

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY, 2025

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Felicitatation of Presidency University at 32nd West Bengal State Science & Technology Congress, 2025

Presidency University, Kolkata was invited as a Special Guest on the occasion of the 32nd West Bengal State Science and Technology Congress 2025 to be felicitated in their Valedictory session towards our unique contribution in organizing the Regional Science Congress. Prof Sankar Bose and Dr George Biswas received the award on behalf of Presidency University in the presence of Hon'ble MIC, Department of Science Technology and Biotechnology and other dignitaries.



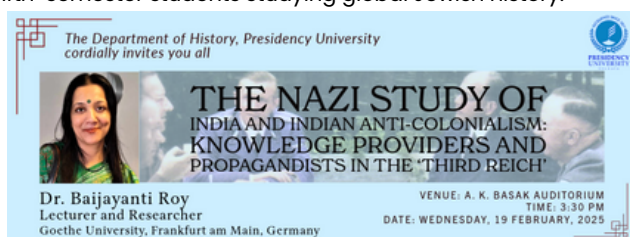


Student's Trip to China Town, Teritti Bazar

History students from MA Second Semester and BA Sixth Semester visited Teritti Bazar, Kolkata's older Chinatown, on 5th February 2025, as part of their course on small foreign-origin communities in colonial India. Exploring landmarks like Nam Sun Church and Choonghee Dong Thien Haue Church, they received an insightful guided tour from Nam Soon Church Club representatives. The trip offered a deep dive into history, faith, and culture, with student coordinator Prachi Jha describing it as "a journey through history, faith, and culture."

The Representation of Diverse Jewish Communities within the Australian Jewish Community

On 10th February 2025, the History Department hosted a lecture by Angelica Jacob, an Indian Jewish memoirist and entrepreneur from Sydney, Australia, on "The Representation of Diverse Jewish Communities within the Australian Jewish Community." She examined inclusion challenges faced by marginalized Jewish groups, proposed strategies for greater participation, and discussed her memoir *Finding Home: Memoir of a Jewish Girl, Bombay to Sydney* (2019). The interactive session engaged students and faculty, particularly benefiting BA (History) Honours fifth-semester students studying global Jewish history.



The Nazi Study of India and Indian Anti-Colonialism: Knowledge Providers and Propagandists in the 'Third Reich'

On 19th February 2025, the History Department hosted a presentation by Dr. Baijayanti Roy (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main) on her monograph *The Nazi Study of India and Indian Anti-Colonialism* (Oxford University Press, 2024). She explored intellectual and political ties between German scholars, Indian anti-colonialists, and Nazi institutions. The engaging session, attended by students, faculty, and alumni, provided valuable insights into this complex historical intersection.

Fourth Subodh Kumar Mukhopadhyay Memorial Lecture, 2024-2025

Prof. Maroona Murmu, Jadavpur University, delivered a talk on "Literary Foremothers and the 'Bengal Renaissance'" at Presidency University's Department of History on February 25, 2025. Drawing from her book *Words of Her Own* (OUP, 2020), she explored women's literary contributions in colonial Bengal, challenging patriarchal narratives. Prof. Murmu emphasized memoirs, correspondence, and informal traditions as crucial to print culture, revealing how nineteenth-century educated women shaped independent literary discourse and critiqued societal norms. The lecture underscored the historical importance of women's voices in literature.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

WEEKLY COLLOQUIUMS



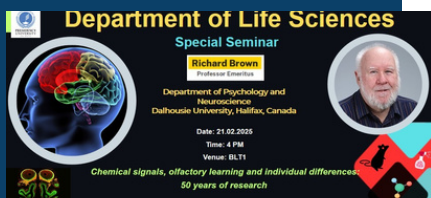
On February 5, 2025, Dr. Gourav Banerjee from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, visited Presidency University to discuss Be stars—rapidly rotating stars with gaseous discs. He highlighted Meghnad Saha's foundational work in astrophysics and the contributions of Indian researchers. Notably, recent graduates Akinchan Kundu and Nirmal Rajak are working under Dr. Banerjee's guidance on Be star research. The talk offered valuable insights into ongoing studies and the future of Be star research in India.

On 12th February, 2025 Prof. Indranil Chattopadhyay, ARIES, Nainital explored accretion onto isolated black holes from uniform winds, distinguishing between classical Bondi-Hoyle-Lyttleton (BHL) accretion and a newly identified lateral BHL process. While classical BHL does not form accretion disks, lateral BHL can produce transient disks. Using a variable adiabatic index equation of state, the research finds that electron-proton flows create temporary accretion disks, while pair-dominated flows sustain persistent disks. Additionally, shock cones, which form when disks disappear, are found to be less luminous than accretion disks. This work provides insights into black hole accretion dynamics and their observational implications.



Dr. Agniva Roychowdhury, Space Telescope Science Institute, USA delivered a talk on "Unraveling the Nature of Extragalactic Jets with Radio Interferometry" on 19th February, 2025.

This talk explores the unresolved mysteries of extragalactic jets using radio interferometry and electrodynamics. Despite decades of study, uncertainties persist regarding their true nature. By analyzing observations from the Very Large Array and Very Large Baseline Array, the session examines jet structures, dynamics, and acceleration/deceleration mechanisms. The discussion highlights how observational accuracy and theoretical interpretation impact our understanding, aiming to reduce uncertainties in jet physics. Novel findings using radio interferometric techniques provide deeper insights into active galactic nuclei jets, enhancing our comprehension of their complex behavior across spatial scales.



Special Seminar

On February 21, 2025, the Department of Life Sciences hosted a seminar by Prof. Richard E. Brown, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, Canada, on Chemical Signals, Olfactory Learning, and Individual Differences: 50 Years of Research. He discussed decades of research on chemical signals in rodents, exploring odour preferences, urine-marking, and socio-sexual behavior. Prof. Brown detailed studies on olfactory learning, memory, and aging-related cognitive changes using olfactometers and Pavlovian conditioning. His work integrates olfactory communication, neuroendocrine responses, and cognitive processes, offering insights into sex, age, and genotype-based variations in learning strategies across rodents' lifespans.

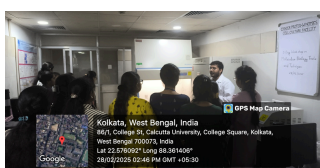
Talk on Neuropsychophysiology of moral and ethical cognition

Department of Life Sciences organized a colloquium seminar by Prof. Nilkanta Chakraborty, Professor, Department of Physiology, University of Calcutta, West Bengal on 19th Feb 2025. Prof. Chakraborty gave a talk on Neuropsychophysiology of moral and ethical cognition. The talk enlightened on the interplay between neural structures, neurotransmitters, and cognitive processes involved in ethical reasoning, empathy, and moral emotions.



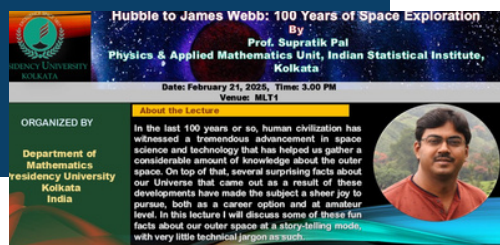
One day workshop on Molecular Biology Tools and Techniques

On February 28, 2025, the Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University celebrated National Science Day by organizing a one-day workshop on Molecular Biology Tools and Techniques, funded by the SSR scheme of SERB/ANRF-CRG project awarded to Dr. Sugopa Sengupta. 26 B.Sc students from the Department of Zoology, Vidyasagar College for Women, Calcutta University participated. Lab members from Dr. Sugopa Sengupta's and Dr. Sutapa Saha's teams provided hands-on training in various molecular biology techniques. The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony by faculty members.



DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS



Hubble to James Webb: 100 Years of Space Exploration

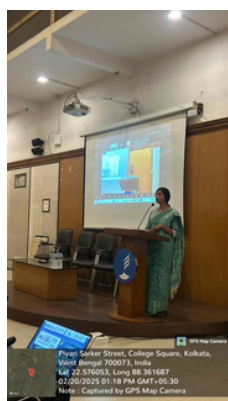
On February 21, 2025, the Department of Mathematics, Presidency University, Kolkata, hosted a one-day lecture by Prof. Supratik Pal from the Physics and Applied Mathematics Unit (PAMU), Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Titled "Hubble to James Webb: 100 Years of Space Exploration," the lecture took place at MLT-1 and covered topics ranging from basic cosmology to dark energy and the accelerating expansion of the universe. The session was highly interactive, extending beyond the scheduled time to nearly two hours, with 77 attendees, including external participants. The event was a resounding success, leaving the audience deeply engaged.

From Campus to Careers: How AI Will Reshape Your Future

On February 28, 2025, Presidency University's Department of Mathematics, in collaboration with the Departments of Statistics and Economics and the Presidency Alumni Association Calcutta, hosted a lecture titled "From Campus to Careers: How AI Will Reshape Your Future." Delivered by Mr. Sandip Lahiri, a distinguished alumnus and Technologist at HPE GreenLake Cloud Services, USA, the event at PC Mahalanobis Auditorium attracted over 150 attendees. Mr. Lahiri explored AI's impact on careers, its types (ANI, AGI, ASI), real-world applications, and workforce adaptability, featuring live AI demonstrations and discussions on AI's influence across various sectors.



