



**PRESIDENCY COLLEGE**

Presidency  
presents  
JULY 2025  
Co-sponsored by

# **NEWSLETTER**

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# DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

## DLS MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM (INVITED TALK)

On 9 July 2025, the Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University, hosted a thought-provoking lecture by Prof. Chinmoy Sankar Dey, Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, IIT Delhi, emphasizing the idea of “looking sideways” in science. He advocated for exploring unconventional research paths, overlooked questions, and interdisciplinary approaches. Prof. Dey argued that true scientific breakthroughs often emerge not from mainstream routes, but from challenging assumptions and venturing into lesser-known territories. His talk encouraged scientists to stay curious, open-minded, and bold in their inquiries. The lecture served as a compelling reminder that innovation often begins by observing what others miss—and daring to ask different questions.



## DLS COLLOQUIUM SERIES (INVITED ALUMNI TALK)

On 16 July 2025, Dr. Sayantan Bose, Director and Discovery Project Leader at GlaxoSmithKline, Maryland, USA, delivered a lecture titled “Vaccines: What It Takes to Make One”, organized by the Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University, Kolkata. Dr. Bose offered a detailed overview of the complex vaccine development process—covering pathogen identification, antigen design, preclinical studies, human trials, and production scale-up. He also highlighted regulatory and logistical challenges, underscoring the critical role of global collaboration and innovation. The talk provided valuable insights into the scientific efforts behind delivering safe, effective vaccines to the world, especially in today’s global health landscape.

## DLS COLLOQUIUM SERIES (FACULTY TALK)

Dr. Nabendu Biswas inaugurated the Internal Faculty Talk series on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2025 with a lecture titled “Regulation of Inhibitor of Apoptosis Proteins (IAPs): A Promising Therapeutic Approach for the Treatment of Cancer.” He explained how IAPs, when overexpressed, enable cancer cells to evade apoptosis and resist treatment. Emphasizing their role as therapeutic targets, Dr. Biswas discussed strategies to restore apoptotic pathways and improve cancer outcomes. The talk sparked active engagement among students and faculty, marking a strong start to the colloquium series and highlighting the department’s focus on cutting-edge research in cancer biology.



## DLS COLLOQUIUM SERIES (FACULTY TALK)

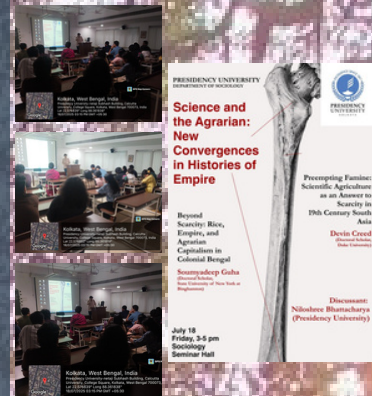
As part of the Department of Life Sciences’ Internal Faculty Talk series, on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 Dr. Ranjana Pal delivered a lecture titled “Insights into TRAIL Resistance in Breast Cancer: Advancing Therapeutic Approaches.” She discussed the role of the transcription factor ELF3 in promoting TRAIL resistance by regulating apoptotic pathways and increasing anti-apoptotic protein expression in breast cancer cells. Dr. Pal also explored potential strategies to overcome this resistance. The talk sparked engaging discussions among students and faculty, offering valuable insights into the molecular mechanisms behind therapy resistance and future directions in cancer treatment.



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

### **A SEMINAR ON SCIENCE AND THE AGRARIAN: NEW CONVERGENCES IN HISTORIES OF EMPIRE**

The Department of Sociology, Presidency University, organized a seminar on "Science and the Agrarian: New Convergences in Histories of Empire" on 18th July 2025. Speakers included Devin Creed (Duke University) and Soumyadeep Guha (SUNY Binghamton), with Dr. Niloshree Bhattacharya as discussant. Creed presented "Preempting Famines: Scientific Agriculture as an Answer to Scarcity in 19th Century South Asia," exploring how the Agri-Horticultural Society, colonial experimental farms, and government departments envisioned "scientific agriculture" as a means to address recurrent famines, revealing the intersections of empire, agriculture, and famine relief in colonial India.



