



BITS ECHO

Issue 01, Volume 01

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“ We owe our success to remarkable associations, partnerships and a successful crowdfunding campaign which could not have been a success without the keen support and help from our extensive alumni network.”

HYDERABAD

DUBAI

GOA



PROF. SOUVIK BHATTACHARYYA VICE CHANCELLOR, BITS PILANI

Dear Alumnus,

Season's greetings and wishing you all very happy Deepavali.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of BITS ECHO. Today the alumni network is a potent force for any institute's development plans pitching in multiple ways. To make this happen, an extremely warm and strong connect with the alumni is essential. Several bridges have to be built between the institute and all the BITSians – this newsletter in one such setubandhan.

We will bring the campus closer to you. You get a feel of what's happening in Pilani, in Dubai, in Goa and in Hyderabad. Particularly newsbytes that are relevant to you. We will also share a snapshot of the transformation that is happening in the institute. And also what's on the anvil. We hope these bring back sweet memories of the place where you once roamed with such panache, such élan, such verve.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the entire Student Alumni Cell under the aegis of the Dean, Alumni Relations for their tireless efforts in putting this together for you all.

We sincerely welcome your comments, your praises, and your suggestions. Keep them coming to us.

Cheers. Till next time.



PROF. ARYA KUMAR DEAN ALUMNI RELATIONS

Alumnus would be happy to know that Alumni Relations Cell consisting of a committed and dedicated team of students have taken number of initiatives to get connected with BITSians across the globe to leverage their expertise, talent and achievements for the development of the BITS Pilani and all its stakeholders. One such initiative is to come out with BITS ECHO - a newsletter to communicate short pieces of information consisting of breaking news, stories and instant appeals that would be of prodigious interest to Alumni. The purpose is to share, engage, invite and thank Alumni. It would value the connect with BITS Pilani that has shaped us to face greater challenges of life and to bring in a name and fame to Alma Mater. It would also be a platform to Alumni to contribute articles and news items that would be of greater interest to the BITSians.

I am sure this initiative of Alumni Relations Cell will go a long way to intensify the bonding amongst Alumni.

Wishing you all Deepavali and Season's Greetings. May the festive of Lights bring in peace, prosperity, happiness and good health to you.



CAMPUS UPDATES

Teaching Award presented in memory of Prof. S.S. Ranganathan

On the eve of this teacher's day 4 Sept 2017 BITS Pilani held its first edition of "Prof SSR Memorial Teaching Excellence Award", in memory of Late Prof SS Ranganathan, a professor of Electrical and Electronics department from Jan 1978 to May 1987, who is even today remembered for his teaching excellence and for his outstanding commitment and contribution to students and colleagues. A few of his students approached BITS which lead to the signing of a MOU, they collected an initial amount of 25 lakhs to get the award going ahead.

The first award was given to Prof. P. Srinivasan for his new and experimental teaching. The award contains 1 lakh of cash,

a plaque and a citation. There was a nostalgic share of memories by Mr NS Parthsarthy Co-Founder, Vice-Chairman & COO of Mindtree about his days spent with Prof Ranganathan, which was moistened by loving blessings of Prof Ranganathan's wife. The award will continue being awarded to the members of teaching staff from any of the campuses of BITS Pilani who have been full time faculty for six semesters in the coming years.

Mrs. Malathy Ranganathan (wife of late Prof. S.S. Ranganathan) presenting the certificate to Prof. P. Srinivasan



BITS Global Meet

Alumni Affairs Division, in collaboration with BITSAA Middle East, kick started the year 2017 with the biggest event yet. BITS Global Meet was a two day event hosted by BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus. Alumni from all over the globe, along with their families, poured in. These two days bought hundreds of student volunteers and alumni together for a memorable evening of entertainment and socializing, followed by a fun filled desert



safari trip. This event helped reconnect former batch mates, and provided students a chance to interact with their alumni, and explore the opportunities campus and after.

Metanoia

Keeping in mind its resolute mission to keep the alumni of BITS connected to their Alma mater and to maintain the integrity and strength of the vast alumni community, Alumni Affairs – Student Team Goa conducted the second edition of Alumni Summit on 26th of August, 2017. The speakers reminisced about their life back at BITS campuses and their journey thereafter.

