

Semester-II notes 2015-16

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Pilani Campus



editorial

New levels of excellence and success mark the beginning of the second semester, 2015-16, yet another illustrious semester. Commenced with the convocation ceremony of 1147 graduating students and the admission of 10 students, board toppers of their respective states, it was a wonderful amalgamation of multifaceted events, visits, honors and awards.

Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya has joined the institute as the new Vice-chancellor of BITS Pilani. An exemplary and renowned researcher, Prof Bhattacharyya has a brilliant track record in both research and teaching.

Involvement of the students in every academic and cultural activity is the hallmark of BITS Pilani. The 34th edition of Apogee, the Annual Technical Festival was full of interesting and intelligent talks. A plethora of activities such as paper presentations, talks, guest lectures and quizzes to cultural events, panel discussions and events judging the innovation of the participants marked the essence of this scientific gathering. Exemplary in its Think Again Conclave, the event witnessed lectures of influential personalities in their areas. Interface, the Academic Management convention was organized with dexterity, showcasing spectacular talks by eminent people in the field of marketing.

Several academic milestones were achieved in the last year, such as two students won the best paper award in the Annual IEEE India Conference (INDICON) held at New Delhi. A group of four students took part and represented BITS Pilani in e-Yantra, a national level robotics competition and secured second position among the fifty seven teams from all over India. Three

students of the institute also won the Ericsson Innovation Award.

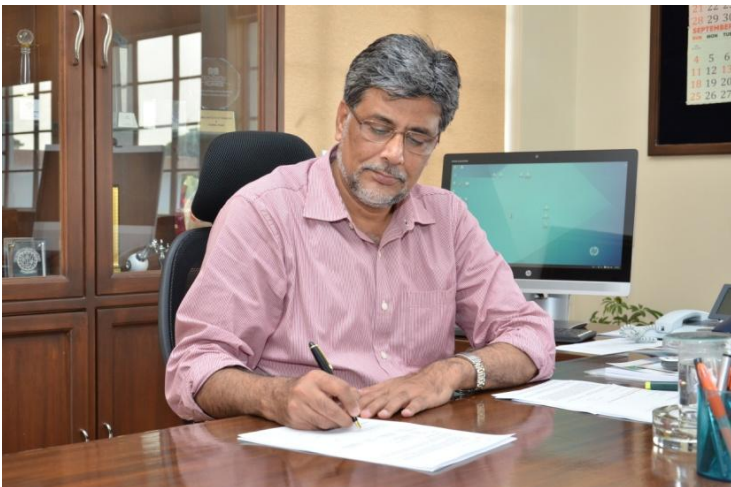
Professors of the institute also won laurels by winning medals, such as the CRSI Bronze medal, the Early Career research award, etc. Under the University Immersion programme, many faculty members visited several reputed universities in India and abroad to broaden their areas of research and collaboration. Faculty also attended and presented papers at several conferences of repute. Professors have also been awarded with grants from several prestigious agencies to carry out research in their respective fields.

Undeniably, it has been a remarkable semester for the Pilani campus both within and outside the university and this issue chronicles all the events. Hope you enjoy reading about some of the achievements and milestones of the semester.

Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya appointed as the Vice- Chancellor of BITS Pilani

Professor Souvik Bhattacharyya has joined as the new Vice-Chancellor of BITS Pilani. Prof Bhattacharyya has a Bachelor's degree from Jadavpur University, his MS is from the University of Cincinnati and his PhD is from Texas A&M University, all in Mechanical Engineering, specializing in Thermal sciences. After a post-doctoral research stint at Texas A&M, he joined the faculty of IIT Kharagpur in 1991 where he held several important positions. He has also been a part of the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, Rhein-Waal University, Germany, and has been a visiting fellow at Texas A&M University.

→ Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya



In 2012 Prof Bhattacharyya returned to his alma mater, Jadavpur University, for fifteen months as the Vice-Chancellor and spearheaded a number of reforms. Prof Bhattacharyya is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) and the West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology (WAST); He is also a Member of the Research Council of CSIR-CGCRI and the Governing Council & Executive

Board of ISM, Dhanbad. He has been an expert member of the DST Fast Track Young Engineer Research Project Committee, and is a Member of the Civil & Mechanical Engineering Project Advisory Committee, SERB, DST. He was also an Advisory Member of the International Association of Science and Technology for Development (IASTED) Technical Committee on Energy and Power Systems (Calgary, Canada) during 2000-2005.

He has served on the editorial boards of several international journals of repute. Prof Bhattacharyya has published 110 international indexed journal papers and 109 articles in international conference proceedings, besides contributing five articles in edited books published internationally and has a patent on his name. He has supervised 12 PhD dissertations, and over 25 M.Tech/MS theses. He is a co-author of the celebrated *Heat Transfer* text with J.P. Holman. Prof Bhattacharyya has been principal investigator of a large number of sponsored research projects and has worked with organisations such as Tata Steel, Coal India, DRDO, BARC, Tata Power, CESC, and WBSEDCL. He remains an admired teacher and was the first recipient of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) Outstanding Teacher Award, 2013.

Convocation 2016 Ceremony at Pilani Campus

Convocation 2016 ceremony for First Degree, Higher Degree and Ph.D. students graduating in the academic year 2015-16 from BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus was held on Sunday, July 24, 2016 at Pilani campus. The chief guest on the occasion was Dr Vijay Chandru, a co-founder and currently the chairman and managing director of Strand Life Sciences.

Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani and Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus presented their respective reports on BITS, Pilani and Pilani Campus.

During this mega event, 822 first degrees, 206 dual degrees, 268 higher degrees, and 57 Ph.D. degrees were awarded. Mr. Prakhar Kumar (B.E. Hons. Electrical and Electronics) received the gold medal, Ms Meghna Bansal (B.E. Hons. Computer Science) received the silver medal and Mr. Rahul Ranjan (B.E. Hons. Electrical and Electronics) received the bronze medal.

Dr Kumar Mangalam Birla, the Chancellor of BITS Pilani, in his message to the graduating students, said, "I want you to reflect on how privileged you are, and how you must seize the opportunities this education has opened up for you".

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya, in his address said, "On a parting note, I would like to add that as a graduate and ambassador of BITS Pilani, you are the torch bearer of a rich heritage".

In his Convocation address, Dr Vijay Chandru talked about the massive wave of entrepreneurial energy in our nation. He said, "In my mind. BITS Pilani should be projected as an example by agencies such as the NITI Aayog in transforming India through transnational impact. Industry engagement is one of the cornerstones of the educational philosophy of BITS Pilani exemplified by the Practice School, and the Work Integrated Learning Programmes which are outstanding models of industry-academia cooperation".

Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus highlighted the achievements of students and faculty in his detailed report.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award ceremony was also held during convocation. The Distinguished Alumnus Award in the Category of Academic Teaching and Research was awarded to Prof Alok Choudhary and Prof G. Ravindra Kumar. The Distinguished Alumnus Award in the Category of Social Entrepreneurship was awarded to Mr. Mathew Cherian. The Distinguished Alumnus Award in the Category of Entrepreneurship was awarded to Mr. N.S. Parthasarathy.



