



PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2025

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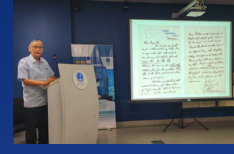
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Institute of Health Sciences

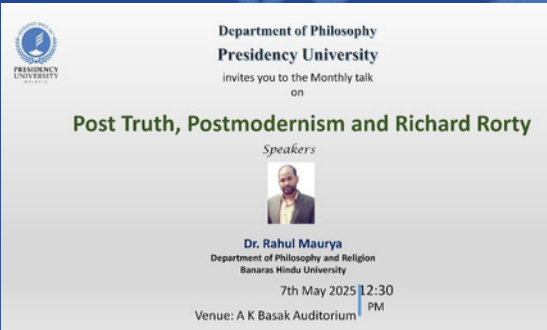
INSA: KS Memorial Lecture 2022

On May 2, 2025, the Institute of Health Sciences, Presidency University, in collaboration with INSA Kolkata Chapter, hosted the KS Krishnan Memorial Lecture 2022. Prof. Hemanta Kumar Majumder delivered an engaging talk on "Leishmania: An Old Enemy... The Battle Continues," highlighting his research journey. The event drew a large audience of students, scholars, and faculty, sparking lively discussions on human studies and parasitic diseases. It successfully promoted open dialogue, critical thinking, and knowledge exchange, reaffirming the university's commitment to scientific exploration and collaborative learning.



Department of Philosophy

Monthly talk

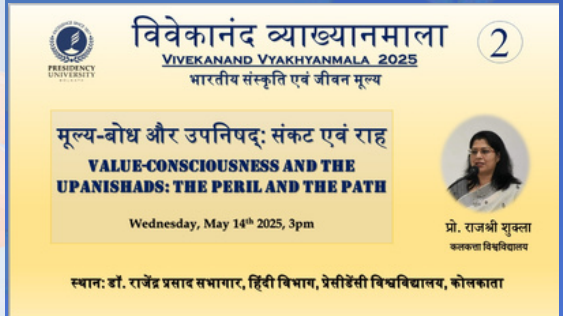


On May 7, 2025, the Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, hosted a monthly talk by Dr. Rahul Maurya. Focusing on post-truth, postmodernism, and Richard Rorty's pragmatic philosophy, the session deepened students' understanding of how truth is socially constructed and shaped by discourse. Dr. Maurya explored Rorty's rejection of objective truth, emphasizing consensus over absolutes, and addressed misconceptions linking his ideas to post-truth politics. The talk encouraged critical thinking and reflective dialogue on contemporary political and philosophical issues, helping students engage with complex epistemic debates in a nuanced, informed manner.

Department of Hindi

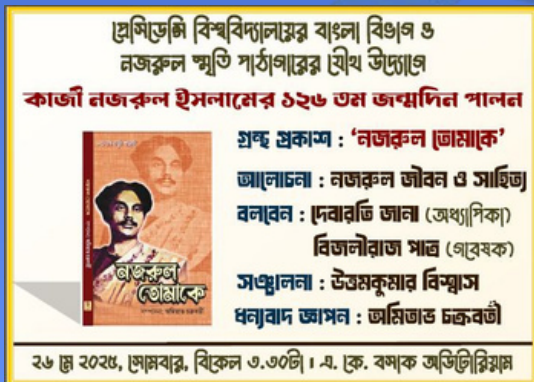
Value-Consciousness and the Upanishads: The Peril and the Path

On May 14, 2025, the Department of Hindi, Presidency University, held the second session of the Vivekananda Lecture Series featuring Prof. Rajashree Shukla (University of Calcutta). Her lecture, "Value-Consciousness and the Upanishads: The Peril and the Path," addressed the contemporary crisis of values and urged a return to Indian philosophical traditions. She discussed ethical living amidst challenges like war, unemployment, depression, and social media influence. Emphasizing integrity and cultural grounding, the talk resonated deeply with participants, sparking reflection on moral resilience. Prof. Shukla concluded with gratitude for the university's role in fostering meaningful dialogue.



