

# Parrikar urges BITS to work with DRDO on research

**Team Herald**

**VASCO:** The Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on Sunday offered to join hands with BITS Pilani through Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in various research activities.

He said that DRDO does lot of research activities, covering various fields, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, land combat engineering, life sciences, materials, missiles and thus institution like BITS which has been contributing to the technological strength of India, should to take up research with DRDO.

He was addressing the convocation ceremony of students from BITS Pilani, Goa campus.

"Earlier, India was not taken seriously across the globe. But in the last two years, under the Modi government, India has proved its technological capability. In last two years, I have seen transforming changes in the global front. Today, you name the field and we are there. India is now being recognized for its capability in many sectors including technology," Parrikar said.

"We have been doing research to make India totally self sufficient in missile technology. I need to appre-

ciate that BITS is contributing to the technological strength of India, apart from IIT's which is different class of technology in itself. I would therefore urge upon the director of BITS to come forward and approach DRDO and take up further enhancement of research," he said.

BITS Chancellor Dr Kumar Mangalam Birla, while congratulating the graduates and post-graduates, advised the students to follow few basic tenets that would serve the students as guideposts in life.

Vice Chancellor BITS, Professor Souvik Bhattacharya claimed that BITS have started admissions for international students from last year and this year 18 such students have been admitted in Goa campus. He also highlighted on various awards received by the BITS students and faculties in different fields. Director BITS Professor Sasikumar Punnekkat spoke about various infrastructures and facilities that BITS Pilani Goa has today. He also highlighted on new initiatives taken on research by BITS.

Later Parrikar gave away BITS alumnus award to Professor Alok Chaudhary, Professor G Ravindra Kumar, Mathew Cherian, N S Parthasarathy. He also awarded medals to students for securing positions in the graduation exams. Gold Medal to Vishaka Gupta, Silver Medal to Shah Ujash Dipakbhai, Bronze Medal to Dave Mihika Himanshu and Vasundhara Bhargava.

EXCHANGE

C