., 1964 to 1970, the Institute, with the support of a Ford Foundation Grant, collaborated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. It helped the Institute to bring in the semester system, modular structure of courses, continuous and internal evaluation, and letter grading, to name a few, thereby making an independent mark in its pedagogy and curriculum design. The

proverbial feather in the cap came in the form of institutionalised linkages with the industries. Over a period of time, the Institute also introduced several flexibilities in its curricular structure, making it dynamic and orienting it towards student excellence.

Shri K.K. Birla, who took over as the Chairman of BITS in 1983, was deeply involved and closely associated with his visionary father in running both the earlier Birla Colleges and the current institute, BITS, since its inception. With his great involvement in all the activities of the Institute, he worked relentlessly to give shape to his father, Late Shri G.D. Birla's vision. After taking over the responsibility of running the institute, Shri K.K. Birla, who became the Chancellor in 2003, realised the need for a greater number of promising graduates in the field of science and technology to bring up the nation's development. Hence, he initiated a gradual increase in the intake of students at the Pilani campus during 1999, which steadily took the total strength from 2500 to 4000. Under his patronage, BITS embarked on a program of expansion, first in Pilani starting in the mid-nineties, and then beyond. The first international campus of any Indian University was established in Dubai in 2000, followed by campuses in Goa in 2004, in Hyderabad in 2008 and in Mumbai in 2021.

Upon the sad demise of Shri K.K. Birla on 30 August 2008, Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla was elected as the Chancellor and Smt. Shobhana Bhartia was appointed as the Pro-Chancellor of the Institute. Under the leadership of a young and dynamic Chancellor, BITS is taking steps to scale greater heights.

BITS Pilani - Accreditations and Ranks.

In its endeavor to attain greater heights in education, research and outreach, BITS Pilani participates in its pursuit of excellence in education, research, and outreach, BITS Pilani actively engages with renowned national and international accreditation and ranking frameworks. The 2024-2025 results reflect the Institute's continued ascent in global visibility and academic distinction. On the international stage, BITS Pilani made notable progress in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024, advancing from the 801-1000 band to the 601-800 band. It also secured a position among the Top 250 in the Asia University Rankings 2025. In the QS World University Rankings 2026, the Institute achieved its best-ever global rank of 668, marking a substantial leap from the 801-850 band in the previous year. Within Asia, QS Asia University Rankings 2025 placed BITS at 171.

Subject-wise, BITS Pilani continues to lead with distinction. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025, the Institute is ranked 84th globally in Pharmacy and Pharmacology-making it the highest-ranked Indian university, public or private, in the discipline. It is also placed among the Top 250 globally in the broad field of Engineering and Technology and ranks No. 1 among private Indian institutions in Civil & Structural Engineering and Physics & Astronomy. In total, four subjects were ranked in the Top 300 globally and eleven in the Top 500. Further underlining its research strength, BITS Pilani was ranked 9th in India by CS Rankings, a prestigious global, research-focused ranking in Computer Science, and is the only private university to appear in the top 10 alongside IITs and ISI.

On the national front, BITS Pilani was re-accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2024 with the highest possible 'A++' grade and an impressive CGPA of 3.68. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024, the Institute secured No. 3 in Pharmacy (retaining its position as the top-ranked private institution), No. 20 in Engineering, No. 19 in the University category,

and No. 23 Overall.

Recognised for its potential to transform into a world-class institution, BITS Pilani was declared an Institution of Eminence by the Government of India on October 1, 2020. Its leadership among private institutions was reaffirmed in 2025 through multiple independent surveys. India Today ranked it No. 1 among private engineering colleges; The WEEK placed it at the top among private and deemed technical universities; and the Times Engineering Rankings 2025 named it No. 1 among the top 175 engineering institutes, as well as No. 1 for research capability. Likewise, the EducationWorld India Higher Education Rankings 2025 positioned BITS Pilani as the No. 1 Private Engineering and Technology University, while the Careers360 Rankings 2025 awarded it the highest "AAAA+" rating in Engineering and identified it as the top private university in India.

BITS Pilani also garnered several prestigious accolades in 2024-2025, including the CII Industrial Innovation Awards - Grand Award for Most Innovative Institute of the Year, the ET TechEDU India Award (Gold) for Excellence in Digital Library Services, and two ET Education Excellence Awards (Gold) for Outstanding Deemed-to-be University and Excellence in Faculty Training and Professional Development.

Through these recognitions, BITS Pilani has reaffirmed its status as the highest-ranked non-government institute in most national surveys, underscoring its sustained impact on the higher education landscape in India.

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus' Strategic Improvement Journey

In the last 15 years, BITS has taken decisive steps to cement its legacy of being an excellent teaching institution, with a focus on research. Besides, the institution has substantially expanded its capacity to provide education to more meritorious students from India and abroad. All these can be achieved through a well-planned transformation program that not only ushered major improvements in academics and research, major overhauling of the infrastructure space with remodelling and new construction of several academic blocks, faculty and student housings and other facilities at Pilani, Goa and Hyderabad campuses. An elaborate growth plan, with increased student and faculty intake over the next 12 years, formed the crux of this transformation.

BITS Pilani has transformed from a very eminent teaching-focused institute to a teaching and research-intensive institute in a short span of time. Since 2009, through strategic improvement exercises, BITS Pilani has significantly bolstered its research and innovation capabilities with a concerted focus on interdisciplinary research and industry income. The beginning of this strategic transformation was with the launch of Vision 2020 in the year 2009, with an aim to improve BITS Pilani's ranking amongst Science & Technology institutions in India and Asia. The improvement in the rankings was planned through 3-year programs, known as "Mission" programs, with a clear objective of bringing significant transformation in chosen focus areas, known as thrust areas. The first such program was called Mission 2012, which saw over 100 faculty members working with BITS leadership in 6 thrust areas. The major achievements of the Mission 2012 program included a renewed focus on research with launching of schemes like Seed Grant and Research Initiation Grant to motivate faculty members, improved administration through automation, introduction of new people policies in recruitment and performance management, bringing distinct brand

identity guidelines, and the most significant of all - the Project "Parivartan".

In November 2011, Chancellor Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla formally announced the Project Parivartan to modernise and expand physical infrastructure in Pilani, which was subsequently extended to Goa and Hyderabad campuses as well.

After Mission 2012, a follow-up program called Mission 2015 was initiated with a focus on seven new thrust areas. Mission 2015 brought further engagement in areas like international student admission, institution-wide innovation and incubation centres and policies, inter-disciplinary centres-of-excellence for research and application, Teaching Learning Centres for research on new age teaching and pedagogy. After two major transformation Missions, the leadership decided to consolidate and review the progress made thus far in the journey towards Vision 2020 and introduced periodic campus and institution reviews. These reviews are now completely institutionalised and are an excellent platform for departments and divisions across BITS to showcase their achievements, and an opportunity to align their objectives and activities with those of the institution. Equipped with several successes and deep learning of implementation of the two strategic programs, followed by periodic institutional reviews, BITS began deliberations for an extended vision that would prepare the institution well beyond 2020.

In 2017, BITS engaged a leading global strategy consultant to formulate an overall roadmap that would propel it to further heights and help attain a leadership position in the coming years. This strategic exercise was named Project Lakshya. This exercise focused mainly on five thrust areas: Research, Faculty, Programs & Pedagogy, Industry Engagement and Alumni Relations. The thrust areas, each led by a senior leader, have set themselves goals that would strengthen and enhance BITS' position amongst the global science and technology institutions.

BITS Pilani has always been a leader in providing excellent education - the eminent alumni and stellar faculty who have been part of this institution for the last 20+ years are a testimony to this fact. In 2018, the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India, identified BITS Pilani for the Institution of Eminence status, concurring and endorsing the faith our students, faculty, and alumni have reposed since its inception. BITS Pilani, Goa campus now admits approximately 1000 first-degree students, 200 higher degree students and 164 PhD students, which includes both full-time and part-time PhD students.

BITS Pilani has established strategic international collaborations with renowned universities in Australia and the USA, including RMIT University (Melbourne), Iowa State University (Ames, USA), and the University at Buffalo (New York, USA to offer selected 2+2 Joint undergraduate twinning Programs, master's, and PhD Programs.

With a strength of around 1100 faculty members and over 1200 staff members across its five campuses, BITS is committed to achieving a faculty-student ratio that meets global standards. BITS Goa has 245 faculty members and 272 staff. BITS is also proud to have a network of over 1.9 Lakh alumni spread across the world. "BITSians" are leaders in vastly varied fields ranging from Industry, Academia, Research, Entrepreneurship, Social Sector, Armed Forces, Entertainment, right up to the Government sectors.

The Government of India has officially released a Rs.60 commemorative coin to mark the Diamond Jubilee of BITS Pilani, celebrating 60 years of excellence in education, research, and innovation. The commemorative coin notified by the Ministry of Finance through the Gazette Notification was formally released during the Convocation Ceremony of BITS School of Management (BITSoM), Mumbai, held on April 14, 2025. This commemorative coin honours the rich legacy and outstanding contributions of BITS Pilani in the field of science, technology, and higher education and stands as a meaningful memento for alumni, students, faculty, staff, and well-wishers, symbolising the institution's impactful six-decade journey.

Innovation Ecosystem: BITS Goa Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Society (BGIIES) supported bio-incubator BITS BIRAC BioNEST facility is set up with the objective of 'Enabling innovation in health care and environment for a better tomorrow. The incubator has a state-of-the-art innovation lab for supporting experiments in Microbiology, Biotechnology and Environmental Engineering to develop technologies and startups that can provide solutions for societal challenges. The incubator is spread over 3500 sq. ft. of office and lab spaces, surrounded by beautiful green landscape; it has the capacity to support more than 20 startups. Currently supporting about 30 incubates in different areas like assistive devices, grey water recycling, healthcare, nutraceuticals, EV sector, renewable energy, waste management, etc. Networks and collaborations, legal, accounting and market research services, along with access to funding opportunities, are provided to support the growth of incubated startups. BGIES is set up with an aim to promote, encourage, and sustain activities and programs contributing to innovation, incubation camp, entrepreneurship education and development. BGIIES will help to grow the incubation and overall startup ecosystem. The Society is funding startups under the Startup India Seed Fund scheme. Currently, 15 startups have been supported under the Grants/ Compulsory Convertible Debenture (CCD) scheme. Key domain areas of these startups are ed-tech, EV charging, wellness camp, healthcare, renewable energy and waste management. BGIIES incubated startup Greenshift Energy Pvt. Ltd. have received the sanction order from BIRAC under the SBIRI program for a project on developing an extrusion process to manufacture 2-6 mm pellets from their proprietary densified biomass material. These pellets are intended to be used in fluidised bed coal combustion systems to meet the 5% renewable fuel mandate for thermal power plants. This comprehensive approach to innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship empowers our students to translate their ideas into reality. We are confident that this will continue to shape a future generation of successful entrepreneurs.

CHANCELLORS'S MESSAGE



Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla

Our Chief Guest today, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, members of the Governing Board of BITS Pilani, Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani, Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director of the Goa campus, Prof Suman Kundu, faculty, proud parents, and of course, the batch of 2025. Good morning to all of you.

60 years ago, at the first convocation of BITS Pilani, my great-grandfather and the founder of this institution, Mr. G D Birla, said, and I quote,

"We have an exciting history of the past 60 years. We started as a small school and grew to a big campus. This is our first convocation, and I hope as time progresses, we shall march onward and onward."

60 years hence-BITS Pilani today, as you would all know, has 18700 students on campus, 40,000+ working professionals through WILP, 1150+ faculty and researchers, 200,000+ alumni, of which 7400 are founders, among them are the creators of 15 unicorns and 2 decacorns. I think my great-grandfather would be delighted to know that BITS has both lived up to his expectations, and how.

A few weeks ago, we outlined a bold new chapter in BITS Pilani's journey-one rooted in scale, inclusivity, and future-readiness. Let me quickly take you through these 3 transformational initiatives.

First, Project Vistaar, a landmark physical expansion across Pilani, Goa, and Hyderabad campuses. This is a Rs. 1,200 crore investment in next-generation learning environments. With new academic and research blocks, residences, and amenities, this initiative will increase student capacity from 16,000 to 21,000 across these three campuses- helping us serve over 26,000 students across all campuses within five years.

Second, we are launching a pioneering AI+ Campus in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. This specialised hub will prepare Indian talent for leadership in frontier technologies like AI, robotics, computational linguistics, and cyber-physical systems. Built to global benchmarks, the campus will host 7,000+ students, offer joint international programs, and serve as a nucleus for research and entrepreneurship.

Third, through BITS Pilani Digital, we are expanding access beyond our campuses-into homes, workplaces, and communities. Over the next five years, we will roll out 32 programs, which include 11 degree and 21 certificate courses, serving 100,000+ learners with flexible, industry-aligned offerings, in

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sync with the National Education Policy's vision for lifelong learning.

Together, these initiatives reaffirm BITS Pilani's enduring mission to nurture talent, spark innovation, and empower India's rise as a knowledge superpower.

Batch of 2025 - Let me now turn to you. Congratulations!

Today, as you stand on the cusp of a new chapter in your lives, I want to share a few thoughts on how you can chart your own paths in this world, a world that, as we all know, is anything but conventional.

The consensus that characterised the last three decades, and much of the post-World War 2 era, appears to have been broken. And the turbulence of the past few months is emblematic of the extent to which common assumptions have been tested. We have built businesses, nations and our individual careers on the ideas of globalisation, free trade, and multilateral institutions. Many of you are too young to remember the days when our booming IT services industry provided a pathway to the West for lakhs of aspirational youngsters each year. But you will have shared in the pride of seeing figures like Satya Nadella or Sundar Pichai rise to the pinnacle of global tech giants in a very short span of time.

The assumptions that powered these engines of career and business growth have been upended. And the signals are everywhere. The tariff wars triggered by the US signal a retreat from multilateralism. China is doubling down on self-reliance. Illustrated by its impressive feats of engineering, for e.g. whether in building the Deepseek.ai models in 18 months to rival OpenAI or reportedly building out a parallel semiconductor ecosystem to compete with that of the West.

These changes have occurred decisively. And it seems for now that old templates no longer apply. Linear models of economic growth - from industrialisation to export-led growth, followed by consumption expansion - are no longer growth models for nations. Mirroring this, traditional career arcs need to be revisited. The notion of steady progression is being replaced by the need for reinvention, adaptability and emotional resilience.

This signals a new paradigm. Lifelong learning is no longer aspirational. It is a survival skill. Sectoral expertise alone will not suffice. Cross-functional awareness will now be table stakes. Careers must be designed like startups - lean, iterative and agile. As a futurist, Alvin Toffler once wrote, and I quote, "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.". The world will reward those who can see across silos, connect the dots, and translate knowledge between domains. In other words, the future belongs to the integrators.

Against this backdrop, AI and its possibilities are both the primary drivers of disruption and the source of new opportunity.

A lot has been said about AI as a career catalyst. The young analyst using AI to parse through 10 years of market data doesn't just do work faster; she is able to apply more creativity, go deeper into pattern recognition, and shift her output to a higher plane. A marketer who generates 100s of AI-generated variants of a campaign overnight doesn't just compress time; he is able to fine-tune his understanding of human reactions in a way that was not possible earlier.

But beyond individual functions, I am more excited by the possibilities offered by AI as a multiplicative

mind. Deep expertise, or an aggregation of agents fluent in different verticals, opens possibilities to solve hard problems and build businesses differently. A doctor with his own practice can now set up a sophisticated records and patient management system to offer vastly improved quality of care. And many such changes like this one are happening today, in timelines of days or hours as opposed to years. An architect can push the boundaries of what is possible with brick and mortar, combining the nuances of materials engineering, structural modelling and rendering. A solopreneur can run an e-commerce business with a nuanced insight into the supply chains of the business.

Al makes time more elastic- collapsing research cycles, accelerating learning curves, and expanding the scope of what one person can accomplish. In this world, the most powerful career move isn't vertical, it is exponential. Where the premium is on ideas, creativity and imagination. Where small groups of people, or even individuals, solve hard problems with the help of Al. Where the unlock stems from knowing what to ask. Where you, as an individual, are no longer constrained by either your previous training or your bandwidth. I spoke earlier about the smashing of traditional assumptions of business and linear career trajectories. Seen through the lens of Al as a multiplicative mind, what a time it is to build!

And there is no better place to build than in India. Both the geopolitical context and the turbocharging powers of AI reinforce my belief in India as a place of tremendous opportunity for those with imagination. Our vast domestic market will continue to be a bulwark against the stormy winds of global turmoil. And the reordering of global supply chains with new tariff structures creates a competitive advantage. Committed investments in manufacturing and infrastructure provide tailwinds. For instance, just electronics manufacturing is expected to grow at 15 - 20% a year for the next two decades, to a \$3 trillion scale. This will require massive industrialisation. Capex across areas from urban infrastructure to logistics and power is expected to top \$11 trillion by 2047. Therefore, the next two decades in India present an exciting range of possibilities for the brave and the curious.

As you step into this market and evaluate which problems to solve, I would exhort you to broaden the aperture of your thinking. Harnessing the new powers at your disposal will require integrity and empathy.

As technology marches ahead and power structures are changed, the gravitational pull of values only intensifies. Integrity has a compounding value. Trust is earned slowly, persistently, often invisibly, through integrity. Through the fog of Al's opaque decisions and geopolitical grey zones, reputational capital becomes a lighthouse. And when the noise fades, these are the questions that matter. Did you resist the temptation to take a shortcut? Did you honour your word? Did you show up in moments that matter? Did you stand by your people when the going got tough? This ledger builds over decades and compounds like no financial instrument can.

Because, unlike technology, values do not depreciate. Unlike networks, they do not collapse under stress. They are the only form of capital that retains relevance regardless of geography or time.

We live in a world that will increasingly reward velocity. As individuals and businesses race to navigate AI, climate change, and fractured geopolitics, change is a constant imperative. But this is the paradox of modern leadership-you must change everything around you, while standing firm at the core.

Batch of 2025- You are the architects of tomorrow. The journeys you embark on will be unconventional,

and that's exactly why they will be exciting. You will encounter challenges and setbacks along the way, but you will also experience triumphs and breakthroughs that will shape the course of your careers.

Remember, the path ahead may not always be clear, and the times may seem unconventional, but it is in these very moments that your greatest potential lies.

In the words of Allama Iqbal:

" सितारों से आगे जहां और भी हैं; अभी इश्क के इम्तिहान और भी हैं। " तू शाहीन है, परवाज़ है काम तेरा; तेरे सामने आसमान और भी हैं। तेरे सामने आसमान और भी हैं."

So, as you take your first steps into this new chapter, do so with courage, conviction, and an unwavering belief in your ability to make a difference.

Be bold. Be daring. And most importantly, be true to the values that have brought you here today.

Congratulations, once again!

Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla Chancellor BITS Pilani

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



Prof. Ramgopal Rao

Hon'ble Chief Guest, Prof Abhay Karandikar, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science & Technology, Distinguished Alumni Awardees, Distinguished Service Awardees, BITS Ratna awardees, Director of Goa Campus Prof Suman Kundu, Directors of other campuses of BITS Pilani, Members of the Senate, Registrar, Faculty and Staff of Pilani campus, colleagues from other campuses, other dignitaries and attendees, and of course the graduating Class of 2025 and their proud parents - I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to you all to Convocation 2025 of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus.

It is a truly special honour to have with us today Prof Abhay Karandikar, our graduating class, and all of us are eagerly looking forward to your inspiring words.

Today marks a grand celebration-not just for our degree recipients, but also for their families and the entire BITS Pilani community. Let me begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students - your relentless efforts have brought you to this moment, and today, we celebrate your well-deserved success. indeed, it is a momentous occasion for you, your parents and your families.

As per tradition, I will provide an overview of the institute's achievements across all the campuses during AY 2024-25, after which Director Prof Kundu will present the detailed Goa campus report.

Four years ago, we embarked on an exciting new chapter with the launch of our Mumbai campus and the inauguration of the BITS School of Management (BITSoM). Two years later, we expanded further with the establishment of the BITS Law School, followed last year by the BITS Design School in Mumbai. This year marks another milestone, as BITSoM, BITS Law, and BITS Design School have all commenced operations at our newly inaugurated Kalyan campus-a moment graced by the Honorable Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. With the launch of these prestigious schools, the BITS Pilani system is steadily evolving into one of the most comprehensive and multidisciplinary university in the country, setting new benchmarks in education and innovation.

The BITS School of Management offers a unique two year full time residential MBA program with a tight-knit cohort of around 160 students and a strong focus on experiential, interdisciplinary, and globally informed learning. It's curriculum-featuring core business fundamentals, electives in data analytics, AI, digital strategy, ethics, and liberal arts-employs block teaching and immersive live projects, including

corporate and social initiatives. Guided by elite faculty from institutions like Wharton, Kellogg, NYU Stern, and SMU, BITSoM hosts smart classrooms and wellness-focused amenities at its modern 60 acre campus. The school has achieved impressive placements, with top recruiters from consulting, finance, FMCG, and tech sectors including marquee names such as McKinsey, Bain, HUL, Aditya Birla Group among others. It is recognized nationally for its future ready curriculum and strong industry engagement.

BITS law school is home to one of its kind Centre for Research in Innovation Law for Shared Prosperity know as CRISP, a specialised Writing Centre, a global Society for Al Governance and Ethics (SAIGE), and a futuristic PALETTE Centre dedicated to Professional Advancement in Law for Executive Training & Technical Education. Our vision for BITS Law School is to build an inspirational benchmark for new age, future ready legal education and research through creativity and empathy. Drawing strength from BITS Pilani's legacy of technological excellence, we aim to foster legal scholarship that contributes to the shared prosperity of societies.

Meanwhile BITS Design School is redefining design education through a bold transdisciplinary approach, merging design, technology, behavioural science, and sustainability to tackle global challenges. Our graduates in design school will be equipped to work at the intersection of strategy, business, technology, and diverse industries, leveraging design to create impactful, life-centred solutions for a better world. Through academic partnerships with Stanford D school, Aalto University, and RMIT University, the school has developed cutting-edge curricula, begun collaborative research, and promotes global perspectives. Guided by an eminent advisory board of industry leaders, academic experts, and design visionaries, I am confident that the BITS Design School will produce innovative, industry-relevant graduates who are poised to shape a sustainable, inclusive future.

It's my great pleasure to present to you the statistics of this graduating class. A remarkable 17014 students will be conferred their degrees across all campuses and WILP programmes, with 26.8% (4563) being female scholars. Among the graduates from on-campus programs, 5696 are from FD or UG programs (15.7% female students), and 11010 will receive HD/PG degrees of which an impressive 32.1% are female graduates. I am extremely delighted to inform you that 268 research scholars (with 46.3% female students) will graduate with a PhD degree. This marks our highest number of doctoral conferrals in a single year, reflecting the resounding success of our strategic emphasis on research excellence.

As you know, BITS Pilani has been a trailblazer in delivering Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Certificate programs through our Work Integrated Learning Program (WILP). Today, this pioneering initiative has expanded to an inspiring 47,744 working professionals. This year, we celebrate the graduation of 12,192 WILP students, with women comprising a commendable 30% of this cohort. Among these achievers 1767 are graduating at the UG level (15.6% female students), 10256 at the PG level (32.6% female students), and 169 with a Post Graduate Diploma (22.9% female students). For many, this milestone represents either their first formal degree or a significant upskilling achievement-empowering them to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Doctoral Programs:

We remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthening our doctoral programs. We welcomed 685 new

PhD Scholars join us in the academic year 2024-2025, while we proudly confer degrees upon 268 doctoral candidates this year. Marking a significant milestone with over 2,500 doctoral students now enrolled across our programs. For the first time in BITS Pilani's history, we have crossed two significant milestones - over 250 PhD graduations in a year and more than 2500 active PhD students enrolled across our campuses.

Our innovative PhD programmes, launched last year, including IMPACT(Industry Mentored PhD in Advanced and Cutting-edge Technologies) and DRIVE(Deeptech Research, Innovation, Value generation & Entrepreneurship), continue to attract exceptional candidates seeking industry-aligned research opportunities. A notable partnership with Wipro Research, has enabled the sponsorship of 20 doctoral students working on cutting-edge technologies, including smart hydraulics, machine vision, robotics, advanced water treatment solutions etc.

Our joint BITS-RMIT PhD Program has crossed the 100 doctoral students mark upon completion of the current admission cycle. Additionally we have initiated joint PhD programs with Iowa State University and University at Buffalo, USA. Alongside we have signed MoUs with leading Indian and International academic institutions, where our faculty will collaborate with joint PhD student supervision.

Our global research community now included international doctoral students from six countries - Botswana, Zambia, Nigeria, Senegal, Bangladesh and Nepal-further enriching our academic ecosystem We have spent 44.2 crore towards providing fellowships to doctoral students in 2024-2025 which was 22% more than the previous financial year. We have sponsored 69 doctoral students to travel to international conferences through the International Travel Award introduced this academic year.

Concurrently, we have revised the curriculum of our ME programmes that will be offered in the academic year 2025-2026. The revised courses have strong experiential learning outcomes with industry orientation to align with evolving workforce demands.

Research Excellence:

BITS Pilani is continuously striving to enhance its research competitiveness by securing external research funding. In the past FY, BITS Pilani received 270 projects from various prestigious agencies worth about Rs. 186 Cr. And, in the ongoing FY, BITS Pilani has achieved 32 projects worth Rs. 8 Cr within a span of the first two months. The 5-year annual average grant improved by over 161% from Rs. 36.05 Cr (FY16 - FY20) to Rs, 94.06 Cr (FY21 - Fy25).

