

Christian Medical College Vellore



Newsline October 20, 2025

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73:26

Cell and Gene Therapy Symposium



The Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) at Christian Medical College Vellore organised the 10th Annual Cell and Gene Therapy Symposium on October 10th and 11th. The symposium was virtually inaugurated by the Honourable Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in the presence of Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology; Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director of CMC Vellore; Prof. Maneesha Inamdar, Director of BRIC-InStem Bengaluru; Dr. Solomon Satish Kumar, Principal of CMC Vellore; and Prof. Nihal Thomas, Head of CSCR.

125 Years of CMC Vellore 1900-2025





The Rise of Men at CMC!

1944: The first male outpatient clinic; nicknamed the "Peanut Godown" was inaugurated by Chone Oliver, Secretary of CMAI.

1947: Male students were officially admitted to CMC for the first time.

1952: (2nd February): The foundation stone for the Men's Hostel was laid, marking a major milestone.

The Honourable Minister emphasised the importance of cell and gene therapy in India and reiterated the government's support for advancing scientific research. He also mentioned that CSCR has made a significant contribution by developing the first-in-human gene therapy for Haemophilia, which can set a precedent for novel therapies targeting multiple other genetic disorders.

The inauguration video is available below: https://youtu.be/a1Zgmxs5fk4? si=Raz5yGGAjY4a95q-

Dr. Gokhale discussed how the BioE3 policy is shaping bioeconomic growth in India and the Department's strategy to encourage cell and gene therapy. Dr. Vikram Mathews highlighted the scientific achievements at CSCR that are enhancing translational research in the country. The meeting featured more the 50 faculty from overseas and India, who all cover several areas of gene therapy, diagnostics, cell-based therapy and other forms of treatment.

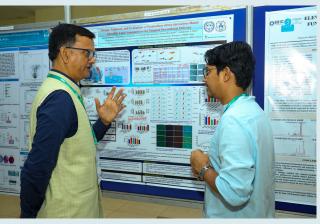
The meeting Souvenir and Brochure with speakers' abstracts are below:-

https://www.cscr.res.in/sites/default/files/2025-10/Final%20souvenir%20Symposium%202025.pdf

Dr. Mitchell Weiss from St. Jude Hospital, USA, delivered a keynote lecture on lentiviral and genome editing strategies for genetic blood disorders such as β -thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia, focusing on restoring functional haemoglobin through patient-derived stem cells.









Dr. Poonam Malik from Cincinnati Children's Hospital, USA, presented her clinical studies using a modified gamma-globin lentiviral vector for gene therapy in beta-hemoglobinopathies. She discussed observed therapeutic benefits and innovative strategies to refine this approach, along with ways to optimise manufacturing processes to improve efficiency, scalability, and cost-effectiveness. In the session on organoid research, Dr. Ruchi Tandon from THSTI, New Delhi, Dr. Arvind Ramanathan from BRIC-InStem, Bengaluru, and Dr. Indumathi Mariappan from LVPEI, Hyderabad, spoke about liver, muscle, and ocular organoids, respectively and explained the significance of using organoids in drug testing. Regarding affordable CAR-T cell therapy development, Dr. Vikram Mathews (CMC Vellore), Dr. Priyadarshini Chatterjee (Aurigene Oncology Ltd., Bengaluru), and Bruce Levine (University of Pennsylvania, USA) shared their strategies and challenges.

Dr. Balamurugan Appakalai (University of Louisville, USA) explained the potential of insulin-secreting β-cell transplantation to cure diabetes. Dr. Ullas Kolthur Seetharaman (CDFD, Hyderabad) described how to "rewire" cellular energy and gene programs so that cells can safely become the types needed to repair damaged tissues or treat genetic disorders. Emergence of Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSCs) and their extracellular vesicles as anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, and regenerative medicine was discussed. Dr. Ilyas Khan, Swansea University Medical School, UK highlighted the role of chondroprogenitor cells in cartilage repair and regeneration. The discussions on emerging clinical trials, donor heterogeneity, cryopreservation, and potency enhancement through gene-modified MSCs were discussed by other eminent peers. The delegates discussed Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) compliance, scalable production of gene and cell therapies, and regulatory frameworks designed to accelerate translational research into viable therapeutic products.

