

Semester-I notes 2012-13

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K K Birla Goa Campus



BITS Pilani
K K Birla Goa Campus

An unforgettable semester, the First Semester of 2012-13! Amidst the memorable, joyous occasions such as Convocation 2012 and Reflections 2012, an unfathomable agony swept over the campus with the sudden and untimely demise of Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy, an occurrence that has shaken the entire BITS family.

Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy with Students



The campus hosted dignitaries such as His Excellency, Shri Bharat Vir Wanchoo, Governor of Goa, Dr. Rajendra K Pachauri, Chairman Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor BITS Pilani, Col. V.K. Singh, former Chief Indian Army on various occasions.

Gold Medalist



Convocation 2012 held in August received a greater participation from graduating students. Reflections 2012 to review and rejoice the accomplishments of the first phase of the project Vision 2020-Mission 2012 witnessed the participation of about 100 faculty members from Pilani, Hyderabad, Dubai and Goa campuses who have

been the Task Force members and leaders of the project. As a part of this project, a centralized e-mail solution for over 30,000 users of BITS campuses and WILP students using google has been provided. User is given 25 GB mail box size and 5 GB file storage. Waves, the all-India cultural festival celebrated its 12th edition with gusto and dedication.

SPICMACAY Goa State Convention 2012 was meticulously organized on campus by a team of dedicated faculty members and students.

Shri Bharat Vir Wanchoo Inaugurating Spic Macay



Marching ahead with its research endeavors, the campus received several significant projects during the semester and organized a number of workshops. On invitation, many faculty members visited other institutions to deliver talks, conduct workshops etc. Dr. D.M. Kulkarni received the first Prof. S. Venkateswaran faculty Excellence Award. Dr. Sunil Bhand and his project team has been sanctioned an additional 17 Crore rupees by ICAR and World bank for their on-going project.

With its commitment and dedication, the campus has been growing from strength to strength and is expected to carry out its expansion plans in the years to come. We, at BITScan news letter would continue to publish as many events and achievements as possible and your interest and support would serve as a constant motivation for us in this endeavor.

CONVOCATION 2012

Address by Dr. R. K. Pachauri



"Graduate as citizens of Planet Earth" says Dr R K Pachauri. Speaking at the Convocation Ceremony of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus on 5th August 2012, Chief Guest Dr. R.K Pachauri, Nobel Laureate, Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Chairman of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stressed the impact of climate change on human life, citing statistics and anecdotes. He commenced his address by speaking about his interactions with a BITS Pilani undergraduate undergoing Practice School Training. "The young man's enthusiasm and efficiency inspired me to entrust young and bright people with greater responsibilities in my future endeavours", he said.

Dr. Pachauri, holds doctorate in Industrial Engineering and Economics. He has held faculty and / or research positions with North Carolina State University, West Virginia University, Yale University and The World Bank Washington DC, amongst others. He urged students to move towards a pattern of sustainable development, sensitive to the needs of this generation as well as those to come. "As you graduate from this institution I hope you would also remember to graduate as successful citizens of planet earth", was his parting message to the outgoing students.

The Vice Chancellor of BITS-Pilani University, Professor Bijendra Nath Jain spoke on behalf of the Chancellor (eminent industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla). Paying tribute to G.D Birla (founder, BITS Pilani), he highlighted the rich tradition, heritage and culture that BITS-Pilani had developed over the years. He also brought to light the unique features of the BITS education system and

spoke of the University's major renewal project- 'Vision 2020, Mission 2012'. Prof. K.E Raman, Director of the Goa campus, speaking of the inception of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus said, "When Dr. K. K Birla decided to build campuses outside Pilani, Goa was his first choice". He highlighted the prestigious research grants fellowship received by the faculty members in different domains of Science and Engineering and the multifarious achievements of the students of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa campus.

Memento Presentation



The graduating students were then awarded with their rolls of honour by the Vice Chancellor. The 2007 and 2008 admission batches received their degrees. Pracheta R was awarded the Gold Medal, while Kedar Soparkar and Murtuza Kutub received the Silver and Bronze Medals respectively.

The grand ceremony held in the BITS auditorium filled with the graduating students, their proud parents, faculty and staff concluded with Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy, Dean of Administration at BITS Pilani, K.K Birla Goa Campus, delivering the Vote of Thanks.

Director's Address



REFLECTIONS 2012



Reflections 2012, a celebration to review Mission 2012 as well as redefine Mission 2015 as a part of Vision 2020 programme was organized at the K K Birla Goa Campus on 21st November 2012. With the presence and participation of Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Prof. B.N. Jain, Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Prof. M. Ramachandran, Mr. Kris Ramachandran, Directors of four campuses, Project Managers, Task Force leaders and members from all campuses, Reflections 2012 witnessed the Task Forces presenting their accomplishments and the tasks yet to be achieved. Members of the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, of the K K Birla Goa campus were also present at the event. The event was telecast live to the other three campuses.

The Vision 2020 program aims at identifying and implementing measures that would establish BITS Pilani as one of India's top three research led universities by 2015 and to be counted among the leading 25 technical universities in Asia by 2020. The need to take BITS global was first recognised in 2006 by the top level administration of BITS Pilani University, and through an intense collaborative process, involving faculty, students, and (non-teaching) staff from all four campuses, a shape was given to a set of clearly articulated goals around seven key domains: faculty development, curriculum development and pedagogy, research, infrastructure and facilities, work integrated learning programs, governance and administration, and quality of life. This later became BITS's strategic plan and Mission 2012 and Vision 2020 were born. Reflections 2012 primarily focused on discussions pertaining to the achievements and shortcomings of the programs listed in accordance with the objectives of the Mission 2012 document.



