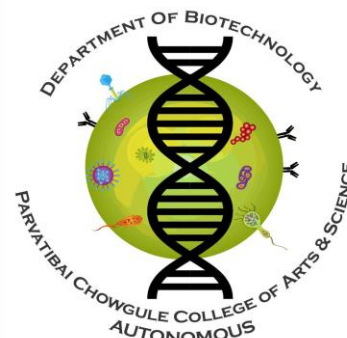




# BIOBYTES



## DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science, Autonomous

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Faculty participation in conference and symposium
- ❑ T.Y student visit to Sewage treatment Plant
- ❑ The International year Of the Millets (IYoM) - State Level Seminar
- ❑ Biochrome Activities

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### EDITORIAL

As we embark on 2024, we extend heartfelt New Year wishes to all! In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, we've embraced a "New-Normal" life, marked by resilience. This year, we're excited to present our departmental newsletter, brimming with achievements from faculty & students alike. Highlighted are National-level workshops on environmental issues and food industry insights, aimed at empowering aspiring entrepreneurs. Additionally, "Biochrome," our Biotechnology club, continues to foster curiosity and camaraderie among students through engaging activities.

As you explore this newsletter, revel in the triumphs and insights shared. Let it serve as a source of inspiration and connection within our academic community.

Here's to embracing 2024 with optimism and purpose. Happy reading, and may this year be filled with growth and endless possibilities!

Additionally, we are excited to showcase a series of National-level workshops organized by our department. These workshops not only tackle pressing environmental issues but also provide valuable insights into the business aspects of the food industry. By offering a comprehensive perspective, our aim is to empower students who harbor aspirations of making a meaningful impact in these crucial domains. Happy reading !!!!

*-Criswen Noronha (Vice President, Biochrome club) , Siya Bandodkar and Samia Sayyed (Club members ) and Dr.Starlaine Mascarenhas, In-charge of Department of Biotechnology*

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology is sanctioned a research project entitled 'Monitoring physio-chemical water and soil quality parameters of Nanda Lake for sustainable management and planning of the Ramsar Site' for 1 year by Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA), Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Goa, Saligao, Bardez Goa, Letter No.12-5/GSWA/2023-24/Proj/136 dated 09/08/2023.
2. Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology presented a paper entitled "Water quality assessment through PCA-based weighted indexing technique of selected urban wetlands in Goa State" at the National Conference on 'Reviving Wetlands' organized by KSCSTE- Centre for Water Resources Development & Management, Kunnammangalam, Kerala on 11th to 12th October, 2023.
3. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, was nominated to attend the '89th Annual Meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences 2023: Science Education Program (SEP) Symposium for teachers', organized by Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS)-Bangalore at BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus on 2nd November 2023,



**Fig 01. Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar (L), Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology at the National Conference on 'Reviving Wetlands' and Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas (R) nominated to attend the '89th Annual Meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences 2023: Science Education Program (SEP) Symposium for teachers**

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

1. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas, Head & Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology and Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology successfully completed Two-Weeks „Faculty Development Program (FDP) in Entrepreneurship“ organized by Centre for Incubation and Business acceleration (CIBA) from 10th to 24th August 2023.
2. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas, Head & Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology and Ms. Ravina Pai, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology successfully completed „ “Bio-Process Technology“ Workshop under DBT BUILDERS Program organized by BITS Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus from 26th to 29th September, 2023.
3. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Biotechnology participated in the “National Intellectual Property Awareness Training Program“ organized by Intellectual Property Office, India and CSIR India under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 23rd October, 2023.
4. Ms. Ravina Pai, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology attended the National Conference on “Recent Advances in Plant Sciences & Biotechnology“ organized by School of Biological Sciences & Biotechnology, Goa University on 26th and 27th October, 2023.
5. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas, In-charge & Assistant Professor and Ms. Ravina Pai, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology participated in the ‘Open Day’ organized at BITS Pilani, KK Birla, Goa campus on 6th November, 2023. The open day was a glimpse into captivating research endeavours occurring in the field of life sciences at the institute.
6. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas, In-charge & Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology attended a webinar on ‘Clinical trial data analytics’ organized by KITEL on 23rd November, 2023.
7. Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology attended CII Workshop on SHE AND SME: INCLUSIVE FUTURE, Goa organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), at Vivanta by Taj, Panaji on 23rd November, 2023.

