

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY



**PRESIDENCY
UNIVERSITY**
KOLKATA



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2024



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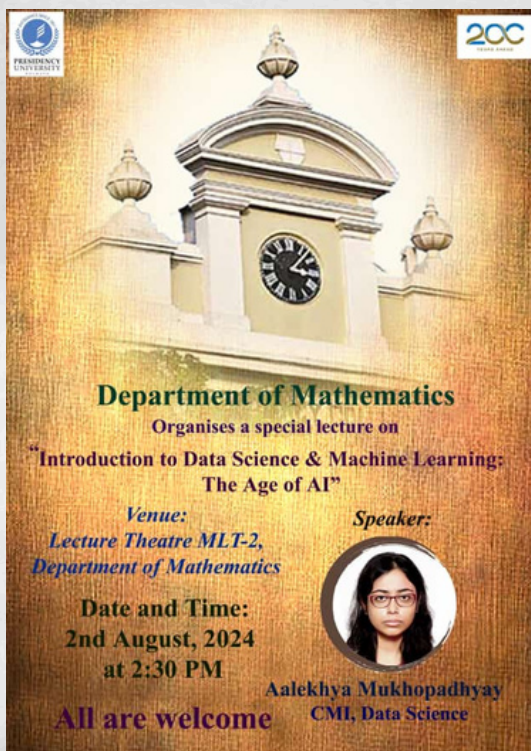
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Events at Department of Mathematics

- **Introduction to Data Science and AI**



Presidency University's Department of Mathematics hosted a special lecture on Data Science and Machine Learning on August 2, 2024. The keynote speaker was Ms. Aalekhya Mukhopadhyay, a former undergraduate of the department and current Master's student in Data Science at Chennai Mathematical Institute. Her talk, titled "Introduction to Data Science & Machine Learning: The Age of AI," delved into the transformative power of artificial intelligence in these fields.

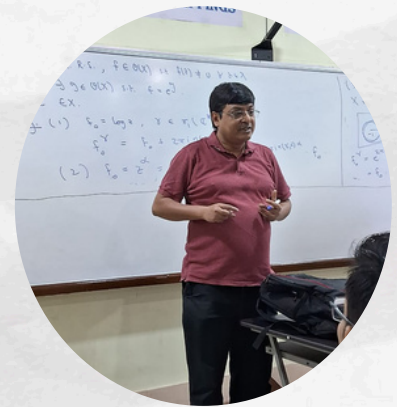
Ms. Mukhopadhyay provided insights into advanced applications of AI, including the use of deep learning to analyze complex satellite imagery and its role in cancer treatment through tumor image analysis and classification. The lecture was attended by over 30 students from both undergraduate and postgraduate programs, as well as several PhD research scholars. The event was widely appreciated by all attendees, underscoring the immense relevance of data science and artificial intelligence in today's world.





- **"Quasiconformal mappings and Holomorphic Dynamics" (NCM workshop)**

This was the first NCM workshop in the Department of Mathematics, Presidency University Kolkata funded by National Centre for Mathematics (NCM). The workshop was aimed mainly at young researchers and PhD students. There was eminent speakers coming from various reputed institutions of India and USA. There were four mini-courses in this workshop where the participants learnt various advanced techniques of Complex Analysis which emerged in modern research of Mathematics in the 1960s and 1980s. The goal of this workshop was to promote research in modern Mathematics. The event had participants from Odisha, Kerala, Punjab, WB, UP, TN, Maharashtra, Karnataka, MP, Bihar, Jharkhand and Denmark. This truly made it an international event.



- **A Special lecture on "The Accelerating Expanding Universe: Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and Einstein's Cosmological Constant"**

The Department of Mathematics, Presidency University, Kolkata, organized a special lecture by Prof. Bharat Ratra, a Distinguished Professor at the Department of Physics, Kansas State University, USA, and an eminent scholar of cosmology on August 12. He delivered lecture on "The Accelerating Expanding Universe: Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and Einstein's Cosmological Constant". Prof. Ratra used several materials to illustrate the expanding universe. At the end of the lecture, there was active participants interaction.





