

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

news letter.

March, 2025

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School of Astrophysics

Weekly Colloquiums



Statistical Investigation of Star Formation Rate in Galaxies in the Local Volume

On 5th March 2025, Prof. Asis Kumar Chattopadhyay from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, delivered a lecture titled "Statistical Investigation of Star Formation Rate in Galaxies in the Local Volume." Highlighting the intersection of statistics and astronomy, he discussed the limitations of traditional statistical tools in handling noisy and sparse cosmic data. Focusing on the challenge of estimating true star formation rates, he presented the Gaussian Mixture Model Based Clustering (GMMBC) technique to cluster galaxies based on their star formation behavior, offering valuable insights into structure formation in the Universe.

Can You Recognize the Correct Patterns?

On 12th March 2025, the School of Astrophysics hosted a colloquium featuring Prof. Ananda Shankar Chowdhury from Jadavpur University. His talk, "Can You Recognize the Correct Patterns?", explored how computer vision and deep learning algorithms enable automated pattern recognition in fields like medical imaging and surveillance. He demonstrated tumor segmentation in brain MRIs using deep learning and graph cuts, and tackled the complex challenge of open-set person re-identification using a joint optimization of the Weibull distribution and Mahalanobis metric. The talk emphasized the growing role of AI in solving real-world problems across domains.



Exploring the Cosmos: Peering into the Dark Side of the Universe

On March 19, 2025, the School of Astrophysics hosted a captivating colloquium by Prof. Sudipta Das from Visva-Bharati titled "Exploring the Cosmos: Peering into the Dark Side of the Universe." The talk delved into the mysterious realms of dark matter and dark energy, which together constitute the unseen majority of the Universe. Prof. Das discussed how these components influence cosmic evolution, especially the accelerated expansion driven by dark energy. Emphasizing the role of cosmological surveys and advanced telescopes, he outlined future directions in unraveling these cosmic enigmas.

Universe with large-scale inhomogeneities: cosmological evolution and gravitational wave propagation

On March 26, 2025, the School of Astrophysics hosted Prof. Archan S. Majumdar from S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for a colloquium titled "Universe with Large-Scale Inhomogeneities: Cosmological Evolution and Gravitational Wave Propagation." Prof. Majumdar discussed the impact of large-scale cosmic inhomogeneities on the Universe's evolution, emphasizing backreaction effects within the Buchert model, and how these may lead to future cosmic deceleration. He also explored how inhomogeneities affect gravitational wave propagation, potentially altering parameter estimation in gravitational wave astronomy.



Department of Physics



Coarse-Grained Simulation of Proteins to Capture Conformation Changes.

On March 12, 2025, the Department of Physics hosted a colloquium by Prof. Jaydeb Chakrabarti, Senior Professor at SNBNCBS, Kolkata, titled "Coarse-Grained Simulation of Proteins to Capture Conformation Changes." Prof. Chakrabarti discussed a novel coarse-grained protein model developed to overcome the limitations of atomistic simulations in studying long time-scale biological processes like self-assembly. By modeling each amino acid residue and water molecule as polymer and solvent beads respectively, and using parameters derived from all-atom simulations, the model successfully captured conformational changes consistent with experimental and high-resolution data.

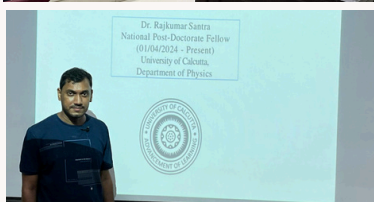
SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN— A self taught genius of inexplicable originality

On March 19, 2025, Dr. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay from RKM Residential College, Narendrapur, delivered an evocative popular-level talk as part of the Physics Colloquium titled "Ramanujans Never Die." The lecture was a heartfelt tribute to Srinivasa Ramanujan, focusing on his unmatched mathematical brilliance, originality, and intuitive genius. Drawing from G.H. Hardy's reflections, Dr. Mukhopadhyay revisited Ramanujan's unique approach to mathematics and his enduring impact on the global mathematical community. The talk emphasized how Ramanujan's legacy continues to inspire generations, celebrating his life and work as an immortal part of mathematical history.



