

# BITScan

Semester Gleanings

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*Semester I*

*2009 - 2010*

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## TURN OF EVENTS

### Editorial

The first semester 2009-10 was a semester of great achievements and carried on the momentous journey from **Vision 2020 to Mission 2012**. During the semester, the dream of monumental significance started seeing the light of the day under the inspiring leadership of the steering committee. Bestowed with the seasoned guidance of Prof. L.K. Maheshwari and the able stewardship of Prof. G. Raghurama it moved further in its efforts towards translating the dreams of Mission 2012 into reality.



The semester started with a euphoric and warm welcome to the freshers who included 25 all India



board toppers. BITS had its moment of glory when Prof. L.K. Maheshwari received the **TECH@EDU award** from EFY for excellence in technology adoption in the education sector for the year 2009.

Among other highlights of the semester that just ticked by a major project worth Rs. 80 Lakhs was granted to Prof. S.B. Mishra on "Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of SMEs through Incubators" sponsored and supported by the Office of The Development Commissioner, Department of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Govt. of India, New Delhi. This **Business Incubation Project** is for one year at the first instance for promoting ten business

proposals towards commercialization. The project is of on-going nature and will continue for a long time subject to its successful implementation for which BITS Pilani has been selected as one of the nodal centres for promoting small and medium enterprise (SME) along with 48 reputed institutes/ universities of the country.

As the semester kept sailing, the institute was honoured for having provided **maximum number of voluntary blood donors** amongst educational institutions of the country during 2008-09 on 1 October 2009. The award was given by the Indian Red Cross Society at the headquarters in New Delhi.

As always, this semester also our students kept bringing laurels to the institute by winning prestigious prizes in various competitions. To name one in the list is Ms. Neha Gupta, a PhD student in the Physics Group at BITS Pilani who won the **Best Young Scientist Award** for Poster Presentation at the 8th National Conference on Solid State Ionics Materials for Novel Devices held at Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar, MP during 7-9 December 2009. The Award was presented by Prof Suresh Chandra, President of the Indian Solid State Ionics Society at H S G University, Sagar on 9 December 2009. Besides, a group of three students- Aayush Deora (2006C7PS804), Anirudh Mandhana (2006B3A8660), and Gaurav Shahlot (2006B5A7498), were awarded the **Youth Business Development 2009 Winner Award** for Social Start-up 'Ahvaan' during the YBD 2009 at Said Business School (Oxford University) on 13 September 2009. The prize money was £1000.

This semester also witnessed a perfect instance of flexibility for which BITS is known. Alam Ali Khan, a student who had to discontinue his studies due to some unavoidable circumstances, could complete his degree after thirty years.

## VISION 2020: MISSION 2012

During the first semester 2009-10, the Steering Committee made significant progress as it started achieving the goals of Mission 2012 which stemmed from Vision 2020. This Steering Team comprised six stalwarts from all the four campuses of the institute Prof. M. Ramachandran, Prof. K.E. Raman, Prof. V.S. Rao, Prof. G. Raghurama, Prof. R.K. Mittal and Mr. Kris Ramachandran. In order to achieve these goals sixteen task forces were formed to address a series of goals in the six thrust areas. Each task force has a leader and five other members, with representation from all campuses. These task forces started regular team meetings through audio conferencing. For smooth operation a project office was also set up at Pilani. The Steering Committee got regular inputs from task forces and



the project office. During the semester the committee has guided and monitored the progress about which the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor have been kept apprised.

In fact, everybody across the institute contributed enthusiastically and supported these task forces to achieve their objectives.

## ACADEMIA: A CONFLUENCE OF IDEAS

**Seminars / Conferences / Workshops / Training Programmes..**

### **Workshop on Short Filmmaking (14-20 August 2009)**

A seven-day lecture series cum workshop on "Short Filmmaking" was organized by the Languages Group from 14 to 20 August 2009. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Geetha. B., the instructor-in charge of the course BITS C395: Short Film and Video Production. The resource person for the workshop was the promising young filmmaker Mr. Abhaya Simha G. A., a post graduate diploma



holder from the world-renowned Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. The workshop included both the theoretical aspects of film making and hands-on experience. It covered topics ranging from 'Why Make Films', Story and Script writing for Films, fundamentals of Camera and Cinematography, and Basics of Sound to the final Post Production stage. The workshop culminated in the production of a short fiction film 'Azaadi'. As a part of the workshop, film viewing sessions were also organized. This workshop was a part of the recently introduced elective course on 'Short Film and Video Production'.

### **One Day Indo-German Workshop on Green Manufacturing (21 September 2009)**

The Mechanical Group of BITS, Pilani organized a Workshop on "Green Manufacturing" in association



with Technische Universität (TU) Braunschweig, Germany on 21 September, 2009. The event was graced by eminent personalities like Dr. Christoph Herrmann from Technische Universität (TU) Braunschweig, Germany, Mr. Shirish Garud from TERI, Delhi, Mr. Wolfgang and Mr. Deepak Gadhia from Gadhia Solar, Prof. R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director (Administration), Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director (Academic) and others. The welcome address to the guests was delivered by Dr. M. S. Soni, the Co-Convenor of the event. Prof. Ravi Prakash, Dean Research and Consultancy Division and also the Convenor of the workshop started the proceedings by recalling the strong bond that India shares with Germany. He also introduced the theme of the workshop "Green Manufacturing" and told how it has been a priority for India and Indian entrepreneurs' urge to work with green technology. The guest of honour, Dr. Christoph Herrmann from TU Braunschweig talked about sustainable green manufacturing and stressed on how small companies could benefit from green technology. The chief guest of the event, Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, BITS, Pilani stressed on the impact of green technology in our day to day life. He further explained the Euro I and Euro II emission standards and the carbon credit system and how they have been helping the green movement. He also dealt in brief with topics such as sustainability in production, solar concentrators, green energy and impact of joining techniques on production ecology, service engineering and life cycle costing. On this occasion Dr. K.S. Sangwan, the Co-Convenor of the workshop proposed the formal vote of thanks.

### **A three-day International Conference on Advances in Concrete, Structural and Geotechnical Engineering (25-27 October 2009)**

A three-day international conference on Advances in Concrete, Structural and Geotechnical Engineering was held in BITS, Pilani by the Civil Engineering





Group. The Convener of the Conference, Prof. Samsher Bahadur Singh (Group Leader, Civil Engineering, BITS) welcomed the guests and highlighted the theme of the conference. He further remarked that the recent advances in concrete science, structural and geotechnical materials, computational and experimental techniques, gradual diffusion of many interdisciplinary areas with structural mechanics as well as geotechnical engineering have nearly revolutionized. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the researchers and the participating engineers working in the broad field of concrete technology, structural and geotechnical engineering, to keep abreast of the latest trends and developments in these fields with the aim of updating their analytical and practical skills. On this occasion, Prof. G. Raghurama, the chief guest suggested the gathering to take inspiration from the ancient sculptures of India and mingle the theories that are working behind the grand monuments, to the latest trends and advancements so that India may become the pioneer in the field of civil engineering. Prof. R.K. Dhir, President, U.K. Concrete Society and Emeritus Professor of University of Dundee, U.K., was the Guest of Honor for the occasion. He thanked BITS for organizing such an event and said that the conference is a three in one conference, carrying out the three major themes and breaking down the barriers of interdisciplinary approach. It is noteworthy that this three-day event witnessed technical sessions, poster presentations and panel discussions, on various areas like advanced composite materials, concrete technologies, low cost housing, offshore structures, bridge structures, ground improvement techniques, soft soil stabilization, geoenvironmental engineering etc. In the valedictory function, Prof. R.K.Mittal, (Deputy Director Administration, BITS Pilani) the chief guest congratulated and thanked everyone in adding their meticulous efforts to make the event a grand success. Various organizations

like UGC, CSIR, DRDO, HEICO India, Café Innova, Hyderabad etc, funded this conference. The active participation of 200 delegates from India as well as abroad, made this event a milestone in the field of concrete, structural and geotechnical engineering.

