



**Are you listening to us?**

"The higher education system should be more vibrant and sensitive to the needs of the country and state. If the education system addresses our issues, we would achieve better results," he says

**45**

The number of years he spent in research and teaching



**What needs your attention**

"Development of relevant skills needs immediate attention. The universities may shift their expectations from 'what the students should know' to 'what the students can do'," he opines

Professor (Dr) Premendu P Mathur, the new Vice-Chancellor of Birla Global University, shares his thoughts on online education and research while *Seema Rajpal* listens in keenly



# BGU FOR THE WIN!

For about three months now, Birla Global University (BGU), Bhubaneswar has had a new Vice-Chancellor, the prolific Professor (Dr) Premendu P Mathur. The researcher and scientist has held several posts at prestigious varsities like KIIT and Pondicherry University and has been the recipient of awards like the Asutosh Mookerjee Memorial Award (ISCA) and Young Scientists Award (ISCA) among others. He calls his journey exciting and rewarding and hopes that he is able to contribute to BGU in a substantial way.

"The countries and states where budget allocation is higher perform better. Our country has around 3 per cent of the GDP dedicated to the education sector. The government needs to allocate more money in the higher education system in order to increase the quality of education in the country," opines the VC when asked about the upcoming union budget session and what should be its focus area when it comes to allocating an appropriate budget for education. In this way, prof Mathur shares his thoughts with regards to online education, research and how he wants his tenure at BGU to go. Excerpts from the conversation:



When the education system inclines towards skill development, things may improve and create manpower who could get employed and become entrepreneurs

Prof PP Mathur

city visibility all over the country. We started very innovative teaching programmes there which are very successful and continue to attract students from all over the country. Centre of Excellence in Bioinformatics is one of them. I had launched a Study In India programme which also attracted students from all over the world. When I joined KIIT it was also in the growth phase. I could contribute quite significantly to their academic programme which paid them off. Now, the university has become an Institution of Eminence. I have taken over as the Vice-Chancellor of BGU a little over three months ago and I hope that I would be able to make some innovative changes so that the university also gains visibility across the country and becomes a reputed place of study.

**2 As the VC of BGU, what are some of the changes that you want to bring about in the university?**

At the outset, I want to strengthen the teaching programmes and also improve the faculty output in terms of their research papers and innovation. Today the challenges are way too many and we have to implement the new National Education Policy while strengthening our teaching programmes. I am sure that the faculty will help much more to take this university to a higher level. We have recently introduced some innovative courses like MBA (Banking Technology), BSc (Data Science) and MBA – Business Analytics.

**3 In a period where the education system is in flux, caught between online and offline classes, what will the future of Indian education be?**

Once the pandemic is over, education

around the world will never be the same again. The best of online and the best of offline would get integrated and the learning experience of the students would be enriched. I am talking about a hybrid mode of teaching in which information could be given online while skill development could be offline. With over 1.6 billion students worldwide, it is a herculean task to bring them back to the formal education system.

**4 Since the main criticism against online learning is that it doesn't penetrate into every corner of India, in your point of view, what's the best way to ensure academics doesn't take a hit?**

I feel that after the pandemic has waned, the government and the institutions should work together to improve the basic digital resources needed for online interaction. We may prepare ourselves better for the next eventuality. Development of digital and technological infrastructure is most important in the present context.

**5 It has been stated various times before that neither the quality nor quantity of research in India is enough. Is the National Education Policy going to be the shot in the arm that research needs or is it going to take much more than that?**

Most of the institutions lack facilities and manpower for quality research in India. It is a challenge to increase the quantity of research without compromising on quality. The National Education Policy, if implemented properly by all the states, could address this issue and some of the universities would be designated as research universities where the focus will be predominantly on research and innovation. I hope that the required funding would be made available to the universities so that they can be competitive enough. We also need to set up business incubator facilities in the educational institutions to nurture start-ups.