The Modelling of Low Energy Capture Reaction for Nuclear Astrophysics

On March 26, 2025, Dr. Rajkumar Santra (Calcutta University) delivered a Physics Colloquium on nuclear astrophysics, focusing on the synthesis of chemical elements in stars. He discussed the role of low-energy thermonuclear reactions and the need to model reaction rates using nuclear inputs like masses and cross-sections. Highlighting R-matrix and Hauser-Feshbach models, Dr. Santra presented his research on key capture reactions relevant to AGB stars, including $^{22}\text{Ne}(p,\gamma)^{23}\text{Na}$ and $^{68}\text{Zn}(n,\gamma)^{69}\text{Zn}$. His talk emphasized how combining theoretical models with experimental data helps explain elemental abundances and stellar energy sources, bridging nuclear physics and astrophysical observations.



Department of Statistics

"Model-Based Inference for Finite Population Distribution",

Dr. Sumanta Adhya delivered an insightful lecture titled "Model-Based Inference for Finite Population Distribution", targeting undergraduate and postgraduate statistics students. He began by highlighting the key distinction between design-based and model-based approaches in finite population inference. Focusing on the model-based framework, Dr. Adhya explained its advantages and practical applications, particularly for continuous and discrete data types, offering students a deeper understanding of statistical modeling in survey contexts.



Department of History

Annual Kuruvila Zachariah Memorial Lecture 2024–2025

On March 3, 2025, Prof. Bhaskar Chakraborty, former Centenary Professor of International Relations, University of Calcutta, delivered the Annual Kuruvila Zachariah Memorial Lecture at Presidency University. His talk, "Tagore and the Liberal Conscience", explored Tagore's contributions to liberal thought, emphasizing micro-liberalisms, nationalism, and indigenous discourse in 19th-century India. He examined historiography's bias against indigenous arguments and Tagore's engagement with the West through works like East and West, Swadeshi Samaj, and Sabhyatar Sankat. The lecture highlighted Indian liberalism's coexistence with global perspectives, offering insights into intellectual history and utopian ideals.



Department of Philosophy

Two-Day National Workshop on Research Methodologies in Philosophy



On March 6–7, 2025, the Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, organized a Two-Day National Workshop on Research Methodologies in Philosophy. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, who spoke on the relevance of the Socratic method in research. Renowned speakers including Prof. Pradip Basu, Prof. Madhumita Chattopadhyay, Prof. Manidipa Sanyal, and Prof. Manidipa Sen discussed diverse philosophical methodologies and their research significance. The workshop saw active participation from teachers, scholars, and students across India, who found the sessions intellectually enriching and beneficial for their academic pursuits.

Two-day National Seminar titled "Immanuel Kant's Philosophy: Celebrating 300 years of Kant"

The Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, organized a two-day National Seminar titled "Immanuel Kant's Philosophy: Celebrating 300 Years of Kant" on 21st and 22nd March 2025. Marking the tricentennial of Kant's birth, the event brought together scholars and students to reflect on his lasting influence across epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and more. The seminar was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, with a keynote by Prof. Arindam Chakrabarti (Ashoka University) and an inaugural lecture by Prof. Rakesh Chandra (Lucknow University). Talks were delivered by distinguished speakers from across the country. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Barada Laxmi Panda, Dr. Dibyendu Mondal, and Manoranjan Prasad Sing.



Department of Performing Arts



Nrityam – Thang Ta

Thang Ta workshop was organised by the Department of Performing Arts on 24th March, 2025, under the series 'Nrityam'. Thokchom Imocha Singh is one of the famous thang ta artist, who have taken this form in a new height. The participants in the department undergone extensive body training in the first day and understood the techniques of movements of the form. The second day was dedicated to interactive dance and a small production by the participants. The event was successfully completed after thanking Sri Thokchom Imocha Singh.

