

'Democracy and patriotism begins at home,' said Guha



From L to R: Souvik Bhattacharyya, Ramachandra Guha, Talluri Varsheeth and G Raghurama

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“Patriotism like charity and democracy begins at home and patriotism should be substantive and not symbolic,” said historian, erudite scholar, biographer and reputed columnist Ramachandra Guha while speaking about the two aspects of patriotism.

He was speaking as chief guest at the 80th and 81st Award Convocation 2017 at Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) K K Birla Goa campus. Guha further said that patriotism operates at a different level; it is not only love of India. Patriotism to be effective, to be truly enabling must begin in the home, the locality, the street, the town, the district, the state and then with the nation.”

“Patriotism should not be reduced to singing the national anthem or to doing pooja to the flag or shouting ‘Mera Bharat Mahan’,” he added.

On the occasion, Guha awarded gold medal to Talluri Varsheeth, silver medal to Ayush Sharma and bronze medal to Sudeep Mishra. This year, 625 students received their degrees, of which 21 were PhDs. Guha also presented one of the five distinguished alumnus awards of 2017 to CEO, BigBasket. Com, Hari Menon. The other four awardees who received their awards at other BITS campuses included professor in the department of Mathematics, IISC

Bangalore, Govindan Rangarajan; Kritzer professor in the department of Mechanical Science and Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Narayana Alluru; chairman, Tata Coffee Limited, Harish Bhat and co-founder and CEO of DATRI, head - Global Strategy - Ivy Mobility, and co-founder and director - The Green Peppers, Raghu Rajagopal.

In his message chancellor of BITS Pilani, Kumar Mangalam Birla urged the graduating students to be innovative and disruptive in order to be creative. He pointed out that disruption displaces an existing market, industry or technology and creates something new, more efficient and worthwhile.

Professor Bhattacharyya presented an overview of the university's accomplishments, and in particular, highlighted its pioneering role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education. Professor Raghurama gave a detailed report of BITS Pilani Goa Campus, offering a comprehensive overview of the advances in research, new initiatives and collaborations of the institute.

Vice chancellor, BITS Pilani, Souvik Bhattacharyya; director of BITS Goa campus, G Raghurama; registrar, BITS Pilani, S C Sivasubramanian; members of the senate; faculty members of Goa campus and other distinguished guests along with the graduating students and their family members were present on the occasion.