

# Soon, BITS Pilani Goa to mentor GU's under grad students fast-track to PhD

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**Panaji:** In a new understanding, the BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus will soon be taking undergraduate students of Goa University affiliated colleges under its wing. It wants to mentor these students to fast-track the students into PhD programmes. The Goa University will in turn open its doors for BITS to tie-up with the varsity's faculty for research projects focused on resolving Goa specific issues, like biodiversity of the state's Western Ghats stretch.

"The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, requires all students of high-



BITS Pilani Goa director Suman Kundu (L) after exchanging the MoU with Goa University vice-chancellor Harilal Menon on Tuesday

er education to undergo a research component as part of their studies. Now,

even at the undergraduate-level dissertation is part of the curriculum. If the GU-affiliated colleges have bright students, who are research oriented, they can be fast-tracked into the PhD programme, without having to go through all the formal procedures usually involved," Goa University vice-chancellor Harilal Menon said.

BITS Pilani Goa director Suman Kundu said that when students from GU-affiliated colleges take up research at his institute, teachers from both sides will be involved in co-mentoring the research student.

► **Joint workshops, P 4**

# GU and BITS faculties to hold joint workshops, conferences

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**B**ITS Pilani Goa director Suman Kundu said this may lead to the co-mentoring faculty to take up PhD at BITS, Goa due to the engagement. "It will create an environment for research and we also have a part-time PhD programme already at BITS Pilani Goa campus," he said.

He said that there are also plans under the MoU that will allow students from his institute who have submitted their PhD thesis to take up some lectures as teachers at Goa University programmes.

"They can get some training and experience in tea-

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**Suman Kundu** | DIRECTOR,  
BITS PILANI - GOA

ching at the Goa University and find out if they are meant for teaching. This model has worked well in the past," Kundu said. There will be joint workshops, conferences and projects taken up by faculty from GU and BITS Pilani.

"The MoU will help scale up research and academic activity in the future. We have a bio-incubator at

GU and the faculty from BITS Pilani can also come to our campus and utilise the facilities. In the future, we can also think of a sandwich model for our students where they can do part of the programme at GU and part of it at BITS Pilani, Goa," Menon said.

Kundu said the MoU has been signed with the vision that all institutes of higher education in Goa should work together, and in the future this engagement will extend to a network involving IIT Goa and NIT Goa.

He said that the idea is also to stop any brain drain from Goa so that students do not have to go outside the state to pursue research.