Department of Life Sciences



Lecture Series

On March 26, 2025, Prof. Urmi Chatterji from the Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, delivered a lecture titled "Drug Repurposing: A Frugal Strategy to Overcome Tumor Resistance and Relapse." She focused on the role of cancer stem cells (CSCs) in therapy resistance and recurrence, emphasizing their unique metabolic and mitochondrial dynamics. Prof. Chatterji highlighted how targeting mitochondrial processes such as mitophagy and fission could be key to eliminating CSCs. She also shared insights from her lab's ongoing research on repurposed drugs aimed at disrupting CSC-mediated resistance, offering a promising strategy for durable cancer remission.



On March 5, 2025, DLS alumnus Mr. Syamantak Ghosh, PhD student at CSIR-IICB, delivered a talk titled "HuR-miRNA Complex Activates RAS GTPase RalA to Facilitate Endosome Targeting and Extracellular Export of miRNAs." He discussed the role of exosomes in intercellular communication and miRNA transport. Using a novel cell-free reconstitution system, he demonstrated how HuR protein facilitates miR-122 sorting into MVBs and identified RalA as a key downstream effector in this process. His insights into miRNA export mechanisms were well received by faculty, scholars, and students.



Department of Economics

Entrepreneurship Summit 2025



On 7th March 2025, the Department of Economics and PUYES at Presidency University hosted the 10th Entrepreneurship Summit and Business Plan Competition, supported by the Sadhuka Foundation and sponsored by Nescafe and Mr. Apurba Swarnakar. The event featured policy insights by Mahua Hom Choudhury (WBSCST), inspiring talks by entrepreneurs Gopal Pradhan, Alpesh Saharia, and Debajit Choudhury, and a session by RISE Foundation, IISER Kolkata. The Business Plan Competition drew 36 teams, with 12 finalists presenting before judges from IISER and IIM Calcutta. Nivedita Chatterjee won first prize, and the team of Debankush Mridha and Dey Pandey were runners-up.

Special Lecture

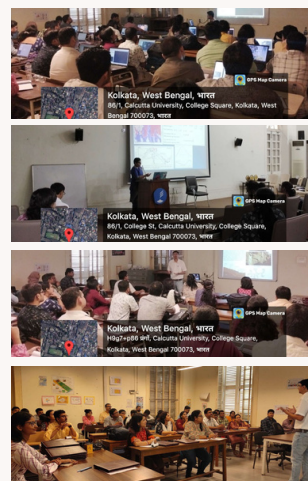
Prof. Amitava Krishna Dutt, University of Notre Dame, US delivered a special lecture on Consumption and Happiness. 21st March, 2025. The participants included teachers, research scholars, and UG and PG students of the department.



Department of Geography

Two-Day Workshop for College Teachers on River Management, River Health Assessment, Mining Impacts and Riparian Ecology

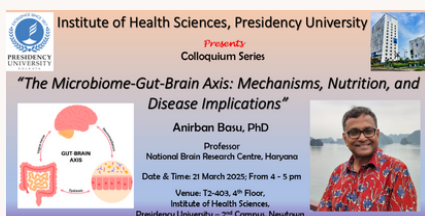
A two-day workshop for college teachers on River Management, River Health Assessment, Mining Impacts, and Riparian Ecology was organized by the Department of Geography, Presidency University, under the SSR component of the SERB/ANRF Project led by Dr. Priyank Pravin Patel. Twenty-seven participants from across West Bengal attended. Day one featured lectures by Dr. Patel and hands-on training in hydrological data, satellite imagery, and water quality analysis. Day two included expert talks from various institutions, covering sand mining impacts, estuarine river health, river-walk studies, and geospatial watershed analysis. The workshop concluded with enthusiastic appreciation from all participants.