Monthly Colloquium, Career Counselling workshop at the Institute of Health Sciences

IHS hosted a Bioentrepreneurship workshop on 9th August 2024, featuring the DBT-BIRAC (BIG) awardee, Dr. Sanchita Mukherjee, COO of Rigel Bioenviron Solutions, who shared her journey from academia to entrepreneurship discussing the different government schemes empowering start-ups in India. IDEATHON was also organized as part of the workshop where students came up with brilliant start-up ideas.

August 2024 saw bouquet of 'colloquium series' at IHS. The first speaker was Prof. Ranjan Sen, DST-JC Bose Fellow, from Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics, Hyderabad. On 16th August, His talk illuminated us on bacteriophage proteins and their derivatives as potential therapeutics. Next on 20th August, Prof. Ellora Sen from National Centre for Brain Research, Haryana, emphasized on the therapeutic prospective of epigenetic regulation and metabolic reprogramming in glioma. Next day witnessed another interesting speech by Dr. Saurav Guha, Director, Molecular Diagnostics, New York Genome Center, USA. He highlighted the role of genetics in health and Disease. The final presentation was on 28th, had Dr. Arnab Gupta from IISER, Kolkata. He presented his path-breaking findings on 'biological Copper transportation'. Besides, IHS hosted road-shows of products by GenetiX and Himedia.

These programs was well-attended by the students, research scholars, and faculty members of IHS.





At home in foreign lands: Syed Mujtaba Ali's Depiction of Afghanistan

Voyages into the Past, a student-led initiative had the pleasure of hosting a lecture by Dr. Mou Banerjee titled *At Home in Foreign Lands: Syed Mujtaba Ali's depiction of Afghanistan (1927-1929)*. Dr. Mou Banerjee is currently working on a historical reconstruction of the Afghan Civil war whose documentation has been dominated by imperial narratives. Her lecture about Syed Mujtaba Ali's *Deshe Bideshe* is an autobiographical travelogue, a *rommo rochona*, into a land the British had found ungovernable, that was rapidly going through decolonization till 1929, when civil war broke out. Dr. Banerjee spoke about how *Deshe Bideshe* collapses already fluid borders between countries and the concept of a home when a subject is placed in transcendence.





Seminar on Condensed Matter, Materials Science and Statistical Physics (CMMSSP)

The seminar held at Presidency University on 9th and 10th August 2024 featured four prominent speakers from renowned institutions, discussing cutting-edge research across various fields of physics.

Dr. Abhishek Chaudhuri from IISER Mohali opened with a talk titled "Dynamics of a Passive Droplet in an Active Fluid." He explored the complex interactions of soft objects like droplets in active fluids, revealing how deformable objects behave under chaotic flow conditions, including periods of wobbling and eventual mixing with the fluid.

Dr. Rabindra Nath Gayen from Jadavpur University followed with a presentation on "Photovoltaics Unveiled," where he explained the science behind solar cells and photodetectors. He highlighted the potential of copper zinc tin sulfide (CZTS) technologies for cost-effective, sustainable energy solutions.

On the second day, Dr. Anirban Sain from IIT Bombay delved into the "Mechanics of Shape Change in Soft and Living Matter," focusing on how mechanics govern shape changes in biological systems, especially during cell division.

The final talk by Dr. Biplab Pal from Nagaland University titled "A Tale of Flat Band Physics" showcased theoretical models and their real-life applications in photonic systems, explaining how flat bands provide a basis for studying quantum Hall physics. The seminar was an enlightening convergence of theory and practical applications.



