

BITScan

Semester Notes

Issue 8



**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND SCIENCE**

**Pilani - 333031
Rajasthan**

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A SEMESTER TO CHERISH

The Second Semester 2005-06 will be cherished forever by the entire BITS community because of the memorable events it witnessed. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country, Dr. Manmohan Singh inaugurated the BITS Pilani-Goa Campus on 5 May 2006. The Chancellor, Dr. K.K. Birla visited BITS, Pilani in February 2006 and interacted with the students and faculty. The plan for BITS Pilani- Hyderabad campus kicked off with the auspicious Bhoomi Poojan held in Hyderabad on 30 March 2006.



Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla took over as the Pro Chancellor of BITS. Prof. S. Venkateswaran took over as the Advisor and Professor Emeritus after retiring as the Vice Chancellor of BITS. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari took charge as the Vice Chancellor of BITS on 18 July 2006. Prof. V.S. Rao was appointed as the Director of Hyderabad campus. BITSAT continued its journey and BITSAT 2006 was conducted during 10 May -10 June 2006 with 58,000 students appearing for the test. BITSUNAMI entered the Guinness Book of World Records for planting the largest number of trees in a day.

Keeping in pace with the scientific and technological innovations of the world, APOGEE 2006 was organized with the theme Sanshodhanam.



All departments unveiled their intellectual and creative potential through innovative projects and several institutions from India participated in various events.

The semester hosted several conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs. Many faculty members visited academic institutions in India and abroad in connection with their academic pursuits, published books and successfully carried out their editorial and reviewing assignments on invitation from reputed publishing houses and institutions. Effectuating collaborations with Industries and Institutions of repute, a number of MoUs were signed. Several faculty members received funding for their projects from national and international organizations. On the whole, the semester proved to be a progressive and a memorable one for the Institute.

HONOURS

Inauguration of Goa Campus

For the first time in the History of BITS, the Institute had a distinguished visitor to its Goa Campus. BITS Pilani – Goa Campus had the honor of being formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 5 May 2006.



Emphasizing the need for more and more educational institutions of excellence, the Prime Minister said *Yours is an outstanding example of private initiative in the promotion of higher education. Seth Ganshyamdasji Birla wanted to impart education free of dogma; the eternal quest for truth. I am happy that BITS has lived upto this vision in discharging its duties to the people and the nation. You have set a shining example of what the private sector can do in developing technical manpower for our country.*

Complementing Dr. K.K. Birla who has been the moving force of BITS, Dr. Manmohan Singh said *I take this opportunity to join all of you in paying homage to the dedication, the commitment and to the notability and intense sense of patriotism that has characterized the life and work of Dr. K.K. Birlaji.* He also complimented the management, the faculty and students of BITS for their dedication and commitment to the nation.

Extending a hearty welcome to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Chancellor, Dr. K.K. Birla briefed him about the Institute's objectives and progress over the years in the areas of academic innovations, industrial collaborations and research. He also informed the audience about the third campus to be set up in Hyderabad.

BITS Pilani-Goa Campus enjoyed the privilege of hosting a galaxy of people of eminence on this joyous occasion - Chief Minister of Goa, a number of members from the Birla Clan and several other dignitaries from Indian Government, Industrial and Educational sectors.

Chancellor's Visit

The chancellor, Dr. K. K. Birla visited the campus on 18 February 2006. He visited the Student-Activity Center that was near completion. Later in the evening he interacted with the faculty, student representatives and various state toppers.



He also offered his prayers at the Saraswati Temple after which he paid homage to Late Shri G D Birla at his statue.

ACADEMIA

A Confluence of Ideas

Seminars Conferences/Workshops/Training programs

National Conference on DESIGN FOR PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE (17-18 Feb. 2006)

Organized by the Mechanical Engineering Group, the two-day conference focused on the

emerging philosophy of incorporating the constraints of various other stages in the product life cycle at the design stage itself. The chief guest Prof. B Gurumurthy, Chairman of Center for Product Design and Manufacturing, IISc, Bangalore remarked that manufacturing must be driven by product design and India had a great opportunity in this area and therefore product design was critical for the country. Sixty four participants from various institutions presented papers at this conference.



National Conference on ISSUES RELATED TO IPRs: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES & National Workshop on PATENT SEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, DRAFTING & INFRINGEMENT ANALYSIS (3-4 March 2006)

With its primary focus on deliberating and providing hands-on experience on the art and science of patent literature search, documentation of in-house Intellectual Property generation process and the drafting and filing of patent applications, this conference-cum-workshop was organized by the Research and Consultancy Division of the Institute. Dr. Sudhir K. Jain, Professor and Coordinator, IPR Cell & Entrepreneurship Program, Department of Management Studies, IIT-Delhi, was the chief guest at the inaugural function.



Several experts on patents and other Intellectual Property Rights from industry (Lupin Research

Park, Pune; Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited, Mumbai), academia (BITS, Pilani; IIT-Delhi; International Management Institute (IMI), Delhi) and Government agencies (National Information Centre, New Delhi; Patent Office, Delhi) acted as resource persons. The conference benefited forty-eight outstation participants, fifty-five faculty members & research scholars and forty students.

National symposium on CHALLENGES IN DRUG DISCOVERY RESEARCH: NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN ACADEMIA & INDUSTRIES (April 7 – 8, 2006)

The two-day symposium, organized by the Chemistry Group aimed to discuss promising approaches in the drug discovery research and strategies to address the challenges of 21st century. Prof. V. S. Rao, Deputy Director (Off campus programmes), BITS Pilani and Organizing Secretary of the symposium threw some light on the theme of the symposium and informed the audience about the combined efforts of the young faculty members of Chemistry, Biological sciences and Pharmacy groups of the institute in the drug-related researches providing greater opportunities for Academia-Industries linkages. Prof. S. Venkateswaran, Vice-chancellor, BITS, who inaugurated the symposium, highlighted how the institute had been practicing Academia-Industries linkages through its Practice School programmes.



Prof. G. Thyagrajan, Former Director CLRI, released the *Scientific Program and Book of Abstracts* of the symposium. The Chief Guest, Padmashree Dr. A. V. Rama Rao, Founder Chairman and MD, AVRA Lab Pvt Ltd and former Director, IICT, Hyderabad in his keynote address, dwelt on issues like Drug Design and Synthesis,

Asymmetric Synthesis, Combi-natorial Chemistry, Green Chemistry, etc. in great detail. A galaxy of experts such as Dr. Somesh Sharma, CSO, Nicholas Pharma, Dr. G. Om Reddy, President and CEO, Orchid Pharma, Dr. Mahesh V. Patel, Director, NDD, Wockhardt Ltd., Dr. V. N. Balaji, CSO, Jubilant Biosys Ltd., Dr. B. K. Trivedi, CSO, DDR, Wockhardt Ltd. Dr. Ganesh Pandey, Scientist, NCL, Pune, Prof. H. Ila, IIT, Kanpur, Dr. Pradeep K. Bhatnagar, VP, NDDR, Ranbaxy Lab. Ltd., Dr. V. N. Balaji and Dr. B. Gopalan, CSO, Matrix Labs, Hyderabad, shared their experiences in the area of drug delivery at various sessions. In his valedictory address, Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Director, BITS, Pilani outlined the necessity of networking and appealed the industries to come forward in this regard. A workshop on drug modeling was also organized for the participants.

