

Dr. Felix Bast is an Associate Professor and science writer based at Central University of Punjab (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India), Bathinda, Punjab, India where he is heading Department of Botany. He was born as 'Sreejith Vadakke Madam Nambissan' in Payyannur, Kerala, India in a brahmin family. He adopted "Felix Bast", a caste- and religion-neutral name, after being inspired from French Enlightenment philosopher [Voltaire](#) in 2003. A B.Sc. gold medalist, he was educated at University of Madras Guindy campus and IIT Bombay. After earning PhD from MEXT, Japan as a Japanese government scholar, he has been serving Government of India since 2010 when he took an appointment at Central University of Punjab (Ministry of Education, Govt. of India). Dr. Felix Bast served as an invited in-residence intern with President of India as an [“Inspired teacher”](#) for one week at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi in 2015. Amongst many discoveries that his team at CU Punjab has made include five new species of marine macroalgae. Dr. Bast is a known science communicator in India through his writings, outreach talks and YouTube videos fostering critical thinking and scientific skepticism. His talk has been featured in numerous media including [All India Radio](#), [Rajya Sabha TV](#) and [TEDx](#). Dr. Bast served as an elected national Core Committee member representing Biology and Medicine at Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (2020). Subsequently, he founded India's first young academy open to all fields of knowledge, Young Academy of India (YAI) and initiated its integral program [MentX](#) which is touted as one of the world's largest "Ideological-Matchmaking" platforms. He is also a member of National COVID-19 Task-Force by INSA and Indian Scientists Response to COVID-19 (IndSciCovid). Dr. Bast is also involved with Swayam, a flagship online education programme of Ministry of Education, Government of India as a Course Coordinator. In addition, he is an avid cyclist, a runner, frequent blood donor, and an advocate of zero-waste and low-carbon footprint lifestyle.