### National Conference on Virtual and Intelligent Instrumentation (13-14 November 2009)

The National Conference on Virtual and Intelligent Instrumentation was inaugurated on 13 November 2009 at the Pilani Campus of BITS Pilani. The participants were given a warm welcome by the organizing Committee. The dignitaries at the



Inauguration ceremony included Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, the Vice-Chancellor of BITS, Pilani, Avinash Chander, Distinguished scientist, Chief developer of Agni missile; Jayaram Pillai, MD of National Instruments for India, Russia and Saudi Arabia; V.K. Madan, Technical chair head and Faculty of EEE group and Prof. V.K. Chaubey, Group Leader of EEE, ENI groups of BITS, Pilani. Dr. V.K. Chaubey welcomed the audience by quoting Lord Kelvin "When you can measure what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, you know something about it".

Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice-Chancellor after being conferred the title "Father of Instrumentation" in BITS-Pilani, gave a brief description about the history of Pilani. Mr. Avinash Chander, the chief guest, delivered an inspiring speech. Mr. Jayaram Pillai delivered the keynote address and other distinguished speakers like Prof S.C. Dutta Roy, IIT Delhi, Dr. Ganesh Devaraj, MD & CEO, Soliton Technologies, Mr. Baskar Ceri, MD & CEO, Apna Technologies delivered the plenary talks. The conference proved to be a veritable feast for all instrumentation enthusiasts on campus and was highly praised by the participants.



## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

**Hindustan Zinc Limited (13 August - 5 September 2009)**

The 12th batch of the Academic Development Program in Basic process engineering for HZL, Udaipur, was started on 13 August 2009. Our Vice Chancellor Prof L.K. Maheshwari inaugurated the



program and called upon the participants to make best use of the opportunities provided at the Institute. Besides senior faculty members and students, Prof. B.R. Natarajan, Dean, Work Integrated Learning Programs and Prof. S.C. Sivasubramanian, Professor of Chemistry, were present on the occasion. This is the fifth batch for the year 2009, in which participants were given training not only in basic engineering skills but also in communication and soft skills.

### UGC Sponsored Training Programmes

UGC sponsored Centre for Women Studies conducted various training programmes during the last semester. Training Program on "Entrepreneurship Development - Day Care Centre" for women, was conducted from 2-3 December 2009. Training of female and male members of Panchayati Raj Institutions at Panchayats of Pilani took place from 9-28 October 2009. A three and a half months teaching and training in Computer Literacy for the



rural based girls and women was offered in both the semesters during 2009. Along with computer literacy, training was also imparted on cataloguing of books and journals. 'Awareness & Training Program on Effective Use of Domestic Electrical Appliances for on-campus Women' was also conducted by UGC Centre for Women Studies in collaboration with Instrumentation Unit of the Institute on 20 September 2009.

## International Visits by Faculty: Enriching the Learning Experience

**Prof. Nirupama Prakash** was invited as a Keynote Speaker for the session on "Threats to Women's Bodily Integrity" at the **Asia Pacific Women's Conference on Women, Peace and Security: Visions For A New World** held during 8-10 September 2009 : Philippine Normal University (PNU), Manila, Philippines. She was also invited as a resource person to participate at Forums on Women Speak Out for Peace in Mindanao, Philippines at the University of Southern Mindanao and Southern Christian College, Midsayap, Cotabato. Her visit was sponsored by AusAID.

**Dr. A.K. Das** visited Washington DC, USA for delivering an invited talk on "Molecular Analyses of Plasmodium vivax Parasites Involved in Severe Manifestations" at the **58th Annual Meeting of American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene** held on 18-22 November 2009 at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC on 21 November 2009.

**Dr. Poonam Goyal, Dr. Navneet Goyal, Ashish Gupta** and **T.S. Rahu** presented a paper on "Designing Self-Adaptive Websites using Online Hotlink Assignment Algorithm" at the **4th International Symposium on Intelligent Systems Techniques for Ad hoc and Wireless Sensor Networks (IST-AWSN'09)** during 14 -16 December 2009 in Kaula Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Praveen Ranjan Srivastava, Km. Baby** and **Prof. G. Raghurama**, presented the paper titled "An approach of optimal path generation using Ant Colony Optimization" at **IEEE TENCON 2009**, Singapore, during 23-26 November 2009.

**Hardik Kabaria** presented the paper titled "Optimization in Hot Rolling Process A Finite Difference Time Domain (FDTD) Approach" at **The International Manufacturing Conference (IMC26)**, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, during 2-4 September 2009.



## Invited Talks delivered / workshops conducted by faculty members

**Professor L.K. Maheshwari**, Vice-Chancellor delivered a keynote address at the inaugural function of the **3rd International Seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility** on 6 October 2009 at DoshBhagat Group of Institutes in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab.

**Dr. B.V. Babu** delivered an invited talk at the Workshop on Process Modeling and Simulation, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, 6-7 November 2009; and a Keynote address on "*Biomass gasification: A conversion technology for production of gaseous fuels*", IIP Golden Jubilee Symposium on "*Fossil Economy to Biomass Economy - Opportunities and Challenges*", IIP-Dehradun, 19-21 August 2009.

**Dr. Nirupama Prakash** was invited as a Guest Speaker to deliver lectures on "*Women Administrators in Higher Education: Networking and Team Building*" during the one week Training Programme for Female Faculty from Universities & Colleges in Rajasthan, Organized by the Centre for Women Studies & Academic Staff College, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, 27 November 2009.

**Dr. S.K. Verma** delivered an invited talk on "*New Generation Biofuel*" at Centre for conservation and utilization of Blue-green algae (CCUBGA), Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi, India on 28 August 2009.

**Prof. Arya Kumar** delivered an invited talk on "*Financial issues and funding Alternatives for a Venture SKIT*" in Jaipur on 21st September 2009; on "*Design and Implementation of Phase 2 NEN Activities*" in Bangalore on 2 - 3 October 2009. He also conducted Orientation Workshop on Entrepreneurship for Faculty Members in Jaipur on 29 August 2009.

**Dr. P. Srinivasan** delivered an invited talk at NTPC, Ramagundam on invitation from the training department on the topic of *Metallurgy of power plant components*. This was held for four days from 16-19 September 2009 in two batches. He also delivered an invited lecture on *Fatigue, Fracture and Mechanics of Materials* to the working professionals from various industries in the two-day workshop organised by IBC (International Business Conference), Mumbai during 9-14 October 2009.

**Dr. Monica Sharma** delivered an invited lecture on *Operations Management for Hospitals and Health*

*Systems* at Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur on 11 October 2009.