Department of Bengali

Celebration of 126th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam



On May 26, 2025, the Department of Bengali, Presidency University, in collaboration with Nazrul Smriti Pathagar, celebrated Kazi Nazrul Islam's 126th birth anniversary with a seminar at A.K. Basak Auditorium. The event featured the release of Nazrul Tomake, edited by Amitabh Chakrabarty. Talks by Nitish Biswas, Bijoleeraj Patra, and Devarati Jana highlighted Nazrul's cultural legacy, ecological awareness, and poetic vision. Anchored by Prof. Uttam Kumar Biswas, the seminar offered fresh insights into Nazrul's works and their relevance today. Chakrabarty concluded with a vote of thanks, marking a fitting tribute to the revolutionary poet.

Department of Geology

Research Scholars' Lecture Series

On 7th May, Mr. Swaraj Banerjee delivered a lecture at the Department of Geology. The title of the lecture was "Significance of shear zone fluids in genesis and evolution of alkaline rocks: A global overview". The lecture dealt with the role of halogens, e.g. fluorine, chlorine etc. in shear zones, particularly in mineral deposition. It ended with thought provoking discussion among the participating research scholars and students.



Prof. A.K. Saha Memorial Lecture

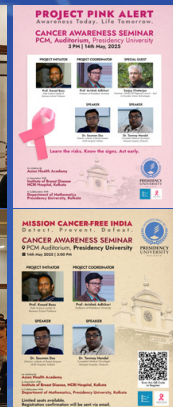


Prof. Saibal Gupta, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur delivered the Prof. A.K. Saha Memorial lecture on 14th May, 2025. The title of the lecture was "Continents, water, life....on Earth and beyond - the geologists' story". Participants from varied academic background attended this lecture. This lecture gave insight to the different aspects of Planetary Geology.

Department of Mathematics

Project Pink Alert - Cancer Prevention Awareness Campaign

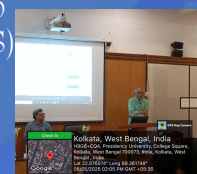
On May 14, 2025, the Department of Mathematics, Presidency University, in collaboration with the Institute of Breast Disease, Kolkata, hosted the workshop "Project Pink Alert: Cancer Prevention Awareness Campaign" at the PCM Auditorium. Special Guest Sri Sanjoy Chatterjee and speakers Dr. Soumen Das and Dr. Tanmoy Mandal delivered impactful sessions in vernacular language to promote cancer awareness. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and successfully highlighted the importance of proactive health education. The organizing team thanked all contributors for making the campaign a meaningful step toward cancer prevention.



Events at Library

Inauguration of Remote access to E - Resources via INFED & Workshop on Empowering Research through One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)

On May 8, 2025, Presidency University Library inaugurated remote e-resource access via INFED and hosted a workshop on One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) at the P.C. Mahalanobis Auditorium. The event, supported by the IT and Administration departments and INFLIBNET, aimed to enable 24x7 remote access to academic resources. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty officially launched the service. Prof. Anindya Banerjee (University of Birmingham) delivered the keynote. Presentations by university librarians covered INFED features, ONOS search strategies, and open-access integration. The initiative was well-received and marked a major step in empowering research at the university.



A Visit by Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University's Library Science Faculty and Students

On May 8, 2025, Presidency University Library hosted 38 students from the Department of Library and Information Science, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University (SKBU), Purulia, as part of their Integrated BLIS-MLIS program. Accompanied by faculty, the students explored the infrastructure and operations of an academic library in a research-focused urban setting. The visit offered valuable practical exposure and was well appreciated by SKBU faculty for enhancing students' understanding of university library functioning.

Events of NSS Cell

Tree Plantation and Garden Maintenance Drive

NSS Unit 3 of Presidency University, led by Dr. Puja Ray, organized a Tree Plantation and Garden Maintenance Drive on campus to promote environmental sustainability on 14th May, 2025. Volunteers planted saplings and engaged in garden upkeep, highlighting the vital role of green cover in combating climate change, enhancing air quality, and supporting mental well-being. The initiative aimed to foster ecological responsibility and awareness among students, symbolizing a commitment to nurturing life and sustainability in an urbanizing world. The drive successfully blended action with education, rooting environmental values in both nature and community.



