

ANNUAL REPORT: 2024-2025

Dept. of Zoology: St Joseph's College

The academic session commenced in the month of July. The Induction Programme for 1st Semester began on 26th July, 2024. All the teaching members actively took part in delivering the vision & Mission of the college as well familiarising with the rules regulations and expectations from the students. The students were also given orientation regarding the FYUGP. The Department welcomed 40 new students in the 1st Semester.

The number of students admitted to the department was 40 and 25 students passed out from the department. Nine students opted for higher studies from different universities.

The University result was declared on 3rd September 2024 and the departmental result was good with two students scoring SGPA above 8.

Dr. Ratul Datta Chaudhuri joined the department as a new faculty member on 17th September 2024.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES:

Dr. Bireshwar Bera:

1. Editor of Journal: American Journal of Life Sciences: ISSN Online: 2328-5737/ ISSN Print: 2328-5702
2. Editor of book: Iterative International Publishers
3. Participated and successfully completed the NEP 2020 Orientation and Sensitization on Program under Malaviya Mission teachers training programme (MM-TTP) of University Grants Commission organised by the University of North Bengal from 22 July to 30 July 2024.
4. Participated in a Three- day Training of Trainers program on AI for Higher Education held from 25th to 27th November 2024 organised by St. Xavier's College, Jaipur, India.

Mrs. Barkha Rai:

1. **Rai, B.**, and Sharma, S., Seasonal Variation in Bird Diversity and Abundance in Darjeeling Hills, of the Eastern Himalaya, India. Romanian Journal of Biology-Zoology, 69 (1-2), 3-25 2024.
2. Contributed a book chapter "Unveiling the Therapeutic Potency of *Bergenia ciliata* (Haw.) Sternb: Bridging tradition and Modern Pharmacology" Shashwat Publications, 2024.
3. Participated and successfully completed the NEP 2020 Orientation and Sensitization on Program under Malaviya Mission teachers training programme (MM-TTP) of University Grants Commission organised by the University of North Bengal from 22 July to 30 July 2024.
4. Participated in a Three- day Training of Trainers program on AI for Higher Education held from 25th to 27th November 2024 organised by St. Xavier's College, Jaipur, India.

Mrs. Albina Subba:

1. Sharma, S., **Subba, A.**, Pradhan, G., and Chhetri, A. (2024). Photographic Evidence of Incidental Sightings of the Vulnerable Asian Small-Clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinereus* Illiger, 1815) in the Mixed Forest of Darjeeling and Kalimpong District as Part of Central Himalaya. *IUCN Otter Spec. Group Bull.* 41 (3): 140 - 153
2. **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. <https://doi.org/10.56557/upjz/2025/v46i84889>
3. Participated in a Three- day Training of Trainers program on AI for Higher Education held from 25th to 27th November 2024 organised by St. Xavier's College, Jaipur, India.

Dr. Ratul Datta Chaudhuri:

1. Presented a paper titled 'Cardiac hypertrophy- the yin and yang' at the International Seminar on Emerging Trends in Science: Challenges and Opportunities jointly organised by the Department of Chemistry and IQAC, St. Joseph's College on April 7-8, 2025.

Mr. Shuvam Sharma:

1. **Sharma, S.**, Subba, A., Pradhan, G., and Chhetri, A. (2024). Photographic Evidence of Incidental Sightings of the Vulnerable Asian Small-Clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinereus* Illiger, 1815) in the Mixed Forest of Darjeeling and Kalimpong District as Part of Central Himalaya. *IUCN Otter Spec. Group Bull.* 41 (3): 140 – 153
2. Rai, B., and **Sharma, S.**, Seasonal Variation in Bird Diversity and Abundance in Darjeeling Hills, of the Eastern Himalaya, India. *Romanian Journal of Biology-Zoology*, 69 (1-2), 3-25 2024.
3. 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. <https://doi.org/10.56557/upjz/2025/v46i84889>
4. Participated in a Three- day Training of Trainers program on AI for Higher Education held from 25th to 27th November 2024 organised by St. Xavier's College, Jaipur, India.

Administrative Responsibilities:

Mrs. Albina Subba: HoD, member of Examination Committee, Admission Committee, Internal Complaints Committee and Nature Club.

Dr. Bireshwar Bera: Member of Research Cell, Anti-ragging Committee and Disciplinary & Students' Welfare Committee.

Mrs. Barkha Rai: Member of Nature Club, Anti-ragging Committee and Disciplinary & Students' Welfare Committee

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- Three students from the department were selected as councillors:
 1. Phuntshok Choden Bhutia- NCC
 2. Dishen Sherpa- NSS
 3. Rozy Bhutia- AICUF
- Six students from 5th Semester participated in Poster presentation in Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy Government College on 12th August 2024 on the occasion on 'World Elephant Day'. The participants were Anshu Chettri, Manas Sonar, Abhinav Pradhan, Nawdeeta Rana, Barsha Rai and Sristika Subba. They were accompanied by Dr. Bireswar Bera and Mrs. Albina Subba. The poster presentation event was an invaluable learning experience that provided them the opportunity to delve into the complexities of Human- Elephant Conflict and explore mitigation strategies. Collaborating with WWF and engaging with experts, including Indian Forest Officers, broadened their understanding of conservation challenges and the importance of community involvement in addressing them.



