

Department of Botany

Annual Report – 2024-25

The academic session 2024-25 began with 73 students enrolled in the Department: 35 in the 5th Semester, 13 in the 3rd semester, and 25 new admissions in the Honours course. A Students' orientation was conducted soon after the new students joined the Department. During the program, all the teaching and non-teaching staff were introduced to the new entrants by the Head of the Department. The Vision and Mission of the College, along with rules and regulation, expectations regarding discipline, and an overview of curricular and extra-curricular activities offered by the College. The students were also introduced to the new Four Year Undergraduate Course under National Education Policy.

Class representatives were elected after a couple of weeks of the new session to represent the Students' Council –

5th Semester - Ms. Drishti Rai and Mr. Prashant Biswakarma

3rd semester - Ms. Reeya Tamang and Mr. Anuraj Sunuwar, and

1st Semester Ms. Prashika Sinchuri and Mr. Shaurya Kr. Shah.

The Even Semester results were comparatively better than other departments with a 100% pass percentage in the 6th Semester, 83% in the 4th Semester, and 62% in the 2nd Semester among the fresh students. In the odd semesters, the pass percentage was 100% in 5th Semester, 77% in 3rd Semester and 20% in the 1st Semesters.

Departmental Events

Farewell program

A farewell cum felicitation program for Dr. Dorjay Lama was jointly organized by the Department of Botany and Microbiology on 29th of April 2025 recognizing his 38 years of illustrious service. Dr. Lama joined the Department of Botany in June 1987 and was one of its founding faculty members. He served in the Department of Botany for 24 years until 2011, after which he fully transitioned to the Department of Microbiology. To mark the occasion, Dr. Lama planted saplings of *Rhododendron arboreum* in the rhododendron arboretum, a tradition our department follows.



Farewell and Felicitation program of Dr. Dorjay Lama

Excursion/Field Study

Field study and excursions are important part of the academic curriculum in Botany.

1. On 16th May 2025, the 6th Semester students visited 27th Mile, Kalimpong District, for vegetation survey and dominant species study, as part of the academic curriculum at 27th Mile, Kalimpong District. The students were accompanied by Dr. Upakar Rai.

- On 16th November 2024, the 1st Semester students visited an organic farm in Rajbari, Darjeeling to learn the techniques in organic farming.
- On 27th May 2025, the 4th Semester student visited Rampuria forest under Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary and Takdah-Tinchuley for study of flora. The students took photographs of angiospermic plants and pteridophytes. All 13 students participated in the field study accompanied by Dr. Upakar Rai and Dr. Anirudra Gurung.



Field Excursion of 4th Semester 27th May 2025



Vegetation study by 6th Sem students



Field visit on organic farming of the 1st Semester students



Community Spring Cleanliness and maintenance

As part of the Environmental Studies project, the 1st Semester students adopted Bhotay Dhara, a community spring, for maintenance and clean-up activities from September to November 2024.



Co-curricular activities.

Students from the Department of Botany actively participated in various co-curricular activities.

- Kajal Kumari Singh, Sakshi Prasad, Prashansa Lama, Sushmita Subba and Anupama Rai participated in the **Ramayan Paat** during Bhanu Jyanti Celebration on 29 August 2024, organized by Nepali Department.
- Sudip Biswakarma attended the **All India Thal Sainik Camp** in Delhi held during July-September 2024 and participated in the "Health and Hygiene" event.

- Three students participated in ‘**Inscape**’ at Salesian College, Siliguri from 27th and 28th September 2024.
Adarsh Johny of 5th Semester and his partner were runners-up in the **inter-college quiz competition**.
Awantika Sharma and Dristi Rai of 5th Semester were declared winners in the ‘**Trash to Treasure**’ event.
- Kerstine Lepcha of 5th Semester participated in the **Late Narjeet Singh Gurung and Late Arati Rana basketball tournament** organized by the Gorkha Hill Basketball Association Darjeeling from 1st – 3rd October, 2024.
- Nitika Gurung and Shakshi Prasad of 6th Semester participated in the **Best from Waste** competition organized by Nature Club on 5th April 2025
- Riya Chettri, Shristi Bhujel, Prashansa Lama and Anupama Rai of 6th Semester were winners in ‘**Treasure Hunt**’ competition organized by Geography Department on 5th April 2025.
- Sudip Biswakarma and Riya Lama of 4th Semester and Nilanjana Thapa of 2nd Semester were runners-up in the **Quiz competition** organized by Science and Research Club of the college on 5th April.
- Alpha Rai, Drishti Rai, Priya D. Mohra, and Riya Chettri of 6th Semester, Micku Doma, Nilanjana Thapa, Anjali Biswakarma of 2nd Semester participated in the **Inter-departmental Dance competition** organized by Dance Club of the College on 7th March 2025.
- Dristi Rai, Alpha Rai and Awantika Sharma of 6th Semester presented a paper titled “**Biodiversity of College Campus in Semi-urban Landscape Setting**” in the two day International Seminar “**Emerging trends in Science and innovation**”, jointly organized by Department of Chemistry and IQAC of St. Joseph’s college.

Publication

Shreyasi Biswas, Rajeshwari Chatterjee, **Upakar Rai**, Santosh Kumar Jana and Mahuya Mukhopadhyay. 2024 (September). Proclaiming Plant Growth-Promoting and Antifungal Properties of *Pseudomonas lurida* and *Bacillus velezensis* Isolated from Rhododendrons of Darjeeling Hills. *Current Microbiology*, 81: 393. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-024-03900-9>

Dissertation supervised:

Title: “COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPOSTS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON PLANT HEALTH FOR SUSTAINABLE TEA CULTIVATION” Submitted to IGNOU in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Award of the Degree of Master of Science (Environmental Science) by AMIYA RAI; Enrollment No. 2252044242; Regional Centre: SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA; LSC Code: 1800; Under the Supervision of DR. ANIRUDRA GURUNG (M.SC, Ph. D) Department of Botany, St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling.

Title: “VALUE ADDITION AND PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION OF TEA (*Camellia sinensis* L.)” Submitted to IGNOU in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Award of the Degree of Master of Science (Environmental Science) by PRATIVA RAI; ENROLLMENT NO: 2252040669; Regional Centre: SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA; LSC Code: 1800; Under the Supervision of DR. ANIRUDRA GURUNG (M.SC, Ph. D) Department of Botany, St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling.

	
<i>Winner of the competition Trash to Treasure competition at Selesian College, Siliguri</i>	
	
<i>Runner's Up in Quizz competition</i>	Thal Sainik Camp at New Delhi
	
Receiving the certificate of paper presentation in the International Conference on Emerging Science and Innovation from the IQAC coordinator, St. Joseph's College on the 8th April 2025	