

# 'Uranium in sea water can generate nuclear energy'

BY A REPORTERS

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Vasco: Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in association with Department of Chemistry, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus and the Association of Separation Scientists and Technologists (ASSET) organised the eighth edition of DAE-BRNS biennial symposium on "Emerging Trends in Separation Science and Technology (SESTEC-2018)" at BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, from May 23 to 26.

The four-day symposium attended by about 250 delegates from India and abroad, was inaugurated by prof P R Vasudeva Rao, Vice Chancellor, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai. The director of BITS Pilani Goa Campus, prof G Raghurama; Dr P K Pujari, co-chairman of SESTEC-2018 and associate director, RC & I group,



**Prof P R Vasudeva Rao and other dignitaries launch book of abstracts of scientific papers to be presented at the symposium.**

BARC, convenors and secretary of SESTEC-2018 were also present for the inaugural function.

Dr Mainak Banerjee, co-convenor of SESTEC 2018 and faculty at BITS Pilani Goa Campus welcomed the dignitaries and delegates of the symposium on behalf of the organisers.

In his remarks, prof G Raghurama mentioned

about the history and legacy BITS is carrying for last over half a century. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration of premier national research institutes with academia, in particular, privately funded universities.

Prof Rao shared the recent advancement and future in separation science in India. He also mentioned about the large ura-

nium resource in sea water, which can generate large quantum of nuclear energy and cater the society as the alternative power source. Dr P K Pujari in his address mentioned about difficulties and the recent breakthroughs in separation of actinides and lanthanides.

SESTEC series involves eminent separation scientists and technologists

from India and abroad. The aim of this symposium is to hold an open deliberation on state-of-the-art developments in the important areas of R&D of separation science and technologies and allied areas.

The major areas of the conference were separations in nuclear fuel cycle, membrane science and technology, treatment of industrial effluents, chromatography and pyrochemical separations, computational chemistry in separation science, radiochemical separations, green separations, speciation studies etc. It provided a forum for young research scholars to interact with senior scientists/academicians and discuss the new frontiers in separation science and share their current research interests so as to have a fusion of viable ideas to be realised in future.