

**Department of Botany
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi**

DST-Fund for Improvement in S&T Infrastructure (FIST 2000)

Brief Outline Department

Department of Botany is the second oldest P.G. Department (established in 1919) and a premier Centre for teaching and research in plant sciences in the country. Owing to its notable contributions the Department was recognised as UGC DSA in 1972, CAS in 1980 and COSIST in 1984, also IV Phase of CAS in 2002 with thrust areas as Phycology, Ecology and Mycology & Plant Pathology, Apart from above major thrust areas, the Department is also recognized as centre for research and teaching in other disciplines of plant sciences including Morphogenesis and Cytogenetics.

Teaching & Research Activities

The Department teaches Undergraduate and Postgraduate in Botany, Industrial Microbiology as Vocational Course at U.G. level and Special Courses in Environmental Science and Applied Microbiology at P.G. level. Semester system was introduced, in 2004, in M.Sc. courses (four semesters of 90 credits), with dissertation, seminar, botanical excursion, field work, etc. as part of the semester programme. From the Academic session 2008-09 Semester system is being introduced at U.G. level as well (135 credits) with major and minor elective courses having provision of cafeteria type of teaching. The research conducted by the Ph.D. students and Post Doctoral Fellows on various modern aspects of Plant sciences include: (i) Stress tolerance in plants- physiological, biochemical and molecular approaches, (ii) Biotechnological potential of microbes and plants including aspects such as biomonitoring, bioremediation, biorestitution, crop protection, micropropagation and transgenic plants, product development and testing, (iii) Assessment and conservation of biodiversity, elucidation of ecosystem functions and environmental impact assessment as the major thrust areas.

Facilities Created

The following facilities have been created:

- A. Equipments: Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, Liquid Scintillation Counter, Gel Electrophoresis & Documentation System, Gas Liquid Chromatography
- B. Infrastructural facilities:
 - (i) False ceiling, PVC flooring, Aluminium partitioning with aluminium doors for Computer Lab. in the C.I.L.
 - (ii) Walk in Cold Room installed in the C.I.L.

For further details contact:

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