Orientation 2016

On July 30-31, 2016 the Student Welfare Division (SWD) of the BITS Pilani, Pilani campus, under the guidance of Prof Kumar Neeraj Sachdev (Associate Dean, SWD), conducted orientation ceremonies for parents and guardians of newly admitted students. A separate orientation ceremony for the First Degree and Higher Degree students was also conducted. The Director, Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, welcomed the parents and guardians to the orientation ceremony. He encouraged the parents and guardians to think in innovative manners and help their wards to do well at BITS and in life.

→ Director's address to the new students and guardians



On July 31, 2016 the honorable Vice-Chancellor Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya's message for the students was delivered by Prof S.C. Sivasubramanian (Acting Registrar, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus) in which the VC guided the students to innovate and excel so as to contribute to the nation and above all to make difference as good human beings.

Prof Shan Balasubramaniam (Dean, Academic & Resource Planning Division) spoke on Academic Curriculum and Course Design. Prof S.C. Sivasubramanian (Acting Registrar, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus) highlighted Academic Flexibilities. Prof P. Srinivasan (Associate Dean, Practice School Division) addressed the students on the importance of Industry Interface (Practice School), followed by Prof S. Gurunarayanan (Dean, WILP Division) who spoke on the issues of Evaluation & Grading as part of WILP. Chief Warden, Prof Shibasish Chowdhury and Prof Devika (Non-Resident Warden, Meera Bhavan) spoke about Hostel & Campus Life. Dr R.P. Pareek (Medical Superintendent, Medical Centre, Pilani Campus) explained about the medical facilities on campus to the students. Prof B.K. Rout (Associate Dean, Academic, Registration &

Counseling Division) and Prof S. Routroy (Associate Dean, Instruction Division) spoke about the Registration and Time Table.

→ Board Toppers 2016



The general orientation session was followed by the special Session for Higher Degree and Ph.D. students. Prof Shan Balasubramaniam (Dean, Academic and Resource Planning), Prof S.K. Verma (Dean, Academic Research, Ph.D. Programme), Prof S. Gurunarayanan (Dean, WILP Division), Prof Hemant Ramanlal Jadhav (Associate Dean, Academic Research) addressed the students about academic and non-academic issues related to higher degrees. Dr Sailaja Nandigama (Non-resident Warden, Meera Bhavan) proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the orientation ceremony.

65th Founder's Day Ceremony

The Vidya Vihar Campus was formally inaugurated by the first President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad on Basant Panchami, in the year 1951, and this day is celebrated as the Founder's Day of BITS Pilani.

→ Cultural Programme on Founder's Day



The 65th Founder's Day was celebrated in BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus on February 12, 2016. Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Mrs. Rakhi Sarkar, Prof S.C. Sivasubramaniam were present to grace the occasion. The contributions of non teaching staff were recognized and the Director presented best performance awards to the staff members.

→ Best Performance Awards on Founder's Day



Basant Book Festival

The week long Basant Book Festival was organized during February 15-21, 2016 at BITS Pilani, Pilani campus under the leadership of Mr. Giridhar Kunkur, the Librarian and Chief of Publications and Media Relations Unit. Scholars, academicians, students and book lovers of not only the BITS campus, but also of many educational institutions, schools, colleges and the general public of Pilani visited this book festival. Basant Book Festival was held at the New Workshop building situated opposite to the BITS Library. It showcased a wide range of books covering all subjects from different publishers. It also had a series of motivational talks by Professors of BITS Pilani and rendering of self-composed poetry and Book Talks by BITS Pilani students as well as students from Birla Balika Vidyapeet and Birla Public School.

→ Prof Surekha Bhanot addressing the students



The Basant Book Festival-2016 was inaugurated by Prof S. C. Shivasubramanian, Dean Administration BITS Pilani

on February 15, 2016. The event was graced by Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director, BITS Pilani, Dr M. Kasturi, Principal, Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Heads of various departments, Faculty members, Scientists, Teachers as well as Librarians.

→ Book lovers at the Basant Book Festival



BITS 1970-75 Batch holds their Annual Signature Program 'Gurudakshina'

Around 100 Alumni of BITS 1970-75 batch visited the BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus during January 29 to February 1, 2016 to celebrate the 40th year of their graduation. The batch includes senior government officers, educationists, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, investment bankers, operating NGO's and so on. This batch is the founder of the BITS 75 Charitable Trust. This batch annually holds their annual signature program 'Gurudakshina' and this time it was conducted in Pilani on January 30, 2016. In this program the batch honored their 'Gurus', namely Prof H.L. Kundu, Prof P.D. Chaturvedi, Prof R.P. Arora, Prof H.S. Moondra, Prof J.L. Arora and Prof M.S. Radhakrishnan for their priceless contribution to the students.

At the function, Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director BITS, Pilani, Pilani Campus welcomed them and shared about future developmental plans of the institute.

The honoree Gurus expressed their happiness, shared memories of BITS times and admired the students' successes.

A memorable Music Night was also organized at the auditorium where many Alumni and BITS students mesmerized the audience by rendering old classical hits as well as the numbers from western bands.

Melange - Second Theatre Fest

After the success of Melange 2013, Melange 2 was back to BITS Pilani. The theatre festival took place during February 5-7, 2016.

The first day's performance was a solo by Seema Biswas of "Bandit Queen" fame. Tagore's story "Streer Patra" was rendered powerfully by Biswas.

The second day saw Indian television and film actor Raghubir Yadav's dark comedy "Piano". Set in the seventies, the play is an interesting telephonic conversation of two persons and it also showcased the talent of actor Roshni Achreja.

→ Performers of Melange-2



The third day saw a musical drama "Bairaath Prasang" based on the disguise period of the Pandavas from the *Mahabharat*. Dinesh Yadav, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences conceived and created "Bairaath Prasang" involving twenty musicians/singers from the Meo and Manganiyar communities of Rajasthan.

Symposium on Sustainable Technology Development in Polymer (SSTDP-2016), Chemical Engineering

The symposium on *Sustainable Technology Development in Polymer* was jointly organized by IChE Pilani Regional Center, Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani,

Pilani Campus and Elastomer Technology Development Society (ETDS), New Delhi.

This symposium aimed at providing knowledge and ideas to the participants about polymer industries and sustainable technology development. Eminent personalities from the industry and the academia were invited from several places in India.

Dr Srinivasan Duraiswamy, Director, Innovation Lab, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, IPDO Hyderabad, was present as the Chief Guest at the symposium. Famous names from several industries and other institutes such as Polmann India Ltd., Defense Materials Research & Development Establishment, Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Reliance Petrochemicals, KPS Consultants, Elastomer Development Society and BITS Pilani were present. At the end of the Symposium Dr Shomnath Chakravarty, an eminent scholar and a well-known scientist in the field of elastomers was felicitated.

