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The BITS Pilani Newsletter

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Semester I 2017-18

Towards founding BITS Pilani: Retelling a story at variance

The founding of BITS Pilani as a deemed university has been retold in the form of chronological milestones, commemorative books, memoirs, biographies as well as histories - both narrative and critical. Oral testimonies too have been transmitted across generations. In this prefatory note, we recount a page from the history of the founding of BITS Pilani as a university. To read further visit: <http://eprints.bits-pilani.ac.in/2007>

Institute Activities

On July 23, 2017 Convocation was held at BITS, Pilani, Pilani campus in which a total of 1372 students (out of which 1,028 received their first degree, 274 received their higher degree, and 70 received their doctorate) degrees. Dr. Tessy Thomas, Director Advanced Systems Laboratory, DRDO Hyderabad was the chief guest. For the first time, a total number of 68 Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP) degrees were also awarded.



On August 26, 2017, Convocation was held at BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus in which 353 students received their first degree, 28 received their higher degree and 1 received a doctoral degree.



On August 13, 2017 Convocation was held at BITS Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus. The Chief Guest for the Convocation was Dr. Ramachandra Guha, a renowned Historian. This year, 625 students received their degrees of which 21 were PhDs.



On August 6, 2017, Convocation was held at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus in which a total of 744 degrees were awarded. Dr Rajendra Singh, the renowned 'Waterman of India', graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



Conquest 2017 - BITS Pilani's International Startup Conclave, organized by the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership witnessed attendance from the likes of Meera Iyer, CMO, Big Basket, Ashish Goel, Head of Product, Zomato and Suvonil Chatterjee, former CDO, Housing and Flipkart. The grand finale of the conclave was held on September 3, 2017 at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.



Achievements and Accolades

BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus was honored with the Indywood Education Excellence Awards 2017 under the category "Institute of Excellence in Innovative Technology Award" at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad on December 2, 2017.

Prof S.S. Ranganathan Memorial Teaching Excellence Award ceremony was held on September 4, 2017. Dr P. Srinivasan, Dept. of Mech. Engg, Pilani Campus was conferred with this year's award.

Dr Vishal Saxena, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Pilani Campus was awarded INSA-CAS International Bilateral Exchange/Collaboration Award 2017. He was also a recipient of ASM-IUSSTF Research Professorship Award, 2017 conferred by American Society of Microbiology (ASM) in collaboration with Indo-US Science &

Technology Forum, Govt. of India to carry out research in USA.

Dr Vishal Gupta and Dr Ashutosh Bhatia, Dept. of CSIS, Pilani Campus received the second runner up prize in the event EduHack organized as part of Rajasthan IT Day by the Govt. of Rajasthan in Jaipur on March 19, 2018.



Dr Indresh Kumar, Dept. of Chemistry, Pilani campus, alongwith Prof D. B. Ramachary and Dr Kengadarane Aneboseelvy from the University of Hyderabad, have published a book titled *Dienamine Catalysis for Organic Synthesis* from Royal Society of Chemistry, London in March 2018.



Prof R. N. Saha, Director Dubai Campus was the guest speaker at the Conclave Vanoushadhi-2018 held in Hyderabad where he discussed scientific validation and enhancement of utilization of phyto-pharmaceuticals and

Nirmaan (Pilani campus), celebrated the Joy of Giving week during September 4 to 10, 2017 and was graced by Mrs Manasi Pradhan, winner of Rani Lakshmbai Stree Shakti Puraskar. Joy of teaching and Collection drive were also some of the events organized.

Blood Donation Camp - Continuing the trend for the past 37 years, a Blood Donation Camp was successfully organized at Pilani campus from February 17-18, 2018 by the members of the National Service Scheme (NSS), in association with the Indian Red Cross Society with a participation of around 1100 people this year, and a collection of more than 800 units of blood.

TEDx BITS Pilani Dubai Campus was organized under the banner of Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, Dubai on November 26, 2017.



Nirmaan (Goa Campus) organized the Blood donation camp in association with Goa Medical College which was attended by more than 120 volunteers, students as well as faculty & staff. Nirmaan also organised a beach cleaning drive in association with Drishti to clean the Colva beach. To celebrate the Joy of Giving week, a special school visit and an Evening of Joy was also organised by the organization.

Alumni Achievements

Prof L.K. Maheshwari Foundation Distinguished Alumnus Award was held on November 11, 2017 at Pilani Campus. The award was presented to Shri Sunil Nanda, Founder, Thinkit Technologies.