**Dr. Rajesh Mehrotra** delivered an invited lecture on the topic *From green revolution to gene technology* at Bikaner Engineering College under the faculty development programme on *Technological waste: A potential threat to survival* during 16 - 28 November 2009 sponsored by AICTE and Ministry of Human Resource development, Govt of India.

**Dr. Ashis Das** delivered a talk on *Molecular Analyses of Plasmodium vivax Parasites Involved in Severe Manifestations* at the Indo-US Conference on *Epigenetic Regulation and Genome Control* (emphasis on RNAi and miRNA) held on 16 -18 December 2009 at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad, India. The same talk was delivered at the 58th Annual Meeting of American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene held at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC on 21 November 2009.

**Dr. Jitendra Panwar** delivered an invited talk on *Microbial mobilization of phosphorus for plant nutrition* at Engineering College, Bikaner on 27 November 2009 under the faculty development programme on *Technological waste: A potential threat to survival* during 16 - 28 November 2009 sponsored by AICTE and Ministry of Human Resource development, Govt of India.

**Dr. N.N. Sharma** delivered an invited talk on *Proposal on Experimental investigation of micro and nano channel flow*, at Indian Nanoelectronics User Program (INUP) Hands-on workshop on nanofabrication Technology organized by IISc, Bangalore on 14 December 2009.

**Prof. C.B. Gupta** delivered invited talks on *Linear Programming and its Applications, Applications of Operations Research, Why Study Mathematics, Importance of mathematics in New Era, Use of Mathematics, Basic statistical Tools in Management, Permutation and Combination, Operations Research an Overview, How to Become Good Teacher, Applications of Simulation in Queuing Theory* at various institutes namely Singhania University, Pachari Bari, BKBIET, Pilani, MM(PG) College, Fatehabad, JVMGRR(PG) College Charkhi Dadri, JJT University Churela, KAIM, Charkhi Dadri, JVMGRR Institute of Computer Application, Charkhi Dadri, SGRR(PG) College, Dehradun, LCRT College of Education, Panipat during the semester.

**Dr. Sangeeta Sharma** conducted a two-day workshop on Behavioral and business communication lab at NADP in Management Development Programme for AWM Officers on 6-7 August 09. She also conducted a three-day workshop on



*Business Communication and negotiation at Ordinance Factory Board, Kolkata from 31 August - 2 September 2009 and conducted one day workshop on Business Communication for Ordinance Factory JAG Level Officers at Uttaranchal Academy of Administration, Nainital from 16-22 November, 2009.*

**Mr. Ashish M. Gujarati** chaired a session on *Evolutionary and Computational Systems-1* of the 4th Indian International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IICAI-09), SIT, Tumkur, India, during 16-18 December, 2009.

## DISTINGUISHED LECTURES AT BITS PILANI

S.No.	Speaker	Designation	Topic	Date
1.	Mr. Ruppal W. Sharma	Associate Professor in marketing at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi	Building Brand Equity through IMC	7 September 2009
2.	Prof. R.K. Sinha	Former Head, Department of Extra Mural Studies & Distance Learning, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai	Female Age at Marriage in India with Special Focus on Rajasthan	8 October 2009
3.	Dr. Jacob Puliyeel	HOD, Pediatrics, St. Stephens Hospital, New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employing Health Economics for Public for Public Health Policy Decisions</li> <li>• Early Childhood Diseases and Community Health Measures</li> </ul>	10 October 2009
4.	Dr. K. Kamal	Advisor and Head, IT-eG, Ministry of Science and Technology, DSIR, Govt. of India.	Funding Opportunities for Universities/Institutes for Research Projects.	26 October 2009
5.	Prof. Henry Koffman	Director, Graduate and Undergraduate Programs, University of Southern California (USC)	Cranes (Part from the Most successful series of History Channel "Modern Marvels")	16 November 2009
6.	Prof. John Davies	Co-Director, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland at College Park, U.S.A	Second Track Diplomacy	16-21 September 2009
7.	Dr. B.P. Agrawal	Executive Director, Sustainable solutions	The art and science of identifying research problems and writing research proposals for research grants	16 November 2009
8.	Prof. Ravi V. Gomatam	Director of Bhaktivedanta Institute at Berkeley/Mumbai	Bhagwat Gita and Modern Science Some Novel Connections  Objective Semantic Information Next wave in science and technology?	16 November 2009  17 November 2009
9.	Prof R. Rajagopal	Environmentalist and Academic	Global environmental crisis	17 November 2009



## SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

Principal Investigator and Name of the Group	Title of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount and Duration
<b>Principal Investigator:</b> Prof. S.B. Misra  <b>Secretary of the Project:</b> Dr. M.K. Rohil	Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of SMEs through Incubators"	Department of MSME, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, New Delhi	Rs.80 Lakhs 1 year
<b>Prof. A.K. Das</b> Biological Sciences	Developing sensitive, inexpensive and hand-held diagnostic point of care (POC) instrumentation to detect Malaria and other pathogens	SBIRI grant, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India	2 Lakhs 1 - 2 years
<b>Principal Investigator:</b> Prof. S.K. Verma Biological Sciences  <b>Co-investigator:</b> Prof. A.K. Das Biological Sciences	Characterization and pharmaceutical evaluation of bioactive compounds (cyanotoxins) from the cyanobacteria isolates from Shekhawati region of Rajasthan	UGC	Rs. 6.26 Lakhs 3 years
<b>Principal Investigator:</b> Prof. S.K. Verma Biological Sciences  <b>Co-investigator:</b> Prof. Rajiv Gupta Civil Engg. Group	Bio-diesel production from microalgae	CSIR	Rs. 19.69 Lakhs 3 years

**Faculty Members from various disciplines have been appointed as members of national and international committees / acted as reviewers for books/papers published in journals of national and international repute**

Prof. B.V. Babu is an Editorial Board Member of the following International Journals: *Energy Education Science and Technology*, *Research Journal of Chemistry and Environment*, *International Journal of Computer, Mathematical Sciences and Applications*, *Journal on Future Engineering and Technology*, *International Journal of Applied Evolutionary Computation*. He has also been the Member of following International/ National Committees: Expert Member, Peer Team, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore; Member, Board of Studies (BOS), Vanasthali University, Vanasthali; Expert Member, Curriculum Development, MNIT Jaipur; Member, Peer Review Committee, The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Canada;

Member, Peer Review Committee, National Research Foundation (NRF), International Research Grants, South Africa; Expert Member, Research group evaluation and selection, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Prof. Babu has reviewed 22 articles for 21 of the following International Journals: *American Institute of Chemical Engineering Journal (AIChEJ)*, *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research (ACS)*, *Chemical Engineering Journal (Elsevier)*, *Chemical Engineering Communications (Taylor & Francis)*, *Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis (Elsevier)*, *IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation (IEEE)*, *Journal of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology (Wiley)*, *Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly (CSCE)*, *Journal of Information Science and Engineering (CEPS)*, *Applied Soft Computing (Elsevier)*, *Information Sciences (Elsevier)*, *International Journal of Applied Evolutionary Computation (IGI-Global)*, *Fuel Processing Technology (Elsevier)*, *Annals of Operations Research (Springer)*, *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy (Elsevier)*,



*Environmental Technology (Taylor & Francis), Journal of Future Engineering & Technology (i-Manager), Applied Energy (Elsevier), Desalination and Water Treatment (Desalination), Asia-Pacific Journal of Chemical Engineering (Wiley), Environmental Engineering Science (Mary Ann Liebert Inc).* He has also been International Technical Program Committee Member for 15 International Conferences. Prof. Babu has acted as PhD Examiner for 3 candidates and 4 research scholars completed their doctoral research under his supervision during I Semester 2009-10.

