

Scientific Programme

International Conference on Nano- and Functional Materials (NFM) 2026: Materials for a Sustainable Future

17th -18th April 2026, Venue: 6110, J C Choudhry NAB Auditorium, BITS Pilani

DAY 1		
April 17th, 2026 (Friday)		
08:00 AM - 09:00 AM	Registration	
Inaugural Ceremony		
09:00 AM - 09:10 AM	Welcome and Invocation	
09:10 AM - 09:15 AM	About the Conference	Prof. Bibhas R. Sarkar <i>Convener, NFM-2026</i>
09:15 AM - 09:20 AM	About the Department	Prof. Inamur R. Laskar , <i>HoD Chemistry, Chairman NFM-2026</i>
09:20 AM - 09:35 AM	Welcome Address	Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao , <i>Vice-Chancellor, BITS Pilani</i>
09:36 AM - 09:45 AM	Address by Chief Guest	Prof. Ashok K. Ganguli , <i>Director, IISER Berhampur</i>
09:45 AM - 09:47 AM	Vote of thanks	Prof. Mrinmoyee Basu , <i>Co-Convener, NFM-2026</i>
Group Photograph and High Tea (9.50-10.10 AM)		
Session I	Session Chair: Prof. Anshuman Dalvi, Professor, BITS Pilani	
10:10 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary Lecture <i>(Inaugural Talk)</i>	Prof. Ashok K. Ganguli , <i>Director, IISER Berhampur, India</i> Title: Design of functional nanostructures for energy and biomedical applications
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Dilip K. Maiti , <i>University of Calcutta, India</i> Title: Synthesis and Fabrication of Organic Nanomaterials for Sensors, Devices and Other Innovative Applications
11:30 AM - 11:50 AM	Tea/ Coffee Break	
Session II	Session Chair: Prof. Saumi Ray, Professor, BITS Pilani	
11:50 AM - 12:40 PM	Plenary Lecture	Prof. Saurav Goel , <i>London South Bank University, UK</i> Title: Sustainable Frontiers in Precision Manufacturing and Engineered Surfaces
12:40 PM - 01:10 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Shubhangi B. Umbarkar , <i>CSIR-NCL, Pune, India</i> Title: Green Catalytic Delignification Process for Microcrystalline Cellulose from Sugarcane bagasse
13:10 PM - 14:30 PM	Lunch Break @ Institute Cafeteria	
Session III	Session Chair: Prof., Bharti Khungar, Professor, BITS Pilani	
14:30 PM - 15:00 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Sugata Ray , <i>IACS Kolkata, India</i> Title: The impact of x-rays with high brilliance on the oxidation state of arsenic ions and consequently on the nucleation of arsenic bearing phases within aqueous medium
15:00 PM - 15:30 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Mrinal Pal , <i>CSIR-CGCRI, Kolkata, India</i> Title: The scent of health: Semiconductor nanocomposites-based gas sensor towards human healthcare
15:30 PM - 16:00 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Asish Pal , <i>INST-Mohali, India</i> Title: Supramolecular Engineering Strategy: from Chiroptical Amplification to Tunable Properties in Chiral Polymers
16:00 PM - 16:20 PM	Tea/ Coffee Break	
Session IV	Session Chair: Prof. Dalip Kumar, Senior Professor, BITS Pilani	
16:20 PM - 16:50 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Biswarup Chakraborty , <i>IIT Delhi, India</i> Title: Mechanistic investigation of the electro-/photo-chemical synthesis of ammonia
16:50 PM - 17:30 PM	Keynote Lecture	Prof. Yosi Sacham , <i>Tel Aviv University, Israel</i> Title: Synthetic Biology-based Functional Plant Sensors for Sustainable Precision Agriculture
Session V	Poster Presentation and Evaluation Session Chair: Prof. Arnab Hazra, Prof. Subhashis Gangopadhyay, and Prof. Radha R. Mishra	
17:30 PM - 19:00 PM	Poster session	@ Rotunda - All Posters in All Themes
19:00 PM - 20:00 PM	Cultural Program @ Pooja Ground	
20:00 PM - Onwards	Conference Gala Dinner @ Pooja Ground	

DAY 2**April 18th, 2026 (Saturday)**

Session VI	Session Chair: Prof. Anil Kumar, Professor, BITS Pilani	
09:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Sameer Sapra, IIT Delhi, India Title: Optoelectronics, Electrocatalysis and Charge Storage using Transition Metal Dichalcogenide based Nano-heterostructures
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Kamalendra Awasthi, MNIT Jaipur, India Title: Engineering Polymer Hybrid Nanomaterials Toward Selective and Sensitive Gas Detection
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	Keynote Lecture	Prof. Youhong Tang, Flinders University, Australia Title: Vortex fluidic mediated aggregation induced emission luminogens and beyond
11:10 AM - 11:30 AM	Tea/ Coffee Break	
Session VII	Session Chair: Prof. Ajay K Sah, Professor, BITS Pilani	
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Sasanka Deka, University of Delhi, India Title: Synergistic Interactions of Single Atoms with Semiconductors for Maximized Photocatalytic Hydrogen Generation and H ₂ O ₂ Production
12:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Bidisa Das, TCG Crest, Kolkata, India Title: OER Activity of Fe-Oxyhydroxide Nanostructures from Solution to Surfaces: A DFT Study
12:30 PM - 13:00 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Kaushik Ghosh, INST-Mohali, India Title: Multifunctional 2D Material-Based Sensors and Energy Harvesting Systems
13:00 PM - 14:20 PM	Lunch Break @ Institute Cafeteria	
Session VIII	Session Chair: Prof. Indresh Kumar and Prof. Prashant U. Manohar, BITS Pilani	
14:20 PM - 15:20 PM	Oral Presentations	
	Room # 6109 Room # 6110	Oral presentation # 1 - 6 Oral presentation # 7 - 13
15:20 PM - 15:50 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Rahul Prajesh, CSIR-CEERI, Pilani, India Title: Functional Materials to Sensor Systems: Devices, Platforms, and Applications
15:50 PM - 16:20 PM	Invited Lecture	Prof. Parvej Alam, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, P R China Title: Enhancing Organic Long-Persistent Luminescence via Trace Doping and Triplet-Triplet Energy Transfer
16.20 pm – 16.50 pm	Invited Lecture	Prof. Hema Kuntrapakam, IIT-Jodhpur, India Title: Balancing Molecular Freedom: Confinement and Constraints in Supramolecular Materials Design
16:50 PM - 17:30 PM	Keynote Lecture	Prof. Kausik Mukhopadhyay, University of Central Florida, USA Title: Injectable Siloxane-based Rapid Treatment for Augmented Hemostasis
17:30 PM - 17:45 PM	Tea/ Coffee Break	
Valedictory Ceremony		
17:45 PM - 17:55 PM	Summary of Events – Prof. Paritosh Shukla, BITS Pilani	
17:55 PM - 18:25 PM	Closing Remarks	Prof. N. V. Muralidhar Rao, Dean of Administrations, Pilani Campus
18:25 PM - 18:30 PM	Prize Distribution	Announcement and Distribution of Awards
18:30 PM - Onwards	Campus Tour	
20:00 PM - Onwards	Dinner at VFAST Lawns	