Symposium on MEETING THE MANPOWER NEEDS OF TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY: PRESENT AND FUTURE (22 April 2006)

Organized by the Civil Engineering Group, the symposium discussed the challenges and strategies involved in meeting the manpower needs of transportation industry. Inaugurated by Dr. P.K. Nanda, Director Central Roads Research Institute, New Delhi, the symposium attracted representatives from the industry, research and educational institutions.



National workshop on VLSI DESIGN AND EMBEDDED SYSTEMS (24-26 February 2006)

Sponsored by AICTE, DST, UGC, Honeywell and IEEE, the workshop aimed at providing training to design VLSI integrated circuits. 40 participants from industries and reputed academic institutions attended the extensive *hands on* sessions on the implementation of digital design methodology. The chief guest, Prof. S. Venkateswaran, Vice Chancellor, BITS

appreciated the efforts of the EEE group in the organization of the workshop. Dr. Chandra Shekhar, Director, CEERI, Pilani. delivered the keynote address on “Application of Specific Instruction set processor : Redefining hardware – software boundary”. Dr. Magdy Bayoumi, University of Louisiana, and Dr. Anand Kumar, Magma India, were among the other distinguished speakers in the workshop.



National Workshop on MICROWAVES & APPLICATIONS (NWMA-2006) (7-11 March 2006)

Realizing the huge demand for manpower in the field of microwaves, the workshop was an endeavor to create interest in young teachers and scientists in the field of RF & microwaves. It also aimed at presenting the various research and development activities that are being carried out in the field of microwaves in the country. A foundation was laid down through introductory lectures in the area of microwaves, followed by invited talks that covered advanced level lectures delivered by eminent researchers in areas covering microwave circuits, antennas, devices, materials, EMC, radar etc. Dr. K.N. Shankara, Director, ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), Bangalore, who was the Chief Guest, remarked that the workshop was important and timely and showcased the progress made by the defence, space and CSIR laboratories in the field of microwaves and said that there was a need for



such workshops to be organized periodically so that the young scientists and teachers from the academia were significantly benefited.

About thirty-five participants from ISRO, CEERI, DRDO and academia benefited from this workshop.

Workshop on SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

Ane Books INDIA conducted a workshop on 24 March 2006 where the experts from the publishing house discussed how to publish books for Indian and overseas markets. The workshop was organized by the Staff Association of BITS, Pilani.

PMGSY Training Programmes for Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers of Rajasthan (January and April 2006)



The Civil Engineering Group conducted three six-day training programmes between January and April 2006, sponsored by the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), for the Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers of Rajasthan on PMGSY.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

National Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 2006. Spread over two weeks, the function comprised the following:

- Science quiz competition for the school children
- Popular lectures by faculty members of the science groups.
- Science debate competition and
- Science quiz competition for the students of BITS

Inaugurating the function, Prof. L.K. Maheshwari exhorted the students to emulate Sir C.V. Raman and put the nation on the path to progress. Prof.R.N Saha, Dean Faculty Division III gave away the prizes on the concluding day.

FOUNDER'S DAY



The Institute celebrated the 42nd Founder's day on 2 February 2006 by organizing various activities. The programme started with a floral tribute to the Founder Chairman, Late Shri G.D. Birla by students and staff of the institute. Thyagaraja Aradhana was performed by Ragamalika in the morning and a cultural programme by various regional associations was organized in the evening.



WORLD BOOK & COPYRIGHT DAY

UNESCO's World Book & Copyright Day was celebrated on 23 April 2006 to pay a world-wide tribute to books & authors and to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright. To commemorate this occasion at BITS, Pilani, a slogan writing competition was organized under the initiative of Dr. Ishwara Bhat, Chief, Library Unit. The competition was open to students, faculty & their family members. Out of the 136 entries received, Akshaya Nair ((ID 2003A7PS222) bagged the first prize for her

slogan "I love books because they let me live my dreams", and Pooja Natarajan won the second position for her slogan "I love the book because it remains silent and it makes me speak." Himanshu Saxena (ID 2005A5PS815) received a special prize for his poem. Prof L K Maheshwari gave away the prizes at a function held on Sunday, 30 April 2006.

Basant Book Festival

Basant Book Festival was organized at the Akshay Supermarket on 14-19 February 2006. Inaugurated by Prof K E Raman, the festival showcased over 3000 books on Fiction, Biography, History, Management, Sciences, Social Sciences, Children's books and General Reference for sale.



Prof. B. M. Mithal Memorial Lecture

Dr. B. D. Miglani, Ex-President I.H.P.A., Delhi delivered this year's **Prof. B. M. Mithal Memorial Lecture** on *21st Century: Vehicle for Knowledge* where he emphasized on the need for a greater role of pharmacist in health care and the changes required to be brought about in the system. The lecture was jointly organized by Pharmacy Group of BITS Pilani and Prof. B. M. Mithal Endowment Trust, Pilani.



DISTINGUISHED LECTURES AT BITS PILANI



Speaker	Designation	Topic	Date
Prof. Raaj Sah	Professor of Economics, Harris School and College	Entrepreneurial Implications of Volatility in Equity Markets	19 January 2006
Prof. P. N. Shivakumar	Professor of Mathematics, Univ. of Manitoba, CANADA	Applied Mathematical Models of Some Human Diseases	20 January 2006
Prof. Rajender S. Varma	National Risk Management Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA	Greener Chemical Syntheses Using Alternative Reaction Conditions and Media	20 January 2006
Master Del Pe	Stress Management Consultant, 2004 US Olympic Diving team and Business Coach for SONY, IBM, Coca-Cola, etc.	Maximizing Performance and Balancing Life for Future Leaders	22 January 2006
Dr. K Chudalayandi	Dept. of Cell Biology, Washington Univ. Medical School, Saint Louis, USA	Analysis of Spindle Positioning Checkpoint in Budding Yeast	20 February 2006
Dr. Uday B. Kompella	Associate Professor, Nebraska Medical Centre, Omaha, NE, USA	Ophthalmic Applications of Nano Technology Particle Technology for Pulmonary Drug Delivery	20 February 2006 21 February 2006
Mr. Raja Vage	Community Pharmacist, Canada	Community Pharmacy Opportunities in USA and Canada	14 March 2006
Dr. John Davies	Co-Director of the Partners in Conflict and Peacebuilding Projects, and Senior Faculty Associated with the Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM), Department of Government and Politics, at the University of Maryland	Peace building & Conflict Mitigation: Indian & International Perspectives	17 March, 2006
Dr. Krishna Mohan	Senior Scientist, BISR, Jaipur	Microbial Exopolysaccharides	18 March 2006
Dr. Rahul Pal	Staff Scientist, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi	Autoimmunity	18 March 2006
Dr. M. S. Ananth	Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director, IIT-Madras, Chennai	Mathematical Modeling	20 March 2006
Prof. S. Anantha Padmanathan	Dean, School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA, Tanjore	Disaster Mitigation: Tsunami Relief Measures	20 March 2006
Prof. Rajani R. Joshi	Dept. of Mathematics, IIT Mumbai	Artificial Neural Network: Applications in Protein Data Mining	24 March 2006
Dr.R.Mahadevan	Consultant, Indomer Coastal Hydraulics, Chennai&Chief Consultant, Centre for Earth Science Studies (R &D) Govt. of Kerala, Trivandrum	Role of Civil Engineers in Oceanography	25 March 2006
Prof. Animesh Ray	Keck Graduate Institute, California, USA	Systems Biology; Dynamical model, Data integration, graph theory and their applications to understanding complex gene regulatory networks	10 April 2006
Smt. Jaya Row	Founder, Vedanta Vision, Mumbai	Bhagvadgeeta and its Implication in Modern Life	17 April 2006