**Prof. Nirupama Prakash** was appointed a Member, Abstract Review Committee, for *Asia Pacific Women's Conference, Women, Peace and Security: Visions for a New World*, 8-10 September 2009: Philippine Normal University (PNU) Manila, Philippines.

**Prof. S.K. Verma** reviewed papers for the *International Journal of Integrative Biology (IJIB) and Silicon Journal*. He was also appointed a member of the Editorial Board for *ICFAI International Journal of Science and Technology*.

**Prof. Arya Kumar** reviewed eight Research Papers for *Business Perspective*, a Journal brought out by BIMTECH, Greater Noida.

**Prof. N.N. Sharma** reviewed two articles for *ICFAI Journal*.

**Prof. S.B. Singh** was appointed an Editor of *IJEE (International Journal of Earth Sciences and Engineering)*, the Vice-Chairman of CAFET Innova Technical Society CITS India Council, 2009, an Editorial board member of Korean Society of Civil Engineers, a Reviewer of the Indian Concrete Journal. He also reviewed papers for The Indian Concrete Journal, International Journal of Engineering, KSCE Journal of Civil Engineering. He also reviewed books titled *Limit State Design of Steel Structures and Finite Element Analysis* for Tata McGraw Hill Publishers, India.

**Dr. A.K. Das** reviewed research papers for the Journal *Acta Tropica and Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (AAC)*.

**Dr Rajesh Mehrotra** reviewed an article for *Journal of Molecular catalysis B Enzymatic* (Elsevier).

**Dr. Sangeeta Sharma** reviewed *AIMS International Journal of Management* Volume 23, Number 3, September 2009.

**Dr. M.S. Soni** reviewed one research paper for *The International Journal of Energy* by Elsevier.

**Mr. Ram Shukla** was appointed Member of Advisory Board - *Journal on Medicine and*

*Engineering*, Jahanvi Publication Pvt Ltd., Jaipur, Rajasthan.

## Professor V. Lakshminarayanan Memorial Lecture

Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member of Planning Commission and Former ISRO Chief, delivered the Third Prof. VLN memorial lecture on 11 September 2009 at BITS, Pilani. Prof. V. Lakshminarayanan was instrumental in the amalgamation of the erstwhile Birla College of Arts, Science and Engineering in 1964 to create BITS. He was the First Director of BITS, Pilani. He retired from professional life in 1970. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, BITS, Pilani welcomed the gathering and described



Prof. VLN as the champion with a mission who took the vision of the doyen of Indian Industry Late Shri GD Birla in establishing an Institute of International standard. The Chief Guest, Dr. Balasubramanian, Director, LV Prasad Eye Institute introduced the speaker of the Day, Dr. K. Kasturirangan and described him as a person of many facets scientist, educationist, pioneer and an administrator. Many eminent personalities like Dr. Chidambaram, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. T. Ramaswamy have delivered Prof. VLN Memorial lectures in the previous years.

In his lecture Dr. K. Kasturirangan praised the unique system of education at BITS, Pilani and paid rich tribute to Prof. VLN. He told the gathering that as a student he drew inspiration from people like Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan. Recalling his days at the NRL and ISRO he told the gathering that India has moved from a time to when they had to manually build electronic circuitry to the 21st century where India is an emerging space power in terms of technology and commerce. He took the audience to Indian journey of space through Aryabhata and Bhaskar to INSAT and moon mission.



He shared his experiences of failures and success of dreams and reality to inspire the large volume of young students present at the lecture theatre complex of BITS Pilani. Inspiring the young minds, he said "The heritage of successful ISRO mission will motivate you enough to convert the small BITS Pilani island of excellence to continental proportions in order to take India into the league of 21st century Nation".

On this occasion Prof. L.K. Maheshwari presented a memento to Dr. Kasturirangan and Dr. Surekha Bhanot proposed the vote of thanks.

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Engineers Day

Based on the theme of "Engineering Solutions to Combat Climate Change", the 42nd Engineers Day was celebrated at BITS, Pilani on 15 September 2009. The event is commemorated in the memory of Bharat Ratna Sir Vishveshwaraiya. The function began by paying floral tribute to Sir Vishveshwaraiya. Prof. Ravi Prakash, Dean Research and Consultancy division highlighted the theme and gave an insight into the life and works of Sir Vishveshwaraiya. It was followed by an engaging talk by Mr. Kris Ramachandran, the chief guest for this occasion. In his speech, he said that every problem requires a multidimensional approach to be solved and it is not always engineering which can solve it. He reiterated that every problem is unique and can be solved by a shoelace and a ceiling wax but for that one needs to understand its uniqueness and that is the crux of engineering. Mr. Ramachandran's talk was followed by paper presentations given by two faculty members and eight students. Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director, Academic, Prof R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director, Administration, Mr. Paras Kaushik, an Executive invited from Aditya Birla Group and many other people graced the occasion with their presence.

## IBM Day

IBM Technology Day was organized on 18 September 2009 where experts from IBM and IBM Research Labs presented state-of-art technology talks. The day started with a welcome speech by Prof. Navneet Goyal followed by an overview of IBM University relations. Mr. Manish Gupta of IBM delivered the keynote address on 'Preparing the Ecosystem for a Smarter Planet'. It was followed by Mr. Kinjal B. Shah's talk on 'Software modeling and tools'. This was followed by a session on 'Cloud Computing' by Manish Gupta. The day concluded with the question and answer session. The event was coordinated by Ravish Kumar, IBM and Dr. S.

Mohan, Group Leader, Computer Science & Information Systems Group, BITS, Pilani.

## National Education Day

Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, Rajasthan celebrated this year's National Education Day on 11 November with a Panel Discussion on **Reforms In Secondary Education: Students' Perspectives**. Students from Birla Public School, Birla Senior Secondary School, Birla Balika Vidyapeeth and BITS, Pilani participated in the



discussion as panelists. Apart from faculty members, students and senior officers of the Institute, a large number of students and teachers from these three schools participated in the function. The panel discussion generated a very serious discussion among the panelists as well as the audience. The function which was compeered by Dr. Champak Baran Das ended with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Sanjiv Kumar Choudhary.

## National Education Day

The eleven-day Sharad Book Festival was inaugurated at Akshay Supermarket of BITS Pilani on Tuesday 6 October by Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director, (Academic). The Book Festival displayed over 4000 books including Academic, Fiction, Biography, History, Management,





Personality Development, General Reference, Children's books and Hindi language books. A good number of subject books in Science, Engineering and Management were also on display. Akshay offered special discount of 20% to buyers at the Book Festival. Present on the occasion were Prof S.K. Verma, Secretary, BITSCOOP, Dr. M. Ishwara Bhat, Librarian, Mr. D.P. Sharma, Assistant Librarian, Prof. S.B. Mishra, Dr. Omvir Chowdhary, Dr. Geetha B. and other book lovers. This time, there were a good number of paperbacks of famous authors such as Dan Brown, Amartya Sen, Paulo Coelho, Agatha Christie, P G Wodehouse, Gurucharan Das and Amitav Ghosh.

