

Biography of Dr. P.N. Jha

Dr. P.N. Jha, is working as a Professor in Department of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, Pilani campus, Rajasthan. He obtained his master's degree in Biotechnology from Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga (Bihar). He completed his PhD in the area of Microbial Biotechnology from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (U.P.). He did his post-doctoral research at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow in the area of plant molecular biology and at Michigan State University, USA in microbial ecology. He has been engaged in teaching and research since 2007. His broad area of research interests is: Host-Microbe interaction, Plant Microbiology, and Applied Microbiology. Dr. Jha has completed two research projects funded by DST and DBT as principal investigator and one as Co-PI. Currently he is having one research project each as PI and Co-PI funded by ICAR and DST-NSM respectively. He has published 55 research articles in journal of international repute, seven chapters in edited books and, edited two books. He also has filed one patent jointly. He has successfully guided three students for PhD and guided more than thirty undergraduate and post-graduate students for their research studies. He is currently guiding four students for Ph.D.

He is a recipient of Raman post-doctoral fellowship under India-US knowledge initiative 2013 programme (University Grant Commission, New Delhi), DST travel grant to attend international conference at Czeck-Republic, DBT- Postdoctoral fellowship, CSIR-SRF and K.C. Bose Young Scientist award (Gold medal). He was a Visiting Fellow in Department of Botany and Zoology, Institute of Life Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India to teach Molecular Biology and Plant Biotechnology to post-graduate student. He has delivered motivational talk to students of Navodaya Vidhyalaya, and NTSE scholars and scientific talks at research and academic institutes. In addition to academics, Dr. Jha has also served as Head, Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani (2016-2020), Member of library committee, Member of Departmental Research Committee, Member of Human Ethics Committee, and nucleus member of research and consultancy division. Currently he is serving as Member Secretary, Institute Biosafety Committee, BITS pilani (2017-till date); Co-coordinator, sophisticated instrument facility, BITS Pilani; DBT nominee, IBSC, IIT-Jodhpur; Member of National Steering committee of NetSCoFAN (Biological group), FSSAI, India; Member of Board of Studies, Choudhary Banshi Lal University, Bhiwani, Haryana.

Biography of Dr. S.A. Marathe

Dr. S. A. Marathe, is working as a Assistant Professor in Department of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani (BITS-Pilani), Pilani campus, Rajasthan since April 2017. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from Pune University. She completed her MSc.-PhD integrated doctoral degree from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore in the area of Infection Biology. She received Best thesis award, MCB, IISc in 2013. After Ph.D., she worked as research associate at MCB, IISc. She worked as visiting Assistant Professor at BITS-Pilani for four years starting July 2013. Her broad areas of research interests are: bacterial pathogenesis and host-microbe interaction. Dr. Marathe has completed one research project funded by SERB-DST as Co-Principal Investigator. Currently she is having one research project as Principal Investigator funded by DST. She has published more than 20 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. She has successfully guided several undergraduate and post-graduate students for their research studies. She is currently guiding, as supervisor, two students for Ph.D.

Biography of S. Khan

Mr. Shahid Khan did his Graduation in Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) with specialization in Genetic Engineering from SRM University, Chennai, and Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biotechnology from NIMS University, Jaipur. To pursue his doctoral research, he joined the research group of Prof. Prabhat Nath Jha at Department of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Pilani Campus, India in January 2016. He possesses an active research interest in the area of Microbiology with major emphasis on the Bacterial Pathogenesis and Host-

He has been awarded with CSIR-NET fellowship to pursue his Ph.D. research. He has qualified UGC-NET in the year 2016 and other national competitive exams like GATE, DBT-JRF, IIT-JAM with good AIR. He presented his research work at several national and international conferences including ASM microbes 2020 (Chicago, USA) and at 57th Annual Conference of AMI and International Symposium on “Microbes and Biosphere: What’s New and What’s Next” held at Guwahati University (Guwahati). He has published 7 research articles in journals of international repute till now. He has also been consistently involved in the teaching programme at Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus.