

Department of Botany
Annual Report 2025-26

1. Eco Friendly Rakhi Preparation Workshop:

To celebrate the spirit of Raksha Bandhan, the Department of Botany organized an **Eco-friendly Rakhi Preparation Workshop** on 8th August 2025 on the college campus, under the guidance and supervision of the Principal, Prof. Dr. Vanita U. Pochhi. A total of thirty-four students actively participated in the workshop. Mr. M. D. Kolte served as the coordinator, while Mr. D. L. Gavande acted as the convener. They guided the students in preparing eco-friendly rakhis using sustainable materials. As part of the activity, all participants tied rakhis to trees and took a pledge to protect and conserve them, thereby promoting environmental awareness and responsibility.

2. Plant Propagation and Nursery Management:

The course on **Plant Propagation and Nursery Management** conducted from **03/08/2025 to 13/02/2026** by Shri Shivaji Science & Arts College, Chikhli aimed to develop theoretical knowledge and practical skills in plant propagation and nursery techniques. A total of **40 students** (UG and PG) participated in this skill-based programme. The course included six modules covering seed biology, vegetative propagation, nursery management, plant protection, and entrepreneurship. Teaching methods involved lectures, demonstrations, hands-on training, and field visits to provide practical exposure. The programme emphasized sustainable horticulture, self-employment, and eco-entrepreneurship opportunities. Participants gained skills in nursery establishment, plant care, and scientific cultivation practices. Overall, the course enhanced employability and encouraged students toward green entrepreneurship.

3. Herbal Medicine Ayurveda; Traditional Medicinal Plants:

The Department of Botany, Shri Shivaji Science & Arts College, Chikhli successfully organized a Certificate Course on “Herbal Medicine Ayurveda; Traditional Medicinal Plants” from **03 November 2025 to 31 January 2026**.

The course integrated theoretical knowledge and practical training in Ayurveda, medicinal plant identification, cultivation, and herbal product preparation. A total of **40 students** actively participated and benefited from diverse teaching methods including lectures, practical sessions, and field visits. Expert faculty from Botany and Ayurveda guided students throughout the program, enhancing interdisciplinary learning. The field visit provided hands-on exposure to medicinal plant conservation and Ayurvedic practices. The course significantly improved students' skills, awareness, and interest in herbal medicine and sustainable healthcare. Overall, the program was highly successful in achieving its academic and practical objectives.

4. Hands-on Training of Plant Tissue Culture:

The Department of Botany, Shri Shivaji Science & Arts College, Chikhli organized a six-day workshop on “Hands-on Training of Plant Tissue Culture” from **12th to 17th January 2026** under PM-USHA Component 3. The workshop provided both theoretical knowledge and intensive practical training on tissue culture techniques such as media preparation, sterilization, explant preparation, inoculation, and micropropagation. A total of **40 undergraduate students** actively participated, along with faculty members, ensuring effective learning through hands-on sessions. Expert resource persons guided participants in developing essential laboratory and research skills. The workshop enhanced understanding of aseptic techniques and commercial applications of plant tissue culture. It also encouraged research interest and entrepreneurial awareness in plant biotechnology. Overall, the program was successfully conducted and achieved its academic and skill-development objectives.

5. Workshop on Mushroom Cultivation:

A Three-day Workshop on Mushroom Cultivation was organized by the Department of Botany, Shri Shivaji Science & Arts College, Chikhli, from **13 to 15 February 2026**, with the participation of **40 B.Sc. (Botany) students**. The workshop aimed to develop knowledge and practical skills in mushroom

cultivation as a low-cost, eco-friendly income source. The first day focused on theoretical aspects, including types, nutritional value, and scope of mushrooms. The second day included a field visit to Chandhai village, where students received hands-on training at a commercial mushroom unit. The third day emphasized advanced practical training, problem-solving, and marketing strategies. Overall, the workshop enhanced students' confidence and awareness about self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in mushroom cultivation.

6. Eco-friendly Holi Colours Preparation Workshop:

To promote environmental awareness among students and staff, an “**Eco-friendly Holi Colours Preparation Workshop**” was organized on 28th February 2026. The workshop was inaugurated by the Principal of the college, Dr. P. R. Padole. The concept for this initiative was proposed by the Head of the Department of Botany and IQAC Coordinator, Dr. V. U. Pochhi.

During the workshop, natural colours were prepared using eco-friendly materials such as flowers of *Butea monosperma*, spinach leaves, and beetroot. Prof. M. D. Kolte, Prof. D. L. Gavande, Dr. S. M. Waghare, and Mr. S. A. Kakde guided the students throughout the activity. A total of twenty-nine students actively participated in the workshop.

The colours prepared during the session were distributed among faculty members and students to encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives and to raise awareness about sustainable practices during Holi celebrations.

7. Research Publication:

- I. Gavande D.L., Pochhi V.U., Kolte M.D. 2026. Morphological and molecular identification of fungi isolated from the cotton rhizosphere soil in the Bhokardan region of Maharashtra. Res. Jr. Agril. Sci. 17(1): 73-79. ISSN: 0976-1675 (P) ISSN: 2249-4538 (E)
- II. Kolte M.D., Pochhi V.U., Gavande D.L. 2026. Morphological and molecular identification of the common weeds *Alternanthera sessilis* and *Commelina*

benghalensis using rbcL gene-based molecular method. Res. Jr. Agril. Sci. 17(1): 97-101. ISSN: 0976-1675 (P) ISSN: 2249-4538 (E)

- III. M. D. Kolte Published a chapter in Book on A Manual of Practical Botany Major Practical-8: Techniques in Microbial Studies, Plant Diseases and Cryptogams and Gymnosperms. ISBN No:978-81-993461-4-7

8. Student Achievements:

- 1) Mr. Shubham Salok and Vaibhav Kale Qualify MH-SET exam 2025 in Life Science.
- 2) Ku. Pooja S. Dandge Secured the 10th rank in the Bachelor of Science University Merit List.
- 3) Mrs. Pallavi N. Kharat Secured the 3rd rank in paper presentation on In vitro micro-propagation of wild edible vegetables under the category of research student at the National Student Conference on “Frontiers in multidisciplinary Science and Technology” Organized by Shri Shivaji College, Akola.

9. Activity Photographs:





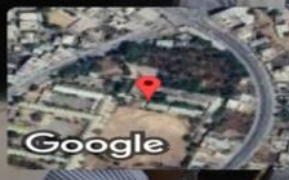
Field visit to mushroom cultivation center at Chandhai



Hands on Training in Plant Propagation & Nursery Management Workshop Resource Person Dr. Suchita Khodke and Dr. Rekha Maggirwar



Workshop on “Hands on Training on Plant Tissue Culture”



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**Guest Lecture on “Herbal Medicine Ayurveda; Traditional Medicinal Plants” Resource Person
 Dr. Deepak Khedekar.**