

# BITS Goa's lung cancer solution impresses int'l jamboree in Paris

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**Panaji:** Engineering a solution to combat lung cancer through genetic modification of the body's immune response, students from BITS Goa won acclaim at the 20th Jamboree of the International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM), held in Paris.

The event is the world's largest synthetic biology competition. "The team's innovative approach not only underscored its prowess in the realm of synthetic biology but also exemplified its capacity to integrate human practices into its research," said principal investigator Professor Sumit Biswas.

Taking its commitment beyond the laboratory, the BITS Goa's iGEM team sought feedback from oncologists and patients, incorporating it into its project deliverables. Moreover, the team worked to raise awareness about both can-



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cer and the field of synthetic biology, recognising the importance of bridging the gap between scientific advancements and the public's understanding.

The BITS Goa's iGEM team, comprising 12 students from various academic disciplines, displayed its proficiencies under the guidance of Biswas. Its achievements at the competition include winning the coveted Best Hackathon Project Trophy, along with an overall silver medal.

The global stage was set,

as over 370 teams from across the world, spanning both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, came together to compete and showcase their innovations in synthetic biology.

The BITS team credited its success to the generous support from the institution's alumni, BITSAA International, and the encouragement of the BITS Goa director, Professor Suman Kundu. In 2020, the BITS Goa team won a gold medal and two distinguished trophies at the jamboree.