Six speakers who were invited were:

1. Shreyas Habbu, Chief Minister's Fellow, Government of Maharashtra
2. Bandan Jot Singh, Expeditioner - First Indian Sikh to raise the Indian Flag on Antarctica.
3. Padmini Chettur, Dancer & Founder, Padmini Chettur Dance Company
4. Shashi Warriar, Author
5. Nishith Rastogi, Founder, Locus.sh
6. B Sandhya, Additional Director General of Kerala Police in India



BITS Pilani is now ranked in the World University ranking of both THE (Times Higher Education) and QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) - these are the most eminent international Rankings published today. THE Asia University Ranking of BITS Pilani improved by 10 ranks to 181-190 in 2017. This year, we have debuted in the QS World University ranking, albeit modestly, where there are only 20 institutes from India ranked in that list. Out of those 20, only two are non-government institutes and BITS Pilani is one of them.

BITS Pilani has 1.26 lakh Alumni from 1964 to 2017 batches plus veteran Alumni prior to 1964 graduates. Of this 0.73 Alumni are from Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP) and remaining 0.53 from on campus programmes. Of on campus programmes there are 0.39 lakhs from Pilani Campus, 0.06 lakhs from Goa and 0.04 lakhs each from Hyderabad and Dubai Campus.

BITSAA ME Quiz Night

On the 12th of March, BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus saw one of its most exciting, collaborative, and fun filled events of the year. The BITSAA ME Quiz Night was organized to be an interactive evening of fraternization between faculty, students, and alumni. This activity clad event consisted of multiple rounds of quizzing between teams consisting

of alumni and students. Each team performed their very best and exhibited great knowledge on the history of BITS, general knowledge, and current affairs. Alumni poured in from all over Middle East to partake in this event. This encouraged the vision of a cohesive community, and lead students to learn greatly from their alumni.



Junoon 2017 celebrated with much enthusiasm on campus



“I choose not to place “DIS” in my abilities and put “IN” in my FINITES “

Junoon in its sixth edition a pre BOSM sporting extravaganza organized by NSS BITS Pilani for specially disabled children to get out of their comfort zone and showcase their talents. Junoon 2017 was inaugurated on 9 Sept by Chief Guest Anand kumar, a para shuttler who started playing at 19 and became world no 1 at the age of 31. This year marked the presence of several NGO’s working to empower people with mental and physical incapacities such as Deepalaya, Akshya Pratishtan, Disha etc.

There were dance

and recreational activities in which children laughed their heart out and we BITSians realized the true feeling of that innocent love and happiness. There were athletic events on 10 September, followed by Junoon nite later in the evening which embarked rejuvenating and gorgeous dance performances by these disabled children .This event was followed by a lot of nostalgia and inspiration among BITSians, via that pure and innocent smile they possess even after the struggles they have made to get over the overburdened souls of society who never allow them to get over their incapacities.

The campuses saw a 22 per cent growth in students taking up core engineering roles, from 286 last year to 349 this time.

BITS Open Sports Meet 2017 (BOSM)

Grits, Guts, Glory!
A guy with hairs all around his face, face sweating, white t-shirt marked with brown strands of sand, searching for something with deep gleaming eyes with hunger to win. Right there the ball is thrown towards him and yes it’s a run out, a spark of enthusiasm spreads into his eyes and again his white pants again cuddles with mud and lively with congratulatory tapping from captain he prepares for the next ball with people around him cheering and shouting his name.

Initiated with such rigorous sweating and practice sessions stretching from hot sun at 4 till chilling and relaxing winds at dawn, the true challenge and test BOSM began at 21 Sept 2017 with a participation of around 1300 participants all over India and a few international teams from Sri Lanka. Inauguration for the event embarking passion and courage was done by a live example of hard work and perseverance, Mr Devendra Jhajharia, an Indian javelin thrower and a two time Paralympic gold

medalist, who had defeated his disability and lack of access to proper resources by his dedication. There was a plethora of events with sports matches continuing up to 12 at night.

Sports are a rejuvenating experience and BOSM gives the exact opportunity to you to experience that vigor, passion and focus via a variety of informal matches going on in which you can participate.