Department of Physics
Presidency University, Kolkata
presents

A TWO DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
CONDENSED MATTER, MATERIALS SCIENCE
AND STATISTICAL PHYSICS

9th & 10th
AUGUST
2024

Presidency
University,
Kolkata,
College Street
Campus,
700073

Plenary Speakers

- Dr. Abhishek Chaudhuri
IISER Mohali
- Prof. Anirban Sain
IIT Bombay
- Dr. Rabindra Nath Gayen
Jadavpur University
- Dr. Biplab Pal
Nagaland University

- Abstracts are invited from Masters', IPHD, PhD students, Post-docs & Faculties as well as Bachelors students from all over India.
- Plenary talks on Condensed Matter, Materials Science and Statistical Physics.
- Special Thrust on Complex System: Active Matter, Biological System and Non-linear Dynamics.
- Certificates will be provided to all participants.

Mail us at: icmmssp@presidency.ac.in
Please visit our website to learn more -
<https://sites.google.com/view/cmmssp24/home>





Observation of National Librarians' Day



NATIONAL LIBRARIANS' DAY
Celebrating the 132nd Birth Anniversary of Dr.S.R.Ranganathan




PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
No.86/1, College Street, Kolkata-700073

12th August 2024

Activity : Best Library user award to the students
Books Exhibition : Old and Rare Collections of Presidency University Library

Organised by -
Presidency University Library
Venue: Technical Room,
Central Library, Ground Floor
Date & Time -12 August 2024 at 1.30 PM

Chief Guest: Dr. Asitabha Das
Retd. University Librarian,
Kalyani University, West Beng



The National Librarians' Day was celebrated by P.U Library on 12th August 2024. The day was observed to celebrate the 132th Birth day of Bharat Ratna Dr. S.R. Ranganathan who is also known as father of Library Science of India. The invited speaker of the day was Dr. Ashitava Das, (Retired University Librarian, Kalyani University). A book exhibition of P.U Library's "Old and rare collection" (Published before 1947) and felicitation of two students (Giyasuddin Box, PG pass out 2024, Mathematics and Rimita Das, UG pass out 2024, Bengali) as "best Library user" were part of the activity of the said program. The Program started with a welcome note by Dr. Sutapa Chatterjee. All the dignitaries paid their respect to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's photograph. Speech delivered by Dr. Debajyoti Konar, Prof. Tanuja Majumdar and Dr. Asitabha Das. A short cultural program organized and performed by the University Library staff.





Embattled Masculinities: Manliness and Debility in Colonial and Contemporary India

This panel, featuring two talks, addresses the historical and contemporary aspects of masculinity in colonial and postcolonial India in the context of societal and legal notions of vulnerability, foregrounding marginalities of class, gender, caste, and race. Sudipta Sen discusses how notions of debility and disease in early colonial India set the stage for forensic practices and the use of medical evidence during criminal trials. Srimati Basu's talk, based on ethnographic work with the Indian antifeminist Men's Rights Movement, examines the rhetoric of vulnerability and abjection tied to claims of economic and social abandonment of men that have fueled the mobilization and activities of the MRM organization in the public arena.



Department of Sociology
presents

**Embattled
Masculinities:**
Manliness and Debility in
Colonial and Contemporary
India

August 5
Monday
3 PM
Sociology
Seminar
Hall

by

Srimati Basu
(University of Kentucky)
Sudipta Sen
(University of California-Davis)

www.critipedia.in

INTERNATIONAL
MEN'S
DAY

www.critipedia.in
SUPER DAD
FIGHTING FOR
YOUR RIGHT
TO SEE YOUR
KIDS

PRINCIPAL
PRESIDENCY
UNIVERSITY





The Idea of a University in the 21st Century

The School of Astrophysics organized a four seminar series titled, “The Idea of a University in the 21st Century” the first of which was held on 21st August, 2024. Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty highlighted the evolution of the modern Western university from medieval *Studia generalia*, emphasizing the Humboldtian model’s integration of teaching and research. He discussed the 1964 Education Commission’s vision for India’s educational progress, stressing the need for policies that align with national objectives. Prof. Chakraborty critiqued the current focus on employability and professional courses, advocating for a broader understanding of ‘utility’ that transcends market-driven preferences. He called for a dialogic rationality and community-oriented individual preferences, positioning the university as a sanctuary for intellectual growth and enlightened utility. The seminar was a positive and enlightening session, offering a deep dive into the historical significance of universities, their evolution, and the current educational landscape. The speakers provided valuable insights, motivating both new and experienced faculty members to embrace new-age education delivery perspectives.