### **A TALK -ABUL MANSUR AHMAD'S AMERICA: A GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF THE LANGUAGE MOVEMENT IN EAST PAKISTAN/ BANGLADESH**

The Department of Sociology organized a talk on "Abul Mansur Ahmad's America: A Global Intellectual History of the Language Movement in East Pakistan/Bangladesh" on 25th July 2025. The lecture was delivered by Professor Rochona Majumdar, George V. Bobrinsky Professor and Department Chair, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago. The talk examined how the politics of language fractured the unity of Pakistan, situating Abul Mansur Ahmad's writings within a global intellectual history of East Pakistan/Bangladesh's quest for linguistic and political autonomy.

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### **DOES THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS HAVE BORDER CONTROL?- UNDERSTANDING LOCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN LITERATURE.**

On 23rd July 2025, the Department of Political Science at Presidency University hosted a seminar titled "Does the Republic of Letters Have Border Control?" by renowned journalist and writer Mr. Omair Ahmad. He examined the idea of a transnational literary space and how literature, authorship, and translation navigate national and cultural boundaries. Drawing from South Asian contexts, Mr. Ahmad highlighted literature's historical ties to politics and governance. He emphasized its contextual, polysemic nature, challenging universal readings. The session concluded with a lively Q&A, reflecting the audience's keen engagement with the themes discussed.



### **"GANDHI'S HINDUSTANI IN TIMES OF LINGUISTIC CHAUVINISM AND EXCLUSIVISM."**

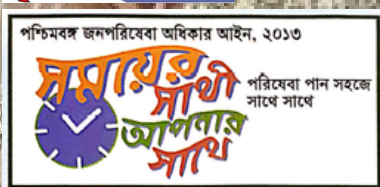
On 30th July 2025, the Department of Political Science at Presidency University hosted a lecture by Prof. Asha Sarangi (JNU) titled "Gandhi's Hindustani in Times of Linguistic Chauvinism and Exclusivism." Prof. Sarangi explored Gandhi's vision of Hindustani as a language of inclusion amidst contemporary linguistic divides. While acknowledging its historical limitations, she emphasized its unifying potential. The lecture linked language to national identity and unity during the freedom movement. An engaging Q&A followed, with students and scholars reflecting on the themes. The session offered valuable insights into language politics and enriched the academic discourse.



## DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI

### SEMINAR REPORT: FELICITATION CEREMONY OF PROFESSOR GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK

On 13th July 2025, Presidency University hosted a grand felicitation ceremony for Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak at Derozio Hall. Highlights included speeches by the Vice-Chancellor, the launch of Gayatri Darshan, and a thought-provoking panel with Spivak, Shamik Bandyopadhyay, and Lakshmi Subramanian. Students actively participated, offering tributes and engaging in discussions. The event celebrated Professor Spivak's legacy while sparking dialogue on humanities, learning, and cultural health in the AI era—leaving a lasting intellectual impact on the academic community.



### AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FOOD SAFETY

On 15th July 2025, a seminar on the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and Food Safety was held at the Bengali Department, Presidency University, organized by the Department of Consumer Affairs, West Bengal, in collaboration with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Mr. Subrata Mandal outlined consumer rights and redressal mechanisms. Talks by Mr. Shubhankar Adhikari and Mr. Pavitra Das addressed e-commerce and AI-related consumer issues. Mr. Siddhartha Mishra and Mr. Debaditya Chanda focused on food safety and adulteration tests. Around 60 attendees engaged actively in the interactive, well-coordinated session.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

### TALK OF THE MONTH (HAVE WE BECOME POSTHUMAN?)

On July 1, 2025, the Department of English, Presidency University, hosted its monthly talk titled "Have we Become Posthuman?" by Dr. Arka Chattopadhyay (IIT Gandhinagar), based on his book Posthumanism: Politics of Subjectivity. Addressing themes of transhumanism, animality, objectality, and technics, Dr. Chattopadhyay explored posthuman critiques of subjectivity through key thinkers like Braidotti, Latour, Meillassoux, Heidegger, and Steigler, with literary and psychoanalytic references. The session, attended by a diverse audience, concluded with reflections by Prof. Sumit Chakraborty and Prof. Md. Monirul Islam.