The symposium confirmed how translational science, complementary collaborations, and robust biotechnological infrastructure are critical for making durable, curative therapies a practical reality in India. Capacity building through training and research collaborations was highlighted as an ongoing mission. The integration of advanced tools like whole-genome sequencing into clinical and epidemiological contexts is paving the way for precision medicine in India, promising earlier diagnoses, tailored therapies, and population-level impact for inherited and complex disorders. The speakers emphasised India's dual responsibility and opportunity to ensure innovations are safe, scalable, affordable, and equitable while accomplishing the unmet needs both domestically and as a model for other low-middle-income countries. The symposium also included a quiz competition for basic science and medical students, awarded eight best poster prizes to participants from across India, and granted two travel awards to young scientists to present at the symposium.









https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17siw06Ssb,JYkT8gMeB5CUzecwUklLiwT?usp=drive_link

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Srujan Kumar thanked the speakers from across India and the globe for sharing their thought-provoking ideas and insightful discussions, and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of all attendees. Overall, the symposium successfully brought together internationally reputed scientific peers to engage with young scholars pursuing their doctoral and postgraduate studies, fostering scientific zeal and cultivating the growth of cell and gene therapy research in India.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2025 Observed at CMC Vellore



On 11th October 2025, the Department of Palliative Medicine, CMC Vellore, observed the 20th World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on the global theme "Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care."

A series of academic and awareness-building activities was organised as part of the observance. These included cartooning and video-making competitions that highlighted creative perspectives on the theme, and a debate competition on "Is Universal Access to Palliative Care in India achievable within the next decade?" where contestants demonstrated commendable depth of knowledge and analytical reasoning. Mrs. Alice Sony, Nursing Superintendent, graced the occasion with her encouraging presence, emphasised the urgency of universal access to palliative care, and distributed prizes. To enhance public engagement, a walkathon was conducted to raise awareness on the importance of universal palliative care access, and tree-planting drives were undertaken in local schools to promote advocacy and sustainability initiatives aligned with the day's theme.

A special programme was held at the Ida B. Scudder Hospice, featuring musical performances by patients and reflective testimonies from bereaved family members, who shared their experiences of the compassionate care and support extended by the Palliative Care Unit.

The events collectively reflected the department's ongoing commitment to education, advocacy, and service in advancing the vision of equitable and universal access to palliative care.

Winners of competitions – World Hospice and Palliative Care Day celebration 2025 Debate competition

Winners: Dr. Rishanthini D, Senior Resident, Department of Radiation Oncology

Mr. Dinesh T, Staff Nurse, K ward

Cartooning competition

First prize: Mr.Dinesh T, Staff Nurse, K ward

Second prize: Mrs. Cinthiya Rachel Grace, Charge Nurse, K ward

Third prize: Ms. Dhivya P, Staff Nurse, CHAD Mrs. Mohanapriya, Staff Nurse, Hospice

Video-making competition

First prize: K ward nursing team

Second prize: C 201 ward nursing team

Third prize: Ms. Anupriya, Staff Nurse, RUHSA







Systematic reviews, Meta Analysis, Risk of Bias, GRADE and Evidence to Decision framework

The Technical Resource Hub, CMC Vellore, Under Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), organised a three-day workshop on "Systematic reviews, Meta Analysis, Risk of Bias, GRADE and Evidence to Decision framework" from the 8th to 10th October, 2025 at the New Examination Hall, 2nd floor-Conference Hall, CMC Bagayam campus, Vellore.

The inauguration ceremony of the Technical Resource Hub, CMC Vellore and the Guideline Development Workshop commenced with a word of prayer by Rev. Priscilla, Chaplain, followed by a welcome address from Dr. Vinod Joseph Abraham, Vice Principal (UG). Dr. Mohan S Kamath, Principal Investigator of the Technical Resource Hub, Head and Senior Professor, Department of Reproductive Medicine & Surgery, and Director, Cochrane India Affiliate, CMC Vellore, gave a brief introduction about the Technical Resource Hub and its scope of activities. Following this, he introduced the workshop and welcomed the participants. The inaugural session also featured an address by the chief resource person, Dr. Prathap Tharyan, Adjunct Professor, Clinical Epidemiology Unit, Founder Director of Cochrane South Asia, and Former Professor of Psychiatry, CMC Vellore. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Mohan S. Kamath.

The workshop covered a range of topics across three days. Day 1 focused on 'The Role of Systematic Reviews in Evidence-Informed Health Decision-Making, Components of a Systematic Review, Developing a Protocol, Search Strategy, Data Extraction, and Meta-Analysis'. Day 2 included sessions on 'Risk of Bias, GRADE, Guideline Development Group (GDG) Formation, Topic Prioritisation, and Framing of Clinical Questions/PICOS'. Day 3 concentrated on the Translating 'Evidence-to-Decision Framework, including Evidence into Guideline Recommendations using the Index TB Guidelines as an example, and a Practical Exercise using GRADEpro/GDT. Additional sessions covered Requirements for Trustworthy Guidelines including Engaging Stakeholders, Declaration and Management of Conflicts of Interest, and Communicating Guideline Recommendations to Diverse Stakeholders—followed by an open discussion with participants.

