

A collage of three images: the top shows modern white high-rise buildings; the middle shows a white ornate gate in front of a classical building; the bottom shows a grey building with a red roof.

P RESIDENCY U NIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2026

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DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

COEXIST-2026

Natureship in collaboration with Department of Lifesciences, Presidency University, Kolkata had celebrated “World Wildlife Day” on 6th of March 2026 naming the celebration as “Coexist 2026”. Photography, quiz competition was part of the celebration along with talks on wild life conservation by eminent personalities like Samrat Moulik, Chandan Sen, Badsha Maitra, Kuldip Roy who are also famous for their works in the field of wildlife conservation.



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2026

The Presidency University Young Entrepreneurs Society (PUYES) hosted its annual Entrepreneurship Summit on 10–11 March 2026 in collaboration with the Department of Economics. The event featured mentoring workshops, a keynote by Chandrasekhar Ghosh (Bandhan Group), and a panel discussion with leading entrepreneurs. Twenty-four teams participated in BizPitch, presenting innovative business ideas, with Utkarsh Kumar (IISER Kolkata) winning the top prize. The summit concluded with PUYES signing MoUs with the Rajiv Sinha Foundation and EYUVA Centre, strengthening long-term support for student entrepreneurship.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

KURUVILA ZACHARIAH MEMORIAL LECTURE

On 13 March 2026, the Department of History at Presidency University hosted the Kuruvila Zachariah Memorial Lecture, delivered by Kingshuk Chatterjee. Titled “Akbar, A Victim of Bad Press?: The Language of Politics in the Timurid Court,” the lecture examined Mughal kingship, Indo-Persian political culture, and the role of language in shaping imperial authority. Prof. Chatterjee highlighted the complex interplay of Islamic, Persian, and Indian influences under Akbar, offering fresh perspectives on nationalist interpretations. The session concluded with an engaging discussion, enriching academic understanding of Mughal political history.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE HINDU/PRESIDENCY COLLEGE: EXCELLENCE AND EXCLUSION

A panel of distinguished speakers inaugurated and discussed the book, *The Hindu/Presidency College: Excellence and Exclusion* (Cambridge University Press, 2026) at Presidency University, Kolkata, on March 16, 2026. The panelists rigorously engaged with the book's general concern of the relationship between institutional history, knowledge, and affect in the making of a distinctive model of liberal arts education. All panelists unequivocally suggested that the book can be viewed as a pioneering model of writing institutional history.



SCHOOL OF ASTROPHYSICS

MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM

On March 11, Prof. Sourov Roy from IACS, Kolkata, delivered an insightful colloquium in Astrophysics Classroom 1 titled "Mixing of the Photon with Axion-Like Particles." He discussed the theoretical mixing of photons with low-mass bosons in electromagnetic fields and its profound implications for Beyond Standard Model physics, while also highlighting current experimental constraints and future search prospects. This session was made possible through the support of Presidency University and the coordination of our faculty members, Dr. Suchetana Chatterjee, Dr. Ritaban Chatterjee, and Head of Department Dr. Soumyadip Samui.



100TH COLLOQUIUM

On 18 March 2026, the School of Astrophysics at Presidency University celebrated its 100th colloquium with a lecture by Tarun Souradeep, Director of Raman Research Institute. His talk, "The Promise of Gravitational Wave Cosmology," marked the 10th anniversary of gravitational wave detection and explored future prospects in the field. The event also featured the inauguration of new graduate student offices by Vice Chancellor Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, made possible through alumni support, making it a significant milestone for the department.

MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM

On 25th March, The School of Astrophysics recently hosted a fascinating colloquium by Prof. Arkaprabha Sarangi (IIA Bengaluru) on the "Origin of Cosmic Dust in Supernovae and Massive Stars." Prof. Sarangi explored the vital role massive stars play as the universe's 'dust factories,' detailing how they shape their circumstellar environments and facilitate dust formation in stellar winds and supernova ejecta.



DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROF OHLMEYER AS A COLLABORATION WITH THE EMBASSY OF IRELAND IN INDIA

A talk by noted historian and author Jane Ohlmeyer on 6th March explored the comparative relationship between Ireland and India through narratives of land, people, and partition. The discussion also opened avenues for future academic collaboration between institutions in Ireland and Presidency University, particularly in the study of folk and oral cultures. With encouragement from the Vice-Chancellor, the session further considered the possibility of initiating student and faculty exchange programmes with Trinity College Dublin, potentially facilitated by the Embassy of Ireland in India.



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

ONLINE WEBINAR ON 'THEORISING A BENGALI NATION: ABUL HASHIM AND THE UNITED BENGAL MOVEMENT'

On March 11, 2026, the Department of Political Science organized a book talk by Dr. Sucharita Sen on "Theorising a Bengali Nation: Abul Hashim and the United Bengal Movement". The talk explored the intellectual and political efforts to envision a sovereign, undivided Bengal during the turbulent years preceding the 1947 partition. The session was centered on the political philosophy of Abul Hashim and his contemporaries who attempted to steer the regional discourse toward a unified identity. Dr. Sen's talk revisited the critical period of the mid-1940s, providing a nuanced look at how leaders imagined a "Bengali Nation" that could transcend communal divisions.



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

ONLINE WEBINAR ON "AI IN RESEARCH: FEW ETHICAL CONCERNS"

The Department of Political Science, Presidency University, organised a talk on "AI in Research: Few Ethical Concerns" on 18 March 2026. Delivered by Dr. Soham Bhattacharya, the lecture examined the ethical use of AI tools in social science research. He highlighted concerns such as bias in generative AI responses, risks of hallucinations, and the dangers of sharing original data. Emphasising that AI should assist rather than replace researchers, the session encouraged critical engagement and concluded with lively discussions among participants.



ONLINE WEBINAR ON "1. 'LOWER-CASTE MUSLIM ACTIVISM AND THE POST-COLONIAL INDIAN STATE: ISSUES AND EVOLVING TRAJECTORIES' 2 'CITIZENS' MOVEMENTS AND STATE POPULIST RESILIENCE IN WEST BENGAL'"

The Department of Political Science, Presidency University, in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration and Professional Development, organised two talks on 30 March 2026. Dr. Salwa Yahya (KREA University) discussed lower-caste Muslim activism, highlighting the role of the All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz and its challenge to notions of a homogeneous minority identity. Dr. Proma Raychaudhury (KREA University) examined citizens' movements and state responses in West Bengal, focusing on gender-based activism and welfare politics. The sessions offered valuable insights into contemporary socio-political dynamics in India.



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

PLATINUM JUBILEE LECTURE SERIES II AT IIT KHARAGPUR

Prof. Sankar Bose has delivered invited lecture for the Platinum Jubilee Lecture Series II at IIT Kharagpur on March 3, 2026



175TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (EASTERN REGION), KOLKATA

Prof. Sankar Bose has been honoured as Chief Guest for the 175th year Celebration of Geological Survey of India (Eastern Region), Kolkata on March 6, 2026.

LECTURE SERIES OF 'PLANETARY PULSE'

Dr. Supriyo Kumar Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology delivered a lecture named "যেখানে বাঘের ভয়" in the series of 'Planetary Pulse' on 12th March, 2026.



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

INVITED LECTURE

Ms. Adrisuta Ghosh, research scholar, ISI, Kolkata gave an invited academic talk titled "EOCENE GASTROPODS FROM THE KUTCH AND THE JAISALMER BASINS AND INSIGHTS INTO DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURE", organized by Geological Institute on 30th March, 2026.