The second instalment of the seminar series was held on 28th August, 2024. Prof. Sugata Bose, Harvard University emphasized the critical role of academic freedom in fostering an environment where intellectual inquiry can thrive. He highlighted how universities must remain bastions of free thought and expression, resisting external pressures that seek to curtail scholarly independence. He underscored the importance of safeguarding academic institutions as spaces for critical debate and innovation, essential for societal progress.

In this age of Humiliation Crisis, Prof. Bose highlighted the importance of universities in re-harmonizing humanity, establishing peace, increasing tolerance, and fostering development across various fields. Discussions covered future aspects of education, areas needing attention, recent foreign developments, and comparisons. As an alumnus and former member of the Mentor Group at Presidency University, Prof. Bose cherished his memories with the institution and its prestigious heritage.





Antimicrobial Resistance Research in the Quest of the Achilles' Heel for Resistant Pathogens: an Evolutionary Perspective

The Department of Life Sciences organized a departmental colloquium on 7th August, 2024 on the topic “Antimicrobial Resistance Research in the Quest of the Achilles' Heel for Resistant Pathogens: an Evolutionary Perspective”. Dr. Arijit Bhattacharya, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Adamas University, Kolkata was invited as the speaker.

To develop strategies for combating the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance, diverse aspects of the phenomena of resistance emergence are explored.





Events at Department of Political Science

- ***Everyday Sites of Politics***

The seminar "Everyday Sites of Political" by Rajarshi DasGupta, organized by the Department of Political Science on 20/08/2024, explored how everyday life intersects with politics. Using the 1954 film "Rear Window," the speaker discussed themes of isolation, power, and social order in modern societies. He examined how anti-caste, feminist, and social movements challenge the divide between private and social life. The seminar emphasized how policies shape everyday practices and influence political and social spaces.



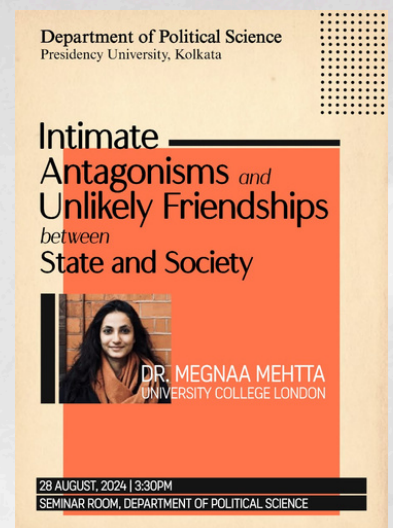
- ***Conjectures and evidences: Methods of inquiry in the political and social science with elementary statistics***

On 21 August 2024, the Department of Political Science at Presidency University hosted a book discussion on "Conjectures and Evidences: Methods of Inquiry in the Political and Social Science with Elementary Statistics" by Rakhahari Chatterjee, Partha Pratim Basu, Jyotiprasad Chatterjee, and Suprio Basu. The speakers emphasized the role of elementary statistics in political and social science research. The book, divided into two parts, covers research strategies, methodology, and statistical tools, offering clear guidance to new researchers. Real-world examples were shared to highlight the importance of statistical understanding.