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

8. Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas and Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar, as the members of Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of the College along with Principal and 9 students attended a one day event 'Goa Innovation and Startup Times (GIST-23)' at BITS Pilani, KK Birla Goa Campus on 25th November, 2023.
9. Dr. Aman Dongre participated in at a workshop titled "E Portfolio: A New Assessment Tool" which was organised the Teaching Learning and Educational Technology Cell of the college on 23rd November, 2023..
10. Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology attended One-Day International Consultative Workshop on "Role of Forestry, Agroforestry, and Land Restoration in Achieving Net Zero in the Asian Region" organized by IUCN CEM Forest Specialist Group, CEM South Asia, in collaboration with BITS-Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus and Goa State Biodiversity Board at the BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus on 12th December, 2023.



**Figure 02 : Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar at the CII Workshop on 'SHE AND SME: INCLUSIVE FUTURE'**



**Figure 03 : Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) members and students along with the Principal for the 'Goa Innovation and Startup Times' GIST-23 at BITS Pilani, Goa Campus**

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES



**Figure 04 : Dr. Aman Dongre at workshop on E Portfolio: A New Assessment Tool**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Ms. Siya Bandodkar from the FY participated in the National Students Paryavaran Competition (NSPC) – 2023 which was organised by the Ministry of Education.
2. Ms. Dhiti Lotlikar from the TY represented the college as a part of the college women Badminton Team and the team finished at third position at the inter-collegiate Badminton tournament 2023 – 2024 organised by Goa University at SAG Indoor Stadium, Campal, Panjim from 25th to 28th July, 2023.



**Figure 05 : Ms. Dhiti Lotlikar (TY) at the intercollegiate badminton tournament**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

3. Ms. Safa Sheikh and Mr. Criswen Noronha participated in the Y20 Brainstorming Session and G20 University Connect Lecture Series on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction' at BITS Pilani, KK Birla, Goa Campus on the 1st August, 2023

4. Mr. Purush Desai from the SY represented the college as a part of college Table Tennis team at the 2023 – 2024 organised by Goa University on 09th and 10th August, 2023. inter-collegiate table tennis tournament

5. Ms. Ratika Naik from the TY represented the college as a part of the college Women Swimming Team and finished at third position. Ms. Ratika also won Gold medal in 50m Backstroke and Bronze Medal in 50m Freestyle event at the inter-collegiate Swimming tournament 2023 – 2024 organised by Goa University at SAG swimming pool, Campal, Panjim on 04th August, 2023. Ms. Ratika Naik also got acknowledgment from Shri Subhash Shirodka, Minister WRD Goa.

6. Ms. Anaida Pereira from the FY participated in Chambre De Chasse organised by the Department of French at Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science on the occasion of Le Quatorze Juillet in the month of August.



**Figure 06 : Ms. Safa Sheikh and Mr. Criswen Noronha along with Dr. Starlaine Mascarenhas and Principal Dr. Sangeeta G. Sankhalkar received participation certificate for G20 university connect lecture series**



**Figure 07 : Mr. Purush Desai along with the colleges table tennis team at Goa University inter collegiate championship**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

7. Team Manchester Divided represented the Department of Biotechnology for the Inter Departmental Futsal match and finished with a score of 8 – 1 against B Voc on 14th August 2023. The Team Comprised of Jason Menezes (TY), Glen Noronha (TY Department of Mathematics), Slyden Pereira (TY), Elston Fernandes (TY), Shaun Raju (SY), Ethan Rebello (FY), Kartik Velip (FY).
8. Team Manchester Divided represented the Department of Biotechnology for the Inter Departmental Futsal match and finished with a score of 3 – 5 against Department of Sociology on 16th August 2023. The Team Comprised of Jason Menezes (TY), Glen Noronha (TY Department of Mathematics), Slyden Pereira (TY), Elston Fernandes (TY), Pranav Patil (TY), Shaun Raju (SY), Ethan Rebello (FY), Kartik Velip (FY).
9. Mr. Jason Menezes was awarded the Man of the Match for Inter departmental futsal match against department of Sociology on 16th August 2023.
10. Ms. Ratika Naik on the occasion of independence day on the 15th August 2023 was promoted to Junior Under Officer of the National Cadet Corps of Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science.



**Figure 08 : Ms. Ratika Naik receiving the award for securing the 3<sup>rd</sup> place at Goa University's intercollegiate swimming championship**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

11. Ms. Smita Karati (TY), Mr. Elston Fernandes (TY) and Ms. Pranita Dhuri (TY) attended a talk on "Aspire to Inspire" on 30th August 2023, which was organized by Office of the Commissioner, Labour and Employment, Regional Employment Exchange, Model Career Center. This event included motivational talks from 2 eminent personalities, Anand Munshi and Divya Tandon.

