

Press Release from Department of Science and Technology

Bioinformatics Interactive Training Programme 2026 Successfully Concluded at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong

The Bioinformatics Centre, Biotechnology Division, Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim, successfully concluded its month-long Bioinformatics Interactive Training Programme 2026 at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong, on 8th and 9th September 2026, covering the Departments of Botany and Zoology, respectively. The programme was initially inaugurated on 28th July 2026 at Sikkim Government College, Namchi.

The interactive programme was marked by meaningful interactions and comprehensive hands-on training in various bioinformatics tools, databases, and software for final-year postgraduate students of Life Sciences. The trainees were introduced to the role and significance of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA), Ribonucleic Acid (RNA), and proteins and their constituent amino acids in modern translational biological research.

The programme provided students with an understanding of how genetic information encoded in DNA governs the synthesis and functional expression of proteins and peptides in living organisms. Through hands-on exercises, the students learned how to retrieve, analyse, and interpret biological information encoded within DNA sequences. The training also introduced participants to methods for identifying unknown genes and proteins and understanding the processes of transcription and translation through computational approaches, including transcriptomics and sequence analysis.

With the rapid advancement of biological sciences and computational technologies, bioinformatics has increasingly become an essential field for Life Science students and researchers. Such training programmes provide students with the computational knowledge and practical skills required to pursue research in emerging and dynamic areas of modern biology, thereby contributing to scientific advancement and societal development.

The participating students expressed their sincere gratitude to the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim, for organizing such a valuable and practical training programme. They appreciated the opportunity to understand how their theoretical knowledge and laboratory-based learning can be integrated with computational approaches to address real-world biological problems and contribute to the advancement of biological research.

The month-long Bioinformatics Interactive Training Programme 2026, organized under the theme “Biology and Innovation” as part of the Bioinformatics Education Programme (BEP) 2026, was conducted across eight biological departments of various colleges and universities in Sikkim. The participating departments included the Departments of Botany and Zoology, Sikkim Government College, Namchi; Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung; Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong; and the Department of Plant Science and Department of Basic Science, College of Horticulture, Central Agricultural University, Birmiook, South Sikkim.

The respective Principals and Heads of Departments extended their valuable support and cooperation in organizing the programme and expressed their interest in conducting more such practical and skill-oriented bioinformatics training programmes in their respective institutions.

Dr. Laydong Lepcha, Assistant Scientific Officer, Bioinformatics Centre, Biotechnology Division, Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim, served as the resource person for the training programme.

The Bioinformatics Interactive Training Programme 2026 was organized under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Sandeep Tambe, Principal Secretary, and Shri D. G. Sherstha, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Sikkim.