- ***Intimate Antagonisms and unlikely friendships between the State and the Society***

On 28th August 2024, the Department of Political Science at Presidency University hosted a seminar titled "Intimate Antagonisms and Unlikely Friendships between the State and Society," featuring Dr. Meghna Mehta from University College London. Her research in the Sunderbans explores the blurred boundaries between state and society, especially in informal interactions. She discussed the contrasting views of the forest between the state and society, as well as governance influenced by non-living entities. The engaging session sparked insightful questions and discussions among attendees.





Events at Department of Economics



- **Discussion on the memoir of Prof. Mihir Kanti Akshit**

The Department of Economics and its alumni organized a book-discussion session on the memoir titled "The Village, The Town and the Metropolis: Memoirs of a Social Scientist" by Prof. Mihir Kanti Rakshit, ex-professor of Presidency College. The session was chaired by Prof. Anup Kumar Sinha, Chairman, Bandhan Bank. Prof Soumyendra Nath Sikdar, Prof. Abhirup Sarkar, Prof. Mamata Ray, Prof. Zakir Husain, Prof. Prashanta Roy discussed on the memoir. The session was attended by the alumni of the Department, teachers and current students.



- **Career in Academics**

OIKOS, The Economics Society, as part of their programme, organized a session where the alumna of the Department, Rahul Singh Chauhan, PhD Student in Financial Economics at Chicago Booth met the current students of the department. He discussed possible opportunities in academics abroad for the post-graduate students and for the PhD scholars. Students were advised about internship opportunities abroad. The session was attended by the undergraduate and the post graduate students





Events of NSS Cell

Anti ragging Awareness Program

Unit III, NSS Cell, Presidency University
Anti-Ragging Awareness Program
14th August 2024, 3.30 pm
Venue: A K Basak Hall, Main Building)

Speakers

- ✦ Prof Sumita Saha,
Program Coordinator,
NSS Cell, Presidency
University
- ✦ Anuj Basak,
Ex-student & News
Writer in the Global
Sports and Esports
Platform Sportskeeda
- ✦ Md. Adil Akhter,
UG II, Dept. of Life
Sciences, Presidency

SAY NO TO RAGGING
Remember, ragging is not a tradition,
it's a crime.
Don't let it ruin someone's life.
Say No To Ragging And Stand Up Against It.

On 14th Aug 2024 Anti-Ragging Awareness Program was conducted at A.K. Basak Auditorium, Presidency University to bring in speakers to talk about challenges and ways to tackle ragging issues. Prof. Sumita Saha, Anuj Basak, Md. Adil Akhter were the speakers who shared first-hand experiences with ragging. Rather than focusing solely on physical harm, they emphasized the rise of surrogate ragging which is disguised as fun and entertainment in many hostel spaces. They also explored victims' perceptions, shedding light on why the practice persists despite strict laws. Akhter also addressed the social and psychological dangers associated with ragging.

Anti ragging Mahotsav 2024 (Orientation in 17 Departments)



The month of August spread awareness programs against ragging. It was conducted by Unit III, NSS Cell, Presidency University in 17 different departments, around the campus from 2nd to 13th August 2024. The events were conducted by our NSS program officers, Dr. Jayeeta Deshmukh (Unit I), Dr. Mery Biswas (Unit II) and Dr. Puja Ray (Unit III). The program officers coordinated with the faculty members of several departments in order to organise student orientation programs on Ragging related issues.





- **Anti-ragging Mahotsav, 12-18th August, 2024 (essay writing and presentation and Poster Writing Competition)**



Aratrika Majumder, a second-year Economics student, gave an insightful overview of anti-ragging laws. Five students participated in the poster presentation. Shreyasee Dasgupta's poster emphasized personal responsibility with the message "The CHOICE is Yours: SAY NO to RAGGING." Sumana Sahoo raised awareness about various forms of ragging—verbal, physical, social, and cyber. Sumedha Chatterjee highlighted the legal consequences with "Let's learn, not harm." Aindri Sur promoted kindness, stating "Ragging Kills Dreams; Choose Kindness." Ritoshree Basu focused on the negative impact of ragging, particularly on female students.