Institute of Health Sciences

Monthly Scientific Colloquium

On 21st March 2025, the Department hosted a Scientific Colloquium featuring Prof. Anirban Basu from the National Brain Research Centre, Haryana. In his insightful talk titled "The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis: Mechanism, Nutrition and Disease Implications", Prof. Basu drew from his decades of experience in brain research to explore the intricate links between the gut microbiome and neurological health. The session encouraged vibrant discussions, sparked interest in interdisciplinary collaborations, and emphasized the need for further research. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge developments in neuroscience and recognized the colloquium's contribution to advancing scientific dialogue.



Department of Sociology

Book Discussion of Streets in Motion: The Making of Infrastructure, Property and Political Culture in Twentieth-century Calcutta (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

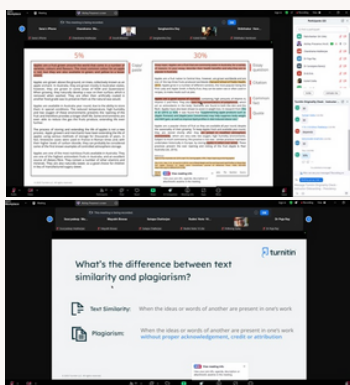
A book discussion was held at the Department of Sociology on 21st March, 2025. Ritajyoti Bandopadhyay (Associate Professor, IISER, Mohali), Supriya Chaudhuri (Professor Emerita, Jadavpur University), Rahul Singh (PhD scholar, Presidency University) The discussants presented rich thoughts on the book, following the author's introduction to the key theoretical formulations of the work, and the empirical field it covered. This was followed by a lively session of discussion with students and faculty members, where the main argument of the book, namely, the dialectics of 'Motion' and 'Obstruction' was closely analysed with respect to problems of economy, science, and urban sociality.



Event at Library

Online training program on Turnitin Originality check, a Plagiarism/Similarity Detection Software

The Library of Presidency University, organized an online training cum user awareness program on Turnitin Originality check for instructors over Zoom platform on 5th March at 3.00 p.m. Mr. Akshay Prasanna, Senior consultant of Turnitin India showcased various features of the Turnitin Originality check tailored for instructor accounts. Mr. Prasanna also elaborated on the distinction between plagiarism and similarity, as well as how to analyze the similarity report produced by Turnitin Originality check. The session was attended by the faculty members and the assistant librarians.



Events of NSS

Tuberculosis Awareness Camp

The NSS Cell of Presidency University, in collaboration with the State TB Cell, organized a two-day Tuberculosis Awareness Campaign under the National TB Elimination Programme. Focused on slum areas and vulnerable communities, the campaign included door-to-door awareness drives at Chatawala Lane and Giribabu Lane, engaging residents and female sex workers. Volunteers educated people on TB symptoms, early detection, and treatment, with expert guidance from Atasi Batabyal. Led by Joydeep Chakraborty, the inclusive campaign saw active participation from student volunteers. Through this initiative, Presidency University reaffirmed its commitment to socially responsive education and public health outreach.



Viksit Bharat @2047 Youth Parliament Competition-2025: Fostering Constitutional Values and Youth Voice

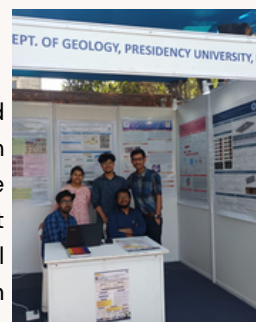
Presidency University's NSS Cell promoted student engagement in the Viksit Bharat @2047 Youth Parliament Competition-2025, aimed at fostering constitutional values and active citizenship. Twenty students participated in the first round, with Dyuti Biswas, Archishman Paul, and Joydeep Chakraborty advancing to the Nodal District Level held on 25th March at the Babasaheb Ambedkar Institute. Their speeches reflected thoughtful engagement with national issues. Dyuti Biswas further qualified for the State Level Youth Parliament on 27th March at Brainware University. This achievement underscores NSS's dedication to nurturing democratic participation and empowering youth to contribute to India's future development.



