

THE HIGHLIGHTS

While the detailed report on the working of the Institute during the year 2010 is given in the following pages, some highlights of the same are given below:

1. Prof B N Jain took over as the New Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani on 1st August 2010. On 4th August 2010, the Institute gave a memorable farewell to ex-Vice Chancellor, Prof L K Maheshwari. He joined as Professor Emeritus and Advisor to the Chancellor with effect from 1st August 2010.
2. Prof G Raghurama and Prof R K Mittal took over as the Directors of the Pilani and Dubai campuses respectively on 16th April 2010.
3. Besides, Prof G Sundar took over as the Deputy Director, Off Campus Programs on 6th March 2010 and Prof R N Saha took over as Deputy Director, Research & Educational Development and Administration on 16th April 2010 in Pilani campus.
4. Institute received 139,234 applications for BITSAT for a total of 2000 seats. Of these, a total number of 98,694 candidates including 28,584 girls appeared for BITSAT. Further, 21 Board toppers from different states of India joined the Institute under the Direct Admission to Board Toppers category.
5. Good progress was made under the Vision 2020: Mission 2012 program. In the area of academic programs and pedagogy, a thorough review of existing curriculum through a benchmarking exercise has been conducted. BITS conducted "My BITS | My Voice" engagement survey involving faculty, staff and students of the institute with the help of an external agency, Gallup to assess the experience, expectations and emotional bonding of stakeholders with BITS. An ERP system for managing the multi-campus environment is being put in place. A number of initiatives are being formulated in order to support the professional growth of the faculty and to enhance their overall productivity. A seed grant and sabbatical leave policies have been introduced. Towards modernization of Pilani campus, seven architects were invited to submit concept notes. The evaluation of these submissions and finalization of the architect has been completed. In order to enhance the BITS brand, two external agencies (Perfect Relations and Fractal Link) have been appointed.
6. A total of 115 research projects worth about 25 Crores are ongoing in various campuses.
7. Dr Kumar Mangalam Birla announced a grant of Rs 2 crores through Aditya Birla Science and Technology Center for industry relevant projects for faculty members.
8. New staff positions such as Chief People Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Research and Development Officer were created and suitable officers were brought in for these posts. Full time Consultant was appointed for implementing the ERP system.
9. Many dignitaries visited the campuses of the BITS during the year, the details of which are given in Section XII.

Apart from the above, some highlights of workings of individual campuses are given below:

Pilani Campus 1. Students Achievements

- (i) Four first year students, namely, Miss Ankita Sarda, Mr Shuja Shabir, Mr Vaibhav Grewal and Mr Prakash Singh have been selected for the Aditya Birla Group Scholarships 2010.

- (ii) Raghav Mimani was awarded Green Globe Foundation Award for 2010 under the category, Youth Unite for Voluntary Action (YUVA). Award was presented on the occasion of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, 5-7 February 2010.
- (iii) Mr Saradh Narayanan, Mr Arvind Pawan R and Mr Prashant Tadimalla won the Dr Ranjit Singh Chauhan Undergraduate Research Award for the year 2009-10.
- (iv) Humanoid AcYut 4 developed by BITS students won a special award at the FIRA World Cup held during 15-19 September 2010 for performing a feat of lifting 40 CDs together thus creating a world record.
- (v) The team comprising Gaurav Baheti as Team Leader and Mr Anirudh Singh as a driver of the vehicle secured 10th place in the All India Contest for Designing all Terrain Vehicle held at Indore during 29-31 January 2010.
- (vi) Jyoti Arya and Rishi Mathur along with ex-faculty member, Dr Shikha Tripathi presented a paper entitled Unified 3GPP and 3GPP2 Turbo Encoder using Runtime Partial Reconfiguration in IEEE Ninth Annual Wireless Telecommunication Symposium held in Tampa, Florida, USA during 21-23 April 2010. Their paper won the Best WTS 2010 Undergraduate Student Paper award.
- (vii) BITS Basketball Teams (both men and women) won Gold medals in the sports tournament held at Jaipur, during 18-21 February 2010.
- (viii) NSS Unit of BITS Pilani bagged the Red Cross Award for the third time, on the World Blood Donor Day on 14 June 2010 for the highest unit of blood collection among educational institutions of the country.
- (ix) Sonal Keshawrao Thangane won the 1st Prize in Poster Presentation Competition on LCA Analysis and 3rd Prize in Quiz in AZEOTROPHY 2010 held at IIT Bombay on 6-7 March 2010. She also won Best Paper Presentation Award in a session on Science and Technology. She was also nominated for the Young Scientist Award at the International Conference on Climate Change, Gwalior, 5-7 December 2010.
- (x) Student Kota Achyuth Reddy was felicitated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mr Shivraj Singh Chauhan for his idea on Imparting awareness of Employment News, Career Opportunities and Academic Opportunities among students as a response to Ideas for CM Contest in Bhopal on 7 December 2010

2. Seminars/ Conferences/Workshops:

- (i) National Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry, 19-21 February 2010
- (ii) Indo-Taiwan Workshop on Nano, Microelectronics & Embedded Systems, 24-25 September 2010
- (iii) DAE Symposium on Nuclear Physics, 20-24 December 2010
- (iv) Empowering Women in Developing Countries through Better Healthcare and Nutrition, 22-24 April 2010
- (v) Short Film Making Workshop, 5-8 February 2010 & 11-17 August 2010
- (vi) Workshop on intellectual property rights, 25 April 2010
- (vii) Workshop on Science, Innovation and Discovery, 10 May 2010

