

BITS Goa successfully host Udaan-2017 - a sports fest for differently-abled

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Vasco: The first ever Udaan 2017 - a sports festival for the differently abled children and students was successfully held at the BITS Pilani campus on Sunday as children with special needs participated in a host of sports events like badminton, judo, athletics, gully cricket, shot-put, 100m and 50m race etc on an eventful day.

Udaan is an initiative by Nirmaan which is an organisation formed by the students of BITS Goa to reach out to the poor and marginalized sections of the society. The students of Nirmaan headed by Sidhant Rathod, Rachit Agarwal and Nikhil Chowdhury decided to organise a sports festival for the differently-abled prior to their own college sports event Spree which is organized every year by the Goa campus.

"Nirmaan is an initiative through which we try to do our bit for the poor and downtrodden sections of the society be it through ed-



Students who participated in the Udaan 2017 sports event organised at the BITS Pilani Goa campus strike a pose after the event on Sunday.

ucation or other outreach programs. And as we were gearing up for our sports event Spree for the students of various colleges, we wondered why we could not organize a sports

event for the differently abled children of Goa. We wanted them to experience something like that and it has turned into a great success. We had a great time organizing the

event and hope it continues every year with same or even more enthusiasm," Saurabh Kumar who is part of the Nirmaan team and one of the student volunteers of Udaan said.

The events were spread throughout the day and it was declared open by social worker Alka Damle who addressed the gathering and applauded the efforts of the students both in organizing as well as the large turnout of students to participate in the event.

The events were subdivided into various categories in terms of the IQ levels of the students, the different schools who were participating and also various age groups.

Five teams participated in the competitions including Disha School, Gujarati Seva Samaj, Keshav Seva Sadhana, New Dawn Ashadeep and a team of the Paralympic Association of Goa.

All the winners of the various competitions were awarded with prizes in the evening after the competitions drew to a close.

The BITS Pilani Goa will now be hosting Spree 2017 which is an inter-college sports festival that will be hosted between 3-5 March.