



## Press Release

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### **Germany confers Order of Merit on Prof. Salma Bava**

In a ceremony held at the German Embassy New Delhi today, the Chargé d'Affaires Mr. Cord Meier-Klodt handed over the prestigious *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Germany's Order of Merit) to Prof. Ummu Salma Bava.

Through this Order, Germany acknowledges the personal commitment and contribution of Prof. Bava towards Indo-German relations over the past decades. The Order has been conferred by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Christian Wulff.

Prof. Bava is currently Chairperson and Professor of European Studies at the Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. She is also an Associate Fellow with the Asia Society, New York.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Meier-Klodt said, "Prof. Bava is an ambassador of



Germany's Chargé d'Affaires Cord Meier-Klodt with Prof. Salma Bava during the ceremony in New Delhi

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Germany in India and of cultural, political and scientific exchange, a trusted and reliable partner and a very close friend of Germany. This Order of Merit is recognition of her immense contribution to Indo-German relations.”

With her publications, lectures and educational activities, Prof. Bava contributes to encouraging the theme of Germany and German politics in India. In 2001, Prof. Bava also authored a book titled, 'West German Realpolitik. Unification, EU and European Security 1949-1995'.

In her speech at the event, Prof. Bava spoke of India and Germany as global partners. She added, “As two strong and leading economies, I believe that this partnership holds the key to addressing the global and regional challenges, both of today and in the times ahead.”

Talking about the Order, Prof. Bava said, “I feel extremely honoured that the German President has conferred on me the prestigious *Bundesverdienstkreuz*. I believe it is a recognition of my association of two decades with people and institutions in Germany and India. I never imagined that my interest in Europe in high school would drive me passionately in the direction of getting my PhD on German foreign policy. Given that so few Indians have received this award, I feel privileged to be recognised especially as India and Germany celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relationship.”

Prof. Bava has also conducted several lecture tours and study trips to Germany, many of them supported by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and other German political foundations. She also participated as an election observer in the German Federal elections in 2005 and later published her findings in India. She is a strong advocate of students exchange between India and Germany, including the

one between JNU and Freie University  
Berlin.

The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic  
of Germany is awarded to German nationals  
and foreigners for an outstanding political,  
socio-economic or intellectual performance  
as well as for eminent social, charitable or  
humanitarian merits for Germany.

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