

## RECIPIENT OF INSA TEACHER AWARDEES (2021)

1. **Professor Vidya Dnyaneshwar Avasare**, (b 07-08-1971) Department of Chemistry & Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences, S P College, Pune

Professor Vidya Dnyaneshwar Avasare is recommended for the INSA Teacher Award for her excellent teaching of a variety of courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students including guidance of a large number of M.Sc. students, and also for development of new courses and laboratories, infusing research into teaching, and inspiring a large number of students to take up higher studies.

2. **Dr. Yashmin Choudhury**, (b 28-10-1978 ) Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Assam University, Durgakona Silchar Assam

Dr. Yashmin Choudhury is focusing on socially relevant biomedical issues like diabetes, and tobacco and betel-nut use, linked to high cancer risk in North-Eastern India. Through her research and teaching she is creating awareness and capacity building in biomedicine. She has made instructional videos to communicate with students in the absence of internet connectivity. She is an inspiring role model for budding women scientists.

3. **Dr. Uma Dhawan**, (b 05-09-1977) Department of Biomedical Science, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, University of Delhi, Sector-2, Dwarka, New Delhi

Dr. Uma Dhawan has promoted teaching in human genetics, computational biology, and bioinformatics, and strongly motivates her students towards scientific research. She has initiated a highly popular certificate course on *in silico* drug design. Her undergraduate students regularly undertake small research projects under her enthusiastic guidance.

4. **Dr. Roshan D' Souza**, (b 04-04-1968) Associate Professor in Zoology, Sophia College (Autonomous), Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai

Dr. Roshan D'Souza is tirelessly working to keep undergraduate Zoology teaching abreast of new research developments in the field; and provide holistic training to the students. She conducts the 'Excellence in Science Program' where students learn through seminars and project work; and is active in outreach for biology teaching to marginalized children

5. **Professor Pankajkumar Natawarlal Gajjar**, (b 15-09-1966) Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Professor Gajjar has an allround contribution in teaching, research and outreach programmes. He has taught at different levels, UG and PG. Besides, he has taken interest in school education by translating NCERT physics books in gujarati. Many of his ideas have been implemented in the laboratories of the state. He has fabricated some of the equipment in the university and

encouraged other institutions in the state to develop their own. He has motivated a large number of students to join a research programme and brought about an excellent academic environment. He is also an active member of the Indian Association of Physics teachers and the Gujarat Science Academy.

6. **Professor Santosh Janardan Gharpure**, (b 07-08-1971) Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Powai, Mumbai

Professor Santosh Janardan Gharpure is recommended for the INSA Teacher Award for his excellence in teaching of chemistry courses for both undergraduate and postgraduate students including guidance of a large number of M.Sc. students for their project dissertations and Ph.D. students for their doctoral thesis, and also for active participation in outreach activities.

7. **Professor Naseer Iqbal**, (b 11-11-1967) Department of Physics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Professor Iqbal has succeeded in motivating students, both boys and girls coming from remote areas of J and K in joining a research programme. He has widened their horizons by arranging regular visits to IUCAA and other academic institutes in the country. This also involved counselling the students and sometimes their families. Professor Iqbal has set an example by teaching a variety of courses and actively pursuing research. Many of his students are faculty members in academic institutions in the country. The award is a recognition for an impact in a region full of challenges.

8. **Professor Parasar Mohanty**, (b 19-10-1967) Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, UP

Parasar Mohanty strikes an excellent balance between research and teaching, bringing his research experience to bear in classroom teaching. This has resulted in a large number of his students pursuing a PhD, and many of them occupy faculty positions in premier institutes. We note also, with appreciation, his contribution to outreach activity for underprivileged students.

9. **Dr. Upendranath Nandi**, (b 03-04-1966) Associate Professor, Department of Physics Scottish Church College, Kolkata 1 & 3, Urquhart Square Kolkata West Bengal

Dr. Nandi is an outstanding teacher and has inspired his students to do excellent research. He has opened a modern research laboratory to do experimental research, a rarity in a graduate-level college. He has been teaching a wide variety of subjects from 2000 in Scottish Church College. He has been a strong motivator of many students, including from other colleges by exposing them to recent developments. His commitment to do good research has set a benchmark for others, making a lively department. He has written text books including several examples and solutions, which has helped students to grasp the basics.

10. **Dr. Charu Dogra Rawat**, (b 19-10-1977) Assistant Professor, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Dr. Charu Dogra Rawat has pioneered the undergraduate teaching of molecular microbiology and metagenomics through a project-based approach to expose students to practical research methodology. She organizes regular lectures/ workshops for students on diverse topics. She has been conducting the Bani School innovation camp for rural students in Himachal Pradesh under INSA outreach program.

11. **Professor Prasanta Sahoo**, (b 12-07-1969) Department of Mechanical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Professor Prasanta Sahoo is recommended for the INSA Teacher Award in Engineering and Technology in recognition of his excellence in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, inspirational guidance of a large number of Masters' and Ph.D. theses, and also for designing new courses, writing textbooks and outreach activities involving delivery of popular lectures for the benefit of students.

12. **Professor Pranab Sarkar**, (b 12-06-1969) Professor in Chemistry, Visva-Bharati (Central University), Santiniketan, West Bengal

Professor Pranab Sarkar is recommended for the INSA Teacher Award for his excellence in teaching of chemistry courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels including guidance of a large number of M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, and also for active participation in designing new courses and development of laboratories.

13. **Professor Shalivahan**, (b 10-03-1971) Dean (Research and Development), Department of Applied Geophysics, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad, Jharkhand

Professor Shalivahan is recommended for the INSA Teacher Award for his passion and excellence in teaching Geophysics courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As an inspirational teacher and an active researcher, he has been instrumental in developing scientific aptitude among students and motivated many students to take up research careers in Earth Science. He has the skill to explain the complicated topics in Geophysics in a lucid and easily understandable way.

14. **Professor Uma Shankar**, (b 14-11-1967) Department of Botany, North-Eastern Hill University Umshing-Mawkynroh, NEHU Campus, Shillong, Meghalaya

Professor Uma Shankar is an inspirational teacher and an active researcher. He has a great mix of master and doctoral level students hailing from different parts of the country. Professor Shankar has a long experience of working in the North Eastern Region (NER) of India, besides working in the difficult

terrains of Western Ghats and in Eastern Himalaya, and successfully collaborated with the institutions in these regions.

15. **Dr. Paul Agastian Theoder**, (b 02-09-1967) Associate Professor, Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Loyola College Nungambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Dr. P. Agastian Theoder is recommended for the INSA Teacher Award for his sincere attempts in both teaching and research to popularize science with direct relevance to the society. He has ventured into diverse efforts that attempt to strike a balance between the intellectual and utilitarian aspects in his teaching courses. In all, Dr. Theoder's career has spanned several key aspects of what constitutes motivational and inspiring teaching.