→ SSTDP-2016



Events at the Library

Two-day Librarian Development Program (MANLIBET-LDP)

A two-day Librarians Development Program *Elements of Effective Librarianship* was organized at BITS Pilani, Pilani campus, during April 8-9, 2016 by the BITS Pilani Library, in collaboration with Management Libraries Network (MANLIBNET) and it was supported by Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Bayside. During the inauguration ceremony, the Chief Guest Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus welcomed the participants and shared his

experiences from national as well as international perspectives. He also launched a Mobile App for BITS Pilani Library Portal "infoBITS" which is developed and designed by BITS students in close collaboration with the Library team.

→ MANLIBNET-LDP



Mr. Giridhar Kunkur, Librarian and Chief, Publications and Media Relations Unit (PMRU), and Co-ordinator of the workshop welcomed the participants and emphasised that in the digital era, librarians need to adapt to an ICT dominated society where vast majority of the users are undoubtedly Gen Y. Dr Tariq Asraf, executive committee member of MANLIBNET gave an overview of MANLIBNET and its activities. Nearly 60 participants had come to participate in the workshop.

→ MANLIBNET-LDP



Workshop on Preservation of Rare books

The BITS Pilani Library consists of a good collection of Rare Books such as the *Kantian Ethics* by A.E. Teale, Alexander Pope's *Essay on Criticism* and several others,

which were donated by Shri G.D. Birla almost at the time of the formation of the BITS Pilani University. Over a period of time, because of their age and climatic conditions, these books are now in a dilapidated condition. To preserve these collections for academic and research purposes by using latest techniques, the BITS Library, under the supervision of Mr. Gridhar Kunkur, the Librarian and the Chief PMRU, had organized a three day training programme on "Preservation and Binding of Rare Books" at BITS Pilani Library by National Archives, New Delhi during May 25-27, 2016.

→ Preservation and Binding of Rare Books



The resource persons for this training programme were Mr. Syed Farid Ahmad, Co-ordinator & Assistant Director, School of Archival Studies, Dr (Mrs.) Sutapa Chakravarty, Scientific Officer and Mr. Chander Shekhar, Preservation Officer from National Archives of India. Some of the library staff from reprography and printing section were trained in this training programme.

→ Certificate for Preservation and Binding of Rare Books



Two-Week Communication and Behavioral Skills training program

The BITS Library, in association with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences had conducted a two-week Communication and Behavioral skills training programme for the Library staff. Four Faculty members of the Department, namely Prof Gajendra Singh Chauhan, Head of the Department, Prof Sangeeta Sharma, Prof Devika and Prof Sushila Shekhawat acted as the resource persons.

The main objective of this training programme was to train the library support staff in English Communication Skills.

A Certificate Giving Ceremony was held for library support staff who participated in this event on July 26, 2016. The Chief Guest of the event was Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus.

The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Prof Chandra Shekhar, Senior Professor Emeritus, EEE Department, the former Director of CEERI Pilani and Mr. Giridhar Kunkur, the Librarian, who initiated this training programme.

→ A two-week Communication Skills Training Programme



World Book and Copyright Day Celebrations

To commemorate the World Book and Copyright Day 2016, the BITS Pilani library had taken the initiative of promoting reading habits among the community in the BITS Pilani campus. As a part of this initiative, the library had put up an interesting display of books on William

Shakespeare and works of literature by well known authors from April 23-26, 2016.

→ World Book and Copyright Day 2016



International Yoga Day

The second International Yoga Day was celebrated on June 21, 2016 all over the world. BITS Pilani also celebrated International Yoga Day, and it was organized by the Student Welfare Division on behalf of BITS Pilani at the Student Activity Centre. Director Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, faculty members, staff, students and children participated on this occasion. Prizes to outstanding participants, appreciation certificates to staff and participation certificates to all the participants were distributed.

→ International Yoga Day Celebration



Book exhibitions and Poster and Essay writing competition for students about the importance of yoga for healthy lifestyle were also organized.

→ Prize distribution to the outstanding participants



Sapling Plantation Drive 2016

The Plantation Drive 2016 was commenced on July 02, 2016 under which 1500 saplings such as Neem, Jamun, Champa, Bougainvillea, Sheesham, Chandani, Ficus etc. were planted.

→ Sapling Plantation - Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya



Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar, Director, Prof S.C. Sivasubramanian, Dean, Administration, Lt. Colonel A. K. Bhataiya (Retd.), Estate Manager, Mr. Giridhar Kunkur, Librarian and the chief PMRU, Prof A. K. Das, Prof G. S. Chauhan, Dr V. S. Nirban from BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus and other faculty and staff members of Pilani campus enthusiastically participated in the tree plantation drive.

→ Sapling Plantation - Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar



Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Scholarship

A rolling trophy to the Institute, one scholarship and trophy to best Gurukul participant, and another scholarship and trophy to best outgoing Mechanical Engineering student were presented in the memory of Late Chitrarth Dagar, a Mechanical Engineering Student, who passed away a few years back. These were presented by the parents of Late Chitrarth Dagar, Smt. Sunita and Shri R. C. Dagar on the occasion of the Farewell function for outgoing Mechanical Engineering students on April 22, 2016. Mr. Rounaq Dhar and Ms Garima Gupta were the two student awardees. A ghazal programme and a short film made on Chitrath by the students of the Mechanical Engineering department were also showcased.

→ Late Chitrarth Dagar Memorial Scholarship



Salters' Chemistry Camp

A three-day programme of residential Chemistry Camp for 9th standard students was organized by the Royal Society of Chemistry, India and Salters' Camps, UK at BITS Pilani, Pilani campus, during July 18-20, 2016. Sixty-five students from 15 government and less-privileged schools in and around Pilani participated in this Chemistry Camp. It enabled students to participate in learning Chemistry with fun and motivated them to develop a long-term interest in the subject of Chemistry, besides creating an awareness.

→ Salters' Chemistry Camp



academia: a confluence of ideas

Seminars/Conferences/Workshops/Training Programmes
Enriching the Learning Experience: Visits by Faculty

Prof K. S. Sangwan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, attended the 23rd CIRP Conference on Life Cycle Engineering and presented a paper titled "Life Cycle Assessment of Arc Welding and Gas Welding Processes", at TU Berlin, Germany during May 21-23, 2016. He was also the international scientific committee member of this conference.

Prof M. S. Dasgupta, Department of Mechanical Engineering, visited Texas A&M University, USA during January 29-30, 2016 as a judge for the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Design Weekend and as Faculty mentor of "BITSHyperloop Team", leading a team of student participants to the Hyper Loop Pod Design weekend. The event was organized by SpaceX & Teslamotors at the Texas A&M University's famous Kile Field Stadium. The student participants were Mr. Sibesh Kar (Team Lead), Mr. Anumula Sai Venkata Reddy and Mr. Vasana Anish Srinivas. The team visit was sponsored by Faveley Transport India.

Prof M. S. Dasgupta, Department of Mechanical Engineering, visited Massey University New Zealand, along with research scholar Mr Nilesh Purohit during April 7-9, 2016 to attend the 4th International conference on Sustainability and Cold Chain, an IIR conference and presented a paper titled "Thermodynamic analysis of CO2 transcritical booster system for supermarket refrigeration in warm climatic conditions".

