

Mission – Vision Document

**Department of Physics
Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Pilani Campus
Rajasthan – 333031**



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Department of Physics, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus Mission and Vision Document 2018

Physics has been a core discipline of study at BITS Pilani since its inception for every undergraduate student at the foundational level as well as for specialized physics majors. The Department of Physics, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, has been committed to high quality Physics Education and offers a four year MSc Physics and a five year dual with MSc BE program. The department also offers a full time/part time/off campus PhD program. In addition, it also offers a certificate minor program for non-physics majors. The department is engaged in high quality research in diverse areas of pure and applied physics steered by highly qualified faculty and a rapidly growing doctoral program.

History of the Department

The physics department of BITS Pilani, Pilani campus, is one of the older such departments in the country. It was started in 1944 as part of the then Birla Science College and offered a B.Sc. programme in Physics. Later, in the year 1964, it became part of BITS Pilani, when the three Birla colleges in Pilani, namely, the Engineering college, the Science college and the Arts & Commerce college, were amalgamated to form the BITS Pilani university.

The physics department prospered under the Ford Foundation Grant and BITS Pilani-MIT collaboration during the years 1964-70. Under this collaboration, some distinguished physics faculty of MIT spent time in Pilani to help the department introduce many innovative teaching practices followed in USA universities. Some faculty members from BITS Pilani also visited MIT. During this period, the physics department was one of the very few places in India to set up a lasers lab both for teaching and research.

The physics department has maintained a very high standard of physics teaching all through. A large number of its graduates have made their mark in their respective fields in universities and research laboratories all over the world. After a few decades in the middle, when it mainly became a teaching department due to various constraints, it is slowly but emphatically shifting focus towards research, while continuing to maintain excellence in teaching.

Vision of the department of Physics, BITS Pilani (Pilani campus)

The Department of Physics, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus shall become a leading physics department in India for scientific research as well as innovative teaching and learning, keeping pace with evolving knowledge domains. It shall emerge as an attractive destination for the excellent students and the faculties. The Department of Physics aspires to be highly ranked amongst the group of other peer institutes.

Our mission

The mission of the department of Physics is to provide high quality teaching and learning experience through our first degree and PhD program. The department is committed to achieve excellence in research in diverse areas of pure and applied physics.

- **Teaching Excellence:** Excellence in teaching has always been one of the main imperatives of the department. It periodically reviews and redesigns existing courses and introduces new courses and programs geared towards current research and industry. It explores new dimensions in teaching and learning and uses various platforms and methodologies. The department is always in the continuing process of strengthening the existing programs.

- **Research Excellence:** The faculty members of the department carry out research in almost all the major areas of Physics. The department is now vigorously scaling up its research activity and giving more visibility to it. The volume of research publications in peer reviewed journals of repute and the research funding received by the department has been increasing steadily.

- **Faculty Leadership in Administration:** The faculty members of the department make significant contribution to administrative leadership and various institute activities and initiatives.