

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2024

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EVENT AT DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CENTRE FOR INDUSTRY ORIENTED ADVANCE MATERIAL RESEARCH



Department of Chemistry, Presidency University organized a workshop on December 11, 2024 at A. K. Basak Auditorium of Presidency University to develop a Centre for Industry oriented Advance Material Research in presence of Prof. Suprakash Sinha Roy, Chief Researcher and Manager, Centre for Advanced Nanostructure and Advanced Materials, CSIR, South Africa. Apart from Professor Sinha Roy, various dignitaries from various industries, policymakers and academic personnae were be present in the workshop.



EVENT AT DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

The Geological Institute, Presidency University, successfully held its 101st Annual General Meeting on December 27, 2024, graced by Guest of Honour Professor Arunabha Majumdar and special guest Professor Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay. The event began with a lamp-lighting ceremony and a minute of silence for departed alumni. Speeches by outgoing committee members preceded the release of the 64th edition of Bhu Vidya, dedicated to Professor Ajit Kumar Saha. Responsibilities were then handed over to the new 2024-25 committee. The meeting concluded with an insightful lecture by Professor Majumdar on "Public Water Supply: Water Conservation and Utilisation." Gratitude was extended to all attendees.

EVENT AT DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

GREAT TALKS OF BRITISH COUNCIL IN "POWER OF THE PERFORMING ARTS TO COMMUNICATE, CONNECT AND COLLABORATE"

The Departments of Performing Arts and Sociology, in collaboration with the British Council, organized the Great Talk series at Presidency University on December 5, 2024. Dr. Sharon Tonner-Saunders, a Lecturer in Primary Education at the University of Dundee and a global expert in ICT, music, and intercultural learning, delivered an engaging talk on the transformative power of performing arts.

The session featured interactive demonstrations and a vibrant Q&A segment. Dr. Debaroti Chakraborty inaugurated the event, with coordination by Dr. Niladri Roy, Prof. Suhrita Saha, and Dr. Chakraborty. Alumni, students, and faculty attended, with a vote of thanks concluding the insightful session.



EVENT AT DEPARTMENT OF HINDI

HINDI SAHITYA KA ITIHAAS LEKHAN: BHAKTIKAL, SAHITYA AUR SAMAJ ADHYAYAN: UBHARTE HUYE PARIPREKSHYA

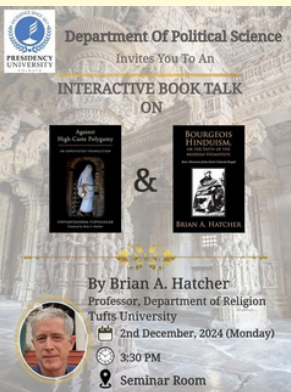
On 30th December 2024, the Hindi Department organized the seventh "Tagore Lecture Series" at Rajendra Auditorium on the theme "Literature and Society Studies: Emerging Perspectives." The event featured key speakers, including historian Dr. Ramashankar Singh, a former fellow at IIAS Shimla and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi. Dr. Singh discussed the ecological impact of dam projects, highlighting the extinction of fish species and emphasizing rivers as lifelines for civilizations, referencing the Indus Valley Civilization. He warned, "The end of rivers signifies the end of humanity." The session concluded with a discussion, followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. Anindya Gangopadhyay.



EVENTS AT DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

INTERACTIVE BOOK TALK BY BRIAN A. HATCHER ON "BOURGEOIS HINDUISM" AND "AGAINST HIGH CASTE POLYGAMY"

On December 2, 2024, the Department of Political Science hosted an engaging book talk by Brian A. Hatcher, a renowned scholar of South Asian religions. He discussed his works *Bourgeois Hinduism* and *Against High Caste Polygamy*, examining their intersections with modernity and intellectual traditions influenced by colonialism. Hatcher highlighted how modern Hinduism challenged middle-class traditional values and critiqued orthodox practices. Through figures like Vidyasagar, Pandita Ramabai, and Rammohun Roy, he explored the rejection of irrational rituals and the advancement of educational and spiritual reform. The talk underscored how colonial modernity shaped socio-political transformations in Hindu traditions, inspiring critical thought.



EVENTS AT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

THIRD BHABATOSH DATTA MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Third Bhabatosh Datta Memorial Lecture was delivered online by Prof. Amitava Krishna Dutt, Professor of Economics and Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, on December 7, 2024. His talk, titled "A Structuralist Analytical Political Economy Perspective on Economic Development with Special Reference to India," explored definitions of structuralist, political economy, and economic development, comparing this approach to classical, neoclassical, Marxian, feminist, and ecological frameworks. Prof. Dutt presented a structuralist perspective on India, emphasizing inequality in income and wealth while offering a framework for further research. The lecture saw participation from students, scholars, and dignitaries.



