

Department of Microbiology
Activities 2024 – 25
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The Department of Microbiology in the session 2024-25 conducted many successful events in the department and also under the Mushroom Cultivation Programme.

1. International Microorganisms Day - Talk and Foldscope workshop

On September 17, 2024, the Department of Microbiology at Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women (SRCASW) celebrated **International Microorganism Day** with a seminar on “*Micro Marvels – The Scientific Universe of Microorganisms.*”, delivered by the chief guest, **Dr. Sujatha Sunil**, Group Leader in the Vector-Borne Diseases group at ICGEB

She discussed their life cycle, their potential in combating global challenges like climate change, and fascinating examples such as microbes capable of degrading explosives and digesting plastics. These insights underscored the transformative potential of microorganisms in driving scientific and technological advancements.

Number of participants - 100



The event also included the **investiture ceremony for the Departmental Student Council and the Microbiology Student Initiative (MBSI) Council**. The newly elected members were formally presented with their official badges, marking the beginning of their leadership roles. The Departmental Council comprised **Archita Pandey** as President, **Prachi Singh** as Vice President, **Harshita Bisht** as Secretary, **Saveena** as Joint Secretary, **Samridhi Arora** as Event Coordinator, **Karuna Pundil** as Treasurer, **Debasnata** as Editor-in-Chief, **Abhilasha** as Graphics Manager, and **Diya Koul**, **Muskan Khan**, and **Aditi Virmani** as First-Year, Second- Year, and Third-Year Class Representatives, respectively. The ceremony celebrated the new leaders and their commitment to fostering a vibrant academic and extracurricular environment within the department.



The event also featured a **hands-on Foldscope workshop**, where students and teachers enthusiastically participated in assembling foldscope kits and examining prepared slides. In conclusion, the seminar successfully achieved its objectives by inspiring attendees to appreciate the critical roles microorganisms play in ecosystems and industries. Through expert talks, interactive sessions, and the Foldscope workshop, the event sparked curiosity and deepened understanding of the microbial world, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

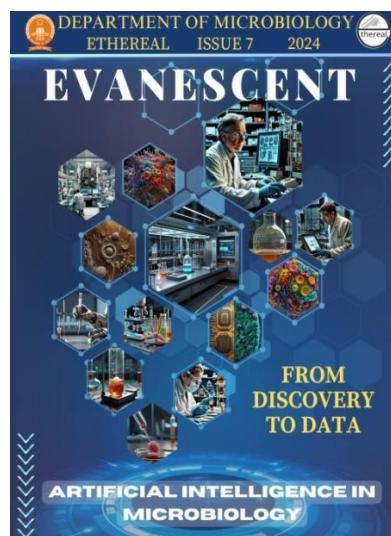


2. Annual Departmental fest - Microblaze

The department organised its annual technical fest. '**Microblaze**' on October 23 and 24, 2024. The theme of the event was "**AI in Microbiology**". The competitions, conferences, and interactive experiments demonstrated AI's potential to understand microbes and solve global problems.

The event was a huge success with various competitions held over two days, along with a fascinating talk session on "**Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Microbiology**" delivered by **Dr. Pallavi Somvanshi**, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, JNU. Following her talk, the mascot and annual departmental magazine, '**Evanescence**', were also revealed. The fest, thus, provided a platform for students to showcase their research, participate in competitions, and engage with experts in the field through talk sessions. The diverse range of competitions, including debates, quizzes, art, and poster presentations, allowed students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge while fostering a spirit of innovation and intellectual exchange.

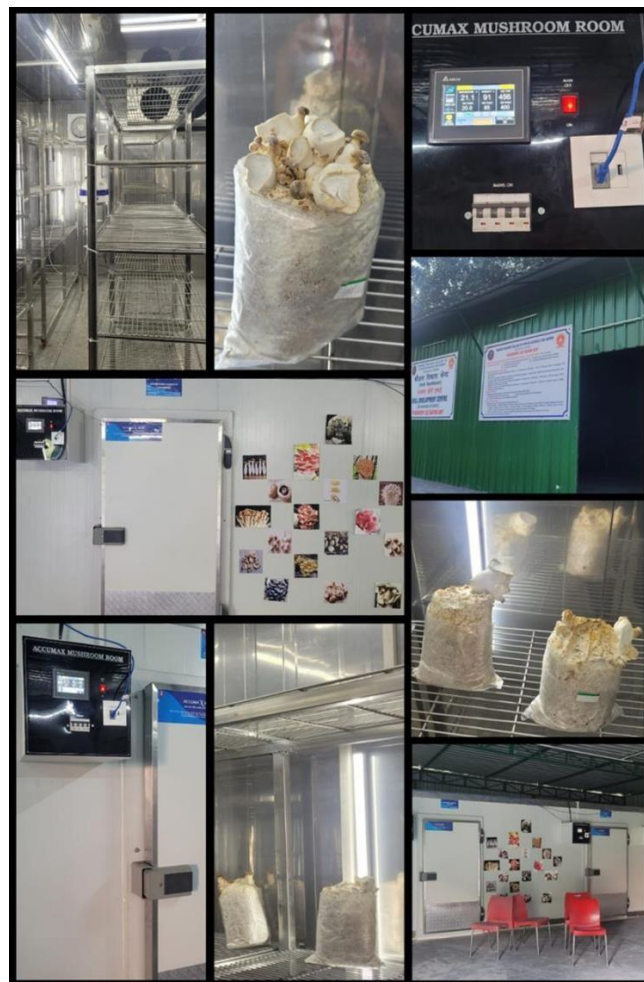
Number of participants - 120



3. Mushroom cultivation program

The department's commitment to continuous learning and skill development extended to the **Mushroom Cultivation Programme** conducted in collaboration with Enactus, Rajguru. The SRCASW Mushroom Cultivation Program is a thorough educational experience, including both theoretical and practical sessions. The theoretical part explores a wide range of subjects, such as the taxonomy, morphology, ecology, historical background, and general diversity of mushrooms. To enhance this understanding, hands-on training sessions provide examples and in-depth instruction on substrate preparation, spawning, incubation, harvesting, and preservation methods. Participants navigate the complexities of opportunities and challenges in mushroom cultivation in addition to gaining insights into the nutritional, medicinal, and environmental benefits of mushrooms. An **IoT enabled mushroom cultivation facility** has been established in the college premises. The advanced technology helps us to optimize mushroom farming round the year, enhanced productivity and quality of different varieties of mushroom. Our IoT enabled facility being one of the few mushroom cultivation set-ups of its kind in Delhi.

Number of participants - 41



As part of the experiential learning module, participants **visited a mushroom farm to observe real-world cultivation techniques**. The visit provided insights into: Different types of substrates used, Pest and disease management strategies, Marketing and sales strategies for mushroom businesses.

Interacting with farmers and industry experts gave students a practical understanding of the challenges and profitability of mushroom cultivation.

Participation in external events such as the **Annual Flower Show** of the University of Delhi showcased the department's active engagement with the academic and broader community. These opportunities allowed students and faculty to share their work, network with peers and experts, and contribute to larger discussions and initiatives within the academic and scientific spheres.

Amidst these events and programs, students from the department excelled in various competitions and activities, showcasing their talent, dedication, and passion for microbiology. Their achievements in declamation, essay writing, rangoli making, debates, and doodle art competitions reflect the department's commitment to nurturing students' holistic development and fostering a culture of academic excellence and creativity.