



**Mr. Pankaj Gupta** is serving as an assistant professor of Zoology under the Department of Higher Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh. A gold medallist in M.Phil. and a dedicated teacher of Zoology, Mr. Gupta is currently advancing his expertise through doctoral research while shaping young minds for over sixteen years. His teaching spans Zoology and Environmental Science - disciplines he energises with a research focus that lies at the intersection of biodiversity conservation, ornithology, climate action, and parasitology. An award-winning educator and a prolific author, he has recently published several impactful books, including *Biodiversity Conservation: Principles, Practices and Future Challenges* (2025) and *Environmental Science: An Integrated Approach* (2026), alongside multiple book chapters that address pressing ecological issues. His scholarly output is matched by an impressive record of over seventy presentations at national and international conferences and seminars, where his work on Himalayan wildlife, protected areas, and sustainable development has earned him recognition, including best paper awards. Beyond the classroom, Mr. Gupta has steered institutional growth as IQAC Coordinator, shaped curricula as a university examiner, and led community engagement through scouting, environmental initiatives, and electoral literacy campaigns. A life member of many scientific associations, including the prestigious Bombay Natural History Society, which exemplifies his academic leadership, he is deeply rooted in both scholarly pursuit and social responsibility.



**Dr. Manjusha V. Ingawale**, M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D., is currently working as the Head of the Department of Botany at Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai, and plays an active role in various academic and administrative committees. She is the Convenor of the Women Empowerment Cell, a member of the College Development Committee, Coordinator of the Internal Complaints Committee for Women, and Programme Officer of the National Service Scheme (NSS), and has also worked as the Chief Editor of the college magazine *Krushnai* for two years. In recognition of her contributions to education and service, she has received several prestigious awards, including multiple Best Teacher Awards (2024 and 2025), the State-Level Stree Pratishthan Shikshan Ratna Award (2025), the Maharashtra Educational Sevaratna Award (2025), and the Kranti Jyoti Savitribai Phule Educational Service Award presented in Pune on 3 January 2025. With over two decades of dedicated service, Dr. Ingawale has organized numerous lectures, counselling sessions, and workshops for female students on a wide range of topics. These initiatives have included collaborative guidance sessions with members of the Nirbhaya Squad, police officials, legal professionals, medical practitioners, and entrepreneurs, aimed at empowering and educating students. Under the National Service Scheme, she has led several social outreach activities, including providing financial and essential aid to flood- and drought-affected communities, as well as offering support during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also contributed to social welfare by extending assistance to orphanages and the Yashodhan institution through the Women Empowerment Cell. Dr. Ingawale has delivered lectures on diverse subjects and has contributed articles to Sakal newspaper and various publications. As an academician, she has actively participated in international, national, and state-level conferences, presenting her research work. She has published 10 research papers and 10 book chapters and has authored one complete book. Additionally, she serves as the Head of the Environmental Science Department, where she has conducted activities such as tree plantation drives, promotion of medicinal plant cultivation, and lectures on environmental conservation and sustainability.



**Dr. Arvind Samb Kulkarni** is a highly experienced academician and administrator with an extensive career spanning over 42 years in higher education, research, and institutional development. He holds a D.Litt. from the University of South America and a Ph.D. in Zoology, reflecting his deep academic expertise and commitment to scholarly excellence. Over the course of his career, he has been associated with reputed higher education institutions in the capacity of Associate Professor and Vice-Principal at Gogate-Jogalekar college, Ratnagiri and Principal, at Shiram Kusumtai Sadashiv Vanjare College, Lanja where he played a vital role in academic planning, student development, administrative management, and quality enhancement initiatives. His areas of contribution extend beyond classroom teaching to include research guidance, evaluation processes, extension activities, and institutional governance. He has published several research papers in national and international journals and has authored and edited various books in the field of Zoology. His contributions have further been recognized through several national and international honors such as the Shikshak Shri Award, Shiksha Ratna Award, Rashtriya Vidya Gaurav Gold Medal, Best Educationist Award, Golden Pride of India Education Excellence Award, Gem of India Gold Medal, and Bharat Vidya Vibhushan Award. In recent years, he has received accolades like the Best Principal Award by the University of Mumbai, Top 10 Principals Shaping Minds in India (2024) by Hindustan Times Ltd., Platinum Leadership Award, Universal Icon Achiever Award 2024, National Prestige Award 2024, and the Legendary World Education Leadership Award, highlighting his continued impact and leadership in the field of education at both national and international levels.



**Dr. Kalpit Ganesh Mhatre** is currently working as an assistant professor in botany at New Education Society's Shiram Kusumtai Sadashiv Vanjare College, Lanja District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra State. He has total teaching experience of 10 years at UG level. He has completed his Ph.D. from St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai. He is the author of 14 books and editor of 19 books. To his credit he has 21 research papers in UGC CARE list and has written 59 chapters in various books. He also has 03 patent publication to his credit. He has vast experience in the field of Plant Taxonomy, Ethnobotany, Molecular Systematics, Ecology and Anthropology. Apart from academic work, he has been engaged in administrative work also. At institute level, he is being working as a Nodal Officer for various schemes such as Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness (KAPILA) and Atal Ranking of Institution on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA). Dr. Mhatre is a President of Institutional Innovation Council (IIC). He has been designated as a District Sustainability Mentor (DSM) for Ratnagiri District by Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Hyderabad.



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