DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY - PG

NEWSLETTER – Jan to March 2025

Sl no.	Event	Images
1	**Guest lecture** On March 24, 2025, the Department of Biotechnology hosted a highly informative guest lecture titled "Leveraging Plant Biotechnology to Sustainably Feed & Fuel the Growing Global Population," delivered by Dr. Sanjaya A, Director of the Energy & Environmental Science Institute at West Virginia State University. The lecture, attended by 91 MSc students and faculty members, addressed critical global challenges such as food security, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy. Dr. Sanjaya discussed how plant biotechnology, particularly genetically modified crops and biofuels, can help address issues like soil degradation, climate change, and malnutrition. He also touched on the ethical and social implications of biotechnology and the need for collaborative research to unlock its full potential. The session included a lively Q&A where attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions, further enriching their understanding of the role plant biotechnology plays in creating a sustainable future. This intellectually stimulating event, organized by the department's coordinators and convenors, proved to be an invaluable learning experience for all participants.	
2	**Skill Development Programme** The "Ecocanvas: Brushstrokes for a Greener Future" initiative, led by Dr. Ramakrishnaiah TN, Dr. Vinutha M, Dr. Sathish Babu HN, Mr. Suraj J, and Ms. Arpitha R, with Dr. Jayashree DR as the corresponding author, explores the fusion of environmental awareness and artistic expression through the use of plant-based pigments. This innovative project promotes sustainability by utilizing natural, non-toxic materials in art, highlighting the importance of eco-friendly practices. The study involved the extraction of pigments from various plant sources around the M.S. Ramaiah College campus, including flowers, roots, leaves, and seeds, followed by testing for color fastness, durability, and eco-friendliness. The project aims to inspire action through art, engage communities, and transform public spaces into platforms for environmental education. By utilizing plant-based pigments, the initiative supports the use of renewable resources and reduces environmental impact. The future scope of the work includes exploring the durability and mixing potential of these natural pigments and expanding the concept of art-in-nature as a sustainable intervention. This initiative not only fosters creativity but also contributes to environmental awareness, offering promising career paths in sustainable design and environmental education.