Participants also had short hands-on exercises using RevMan and GRADEpro software. The workshop faculty and organising team included Dr. Prathap Tharyan, Dr. Mohan S. Kamath, Dr. Priscilla Rupali (Professor & Head, Department of Infectious Diseases, CMC Vellore) and Dr. Vignesh Kumar (Professor & Coordinator, Clinical Epidemiology Unit). The sessions were highly interactive, encouraging active participation from attendees.

A total of 33 participants attended the workshop, including 14 participants from other institutions across India. The participants expressed appreciation for the well-structured sessions and showed keen interest in attending future workshops organised by the department.

The department extends its gratitude to all resource persons, the Principal's Office for their support, and the Telemedicine and Online Teams for ensuring the smooth conduct of the workshop.





Upcoming Event-Founders Day Staff Sports

Founders Day Staff Sports track and field events will be held on 22nd November, 2025 (Saturday) at 2.00 p.m. at the Oval ground, CMC College Campus, Bagayam.

The events are as follows:

Men Women 1. 100 mts 1.100 mts. 2.200 mts. 2. 200 mts 3. 400 mts. 3. 400 mts 4. 1500 mts. 4. Long Jump 5. Discuss Throw 5. Discuss Throw 6. Javelin Throw 6. Shotput 7. Shot put 7. 800 mts 8. Long jump 8. 4 x 100 mts. Relay 9. 4 x 100 mts. Relay

Above 40 years Events

- 1. 100 mts.
- 2. Shot put
- 3. Walking race

Interested staff members, kindly contact the following staff members for registration.

Note: spot entries will also be accepted/An Individual can take part in a maximum of 4 events, excluding relay.

1. Mr. Naveena Krishnan,	Physical Director, CON	- 7016	- 9994023416
2. Mr. Walter Nixon	X-Ray department	- 2822	- 9843182611
3. Mr. Prakash	MCTT	- 6033	- 9944902637
4. Mr. Wilson	Electrical Department	- 2045	- 9244316222
5. Mr. Chinthanai Selvan	MCTT	- 3623	- 9600252499
6. Dr. Balaganesan	Physical Director	- 4478	- 9443628333

Special Prayers: October 19 - 25, 2025

Community Health and Development (CHAD):

Dr. Venkata Raghava M. and Staff

Mrs. Shandrila Gnanatheebam R. and Staff

Palliative Medicine: Dr. Jenifer Jeba S. and Staff

National Council of Churches in India Council Member: Rev. Asir Ebenezer

North Bank Baptist Christian Association

Council Members: Rev. Chowaram Daimari and Dr. Asolie Chase

Hospital: Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur.

Memornda

- **Dr. Adeline Sitther,** Sel. Gr. Sr. Medical Officer, is appointed as Ag. Head, Distance Education Unit with effect from 10th October 2025 until further notice.
- **Dr. Anila Chacko,** Professor, is appointed as Ag. Head, Paediatrics Unit-III with effect from 21st October 2025 until further notice.
- Mr. J. Daniel Sundaraj, Senior Personnel Manager is appointed as Head of Personnel Department with effect from 28th October 2025 for one year.

Laurels & Recognitions

• The following participants won prizes at the General Medicine Case Presentation at 'Empower 2025'-20th International Medical Students' Research Congress, held at Government Stanley Medical College, Chennai.

Rhevaa Sudarsan Raj (MBBS Batch of 2023), under the guidance of Dr. Audrin Lenin and Dr. Sheba Thomas, Department of General Medicine Unit III, secured First Place for her presentation titled, 'A Subacute Descent: Unravelling a Case of RaCognitive Decline'.

Harsharitha Sundareswaran (MBBS Batch of 2023), under the guidance of Dr. Amith Balachandran, Department of General Medicine Unit-I, secured the Second Place for her presentation titled, 'The Great Masquerader- A Case of Porphyria-like Syndrome Unmasking an Uncommon Toxic Etiology'.