Besides the sweat there were relaxation events such as GATKA live – which is traditional martial arts associated with Sikhism, a performance on freestyle football by Aarish Ansarion 22 Sept at Rotunda. This was followed by a Prof. show by Rahul Subramanian, an engineer turned comedian and Sumit Anand, an international standup comedian on 23 Sept.

The event concluded with valedictory ceremony on 25 Sept, setting up new records for some, making up someone rethink their strategy, for some just a new rejuvenating spirit to continue with their lives.

BITSAA 75 Startups'

On 8th April 2017, BITS Pilani alumni Mr. Hanuman Bengani and Mr. Satish Thatte were invited to aid students in the process of selection and mentorship across campuses, as part of the BITS 75 charitable trust. This Trust has been mentoring and funding startups of students for years since its inauguration. As part of their third venture, the "Request for Proposals (RPF) for entrepreneurial initiative" was launched. This session was aimed at interacting and briefing the students about the same. This session was held in BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, but was conducted across all campuses via telepresence.

Career Mentorship Program

On March 23rd, two esteemed alumni, Ghurair Sheikh and Chandra Bhole, joined us for an interactive session as part of the Career Mentorship Program. The topic for the session was entrepreneurship and overall career guidance. The two entrepreneurs laid out their experiences and formulated the three main principles on constructing and establishing a successful business. The latter part of this session was dedicated to personality development. They cultivated ideals of self-confidence by inviting all students to come forth and present a few lines on select topics. This was followed by exercises in an attempt to counter stage fright. The participants gained greatly from the interaction and gained a head start into approaching their fields of choice.

Having raised at least \$38 million from the likes of Tiger Global and Blume Ventures, GreyOrange, Venture by Samay Kohali and Akash Gupta - BITSians now sells its warehouse automation solutions (featuring Butler and Sorter) across the world.

Research Scholarship

One of our alumni Mr. Satish Sankaralingam initiated a research scholarship, in Goa Campus to promote independent scientific thinking among the community of BE students that is reflected through publication of research papers/posters in Journals/Conferences and an amount of Rs. 15,000/- was awarded to Hardik Hingorani, Shashwat Verma and Sukirt Thakur as recognition to their research work for the year 2017.

Project Management Workshop

On 29th April, Alumni Affairs Division, Dubai Campus invited Mr. Lalit Jain for a one day training program on 'Project Management using Microsoft Project Professional 2013'. This training session focused on the importance, use, and construction of an effective plan to aid in the management of projects while in college, and afterwards. To construct a plan, he encouraged us to use the Microsoft Project Professional 2013 software, which had multiple features needed to organize work, and incorporate any changes that might occur along the way. Once the training program was completed, the attendees were awarded with certificates on the successful completion of a professionally fruitful program.



Meet Lohit Sahu, a BITS alumnus, entrepreneur, educationist, artist who has designed a framework for flip classroom teaching in a cost-effective manner. He is founding director of Phyzok Learning Solutions, an organization working in a structured way to encourage entrepreneurship and analytical thinking skills in young learners. He has been awarded "Star entrepreneur of the year award". Recently he visited BITS Pilani on 27 Sept 2017 and we got a chance to meet and discuss his journey after BITS.

Here is an extract from the discussion -

- Tell us something about Phyzok, your company.

Phyzok was actually a college project that I started. It was started as a means for me to experiment and see what all can I do. It was as simple as that. I decided to start on education because I can relate to education. Also, education seemed a very simple sector to get into because everybody is always complaining about education. Every generation cribs their own education. It is a problem that's never been solved forever. There's not a single company that's come out

Now that you are changing it, how does it feel?

It feels very bad because it very difficult to change. Education is a way to make money. That's what the schools have been doing. Schools have this guarded place where once they got this student they don't them to experience anything else outside. They want everybody to go through the school and take the cut and they give so much of homework that the student can't do anything else. Also these institutions charge lot of money. So now that we are changing it, its very difficult but I think when it is changed I will be much happier. I hope that we will in 3-4 years.

- What do you feel about the coaching institutes?

Even coaching institutes make money out of the misery of the student. Unlike the schools they don't even tell you that it's not possible from the side of the student and they make the student take drops, because they



PHYZOK



FLIPPED

as a unicorn in the education sector. This is because the problem of education sector is a very complicated one. So we spent around eight years now figuring out how to solve education's problem. I figured out education is just engagement and comprehension. So, now after a lot of research, we have finally come to a product that really makes sense. We are doing something that somehow uses the asset sharing model to reduce the cost of education by one-third or one-fourth besides solving the problem of access to good education by use of technology.