12. Ms. Swizel Jurika Afonso (TY), Ms. Zaheeda Parveen Shaikh(TY),and Ms. Jelcy Souza (TY) along with 2 other students successfully completed the online training programme titled „NPTEL Soft Skills Training for Local Chapter“ organized by SPOC, NPTEL Local Chapter and Placement and Internship Cell of College in association with NPTEL from 22nd to 27th May, 2023. Online interactive sessions and mock interviews were conducted.

13. Ms. Ratika Naik participated in all Goa Ghumat arti competition held at various places around Goa along with her team at Shiroda Goa.

14. Mr. Elston Fernandes (TY) along with his team won the Interward 5 - a side Futsal tournament Against villa formosa. While competing against 16 teams. In GFA 3RD DIVISION LEAGUE 2023-24



**Figure 09 : Team Manchester Divided as a representative of the Department of Biotechnology, along with Mr. Jason Menezes as man of the match.**



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

15. Ms. Nashra Kalas (FY) was awarded a participation certificate for attending the "Divine Desserts: Sweet and Chocolate Crafting Workshop held by our College's Department of Hospitality and Tourism, on September 8th 2023

16. Ms. Shabiran Shaikh (FY) was awarded a participation certificate for attending the "Divine Desserts: Sweet and Chocolate Crafting Workshop held by our College's Department of Hospitality and Tourism, on September 8th 2023

17. Mr. Criswen Noronha participated for the street play which was organized by the Department of Psychology and Gender Champion's Club as an approach to spread awareness about Men's Mental Health during the Mental health week on the 12th October 2023 near the college canteen area.

18. Ms. Rosane (SY), Anaiza Borges (SY), Ms. Kiyera Fernandes (SY) Shubhangi Goral (SY), Ratika Mhalsekar (SY) and Swizel Afonso (TY) represented the college as a part of the college women's Football Team at the inter-collegiate football tournament 2023 - 2024 organised by Goa University on 11 October, 2023.



**Figure 10 : Ms. Ratika Naik at Ghumat arti competition**



**Figure 11 : Mr. Elston Fernandes with GFA 3RD DIVISION LEAGUE trophy.**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

19. Mr. Elston Fernandes (TY), Ms. Schineez Fernandes and Ms. Safa Sheikh (TY) participated for the 'Open Day' organized at BITS Pilani, KK Birla, Goa Campus for the purpose of fostering a research aptitude and scientific rigor in the young minds on 6th November, 2023.

20. Ms. Ratika Naik (TY), participated in Mini Golf at the 37th National Games, Goa 2023.



**Figure 12 : Mr. Criswen Noronha performing a street play on World mens mental health day**



**Figure 13 : Ms. Schineez Fernandes, Ms. Safa Sheikh and Mr. Elston Fernandes at BITS Pilani open day.**



**Figure 14 : Students of the department as the members of the college's women football team**

### FIELD TRIPS AND INDUSTRIAL VISIT

1. The Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, KK Birla campus, Goa, organised a workshop on from 26th September to 29th September, on the diverse advanced machinery and technology employed in biotechnology, spanning both laboratory and industrial settings. The attendees were-Isha, Zia, Komal, Mohanlal, Purush, Ratika, Gaurav, Leonard, Saidatt, Emerico.
2. A Field visit was organised by the department for the TY students on the 17th October 2023. This visit was organised as a part of the study of Environmental Biotechnology and to provide exposure to the Treatment of sewage and wastewater to a much safer form. The students for the field trip were accompanied by Ms. Reshma Zakane and Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar who guided the students along the management of the sewage treatment plant at the site.



**Figure 15 : Faculty and Second year student at the BITs Pilani Birla Goa Campus.**



**Figure 16 :Faculty and Final year students field visit to Sewage Treatment Plant, Tonca.**

## BIOCHROME ACTIVITIES

### 1. Investiture Ceremony

An election was held for the students of Biotechnology to elect the committee members for the biochrome club for the various designations for the year 2023 - 2024. Results of the election were declared on the same day. The investiture ceremony was held on 07 July 2023, where in the newly elected committee members along with the newly elected Class representatives to the First year, Second year and Third year were vested with their responsibilities and designated posts. Dr. Shaiesh Morajkar as the newly assigned club coordinator rendered the oath at the investiture ceremony with the lighting of the candle. Ms. Verlee Silva the outgoing president of the Biochrome club was invited for the ceremony and she delivered her outgoing speech as the president to the club and vested her duties to the newly elected president to the club Ms. Safa Sheikh.