BITS 1975 Trust - The Gurudakshina programme by BITS 75 Trust was organized on October 22, 2017 at Bangalore to felicitate 10 prominent Gurus.

BITS Pilani's Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP) Alumnus Mr. Vutla Srinivasa Rao contributed a Micro-Electro Mechanical Systems Cleanroom to the Hyderabad Campus in September 2017.

medicinal plants and other opportunities with Dr Raman Singh, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh .

Dr Sartaj Rasool, Dept. of HSS, Dubai Campus was selected for the prestigious Prof M. J. Manohar Rao Award - 2017 by 'The Indian Econometric Society.

Dr Narendra Nath Ghosh, Dept. of Chemistry, Goa Campus has been elected as the Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK.

Dr Aruna Malapati, Dept of CSIS, Hyderabad Campus was awarded "Prof. Indira Parikh 50 Women in Education Leaders" citation at 6th World Education Congress on November 23, 2017.

Dr Kannan Ramaswamy and Dr Aravinda Raghavan, Dept of Physics, Hyderabad Campus have been selected by IISER-Pune to train STEM teachers in India on Research-based Pedagogical Tools as part of Newton-Bhabha programme sponsored by DBT, MHRD, IISER-Pune and British Council.

Dr Santosh Mahapatra, Dept of HSS, Hyderabad Campus was awarded Trinity College London Language Examination Fellowship for IATEFL 2018.

Dr Regalla, Dept. of Mech. Engg., Hyderabad Campus got the first prize in the 'Bright S&T Innovation Idea Presentation' competition conducted as part of the workshop on "Innovation Equity of Science & Technology"

jointly organized by DSIR, the Govt of India and SPMVV, Tirupati at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad campus on January 27, 2018.

Dr D. Sriram, Dept. of Pharmacy, Hyderabad Campus has been awarded the "Most Outstanding Researcher 2018" in the field of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics by Careers360. He has published 354 papers, citations of 8183 and "h" index of 44.