## Joining Hands

### MoUs

Sustaining the collaborative efforts, BITS signed the following MoUs with institutions in India and abroad:

- With Sri Chandrashekharendra Saraswathi Visva Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram, on 28 July 2009, to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, academic and research interactions.
- With Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, on 31 July November 2009, to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, academic and research interactions.
- With BHEL, Bhopal, on 17 August 2009, to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, academic and research interactions and implementation of PS Program at BHEL.
- With SAIL Management Training Institute, Ranchi, on 5 November 2009, to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, academic and research interactions and implementation of PS program at SAIL.
- With ENSIL, Limoges, on 9 November 2009, to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, academic and research interactions.
- With Lupin Limited, Mumbai, on 18 November 2009, to promote exchange of human resources, staff and students, academic and research interactions and implementation of PS Program at Lupin Limited.

## Accolades and Achievements

### Award for Academic Excellence

- Our institute was bestowed upon the **TECH@EDU** award by EFY for excellence in technology adoption in the education sector for the year 2009.
- **BITS Pilani** was awarded for having provided maximum number of **voluntary blood donors** amongst educational institutions of the country during 2008-09 on 1 October 2009. The award was given by the Indian **Red Cross Society** at the headquarters in New Delhi. The award was



received by Prof. Vimal Bhanot, Co-ordinator, NSS BITS and Prof. N.V.M Rao, Dean, SWD, BITS, Pilani. The award was presented by Dr. Salim J. Habayeb, Indian Representative at WHO.

- **Prof Arya Kumar** and **Prof Anil Bhat** successfully completed "**10,000 Women Program: Tools for Growing your Business**" organised by Goldman Sachs in partnership with London Business School and National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), from 31 October - 3 November 2009 in Bangalore.

## Student Round-up

### BITS Pilani Humanoid drew crowds in German expo (5-13 September 2009)

Humanoid AcYut 3, developed by BITS Pilani mimicked every action performed by its human controller who wore a tele-operated body suit and it was the star attraction in the 9 day IDEEN Expo held at Hanover, Germany on 5-13 September. AcYut danced, fought Kunh-Fu, played soccer,





and performed acrobatics exactly imitating its controller. AcYut was a clear favourite at the EXPO as people from all ages and academic background tried out the body suit and watched in amazement as AcYut imitated all their actions intuitively. The Humanoid was developed by the students of BITS Pilani under the guidance of Prof. R.K. Mittal.

In the Hanover Expo held on 5-13 September, AcYut was the only Humanoid displayed and its team consisted of Sushma Vallabhaneni, Akash Gupta and Mohamad Ariz chosen by the organizers of the Expo. Over 2, 80,000 visitors visited the event and the AcYut Humanoid was on the highlight list for all the 9 days for which the Expo lasted.

AcYut was covered very well in various German newspapers and the Live Show on AcYut was also telecasted on German National Television IDEEN Expo TV.

### Other major achievements by BITS students

**Mr. Mayank Mathur** (2006A8PS239P), was awarded the **Mantra Awards**, Trailblazer of the Year 2008-09 at BITS Pilani on 8 August 2009 for exhibiting exceptional leadership as Coordinator, Instrumentation Forum for the year 2008-09.

**Mr. Vineet Pandey** (2006A7PS054P), was awarded for selection of Research Paper for Symposium on Secure Computing 2009 conducted in IEEE International Conference on Privacy, Security, Risk and Trust at Vancouver, Canada during 29-31 August 2009.

**Aayush Deora** (2006C7PS804), **Anirudh Mandhana** (2006B3A8660), and **Gaurav Shahlot** (2006B5A7498), were awarded the **Youth Business Development 2009 Winner Award** for Social Start-up 'Ahvaan' during the YBD 2009 at Said Business School (Oxford University) on 13 September 2009. The prize money was £1000.

**Sachin Jain** (2007A3PS215), **Aman Gupta** (2008A7PS046) and **Rohit Bhatt** (2008A7PS050)

bagged the second prize at **Business Plan Competition** at Techniti-09, annual techno-management fest of NIT Jalanshar held on 19 September 2009.

**Mr. Akshay Sahu** (2008B4A4261P), received a cash prize of Rs 15000 as Winner of **Bizkreig Business Plan Competition** held during AXIS 09, annual techno-management fest of Vishweswaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, Maharashtra on 25 October 2009.

**M. Depika** has been selected to attend the **Global Changemakers' Global youth summit** in London and to join the Global Changemakers' network. It is a programme run by the British Council. 60 young people who are actively involved in social work from various countries will be attending this fully funded youth summit. They were selected through an application process consisting of a video and various questions about the applicant's social activism.

**Mr. Sai Praneeth G.A.V.** (2005A3PS076) who presented a paper titled *A Self Biased Operational Amplifier at Ultra Low Power Supply Voltage* has been selected at ICECS 2009 (International Conference on Electronic Circuits and Systems, held in Tunisia during 13 - 16 December 2009).

**Sameer Lodha** (2007A8PS22) started up a proprietorship firm, **M/S Dream Juices**. The plan is to start the juice revolution in India by branding freshly prepared fruit juices with ayurvedic health boosters and natural herbs for common man. His company's mentors include Jimmy Wales, Co-founder, Wikipedia, Prof. Patrick turner-entrepreneurship faculty at Insead School of Business, Singapore.

**Kommulka Sai Krishnam** (2006A8PS047P) for completing DELHI Half Marathon [21.097kms] in less than 3 hrs, **DELHI Half Marathon**, New Delhi, 1 November 2009.

**Sonal Keshawrao Thengane** (2009H101016P) received the **Academic Excellence Award** at National Conference on Gravitation Theories and





Astronomy (CGTA 2009) in Bhadrawati (Maharashtra) on 28 December 2009.

Ms. Neha Gupta, a PhD student in the Physics Group at BITS Pilani won the **Best Young Scientist Award** for Poster Presentation at the 8th National Conference on Solid State Ionics Materials for Novel Devices held at Dr Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar, MP on 7-9 December 2009. The Award was presented by Prof Suresh Chandra, President of the Indian Solid State Ionics Society at H S G University, Sagar on 9 December 2009.

Mandava Harsha Vardhan (2006A7TS156), a fourth year student at BITS Pilani attended the Business Today International Conference at the Grand Hyatt in New York City, USA from 20 - 24 November, 2009. It is a prestigious annual conference hosted by the Business Today group of the Princeton University. Harsh Vardhan was one of the only 150 students selected from all over the world to participate in this all expenses paid conference. The aim of Business Today is to create a forum for communication among university undergraduate students and top business leaders from around the world. This year the conference entitled "Weathering the storm: opportunities and challenges of a global slowdown" focused on the global financial crisis.