Speaker



Amitava Krishna Dutt
Professor of Economics and
Political Science Emeritus
University of Notre Dame,
USA

Economics Department
Presidency University, Kolkata
presents

Third Bhabatosh Datta Memorial Lecture

Title of the talk:
A STRUCTURALIST ANALYTICAL POLITICAL
ECONOMY PERSPECTIVE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
INDIA

Date: 7th December 11 AM IST
Venue: Online via zoom.
Registration link:
<https://forms.gle/6ELjPQs7xBckJ3vV6>

Scan to register



AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH PROF. GAUTAM BOSE



On 16th December, 2024, Prof. Gautam Bose, Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney met the postgraduate students and PhD scholars in the Department of Economics in an interactive academic session.

REFLECTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics hosted an International Conference on 27th December 2024, themed "Reflections on Development Economics." The keynote address was delivered by Professor Debopam Bhattacharya of Cambridge University, and the Valedictory lecture by Professor Sugata Marjit of the International Institute of Foreign Trade.

Faculty and scholars from global institutions, including the Universities of Maryland, Virginia Tech, Auburn, and Keele, participated alongside Indian institutes such as ISI Delhi, IIM Calcutta, IIT Kanpur, IIT Mumbai, and Shiv Nadar Institute of Eminence. The event showcased diverse perspectives on development economics through engaging presentations and discussions.



EVENTS AT DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI

SEMINAR ON SUKUMAR ROY IN COLLABORATION WITH SAHITYA ACADEMY

A seminar on Sukumar Roy's works and ideas was held on December 13, 2024. Dr. Uttar Kumar Biswas opened the event with a warm welcome, followed by an introduction by Dr. Ritam Mukherjee. Chaired by Sukumar Roy researcher Krishnarup Chakravarti, the seminar featured diverse presentations on Roy's legacy.

Soumi Das explored the metaphysical depth of Abol Tabol, while Subhendu Dasmunshi highlighted its poems, sketches, and calligraphy. Ashis Pathak discussed scientific ideas in Roy's writings, and Samim Ahmed reflected on his literary contributions. Sovan Tarafder linked Roy's artistic ideas to movements like Cubism. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Devarati Jana, offering profound insights into Roy's genius across literature, art, and thought.



"SHATABARSHE BADAL SIRCAR" EPISODE 1

On December 18, 2024, the seminar series 'Shatabarshe Badal Sircar' (শতবর্ষে বাদল সরকার) marked the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary dramatist Badal Sircar. Keynote speaker Professor Pabitra Sarkar explored Sircar's theatrical innovations, particularly Third Theatre, contrasting his philosophy with Rabindranath Tagore and Selim Al Deen. Hosted by PhD scholar Sayan Saha, the session included thought-provoking Q&A with scholars and students, highlighting Sircar's socially conscious and transformative impact on theatre. Concluding remarks by Professor Ritam Mukhopadhyay reflected on the session's success in celebrating Sircar's legacy and sparking meaningful academic discourse.

বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
আয়োজিত



শতবর্ষে বাদল সরকার

পর্ব - ১

আলোচনাচক্রে আপনাদের সাদর আমন্ত্রণ জানাই
দুপুর ২:৩০, বুধবার, ১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪
জীবনানন্দ সভাকক্ষ
বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়



বক্তা: অধ্যাপক পবিত্র সরকার

বিশিষ্ট শিক্ষাবিদ
ও
প্রাক্তন উপাচার্য, রবীন্দ্রভারতী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

স্বাগত জামণ: উত্তমকুমার বিশ্বাস

বিভাগীয় প্রধান
বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সুপ্রধার: মায়ন সাহা

গবেষক
বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

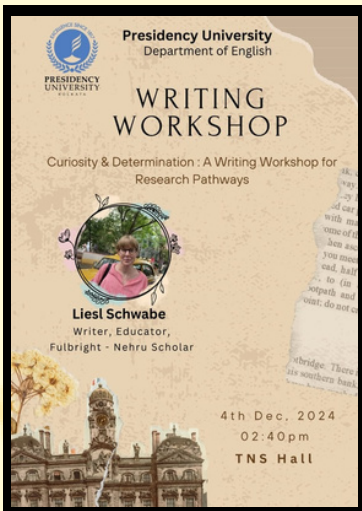
ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন: প্রতম্ মুখোপাধ্যায়

সহকারী অধ্যাপক
বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

EVENTS AT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

THE HARENDRALAL BASAK MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor Timothy Brennan's lecture on "Marxism and Modernism in World Literature" explored the intersection of revolutionary ideologies with cultural movements. He traced the historical roots of World Literature, highlighting Marxism's influence on art and its critique of capitalism and class structures. Brennan examined how Modernist writers like Joyce, Eliot, and Benjamin used experimental forms to reflect alienation and disillusionment under industrial capitalism while innovating artistic norms. Despite tensions between Marxism and Modernism, he emphasized their shared revolutionary spirit in challenging the status quo through social critique and aesthetic innovation. The lecture offered valuable insights into their profound mutual influence.



