

## **Inter School Biotechnology Meet 2025**

Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls convened the Inter School Biotechnology Meet 2025 on 19 August 2025, bringing together young researchers to deliberate on contemporary scientific challenges and present their experimental inquiries. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the Principal's address. In her remarks, School Principal, Dr Santosh Vyas underscored the role of such platforms in fostering holistic education and equipping students with 21st-century competencies. She emphasized that biotechnology today is a discipline with profound societal relevance, providing solutions to public health crises, environmental degradation, waste management and pharmaceutical innovation. She congratulated the participants for engaging with scientific research at an early stage, describing their involvement as a substantive achievement in itself.

The event was adjudicated by two distinguished scientists, Prof. Manoj Prasad, Department of Genetics, University of Delhi, and Dr. Saloni Mathur, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi. Their presence and insights lent academic rigor to the proceedings.

Twelve teams comprising twenty-four students presented research projects across diverse areas of biotechnology. Topics included Tomato Leaf Curl New Delhi Virus (ToLCNDV), genome isolation and identification techniques, infertility-related studies, impact of salt stress on plant growth and the influence of ultraviolet radiation on microbial growth. The presentations reflected an engagement with experimental design, data interpretation and the application of biotechnology to real-world problems.

In his address to the participants, Prof. Prasad commended the intellectual curiosity displayed by the students, cultivate focus and draw inspiration from role models while ultimately charting their own trajectories. He stressed that learning must extend beyond outcomes to nurture a sustained relationship with inquiry and with nature. Dr. Mathur highlighted the iterative nature of scientific research, reminding students that setbacks are intrinsic to discovery and should be viewed as opportunities to refine inquiry. She urged them to preserve curiosity, pursue excellence and consistently ask critical questions.

The results were announced with Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls winning the first prize, Delhi Public School, RK Puram placing second and KIIT World School ranked third.

The Meet concluded with the reaffirmation that biotechnology education at the school level is not merely preparatory but foundational in shaping a scientific temperament. The event demonstrated that when young learners are given opportunities to investigate, present and defend their ideas, they contribute meaningfully to a culture of research and innovation.