- 3rd and 5th semester Students from the department of Zoology participated in Ramayan Path Competition in Bhanu-Bhasa Smriti Diwas organised by the Department of Nepali, St. Joseph's College on 20th August 2024. The Department of Zoology was declared as winners of the competition. The participants were Roshni Sharma, Atishriya Baraily, Sangmola Sherpa, Sandhya Tamang, Mercy Rai, Suranjana Gurung, Shreya Rai, Rejina Rai and Prajwal Thapa.



- Phuntshok Choden Bhutia from 5th semester attended the NCC Combined Annual Training Camp organised by 5 Bengal Bn NCC from 21st August 2024 to 30th August 2024. Her achievements in the camp are as follows:
 I) Camp Best Cadet winner .
 II) 1st place in Camp Art Competition (gold medal)
 III) 2nd place in Camp Extempore Competition (Silver medal)
 IV) 3rd place in Camp Tug of War competition (Bronze Medal)
 V) Gold medal for appreciation for MCing the camp cultural program .

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION:

On 5th September 2024, the Department of Zoology celebrated Teachers' Day with a heart-warming event to honour the dedicated educators who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the students. The event took place in the department premises where the teaching and non teaching staffs were felicitated by the students. It was a heart-warming and memorable occasion which brought together teachers and students, reinforcing the strong bond between them. The event celebrated the dedication and hard work of the teaching staff, reminding everyone of the vital role they play in shaping the future of aspiring zoologists.



- Manash Sonar (5th Sem) and Anurodh Pradhan(1st Sem) participated in the Debate Competition organised by Accord on 14th September 2024. Manash Sonar stood as the best speaker.



- Samiran Rai along with students of other departments participated in Inter College Quiz Competition organized by Salesian College on 27th September 2024. They were able to secure second position in the competition.

- Mansha Thapa from 2nd semester participated in face painting during dance competition on 7th March 2025. She also participated in inter department art competition on 15th March 2025 and Art Exhibition on 10th and 11th April 2025 in St. Joseph's College Darjeeling.
- Students from the department of Zoology participated in the inter department dance competition organised by Dance Club, St. Joseph's College on 7th March 2025. The participants were Rejina Rai, Abigel Gurung, Tamanna Dey, Shristika Limbu, Priyadarshini Dewan and Archita Gurung.



- Samiran Rai, Barsha Rai, Nidhi Prasad from 6th semester participated in the inter department Quiz Competition organised by Science and Research Club on 5th April 2025 and secured 4th position.
- Anshu Chettri (6th sem) and Anurodh Pradhan (4th sem) presented a paper titled “The Vanishing Y: Is Male Extinction a Real Threat?” in the International Seminar on Emerging Trends in Science: Challenges and Opportunities organised jointly by Department of Chemistry and IQAC, St. Joseph's College on 7th and 8th April 2025
- Simran Rai from 6th semester participated in the Western Solo Singing Competition held in the inter-college event- “Insvaganza” held at Inspiria Knowledge Campus, Siliguri on 12th April 2025.

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

The Department of Zoology organized an Educational visit for 5th semester students on 23rd October 2024 to Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. Thirty four students under the guidance of Mrs Albina Subba and Mr Shuvam Sharma participated in the study tour. This program helped the students to gain knowledge and learning experience about animal behavior. Students were able to observe animal behavior, understand their needs, and ask questions about what they see, fostering a more analytical approach to learning.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO SERICULTURE FARM, BIJANBARI

The Department of Zoology organized an Educational visit for 2nd semester students on 10th April 2025 to Sericulture Farm, Bijanbari. Thirty four students under the guidance of Dr. Ratul Datta Chaudhuri and Mr. Shuvam Sharma participated in the study tour. This program helped the students to gain knowledge and learning experience in the field of sericulture. The students were able to connect theoretical knowledge from classroom with practical applications. They were able to experience hands-on-learning about the process of silk production, from silkworm rearing to cocoon harvesting, and to understand the economic and biological importance of sericulture.



Conclusion:

The academic session 2024-2025 was successful in fostering an environment of learning, growth, and innovation. Throughout the session, regular classes were conducted efficiently. The faculty members actively engaged students through interactive lectures, seminars, presentations and online platforms. Special attention was given to practical based learning to enhance conceptual understanding and real-world application. With a well structured curriculum and committed teaching faculty, the department continues to uphold its academic standards. Efforts will be made to further enhance the teaching- learning process in the upcoming sessions.