
PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2026

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SCHOOL OF ASTROPHYSICS

WEEKLY COLLOQUIUMS

On 7th January Dr. Paramita Dasgupta (Ohio State University) delivered an insightful seminar on radio detection techniques for studying ultra-high-energy cosmic rays and neutrinos. She explained how weakly interacting neutrinos act as pristine messengers from extreme astrophysical sources and how their interactions in ice generate detectable radio signals. Highlighting experiments such as the Askaryan Radio Array and NASA's upcoming PUEO mission, she discussed advances in detector design and analysis. Sharing field experiences from Greenland, she emphasized the challenges of extreme environments and the growing role of Indian researchers in astroparticle physics.



The School of Astrophysics hosted Dr. Sayan Saha from Northeastern University for an engaging talk on SuperBIT, an innovative stratospheric mission using a telescope mounted on a super-pressure balloon to study dark matter on 14th January. Dr. Saha explained how SuperBIT captures Hubble-quality images above most of Earth's atmosphere at a fraction of the cost of space telescopes. By analyzing weak gravitational lensing, his team achieved the first mass reconstructions of merging galaxy clusters from the stratosphere, demonstrating a powerful and cost-effective approach to probing the universe's invisible matter.

The School of Astrophysics hosted a seminar on January 20 by Dr. Sunip Mukherjee from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, titled "A Physics-Trained Software Person's Guide to Making a CubeSat." Dr. Sunip Mukherjee shared insights from his journey from physics to satellite engineering, highlighting his work on the SPACEHAUC mission. He introduced the Chickadee family of nanosatellites, designed to efficiently use unused space in launch vehicles. A live demonstration of the Kiwi benchtop satellite showcased how physics training can drive innovative, hands-on solutions in space technology.



The School of Astrophysics hosted a seminar on January 28 by Dr. Anvesh Majumdar from the University of Waterloo, focusing on galaxy cluster dynamics through the XRISM mission. He explained how XRISM's high spectral resolution overcomes limitations of earlier telescopes, enabling precise measurements of gas motion in clusters such as Cygnus A and M87. The findings reveal surprisingly low gas velocities, challenging existing ideas about turbulence-driven heating in clusters. The session featured an engaging discussion, enriched by insightful questions from Prof. Subhabrata Majumdar (TIFR), linking observations with theory.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

QED LECTURE ON "Introduction to Riemann-Hilbert problems for Orthogonal Polynomials"

On January 2, 2026, the Department of Mathematics at Presidency University hosted the 93rd lecture of its Q.E.D. series in MLTI. The session featured Mr. Sampad Lahiry, a doctoral researcher from KU Leuven, who delivered a talk titled "Introduction to Riemann-Hilbert Problems for Orthogonal Polynomials." Bridging classical analysis and contemporary applications, he revisited Hilbert's 21st problem, examined Plemelj's approach, and outlined the Fokas-Its-Kitaev construction. The lecture made complex analytical concepts accessible to a wide academic audience.



An invited lecture on "Martingale Convergence Theorem"

On January 6, 2026, Presidency University's Mathematics Department hosted Prof. Kumarjit Saha from Ashoka University for an insightful lecture on "Martingale Convergence Theorem". Starting at 3:30 PM, Prof. Saha delivered an accessible presentation, expertly breaking down foundational definitions for a diverse audience. The event drew students from Presidency, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, and IACS, fostering a vibrant regional exchange. By simplifying complex probabilistic concepts, Prof. Saha provided attendees with an intuitive understanding of stochastic processes. This successful collaboration highlighted the academic synergy within the local mathematical community and offered students a valuable opportunity for intellectual growth.