The research publication metrics continue to improve vigorously in terms of both quality and quantity. The annual number of publications has grown with a CAGR of 12%. The current Scopus h-index is 183, with an annual citations/paper of 22 in 2024. The average impact factor continues to rise with a current value of 4.1, as per the WoS.

In intellectual property, we have achieved a cumulative total of 517 patent filings and 134 granted patents as of the previous FY. During FY 2024-25 itself we have filed 179 patents.

On the technology transfer front, 13 IPs have been successfully transferred, and 9 IP license agreements have been executed. Additionally, 3 spinoffs were established based on licensed IPs during the past FY.

Here are a few notable grants we received during the year:

- The SATHI project has been sanctioned by the DST with a total outlay of ?60 crore for an initial period of 4 years.
- A ICMR project was sanctioned to the Prof. Nirmal Jayabalan from Hyderabad campus in collaboration with Aravind Medical Research Foundation, with a grant of Rs. 5.90 Cr
- BITS Pilani also received a grant worth Rs. 3.12 crore from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which was sanctioned to Prof. Navneet Goyal at the Pilani campus.
- BITS also received an industrial grant worth Rs.3.08 crore from GAIL (India) Pvt. Ltd., sanctioned to Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy and Prof. Sutapa Roy Ramanan from the Goa campus
- An industrial research project worth Rs.2.92 crore has been sanctioned by Velux Stiftung to Prof.
 Nirmal Jayabalan. and Prof. Vamsi Krishna from the Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus
- A MeitY project titled 'Development of Indigenous Medical Radiation Dosimeter Based on Organic Field-Effect Transistors (DosFET)', was sanctioned to the Prof. Ramgopal Rao, Prof. Sanket Goel and Prof. Arindam Kushagra at the Hyderabad campus by the worth Rs. 2.21 Cr.
- BITS Pilani, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and UltraTech Cement, has
 received a collaborative grant of Rs.34 crores-Rs.25 crores from the Department of Science &
 Technology, Government of India, and the remaining amount from industry partner Ultra Tech
 Cement marking a significant step in India's industrial decarbonisation efforts.
- BITS Pilani has been jointly awarded the Best Institution (Other than School/College) under the Special Mention category, alongside IIT Tirupati, at the prestigious 5th National Water Awards 2023.

I am also proud to share our landmark achievements that illustrate BITS Pilani's unwavering commitment to nation-building and global impact through R&I.

This year, BITS Pilani has established several new Centres of Excellence across its campuses, each representing a strategic investment in India's future:

Centre for Research Excellence in National Security (CRENS)stands as our pledge to safeguard India's sovereignty through cutting edge defense technologies and strategic research.

Advanced Research Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies (ARCSET) is a forward-looking initiative that underscores our role in addressing one of the most urgent global challenges: the transition to sustainable energy.

5G Use Case Lab established under the Department of Telecommunications' visionary program this lab serves as a testing and development hub for next generation 5G applications and network functionality and is shaping the future of digital connectivity in India

Semiconductor Centre of Excellence Established with a national mandate to advance semiconductor design, prototyping, manufacturing, and cyber physical systems research, driving innovation from chip design to manufacturing

Nalini Kurra Wind Tunnel Facility A state of the art aerodynamic testing unit, generously endowed by

alumnus Goutham Kurra. It supports research in aerospace, automotive design, drone technology, and renewable energy systems.

Ankitt Gaur Centre of Excellence in Blockchain & Al Research made possible by alumnus Ankitt Gaur, this CoE brings advanced academic-industry synergy in blockchain, Al, and Web3, fostering start up incubation and innovation ecosystems.

KakatiyaRural Innovation, Technology and Implementation (KRITI) Centre is an initiative designed to drive social impact and rural development. This centre is supported by a \$1 million donation from alumnus Sh. Raju Reddy and aims to cultivate leadership for social transformation and create engagement paths with social enterprises and grassroots innovators transforming rural india through appropriate technology and social innovation

BITS BioCyTiH Foundation (BBF) (A section 8 company):

our Technology Innovation Hub (TiH) supported under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System NM-ICPS (DST, Govt. of India) is fostering deep-tech innovation in healthcare, agriculture, water, and the environment. It operates across the Pilani, Goa, and Hyderabad campuses with notable impact. Recently, NM-ICPS after a detailed evaluation including a third party review, has awarded BBF an A grade among 23 such Hubs in the country. The foundation so far has received Rs. 60 Cr. from DST, Gol.

A state-of-the-art OMICS facility has been created at Pilani campus over 10,000 Sq ft space and equipped with LC-MS/MS, QTOF with UPLC, Peptide synthesizer, etc. A Device lab. with ISO-6 and ISO-7 class clean rooms has been created at the Goa Campus with state-of-the-art equipment to enable microfabrication that is supported by advanced characterization tools (3D optical profiler, ellipsometer, semiconductor parameter analyser, SPR, ICP-MS etc). BITS BioCyTiH Foundation has achieved significant growth and visibility across India through its flagship programs such as Advance Research Translation (ART) program. Currently 40 projects involving 80+ innovators (25+ PhDs and 15 Post Docs) from 15 institutes including IIT Dharwad and SASTRA as SPOKE are supported. These projects have generated over 30 technologies / prototypes and 22 Patents. During the year, BITS Pilani faculty led BBF-projects generated 12 new patents (3 international). It has supported 50+ deep tech startups 21 of which are above TRL 7. During FY 24-25, 21 new startups were onboarded including 8 BITS-faculty-led startups. The foundation has proactively engaged with Industry and forged more than 15 partnerships through MoUs.

Two international collaborations have been established with Shimadzu World Lab Network and BBF-Shimadzu -Spinco-Singapore Asia Pvt Ltd. to develop innovative analytical solutions. During the period, BBF organised two major stakeholder events - Research Excellence for Entrepreneurial Leadership (REEL) at New Delhi and Goa Innovation and Startup Times (GIST) at Goa. The skilling/training programs have, so far. impacted over 3000 people.

SATHI Foundation(A section 8 company)a section 8 company established through funding from the Department of Science and Technology, is envisioned as a premier national facility to catalyze innovation in IoT-based smart electronic devices, biotechnology, healthcare, and advanced engineering. The first

phase of high-end equipment has already been procured, and the construction of the dedicated facility is currently in progress. Once operational, the facility will offer state-of-the-art infrastructure and advanced instrumentation to support cutting-edge research, development, evaluation, and prototyping across a wide range of scientific and engineering domains, including chemical sciences, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, and engineering technologies. Furthermore, the Foundation will serve as a strategic platform for startups, emerging industries, and R&D centers, thereby contributing significantly to India's technological advancement and innovation ecosystem."

Rankings:

This year, our shared pursuit of excellence has delivered outcomes that are both remarkable and deeply gratifying.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025, BITS Pilani achieved a historic milestone. We are now ranked among the Top 250 globally in Engineering & Technology. Even more impressively, Pharmacy & Pharmacology entered the global Top 100, securing the 84th position worldwide, making us the top-ranked Indian university, public or private, in this discipline.

In total, four of our subjects are now ranked in the global Top 300, and eleven in the Top 500. These are not just numbers, they reflect the brilliance of our faculty, the drive of our researchers, and the relentless determination of our students to push boundaries and claim their space on the global academic stage.

Further cementing our leadership in specific domains, BITS Pilani has been ranked No. 1 among Private Indian Institutions in Civil and Structural Engineering and No. 1 in Physics & Astronomy in the QS Subject Rankings 2025.

In the QS World University Rankings 2026, BITS Pilani has climbed to rank 668, marking a decisive leap from last year's 801-850 band and our best-ever global standing. In addition, BITS Pilani has been recognised as the No. 1 private university in India for employment outcomes, a distinction we have held for many consecutive years, a powerful validation of the opportunities our students unlock and the trust our brand commands across industry.

Our upward trajectory continues in the regional context as well. We are now ranked 171 in the QS Asia University Rankings 2025 and placed among the Top 250 in the Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025.

In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024, we advanced to the 601-800 band, affirming our growing stature in a highly competitive global landscape.

Closer home, our momentum continues to build. In 2025, BITS Pilani was named India's Top Engineering College by India Today, and ranked No. 1 Private Deemed University by IIRF. We were also recognised as the No. 1 Private University in India by Careers360. The WEEK ranked us No. 1 among all private and deemed technical universities, and in the Times Engineering 2025 rankings, BITS Pilani secured the No. 1 position in the Top 175 Engineering Institutes category, reaffirming our national leadership in technical education.

BITS Pilani is ranked 9th in India, the only private University in the Top 10, along with ISI, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras and other leading institutions, in the very prestigious CSRanking, a research-based ranking of top Computer Science institutions worldwide.

But rankings are not our destination, they are only milestones. Our true purpose lies in unlocking human potential. Nurturing individuals who ask difficult questions, imagine bold futures, and lead with courage, compassion, and conviction.

Faculty Excellence Initiatives:

In our relentless pursuit of excellence, the Faculty Affairs Division has introduced three transformative policies that are set to shape the future of higher education at our Institute and empower our distinguished faculty members

Our New Promotion Policy honours exceptional tenured faculty who have consistently raised the bar whether in teaching, cutting-edge research, institute development, or entrepreneurial ventures. For these high achievers, we've introduced a "Time Advantage" to fast-track their promotion while maintaining rigorous standards.

We have launched the Faculty Tracks Policy for our Professors and Senior Professors, offering the flexibility to focus on teaching, research, or a balanced combination of both. This ensures our educators can maximize their impact while playing to their strengths, enriching both pedagogy and discovery.

Our Joint Appointment Policy promotes interdisciplinary excellence allowing faculty to contribute across departments, enrich curricula, lead cross-disciplinary research, breaking down traditional silos and drive innovation. By creating a more dynamic, interconnected academic ecosystem, we are positioning BITS Pilani at the forefront of global education trends.

These are not merely policy updates-they represent a philosophical commitment to nurturing faculty potential, rewarding excellence, and building an institution where innovation thrives.

Global Collaborations and New Partnerships BITS Pilani continues to expand international footprints through the launch of 2+2 international undergraduate collaborative programmes and joint PhD programmes with leading world renowned universities. These partnerships provide our students a unique opportunity to complete the first two years of their degree at BITS and the final two years at a partner institution abroad, gaining international exposure, research experience, and dual credentials. In AY 2023-24, BITS Pilani initiated its first 2+2 programme with RMIT University, Australia, admitting 94 students across four engineering disciplines. In AY 2024-25, the collaboration expanded to include Computer Science, with a total of 111 students admitted across all five programmes. In the same year, 2+2 programmes were launched with lowa State University and SUNY Buffalo in the U.S., with 73 students admitted to each.

In AY 2025-26, BITS plans has extended similar collaborations with Ecole CentraleSupélec, France, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA, targeting 60 undergraduate admissions across these new partnerships. Alongside these undergraduate initiatives, BITS has also developed joint PhD programmes with these and other partner universities, with over 100 students admitted in the past two years. These

programmes promote co-supervised research, global academic integration, and shared innovation. As we continue to grow these initiatives, our students will benefit from an education that is international in character, interdisciplinary in approach, and impactful in outcomes. Through these efforts, BITS Pilani continues to strengthen its position as a globally connected, research-driven institution committed to delivering transformative international academic experiences. We are confident that these strategic collaborations will not only shape the future of BITS Pilani students but also contribute meaningfully to India's higher education aspirations on the global stage.

In June this year, BITS signed an MoU formalised at USC's Olin Hall of Engineering, bringing together two world-class institutions to foster academic collaboration and global engagement.

BITS Pilani also signed a strategic MoU with the University of Manchester and University of Leeds (part of Russel Group of Institutions in the UK) to advance joint degrees, collaborative research, academic mobility, and tech-enabled, industry-aligned learning, aligned with India's NEP 2020.

Alumni Relations:

Alumni Relations has had a watershed year in Academic Year 2024-25 with the launch of the ambitious \$100 Million Endowment Fund in November last year. Since the launch, BITS alumni have come forward and unequivocally supported the bold move, with pledges and receipt of more than \$25 million surpassed already, a testament to the unwavering belief our alumni have in their alma mater. The alumni whole heartedly echo BITS need of being a self-reliant, financially sustainable, and a truly global institution. This fund will be the cornerstone of our growth, fuelling undergraduate scholarships, postgraduate research, Centres of Excellence, and entrepreneurship-the very pillars of BITS Pilani's legacy.

This year, our alumni have stepped forward with remarkable generosity. In addition to the Centre of Excellence in Semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence, our alumni have pledged a Centre in Sustainability by Alok Kothari from 88 Batch and Rural Technologies and Social Impact from Raju Reddy of the 81 Batch. Sid Mookerji of 84 Batch and Prem Jain of 68 Batch have provided a million dollars each for promoting entrepreneurship. We are also working with Anurag Jain of 88 Batch, a long time, steadfast supporter of BITS Pilani to deploy a million dollars towards an institutional priority.

The 2024 BITS Ratna Award has been conferred to Mr Prem Jain and Mr Sid Mookerji. Prem Jain, a 1973 BITS Pilani graduate, is a global tech visionary who has led multi-billion dollar innovations in data center networking, including Insieme Networks and Pensando Systems. Currently serving as Chairperson of BITSAA International, he has played a pivotal role in strengthening alumni engagement and driving major fundraising efforts. His journey reflects a rare blend of technical brilliance, entrepreneurial success, and deep philanthropic commitment.

Sid Mookerji, a 1988 BITS Pilani graduate, is a pioneering entrepreneur and venture capitalist whose innovations in retail technology have impacted global giants like Walmart and Macy's. As Founder of Silicon Road Ventures and Silver Spirit Global, he bridges commerce, technology, and social good. A key force behind BITS Foundation USA, Sid has enabled trusted philanthropic pathways for alumni in the U.S. His journey reflects visionary leadership, ecosystem building, and a deep commitment to giving back.

I must also commend our Alumni Relations Team for surpassing fundraising targets year after year. With receipts of more than 56 Cr. in FY 2024-25, total alumni fundraising has exceeded Rs. 180 Cr. In BITS Pilani. Having personally led some of these fundraising initiatives I can attest to the passion and pride our alumni hold for BITS Pilani. I am sure with the stellar, successful, and marquee alumni, we shall achieve our goal of raising \$100 million in due course. I would like to extend our gratitude to alumni for their unwavering support and involvement in the growth of their alma mater in multiple ways - be it curriculum development, active participation in senate discussions, extending support for Practice School, Placements, delivering talks, mentoring startups, seed funding support to start-ups and above all financial contributions towards strategic thrust areas for transformational growth of the institution etc.

Alumni achievements of the year:

I am proud to spotlight the remarkable achievements of our alumni, whose innovations and leadership continue to inspire.

Tonbo Imaging, founded by BITS alumnus Arvind Lakshmikumar, as a beacon of India's indigenous defence innovation. Their Al-enabled thermal weapon sights, helmet-mounted multi-sensor platforms, and surveillance payloads for drones and armored vehicles provide real-time situational awareness and precision targeting-vital in missions like the Uri surgical strike and Operation Sindoor.

PIXXEL co-founded in 2019 by BITS Pilani students Awais Ahmed and Kshitij Khandelwal. In 2023, its hyperspectral imaging satellites were named among TIME's 100 Best Inventions in Sustainability and in 2024, Pixxel was honored as a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer Thank you, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for inspiring and supporting these visionary young innovators in shaping India's sustainable future.

Kausthub Kaundinya Y, Sreekanth Kommula, and Anand Kumar-alumni of BITS Pilani and IIM-and founders of Jarsh Safety, featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia - Class of 2025 under Industry, Manufacturing & Energy.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship at BITS Pilani:

BITS Pilani has long been a cradle of entrepreneurship, thanks to more than 6500 alumni as founders, 17+ unicorn, including two decacorns, in India and the US, and with many students and faculty entrepreneurs on the campus, BITS always shines high on promoting entrepreneurship.

Campus Fund, a venture capital firm backing student startups has declared BITS Pilani as the foremost university in India for student entrepreneurship, for the fourth time in a row. Thanks to PIEDS and other incubators on campus, students wishing to startup get wind beneath their wings, right here on campus.

PIEDS, our incubator has support from all major government grants for supporting startups in Semiconductors, EV, Space, Robotics, Drones, AI/ML, Software, Biotech, Agritech, and other emerging areas. Thanks to our Corporate Social Responsibility partners, we can support school students, women entrepreneurs, and those building deeptech and hardware startups, especially from Tier 2 and Tier 3 locations of Bharat. Now, I am happy to share that, thanks to our alumni, our efforts on campus have got a

big boost - we have more than 2.5 Million dollars in funds committed only for student entrepreneurs taking their first step.

As an impact, PIEDS has now supported more than 350 startups, with their combined valuation exceeding \$1 billion. Many of these founders are gaining global recognition and raising further investments

Our success is no accident-it stems from deliberate policies fostering entrepreneurship at every levelbe it a PhD leading to entrepreneurship, or undergraduate program such as SOLVE and SPARKLE, where creative problem-solving results in a startup, a year gap for students, allowing students to do PS2 in their own startups, 2 courses - New Venture Creation and Sustainability Ventures, taught by alumni, entrepreneurs and investors and provide 3 credits to students building startups, promoting faculty entrepreneurship, and so on.

Soon, we will offer an introduction to entrepreneurship course for all students in their first / second year, as a part of our curriculum revision. Alongside, we will introduce courses such as Introduction to LLM, Understanding Venture Capital, and many others to be taught by alumni and faculty together. All in all, I can say there is no better place to build your startup while being on campus, than BITS Pilani.

International Programmes & Collaboration Division (IPCD) has been instrumental in expanding BITS Pilani's global footprint through strategic partnerships, academic exchanges, and research collaborations. The division has significantly expanded the university's international footprint by facilitating Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with renowned institutions across Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa. Notably, BITS Pilani has established a new 2+2 shared degree program in B.E. Mathematics and Computing with École Centrale Supélec, Paris, allowing students to complete the first two years at BITS Pilani and the final two years in Paris, earning degrees from both institutions. Admissions for this program will commence in the Academic Year 2025-26 through BITS Admission Test (BITSAT) 2025.

The IPCD also promotes two-way student exchange programs, enriching the academic experience of students through international exposure. Additionally, the Overseas Student Doctoral Programme (OSDP) continues to attract full-time international PhD students to BITS Pilani campuses, contributing to the institute's growing international research output. The division has facilitated visits from global academic leaders and diplomats, strengthening academic cooperation and collaboration worldwide. Furthermore, the "Discovering India-Dubai with BITS Pilani" cultural immersion program, launched in collaboration with the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, has attracted participation from international universities, offering a unique two-week cultural and academic experience across BITS campuses.

It's a joy for me to mention a few notable awards and laurels conferred on our Faculty Members and Students. The Director of Pilani Campus will present more details of such laurels for the Pilani Campus during his address.

Recognitions and Faculty Accolades for the year:

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our faculty members, whose groundbreaking

research, teaching excellence, and leadership continue to elevate BITS Pilani's reputation as a hub of innovation and academic distinction.

- Prof. Ramakrishna Ganesan and Prof. Jayati Ray Dutta from Hyderabad campus have developed a
 cost-effective plant-based drug to tackle iron overload, a common and harmful side effect in patients
 with Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia.
- Prof. Ashish Bera has been appointed as an International Editorial Board Member for Computational Science, a section of Scientific Reports published by Nature Portfolio.
- Prof. Vinay Chamola has been honored with the Prof. S. Venkateswaran Faculty Excellence Award 2024 at BITS Pilani. This prestigious accolade recognizes his outstanding contributions in teaching, research, and institutional development.
- Prof. Rajeev Sakhuja has been conferred with the Prof. S. S. Ranganathan Memorial Teaching Excellence Award 2024. Prof. Sakhuja's dedication continues to inspire both students and faculty, reinforcing our institution's legacy of scholarly distinction.
- Dr. Mrinmoyee Basu has been honored with the Young Associates Award 2024 by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). This prestigious recognition acknowledges her exceptional contributions to the field of semiconductor nanomaterials, particularly in photoelectrochemical applications such as water splitting.
- Prof. Indresh Kumar has been awarded the JST-SAKURA Science Fellowship. This prestigious international fellowship, facilitated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of organic chemistry.
- Prof. Indresh Kumar received the International JST-SAKURA visiting fellowship.
- Prof. Dalip Kumar received the National award of ISCB Award for Excellence 2024.
- Prof. Sunil Bhand recognized as an International Nominated as expert by FSSAI.
- Prof. Jegatha Nambi Krishnan has been appointed as a National Member of the DST National Expert
 Advisory Committee. In this esteemed role, she will contribute her expertise to the evaluation and
 screening of research proposals, thereby influencing the direction of scientific advancements in
 India
- Professor Aruna Malapati has been honoured with the prestigious International Award on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the India Institute-recognizing her outstanding contributions to research and her selection for the Women in Research Visiting Fellowship..
- Professor Raj Kumar Gupta, from the Department of Physics, for being awarded the prestigious Silver Medal (SM) from the Indian Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS) for 2024.
- Prof. Nitin Sharma has been appointed as an expert in the working group under the Technical Education Department (TED) by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). This role underscores his expertise in standardization and his commitment to advancing technical education in India.
- Prof. V.V.K. Venuganti, alongside Srivarsha Reddy, Bollareddy and Shreya Shashank Chauhan, have engineered a bioinspired, three-layer mucoadhesive gastric patch that adheres for over 30 days and delivers sustained levothyroxine sodium release-maintaining therapeutic levels for 38 days in animal studies.
- Prof. K.V.G. Chandra Shekhar has been honored with the prestigious 'Talented Young Scientist

- Award' by the Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy. This recognition underscores his exceptional contributions to the fields of biotechnology and pharmacy.
- " The team, headed by Professor Sanket Goel, built the prototype using laboratory-grade filter paper, which was first sprayed with a fire retardant, then dipped in metal salt and targeted by a low-cost blue diode laser to create a special electrode. This electrode was then connected to a store-bought detector to measure liver health biomarkers from human serum.
- Prof. Srikanth Mutnuri has been honored with the prestigious Goa Rajya Vidnyanik Puraskar (GRVP), a state-level award recognizing impactful contributions by scientists and innovators in Goa.
 He received the award under the Environment category for his applied research on decentralized wastewater treatment systems. His work addresses critical environmental challenges by developing scalable and sustainable sanitation solutions that benefit both individual households and larger communities.
- An exclusive Women Entrepreneurs Review feature, Prof. Mridula Goel, Founding Lead, BITS Pilani
 Center in Bengaluru highlights the disparity in STEM fields--with higher enrolment in life sciences but
 lower representation in engineering, She emphasizes that underemployment isn't due to a lack of
 aptitude, but limited opportunities and socio--cultural barriers. With rising government support for
 innovation and entrepreneurship, she urges a shift from job seekers to job creators, fostering an
 ecosystem where STEM- driven startups thrive.
- Dr. Mohan S.C. and his BITS Pilani Hyderabad team have engineered an affordable base isolation system that significantly reduces seismic force transfer to low-rise buildings. Their low-cost design enhances earthquake resilience, making safety accessible and demonstrating BITS's commitment to life-saving innovation.
- The iSTAR device which was developed by Prof. P. Sankar Ganesh and his team is a unique single-stage anaerobic digestion method which converts organic waste into methane rich biogas at a conversion efficiency of 85%. This compact system treats municipal waste alongside landfill leachate and food waste to produce clean biofuel together with nutrient dense biofertilzer.
- Prof. Saurabh Patankar and Prof. Sonal Ayakar from Goa Campus have transformed India's agri urban waste challenge into opportunity. Leveraging biofuel sales that boost farmer incomes by 30% and Al driven recycling bots that cut city waste costs by 40%, their innovation could slash air pollution by 25% -a triple win for economy, environment, and health, showcasing academic impact.
- Prof. Dr. Sk Aziz Ali together with top researchers from the German Research Center for AI, is making waves with ground breaking research in Natural Language Modeling for Computer-Aided Design.
- Prof. V.V.K. Venuganti, alongside Srivarsha Reddy Bollareddy and Shreya Shashank Chauhan, have
 engineered a bioinspired, three-layer mucoadhesive gastric patch that adheres for over 30 days and
 delivers sustained levothyroxine sodium release-maintaining therapeutic levels for 38 days in animal
 studies.
- I'm also delighted to share that Mr. Ravi Mishra, CHRO at BITS Pilani, was recognized as a Top HR Icon at the World HRD Congress 2025 an accolade celebrating his transformative, people-first leadership.

These accomplishments underscore BITS Pilani's commitment to academic excellence, societal impact,

and global leadership. We congratulate our faculty and look forward to their continued contributions to science, education, and nation-building.

Student Achievements for this year

This year, BITS Pilani students have demonstrated exceptional innovation, leadership, and academic prowess across diverse fields-from healthcare and AI to space technology and sustainable engineering. Their accomplishments reflect the institute's commitment to nurturing talent that drives real-world impact.