VC talk



**THE BIG PROBLEM THAT CONTINUES TO PERSIST**

Prof Mathur strongly feels that the academic institutions are not changing their methodology and they are continuing to heavily focus on testing the memory of students rather than looking at innovation and problem-solving

# TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

BY SUBHRA KAR



In the last 45 years of his career as an academician and academic administrator, Dr. P.P. Mathur has made a significant contribution to a number of eminent institutions across the globe. Apart from serving as the Head of Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and the Dean, School of Life Sciences at Pondicherry University, Dr. Mathur has served as a Visiting Professor in many reputed institutions including Rockefeller University, New York; Westfälische Wilhelms Universität Münster, Germany; Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA and Hamad Medical Centre, Qatar and the Rockefeller Foundation Special Post-doctoral Fellowship Award at the Population Council Centre for Biomedical Research, New York, USA in his career so far. After successfully completing a 5-year term as the Vice-Chancellor of KIIT at Bhubaneswar during 2012-2017, as Dr. Mathur has taken up a new assignment as the vice-chancellor of Birla Global University (BGU), Bhubaneswar. **IT TEAMS** talked to him to know about his stance on BGU and his plans to take the varsity to the new pinnacle of success.

**P.P. MATHUR**  
Vice-Chancellor  
Birla Global University  
Bhubaneswar





### What is your vision regarding BGU, BBSR?

My vision for Birla Global University is to make the University a multi-disciplinary University with a large number of programmes. The University would produce students who are not only globally competitive but also continuous learners. The University would create an ecosystem where industry and academics will be together. The University would also endeavor to become a translational hub and provide incubation facility for budding entrepreneurs.

### How do you plan to build on the success of BGU, BBSR?

Birla Global University has very successfully started Management, Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences, Commerce and Law courses. I would strengthen the existing programmes and will start many new courses so that students get very wide experience. Through choice based credit system, the students will be allowed to take courses being offered in other schools depending on their interest.

The University should be able to implement the National Education Policy in letter and spirit.

### What opportunities do you see for BGU, BBSR to play on the national or international stage?

Birla Global University, being a private state University, can collaborate with various national/international institutions and can offer courses which would be unique and useful for various segments of the society. The University will focus on its social responsibilities towards the global society. The University will add courses which will increase skill development.

### You have over 45 years of experience in the field of education and academics. How do you see the changes which have taken place in the higher education sector in Odisha?

There has been a dramatic change in the education scenario in Odisha. We now have a large number of public and private institutions which are involved in providing education in various areas as per the demand of the society. One very

important aspect is that the state has most of the top ranking national institutes like IIT, AIIMS, IIM, NISER, NIFT, IIIT, IMMT, CIPET etc. In recent years, a large number of private and public Universities have been started, which provide learning opportunities to the students of the state. In addition, many private institutions have made their names nationally and internationally in providing quality education.

### Since the education Sector has been one of the most affected sectors due to pandemic, what do you feel can help in the revival of the loss of around one academic year?

The COVID-19 pandemic has played havoc across various sectors including the educational sector. The Government has been trying very hard so that the students do not suffer the loss of one academic year. Many of the institutions have conducted online classes and recently final year students have been allowed to come to the campuses. I believe that the effective actions taken by the institutions would help the students to save the loss of one year.

# 'BGU will focus on its social responsibilities'

*Birla Global University, set up with an objective to be the best destination for aspiring new-gen professionals, is committed to redefine 'quality' in education with state-of-the-art facilities, best of infrastructure and finest faculty.*

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The Vice-Chancellor (VC) of a university is the soul of the academia. His stature is built on the belief that he cannot be bent by influence nor broken by power. VCs ensure that academic and administrative goals are met, and help the University maintain a positive image. This is exactly what Professor PP Mathur, the VC of Bhubaneswar-based Birla Global University (BGU), has been doing since he joined the institution about six months back.

Professor Mathur, during a breezy chat with **Sunday POST**, reveals about his plans to take the varsity to the next level of excellence.

■ **Tell us about BGU. How do you plan to build on its current success?**

■ Though launched about five years ago, the varsity is now a leading light in the field education by offering relevant courses in Management, Law, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Communication. The modules are getting modernised regularly by dedicated teams of faculties. For instance, courses in Business Management are benchmarked against the best available in the country and specialisations like Business Analytics and Banking Technology are being added from this academic session. The university

has a beautiful and picturesque campus with modern recreational facilities. The School of Communication has the best of laboratory facilities. Inspired by the philosophy of its founders late BK Birla and late Sarala Devi Birla, BGU strives for excellence in teaching and research and encourage diversity and inclusiveness. I plan to take the quality of education to the next level of excellence.

