

## **BITS, Pilani -- Hyderabad Campus**

### **Bhoomi Puja at Campus site, Jawahar Nagar, Shameerpet, RR District on Ugadi day (30<sup>th</sup> March, 2006)**

The much awaited formal launch of BITS, Pilani – Hyderabad Campus was done with an auspicious bhoomi puja at the campus site in Jawahar Nagar. The function was attended by about 300 *distinguished invitees* including Cabinet Ministers, Alumni, Industrialists, Parents, BITS faculty and Students. There was enthusiasm all over the city of Hyderabad, which was evident from TV coverage of the event by popular channels. Some channels interviewed the Vice Chancellor one day before the event and broadcast the same as a curtain raiser of the event. One question asked by almost all the interviewers was: whether there would be any quota for children from Andhra Pradesh. The Vice Chancellor was at his best in answering the same. With his characteristic smile, he emphatically denied provision of any such quota and said admission would be purely on the basis of merit. He also mentioned them that Pilani being in Rajasthan, there was no quota for that state for all these years and that's how large number of AP students could get admitted to BITS.

The preparation for the function was done with the help of number of Alumni members and BITS Practice School faculty at Hyderabad. From Pilani, Prof. S. Venkateswaran, Vice Chancellor, Prof. V.S. Rao and Prof. K.E. Raman, Deputy Directors attended the function. The arrangements for the site were done with the help of an event management organization, supervised by BITS Practice School faculty. Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) rose to the occasion and constructed an approach road to the campus site within four days. The road has been well laid with 30 feet width and one kilometer length flanked on both sides by trees. BITS Practice School faculty team comprising of Dr. P.N. Rao, Shri B. Ramchandra Murthy, Mrs. M. Malathi, Dr. A. Ramu, Dr. I. Sreedhar, Mr. S. Rajesh, Mr. M. Venu and Mr. Surendra Enduri worked day and night in preparing and distributing the invitation, arranging all the

material for the function and coordinating with the alumni team and government officials. The office of Sierra Atlantic was generously used. Thanks to the Vice President Mr. Sanjay Khendry.

Prof. Venkateswaran, Vice Chancellor and his team met the Chief Minister a day before the function and invited him for the function. Due to prior commitments, the Chief Minister regretted his inability to attend the function. However, he obliged us with a message for the occasion. Prof. Venkateswaran and his team also met in person and invited Shri P. Venkateswara Rao and Smt. P. Sabitha Reddy, honourable Ministers of Andhra Pradesh Government.

The function started with Bhoomi Puja at the northeastern corner of the site. Prof. Venkateswaran, Vice Chancellor performed the Puja with the assistance from four experienced vedic pundits. The entire atmosphere was serene with vedic chanting and nadaswaram in the background. The Puja lasted for thirty minutes. Symbolic ground breaking was done at the site by the Vice Chancellor. After the Puja the dignitaries occupied the stage and a formal function was conducted. BITS students presented bouquet to the dignitaries. To start with the Vice Chancellor welcomed all the guests and announced the formal launching of Hyderabad campus. He explained the need for opening more campuses in the country and expressed his determination to build the Hyderabad campus as a world class institution with a budget outlay of Rs. 160/- crores at 200 acres plot. He also thanked the Andhra Pradesh Government for providing land at concessional rates.

On this occasion the Chancellor of the Institute Dr. K.K. Birla had sent his *message* of blessings, which was read out by Prof. K.E. Raman. Shri Prabhakara Reddy, Additional Secretary to Chief Minister read out the *message* sent by the Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajashekhar Reddy.

The gathering was addressed by the honourable Minister for Higher Education M.r P. Venkateswara Rao and local MLA Shri T. Devender Goud. Prof. Venkateswaran

presented BITS emblem as memento to the honourable Ministers. Shri Devender Goud, MLA was presented with a memento by Mr. Vinod Chadha, President, BITSAA, Hyderabad. The function ended with vote of thanks by Prof. V.S. Rao, the Director designate of Hyderabad campus and the national anthem.

BITS students distributed puja prasadam to all the invitees. Thanks are due to Mr. Nagarjuna Choudary, BITS Alumni and owner of Almond House, Hyderabad, who sponsored prasadam.

The function was covered very well by about 20 members from the print as well as electronic media. This was largely due to the efforts by Mr. Sanjay Khendry, Vice President, Sierra Atlantic. For press coverage, please see [http://discovery.bits-pilani.ac.in/unews/docs/BITS\\_Press\\_coverage.pdf](http://discovery.bits-pilani.ac.in/unews/docs/BITS_Press_coverage.pdf).

For photos, please see <http://discovery.bits-pilani.ac.in/unews/gallery.html>.