- What is the current reach of Phyzok in the market?

We are non-funded company and we have around 10,000 students, paid customers in three months of marketing this year and that's only for the pilot phase. We wanted to see if it really works and it does. So, we are looking to grow by 20 times more next year.

- Everyone's always complaining about education.

make money out of it. See, education is the only sector where the responsibility lies with the student and its nonsense because a lot could happen without charging so much of money, like online, using technology.

- Apart from being a launch pad, how has BITS helped you?

I think the best help that BITS has given is by not interfering. If they had interfered, I don't know, maybe I would have gotten direction. A good thing is that since they did not interfere, it's more of this organic thing has been built up. What makes BITS is its students and the system, the legacy that they have built up over a period of time. The very fact that they don't have attendance is brilliant because then you have the option of not going to class and studying alone and do something else. There are very few colleges that have so much confidence in their students. All these things that have been created as legacy makes up BITS and that should not be killed.

BITSIAN DAY

The first Friday of August is celebrated every year as BITSian Day across the globe. Each year, on this day, a new found strength flurries within the student body when they realize how high they can fly with BITS Pilani as their launch pad. For alumni, it is the awakening of memories. A reminiscence of a beautiful past which shaped them to be the individuals' that they are today. For the newly graduated batch, it is the feeling of home, and of how their lives have

turned around just within a year. This year, BITSian Day was celebrated on 4th August with much enthusiasm across all four campuses, with students participating in various activities to commemorate the day. Moreover, BITSian Day saw the coming together of the BITSian community, in the form of several localized reunions to showcase the BITSian pride.

BITSYNC 2017



On Sept 8 and 9, 2017, the BITSAA Silicon Valley Community came together for BITSync 2017, the second pan American BITSian Conference at the Hayes Conference Center in San Jose, California. Over 450 attendees spanning 40 batches joined the event showcasing the true BITSian spirit. The conference was put together by the

tireless efforts of BITSAA SVC. There were more than 40 speakers at the event, comprising founders and CEOs of Silicon Valley startups and BITSians at the helms of affairs of multinational companies. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Souvik Bhattacharyya, was also a distinguished speaker at the event, who spoke mostly on various initiatives undertaken by the institute in the ongoing year.



BITS Pilani - Goa Campus organized BITS-Run (marathon) to celebrate the spirit of "Once a BITSian. Always a BITSian."

ACHIEVEMENTS

Four Students from BITS, Pilani, Pilani Campus Win Prestigious Avery Dennison Spirit of Invention Scholarship 2017

The Avery Dennison Foundation Spirit of Invention 'InvEnt' Scholarship Program has been designed to recognize and reward the 'spirit of invention' amongst entrepreneurial and high-achieving students in the fields of science, engineering and technology at selected higher education institutions in India. This year, 10 students have been selected from five institutes and colleges in India, out of which four students of BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus

have been selected for 2017 Spirit of Invention (InvEnt) Scholarship Awards.

The four students who won the prestigious scholarship are Nishad Sahu (B.E. EEE), Rituraj Mahendra Patil (B.E. Manufacturing), Siddhant Mehta (B.E. ENI) and Sombuddha Chakravarty (B.E. EEE). The scholars were awarded in a function organised in Gurgaon on 4th September, 2017 which was attended by both past and present student members.



**AVERY
DENNISON**

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BITS Pilani wins Microsoft Imagine Cup 2017

Bits Pilani was announced the India winners of Imagine Cup 2017, after the conclusion of the India edition of Microsoft Imagine Cup 2017. Imagine Cup continues to foster innovation among students in the country and enables them to transform their ambitions into reality. With the vision of a one-click AI-

based online parenting solution that helps to keep children secure from cyber-bullying, Content Holmes (BITS Pilani) emerged as the winner among 27 finalist teams from across the country. The team will now represent India at the upcoming worldwide finals in July in Seattle, USA, to compete among global teams for a \$100,000 prize.



Seven BITSians in the top 315 All India Ranks in UPSC 2016 results with Anmol Sher Singh Bedi of 2012-16 Batch securing second All India Rank.