- Team Altheros-Harsh Jain, Aabhas Mishra, Tejas Venkatesha, and Shaswat Mishra from Pilani developed an affordable, Al powered, non invasive device that makes early breast cancer detection accessible during pregnancy, when traditional screening is limited. Their innovation earned the prestigious Hult Prize India 2025-26, selected from over 100,000 students across 120+ countries tackling UNSDGs.
- Rohit Raj, Gaurav Singh, and Akshat Gosain-in partnership with Goa Police, developed an Al
 powered tool to detect and curb radical and fake content online. Their innovation has been
 recognized by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and adopted by law enforcement.
- A third-year Engineering student from Dubai has successfully developed and launched Krypsm, an
 innovative cryptocurrency platform tailored for the Indian market. Krypsm offers seamless
 cryptocurrency trading, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), and a user-friendly mobile app,
 empowering users to navigate the crypto landscape with confidence.
- Phodu Club was founded by Dhruva Pai Angle & Kushal Sarkar. It is a community startup that has helped 1000s of students to crack the BITSAT exam every year since it started.
- Third-year B.Tech Chemical Engineering student Shreyansh Sharma from Pilani campus proudly represented India at the 47th WorldSkills Lyon 2024 in Chemical Laboratory Technology. India's debut in this category saw Shreyansh achieve an outstanding 6th-place finish, following his national gold at IndiaSkills 2024.
- Raaghav Paharia, one of our talented students, was nominated Best Emerging Hip Hop Artist of the Year by The Indian Music Diaries Awards (April 2024) for his evocative album Kaagaz?Ke?Phool. Exploring hope and vulnerability, it has resonated globally with over 10,000 plays.
- BlockSoc members from the Hyderabad campus participated in a blockchain development competition, Code: The Chain Hackathon and Innovation Challenge, held in October 2024 by Dojima Network.
- Anna Mariya Shajan and Boyina Kalyan, doctoral researchers in the Department of Civil Engineering, claimed first place in the quiz contest at the Eighth National Finite Element Developers' / FEAST Users' Meet (NAFED?08), hosted by ISRO at IIT Hyderabad. This impressive accomplishment showcases their exceptional knowledge and command of computational mechanics and finite element analysis.
- MAHASAT team Dubai campus has successfully completed the Engineering Model phase of the UAE's flagship student-led CubeSat project. Hand built subsystems-from power and attitude control to communications-are now fully integrated, paving the way for rigorous testing and the final flightready satellite.
- Three Mechanical Engineering students Pravin Hande, Aditya Dar, and Mohd Abdullah Wasif bagged

- the first position among the entries at TATA Consulting Engineers (TCE) ACE Hackathon for their project 'BITSolution, It was a high-profile event held in Mumbai, where the teams ware developing proposals for the accelerated establishment of EV charging infrastructure in India.
- A team from BITS Pilani named "Inspired Karters Gravity" finished P10 in the IKR Indian Karting Race 2024. The team, captained by Gokula Krishna Tavva and mentored by Prof. Manoj Kumar Soni, completed the endurance race at Budh International Circuit with 10 overtakes in 8 laps. The event was a significant morale booster for the participants and was an excellent place for like-minded people to lift each other up.
- Shlok Mehendale, Soham Kalburgi, Vrishti Godhwani, and Pranjay Yelkotwar secured 1st place in the ProjectX U of T Al Research Competition ProjectX, organised by the University of Toronto Al, Its the world's largest undergraduate machine learning research competition, bringing together 17 top universities from around the globe.
- Mr. Yash Kumar Kandoi from CSIS Department received National Award for National winners (declared 1st) of BOB (Bank of Baroda) Hackathon out of 26000 participants in the event Bank of Baroda & Microsoft from Mumbai.
- Mr. Nulakala Sai Srikar from CSIS Department received National Award for 1st Place in 'Area C3
 Evaluation Speech Contest' and qualifier for 'Division C Evaluation Speech Contest' in the event
 Toastmasters International Organized by JECRC Foundation.
- Ms. Smita Dey from Biology Department received National Award for DST International Travel grant for CRUK Brain Tumour Conference. 2024, Park Plaza Riverbank London in the event CRUK Brain Tumour Conference. 2024, Park Plaza Riverbank London) Organized by CRUK Brain Tumour Conference. 2024, Park Plaza Riverbank London.
- Mis. Priyanka Roy from Biology Department received National Award for Partial Institutional International Travel grant to attend Non-coding RNA World 2024: Exploring Mechanisms, Designing Medicine in Basel. Switzerland.
- Mis. Sukriti Gujarati from Biology Department received National Award for BITS International Travel grant in the event Cell Symposia: Multifaceted Mitochondria 2025 Organized by Sitges, Spain.
- Mis. Sukriti Gujarati from Biology Department received National Award for DBT CTEP Travel Grant in the event Cell Symposia: Multifaceted Mitochondria 2026 Organized by Sitges, Spain on Ay2024-25.
- Mr. Saurabh Singh from Biology Department received National Award for ICPvR financial grant to attend The 9th International Conference on Plasmodium vivax Research in Puducherry, India in the event ICMR- Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry, India Organized by Puducherry, India on AY2024-25.
- Mr. Hansa Sehgal from received National Award for DST International Travel grant to attend Botanik-Tagung - International Conference at Martin-Luther-University in the event German Society for Plant Sciences Organized by Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Mr. Manish Pawar from Maths Department received National Award for 12th Desire Power of conserve Awards 2024 - On December 16, 2024, Manish Pawar secured 3rd place in the PAN-India online quiz competition and received the 12th Desire Power of conserve Awards

 Mr. Abhishesh Pal from Mechanical Department received National Award for Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Award in the event Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions and Honey Bee network. Organized by Techpedia

Over the past two years that I have been at BITS, with the help of Directors and Deans and with the approval of our Chancellor, Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla, BITS Pilani has launched transformative initiatives to bridge academia-industry gaps, enhance student experiences, and expand access to world-class education. The results are already evident in our education, research, and innovation ecosystems. As we build on this momentum, we remain committed to empowering students to become leaders, innovators, and changemakers-ready to shape the future of India and the world. Some of the notable new initiatives include:

New initiatives

- SIRE: School of Interdisciplinary Research and Entrepreneurship: Complex challenges like climate change, energy sustainability, and global health crises demand interdisciplinary solutions-bringing together expertise in environmental science, data analytics, engineering, social sciences, and more. To meet this need, BITS Pilani has launched the School of Interdisciplinary Research and Entrepreneurship (SIRE). SIRE fosters collaboration across diverse disciplines, supports interdisciplinary PhD and minor programs (including the flagship PhD?DRIVE), and manages innovation schemes like CDRF, SPARKLE, and SOLVE. Its mission is to build a vibrant ecosystem that nurtures high-TRL research and deep-tech ventures, marrying academic excellence with entrepreneurial drive.
- SPARKLE: Student Program for Advancing Research, Knowledge, and Entrepreneurship engages
 teams of students from all years to tackle open-ended challenges posed by faculty, industry, or
 alumni. It promotes long-term research, invention, collaboration, and startup creation-funding each
 project up to ?200,000 annually
- SOLVE: Innovation programme for Solving Societal and Business Problems & convert solutions to a
 business enterprise SOLVE is SIRE's flagship innovation initiative funding up to ?200,000 for
 student-led solutions addressing real-world societal and business challenges. Open to all BITS
 students with a faculty mentor, it supports deep-tech ventures.
- CDRF: Cross-Disciplinary Research Framework introduced to connect faculty across campuses &
 disciplines:. It drives collaborative projects that unite diverse fields-engineering, data analytics,
 environmental and social sciences-to tackle complex real-world problems. Under SIRE, it provides
 seed funding, fosters institutional and industry partnerships, and showcases efforts like the PAUBITS alliance in precision agriculture and IoT for smarter farming.
- PhD Drive: It is BITS Pilani's Deep tech Research, Innovation, Value generation & Entrepreneurship
 initiative. It supports cross disciplinary doctoral research that leads to high TRL deep tech ventures,
 includes entrepreneurship coursework, mentorship from faculty, industry experts, and VCs, and aims
 to incubate 100 startups by 2030.
- IMPACT: Industry Mentored PhD in Advanced and Cutting-edge Technologies: This PhD Programme provide opportunity for working professionals to pursue PhD. (Industrial Professionals). It offers

flexibility in various aspects of PhD process and an opportunity to work with the leaders of industry and faculty members. The incumbent gets rewarded for innovative work that is being undertaken at the workplace with simultaneous PhD degree. To achieve best innovation through academia-industry partnership.

- Professor of Practice: 19 PoPs hired across campuses
- CREST: Center for Research Excellence in Semiconductor Technologies with USD 1 Million donation from alumnus. CREST has launched a two-month residential internship program and hosted colloquia featuring experts from Microelectronics and NTU. These efforts align with CREST's mission to establish BITS Pilani as a leader in semiconductor innovation.
- International Travel Support: Travel Support to PhD Students to attend international conferences
- Library Infrastructure: The database of PHG Campuses is centralised, and Open Access Publication
 Opportunities are available, thereby boosting the research infrastructure.
- Endowment Fund: A dedicated endowment fund of 100 Million USD to ensure long-term financial stability and provide ongoing support for scholarships and projects.
- IRIS: An "Industry Connect" program which aims to bridge the gap between academia and the
 professional world by facilitating internships, collaborations, and networking opportunities for
 students. A new Office of Industry Research & Strategic Initiatives (IRIS) is being established in BITS
 to focus on industry connect and online education initiatives.
- Digital Education: We are also expanding our online education offerings to make high-quality learning accessible to a broader audience through the Swayam platform.
- Research Awards: To recognize and reward outstanding contributions, we have introduced a revised faculty promotion policy along with research awards for Faculty and Scholars.
- Project Visataar: As part of our Diamond Jubilee celebration, we have launched "Project Vistaar, which focuses on substantial Infrastructure upgrades across all three BITS Pilani campuses.
- Curriculum Revision: We are undertaking a major curriculum revision to Improve the Quality, Relevance and Competitiveness of our Academic Offerings. The incoming first year students will see a few major changes in their curriculum this year. The changes will be implemented in phases.

BITS CARES:

The BITS CARES (Comprehensive Action for Resilience, Empathy and Support) program is a ?15 crore project by the Student Welfare Division aimed at improving student welfare throughout the Pilani, Goa, and Hyderabad campuses. The initiative emphasises five principal domains: fortifying campus safety and cybersecurity; augmenting student support via wellness dashboards, increased caretaker personnel, and wellness officers; modernising campus facilities to elevate living standards; broadening counselling services and implementing open gyms and wellness coaches; and advancing student success through enhanced placement cells, organised inductions, and crisis management standard operating procedures. Through the adoption of worldwide best practices and tailored campus implementation, BITS CARES seeks to establish a safer, healthier, and more supportive environment that promotes comprehensive student development.

New initiatives in Pipeline:

- We are strengthening our PS programme with an expanded partner base and a dedicated office of
 experiential learning, which will act as a central hub to coordinate, enhance and integrate experiential
 learning opportunities across BITS Pilani campuses.
- We are promoting interdisciplinary programs that blend engineering, science, management, and social sciences.
- We are strengthening our research impact by facilitating our faculty to publish open-access mode by signing up transformative agreements with top publishers.

These initiatives exemplify our unwavering commitment to excellence and our steadfast dedication to delivering a truly transformative educational experience

Bold Aspirations by 2030

As we celebrate our graduating class, I am proud to share BITS Pilani's bold aspirations for 2030, following a 3-I approach of Inter-disciplinary Research, Internationalization, and Industry Connect. We aim to contribute to society and the world by investing in areas of societal and national importance, enhancing sponsored research to the tune of INR 200 crores per year from 2026, and encouraging over 200 patent filings per year from 2025 by fostering start-ups through a revamped innovation ecosystem. Our goals include transformative education through a revised curriculum with increased flexibility focusing on holistic development, impactful research by creating funding support for inter-disciplinary research, and disruptive innovation by creating a dozen centres of excellence in select technologies through external funding. We will further drive our research excellence by increasing our Ph.D. strength to 20% of the overall within three years, with a third of them being in joint Ph.D. programs with international partner universities. We aim to provide a compelling experience to all students, enhancing employability, establishing global competitiveness in select technologies, achieving global leadership in entrepreneurship, and driving research excellence.

That concludes the report part of this address - it is time now for some reflections and thoughts for the Graduating class of 2024.

This day belongs to you. It is a testament to your resilience, your commitment to excellence, and your unwavering pursuit of knowledge. You have spent years navigating the challenges of rigorous coursework, research projects, and exams. You have balanced academic demands with extracurricular pursuits, friendships, and personal growth. Each of you has a unique story of how you arrived at this point, and today, we honour and celebrate those journeys.

As you step out into the world, you are entering a rapidly changing landscape. The world today faces unprecedented challenges and opportunities-from technological advancements and environmental concerns to social changes and economic uncertainties. But it is precisely this dynamic environment that makes your role as graduates of BITS Pilani so crucial. Your education here has equipped you not only with technical expertise and academic knowledge but also with critical thinking skills, creativity, and a deep sense of social responsibility.

Remember, the true measure of your success will not be the titles you hold or the accolades you receive but the impact you have on the world and the lives you touch, the solutions you innovate, and the values you uphold. Strive to be leaders who inspire, innovators who create solutions for the betterment of society, and citizens who uphold the values of integrity, empathy, and respect.

Embrace lifelong learning. You are ready. The education you have received at BITS Pilani is not an endpoint but a foundation upon which to build. The world will continue to evolve, and so must you. Stay curious, stay open-minded, and never stop seeking knowledge. The world awaits your talents and leadership. As you step into new roles and challenges, remember that you are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values to make a meaningful impact. Embrace the future with confidence and make us proud.

Your alma mater has now given you a passport to succeed in your professional journey. Give back generously to make BITS Pilani stronger and more eminent. As a graduate and ambassador of BITS Pilani, you are the torchbearer of an extremely rich heritage. Today, you start belonging to an eminent community that's respected worldwide. Welcome to the fraternity.

Chancellor Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla, Leadership team of BITS Pilani, faculty and staff, thank you for your unwavering dedication to our students. Your mentorship, support, and guidance have been instrumental in shaping these young minds. You have imparted not just knowledge but also the values and principles that will guide our graduates in their future endeavours.

To the parents and families, thank you for your support and sacrifices. Your encouragement and belief in your children have played a crucial role in their success. Today is as much your celebration as it is theirs. Congratulations! Please keep in touch and I wish you all the very best for now and always!. Remember, your journey has only just begun.

Thank you all very much.

Prof V Ramgopal Rao
Vice Chancellor
BITS Pilani
Pilani | Dubai | Goa | Hyderabad | Mumbai

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Prof. Suman Kundu

Dear Hon'ble Chief Guest Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India; Respected Vice Chancellor, Prof V. Ramgopal Rao; Esteemed Alumni, Members of the Senate, Registrar Col S Chakrabarty; Directors and Deans of sister campuses, Young Achiever Awardees, Industry Associates, Friends from the Media, Invited Guests and Dignitaries, Parents and Guardians of the Graduating students; Heads and Deans; Esteemed Faculty, Staff and Students of the K K Birla Goa campus; and most importantly - the bright heroes of this occasion, and our pride and joy for all times to come - the graduating batch of 2025, welcome to Convocation 2025!

With a glorious celebration of 60 years of BITS Pilani and 20 years of sojourn of the majestic K K Birla Goa Campus behind us, we are fast transforming into an "institute in high demand". With the silver jubilee celebrations beckoning us in 2029, the campus is poised for radiant brilliance. On this particular day, we are celebrating a memorable journey of academic excellence, unwavering commitment, personal growth, grit, determination and unwavering resilience that our trendsetter students have amply demonstrated. Each of you, our graduates, has traversed a path filled with challenges and opportunities, emerging stronger and wiser. The entire community on campus has assembled to honour you on this very special day.

This convocation is not just a celebration of academic success but also a tribute to the collective efforts of our entire university community. Our faculty members, with their unwavering dedication to teaching and mentorship, have played a pivotal role in your journey. The administrative and support staff have ensured a conducive environment for your growth. Your family and friends have stood by you, providing the encouragement and support needed to reach this milestone. Dear graduates, you stand on the shoulders of giants as you prepare to take on the world!

Graduating Class and Medallists of 2025

This year, 968 of our students are eligible to receive their degrees: 524 of them their first degree; 269 of them their first degree along with another degree under the dual degree scheme; 122 of them their higher degree; and 53 of them their PhD degree. In this batch, we have three medallists: Gold Medallist - Mr. Ashman Mehra, Silver Medallist - Mr. Soham Amit Walimbe, and Bronze Medallist - Mr. Arnav Goyal. Let me congratulate the medallists and each and every one of you.

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With immense pride and a deep sense of gratitude, I stand before you today to present the Director's Report encompassing the achievements of the past year.

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus Overview

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus completed 21 years of sojourn. The campus now has a total strength of about 4789 students, 248 faculty members, and 272 support staff. This campus offers 15 integrated first-degree programmes, along with dual degrees, and 9 higher degree programmes. The campus continues to expand its academic offerings. The B.E. in Environmental and Sustainability Engineering and in Electronics and Computer Engineering will begin in AY 2025-26. A new Master's (M.Sc) program in Semiconductor and Nanoscience will also begin its journey from AY 2025-26. The AY 2025-26 will also see the birth of co-tutelage 2+2 UG programs on Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence with Centrale Supelec Paris, France and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, USA. Integrating STEM with Management, a novel 3+2 UG-PG program is also being initiated, where selected B.E students will transfer to the MBA program in BITSoM, the hallowed B-School in BITS Pilani, Mumbai Campus. Additionally, the campus will offer new Minor programs in Computational Mechanics, Nanoscience and Nanobiotechnology and Semiconductor Devices and Technology from AY 2025-2026. The PhD program continues to grow from strength to strength, with 123 new full-time PhD students and 41 new part-time PhD students admitted in 2024-2025, bringing the current total enrolment to 525 PhD students (386 full time, 133 part time, 6 aspirants' scheme), crossing the 500 mark for the first time.

To augment teaching and research, the campus supported the creation of three new laboratories: Biomechanics for Medical and Assistive Device Engineering (BIOMADE) lab in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Semiconductor Research and Flexible Electronics Lab in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. The institute promoted UG research by sponsoring 22 projects for more than 25 lakhs for UG students to attend national and international conferences and participate in a few select global competitions. As an illustration, just two days before the convocation day, FD students Tanish Desai and Jainam Shah won the Best Poster award for their research paper in the 34th ACM Symposium on High Performance Distributed Computing, in the tutelage of Computer Science faculties. This is a Core A* conference and by far the most prestigious conference in HPC. This is a testimony of the talent powerhouse in the campus. The institute also supported travel grants of PhD students, 28 for international conferences and 21 for national conferences.

The campus's enduring legacy includes fostering entrepreneurial success, notably producing three unicorns with Hippocratic AI, co-founded by Debajyoti Datta, being the latest addition to this elite club (Postman, Mobile Premier League (MPL) were the other two).

To strengthen industry linkages and alumni engagement, BITS Pilani launched its Bengaluru Center on August 7, 2024 with active initiative of the K K Birla Goa Campus. The Center has broadened Practice School and placement opportunities across several fast-growing AI startups. This semester the Center will also launch an incubator for early stage startups in HSR Layout - the city's prime startup hub - in a space generously sponsored by alumnus Rajesh Kotta, founder of HustleHUB.

Reflecting its commitment to sustainable energy adoption, the campus has significantly advanced its solar

initiatives. Its total installed solar capacity has now reached 1,446 kWp, which, between 2024 and early 2025, generated 1,171,112 kWh of solar energy, resulting in a reduction of 960 tonnes of CO2 emissions. This solar generation accounted for approximately 10% of the total campus power requirement.

To enrich the campus life experience for students, facilities have been enhanced by installing air conditioners in the common rooms of all the hostels, DG sets in each of our hostels, vending machines in strategic areas, new laundry facilities in proximity to hostels, a 24x7 reading room and RFID system in the library. Athletic tracks and kabaddi arena were new additions to the playgrounds. Domino's set up its store inside the campus augmenting the diversity of food options. The students were supported financially and otherwise to organize the prestigious International Rover Challenge 2025 at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus.

Extremely tragic incidents had hit the campus hard in the past semester (between December 2024 and May 2025), and the loving memory of Om Priyansh Singh, Atharv Desai, and Krishna Kasera are forever etched in our hearts. We would want our dear students in distress and anguish to reach out to us. We are always there for you. In their memory, we remain committed to strengthening a campus environment where every student feels safe, supported, and valued. Together, we move forward with renewed care, resilience, and hope.

Practice School

The Practice School remains a cornerstone of the BITS educational system, offering invaluable experience of hands-on work in industry and in translational science (Practice School (PS) Stations). In the summer term of 2025, a total of 971 students from the Goa Campus participated in the PS-I program, working in 349 PS stations nationwide, guided by 24 faculty members from the Goa Campus. In the first semester of the academic year 2024-2025, a total of 395 first-degree students from the Goa campus participated in PS-II, placed in 222 stations for practical training, monitored by 85 off-campus faculty members. In the second semester of the academic year 2024-2025, a total of 497 first-degree students and 111 higher-degree students participated in the PS-II program, working in 274 stations, monitored by 85 off-campus faculty members. Goa had 17 PS stations to offer. Looking ahead, we are actively strengthening our PS programme with an expanded partner base and are establishing a dedicated Office of Experiential Learning, which will serve as a central hub to coordinate, enhance, and integrate experiential learning opportunities across all BITS Pilani campuses.

Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship

This year, we are proud to report significant progress in fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus:

- The Institute Innovation Council (IIC) facilitated the filing of 36 patent applications, resulting in
 the granting of 8 patents and the publication of 24 more. It also supported intellectual property
 development by facilitating the submission of 34 Invention Disclosure Forms (IDF).
- The BITS Goa Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Society (BGIIES) is currently supporting about 30 incubates in different areas like assistive devices, grey water recycling, healthcare, nutraceuticals, EV sector, renewable energy, and waste management. 15 startups

have been supported under the Grants/Compulsory Convertible Debenture (CCD) scheme, focusing on ed-tech, EV charging, wellness & healthcare, renewable energy, and waste management. Notably, the BGIIES incubated startup GreenShift Energy Pvt. Ltd. (led by Dr. Saurabh Patankar) has received a sanction order from BIRAC under the SBIRI program for developing an extrusion process to manufacture densified biomass pellets for thermal power plants.

- The BITS BioCyTiH Foundation (BBF), the Technology Hub at Goa, has established cutting-edge infrastructure, including a state-of-the-art Device Lab and Class 1000 and Class 10,000 cleanrooms that will be inaugurated by our Convocation Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor adding to the list of our state-of-the-art facilities. In addition, it established specialised biosensor laboratories, and a fully functional incubator facility, with Rs. 10.75 crores in major equipment procured during FY 24-25. During the year, 4 new faculty-led startups were supported by the foundation. Of the 14 ongoing strategic projects, five have reached Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5, supported by 12 PhD and 6 Post-Doctoral fellowships. The foundation has seen 12 new patents filed (including 2 international) by faculty members such as Prof. Sunil Bhand, Prof. Sarang Dhongdi, Prof. Utpal Roy, Prof. Vinayak Naik, Prof. Veeky Baths, Prof. Samit Chattopadhyay, Prof. Kunal Korgaonkar, and Prof. Siddharth Tripathi.
- The Young Entrepreneurs' Bootcamp (YEB) successfully organised a 6-day boot camp for 150 school students (Grades 9-12), providing immersive insights into technology-driven innovation and entrepreneurship through lectures, hands-on activities, and exposure to cutting-edge labs and startups.
- PRAVAAH 2025, MeitY Startup Hub's flagship incubator conclave, was held at K K Birla Goa Campus on February 21, 2025, uniting over 50+ MeitY-supported incubators including 150+ CEOs', policymakers, investors, and startup enablers. This event was attended by Shri K K Singh (Joint Secretary, Meity), Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao (VC, BITS Pilani), Shri Panneerselvam Madanagopal (CEO, MeitY Startup Hub), Shradha Sharma (Founder, YourStory), Ankit Agrawal (CEO, InsuranceDekho), and Poyni Bhatt (Ex-CEO, SINE IIT Bombay), who shared insights on building a robust and inclusive innovation ecosystem.
- Overall, over 100 startups have been founded by BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus alumni. This
 comprehensive approach to innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship empowers our
 students to translate their ideas into reality, and we are confident that this will continue to shape a
 future generation of successful entrepreneurs. A dozen startups by faculties have added glory to
 this spirit.

Centres of Excellence

The Anuradha and Prashanth Palakurthi Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research (APPCAIR), continues to make significant strides in creating new knowledge. Its growth in knowledge creation has been phenomenal, with 30+ publications in premier venues in 2024-25 and over 200 in the last five years. APPCAIR faculty has collectively garnered over 7000 citations and published in more than 15 top AI journals, primarily IEEE/ACM Transactions. They have also

developed new courses and established robust collaborations with leading global AI centres, including UT Austin, CMU, Oxford, Ecole, Penn State, and JPL, as well as corporate research labs such as Wadhani AI, GE Healthcare, and ABB Corp Research. The centre has generated external funding from public and private agencies, resulting in a combined corpus of 14+ crores in the last year. APPCAIR and Computer Science at BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus stands as the only private institution in India featured in the top 10 institutes in CSRankings, reflecting its exceptional research output, comparable with premier national institutes such as the Established IITs, IISc, TIFR and IISc. Exciting applications of the work at the centre found their way in Transportation, condition monitoring, Industrial Systems, Human Computer interaction, remote sensing, healthcare, multi-messenger astronomy, exoplanet detection, anomaly detection, and population dynamics.

• Advanced Research Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies (ARCSET), a BITS Pilani multi-campus Centre of Excellence pioneered through the Goa campus, focused on advancing clean energy solutions was established this year. This landmark initiative highlights the institution's commitment to addressing global energy challenges through cutting-edge research and sustainable innovation. ARCSET will concentrate on key verticals like Hydrogen Production, Storage and Utilization, Biofuels, Renewable and Alternative Energy and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS). The centre's goal is to provide scalable and affordable solutions to carbon emissions, improve energy security, and ensure equitable access to sustainable energy resources. Through numerous initiatives, it seeks to encourage sustainable, greener technologies and breakthroughs in India and globally. ARCSET is already attracting industry, government funding and startups. ARCSET is yet another diamond in the jewel crown of BITS Pilani in the Diamond Jubilee Year.

