

Report: Teaching-Learning Workshop for Next-Generation Academics

The Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) at BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, hosted an enriching workshop titled "Teaching-Learning Workshop for Next Generation Academics" on January 11, 2025, exclusively for PhD research scholars. The event commenced with an inspiring welcome address by Prof. Shibani K. Jha, who used the metaphor of "Base Camp- Camp One- Summit Camp" to illustrate the journey of a PhD scholar, emphasizing growth from foundational achievements to ultimate goals. Prof. Sudhir K. Barai, the campus director, in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of the 5Cs—Celebrity, Collector, Communication, Collaboration, and Creative Commitment—as key traits for researchers while also offering a unique expansion of BITS: Bold decision-making, Innovative, Timeless, and Studious. These addresses set a reflective tone for a day full of insightful sessions.

The workshop featured a diverse lineup of modules, starting with Prof. Shamik Chakraborty's session on "Unbounded Horizons: Your Evolution as a Researcher," where he emphasized curiosity, innovation, and resilience as cornerstones of a PhD journey. He tackled common challenges like time management and criticism, offering solutions like continuous learning and effective mentoring. Prof. Pushp Lata led a session on communication strategies, stressing the importance of engagement, inclusivity, and multimodal teaching for classroom effectiveness. This was followed by Prof. Radha Raman Mishra's discussion on laboratory instruction and assessment strategies, which provided practical guidance on responsibilities in academic laboratories. An interactive Q&A session with Prof. Meetha Shenoy addressed the scholars' concerns.

The post-noon session featured a series of engaging and insightful talks. Prof. Pankaj Sharma began with an interactive discussion on ethical challenges that may arise during an academic journey and in life, sharing valuable lessons from experience. Following this, Prof. Madhurima emphasized the importance of gender sensitivity in academic settings, offering strategies to enhance overall performance through inclusivity. Prof. Gautam Singhvi provided practical guidance on time management, including effective ways to monitor tasks and track progress. Prof. Partiosh Shukla offered participants a broader perspective on life after completing a Ph.D., equipping them with insights to prepare for future challenges. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Veena Ramachandran, bringing the event to a close on a note of gratitude and inspiration.

139 Ph.D. Scholars of the institute from various departments attended the workshop.