Citi Women Leader Award 2016-17

Ms. Vidhi Jain was declared as the Winner of the 'Citi Women Leader Award 2016-17' on 7th March, 2017 at Citi Group's First International Financial Center in BKC, Mumbai. Citi India shall provide her scholarship to support one year of her study at BITS Pilani.

The competition was to assess and identify leadership potential among women across eighteen top campus winners in India, which included top B-schools and five technical universities - IIT M, IIT B, IIT D, IIT KGP apart from BITS Pilani.



BITS Pilani Student Team wins Silver Position in National KPIT Sparkle 2017

A student team from BITS Pilani, comprising of Mr. Vandit Gandotra (Project Lead), Mr. Piyush Sharda and Mr. Tanmay Sharma from the Dept. of Electrical & Electronics, bagged the Silver position in National KPIT

Sparkle 2017- Smart City Innovation Challenge. The team's proposal on Efficient Traffic Management was selected from among 1700 projects from all over India and awarded a cash prize of ₹2,50,000.

Mahindra Transport Excellence Award for Short Story

Five best stories from 4000 entries were selected for Mahindra Transport Excellence Awards. Roshni Chhabra, a student of BITS Pilani was one of the five shortlisted writers. The award ceremony was held on 3rd February 2017 at The Hotel Ashoka, New Delhi. Shri. Nitin Gadkari, Hon. Minister of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Have a Safe Journey (HASJ) short story contest is a unique literary initiative by joint collaboration of Mahindra and Mahindra, Natural Habitat Preservation (NHP) Centre and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways'

(MoRTH). HASJ is a countrywide story writing contest on Road Safety issues. HASJ stems out of the firm belief that literature can serve as an effective medium to connect and engage with people for promoting awareness, particularly among the youth.

At the ceremony, Book Cover was launched of a collection of stories shortlisted by the jury that will be published in the form of a book with the title 'Have a Safe Journey' by Amaryllis Publishers. Another book of Hindi translation of shortlisted stories will also be published by Manjul Publishers, the parent publishing house of Amaryllis. This will be the world's first collection of short stories on Road Safety issues.

It was the year 2010 when BITS-Pilani alumni Shivkumar Ganesan was just done jumping from Yahoo to Flipkart to joblessness to the core of being broke. It was then when he kicked off his first start-up - a C2C selling platform called Roopit. "The USP of Roopit was that I wanted it to be medium agnostic. Calls & SMS played a very important role in the entire process. I was bootstrapping and wanted an easy solution that would help me build a distributed call centre. But all I found was ways to do this with boxes and wires," recalls Ganesan.

Two BITS Pilani Students Nominated for Microsoft World Summit at Seattle, USA

Microsoft Corporation selected two students from BITS Pilani this year for their World Summit at Seattle, WA, held from 10-12 May along with World's biggest development conference 'Build'. Anshu Agrawal and Akshit Bordia, second year students at BITS Pilani pursuing civil and mechanical engineering respectively made it to the summit where they represented BITS Pilani and India.

They joined a group of 100

students globally, amidst a pool of 1 lakh applicants, who demonstrate both leadership and exceptional capability in STEM studies and work.

Microsoft Build is an annual conference event held by Microsoft, aimed towards software engineers and web developers using Windows, Windows Phone, Microsoft Azure and other Microsoft technologies.



CRSI Bronze Medal 2017

Prof Dalip Kumar, Department of Chemistry, has been selected for the CRSI Bronze Medal-2017 by the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) for

his contributions to research in Chemistry. CRSI was founded by Bharat Ratna Prof C. N. R. Rao and is the largest chemical society in India.

Best educationist Award for Biology research and teaching

Prof. Rajesh Mehrotra received the best educationist award in Biology category for research and teaching undergraduate and postgraduate

students, by IIEEM, International Business council and Indian Solidarity Council, on 10th April 2017 at New Delhi.

“Professor D. K. Banerjee Memorial Lecture Award” from IISc., Bangalore to Dr. Indresh Kumar

Dr. Indresh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, for receiving the “Professor D. K. Banerjee Memorial Lecture Award” of the Department of Organic Chemistry, IISc., Bangalore, for the year 2016. This award was instituted in the year 2000

through a grant from Prof. C. N. R. Rao, Hon. President, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, in memory of Professor D. K. Banerjee, former Professor and Chairman of the Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science.