General V K Singh's Visit

General V. K. Singh at the Campus



Retired Army Chief, General V. K. Singh interacted with the Faculty and Staff of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa campus on 17th October 2012. General VK Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC is a third generation officer of the Rajput Regiment. He is an alumnus of the Birla Public School, Pilani, Rajasthan and the prestigious National Defence Academy. General Singh has seen action in the liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. He has vast operational experience in Counter Insurgency Operations, LC, LAC and HAA environment. He has been an instructor at Infantry School, Mhow and Chief Instructor at JLW (Commando Wing) at Belgaum. He has also served as an Instructor at HQ IMTRAT.

The Director of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, Prof. K. E. Raman speaking about the present admission system of BITS, opined that a single entrance examination might not be a feasible option. And whatever the type of admission system BITS has been admitting the cream of the country. Just about thirty board toppers are given direct admission. Moving on, the Director explained that BITS is improvising on its existing methods of teaching with greater emphasis on hands on teaching. He finds that there is a dearth of qualified/ specialised teachers, and the issue requires special attention. All the three campuses now have virtual technology for broadcast of interactive lectures. About 10000 students are admitted to the BITS on campus programmes while about 20000 students are admitted to the WILP off campus programmes.

Praising the education offered by BITS, General Singh was happy to see the three campuses of BITS Pilani excelling. According to him, India has more than 500 universities, and risks have to be taken and not be content with status quo, "Aim for the moon, so that at least you can hit the ceiling," he said.

Talking about the scientific community, General Singh said that a silent revolution needs to take place in order to take the country forward. 'Innovation should be harnessed in the country to change things. The faculty should encourage innovation, research and thus channelize the students' aptitude to get the most out of them', he said. General Singh praised the great level of transparency in the BITS education system. According to him it will lead to tremendous amount of confidence and students will have more faith in the faculty.

General V. K. Singh with Director



The technologies such as robotics, artificial intelligence, electronics and communications can be used in the army, so that we can be self reliant and develop systems within our own country instead of having to buy them from foreign markets. The officers and soldiers need to have a good understanding of these technologies. 'Management requires greater thought, as it is different.' he said.

Shifting his focus to leadership, General Singh said that the Army trains people to lead and motivate others. It conditions the mind and changes the way you see a person. He suggests that we motivate people to become leaders not managers, as leaders need to keep working hard to maintain the standards and do the right things the right way. He concluded by mentioning that he would like to see BITS excels to greater heights and be better than institutes as renowned as Harvard.

a confluence of ideas

academia

seminars / conferences /
workshops / training programmes

ANSYS TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Department of EEE and EI conducted a 4-day training programme in ANSYS HFSS and ANSYS MAXWELL tools. Delivered by Innovent Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, the training benefitted faculty and students of EEE, EI, ECE, Communication Systems, RF and Microwave Engineering, Power Electronic Drives and Electrical Machines.

INK Talks: Conference on the Unconventional

The Organizing Committee of Quark 2013 in association with the Council for Student Affairs organized the one-day conference on the Unconventional comprising INK Talks. The event witnessed six amazing speakers (Joi Barua, Charles Ma, Anupam Mukherji, Krushna Patil, Virender Sangwan, Vivek Nair) from distinct fields who shared their journeys and philosophies.

Charles Ma Performing at Ink Talks



India – Kazakhstan Tax Roundtable

The Roundtable was jointly organized by KIMEP University and the BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus. Beginning with an introduction to KIMEP University, the Roundtable gave an overview and comparison of the tax system and an introduction to international taxation. Special presentations on Goa Winter Tax School 2013 were also delivered.

Delegates at Roundtable Conference



Faculty Development Programme

Dr. P.M. Singru organized "CII - BITS (Goa) Faculty Development Program for Engineering Colleges" in collaboration with the Confederation of India Industries. 14 faculty members from Engineering colleges & polytechnics in Goa attended the program. A half day industrial visit to M/s Cartini Ltd, Madkai Industrial Estate was organized for the participants.

Dr. P. M. Singru



workshop on Time Management

Dr. P.M. Singru, Convenor Academic Counseling Cell organized a one- day Workshop on 'Time Management for students'. Mr. Pravin Sabnis, Head Coach: Unlearning Unlimited, Goa was the guest faculty. 30 students attended the program.

Storming Aurora 2012 To Infinity and Beyond

The Astronomy Club held its first Astronomy and Astrophysics conference – Storming Aurora 2012 on 18 November with the theme “Physics of the Future”.

At the outset, Dr. Dan Werthimer, co-founder and chief scientist of the world-famous SETI@Home project and director of other UC Berkeley SETI searches delivered his renowned “Are we alone?” lecture.

Speakers at Aurora 2012



Dr. Urvashi Rau, Assistant Scientist at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Socorro, New Mexico, USA and a BITS Pilani Alumni, joined the conference via web conferencing. “The universe is expanding, so looking farther is same as looking back in time.” she said. Mr. Pushkar Vaidya, scientist and head of the Indian Astrobiology Research Centre (IARC) focused on exploring the possibility of life elsewhere. Dr. Niruj Mohan Ramanujan, scientist at the National Centre of Radio Astronomy then introduced the 30 fully steerable gigantic parabolic dishes at the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT). Dr. Ramesh Koul, HOD at Department of Astrophysics, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai elaborated on the country's first imaging gamma-ray telescope TACTIC, emphasized on how gamma ray observations will help to piece together the high energy puzzle of the Universe. Prof. Subhendra Mohanty, from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad concluded the first session with his enlightening talk on dark matter. The Conundrum of Pluto, Space Mining, privatization of space research and more was discussed at length in the enthralling panel discussion that concluded the conference. The first edition of Cosmic Times, Celestia's annual magazine was released by the speakers.

