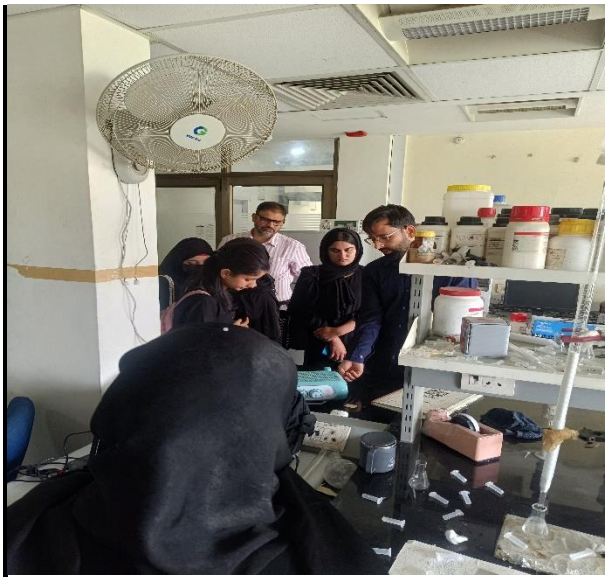
TOUR REPORT: LABORATORY CUM FIELD VISIT TO CSIR-IIIM SANATNAGAR, SRINAGAR

On **June 3rd 2025** the students from semester II & III along with the faculty members, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Mir, Dr. Nazima Rasool and Dr. Manzoor R. Khan, conducted laboratory cum field trip to CSIR-IIIM (Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine) Sanatnagar, Srinagar. The primary objective of this laboratory cum field visit was to provide students from the Department of Botany, North campus with hands-on exposure to the practical applications of plant biology, research methodologies, and techniques. The visit aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom and its practical application in the field and laboratory. Additionally, students were able to observe the role of institutions like CSIR-IIIM in fostering research in plant sciences specifically medicinal and aromatic plants.

The students arrived at IIIM Sanatnagar early in the morning, where they were greeted by the research staff and given an overview of the institution and its work. The students were first taken on a guided tour of the laboratory, where they observed ongoing research on plant-based medicinal compounds. The students were provided valuable insights into the different research techniques used in plant analysis, including chromatographic techniques, phytochemical

extraction, and various molecular biology techniques. The students were shown various plant samples that were being processed for active compound isolation.



A special interactive session was arranged with the lead researchers at CSIR-IIIM, where students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about ongoing projects, such as the cultivation of rare medicinal plants and their role in traditional medicine. Discussions also included the potential for research in plant biotechnology and the application of these studies in local agriculture and medicine.


After the laboratory session, the group proceeded to the nearby fields where several medical and aromatic plant species, both native and cultivated for medicinal use, were growing. The students were shown how field surveys and ethno botanical studies are carried out. They had a chance to identify and collect plant samples that were later used for analysis back in the laboratory. The faculty took the opportunity to demonstrate how field studies complement laboratory work and how environmental factors play a significant role in plant growth and development.


The faculty members conducted a hands-on session where students learned how to collect plant samples, document their findings, and preserve them for further study. Students were encouraged to take notes and ask questions, enabling them to connect their field experiences with the academic curriculum. The tour concluded with a roundtable discussion on the importance of interdisciplinary research and how the integration of botany with fields like pharmacology, biotechnology, and agronomy can lead to the development of sustainable solutions for local and global challenges.