

Economics conference at BITS Pilani- Goa campus

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A battery of high-profile economists, academics and banking experts were at BITS Pilani- Goa, last week for the International Conference on Economics and Finance (ICEF) organized by the department of economics.

Prof. G Raghurama, director, inaugurated the conference and in his speech stressed on the importance of universities in creating people with high moral character and on rebuilding confidence in the economic and financial institutions. He also pointed out the importance of conducting theoretical and applied economic analysis for a broader intellectual enrichment.

Dr. Aswini K Mishra, convener of the conference and the head, department of economics, highlighted the usefulness of the conference in analysis of current economic and financial problems. Prof. Chetan Ghate, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, spoke on the factors that hinder monetary policy transmission mechanism by stressing on the role of informal sector in the Indian economic context.

Speaker Andreas Bauer, senior resident representative, IMF, New Delhi, shared valuable insights on the importance of credible fiscal policy and expenditure reallocation given the problem of increasing cost of an ageing society in India. He highlighted how structural reforms might be



The conference in progress

implemented to increase labor market participation of women. While explaining how demographic dividends impact growth and productivity, he pointed out that in the context of India, how to go from existing diagnostics to implementation remains a critical practical issue.

The day concluded with an insightful presentation by Dr. Viral Acharya, deputy governor,

RBI. He shared his views on macroeconomic policies in an open economy.

The two day event held over February 16-17 included several presentations from industry experts. It was supported by ICSSR and provided an avenue for disseminating information on contemporary research and future practices in economics and finance.



Prof G Raghurama and Dr Jose Pedrosa-Garcia lighting the lamp