Press Release from Department of Science and Technology

Training on Computational Biology for Life Science Students at Universities and Colleges

Recognizing the growing importance of computational studies in the biological sciences, the Bioinformatics Centre, Biotechnology Division, Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology (SSCS&T), Department of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim, inaugurated its Bioinformatics Education Programme 2026 today, 28 July 2026, at the Department of Botany, Sikkim Government College, Namchi. The training programme is being conducted under the theme “Biology and Innovation” with the objective of introducing life science students to the rapidly evolving field of computational biology.

The programme brings together students from various life science departments of universities and colleges across Sikkim, providing them with an opportunity to gain practical exposure to modern bioinformatics tools and computational approaches that are transforming biological research.

This year, eight life science departments from different higher educational institutions in the state have been selected to participate in the programme. These include Sikkim Government College, Namchi; Sikkim Government Science College, Soreng; College of Horticulture, Central Agricultural University, Bermiok; Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government Degree College, Tadong.

With life science research increasingly integrating computational methodologies, it has become essential for students to acquire knowledge and skills in bioinformatics and allied technologies. Computational biology now plays a pivotal role in genomics, proteomics, drug discovery, precision medicine, biodiversity conservation, and agricultural biotechnology. Through this initiative, students will gain insights into the latest computational tools and innovations that are shaping contemporary biological research.

The Bioinformatics Centre under the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology has established itself as one of the leading centres for computational biology research in the country and has received several national recognitions for its scientific contributions. In addition to carrying out cutting-edge research, the Centre actively supports researchers, academicians, and students by promoting the application of bioinformatics in biological sciences through training programmes, workshops, and collaborative research initiatives. Recently, the Centre has been actively engaged in collaborative research project on cancer research and prevention in Sikkim, reflecting its commitment to addressing important public health challenges through scientific innovation.

The Bioinformatics Education Programme 2026 is being organized under the guidance and supervision of the Principal Secretary and Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim, and the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology.

The resource person for the training programme is Dr. Laydong Lepcha, Assistant Scientific Officer, Bioinformatics Centre, Biotechnology Division, Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology. During the sessions, Dr. Lepcha introduced participants to the fundamentals of bioinformatics, computational biology, and emerging digital technologies in life sciences, while highlighting their applications in modern biological research and innovation.

The Bioinformatics Education Programme 2026 reflects the Government of Sikkim's continued commitment to strengthening scientific education, fostering innovation, and equipping the next generation of life science students with the computational skills required to excel in the rapidly advancing fields of biological and biomedical research