## Renewing The Bond

### BITS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (BITSAA)

BITSAA organized the farewell get-together for graduating students on 24 November, 2009, which was attended by all graduating students and faculty members. Prof. L K Maheshwari, Patron BITSAA and the Vice-Chancellor, BITS and Prof. R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director (Administration) and President,



BITSAA addressed the gathering of graduating students. Several senior officers of the Institute also addressed the gathering with their inspiring words and nostalgic quotes. The graduating students also



shared their memories with the gathering. Three batches of BITS alumni organized their reunions at the campus. 94 BITSians of the 1979-'84 batch made a visit to the Institute during 2-4 October 2009 along with their families. They included BITSians from India and from 16 foreign countries. The alumni members presented a Career Guidance session on 3 October. 69 Alumni of the 1970-'75 Batch visited the Institute on 24-27 October 2009 along with their family. On 26th October, Alumni held a symposium at the Institute on the subject, "Synergies between BITS Vision and BITS-75 Charitable Trust Activity". Reunion of 1966-'71 batch was held during 19-21 November 2009. 53 Alumni with their families from across the globe visited the Campus. A networking event was organized by BITS Alumni Association's



Delhi Chapter at India Habitat Centre. Over a hundred Alumni members attended the event. Hon. Minister of State for Science and Technology, Sri Prithviraj Chauhan (BITS Alumni) was the Chief Guest. Vice Chancellor Prof. L.K. Maheshwari was present on the occasion. Other alumni members who spoke on the occasion included Mr. S.K. Roongta, Chairman and Managing Director, Steel Authority of India Ltd., Mr. N.C. Mathur from Jindal Steel, Mr. Vinod Puri and Mr. C.S. Goel, President and Secretary of the Delhi Chapter. 53 Alumni members of the 1966-'71 batch visited the Institute along with their families on 19-22 November 2009. On 21 November, there was a grand musical evening which had participation from both the Alumni and their family members and the present students.



## PROJECT EMBRYO

### Embryo talks during August-December 2009

BITS Embryo, with its unique and innovative mode of complimenting on campus education, exposure and research, through online lectures by Alumni and friends of BITS, has been able to sustain the interest of its users over the years. The following lectures were delivered this semester:

Speaker	Affiliation	Date	Title
Mr. Shashikant Khandelwal	Co-founder Embryo and Chief Architect TheFind Inc.	08/09/09	Entrepreneurship right after the College
Mr. Avinash Modi	GE Waters and process Technologies, Bangalore.	09/09/09	Crude Unit: An Overview
Mr. Anand Agrawal		15/10/09	Personal Wealth Creation and Risk Management
Dr. S. R. Jaiprakash	GE Waters and process Technologies, Bangalore.	21/10/09	CFD Applications in Engineering

## Caring Beyond our Walls

### NSS

NSS BITS Pilani continued its efforts to bring about a positive change in society. The Computer Literacy Program (CLP) continued at village Raila and Jherli. Evening classes were conducted in the NSS school of BITS Pilani to help the needy children. The classes started from the third week of August 2009 and continued till mid November 2009. Tree plantation on 20 August 2009 was celebrated as



Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas. Prof. R.K. Mittal Deputy Director (Administration) was the chief guest on this occasion. Twenty Neem and Gulmohar trees were planted in the open space around Vyas and Shankar Bhawan. The theme of BITS Marathon 2009, organized on 23 August 2009, was to sensitize the community to save water and save electricity. Prof. G. Raghurama Deputy Director (Academic) and Dr. Geetha B. inaugurated the marathon and participated in it. NSS BITS, Pilani organized a health camp on 13 September 2009 in Panchayat Bhawan of Jherli village with the cooperation of NSS State and Central Office, Jaipur, Sarpanch, Shri Satveer Singh and all the villagers. It was attended by about 200 villagers. During the camp free medicines were provided to the participants. The Chief Medical and Health Officer, Jhunjhunu also supported the camp by providing some medicines.

During OASIS 2009, NSS volunteers organized a stall to display the hand made items prepared by the village artisans. Various NGOs from Rajasthan and Delhi like *Hunar, Umang, Parichaya, WWF, Kriti* and *Urmal* displayed their products for sale to help the needy and especially disabled people.

On 2 October 2009, children from the evening school of NSS, BITS, Pilani organized and participated in the skit, drawing, poem recitation, essay writing, dance and group singing events. Prof. R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director (Administration), was the chief guest and distributed prizes to the children. UMANG Coordinator L.R. Krishnan and his team of three volunteers per Bhawan put in the dedicated efforts for collecting Rs. One lakh one thousand seven hundred and forty one from students and staff by December 2009, for educating the needy meritorious students in and around BITS campus and deposited in the UMANG bank account No.61070179069 of SBBJ BITS Pilani. The motivation for this effort came from the call given by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor of BITS, Pilani to save and donate a minimum of one rupee per person per month for educating the needy meritorious students in and around BITS campus. Tuition fee of eight students worth Rs.7950/- was paid from this collection in the month of November 2009.

BITS Pilani was awarded on 1 October 2009 for having provided the maximum number of Voluntary Blood Donors amongst Educational Institutions for the year 2009 by the Indian Red Cross Society New Delhi. Prof. N.V.M. Rao Dean, Student Welfare Division and Prof. Vimal Bhanot Coordinator NSS represented BITS, Pilani and received the honor from Dr. Salim J. Habayeb, World Health Organization's India Representative.



## UGC Centre for Women Studies

The UGC sponsored Centre for Women Studies undertook the various social welfare activities during 2009. Gender related topics were incorporated in various on-campus Humanities courses offered as electives across the Institute and in higher degree program. Moreover studies were undertaken by students as part of their course work on areas such as Social Conflict: Missing Women (2009), *Child Marriage: Social Consequences and Health Impact (2009)* and *Role of ASHA in NRHM: A Critical Analysis in rural areas near Pilani (2009)* Apart from this, two lectures were organized one by Prof. John Davies, from Centre for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland, USA who delivered lectures on *Conflict Management* during September 17-21, 2009 and another by Prof. R.K. Sinha from International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai who delivered a lecture on "*Female Age at Marriage in India with Special Focus on Rajasthan*" on 8 October, 2009. In addition to this, training programmes were also conducted. Another significant achievement was a research study on *A Sociological Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Villages near Pilani, Rajasthan* conducted from January July, 2009. Another highlight of the semester is a short documentary film prepared by faculty members Dr. Geetha B., Dr. G.S. Chauhan and students. The objective of this short documentary film is to study the impact of the activities of government and non-government



organizations that have been actively involved in areas related to women empowerment in selected villages in and around Pilani. A panel discussion on "*Individual Success Defines Heroism for Youth as an Aftermath of Globalization*" was also organized by UGC Centre for Women Studies and Humanistic Studies Group, BITS, Pilani on 18 September, 2009 at BITS, Pilani. The Panel discussion was coordinated by Dr. Motilal Dash on 18 September 2009. Prof. R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director (Administration) BITS, Pilani acted as moderator for

the event. The other panelists were Prof. John Davies, Co-Director, Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland, College Park, U.S.A, Prof. Nirupama Prakash, Chief, Women Studies & Societal Development Unit, Dr. Geetha B., Assistant Professor, Languages Group, Mr. Raghav Mimani (2007A1PS383) and Mr. Shailesh Jha (2006A3C7007).

