

Chancellor Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla's two-day visit to BITS Pilani, Goa Campus

BITS Pilani – Goa campus was blessed with the visit of Dr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor of BITS Pilani on 2nd and 3rd Feb. 2010. He was received by Prof. L. K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani and Prof. K. E. Raman, Director of Goa Campus. This was his first visit to any of the campuses of BITS Pilani after assuming the Chancellorship of the University. The dynamic and visionary leader spent time with students and senior faculty of the Goa Campus on both the days. Students felt that they were fortunate to meet and interact with him on their campus. He also visited various laboratories, SAC, Medical Centre, Library and the projects showcased by students for Quark'10.

Inaugurating Quark, the three day annual technical and innovation extravaganza of BITS Pilani Goa Campus on the evening of 3rd February, Dr. Birla in his brief address urged the students to have imagination and passion to achieve their goals in life and to contribute to the growth of Indian economy. Hon'ble Chancellor also inaugurated 'Urja', a programme that aims at having an energy efficient campus. Prof. L. K. Maheshwari delivered the welcome address while Prof. K. E. Raman proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Akhil Mehta, President of Student-body enlightened the audience on the theme of Quark 2010.

This year, Quark has transcended from being a technical festival to an innovation festival. With more than 1000 outstation participants, a stellar pastiche of talented artists for TEDxBITSGOA, overseas contingents for the BITS Model United Nations, and exhibitions by DRDO and CSIR, Quark 2010 promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Guest lectures by Chemistry Nobel Prize Winner, Sir Harry Kroto, and Physics Nobel Prize Winner, Sir Douglas Osheroff and a presentation by Chris Csikszentmihályi, Research Director, Computer Culture - MIT Media Lab are the major attractions. To add to these, workshops conducted by renowned establishments like KPMG and Cypress Semiconductors, both on Day 1, add the frills. The 2010 edition of the festival promises to be one of the biggest ever seen in the history of the BITS Pilani institute, and certainly the biggest innovation festival Goa has ever witnessed. So imagine, explore, create and innovate. Be a part of QUARK 2010.

Dr. K. M. Birla met the steering committee members Prof. L. K. Maheshwari, Prof. K. E. Raman, Prof. V. S. Rao, Prof. M. Ramachandran, Prof. G. Raghurama, Prof. R. K. Mittal and Mr. Kris Ramachandran of Vision 2020-Mission 2012, a project initiated by him. Then the 16 Task Forces dealing with the 6 thrust areas namely, Academic Programmes and Pedagogy, Research and Consultancy,

People, Infrastructure, University Administration and Campus Life for achieving Mission 2012 presented their progress to the Chancellor and the steering committee. The following Task Force leaders / members participated in the discussion:

Task Force 1: Curriculum and Programs : Prof.Shan Balasubramaniam (P) and Dr.KR Anupama(G)
Task Force 2: Pedagogy : Dr.MB Srinivas (H); Dr.AV Kulkarni (G)
Task Force 3: Counseling : Dr.Pravin Singru (G)
Task Force 4 : Campus Life: Health and Social Bonding: Prof.BV Babu (P) and Dr.Radhika Vatsan (G)
Task Force 5: Campus facilities: Dr.Srinivas K (G) and Dr.KM Raghavendra (G)
Task Force 6: Infrastructure Facilities : Dr.Bharat Deshpande (G)
Task Force 7: IT Infrastructure : Dr.DM Kulkarni (G) and Mr.Mangesh Bedekar (G)
Task Force 8: Campus Hygiene : Dr.AK Das (P) and Dr.Saby John (G)
Task Force 9 : Linkages with Industry: Prof.G.Sundar and Dr.Raghunath Rathbole (G)
Task Force 10: Academic Counseling for faculty and staff: Prof.AK Sarkar (P) and Dr.Prakash C (G)
Task Force 11 : Research : Prof.RN Saha (P) and Dr.Nanda Kumar (G)
Task Force 12 : Consultancy : Dr.Sunil Bhand (G)
Task Force 13: Research Collaborations : Dr.P.Yogeshwari (H) and Dr.NN Ghosh (G)
Task Force 14: Branding: Prof.Meenakshi Raman (G)
Task Force 15: ERP/BI : Chittaranjan Hota (H) and JV Rao (G)
Task Force 16: Alumni Affairs: Dr.Gaurav Dar (G) and Meenal Kowshik (G)

It was an amazing and enriching experience for all the members to interact with Dr. Birla who was keenly observing all the presentations right from 10 am till 5.45 pm on 3rd February in the Conference Hall of Goa Campus and posed pertinent questions to know exactly about the outcomes of Mission 2012 exercise. Though he was happy about the status, he emphasized on “speed” in achieving our goals and expressed his desire to meet the Task Forces in April to find out about further progress made by them.

Chancellor Dr. K. M. Birla’s presence and interaction at BITS Pilani Goa Campus excited students, faculty and staff who feel motivated to work harder to achieve the university’s goals.