

Goa University Professor, Dr. Lata Gawade conferred with 'Prerana Puraskar'

Dr. Lata Gawade, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Goa University has been conferred with the '**Prerana Puraskar**' by Pradnya shakti- Goa- Unit of Vigyan Bharati-India, for her outstanding contribution to science and connecting science with society.

Dr. Lata Gawade has worked in the field of marine microbiology and biogeochemistry, thus connecting both areas to understand the microbially mediated biogeochemical processes. She has participated in ocean cruises and has sailed on several ocean research vessels having 100+ days of sailing in the Northern Indian Ocean and 300+ days sailing in coastal waters and Indian estuaries. She has worked in India as well as Germany and has achieved international accolades thus establishing a good reputation at the international level. She is an active member of some of the international scientific bodies, as well as an Indian Ambassador to the German research institute, Leibniz- ZMT & ISATEC alumni network program.

With all the support from the Goa University and Directorate of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Dr. Lata has initiated the marine farming program at Goa University and she is the chair-person of the marine farming committee under Social Entrepreneurship Swachhata & Rural Engagement Cell (SES-REC), Goa University. Under the marine farming program, Dr. Gawade is conducting awareness programs and workshops on marine farming for the village people as well as for the students and faculty members of University & various colleges in Goa. Goa University has started green mussel and oyster cultivation in three adopted villages of Goa University. Last year in 2021, oyster cultivation program in one of the adopted villages- madkai was inaugurated by then honourable Governor of Goa, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari Ji. Dr. Lata has got a success story on mussel farming from one of the villages of Goa- Madkai village. Dr. Lata says that, Goa being a coastal state, this initiative of Goa University has huge potential to generate self-employment, entrepreneurship and women empowerment in the coastal state-Goa, that can boost the economy of the state.

Dr. Gawade's research proposal has been successful to get the grants from Indo-German Science & Technology Centre. She will be conducting an Indo-German bilateral workshop in Germany on the theme "Marine Farming- An opportunity towards self-employment, entrepreneurship and sustainable rural development. From India, 15 scientists/ academics and industry persons, and 15 experts from Germany will participate in this workshop. Dr. Gawade is aiming at an Indo-German collaborative research project.

Apart from her expertise in scientific research, Dr. Gawade is involved in science outreach- 'Science for society' programs, popularizing science and critical thinking approaches among school children.



Dr. Lata Gawade, while receiving the 'Prerana Puraskar'