workshop on Gravitational Waves Data Analysis

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus in collaboration with Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) organized a workshop on Gravitational Wave Data Analysis during December 17-21, 2012. Convened by Dr. S.K. Sahay, the workshop was intended for highly motivated undergraduate students / graduate students / postdocs / college and university teachers of Physics, Mathematics and Engineering to provide exposure to Gravitational Wave Astronomy and familiarise with Data Analysis techniques specific to this emerging and exciting area of research. The topics such as General Relativity, Generation of Gravitational Waves, Sources of Gravitational Waves, Gravitational Wave Detectors, Data Analysis Techniques, Continuous Sources, Fourier Transform and Equation of State were introduced by nine resource persons namely, Prof. K. G. Arun, CMI, Chennai, Prof. Patrick Dasgupta, Delhi University, Prof. S. V. Dhurandhar, IUCAA, Pune, Prof. T.K. Jha, BITS, Pilani, Goa, Prof. Sanjit Mitra, IUCAA, Pune, Prof. Rajesh Nayak, IISER, Kolkata, Prof. S.K. Sahay, BITS, Pilani, Goa, Prof. Anand Sengupta, IIT, Gandhinagar, Prof. C.S. Unnikrishnan, TIFR, Mumbai. With an overwhelming response from all the corners of the country, the workshop benefitted 61 participants.

Prof. K. E. Raman at the Workshop



BITS Alumni Affairs Division

BITS Alumni Affairs Division organized three embryo lectures during the semester through video conferencing with the help of BITS-2-MSPHD initiative of BITSAA International. These lectures enable students of all campuses of BITS Pilani to interact with Alumni from various parts of the world on varied topics, both general and subject specific.

The 4th Edition of BITS2 Marathon on behalf of BITSAA International was organized on 30 September 2012. This run was dedicated to Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy's memory.

BITS Alumni Affairs Division arranged the "Director's Tea Party" for graduating batch of 2009 B.E. and 2011 M.E., on 26th November 2012, at VGH.

BITSAA Travel Scholarship was awarded to **Priyans Murarka (2010A8PS310G)** to present a paper 'A Ubiquitous Sensor Network For Domestic Energy Monitoring and Energy Consumption Optimization' at the IEEE iThings – 2012 Conference, held at Femto-st Institute, France.

BITSAA Financial Assistance instituted by Class of 1966-71 was awarded to two the following ME students of the campus:

Nishad Kamdar (2010H140416G) to present a paper entitled 'Design and Implementation of a Cross-Layered Protocol Stack for Sensor Networks in an Indoor Environment' under the guidance of Dr K.R. Anupama at the Ninth IEEE International Conference on Wireless and Optical Communication Networks, IEEE WOCN 2012 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh (Sept 2012)

Akhil Mohan (2010H112034G) to present a paper entitled "Conceptualizing an Adaptive Framework for Pervasive Computing Environment" at the Second International Conference on Computer Science, Engineering and Applications (ICCSEA-2012) held in New Delhi(May 2012)

Students at Director's Tea Party



distinguished lectures

SPEAKER	DESIGNATION	TOPIC	DATE
Prof. Eugene Postnikov	Dept of Theoretical Physics, Kursk State University, Russia	Local Spectral Analysis Via the Continuous Wavelet Transform	4 August 2012
Dr. V.B.Tharakeshwar	Dept. of Translation Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad	Modernity, City and Gender	30-31 August 2012
Mr. Abhishek Humbad	Founder,NextGen	Career Paths for BITSians	1 September 2012
Prof. Anita Kar	Director, School of Health Science, Pune University	Molecular genetics to public health genetics:Hemophilia as a case study	14 September 2012
Dr. Subhendra Mohanty	Physics Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad	Higgs Boson Particle	16 November 2012
Mr. Aires Rodrigues	Goan Activist and Lawyer	RTI awareness	17 November 2012
Dr Santanu Datta	Cell Works, Bangalore(formerly at Astra Zeneca)	Drug Discovery:Yesterday today and tomorrow	23 November 2012

Embryo Talks by Alumni

NAME	TOPIC	DATE
Harshad Deshmukh	BITS2MSPHD	9 September 2012
Tejas Chafekar	Career options in interdisciplinary fields like Mechanical + Electrical Engineering	21 September 2012
Yash Gandhi	BITS2MSPHD	29 September 2012
Satya Gunampalli	Education system in India and Abroad	6 October 2012
Daniel Mascarenhas	Balancing Career, life and Fun	16 October 2012
Amit Kumar Sarangi	Google Summer of Code	18 November 2012

visits by faculty

enriching the learning experience

international visits

Dr. Meenal Kowshik, Department of Biology delivered an invited talk on Biocompatible Silver Hydroxyapatite Nanoparticles Based Thin Film Coatings With Good Antimicrobial And Antibiofilm Activity at the 1st International Symposium on nanomedicine in drug delivery and cancer diagnosis, University of Delaware, Newark, USA. 16-17 August 2012.

Dr. Meenal Kowshik at University of Delaware



Ms. Ramya Ramachandran a DST-JRF being supported by Department of Biotechnology, India presented a paper 'Antimicrobial Prowess of a Soil Isolate *Bacillus subtilis*' authored by Ramya, R, Ram Lal and Utpal Roy at the 2nd International Conference on Antimicrobial Research (ICAR-2012) held at the UNIVERSITY of LISBON, Portugal on 23 November 2012.

