

BITS Pilani Dubai Campus launches 5 Pico Satellites! First step towards 'Project MAHASAT' successful!

- Drone Satellite launch vehicle used to carry the satellites to an altitude of 100 meters.
- Satellites transmit real time data of Temperature, Humidity, Pressure, Air Quality, UV Intensity, Orientation.
- Ground Station track satellites to be set up on campus.

Dubai, UAE: BITS Pilani Dubai Campus, (BPDC), one of the UAE's leading technology and engineering universities has recently **launched and tested 5 Pico Satellites using Drone Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLTV) at Sanad Academy** in the presence of the **Chief Guest, Dr. Eesa Al Bastaki, President, University of Dubai, Dr. Srinivasan Madapusi, Director, BPDC,** Faculty members and Students of BPDC.

Students were thrilled as the Pico Satellites **started transmitting real time data** of temperature, humidity, pressure, air quality, UV intensity, and orientation. The data were projected on a large smart board for the visitors, giving them the ambience of a mission control centre. This effort undertaken by BPDC in collaboration with UAE-based Edutech4Space, a pioneer in the field of space technology education, and under the mentorship of the Moon Man of India, Padma Shri awardee Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai marks a significant **first step** towards the **Project MAHASAT**.

A team of **30 undergraduate students** from BPDC studying diverse **streams** such as **Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Biotechnology etc.** came together and worked tirelessly to **launch the Pico Satellites within 6 weeks** after the **commencement of Project MAHASAT**.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Srinivasan Madapusi, Director, BPDC said, *“Pico Satellites are the future of space exploration, and they're already making waves in the world's classrooms. While their low cost and relatively quick turnaround time makes them invaluable from an education perspective, they also have the power to engage students in a project from its initial paper design to building and testing to launch. Further, this is an excellent training ground for developing interdisciplinary skills and systems level thinking that are critical for the future. Through this hands-on experience in development, management, and mission training, BPDC is giving next-generation scientists a chance to learn valuable skills that will forge UAE's plans to become regional hub for commercial space activities and advanced research and development”.*

Padma Shri awardee Dr Mylswamy Annadurai, Former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation's Satellite Centre, who is overseeing and guiding BPDC students said, *“With the emergence of advancements in space technology, availability of trained manpower is going to*

be crucial. A very concrete academic plan has been devised wherein students of BPDC will be trained to make significant contributions in the field of Space technology of UAE and India. The university will also have its own Ground Station in near future which will enable students to communicate with their satellites, collect data, analyse it, and create predictions on weather, pollution levels, disaster management etc.”

Ms. Shrisudha Viswanathan, Founder & CEO of Edutech4Space, said, *“We had an intensive training with upcoming engineers & future scientists of BPDC from the time we started the project MAHASAT. Using Drone Satellite Launch Vehicle (DSLTV) to carry the 5 Pico Satellites to an altitude of 100 meters is a unique attempt in GCC. With this success we are now geared to move for Phase 2 which is ground station installation at BPDC before we finally build the Engineering model and flight model of CubeSat.”*

Echoing the excitement of the team, Samarth Kalpesh Kumar Brahmbhatt, 2nd Year Electronics student of BPDC said, *“Being a part of this team has been a whole new and an amazing opportunity of learning. Creating the processor of this satellite was my favourite part and made me feel like I am a space scientist. We are grateful for being given an opportunity to participate in this; it has been an amazing experience so far.”*