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS



AN INVITED LECTURE ON "CONTINUED FRACTIONS, THEIR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"

Presidency University's Department of Mathematics recently hosted the 104th installment of the Q.E.D. lecture series on March 19, 2026. The distinguished speaker, Dr. Anish Ghosh, Dean of the School of Mathematics at TIFR Mumbai, delivered a captivating talk titled "Continued Fractions, Their Past, Present and Future" at MLT1. Dr. Ghosh explored the probabilistic theory of continued fractions through a dynamical lens, demonstrating how modern ergodic theory and Lie group actions resolve classical number theory problems. Designed for a broad audience, the session bridged historical mathematical foundations with cutting-edge research, sparking insightful academic dialogue.

AN INVITED LECTURE ON "MATHEMATICS OF QUANTUM ERROR CORRECTION: FROM LATTICES TO HYBRID CODES"

The Department of Mathematics at Presidency University hosted the 106th lecture of its prestigious Q.E.D. series on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Held at MLT1, the session featured Dr. Sayan Chakraborty from IAI, TCG Crest, who presented on the "Mathematics of Quantum Error Correction: From Lattices to Hybrid Codes." Dr. Chakraborty introduced a unified mathematical framework bridging continuous and discrete quantum systems, specifically exploring GKP and hybrid codes. Designed to be accessible to mathematics students without prior quantum background, the lecture highlighted how lattices and operator algebras are vital for securing the future of reliable quantum technologies.



AN INVITED LECTURE ON "MANDELBROT SET AND ITS SMALL COPIES"

Prof. Sabyasachi Mukherjee visited the Department of Mathematics, Presidency University during 30 March-2 April, 2026. He delivered an interesting lecture on the "Mandelbrot set and its small copies" on 30 March which was attended by various people from Presidency University and other institutions. He spoke on the dynamics of quadratic polynomials and outlined a few open questions.

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

SPARK-2026

The Institute of Health Sciences (IHS), in collaboration with Wiley-VCH, organised SPARK: Scientific Publication and Advanced Research Kickstart on 24th March for emerging researchers. The programme featured editorial experts from Wiley, interactive workshops on publishing practices, ethics, and responsible AI, along with a lecture by Prof. Swagata Dasgupta (IIT Kharagpur). Activities included lab visits, networking sessions, and research presentations. A highlight was Science in Frame, a creative science communication initiative engaging students through comics, making the event a dynamic platform for academic and professional development.



RNA MODIFICATION AND GENOME REGULATION

The national conference “RNA Modification and Genome Regulation” was held on 25–26 March 2026 at the Institute of Health Sciences, Presidency University, led by Dr. Chandrama Mukherjee under the RNA Salon initiative. Supported by the RNA Society, ANRF, and DBT, the event brought together over 100 participants from diverse fields of RNA biology. A keynote lecture by Prof. Umesh Varshney (IISc Bangalore), along with invited talks, oral presentations, and poster sessions, fostered dynamic academic exchange and highlighted advances in RNA research.

EVENTS OF LIBRARY

COLLOQUIUM ON ACADEMIC PUBLISHING IN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Presidency University Library, Kolkata, organised a colloquium on Academic Publishing in Humanities and Social Sciences on 10 March 2026 at the P. C. Mahalanobis Auditorium. Chaired by Prof. Sumit Chakrabarti, the session featured experts from academia and publishing, including representatives from Orient BlackSwan and Primus Books. The discussion covered key aspects of scholarly publishing such as manuscript preparation, peer review, journal selection, and ethical practices. The event provided valuable practical insights for students and research scholars, promoting responsible and effective academic writing.



BOOK EXHIBITION AT THE PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Presidency University Library, Kolkata, organised a Book Exhibition on 30 March 2026 at the Arts Library, showcasing faculty publications received as gifts during 2024–2026. The exhibition highlighted the university's scholarly contributions and aimed to promote awareness of the library's growing collection. The Vice-Chancellor visited the event and encouraged similar initiatives. With active participation from faculty, students, and researchers, the exhibition reinforced the library's commitment to fostering academic engagement, reading culture, and a vibrant research environment.

