

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

Miss Sweta Mukhia
Head of the Department

The Department of Microbiology operates actively through the combined efforts of both staff and students. The academic session for 2024 began on 29th July, 2024. Additionally, we experienced a revision of the FYUGP curriculum. The department successfully enrolled 24 students, primarily from the Darjeeling area, along with some from other states and even outside the country, fostering a healthy competitive atmosphere. This session proved to be a productive and fruitful year for the department.

Faculty Details The

Total number of faculty: 5 (Four teaching and one lab attendant)

New appointments: Fr. Dr. P James Antony

Ex-students report

- Many former students are now pursuing Master's degrees in Microbiology at the University of North Bengal.
- Miss Niharika Rai successfully passed the IIT-JAM.
- Miss Kalakriti Nirola has been accepted into Lovely Professional University, where she is pursuing a Master's in Biotechnology.
- Miss Ambika Chhetri is currently employed as a Research Associate at La Trobe University in Australia.

Academic activities

Three day induction programme

The academic session commenced with a three-day induction program arranged by the Department. This program was designed to facilitate a smooth transition for students into the college environment. Miss Dibyashree Chhetri, a faculty member, greeted the students and provided an overview of the Department's history, curricular and co-curricular

activities, as well as the college's rules and regulations. On the second and third days, a workshop was held in partnership with MBSI and the Microbiology Club, led by faculty members. In this workshop, senior students voluntarily guided the newcomers in acquiring microbiological skills. This session aimed to provide students with support as they embarked on their new academic journey.

Participation of students in various activities inside and outside the college

- The fifth semester students participated in a **National seminar “ Microbial Mystery : Investigating the Unknown and Unseen “** organised by the Darjeeling Government College . Two groups participated in the competition , out of which one group secured second position in the poster presentation, outcompeting 15 other posters.



- Six students of the sixth semester had the opportunity to attend a seminar cum workshop on **“Recent Trends in Biological Sciences”** where they had the opportunity to do hands on in-silico Docking and drug discovery , comparative genomics of microbes , chemical synthesis of nanoparticles, Data -mining of phytochemicals from database etc



- The fourth and sixth semester students participated in an International Workshop Cum Seminar on **MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY** organized by the St.Xavier's College , Rajgunj in collaboration with DNA labs CRIS , Dehradun .The students from the sixth semester (Miss Anindita Chatterjee , Miss Sinjini Biswas, Miss Sankenuma Rai , Miss Shreya Shrama and Mr Sudhanshu Limbu secured first position in poster presentation outcompeting 18 other posters . Also they had the opportunity to learn the molecular biological and immunological techniques that will prove to be useful in their future academic prospects .



- The sixth semester students presented a paper on the topic " Microbial dysbiosis and Inflammatory pathways in pregnancy associated anemia" in the International seminar organized by the Department of Chemistry .



- Two students from the sixth semester Miss Aditi Thapa and Miss Xaireeka Rai completed a project funded by the **Eastern Himalayan Foundation (EHF)** . The project had to be done on
Miss Xaireeka Rai completed her project titled "**PROJECT CHINTA : Archiving the cultural significance of Kirat (Rai) community**" where she highlights the lost tradition of Chintas and documents the key rituals of chinta . (Chinta is a traditional protection ritual practiced by the people of Rai community to ward off evil , calling ancestral spirits that is practiced to preserve the Rai cultural identity and spiritual beliefs)



- Miss Aditi Thapa completed her project titled "**PROJECT RISE: Spreading Awareness on STI and STD**" in collaboration with RTI department , Darjeeling District Hospital where she interacted with young adults of Darjeeling to spread awareness on the Sex Education and the alarmingly high rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections and diseases .



- Three students, Mr Aryan Chhetri , Miss Sneha Chhetri and Mr Dawa Dhandup Lama from the semesters and fourth second participated in Quiz competition organized by the Science and Research Club .
- Mr Aditya Rodrick Lepcha from the sixth semester participated in an Open Mic Competition organized by the Accord Club, where he was the first second runner up .
- Mr Pranab Gurung from sixth semester participated in The Obstacle Odyssey , 2025 organized by the NCC the where he secured first position outcompeting other departments

Farewell program for Dr.Dorjay Lama

Dr. Dorjay Lama, a founding member of the Department of Microbiology, retired on March 31, 2025. He dedicated 38 years of his life to this college mentoring thousands of students during his wonderful journey. To honor his unwavering dedication, the Department organised a farewell program to celebrate his numerous achievements and contributions to both the college and the Department.



Organisation of poster competition event

The Microbiology Club in collaboration with Microbiological Society , India organized an Inter Departmental poster competition . The competition provided a learning environment for the students . The students from the second semester presented a poster on the topic “Microbial Quality Control in Tea processing : Ensuring Safety for Tea.”



Internal Continuous Evaluation

As part of a comprehensive evaluation process, the department held internal tests in accordance with the University's code of conduct. Two internal tests took place this semester in April and May. The regular scheduling of these tests helps students remain engaged with their curriculum.



Research Publications and Seminars Attended

Fr Dr P James Antony

- Presented a paper in an International seminar on “Emerging Trends on Science :Challenges and Oppurtunities” organized by the Department of Chemistry , St .Joseph’s College , Darjeeling
- Gopalsamy, R. G., Antony, P. J., Athesh, K., Hillary, V. E., Montalvão, M. M., Hariharan, G., ... & Gurgel, R. Q. (2025). Dietary essential oil components: A systematic review of preclinical studies on the management of gastrointestinal diseases. *Phytomedicine*, 156630.

Dr. Abhijit Chhetri

Subba, A., Sharma, S., Pradhan, G., & Chhetri, A. (2025). First Sight Record of Black Crested Bulbul (*Rubigula flaviventris* Tickell, 1833) in the Temperate Forest of Darjeeling Himalaya, India. *UTTAR PRADESH JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY*, 46(8), 11-14.

Miss Dibyashree Chhetri

- Participated in a National seminar on “Microbial Mystery : Investigating the Unknown and Unseen “ organized by the Darjeeling Government College
- Participated in an “ International seminar cum Workhsop on Molecular Biology and Immunology” organized by St. Xavier’s College , Rajgunj in collaboration with DNA labs CRIS , Dehradun .
- Participated in an International seminar on “Emerging Trends on Science :Challenges and Oppurtunities” organized by the Department of Chemistry , St .Joseph’s College , Darjeeling

Miss Sweta Mukhia

- Participated in a National seminar on “Microbial Mystery : Investigating the Unknown and Unseen “ organized by the Darjeeling Government College
- Participated and judged the poster competition in an “International seminar cum Workhsop on Molecular Biology and Immunology” organized by St. Xavier’s College , Rajgunj in collaboration with DNA labs CRIS , Dehradun .
- Member of the organising Committee for an International seminar on “Emerging Trends in Science : Challenges and oppurtunities” organized by the Department of Chemistry , St .Joseph’s College , Darjeeling

Conclusion

The Department has made commendable strides during the academic year 2024–25. I take this opportunity to thank the faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students for their dedication and cooperation. We look forward to continued excellence and innovation in the coming years.