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS



International Workshop On "Study Design And Analysis Of Clinical Trials" Under The Aegis Of KolGOTrg 7th Annual Meeting

The KolGOTrg's first workshop on "Study Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials" was held in a hybrid format at Presidency University, Kolkata, from February 20–21, 2025, sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The workshop featured eminent speakers, including Dr. Asima Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Kelley Kidwell, Dr. Sofia Villar, Dr. Atanu Bhattacharjee, Dr. Bhramar Mukherjee, Dr. Martin Law, and Val Gebski. Topics covered included clinical trial design, adaptive and survival trial designs, real-world healthcare data analysis, and quality of life-adjusted outcomes. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Mukhopadhyay, marking a successful and insightful two-day session.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS



Surface states in nanoscale: Problems and prospects

Department of Physics organized a lecture by Dr. Sayed Minhaz Hossain, IEST, Shibpur, Howrah, west Bengal on 5th February, 2025. The lecture on Surface States in Nanoscale: Problems and Prospects explored the critical role of surface defect states in semiconductor technology. While often seen as detrimental—reducing the efficiency of solar cells, LEDs, and photodetectors—the talk highlighted how these "bad guys" could be harnessed for beneficial applications, such as enhancing solar cell efficiency and developing memory devices. The discussion provided valuable insights into band structures, low-dimensional solids, and experimental demonstrations, offering significant takeaways for students pursuing research in solid-state electronics.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Talk by Prabhat Kumar, UNICEF

The Economics Society, OIKOS and the Department of Economics organized a special lecture on Sustainable Development Goals and Children in India on 19th February, 2025. The talk was delivered by Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF. The lecture was attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students.



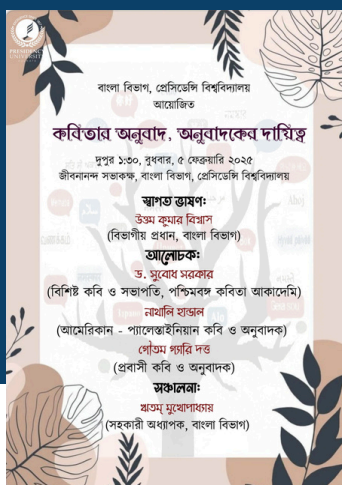
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Celebration of National Science Day 2025

On February 28, 2025, the Institute of Health Sciences (IHS), Presidency University, celebrated National Science Day with a grand outreach program. Thirty students from Jatragachi Pranabananda High School and Patharghata High School participated in a quiz and discussion on the relevance of the day, displaying remarkable enthusiasm. The event featured a distinguished talk by Prof. Kaustav Sanyal, Director of Bose Institute, Kolkata, on cell cycle regulation in yeast. MSc students and research scholars showcased scientific rangoli and images, with top entries receiving awards. The day was marked by engaging participation from students, faculty, and research scholars.

DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI



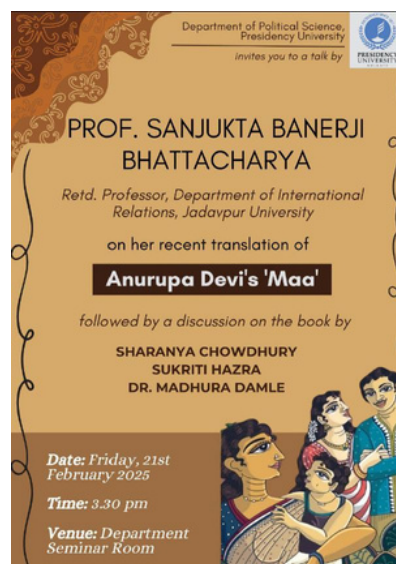
"Kabitar Anubad, Anubadaker Dayitwa"

The seminar "Kabitar Anubad, Anubadaker Dayitwa", held on February 5, 2025, explored the art of translating poetry and the translator's responsibilities. Hosted by Assistant Professor Ritam Mukhopadhyay, with a welcome note by HOD Uttam Kumar Biswas, the event featured poets Nathalie Handal and Goutam Gary Datta. Handal emphasized that translation involves conveying culture, not just words, while Datta highlighted its role in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps. Despite Bengali poet Subodh Sarkar's absence, the discussions enriched attendees' understanding of translation as both an art and a responsibility. The seminar concluded with insightful reflections from Mukhopadhyay.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Book Discussion - Anurupa Devi's MAA