VISITS BY FACULTY : ENRICHING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

International Visits

Prof. L.K. Maheshwari led the C-DDT team of **Prof. Ravi Prakash**, **Prof. Rajiv Gupta** and **Prof. S. K. Verma** that visited the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research of Ben-Gurion University (BIDR–BGU) at Negev, Israel during 23–27 April 2006 to develop and strengthen research collaboration in areas such as desert architecture, solar power, pisciculture, dry land agriculture, water management, socio-economic development of desert regions, etc. A MoU was signed by BITS and BIDR-BGU. The delegation also had a fruitful meeting with the Ambassador, Mr. Arun K. Singh and the Counsellor, Dr. Pankaj Sharma at the Indian Embassy, Tel Aviv.



Prof. L.K. Maheshwari visited the Concordia University, Montreal on 26 June 2006 and held high level meetings with the President, the President-Emeritus, Deans and various Heads of Departments regarding BITS-Concordia collaboration. He also delivered a lecture on *University-Industry Linkage Programmes in India* at IEEE, Ottawa (Canada) Chapter.



Prof. Rajiv Gupta visited Washington, D.C. to participate in the Global Competition organized by World Bank during 8-9 May 2006 in Washington where DM2006 (Development

Marketplace) finalists competed for funding. BITS was one of the thirty one winners.

Prof. A.K. Sarkar, at the invitation of the African Development Bank, attended the Annual Workshop of the Global Transport Knowledge Network held in Tunis, Tunisia during 28 February - 1 March 2006.

Prof. Meenakshi Raman participated in a symposium on *The Importance of Vocabulary Development* organized by TESOL in Dubai on 27 March 2006. She delivered a talk on the *Success Strategies for GRE and TOEFL* at BITS Pilani – Dubai Campus on 26 March 2006.



Prof. Nirupama Prakash taught a summer course during 22 May – 30 June 2006 on *Gender, Women in Asia: The Case of India* on invitation from the Department of Women Studies, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, U.S.A.

Dr. Souri Banerjee visited the University of Electro-Communications(UEC), Tokyo, Japan during 03-30 June and delivered a lecture (in Japanese) on *Silicon nanocrystals: Application to Novel Devices*. He participated in four group discussions regarding possible research collaboration with BITS, Pilani.



Dr. N.N. Sharma participated in the 3rd International conference on *From Solid State to Biophysics* held at Dubrovnik, Croatia during 24 June - 1 July 2006 and presented a technical paper *Non-Rigidity: Vital Link between Dynamics of Nanoparticles and Bio-species in Nano-domains*. He delivered an invited talk at *Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Laussane, Laboratory for Nano electronics and Nanomaterial Research, Switzerland*, on *Establishing observation facility for understanding dynamics*

of nanoparticles and biospecies in nano-domains during 2-4, July, 2006.

Dr. Raghunathan chaired a session on the characteristics of Entrepreneurs and presented a paper titled *Socio-economic Background of Industrial Entrepreneurs in Rajasthan –A Primer* at the EDGE Conference 2006 organized by Singapore Management University, Singapore during 3-5 July 2006.

Invited Lectures by Faculty

Prof. B. R. Natarajan delivered a talk on *Counselling as a Career: Academic Perspective* at Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi on 11 May 2006.

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma delivered talks in the area of *Professional Communication* at Deepshikha College of Technical Education, Jaipur on 19 Jan 2006, Rajasthan College of Engineering for Women, Jaipur on 20 Jan 2006, Poornima College of Engineering, Jaipur on 21 Jan 2006 and Netaji Subhash Chandra Institute of Technology, Dwarka New Delhi, on 23 Feb 2006.

Dr. S. K. Choudhary chaired a session on Language and Communication in the 3rd International Congress on English Grammar (ICEG 2006), held at Salem during 23-27 January 2006. He also presented a paper on *Globalization and its Effects on Hindi* at the Conference.

Prof. T.N.S. Mathur delivered a talk entitled *Entropy and Thermodynamic Analysis* at the S.V.National Institute of Technology, Surat on 2 February, 2006.

Dr. Ishwara Bhat, participated in the panel discussion on *Empowering Libraries and Librarians* on 3 February 2006, at the invitation of Indian Library Association. The event was held at Pragati Maidan, Delhi, on the occasion of the World Book Fair.

Prof. Arya Kumar delivered an invited talk on *Issues in Strategic Management* in the Birla Institute of Technology, Jaipur on 6 February, 2006. He participated in the Seminar on Critical Issues of Investment in Rajasthan, in Context to the XIth Five Year Plan, organized by Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur on 12 April 2006. The seminar was sponsored by Planning Commission.

Dr. Kumar Neeraj Sachdev delivered an invited talk on *Search for Values: A View from Theoretical Ethics* in the Workshop on Search for Values and Ethics in Modern Society, at

Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana, during 7-9, February 2006.

Dr. Rajnish Sharma delivered an invited talk on the theme “ Saddle field fast atom beam source technique for thin film deposition: Pros and Cons” at IMS 2006 conference held at Kurukshetra University during 17- 18 February, 2006. He also delivered a lecture during pre-conference tutorials for college teachers of Haryana on 16 February, 2006 on the theme *Microelectronics at radio Frequencies: Hitches and possible remedies*.

Prof. Meenakshi Raman delivered a plenary talk on *Developing Task Based Language Tests for Assessing Oral Skills in English* at the 37th Annual Conference of ELTAI, held at Ethiraj College, Chennai, during 10-11 February, 2006. She delivered talks on *Emotional Intelligence and Non-verbal Communication* at Sri Ramana Gounder Medical Trust, Coimbatore and Yashodha Hospitals, Hyderabad on 8 and 14 June 2006 respectively.