Department of Geology

GSI 175th year of celebration at GSI, Kolkata (4th-7th March)

Research scholars and master's final year students have participated in poster presentation as representatives of the department. Nirupam Das, final year PG student represented the department for the debate competition organized by GSI, Park Street and secured the First position. Prof. Kalyan Halder has initiated the departmental symposium named 'Planetary Pulse' and delivered the first lecture on "Did global warming make oyster couples intimate?-Facultative monogamy in oysters" on 12th March, 2025.



Assessment of source, depositional environment and maturity of Ashoknagar crude oil using stable carbon isotopes and aromatic hydrocarbon distribution

Mr. Pravat Kumar Behera, research scholar delivered a lecture on his research topic "Assessment of source, depositional environment and maturity of Ashoknagar crude oil using stable carbon isotopes and aromatic hydrocarbon distribution" on 26th March, 2025

Department of Geology

DPE' (Dynamic Processes of the Earth)

To mark the birth centenary of eminent geoscientist Dr. Ajit Kumar Saha, Presidency University's Geology Department hosted a two-day national seminar titled Dynamic Processes of the Earth (DPE 2025). The event, inaugurated by VC Prof. Nirmalya Chakraborty, featured cutting-edge research—from Earth's early core-mantle differentiation to Mars' hydrological evolution. With 103 researchers and over 300 attendees, the seminar fostered scientific exchange between scholars from India, the USA, Germany, and Japan. Geological Survey of India DG Asit Saha stressed sustainable resource management. The seminar inspired students to explore Earth's subsurface and planetary science with renewed curiosity.



Checking the pulse and taking the temperature: How do springs respond to environmental stresses?

Dr. Alan Fryar, University of Kentucky has presented an invited lecture organized by the Geological Institute on 'Checking the pulse and taking the temperature: How do springs respond to environmental stresses?' on 28th March, 2025.

Did global warming make oyster couples intimate?—Facultative monogamy in oysters

Prof. Kalyan Halder has initiated the departmental symposium named 'Planetary Pulse' and delivered the first lecture on "Did global warming make oyster couples intimate?—Facultative monogamy in oysters" on 12th March, 2025.



Department of Hindi

Human Possibilities According to Swami Vivekananda

On March 12, 2025, the Hindi Department of Presidency University hosted the first seminar of the Vivekananda Vyakhyamala Lecture Series on "Human Possibilities According to Swami Vivekananda." Keynote speaker Swami Vedatitanand Ji of Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira offered profound insights on unselfishness, purity, belief systems, and the moral-spiritual connection. He emphasized concentration, critical inquiry, and devotion as essential to spiritual growth. A highlight was the UCO Bank-conferred Rajbhasha Samman Award to the M.A. Hindi 2024 toppers. The seminar blended intellectual depth with spiritual resonance, inspiring attendees to reflect on the path to inner and societal transformation.



CENTRAL EVENTS

ANNUAL SPORTS MEET 2025

Annual Sports of 2025 was held in the Presi Greens , University playground on 6th and 7th March. A total of around 200 students participated in different events among whom 115 were male students and 85 were female. The men's events included 100,200 and 400 metres Sprint, 4*100m relay, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, Javelin Throw and Discus Throw and the women's events were comprised of 100 and 200 metres Sprint, 4*100m relay , Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, Javelin Throw and Discus Throw. Subhas Chandra Hazari of Chemistry Department, PG and Sumina Parvin of Sociology Department, UG, were recognized as the best male and female athlete respectively. Staff male events : 100m sprint, hitting the wicket and scoring the goal. Staff female events : breaking the pot, musical chair and balance race



ANNUAL NTS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Susanta Roy Memorial Football Tournament was organized by the Non teaching Staff of Presidency University. Prof. Koushik Pramanik was kind enough to officiate the matches as the referee. The players were divided into two groups of three teams each. The event was an overwhelming success, enthralling the audience and uniting all the staff through the love of sports. The trophies for the winning and runner up teams were handed by the various professors of the University.