## Creative Zone

### BOSM 2009

The 24th Annual Sports Meet, (BOSM-2009) was a five day event (16 September to 20 September). The event witnessed the participation of more than 1100 sportspersons representing 45 colleges from all over India. The Inauguration ceremony was graced by Ms. Surbhi Misra, the Chief Guest for BOSM-2009 and also an under-19 National Squash Champion and Bronze Medalist at the World Junior Open 2009. The event kicked off with lamp lighting by the Prof. N.V. Muralidhar Rao, Dean, Student



Welfare Division and Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director (Academic), followed by a public address by sports secretary V. Vikram who proudly welcomed all the participants to participate in this 5 day meet covering 70 events. Guest of honour, Prof. G. Raghurama referred to Ms Surabhi Mishra the chief guest as an inspiration -considering she is





just 19 and making India proud in squash. Prof. R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director (Administration), requested the spectators to show the right enthusiasm and welcomed the coaches and faculty accompanying participants. An exciting blend of sports and music, the inaugural event witnessed the mesmerizing



cultural performances from regional associations. The ceremony ended with a friendly basketball match between the host and Malla Reddy, Hyderabad signifying the spirit of warmth, cheerfulness and sportsmanship. BOSM 2009 with the total budget touching 20 lakhs was sponsored by many popular companies and brands, with NTPC being title sponsor, meanwhile, Indian Oil and Reliance were the associate sponsors. In addition, sports brands like Adidas, Wilson, Speedo and Spalding showed particular interest in BOSM this year.

### OASIS 2009

The Annual Inter Collegiate Cultural Festival, Oasis 2009 held at BITS Pilani from 27 to 31 October 2009. This Oasis was its 39th edition this year. The inauguration of the event started with the ceremonial



lamp lighting by the Guest of Honour, Prof. G. Raghurama, Deputy Director, Academics and the Chief Guest, Mr. Rahul Bose popular actor, screenwriter, director, social activist and member of the Indian rugby team. This was followed by a welcome address delivered by Sudheer Babu, the

President of BITS Student Union. Prof. G. Raghurama praised the hard work put in by the students to ensure that the event goes on to become a success. He reminded the students not to forget the deprived in this hour of celebration and asked them to visit the stalls set up where handicrafts by such people were on display. While addressing the audience, Mr. Rahul Bose shared his dreams and talked about future India. The essence of his dream was to remove inequality, cruelty and inhumanity from the society. His inspiring speech further went on to show how all of us Indians were the same and if we forget our differences and stand together; we can definitely achieve all our dreams. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Raghav Mimani, the General Secretary of the BITS Students Union.

Mr. Rahul Bose also inaugurated the magnificent structure designed and constructed by the Art and Decoration department. It symbolized the theme of

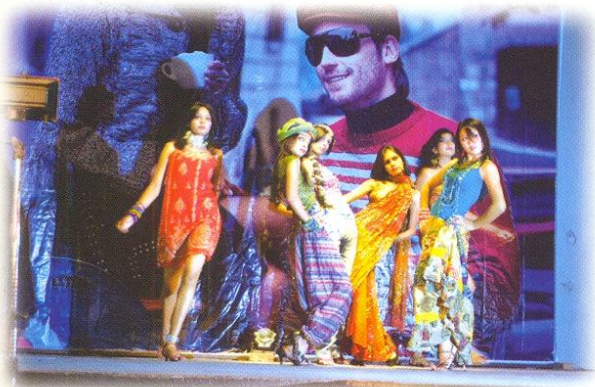


this OASIS i.e. Flipside. On this occasion, Art and Decoration department also displayed excellent paintings put up on the inner sidewalls of the auditorium. BITS students presented a stupendous dance show and mime which were applauded by the jam-packed audience in the auditorium.

Promising 96 hours of non-stop entertainment, Oasis 2009 brought together several events which included Music, Dance, Fashion shows, Dramas, Quiz, Literary Events, Rock Competitions and Fun Games. Over 6000 students which included 1400 outstation participants representing 70 colleges from various states of the country got together for mind boggling fun and entertainment and high energy games lasting five days. As our eyes moved away from the city lights and gazes at the darkness towards the desert, a provoking illusion of colours by the starry night appeared, guitars grew and music crept. That's how BITS Pilani's cultural festival OASIS 2009 theme 'FLIPSIDE' was elaborated.

The huge crowd present in Pilani to celebrate the annual cultural festival Oasis of BITS Pilani, had





Amesmerizing experience as the famous actor-activist-sportsman Rahul Bose interacted with them for about 2 hours in the lecture theatre on 28 October. The major attractions this time included a concert by the music trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, the English Band Rainbow Bridge and Mr. Sunil Pal, winner of Great Indian Laughter Challenge. On 28th evening, Mr. Sunil Pal, winner of Great Indian Laughter Challenge participated in the Hasya Kavi Sammelan and the English Band Rainbow Bridge, Chennai and the team Shankar Ehsaan Loy presented music shows on 29th and 30th respectively.

Oasis 2009 tied up with several cultural organizations including Thespo Drama Group of Mumbai, Glitz Modeling, Delhi and Shiamak Davar's Institute of Performing Arts, Delhi. They judged the winners who were to get entry to participate in the forthcoming national events to be hosted by these organizations.

Oasis '09 Sponsors included Blackberry, Sprite, Monte Carlo, Raymond Suiting, Funda Goli and IBIBO.COM. Media partners were: Channel V TV, Jam Magazine and The Week. Thadka 95 FM is the radio partner.

As a societal concern, the organizers in association with the NSS unit of BITS and the voluntary organization, NIRMAAN, collected village garments, handicrafts and artifacts made in the local



villages and special stalls were set up in the festival venue for marketing these items.

OASIS 2009 came to an end in a glittering ceremony on 31 October 2009. The major events of the last day included Fashion Parade, Dance workshop and Filmi mukabla.

### CONQUEST 2009

CONQUEST 2009 was organized during 8-9 August 2009. On the inaugural occasion Professor L.K. Maheshwari, Vice-Chancellor, motivated the



gathering to become entrepreneurs and serve the society at large. He congratulated the CEL team under Prof. Arya Kumar for the hard work put in by the team to ensure that the event becomes a success. In five years, Conquest has grown from an

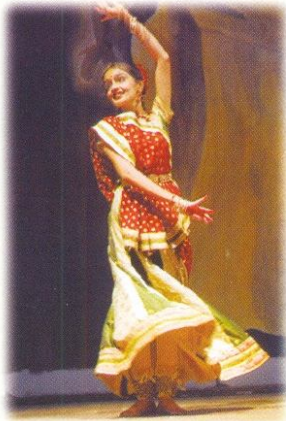


intra-BITS business challenge to an international event drawing entries from teams with diverse backgrounds. In its 6th edition, Conquest drew over 300 entries from across the world. Following intensive mentoring sessions, 5 young teams from coveted colleges reached the finals that also witnessed the confluence of several speakers and delegates. The distinguished speakers included Ajit Ranade, Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group, Mahesh Murthy, Founder, Pinstorm, Gaurav Mishra, CEO, 20/20 Web Tech, Raj Gollamudi, Co-founder, Blue Stream Ventures, Prajakt Raut, Founder, Orange Cross, Naren Dubey, Chief Operating



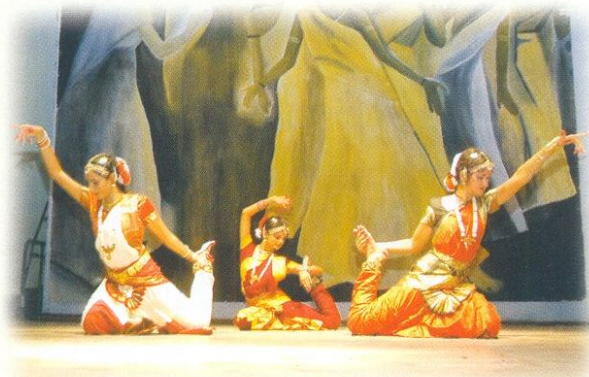
Officer, Scan Café, Shashikant Khandelwal, Founding Member, TheFind Inc, Rahul Chandra, Co-founder, Helion Venture Partners, Mukul Singhal, Associate, Canaan Ventures, Gayatri Rath, Vice President, Corporate Communications GE. Teams that made it to the finals were from BITS, Pilani, Brown University, NITIE, Mumbai, SJMSOM, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, ISB Hyderabad and IIM Bangalore. The gold sponsors for the event were Incredible India and SAIL, Oracle and Greenesol Power Systems Pvt. Ltd are the Silver sponsors whereas BITSA, NEN, Myntra, YourStory.in and Shiksha.com were the partners.