CURIOSITY & DETERMINATION: A WRITING WORKSHOP FOR RESEARCH PATHWAYS

A one day workshop was held at the Department of English on 4th December 2024 by Liesl Schwabe. This workshop emphasized reading like a writer and writing like a reader to develop rhetorical awareness and adaptability for diverse audiences. Participants revisited the fundamentals of academic argument, explored logic and reasoning, and engaged with complexity to strengthen their research approach. The session introduced holistic, revision-focused strategies to refine writing and highlighted the recursive, exploratory nature of research and writing. Ultimately, the workshop encouraged deeper self-reflection, enhanced public discourse, and active citizenship by fostering an appreciation for the interconnectedness of research, writing, and meaningful engagement with societal issues.



EVENTS AT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

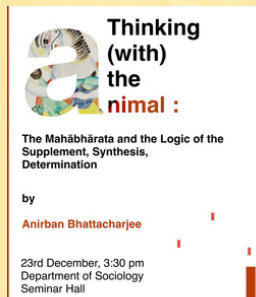
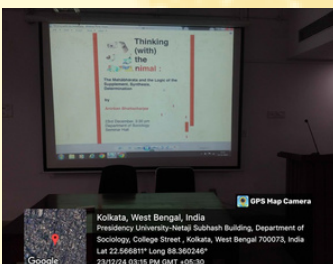
WORKSHOP ON THE VAISHNAVA SENSORIUM

This workshop was a part of an international collaborative work on the Vaishanva sensorium, headed by Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Lucian Wong (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies). This was the first part of the collaborative discussion, and the other is scheduled to take place in Boston, in February, 2025.



THINKING (WITH) THE ANIMAL

A seminar was organized at the Department of Sociology on 23rd December, 2024. Mr. Anirban Bhattacharjee was the chief resource person in the event. The presentation critically examines Brāhmaṇa and Mahābhārata texts to explore whether the experience of "animalitas" is integral to human reason, complicating the concept of a priori. These narratives highlight animal suffering, passivity, and "lack of attunement," urging recognition of their intrinsic value and the moral dilemmas of their treatment. The discussion links ethics to the animal's acts of hospitality or hostility, framed as reasoned, affective responses toward the "other." It raises the question: does thinking about animals inherently involve contemplating death? The inquiry engages Hegelian synthesis to reflect on the "ungraspable" animal and its implications for ethics and reason.



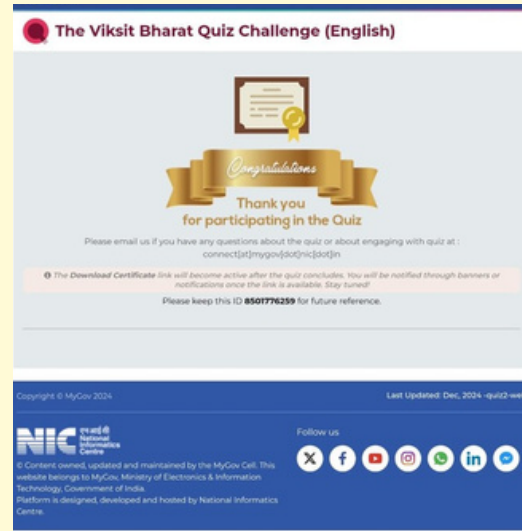
EVENTS AT NSS

VIKSHIT BHARAT ONLINE QUIZ

The Viksit Bharat Quiz Challenge (English) was held online from 27th November to 10th December, organized by NSS Unit-1 under the guidance of Dr. Jayeeta Deshmukh, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics (Programme Officer-Unit 1). The event aimed to ignite intellectual curiosity among students on topics related to India's development, history, culture, and future aspirations.

Over 40 students actively participated, showcasing knowledge and teamwork across multiple rounds, including general knowledge and thematic segments on India's progress in science, technology, and governance. Participants received e-certificates, fostering enthusiasm and pride.

The challenge successfully inspired students to deepen their understanding of India's vision for development.