PRESI HIGHLIGHTS

MUKHOMUKI BOSIBAR (126th Birthday Celebration of Poet Jibanananda Das, Ex-student of English Hons. at Presidency College, 1917-19)

প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বাংলা বিভাগের অভিনব সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স “জীবনানন্দ অধ্যয়ন” শুরু হয় কবির জন্মদিনে, ৬ ফাল্গুন ১৪৩১ (১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৫)। ৬৮ জন ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ইতিমধ্যেই ভর্তি হয়েছেন। উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন তরুণ মুখোপাধ্যায়, গৌতম মিত্র, অভীক মজুমদার প্রমুখ। আলোচনায় উঠে আসে জীবনানন্দ-গবেষণার ভবিষ্যৎ সম্ভাবনা। কবিতা পাঠ, সঙ্গীত পরিবেশন, স্লাইড শো ও বার্তা উপস্থাপনার মাধ্যমে অনুষ্ঠান ছিল অন্তরঙ্গ ও হৃদয়স্পর্শী। কোর্সের রূপরেখা ও ক্লাস পরিকল্পনা জানানো হয়। ড. শাওন নন্দীর সমাপনী ধন্যবাদ ও রবীন্দ্রসঙ্গীত পরিবেশনের মধ্য দিয়ে পরিসমাপ্তি ঘটে। জীবনানন্দ-ভক্তদের উপস্থিতি ও ফেসবুক লাইভ সম্প্রচার এই মুহূর্তকে স্মরণীয় করে তোলে।



Pre-placement talk by Alteus Biogenics Pvt Ltd on 11 th and 12 th of March, 2025.

The Training and Placement Office (TPO) of Presidency University organized a pre-placement talk followed by campus placement by Alteus Biogenics Pvt Ltd on 11 th and 12th of March, 2025 at A. K. Basak auditorium. The talk was primarily targeted for the final year undergraduate and post graduate students of Department of Life Sciences, Economics, Statistics, English and Sociology across different roles. Many students showed interest and appeared for the interview out of which a considerable number are absorbed in the firm.

Pre-placement talk by ICICI Bank on 10 th March, 2025.

The Training and Placement Office (TPO) of Presidency University organized a pre- placement talk by ICICI Bank on 10 th March, 2025 at P. C. Mahalanobis auditorium. The talk was primarily targeted for the final year undergraduate students across departments who are interested to take up career in Banking. There was participation of students from both Science and Arts faculty alike.



Fulbright outreach session in Presidency University



SUCCESS STORIES

Nirupam Das, final year PG student represented the department for the debate competition organized by GSI, Park Street and secured the First position.



Pragnyashini Bahera, a research scholar, received the best poster at the National conference on “Recent Advances in Geology, Mining and Environmental studies with special reference to Odisha”, which took place from march 28 to 29, 2025, at the Department of Geology, Government College, Sundargarh, Odisha.



Ankush Biswas, final year PG student selected from campus placement at Vedanta Ltd.



Koushik Garai (Research Scholar) and Kingshuk Pal (PG-II) have been awarded the Goldschmidt Student Scholarship, 2025. With the travel grant, they will present their research work in Prague, Czech Republic.



Dyuti Biswas, PG 1, Department of Sociology, further qualified for the State Level Youth Parliament on 27th March at Brainware University. This achievement underscores NSS's dedication to nurturing democratic participation and empowering youth to contribute to India's future development.



Diganta Mukherjee of Department of Life Sciences, secured AIR-9 in GATE and AIR-12 in JAM exams.