### POSTHUMANISM AND INDIA : PERSPECTIVES AND POSSIBILITIES

The Department of English, Presidency University, Kolkata, hosted a one-day workshop, "Posthumanism and India: Perspectives and Possibilities", on 4th July 2025 at the A.K. Basak Auditorium, attended by about 100 participants. The event featured two expert panels and a student presentation session. Distinguished speakers included Prof. Debashish Banerji, Prof. Anirban Das, Prof. Ritu Sen Chaudhuri, Prof. Samrat Sengupta, and Prof. Subham Dutta, with sessions chaired by faculty members of the department. Student groups presented in the final session. The day concluded with closing remarks, a Vote of Thanks, and certificate distribution.



## DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

### 'PLANETARY PULSE' TALK SERIES

Mr. Utsa Bose, D.Phil student in History, University of Oxford, has delivered a talk titled "The Trembling of Everything: Piecing together the Assam Earthquake of 1897" on 30th July, 2025 in 'Planetary Pulse' talk series.



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

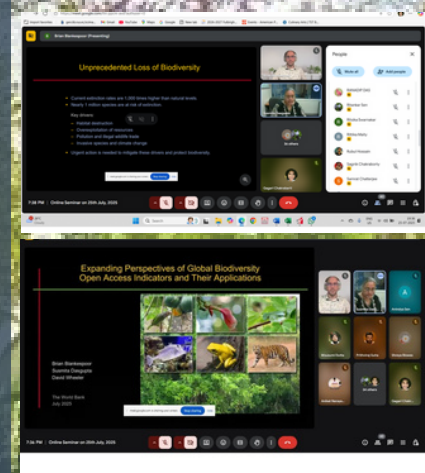
### FOURTH BHABATOSH DATTA MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Department of Economics, Presidency University, hosted the 2025 Bhabatosh Datta Memorial Lecture on 10th July. Professor Debraj Ray, Julius Silver Professor at New York University, delivered a thought-provoking lecture titled "Upward Mobility and the Great Gatsby Curve." The event drew faculty, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and research scholars, fostering vibrant academic exchange. Distinguished dignitaries, including Professor Ramprasad Sengupta (JNU), Professor Dipankar Dasgupta and Professor Abhirup Sarkar (ISI Kolkata), and Professor Anindya Sen (IIM Calcutta), graced the occasion, enriching the department's tradition of honoring Professor Bhabatosh Datta's legacy.



### ONLINE LECTURE BY DR. SUSMITA DASGUPTA

The Department of Economics, Presidency University, hosted an online webinar on 25th July 2025 featuring Dr. Susmita Dasgupta, Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank, and Brian Blankespoor, Senior Geographer, World Bank. They delivered a talk on "Expanding Perspectives on Biodiversity: Open Access Indicators and Their Applications." The speakers highlighted alarming biodiversity loss and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP 15. They presented the World Bank's Global Biodiversity Data & Analytics initiative, which uses machine learning and GBIF data to map 600,000 species, assess extinction risks, and provide open-access datasets for research and policy.



### LECTURE ON TRUMP TARIFFS, GENERAL TRADE DISASTER AND THE UNINTENDED CASE OF WELFARE IMPROVING TRUMP TARIFF BY PROFESOOR SUGATA MARJIT

The Department of Economics and OIKOS, Economics Society, Presidency University, jointly organized a lecture 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 by Professor Sugata Marjit, Visiting Professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, titled "Trump Tariffs, General Trade Disaster and the Unintended Case of Welfare Improving Trump Tariff." Prof. Marjit highlighted the contradictions between Trump's tariffs and established trade policy theory. He demonstrated how higher U.S. tariffs and lower partner tariffs, e.g., India's, could paradoxically enhance welfare in both countries through technology transfer without altering trade volumes. Faculty, students, and research scholars actively attended the lecture.



# INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

## SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM

The Institute of Health Sciences, Presidency University, organized its first colloquium on 1st July 2025, featuring Prof. Debnath Pal (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), who delivered a lecture on "Insights into DNA Damage Driven Stemness in Oral Cancer." The event brought together researchers, faculty, and students to engage with emerging research trends in oral cancer. Prof. Pal's presentation sparked vibrant discussions, with participants debating critical issues and exploring interdisciplinary solutions. Attendees valued the platform for fostering dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborations to address complex scientific challenges.

The poster for the Scientific Colloquium includes the following information:

- Institute of Health Sciences, Presidency University**
- Presents Colloquium Series**
- "Insights into DNA Damage-Driven Stemness in Oral Cancer"**
- Debnath Pal, PhD**
- Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**
- Date & Time: 01 July 2025; From 12 - 01 pm**
- Venue: T2-403, 4th Floor, Institute of Health Sciences, Presidency University - 2nd Campus, Newtown**

A diagram on the left illustrates the process of oral squamous cell carcinoma, showing the transition from a Cancer Stem Cell (CSC) to a Tumor cell, influenced by DNA Damage Response and Cancer Stemness. A portrait of Prof. Debnath Pal is on the right. Below the poster are two photographs showing the audience seated in a lecture hall during the event.

## SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM

The second scientific colloquium at the Institute of Health Sciences, Presidency University, was held on 10th July 2025, featuring Prof. Chinmoy Sankar Dey (Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, IIT Delhi). Delivering a lecture titled "Think Sideways," Prof. Dey emphasized the importance of critical and unconventional thinking in research. His talk engaged scholars and students in meaningful discussions, offering valuable insights into innovative approaches. The session fostered interdisciplinary perspectives, encouraged collaboration, and highlighted areas for further exploration. The colloquium was well-received, inspiring participants to embrace new dimensions in scientific inquiry.

## EVENT AT LIBRARY

### ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON IMPORTANCE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) IN ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH.

On 11th July 2025, the Library and IPR Cell of Presidency University, in collaboration with the Patent Office, Kolkata, organized a seminar on "Importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Academics and Research". Mr. Arnab Bhattacharya, Examiner of Patents & Designs, delivered the keynote, highlighting IPR's role in research and innovation. Attendees included faculty and scholars from various institutions. The event also marked the launch of "Bibliography of Old and Rare Section Books before 1900s", a valuable publication by the University Library. Both sessions saw active participation and fruitful discussions among academics and professionals.





## EVENTS OF NSS

### **THREE-DAY MEDITATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY NSS CELL IN COLLABORATION WITH HEARTFULNESS FOUNDATION**

The NSS Cell of Presidency University, in collaboration with the Heartfulness Foundation, organised a three-day meditation programme from 14-16 July 2025 at the A.K. Basak Auditorium. Coordinated by Prof. Sumita Saha with Dr. Jayeeta Deshmukh and Dr. Mery Biswas, it attracted over 120 participants, including faculty, staff, scholars, and students. Expert facilitators taught heart-based meditation for relaxation and inner stillness. Strong administrative support, including the Dean's presence, boosted engagement. The initiative underscores the NSS Cell's commitment to mental wellness, stress management, and holistic growth, fostering a healthier, more balanced university environment.



### **BENGAL BIRDERS' MEET ORGANISED BY BIRD WATCHERS SOCIETY: BIRD CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY**

Over 80 NSS volunteers from Presidency University, led by Dr. Puja Ray, joined the "Bengal Birders' Meet," engaging with conservationists, researchers, and citizen scientists on avian conservation and environmental stewardship on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2025. Sessions explored migratory flyways, hornbill conservation, grassland ecosystems, citizen science, and conservation photography, with a panel on marshlands' role in biodiversity. Eminent speakers included Dr. Asad Rahmani, senior ornithologist, and Dr. Aparajita Dutta, wildlife ecologist. The event launched the "School of Birds" outreach initiative, highlighting the NSS Cell's dedication to nurturing environmental awareness and inspiring student advocacy for wildlife conservation.



