

## **Report on Teacher's Day Celebration 2023 organized by Teaching Learning Centre, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus.**

**"The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves"–  
Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.**

Teacher's Day is celebrated on 5th September every year on the birth anniversary of India's second President, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. The Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) of BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus kick-started the teacher's day celebrations with zeal and zest on the eve of 5th September 2023 at the J.C. CHAUDHRY NAB Audi. Vice Chancellor Professor V Ramgopal Rao and the Director Professor Sudhirkumar Barai graced the occasion with their presence and addressed the students, staff, and faculty colleagues. Following the customary lamp lighting and Guru Vandana by student representative Riti Chatterjee, and Professor Shibani Jha (Faculty-In-Charge, TLC) set the tone for the event. By citing the examples of great teachers from ancient and modern India, Professor Shibani revisited the rich legacy of Guru Shishya Parampara. She reiterated the spiritual and holistic aspects of teaching-learning while accentuating the following needs: 1) strengthen bidirectional communication, 2) adhere to the philosophical underpinnings 3) embrace reflexivity along with professional development to finally justify the holistic education.

Professor V R Rao, while addressing the gathering, particularly invited the teaching fraternity's attention towards how the current day opportunities and challenges redefine the role of teachers. Most significantly, a teacher's role has been expanding from merely focusing on teaching to equipping themselves as good researchers with high-impact research, being entrepreneurs with effective industry collaboration, and being responsible for nurturing a new business model aiming to cultivate innovations. According to Professor Rao, despite these fast-paced transitions and the emergence of Artificial Intelligence, teaching as a profession remains noble. This is primarily because no technology can replace the dynamic teacher-student bond. If the teaching community keeps such interactions alive, any challenge could be translated as an opportunity to retain the sanctity of the teaching profession.

Professor Sudhirkumar Barai, in his address, reiterated how life as a teacher nurtures us to be passionate and inspiring teachers learning from our experiences. Professor Barai's insightful speech stressed the need to design a meaningful and

dynamic teacher-student relationship that could shape the community to respond to the challenges of the times. To achieve that, Prof. Barai invoked the "5 Ds" of success as Direction, Desire, Dedication, Determination, and Discipline. He spoke about the roles of teachers as digital instructors and learning facilitators.

The student representative, Ms. Ananya Kirthi, revisited the great legacy of Guru Shishya Parampara, pointing to the three essential dharmas attributed to an ideal Guru: Shiksha, Pareeksha, and Deeksha. The segment followed was faculty members' interactions in which they shared their experiences and thoughts. This segment witnessed several discussions that touched upon a few personal (individual) experiences, the challenges the teaching community encounters today, and how to navigate through them, ensuring a constructive teaching and learning environment. Some of such conversations indeed insisted on the need to celebrate, strengthen, and sharpen the unique BITS Pilani education model, considering its enormous and valuable contribution to society. TLC's role in shaping a vibrant teaching-learning ecosystem has also been acknowledged and appreciated at the event.

The faculty's thought-sharing segment was followed by Professors Rishikesh Vaidya's and Paritosh Shukla's thought-provoking poetry recitation and felicitations of faculty members by the students. The program was attended by a total of 70 students, faculty and staff members of the BITS Pilani, Pilani campus. The program was concluded by a vote of thanks by Prof. Gautam Singhvi, the National anthem, a group photograph, and High Tea.