

Knowledge without values is futile, says Parrikar

BITS PILANI CONVOCATION CEREMONY HELD

BY A STAFF REPORTER

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Panaji: Knowledge without values is futile. Technological development should work in tandem with environmental protection for the betterment of the society, stated Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on Sunday.

Parrikar said this while speaking as a chief guest at the grand convocation ceremony of BITS Pilani, held in the auditorium of K K Birla Goa campus on Sunday. He addressed a large gathering of about 2000 people comprising the graduating students, their parents and the faculty members of the campus. Chancellor Dr Kumar Mangalam Birla, Vice Chancellor Dr Souvik Bhattacharya and directors of other BITS Pilani campuses in Pilani, Dubai and Hyderabad were present on the dais.

In his address, Dr Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chancellor of BITS Pilani reminisced and acknowledged the support extended by Parrikar in bringing up the BITS Pilani campus in Goa. Dr Bir-



Dr K M Birla (L) presents a memento to Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar during the convocation ceremony of BITS Pilani on Sunday.

la rightly pointed out that the holistic education that students had received in BITS places them in a privileged position, and they have an implicit obligation and responsibility to help those who are less fortunate in the society.

■ Contd on pg 2

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■ Contd from pg 1

This year, 616 students received their degrees, of which 12 were PhDs. Four students from Bachelor's degree programmes were awarded medals. They are Vishakha Gupta (gold medal), Shah Ujash Dipakbhai (silver medal) and Dave Mihika Himanshu (bronze medal) and Vasundhara Bhargava (bronze medal).

Prof Souvik Bhattacharyya, the vice-chancellor of BITS Pilani presented an overview of the University's accomplishments and in particular highlighted its pioneering role in fostering innovation, and entrepreneurship in higher education.

The director, Prof Sasikumar Punnekkat gave a detailed report of BITS Pilani Goa campus, offering a comprehensive overview of the advances in research, new initiatives and collaborations of the Institute.

Prof D M Kulkarni, convener of Convocation 2016 concluded the ceremony with a vote of thanks.

Power Minister Milind Naik, Panaji MLA Sidharth Kuncalienkar, Dr Shekhar Salkar and Barge Owners Association president Atul Jadhav were also present.