Media Lab led by Humanities and Social Sciences

The Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Media Lab, inaugurated as part of our 20th-anniversary celebrations, has become a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance teaching and learning experiences by providing students with advanced audio, video, and animation resources. Boasting features like a dedicated filming area, control room, and soundproof vocal booth, the department utilises this space for media production and as a cultural hub for showcasing Goan art and fostering collaboration with local artists and institutions.

Central Sophisticated Instrumentation Facility (CSIF) Initiatives

Our Central Sophisticated Instrumentation Facility (CSIF) continues to serve as a flagship research hub, providing access to a comprehensive array of advanced instruments crucial for cutting-edge research across various scientific disciplines. In January 2025, CSIF installed the High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM) Talos F200S G2, the only one of its kind in the entire state of Goa, becoming operational for researchers across India from February 2025. The CSIF's robust research support has already led to over 100 publications from our Goa Campus faculty. Demonstrating its wider impact, CSIF recently conducted a three-day Hands-on workshop on Confocal Microscopy for participants from various universities, institutes, and the pharmaceutical industry in Goa. We are also

proud to report new industry engagements, such as a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) signed with OmniActive Health Technologies Ltd. (OHTL), Mumbai, where CSIF facilities are utilised for critical analysis, troubleshooting, and biological evaluation of healthcare products. It has extended its services to a variety of institutions, including the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Trivent Dental College, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Fergusson College, and several industries, such as Molbio Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd., Srugenic Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and Enovix India. In December 2024, the CSIF team participated in the India Bioimaging Meeting 2024, held at IISER Pune.

Research and Innovation

Research and innovation continue to be two of the most important pillars of the BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, demonstrating our commitment to cutting-edge inquiry and real-world impact. We have significantly enhanced our R&D capability, securing substantial sponsored research projects and fostering a dynamic ecosystem of discovery.

During the Academic Year 2024-2025, a total of 93 new sponsored projects worth Rs. 37.27 crores were approved and sanctioned (this includes 90 sanctioned projects worth Rs. 32.95 crores and 3 approved projects worth Rs. 4.31 crores). The funding was broadly distributed across various project types and sources, highlighting a diverse research portfolio:

- 10 International projects secured Rs. 4.83 crores.
- 20 Industry projects collectively brought in Rs. 8.24 crores.
- 21 consultancy projects contributed Rs. 3.61 crores.
- 39 Government-sanctioned projects accounted for Rs. 16.25 crores.

In terms of departmental distribution of research funding for AY 2024-25, the primary recipients were:

- Department of Chemical Engineering: Rs. 1188.62 lakhs
- Department of Biological Sciences: Rs. 514.83 lakhs
- Department of CS&IS: Rs. 482.85 lakhs
- Department of Chemistry: Rs. 367.60 Lakhs
- Department of Mechanical Engineering: Rs. 311.23 lakhs
- Department of EEE: Rs. 258.42 Lakhs
- Department of Humanities & Social Sciences: 61.14 Lakhs
- Department of Physics: Rs. 45.71 Lakhs
- Department of Economics and Finance: 33.01 Lakhs
- Department of Mathematics: Rs. 32 Lakhs

Key funding agencies that supported these projects include the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research (DHR), Sustainable Biosolutions Pvt. Ltd. (SUSBIO), Dhananjay Bioenergy Private Limited, Armaments Research Board (ARMREB), DRDO, Craftsman Realty & Hospitality Services Ltd, Aditya Birla Centre for Enriching Lives, Mamta - Health Institute for Mother and Child, Goa Industrial Development Corporation (G-IDC), Molbio Research Award, The British Council, Ecosense Appliances Pvt. Ltd, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Vedanta Ltd Goa, Aditya Birla Science & Technology

Company Pvt Ltd, ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE), M/s Transworld Furtychem Limited, Western Regional Centre Indian Council of social science Research, IFB Industries Ltd, Siemens Limited, Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF), INS Hansa Indian Navy, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) -A Special Call for Research Grants for Women Scientists (CSIR-ASPIRE), OmniActive Health Technology Ltd Mumbai, Cranfield University UK, Briteseed, LLC, Chicago, USA, GAIL (India) Limited, Indian Port Association, Vimanic Systems Bangalore, Muxtronix, Indore India, Renishaw Metrology Systems Limited, Pune, India, e6Data Inc, Panacea Biotec Limited, Latent View Analytics Limited, Druva Data Solutions Pvt Ltd, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), ASM-HHV Engineering Ltd. Bangalore, Blockchain for Impact (BFI), Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Guerin Technologies Private Limited, Google Asia Pacific Pvt Ltd, Deccan Fine Chemicals Ltd Goa, Influxt, Next-ChemX Corporation, Summerlin Nevada USA, ARDB (Aeronautics R & D Board (AR&DB), Department of Higher Education, Government of Goa, Goa State Research Foundation, Goa Forest Department, Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Goa, Trajectories Business Solutions Pvt Ltd., Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Seva Foundation, Berkeley, California, USA.

Some of the significant projects from Academic Year 2024-2025 include:

- Prof. Sandip Kumar Nandi (Chemistry) and Prof. Angshuman Sarkar (Biological Sciences) received Rs. 38.22 lakhs from DBT for "DJ-1 in human lens: A therapeutic target to treat presbyopia and cataract".
- Prof. Srikanth Mutnuri (Biological Sciences) received Rs. 17.7 Lakhs from IFB Industries Limited
 for "Improving washing machine hygiene by reducing the release of microplastics, reuse of
 greywater," an international grant of 53050 GBP from Cranfield University UK for "Pilot testing to
 capture performance data with commercial partner engagement for Cranfield University
 developed Reinvented the toilet Unit", and Rs. 34.43 Lakhs from Latent View Analytics Limited
 for "To Develop Constructed wetlands for flood prevention, water storage and for increasing
 biodiversity in Velachery".
- Prof. Indrani Talukdar and Prof. Meenal Kowshik (Biological Sciences) received Rs. 25.00 lakhs from CSIR for "Biocompatible nanoparticle mediated non-viral delivery of siRNAs for lung cancer therapeutics".
- Prof. Sanjay Kumar (Chemistry) secured industry-sponsored projects from OmniActive Health
 Technology Ltd Mumbai for "Processing of Nutraceutical Health Products" (?4.01 lakhs) and
 "Identification of Key Active Components from Nutraceuticals" (?13.8 lakhs), and from Influxt for
 "Discovery of Novel Molecules of Therapeutic Applications" (?20.70 lakhs).
- Prof. Biswajit Das (Mechanical Engineering) was sanctioned a SERB TARE project for Rs. 18.30 lakhs for "Improvement of laser cladded Inconel surface using laser surface remelting technique".
- Prof. Vipin Kizheppatt (EEE) received an international grant of 4000 USD from Briteseed, LLC, Chicago, USA for "Implementation of real-time overlay of information on surgical monitor," Rs. 11.25 lakhs from Vimanic Systems Bangalore for "Exploring the feasibility of neural networks in identifying RF modulation scheme," and USD 20500 from King Abdullah University of Science

- and Technology (KAUST) for "Implementation of a high-speed data acquisition system for oil pipeline inspection".
- Prof. Vaibhav Joshi (Mechanical Engineering) received a grant of Rs. 39.06 lakhs from Ministry of Earth Sciences for "Flow induced Vibration of Flexible Risers and Pipelines with Grooves".
- Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy (Chemical Engineering) received an Industry project from GAIL (India) Limited for Rs. 308.33 lakhs for "Sustainable high purity hydrogen production using chemical looping combustion in a packed bed reactor".
- Prof. Ranjit Patil (Mechanical Engineering) received Rs. 10 lakhs from Indian Port Association for "Preparation of a Roadmap to Transform Major ports to Port 4.0 Leveraging advanced technologies".
- Prof. Sudeep Baudha (EEE) received Rs. 5.00 lakhs from Muxtronix, Indore India for "Development of broadband antennas operating in 500 MHz to 1000 MHz band".
- Prof. Arnab K Paul (CS&IS) received Rs. 9.05 lakhs from Renishaw Metrology Systems Limited for "Research, Development, and Testing of Novel Unsupervised Segmentation Architecture" and Rs. 15.57 lakhs from e6Data Inc for "Optimizations in Data Lakehouse compute engine".
- Prof. Sonal Ayakar (Biological Sciences) received an Industry sponsored project for Rs. 62.30
 Lakhs from Panacea Biotec Limited for "Development of nutritional supplements and active pharmaceutical ingredients through synthetic biology".
- Prof. Vinayak Naik and Prof. Arnab Kumar Paul (CS&IS) received an Industry sponsored grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs from Druva Data Solutions Pvt Ltd for "Optimization for compression using Zstandard".
- Prof. Amol Deshpande (Chemical Engineering) received an Industry sponsored grant of Rs. 131.19 lakhs from ASM-HHV Engineering Ltd. Bangalore for "Development of a laser Assisted CVD Reactor System as an addition/alternative to Siemens CVD reactor for Polysilicon production".
- Dr. Nikita Admane (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Biological Sciences with Prof Sumit Biswas) received a
 Women Scientist fellowship of ?54.47 lakhs from DHR for "Combating antibiotic resistance in
 Staphylococcus by targeting the phenol-soluble modulin-mediated amyloid-catalysed ?-lactam
 degradation".
- Prof. Meenal Kowshik and Prof. Indrani Talukdar (Biological Sciences) received a government-sponsored grant of ?52.47 lakhs from Blockchain for Impact (BFI) for "Non-viral biocompatible nanotechnology-based strategies for siRNA/shRNA/AON delivery towards clinical development for Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy therapeutics".
- Prof. Anasuya Ganguly (Biological Sciences) and Prof. Rashmi Chauhan (Chemistry) received a
 government-sponsored grant of Rs.43.27 lakhs from Blockchain for Impact (BFI) for
 "Pharmaceutical polymer-based biolink for skin tissue constructs".
- Prof. Prasanta Kumar Das (Physics) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs.44.46 lakhs from ANRF for "Probing the (P) Reheating Epochs of the Early Universe by Gravitational Waves in Inflationary Models".
- Prof. Vinaya Kumar K. B. (EEE) received an industry-sponsored grant of Rs.2.36 lakhs from

- Guerin Technologies Private Limited for "Design and Development of Flexible Antennas Operating in S and C Bands for Space Application".
- Prof. Sougata Sen (CS&IS) received an international industry-sponsored grant of \$30,000 (Rs. 25.31 lakhs) from Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd for "Indian Sign Language Collection".
- Prof. S. D. Manjare (Chemical Engineering) received a consultancy project grant of Rs. 4.29
 lakhs from Deccan Fine Chemicals Ltd, Goa for "Comparative Assessment of Environmental
 Impacts Associated with Change in Product Mix".
- Prof. Anirban Roy (Chemical Engineering) received an international industry-sponsored grant of \$339,657 (Rs.286.59 lakhs) from Next-ChemX Corporation, Summerlin, Nevada, USA for "Development of Next Generation Energy Technologies".
- Prof. Shibu Clement and Prof. Pritanshu Ranjan (Mechanical Engineering) received a
 government-sponsored grant of Rs. 63.03 lakhs from ARDB for "Investigating the Influence of
 Steady and Pulsating Mini-Jets on Jet Impingement Heat Transfer Enhancement".
- Prof. Iniyan Thiruselvam N (Mechanical Engineering) and Prof. Sumit Basu (IIT Kanpur) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 31.91 lakhs (BITS share) from ANRF for "Mechanical Characterisation and Modelling of Ultra Soft Solids".
- Prof. Aditya Challa and Prof. Snehanshu Saha (CS&IS) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 74.63 lakhs from SERB-CRG for "Building Trustworthy AI - A Framework Using Quantile Representations".
- Prof. Saroj S. Prasad and Prof. Ch. V. V. S. N. V. Prasad (Economics and Finance) received a
 government-sponsored grant of Rs. 0 lakhs from the Department of Higher Education,
 Government of Goa for "Eco Tourism: A Roadmap to Promote Tourism in Goa".
- Dr. Geetha A. Zalmi (Post-Doctoral Fellow, Chemistry) received a government-sponsored grant
 of Rs. 16.40 lakhs from the Goa State Research Foundation for "Design and Synthesis of
 Organic AIE Fluorescent Molecules and Their Application in Sensing of Environmentally Toxic
 Analytes and Biomedical Application".
- Prof. Vinayak Naik and Prof. Kunal Korgaonkar (CS&IS) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 4.9 lakhs from the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu for "A PoC for Point-of-Care Screening Tool for Oral Cancer".
- Prof. Sanjib Dey (Physics) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 91.75 lakhs (BITS share) from DST under the National Quantum Mission (NQM) for "Field-deployable quantumenhanced sensors on the integrated hybrid platform".
- The Department of Chemistry received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 220 lakhs under the DST-FIST scheme for a 5-year project titled "FIST Chemistry".
- Prof. Hemant Rathore (CS&IS) and Prof. Tarkeshwar Singh (Mathematics) received a
 government-sponsored grant of Rs. 48.25 lakhs from DRDO for "XOAI: Explainability Evaluation
 and Out-of-Distribution Detection Toolkit for Artificial Intelligence Systems".
- Prof. Sumit Biswas (Biological Sciences) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 22.37 lakhs from the Goa Forest Department for "Survey, Inventory, and Documentation of Freshwater Biodiversity in Goan Streams and Rivers".

- Prof. Sudeep Baudha and Prof. Ravi Kadlimatti (EEE) received a consultancy grant of Rs. 2
 lakhs from Akademika, Mumbai for "Design and Development of Dual-Band Patch Antennas for
 S and C Bands (3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz) Used for 5G Networks".
- Prof. Kunal Korgaonkar (CS&IS) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 5.4 lakhs from the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Goa for a project as part of the Goa Mukhya Mantri Prashikshanarthi Yojana (GMMPY) Scheme.
- Prof. Snehanshu Saha, Prof. Sravan Danda (CS&IS) and Prof. Elakkiya R (CS&IS, Dubai)
 received a consultancy grant of Rs. 8 lakhs from Trajectories Business Solutions Pvt Ltd for
 "Pattern Recognition of Voice to Predict Customer and Employee Personality, Behaviour and
 Emotions".
- Prof. Arfat Ahmad Sofi (Economics & Finance) received a government-sponsored research grant of Rs.12 lakhs from ICSSR for "Realising Sustainability: The Socio-economic and Environmental Impact of Solar Rooftops in the Border Regions of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh".
- Prof. Devendra G. Patil (Mechanical Engineering) received a government consultancy grant of Rs. 5.85 lakhs from INS Hansa, Indian Navy for "CFD Analysis of Wind Flow Pattern Over Helicopter Deck in Presence of Obstructions".
- Prof. Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi (HSS) and Prof. Saranya Nair (Mathematics) received a
 government-sponsored research grant of Rs.10 lakhs from the Goa State Research Foundation
 (GSRF) for "Assessment of Distribution Pattern, Habitat Suitability and Ecosystem Services of
 Pandanus spp. in Goa".
- Prof. Pradeep Kumar Sow (Chemical Engineering) received an industry consultancy grant of Rs.
 20.88 lakhs from Siemens Limited for "Improvement of Alkaline Water Electrolyzer (AWE) for Green H₂ Production to Supplement CO₂ to Methanol Process".
- Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy (Chemical Engineering, Goa) and Prof. Srinivas Appari (Hyderabad Campus) received an industry consultancy grant from Siemens Limited for "Proofof-Concept (PoC) Design of CO? Hydrogenation to Methanol".
- Prof. Neena Goveas (CS&IS, Goa) and Prof. Kamlesh Tiwari (CS&IS, Pilani) received an industry consultancy grant from Siemens Limited for "Rotor Balancing Through Digitalization @Digital Twin".
- Prof. Dhananjay M. Kulkarni and Prof. Kiran D. Mali (Mechanical Engineering) received an industry consultancy grant of Rs. 14.11 lakhs from IFB Industries Ltd for "Advanced Multiphysics Finite Element Simulation & Analysis of Machine Components".
- Prof. Sandip K. Nandi and Prof. Woormileela Sinha (Chemistry) received a governmentsponsored small grant from ICMR for "Effect of Lysine Modification on Structure, Stability, and Function of Lens Proteins" with a first-year grant of Rs.28.79 lakhs.
- Prof. Mohan Kumar Bera (HSS) received a government-sponsored research grant of Rs. 0.5
 lakh from the Western Regional Centre, ICSSR for "Managing Traditional Irrigation Systems for
 Improving Livelihood Security of Tribal Communities in Goa".
- · Prof. S. D. Manjare and Prof. Manas Ranjan Behera (Chemical Engineering) received an

- industry consultancy grant of Rs. 138.64 lakhs from M/s Transworld Furtichem Limited, Mumbai for "Development of Efficient and Cost-Effective Method for Production of Potassium Sulphate".
- Prof. Swaroop Joshi (CS&IS) received an international research grant of USD 4,960 (Rs.4.31 lakhs) from the ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) for "Serious Games for Teaching Accessibility".
- Prof. S. D. Manjare (Chemical Engineering) received industry consultancy grants from Deccan
 Fine Chemicals (India) Pvt. Ltd., Goa for "Performance Assessment of Production Process of
 NKK-1304" (Rs. 4.29 lakhs) and from Vedanta Ltd., Goa for "Environmental Impact Assessment
 of Manufacturing Process of Pig Iron" (Rs. 2.36 lakhs).
- Prof. Srikanth Mutnuri (Biological Sciences) received a government-sponsored travel grant from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) for "Exploring the Potential of Arctic Microbes for Bio-hydrogen Production".
- Prof. Surjya Ghosh (CS&IS) received an international travel grant of EUR 3,200 from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for "Investor Behavior Modeling in Financial Market Using Affective and Physiological Signatures: A Quantitative Approach".
- Prof. Abhishek Sharma and Prof. Samarshi Chakraborty (Chemical Engineering) received an industry-sponsored research grant of Rs. 29.1 lakhs from Ecosense Appliances Pvt. Ltd. for "H₂ Production from Agricultural Residue Using a Thermo-Chemical Route".
- Prof. Sudeep Baudha (EEE) received a government-sponsored research grant of Rs.27.07 lakhs from ANRF for "Design and Development of Low-cost Metamaterial-based Donor and Indoor Antennas for Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) Applicable for 5G and Beyond mm-Wave Communication".
- Prof. Rajesh Mehrotra (Biological Sciences) and Prof. Tribeni Roy (Biological Sciences, Pilani)
 and received an international sponsored grant of GBP 29,835 from The British Council for the
 Indo-UK bilateral project "Empowering the Workforce to Gain Critical Employability Skills in
 Electric Vehicle Technologies through Indo-UK Bilateral Partnership".
- Prof. Vinaya Kumar K. B. (EEE) received an industry-sponsored (CSR) Molbio Research Award grant of Rs. 4.74 lakhs for "Microneedle based Wearable Glucose sensor for continuous Monitoring".
- Prof. Anasuya Ganguly (Biological Sciences) and Prof. Siddhartha Tripathi (Mechanical Engineering) received an industry-sponsored (CSR) Molbio Research Award grant of Rs. 4.74 lakhs for "Developing microfluidic-based test kit for detecting early biomarkers of chronic kidney diseases (CKD)".
- Nitin Sharma (EEE) and Prof. K. R. Anupama (EEE) received an industry-sponsored (CSR)
 Molbio Research Award grant of Rs. 23.40 lakhs for "Smart Stress detection for university
 students: Affordable wearables and machine learning solutions".
- Prof. Rajesh Mehrotra (Biological Sciences) and Prof. Sandhya Mehrotra (Biological Sciences) received a government-sponsored Core Research Grant (CRG) of Rs. 42.05 lakhs from ANRF for "Mitigation of Salt Stress by Overexpression of OsALT7 in Rice".
- Nitin Sharma (EEE) received an industry-sponsored (CSR) grant of Rs. 10.73 lakhs from Molbio

- Diagnostic Ltd for "GNSS Signal Processing for Urban Environment".
- Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy and Prof. Sutapa Roy Ramanan (Chemical Engineering) received
 a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 119.24 lakhs from DST under the CET Partnership Joint
 Call 2023 for "Mineral Optimization Driving Renewable Energy Applications in Low-Energy CO?
 Capture and Utilization in Copper Processing (More4lessCu)".
- Prof. Apurba Chakraborty (EEE) received a government-sponsored grant of Rs. 28.75 lakhs
 from the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund (AISTDF), ANRF for "Growth
 and Characterization of Gallium Oxide and Its Application for Broadband Ultraviolet
 Photodetector".
- Prof. Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi (HSS) received a government consultancy grant of Rs.16.58 lakhs from Goa Industrial Development Corporation (G-IDC) for "Multi-Hazard Mapping and Preparation of Disaster Management Plan for Twenty Four Industrial Estates in Goa".
- Prof. Snehanshu Saha (CS&IS) and Prof. Sravan Danda (CS&IS) received an industry consultancy grant of Rs. 21.00 lakhs from Mamta - Health Institute for Mother and Child for "Artificial Intelligence for Predictive Nutritional Modelling: Data Driven Approach".
- Prof. Rajesh Kumar (CS&IS) and Prof. Shalini Upadhyay (HSS), and Prof. Kunal Korgaonkar (CS&IS) received an industry-sponsored grant of Rs. 12.22 lakhs from Aditya Birla Centre for Enriching Lives, Mumbai for "Empowering the Seasoned Citizens with Information Security Hygiene".
- Prof. Ch V V S N V Prasad (Economics and Finance) received an industry consultancy grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs from Craftsman Realty & Hospitality Services Ltd. for "Market Potential and Feasibility Study on Amphibious Vehicle Services in Goa".
- Prof. Rabi Narayan Panda (Chemistry) received a government-sponsored Collaborative Research Scheme (CRS) grant of Rs. 0.45 lakhs from the UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research for "Novel Ferrites and Magnetic Alloys for Multimodal Theragnostic Application for Cancer Treatment".
- Prof. Devendra G. Patil and Prof. Sandeep Jose (Mechanical Engineering) received a
 government-sponsored grant of Rs. 92.22 lakhs from ARMREB, DRDO for "Development of
 High Damping Shock Isolator for Optronic Sights of ATAGS".
- Prof. Abhishek Sharma and Prof. S. D. Manjare (Chemical Engineering) received an industry consultancy grant of Rs.53.56 lakhs from Dhananjay Bioenergy Private Limited, Maharashtra for "Harnessing Bamboo's Potential for High-Value Products via a Sustainable Thermo-Chemical Route".
- Prof. Halan Prakash (Chemistry) received an industry-sponsored grant of Rs.25.00 lakhs from Sustainable Biosolutions Pvt. Ltd. (SUSBIO) for "Performance Evaluation of SUSBIO Ecotreat Advanced Prefabricated Sewage Treatment Plant and IoT System".
- Prof. Vipin Joshi (EEE) received a government-sponsored Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG) of Rs.58.11 lakhs from ANRF for "Enabling Efficient and Reliable Normally Off Operation in AlGaN/GaN HEMTs for Higher Voltage Nodes (600 V and Beyond) Using Integrated Experimental and Computational Approach".

- Prof. Harikrishnan N. B. (CS&IS) received a government-sponsored Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG) of Rs.53.69 lakhs from ANRF for "Causal Decision Trees Using Compression Complexity Measures for Healthcare Applications".
- Prof. Souvik Ghosh (EEE) received a government-sponsored Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant of Rs. 64.41 lakhs from ANRF for "Meta-optics Empowered Anti-Counterfeiting Security Tags".
- Prof. Siddharth Gupta (CS&IS) received a government-sponsored Prime Minister Early Career
 Research Grant of ?30.64 lakhs from ANRF for "Parameterized and Temporal Graph Drawing".
- Prof. Sonal Ayakar (Biological Sciences) received a government-sponsored Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant of Rs. 68.87 lakhs from ANRF for "Development of Enhanced Fermentative Enzyme Production through Synthetic Biology for Biorefinery Applications".
- Prof. Vaibhav Mehandiratta (Mathematics) received a government-sponsored Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant of Rs. 32.00 lakhs from ANRF for "Gaussian Random Field Models on Network-Like Domains".
- Prof. Anil Kumar, Prof. Amiya K. Pani & Prof. P. Danumajaya (Mathematics), received a grant of Rs.26,26,096 from DST-SERB under Core Research Grant for "Uniform Stabilization of Numerical Approximations of Wave Equations"
- Prof. Vinayak Naik and Prof. Kunal Kishore Korgaonkar (CS&IS) received a grant from Seva Foundation, Berkeley, California, USA for USD 16,750 (??14.4 lakhs) to "Develop a Low-Cost, Accurate, and Fast Mobile Application to Detect Retinal Disorders".
- Prof. Anasuya Ganguly (Biological Sciences) has received a government-funded research
 project under the Deep Ocean Mission scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), titled
 "Cell Line Development and Cryopreservation of Deep Sea Edible Fishes of Economic Value,"
 with a sanctioned amount of Rs.19.20 lakhs.
- Prof. Anirban Roy (Chemical Engineering) has received a research grant from Water for People, Colorado, USA, for Rs 29.93 Lakhs (BITS share ?17.93 Lakhs) for "Decentralized Treatment and Reuse of Black Water".
- Prof. Abhishek Sharma (Chemical Engineering) has been awarded the Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellowship 2024 from DST, Gol, Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 72.22 lakhs for "Transformation of Waste into Clean Energy and High-Value Carbon: Technology Development and Knowledge Transfer".
- Prof. Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi (HSS) received an international grant from International Sustainable Energy Foundation (ISEF) for "A Comprehensive Assessment of Long-Term Viability and Growth of Agroforestry" with a sanctioned amount of \$39,933.
- Prof. Sougata Sen, Prof. Surjya Ghosh, Prof. Swaroop Joshi and Prof. Sravan Danda (CS & IS), along with Prof. Thad Starner from the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, have been awarded a prestigious research grant from DST under DST-NSF Joint Call for "HCC Small NSF-DST GameSignAI: Using AI to Help Deaf Children Acquire Language Skills" with a sanctioned amount of Rs.88.25 lakhs.
- Approved Projects with sanction awaited for 2024-25 are listed below:

- Dr. Tushar Sakorikar (EEE) has received approval for a research project funded by the Indian National Academy of Engineering, titled "3D Printed Tacky Liquid Metal Ionogel Hybrids for Bioelectronic Interfaces," with a sanctioned amount of Rs. 27.96 lakhs.
- Dr. Geetha Varier (Physics) has received approval for a research project under the WIDUSHI
 program funded by DST-NSF, titled "Design and Development of a Multimodal Optical MicroEndoscope for Real-Time Imaging, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics," sanctioned Rs. 93 lakhs.
- Prof. Anirban Roy (Chemical Engineering) has received an approval for a cross-campus, TRL >6 technology demonstration project titled "Technology Demonstration Plant for the Production of 0.5 TPD Green Hydrogen from Pyrolysis + Gasification of Coconut Shell and Cashew Nut Shell", with a total funding of ?19 Crores (?15 Crores from MNRE and ?4 Crores from industry).
- Prof. Sanjay K. Sahay (CS&IS) was approved for a Project from the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication, Government of India to set up a 5G use case lab.
- Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy (Chemical Engineering) received approval for the project entitled "Development and Implementation of a 2TPD CO2 Capture and Utilisation Pilot Plant to Reduce Emissions in the Cement Sector" from DST under the Special Call on Carbon Capture Utilisation (CCU) deployment in the Cement Sector.

