

## Two BITS Pilani, Goa professors among world's top two percent highly cited scientists

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**P**rofessor Narendra Nath Ghosh from the department of chemistry and professor Meenal Kowshik from the department of biological sciences at BITS Pilani, KK Birla Goa campus, have been featured among the world's top two percent highly cited scientists in both career-long data (end-of-2021) and single recent year data (2021) categories in a list created by the researcher of Stanford University, U.S., which was published on October 10. A total of 29 researchers from BITS Pilani University have featured in this list while BITS Pilani made it to the top 10 in India among technical institutions. In the list, scientists are classified into 22 fields and 176 sub-fields. Ghosh's sub-field was Ma-



Narendra Nath Ghosh



Meenal Kowshik

terials and Meenal's subfield was Biotechnology under the field of Enabling & Strategic Technologies.

Ghosh has contributed to the research area of nanomaterials and nanotechnology. Under his guidance, his research group members develop new methods to prepare varieties of nanostructured

materials. Recently, his group was successful in preparing nanocomposites from coconut fibres. The materials Ghosh's research group develop have demonstrated their potential to be used in wastewater treatment, electric storage devices, and materials for defence applications. His research is supported by various

national and international funding agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, DRDO, Department of Atomic Energy, University Grant Commission, CSIR, Aditya Birla Group, British Council (UK), and Royal Academy Engineering (UK). Along with the research students and collaborators, Ghosh has published more than 100 research papers in international journals.

Kowshik spent most of her academic and professional life in Goa having done her graduation from Government College Khandola and M.Sc. in microbiology from Goa University. She obtained her PhD from Agharkar Research Institute under Pune University and joined BITS Pilani Goa Campus in 2004. Kowshik works in the area of nanobiotechnology and is involved in

developing non-toxic nanomaterials such as antimicrobials, bio-imaging and gene delivery agents. She is also involved in exploring the possibility of using nanomaterials for agriculture applications, with special focus on fortification of traditional leafy vegetables grown in Goa with micronutrients such as zinc. Her research has been funded by national agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and Indian Council for Medical Research, in addition to BITS. She has published more than 50 research papers in international and national journals. Seven students have completed their PhD under her guidance and five are presently pursuing their PhD.