

### **Early life and Education:**

Mrs. Perna Agrawal is a multi-faceted personality. Be it Dance, Education or Philanthropy; she's not just the jack of all, but also the master of all. Perna started learning Kathak at the age of four under highly distinguished Gurus, namely Late Shri Surendra Rathore (Lucknow Gharana), Dr Rashmi Rathore (Lucknow Gharana) and Shri Vinay Kumar Ji (Jaipur Gharana). Her association with Kathak is more than forty years long. In her student life, she won several awards at various inter-college, state level and national level competitions; wherein she displayed her immense talent for dance as well as other skills like creative writing, tabla, and several art forms. Perna has been an exceptional student throughout her student life. She excelled at both studies and extra-curriculars. Owing to her distinguished overall performance, she was nominated as the University Representative of Barkatullah University, Bhopal. Perna holds a Post- Graduate each in Kathak Dance, Economics and Hindi Literature along with B.Ed. She is pursuing her PhD in Kathak, under the guidance of Padmashree Guru Puru Dadheechi ji from Sri Sri University, Cutak.

### **Teaching Experience:**

Perna has been in teaching profession for more than two decades. She joined Manovikas Highschool (ICSE Board), Margao, Goa in 2001 and was associated with it for ten years. During her tenure at Manovikas, she trained several students in Kathak and various other Indian Dance Forms. She executed large scale dance performances involving hundreds of students at the school annual functions and also led several students to victories at inter- school and state level dance competitions. Along with Dance, she also taught Hindi as a subject at school. Perna's never ending passion for Kathak Dance encouraged her to set up a Kathak Training Institute in 2014 to spread awareness about this dance form in Goa. Her students ranged from young girls to housewives to working ladies. Being a strong believer of women empowerment, Perna wanted the women of today to learn about Kathak and its benefits, practice it and express themselves through dance. In 2017, the Institute obtained an affiliation from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad. It was named "Perna's Samanvay Cultural Kathak Academy". Along with imparting training, the Institute also offers degree courses in Kathak. The classes conducted in various cities of Goa and training about hundred students. Perna frequently conducts Kathak Workshops, Seasonal Camps, Events and Lectures at various Schools, Colleges and NGOs. She is a frequent invitee to judge at several College Fests and national and international Dance Competitions. In 2017, along with her students, Perna held a one of its kind Kathak Flash Mob event at Benaullim Beach, Goa.

On 23rd October 2018 Perna's Samanvay Kathak organized its 1st ever Kathak program, "Shakti- An evening of Social Awareness" Dance Event at Rabindra Bhavan, Margao, Goa.

Two years back, Perna has shifted her base in Hyderabad and has been conducting in person and remote classes for students across the globe.

### **Awards and Achievements**

For her contribution to Art and Culture, Perna Agrawal was felicitated by the Rotary Club on the occasion of Teacher's Day. Go Womania Goa felicitated her in appreciation of her wonderful work in support of women empowerment through Samanvay Cultural Kathak Academy on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Footwork's Dance and Fitness Studio felicitated her for women empowerment in their event "Mardaani" on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Samrat Club felicitated her for contribution in Art on their Silver Jubilee program. In December 2019, Mrs. Perna was felicitated with the prestigious "Orchid Award" for her contribution in Art and Culture. Recently she has been felicitated with Nartanam Ganpati Award by Shri Raja Rajshekhar Bharat Sangeet Seve Samriti, Hyderabad. Moreover she was also felicitated with "Ntutygurvay" award by Akhil bhartiya nritya Mahotsav ANASS. She has also been awarded

by Vivekananda International Society, Kolkata.

Even though Kathak is an Indian Dance Form, Prerna has taken it to the global platform. She also conducts seasonal batches to train Foreign Nationals who take keen interest in knowing about Kathak. Even though she has been teaching Kathak for years, learning never ends for Prerna. In recent years, she attended workshops under Kathak Maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj Ji, Padmashree Shree Pratap Pawar Ji, Padmashree Puru Dadhich ji, Padmashree Shama bhate ji. Through these greats have added immensely to her knowledge and craft. 2019 Doordarshan MP invited Prerna for an interview, where she spoke at length about her learnings and contribution to Kathak, Art and Culture and Women Empowerment. At the onset of Women's Day, Mrs Prerna was invited by 92.7 FM Radio Channel for an interview by RJ Uday, wherein she spoke about her life and role of dance.

Prerna has a flare for writing. Through her poems and prose, she addresses social issues like dowry, exploitation of women, etc. Among her many interests is cooking. She enjoys cooking and innovating dishes. She has not only won, but also judged cooking contests. To promote Indian Culture, she teaches Indian Cooking to her International students as well.

Recently her 8 research papers on Hindi and kathak based, published in various journals and books

### **Interests and Causes**

Philanthropy is something that Prerna is very actively involved in. She was a part of The Rotary Club "Sunrise", Margao and undertakes projects to help people in need. She also independently conducts fundraising events to do her bit for the society. She conducts special classes to teach Kathak to underprivileged children who cannot afford to pay the fees. Every year she is invited by Samrat Club for dance sessions for children at their Summer Camps. Prerna is a strong advocate of Human Rights and is a member of International Human Rights Association, through which she helps create awareness about Human Rights and their violation amongst people. She conceptualized the idea of a Utensils Bank and it became operational from the first week of March 2019 by the name "Utensils Bank of Goa (UBG). The idea is to carry forward the philosophy of "Swachh Bharat" and to lend people with steel utensils and cutlery to use for parties and events so that they avoid using plastic. They shall return it after use. It is a free community service.

Prerna strongly believes in giving back to society. Last year during Christmas, she made a donation for the welfare of the kids at "Stepping Stones" organization. On Vanmohotsav, she donated hundred plants to The Rotary Club. She also donated uniforms to the students of Cuncolim Govt School and notebooks to Dharbandora School.

"Good Deeds, Good Thoughts and Good Words". This is the ultimate philosophy of Mrs Prerna's life.

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YouTube link of Interview given at Doordarshan: <https://youtu.be/cdJtLhd4GY>