Patents

Specific Patents Granted to K.K. Birla Goa Campus Faculty (between August 2024 and July 2025): Several faculty members and their teams from the K.K. Birla Goa Campus received patents for their innovations:

- Pragya Singh, Srinivas Krishnaswamy, K.N. Ponnani, Jaya Rawat, and Ankur Verma (Chemical Engineering) were granted a patent for "An Apparatus to Determine the Fouling Tendency of a Liquid Under Dynamic Conditions" on August 20, 2024 (Patent Number: 202011006181).
- Srikanth Mutnuri and Mohammed Monsoor Shaik (Biological Sciences) were granted a patent for "Bioremediation of Red Mud" on September 27, 2024 (Patent Number: 202211003196).
- Ranjit S. Patil and Mahesh Dasar (Mechanical Engineering) were granted a design patent for "Cyclone Separator for Particle Separation and Heat Recovery (class 15)" on November 11, 2024 (Patent Number: 431399-001).
- Debidas Kundu, Aparna Parameswaran, Hrishikesh Shashikant Sonalikar, Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharya, and Shulabh Gupta (Electrical and Electronics Engineering) were granted a patent for "A Low Radar Cross Section (RCS) Circularly Polarized (CP) Reflect array" on December 18, 2024 (Patent No. 556522).
- Jegatha Nambi Krishnan, V. Karthick Raaja, and Anegondi Nateri Achyuth (Chemical Engineering) were granted a patent for "Thin Film Blend Membrane for Desalination" on December 27, 2024 (Patent Number: 202111019401).
- Srikanth Mutnuri, Prabhu Chodnekar, and Shamik Sandip (Biological Sciences) were granted a
 patent for "Method of Treatment for Third Rinse Washing Machine Wastewater" on January 22,
 2025 (Patent Number: 202311035262).
- Jegatha Nambi Krishnan (Chemical Engineering) was granted a patent on March 31, 2025, for

- an innovative "Electrochemical Microfluidic device for detection of heavy metal ions in water sample" (Patent no. 564692).
- Sudeep Baudha and Uparnabh Ghoshal (Electrical and Electronics Engineering) were granted a patent for "Planar Antenna" on May 28, 2025 (Patent Design no.: 448622-001).
- Sudeep Baudha, Pratyush Gadge, and Anurag Nishad (Electrical and Electronics Engineering)
 were granted a patent for "Circular Patch Antenna" on March 12, 2025 (Patent Number: 451203-001).
- The DBT BUILDER scheme at the Goa campus, focusing on interdisciplinary life science, filed 3 patents during the year.

Research Publications

Our research output continues to be of high quality with researchers continuing to achieve significant milestones with multiple publications in renowned journals like IEEE, ACM Transactions, FEBS Letters (with cover page illustration), Chemical Society Reviews, Journal of Biological Chemistry and various Nature publications. During the year, the Goa Campus has produced 509 publications, including 417 indexed in Scopus and 163 in Web of Science. This extensive body of work is further underscored by 59,697 citations on Scopus. The SCI-index stands at 109, and the average Impact Factor achieved is 3.64 as per Web of Science. A Scopus Open Access publication fraction of 0.165 further demonstrate the quality, accessibility, and influence of our research contributions. Collaboration continues to play a pivotal role in our success, with 139 international author collaborations, 221 collaborations with external institutions, 57 inter-departmental publications, and 20 cross-campus publications. These figures reflect our sustained commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and meaningful academic partnerships across institutional and national boundaries.

Research Excellence Awards - 2024 at K K Birla Goa Campus

Research is the foundation of the development of any nation. To encourage research and to honour the achievements thereby, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa campus has established Research Awards for faculties at three levels. The Awardees for 2024 were:

- Societal Applied Research Prof. Pravin Madanrao Singru (Mechanical Engineering)
- Industrial Applied Research Prof. Srinivas Krishnaswamy (Chemical Engineering)
- Basic Research Prof. Mainak Banerjee (Chemistry)

Additionally, as part of the National Science Day celebrations held on February 28, 2025, BITS Pilani organised the BITS Pilani Research Awards 2024 to recognise and celebrate research excellence across the institute. This year, 10 faculty members from the K K Birla Goa campus were honoured for their significant contributions in research and innovation encompassing areas such as grants, publications, IP, and technology transfer. These awards, including the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Award and Director's Awards, highlight BITS Pilani's continued commitment to nurturing a strong research culture and advancing scholarly impact across disciplines. The recipients include:

- Prof. Ch. V. V. S. N. V. Prasad (Economics and Finance) Vice-Chancellor's Award for Best Paper in a High Impact Factor Journal [Non-STEM].
- Prof. Pradeep Kumar Sow (Chemical Engineering) Director's Award for Highly Cited Paper in

- the Last 5 years [STEM].
- Prof. Richa Singhal (Chemical Engineering) Director's Award for Highly Cited Paper in the Last 5 years [STEM].
- Prof. Saroj Sundar Baral (Chemical Engineering) Director's Award for Best Review Paper in the Last 5 years [STEM].
- Prof. Bidisha Banerjee (Humanities & Social Sciences, Goa & Hyderabad) Director's Award for Best Review Paper in the Last 5 years [Non-STEM].
- Prof. Kundan Kumar (Biological Sciences) Director's Award for Best Paper in a High Impact Factor Journal [STEM].
- Prof. Aswini Kumar Mishra (Economics and Finance) Director's Award for Best Paper in a High Impact Factor Journal [Non-STEM].
- Prof. Amrita Chatterjee (Chemistry) Director's Award for Most Prolific Researcher Award.
- Prof. Halan Prakash (Chemistry) Director's Award for Technology Development.
- Prof. Ramappagari Leshma Manogna (Economics and Finance) Director's Award for Young Investigator Award.

Internationalisation

The International Programmes & Collaboration Division (IPCD) at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to fostering global connections and student exchange opportunities, building on the significant progress made in the past year, aligning with the vision of the institute. The campus has actively expanded its international footprint, ensuring our students and faculty benefit from diverse global experiences and collaborations.

Key Initiatives and Partnerships:

- Expanded Global Partnerships: MoUs with ten new international universities, including institutions in France, Sweden, Poland, Bangladesh, the USA, South Korea, Italy, Germany, and Australia are in place. Notably, agreements were signed with the National Institute of Biology, Slovenia (June 2024), KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden (September 2024), The British University in Egypt (November 2024), Université Clermont Auvergne, France (April 2025), and the University of Southern California, USA (June 2025). These agreements are designed to enhance student and faculty exchange programs, foster joint research projects, and promote comprehensive academic collaborations.
- Dual Degree and Joint Programs: A major highlight for the Goa campus in 2024 has been the
 launch of dual degree co-tutelage programs with prestigious international partners. This includes
 a B.E. degree in Computer Science and Software Engineering from RMIT University, Australia,
 starting from the academic year 2024-25. We have also initiated B.E. Electronics and
 Communication with SUNY Buffalo, USA, and B.E. Electrical and Electronics and B.E.
 Mechanical with lowa State University, USA. These programs allow students to spend their initial
 years at BITS Pilani campuses before transferring to partner universities, providing invaluable
 international exposure.
- Joint Ph.D. Programs: The institute introduced the Overseas Student Doctoral Programme

(OSDP) specifically for international students interested in pursuing full-time Ph.D. programs at BITS Pilani campuses. For AY 2024-25, the campus welcomed international students into its full-time PhD programme under OSDP, including students from countries like Botswana and South Africa.

Student and Faculty Mobility:

- o The "Discovering India and Dubai with BITS Pilani: A Cultural Expedition Programme" facilitated a study abroad experience for students from Loyola University New Orleans, USA and RMIT Australia, exploring cultural and academic landscapes across BITS locations, including Goa.
- o 26 students went abroad for off-campus thesis work in Semester I (Aug-Dec 2024) with 5 receiving IPCD travel support, and 20 students went abroad in Semester II (Jan-May 2025) with 5 receiving IPCD travel support. Several students were nominated for international exchange and internship programs, including semester exchanges at Mälardalen University (Erasmus+ mobility; Sweden) and the DAAD WISE Internship (Germany).
- o Students selected for Future Research Talent Internship at Australian National University include Jayanta Saha, Omkar Sathe, Simran Christy Serrao, Advay Burte, and Ria Khatoniar
- o The Goa Campus proudly welcomed international students from Italy, Russia, and Croatia for both research and semester exchange programs. Specific research interns include Mr. Patrick Wimmer from BOKU, Vienna, Austria; Mr. Baptiste Pierre Vincent Bocquet from Université Clermont Auvergne, France; and Mr. Artem Stupin and Ms. Mariia Pokushko from Siberian Federal University, Russian Federation.
- Faculty members continue to engage in international visits and discussions with leading universities globally, strengthening ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

These initiatives collectively underscore our unwavering dedication to providing a globally-oriented educational experience, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and driving impactful international research and innovation.

Alumni Relations Division

The Alumni Relations Division at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, maintains its strong dedication to fostering a robust and vibrant connection among current students, esteemed alumni, and the Institute itself. Our alumni network now comprises over 11,000 graduates from the campus, showcasing the institute's profound impact across the globe. This enduring connection is continuously strengthened through a diverse range of events, strategic initiatives, and significant philanthropic contributions.

Philanthropic Support and Impactful Initiatives (AY 2024-25):

- This year marked the successful introduction of six fully-funded (100%) scholarships through generous support from alumni and CSR initiatives, bringing the total number of such scholarships to seven.
- The division achieved its highest-ever annual fundraising of approximately Rs. 3 crore.
 Among the new scholarships, four were funded by Molbio Diagnostic Ltd.; one was initiated by

the 2005 Trendsetting Batch, marking the first-ever batch-funded scholarship for a girl student on the Goa Campus; and one was supported by S. S. Rail Company under its CSR initiative. This is the first batch contribution exclusively for a Goa Campus student, setting a new benchmark for alumni impact and empowering women in STEM.

- A major milestone was the launch of Campus Connect, a monthly newsletter, on November 29, 2024, alongside the new Alumni Relations Division website. The website now serves as a onestop platform for scheduling alumni visits, submitting scholarship applications, and staying updated on various alumni-related activities.
- The Molbio Scholarships and Awards initiative was launched, valued at approximately ?2 crore over 4-5 years, supporting students and faculty in healthcare research through scholarships and innovation awards.
- The Summer Internship Assistance 2024 (SIA), funded by the 2010 and 2012 batches, provided students with valuable research experience between January and May 2025.
 Engagement and Community Building (AY 2024-25):
- BITSians' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on August 2, 2024, marking 60 years of BITS Pilani and 20 years of the Goa Campus. Activities included an online BITS Knowledge Test for alumni and a photography contest for students. An inspiring session on August 3, 2024, featured distinguished alumni Shubham Naik (Deputy Collector & Sub-Divisional Magistrate) and Urvashi Jain (Indian Forest Service, Government of Goa).
- On August 15, 2024, ARD organised an "Ask Alumni Anything" session titled "From Bogmalo to Infinity," featuring alumni from the 2010 batch who have made significant strides in MedTech, the World Bank, and technology leadership at Hotstar. An online talk by Alumni Arpit Agarwal (Data Science Leader at Meta) was hosted on November 23, 2024, on the evolving landscape of Al and Machine Learning.
- On September 27, 2024, the BITS2MBA session featured esteemed alumni from Stanford GSB, London Business School, NYU Stern, and HEC Paris, who guided students on studying abroad.
 Research-focused alumni, Danish Pruthi and Arvind Rameshwar V., engaged with students during the BITS2Research online session on November 26, 2024.
- On October 26, 2024, alumnus Aditya Chintawar (Chief Product & Technology Officer at Koin Works, Indonesia) delivered a session on careers in product management.
- The Alumni Engagement Meet for BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus alumni was held on November 9, 2024, in Gurgaon.
- On November 22, 2024, filmmaker and proud BITSian Sandeep Varma interacted with students, offering insights into the film industry.
- November 23, 2024, Mr. Ankit Nassa (2006 B4 bach), Staff Software Engineer, eSentire, delivered a talk on "Taking 0s and 1s to infinity", interacted with our students.
- On November 29th, 2024 and April 26, 2025, the Director's Tea Party was organised, serving as
 an official send-off to the final-year students. Another Director's Tea Party was held on providing
 a farewell celebration for the graduating batch.
- From December 16 to 19, 2024, the BITS Goa Alumni Cricket Team, comprising members from

- the 2005 to 2010 batches, returned to campus for a reunion tournament.
- On January 16, 2025, BITS2Consulting featured alumni Arnab Hazra, Nikhil Jones Sambarapu, and Akshya Gaur, who offered guidance on consulting careers.
- From February 14 to 16, 2025, the 2005 Batch Reunion brought back fond memories with over 100 alumni participating.
- On April 13, 2025, the BatchSnaps event created a space for pre-final-year students to capture cherished moments with friends and faculty.
- On May 23, 2025, insightful sessions were held on internships, with Yash Chaphekar, Sarthak
 Jain, and Riddhanya Senapathi sharing their experiences in the SIP IT Talk, and Asmita
 Mukherjee, Shivansh Saroj Verma, and Manashvi Pangoria speaking about their core internship
 journeys in the SIP Electronics Talk.
- In June 2025, ARD launched Batch Stories, a digital archive initiative designed to preserve and celebrate the personal and collective memories of each batch.
- On September 20, 2024, Vikas Mishra, CTO of Pixis, visited the campus for a session with students, sharing practical insights and professional experiences.
- From September to December 2024, the Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy Award was successfully conducted, honouring innovative project ideas from student teams.
- From January 27, 2025, Mirza Rahim Baig conducted a series of sessions titled "Mastering Real-World AI," highlighting how to align AI evaluation with business outcomes.
 Indeed, some alumni from the early years have now returned to nurture new generations as faculty and administrators on campus, completing a powerful cycle of contribution.

Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC)

The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, remains steadfast in its dedication to supporting and promoting excellence in teaching and learning across the institution. Established in June 2015, the TLC's fundamental role is to institutionalise the continuous re-evaluation and refinement of pedagogical methods, thereby cultivating a dynamic and enriching educational environment for both faculty and students.

In the current academic year (AY 2024-2025), the TLC has advanced its efforts in faculty development, pedagogical research, and knowledge dissemination:

- Faculty Recognition and Development:
 - The Teacher's Day Celebration (Samarpan-2024), held on September 5, 2024, included felicitation of faculty members who completed 10 years of service and presentation of the "Teaching Excellence Award" to Professors Swaroop Ravindra Joshi, Pradeep Boggarapu, Varinder Singh, and Amit Setia.
 - o The TLC also provided five research grants to faculty members for pedagogy-related work, totalling up to Rs. 7.84 Lakhs. Recipients included Prof. Sarang C Dongdi, Prof. Saranya G Nair, Prof. Pravin M Singru, Prof. Sonal Ayakar, and Prof. Reena Cheruvalath.
 - o The Teaching Learning Centre library, with a modest set of books on pedagogy, was opened in September 2024.

- Intensive Teaching Workshop (ITW) teaching sessions were conducted during September
 November 2024.
- o The TLC Newsletter was brought out in January 2025 with Prof. Rayson Alex serving as the editor.
- Promoting Best Practices in Teaching:
 - o A half-day workshop on 3T play (Transversal skill development) was conducted in collaboration with the Humanities and Social Sciences Department on January 11, 2025.
 - o A one-day workshop on AI/ML in undergraduate education was conducted in collaboration with the Physics Department on February 1, 2025.
 - o A two-day conference on Eco Pedagogy was organised in collaboration with the Humanities and Social Sciences Department in February 2025.
 - o A Teaching Assistantship-related orientation program for newly joined Ph.D. students was conducted on March 15, 2025.
- Pioneering Pedagogical Innovations: The TLC aligns with and supports pioneering educational
 approaches, as exemplified by the Department of Physics' initiatives, which include running
 courses on Moodle, conducting fully online labs, and experimenting with "flipped mode"
 teaching. The practice of systematically collecting student feedback, which originated as a pilot
 by the Physics Department, has since become a mainstream and institutionalised process for all
 courses across the campus, showcasing the TLC's success in embedding continuous
 improvement within pedagogical practices.

These initiatives and the sustained achievements of the past academic years underscore the TLC's integral role in BITS Pilani's commitment to delivering a globally competitive and high-quality educational experience, consistently adapting to new pedagogical approaches and fostering a dynamic learning ecosystem for the future.

Faculty Achievements (AY 2024-2025)

The achievements of our esteemed faculty members have been impressive throughout the academic year. Their contributions span diverse areas, reflecting their dedication to academic excellence and industry engagement. These achievements showcase the outstanding contributions of our faculty members, whose dedication to scholarship, research, and service continues to bring immense recognition to BITS Pilani Goa Campus.

Our faculty members have consistently been appointed as session chairs in national and international conferences, delivered keynotes, invited talks, lectures, and poster presentations at conferences, and visited universities abroad on various assignments. They have served as external members on advisory committees, boards of studies, or other research committees, and have been appointed to government-initiated special committees or as auditors. Furthermore, they have acted as experts in faculty selection panels, organised webinars and seminars, and served as Reviewers and Guest Associate Editors in reputed journals.

Awards and Recognitions (AY 2024-2025):

· Prof. Samit Chattopadhyay (Biological Sciences) was conferred the prestigious J.C. Bose

- National Fellowship for the 3rd time, a recognition of sustained excellence in research.
- Prof. Mainak Banerjee (Chemistry) was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), UK.
- Prof. Sanjay Kumar (Chemistry) was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), UK.
- Prof. Srikanth Mutnuri (Biological Sciences) was conferred the Goa Rajya Vidhyanik Puraskar (Environment) by the Goa State Innovation Council, Department of Science & Technology.
- Prof. Anasuya Ganguly (Biological Sciences) was selected for the first cohort of Sam?vesh Women Entrepreneurship Program (WEP-1.0) by IIT Palakkad & GSCOE for innovations in
 Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WaSH) through the startup Bactreat Environmental Solutions. She
 also participated in the Plan E Boot Camp at AIC-SEED, IISER Pune with her PhD student, Ms.
 Maheshwari Sivaravi, pitching on "Skin Grafts from Fish Collagen".
- Prof. Sumit Biswas (Biological Sciences) was inducted into the Specialist Group of the IUCN, furthering global biodiversity initiatives.
- Prof. Malabika Biswas (Biological Sciences) delivered an oral presentation at the international conference "Biotechnology for Better Tomorrow" in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, receiving the Best Oral Presenter award. Her collaborative research with Manideep Burra was featured as a cover illustration in FEBS Letters.
- Dr. Tusar Saha (Biological Sciences) received a DST-SERB ITS travel grant to attend ICE 2024.
- Dr. Minhajul (Mathematics) and his PhD student Mr. Rakib Mondal have been selected to receive travel support to attend the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2026 and the ISAAC 2025 Travel Grant for Young Mathematicians.
- Prof. Pradeep Boggarapu also visited the Department of Mathematics at Ghent University,
 Belgium, under the University Exposure Abroad scheme.
- Sarang Dhongdi (EEE) received SSHN 2024 Fellowship to visit University of Toulon, France.
- Nitin Sharma (EEE) is appointed as an expert in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to serve in the working group under TED 14/32, part of BIS's collaboration with the International Standards Organization ISO/TC 20.
- Dipankar Pal (EEE) is appointed subject expert by Goa Public Service Commission.
- Prof. D. M. Kulkarni (Mechanical Engineering) represented BITS Pilani in the first-ever National Space Day (NSpD) on August 23, 2024, graced by the Hon'ble President of India.
- Prof. Samarshi Chakraborty (Chemical Engineering) was listed among the top 2% scientists globally by Stanford University for 2023.
- Prof. Jegatha Nambi Krishnan (Chemical Engineering) was nominated as a member of the DST National Expert Advisory Committee for screening proposals.
- Prof. Manjare (Chemical Engineering) was nominated as an expert committee member for awarding the Goa Rajya Vidnyanik Puraskar 2025.
- Prof Narendra Nath Ghosh (Chemistry) has been selected to receive the CRS Silver Medal award of the society Chirantan Rasayan Sanstha® (CRS) and has been listed among the top 2% of most cited scientists from all over the World in the Single-year category (2024). He is also one

- of the editors of the Journal of Materials Science.
- Prof. Sudipta Chatterjee (Chemistry) has been listed among the top 2% of most cited scientists from all over the World in the Single-year category (2024).
- Prof. Ranjan Dey (Chemistry) won the Prof. S.T. Nandibewoor Award, conferred by the Indian Council of Chemists (ICC).
- Prof. Sunil Bhand (Chemistry) was nominated as an expert member of the electronic working
 group of the Codex International Committee on "Maximum Levels for Lead in Certain Food
 Categories" by Codex India, and as an expert by FSSAI, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
 Government of India for the Global Food Regulators Summit (GFRS) 2024. He also contributed
 as an appointed expert on the BIRAC Area Review Panel for Devices and Diagnostics.
- Prof. Manogna R L (Economics and Finance) received the Young Woman Researcher Award in Commodity Markets at the 10th Venus International Women Awards.
- Prof. Arnab K. Paul (Computer Science) was appointed as the General Chair for HiPC 2024 and to the Review Board of IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems. He received a shortlisting for the Distinguished Paper Award at IEEE HiPC 2024.
- Dr. Swaroop Ravindra Joshi (Computer Science) served as a Senior Program Committee Member for the ACM SIGCSE Technical Symposium and as a Program Committee Member at ACM India COMPUTE 2024. He also participated in a University Immersion Program at RMIT Melbourne.
- Dr. Sougata Sen (Computer Science) served as an Editorial Board Member for the Ad Hoc Networks Journal (Elsevier) and received the Best Paper Runner-Up in the Works-in-Progress (WiP) track at IEEE Percom 2025.
- Dr. Hemant Rathore (Computer Science) received the Best Paper Award at DFRWS APAC 2024.
- Dr. Sujith Thomas (Computer Science) served as a Program Committee Member for ACM India COMPUTE 2024 and as a Journal Reviewer for the IEEE Transactions on Services Computing.
- Dr. Saurabh Patankar (Chemical Engineering)'s research on biomass densification technology was published in 'The Goan' newspaper.
- Dr. Moitreyi Das (Research Associate with Prof. Indrani Talukdar, Biological Sciences) was awarded 2nd Best Oral Presentation at the XXXVIII Annual Meeting of the Society for Neurochemistry (India).
- Prof. Debasis Patnaik (Economics & Finance) was honored as a delegate speaker in the Centenary Celebrations of Masonic Lodge at Bengaluru on August 18, 2024
- Prof. Narendra Nath Ghosh (Chemistry) and his team, along with international collaborators, published a paper titled "Electrocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution in Alkaline Medium Using the ZnCo₂O₄-WO3 Heterostructure: Experimental and DFT Insights" in the Journal "Energy and

Fuels", which was selected as one of the Top 3% most influential articles in 2022.

 Prof. T. K. Jha (Department of Physics) was Invited to the XXVI DAE high energy symposium held at BHU, Varanasi (19 - 23 December, 2024). Chaired a parallel session and delivered a talk on his work.

Conferences, Workshops, Colloquiums

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus continues to be a vibrant hub for academic discourse and knowledge exchange, hosting and participating in numerous conferences, workshops, and colloquiums. The academic years 2024-2025 have seen a diverse array of events fostering interdisciplinary discussions and collaborations.