Prof. Rahul Banerjee been elevated to the grade of Senior Member by IEEE

IEEE has intimated the institute that Prof. Rahul Banerjee has been elevated to the grade of senior member which require

experience and reflects professional accomplishment that only 9% of its 428,000 members have achieved thus far.

HYPERLOOP INDIA

The Hyperloop is a new way to move people or things anywhere in the world quickly, safely, efficiently, on-demand and with minimal impact to the environment. The system accelerates a passenger or cargo vehicle at airline speeds through a steel tube in near-vacuum using a linear electric motor.

Though it is a 19th century idea, it took the maverick of Elon Musk to bring Hyperloop to the forefront as a technology that can revolutionize urban transport. He presented the idea in 2013 and caught the imagination of engineers across the world. Critics and sceptics across the world dismiss Hyperloop but optimists believe that Hyperloop is the future of our transport. To accelerate the design and development of Hyperloop, Elon Musk's company, SpaceX, announced a worldwide technology competition for students in 2015. The expectation is to build the most efficient pods that will carry people and cargo on Hyperloop tracks. The challenge enticed five engineering students from BITS Pilani who enrolled themselves for the competition.

Founded in 2015 by Sibesh Kar, a student of BITS Pilani, Team Hyperloop India is a multi-stakeholder consortium of volunteers & organizations interested in reinventing transportation in India. Originating in August 2015 as BITS Hyperloop, the only fully-funded Indian team among the 120 teams selected from all over the world to present their designs at the 2016 SpaceX

Design Weekend, Hyperloop India has now expanded to constitute students and faculty from the top engineering and business schools of the country — namely BITS Pilani, Indian School of Business, IIM-Ahmedabad, NID, NSIT, RVCE — consulting with transportation, logistics, infrastructure and data experts from organizations like Hyperloop One, RITES & NITI Aayog. As a primarily student collaboration, our plan is to leverage our performance in global incentive prize competitions to create a nationalistic competitive impulse to bring high-speed transport systems like the Hyperloop to the country.

Hyperloop India team is glad to have the mentorship and backing of Hyperloop One, the U.S. based company working on commercializing the full-scale Hyperloop. We have signed up with Workbench Projects as our 'Co-Creation Partner' for associations with government bodies, corporate houses, and key individuals which will serve as a catalyst for this project. We have also associated with Ripple Group (a part of Peenya Industries Association) as our "Manufacturing Partner", to manufacture and machine all our mechanical designs and components for the pod.

From hundreds of teams that participated in the preliminaries of the competition, our team reached the finals with the top 24 teams competed in California in August, 2017.

At the conclusion of the competition, the Hyperloop India team thanked the Alumni of BITS Pilani for their gracious charity in funding the project.

“We would like to take this opportunity to inform all that the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition II has successfully come to an end. It is with immense pleasure that we would like to acknowledge all your support extended towards the manufacturing of the OrcaPod (India’s first safe, scalable and feasible Pod prototype) by Hyperloop India - first and only Indian team selected by SpaceX. Our stint at SpaceX and recent collaboration with Hyperloop One have helped Hyperloop India inch closer towards its goal of bringing high-speed transport systems like the Hyperloop to India. We owe our success to remarkable associations, partnerships and a successful crowdfunding campaign which could not have been a success without the keen support and help from our extensive alumni network.”

HYPERLOOP INDIA

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ALUMNI NEWS



Arvind Lakshmikumar's Tonbo Imaging raises Rs 120 crore in largest private venture investment in domestic defence

Bengaluru-based startup, Tonbo Imaging has raised Rs 120 crore in series-B funding led by WRV Capital, the largest private venture investment in the domestic defence technology space. The company was founded by BITS Pilani alumnus, Mr. Arvind Lakshmikumar in 2008 and currently has an annual revenue of more than Rs 100 crore. Qualcomm Ventures and Edelweiss Private Equity also participated in Tonbo's latest fund raise.

Tonbo Imaging, is India's only



indigenous manufacturer and exporter of thermal imaging-based devices. Currently, the company has numerous commercial and defence contracts in its pipeline. In 2012, the company raised series-A funding of Rs 34 crore from Silicon valley-based venture capital firm, Artiman Ventures, which did not participate in the latest investment.



