

# BITS students excel at Robotics competition

The Aerial Robot, developed by students of the Birla Institute of Technological Studies (BITS), Pilani, Dubai campus, was placed first in the International Aerial Robotics Competition (IARC) held in North Dakota, U.S. At the event, the Aerial Robot successfully located an independent target marked as the office of the 'Chief of Security'. This task was accomplished under 10 minutes without setting off laser-barrier alarms.

The BITS Pilani Dubai Campus team comprised team leader Saurabh Ladha, Robin Singh, Aditya Jain, Deepan Kishore Kumar, Pavifra Bhal-la, Anant Mithal, Anshul Up-reti, and Prateek Joshi, who are currently students of the second year of the BE (Hons.) course in electronics and communications, mechanical engineering, and computer science.

The BITS team built the unique contraption with several propellers under the mentorship of R.K. Mittal, Di-

rector of the campus. Students from 28 universities across the globe had developed prototypes of flying robots with artificial intelligence in this competition.

The IARC's mission is to design and develop an autonomous indoor flying vehicle that can navigate through an unknown indoor environment, strewn with obstacles, and search the area to locate and retrieve the target: a 100-gram object, BITS officials said in a statement.

Saurabh Ladha, a final-year electronics and communications major, said, "It was a challenging endeavour as no human interference was allowed during the 'mission' and the robot had to 'think' and 'decide' for itself. With the guidance of Dr. R.K. Mittal and application of skills in control systems, artificial intelligence and image processing completed the operation successfully."

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