Conferences (AY 2024-2025):

- Department of Biological Sciences:
 - The 46th Annual Meeting of the Plant Tissue Culture Association (India) and a symposium on "Current Trends and Challenges in Plant Biotechnology" were hosted from February 24-26, 2025.
 - o The International Conference on Sustainable Healthcare from Biological Resources was organised from May 20-22, 2025, in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of BITS Pilani.
- Department of Chemical Engineering:
 - o The International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environment (ICSEE) 2025 was conducted from March 8-10, 2025 in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of BITS Pilani.
- Department of Chemistry:
 - The International Conference on Functional Nanomaterials and their Applications in Sustainability, Environment, Energy, and Biotechnology (ICFNA-2024) was held from November 16-18, 2024.
 - o The International Conference on Advances in Functional Materials and Applications (AFMA-2025) was organised.
- Department of Computer Science:
 - o IndoML 2024: The Fifth Indian Symposium on Machine Learning from December 21 to 23, 2024, for Diamond Jubilee celebrations, uniting academia and industry in Goa.
- Department of Mathematics:
 - o The Indian Women and Mathematics (IWM) Annual Conference was successfully organised from July 11-13, 2024, at BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, with funding from the National Board for Higher Mathematics, DAE, Govt. of India.
 - o The Third Meru Combinatorics Conference was held from May 28-30, 2025, bringing together around 65 participants from across India.
 - The DRC, Department of Mathematics, led by Prof. Saranya G. Nair, organised a two-day symposium on "Insights into Research Pathways in Mathematics".
 Workshops (AY 2024-2025):
- Department of Chemical Engineering:
 - o A workshop on Advancing Chemical Looping for Carbon Capture and Clean Energy Transition was held on March 10, 2025.
- · Department of Chemistry:
 - o AWILEY Author Workshop was coordinated on August 29, 2024.
- · Department of Mechanical Engineering:
 - o A two-day workshop on Five Axes Machining (HAAS) with Mastercam was conducted on

July 26-27, 2024.

- A National Workshop on Additive Manufacturing (AM-24: Basic & Advanced | Polymers & Metals) was held on September 24, 2024.
- A Workshop on Skill Development was conducted for children aged 10-15 years from May 5-10, 2025.
- Department of Economics and Finance:
 - Workshop on "Research in Management: Opportunities and Challenges in Today's World" and a Workshop on "Applied Econometrics (Applications to NSSO-PLFS Database)".
 Colloquiums (AY 2024-2025):
- Department of Mathematics: Organised more than 20 colloquium talks by external experts from India and abroad.
- The Department of Economics and Finance: Organised a Lecture and Seminar Series on "Evolving Perspectives: Emerging Research in Economics and Management" and an Expert lecture series on Finance, Derivatives, and Risk Management".

Student Achievements (AY 2024-2025)

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus students continue to demonstrate exceptional talent and dedication, excelling in a wide array of academic, research, innovation, and extracurricular pursuits throughout the academic year 2024-2025. Their achievements reflect a commitment to excellence and a vibrant spirit of inquiry and collaboration.

Academic Excellence and Research Recognition:

- Ms. Sandhya Maurya, a PhD scholar, received an international travel grant to present her coauthored paper at the 22nd International Conference on Numerical Analysis and Applied Mathematics (ICNAAM 2024) in Crete, Greece, and received the Best Teaching Assistant Award from TLC.
- Mr. Saurabh Ramdas Madankar, a PhD scholar, was awarded an international travel grant to attend the 4th International Conference on Control Theory and Applications (ICoCTA 2024) in Hangzhou, China.
- Ms. Sapna Sudan received an international travel grant for the S3IC conference in October 2024 and undertook research in nanobiosensors at Linkoping University, Sweden.
- Ms. Khusboo Dubey received an international travel grant for the Thermodynamics conference 2024 in Delft, Netherlands.
- Mr. Atul Patel and Ms. Jemi Gandhi were awarded international travel grants for the 7th International Conference on Environmental Applications of Advanced Oxidation Processes (EAAOP-7) in Italy.
- Ms. Neelamma M.K. was awarded an international travel grant for the Biosensors 2025-35th Anniversary World Congress on Biosensors in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Mr. Manish Pawar, a 4th-year MSc student, secured third position in the iSmart Quiz (August 2024) and second prize in the Quality Awareness Quiz 2024 (December 2024), competing against numerous institutions across India.
- Mr. Bhanudas B. Takale, a Ph.D. scholar, was honoured with the Best Poster Presentation award

- at the Global Research Conference on Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development in Munich, Germany, for his work on solar air heaters.
- Mr. Manik Patil, a Ph.D. scholar, had a paper accepted for publication in Springer Proceedings in Materials, presented a paper at COPEN 13 (December 2024), and published in Surface & Coatings Technology (Elsevier Publication, Q1, IF 5.4).
- Mr. Vishnu Rama Chari received the Best Poster Award (3rd place) at the International Conference on Functional Nanomaterials and their Applications in Sustainability, Environment, Energy, and Biotechnology (ICFNA-2024).
- Ms. Nishaben Dholakiya won the Second-Best Poster Presentation at the ICFNA-2024 conference.
- Ms. Himani Arora was awarded best poster for her work titled 'Thermal activation of Peroxydisulfate (PDS) for water treatment' at the 6th International Conference on Water: From Pollution to Purification.
- Maheshwari Sivaravi, Manideep Burra, Roumik Banerjee, and Asbern Dsouza won the Best Oral Presentation Award at the International Conference on Sustainable Healthcare from Biological Resources.
- Joel Tony was awarded the "SIGHPC Student Travel Grant to attend SC24" by ACM's Special Interest Group on High Performance Computing (SIGHPC).
- Swarnali Banik's paper, co-authored with faculty, on "Towards Reducing Continuous Emotion Annotation Effort During Video Consumption: A Physiological Response Profiling Approach" was accepted at UBICOMP 2024 (IMWUT). She also received the Chanakya Ph.D. Fellowship in April 2025.
- Alfiya Mohamad Hanif Shaikh had a paper accepted and presented at the European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (ECML PKDD 2024).
- Aishwarya Ravindra Parab received the "TCHPC/TCPP HPC Student Cohort travel grant to attend SC 2024 and IPDPS 2025". Her paper, "A Blockchain-Enabled Framework for Storage and Retrieval of Social Data," was selected at the IEEE workshop on Parallel and Distributed Processing for Computational Social Systems (ParSocial 2025), and she was also selected for the Ph.D. Forum at the IPDPS 2025 conference.
- Prakhar Pradhan and Aishwarya Parab had their paper accepted at the 9th IEEE Workshop on Parallel and Distributed Processing for Computational Social Systems (ParSocial 2025).
- Aryan Sahu received an award for paper acceptance at "ACL 2025 (Main track)".
- Sarang S (3rd year B.E.) and Harsh Chothani (2nd year B.E.) had their paper on Mutual Information-based Loss Functions in Federated Learning accepted at FedEdgeAl 2025, IEEE ICDCS.
- Team UnifyFL, a group of BITS Pilani students, developed a decentralised federated learning framework, with their work accepted at Middleware 2025.
- Kartik Redkar was awarded the prestigious DST-INSPIRE Scholarship.
- Snehashis Alam was selected as a General Visiting Student to study Geography at Beijing Normal University.
- Mythreyi K collaborated with Nature Classrooms to conduct a workshop at the Student

- Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS), Bengaluru.
- Vaishali Kashyap presented a paper at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS-in-Asia)
 Conference and received a travel grant to participate in the 2025 Asia Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies.
- Apoorva Heroor, from the HSS Dept. received a Fellowship as a Visiting Scholar at the Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society (RCC), LMU, Munich.
- Yuga Ghotge was selected as a Manohar Parrikar Goa Scholar (2023-24) for outstanding doctoral research.
- Yogesh Jadhav was awarded the prestigious Prime Minister's Fellowship for Doctoral Research.
- Ms. Biswashree Tanaya Priyadarsini (PhD Scholar, Economics & Finance) received the Best Paper Presentation Award at the 'National Conference on Management and Digital Technologies (NCMDT-2024)' on August 23, 2024, organised by Rourkela Institute of Management Studies.
- Ms. Sarita Sihag (PhD Scholar, Mathematics) received the prestigious DST-INSPIRE Fellowship awarded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for a period of 5 years
- Mr. Yogesh Trivedi (PhD Scholar, Mathematics) received an International Travel Grant from ANRF (formerly SERB) to attend 'The 14th AIMS Conference on Dynamical Systems, Differential equations, and Applications' in the United Arab Emirates from December 16-20, 2024.
- Ms. Shivani Deo (B.E. Computer Science) was selected as an Aditya Birla Scholar (2024-25), a scholarship extended to top scholars from 21 premier institutes
- Karthik HJ (Physics research scholar) received the Best Poster Award at the International School
 and Conference on Evolution of Electronic Structure Theory & Experimental Realization
 (EESTER 2025), including the poster title "Janus van der Waals Heterostructures: Unlocking
 Ultra-High Thermoelectric Efficiency in SnS2 and its Janus monolayer-based Systems" and his
 co-author Prof. Swastibrata Bhattacharyya.
- Tanish Desai, Jainam Shah, Gargi Alavani, Snehanshu Saha, Santonu Sarkar (2025) "Adaptive GPU Power Capping: Balancing Energy Efficiency, Thermal Control and Performance," has received the Best Poster Paper Award at the 34th ACM Symposium on High Performance and Distributed Computing (HPDC), held in Indianapolis, USA. HPDC is a CORE A conference.
 National and International Competitions:
- Team Artemis (Aerodynamics Club), led by Om Jasiwa and Pranav Saxena, secured 4th place nationwide and emerged as winners in the manual mission category at Aerothon'24. They also achieved 3rd in Phase 1 and 4th overall in the SAE India Aerothon competition.
- Anant Jain was ranked among the top 5 in the Gen Al Exchange Hackathon organized by Google.
- Akshaj Jain was Ranked 1st in the Dezerv Havkathon.
- Team Pegasus ranked third in India and eleventh in Asia at the AIAA Design Build Fly competition.
- Project Kratos finished 7th globally and secured 3rd place in Reconnaissance and Delivery Operation at the International Rover Challenge 2025 at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus.
- · Team GigaWatt developed the first Formula Electric Car across all three campuses and

- represented the institute at Formula Bharat in January 2025.
- BITSkrieg, the cybersecurity club, achieved a landmark feat by ranking 1st in India and 3rd globally on CTFtime, the premier platform for international cybersecurity competitions.
- The BITS Goa Consulting Club (BGCC) won the 3rd position in the prestigious EY CAFTA National Championship, marking 5 consecutive podium wins.
- FMAC's (Film making club BITS GOA) film was nominated in the Top 10 in IFP's (India Film Project) 50 Hour Filmmaking Challenge.
- The boys' football team secured a 5-0 victory against Ace Soccer Academy.
- BITS Goa delivered an outstanding performance at Arena 2024, securing multiple podium finishes in sports, with a total of 37 trophies and 9 Gold, 13 Silver, and 13 Bronze medals. The swimming team secured 2nd place overall, with Arya Kulkarni winning the Overall Best Swimmer Award. The powerlifting team claimed gold (Arhan, U-71kg) and silver (Pranay, U-59kg). The girls' football team and chess team both secured silver medals. The squash team dominated, sweeping the podium in individual and team events with 4 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze medals.
- A team of students secured first place in the prestigious ProjectX UofT Al Research Competition, organised by the University of Toronto Al.
- Team f20221512 (Yash Pratap Singh, Devansh Bhalla, and Karan Rana) secured the Second Runner-Up position in the Muthoot Finclusion Challenge 2025, being the only undergraduate team to achieve this feat among 25,000 participants from top MBA institutes.
- Shlok Mehendale, Soham Kalburgi, Vrishti Godhwani, and Pranjay Yelkotwar were awarded 1st prize in January 2025 at the "ProjectX Machine Learning Research Competition".
- Shlok Mehendale, Pranjay Yelkotwar, and Shwetabh Singh were awarded as regional winners and national second runner-up in the "NXPAIM 2024 Smart Car Design Challenge".
- Rohit Raj, Akshat Gosain, and Gaurav Singh were awarded 1st position at the "Goa Police Hackathon".
- Krish Garg won the Integration BEE Competition organised by Axiom Mathematics Association, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad on April 13, 2025.
- Dhyan D. Laad and Narendran S participated in the Integration BEE Competition and finished in the top 16 winners.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship:

- Team Afforda, a student startup, won the SBI Youth Ideathon 2025 and secured ?1,00,000 along with the Esri India Innovation Award. They are currently incubating with PIEDS.
- Gautham S was awarded the Molbio Student Innovation Award 2025 for innovative projects aimed at developing socially relevant products/Critical Technology Elements.
- The Sandbox Innovations Lab continued to work on advanced robotics projects, including Spiderbot Version 2, a segmented Snakebot, a Quadruped robot, and Project Vulcan (a humanoid face with eye and mouth movements and a bionic arm). They showcased projects at Quark, Open Day, and to industry experts and the German Chancellor, and assisted cross-club and academic projects with rapid prototyping.
- Student researchers Shah Rahil Kirankumar and Shreyas V (Team "Deep Forest Sciences")

were awarded as finalists in the "Standard Industries Chemical Innovation Challenge," receiving a prize of USD 100,000.

Global Engagement and Internships:

- Anurag Saxena was selected for the prestigious Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) Summit, a global platform for engaging with leaders worldwide.
- Aryan Bhosale was awarded at Google Summer of Code 2024.
- Aditya Naidu was awarded the "DESIS Ascend Educare Mentorship 2024" by D.E. Shaw India.
- The Placement Unit reported securing 8 international full-time offers from Indus International FZC, Dubai, and over 30 job opportunities from various Japan-based companies. There was also a 50% increase in summer internship offers, accompanied by a 35% rise in recruiting companies.
- Ms. Sapna Sudan visited the Department of Science Technology and Environment at Linkoping University Sweden hosted by International PI, Prof Magnus Willander during Nov-Dec 2024 for a period of 60 days to undertake research in the area of nanobiosensors as part of SPARC Project funded by Ministry of Education to Prof Sunil Bhand (Indian PI).

Other Notable Achievements:

- Mr. Askar Ali, a PhD scholar, received the Best Teaching Assistant Award from TLC.
- Aditya Agarwal was awarded the "Domain Scholar Robotics" recognition by NPTEL.
- Nikhil Sheoran, Utkarsh Misra, and Mohak Jain developed the tool "Spotthescam.in," which was inaugurated by CM Pramod Sawant and is now live on the Goa Police website.
- A team of BITS Goa students and faculty, led by Dr. Hemant Rathore, developed an Al-powered solution to combat radical and fake online content in collaboration with the Goa Police, an effort recognised by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and Hon'ble CM Shri Pramod Sawant.

Best PhD Thesis Awards - 2025

The "Best Thesis Award" was established by the K K Birla Goa Campus to encourage and acknowledge promising research conducted by doctoral students, recognising their valuable contributions to the university, their respective disciplines, and society at large. For the year 2025, the following individuals received recognition for their doctoral research:

- Dr. Akanksha Gavendra from the Department of Chemical Engineering for her thesis titled: "The
 effect of entropic and enthalpic particle-polymer interactions on the dynamic rheology of particlefilled polymer melts". Her supervisor was Dr. Asima Shaukat.
- Dr. Anjli Varghese from the Department of EEE was recognised for her thesis titled: "Automatic Leather Species Identification using Digital Microscopic Image Analysis". Her supervisor was Prof. Amalin Prince.
- Dr. Bhosle Akhil Adinath from the Department of Chemistry received the award for his thesis titled: "Design and Mechanochemical Synthesis of Donor-Acceptor-based Red-emissive Molecular and Supramolecular Probes including AIE-active Azines: Their Photophysical Studies and Sensing Applications". His supervisors were Prof. Mainak Banerjee & Prof. Amrita

Chatterjee.

- Dr. Karle Suhas Balasaheb from the Department of Biological Sciences was honoured for his
 thesis titled: "Investigating the Role of OsTIP1;2 in Oryza sativa L. in Response to Arsenite
 Stress". His supervisor was Prof. Kundan Kumar.
- Dr. Keshav Kaushik from the Department of CS&IS received the award for his thesis titled: "A Systems Approach Towards Energy-Efficient Cooling Systems for Buildings". His supervisor was Prof. Vinayak Naik.
- Dr. Kulkarni Ashut honoured for his thesis titled: "Isolation of White Blood Cells in a Microfluidic Device". His supervisor was Dr. Siddhartha Tripathi.
- Dr. Fathima Safikaa S from the Department of Mathematics received the award for her thesis titled: "Topology of the Flip Stiefel Manifolds". Her supervisors: Dr. Shilpa Gondhali.
- Dr. Renjith Raj from the Department of Economics & Finance was recognised for his thesis titled:
 "Climate Change, Vulnerability, and Adaptation: Unveiling the Nexus from the Western Ghats of Kerala". His supervisor was Dr. Arfat Ahmad Sofi.

Prof Suman Kapur Memorial Best Ph.D. Thesis Award - 2025:

This award was constituted by Mr. Sushil Kabra and Mr. Suresh Kabra, brothers of the Late Prof. Suman Kapur, a Senior Professor at BITS Pilani. Its purpose is to acknowledge outstanding research and encourage excellence in Biological Sciences or related fields.

 Dr. Mohita Mahajan from the Department of Biological Sciences was the recipient of this award for her thesis titled: "Identification of Colorectal Cancer Associated Key Pathways and Potential Biomarkers by Integrated Bioinformatics Analysis". Her supervisor was Prof. Sukanta Mondal.

Outstanding PhD Thesis Awards - 2025 instituted by BITS Pilani:

- Dr. Aakanksha M from the Department of Chemical Engineering was recognised for her thesis titled: "Fabrication of Magnetic Nanocomposite Microswimmers via Top-Down Method from Electrospun Helical Fibres and its Application in Protein Separation". Her supervisor: Sr. Prof. Sutapa Roy Ramanan.
- Dr. Karmur Rajeshvari Samatbhai from the Department of Chemistry received the award for her thesis titled: "Ti3C2Tx MXene-based Nanocomposites: Synthesis, Characterization and Application as Electrode Material for High-Performance Flexible Asymmetric Supercapacitor". Her supervisor: Prof. Narendra Nath Ghosh.
- Dr. Fernandes Rochell Ann from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences was honoured for her thesis titled: "Echoes of Unfreedom: Re-presenting the Disabled Memories of the Poskim". Her supervisor: Prof. Alamelu Geetha Krishnamurthy.

Outreach (AY 2024-2025)

The "Outreach" activities at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, demonstrate its commitment to fostering engagement with the local community, educational institutions, industry, and international partners, extending beyond traditional academic boundaries. These initiatives aim to share knowledge, inspire future generations, and apply research for societal benefit.

 Open Day: The campus celebrated its Open Day on November 23, 2024, which saw over 1500 students and faculty members visit from the state of Goa. This event showcased innovations by faculty and research scholars through digital demonstrations, posters, and prototypes, aiming to foster early interest in sciences and research among students and teachers from schools and colleges across Goa.

- Tools for Goa Police: From January to May collaboration with Goa Police, developed an Alpowered solution to combat radical and fake online content. This effort was recognised by the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and helps security agencies flag extremist material, detect fake websites, and malicious apps. A tool named "Spotthescam.in" developed by students was inaugurated by Hon'ble CM Pramod Sawant and is now live on the Goa Police website. This project highlights technology's positive contribution to change.
- The campus continues its partnership with the State Government in organising the Manohar Parrikar Vidnyan Mahotsav.
- BITS Goa has supported the Government of Goa in preparing the vision-based knowledge document for the state action plan on climate change.
- The technology incubator hubs work closely with other incubators and innovators in Goa.
- Student Community Service: Students continue to engage in community events such as beach
 cleaning and organise activities for children from underprivileged communities around the
 campus though clubs such as Nirman and Abhigyan.
- Inclusive Sports: The campus annually hosts the "UDAAN" annual sports day for specially-abled kids, demonstrating inclusivity and athletic prowess.
- Visits to the campus: As part of the ongoing outreach activities, Campus hosted around 800 students along with 60 teachers/ professors from over 20 schools, colleges, Universities from Goa and outside Goa during January to May 2025.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

Each BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus department has made significant strides in academics, research, and student development, contributing to their respective fields and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. As we celebrate the achievements of our graduating students today, we also look ahead with optimism and confidence. The knowledge, skills, and experiences gained during your time at BITS have prepared you to navigate the world's complexities with courage and integrity.

Dear graduates, you are the torchbearers of our legacy, and the world awaits your contributions. Your journey is just beginning, and with the knowledge and experiences gained at BITS Pilani, you are well-equipped to make a significant impact. On behalf of the entire university community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you on this momentous occasion. May you continue to uphold the values of knowledge, excellence, and service as you embark on new endeavours and make a positive impact on the world.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

Prof Suman Kundu

Director

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHIEF GUEST



Prof. Abhay Karandikar

Prof. Abhay Karandikar is Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology. Before joining as Secretary in the Government of India, he served as the Director, IIT Kanpur from April 2018 to September 2023. Prof Karandikar is best known for his exceptional contributions in the field of telecom technology development and global 5G/6G standards, with 100+ publications and 40 granted and filed patents to his credit. Before joining IIT Kanpur as the Director, he also held prominent positions such as Head of the Electrical Engineering Department and Dean of Faculty Affairs at IIT Bombay.

The most notable impact of his research has been in affordable broadband access, which led to the formation of two global IEEE standards in 5G. His group has also made some pioneering contributions towards 6G architecture.

He spearheaded a national effort in setting up the Telecom Standards Development Society of India (TSDSI), India's standards body for telecom. Prof Karandikar was the founding member and former Chairman of TSDSI. He was also a Member (Part-Time) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) during January 2018- January 2021.

Prof. Karandikar's vast experience in policymaking and standardisation in telecommunications has been recognised at international levels. He served on the Board of Governors of the IEEE Standards Association (SA) from January 2022 to December 2023. Prof Karandikar was awarded with IEEE SA's Standards Medallion in December 2016 in New Jersey.

CHIEF GUEST MESSAGE

- by Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST

Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof Ramgopal Rao; Prof. Suman Kundu, Director of BITS Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus; Members of the Governing Body, Senate, Members of the faculty, alumni, staff, and student community; invited dignitaries, guests, and members of the media; proud graduates and their family members, Ladies and Gentlemen; I have great pleasure to be the Chief Guest at this momentous occasion.

The graduation ceremony is more than just a formal event; it is a celebration of goals achieved and a starting point for future pursuits. Each of you has worked hard to reach this moment, overcoming challenges, taking advantage of opportunities, and pushing yourselves beyond your limits. Today is a testament to your hard work and commitment, and I am indeed delighted to share this important occasion with you. As you close this chapter, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all graduating students for your accomplishments and commend your families for the support they have provided throughout this journey. The experiences you have gained here have equipped you with the knowledge, skills, and, most importantly, the confidence to succeed in a world increasingly influenced by technology. Today, we come together to recognize and celebrate the determination and dedication that have brought you to this significant point in your lives.

A Campus of Growth and Excellence

Standing here today, in this vibrant campus that has in just two decades become a hub of excellence, I am filled with admiration for the legacy you are creating. The K. K. Birla Goa campus, born out of a vision to create an oasis of knowledge and future thinking, has truly lived up to its promise. From its humble beginning in 2004 with 600 students to now housing over 4500 students, supported by 245 faculty members and 270 staff, the transformation has been extraordinary. Even more impressive is the fact that 500 of these students are pursuing their PhDs, reflecting the institute's deepening commitment to research and advanced scholarship. It is a matter of pride that this campus, nestled along the Konkan coast, has become synonymous with innovation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual leadership—not only in India but increasingly across the globe.

Innovation at the Heart

The achievements of BITS Goa reflect a powerful blend of academic excellence and entrepreneurial vision. The BITS BioCyTiH Foundation supported by the Department of Science and Technology, has emerged as a lighthouse for deep tech innovation in the field of Bio-Cyber Physical Systems, with ?31 crores in funding and 30 supported startups, is driving deep tech innovation in Bio-Cyber Physical Systems. State-of-the-art labs in biosensors, IoT, and device development signal bold investment in the future. As India rises to become the third largest economy, startups are key to addressing unemployment, creating jobs, and powering India's Amrit Kaal journey through inclusive innovation. Remember that true innovation is not just about creating new technologies but also about making a meaningful impact on society.

With 97 new sponsored projects worth ?25.60 crores, the research ecosystem here is vibrant and impactful. The creation of a Centre for Research in Quantum Information and Technology, collaborations with global leaders like IBM Research, and proposals under the National Quantum Mission demonstrate this campus's active role in shaping India's future in quantum science and technology.

Development-Led Economy and the Role of Science

The vision of a development-led economy is one where science and technology are harnessed to address the nation's most pressing challenges—be it in healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, or environmental sustainability. As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, the role of science and technology will be central to achieving this goal. The government's initiatives to boost innovation and entrepreneurship, such as the Start-up India program and the Atmanirbhar Bharat, are creating a fertile ground for science-led economic development. These initiatives are not just about fostering growth but also about ensuring that development is inclusive, sustainable, and beneficial to all sections of society. Your contributions, as graduates, will be crucial in driving this agenda forward. By leveraging your scientific and technological knowledge, you can develop solutions that improve the quality of life, create jobs, and contribute to the nation's economic prosperity.

Women-Led Development through Science and Technology

Today, we must also recognize the crucial role that women play in the development of science and technology. Women-led development is not just a slogan but a reality that is shaping the future of our nation. The participation of women in STEM fields is steadily increasing, and this is a trend that must be encouraged and supported. The government has launched several initiatives to promote gender equality in science and technology, including the Women Scientists Scheme and the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) initiative. These programs are designed to provide women with the resources, mentorship, and opportunities they need to excel in their scientific careers. As you step into your professional lives, I urge the women graduates to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Your contributions will not only drive innovation but also inspire future generations of women to pursue careers in science and technology.

Contribution to the Economy through Science, Technology, and Innovation

The government is committed to creating an enabling environment for young innovators and researchers. From the Start-up India initiative to the Atal Innovation Mission, from the expansion of research parks to the creation of innovation hubs, there is a concerted effort to integrate innovation into the fabric of our nation. Today, we stand at the intersection of academia and entrepreneurship, envisioning a future where innovation becomes integral to our education system. As graduates, you have the potential to be the entrepreneurs who will not only create wealth but also address some of the most pressing challenges facing our society.