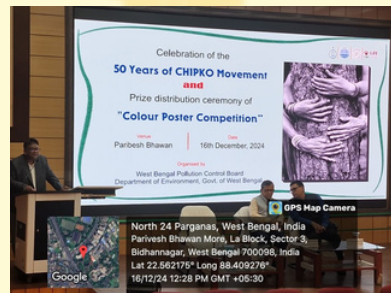


ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME: CHIPKO MOVEMENT (ORGANISED BY WB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD)

The NSS Cell of Presidency University, Kolkata, participated in a workshop commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Chipko Movement, organized by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board on 16th December 2024 at Paribesh Bhawan, Kolkata. NSS volunteers, including Bonnya Sanfui, Archisman Paul, Pamela Das, and others, accompanied by Programme Officer Dr. Mery Biswas, attended the event.

The workshop highlighted the Chipko Movement's grassroots efforts in the 1970s to protect forests and resources. Archisman Paul delivered a notable speech discussing the movement's impact, rural solidarity, and the contributions of poet Ghanshyam Raturi Sailani.

Discussions also addressed contemporary environmental challenges, emphasizing the movement's relevance today. The event offered participants valuable lessons on environmental activism and collective responsibility for sustainability.



PLANTATION DRIVE

On 20th December 2024, the NSS volunteers and students of Presidency University participated in a Plantation Drive organized by Unit-3, under the guidance of Dr. Puja Ray, Assistant Professor, Department of Life Sciences. The programme aimed to promote environmental awareness and enhance the university's green initiatives.

Dr. Ray delivered a motivational address on the significance of tree plantation in combating climate change and improving biodiversity. A variety of saplings, including flowering, fruit-bearing, and native species, were planted around the campus. Students enthusiastically participated in planting and nurturing the saplings, fostering a sense of responsibility toward sustainability.

The event concluded with a discussion on the role of youth in environmental conservation, and the volunteers were appreciated for their dedication. The Plantation Drive successfully reinforced the university's commitment to sustainability, creating a greener campus while inspiring students to continue their environmental stewardship.



CENTRAL HIGHLIGHTS



Ex-AG gifts ₹60L for Presi computer centre

Dipawali.Mitra
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: A new computer centre — Presidency Alumni Computer Centre — on the ground floor of the newly constructed G+4 building adjacent to the main building was inaugurated on Friday for students, faculty mem-

to access online resources. The teachers and officials can use the centre for faculty and executive development programmes and retraining programmes. It can also be used for delivering lectures from universities abroad.”

“Presidency gave us a room which was turned into a computer centre with 25 devi-



Anindya Mitra, Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty and others at the inauguration of the Presidency Alumni Computer Centre

bers, and officials of the university. Former Bengal advocate-general Anindya Mitra, an alumnus of erstwhile Presidency College, contributed Rs 60 lakh to develop the centre with modern technology.

VC Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty and Mitra opened the centre equipped with 25 computers and an integrated interactive panel with a smart board and an all-in-one computer. Registrar Debajyoti Konar said, “This will mainly be used by students for online tests, placements, and

ces. Cameras were installed so that there is a facility for video conferencing,” said Mitra. His contribution coincides with the platinum jubilee of the alumni association.

The VC said, “The opening of this lab is about technology, and the opportunity to create a more connected and informed society.” President of the alumni association Shutirtha Bhattacharjee felt the centre is an example of how modern education thrives on inclusivity, collaboration, and adaptability.



SUCCESS STORIES



On December 23, 2024, Presidency University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sapienza University of Rome, one of the world's oldest universities founded in 1303.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, welcomed dignitaries, faculty, and students, emphasizing the MoU's potential to foster collaborative research in humanities and social sciences. The Consul General of Italy, Mr. Riccardo Dalla Costa, expressed his enthusiasm for strengthening ties between the two countries.

Prof. Sanjukta DasGupta, a Sapienza faculty member and alumnus of Presidency College, played a pivotal role in initiating the partnership. She highlighted opportunities for faculty exchange in Hindi literature, South Asian history, Political Science, Sociology, and Anthropology. Dr. Debajyoti Konar, Registrar of Presidency University, emphasized the MoU's focus on enriching student learning experiences through global exposure.

The Department of History spearheaded the initiative, supported by the Departments of Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology, and Hindi. The collaboration aims to promote academic exchange and cooperation, benefiting both institutions in advancing research and education.

FAREWELL

“Presidency University extends its heartfelt gratitude and wishes Prof. Gautam Kumar Deb, (retiring as Professor at the Department of Geology) and Mr. Balmiki Prasad, (retiring as Record Keeper) for their years of dutiful and dedicated service to the institution. We will forever be indebted for their contribution and we wish them the best in their retirement.”



Obituary



1932-2024

Presidency University deeply mourns the loss of our former Prime Minister and eminent economist, Dr. Manmohan Singh