

At 20, BITS Pilani looks to expand to over 5k students

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Panaji: Two decades ago, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, Zuarinagar, was the first national technology institute to establish its campus in the state. As the BITS Pilani Goa campus is set to mark its 20 years in Goa, the institute which started by admitting 600 students in 2004, now plans to expand to over 5,000 undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate students (PG) across years on campus over the next five years.

"We have over 4,500 students at present, which includes undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students. From the 900 UG and PG students that we admit at present at the first-year level, we want to expand to 1,200 students over the coming years. As these students go to higher classes, the number of students on campus will go to over 5,000," director of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus, professor Suman

Kundu, told TOI.

The institute is also looking to nearly double PhD students on campus in the coming years.

The institute is also preparing to introduce a new UG programme in mathematics, he said.

"Additionally, we will recruit professors of practice, who are people with specific skills mostly from industries who bring real-life problems to engage UG students in projects and PhD students in thesis work. We will also be developing an observatory for astronomical science and space-based research on campus," said the BITS Pilani Goa campus director.

"We will also be offering more open elective courses and more minors like nano technology, tissue science, and AI for chemical engineering."

On the campus, a new ultra-modern 'D' wing has already been added as part of the ongoing expansion.