In the recent years, India has emerged as a global innovation hub. The country known for IT and IT enabled services and traditional businesses now boasts of the third largest startup eco-system in the

world. Today, the number of registered startups in India has risen to more than one lakh seventy thousand. More than 100 Indian Unicorns (companies with valuation of more than US\$1 Billion) are flourishing in the fast-paced and dynamic economy today. We are witnessing the emergence of the third-wave of entrepreneurship in India. The first wave established India as the IT services destination; with the proliferation of Internet and Cellular mobile systems, the second wave, drove the creation of a multitude of e-commerce and digital tech businesses, the third wave is seeing India produce game-changing innovations – building products and solutions across all areas of engineering - electronics, space, defence, Al/ML, manufacturing, semiconductors, climate-tech, fin-tech, electric vehicle, new battery solutions, Quantum technologies, Hydrogen fuel, biomanufacturing etc. This third wave has a potential to establish India as an engineering and technology innovation hub for the globe, creating translational ventures, and leveraging unrivalled scale economies that come with India's status as the world's fastest-growing economy.

Looking Ahead: Viksit Bharat 2047

This progress aligns closely with the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat 2047—a vision for an India that leads not merely by population size, but by progress, equity, and sustainability. A century after independence, the nation aims to be technologically confident, socially just, environmentally conscious, and economically robust. Achieving this will require strong foundations in science, technology, research, and innovation. S&T based Entrepreneurial infrastructure and strong support mechanisms created by the Government such as TBIs, seed funding to acceleration, assistance in raising external funding, has provided seamless opportunities to students and innovators to take up entrepreneurship as career and own innovative startups.

But change does not happen with knowledge alone—it needs action. Research must move from labs to the lives of people. Think about how UPI, DigiLocker, and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission have changed things for millions. These are examples of how technology in the service of society can remove barriers, open doors, and include everyone.

The guiding philosophy is simple yet profound: "Science in the service of the nation." This is not a slogan—it is a strategic commitment to apply knowledge for social transformation. Scientific expertise is not a private treasure but a public good. Whether the goal is to improve food security, combat climate change, or enhance water management, the talents of engineers, researchers, designers, and analysts must serve the greater collective interest.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: Building a Self-Reliant Research Ecosystem

Recently, the Government has established Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) which aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout Indian universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. India's premier academic and research institutions in STEM have a critical role to play in this third wave of "deeptech" innovations from India. As India focusses on deep-tech innovations and self-reliance in key technology areas, Indian academia, top institutes of excellence and innovators have a greater role to play.

Deep-tech requires significant research and development, and as has been proven globally, it requires dedicated effort to "translate" technologies being developed in academia or research institutions into commercially viable products. ANRF will help catalyse seeding this research in our academia and research labs.

As it has been globally established, deep-tech innovations require patient capital, strong access to technical infrastructure and strong technical talent. Realising the need of patient capital, government has announced setting up Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund has been recently approved by the Union Cabinet. This initiative aligns with India's vision of becoming a global science leader and achieving Viksit Bharat @2047.

Institutions like BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus stand at the heart of this transformation—by equipping students with the curiosity to ask bold questions and the skills to find real solutions. This campus not only nurtures deep scientific thinking, but also cultivates entrepreneurship. The fact that BITS Goa has produced not one, but 3 Unicorns, is a remarkable feat. And even beyond those unicorns, there are alumni who have featured in the Forbes 30 under 30 list, led pioneering ventures such as Postman, Thinkerbell Labs, Mobile Premier League, and shown what's possible when deep knowledge meets deep commitment.

The knowledge and skills you've gained here will help drive India's leadership in science, technology, and sustainability. As you begin your careers, remember—the nation's future rests in your hands. Your ideas, dedication, and excellence will shape not only your own path but also contribute to a developed, innovative, and self-reliant India. As you graduate from BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, remember you are part of a legacy of BITS alumni who have left their mark across the world. Forge your path, dream big, and embrace challenges. Your journey has just begun, filled with opportunities to contribute to Viksit Bharat 2047 missions and shape a better future for all. Strive for excellence, believe in yourself, and remember that success is not just about academic achievements but about navigating through life's exams with resilience and determination.

India's strength lies in its youth, and you hold the key to transforming it into a global technological and economic power. As ambassadors of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, I urge you to give back to society the fruits of your learning—by becoming job-givers, not just jobseekers. Embrace your social responsibility, strive for excellence, and create a lasting impact. Let this moment mark the beginning of a new chapter—filled with innovation, collaboration, and purpose. Uphold the legacy of your alma mater by working for the nation that nurtured you. Your stories are just beginning, and I have full confidence that you will unfold stories of progress, innovation, and ingenuity.

Swami Vivekananda stated, "All the power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that."

Jai Hind. Jai Bharat.

BITS RATNA AWARD 2025



Mr. Prem Jain

Prem Jain obtained his B.E. Electrical Engineering from BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, in the year 1973. Prem is a prominent figure in the global technology industry, renowned for his leadership in networking and data center innovations. He furthered his education with a Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Sciences from the University of California, Davis (1975–1977).

Prem's illustrious career includes a 23-year tenure at Cisco Systems, where he was instrumental in developing several groundbreaking products. As the Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Insieme Business Unit, he led the development of Software Defined Networking (SDN/ACI) products and next-generation data center switches. Insieme Networks, a startup he co-founded, was acquired by Cisco in December 2013. In 2017, Jain co-founded Pensando Systems, a cloud and enterprise data center startup, which AMD acquired in May 2022 for \$1.9 billion. Following the acquisition, he assumed the role of Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Networking Solutions Group at AMD.

Prem has received numerous accolades throughout his career for his contributions to the technology sector. He received the BITS Pilani Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2012 and the JAINA Ratna Award in 2021. In 2018, he established the Prem Chand Jain Family Presidential Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the UC Davis College of Engineering. Beyond his professional achievements, Prem is actively involved in philanthropic and community initiatives. He served as the President of JAINA from 2013 to 2015 and is the founding Chairman of JITO USA, where he continues to contribute to the organization's mission.

Currently, Prem serves as Chairperson of BITSAA International, the official alumni led organization of BITS Pilani. Under his leadership, BITSAA has fostered close collaboration with BITS Pilani, where Prem himself has been leading fundraising conversations with many HNI BITSians, helping in achieving our funding targets.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the industry, entrepreneurship, and philanthropic efforts towards BITS Pilani and society at large, Prem Jain is being conferred with BITS Ratna award. Through his achievements, Prem Jain has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater – BITS Pilani.

BITS RATNA AWARD 2025



Mr. Sid Mookerji

Sid Mookerji obtained his B.E. Electrical and Electronics Engineering from BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, in the year 1988. Sid Mookerji is a seasoned entrepreneur and venture capitalist widely recognized for his significant contributions—to retail technology and startup ecosystems in the United States and India. In 1994, he founded Software Paradigms International (SPI), which provided IT solutions to over 350 retailers worldwide, including major clients such as Macy's, Walmart, and Procter & Gamble. Under his leadership, SPI expanded its operations to eight countries before being acquired by Cognizant in 2018. Currently Sid serves as the Founder and Managing Partner of Silicon Road Ventures, venture fund focused on supporting commerce technology startups. He also leads Silver Spirit Global, an organization that fosters innovation by developing technology parks across India and the United States.

Deeply committed to social impact, he actively promotes philanthropic initiatives through the Mookerji Foundation, supporting education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship initiatives in India and the U.S. Sid is widely respected for mentoring startup founders and championing innovation ecosystems, making him a dynamic force connecting technology, venture building, and social good.

Sid has been instrumental in establishing the BITS Foundation USA, a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the USA. The entity would help BITS Pilani raise funds from alumni directly, improving trust and confidence in the institute.

Sid has won many accolades that include, Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University, Hall of Fame Induction in Siggie Awards – Horizon Award in 2021, Excellence in IT Exports (from Government of India) Award for nine consecutive years from 2008 to 2016, and multiple academic honors at Emory University. His firm, SPI, was recognized among Georgia's Fast 40 companies.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the industry, entrepreneurship, and philanthropic efforts towards BITS Pilani and society at large, Sid Mookerji is being conferred with BITS Ratna award. Through his achievements, Sid Mookerji has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater – BITS Pilani.

Prof. Amit Sheth



Prof. Amit Sheth obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from BITS Pilani in the year 1981. He pursued higher studies at The Ohio State University, earning a Master of Science

in 1983 and a Ph.D. in 1985.

Prof. Sheth is an eminent educator, researcher, and entrepreneur. He is currently the NCR Chair and a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing, University of South Carolina. As the founding director, he grew the university-wide Al Institute to ~50 researchers and worldwide reputation. Prof. Sheth is a Fellow of IEEE, AAAI, AAAS, ACM and AAIA, recognized for his pioneering contributions to information integration, distributed workflow processes, semantics, and knowledge-enhanced computing. With a prolific research career, Prof. Sheth has authored well over 1000 research publications with over 63,000 citations, with an impressive hindex of 122. He has secured over \$33 million in competitive research funding from prestigious organizations, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Beyond academia, Prof. Sheth is a successful entrepreneur, having founded or co-founded four companies, three of which are based on his university research. His ground breaking work on Semantic Search driven by Knowledge Graph, laid the foundation for technology similar to Google semantic search 12 years later.

Additionally, his research led to deployed applications, products and commercial ventures impacting diverse sectors such as healthcare, disaster management, and social good.

Prof. Sheth's contributions have been widely recognized with numerous awards, including the IEEE Computer Society W. Wallace McDowell Award (2023), the IEEE TCSVC Research Innovation Award (2020), Ohio State University's Alumni Academic Excellence (2018). His influence extends to shaping the next generation of scholars, with around 50 of his Ph.D. advisees and postdocs achieving success in academia, industry research, and entrepreneurship.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Academia and Research is awarded to Prof. Amit Sheth, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of Artificial Intelligence, Semantic Web, and Knowledge-Enhanced Computing. Through his achievements, Prof. Amit Sheth has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Prof. Arun Rai



Prof. Arun Rai obtained his Master of Science in Science and Technology Development from BITS Pilani in the year 1985, MBA from Clarion University of Pennsylvania

in 1987, and Ph.D. from Kent State University in 1990.

A globally recognized scholar in the fields of information systems, digital innovation, and artificial intelligence, Prof. Rai is Regents' Professor of the University System of Georgia and holds the Howard S. Starks Distinguished

Chair at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business. He co-founded the college's Center for Digital Innovation and serves as its Director, leading research and education on digital innovation and Al-enabled transformation. Prof. Rai's research demonstrates how digital innovations can be conceived, deployed, and governed to create value. His work has advanced the understanding of digital transformation across various areas, including organizations, markets, supply chains, and healthcare; digital platforms and online collectives; and Al governance and human-Al augmentation. His current work explores how AI can amplify human and organizational potential while proactively managing its risks.

His scholarship has also delivered significant societal impact in high-stakes domains, informing initiatives that alleviate poverty, bridge digital and health divide, reduce infant mortality, promote ethical Al adoption, and help ex-offenders reenter the workforce through the gig economy.

He is among the discipline's most prolific and cited authors-and one of its most respected and decorated scholars. He has published more than 275 peer-reviewed articles, including over 135 in top-tier journals such as MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, and Management Science. Scopus records 193 documents, 16,525 citations, and an h-index of 56, while a Stanford bibliometric study ranks him in the top 0.25 percent of Information Systems scholars worldwide. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the MIS Quarterly (2016 - 2025), the discipline's premier journal.

Prof. Rai's contributions have earned the most prestigious honors in business and information systems, including the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Influential Leader Award for Research Impact (2024); Association for Information Systems (AIS) Impact Award (2022); INFORMS Information Systems Society (ISS) Practical Impacts Award (2022); AIS LEO Award for Lifetime Exceptional Contributions (2019); the INFORMS ISS Distinguished Fellow Award (2014); and AIS Fellow Award (2010).

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Academia and Research is conferred on Prof. Arun Rai, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Information Systems, Digital Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence. Through his achievements, Prof. Arun Rai has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Arvind Mathew



Arvind Mathew obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from BITS Pilani in the year 1982. With a distinguished career

leader in the automotive industry, known for his strategic leadership and transformative contributions across major global organizations. Arvind began his career in Michigan, with Ford Motor Company. After assignments in Germany, Spain, Turkey, and the UK, he returned to India to run Ford's local operations as Managing Director. During his tenure, he was instrumental in expanding the company's manufacturing capacity and helped establish Ford as a significant player in the Indian automotive market.

spanning over 35 years, Arvind is a respected

His leadership at Ford was marked by a focus on operational excellence and sustainable growth.

Following his stint at Ford, Arvind headed Tata Advanced Materials, which was on the forefront of manufacturing carbon fiber components for the aerospace and defense industries. His journey continued at Mahindra & Mahindra, where he served as CEO of Mahindra Electric Mobility Limited, and later as Chief of International Operations, where he was responsible for exports of all Mahindra products, from motorcycles to heavy trucks. While at Mahindra, he also served on the Boards of many Group companies.

In 2022, Arvind was appointed as Director and Member of the Risk Management Committee at AAPICO Hitech Public Company Limited, a leading Thailand-based automotive components manufacturer. His experience in strategic planning, international operations, and sustainable mobility has made him a trusted advisor and mentor in the industry.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Corporate Leadership is awarded to Arvind Mathew, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of automotive manufacturing and sustainable mobility. Through his achievements, Arvind Mathew has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Vijay Kedia



Vijay Kedia obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from BITS Pilani in the year 1983. He is a pioneering leader in the fintech industry and currently serves as the CEO of FlexTrade, a globally recognized leader in trading technology solutions.

Vijay's journey in the world of technology and finance began with FONAR Corporation, where he worked alongside the inventor of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology. His early experience in real-time programming for MRI systems honed his technical expertise and laid the foundation for his future innovations. He later transitioned to the financial sector, working on the program trading desk at Bear Stearns, where he gained earsthand experience in the world of high-speed trading.

In 1996, Vijay founded FlexTrade, a fintech company that revolutionized the trading technology space. Under his leadership, FlexTrade introduced the industry's first trading system that allowed clients to design and control their proprietary algorithms while maintaining the confidentiality of their trading strategies. This groundbreaking innovation positioned FlexTrade as a category leader, earning the company numerous industry awards and recognition. In 2018, Vijay was named among Institutional Investor's Top 40 Leaders in Trading Technology, rejecting his influence and leadership in the fintech sector.

Beyond his achievements at FlexTrade, Vijay is recognized for his commitment to innovation, data security, and client empowerment. His leadership has not only driven the success of FlexTrade but has also set new standards for transparency and customization in trading technology.

Vijay has been nominated for Wall Street's prestigious Markets Media CEO of the Year award, a testament to his leadership and impact on the global trading technology landscape.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Corporate Leadership is awarded to Vijay Kedia, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of fintech and trading technology. Through his achievements, Vijay Kedia has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Ram Gupta



Ram Gupta obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics from BITS Pilani in the year 1985 and earned a Master of Science in Computer Engineering from the

University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Ram, a distinguished technology executive and investor, has made transformative contributions to the software and cloud computing industries.

With a career spanning several decades, Ram has been part of leadership teams that have created over \$15 billion in market capitalization through three IPOs and ten acquisitions. As an investor and board executive, he serves on the boards of multiple high-growth companies, including Postman Inc., Sanas Inc., Joveo Inc., Simplilearn Inc., HackerEarth Inc. etc. His extensive experience also includes board roles at Progress Software (PRGS), S1 Corporation (acquired by ACI), Platform Computing (acquired by IBM), Persistent Systems (IPO: PRST), Yodlee (IPO: YDLE), and several other leading technology companies.

Ram's executive leadership journey includes serving as President and CEO of Cast Iron Systems, a pioneering venture in cloud-based application integration technology, which was later acquired by IBM. At PeopleSoft Inc., where

he was Executive Vice President, he led strategy, marketing, development, and mergers and acquisitions, helping the company grow its market capitalization from \$3 billion to \$10 billion before its acquisition by Oracle. His leadership at WebMD Health Corp. was pivotal in transforming the company from a startup to a publicly listed organization with a market cap exceeding \$2 billion.

Beyond corporate leadership, Ram is an active mentor and advisor in the Silicon Valley venture capital ecosystem. He serves as a strategic advisor to Altos Ventures and has previously advised Nexus Venture Partners and Kalaari Capital. His mentorship has been instrumental in scaling several startups and driving innovation across industries.

Ram has made notable contributions to technology, holding several U.S. patents and being a member of MENSA, a recognition of his high intellectual aptitude. His pioneering work on healthcare integration platforms earned him the prestigious Smithsonian Computer World "Search for the Heroes" Award in 2000. He was also chosen by Marquis as Who's Who in the World in 2005.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Corporate Leadership is awarded to Ram Gupta, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of software, cloud computing, and technology leadership. Through his achievements, Ram Gupta has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar



Sanjeev Kumar obtained his Master of Engineering in Electronics and Control from BITS Pilani in the year 1991. He also holds an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies

(FMS), University of Delhi. Sanjeev is currently the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Miniratna public sector undertaking under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

With over three decades of experience in the telecommunications sector, Sanjeev began his career as an Indian Telecommunication Service (ITS) officer in 1988. Before taking the helm at TCIL in January 2021, he served as Director (Technical) at Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), where he led strategic initiatives, including the revival plan of MTNL in 2019 and the successful implementation of a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for nearly 17,500 employees.

Under Sanjeev's leadership, TCIL transformed from a loss-making entity to a profitable organization. He also played a key role in the turnaround of TCIL's joint venture company, Bharti Hexacom Ltd (BHL), guiding it from losses to sustained profitability. Beyond financial success, Sanjeev has made significant contributions to society by providing first-time telecom facilities to some of the remotest and most challenging regions in India, including Siachen Base, Nubra Valley, Lahaul-Spiti Valley, Kedarnath and Nort-East region. His efforts have

improved connectivity in difficult terrains, contributing to national development and security. Sanjeev's exemplary leadership has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 'CMD Leadership Award' (March 2024), 'Best CEO of the Year' (March 2024), 'Business Leader of the Year (PSU)' (February 2024), 'PSU Samarpan Award' (May 2024), 'CEO of the Year Award in IT & Telecommunication Category' (March 2024), and the 'EKLAVYA Award' (June 2024), 'PSU Leadership award' for Organisational Transformation in Dec-2024, "CMD of The Year" award in Feb-2025, "PSU Leadership Award-CMD" and "Excellence in Infra Development" award in Feb-2025. During his tenure TCIL has been awarded as "Company of the Year" for FY 2024-25.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Corporate Leadership is awarded to Sanjeev Kumar, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of telecommunications and corporate leadership. Through his achievements, Sanjeev Kumar has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Gulu Mirchandani



Gulu Mirchandani obtained his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus in the year 1966. Gulu is a pioneering entrepreneur, industrialist, and visionary

business leader. He is best known as the Founder Chairman of the Onida Group, with its flagship company, MIRC Electronics Ltd., established in 1981. Under his leadership, Onida emerged as

one of India's most iconic consumer electronics brands, known for its cutting-edge products and memorable marketing campaigns, including the legendary slogan "Neighbour's Envy, Owner's Pride."

Beyond Onida, Gulu has played a pivotal role in shaping India's technology and electronics landscape. He was instrumental in founding Iwai Electronics and also served as Chairman of Fractal Analytics, a leading company in big data and AI. He has also contributed significantly to several corporate boards, including Shoppers Stop, VIP Industries, and KEC International. He has supported the new generation of entrepreneurs by funding and mentoring several organisations at their seed stage.

Gulu's contributions extend well beyond the business world. He served as President of the Consumer Electronics & TV Manufacturer Association (CETMA) for two consecutive terms in 1992 and 1994, where he championed industry collaboration, innovation, and regulatory advocacy, significantly contributing to the growth of India's consumer electronics industry. Through his ventures and leadership, he has helped democratize technology for millions, fostering widespread digital adoption in India. He was also given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Consumer Electronics & Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) in 2019.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Entrepreneurship is awarded to Gulu Mirchandani, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of Entrepreneurship. Through his achievements, Gulu Mirchandani has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Atul B. Lall



Atul B. Lall obtained his Master of Management Studies (MMS) from BITS Pilani in the year 1984. He is currently the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Dixon

Technologies (India) Limited, the country's largest electronic manufacturing services (EMS) company. Under his leadership, Dixon has achieved remarkable growth, establishing itself as a leader in electronics manufacturing.

Atul co-founded Dixon in 1993, starting with a modest setup and a single product line - color televisions. Over the past three decades, he has transformed Dixon into a manufacturing owerhouse with multiple state-of-the-art facilities and a diverse product portfolio that includes LED TVs, washing machines, refrigerators, mobile phones, hearables & wearables, laptops, telecom, and lighting products. Atul's vision and commitment to operational excellence have made Dixon a trusted partner for global brands.

He served as President (2023-2024) of the Electronic Industries Association of India (ELCINA) - a fifty-year-old apex body representing over 300 members from the electronics industry. During his tenure, ELCINA played a key role in advocating with the Government of India and supporting the formulation of a comprehensive Policy on Electronic Components (excluding semiconductors). He is also a Member of the Technical Committee for EMS, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

Atul is the Founder-Trustee of Plaksha University

in Punjab, a technology and research institution dedicated to reimagining engineering education in India. Additionally, he is a Visiting Faculty member at the Masters' Union School of Business in Gurugram, where he teaches courses on Manufacturing Excellence and Corporate Finance.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Atul is a thought leader who has translated the Bhagavad Gita into simple, accessible English. Largely influenced by the Gita, Atul believes that the teachings of Gita are even more relevant in today's world. He genuinely feels that reading his easy translation can help many navigate the competitive landscape of modern business.

Atul's leadership has been widely recognized with several prestigious awards, including the Best CEO by Fortune India in the Consumer Durables category (2024), the Man of Consumer Electronics - OEM award by CEAMA (2022-23), and the Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Governance (2021 and 2024).

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy is awarded to Atul B. Lall, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of electronics manufacturing, policy advocacy, and education. Through his achievements, Atul B. Lall has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Krishna Narayanaswamy



Krishna Narayanaswamy obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering in the year 1987. He is the Founder and Chief Technology

Officer (CTO) of Netskope, a globally recognized leader in cloud security and Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) solutions. With over 25 years of experience in cybersecurity, Krishna is celebrated as a pioneer in deep packet inspection, behavioral anomaly detection, and network security and holds over 100 patents in these areas.

At Netskope, Krishna has led the company's data science and user behavior analytics initiatives, developing advanced solutions that help enterprises secure data and manage threats across cloud services, web, and private applications. Under his leadership, Netskope has emerged as a trusted name in cloud security, protecting the digital assets of some of the world's largest organizations.

Before founding Netskope, Krishna served as a Distinguished Engineer at Juniper Networks, where he was instrumental in architecting next-generation farewall technologies. He also founded Top Layer Networks, a company specializing in advanced network security and load balancing solutions. His early career included impactful roles at FORE Systems and Digital Equipment Corporation, where he contributed to foundational technologies in networking.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Krishna is a respected thought leader in the field of cybersecurity. He is a prolific writer and speaker, sharing his expertise at industry conferences and contributing to leading publications. His insights have helped shape best practices for securing digital infrastructures, making him a trusted voice in the global cybersecurity community.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Entrepreneurship is

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awarded to Krishna Narayanaswamy, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of cybersecurity and cloud security. Through his achievements, Krishna Narayanaswamy has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Ramki Gaddipati



Ramki Gaddipati obtained his Master of Management Studies (MMS) from BITS Pilani in the year 2002. He is the Co-Founder, Global Chief Technology Officer (CTO), and APAC CEO of

Zeta, a pioneering Fintech company revolutionizing banking and payment solutions worldwide. With a career spanning over two decades, Ramki is recognized for his passion for product engineering, innovation, and leadership in the technology sector.

Ramki's entrepreneurial journey began in 2004 when he co-founded Bridle Information and Technology Solutions, a software company focused on creating mobile applications for the education and healthcare sectors. One of his notable creations, "SchoolMATE," an educational platform, gained significant traction in Andhra Pradesh, serving tens of thousands of parents. His early success earned him recognition as one of Asia's Best Entrepreneurs Under 25 by BusinessWeek in 2006.

Ramki's career further advanced through key roles at Morgan Stanley, where he led the development of middleware products, and at Directi, where he served as Senior Director of Software Engineering. At Directi, he was instrumental in building scalable, fault-tolerant distributed services, contributing to the

company's technological excellence.

In 2015, Ramki co-founded Zeta alongside Bhavin Turakhia. As the Global CTO and APAC CEO, he has been a driving force behind Zeta's strategic growth and technological innovation. Under his leadership, Zeta has developed groundbreaking solutions, including the "Tachyon" credit processing platform and "Digital Credit as a Service," which have reshaped the fintech landscape. His commitment to innovation has positioned Zeta as a global leader in modern banking technology.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Ramki is an active angel investor, supporting startups in the Edu-Tech, Design, and Software sectors. His investments reflect his commitment to fostering innovation and nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Ramki's leadership has been widely recognized, with Zeta and its clients receiving numerous industry awards, including the Celent Model Bank Award for Payments Innovation (2024), Tearsheet's Big Bank Theory Award for Best Banking Card Product (2024), Finovate West Digital 'Best of Show' Award (2020), Aite-Novarica Group's Retail Banking Fintech of the Year (2022), and recognition in CB Insights' Fintech 250 List (2022).

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Entrepreneurship is awarded to Ramki Gaddipati, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of fintech and technology innovation. Through his achievements, Ramki Gaddipati has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. B.N. Reddy



B. N. Reddy obtained his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from BITS Pilani in 1987. He also completed Master of Technology (M. Tech) in Thermal Engineering from

IIT Bombay in 1991.

