

THE SANDPAPER 2.0 TEAM

BITS & BITSAA NEWS

BITS OPTED OUT OF INDIA TODAY SURVEY

BITS opted out of India Today's survey of 2005 because of a pending court case between BITS and India Today. This explains why BITS does not figure in the India Today rankings. In 2004 when *India Today* released its rankings, it did not collect the data from BITS, Pilani even though it mentioned it did so. BITS questioned the validity of the data because there were many factual errors in India Today's description of BITS. India Today did not accept the errors and hence BITS has gone to the court against India Today and the case is still pending.

Sadly, no press reporter carried this story.



BITS DLP MS SS STUDENT IN MICROSOFT MVP 2005 LIST

Atul Gupta, ME Software Systems, is one of the recipients of the Microsoft MVP (Most Valuable Professional) Award this year.

The Microsoft MVP (Most Valuable Professional) Award is given out each year to outstanding members of a Microsoft online Developer Forum.

Atul Gupta, currently working with Infosys Technologies Limited as a Technical Architect, has close to 9 years of work experience on Microsoft technology projects across business domains.



Atul Gupta

SUBODH KARNIK LEADING THE WAY AT ATA HOLDINGS

ATA Holdings has announced **Subodh Karnik**, a BITS alum, as Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer. ATA Holdings Corporation is an Indianapolis-based holding company with six wholly owned subsidiaries specializing in aviation and travel industries.

BITS ALUMNUS BECOMES MD OF NYLIM

Harish Kumar, BITS alum, has been appointed the Managing Director and Head of Growth Portfolios at Equity Investors Group of New York Life Investment Management LLC (NYLIM). Dr. Kumar, who has bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from BITS, is a CFA charter holder.

BITSIAN IAS TOPPER

S Nagarajan, a BITS alumnus, has topped the 2005 civil services exams conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. Nagarajan was ranked first out of 422 candidates (also see Quarterly BITSian).



Krishnamurthy Surysekar

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Dr. Krishnamurthy Surysekar (*76), currently the Assistant Professor, School of Accounting, College of Business Administration, Florida International University, has been awarded the *Florida International University Faculty Award for Excellence in Research - 2005*.

VIVEK PAUL JOINS TEXAS PACIFIC GROUP

Vivek Paul has quit Wipro and joined Texas Pacific Group (TPG), one of the world's largest Private Equity firms as a

Partner. At TPG Ventures, he will focus on Technology & Life Sciences investments.

Vivek Paul also sits on the Board of Directors of Electronic Arts.

BITSIANS MOVE AT CISCO

Prem Jain senior vice president at Cisco recently announced his retirement. Meanwhile, **Pankaj Patel** (ex SVP at Redback) has been promoted to senior vice president, Broadband Edge & Mid-Range Routing Business Unit. He holds an MS in EE from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BE from BITS, Pilani, India.



Pankaj Patel

BITSIAN'S BOOK ON GLOBAL OUTSOURCING

Suresh Sharma has published a book on Global Outsourcing, which serves as a comprehensive reference guide that takes managers through the necessary milestones for successful execution.

Suresh has led multiple global business, technology, and process improvement initiatives at General Electric (GE) over the past decade within the



(right) Arvind Mathew

Energy and Corporate R&D divisions.

ARVIND MATHEW APPOINTED MD, FORD INDIA

Arvind Mathew took over as the Managing Director of the company from August 1. He is now Vice-President and Executive Director (India programs implementation and supply).

ARJUN VALLURI LANCO GLOBAL AS CEO

Lanco Global Systems Limited (LGSL) has brought in **Arjun Valluri** (ex-BITSian) as director and Chief Executive Officer of LGSL. Mr. Valluri, founder chairman of Intelligroup Inc (first IT company from India to be listed on the Nasdaq), later left it. He then acquired a 'substantial' shareholding in LGSI. The combined turnover of these companies would be about \$22 million.

ARVIND SINGH, SPEAKS AT CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) organized the "Celebrate Citizenship, Celebrate America"



Arvind Singh

ceremony the week of July 4th. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was **Arvind J. Singh**, an Indian national who became a United States citizen last year. Arvind is a serial entrepreneur who has lived the "American Dream" since '91.

Arvind has an MS from the Birla Institute Of Technology and Science (BITS) in Pilani, India.

BITSIANS FINISH RUNNERS-UP IN IMAGINE CUP 2005

Ishan Shukla and **Mayur Karthik**, BITS, Pilani's contestants at Imagine Cup 2005, competed and got the Second Position and award of \$4000 in the Imagine Cup 2005. **Ishan** and **Mayur** showed typical BITSian gumption in meeting the challenges posed by the other teams and getting on top with little fuss.