Dr. Basavadatta Mitra, presented a paper "Socially Humanistic Technocrats: Bringing Sensitivity to Workplace" at the 3rd World Conference on Learning, Teaching and Educational leadership held during 25-28 October 2012 at Maison N.-D. Chat d'Oiseau, Brussels, BELGIUM. The paper was co-authored by Mr. Amit Raj (2009A7PS224G).

Dr. Debasis Patnaik, visited Newyork University during 17-21 September 2012 and delivered a talk on 'Behavioral Finance'.

Ms. Bhakti B. Salgaonkar and Mr. Kabilan Mani, both CSIR-Senior Research Fellows, attended and presented their research work at the *9th International Congress on Extremophiles 2012*, 10th-13th September 2012, Sevilla, Spain. They are both pursuing their PhD under the supervision of Dr. Judith Braganca .

Ms. Bhakti and Mr. Kabilan with Prof. Aharon Oren



CONVOCA



TION 2012



invited lectures by faculty

Prof. Dibakar Chakrabarty, Department of Biology delivered an invited lecture entitled Anticoagulant Toxins from Monocled Cobra and Russell's Viper Venom at the National Conference on Snakebite Management organized by the Toxinological Society of India at the University of Mysore during 10-12 December, 2012.

Prof. Dibakar Chakrabarty at University of Mysore



Prof. Meenakshi Raman, Department of Humanities and Management delivered a plenary talk on "Teaching in 21st century : Role of Personal Learning Networks" at the Third International ELTAI@ Rajasthan Conference held at Pilani Campus during 8-9 October 2012. She delivered lectures for the managers of JSW registered in WILP programme of BITS on 23 December 2012 at Toranagallu, Karnataka.

Prof. Meenakshi Raman at the Panel Discussion



Dr. Anil Kumar, Department of Mathematics, delivered a series of lectures on Numerical Computation by Using Matlab in the workshop on "Scientific Computing : Theory and Practices" at Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya Haridwar, Uttarakhand during 8-13 October 2012. He also delivered a series of lectures on Computation of Steering Controls in MATLAB in the workshop on "Mathematical Theory of Control and Numerics" held at Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala during 21-30 November 2012.

Delegates at Higher Education summit



Dr. Sumit Biswas, Department of Biology interacted as a special invitee and mentored the Young Scientists at the Young Scientist Research Awardees' Meet at Bhabha Atomic and Research Centre, Trombay, during November 26-28, 2012. He delivered a talk on "Frontiers in Structural Biology: Innovations and Challenges" at the Dept. of Biotechnology at the Nagaland University on 24 September 2012.

Dr. Sumit Biswas at Nagaland University



Prof Sunil Bhand, Department of Chemistry delivered an invited lecture on "Microfluidic Lab on Chip Devices- Concepts and Applications" at the 5th source School SRXL held at RRCAT Indore on 2 November 2012.

Dr. M.Srikanth, Department of Biology delivered a talk at the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS) at IIT Madras titled "Biodegradation of Hydrocarbons by Enhancing Bioavailability using Cyclodextrins" during 9-10 October 2012. He also gave two lectures on Bioremediation in their elective course "Sustainability in Environmental Biotechnology" (Bt5321).

Dr. Basavadatta Mitra and Dr. Shalini Upadhyay, Department of Humanities and Management conducted an interactive session and mock interviews for the students of BITS Pilani, KK Birla Goa Campus to enhance their job interview skills on 11 August 2012. Faculty from various Departments acted as interview panelists for the mock interviews.

Dr. S D Manjare, Department of Chemical Engineering delivered Key Note Address on "Fuel Cells for Sustainable Energy Future" during the Students Chemical Engineering Congress (SCHEMCON-2012) on Energy Efficient Technologies for Green Environment" organized by Dept of Chemical Engineering BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, Rajasthan, during September 21-22, 2012.

Dr. P.M. Singru, Department of Mechanical Engineering delivered a lecture 'Project based learning' at the Higher Education Summit 2012, 'Improving Quality of Higher Education to drive Goa's Economy' on 14 December 2012.

Dr. Tarun Kumar Jha, Department of Physics delivered the following invited talks: (i) "Recent trends in Neutron star Physics" at the International Conference NUSTAR WEEK 2012 at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Center, Kolkata during 8-12 October 2012 (ii) "Equation of State and Neutron Star Structure: Gravitational Waves" at the workshop on Gravitational Wave Data Analysis at BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, during 17-21 December 2012. (iii) "Neutron Stars as potential Gravitational Wave emitter to be detected by LIGO" at the Theoretical Physics Division, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Tarun Kumar Jha



Dr. Meenal Kowshik, delivered an invited talk Functionalization Of Silver-Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles, A Novel Strategy For Enhancement Of Antimicrobial Activity at the Green Nanotechnology, 1st international workshop at Vishveshwaraya technological University, Belgaum, 26-27 Nov 2012.

Dr. Debasis Patnaik, delivered a talk on "Self esteem and risk preference" at Reddy Women's college, Narayanguda, Hyderabad on 22 October 2012. He delivered a guest lecture at Goa University during 10-12 December 2012 at the Japanese students workshop on Indian Economy.

Visit by Students

55 Students of BITS, Pilani KK Birla Goa campus registered for the newly introduced elective, Public Administration (HUM C 351/GS F 333), during the semester had the opportunity of taking a tour of various departments of the Goa Secretariat with permission from Mr.B.Vijayan, Chief Secretary, Goa Secretariat.

The students had a unique experience of presenting their findings, along with their suggestions to contribute through various means, towards these departments, before Mr.R.K.Verma, Principal Secretary, Mrs.Magaret Fernandez, Assistant IGP, Jails and Mr.Gurudas Pilarnekar, Joint Secretary, General Administration, Goa Secretariat.

