

# Department of Botany

## Annual Report – 2023-24

The 2023-24 academic session began with 77 students – 29 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, 36 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, and 14 new admissions in the Honours course. The Students' orientation was conducted by the Head of Department, Dr. Anirudra Gurung. Class representatives were selected to represent the Students' Council - Ms. Deepna Sharma and Mr. Pravesh Sharma from the 5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Ms. Drishti Rai and Mr. Prashant Biswakarma from the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, and Ms. Riya Tamang and Mr. Sudip Biswakarma from the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester. On November 16, 2023, Dr. Upakar Rai took over as the Head of the Department from Dr. Anirudra Gurung.

The results of the odd semester exams were generally satisfactory, with a 76% pass rate in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester, 56% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester and 82% in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Overall, these results were better than most of the other Departments.

### Co-curricular activities.

Students from Botany actively participated in a number of co-curricular activities.

- On September 16, 2023, Prashant Biswakarma and Kajal Krumari Gupta from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester and Sudip Biswakarma from the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester participated in a quiz competition organized by the Society of Research Club of the College
- Kerstin Lepcha from the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester took part in the long jump event at the inter district College Meet, hosted by St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling.
- Reeya Lama from the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester participated in quiz competition 'Technokrat Quizzomania' organized by Selasian College, Siliguri, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024.
- Prashansa Lama from the 4<sup>th</sup> semester participated in a drawing competition, organized by College's Art Club on April 12, 2024.
- Students from the 4<sup>th</sup> semester planted rhododendron saplings in the Fr. McCabe Rhododendron Arboretum on the May 14, 2024. These saplings belonging to 3 species were brought from Singalila Park during their field study visit.
- Five students from the department attended a two day 'Ecosystem restoration' workshop funded by Nature conservancy India and organized by FOSEP on April 28 and 29, 2024. Attendees included three students from 6<sup>th</sup> Semester – Ms Deepna Sharma, Ms Mehek Gurung, Urvashi Lohar and two students from the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Mr. Prashant Biswakarma and Ms Drishti Rai attended the workshop.
- As part of the EVS project, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester students adopted two natural springs for cleanup near the crematorium at Bhotay Gaon, vital sources of drinking water for local residents these springs. On April 29, 2024, they collected and safely disposed 6 bag full of litters. The clean drive will continue until the final report is submitted. This project aims to raise awareness about the conservation our water resources.

### Study Tour

The Department organized field study for 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Honours students as part of the academic curriculum.

From February 12-15, 2024, the 6<sup>th</sup> semester students went on a four-day study tour to the National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Duars regions of Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts. A total of 17 students participated, escorted Dr. Anirudra Gurung and Ms. Kabya Chamling Rai. They visited educational sites such as Museum at Rajabhatkhawa and Buxa Fort in Buxa Tiger Reserve and Gorumara National Park.

They observed vegetation and wildlife to enrich their knowledge and also visited tourist spots like Bindu and Jyanti.

On May 11 and 12, 2024, the department conducted a two days field trip for the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester students to Tonglu. A total of 34 students participated, escorted by Dr. Upakar Rai. The group embarked on a 6 km trek from Dhotrey to Tonglu. On the trek, they took note on the general vegetation of the place. They observed the changes in species composition with elevation, from temperate to sub-alpine vegetation. The names of the plant species were noted in the fieldnote book, and photographs of plants with flowers were taken. After an overnight stay at Tumling, the group descended to Manebhanjang on foot, and then returned to Darjeeling in the evening.



*Plantation of Rhododendron saplings by 4<sup>th</sup> Semester on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.*



*Student's participation in the workshop – Ecosystem Restoration organized by FOSEP from 28-29<sup>th</sup> April 2024*



*Natural spring cleaning project of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2024*



*Study tour of 6<sup>th</sup> Semester to Duars 12-15<sup>th</sup> February 2024*



*Field study of the 4<sup>th</sup> Semester to Tonglu on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2024*

### **Publication**

**U. Rai** and B. Rai. 2024. Bridging Tradition and Modern Pharmacology of *Bergenia ciliata* (Haw.) Sternb: A review. *Journal of Drug Delivery and Therapeutics*, 14(4): 86-91. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22270/jddt.v14i4.6495>

**U. Rai**. 2024. *Rhododendron of Singalila National Park: A Field Guide*. Bluerose Publication. New Delhi ISBN 978-93-6261-478-0

**U. Rai** presented a paper entitled 'Impact of Maling Bamboo (*Yushania maling*) overdominance on biodiversity of temperate forest of Eastern Himalaya' in 2<sup>nd</sup> Botanical Congress 2024 on Plant Science and Society organized by Burdwan University from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.