- (viii) Academic Development Program in Basic Process Engineering (for employees of Hindustan Zinc Ltd), 21 June – 19 July 2010
 - (ix) Academic Development Program in Basic Process Engineering – 2 batches (for employees of Bharat Aluminum Company, Korba) , 26 February – 25 March 2010 and 25 June – 24 July 2010.
 - (x) Indo-Taiwan Workshop on Nano, Microelectronics & Embedded Systems, 24-25 September 2010
 - (xii) DAE Symposium on Nuclear Physics, 20-24 December 2010
3. Twelve MoUs were signed with organizations in India and abroad. Details are given in Section II.
 4. Kidz Isaland, a creche for staff children was opened at the BITS campus on 12 April 2010.

K.K. Birla Goa Campus

1. Goa Campus was renamed as BITS, Pilani - K. K. Birla Goa Campus
2. Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor of BITS visited K.K. Birla Goa Campus in February 2010. He interacted with faculty & students and also reviewed the progress of Mission 2012 Project.
3. Memorandum of Understanding with Cypress Semiconductor, USA on 27th February 2010, for collaborative research and funding lab development. The Director of Cypress University Alliance, USA, Mr. Patrick Kane inaugurated a state-of-the-art PSoC3 Lab in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.
4. The BITS Alumni Affairs Division was established on April 2010 with the aim to connect students and alumni of the Institute.
5. Two new laboratories, equipped with modern research facilities, have been set up in Department of Biology and Department of Physics in collaboration with DST, Govt. of India under FIST Scheme. Institute and Dept. Of Science and Technology, Govt. of India have jointly funded (50% each) to the development of these Labs, namely, Applied and Environmental Biotechnology Laboratory and Optics Laboratory.
6. The 13th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2010) was jointly organized by Developing Library Network, DELNET, New Delhi and BITS – Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus during 15 – 18 June 2010.
7. ICETET-10, IEEE 3rd International Conference On Emerging Trends in Engineering & Technology, 19-21 November 2010.

Students Achievements

1. Ankita Arvind Kejriwal was awarded the prestigious „Google India Women in Engineering Award' in a ceremony at its Hyderabad office, for presenting Poster at IBM-IRL Collaborative Academia Research Exchange (I-CARE) Research Poster Competition, New Delhi during October 2009.
2. Pratik Mandrekar was selected as Young Ambassador for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
3. Vinit Kumar Mittal was awarded a fellowship at MAX Planck Institute, Magdeburg (Germany) with monthly stipend of 650 Euros, travel expenses and accommodation.

4. Chetan Bansal was selected for Google Summer of Code 2009 and again was selected for Google Summer of Code 2010 under which he worked with the Gen MaPP group during summer on a project for finding and visualizing relationships between Bio-medical Pathways and processes.
5. A team of Santosh Prabu C, Nishant Prasad, Vidya Shankar Vellal and Rishikesh BG, participated in the finals held in Kula Lumpur during 05-06 August 2010 after winning the national championship in the CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) Global Business Challenge on 29th May in Mumbai,

Hyderabad Campus

1. The campus started Higher Degree and Ph. D Programmes in the second year of its operations.
2. The First National Conference at Hyderabad Campus was organized on “Sustainable Water Resources Management and Impact of Climate Change” by Civil Engineering Group during March 5-6, 2010 with an objective to reduce the gap between research and action in water management and its impact on climate change.

Dubai Campus

1. An MoU was signed between Dubai Campus and University of Windsor, Canada in March 2010.
2. BITS Sports Festival “BSF 2010” was organized successfully during 18th – 25th April 2010. Padma Shri Ms. Saina Nehwal was the Chief Guest for the prize distribution ceremony of BSF 2010.
3. The Graduation Ceremony for the 6th batch of students (Class of 2010) took place on 22nd August 2010. The Chief Guest for this occasion was His Excellency Sanjay Verma, Consul General of India in Dubai.
4. The President of India, Shrimathi Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, visited Dubai International Academic City on the 24th of Nov 2010.
5. The intra college art event, ARTEX, was organized by the arts club with a total of 11 on-the-spot events during 6th -9th December 2010.

In May 2010, the Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to **BITS, Pilani-Dubai Campus** for the distinguished accomplishment in reducing the consumption of electricity and water by participating in the “Conservation–For-A-Better-Tomorrow Award-2009/2010 by Government of Dubai, Knowledge & Human Development Authority and Dubai Electricity & Water Authority, Dubai, UAE.

Students Achievements

1. Rohit Ratnaparkhi represented at the R8 SBC at Leuven, Belgium and was one of the eight students to represent UAE. He represented with a 100% funding from the IEEE UAE Section. Ketul Sanhvi and Roamell Mehta have been selected to attend the 21st International Youth Leadership Conference to be held at Prague, Czech Republic from 6th January 2011 to 11th January 2011.
2. The Student Section Vice-Chair person Vidur Khurana, III Year Mechanical has been selected by the Chair of Student District Operating Board to attend the 2011 ASME SDOB Leaders' Conference at the Hyatt Regency DFW in Dallas, Texas