Their formal presentation was much appreciated by Mr.Verma, who spent about 45 minutes with them, listening to their presentation, followed by a short speech from him, in which he expressed his whole-hearted appreciation for their 'incisive insights into some departments', such as Jail, Women and Child Welfare, Department of Social Welfare to name a few. He also pointed out that he was happy that 'these young minds', who, he considers, 'are a part of the solutions not just the problems' have 'considered solutions while looking at the problems'. He encouraged the students to raise questions on issues about the Public Administration in Goa and the students rose to his encouragement and asked some really intelligent questions related to Goa's Vision 2035, which he answered, patiently, in considerable detail.

achievements

Prof. D M Kulkarni received the Prof. S. Venkateswaran Faculty Excellence Award 2012. Instituted by Karthik Krishna of 93 batch, the award is presented to a member of the faculty of BITS Pilani University for excellence in teaching, research and contribution to institution development. The award is in the name of Late Prof. S Venkateswaran, former Director & Vice Chancellor of BITS, Pilani, an outstanding administrator and excellent human being who was highly respected by students, staff, faculty and alumni of the Institute. A panel including Directors of two BITS Pilani campuses and two senior alumni scanned 24 applications from all four campuses before coming to a consensus decision on the awardees. The award carrying a citation and a cash prize of INR 100,000 was presented by the Chancellor Dr Kumar Mangalam Birla at the first convocation of BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus on the 12th August 2012.

Prof. D. M. Kulkarni with Dr. K. M. Birla



Dr. Basavadatta Mitra and students **Priyanka Agrawal (2008A3PS172G)**, **Aditya Chintawar (2008A3PS181G)**, **Sameer Jhamtani (2008A8PS304G)**, and **Sai Raghavendra (2008A3PS102G)** presented a paper "Expanding New Horizons of Language and Communication: ELT Issues, Challenges and Implications" at the 10th Asia TEFL International Conference organised by: Asia TEFL in collaboration with TEFSOL, India and British Council, New Delhi during 4-6 October 2012, in New Delhi.

Dr. Basavadatta Mitra at TEFL Conference



The following students / alumni of the Goa campus received the BITSAA Global 30 under 30 awards 2012. These awards were created by the BITSAA Global to not only recognize and honor outstanding BITSians under the age of 30 who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields, but more importantly, to showcase these beacons of inspiration to the others around them.

NAME	BATCH	AWARD CATEGORY
Chetan Bansal	2008	Invention & Innovation
Ankur Kumar	2006	Social Entrepreneurship & Community Building
Tejas Chafekar	2005	Invention & Innovation
A R Gopi Krishna	2004	Entrepreneurship
Akash Raman	2004	Leadership
Aalap Tripathy	2004	Leadership

Prof. Sunil Bhand was nominated as member of the National Advisory Committee of the Fifth SERC School on "New Developments in Microfabrication with Focus on Synchrotron Radiation based Deep X-ray Lithography" held at Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, DAE Indore during Oct 29 to Nov 03 2012. The project led by Prof Bhand funded under National Agricultural Innovation Project NAIP, funded by ICAR and the World Bank has been approved for extension up to March 2014 for demonstration of the technologies developed by the consortia of BITS Pilani-KK Birla Goa Campus, NDRI Karnal, IIT Delhi and PU Patiala with an additional funding of Rs. 1750 Lakh (17.50 crore) to the consortia.

As a part of Mission-2012, ICT Infrastructure team implemented a Centralized e-mail solution for 30,000+ users of BITS campuses and WILP students using google. User is given 25 GB mail box size and 5 GB file storage.

Malte Esra Horvat from University of Leipzig, Germany to work on "Terra Preta composting" and **Linus Lorenz** from Technical University, Hamburg to work on "Case study on a new sanitation approach" have joined Dr.M. Srikanth's research group in the department of Biology.

Tarun Khanna (2009B2A4573G) gave a talk and presented a poster on the topic "Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Asymmetric Colloidal Binary Mixture" at the Conference/Summer school, "Simulating Soft Matter with ESPResSO, ESPResSO++ and VOTCA Software Packages" held at Institute of Computational Physics, University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany, the parent institute of ESPResSO Simulation Package. The Project was done under the guidance of Dr. R.N. Behera.

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

Name	Department	Journal / Member details
Dibakar Chakrabarti	Biological Sciences	Reviewed a research paper in Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences (JMMS), an international open access journal.
M.Srikanth	Biological Sciences	Reviewer of Bioresource Technology
Meenal Kowshik	Biological Sciences	Reviewed 3 papers for the journal Biotechnology Progress
Ranjan Dey	Chemistry	Reviewed papers for Indian Journal for Pure and Applied Physics (IJPAP), IEEE Sensors Journal, Indian Journal of Physics
Indranil De	Economics	Reviewed two books : I) "Re-visioning Indian Cities: The Urban Renewal Mission" by K. C. Sivaramakrishnan, SAGE Publications, New Delhi, India, (ii) "Development and Public Finance: Essays in Honour of Raja J. Chelliah" edited by D. K. Srivastava and U. Sankar, SAGE Publications, Published in Global Business Review, forthcoming. Reviewed two papers for the journal Prajnan published by National Institute of Bank Management, Pune
Debasis Patnaik	Economics	Member of Editorial Board for International Journal of Science, Engineering and Social Sciences; Member Regree for Journal of Manpower Planning

