

BITS Pilani students develop micro satellite

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

A micro satellite which will help in the study of space weather and radiation patterns has been developed by students of BITS Pilani, Goa, in association with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Hyderabad.

The micro satellite considered to be first of its kind developed by students in the country, will be launched on January 5 from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Hyderabad.

The Mahesh Nalwad Foundation, set up by Vice-President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Dr. Mahesh Nalwad of Hubballi, has funded the project.

The micro satellite has



Sanket Deshpande of BITS Pilani, Goa, briefing presspersons in Hubballi about the micro satellite developed by the students. Mahesh Nalwad (second from right) from Hubballi, who funded the project, is seen. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been developed by a six students namely Sanketh Deshpande, Aishwarya Pravin, Lucky Kapoor, Shivangi Kamat, Pankaj Tiple and Vibhav Joshi after three years of hard work under 'Project Apeiro'.

Mr. Sanket Deshpande told press persons here on Sunday that the micro satellite had been developed with the objective of studying the impact of radiation on Earth.

"Project Apeiro aims to determine and analyze the cosmic radiation incident on earth's surface. This study helps to understand the cosmic radiation flux and probe radiation exposure for avia-

tion and space flights. The flight will be conducted over the central part of the sub-continent and will be launched from the TIFR National Balloon Facility, Hyderabad. The payload will ascend till a floating altitude of 22 km above the sea level where it will study the accumulation of cosmic radiations", he explained.

He said the project also had the support of Indus Moon Mission and the experiment would be followed by series of satellite launchings.

Mr. Sanket said the micro satellite would be launched after mounting it on a remote controlled helium bal-

loon. After being placed in the orbit, the micro satellite would start sending data on cosmic radiation, he said.

Praising the students for their innovation, Dr. Mahesh Nalwad said that a group of 30 students from class VIII to XII selected from various schools and colleges in Hubballi and Dharwad would be taken to Hyderabad to watch the launch.

Dr. Nalwad said the students would be selected through an essay competition and the objective of the event was to create awareness among the students about space science and research.

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