## Ragamalika



Ragamalika started off the first semester 2009 with a 'Freshers' concert where the new entrants of the club displayed their talent. This concert began with a Carnatic vocal rendering followed by instrumental Hindustani music.

Next was a dance event-"Nrithya Ranjani", which was a colorful show, incorporating dances in the two styles of Kathak and Bharathnatyam. The first half of the show was pure 'Nritta' or footwork oriented pieces, the second half was dedicated to 'abhinaya' or expressions. The vocalists and the instrumentalists of the club skillfully gave live music support to the dancers.



'Strings Attached', the club's next event was an instrumental concert dedicated to the harmony of the stringed instruments- the violin and the veena. The pieces played were all classical carnatic songs concluding with English notes, a delightful blend of carnatic and western classical music. The audiences were enthralled by the symphony on the strings.

The concluding concert of the second semester was the 'psenti concert', an opportunity for the psenti semmites to display their talent for the final time before a BITSian audience. The club members also performed at the cultural events of various conferences that took place at BITS.

## SPICMACAY

The BITS-Pilani chapter of SPICMACAY has been striving to make the campus culturally robust by organizing performances of renowned artists in various art forms from different parts of the country. The semester started off with the first concert of the semester on 17 August with an Odissi performance by the renowned danseuse Ms. Madhusmita Mohanty. The concert began with Ms. Mohanty's rendition of the "Mangalarchana" followed by a demo of different postures and "mudras" adopted in the Odissi art form. For the concluding piece a paean to Lord Shiva, she was accompanied on stage by Sh. Ramesh Chandra Jena. The duo's performance was outstanding with



Jena's energy acting as a perfect foil to Madhusmita's lyrical grace. The other artists on stage included Sh. Vijay Kumar Barik on the "Mardela", Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Kundu on the violin and the talented Odissi vocalist Ms. Harapriya Swain. The second concert of the semester was a Rajasthani folk musical performance by one of the most popular figures in the folk music, Sh. Bundu Khan Langa and his ten member troupe. His folk songs attracted audience from far and wide. Opening the show with a welcome song 'Padharo', the evening was a plethora of colour, culture and music. With an excellent jugalbandi between the



khartaal and the morchan, the artistes moved on more vibrant numbers like 'Gorbanda' and 'Damadam Mast Kalandar'. In the end, the Langas obliged the audience's request for another song by performing the sparkling number 'Nimbooda'. The concert concluded with a standing ovation from the audience who had thoroughly enjoyed the evening's ebullient performance. Another strikingly different performance was the one by the renowned theatre group, Naya Theatrea professional touring theatre started by Late Shri Habib Tanvir in the year 1959. They performed their award winning play "Charan Das Chor" at BITS, Pilani on 9 September, 2009. The play was a visually exciting production which allowed ample scope for sharp wit and energy of the village performers of Chattisgarh. It featured improvised dialogue, music, songs and dance. The BITS audience had a unique experience of watching a play that combined traditional forms of Sanskrit theatre with folk theatre and contemporary techniques.

## MATRIX

This semester has been quite an eventful one for Matrix and explored new avenues under the guidance of Prof. A.K. Sarkar, the Mentor, Dr. Geetha B., the Professor-in-Charge and the student



coordinator Mr. Deepak Joy Cheenath. Things started off with a book review of the graphic novel "Batman", which was a refreshing change from our regular staple of books. It covered many little known aspects about the batman legend, and graphic novels in general. MATRIX reintroduced the concept of 'Rasaswadanam' by organizing a lecture demonstration of hindustani classical music appreciation in the month of October. Resource persons Dr. Prashanth Manohar (violin), Faculty member from Chemistry Group and Mr. Ridhhidev

Banerjee, a second year student of the institute made various salient features of the Hindustani raaga system more accessible to the audience by performing the ragas discussed. This was followed by a jam packed Oasis. It was incidentally the first time Matrix worked for Oasis. Things were started off with a movie quiz (titled Point Blanc), which tested the mettle of all the so-called movie buffs who came for Oasis. A team from BITS Hyderabad bagged the first prize in the quiz that left many teams baffled. Evening movie screenings were held on two days in the cool environs of FD-II. The first day saw three award-winning films from around the world [On the Waterfront, Deliverance, The Lives of Others (German)]. On the second day, an assortment of Indian short films was shown. It was a three stage event that involved teams of 4 to 8 initially splitting up to handle two simultaneous events, one consisting of a rapid-fire quiz, and the other being a race across the campus, cracking clues and performing challenges. The event was a huge crowd-puller, garnering over 280 participants, making it one of the largest events of Oasis. MATRIX activities for the semester were concluded with a Valedictory function on 21 November, 2009. The Vice Chancellor Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, the chief guest for the function, emphasized the need for such forums in universities of higher learning.

## Earn While you Learn

Prof. R.K. Mittal, Deputy Director (Administration), distributed certificates to the two students who have done excellent work in the library under the Earn



While You Learn Program during I Semester 2009-10. The students were: Ms. Jishi George (ID 2008H146109) and Mr. Anil Kumar (2006D2TS880).



## INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

Name	Designation	Division / Unit
Gaurav Aggarwal	Lecturer	CWIU
Lucky Sharan	Lecturer	PSD
Avinash Gautam	Lecturer	SDEU
R S Parihar	Lecturer	FD3
Amit Kumar Verma	Assistant Professor	FD3
Ankit Chaudhary	Lecturer	IPCU
Sneh Lata Murotiya	Lecturer	FD2
Jagdish Chand Bansal	Assistant Professor	FD3
Jyoti	Assistant Professor	EIPU
Indranil Som	Lecturer	FD2
Suresh Kumar Vanam	Lecturer	FD2
Subhajit Majumdar	Lecturer	FD1
Sanjay Kumar Chamoli	Assistant Professor	FD3
Prashant U Manohar	Assistant Professor	FD3
P Chattopadhyay	Assistant Professor	FD1
AN Pant	Visiting Professor	PSD
Utkarsh Maheshwari	Lecturer	FD1
P Chakraborty	Assistant Professor	FD1
Patil K Ganpatrao	Lecturer	FD1
Kaushar Vaidya	Assistant Professor	CWIU
Shriniwas S Arkatkar	Lecturer	FD1
Arun Kumar Jalan	Lecturer	FD2

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editor:** Dr. Pushp Lata

**Members of Editorial Committee:** Dr. Virendra Singh Nirban and Dr. Sushila Rathore

We wish to thank the faculty and students who have helped us in procuring data and photographs.

Please send your comments/suggestions/feedback to: <[bitscan2009@gmail.com](mailto:bitscan2009@gmail.com)>