Prof. C. B. Gupta was the guest of honour and also acted as a resource person at the UGC sponsored National Seminar on *Women Issues in Globalised Era: Current Trends & Present Needs* held at J.V.M.G.R.R. Post Graduate College, Charkhi Dadri (Haryana) during 24-25 February 2006.

Prof. S. P. Gupta inaugurated a three day workshop on *Pharmacoinformatics: QSAR* at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) on 1 March, 2006.

Prof. Nirupama Prakash was invited as a panelist at a Round Table discussion on *Gender and Primary Education: Why & How* at an event organized by One World South Asia, New Delhi on March 8, 2006 on the occasion of the International Women’s Day. She also made a presentation on *Vision for Gender Equality in Primary Education- Positive Role of Knowledge Centres in Community Mobilization* at the event.



Dr. Champak Baran Das visited Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre at Kolkata upon invitation and delivered a series of three lectures in the DST sponsored SERC School on “Nuclear dynamics at low and intermediate energies and nuclear structure” which was held from 13 March - 2 April, 2006.

Dr. Sajeev Chandran delivered an *invited talk on Technology Development for Pharmaceutical Product Life Cycle Extension at the National Workshop on Consultancy Development: Some Strategic Issues* held on 17 March 2006 at Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar, Haryana.

Dr. M.N. Satyanarayan delivered a talk on *Domain Engineering in Ferroelectric Nonlinear Optical Materials* at the Instruments Research & Development Establishment (DRDO), Dehradun on 22 March 2006. The talk was delivered as a part of an invited visit to discuss research and development projects with the establishment.

Dr. A. Vasan delivered a guest lecture on *Engineering Graphics* in the Faculty Development Programme on *GE1101 Engineering Graphics* at Dr. Mahalingam College of Engineering and Technology, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu during 25 May-10 June, 2006.

Dr. Motilal Dash delivered a talk highlighting the success of the blood donation camps held at Pilani at the seminar on *Improving blood Bank Services in India* organized by the IRCS- WHO in Delhi on 14 June 2006 to commemorate the World Blood Donor Day.

Prof. Arya Kumar and Prof. Anil Bhat attended a three-day workshop *NEN - Stanford Technology Venture Program Entrepreneurship Educator's Course* during 21 -23 June in Mumbai organized by National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), Wadhvani Foundation. Around 40 participants from leading institutions participated in the workshop.

Dr. N. Rajesh delivered a talk on ***Novel strategies for the removal of heavy metals***, organised by the Science club of **Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai on 1 July 2006.**

Dr. Souri Banerjee delivered a talk on *Proposal and comments on PG courses* at Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur on 13 July 2006.

Mr. G. Anand, gave an invited lecture on *TQM in Software Industries - An Overview*, at Sify

Limited, ELNET Software City, Chennai on 13 July 2006.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The project entitled *Self-sustaining rooftop rainwater harvesting scheme* sponsored by Rajasthan association of North America (RANA) and designed and implemented by BITS Pilani won the grant funding of \$ 1,96,000 at Global Development Market Place organized by World Bank at Washington. It was one of the thirty projects that received the grant after three phases of competitions where more than 2500 projects were submitted for the grant.



In the Intel India Student Research Contest (IISRC) 2005 –2006, Ninad B. Kothari and Manish Kumar Saxena, students from BITS Pilani bagged the First Runners Up position for the project titled *Design of Low Power Network Processor for Zigbee Wireless Protocol*. The prize included a cash grant of Rs 50,000/-. In all twenty one teams participated in the competition.

Ms. Kavya Rakhra received Prof. B. M. Mithal Gold Medal for the best B. Pharm. Graduate and Mr. Lokesh Jain got Mr. C. N. V. H. B. Gupta Gold Medal for the best M. Pharm. Student of the year 2004-05. These two medals have been initiated by the Pharmacy Group. Mrs. Mithal presented the Prof. B. M. Mithal Gold Medal and Prof. S. Venkateswaran, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani presented the Mr. C. N. V. H. B. Gupta Gold Medal. These two medals are given by the Pharmacy group of BITS, Pilani.

Yet another award was won by Ms. Kavya Rakhra: Dr. Ranjit Singh Chauhan Undergraduate Award 2005-06. This award has been initiated by the friends of late Dr. Ranjit Singh Chauhan and it is given every year to one or more first degree students in recognition of their outstanding ability to conduct original

research in science, engineering, technology and liberal arts/ humanities. The award carries Rs. 25000 in cash and a certificate.

Business Plan Mobile Medics spearheaded by BITSians has won the Most Outstanding Social Venture of the Year award at the 2006 Global Social Venture Competition in New York. This was announced on 7 April 2006 which is celebrated as World Health Day.

Dr. Sajeew Chandran was awarded the 'Young Scientist Award' by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi, for 2005-06.

BITSUNAMI, an NGO formed by the Alumni of BITS Pilani, in a reaction to the devastating Tsunami of 26 December 2004, created a world record for planting the largest number of saplings and made an entry into the Guinness Book of World Records. With the help of local community, district administration, corporate sectors, and other volunteers of Nagapattinam, the BITSunami trust created a Guinness world record on 2 October 2005 by planting 254464 saplings of casurina and pandanus in just 24 hours.

The NSS Unit of BITS Pilani bagged the WHO Best Blood Donor among Academic Institutions in India Award of the year 2006. Dr. Salim J Habayab, Country Director for India from World Health Organisation, gave away the award to the NSS Unit of BITS Pilani.



Two alumni of BITS Work Integrated Learning BS and MS Programmes, Atul Gupta, and Rayappa Mayakunthala, have featured in the Most Valuable Professional (MVP) list of Microsoft this year. The MVP Award is given in recognition of a recipient's technical expertise, spirit of community, and their willingness to help their peers by providing reliable and accurate answers to technical questions about Microsoft products & technologies.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

Name of the Group & Principal Coordinator	Title of Project	Funding Agency & Amount
Biology Prof. Suman Kapoor	APOE and ob Gene: Correlation with Various Clinical and Anthropometric Parameters seen in Type 2 Diabetes	Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India. (Rs. 4 lakhs)
Pharmacy Dr. Sajeew Chandran	Design and Evaluation of Novel Ocular Drug Delivery System for some Therapeutics	Science and Engineering Research Council, DST, New Delhi. (Rs.8.65 lakhs)
Civil Engineering Prof. A.K. Sarkar	International Network Research Programme on Mobiliy and Health entitled Impact of PMGSY (Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana) Roads on Health in Rural Rajasthan (India)	International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD).(US\$10000)
Civil Engineering Prof. A.K. Sarkar	Rural Roads Pavement Performance Study (RRPPS)	National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), Department of Rural Development, Government of India . (Rs. 1,00,000)
EEE Group (in collaboation with CEERI, Pilani) Dr. M.N. Satyanarayan	Development of polymer waveguide based optical power splitters.	Department of Information Technology, Govt. of India. (Rs. 38 lakhs)
RANA-BITS, Pilani Prof. Rajiv Gupta	Self-sustaining rooftop rainwater harvesting scheme sponsored by Rajasthan association of North America and designed and implemented by BITS Pilani	World Bank. (US\$ 1,96,000)

A BEFITTING FELICITATION TO AN ACCOMPLISHED VC



Prof. S. Venkateswaran, the man of extraordinary vision and legendary personality, handed over the responsibilities of Vice-chancellorship to Prof. L. K. Maheshwari on 18 July, 2006. The institute will continue to get his guidance as Professor Emeritus and Advisor.