Significant Projects

S.No.	Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator, Name of the Department, Campus	Title of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount and Duration
1.	Dr M. Srikanth (PI) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Goa Campus	Demonstration of A Waste To Energy Project By Anaerobic Co Digestion of Food Waste And Septage	DBT	INR 161,10,000 2 years
2.	Dr Kota Soloman Raju (PI) - CSIR-CEERI Pilani and Dr S.B.Singh (Co-PI), Dept of Civil Engg., Pilani Campus.	Structural Health Assessment and Rehabilitation Framework based on cyber physical system	DST-ICPS	INR 70,00,000 3 years
3.	Dr D. Sriram (PI) Dr P Yogeswari (Co-PI) Dept. of Pharmacy, Hyderabad Campus	Strategies against antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis and ESKAPE pathogens; new drugs and new targets	DBT Indo Sweden-3	INR 67,00,068 3 years
4.	Dr Vamsi Krishna Venuganti (PI), Dept. of Pharmacy, Hyderabad Campus	Development of pH-responsive smart capsule containing targeted multilayer film for drug delivery: The proof-of-concept study in colorectal cancer model	DST	INR 55,54,225 3 years
5.	Dr Saroj Sundar Baral (PI) Dept. of Chemical Engg, Goa Campus and Dr Priyabrat Mohapatra (Co-PI) Bhubaneswar	Development Of Suitable Material For Visible Light Induced Photocatalytic Hydrogen Production From Industrial Wastewater	SERB	53,32,000 (BITS share INR 35,83,000) 3 years
6.	Dr K. R. Anupama, (PI) Dept of EEE. and Dr Biju K. R. (Co-PI), Dept .of CSIS ,Goa Campus	A Comprehensive IoT Based Geriatric Health Care System For Routine Health Monitoring And Postoperative Care	DST-ICPS	INR 50,00,000 3 years
7.	Dr H.D. Mathur (PI), Dept of EEE, Pilani Campus, Dr Nilanjan Chattaraj (Co-PI), Dr Navneet Gupta (Co-PI), Dr Aashish Mathur (Co-PI), Dr Dheeraj Joshi (Co-PI), Dr Shobha Rekh (Co-PI) and Dr Yogesh Krishan Bhatshvar (Co-PI).	IoT based energy management system of a Microgrid with V2G (Vehicle to Grid) feature	DST-ICPS	INR 50,00,000 3 years
8.	Dr Anil Bhanudas Gaikwad (PI), Dept of Pharmacy, Pilani Campus	To study the role of hyperglycemia on the progression of acute kidney injury	DST	INR 47,18,560 3 years
9.	Dr Lavika Goel (PI) Dept. of CSIS, Pilani Campus	Design and implementation of content based recommender system for effectively answering web-based user queries	DST – ICPS	INR 40,00,000 3 years
10.	Dr R. P. Pradhan, (PI) Dept. of HSS and Dr Aswini Mishra (Co-PI) Dept. of Economics , Goa Campus	India & Neighbourhood Sea Ports Comparative Vessel, Traffic & Pattern Analysis Using Real Time Ship Tracking Traffic Intelligence Tool For Commodity Movement & Gdp Correlation Mapping	DST-ICPS	INR 40,00,000 3 years
11.	Dr Manjuladevi V. (PI) Dept. of Physics, Pilani Campus	Electro-optical response of Nematic Liquid Crystals doped with nanorods	SERB	INR 39,20,000 3 years
12.	Dr Deepak Chitkara (PI) and Dr Anil Bhanudas Gaikwad (Co-PI), Dept of Pharmacy, Pilani Campus	Peptide-decorated pH-sensitive nano-conjugate hybrid micelles for co-delivery of temozolamide and an autophagy inducer, rapamycin, for treatment of glioblastoma multiforme	DBT	INR 38,32,600 3 years
13.	Dr Gireesha Thipperudrappa (PI) Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hyderabad Campus	Ramanujam Fellowship	SERB	INR 38,00,000 4 years
14.	Dr Souvik Kundu (PI) Dept of EEE., Dr Kannan Ramaswamy (Co-PI) Dept. of Physics and Dr Harihara Venkatraman Dept. of Physics ,Hyderabad Campus	Investigations of the effects of Photon Up-Conversion materials on the Electrical performance of Ferroelectric /Semiconductor Heterojunction Photovoltaic Devices	DST	INR 35,63,997 3 years
15.	Dr Chanchal Chakraborty (PI) Dept. of Chemistry , Hyderabad Campus	INSPIRE Fellowship	DST	INR 35,00,000 5 years
16.	Dr Souvik Kundu (PI) Dept of EEE. and Dr Souri Banerjee (Co-PI),Dept.of Physics, Hyderabad Campus	Metal-Oxide and nano composite based low-power non-volatile switching device: a novel approach	DAE-BRNS	INR 34,90,650 3 years

Guest Lectures / Distinguished Visits

- Ms. Suaad Al Shamsi, First Emirati Female Aircraft Engineer delivered a guest lecture on Aerospace Engineering at Dubai Campus as a part of ASME Student Division on March 20, 2018
- Padma Vibhushan Dr. E Sreedharan delivered a distinguished lecture at National Techno-Management Fest and also at an event jointly organised by the Dept. of Civil Engineering and Civil Engineering Association at Hyderabad Campus on October 27, 2017.
- Dr. Thuppil Venkatesh, Principal Advisor Quality Council of India (QCI) & National Referral Centre for Lead Projects in India (NRCLPI), Professor-Emeritus Dept. of Biochemistry & Biophysics, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, India conducted an interactive session on Creativity and Innovation in Dubai Campus, on November 22, 2017.



Students Activities

Achievements and Awards

Hyperloop India - The team presented the pod and the Hyperloop concept to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Advisor to the President of the United States, Ivanka Trump at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017, Hyderabad.



Rohan Saxena, Pilani Campus won the Google Venkat Panchapakesan Memorial Scholarship and visited the YouTube Headquarters, San Bruno, California, USA from October 30, 2017 to November 4, 2017.



Naman Gupta, Pilani Campus won a Silver Medal in 48th All India Student Design Competition on October 29, 2017 organized by National Design and Research Forum (NDRF) and Institution of Engineers, India.



Sugam Singla, Pilani Campus was selected as a delegate from India for Commonwealth Youth Summit 2017 held in Malaysia from November 3-5, 2017.



Sanat Sharma, Pilani Campus was declared the winner of the 'Global capture The Flag' Cyber Challenge in Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS 2017) held at JW Marriott, New Delhi during November 20-21, 2017 and was presented the certificates by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.



Nishad Sahu, Rituraj Mahendra Patil, Siddharth Mehta and Sombuddha Chakravarty, Pilani Campus won the Avery Dennison Spirit of invention award 2017 and received scholarships worth \$1300.