- **Awareness Program on Vegan Diet (online mode)**



Research has shown that a vegan diet can promote weight loss, reduce your risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol levels. Also switching to a plant-based diet can reduce an individual's annual carbon footprint by up to 2.1 tons with a vegan diet or up to 1.5 tons for vegetarians. Hence Unit III, NSS Cell conducted an awareness webinar on 'Food-Planet-Health', on 8th Aug 2024, from 4.00 to 5.00 pm.

Dr. Puja Ray along with the NSS volunteers namely Miss Swarnali Mondal, Miss Mayukhi Dutta and Sneha Ganguly, (students of UG II, Dept of Life Sciences), led the initiative of organising the programme. Our invited speaker for the program was Miss Sarani Bhattacharyya, a passionate advocate of environmental consciousness, health, and the rights of our fellow animals spread awareness about the consequences of our dietary choices on the planet and its inhabitants with the Food-Planet-Health.





SUCCESS STORIES

- Presidency University extends heartfelt greetings to Ms.Upali Deb, Mr.Rudra Narayan Gupta, Mr. Chayan Basu(PG students of the Department of Economics, Presidency University) and Prof. Mousumi Dutta & Prof. Zakir Husain on getting published in the journal by Springer Nature on August 17, 2024.

Home > [The Indian Journal of Labour Economics](#) > Article

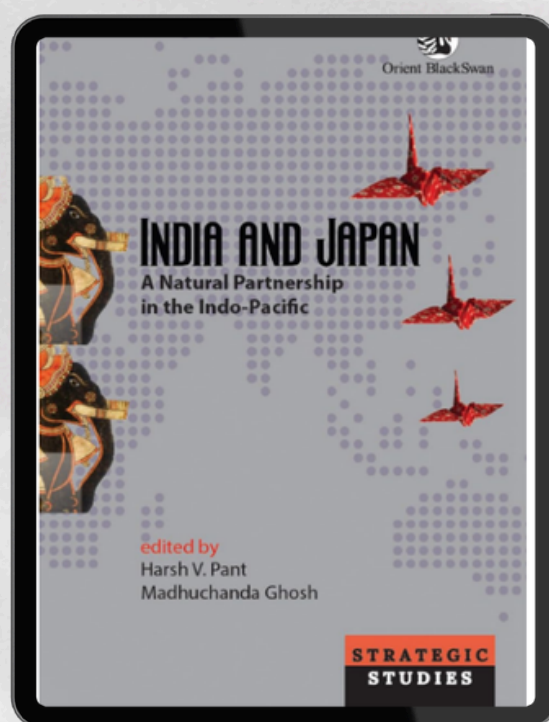
Stalled Progress? Evidence from American Time Use Data on Gender Differences in Time Spent on Economic Activities

ARTICLE | Published: 17 August 2024
(2024) [Cite this article](#)



[The Indian Journal of Labour Economics](#)
Aims and scope →

- Presidency University extends heartfelt greetings to Dr. Madhuchanda Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science on the launch of her recent book. The Book Launch program of the book entitled, "India and Japan: A Natural Partnership in the Indo-Pacific," co-edited by Dr. Madhuchanda Ghosh,





INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

- ***The Director of Alliance Française du Bengale visited Presidency University with a vision of initiating academic exchange between Universities of France and PU. This might mark the beginning of a new collaboration.***
- ***Presidency University entered into a MoU with Virginia Tech and very soon hopes to start the academic exchanges.***
- ***Presidency University arranged the USIEF to conduct sessions for interested PG students belonging to various departments interested to pursue higher studies in the US***





OBITUARY

**Presidency deeply mourns the passing
of notable alumnus and former
Chief Minister of West Bengal,**

**Buddhadeb Bhattacharya
(1944 - 2024)**

