



BITS SPORTS FESTIVAL 2021



BITS Pilani Sports Festival, a 5 days Inter University sporting extravaganza concludes in high spirits!

- **BITS Pilani Dubai Campus dominates, winning Overall Championship Trophy, Middlesex University shines in Athletics.**
- **Over 2000 students from 23 universities across UAE participated in 18th Annual Sports festival organised by BITS Pilani Dubai Campus.**

Dubai, UAE: Witnessing the fun, fervour and sportsmanship, a **5 day long** sporting extravaganza **BITS Pilani Sports Festival (BSF)** came to an end with much fanfare, pomp and glory on 25th November 2021. The spectacular sporting event touted to be one of the biggest Inter University sports festival organised by **BITS Pilani Dubai Campus (BPDC)** saw participation from **2000 students across 23 universities** from all over the **UAE**. The closing ceremony was graced by former Indian Cricket Captain **Mr. Mohammad Azharuddin**, as **Chief Guest**, **Dr. M. Rafiuddin**, Convener, BITS Pilani Sports Festival, **Prof. Srinivasan Madapusi**, Director BPDC, **Dr. Priti Bajpai**, Dean student welfare, Students from various colleges and Media.

The **18th edition of BSF** witnessed strong competition and best talents as students vied for top honors in **11 sports categories** such as football, cricket, throwball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and athletics along with indoor games such as chess, badminton and table tennis. **10 matches** were played in each category that turned the campus in battle field with **BPDC winning whopping 5 first positions and 12 runner-up positions** leading to **Overall Champions Trophy**. **Second place** was grabbed by **Middlesex University** with 18 points, followed by **Manipal University and Amity University**.

Chief Guest, Mr. Mohammad Azharuddin, while speaking at the award ceremony left every attendee in awe with his impactful and inspiring words. **Congratulating BITS Pilani Dubai campus for hosting such a magnificent event, he said,** *"It is my pleasure to attend BITS sports festival as I see so many students competing for the trophy and putting their best foot forward every moment. During our times we didn't have such a huge platform to display our talent, hence I want each and every one of you to feel proud and grateful no matter whether you won or lost"*.

Commenting on the occasion, Prof. Srinivasan Madapusi, Director BPDC, said, *"This event was a great opportunity for all of us. The sheer magnitude in bringing together Universities from*



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across the Emirates is a commendable experience in itself. All students were fantastic and stepped up on the day, creating an enjoyable, safe and inclusive environment for all who attended. Our teams have put up sterling performances, demonstrating once again that BPDC is a force to be reckoned with in the sporting arena”.

The various sporting events spread throughout BITS Pilani Dubai Campus attracted a lot of crowds, as spirited spectators gathered to encourage their respective university teams. The final day saw some nail biting matches between competing universities. Football ground was set ablaze where American University of Ras AL Khaimah won 1-0 against University of Dubai. The highlight of the day was open court volleyball matches. The crowd rallied behind BPDC Girls and Boys teams.

The sports complex housing indoor games also saw fierce competition- BPDC boys’ badminton team left no stone unturned for their victory against Manipal University where as Middlesex University Girls Badminton team delivered a brilliant performance winning the game against BPDC Girls team. The day filled with highs also came with its lows as the BPDC basketball Girls and Boys team failed to win against Middlesex and Dubai Men’s College respectively even after putting up a valiant effort.

This year’s tournaments saw Girl’s teams in their full zest, in scorching heat, BPDC Girls Cricket team “steam-rolled” the competition delivering an emphatic victory as Gulf Medical University chased a herculean target of 91 runs. The most entertaining match was of Throwball as huge crowd around the court cheered as BPDC Girls team smashed every ball to gain points.

The exciting live events and eating competitions that accompanied the intense play-offs helped the audience remain at ease and entertained. Radio Mirchi’s RJ delivered a passionate and creative rap on PUBG and shared a heartfelt poem on supporting women. The crowd joined in on the fun, making Tik-Tok videos and Instagram reels with the RJ. The impromptu dance routines between different matches kept the atmosphere live and electric.

In the evening **Dr. M. Rafiuddin, Convener, BITS Pilani Sports Festival thanked all those involved in the laborious and fruitful event.** All winning teams were given their medals and trophies. The wide grin on their faces testified that BITS Pilani Sports Festival was a huge success. Below are some pictures from the event:



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NEWS CHANNELS COVERING BSF 2021:

1. **Gulf today:** <https://www.gulftoday.ae/sport/2021/11/27/former-indian-skipper-azharuddin-graces-bits-pilani-sports-festival>
2. **MENAFN:** <https://menafn.com/1103257169/Azhars-speech-inspires-students-at-BITS-Pilani-Sports-Festival-in-Dubai>
3. **UAE News:** <https://uaenews247.com/2021/11/27/bits-pilani-sports-festival/amp/>
4. **EyeofArabia:** <https://www.eyeofarabia.com/2021/11/28/bits-pilani-sports-festival-a-5-days-inter-university-sporting-extravaganza-concludes-in-high-spirits/>
5. **ObserverDubai:** http://observerdubai.com/inner_detail?di=5263&tCV5-gDeQfn=4
6. **UAENews4U:** <https://uaenews4u.com/2021/11/27/bits-pilani-sports-festival-a-5-days-inter-university-sporting-extravaganza-concludes-in-high-spirits/>
7. **KhaleejTimes:** <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/cricket/azhars-speech-inspires-students-at-bits-pilani-sports-festival-in-dubai>
8. **GulfNews:** <https://gulfnews.com/sport/uae-sport/bits-pilani-sports-festival-draws-to-a-close-after-five-days-1.83999026>



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