→ Prof M.S. Dasgupta



Prof Raj Kumar Gupta, Department of Physics, visited the University of Colorado at Boulder, USA from June 5 to July 25, 2016 under the University Immersion programme of BITS Pilani.

Prof Bharti Khungar, Department of Chemistry, visited Chapman University, California, USA, under the University Immersion programme of BITS Pilani, from May 25, 2016 to July 25, 2016.

Dr K. K. Gupta, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, visited Robotics Lab, System Cybernetics, The Graduate School of Engineering, Hiroshima University, Japan during June 6, 2016 to July 27, 2016.

→ Dr K. K. Gupta, Japan Visit



Prof Navneet Gupta, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, attended the 13th International Conference of Young Scientists on Energy Issues (CYSENI 2016) and presented a paper titled "Comparative Study on Selection of Substrate Material for Hybrid Microwave Integrated Circuits (HMICs)", at Kaunas, Lithuania during May 26-27, 2016.

→ Prof Navneet Gupta



Prof Sangeeta Sharma, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended the 2nd World Conference on Women's Studies and presented a paper titled "Why should boys have all the fun: Ad initiatives to achieve equality" at Colombo, Sri Lanka during May 5-6, 2016. Prof Sharma also attended the 14th International Conference of the Society for Global Business and Economic Development (SGBED) and presented a

paper titled "Advertising: Reflection of Cultural Idiosyncrasies" at the Feliciano school of Business, Montclair State University, Montclair, USA during June 21-24, 2016.

Dr Rajneesh Choubisa, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended the 31st International Congress of Psychology (ICP 2016) and presented two papers titled "A Plebiscite on Job-Crafting Behaviors in Indian Employees: Structure, Incidences, Evidences and other Complexities" and "Mental Health Continuum-Short Form (MHC-SF): Psychometric Harmony, Divergence & Deviations for Indian & Czech Cultures" at Yokohama, Japan during July 24-29, 2016. Dr Choubisa also attended the 23rd International Congress of Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP 2016) and presented a paper titled "Substantiating the Rural-Urban Dichotomy in Personality Dispositions: Investigating an Academic Cohort", at Nagoya (Japan) during July 31 to August 4, 2016.

Dr Sailaja Nandigama, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended the 2nd World Conference on Women's Studies and presented a paper titled "Gender Inequality in Higher Education in India and the Netherlands: A comparative study of the challenges and opportunities faced by women academics" at Colombo, Sri Lanka during May 5-6, 2016.

Prof Kumar Neeraj Sachdev, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended an International Academic Forum (IAFOR) sponsored International Conference on Arts and Humanities, and presented a paper titled "Virtue-based Compatibility of Business and Professions," at Dubai during February 27-29, 2016.

→ Prof Kumar Neeraj Sachdev



Dr Somdatta Bhattacharya, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) and presented a paper titled "Narrating the Space

and Spatiality of Loss: Remembered 'Home' and Exilic 'House' in MT Vasudevan Nair's "Sherlock"" at Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA during March 17-12, 2016. Dr Bhattacharya also attended the conference on IFTR 2016: Presenting the Theatrical Past and presented a paper titled "Performance as Transformation of Everyday Urban Space: Reading a Delhi Ram Leela" at Stockholm University, Sweden during June 13-17, 2016.

Dr Anupam Yadav, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended the 2nd World Conference on Women's Studies and presented a paper titled "Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries: Feminist Perspectives on Education" at Colombo, Sri Lanka during May 5-6, 2016.

Dr Shivi Agarwal, Department of Mathematics, visited VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic for collaborative research under the University Immersion Program, BITS Pilani during May 29 to July 17, 2016. Dr Agarwal also attended an International Conference on Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Sciences and Engineering (ICMCSSE 2016) and presented a paper titled "Fuzzy Total Factor Productivity by Credibility Theory" at Stockholm, Sweden during July 11-12, 2016 and won the best paper presentation award.

→ Dr Shivi Agarwal



Dr Ruchika Sharma, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, attended the 14th International Conference of the Society for Global Business & Economic Development and presented a paper titled "A Study of Advertising Language as Antecedent to Children's Brand Recall and Ad Recognition" at the Montclair State University, New Jersey during June 21-24, 2016.

Dr Virendra Singh Shekhawat, Department of Computer Science & Information Systems, attended the 30th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Information Networking and Applications and presented a paper titled

"Latency and Routing Efficiency Based Metric for Performance Comparison of DHT Overlay Networks", at the Le Régent Congress Centre, Crans-Montana, Switzerland during March 23-25, 2016.

Dr Yashvardhan Sharma, Department of Computer Science & Information Systems, attended an International Conference on Computational Science and Its Applications (ICCSA 2016) and presented a paper titled "Effort Estimation for Program Modification in Object Oriented Development" in Beijing, China during July 4-7, 2016.

→ Dr Yashvardhan Sharma



Dr Rajesh Mehrotra, Department of Biological Sciences, visited the University of Edinburgh under INSA-RSE bilateral exchange programme during July 15-23, 2016.

Prof Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences, visited the Department of Polymer Particles, Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry AS CR, Prague, Czech Republic during June 1-30, 2016.

→ Prof Jitendra Panwar



Dr Trilok Mathur, Department of Mathematics, attended an International Conference on Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Sciences and Engineering (ICMCSS 2016) and presented a paper titled "Caputo-Type Fuzzy Fractional Riccati Differential Equations with Fuzzy Initial Condition" in Stockholm, Sweden during July 11-12, 2016.

Dr Padma Murali, Department of Mathematics, attended a Workshop and conference on A Mathematical Model to Evaluate the Risk of Cardiovascular Disease in Diabetic Population, the 7th Workshop Dynamical Systems Applied to Biology and Natural Sciences (DSABNS 2016), University of Evora, Evora, Portugal during February 2-5, 2016.

Distinguished Lectures

1. Dr Murali Raman, Pharmaceutical Consultant, delivered a lecture on "Quality Management System", at the Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani on March 22, 2016.
2. Dr Sandip B. Bharate, Senior Scientist, Medicinal Chemistry Division, CSIR Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu delivered a lecture on "Medicinal Chemistry of Natural Products to Discover Potential Preclinical Leads for Various Diseases: Development of Domino One-pot Protocols for Medicinally Important Scaffolds" at the Department of Pharmacy, BITS Pilani on April 22, 2016.
3. Prof Dharendra Bahuguna, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur delivered a lecture on "The method of lines to non-local initial boundary value problems" at the Department of Mathematics, BITS Pilani on March 29, 2016.
4. Prof N. Shashtri, IIS Bengaluru delivered a lecture on "Finite simple groups and their geometries" at the Department of Mathematics, BITS Pilani on June 11, 2016.

Invited Lectures by Faculty

Prof Surekha Bhanot, Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering & Instrumentation Unit, delivered a talk on "Process Automation and Control Systems : Review and trends" at MNIT Jaipur on May 29, 2016.