Aseem Sindwani, Cheral Khandediya and Arka Talukdar, Pilani Campus are members of Amber Warehouse Solutions, a BITSian startup which deals with post-harvest losses. Amber secured runner-up position in India-Israel Global Innovation Challenge organized by DIPP and Ministry of Commerce (December 2017). Amber Warehouse has also been accepted in the esteemed Nidhi Prayas scheme by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in October 2017.



Team JISR, Dubai Campus won the 2nd position in ATXHackathon organized by Al Noor Training Center for persons with disabilities powered by Microsoft during October 29-30, 2017. Another team IIMAY consisting of Sarthak Sethi, Satyarth Vaidya, Jeevan Sandhu

and Mihir Prabhudesai from BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus won the 3rd position in the same event.

Sarthak Sethi, Nilanchal Nilamadhab, Shivam Mishra, Mridul Bhandari, Rishabh Kaushik, Hrishikesh Uralath, Dubai Campus during November 23 – 25, 2017 won the 2nd prize at RTA Dubai Taxi Hackathon. The team won a cash prize of AED 15,000 for their project 'ClickRavel', a smart taxi order button POS, which can be used to instantly order a taxi by just a tap.



Sarthak Sethi, Dubai Campus won 1st Prize at Gitex Technology Week 2017 during October 8-12, 2017 for his unique concept 'ThumbFi: A Smart Biometric', that uses fingerprint technology to enable people with disabilities to operate their devices. He won the cash-prize of Dh 50,000 in addition to a trip to the launch of the satellite AL Yah 3 in French Guinea.



Vedant Bajaj, Ritwick Dsouza, Aditya Popat, Shaurya Sood, Saugaat Allabadii, Dubai Campus won the 2nd prize of €300 each in Accenture Digital Global Hackathon for their project "HealthMe", a mobile application using blockchain, providing peer-to-peer, community-driven medical insurance and health records during November 11-12, 2017.

Team Avenue Inc., Dubai Campus clinched the 1st Prize at Startup Weekend Dubai Edition during November 16-18, 2017. The team received a cash prize of USD 12,000 IBM Credit in addition to one year working space and mentorship from The Bureau Dubai and qualified for Global Startup Weekend.

Team Trepit, consisting of Mechanical Engineering students, namely Mohamed Nawaz Muallim, Tarun Krishna Jayachandran, Pranay Addepalli, Harsith Rani Ashok kumar and Adhitya Natrajan, Dubai Campus won a spot at Intel Aviator & Travel Incubator for their cohort 3 program alongside a seed fund of AED 50,000.



Team Auto Chain, consisting of Somil Mathur, Jaskanwar Singh, Sujith Sizon, Tushar Agarwal and Jayant Panwar, Dubai Campus won the 1st Prize for their Block Chain idea at Startup Weekend organized during 25-27 January, 2018. Team won 6 months incubation program from RAK Incubators and a one year trading license.



Team IFOR consisting of students Mohammed Suhail, Mishka, Ashlyn D'Souza, Rifah Mohamed, Parv Khandelwal, Sarthak Bhooshan, Anudeep Sekhar Bolimera, Adithya Pradeep Nair and Saptadeep Debnath Dubai Campus showcased an "Autonomous flying drone to clear fog and smog" and won the Judge's Choice award and cash prize of AED 10,000 in Robotics and Electronics Category in the INNOVATOR 2018 show during February 1 - 7, 2018.

Team Auto Chain comprising Somil Mathur, Jaskanwar Singh, Sujith Sizon, Tushar Agarwal and Jayant Panwar, Dubai Campus won the 1st Prize of \$ 4000 in the IOT + Smart Cities category and Second Prize of \$ 5000 in Big Battles category in Seaside Startup Summit organized by Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) incubation and accelerator held from February 8 - 12, 2018.

Team PaySync consisting of students Naman Kamra, Vedant Bajaj, Ritwick D Souza, Saugaat Allabadi and Shaurya Sood, Dubai Campus won the 1st position in a Hackathon, Hack @The Track 2018 (powered by AngelHack) at Bahrain International Circuit, Bahrain during March 7-8, 2018 and bagged the Grand Prize of \$20,000.