On February 21, 2025, the Department of Political Science, Presidency University, hosted a talk by Sanjukta Banerji Bhattacharya on her translation of Anurupa Devi's *Maa* (1920), followed by a discussion with Dr. Madhura Damle, Sharanya Chowdhury, and Sukriti Hazra. *Maa* critiques 19th-century Bengal's patriarchal Bhadrolok culture, portraying women's struggles through Aurobindo Basu, his wives Manorama and Brajarani, and his disowned son Ajit. Bhattacharya's translation preserves the novel's lyrical depth and cultural nuances, making it accessible to a wider audience while maintaining its emotional and social critique of class, patriarchy, and familial expectations.



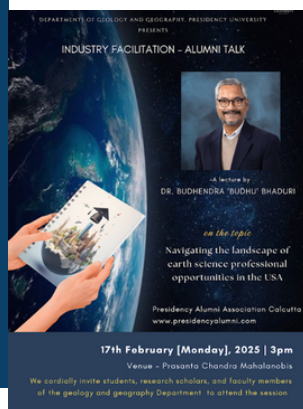
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



That Obscure Object of Film Criticism and the Post-Cinema Critic

On 7th February, 2025, Dr. Rajdeep Roy examined the evolving role of film criticism and the professional critic in contemporary film cultures through his paper at the Department of Sociology. It highlighted the tension between critical analysis and the pleasure of watching films, emphasizing the critic's historical anxiety over losing interpretative authority. This crisis has intensified in the post-cinematic era, where digital transformations have reshaped film production, distribution, and reception. The paper explored the challenges faced by critics as they navigate this shifting landscape. Dr. Roy, an Assistant Professor at West Bengal State University, specializes in urban culture, digital cultures, posthumanism, and film philosophy.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY



LECTURE BY Dr. BUDHENDRA LAL BHADURI

An Alumni Talk was organized by Department of Geology and Geography on 17th February, 2025. Dr. Budhendral 'Budhu' Bhaduri delivered a lecture on the topic "Navigating the landscape of earth science professional opportunities in the USA." The event was attended in large numbers consisting of students, research scholars and various faculty members of the university.

INVITED LECTURE BY PROF. SANKAR BOSE

Prof. Sankar Bose delivered an invited lecture on "Lasting impression of late-stage fluids on lower crustal rocks: the curious case of the Eastern Ghats Province, India" in the National Conference on Magmatism, Metamorphism, and Metallogeny on February 17, 2025.



Prof. Arijit Ray was assigned the responsibility for judging Presentation in the Technical Session "Earth Sciences including Geoinformatics and Hydrogeology" held on 28th February 2025 in the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre as part of 32nd WB Science Congress.

EVENTS OF NSS CELL

Tuberculosis Awareness Campaign

On 24th February, 2025, the NSS Cell of Presidency University organized a Tuberculosis Awareness Campaign under the guidance of Dr. Mery Biswas, Programme Officer, Unit II, to educate vulnerable communities about TB. Unlike typical campus events, NSS volunteers engaged with hawkers, daily wage earners, and marginalized groups, raising awareness about symptoms, early diagnosis, and free treatment options. Volunteers Pamela Das, Dyuti Biswas, Uttaran Saha, Samriddha Adhikary, Aniruddha Basak, and Baidurja Chakraborty interacted directly with the public, emphasizing preventive measures. The campaign was well-received, fostering engagement and gratitude, marking a significant step toward a healthier, informed society.



Presidency University has successfully joined One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)

The Presidency University Library is pleased to announce that the university has successfully joined One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), an initiative by INFLIBNET aimed at expanding access to national and international e-resources. The Government of India launched ONOS to provide country-wide access to high-impact scholarly articles and journal publications for students, faculty, and researchers in centrally and state-managed Higher Education and R&D Institutions. Phase-I of ONOS, approved for 2025-2027, grants access to over 13,000 journals from 30 major international publishers through a national subscription managed by INFLIBNET. Currently, these resources are accessible across all Presidency University campuses via [ONOS Portal](#) or the library webpage, with remote access facilities to be introduced soon.



NTS CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Narayan Ghosh Challenger Cricket Tournament was organized by the Non-Teaching Staff of Presidency University from January 30 to February 10, 2025. A total of six teams formed among the NTS took part in the competition. The final was an intense affair with finalist teams Titans and Warriors playing their hearts out. In a closely fought match, Warriors emerged as the victors. 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.