Dr K.K. Gupta, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, delivered a talk on "Image Processing and Pattern Recognition in Biometric Applications-face, Iris,

finger. etc." at the Government Engineering College, Bikaner on April 6, 2016. Prof Gupta also delivered a talk on "Ongoing Project at BITS, Pilani - Considering Social, Industrial and Futuristic Challenges" in the 73rd Taoyaka Program Seminar, Hiroshima University, Japan on July 6, 2016.

Prof Navneet Gupta, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, delivered a talk titled "Nanoelectronics for Medical applications" on workshop "Nanomaterials and Nanodevices: Basics to Biomedical Impacts" at BKBIET, Pilani on January 21, 2016.

Prof Sangeeta Sharma, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, delivered a keynote lecture on "Shifting trends in the world of advertising" in an international conference on "Mastering Supply Chain Intricacies for Market Leadership" at Prestige Institute of Management, Gwalior during January 9-11, 2016. Prof Sharma was also invited as a resource person to give a talk on "Honing Communication Skills through Language Lab" in Entrepreneurship and Employability Skill Development (EESD) workshop in collaboration with FAEA during January 11-17, 2016. She also delivered a talk on "Etiquette and mannerism for Business Professionals" at Jaipuria Institute of Management, February 23, 2016. Prof Sharma was also delivered a talk on "How to speak so people listen" in the workshop on "The art of Public Speaking and Technical Writing" arranged by CSIR-HRDCs from 11-13 April 2016 at CSIR-HRDCs, Gaziabad.

Dr Rajesh Mehrotra, Department of Biological Sciences, delivered a plenary talk titled "Spacer distance between ACGT CIS regulatory elements governs differential gene expression in model plant Arabidopsis thaliana" in a national conference on Recent Advances in Biological Sciences, Biotechnology and Sustainable Development held at Udaipur during March 18-19, 2016. Dr Mehrotra also delivered a talk on Evolution of ACGT Elements at the University of Leeds, UK on July 19, 2016.

Dr Shilpi Garg, Department of Biological Sciences, delivered a talk on "Plasmodium vivax SufA: A prokaryotic type scaffold protein involved in Fe-S cluster biogenesis" at IIS University, Jaipur on January 31, 2016.

Prof Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences, delivered a talk on "Biomimetic approach towards synthesis of metal and metal oxide nanoparticles and their applications" at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry AS CR, Prague, Czech Republic during June 1-30, 2016.

Dr Krishnendra Shekhawat, Department of Mathematics, delivered a talk on "Automated Best Connected Rectangular Floor Plans" at Northwestern University, Evanston (Chicago), USA on June 29, 2016.

Dr Trilok Mathur, Department of Mathematics, delivered a talk on "Fractional Order Calculus" at the Faculty of Economics, VSB Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 10, 2016.

→ Dr Trilok Mathur



Dr Shivi Agarwal, Department of Mathematics, delivered a talk on "Some Applications of Data Envelopment Analysis" at the Faculty of Economics, VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 9, 2016.

Prof Chandra Shekhar, Department of Mathematics, delivered a talk on "A Study of Machine Repair Problem", at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala on January 19, 2016.

Dr Gautam Singhvi, Department of Pharmacy, delivered a talk on "Effect of solid form on Pharmaceutical product performance" in a workshop titled Application of Dissolution Techniques in Pharmaceutical Formulation at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Punjab on March 28, 2016.

Dr S. Murugesan, Department of Pharmacy, delivered a talk on "An *in-silico* virtual screening, synthesis and evaluation of Isatin analogues as HIV-1 Reverse Transcriptase inhibitor" at Hospira Healthcare India Pvt, Ltd. (a Pfizer Company), Chennai. on June 28, 2016.

Prof Raj Kumar Gupta, Department of Physics, delivered a talk on "Surface Plasmon Resonance based Sensor" at Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, on March 2, 2016. Prof Gupta also delivered a talk on "Research and Development in the field of thin films of liquid crystals and nanomaterials" at the University of Colorado, Boulder on July 13, 2016.

accolades and achievements

Prof Dalip Kumar, Department of Chemistry, has been selected for the CRSI Bronze Medal-2017 by the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) for his contributions to research in Chemistry. CRSI was founded by Bharat Ratna Prof C. N. R. Rao and is the largest chemical society in India.

Prof M. S. Dasgupta, Department of Mechanical Engineering, was given the best paper award in January 2016 for his paper titled "Smart Control of Electric Lamp using Artificial Intelligence based Controller" at the 12th IEEE India International Conference Electronics, Energy, Environment, Communication, Computer, Control, (E³-C³) held at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, during December 17-20, 2015.

Prof K. S. Sangwan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been awarded a project worth 369,455.36 Euros by DAAD and FESTO Didactic, Germany with Professor Christoph Herrmann, TU Braunschweig, on the establishment of a "Learning Factory" at BITS Pilani.

Prof Jitendra Panwar, Department of Biological Sciences, has been awarded a visiting professorship under INSA-CAS International Bilateral Exchange/ Collaboration Programme-2016.

Dr Arnab Hazra, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, received the "Early Career Research Award" by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), India on March 4, 2016.

Prof Navneet Gupta, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, was the "Guest of Honor" at the National Conference on Emerging Trends in Computer Science and Electronics Engineering (ETCSEE-2016) organised by RPS Group of Institutions, Mahendragarh (Haryana) during April 9-10, 2016.

Prof Ravi Kant Mittal, Department of Civil Engineering, and his students Gaurav Tyagi and Gourav Gill, have been awarded the best paper award for "Liquefaction Screening Criteria For Earth Dams" presented at International Conference on Advances in Civil Engineering and Sustainable Construction-ACESC'16 organised by Department of Civil Engineering, SRM University, Chennai, India during March 30 to April 1, 2016.

significant projects

S. No.	Principal Investigator and Name of the Department	Title of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount and Duration
1.	Dr Suresh Kumar Department of Mathematics	Study of observational constraints on dark energy models of Universe using COSMOMC in a HPC system.	DST-SERB	INR 27,00,000 (3 years)
2.	Dr Padma Murali Department of Mathematics	Modeling And Analysis Of the Dynamics of Diabetes Mellitus in Indian Population and Control Measures	CSIR	INR 17,90,000 (3 years)- 01-06-2016 to 01-06-2019
3.	Dr Arnab Hazra, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Development of <i>p</i> -TiO ₂ nanoparticle decorated <i>n</i> -TiO ₂ nanotube array based <i>p-n</i> homojunction sensor device for the efficient detection of methanol contamination in alcoholic beverages	Additional Competitive Research Grant by BITS Pilani	INR 9,00,000 (2 years)
4.	Dr Arnab Hazra, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Development of TiO ₂ nanotube based highly selective capacitive type sensor device for the detection of methanol poisoning in alcoholic beverage	DST	INR 27,76,320 (3 years)
5.	Dr Mrinmoyee Basu Department of Chemistry	Screening Decoration of Co-catalyst on the Ultrathin 2D Sheets of Metal Chalcogenides and their application in Photo electrochemical Water Splitting	DST	INR 35,00,000 (3 years)
6.	Dr Amol Marathe Department of Mechanical Engineering	Modeling Immune Response to Salmonella during Typhoid	DST	INR 34,03,500 (3 years)
7.	Dr Subit Kumar Saha Department of Chemistry	Investigation of unfolding and refolding of proteins by gemini surfactants with varying spacer groups using fluorescence spectroscopy and small-angle neutron scattering techniques	UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Mumbai Centre, BARC, Mumbai	INR 6,63,000 (3 years)
8.	Ms. Monika Sandhu Department of Biological Sciences	Screening and Characterization of Polychlorinated Biphenyl degrading bacterial isolates from rhizosphere of morus alba (Mulberry plant)	NASI	INR 3,52,000 (2 years)

S. No.	Principal Investigator and Name of the Department	Title of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount and Duration
9.	Dr Sunil Dubey Department of Pharmacy	Development of Novel Processes for Increasing the Content of Sennoside-B from Senna	Shashi Phytochemical Industries	INR 18,00,000 (3 years)
10.	Dr Sunil Dubey Department of Pharmacy	Determination of repeated dose, Non-GLP, chronic toxicity 180 days of test compound in laboratory rats	Etica Clinpharm Pvt Ltd	INR 2,25,000 (6 months)
11.	Prof Rajiv Gupta Department of Civil Engineering	Costs and remediatin of Groundwater contamination in India	University of Virginia	\$1,50,000 (3 years)
12.	Dr Subit Kumar Saha Department of Chemistry	Effect of Chemical Nature of Spacer group, Headgroups and Counterions of Gemini Surfactants on Solvation Dynamics and Rotational Relaxation of Coumarins in Aqueous Micelles	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi	INR 15,90,000 (3 years)
13.	Dr Padma Mural Department of Mathematics	Mathematical modeling and analysis of the dynamics of diabetes mellitus in indian population and control measures	CISR	INR 8,78,000 (3 years)
14.	Dr Mrinmoyee Basu Department of Chemistry	Decoration of Plasmic nanoparticles on Ultrathin 2D Nanostructure of Metal Chalcogenides and their application in photoelectrochemical water splitting and photocatalysis	DST	INR 19,82,000 (3 years)
15.	Prof Raj Kumar Gupta Department of Physics Co-PI: V. Manjuladevi	Surface Plasmon Resonance Instrument	DST	INR 50,00,000 (2 years)

student round-up

Kiran Dhamane (2014A3PS228P) (Team leader), Ayush Sawarni (2014A3PS253P), Siddharth Gupta (2014A3PS178P) and Rishabh Joshi (2014A7PS102P) took part and represented BITS Pilani in e-Yantra and came 2nd out of 57 teams from all over India.

→ BITS Pilani students at e-Yantra



Preet Singh Khalsa (2015B3A3PS657P) won an award for the event "Prime Minister's Office App Development Competition organized by MyGov", New Delhi. He received the award in January 2016 and the App was launched on August 6, 2016 by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

→ Students with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



Anupam Purwar (2009A4PS301P) and Divya Joshi (2010A3PS160P), under the supervision of Prof M.S. Dasgupta, Department of Mechanical Engineering, were selected for the best paper award titled "Smart Control of Electric Lamp using Artificial Intelligence based Controller" in the event Annual IEEE India Conference (INDICON) held at New Delhi on January 2016.

Roshni Chhabra (2013A1PS661P) was the Regional Round winner and won the "IET India Scholarship Award 2016" at Amity University, Noida on July 23, 2016.

→ IET India Scholarship Award 2016



Vaibhav Garg (2013A3PS587P) won the award "Viterbi-India Scholar" for the best poster presentation in the event "Viterbi-India Program" organized by University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California during May 17 to July 18, 2016.

→ Vaibhav Garg



Anirudh Agarwal (2013B3A7644P) attended the 14th ZEW Conference on "The Economics of Information and Communication Technologies", Mannheim, Germany during June 3-4, 2016.

→ Anirudh Agarwal



Shirsh Zibbu (2013B1A4450P), Harsh Sinha(2013B2A3838P), Tarun Kumar Vangani (2013B1A8817P), and Surayans Tiwari (2013B2A4777P) won the Runners Up award at the 'code.fun.do Finalists' Forum 2015-16' for their application "Astrocyte".

Meenakshi Sharma (2012PHFX014P) and Dr Leela Rani, Department of Management, presented a paper in an International Conference on Applied Business and Economic Research, ICABER -2016 organized by International Journal of Applied Business and Economics Research, Serial Publications held in Delhi titled "Demographic Differences among Indian Primary School Children's Environmentally Sustainable Consumption Behavior" and received the best paper award.

Simarpreet Singh (2013PHXF001P) attended the 16th International Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Conference and presented a paper titled "A trans-critical CO₂ heat pump system for waste heat utilization in warm weather condition applied to a milk refrigeration plant" at Purdue University, USA during July 11-14, 2016.

Neerja Vyas, (2012PHXF002P) presented a paper titled "Cultural value and Questions of Morality: The Bollywood Biopic", co-authored with Dr Sushila Shekhawat, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, at the Fifth Annual London Film and Media Conference on Questions of Cultural Value held in London during July 7-9, 2016.

Sahil Anandpara (2015H146204P) and Himanshu Agrawal (2015H108190P) were awarded the "Best Team" prize at the Inter-college Annual Debate Competition organised by SENTISS Pharma at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Mohali on April 23, 2016.

→ "Best Team" prize



Chandradeo Arya (2013A7PS015P) Team Leader, Anuj Bansal (2013A7PS100P) and Deeptanu Choudhary (2013A7PS014P) won the Ericsson Innovation Award 2016 with a cash prize of Rs 13,00,000 for their project titled "Human recognition using GAIT analysis and other body features based on Microsoft Kinect sensor" by the Ericsson India head Paolo Collela on April 22, 2016 at IIT Delhi.

→ Cash Prize of INR 13,00,000



Ananyashree Garg (2015A7PS117P) won second prize in software application development-ParkWithEase in Apogee 2016, Silver Medal in Inter college Sports Festival - Zafir-2016 held at National Law Institute, New Delhi and First position in Apogee 2016 Project home automation.

Team BITS has won the "Perseverance and Spirit of the Event" Award in this year's edition of Shell Eco-marathon Asia(SEMA), a competition aimed at making the most fuel efficient car. The award carried a cash prize of \$2000. The event was held in Manila, Philippines. Vedit Bhat (2015A7PS098P) was the student representative at this event.

→ Cash prize of \$2000



Nivya Sharma (2014A5PS639P), Meghna Goyal (2014A5PS775P), Siddharth Uppal (2015A5PS896P), Suyash Sharma (2015A5PS902P), Shubham Choudhury (2015A5PS921P) and Sahil Goyal (2015H14620P) presented a project under Environment Category and won 2nd Prize during Apogee 2016 on February 26, 2016.