Atul B. Lall led Dixon Technologies makes mega debut

In its recently concluded IPO, consumer electronics manufacturer, Dixon Technologies raised Rs 600-Crore, with over-subscription of 117.83 times. The IPO, which was open from 6-8 September, with a price band of Rs 1760-1766 per share. Moreover, the company led by BITSian, Mr. Atul B. Lall, saw its shares rising as much over 71 per cent to Rs 3024 against its issue price of Rs 1744 on Day 1.

Mr. Atul B. Lall, the managing director of the company, pursued Masters of Business Administration, from BITS Pilani, Pilani



campus. He passed out in 2000 and joined Noida-based Dixon Technologies shortly after. The company is the largest home-grown manufacturer of consumer electronic and lighting products in India, which manufactures products for Panasonic India, Philips Lighting, Gionee, Intex Technologies and Reliance Retail among others.

belong.co

BITSian listed in Forbes Asia 30 under 30 list

Sudheendra Chilappagari (24), BITSian and co-founder of a start-up firm Belong.co, has been named in the Forbes 2017 '30 Under Asia 30 List'. Forbes 30 Under Asia 30, which is a list issued annually by Forbes magazine, recognizes young achievers under 30. The 2017 Asia edition highlights 300 of the region's best young entrepreneurs, innovators and game changers across 10 different fields.

Sudheendra completed his B. Tech from BITS Pilani (Rajasthan) in 2014. Mr. Sudheendra started the Belong.co along with his senior Vijay Sharma, friends Saiteja Veera and Rishab Kaul providing employment to over 100 youth.



The recruitment start-up Belong, which helps companies hire people using technology, has already raised \$10 million in a funding round led by venture capital firm Sequoia Capital India to expand its client base and improve its products. The startup has more than 80 companies as clients that include Amazon, Flipkart, Cisco, United Health Group, Uber, Ola, Practo, Urban Ladder, Zivame, Thought Works, Reliance Jio and others.

Cardiotrack

listening to your heart

Ashim Roy's Cardiotrack partners with iMMi Life to provide next generation cardiac care

Cardiotrack, is collaborating with Chennai-based iMMi Life. The former's hand-held IoT device will now be deployed at iMMi's centres. The iMMi Life's client hospitals will record the ECG of their patients using Cardiotrack's ECG device. This ECG gets uploaded into iMMi Life's mobile-app based system and is sent to the network cardiologists, who report using easy-to-navigate screens on their phones. This opinion is promptly conveyed to the attending physician, and if opted, the general physician will be guided by a network cardiologist through telephone/chat.



Ashim Roy, CEO and co-founder, Cardiotrack, pursued B.E. Electrical and Electronics Engineering, from BITS Pilani, (1969-1974). He was in the telecommunications industry for 25 years before coming to India. As mentioned by him the collaboration between Cardiotrack and iMMi Life brings them a step closer to their objective of using technology to provide easy and fast access to healthcare.

GIVING BACK TO ALMA MATER

Renovation of Electrical Machine Lab

Shri Kishore Kumar Gupta, Managing Director of Northern Tools & Gauges Pvt. Ltd., at Faridabad is a proud alumnus of BITS Pilani. He did his B. E.(Hons) Electronics Engineering during 1965-70. He has donated Rs one crore in two tranche for renovation of Electrical Machines Lab at BITS Pilani- Pilani Campus for the benefit of students.

BITS 1988 Batch Revolving Department Fund

BITS 1988 Batch has instituted a '88 Batch Revolving Department Fund' with initial corpus of Rs 65 Lakh for student and/or faculty enrichment at the Pilani campus.

Establishment of BAFCE

The "BITS Alumni Fund for Children's Education, Pilani" (BAFCE) with a corpus of around Rs 70 lakh has been pooled up by primarily 1987 Batch of BITS Pilani by BITSAA for providing financial assistance for college education of children and wards of eligible employees of the BITS eco-system in Pilani.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The prestigious BITS Pilani Distinguished Alumnus Awards are in recognition of the recipients' outstanding professional contributions. The awardees are noted for their (a) dissemination or creation of knowledge, (b) enrichment of people's lives, (c) distribution or creation of wealth, or (d) promotion or establishment of high ethical standards in private or public life, as well as upon their integrity and stature, thereby making their alma mater proud. The award was instituted in 2011 and has been given each year ever since.