■ **With years of experience behind, how do you see the changes that have taken place in Indian education system over the years?**

■ The higher education system is at the threshold of transformations. The focus has now shifted to skill development and in-built flexibility following the unveiling of the National Education Policy-2020. If the new policy is implemented in its totality, the system would become more student-centric and create a pool of skilled man power having willingness to upgrade themselves through lifelong learning.

■ **What will be your approach of governance as a VC?**

■ My vision for BGU is to make it a multi-disciplinary varsity having a large number of courses. I also want to produce students who will be co-constant learners and can compete on global platforms. The University would create an conducive environment for simultaneous growth of industry and academics. The BGU would also endeavour to become translational hub and provide incubation facility for budding entrepreneurs.

■ **What opportunities do you see for BGU at national and global stages?**

■ The BGU has successfully launched Management, Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences, Commerce and Law courses. I would strengthen the existing

programmes and introduce fresh ones to make our students compete at the top level. Through choice-based credit system the students will be allowed to take courses being offered in other schools depending on their interest. I will make sure that the NEP-2020 is followed in letter and spirit here. BGU, being a private state university, can collaborate with various national/international institutions and can offer programmes which would be unique and useful for various segments of the society. The university will focus on its social responsibilities towards the global society. Besides, we will offer 'Study in India' to induct students from other countries.

■ **Please tell us about your journey from being a researcher to the VC of so many varsities.**

■ My journey from Pondicherry University to Birla Global University has been extremely exciting and rewarding. After finishing my education from Banaras Hindu University, I began my career in Kurukshetra University and then received Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship to visit the Population Council, The Rockefeller University, New York. On my return in 1988, I joined Pondicherry University when it was in a formative stage, and I could translate my ideas there which gave me and the institution a very big visibility all over the country. I also received Rockefeller Foundation Biotechnology Career Award and INSA-German Academy Fellowship which enabled me to broaden my research horizon. We started very innovative teaching and research programmes there which are still very successful ones and attract students from all over the country. Centre of Excellence in Bioinformatics is one of them. I had launched a study in India programme which also attracted students from all over the world. When I joined KIIT in 2012 it was in a rapid growth phase. I could contribute quite significantly



## A brief profile

Professor PP Mathur is a researcher of great stature in the academic community. He was a Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Dean, School of Life Sciences, Pondicherry University (PU). Earlier, he served as the VC of KIIT University. He is also a Fellow of National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) and Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). He served as General Secretary (Scientific Activities) of the ISCA (2016-19). He is Vice-President, Asian Association of Andrology and was on various committees of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, USA. Besides, he is a member of Court of the Central University of Karnataka and had served as member of Court, Executive Council and Academic Council of PU.

in their academic programmes which paid off. Now the University has become an institution of eminence. I have taken over as the Vice-Chancellor of BGU around six months ago. I hope that I would be able to make some innovative changes to make the varsity gain national visibility.



# 'भौतिक परिवेश से आनलाइन शिक्षा की नकल नहीं की जा सकती'

जासं, राउरकेला : कोरोना महामारी ने शिक्षा के डिलीवरी सिस्टम को बदल दिया है। कोरोना काल में आनलाइन शिक्षा को बढ़ावा मिला है, जिसके कई लाभ हैं तो कुछ कमियां भी हैं। अधिकांश शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा आनलाइन कक्षाएं संचालित की जा रही हैं। फिर भी भौतिक परिवेश की नकल नहीं की जा सकती। ये बातें बिड़ला ग्लोबल यूनिवर्सिटी (बीजीयू) के कुलपति प्रो. (डा.) पीपी माथुर ने कही।

उन्होंने कहा कि अस्थिर इंटरनेट, बुनियादी ढांचों की कमी जैसी कई समस्याओं ने ऑनलाइन कक्षाओं के तहत उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रहे छात्रों को पढ़ाने की गुणवत्ता को काफी हद तक प्रभावित किया है। सभी यह जानते हैं कि छात्र बातचीत के माध्यम से काफी कुछ सीखते हैं। और यह तभी संभव है जब छात्र शैक्षणिक संस्थान के परिसर में एक साथ हों। उन्होंने कहा कि कोरोना काल में छात्रों के माता-पिता को वित्तीय नुकसान हुआ है। लिहाजा शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से रियायत देने की उनकी मांग स्वभाविक है। उन्होंने अपनी निजी प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि गुणवत्ता पूर्ण शिक्षा के लिए सभी पाठ्यक्रमों को फिर से पढ़ना व पुनः प्रसारित करना होगा। साथ ही