An invited lecture on "Low dimensional exotic manifolds"

On January 7, 2026, the Department of Mathematics at Presidency University hosted an insightful public lecture by Dr. Anubhav Mukherjee, an Assistant Professor from Princeton University. Speaking on the intricate subject of "Low dimensional exotic manifolds" Dr. Mukherjee delivered a session specifically designed to be accessible to a broad audience, including senior undergraduate students. The event drew significant academic interest, fostering a collaborative environment with active participation from students representing prestigious institutions such as Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, IACS, and IISER Kolkata. This lecture highlighted Presidency's commitment to connecting local scholars with global mathematical expertise.



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

5th Satyam Jha Memorial Lecture

The 5th Satyam Jha Memorial Lecture was jointly organised by the Department of Political Science, Presidency University, and the Sankrityayan Kosambi Study Circle on 9 January 2026 at the A.K. Basak Auditorium. The event began with Ananyo Chakraborty reflecting on the life and legacy of Satyam Jha, followed by the memorial lecture delivered by Dr. Meera Nanda. Her talk examined themes such as the provincialisation of Europe by both the postcolonial Left and the Hindu Right, the dharmic reinterpretation of modern ideas, intellectual dilemmas across cultures, and distinctions between contemporary and Savarkarite Hindutva. The programme concluded with remarks by Prof. Abdus Samad Gayen, Head of the Department.



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

A lecture by Professor Kaushik Basu

Professor Kaushik Basu, Professor of Economics & Carl Marks Professor of International Studies, Department of Economics and SC Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University delivered a lecture on "Game Theory and Economics: Some Open Questions" on 27 January 2026 at 3.00 PM at P C Mahalanobis Auditorium. The session was chaired by Prof. Anup Kumar Sinha, Retired Professor, IIMC and Non-Executive (Independent) Chairman of Bandhan Bank. The lecture was attended by faculty, students and research scholars from university and other institutes.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



Colloquium titled 'Ordinarily Queer'

The event on 8th January featured students from across various departments of Presidency University who shared their personal narratives, challenges, and insights on navigating queer identities in an academic environment. Our goal was to foster a dialogue that moved beyond abstract theory and focus on the "ordinary" day-to-day realities of our peers.

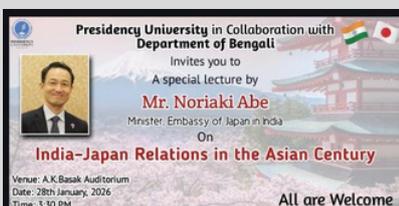
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Existential Posthumanism: Posthuman Renaissance(s) – Making Self, Making World

The Second World Colloquium on Existential Posthumanism, titled "Posthuman Renaissance(s): Making Self, Making World," was held at Presidency University, Kolkata, from 14-16 January 2025. Organised by the Department of English in collaboration with global posthuman networks, Dr Stefano Rozzoni, Dr Francesca Ferrando, Prof. Debashish Banerji, and Prof. Sumit Chakrabarti were the resource person(s). The event brought together around a hundred international scholars, artists, and practitioners. Through plenaries, panel discussions, workshops, and performances, the colloquium explored posthumanism as both theory and lived practice. Interdisciplinary themes ranged from ecology and technology to embodiment, ethics, and existential praxis, fostering rich academic and creative exchange.



DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI



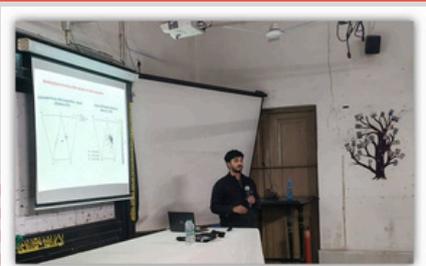
Lecture on "India-Japan Relations in the Asian Century"

The Department of Bengali and Japanese Studies, Presidency University, jointly organised a special lecture on "India-Japan Relations in the Asian Century" on January 28, 2026. Delivered by Mr. Noriaki Abe, Minister at the Embassy of Japan in India, the talk traced the historical roots of India-Japan ties, from freedom movement collaborations to cultural exchanges involving figures like Rabindranath Tagore and Okakura Kakuzō. Emphasising shared democratic values and Indo-Pacific stability, the lecture highlighted the partnership's significance in the emerging Asian Century and underscored the value of dialogue between academia and diplomacy.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

