

# Astronomical observatory inaugurated at BITS Pilani

NT KURIO CITY

Vice chancellor, BITS Pilani University, V. Ramgopal Rao recently inaugurated the campus observatory at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus in the presence of director of Goa Campus, Suman Kundu, registrar of BITS Pilani University Colonel S Chakraborty (Retd), dean of administration of Goa Campus D. M. Kulkarni and several faculty and students.

Students of the campus astronomy club 'SEDS Celestia' presented a few selected projects that they are working on such as rocketry, cansat and the radio telescope.

Professors Tarun Kumar Jha and Arunav Kundu from the Department of Physics described the ongoing projects on the campus and presented plans for the future which include in-



terdisciplinary and cross-campus initiatives which will incorporate the new

facility and workspace. The scientific and technical aspects will address not only the domain of astronomy and astrophysics but various other disciplines such as earth sciences, comet science, and the development of small satellites.

Head of the Department of Physics Radhika Vathsan further emphasised the educational and public reach aspects of the facility with regularly scheduled sky watching sessions and public talks open to people of all ages.

Rao in his address encouraged such activities as opportunities for advancement of science in the country are increasing.

