BITS Goa to add 18,000sqm academic space in 3-4 years

Gauree.Malkarnekar
@timesgroup.com

Panaji: BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa campus, is set to add 18,000sqm to its existing academic space of 37,000 sq ms within the next three to four years as part of the institute's university's Vision 2020 expansion plan, BITS Goa campus director **G Raghurama** told TOI.
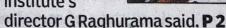
The plans are aimed at shifting focus of BITS Pilani institutes to teaching and research, from only being recognised for its teaching.

"Around 8-9 years back, we took this strategic decision. We had not planned in terms

'Focus on masters programmes'

The proportion of masters and PhD students at BITS Pilani Goa campus is set to grow from 9% to 18% in the next three to four years, the Goa institute's director G Raghurama said. **P 2**

of research on that scale until 2009. You will see lot of construction work going on at our campus now. Research demands heavy infrastructure in terms of space. Today, we have around 37,000 sqm of academic space. We will add some 18,000 sqm to that. Other than that hostels, teachers' residences, sporting facilities and other infrastructure are being added," Raghurama said.

The 180-acre Goa campus is estimated to see an investment of Rs 425 crore as part of the expansion plans.

"We are also setting up a sophisticated instrumentation facility. We are purchasing sophisticated equipment which could be in the range of Rs 2 to Rs 4 crore each and setting it up to be accessed by faculty and research scholars. We have already spent around Rs 5 crore," he said.

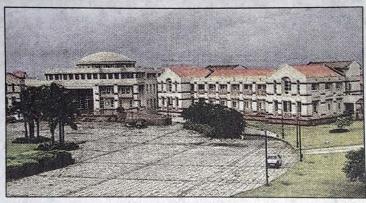# BITS Goa campus to focus on new masters programmes: Director

Gauree.Malkarnekar
@timesgroup.com

Panaji: With BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus doubling its student and faculty intake as part of the university's Vision 2020 expansion plan, the Goa campus is also focusing on adding masters programmes in the next three to four years that are interdisciplinary in nature.

Data analytics, internet of things (IoT), sanitation science and engineering, optoelectronics, and material science (non-conventional) could be the areas in which students may soon be able to pursue a masters programme at the Goa campus, located at Zuarinagar.

The proportion of masters and PhD students at BITS Pilani Goa campus is set to grow from 9% to 18% in the next three to four years, the Goa institute's director G Raghurama told **TOI**.

"We have told the faculty to look at new areas where there is interdisiciplinary combination for masters. For example, data analytics, internet of things. Based on our research performance, we are also looking at sanita-

The Goa campus at Zuarinagar is keen on adding new courses in the next three to four years that are interdisciplinary in nature

tion science and engineering. This has a greater social relevance as well. In physics and electronics, we were looking at areas like optoelectronics. This is an established field, but there are new posibilities," Raghurama said.

Similarly, he said that nano technology has generated new interest in material science, a field which draws from chemistry, mechanical and chemical engineering streams.

"These are the things our departments are engaging in. May be, in the coming few months, we will have greater clarity on which one

G Raghurama

we will go for step by step. We don't want to introduce a programme unless we can also forsee a particular growth path for our students - either in academics or industry. We will do a required background survey," Raghurama said.

He said that the institute is also looking at adding more programmes in the institute's humanities and social sciences departments and one area being explored is media and cultural studies. A field like cultural studies has more relevance in a state like Goa, the director said.

"We also have a strong hu-

manities and social sciences department. Right now, we only offer economics as a degree and we dont have a liberal arts programme. But, they provide support to engineering and science programmes in terms of humanities courses. It is a belief and now excepted worldwide that engineering requires basic humanities content. We have made certain key courses mandatory for engineering graduates to do. Today, if they want to find technological solutions in the world, they should also know other aspects of human behaviour," Raghurama said.

So far, 44 PhD students have graduated from the Goa campus and 200 more have registered for a doctorate degree. As the institute's growth plan demands focus on postgraduate and research programmes, Raghurama said that the institute will have around 400 to 500 doctorate students on campus in the next three to four years.

"It will still take some time to establish ourselves in research as compared to the top IITs. But we are on that growth path," Raghurama said.