Serving BITS Pilani for 32 years in various capacities and adding many laurels to its cap, Prof. Venkateswaran, fondly called as *Diro* by the students, provided inspiring leadership to this institute as its Head for almost two decades. His innovative efforts have transformed challenges into opportunities. Under the able guidance of Chancellor Dr.K.K.Birla Prof. Venkateswaran could provide BITS an international status in 2001 when it started its first foreign campus in Dubai. Marching ahead, the institute set

up its Goa campus in 2004. One more step in extension activities - plans for the fourth campus at Hyderabad was conceptualized during his tenure.

Prof. Venkateswaran always tries to improve the quality of educational milieu at BITS. The changes and flexibilities which he has brought in the academic programmes stand as a testimony to his spirit of innovation. His restructuring of administration has promoted efficient functioning of the institute. Several new collaborative programmes have been initiated and MoUs signed as a result of Prof.Venkateswaran's vision and initiatives thereby strengthening the academia-industry linkage. The implementation of BITSAT and the efficient functioning of BITS Alumni Association are just a few to count his achievements.

A man with dazzling intellect and amazing patience, Prof. Venkateswaran, never disappoints his visitors, be it a student, a faculty or anyone else. He always believes in autonomy-institute's autonomy, learners' autonomy and even teachers' autonomy in his/her field of work.

It was more than appropriate to have felicitated such an eminent personality who brought many glories to BITS and projected it as a premier institution of national and international repute.

BITSAA was the first forum to felicitate Prof. Venkateswaran on the occasion of graduating function held at VFAST Hostel at BITS, Pilani on 29 April 2006. Amidst a standing ovation from a huge gathering of graduating students and faculty, a team of BITS alumni presented a specially designed memento of BITSAA Logo to Prof S Venkateswaran.

Staff Association of BITS, Pilani felicitated Prof.Venkateswaran on 30 April 2006 at a dinner hosted to its members. The executive committee presented a silver model of the Institute clock tower after several senior administrators narrated the unique experiences they had shared with Prof.Venkateswar.

The Institute's Senate honored Prof.Venkateswaran on 1 May 2006 in the Senate Hall. Several senior members conveyed their genuine feeling and profound appreciation to Prof.Venkateswaran who reciprocated by sharing his personal experiences from various stages of his life with the members of Senate. He concluded his narration with the comment that he has had a fully satisfied career at BITS. The Senate meeting was followed by a grand dinner in honor of Prof Venkateswaran.

A crowning glory to all the earlier honors, the grand finale of felicitation ceremony was held in the auditorium of BITS, Pilani on 10 May 2006. Starting off with a video film on the highlights of Prof.Venkateswaran's professional achievements , produced by the students, the function witnessed a diverse category of BITS family felicitating him with words and mementos reflecting their deep love, affection and admiration for him.

New VC at BITS

Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, formerly the Pro Vice Chancellor and Director of BITS, Pilani took charge as the Vice-Chancellor on 18 July 2006 after Prof. S. Venkateswaran. He has been serving on the faculty at BITS since 1971 and has held administrative positions as Chief, Instrumentation Centre; Dean, Research and Consultancy; Deputy Director (Academic); Director, BITS - Pilani Campus and Pro-Vice Chancellor of BITS during the last 35 years of his tenure. In an address to the faculty of the institute after taking over as the VC, he reiterated the commitment of BITS towards providing quality education to all students. During this meeting he presented his plans (please see www.bits-pilani.ac.in) focusing on the progress of various activities of the Institute.



FELICITATION SNAPSHOTS

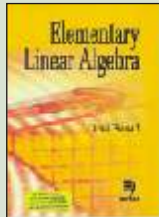


Faculty members from various disciplines appointed as members of national and international advisory committees/ acted as reviewers for books/published papers in journals of national and international repute.

No. Name	Group	Journal/Member details
1 Prof. A. K. Sarkar	Dean, FDI & ID, Civil Engineering	Appointed by Indian Road Congress (IRC) as a Member, Rural Roads Committee (H-5) for 3-year period. Reviewer for all journals published by IRC.
2 Prof. B.V. Babu	Chemical Engineering	Reviewed seventeen research articles for International journals such as Bioresource Technology (Elsevier); ASME Journal of Electronic Packaging (ASME); European Journal of Operational Research(Elsevier); IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation (IEEE); reviewed technical papers for ECOS-2006, Crete, Greece, July 12-14, 2006 and WMSCI-2006, Orlando, Florida, USA, July 16-19, 2006. Editorial Board Member of three Journals: Energy Education Science and Technology; Research Journal of Chemistry and Environment; International Journal of Computer, Mathematical Sciences and Applications. International Program Committee Member, CIS-2006 Bangkok, Thailand, June 7-9, 2006; Advisory Committee Member, CIT NANOTECH-2006, CIT Coimbatore, June 23-24, 2006; Program Committee Member, MEI-2006, Orlando, Florida, USA, July 16-19, 2006. Program Committee Member, KCC-2006, Orlando, Florida, USA, July 16-19, 2006.
3 Prof. T.N.S. Mathur	Chemical Engineering	Reviewed 3rd edition of Mass Transfer Operations by Treybal for TMH Ltd.
4 Dr. H.V. Manjunath	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Reviewed 5 papers for IEEE Transactions on Energy Conversion.
5 Dr. Rajnish Sharma	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Reviewed two books (i) 'Semi conductor Devices' for Oxford University Press India Limited and (ii) "Basic Electronics" for Vikas Publishing House.
6 Dr. Shikha Tripathi	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Reviewed a book titled <i>Signals & Systems</i> in June 2006 for Tata Mcgraw Hill Company Ltd.
7 Dr. Hari Om Bansal	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Reviewed a book "Control Systems" for TMH.
8 Dr. N.N. Sharma	Mechanical Engineering	Reviewer for IEEE Tr. Systems, Man and Cybernetics-Part B (Vol. 35, No. 6, Dec. 2005).
9 Dr. P. Srinivasan	Mechanical Engineering	Reviewed two journal papers 1.Effect of geometric workhardening and matrix workhardening on workability of Aluminium and 3.5% Alumina composite during cold up setting 2.Constitutive relationship for Copper and Copper -Titanium carbide powder metallurgy composite during cold upsetting for International Journal of Powder Technology, an elsevier science publications.
10 Dr. Prashant Kole	Pharmacy	Reviewed Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (JPER)
11 Dr. Mukesh Kumar Rohil	Computer Science	Reviewed a manuscript TGRS-2006-00246 WAVANGLET : an efficient supervised classifier for hyperspectral images by Schmidt, Frederic; Douté, Sylvain; Schmitt, Bernard for the IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing.
12 Prof. S.P. Gupta	Chemistry	Editor-in-chief of four journals published by Bentham Science Publishers, The Netherlands and U.S.A.; Guest editor of two journals :Combinatorial Chemistry and High Throughput Screening (Bentham Science, U.S.A) , QSAR and Molecular Modeling Studies in Heterocyclic Drugs (Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany); Member of Editorial Board, Indian Journal of Chemistry, CSIR, New Delhi; Member,UGC Special Assistance Programme Committee, Chemistry Department, APS University, Rewa (M.P). Reviewed dozens of papers to be published in various national and international journals.
13 Dr. N. Rajesh	Chemistry	Reviewed a paper on the extraction of thallium using crown ether for the elsevier publication journal entitled Separation and purification technology .
14 Dr. Souri Banerjee	Physics	Member of the panel for structuring PG course at MNIT, Jaipur
15 Dr. Sangeeta Sharma	Languages	Member of the editorial board of IJINB, journal published from ICFAI Chennai. Reviewed the Talkwell-Voice and Accent Training Manual and a book entitled Speak in Style for Vikas Publishing house.
16 Prof. Arya Kumar	Economics & Finance	Member , NEN's (National Entrepreneurship Network) India Faculty Advisory Board.