### **CELEBRATION OF 'WORLD TIGER DAY AND MANGROVE DAY**

On 29th July 2025, nine NSS volunteers from Presidency University, guided by Dr. Mery Biswas, attended the 'World Tiger Day and Mangrove Day' celebration at Paribesh Bhavan, organized by the Pollution Control Board, West Bengal. The event highlighted how tiger conservation, vital for forest health as tigers are keystone species, complements mangrove preservation, crucial for coastline stability, storm protection, and biodiversity. Participation enriched volunteers' understanding of ecological balance, climate resilience, and endangered species protection. The NSS Cell remains committed to promoting environmental awareness and action, upholding the spirit of global conservation days.



### **PLANTATION DRIVE**

The NSS Cell organized a Plantation Drive guided by Dr. Puja Ray on 31st July 2025, with 26 volunteers dedicated to environmental conservation. Volunteers planted diverse saplings across the campus, each representing a step toward ecological restoration. The initiative embodied NSS's commitment to community service, environmental responsibility, and collective action for meaningful impact. Addressing deforestation and climate change, such drives nurture nature, preserve biodiversity, and inspire sustainable living. Planting trees symbolizes hope, growth, and dedication to safeguarding the planet, reflecting NSS's vision of building a greener future for generations to come.



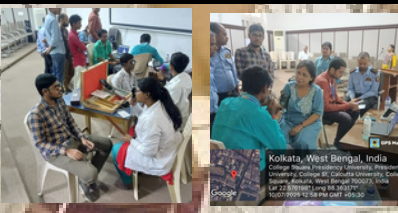


# CENTRAL EVENTS



## REMEMBERING SARAT CHANDRA DAS'S LEGACY TO BUDDHIST STUDIES IN COLONIAL BENGAL

On 18th July 2025, Presidency University hosted a lecture by Dr. Parjanya Sen titled "Remembering Sarat Chandra Das's Legacy to Buddhist Studies in Colonial Bengal." Sen explored Das's pivotal role in shaping Tibetan studies, tracing his journeys across Calcutta, Darjeeling, and Chittagong. He examined how Das, as a colonial-era Pundit, contributed to knowledge production, cartography, and the cultural reimagining of Tibet in Bengali intellectual circles. Sen highlighted the duality of Das's identity—as both insider and imperial agent—and concluded with reflections on whether Das was a Pundit.



Presidency University organizes Medical Checkup in collaboration with Susrut Eye Foundation and Research Centre on 10th July, 2025

## Presi 4-year BSc biotech course to bridge academic-industry gap

**Kolkata, West Bengal, India**  
The Institute of Health Sciences (IHS) at Presidency University is set to begin a cutting-edge four-year bachelor programme focused on research in biotechnology on the New Town campus from this academic session. The university has invited online applications from students until Aug 4.

The course will offer 40 seats. The multidisciplinary programme has been designed in alignment with NEP 2020 and offers an in-depth exploration of the molecular and cellular processes that govern life, spanning research from 'bench' and 'bed' to biopharma and agribio.

**PROGRAMME STARTS THIS SESSION**

Integrated into the existing BSc programme in the allied fields of life sciences, the institute now offers MSc in biotechnology, virology and immunology, and molecular biology and immunology.

Dr. Pratik Mukherjee, Vice-Chancellor, Presidency University, said, "The aim is to offer interdisciplinary research, innovation, and biotechnology along with the



The Institute of Health Sciences, starts Bsc. Biotechnology in the 2nd campus of Presidency University from the present academic session



Presidency University, Kolkata adds a new foreign language : Japanese , as a Minor course, in the curriculum



.@StateIVLP and Fulbright-Nehru alumna Dr. Madhuchanda Ghosh explores the challenges & opportunities shaping the Indo-Pacific, the significance of U.S.-India-Japan cooperation, and the experiences that have shaped her understanding of global affairs.



Meeting the Consulate General of Kolkata Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz on the commemoration of 249th anniversary of the Independence of United States of America.



# **FAREWELL**

"Presidency University extends its heartfelt gratitude and wishes Prof. Tanuja Majumdar, (retiring as Professor at the Department of Hindi) for her years of dutiful and dedicated service to the institution. We will forever be indebted for her contribution and we wish her the best in her retirement."





