



**CALL FOR JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW FOR THE ANRF-ARG INTERDISCIPLINARY
PROJECT**

14.06.2026

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for **Junior Research Fellow (JRF)** to work on the project sponsored by the ANRF (ARG, File No. ANRF/ARG/2025/010568//LS) under the supervision of **Dr. Kirtimaan Syal, Department of Biological Science, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus**. The relevant details of the project are:

Title of the project: “*Molecular Basis of Regulation of the Bifunctional (p)ppGpp Synthetase/Hydrolase- SpoT and its Role in Bacterial Persistence.*”

Brief project description: This project (PI: **Dr. Kirtimaan Syal, BITS Hyd**) proposes to investigate the molecular mechanisms regulating SpoT, a bifunctional (p)ppGpp synthetase/hydrolase that maintains alarmone homeostasis during bacterial stress adaptation. The stringent response, mediated by (p)ppGpp, is a key determinant of bacterial persistence. However, the regulatory factors controlling SpoT activity and their physiological significance remain poorly understood. The project aims to identify the molecular role of the SpoT protein in determining bacterial stress adaptation. The project also deals with the identification and screening of potential inhibitors of the SpoT protein.

Fellowship amount: ₹ 37000 per month + HRA as applicable

Duration: Four years

Number of vacancies: 01 (one)

Eligibility: Students with **M.Sc/M.Tech/M.E in life science background or any other suitable M.Sc. degree appropriate for the project, with a minimum aggregate of 60 % marks** can apply, with age not exceeding **28 years** as of the date of interview. GATE/NET qualification is mandatory

Desired experience: Candidate with prior experience in protein biochemistry and molecular biology will be given preference. Overall, the project deals in an interdisciplinary area of biology, biophysics, chemistry. Aspiring students with a reasonable understanding of the subjects and a passion to work in the interdisciplinary areas would be preferred.

How to apply for the above vacancy: Interested candidates with the eligibility requirements mentioned above may send their CVs giving detailed information about their educational qualifications, research experience, and published research papers (if any) by 16th June (Tue), 2026, to **Dr. Kirtimaan Syal via email: ksyal@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in**. The interview will be





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tentatively held online via Google Meet in the 3rd week of June, 2026. The interview schedule will be sent to candidates via email. Only qualified and suitable candidates will be called for the online interview. Selected candidates may be permitted to register for the PhD program of BITS Pilani subject to fulfilling the requirements of the PhD qualification process as per the institute norms.

Dr. Kirtimaan Syal, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Science

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Webpage: <https://www.bits-pilani.ac.in/hyderabad/kirtimaan-syal/>



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