Poshan Maah (Awareness on Obesity and healthy Diet at Anganwadi level)

On May 15, 2025, Unit-2 of the NSS Cell, Presidency University, led by Dr. Mery Biswas, conducted a POSHAN MAAH outreach at Bagbazaar Paschim Bango Sramajibi Samity Anganwadi Centre. Focused on obesity awareness and healthy eating, NSS volunteers engaged 30-40 children through stories, games, and visual aids to promote basic nutrition. The interactive session aimed to instill healthy food habits early, aligning with NSS's mission of grassroots health education. The initiative was warmly received by children and Anganwadi staff, marking a significant step toward community-based nutrition awareness and long-term public health impact.



International Day for Biological Diversity organised by West Bio Diversity Board (Department of Environment, Govt. Of West Bengal) NSS volunteers participated in the event. Participation

On May 22, 2025, NSS volunteers from Presidency University joined the International Day for Biological Diversity event at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, organized by the West Bengal Biodiversity Board. Accompanied by Dr. Puja Ray, students engaged with scientists and policymakers through talks and discussions on biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainability. The convention, themed "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," deepened their understanding of ecological responsibility and local conservation. The event reinforced the NSS Cell's dedication to environmental education, inspiring students to become youth ambassadors for biodiversity and to act locally for global ecological preservation.



Women Empowerment

On 30th May, 2025, NSS Unit 1 of Presidency University celebrated International Women's Day (8th March) with a Women Empowerment Awareness Program led by Dr. Jayeeta Deshmukh. Focused on dignity, rights, and gender equality, the event offered students a platform to express views on challenging gender biases and promoting respect. Volunteers Astha Guha and Roopkatha delivered impactful speeches urging reflection and change. The initiative emphasized collective responsibility in addressing inequality and highlighted NSS's commitment to fostering an inclusive and respectful society through dialogue and awareness.



Presi Highlights

- **Presidency University signs MoU with University of Birmingham**

On 8th May, 2025, Presidency University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Birmingham. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, welcomed dignitaries, faculty, and students, emphasizing the MoU's potential to foster collaborative research. The Department of Economics spearheaded the initiative, to promote academic exchange and cooperation, benefiting both institutions in advancing research and education.



- **A talk on "India's Foreign Policy: Hits and Misses"**

On 6th May, 2025, Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Indian Foreign Secretary, delivered an enlightening talk on India's foreign policies throughout its history and how it had shaped the geopolitical stance that India holds in the present day.



Farewell

Presidency University extends its heartfelt gratitude and wishes to Prof. Prabir Kr. Mukhopadhyay for his years of dutiful and dedicated service to the institution. We will forever be indebted for his contribution and we wish him the best in his retirement."



SUCCESS STORY

- Dichen Bhutia, registered as a Ph.D. scholar in the Department of Sociology working under the supervision of Dr. Hia Sen has been awarded the ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship for the 2024–25 academic session, for a duration of two years, to work on her Doctoral Dissertation entitled as “Holding onto Hosting: An Ethnography of Homestay Tourism in the Cinchona Plantations of North Bengal.” Through an engagement with existing scholarship and ethnographic fieldwork, she explores the intricacies of ecotourism as it unfolds within the cultivated space of a medicinal environment in the Cinchona Plantations of North Bengal.



- The following four students were nominated by Presidency University for the Sciences Po student exchange program. They received offer letters and are set to visit Paris in the forthcoming semester. Congratulations to :

1. Sampurnaa Sanyal(Department of History)
2. Sagnik Lahiri(Department of Political Science),
3. Arnaja Bhattacharya(Department of Sociology)
4. Sunayna Mukherjee(Department of Sociology)



OBITUARY

Presidency University deeply mourns the passing away of eminent Astrophysicist and prolific author, Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar



1938-2025