Raja Lakshmanan (2011PHXF049P) has been awarded the "International Travel grant" by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) to attend an International conference on electronics materials IUMRS-ICEM 2016 at Suntec, Singapore during July 4-8, 2016.

Pranjal Agarwal (2012A4PS334P) final year Mechanical Engineering student secured 100 percentile in his first attempt of the CAT 2015 and topped the exam. He has got calls from the IIMs A, B and C for the next stage of admission.

Zarna Rajeshkumar Pala (2011PHXF010P) was awarded the Best Poster Award for her poster titled "Structural and Functional Characterization of an Iron-Sulphur Cluster Assembly Scaffold Protein – SufA from *Plasmodium vivax*" presented at a Conference on Gene and Genome Regulation organized by the Department of Biological

Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus during February 18-20, 2016.

→ Best Poster Award



creative zone

Nirmaan and NSS

Volunteers of Nirmaan and NSS, have taken up a new community initiative to teach the children of laborers working under the Project Parivartan on the BITS Campus. The volunteers have taken 9 such children to the nearby government school in Baas also.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP, NSS

NSS, BITS Pilani organized its 35th Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society at the Students Activity Center of BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus during February 7-8, 2016. Held annually, the camp gets a huge response from the citizens of Pilani every year. 731 units of blood were collected in this two-day camp.

→ NSS Blood Donation Camp



It was inaugurated by the Director, Prof Ashoke K. Sarkar. A team of 21 doctors had come from IRCS, Delhi. In order to create awareness about organ donation, forms were brought from AIIMS this year and interested people filled the forms and a grub was organized in the end to celebrate the success of the camp.

→ Awareness about organ donation



Quod Erat Demonstrandum (QED)

"Quod Erat Demonstrandum" in Latin means "that which was to be demonstrated" is an Annual Debating tournament organized by the Debating Society of BITS Pilani. Held from February 12-14, 2016, it saw debating teams and adjudicators from across the country compete in 6 rounds of fierce debating.

The semi-finals featured teams engaging in a discussion over a very pressing topic, that of the civil rights of refugees. The event concluded with the best two teams battling it out in a debate about the Inclusion of the 'Right to Offend' in the Freedom of Speech and Expression. The team from Lady Shriram College, Delhi had an unbeaten run and walked away as the winner of the tournament.

BITSMUN

BITSMUN is the Model United Nations Conference held in BITS every year, where several participants become delegates for various nations and convene in a simulation of the real United Nations Conference. Being one of the longest running and most eagerly awaited MUNs in India, it has earned the distinction of being one of the best in the country. Four United Nations Councils—General Assembly-Disarmament and International Security Committee, Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council, and

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, were simulated. Individual delegates from various schools and colleges in India and other countries participated.

RAGAMALIKA

Like every year Ragamalika organised St. Thyagaraja Aaradhana Programme, as an annual tribute to one of the greatest composers of Carnatic music, on February 12, 2016. It comprised the '*pancharatna kritis*,' the five grand compositions of the Saint. Apart from this, Ragamalika had its major show, Sangamam. Sangamam, a musical drama, focused more on the Abhinaya part of dance. This year's theme, The Jungle Book, lived up to the hype it created, proving to be a comprehensive entertainer.

→ Ragamalika



These classical musicians have been exploring new horizons, in the form of experimental concerts. One such exceptional attempt was the 'Bottle concert'. The semester also included a few dance chamber concerts. The collaboration between Ragamalika and Music Club for Mithali in APOGEE also needs to be spoken of. Describing the trichotomy of God, man and Lucifer, the piece, titled "Triad: Crisis", was a mesmerizing experience for the audience.

→ Ragamalika



APOGEE 2016

The 34th edition of BITS Pilani's technical festival, APOGEE (February 25-28, 2016), commenced on February 25, 2016. The inauguration ceremony, with Director Ashoke K. Sarkar and Dr S.C Sivasubramanian as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively, consisted of several short thought-provoking speeches, inspiring college students to uphold the sanctity of the fest and raise it to ever greater heights in the years to come. After the inaugural ceremony and Mithali, the subsequent cultural performance by the hosts, students from BITS and other colleges were ushered into the huge variety of technical and non-technical events that BITS had to offer. A Hackathon, an Astronomy Workshop, and Jeopardy, a quiz based on the classic British show attracted a wide range of participants.

As part of Papyrus Trails, the literature festival, Ajay Chaturvedi and Jeet Thayil delivered interesting and witty talks. A book fair was organised as a part of the literature fest. Various papers and project prototypes were also presented on various topics. Richard Stallman, founder of the GNU project and free software activist, delivered a talk on Free Basics and Net Neutrality as part of APOGEE's Think Again Conclave. A multitude of workshops were held on the second day. Anand Neelakantan was a speaker as part of Papyrus Trails, and MJ Akbar for the Think Again Conclave. CEL, BITS Pilani, continued with its Startup Weekend and the mentors highlighted the creation and working of startups. The APOGEE Innovation Challenge, and other events like Puts and Punters and Espoir, tested the creativity of many participants.

Three more talks were delivered on the final day by Mr. Rohit Gupta and Mr. Jairam Ramesh as part of the Think Again Conclave and Ms Radhika Vaz as part of Papyrus Trails. NSS BITS Pilani, held a Panel Discussion and Mentoring Sessions as a part of their LEAP YouthCon.

→ Apogee 2016



INTERFACE 2016

The 39th edition of the All India Management convention was organized during March 5-6, 2016 by the Department of Management, BITS Pilani.

Interface 2016 started off with a spectacular inauguration function followed by a talk on "Emerging trends in marketing" by Mr Amit Sinha Roy, the VP Marketing- Tata Communications, in which he discussed about the current marketing scenario and the creative use of traditional marketing tactics.

The management extravaganza had the flagship event ad- mania (marketing) sharing space with finquest (finance), finplay (finance), desert storm and the game of thrones themed game of clans which made participants sum up all their operational knowledge in order to master the iron throne.

For more than three decades this congregation of management enthusiasts have put participants' managerial dexterity and innovative brains to test and this year's edition has proved to be yet another success.

→ Interface 2016



Seventy students underwent Practice School- I Training

As a part of their curriculum, 70 Students from BITS Pilani underwent Practice School-I training programme at the Rastriya ISPAT Nigam Limited (Vishakapatnam Steel Plant), Vizag from May 23 to July 16, 2016. A formal inaugural function was organized jointly by BITS Pilani and Vizag Steel Plant (VSP) on May 23, 2016. The Executive Director of Vizag Steel Plant Mr. R.P. Srivastava delivered the inaugural address. He emphasized on the need of the industrial exposure to the students. Prof P. Srinivasan, Associate Dean, Practice School Division, BITS Pilani, briefed about the Practice School Programme.