**Figure 17 : The Newly Vested Members**

**From the left end: President and Class Representative TY - Ms. Safa Sheikh (TY Student), Co - President - Ms. Schineez Fernandes (TY Student), Vice - President - Mr. Pranil Chitari (SY Student), Secretary - Mr. Criswen Noronha (TY Student), Asst. Secretary - Ms. Komal Joshi (SY Student), Joint Secretary - Ms. Riddhi Faldesai (FY student), Treasurer - Ms. Zia Ali (SY Student), Class Representative SY - Ms. Isha Desai, Class Representative FY - Ms. Sona Shetya.**

## BIOCHROME ACTIVITIES

### 2. Fresher's party: Back into the 80s & 90s

Back into the 80s and 90s, A freshers party was organized on the 21st of July 2023 for the newly joined First years. There were many performances exhibited and games to inculcate fun learning during the event.



**Figure 18 : Newly joined first years with the faculty**

### 3. Inter - house quiz competition

A quiz competition was organized on 26th August 2023, between the four houses- A,T,G,C with 'G20' as its theme. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and India holds the Presidency from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. After a fierce competition, Cytosine and Thymine were the top 2 contenders scoring 15 points and 11 points respectively, and advanced to the next round- the debate competition .

### 4. Inter - house debate competition

The Inter-House Debate Competition took place on 1st September 2023, at the Biotechnology Lab. This event, organized by the Biochrome club, brought together students from the two winning houses of the inter-house quiz competition for the finale. The event aimed to foster critical thinking, communication skills, and teamwork among students while promoting healthy competition. The participating Houses were; Thymine, with Miss Aarni Kudtarkar (FY), Master Purush Dessai (SY), Miss Smita Karati (TY). Cytosine, with Master Haseen Allabakash (FY), Miss Isha Desai (SY), Miss Swizel Afonso (TY). Team Cytosine stood as winners in the debate.



**Figure 19 : Inter-house quiz competition**



**Figure 20 : Inter-house debate competition**

## BIOCHROME ACTIVITIES

### 5. The International year Of the Millets (IYoM) - State Level Seminar

A seminar was conducted by the Department of Biotechnology, on the 20th October 2023, on account of The International year Of The Millets (IYoM).

The event was hosted by the Miss. Isha Dessai. The opening speech was given by the principal, Prof. Sangeeta Sankhalkar after the lighting of the lamp. This speech was shortly followed by a presentation on millets by the biochrome club, based on the steps taken by the club to show the need of millets and create awareness about the same.

The guest speakers for the day were Mrs. Varsha Naik, who gave us a briefing of the IYoM and its importance. Next was Dr. Amanisiddha, who spoke to us through an online google conference, giving us a further understanding on the topic at hand and its agricultural advantage and benefits. Third speaker for the day was Dr. Lalita Baragi, whose spoke about climate change and the need for millet agriculture due to the rapid change in climate.

Last Guests were, Shri Dilip Sawarkar and Srimati Ranjana Sawarkar, brand ambassador of ICAR and proud owners of Jeevak Industries, a millet-based Product Company in Goa. The Talk was given by Mrs. Ranjana Sawarkar, on how to grow a millet based business in goa and the various products that they sell in their company. They also gave a clear idea on the problems faced by businesses.



**Figure 21 : The Students who attended and organizers of the 'International year Of the Millets (IYoM) - State Level Seminar**

## BIOCHROME ACTIVITIES

### 6. Teachers Day: A tribute to teachers

The students of the department celebrated Teacher's Day on the 5th of September 2023. This day was observed as an acknowledgment of all that the faculty does for the students. The celebration began with the cutting of a homemade cake by the faculty, baked by Eldrida Colcao (TY Student). The cake cutting was accompanied by singing. Further, a series of activities called Pictionary were conducted by the students for the teachers. The title of the Pictionary winner was claimed by Mrs. Samiksha (Assistant to the Biotechnology Lab). Thereafter, as a token of gratitude from the department, handmade tokens were presented to all the teachers. Ms. Safa Sheikh, President of the Biochrom club, addressed the gathering.



**Figure 22 : Teachers day celebration in the Biotechnology lab**