

## **BITS Pilani holds 3rd ARWA**

### **■ NT KURIOCITY**

The 3rd Annual Conference of the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA) was hosted by Cognitive Neuroscience Lab of the Department of Biological Sciences at Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus. The theme for this year's conference was Dyslexia.

The two-day event had around 120 scientists and academic scholars from across the world to discuss and present research findings in the fields of literacy, linguistics, reading and writing disabilities. The presentations were focused on the impact of multilingual environments on literacy and learning. Focus was also given to understanding the problems in reading and writing for children suffering from different forms and severity of dyslexia.

The themes for the presentations were spelling, assessment, technology in education, bilingualism, memory and fluency, bridging gap between research and education, attention and executive functions in reading, technological interventions for struggling readers, reading writing relations, cross-linguistic studies, reading comprehension, learning mechanisms, orthographic processing, diglossia, dialects and multilingualism, curriculum and instruction, orthographic awareness and spelling and reading across cultures. The conference also included poster sessions with 23 posters from various scientists.

The first day's keynote lecture was delivered by Pooja Nakamura on the theory, practice and policy of literacy acquisition in multilingual context. The second day's keynote address was by Julie Washington on the impact of community dialects on reading acquisition in children growing up in poverty.

The department of chemistry, BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus celebrated its department day by organising, 'Recent Trends in Chemistry: Students' Meet 2019'. Around 60 participants including faculty members and MSc students of Goa University and its affiliated colleges participated in the 3rd edition of the student's meet.