EVENTS OF NSS CELL

PLANTATION DRIVE

On 5th March, the NSS Cell (Unit 3) of Presidency University, under Programme Officer Dr. Puja Ray, organised a Plantation Drive to promote environmental awareness and campus sustainability. Led by Dipta Mandal (Chemistry Department) and supported by NSS volunteers, the initiative involved planting new saplings as well as nurturing existing plants through regular care and maintenance. The drive emphasised that environmental responsibility extends beyond planting to sustained efforts in preserving greenery. It fostered a sense of connection with nature and reinforced the importance of collective action for a greener campus.



SPORTS EVENTS



NTS CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Narayan Ghosh Challenger Cricket Tournament was organized by the Non-Teaching Staff of Presidency University from 12th March to 16th March, 2026. A total of six teams formed among the NTS took part in the competition. The tournament ended as a huge success with the Office Holders of the University awarding the medals and trophies to the winners, the runners up and the outstanding players in the concluding ceremony. Fostering a sense of fraternity and sportsmanship, the Narayan Ghosh Challenger Cricket Tournament contributed a lot in boosting the morale of the non teaching staff of the University.



DLS CUP CRICKET 2026

Department of Life Sciences celebrated their annual cricket league as DLS Cup 2026 held from March 23-25, 2026. And we all DLS family witnessed intense rivalries, powerful shots, excellent catches and many many unforgettable moments. We enjoyed witnessing The Faculty and scholars women's to win their Cup, and in the men's matches the PG boys lifted their cup.



HISTORY CRICKET LEAGUE 2026: CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The 5th edition of the History Cricket League (HCL) at Presidency University, Kolkata, was held on 27 March and 2 April 2026, featuring four boys' teams and two girls' teams with a total of 60 participants. The boys' title was won by "Ghalibs in Gully," while "Final Flippers" emerged as champions among the girls' teams. The tournament showcased strong enthusiasm, teamwork, and inclusive participation, reflecting a positive shift toward gender engagement in campus sports. The matches fostered camaraderie and created a vibrant, community-driven atmosphere within the department.

SUCCESS STORIES

Two NSS volunteers from Presidency University, Dipta Mondal and Srima Roy, represented West Bengal at the National Integration Camp (NIC) 2026 held from 10-16 March 2026. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with NSS and The Neotia University, the camp promoted unity and cultural exchange among participants from across India. Activities included cultural events, yoga, competitions, and discussions on leadership and social responsibility. The experience fostered personal growth, mutual understanding, and the spirit of “Unity in Diversity.”



Ankita Basak, Hrishabh Mandal, Nisha Paul, Snehasish Das & Sujit Kumar Behera of PG-2, Department of Geology, got placed at UltraTech Cement Limited, Aditya Birla Group during their On-Campus Placement Drive held on 5th & 6th March, 2026. They are recruited at Mines Operation Department across different cement production units of India.



Aditya Ray, final year Master’s student, Department of Geology, published a research paper titled “Boulder populations and orientation trends on asteroid Ryugu: implications for rubble-pile surface processes” in peer-reviewed journal Scientific reports, published by Nature Portfolio (a part of Springer Nature).



Hrishabh Mandal, PG-II student took part in a one-day seminar on “Paleontological Pedagogy in West Bengal: Challenges and Resolutions” held at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata on March 12th, 2026 presenting his insights on curriculum structure and student perspectives in paleontology.



AdVenture: This marketing challenge required students to build a digital and print campaign for the artisanal ice cream brand, Mischief and Co. Judges Prof. D. P. Ghosh (XLRI), Mr. Kanchan Dutta (Inner Circle), and Mr. Shivaji Das Gupta (Inexgro) awarded the first prize to Presidency University’s own first-year Economics students: Arghyajeet Ghosh, Ayushman Paul, and Suvayan Mukherjee. The panel specifically praised the students’ sophisticated use of AI and digital technology.