PRABODH VYAS APPOINTED GIGABYTE MD

Prabodh Vyas (EEE) has been appointed MD of Gigabyte Technology (India), a joint

venture between D-Link India and Gigabyte Technologies, Taiwan. Prabodh, earlier the Director-Sales & Marketing, D-Link India, has over 28 years of experience.

DARING TO DREAM BIG

Rajesh Hukku, CEO of i-flex (recently taken over by Oracle) was successful in powering i-flex to become one of the largest financial software majors, with revenues of \$185 million, net profit of \$40 million and a market share of \$1 billion in the financial year 2004.

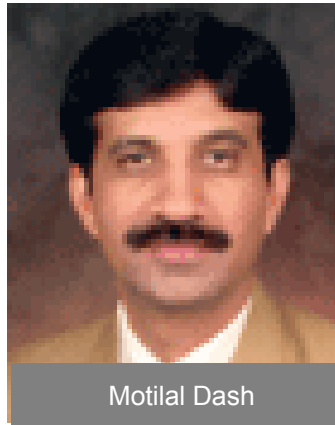


BITS '64-69 BATCH STORMS INTO LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS

BITS, Pilani's batch of '64 has stormed its way into the Limca Book of Records for creating a World Record number of Alumni Meets of a Single Batch: a feat that does us all proud. The feat has been listed in by the Limca Book of Records 2005 (pp. 156).

DR. MOTILAL DASH CONFERRED INDIRA GANDHI NSS AWARD

Dr. Motilal Dash, Assistant Professor, Humanistic Studies Group, BITS, Pilani, has been conferred the Indira Gandhi National Service Scheme (NSS) Award, for the academic year 2004-05. Join us in congratulating Dr. Dash on his tremendous achievement!



Motilal Dash

PROJECT DESERT BLOOM

BITS Pilani has established a Centre for Desert Development Technologies C-DDT and has joined hands with Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research BIDR Negev Israel in

a mission to develop world-class desert development technologies, titled Project Desert Bloom. The C-DDT at BITS Pilani aims to develop in the desert world class technologies for water and energy conservation in irrigation systems, rain water harvesting and water distribution systems. This is one more jewel in the crown of BITS, whose pioneering work for the society proves that the reputation of an educational institution is not merely based on its admission and placement statistics but based on its Social Engineering efforts too.

BITSIAN SECURES TOP SINGAPORE ACCOLADE

The head of Asia-Pacific operations of Satyam Computer Services Ltd. (NYSE:SAY), Mr. **Virender Aggarwal**, today became the first Indian national to receive the prestigious International Management Action Award ("IMAA") from Singapore. "His success clearly demonstrates his outstanding management capabilities, especially his skills in managing diversity," the IMAA said in its citation.



MASALA & SPICE

BITSIAN PRODUCED H1BEES CREATES HISTORY

Geeksta rap is making way for Curry Rock!

Srikanth Devarajan, Kartik Venkataramanan, Devesh Satyavolu and Srivatsa Srinivasan, were not unlike many others who have left India over the past decade on the H-1B visa, a guest worker program for highly skilled professionals. They wore glasses and mustaches and collared shirts. They could

exterminate Y2K bugs and code Java and link Unix. However, as they toiled in cubicles, they dreamed of keyboards of a different sort, of a world where C-sharp is just a musical note, not computer code. Then their worlds became one.

Their collaboration resulted in the creation of their first music album, H1Bees. The album, named after the US visa given to foreign workers with high-tech skills and recorded in a suburban basement-turned-studio, was released on September 10. Its music is "a

mix of Indian and Western beats with lyrics exploring the high-tech immigrant's experience in the United States." The music is written by Srikanth Devarajan and performed by aspiring Rock-and-Roll musicians who arrived in the United States to work in the computer and software industry. "The album, which will be sold via South Asian Web sites and stores for \$6, boasts songs in English, Hindi and Tamil." Producer **Vatsa** and lyricist **Devesh Satyavolu** are both BITSian alums.

ANOTHER BITSIAN TURNS DIRECTOR

After BITSian **Manishankar**, who shot to fame with 16 December, it is now the turn of Sivakumar, another BITSian, to grab the arclights. Sivakumar, who earlier worked with Mani Ratnam as assistant director, is set to direct his first movie Chukkallo Chandrudu. He has already managed to hit the headlines by pulling off a casting coup by bringing together today's A-list stars like Siddharth, Saloni, Charmi to share screen space with veterans like ANR and Waheeda Rehman. In keeping with the string of trendy flicks churned out these days, the movie is supposed to be an energetic youth techno flick. The muhurat of this film was held at State Art Gallery in Madapur on the morning of 24th August. We wish the BITSian director the best as we eagerly wait to see how this film shapes up and performs at the box office.