प्रो. पीपी माथुर • जागरण

पाठ्यक्रम से दोहराव व अप्रासंगिक विषयों को हटाने की आवश्यकता है। चूंकि वर्तमान शिक्षा प्रणाली में बहुत कुछ सुधार करने की जरूरत है। कहा, नई राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति व्यापक है। यदि इसे सही ढंग से लागू किया जाए तो यह हमारी शिक्षा प्रणाली बेहतर हो सकती है। उन्होंने छात्रों से आग्रह करते हुए कहा कि महामारी को लेकर छात्रों को घबराने की जरूरत नहीं है। समय बहुत ही उपयोगी है। लिहाजा समय का सही तरीके से उपयोग करें। आनलाइन कक्षाओं में भाग लेने का प्रयास करें। प्रो. माथुर ने कहा कि बिड़ला ग्लोबल यूनिवर्सिटी सरकार की ओर से जारी दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करने के लिए तैयार है। अपने स्तर से सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल को अंतिम रूप देने की प्रक्रिया में है।

# बीजीयू अपनी सामाजिक जिम्मेदारियों पर करेगा ध्यान केंद्रित : कुलपति

पटना/संवाददाता। नए-जीन पेशेवरों की आकांक्षा के लिए सबसे अच्छा गंतव्य होने के उद्देश्य से स्थापित बिड़ला ग्लोबल विश्वविद्यालय, अत्याधुनिक सुविधाओं के साथ शिक्षा में गुणवत्ता को फिर से परिभाषित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। यह सर्वोत्तम बुनियादी सुविधाओं और बेहतरीन संकाय हैं। एक विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति (वीसी) शिक्षाविद की आत्मा हैं। उनका कद इस विश्वास पर बनाया गया है कि वह प्रभाव से नहीं झुक सकते और न ही सत्ता से टूट सकते हैं। कुलपति यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि शैक्षणिक और प्रशासनिक लक्ष्य पूरे हों और विश्वविद्यालय को सकारात्मक छवि बनाए रखने में मदद करें। भुवनेश्वर स्थित बिरला ग्लोबल



यूनिवर्सिटी (बीजीयू) के कुलपति प्रो. पीपी माथुर ने बताया कि लगभग पांच साल पहले इसे लांच किया गया था, लेकिन अब प्रबंधन, कानून, मानविकी और सामाजिक विज्ञान और संचार में प्रासंगिक पाठ्यक्रम प्रदान करके क्षेत्र शिक्षा में एक अग्रणी प्रकाश है। मॉड्यूल संकायों की समर्पित टीमों द्वारा नियमित रूप से आधुनिक हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि अब ध्यान कौशल विकास और

इन-बिल्ट लचीलेपन पर चला गया है। यदि नई नीति को उसकी समग्रता में लागू किया जाता है, तो प्रणाली अधिक छात्र केंद्रित हो जाएगी और आजीवन सीखने के माध्यम से खुद को उन्नत करने की इच्छा रखने वाले कुशल मैन पावर का एक पूल तैयार करेगी। उन्होंने बताया कि पांडिचेरी विश्वविद्यालय से बिड़ला ग्लोबल विश्वविद्यालय तक की मेरी यात्रा बेहद रोमांचक और पुरस्कृत रही है। बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय से अपनी शिक्षा समाप्त करने के बाद, मैंने कुरुक्षेत्र विश्वविद्यालय में अपना करियर शुरू किया और फिर रॉकफेलर फाउंडेशन फेलोशिप को जनसंख्या परिषद, द रॉकलेर विश्वविद्यालय, न्यूयॉर्क का दौरा करने के लिए प्राप्त किया।



**बातचीत** ●● कहा-शिक्षकों, छात्रों और अविभावकों ने कुशलता से किया सामना, कौशल शिक्षा को बढ़ाने पर दिया जोर

## कोरोना शिक्षा प्रदान करने की शैली बदली : प्रो. माथुर

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कोरोना महामारी ने शिक्षा प्रदान करने की शैली को बदल दिया है और ऑनलाइन शिक्षा को बढ़ावा मिला है. हालांकि इसमें कई लाभ भी हैं और कुछ कमियां भी हैं.