Any living BITS alumnus who has completed a degree programme from any of the campuses of BITS and has made significant and outstanding contribution to one or more of the following fields (or categories) would be considered for the award:

- Professional management of businesses
- Entrepreneurship
- Academic teaching and/or research
- Public life or social entrepreneurship and
- Philanthropy

At 29, Vinay Pratap Singh, BITSian is probably the youngest deputy commissioner to be posted in Gurgaon, where seasoned bureaucrats usually get posted.

This year the awardees have been selected by a panel consisting of:

- Mr. Uday Kotak, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank (as Chairman)
 - Prof P P Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur (Member)
 - Dr Vijay Chandru, Founder Chairman and MD, Strand Life Sciences (Member)
 - Mr. Debu Bhattacharya, Vice Chairman of Hindalco and Novelis, Chairman of the Business Review Council (Manufacturing) of Aditya Birla Group (Member)
 - Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani (Member)
 - Prof G Raghurama, Director, BITS Pilani, Goa Campus (Member)
 - Prof Arya Kumar, Dean, Alumni Relations, BITS, Pilani (Member)
- and approved by the Chancellor.

The awards were presented during the Convocation 2017.

BITS Pilani and Team Beyond Borders Ltd. (TBB) – Sydney Australia founded by Mr. Sanjay Singhai, BITSian has signed an MOU to strengthen the industry and academia relations and to provide additional learning opportunity to BITS students. TBB has agreed to provide licenses of a software product which it has developed to all BITS campuses.

Distinguished Alumnus Award 2017 was conferred to the following alumni for their significant and outstanding contributions:



Prof. Govindan Rangarajan
(Academic Teaching and Research)

Professor, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc)
Chairman, Division of Interdisciplinary Research, IISc
Director, Indo-French Centre for Applied Mathematics (IFCAM)



Prof. Narayana R. Aluru
(Academic Teaching and Research)

Co-Chair, Molecular and Electronic Nanostructures Research Initiative, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, UIUC
Kritzer Professor of Mechanical Science and Engineering, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Mr. Hari Menon
(Entrepreneurship)

Co-founder, CEO & Head of Merchandising, BigBasket



Mr. Harish Bhat
(Professional Management of Business)

Chairman, Tata Coffee Ltd. and Brand Custodian of Tata Sons. India



Mr. Raghu Rajagopal
(Public Life / Social Entrepreneurship)

CEO/Co-Founder, DATRI.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Alumni,

We, the ALUMNI RELATIONS CELL, are extremely honoured to have the opportunity to connect with you for the first time through "BITS ECHO", our own newsletter with the hope of helping you recapitulate the golden memories of the institute you have cherished in your heart as well as with the aim of updating you with the latest news of your Alma mater.

By now, you are abreast of the news of formation of Alumni Relations Cell and its vision of "Reconnect, Reunite, and Reconstruct".

This issue of BITS ECHO initiates a journey of engagement, we would share to further build on our potential. Through our newsletter, we would like bring to the attention of the entire BITSian community, the experiences of BITSians, their opinions, and most importantly their achievements apart from all the exciting stuff that happens here on campus. Moreover, we would like the newsletter to be an important mouth piece for the entire BITSian community, a means of communicating with everyone from the same family. In this context, BITS ECHO will attempt to represent the entire BITSian community as completely and accurately as possible. After all "Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten".

On a concluding note, I would like to thank all the student members, the Dean and all those who cooperated with us in making this edition of the newsletter a success.

Trust our journey together will be a meaningful and exciting one.

Warm Regards
Debshankar Ghosh

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- Shruti Sharma
- Sameer Agarwal

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Special Thanks to -

- Prof. Souvik Bhattacharyya (Vice Chancellor)
- Prof. Arya Kumar (Dean Alumni Relations)
- Prof. Hari Om Bansal (Faculty In-Charge Admissions)

Thank you for Collaborating -

- BITS Pilani - Goa Campus
- BITS Pilani - Hyderabad Campus
- BITS Pilani - Dubai Campus