One Day Workshop ("Water Connect: Advancing Water Security through Knowledge, Climate Action, and Low-Carbon Solutions.") organized by Water For People India

Dr. Aditya Sarkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology, delivered an invited lecture entitled, "Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) for Sustainable Groundwater Systems" in a One Day Workshop ("Water Connect: Advancing Water Security through Knowledge, Climate Action, and Low-Carbon Solutions") organized by Water For People India at Kenilworth Hotel, Kolkata on 27th January 2026.

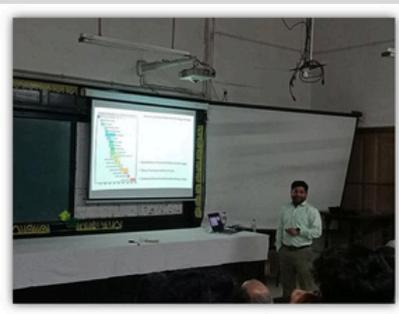


Invited lecture organized by the Geological Institute

Dr. Akeek Maitra, Postdoctoral Associate, University of Calgary, Canada,, has delivered an invited lecture organized by the Geological Institute on "Two ages, one grain: Tracking the pace of crystal exhumation by zircon U-Pb and (U-Th)/He double dating" on 19th January, 2026.

Invited lecture organized by the Geological Institute

The Geological Institute, hosted an engaging and stimulating lecture on "Basalts as Archives of Earth's Deep-Time Evolution," delivered by Mr. Subhadeep Roy, doctoral researcher at Queensland University of Technology, Australia on 8th January 2026.



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Two-Day Workshop on "Panchayati Raj System"

Faculty Members of IPAPD, Dr Biswanath Saha and Dr Soham Bhattacharya, were invited as resource persons for a Two-Day Workshop on the "Panchayati Raj System". This event was organised by a collective of NGOs and Activist organizations under the umbrella titled "Right to Food Network" in West Bengal. The event took place in Seva Kendra, Kolkata. 6th January & 7th January.

Lecture Series

The IPAPD started a Lecture Series / Seminar Series on Public Administration. The inaugural event was held at the S.N. Bose Sabhagriha on 15th January, 2026. The event was inaugurated and attended by the graceful presence of our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Registrar, Presidency University, along with faculty and scholars from several social science departments. The first lecture of the series was titled "Contemporary Dynamics of Labour in India: A few Emerging-Fault Lines". Dr Jayeeta Deshmukh(Faculty, Economics, Presidency University, Kolkata); Ms Adwitia Maity (Faculty of Law, O P Jindal Global School); and Mrs Esha Dey (Researcher, Sociology, University of Mumbai) presented their works on different aspects of the plights faced by the female workers in contemporary India. Eventually there was a consensus that understanding the concept of work and livelihood required a revisit, especially for the last mile of the governance where many administrators operate.



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Philosophical Counselling and Philosophical Health Issues: Related to Students: Inaugural session

The purpose of the inaugural session was to acquaint the students of Presidency University, with the concept of Philosophical counselling and Philosophical Health helping them to understand deeply the healing power of Philosophical dialogue. Students who had registered for this event had the opportunity of having a one- to one session with the Philosophical Counsellor and Philosophical Health advocate Dr. Bhumika Kanjilal . The method that was used was the SMILE_PH method (Sense-Making Interviews Looking at the Elements of Philosophical Health) making the implicit or latent existential stances explicit, thus more actionable and healing.