उक्त बातें बिड़ला ग्लोबल विश्वविद्यालय के बीसी प्रोफेसर पीपी माथुर ने कहीं. वह



नवभारत के साथ विशेष बातचीत कर रहे थे. उन्होंने कहा कि कोरोना महामारी के दौरान लॉकडाउन और शटडाउन के दौरान अधिकांश संस्थानों द्वारा ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं संचालित की गई हैं. हालांकि भौतिक परिवेश की नकल नहीं की जा सकती. फिर भी शिक्षक और छात्र इस महामारी के दौरान नए परिस्थितियों सामना करने

की कोशिश कर रहे हैं. संसाधन युक्त छात्र और शिक्षकों के लिए ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं आयोजित करने में कुछ ज्यादा दिक्कतें नहीं हुई, लेकिन एक वर्ग ऐसा भी है, जहां आज भी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स गजट पहुंच से दूर हैं. ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इंटरनेट की सुविधा नहीं है. शहरों में भी इंटरनेट की दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है. पुस्तकों के अध्ययन तक ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं कुछ हद तक ठीक हैं, लेकिन उच्च शिक्षा में ऑनलाइन कक्षाओं ने गुणवत्ता को प्रभावित किया है. अस्थिर इंटरनेट, बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी और आमने-सामने की बातचीत न होने जैसी कठिनाई समेत कई ऐसे फैक्टर हैं, जिससे छात्रों को पढ़ाने की गुणवत्ता को प्रभावित किया है. प्रोफेसर माथुर ने कहा कि हमारी संस्कृति में पाठशालाओं के कई आग्राम बताये गये हैं, जिसमें घर से

### उच्च शिक्षा में छात्रों की संख्या बढ़ी

बढ़ती शिक्षा दर के साथ-साथ बढ़ती बेरोजगारी के मुद्दे पर माथुर ने कहा कि वास्तव में उच्च शिक्षा में छात्रों की संख्या में जबरदस्त वृद्धि हुई है, जो कि 30% है. सरकार की योजना इसे 50% बनाने की है. हालांकि, छात्रों में वांछित कौशल की कमी सहित विभिन्न कारणों से बेरोजगारी बढ़ी है. यह उच्च समय है कि हमें इस समस्या का समाधान करना चाहिए और जल्द से जल्द शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए. हमें पाठ्यक्रम के माध्यम से छात्रों में विभिन्न कौशल बढ़ाना है. इस महामारी के दौरान मैं छात्रों से घबराहट नहीं करने और समय का बहुत ही उपयोगी तरीके से उपयोग करने का आग्रह करता हूँ. कई ऑनलाइन कक्षाओं में भाग लेने का प्रयास करते रहना चाहिए, जो उन्हें मजबूत करेगा. इस प्रकार का खाली समय उन्हें कभी नहीं मिलेगा. प्रोफेसर माथुर ने कहा कि अब विद्यालय खुल गये हैं. हमारे यहां सभी कोर्स पूरा हो चुके हैं. उसका पुनर्ध्वन भी शुरू हो गया है. साथ ही उन्होंने अपने विश्वविद्यालय के सभी सहयोगी साधियों और छात्रों को लॉकडाउन के दौरान बेहतर तालमेल बनाते हुए कोर्स को पूरा करने के लिए आभार जताया.

लेकर पढ़ोस, खेल के साथी और विद्यालय आदि जुड़े हैं. ऐसी स्थिति में यह भी सामान्य बात है कि छात्र

सहकर्मी से बातचीत के माध्यम से काफी सीखते हैं, यह तभी संभव है, जबकि वे एक-दूसरे के साथ होते हैं.

साधियों से काफी कुछ सीखने को मिलता है, लेकिन लॉकडाउन के कारण छात्र परिसर में एक साथ नहीं हैं, ऐसी शिक्षा ऑनलाइन नहीं मिल सकती है. फ्रीस माफ्री को लेकर माथुर ने कहा कि इस महामारी के दौरान माता-पिता सहित सभी को वित्तीय नुकसान हुआ है. माता-पिता के लिए कुछ रियायतें मांगना स्वाभाविक है. कोरोना के कारण पढ़ाई की प्रक्रिया को लेकर प्रोफेसर माथुर ने कहा कि मुझे लगता है कि इस महामारी के दौरान हम वर्तमान प्रोटोकॉल के तहत सबसे अच्छा संभव करने में सक्षम हैं. हालांकि, हमें यह समझना चाहिए कि हम इस तरह की घटना का सामना करने के लिए कभी तैयार नहीं थे. इसके बावजूद शिक्षकों, छात्रों और अविभावकों ने बहुत कम समय में इसे लेकर बहुत अच्छी तरह से सुबकुछ समायोजित किया है.