# STUDENTS' SUCCESS STORIES



Heartiest Congratulations to Afrose Hasan! 🏆  
We are proud to announce that Afrose Hasan (B.Sc. in Chemistry, Batch of 2025) has brought great honor to our institution by securing the Gold Medal in Javelin Throw (F46 Category) at the West Bengal State Para Games 2025, achieving an impressive range of 44.44 meters. Afrose has also been selected to represent West Bengal at the National Para Athletics Championship 2026, scheduled to be held tentatively between January and February 2026. In addition to Javelin, he has also qualified for the Discus Throw event at the national level. We extend our warmest congratulations to Afrose on this outstanding achievement and wish him continued success at the national stage!

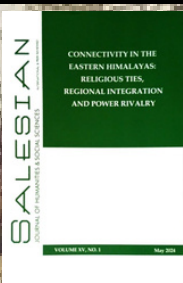


**Book Review**  
Sinchuri, Samip. The Politics of Ethnic Renewal in Darjeeling, Gorkhas and the Struggle for Tribal Recognition. Bangalore, India: 2023. ISBN 978-93-907214-1-0. Pages: 160. INR 1,200. (pbk/illustrated)

The political dynamics of the Gorkhas in Darjeeling have evolved over time but consistently remain on the quest for identity, recognition, and autonomy. The most significant and long-standing demand is the creation of a separate state which holds the promise of their aspirations for better identity and governance. They also seek greater autonomy within West Bengal, along with the recognition of their ethnic group development and the protection of their linguistic and cultural heritage. The Gorkhas have been fighting their demands for recognition through a combination of political mobilization, legal advocacy, and armed struggle.

The demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland has been significant since the 1980s and state governments, particularly those from West Bengal, strongly opposed the movement. The process of achieving autonomy has been difficult, with the Gorkhas facing challenges in raising their demands. Recognizing the difficulties in raising their demands, Gorkha leaders shifted their focus towards achieving federalism. The federalism movement in Gorkhas was not a new idea but a more achievable goal within the existing political framework. The federalism movement could have been a more significant and achievable goal, including recognition in education, employment, and political representation, without leading to the demand for a separate state of West Bengal.

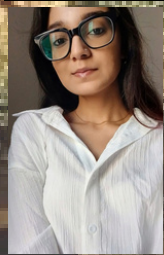
Against this backdrop, Sinchuri's book 'The Politics of Ethnic Renewal in Darjeeling, Gorkhas and the Struggle for Tribal Recognition' is a well-researched and detailed study that provides a comprehensive analysis of the Gorkha movement and the struggle for tribal recognition.



The book review by Samip Sinchuri, PhD Scholar, Department of Sociology, was published in June 2025 in the Salesian Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences, Volume XV, Issue No. 1 (May 2024), pp. 158-163. The review engages Nilamber Chettri's book titled "The Politics of Ethnic Renewal in Darjeeling: Gorkhas and the Struggle for Tribal Recognition."



A paper from the post graduate dissertation submitted by Dhriti Chattopadhyay, Bidipta Saha, Dikshita Saha and Madhurima Saha (Batch 2021-2023, Applied Economics) has been published in Resources Policy (Scopus Q1, H index 138, Cite Score 17) in July 2025.



A paper titled "Do Working Women Enjoy Less Leisure? An Analysis of Time Use Data for India" has been published in Forum for Social Economics (Scopus Q1, Citescore 4.2, IF 1.2) (July 2025) from the Post Graduate Dissertation of Deeghi Basu, Sukanya Dutta and Shreya Saha (Applied Economics, Batch 2022-2024).



A paper titled "Demand for Health Insurance in India: An Analysis with Triple Hurdle Model" has been published in Journal of Quantitative Economics (Springer Nature) by the research scholar of the Economics Department, Shreyasee Datta.



A paper titled "Disempowerment of the Women in West Bengal: A Comparative Study of Howrah and Jalpaiguri Districts" has been published in the Vidyasagar University Journal of Economics, Volume 29 of VUJE, 2024-25 by Senjuti Ghosh Das, the research scholar of the Economics Department.