significant projects

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR & NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT	TITLE OF THE PROJECT	FUNDING AGENCY, AMOUNT & DURATION
Ranjan Dey (Chemistry)	Prediction of Thermodynamic, Thermophysical, Transport, Thermocouical and Excess Properties for Binary, Multicomponent Liquid Mixtures and Ionic Liquids	CSIR ; 12 L
Veeky Baths (Biological Sciences)	Protein-ranking and novel intervention strategies against Mycobacterium tuberculosis using graph theory and bioinformatics resources	DST- Fast Track Project for Young Scientists; 8.6 L
Prasanta Kumar Das (Physics)	Space-time structure and New Physics at High Energy Collider	CSIR ; 13.5 L
Dr. Anjan Chattopadhyay (Chemistry)	Spectroscopic investigation of the properties of low-lying electronic states of some chemopreventive retinyl nitrones and comparison of their light-induced properties with retinyl iminium ions	CSIR ; 14 L
Dr. Sumit Biswas (Biological Sciences)	Studies on putative GGEF/sensory box domain protein of Vibrio cholerae	DST ; 21.8 L
Dr. Mainak Banerjee (Chemistry)	Synthesis of Metal-Organic-Porous-Material Based Efficient Chiral Heterogeneous Catalysts by Post-Synthetic Modification and Their Applications in Asymmetric Reactions	CSIR ; 22 L

caring beyond our walls

Joy of Giving Week

Dedicated to the memory of Prof. Suresh Ramaswamy, the Joy of Giving week was organized by Nirmaan during 2-7 October 2012. The Fest included a large number of activities such as On-Campus Workers Felicitation Ceremony, Visit to Oldage Homes and Orphanages, a visit by children of an orphanage to the Campus, Origami workshop for the faculty children, etc.

Aerodynamics Club Demonstration to Children



With beautiful renditions of Carnatic music set to rock music, Agam wowed the audience with songs like 'Brahma's Dance', 'Rudra' as well as Bollywood favourites such as 'Dil Se'.

Agam Performing at Waves Inauguration



Waves 2012-Relive the Streets in its 2012 edition achieved unprecedented heights with international performances, an array of events and workshops, a medley of Informals and widespread participation. With the enthusiastic involvement of the students of the campus, one expects the festival to go further with every edition. Australian alternative-rock band Dead Letter Circus, a debut Sunburn Campus event by DJ Nikhil Chinapa, DJ Pearl and DJ (S)haan, Pakistani Pop duo Strings and Carnatic Rock group Agam enthralled the audience with their splendid performances. Waves also saw a rib-tickling Comedy Nite in association with Comedy Central, featuring stand-up comedy acts by Ashish Shakya, Tanmay Bhatt and Rohan Joshi for a 3000 strong crowd at the college auditorium.

DJ Nikhil Chinapa, DJ Pearl and DJ Shaan



An entirely student-organized and non-profit festival-Waves '12 hosted over 40 events, spanning the fields of art, literature, dance, music and dramatics and the events being judged by celebrities and famed critics from across the country.

creative zone

Waves 2012

Waves 2012, the annual cultural festival of BITSPilani, K K Birla Goa campus kicked off with the impressive inaugural ceremony held on 1 November 2012 in the Institute's auditorium. The festival commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Director, Prof. K.E Raman, Chief Guest Harish Sivaramakrishnan (lead singer of the well-known Carnatic rock band Agam) along with student representatives. The Chief Guest, a BITS Pilani graduate himself, fondly recalled his college days and shared the story of Agam's inception. The performance line-up to inaugurate the cultural festival began with a Bharatnatyam recital by the students. The ceremony also witnessed a spectacular performance by the Mime Club. With just the right mix of comedy, sentiment, special effects and laudable performances the presentation left the audience with a larger message- that everyone deserves a second chance. The Fine Arts Club entertained the audience with a live art performance with the Music Club providing an instrumental score. Following the student performances, the festival was declared open by the rock band Agam.

The participants were also given a chance to learn, explore and enhance their skills, with a number of professional workshops like Digital Matte Painting by Shailesh Narnaware, who has worked for the graphics team of Academy Award winning film Avatar; a Dramatics Workshop in association with Thespo of Prithvi Theatre, Mumbai and a B-Boying Workshop by the Underdog Kombat Crew (UDK). Waves witnessed participation from premiere colleges all over the country including Christ College, Bangalore, Goa Medical College, HR Mumbai, St. Xavier's Mumbai, St. Xavier's Calcutta and MIT, Manipal.

Strings Performing at Waves



The Big Three is more than just a political epithet at Waves. With meticulously designed and completely unique formats; these are the events that see the best talent from all over the country. A line of enthralling performances from some of the best talent our country has to offer, Natyanjali, the Waves Group Dance Event saw Christ University, Bangalore emerge as the winners. Another awaited event of the Big Three was the Fashion Parade, held in association with the Stenodac Institute of Fashion Technology and judged by the director of the institute, Mr. Alirio Saldanha. HR Mumbai were declared the winners of this year's Fashion Parade. The Big Three at Waves finished with panache; having Mr. and Ms. Waves on Day 3 of the festival. A search for that individual possessing the X factor, Mr. & Ms. Waves is a combat of personality, talent and presence of mind.

Waves also attracted national talent for other flagship events such as Sea Rock (the battle of the semi-professional bands) and Indian Rock (an event for Indian Rock bands). Sea Rock hosted eliminations in 8 cities all over the country, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore. A successful attempt was made to set a new record for the prestigious Limca Book of Records. With 302 people making and eating sandwiches simultaneously; the record is a completely novel feat to be entered into the Limca Book of Records.