- **Jagapriyan C.S.** (MBBS Batch of 2023), under the guidance of Dr. Elanthendral S., Department of General Pathology, secured Second Place in the Poster Competition at Illuminara 25 held at Government Medical College, Omandurar. The title of his poster was 'Neck Swelling is not always Tuberculosis: A Case Report on Rosai Dorfman Disease'.
- The Paediatric Critical Care Team: Dr. Aashika. C, Dr. Aravind. K, Dr. Darivemula Sharon (Fellows) and Mrs. Jansi Rani (Charge Nurse) has won the First Prize in video making and Second Prize in the highly competitive 'SIMWARS'; a national level simulation competition held among expert critical care teams across India at the National Conference on Simulation Training (PediSTARS) held at Dehardun on 4th to 7th October, 2025.
- **Dr. Harish G.,** Sr. P.G. Resident, M.Ch.Vascular Surgery received the Prize in `Best Paper in Free paper Category' for his abstract in the VSICON 2025 conference held from 9th to 11th October 2025 at Vishakapatnam.



Obituary

Mrs. Joyce Ravi, Sr. Gr. II Office Facilitator. Personnel Department passed away on 15th October, 2025. She served our institution with unwavering dedication and integrity for 33 years. Mrs. Joyce began her journey with us in 1992 as a Clerk Typist (Trainee) and was officially appointed on 10th November 1992. She was confirmed in service on 10th February 1994 and went on to build a remarkable career marked by consistent growth and commitment. Over the years, she earned six well-deserved promotions, with her final designation being Sr. Gr.II Clerk Typist, attained in June 2022.



Her service spanned various departments, each of which benefitted from her diligence and professionalism:

- 10 years in Clinical Biochemistry
- 3 years in the Clerical Pool
- 2 years in Endocrinology
- 15 years in L Ward
- 3 years in the Personnel Department

A respected colleague and a dedicated worker, Mrs. Joyce was known for her sincerity, humility, and cooperative spirit. Her contribution to the smooth functioning of departments and her supportive presence made a lasting impact on many who had the privilege of working alongside her.

She is survived by her father, Mr. Munuswamy, a retired Hospital Attendant from General Pathology; her husband, Mr. Ravikumar; and her son, Mr. Immanuel Jeshurun Rajkumar, an Accident & Emergency Care Technician in the Emergency Department, CMC.

As we remember Mrs. Joyce with gratitude and fondness, let us keep her family in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss. May her soul rest in peace.

Situations Vacant

Click the following link to view the vacancies https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Vacancies under the Principal's Office - for queries, contact the mentioned office

Erratum:

1. Assistant Professor (NM-MPT) Gr.III for the Department of PMR (Physiotherapist)

Qualification: MPT Graduates with Physiotherapy in Cardio-Respiratory speciality from IAP IAP-recognised College / University.

Age Limit: Below 35 years.

Salary: As per institutional rules. **Accommodation:** Not Provided.

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by November 01, 2025.

2. Senior Resident with MD Anaesthesiology (Those who have 1 year experience in Cardiac Anaesthesiology will be preferred) for the Department of Cardiac Anaesthesia

Salary: As per institutional rules. **Accommodation:** Provided (Subject to Availability).

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by October 25, 2025.

3. Senior Resident / Assistant Professor with MD (Radiology) for the Department of Radio-Diagnosis

Experience : Should have at least one year teaching experience as Assistant Professor in any NMC recognized teaching institution for applying Assistant Professor Job.

Salary: As per institutional rules.

Accommodation: Provided (Partly Furnished, Depending on availability).

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by October 25, 2025.

4. Assistant Professor with M.D. (Pharmacology) for the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology

The Candidate should have completed one- year experience as Senior Resident in any NMC recognized teaching institution. Salary: As per institutional rules.

Accommodation: Provided (Partly Furnished, Depending on availability).

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by October 25, 2025.

5. Senior Resident / Assistant Professor with MS / DNB (Ophthalmology) for the Department of Ophthalmology Unit - VI

Experience: Should have at least one year teaching experience as (Asst. Professor) in any NMC recognized teaching institution to apply Assistant Professor job.

Candidates with DNB qualification should fulfill the latest NMC criteria for teaching appointment.

Salary: As per institutional rules. Accommodation: Provided (Subject to Availability).

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by October 25, 2025.

6. Senior Resident / Assistant Professor with MD Transfusion Medicine / Pathology for the Department of Immuno Haematology and Blood Transfusion

Experience : Should have at least one year teaching experience as (Asst. Professor) in any NMC recognized teaching institution to apply Assistant Professor job.

Salary: As per institutional rules. Accommodation: Provided (Subject to Availability).

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by November 01, 2025.

7. Senior Resident / Assistant Professor with MS E.N.T. under Under Oto-Rhino-Laryngology (CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus)

Experience: Should have at least one year teaching experience as (Asst. Professor) in any NMC recognized teaching institution for applying Assistant Professor post.

Salary: As per institutional rules.

Accommodation: Provided (Partly Furnished, Depending on availability).

Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by November 01, 2025.

8. Ph.D Admissions for the Departments of Haematology, Neurosciences, Clinical Genetics and Center for Stem Cell Research Job Code: 1626

Affiliated with: Regional Center for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad

Christian Medical College, Vellore invites online applications for admission to the PhD programme across various departments, in affiliation with the Regional Center for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **i. Educational Qualifications :** Applicants must hold an M.Sc. / M.Tech in any branch of Life Sciences, M.Pharm, MVSc, MBBS, or a four year Bachelor's degree.
- **ii. Minimum Marks :** A minimum of 60% aggregate score or equivalent grade in the qualifying examination is required. A 5% relaxation is applicable for candidates belonging to SC / ST / OBC / PwD categories, as per Government of India norms.
- iii. Reservation of Seats: As per Government of India guidelines.

iv. Fellowship Requirement:

Candidates must have qualified one of the following national-level examinations and hold a valid fellowship at the time of interview:

- · CSIR-UGC JRF (Joint test for Junior Research Fellowship)
- · DST-INSPIRE Fellowship
- DBT-JRF (Department of Biotechnology)
- · ICMR-JRF (Indian Council of Medical Research)
- · Any other nationally competitive fellowship funded by the Government, valid for a period of 5 years

Note: Candidates who do not hold any of the above fellowships may still be considered for admission if they clear the written test and interview conducted by the department. Upon selection, such candidates may receive a regular salary from centrally funded research projects (DBT/DST/Welcome-DBT) or departmental funds for the entire duration of their PhD programme.

Apply Online : Applications to be done only through an online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx.

Last date to apply: Applications will close by October 31, 2025.

Vacancies under the office of Medical Superintendent-for queries contact the mentioned office

- 9. Staff II AHS Medial Lab Technician / Staff III Medical Lab Technician for the Department of Immunohaematology & Blood Transfusion
- (a) Staff II AHS Medical Lab. Technician

Qualifications : B.Sc., (MLT) from the Recognized University and those who have completed 4 years of experience as AHS Medical Lab Technician (Term Appointment) or equivalent only need to apply.

Salary Scale: Rs.15318 - 613 - 30643 + DA & HRA as per rules.

(b) Staff III Medical Lab. Technician

Qualifications: H.Sc., with Diploma in Medical Lab. Technician recognized by the CMAI or CMC DMLT and those who have completed 4 years of experience as Medical Lab Technician (Term Appointment) or equivalent only need to apply.

Salary Scale: Rs.12762 - 510 - 25512 + DA & HRA as per rules. **Age Limit:** 35 years.

Note: Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence will be not accepted.

Applications are to be done only through the online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Note: Only online applications will be accepted. Hard copies will not be accepted. Applications will close on October 27, 2025.

10. Health Aide Gr.V for the Department of Community Medicine

Qualifications: S.S.L.C + One year Training. Preference will be given to the candidates from Kaniyambadi block with Health Aides / ANM training and those who have completed 4 years of experience as Jr. Health Aide or equivalent (Term Appointment) only need to apply.

Job Description: To make home visits and maintain registers relating to antenatal, immunization of children etc., Supervise the work of part time Community Health Workers Conduct Health Education. Should stay at the workplace in Kaniyambadi Block / Jawadhi Hills

Salary Scale: Rs.10213 - 409 – 20438 + DA & HRA as per rules. **Age Limit:** 35 years.

Applications are to be done only through the online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Note: Only online applications will be accepted. Hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications will close on October 27, 2025.

11. Jr. Anaesthesia Technician (Term Appointment) for the Department of Anaesthesia (CMC **Vellore, Ranipet Campus**)

Qualifications: Diploma in Anaesthesia Technology (2 year course + 1 year Internship compulsory) (or) B.Sc., (Operation Theatre and Anaesthesia Technology 3 year course + 1 year Internship compulsory).

Note: Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence studies will be not accepted.

Consolidated Pay: Rs.23,680/-. Age Limit: 30 years.

Applications are to be done only through the online application system.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Note: Only online applications will be accepted. Hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications will close on November 03, 2025.

Vacancies under the office of General Superintendent-for queries contact the mentioned office

12. Office Administrator GR.V for the Department of Mission Office - Directorate

Qualification: Any Master Graduate or Equivalent suitable Qualification & Experience to be decided in individual case.

Consolidate Salary: As per institutional norms. **Age Limit:** 30 years below.

Please log on to https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Apply on or before October 29, 2025.

Note: Only Regular mode will be accepted, private or correspondence will not be accepted. Final year students are not eligible. Applications should be made online. Applications through other job portals will not be considered.