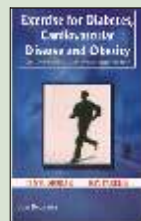
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Sarup & Sons, New Delhi, 2006,
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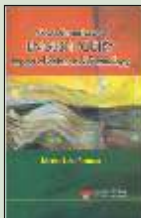
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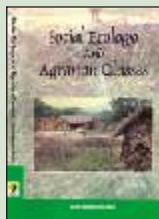
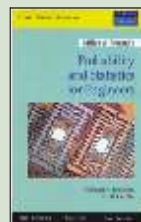
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JOINING HANDS

MoUs

Forging ahead with its collaborative efforts, BITS signed the following MoUs :

With the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA) on 17 August 2005, to share iCampus Programs and their educational content and to assess the impact of the implemented technologies and curricula, to conduct research in the technology of iCampus tools, to have faculty and students exchange programmes and to establish other exchanges that will allow for the sharing of experiences, ideas, teaching and research materials, equipment as well as scientific and scholarly literature on MIT iCampus programmes.

With Altera International Limited, Hong Kong, on 5 October 2005, for setting up a joint FPGA-SOPC facility at BITS Pilani to provide a platform for exploring state-of-the-art technology, technological training, development of intellectual property and to provide facilities for development of products and solutions.

With Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, on 9 November 2005, to promote academic, educational and research interaction and cooperation between the two institutions. As a result, a BS program in Metallurgy has been started at HZL.

With Arizona State University, IRA A. Fulton School of Engineering, USA, on 16 December 2005 for providing a foundation for collaborative faculty research projects, technical information sharing and to provide opportunities for collaborative academic programs.



With ETA Ascon, Dubai, UAE to extend their collaboration for a further period of 32 years

without bringing any changes in the agreement earlier signed on 13 December 2003.

With QUALCOMM Incorporated, Bangalore on 9 January 2006, with the objective of fostering collaboration between the two institutions to promote academic and research interactions. BITS would operate an off campus center in Bangalore and run educational programmes to meet the HRD needs of Qualcomm.

With One World South Asia, New Delhi on 13 January 2006, with the objectives of mainstreaming ICTs with rural communities. BITS will jointly plan the project activities with OWSA to bring about socio economic development of rural women through technology intervention.



With The Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital, Malaysia on 23 February 2006, to promote academic and research interactions. BITS would operate an off campus center at THONEH and run educational programmes connected with Ophthalmologist and health sciences.

With The Jacob Blaustein Institutes For Desert Research of Ben Gurion University, Israel on 26 April 2006, to promote exchange of ideas and manpower with a view to enhance mutually beneficial R & D activities that would be having a bearing on development of activities in the area of desert sciences and technologies.

Academic teams from various universities visited the Institute with a view to explore the possibilities of academic exchanges. Notable among them were:

- University at Buffalo, Suny, New York
- York University, Toronto, Canada
- Helsinki University of Technology, Finland
- Utah State University, Logan, VT

Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

BITSAA-Silicon Valley Chapter in collaboration with BITS and CEL organized a Panel Discussion on *Power of the BITSAA Network for the BITSian Entrepreneur*. The panel discussion was streamed live from California, USA on 20 February 2006. The Panelists included eminent BITSians in the Silicon Valley-Vivek Paul, Partner, TPG & Former CEO Wipro; Prem Jain, Former SVP, Cisco Systems; Punita Pandey CEO, netCustomer; Alagu Periyannan CTO, Blue Coat Systems; Jayan Ramankutty, CEO, Yume Networks; and, Raju Reddy, CEO, Sierra Atlantic.

Conquest, the nationwide Business Plan Competition, organized by CEL received an enthusiastic participation from several academic institutions of repute. *Phase 1 Conquest Camp* witnessed students of recognized Indian Universities and interested individuals with viable commercial ideas submitting the executive summaries of their Business plans, the screening of which was done by prominent CEOs and Venture Capitalists. In Phase 2, named *Conquest Focus*, five short listed teams out of the initial sixty-eight, were put across to eminent entrepreneurs who electronically mentored them for a period of 20 days. Phase 3 was the last round of the event where the five teams presented their business plan to a Venture Capitalist and other judges. The grand finale of the event involved an *Open Door Session* which took place in the auditorium of BITS, Pilani. Here, the participants were tested on their soft skills and their ability to manage a business. iViZ Techno Solutions, from IIT Kharagpur, won the contest.

CEL also organized the following lectures :

- *Entrepreneurship-The Inside Out* by Mr. Chandra Bhople, Director, Business Development, Osellus.
- *Value-based Entrepreneurship* by Mr. Venkatesh Valluri, Managing Director, Agilent Technologies.
- *Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century* by Mr. Vivek Mann Singh, Country Head DELL.
- *Entrepreneurship – A Mission with Passion* by Mr. Sarath Babu, BITS and IIM-A Alumnus.

INTERFACE 2006

Interface, the annual all India management convention organized by the Management

Association of BITS, Pilani was held during 10-12 February 2006 with the theme **Prayaksh-Seek, Strive, Succeed**. Inaugurated by Mr. Vijay Rao, Vice Chairman, Epicenter Technologies, Mumbai, it served as a meeting place for the top-notch professionals from the business world and the students from premier business institutes. This three-day convention aimed at deliberating on Corporate Efficacy — the ability of the corporate world to produce the desired outcomes amidst the toughest of challenges.



