

**Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science and Commerce
Department of Biotechnology**

Board of Studies Half-yearly Meeting

Date: 9th March 2026

Time: 3.00 pm

Venue / Platform: Hybrid Mode (Internal members -offline and External members-Google Meeting)

Chairperson: Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar

Minutes Prepared By: Ms. Shmilona Jain

Members Present:

1. Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar, Coordinator, Department of Biotechnology
2. Ms. Shmilona Jain, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology
3. Ms. Geetanjali Harale, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology
4. Ms. Ankita More, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology
5. Subject Expert : Dr. Purvi Bhatt, Associate Professor, Sunandan Divitia School of Sciences, NMIMS university
6. Subject Expert : Dr. Bhakti Mhatre, Assistant Professor , D Y Patil University
7. University Nominee: Dr. Shiney Peters, Assistant Professor, Post Graduate Department of Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
8. PG Alumnus: Ms. Vishakha Mali, BGCI Level 2 Certified Genetic Counselor, Med Genome laboratories.

Members Absent:

1. Subject Expert (R&D/ Industry): Ms. Prajna Manohar Shetty, Business Development Leader, Cytiva

Agenda:

1. Approval of modified Sem V syllabus for 2026-27
2. Approval of syllabus of 'Environmental Management and Sustainable Development' to be taught as VEC (Value Education Course) in Sem I and II
3. Permission to introduce fourth year and start M.Sc. Applied Biotechnology program in the next academic year 2027-28.
4. Permission for T.Y.B.Sc. Biotechnology students take admission in fourth year Microbiology.
5. Permission to improvise the Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes of the current syllabi for the purpose of mapping with question paper.

Meeting Start Time: 1500 Hrs

Minutes:

1. The meeting started with a brief welcome to all members by Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar.

Agenda 1: Approval of modified Sem V syllabus for 2026-27

2. Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar then presented the modifications of Semester V Syllabus explaining the reason behind the modification. The modification was done to adjust the flow of teaching certain topics. Some papers had been moved to the previous semester and thus a new elective paper was introduced in the current Semester V syllabus.
3. All papers are for 2 credits, i.e. 30 lectures. For practical papers, 2 credits stands for 60 teaching hours.

Discussion : The following queries were raised during the syllabus presentation.

Paper Name	Queries raised	Solutions provided
Major - Animal and Plant Tissue Culture	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What cell lines are taught? Are cancer cell lines taught?2. In the associated practical workshop, what all techniques are taught?3. How are the cell lines maintained?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Yes, primary, secondary and cancer cell lines are taught.- Passaging, viability studies, cell counting, MTT assay.- Cell lines are purchased for the workshop and discarded after the same.
Major - Practicals of Medical Microbiology	Is pathogen identification taught?	Yes, complete identification including microscopy, growth characteristics, and biochemicals are covered in Semester IV
VSC - Bioinformatics	What all is covered under NCBI?	-Sequence retrieval, data collection, and alignment.

The following suggestions were given and will be incorporated in the syllabus

Paper Name	Suggestions given
Practicals of Medical Microbiology	Flagellar staining for syphilis pathogen (<i>Treponema pallidum</i>) identification can be included.
Major Elective - Biostatistics	ANOVA should be included as a recent biostatistics tool and any one software used for statistical analysis
VSC - Bioinformatics	-MS Excel can be moved to the biostatistics paper -Restriction Site detectors such as webcutter or NEBcutter can be included

Resolution 1: It was resolved that the recommendations made by the Board of Studies in Biotechnology at its meeting held on 9th March 2026 to revise the syllabus for Semester V Biotechnology as per NEP all members approved as per appendix with effect from 2026-27

Agenda 2: Approval of syllabus of ‘Environmental Management and Sustainable Development’ to be taught as VEC (Value Education Course) in Sem I and II

1. Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar presented the new syllabus for the paper titled ‘Environmental Management and Sustainable Development’ made by combining Environmental Studies paper and Indian Constitution paper, designed by the teachers of the EVS department to be taught to F.Y. students under VEC.

Discussion : The syllabus was appreciated by all. However, few members, namely, Dr. Shiny Peter and Dr. Bhakti Mhatre, raised concerns as to whether this combination of two papers is allowed under the Mumbai University norms. They concurred that the Indian Constitution paper is a mandatory paper in their college and cannot be combined with any other paper. Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar agreed to discuss this with the college principal.

Resolution 2: It was resolved that the recommendations made by the Board of Studies in Biotechnology at its meeting held on 9th March 2026 to approve the syllabus for ‘Environmental Management and Sustainable Development’ to be taught as VEC (Value Education Course) in Sem I and II as per NEP all members are approved as per appendix with effect from 2026-27

Agenda 3: Permission to introduce fourth year and start M.Sc. Applied Biotechnology in the next academic year 2027-28

1. Since we have taught 3 years with NEP syllabus, the department now proposes to start an M.Sc. Applied Biotechnology program which would also allow us to give the provision of doing a 4 year B.Sc. (Hons) program to our students. This would provide growth to the department which already has the required infrastructure for the same.

Discussion: All committee members gave permission for this venture. The syllabus of M.Sc. Part I (Semester VII and Semester VIII) was also passed by all the members of the BOS.

Resolution 3: It was resolved that the recommendations made by the Board of Studies in Biotechnology at its meeting held on 9th March 2026 to introduce the syllabus for MSC Applied Biotechnology as per NEP all members approved as per appendix with effect from 2026-27

Agenda 4: Permission for T.Y.B.Sc. Biotechnology students take admission in fourth year Microbiology.

1. Since we currently cannot offer a fourth year in Biotechnology to our students and many of our current T.Y.B.Sc. students are interested in pursuing this, Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar asked the committee if our students can do a fourth year in the Microbiology department of our college. Our Microbiology department already has an M.Sc. Microbiology program and thus can conduct a fourth year curriculum.

Discussion: Both Dr. Shiny Peter and Dr. Bhakti Mhatre said that Mumbai University does not allow Biotechnology students to pursue postgraduation in Microbiology. So it might be difficult to get this permission from the university. Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar agreed to follow this up with the principal and the administrative office.

Agenda 5: Permission to improvise the Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes of the current syllabi for the purpose of mapping with question paper.

1. Ms. Vinaya Jategaonkar requested the board of studies members to allow us to change the Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes of the approved syllabi to help us map these with question papers which is now a mandatory activity.

Discussion: None of the board members had any objection to this.

Resolution 4: It was resolved that the recommendations made by the Board of Studies in Biotechnology at its meeting held on 9th March 2026 to improvise the Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes of the current syllabi for the purpose of mapping with question paper as per NEP all members approved as per appendix with effect from 2026-27

Vote of thanks was given by Ms. Shmilona Jain

Meeting end time: 3.45 pm