

Dr. Balu Sarma



Balu Sarma is the President & Chief Technology Officer for Praj Matrix – The Innovation Center which is a Division of Praj Industries Limited. Praj Industries Ltd. is a world leader in delivering technology, engineering, equipment, and total solutions for the global biofuels industry.

Praj Matrix is engaged in the development of technology for second and third generation biofuels, biochemicals, and health & wellness products.

Balu obtained his B.Tech. degree from IIT, Kanpur in Metallurgical Engineering. He completed his masters and doctoral degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, USA, where he also worked briefly as a Research Associate. He worked for a decade in the US with the American Iron and Steel Institute and Praxair, Inc. In India, he worked for 7 years at the General Electric India Technology Center in Bangalore, where he held roles as the Director of Intellectual Property and Knowledge Center, and as the India Technology Growth Leader.

Dr. Sarma has 20 years experience in Technology and Strategic Intellectual Property development and management.

Ashvini Shete



Ashvini is working with Praj Matrix-The Innovation center for last three years in the field of Biofuels and Biochemicals.

She worked as Research Associate at Division of Biochemical Sciences, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune for 3 years. Her work was related to overexpression of Penicillin G acylase, posttranslational modification of the enzyme and its purification.

Ashvini has completed her doctoral degree in Microbiology in 2004 from Department of Microbiology, University of Pune. Her doctoral work was related to Biosurfactants produced by marine bacteria.

She completed her masters degree in Health Sciences in 1997 from School of Health Sciences, University of Pune and did her Bachelors in Microbiology from Garware College, University of Pune.

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Dr. Mangesh Kulkarni



Ph.D. (Tech.) Chemical Engineering: 2003

University Institute of Chemical Technology (formerly UDCT), Mumbai (Bombay), India.

M.Sc. (Tech.): Oils, Fats and Waxes: 1998

University Institute of Chemical Technology (formerly UDCT), Mumbai (Bombay), India.

B.Sc. (Tech.): Oils, Fats and Waxes: 1996

University Institute of Chemical Technology (formerly UDCT), Mumbai (Bombay), India.

Post doctoral research fellow at University of Saskatchewan, Canada from 2004-2007.

Currently working as Senior Staff Technologist at Matrix-The Innovation Center, Praj Industries, Pune

Awards:

Best Doctoral Thesis Award

Prof. M. M. Sharma doctoral fellowship

Research interests:

Biofuels, oleochemicals and surfactants