

Student Exchange Programme Bridges Knowledge and Innovation Between St. Joseph's College Darjeeling and Salesian College Sonada

In an endeavour to promote academic collaboration, knowledge sharing, and cultural exchange among young learners, the Department of Computer Science and Applications, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, organised a One-Day Student Exchange Programme in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science and Application, Salesian College, Sonada on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Held under the theme "Connecting Minds, Sharing Knowledge & Building Digital Futures," the programme brought together students and faculty members of both institutions on a common platform to exchange ideas, explore emerging technologies, and strengthen academic cooperation.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from both colleges, with 15 students and 3 faculty members from Salesian College, Sonada, while 15 students and 8 staff members from St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, actively participated in the event.

The programme commenced with a symbolic plant watering ceremony, representing the growth of knowledge, friendship, and institutional partnership. The ceremony was jointly performed by the Heads of the Departments and the IQAC Coordinator of St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling. The inaugural session began with the National Song followed by the National Anthem, setting a dignified and patriotic tone for the occasion.

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Anirudra Gurung, IQAC Coordinator, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, extended a warm welcome to the participants and emphasised the significance of academic exchange programmes in enhancing collaborative learning, innovation, and professional development among students.

As part of the academic interaction, Mr. Ajbin Gurung from the Department of Computer Science and Applications, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, gave a detailed introduction to the department. He highlighted the department's academic journey, various programmes offered, teaching-learning practices, and the modern facilities available for students. He also briefed the visiting students and faculty members about the department's infrastructure, computer laboratories, learning resources, and initiatives undertaken to promote technical skills and professional growth among students.

The programme featured a rich blend of cultural and technical activities. Faculty members from Salesian College, Ms. Preeti Sharma and Mr. Prabina Chettri, presented an impressive dance performance that added vibrancy to the occasion. Representing St. Joseph's College, Mr. Pravat Mukhia Titus, faculty member of the Department of Computer Science and Applications, presented a musical performance. Students from both institutions actively participated in cultural programmes, including songs and dances, along with engaging technical fun games that encouraged teamwork and interaction.

The academic segment of the programme included two special lectures focusing on contemporary technological challenges and opportunities. Mr. Sandeep Kumar Chourasia from Salesian College, Sonada, delivered an informative session on "AI Driven Development", highlighting the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in various fields. Another insightful lecture was delivered by Mr. Praveen Mukhia Titimus from St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, on "Cyber Crime and Cyber Hygiene," where he discussed the importance of cyber crime awareness and responsible digital practices in today's technology-driven world.

The exchange programme provided students with an opportunity to engage beyond conventional classroom learning and develop a broader understanding of technological

advancements, creativity, and collaboration. The interaction between the two departments reflected the shared commitment of both institutions towards promoting innovation, skill development, and holistic education.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Pranita Mukhia, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Applications, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, expressing gratitude to all participants, faculty members, and organisers for their valuable contributions towards the successful completion of the event.

The day-long programme came to an end with the College Anthem, followed by a group photograph, capturing the memorable moments of a successful academic exchange initiative.

The event marked another significant step towards strengthening the bond between St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, and Salesian College, Sonada, fostering a culture of shared learning, innovation, and cooperation in the field of Computer Science and Applications.