PRESI HIGHLIGHTS



(West Bengal Pollution Control Board) WBPCB had organized World Wetland Day on February 4 at Salt Lake Nalban. Nirupam Das, final year PG student represented the Department of Geology for the elocation contest and secured the First position.

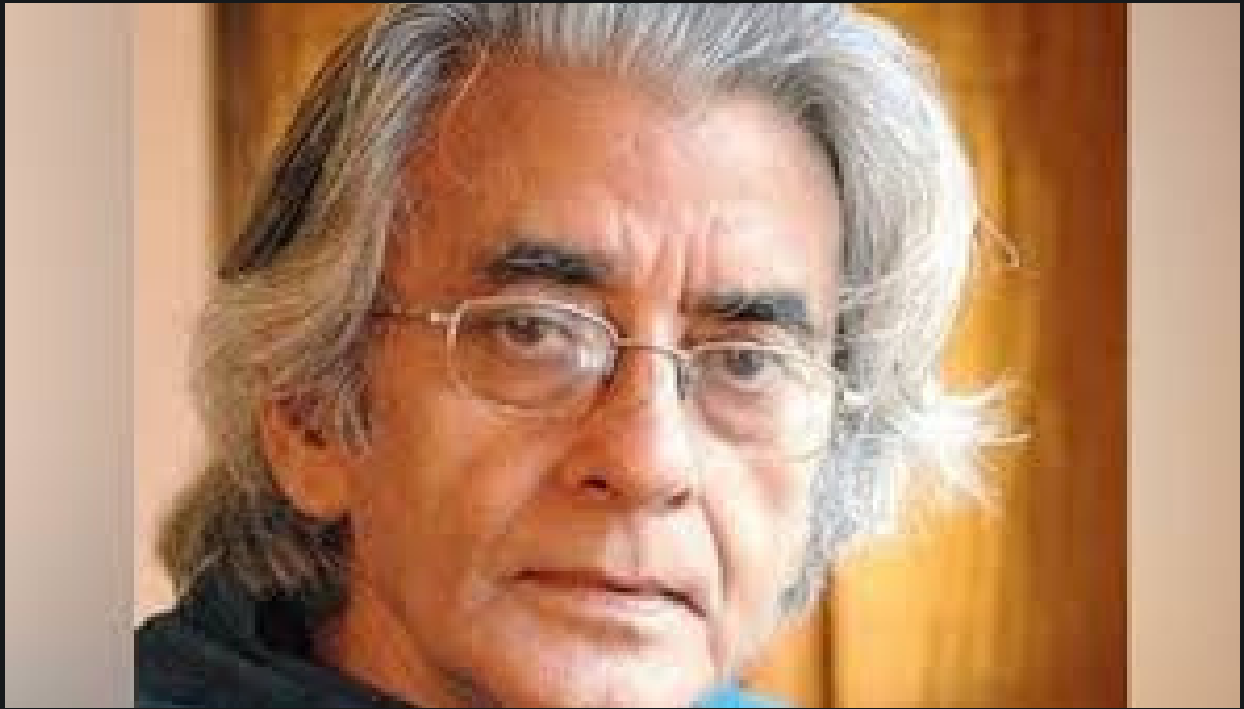
Mainak Dutta (PG 2nd Year) from Presidency University has been awarded the prestigious ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship (Asia-Pacific) to conduct research at the University of Basel, Switzerland. He will join the Organic Geochemistry Research Group under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Nemiah Ladd. His research will focus on reconstructing climate change, carbon sequestration, and harmful algal blooms (HABs) using lipid biomarkers in lake sediments. The three-month research program, starting July 1, 2025, marks a significant academic achievement and an opportunity for advanced interdisciplinary research in climate science.



Invited by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Presidency University participated in a Model Making Competition on Wetland Conservation, where students developed a scientifically informed model in just seven days. Guided by Dr. Puja Ray (Department of Life Science), the team—Debapriya Goswami, Bonnya Sanfui, Abantika Sarkar, Nirupam Das, Gourab Mondal, Nitesh Yadav, Sayeka Dhara, Swarnali Mondal, and Mayukh Ghosh—proposed innovative conservation strategies. Their model featured biocontrol of water hyacinth using *Neochetina eichhorniae* (a weevil), hydrilla for eutrophication control, sphagnum moss for filtration, and bio-scrubbers for industrial waste treatment. Competing against 15 institutions, they secured 1st place, reinforcing Presidency University's dedication to environmental conservation and scientific research.

SUCCESS STORIES

OBITUARY



Presidency University deeply mourns the passing of notable alumnus and famous singer- songwriter-composer Shri Pratul Mukhopadhyay(1942-2025)