Dance Club in action

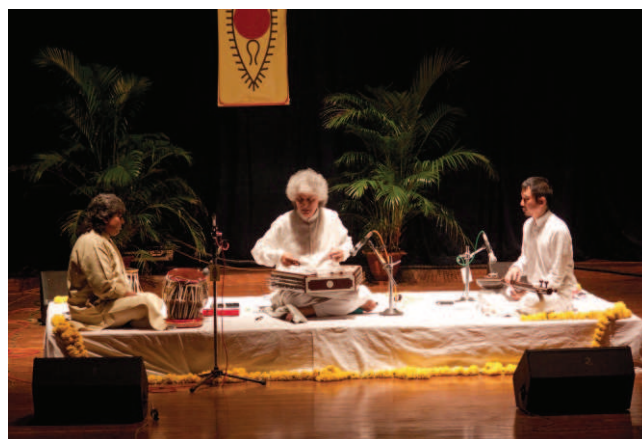


A festival that celebrates life, verve and unbounded talent- Waves 2012 has truly been an international cult fest. While keeping intact its reputation as India's fastest growing cultural festival, Waves 2012 has also managed to become one of the biggest extravaganzas on the collegiate festival landscape. With a diverse array of events, workshops, international performances and more, it can only get bigger and better from here.

SPICMACAY

His Excellency Shri Bharat Vir Wanchoo, Governor of Goa inaugurated the 3-day Goa State Convention 2012, organised by SPIC MACAY at BITS Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus, on August 24, 2012. Dr. Kiran Seth, Founder Chairperson of SPIC MACAY, Kunda Mahurkar, Member National Executive SPIC MACAY, Prof. K.E. Raman, Director of the campus and Dr. Radhika Vatsan, coordinator of the festival were present along with a large number of students, faculty and friends from Goa.

Pt. ShivKumar Sharma



World-renowned artists – Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena), Pt. Shivkumar Sharma (Santoor), Nancy Kulkarni (Cello), Swati Dhaithankar (Bharatnatyam)—enthralled the audience with their splendid performances. Workshops on Sculpting, Hindustani Vocals, Konkani Tiatr and Yoga were also organized during the Convention.

snapshots

Continuum 2012 - Music Night



Drama Night



SPICMACAY



SPICMACAY



Group Dance in Zephyr 2012



Independence Day



introducing new faculty

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In Memorium



1963-2012

“In his own page his matchless glories shine,
Will live forever, and he needs not mine.
Nor should we always hang about his urn,
But rather to his learned labors turn.
Tho' dead, he speaks; his mighty spirit lives;
Whate'er we ask, his page profusely gives.
He lives, he breathes, in his extensive lines,
And there his solid sense supremely shines,
There our relief, and there his glory lies,
And there shall rest, till time, till nature dies”

....By John Fellows

Prof Suresh Ramaswamy (1963-2012) had a multifaceted personality. A lover of physics, he was equally inclined towards philosophy, music and fine arts. Most remarkable aspect of his personality was his humaneness. The love and sensitivity towards life and people, the understanding of human follies and foibles, the spirit to see the positivity and the dignity to respect and uphold equality are some of the core elements that designate him as one of the most refined, lovable and admired individuals. He epitomized the fact that a teacher and administrator can be gentle and sweet and still very efficient and effective.

Born on 22 Feb 1963, Prof. Ramaswamy, fondly known as SuRa was a BITSian from 1980 Batch, who received his Ph.D in 1990 from University of Rochester, New York. He taught Physics for 10 years at the Pilani Campus and also was entrusted with the responsibilities of Chief Warden. In 2004, he joined the Goa Campus and held administrative positions such as Head of the Department of Physics, Chief Warden and Dean of Administration. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award during the BITSAA Global Meet 2011.

Greater responsibilities and hectic schedule in his administrative roles did not deter him to be available for one and all. His patient listening to the queries and problems of students, colleagues, juniors and staffers made him the most popular figure in BITS Goa Campus. His classes were resplendent with his innovative teaching methods, and his zest for life was conspicuous by the fact that he took interest in almost everything from technological advancements to cultural event, from sports to mental health. His attitude towards life can be summed up in the words of Abraham Lincoln: “And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

Indeed, his sudden, premature demise has created a void which can never be filled up. He will always be missed by his family, friends, colleagues and students. May he rest in peace and may his life be a beacon of light for all of us.

BITS Pilani

K K Birla Goa Campus

mediaspeak

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Go beyond textbooks for knowledge, says Pachauri

Shashank Saurav

Known as R. K. Pachauri, the retired students of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus to educate themselves beyond what is taught in textbooks of classrooms.

Pachauri was delivering a address to the chief guest, the second convention for instilling students of BITS Pilani on Saturday and had everyone listening with rapt attention. "If you push the 18th young people, give them opportunities and provide with resources, they can take rise to the occasion," said Pachauri, who has served as a chairperson of International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 2002.

regulation, was carried the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Mixing caution with optimism, he reflected on "his society's growing sustainable development" due to lack of adequate knowledge of awareness. "If society like, we cannot call ourselves successful, no after how much wealth we acquire," he added.

Pachauri's talk on global warming began with the presentation of statistics to highlight the immediate need for controlling this menace. His conclusion regarding developing countries being the most affected by global warming found substantial ground especially in respect of natural disasters strike these countries.

If the omission of green house gases continue unabated, the smoldering heat wave would arrive after every two years instead of the usual, one in 30 years, he pointed out.

The objective of highlighting these dangers, was for "the graduates to take impact of climate change in their education" irrespective of where they are.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chancellor B. H. Bhat, Director of the BITS Pilani, Goa, and students accompanied by their parents.

BITS-Pilani, Zuarinagar Back to the classics!