The various activities at Interface were structured around streams such as Marketing, Finance, HR, Operations, Economics and Strategy. In addition, various events such as Clutters and Clatters, YMOM, Biz Quiz, Forex and Workshops etc were designed to test the knowledge, teamwork, intellect and creativity of the participants. Prizes worth Rs. 40,000 were awarded during this event.

APOGEE 2006

APOGEE (A Professions Oriented Gathering Over Educational Experience), the annual academic fest of BITS, Pilani, was held this year during 21-25 March, 2006 with the theme **Sanshodhanam- Unveiling Potential**. As always, students came up with a plethora of projects unveiling a showcase of talents.



Various invited lectures, workshops and contests were held making the festival a learning

experience for students-BITSians and outstation participants alike. The various engineering associations came up with a variety of projects, including both working and non-working models. The following is a brief description of some of the exhibits:

Chemical Engineering Association presented various exhibits pertaining to new developments in the field. The projects were on topics as diverse as protein synthesis and computational chemistry. The projects this time, in tandem with the theme of APOGEE, unveiled the intellectual and creative potential of students.



The students of the **Civil Engineering Association** presented a number of projects on various topics of civil engineering like earthquake and other calamity resistant buildings, a design for an F1 track in India and various other innovative projects. Various events like Srishti and Civil War saw a huge turnout of students.



Electrical and Electronics Engineering models included various projects on robotics and other related topics like data storage using magnets. The section on space technology focused on the gadgetry involved in rockets and other space vehicles. This also included a project on Global Positioning, an upcoming application of microelectronics.



Mechanical Engineering models included an idea to transit passengers without halting of a train. Other projects like a customized bicycle to serve specific purposes presented the best of mechanical engineering. Events conducted by them like Siddhi, a mechatronics based robot designing contest saw an active participation from BITSians and outstation students.

Pharmacy Association primarily dealt with green chemistry with several projects providing a comprehensive coverage of the topic. Other projects included an elaboration on medical computation, which is gaining usage nowadays.

Computer Science Association came up with several innovative projects dealing both in software and hardware. A new media player developed by a student gained immense popularity primarily due to its application being in Hindi.



Events conducted by them like Gamophilic witnessed a huge number of students participating enthusiastically.

Electronics and Instrumentation Group presented various projects in line with the theme showcasing the latest trends in the field. Projects presented included a camera that is used in cricket and various theoretical presentations.

Biological Sciences Association came up with innovative projects which dealt with cloning and other relatively upcoming fields, and also held several events, namely, Chimera (a species designing contest), Stimuli (a Bio-Quiz) and a Bio-based Treasure Hunt.



Chemistry Association participated actively during APOGEE-2006. There were 11 projects exhibited by the association, which were categorized into theoretical and practical models. The projects included Microwave Assisted Organic Synthesis, Green Chemistry and its applications, Reusable heat Cans etc. There were projects on Medical imaging, Piezoelectricity and Television Chemistry. Chemistry Association also organized the "WHODUNIT?" contest. The Association Secured two prizes (Second best conceptual and Second best Application prizes) for the projects exhibited.

Economics-Finance Association's Des'C'top which aimed at optimal allocation of scarce resources such as water so as to maximize the net benefits with suitable cropping pattern was the cynosure of all exhibits. OOPS-Optimal Outlay Plan and Schedules, Software projects like ORACLE SPADE were also presented.

Mathematics Association focused on latest technological developments using various mathematical sciences. The projects include chip design using graph theory, lip movement recognition, finger print recognition, cryptography & steganography, crop circles, fractals.

Languages and Humanistics Studies Association selected *Entretein – To Talk* as its theme, in APOGEE '06. It contributed by showcasing its five projects : Dreams, Colours, Body Language, Power of Thinking and Life & works of Rene Descartes at the festival.



The **Information Systems** Association presented several projects in software which provided an in depth coverage on the latest trends in software. Events like Coderash and Beat the Bug were very popular.



ONWARD

BITS Pilani – Hyderabad Campus

Ground-breaking Ceremony

The institute has acquired a land of 200 acres in Jawahar Nagar, Shamirpet Mandal from Government of Andhra Pradesh through HUDA. Due to the keen interest shown by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and all the concerned senior officials of Government of Andhra Pradesh, BITS has been able to get the land in their possession within shortest possible time period.

On the auspicious day of Ugadi, Prof. S Venkateswaran, performed Bhoomi Puja in the presence of distinguished guests from the State Government, Alumni of BITS and leading Industrialists of Hyderabad.



The Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Technical Education and ITI, Shri P Venkaeswara Rao and Hon'ble Minister for Mines, Geology, Investment and ITC, Shrinath P Sabitha Indra Reddy graced the occasion by their august presence.

Dr. K K Birla, Chancellor, BITS in his message recalled his continuous association with BITS and mentioned the need for opening the third campus for accommodating the ever-increasing demand of meritorious aspirants in the country.

The campus will be built at a cost of Rs. 160 crores and will replicate all the salient features of the educational system at Pilani.

Student-Activity Centre (SAC)



Inaugurated on 17 July 2006 by Prof. S. Venkateswaran, the 47000 sq ft SAC has created space and facilities for a gamut of student-activities. Starting from I Semester 2006-07, this centre will be opened for various clubs and associations that are involved in multifarious cultural and academic endeavors for interaction

and practice. The centre houses a state-of-the-art international standard Squash Court, Badminton hall, Table Tennis hall for both men and women and a fitness unit. An Amphitheatre with a capacity of 200 is an added attraction at SAC.



CARING BEYOND OUR WALLS

NSS

Celebrating its silver jubilee Blood Donation Camp, NSS collected a record 673 units of blood during the camp organized in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society during 4-5 March 2006. To mark this occasion, several awards pertaining to Blood Donation by students and faculty of the Institute on campus were given. Among the hostels, Meera Bhawan and Krishna Bhawan bagged the first and second position respectively. Prof. G. Sundar and Prof R.K.Mittal & family were also honored for donating blood during almost all annual camps held at BITS, Pilani.



Mr Ravindra Kumar, a staff member from the Information Processing Unit, Miss D Divya and Mr. B. K. Chaitanya, both students of BITS, were also felicitated for participating actively in the blood donation camps.



Under the Gyanganga Project of the NSS Unit of BITS, Pilani, a Computer Centre was established at Raila School for the benefit of students and rural community on 14th January 2006. It was inaugurated by Prof. S. Venkateshwaran, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani.



MyIndia

MY INDIA celebrated its First Anniversary on 12 February 2006, cherishing its one-year of success story and loading the impulse of inspiration. Another noticeable achievement was the launch of its flagship website on the internet, www.bharatnirmaansankalp.org.

The forum was dynamic with the following activities:

- Winter Relief Camp
- Health Relief Camp in March
- ESoIV(Engineering Solutions for Indian Villages), Technovision (Paper presentation contest) and The India Quiz during APOGEE 2006
- Computer Literacy Programme in Raila
- Second village library in Raila
- Distribution of books on Vivekananda day
- Kaun Banega Crorepati (in true Indian sense) to celebrate the republic day.

