

The BITS Gazette

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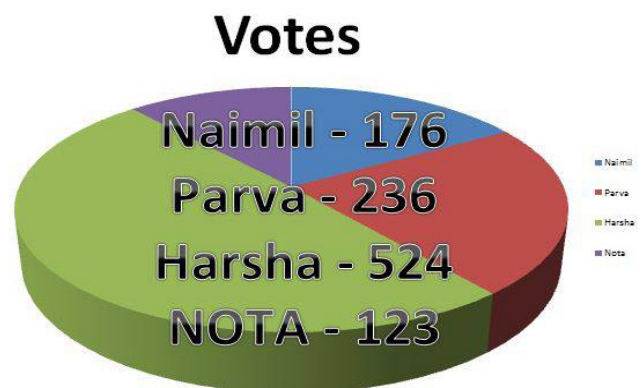
Department of Journalism and Media Affairs

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ALL BUT ONE DISQUALIFIED

On the 28th of August 2015, the campus came together (well just about half of it) to vote for major student body offices: The Hostel Representatives, the Girl's Convener and the more coveted post of Treasurer. With a first time NOTA in April last sem, the treasurer's seat was left vacant leading to a lot of anxieties and uncertainties among clubs and departments for their budget requirements. Three candidates stood for the post and the stats lay as shown in the figure. In a humorous turn of events, all three candidates were disqualified for using "unfair means" of campaigning. The candidates broke the laws set by the Election Commission by using internet for publicity once the campaigning had commenced. However, as put by the EC, "to respect the choice of the voters", the decision was taken to go ahead with the results of this poll.

DoJMA congratulates Harsha and all other newly elected members of the Council of Student Affairs 2015-2016.



Credits: Election Commission, BITS Goa

Some of Harsha's noteworthy agenda points:

1. Custom duties for equipment imported from outside the country for the technical clubs can be evaded by taking the help of the institution.
2. Funds directed to sports equipment and coaching to all the sports teams, by having meets with sports development committee and captains of sports teams.

CAMPUS WATCH

On Sunday, 30 August 2015, BITS Goa witnessed a BITS Alumni Summit in the auditorium, the first of its kind across all campuses. Alumni from all walks of life spoke on their life at and after college, following which there was a release of the book "Turiya Tales: Lost Wisdom of the Swastika", authored by Ajay Chaturvedi (alumnus of BITS Pilani Campus)

BITS Genesis, the newly founded program which aims to facilitate inter-disciplinary research on campus, hosted a two-day (29 and 30 August, 2015) workshop on "Modern Underwater System". Professors from DRDO, CSIR, NITs and BITS alumni gave lectures.

The Physics society is hosting a series of evening lectures on Quantum Mechanics, for students from all disciplines. The initiative is student-run, and all participants will be awarded certificates at the end.

A new squash court has been constructed in the SAC, which was inaugurated on 10 August, 2015 by Prof. V S Rao, Vice Chancellor and Prof. Sasikumar Punnekat, Campus Director.

Mana Maali: The Gardener of the Mind

"Think back to a time in your life when you felt stressed, anxious and overwhelmed, as if an elephant was sitting on your chest; and you didn't know who to tell or how to go about moving that elephant. Does this lead you to a memory from your university days?" asks 24-year-old NRI, Nitya Kanuri, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She is the brain behind Mana Maali, the project funded by Stanford, BITS Pilani Hyderabad, VNR, and other private donors

essentially provides students with mental health support through applications they can access online and on their phones. The main benefit is that students can get help anonymously and privately on their own time and on platforms they are already comfortable with.

After a well-received launch at the Hyderabad campus of BITS in early 2015, the project is being extended to the Pilani, Goa campuses as well.

The Application used by Mana Maali is called 'Lantern', and offers structured, 10-minute modules that asks users about their mood and stress levels, and accordingly recommends specific techniques to help them.



CAMPUS WATCHOUT!

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
Shaping young minds programme	8th September	Dona Paula
Microsoft Internship coding test	Registration: September 8th Test : 10th September	Telepresence room
Reserve Bank Outreach Program Talk	September 11th, 5:00 pm	LT3
Project Ignite by Nirmaan	Begins from 1st week, September	Fr. Angel Orphanage, Verna

Coalescence's ACT Conference

The ACT Conference took place in the Audi on 6th September, Sunday afternoon. With a brilliant speaker line-up, Coalescence out did itself by bringing about a lot of food for thought. The speaker line-up included Vijay Nair (the man behind NH 7 weekender), Rahul Yadav (founder of housing.com), Taapsee Paanu (bollywood actress), Naveen Bansal (TVF), Jithendra Maheshawari (TVF), Hussain Zaidi (investigative journalist), Rajat Kapoor (actor, screen writer and director) and A Muruganatham (social entrepreneur).

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