## International symposium on bilingualism and cognition

BY A CORRESPONDENT

bureaus@gomantaktimes.com

Vasco: The Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Department of Biological Sciences at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus and Centre for Neural and Cognitive Sciences (CNCS) at the University of Hyderabad jointly organised a three-day international symposium on Bilingualism and Cognition at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, Zuarinagar-Vasco.

The core themes of the symposium were to discuss the effects of bilingualism on cognitive functions like speech, rehabilitation through speech therapy, memory, investigating the science of bilingualism, effects on neurodegeneration, identifying the cortical structures involved in language processing, cognitive aspects of communication disorders and treat-



Participants of the three-day international symposium on Bilingualism and Cognition? held at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, Zuarinagar-Vasco.

ment of communication impairments. cognitive control focus on language switching, psychology of language and communication with a focus on syntax and semantics and many more.

Prof Jubin Abutalebi, Cognitive Neurologist and Associate Professor of Neuropsychology at the University Vita Salute San Raffaele in Milan, Italy was the chief guest for the inaugu-

ration. Prof G Raghurama, director; Dr Veeky Baths, in-charge of the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab and associate professor at the Dept of Biological Sciences (BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus); and prof Ramesh Mishra, co-convener and Dean, Centre for Neural and Cognitive Sciences (University of Hyderabad) addressed the gathering during the inaugural function.

As many as 12 keynote addresses were organised as part of the conference by the Indian and international research experts in the field of bilingualism and its effect on Neurophysiology and Cognition.

Suvarna Alladi from NIMHANS, Bangalore spoke about how bilingualism could provide resilience against dementia. Prof Bhoomika Kar from the Centre for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Allahabad spoke about the temporal dynamics of proactive control in bilinguals in her keynote address.

Oral and poster presentations were also organised as part of the conference. Best poster and oral presentations were sponsored by the Journal Bilingualism: Language and Cognition (Cambridge University Press).