E-week 2016

In the first week of February the Centre for Entrepreneurial Leadership, BITS Pilani organised E-week to encourage the entrepreneur in every engineer. The pre E-week event 'Facebook ASAP' shot down two birds with one arrow, it publicized E-week along with raising awareness about the start-up world. The highlight of E-week was Bedrock where the participants experience the actual running of a business with the finalists getting to run Connaught restaurants for one day. The final 8 teams consisting of 5 members each, managed sales close to Rs. 3 lakhs Greenfield restaurant emerged as the winner, managed by the team Bitsian Explorer. Fascination of decrypting codes and IPL bidding attracted students to amazing ride and Auctionville respectively, during E-week. With over 1300 students participating in various events spread across the week, CEL surely was a success.

Team ANANT –Student Satellite Team

With a dream to make BITS Pilani's first indigenously built nanosatellite, a group of passionate undergraduates, Parth Garg, Hemant Singh, and Akash Gupta came together and laid the foundations of Team Anant in January 2013. It is an ambitious project which promises great learning opportunities for students of the institute. Being an interdisciplinary project, it provides a platform to build skills in the areas of space-flight mechanics, computing, algorithms, embedded systems, image processing, satellite communication, mechanical and thermal design, and hence makes the best use of the broad-based education that students receive at BITS Pilani. After spending a substantial time researching its payload, Anant has chosen

a hyperspectral imager as its experimental payload. The team has expanded in the recent years, from 3 students at the beginning to about 30 students currently. In addition, ten faculty members, including Prof Chandra Shekhar, Senior Professor Emeritus, EEE Department, and Ex-Director, CEERI Pilani, are guiding the students on various subsystems of the nanosatellite. Dr Kaushar Vaidya is the overall faculty coordinator for the project.

→ Team ANANT



DESPORTIVOS'16

The Table Tennis team of BITS Pilani, consisting of 4 students (Abhinav Jain, Neel Joshi, Gaurav, Kaushal Nahata) participated in the annual sports fest DESPORTIVOS'16 of LNM Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur, held during January 14-17, 2016 and brought laurels to the institute by winning Gold in both the Individuals (Neel Joshi) and Doubles (Neel Joshi & Abhinav Jain) categories. Also, Neel Joshi was awarded the 'Best Player of the Tournament'.

→ Best Player of the Tournament



Sports Tournament at IIM Indore

Eight students of the Swimming team, BITS Pilani had gone to participate at the “Ranbhoomi 2016”, an annual sports festival held at IIM INDORE during February 5-7, 2016. All the members of the Swimming team have made the Institute proud by winning the Team Championship under the captain Mr. Harsh Sharma. The team bagged 15 Medals in total consisting of 5 Gold, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze. Mr. Purunjay Singh was also awarded the Individual Championship.

→ Team Championship winners



The BITS BEAT

The student editors and journalists from BITS-Pilani campuses in Pilani, Goa, Dubai and Hyderabad have come together to produce an all-campus student newsletter, called THE BITS BEAT. This is a monthly student journal and presents important news from all four BITS campuses.

Prestigious Avery Dennison Spirit of Invention Scholarship Awards

Avery Dennison Foundation has selected 10 students from five colleges for the Avery Dennison Foundation InvEnt Scholarship Program, in which six students of BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus have been selected for the 2016 Spirit of Invention (InvEnt) Scholarship Awards. The selected Spirit of Invention (InvEnt) scholars will receive US \$1,300

scholarship to be used in their second year of study. A significant number of students of BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus have also won these awards in the past.

The winning BITS Pilani Campus students are:

1. Alanckrit Jain(2015A8PS327P) (1st Year, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering)
2. Vaibhav Sunilkumar Agarwal (2015A4PS220P) (1st Year, Mechanical Engineering)
3. Anmol Gupta (2015A2PS635P)(1st Year, Chemical Engineering)
4. Aakriti Agrawal(2015A3PS276P) (1st Year, Electrical and Electronics Engineering)
5. Anirudh Tusnial(2015ABPS715P) (1st Year, Manufacturing Engineering)
6. Neeraj Gadi(2015A4PS314P) (1st Year, Mechanical Engineering).

→ Invention Scholarship Award winners



Alanckrit Jain



Vaibhav S Agarwal



Anmol Gupta



Aakriti Agrawal



Anirudh Tusnial



Neeraj Gadi

Sports Tournaments at the National Law University, Delhi

→ Zafir 2016 winners

The following teams consisting of 104 students participated in Zafir 2016 held during March, 3-6, 2016 at NLU, Delhi which had a participation of 900 students from 24 colleges. BITS Pilani, Pilani campus athletics team secured the Championship. Ms Harshita Verma of the athletics team was also awarded the 3rd best Athlete at the tournament. The team was accompanied by Ms. Sanchita and Mr. Babulal Naik. Our students brought laurels to the Institute by securing following positions:



Athletics (Men)		
Events		Position
400m	Utkarsh Vashishtha	Gold
Shot-put	Aditya Relhan	Gold
Discus	Aditya Relhan	Gold
100m Hurdles	G. Srinivasan	Gold
100m	Utkarsh Vashishtha)	Silver
200m	Utkarsh Vashishtha)	Silver
Triple Jump	G. Srinivasan	Silver
4*100m Relay		Silver
1500m	Aditya Joshi	Silver
200m	Ujjwal Anand)	Bronze
Long Jump	G. Srinivasan	Bronze
Athletics (Women)		
Events		Position
400m	Harshita Verma	Gold
1500m	Harshita Verma	Gold
Long Jump	Neha	Gold
100m	Neha	Silver
Discus	Anuradha Bansal	Silver
4*100m Relay		Silver
200m	Neha	Bronze
400m	Pratibha Kumari	Bronze
1500m	Anuradha Bansal	Bronze
Teams Sports		
Team	Captain	Position
Carrom	Shubham Thakur	Gold
Volleyball Boys	Saurabh Baldwa	Gold
Volleyball Girls	Aditi Joshi	Gold
Table Tennis Girls	Muskaan Verma	Gold
Tennis Boys	Siddharth Tripathi	Gold
Basketball Boys	Anirudh Venu	Silver
Basketball Girls	Malvika Paliwal	Silver
Cricket	Jayshil Joshi	Silver
Football	Aayush Gupta	Silver
Tennis Girls	Aishwarya Sharma	Silver

introducing new faculty

S. No.	Name	Designation	Discipline
1.	Krishnendra Shekhawat	Assistant Professor	Mathematics
2.	Jahagirdar Ankush Chandrakant	Lecturer	Electrical & Electronics Engineering
3.	Archana Kulkarni	Assistant Professor	Economics and Finance
4.	Prateek Kala	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engineering
5.	Kuldeep Kumar	Assistant Professor	Comp. Science & Information System
6.	Kamlesh Tiwari	Assistant Professor	Comp. Science & Information System
7.	Ashutosh Bhatia	Assistant Professor	Comp. Science & Information System
8.	Durgesh Vikram	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering
9.	Nikhil Saboo	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering
10.	Vishakha Vijay Sakhare	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering
11.	Monika Gupta	Visiting Faculty	Economics and Finance

editorial team



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Special Thanks: Mr. Ramesh Sharma and the PMRU team

innovate

achieve

lead

BITS Pilani Pilani Campus

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