Reddy is a distinguished Indian diplomat and a 1993-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) with a career spanning over three decades, he has played a contributory role in advancing India's foreign relations with several countries. Since September 2021, he has been serving as the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, where he leads strategic bilateral initiatives and promotes Indian interests in Malaysia and beyond.

Throughout his career, Reddy held several important positions in the Government of India, including Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the Minister for External Affairs (2011-2013), and head of the International Cooperation Division in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (2019-2021), where he drove global energy collaborations, including in the founding of the Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas & Energy at IIT Bombay. He was also the Government nominee on the Boards of ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) during 2019-21 period. Prior to it, he had also served as India's High Commissioner to Nigeria, and concurrently accredited as India's Ambassador to Benin, Chad and Cameron, He also served in the Indian Missions to the United Nations (UN) at New York (2005-08) and at Geneva (2013-16).

Reddy has contributed significantly to fostering innovation, diplomacy, and people-to-people exchanges. He has championed digital economy initiatives such as the Malaysia-India Digital Council and helped launch the India-Malaysia Startup Bridge to support Indian startups establishing a footprint in Southeast Asia. His efforts have deepened trade, innovation and technological ties with Malaysia.

He has also been instrumental in strengthening India's people-to-people exchanges and cultural diplomacy, by way of supporting diaspora-focused initiatives including the first-ever Persons of India Origin (PIO) Day or Aprawasi Diwas in Malaysia; organizing major heritage events and the launch of "Confiuence: Samagam - Language Series" to preserve and promote eight Indian languages among overseas Indian communities in Malaysia.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award for the year 2025 in the category of Public Life is awarded to B. N. Reddy, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Indian diplomacy and public service. Through his achievements, B. N. Reddy has brought glory and laurels to his Alma Mater - BITS Pilani.

Mr. Navaratna (Norton) Kothari



Navaratna (Norton) Kothari obtained his B.E. (Hons.) with Gold Medal from BITS Pilani in the year 1969. He did his Master of Engineering from Cornell University in

1970 and MBA from Bridgeport University, Connecticut (USA). He is the Chairman of the Kothari Group, a prominent Indo-Canadian enterprise engaged in real estate development, hospitality, and financial services. A visionary entrepreneur, Mr. Kothari has built a legacy of excellence through his business acumen, philanthropy, and community leadership spanning both Canada and India.

As Chairman of the Kothari Group, Mr. Kothari has led several landmark real estate projects-initially in Guwahati and later across Canada. His ventures include hotels under Marriott, Hilton, and Hyatt franchises, with three more under construction. The group has also developed thousands of condominiums in Winnipeg and holds a significant mortgage lending portfolio across Canada.

His philanthropic efforts through the Kothari Family Foundation have contributed millions to causes such as Trillium Health Partners, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and the University of Waterloo. In India, the Foundation has adopted over 100 Ekal Vidyalayas in Kashmir, provided oxygen plants and ventilators during COVID-19, and supported institutions like Vedic Vidyalaya and Manav Seva Trust in Indore. A strong advocate for education, Mr. Kothari has established perpetual scholarships at both the

University of Waterloo and BITS Pilani, helping to open doors for bright and deserving students. His support has fostered opportunities for academic excellence and empowered youth from diverse backgrounds.

As a Governing Member of the Canada India Foundation (CIF), Mr. Kothari has played an integral role in advancing bilateral ties between Canada and India. CIF's work in policy advocacy, diaspora engagement, and cross-border collaboration has been greatly enriched by his contributions.

After serving on the Board of Trillium Health Partners Foundation (THPF), the largest hospital in Canada, Mr. Kothari is now Life-time Director Emeritus of THPF. During his tenure as a Board member, he was instrumental in raising close to 60 million Canadian dollars from Indo-Canadians for the hospital.

In recognition of his exemplary community service and philanthropic leadership, Mr. Kothari was awarded the King Clancy Award in 2024 by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons and the Charles III Coronation Medal in 2025. These prestigious honors acknowledge his unwavering dedication to social good and his outstanding contributions across continents.

The Distinguished Services Award 2025 is awarded to Navaratna (Norton) Kothari in honor of his lifelong commitment to service, philanthropy, and global impact. Through his achievements, Navaratna (Norton) Kothari has brought great honour to his alma mater, BITS Pilani, and continues to inspire future generations of BITSians.

Mr. Venu Palaparthi



Venu Palaparthi obtained his B.E. (Hons.) in Computer Science and M.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics from BITS Pilani in the year 1992. He is currently the COO of

DriveWealth. Over the course of his three-decade-long career, Venu has led operations, market structure, strategy, trading, compliance, and regulatory affairs. Prior to his current role, he was a member of the management team at Patomak Global Partners, Dash Financial, Virtu Financial, Nasdag, and Instinet.

Venu Palaparthi is recognized as a co-founder and one of the pioneering BITSians behind BITSAA International. He has been instrumental in leading BITSAA International globally by catalyzing chapter formation across over 20 cities. He has also led the New York-New Jersey BITSAA Chapters and has consistently contributed to building a strong alumni network in the United States. His philanthropic vision led to BITSAA International's early fundraising efforts, including the creation of the Vamsi Pendyala and S.S. Seshadri Memorial Scholarships - the ?rstever alumni-funded merit-cum-need scholarships at BITS Pilani - as well as the Leuna Harkawat Memorial Award and the BITSunami initiative.

He was a key member of the leadership teams of BITSConnect and the BITSAA Global Meet. In 2014, during the BITSAA Global Meet, he conceptualized and launched the BITS Alumni Mentoring Program (BITS AMP), a unique one-on-one mentorship program that has connected hundreds of BITSians with mentors across industries and geographies. His personal

generosity has extended to helping many BITSian students and alumni in times of crisis, both through direct support and organizing fundraising initiatives.

Beyond BITS, Venu has been involved with a range of causes in the educational space and through the Palaparthi Foundation, a non-pro?t committed to supporting Indians with disabilities by providing training, assistive devices, and medical equipment. Venu is also the co-founder of DreamCricket, an enterprise that has become a leading voice for cricket in North America.

His efforts in cricket development have focused on creating competitive cricket opportunities for youth, enhancing access to cricket infrastructure, and nurturing youth cricket in the U.S., significantly contributing to the sport's growth in America.

The Distinguished Services Award 2025 is awarded to Venu Palaparthi in recognition of his exemplary service to BITS Pilani and its alumni network. Through his achievements, Venu Palaparthi has brought great honour to his alma mater, BITS Pilani, and continues to inspire future generations of BITSians.

Mr. Tanmaya Lal



Tanmaya Lal, a member of the 1982 batch, obtained his B.E. (Hons.) and M.Sc. (Hons.) Biological Sciences degrees from BITS Pilani in the year 1987. He is currently

serving as Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. His current responsibilities include a direct advisory role to the political leadership.

In his 34 years as an Indian diplomat, he has

served across continents and worked on diverse issues, including India's engag ement with Europe, Africa, Central and Southeast Asia, the UN, EU, Commonwealth, and counter-terrorism. He has led Indian teams in key multilateral negotiations on Climate Change, SDGs, and the Global Digital Compact, and has overseen south-south cooperation and large-scale development projects.

Tanmaya Lal brings together a strong technical background and four years of industry experience (ONGC and CCI) with deep expertise in economic diplomacy, spanning trade, investment, technology, defence, and academic collaboration. He has led strategic policy and outreach efforts and was honoured with the S.K. Singh Award for Excellence in the Indian Foreign Service in 2013.

As Ambassador to Sweden and Latvia (2020-2024), Tanmaya Lal advanced bilateral ties and promoted innovation in clean technologies such as green steel, cement, and electric mobility. He also fostered investment and talent linkages, representing India at key sustainability forums across the Nordic and Baltic regions.

As High Commissioner to Mauritius (2019-2020), he oversaw key India-assisted infrastructure projects such as the Metro Express, a hospital, the Supreme Court building, and housing developments. He also led COVID-19 relief efforts, responded to an oil spill crisis, and supported capacity-building initiatives.

During his tenure as Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2016-2018), he led Indian negotiating teams on a wide range of issues, including climate, health, development, technology, oceans, human rights, and more.

Earlier, he served as Deputy High Commissioner and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP & UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya (2010-2013), with concurrent accreditation to Somalia and Eritrea, where he worked on regional development cooperation in East Africa. As Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand (2007-2010), he contributed to India's engagement with Southeast Asia and ASEAN countries. In addition, he has served in Indian Missions in Germany, Iran, and Austria, and held several portfolios in Delhi, including as Regional Passport Of?cer, Delhi.

Over the years, Tanmaya Lal has contributed signi?cantly to building India's global partnerships with a strong emphasis on innovation, climate action, sustainability, academic linkages, capacity building, and regional and multilateral coalitions.

The Distinguished Services Award 2025 is awarded to Tanmaya Lal in recognition of his exceptional contributions to global diplomacy and public service. Through his achievements, Tanmaya Lal has brought great honour to his alma mater, BITS Pilani, and continues to inspire future generations of BITSians.

Mr. Kailash Gupta



Kailash Gupta obtained his B.E. (Hons.) from BITS Pilani in the year 1985. He is the Founder and CEO of ETSC Computers Pvt. Ltd. and Buck-up, ventures through which he has

created impactful IT infrastructure solutions and employment opportunities. A committed member of the BITSAA International Board, Kailash has

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been at the forefront of numerous BITSAA initiatives. He also served as the Chairperson of the BITSAA Global Meet 2023 (BGM-23), held in Jaipur, which set new benchmarks in alumni engagement and community collaboration.

Kailash Gupta has shown a deep and sustained commitment to the BITSian community over the years. He led the BITSAA Jaipur Chapter for several years, during which the chapter actively contributed to society, notably by providing oxygen concentrators to BITSian and non-BITSian families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through his startup Buck-up, Kailash has promoted mental health awareness, aligning with BITSAA Sahaaya's mission to support emotional and psychological well-being within the alumni network. He has played an instrumental role in helping BITS Pilani through key activities such as NIRF visits, establishing Practice School stations during COVID-19, and facilitating collaborations between BITS and the Government of Rajasthan. As Chairperson of BGM-23, Kailash's visionary leadership introduced several thrsts. These included the Pilani Sharks session, on-the-spot startup funding from BITSian angel investors amounting to nearly USD 1 million, networking and mentoring sessions for startups and students from all BITS campuses (Pilani, Hyderabad, Goa, Dubai, BITSoM Mumbai, and WILP), and special sessions designed to empower BITSian women. Kailash also played a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship by facilitating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TiE Rajasthan, BITS Pilani, and BITSAA Jaipur, aimed at nurturing the startup ecosystem through collaborative activities. His ongoing association with TiE Rajasthan and iStart, a Government of Rajasthan initiative, has been instrumental in bringing state-level startup support to the BITSian community.

The Distinguished Services Award 2025 is awarded to Kailash Gupta in recognition of his remarkable dedication to BITS Pilani, its alumni network, and society at large. Through his achievements, Kailash Gupta has brought great honour to his alma mater, BITS Pilani, and continues to inspire future generations of BITSians.

Dr. Rakesh Suri



Rakesh Suri obtained his B.E. (Hons.) in Electronics Engineering from BITS Pilani in the year 1983. He also holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Aligarh Muslim

University (AMU). With over four decades of experience in the global IT industry, Dr. Suri has held several senior leadership roles, including as CEO of the IT Division at DCM

Limited, where he managed global operations. He also founded Techdriveinc before dedicating himself to a full-time social mission. Currently, he is the Founder and CEO of Computer Shiksha, an NGO focused on imparting free computer literacy to children of under-served communities in schools across India. His endeavor is to make every child in school in India computer literate by 2047.

Dr. Suri's most significant contribution to society has been through Computer Shiksha (CS), which he founded to bridge the digital divide in India. Under his leadership, the organization has reached its fundamental computer literacy services to 3500+ schools across 28 states and 4

UTs, impacting 10.9 lakhs children from underserved schools. CS services have reached schools in 426 districts including 85 aspirational districts. The program offers a 1 to 3-years computer literacy curriculum completely free of charge. CS is adding 8 to 10 schools a day to its program.

His innovative model partners with schools and NGOs to establish labs using refurbished computers and offers a comprehensive package that includes self-learning video courseware in multiple Indian languages, teacher training, regular monitoring, certification, and free lifetime maintenance support. This sustainable model not only imparts digital skills but also fosters employment opportunities by training local teachers and facilitators.

Dr. Suri's pioneering work has received widespread acclaim. In 2017, he was recognized by The New Indian Express as one of "18 People to Watch" in India, a testament to the national impact of his efforts in democratizing access to technology and education. He was recognized for his contribution towards nation building and received Indian Achievers Award in June 2023 from Indian Achievers' Forum and was chosen as one of the "50 Fabulous Innovation Leaders" by World Innovation Congress in 2020. CS was chosen as "Top 5 Best NGOs in the year 2025" by Brand Honchos in Global CSR & ESG Awards.

The Distinguished Services Award 2025 is awarded to Dr. Rakesh Suri in recognition of his outstanding commitment to social transformation through digital literacy. Through his achievements, Dr. Rakesh Suri has brought great honour to his alma mater, BITS Pilani, and continues to inspire future generations of

YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD- 2025

TOONS ACHIEVERS AWARD 2020				
Sr. No.	Name			
1	Pranav Pathak Director of Product, Machine Learning, Booking.com			
2	Dushyant Sridhar Indic Speaker, Writer, Researcher, Director, Desika Daya			
3	Nikhil Bhalla Assistant Professor, School of Engineering, Ulster University			
4	Akarsh Shroff Founder & CEO YuvaSpark			

YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD- 2025

Sr. No.	Name	
	Founding Team of Visit Health Vaibhav Singh	T
5	Chetan Anand	E P
	Anurag Prasad	
	Shashvat Tripathi	

BITS PILANI, K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS OUTSTANDING PHD THESIS AWARDS – 2025



Dr. Aakanksha M
Department: Chemical Engineering

Thesis title:"Fabrication of Magnetic Nanocomposite Microswimmers via Top-Down Method from Electrospun Helical Fibers and its Application in Protein Separation"

Supervisors: Sr. Prof. Sutapa Roy Ramanan



Dr. Karmur Rajeshvari Samatbhai Department: Chemistry

Thesis title:"Ti3C2Tx MXene-based Nanocomposites: Synthesis, Characterization and Application as Electrode Material for High-Performance Flexible Asymmetric Supercapacitor"

Supervisors: Prof. Narendra Nath Ghosh



Dr. Fernandes Rochell Ann
Department: Humanities and Social Sciences

Thesis title:" Echoes of Unfreedom: Re-presenting the Disabled Memories of the Poskim"

Supervisors: Prof. Alamelu Geetha Krishnamurthy

LIST OF STUDENTS WHO ARE AWARDED MEDALS

SI. No	Name and ID No.	Photograph	CGPA obtained	Position obtained	Type of Medal to be awarded
1	ASHMAN MEHRA 2021A7PS2508G	The state of the s	9.93	FIRST	GOLD
2	SOHAM AMIT WALIMBE 2021AATS1159G		9.84	SECOND	SILVER
3	ARNAV GOYAL 2021A7PS2596G		9.82	THIRD	BRONZE

BITS PILANI, K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS BEST PHD THESIS AWARDS – 2025



Dr. Akanksha Gavendra
Department: Chemical Engineering

Thesis title: "The effect of entropic and enthalpic particle-polymer interactions on the dynamic rheology of particle-filled polymer melts"

Supervisor: Dr. Asima Shaukat



Dr. Anjli Varghese Department: EEE

Thesis title: "Automatic Leather Species Identification using

Digital Microscopic Image Analysis"

Supervisor: Prof. Amalin Prince



Dr. Bhosle Akhil Adinath Department: Chemistry

Thesis title: "Design and Mechanochemical Synthesis of Donor-Acceptor-based Red-emissive Molecular and Supramolecular Probes including AIE-active Azines: Their Photophysical Studies

and Sensing Applications"

Supervisors: Prof. Mainak Banerjee & Prof. Amrita Chatterjee



Dr. Karle Suhas Balasaheb

Department: Biological Sciences

Thesis title: "Investigating the Role of OsTIP1;2 in Oryza sativa

L. in Response to Arsenite Stress"

Supervisor: Prof. Kundan Kumar

BITS PILANI, K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS BEST PHD THESIS AWARDS – 2025



Dr. Keshav Kaushik Department: CS&IS

Thesis title: "A Systems Approach Towards Energy-Efficient

Cooling Systems for Buildings"

Supervisor: Prof. Vinayak Naik



Dr. Kulkarni Ashutosh Anilbhai Department: Humanities and Social Sciences

Thesis title: "Impact of Climate Change on the Glaciers of Indus

and Spiti River Basin"

Supervisor: Prof. Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi



Dr. Naresh Kumar Patra Department: Physics

Thesis title: "Bayesian and Principal Component Analyses of

Neutron Star Properties"

Supervisor: Prof. Tarun Kumar Jha



Dr. Mane Sanjay Pandurang Department: Mechanical Engineering

Thesis title: "Isolation of White Blood Cells in a Microfluidic

Device"

Supervisor: Dr. Siddhartha Tripathi

BITS PILANI, K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS BEST PHD THESIS AWARDS – 2025



Dr. Fathima Safikaa S Department: Mathematics

Thesis title: "Topology of the Flip Stiefel Manifolds"

Supervisors: Dr. Shilpa Gondhali



Dr. Renjith Raj
Department: Economics & Finance

Thesis title: "Climate Change, Vulnerability, and Adaptation: Unveiling the Nexus from the Western Ghats of Kerala"

Supervisor: Dr. Arfat Ahmad Sofi

PROF SUMAN KAPUR MEMORIAL BEST PH.D. THESIS AWARD - 2025

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus

The award has been constituted by Mr. Sushil Kabra and Mr. Suresh Kabra, brothers of the Late Prof. Suman Kapur, Senior Professor at BITS Pilani, to recognize outstanding research and motivate others to pursue excellence in Biological Sciences or related fields.



Dr. Mohita Mahajan

Department: Biological Sciences

Thesis title: "Identification of Colorectal Cancer Associated Key Pathways and Potential Biomarkers by Integrated Bioinformatics Analysis"

Supervisor: Prof. Sukanta Mondal

PROF. RAGHURAMA AWARD

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus

This award was established in 2024 to recognise the outstanding achievements of graduating students from the EEE, ECE, and E&I branches at the BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa campus.



Soham Amit Walimbe 2021AATS1159G



Abhimanyu Magapu 2021A3PS2516G



Vikas Dhananjay Dubey 2021A8PS2031G

GRADUATION DATA (96th and 97thAWARD) BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus CONVOCATION 2025

S. No.	Programmes	B.E./B.Pharm.	M.Sc.	H.D	Ph.D.	Total
First deg	First degrees					
1.	Chemical Engineering	55	-	-	-	55
2.	Electrical & Electronics	107	-	-	-	107
3.	Electonics & Instrumentation	119	-	-	-	119
4.	Electonics & Communication	123	-	-	-	123
5.	Mechanical Engineering	132	-	-	-	132
6.	Computer Science	249	-	-	-	249
7.	Biological Sciences	-	48	-	-	48
8.	Chemistry	-	43	-	-	43
9.	Economics	-	67	-	-	67
10	Mathematics	-	73	-	-	73
11.	Physics	-	46	-	-	46
Higher d	legrees					
1.	M.E. Biotechnology	-	-	5	-	5
2.	M.E. Chemical	-	-	5	-	5
3.	M.E. Embedded Systems	-	-	15	-	15
4.	M.E. Computer Science	-	-	45	-	45
5.	M.E. Microelectronics	-	-	19	-	19
6.	M.E. Design Engineering	-	-	17	-	17
7.	M.E.(Mechanical Engineering)	-	-	11	-	11
8.	M.E. (Communication Engineering)	-	-	5	-	5
Ph.D		-	-	-	53	53
Total		785	277	122	53	1237

96th and 97th Award CONVOCATION - 2025 27 July, 2025 LIST OF STUDENTS RECOMMENDED FOR CONFERMENT OF VARIOUS DEGREES BITS PILANI, K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS

DOCT	OR OF PHILOSOPHY	
SRNO	IDNO	NAME
1	2015PHXF0021G	RAVI SHANKAR
2	2016PHXF0401G	ZAKANE RESHMA NANASAHEB
3	2016PHXF0404G	MOHD MUBASHSHIR
4	2016PHXF0409G	KORE VIVEK SADASHIV
5	2017PHXF0015G	MATE NAYAN ANAND
6	2017PHXF0424G	PRATEEK SINGH
7	2017PHXF0429G	KASI BANDLA
8	2017PHXF0434G	ABHISHEK YADAV
9	2018PHXF0007G	ASHWIN Y
10	2018PHXF0017G	ANSA SHERMIN S
11	2018PHXF0023G	MANE NIKHIL SHRIKANT
12	2018PHXF0029G	KIRAN V
13	2018PHXF0038G	CHALAKKAL JESTIN JOHNY
14	2018PHXF0408G	MADANKAR SAURABH RAMDAS
15	2018PHXF0409G	FATHIMA SAFIKAA S N
16	2018PHXF0411G	MRINMOY BASAK
17	2018PHXF0416G	MOHITA MAHAJAN
18	2018PHXF0421G	NAMITHA NAYAK
19	2018PHXF0424G	SHRIRAM RADHAKANTH
20	2018PHXF0425G	AMINA F
21	2018PHXF0427G	AAKANKSHA M.
22	2018PHXF0430G	RUCHIKA BASSAN
23	2018PHXF0433G	NITHYA K. GOPI
24	2018PHXF0442G	PANJIKAR PADMINI CHARUDATTA
25	2018PHXF0446G	REVANKAR DIVYA SATISH
26	2019PHXF0001G	MANE SANJAY PANDURANG
27	2019PHXF0006G	MANISH KUMAR SHARMA
28	2019PHXF0008G	ASHMITA
29	2019PHXF0013G	SINGH RAM SURENDRA SUJATA
30	2019PHXF0021G	TANYA RAGHAVA
31	2019PHXF0022G	SHRADDHA PANIYA
32	2019PHXF0024G	RAIKAR LAXMAN GOVIND
33	2019PHXF0024G	A V S DURGA PRASAD
34	2019PHXF0037G	ASKAR ALI M
35	2019PHXF0040G	SUHAS NAYAKU ANKALKHOPE
36	2019PHXF0046G	KODARKAR MAMTA MANGESH
37	2019PHXF0049G	GANDHI JEMI KAMLESH
38	2019PHXF0053G	FARHA MASROOR
39	2019PHXF0065G	KARAN SHARMA
40	2019PHXF0066G	BIBEKANANDA SITHA
41	2019PHXF0068G	SANDHYA MAURYA
42	2019PHXF0072G	
42	2019PHXF0072G 2019PHXF0077G	PRASHANT THAKUR KULKARNI ASHUTOSH ANILBHAI
43 44	2019PHXF0479G	YEOLA KALYANI RAJENDRA
4 4 45	2020PHXF0004G	JAYANTA KUMAR GOGOI
46	2020PHXF0004G 2020PHXF0018G	MAYANK PARASHAR
40 47	2020PHXF0016G 2020PHXF0020G	PAWAR RAVINDRA KUBER
47 48	2020PHXF0020G 2020PHXF0032G	AKSHA MOHAN SHETTY
48 49	2020PHXF0032G 2020PHXF0051G	KARMUR RAJESHVARI SAMATBHAI
43	20205174700019	MANIVIUM MAJEONVAMI SAIVIAI BHAI

50 51 52 53	2020PHXF0055G 2020PHXF0056G 2020PHXF0074G 2021PHXF0049G	INDU CHANDRAN PURAB NANDI FERNANDES ROCHELLE ANN KAKADE MANOJ SUBHASH
	R DEGREE PROGRAM	MMES
54	iotechnology) 2023H1290002G	PIYUSHA ANIL JAWALE
55	2023H1290003G	ABHISHEK A NALWAD
56 57	2023H1290004G 2023H1290006G	MANSI MAHESHWARI NATASHA CHAKRABORTY
58		SHAMBHAVI SHUCHI
M.E.(C	hemical)	
59	2023H1010010G	JOSHI TANMAY SANJAY
60	2023H1010011G 2023H1010012G	SRUSHTI MANOJ SALVE
62	2023H1010012G 2023H1010013G	ANURAG KRISHAN AISHWARYA MAHESH GUPTA
63	2023H1010014G	ATHARVA GROVER
M.E.(E	mbedded Systems)	
64	2023K1400095G	ATELI RAJU
65	2023K1400096G	SURYANSH DUBEY
66 67	2023K1400100G 2023K1400101G	VEMPATI SRIDHAR PRANJAL KUMAR
68	2023K1400102G	POLEPALLI SAITEJA
69	2023K1400103G	NEHA UMESH KSHIRSAGAR
70	2023K1400105G	VALLIVEDU PUNIITH REDDI
71 72	2023K1400106G 2023K1400107G	ANMOL KUMAR THAKUR ABHISHEK SINGH CHIB
73	2023K1400107G	BODDU SATISH KUMAR
74	2023K1400109G	PRINCE KUMAR
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	DEGREE PROGRAM	MES
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177	2019B4A10781G	H MANIKANDAN
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B.E. (Electronics and Instrumentation)
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Oath

"On this solemn occasion, Convocation 2025 at Goa, and in the presence of my teachers and family, I pledge to use my knowledge and experience gained at BITS Pilani and elsewhere, in the service, of the people of my country and of the world. I will do so while adhering to the highest ethical standards, in harmony with the environment, and with utmost humility, honesty and devotion, and thereby bring glory to my family, my Alma mater, my profession, and my county".

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