Center for women studies

In collaboration with One World South Asia, the Centre has opened two village-knowledge centres at Jherli and Dhandhar villages on 13 and 14 February 2006 respectively. Inaugurated by Prof L K Maheshwari, these centres aim at empowering women and communities on health, social and development issues through mass media and promote various ICT tools. Taking another step in this direction, the Centre organized a two-day training programme at BITS, Pilani during 12-13 April 2006 for 26 village volunteers with a view to train the volunteers in the use of audio and web-based tools.



A visit by Professor John Davies, Co-Director, *Partners in Conflict Center for International Development and Conflict Management*, University of Maryland, at College Park, U.S.A was organized by the Centre during 11-20 March 2006. Prof. Davis interacted with



the team members to understand the dynamics of women empowerment in Indian society and visited nearby villages to comprehend the ongoing initiatives taken by the Centre for women upliftment. Prof. Davies also discussed the approaches and techniques for peace building and conflict mitigation.

CREATIVE ZONE

Sangamam 2006

SANGAMAM, the three-day classical cultural festival celebrated its tenth anniversary this February. Keeping up its tradition of fostering the rich cultural heritage of India, Ragamalika, the classical dance and music club of BITS, Pilani organized Sangamam 2006 during 17-19 February. The event started with a scintillating inaugural performance by the members of Ragamalika followed by a spellbinding Saxophone concert by Padmasri Dr. Kadri



Gopalnath. Shri. Neyveli Santhanagopalan, a renowned carnatic vocalist who performed on the second day mesmerized the audience with his masterly recital. The festival ended with an enthralling Bharat Natyam dance performance by Natana Mamani Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan. These splendid visual and vocal delights attracted a huge audience comprising faculty and the student community of BITS and received tremendous appreciation.

Matrix

Matrix-Mind and Thought in Radical Information Exchange is a forum that has been nurturing reading skills amongst students. Under the guidance of Prof. K.E. Raman and the faculty members Dr. Saby John and Dr. Geetha B, the forum has explored new avenues this semester. Many book review sessions were organized on well acclaimed books like *A Beautiful Mind*, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and a

Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy. In addition to this, the forum left its mark during Apogee also by organizing WOW-a war of words, a painting workshop and an invited lecture by Mr. Shashi Warrior, reputed alumuns of BITS.



RAF Cultural Evening

Music Club of BITS, Pilani at the behest of Recreational Activity Forum (RAF) presented an evening of entertainment in the auditorium on 27 February 2006. The consummate student-artists of music club held the audience spell bound with the mellifluous tunes of Indian light music.



INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

S.No.	Name	Designation	Discipline	Research Area
1	Amit Dubey, Ph.D.	Lecturer	Chemistry	Industrially significant organic transformations over functionalized nonmaterial and heterogeneous catalysis
2	K P Jayadevan, Ph.D.	Lecturer	Chemistry	Materials Physical Chemistry
3	Anil Kumar, Ph.D.	Lecturer	Chemistry	Organic transformation – oxidation reaction & medicinal chemistry involving c-src kinase inhibitors
4	Niranjan Swain, Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Economics	Corporate Finance
5	Suvendu Shekhar Dash, Ph.D.	Lecturer	Economics	Micro Economics
7	Shamita Goswami, Ph.D.	Visiting Faculty	Humanities	Fine Arts
8	P Srinivasan, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Mechanical	Streamlined Extrusion Dyes
9	Arun Kumar Vaish, M.B.A.	Visiting Faculty	Management	Finance
10	Debi Datt Pant, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Physics	Time resolved laser spectroscopy
11	A. Rajagopal, Ph.D.	Visiting Faculty	Management	Operations & Supply Chain Management

EDITORIAL TEAM

FACULTY

Meenakshi Raman, Sanjiv Kumar Choudhary,
Sushila Rathore, Virendra Singh Nirban

STUDENTS

Sunil Seetharaman, Adi Srikanth, Abhijit
Jaikrishna, Avaneendra



We wish to thank the faculty and students who have helped us in procuring data and photographs. Please send your comments/suggestions/feedback to mraman@bits-pilani.ac.in

Apogee 2006



THE HINDU • SUNDAY, JULY



L. K. Maheshwari

Change of guard at BITS Pilani

Bits-Hyderabad campus by '07
Special Correspondent
JAIPUR Prof. L. K. Maheshwari, an expert in semi-conductor electronics, has taken over as the new Vice-Chancellor of the BITS Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani. He succeeds Prof. S. Venkateswaran, who has retired after 52 years of services at BITS. Prof. Maheshwari has been Professor and Director of the Pilani campus before taking over as Vice-Chancellor, BITS, a deemed university offering programmes in various sciences, and managing various administrative functions at the institute.

BITS alumni, corporates to tsunami victims' aid

They are taking rehabilitation beyond ad hoc relief. BITS alumni and corporates are joining hands to help tsunami victims. A committee has been formed to coordinate relief efforts. The committee will be headed by Prof. L. K. Maheshwari. It will be working towards providing relief to the victims of the tsunami. The committee will be working towards providing relief to the victims of the tsunami. The committee will be working towards providing relief to the victims of the tsunami.

Village knowledge

HT Correspondent
Pilani, February 23
A VILLAGE knowledge centre, called the Village Knowledge Centre, was opened at a hill village near Pilani. The centre aims to empower the villagers with knowledge on science and technology. It will be providing training to the villagers on various aspects of science and technology. The centre will be providing training to the villagers on various aspects of science and technology.

BITS Goa fine exam

Students at BITS Goa campus are preparing for their final examinations. The campus is well-equipped with modern facilities. The students are working hard to secure good marks in their exams. The campus is well-equipped with modern facilities. The students are working hard to secure good marks in their exams.



Another step towards higher education

Microwave tech backbone of satellite communication

Prof. Maheshwari is leading research in microwave technology for satellite communication. This technology is crucial for providing reliable communication services in remote areas. The research is being conducted in collaboration with various institutions. This technology is crucial for providing reliable communication services in remote areas.



Prof. Maheshwari receiving an award

Prof. Maheshwari receives award

Prof. Maheshwari has been awarded for his contributions to the field of science and technology. The award is a recognition of his leadership and research. He has been working tirelessly to advance the field of science and technology. The award is a recognition of his leadership and research.

Education a necessity for people

Prof. Maheshwari emphasizes the importance of education for the development of a nation. Education is the key to progress and prosperity. It provides the necessary skills and knowledge for the workforce. Education is the key to progress and prosperity.

Silver jubilee blood donation camp

BITS Pilani is celebrating its silver jubilee with a blood donation camp. The camp is a part of the university's social service activities. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation. The camp is a part of the university's social service activities.

BITS gets first byte

BITS Pilani has achieved a significant milestone by receiving its first byte. This marks the beginning of a new era for the university. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff. This marks the beginning of a new era for the university.