

BITS Pilani Goa hosts day-long G20 events on Climate Change

NT KURIOCIETY

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus organised day-long G20 events. These events comprised of a Y20 brainstorming session on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk' in Goa in the first half of the day, and the 69th G20 University Connect Event in the second half. Both these events (Y20 and G20 University Connect) were supported by RIS, an autonomous think tank of the Ministry of External Affairs, on behalf of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Ministry of Ex-

ternal Affairs, Government of India respectively.

Professor Sunil Singh, a Bhatnagar Fellow and the director of National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa graced the Y20 event. Singh spoke about the increased warming in the Arabian Sea and its implications for the State of Goa, its people and its economy. Chairperson of the Governing Council of RIS, Seshadri Chari provided context for this meeting in the larger vision of Y20 and G20 events. This brainstorming meeting specifically sought to discuss climate change and its impacts on Goa

and ways to better adapt to these impacts - including discussions on technical and financial mechanisms. This event saw a large and enthusiastic participation of youth practitioners from Goa.

Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi from BITS Pilani Goa and Bappa Das from ICAR, Goa discussed about how climate change is affecting disasters and posing new challenges for the state of Goa. Nodal Officer of Goa Climate Change Cell Pradip V Sarmokdam spoke about participatory initiatives to engage citizens in disaster risk management in the state. An engin-

eer from Goa Climate Change Cell Shruthi Adpaikar spoke about development of participatory monitoring and Early Warning Systems with the inputs and support from citizens in the state. Gopal Sarkate and Pratik Gholap, officers from NABARD, spoke about different financing possibilities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Goa. This Y20 event also witnessed participation of forest officer from Goa Forest Department, Amit Gemawat.

The 69th University Connect event saw a large participation of young college students from

more than a dozen colleges across Goa, and two universities. G20 University Connect carried lectures on the theme of 'Climate Change and India's G-20 Presidency'.

Besides the students, the event was also attended by faculty members from colleges, government officials from Directorate of Higher Education and staff of BITS Goa.

Further, as part of student engagement, an interactive quiz competition was held. A total of thirty students were adjudged winners of this quiz competition and were felicitated.