Team Metamorph comprising of Jaskanwar Singh, Urvashi Satwani, Somil Mathur and Tushar Agrawal, Dubai Campus won The HULT Prize challenge 2018, world's biggest student's competition, which records a massive participation of more than 100,000 students from over 150 countries at the regional finals held during March 9-10, 2018 at the HULT Business School, Dubai.

Yash Agarwal and Miheer Joshi, Goa Campus won the 3rd prize at the National level "Student mechanism design contest (SMDC 2017)" during the 18th National and 3rd International conferences on Machines and Mechanisms (INaCoMM 2017) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai.

Taha Faraz, a representative of Filmmaking Club, Goa campus made a short film titled *A Late Knock* which got nominated in the Jaipur International Film Festival 2018 in the Mobile Film category.

Lokesh Garg and his team's startup ZConnect, Goa Campus bagged the 1st position at Eureka organized by Goa Institute of Management and 2nd position Uttishtha'17 organized by IIM Kashipur respectively.

Jain Honey Ashok, Goa Campus got selected for a 2 month research internship at Unité de glycobiologie structurale et fonctionnelle (UGSF-CNRS) in Lille, France, from May to July 2017.

Jayant Jhamb and Shreyash Kumar, Goa campus contemplated the design idea UMAMS (Universal Modular Armoured Mobility Solution) which got selected for the third phase (Quarterfinals) in the INDIA INNOVATION CHALLENGE DESIGN CONTEST 2017 organized by DST and Texas Instruments Inc., anchored by NSRCEL @ IIM Bangalore.

Arunav Konwar, Goa Campus was selected to attend and give a talk at Global Community Bio Summit 2017 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at Cambridge, MA, U.S.A, in September 2017. He was also awarded a six month fully-funded research internship as part of BITS academic thesis at INRIA, France .

Amit Agarwal, Goa Campus was amongst 19 candidates in India to be selected for the prestigious IUSSTF-Viterbi Program, 2017 for a summer research internship at the University of Southern California (USC) from May 16 to July 14, 2017.

Sarthak Singh, Goa Campus was one of the 15 fellows selected from across six countries as an intern with Government of Andhra Pradesh. He received an Outstanding Performer Award and fellowship of Rs.1 Lakh by Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Government of India.

Sanket Mishra, Hyderabad Campus a research scholar from the Dept. of Computer Science received TCS PhD fellowship for four years from July 2016 to June 2020.

Project Apeiro is an experiment led by undergraduate students Sanket Deshpande, Lucky Kapoor, Shivangi Kamat, Pankaj Tiple and Vibhav Joshi, Goa Campus in collaboration



with TIFR. The project Apeiro Microsatellite was successfully launched on February 2, 2018 from the TIFR National Balloon Facility, Hyderabad.

WCB Robotics from the Technology Business Incubator-Hyderabad Campus won the \$5,000 People's Choice Competition sponsored by SoFi in Rice Business Plan Competition. The winner was determined by more than 8,000 people who voted for their favourite team via a Facebook survey. The Rice Business Plan Competition is the world's richest and largest graduate-level student startup competition. It is hosted and organized by the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, which is Rice University's internationally-recognized and the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business initiative devoted to the support of entrepreneurship.

CULTURAL, TECHNICAL AND SPORTS FESTS

BOSM (BITS Open Sports Meet), Pilani Campus 32nd edition commenced on September 21, 2017. The five-day competition hosted over 1600 participants from colleges in different regions of India as well as Sri Lanka. The chief guest for the event was Padma Shri, Mr. Devendra Jhaharia.

OASIS, a cultural festival of Pilani Campus was organized from October 31 to November 4, 2017. Mr. S.S. Rajamouli, Director of the film Bahubali inaugurated the event.



SPARKS, a cultural festival of Dubai Campus was celebrated on October 1, 2017 and celebrated a pièce de résistance moment which marked the tenth anniversary of the cultural fiesta, 'SPARKS'.

Waves 2017, a cultural festival of Goa Campus took place from October 27 – 29, 2017. 'Tale in Two Shades', was a mega Cultural event with three days full of fun, energy, emotions, and memories.



Technofest, Dubai Campus was organized during October 25-26, 2017.

BITS Sports Festival (BSF) - "One Team, One Dream", Goa Campus was celebrated during November 19 to 23, 2017. Padma Bhushan Awardee and renowned Tennis Champion, Sania Mirza graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest.

ATMOS - The Annual Techno Management festival, Hyderabad Campus was held from the October 27 to 29, 2017. Dr .E Sreedhran, the Metro man of India addressed the gathering.