Shashank Saurav

Preparations for the state convention of "Spic Macay" are under way, and BITS Pilani Goa will once again be the proud host of this effervescent venture that aims to lead the audience back to its cultural roots.

The music festival is scheduled between August 24 and 26, and classical music aficionados will be treated to the live performances of maestros, including Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pt Vishwamohan Bhatt. The inaugural day will witness Bhatt's harmonious act with his mohan veena, followed by Jayateerth Mevundi's vocal performance.

The second day will feature a rendezvous with Kiran Seth, and the cello and Bhuvanathyan performances of Nancy Kulkarni and Swati Dhathankar respectively, will be the other major attractions.

The third and final day will see Padma Vibhushan Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma's melodies on the santoor. Along with the concerts, plans are in place to organize workshops on sculpting, Hindustani vocals, Konkani kirtan (a major attraction for Goans) and yoga.

Students, parents flock to Goa for BITS' nat-level contest



Wishwamohan Bhatt

Students and parents gathered for the BITS' nat-level contest, which was held in Goa.

The contest was held in Goa, and students and parents gathered for the event.

The contest was held in Goa, and students and parents gathered for the event.

Going international

Shashank Saurav

Goa's isn't a right word for this bunch of engineering students from BITS Pilani, Goa. They have not taken management lessons but their skills have always been in the spotlight, thanks to their annual festival — Waves. International student participation, promoting best talent and a big musical bash have always been the priority of their event.

And this year it's going to a different level. "This year we are truly going international,"

informs Ashish Nanda, the convener. "Along with many international bands playing in, the best part will be the Sunburn 2012 pre-event campus bash that will take place on the last day of Waves. DJ Nikhil Chinnappa along with DJ Pearl will rock our sets for the first time in college history," he adds further.

But why Sunburn? "There's no place that can beat Goa when it comes to music. So, we just thought of having one of the pre-Sunburn bashes here to make a difference. When we met the authorities, we found them extremely helpful. They had already started their campus publicity and we are glad to say that our college is the first one in India to host such an event," Ashish replies.

EDM turn to be a pocket burst for a college student, that this college fest has some really well-let friendly plans. "At our campus the only thing one needs is a valid college ID proof, Bussola Pal, the co-ordinator. "We are proud that thanks to this gig, the participation has doubled for that year's fest. Most of the colleges are getting an extra contingent only for Sunburn. And as it is happening at the campus itself, it's kind of safe place for all," she adds.

The preparations for this mega all India college fest began in March. "The cumulative strength of our organizing team is 600. We want to show the world that engineering students can go way far and do something different. We want to display our cultural activities. We have made a deal with a music channel, which will be featuring a video about our fest. This is also a

the first time. We want to let the students come here, and experience BITS," informs Ashish.

There's an interesting line up of activities for the fest. "One of them is the Sea Rock competition. It is a musical band competition and so far the best in India. We have. One lakh cash prize for the winner. An Australian progressive band — Dead Letter Circus — which is coming to India exclusively for us, is the star attraction. Adding more to our international list are the 20 different performers from 15 different countries. We have also invited Portuguese pianists, who recently performed at the Olympics. Plus, there's a Iranian band and a Turkish dancer who will be taking dance workshops. This won't be just college fest but an amalgamation of cultures," adds Lita Shrinankar, Co-ordinator.

In another programme called Sea's global village, foreign students, down here for internship, will put up their stalls to promote their culture and food. It's a four-hour event. Our sole aim is to be amongst the top three college festivals in the country. We are hoping for a large number of participation and support from the student," she



Waves of Talent and Entertainment



Organizing Committee of Waves - Ajay Abraham, Alirio Saldanha, Ashish Nanda, Disha Shrinankar and Renuka Pai

HERALD FEATURES

www.birla-pilani-go.com

Since its inception in 2006, the cultural festival of BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, 'Waves' has brought the best of talent to Goa to perform at the three day event. This year, 'Waves' will be held from November 2 to November 4, 2012 at the campus in Vasco and will see the participation of nearly 200 colleges from across the world. The festival has five major events spanned over the three days including 'Sea Rock', a

leading semi-professional band competition in the country, 'Natyajal', a group dance competition, 'Fash I', a fashion parade in collaboration with Stenodac, Institute of Fashion Designing, 'Mr Waves' and 'Ms Waves' and 'Special Nights', where various artists will perform live. This year, 'Waves' has roped in 'Dead Letter Circus', an Australian rock band while DJ Nikhil and DJ Pearl will give a sneak peek at Sunburn through their opening performance on the first day of the festival. Participation for the festival can be done online and is open to all.



Students must strive for nation's growth: Wanchoo

Special Correspondent

Pilani Pilani K K Birla Goa campus at Zuarinagar in south-western India, the Govt population could be its great strength. Govt Wanchoo called for strenuous efforts to inculcate in the minds of our youth a desire to strive for national growth.

Delivering his address after inaugurating a three-day Goa State Convention, 2012, on

the first day of the convention, Mr Wanchoo said that music, including classical music, dance, drama, folklore, literature, architecture and painting are different forms of art which are essential components of Indian culture.

Mr Wanchoo said the primary objective of organising a three-day Goa State Convention was to generate awareness towards our rich cultural heritage and promote cultural sensitivity among the people.

The Governor said that culture, which is the core and

kernel of human existence, is the yardstick that measures a civilisation's glory.

"We have inherited a great heritage of music and art in our country, which has been an integral part of our civilisation," the Governor said.

He further said that music, including classical music, dance, drama, folklore, literature, architecture and painting are different forms of art which are essential components of Indian culture.

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