# Many private institutions in India are becoming competitive, says Vice-Chancellor of BGU

**B**irla Global University (BGU) is a self-financed private unitary University and has been established by the enactment of Birla Global University Odisha Act, 2015. Professor PP Mathur, Vice-Chancellor of BGU in an interview with FPJ shares the vision of the university and the role of private universities in the country.

**Edited excerpts below :**

**It has been five years since BGU in**

**Bhubaneswar came into being. What do you think are its salient features and USPs?**

The University aims to be the best destination for aspiring new-gen professionals. It is committed to redefine 'quality' in education with state-of-the-art infrastructure and very learned and committed faculty. The University is very friendly to the students and tries to realise their dreams by providing relevant courses which are updated periodically. The University also provides multi-disciplinary courses and helps them to develop their communication skills. The University translates the Birla philosophy of promoting Art and culture. The University is offering courses under a choice based credit system and has already started adopting various aspects of NEP 2020.

**Are you planning to expand to newer areas of learning and research?**

**Any new courses on the anvil?**

The University currently offers Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral programs under Schools of Management, Commerce, Social Science & Humanities, Communication and Law. From this academic year, we will be starting a School of Applied Sciences with courses in Data Sciences. We have also started MBA in Business Analytics and specialisation in Banking Technology. Eventually, we plan to add many more applied courses including LLM.

**COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious disruptions to various sectors and education is certainly one of them. What changes have you adopted to ensure academics doesn't suffer?**

Of course, the current pandemic has caused disruptions in higher education in the whole world. Since our



University has a good IT infrastructure and the students were also connected the teaching did not suffer. But

the classroom experience cannot get replicated

in online teaching. However, the examinations were held in time and thus the students could graduate in time and also could get jobs and admissions in higher classes. The teachers adapted to online teaching, mentoring and conduct of proctored online examinations. Our admissions as well as training and placements were also done through online mode.

**Private Universities are seen as expensive and elitist. Would you agree?**

Private institutions appear to be expensive but the kind of services they provide in the life cycle of a student has to be weighed too. They are much more progressive and adopt changes in all the academic aspects like syllabi, examinations, training and placements. In most of the so-called elitist private institutions children from the middle-class dominate. Parents feel that their children will get a better deal in the private institutions which many times is true. They plan and save money for sending their children to private institutions right from primary schooling. I have seen that many private institutions in India are also becoming competitive and are trying to provide the best education.

**How do you think BGU can collaborate with other institutions of higher learning, private and state-run, to ensure parity and inclusiveness?**

BGU has been collaborating with various institutions of higher learning and professional bodies in order to provide the students best learning experience. The University prepares a very progressive course curriculum with inputs from academicians

and industrial experts. We prepare a better syllabus than most of the state-run Universities. BGU encourages students from diverse backgrounds and offers a large number of scholarships.

**What is your vision for BGU and what would be the timeframe to implement it?**

My vision is to see BGU as a multi-disciplinary institution with various branches of science, humanities and social sciences available to students. We have already taken steps to start a new School of Applied Sciences from this year. It is a never-ending process but I wish to see a large number of options available to the students within the next five years.

**Any words of advice for students, teachers, researchers and parents?**

I wish to share that the institutions must maintain good relationships with all the stakeholders. I would suggest that teachers should always strive for the best in teaching, research and social responsibilities. Teaching methodology has to be constantly reviewed and problem-solving abilities, adaptability, and creativity along with soft skills should be tested. At the end of the day, the stakeholders look for how resourceful you are, how much you can deliver for their benefit and how you conduct yourself. So, we should have the right kind of attitude. We must try to learn throughout life. The students must also be taught to be lifelong learners. We must have constant dialogue with parents.

**Anything else that you would want to highlight or add.**

I would like to urge the students to dream big and keep themselves engaged to chase them. Never give up. Your life is not made up of DNA, protein and fat alone but most importantly with time. Never waste it. Do not try to emulate others but live your own dreams. A small failure may be a prelude to big success.