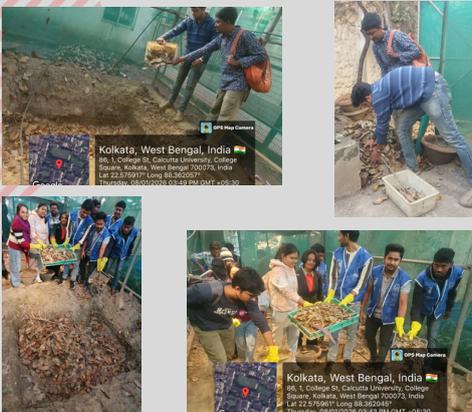


Kolkata, West Bengal, India
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EVENTS OF NSS CELL

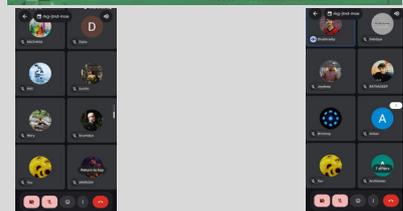
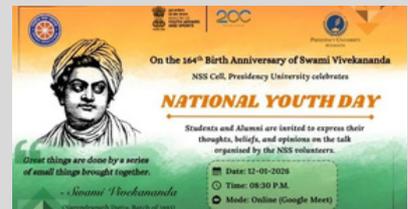
Green Maintenance Drive : Composting

On 8th January the NSS Cell (Unit 3) of Presidency University, under Programme Officer Dr. Puja Ray, organised a Composting Awareness Programme promoting hands-on learning in sustainable waste management. Fourteen volunteers actively participated in composting activities, gaining practical experience in converting organic waste into nutrient-rich compost. The initiative emphasised reducing landfill waste, enhancing soil quality, and fostering eco-friendly habits. By directly engaging in the process, students developed a deeper understanding of sustainability, reaffirming NSS's commitment to environmental stewardship and grassroots action.



National Youth Day

The NSS Cell (Unit 1) of Presidency University, under Programme Officer Dr. Jayeeta Deshmukh, organised a commemorative programme on 12th January to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The event featured an online speech session with 14 students reflecting on his philosophy, vision for India, and the enduring relevance of his teachings. The speakers highlighted themes of service, self-belief, and social responsibility. The programme paid tribute to Vivekananda's inspiring message to the youth—to rise, serve, and contribute towards building a just and compassionate society.



Nutrition Awareness Programme

On 30th January, the NSS Cell (Unit 2) of Presidency University, under Programme Officer Dr. Mery Biswas, organised a Nutrition Awareness Programme at Bagbazar Sramajibi Samity, focusing on early childhood nutrition. Led by Dyuti Biswas and four NSS volunteers, the outreach engaged slum children through a drawing competition and interactive session on balanced diets and healthy food habits. By combining creativity with learning, the initiative effectively communicated essential nutritional awareness. The programme reaffirmed NSS's commitment to community health, child welfare, and inclusive nation-building through service.

CENTRAL EVENT

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP FOR THE FACULTY ORGANIZED BY PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

A mental health workshop was organized by Presidency University on 28th and 30th January, 2026. Mrs. Sayantani Bishnu Kumar, renowned clinical hypnotherapist took sessions wherein she discussed various topics related to work-related stress and importance of emotions. The event ended with a brief relaxing session.



SUCCESS STORIES

Presidency University officially exchanges the MoU with Leeds University, UK: 20th February 2026



On 21st and 22nd January, 2026 Ms. Anindita Namhata, research Scholar at the Department of Economics presented her paper titled, "Rain and Time Use in Bangladesh: Gendered Impacts and Vulnerabilities" at IIT Guwahati. She was awarded the Best Paper Award for her paper.



Dipankar Barman (Sociology, UG 2), Tuhin Paul (Mathematics, UG 3), Rohit Chowdhuri (Geology, UG 3), and Arnab Majumder (Geology, Project Assistant) secured 1st position in the Inter-College State-Level 4x100 m Relay Race competition organised by RCC, IIT, held at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Track on 11 January 2026.

