



PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER



*SEPTEMBER AND
OCTOBER, 2024*

PHOTOGRAPH
COURTESY: PAYEL
HALDER

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REMEMBERING IMMANUEL KANT ON HIS 300TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Presidency University commemorated Immanuel Kant's 300th birth anniversary with a special lecture by renowned philosopher Prof. Arindam Chakrabarti on October 4th, 2024 at the PC Mahalanobis Auditorium. The lecture offered a nuanced critique of Humayun Kabir's introduction to Kant's first introduction to the Critique of Judgement. The session was presided over by Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor of Presidency University. Prior to the lecture, Dr. Upal Chakrabarti presented a concise history of how Kant's works were received and written about at Presidency College. Prof. Arindam Chakrabarti's lecture delved into Humayun Kabir's introduction, Kant's concept of reflective judgment, and teleological judgment. He also elucidated the nine distinctions that underpin Kant's philosophical system. Concluding his lecture, Prof. Chakrabarti explored the notion of hope as a moral certainty in Kant's philosophy. In a thought-provoking conclusion, Prof. Chakrabarti posed a profound question: "What hope can we have for the human species?" To address this, he drew upon Kantian formulations, touching upon the idea of freedom, Kant's anthropology, and the concept of International Rights.



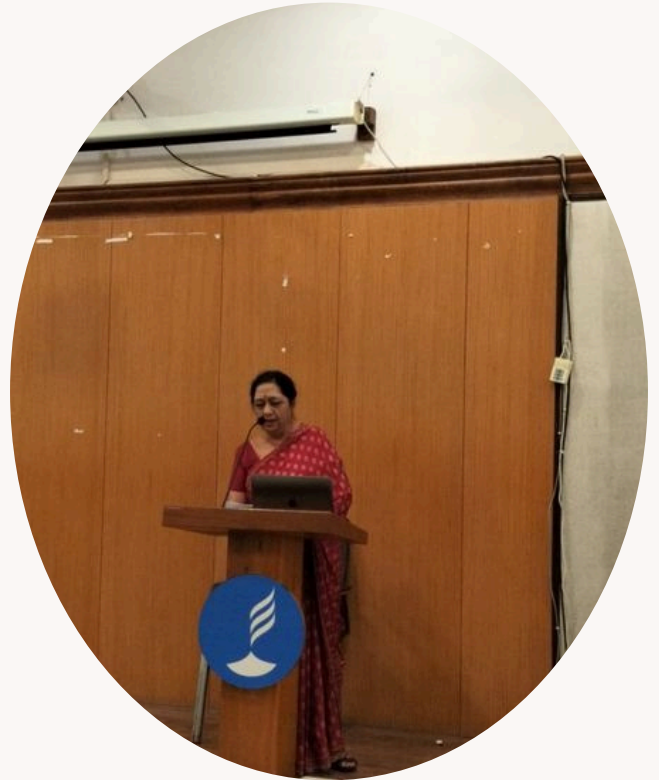
BLOOD DONATION CAMP ORGANIZED BY THE NON TEACHING STAFF OF PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

A blood donation camp was organized by the Non-teaching Staff of Presidency University on 4th September, 2024, with a staggering number of 130 units of blood being donated by donors comprising of students, teaching and non-teaching staff alike. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, followed by an opening song by the Non-Teaching Staff of Presidency University. The students of Department of Performing Arts staged a political satire that received rave response from the audience.



THE IDEA OF A UNIVERSITY (PART 3 AND 4): DEPARTMENT OF ASTROPHYSICS

The third instalment of the event was held on 4th September, 2024. Prof. Malabika Sarkar's seminar, "Dissolving Boundaries: the Future of Universities in 21st Century India," emphasized the need for interdisciplinary learning and innovation in higher education. She advocated for dissolving traditional academic boundaries, embracing technology, and promoting social equity. Prof. Sarkar addressed funding challenges, proposing philanthropic solutions and drawing on historical examples. The event concluded with a focus on academic freedom and the future role of universities in shaping India's education system.



The final lecture of the series was delivered by Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharaya on 11th September, 2024. Prof. Bhattacharya's lecture, titled "Of Light, of Liberty and of Learning," examines the development of modern universities in Europe during periods of social upheaval and their introduction to India during the colonial era. He explored two phases in the evolution of Indian universities: "Globalizing the Local" and "Localizing the Global." The lecture also speculates on the future of traditional universities in the face of global challenges, particularly the existential crisis of a livable planet.



COLLOQUIUMS AT THE SCHOOL OF ASTROPHYSICS

A colloquium was held at the School of Astrophysics on 18th September, 2024. The speaker of the event was Dr. Dhrubojyoti Sengupta, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA. The talk explores the challenge of detecting obscured Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), which contribute significantly to the Cosmic X-ray Background (CXB).



A weekly colloquium was held at the School of Astrophysics, Presidency University, on 25th September 2024, with Dr. Tathagata Saha from Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics as the speaker. His talk, titled "Morphology of Accreting Gas in Active Galactic Nuclei: Heavy Obscuration and Extreme Variability," focused on the challenges in understanding obscured AGNs and the mechanisms driving their extreme variability.



A weekly colloquium was held at the School of Astrophysics, Presidency University, on 30th October 2024. Prof. Amitabha Lahiri, Senior Professor at S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, delivered a talk on the historical solar neutrino problem, a long-standing discrepancy between theoretical predictions and observed solar neutrino flux



ANNUAL NEUROSCIENCE COLLOQUIUM : DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

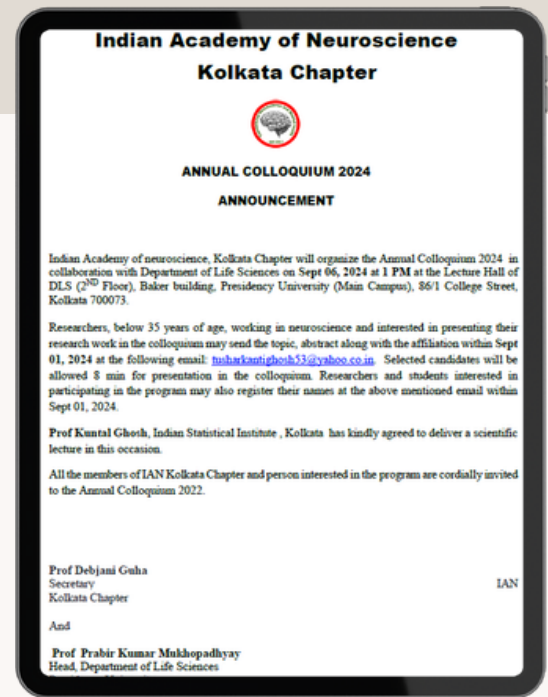
The Department of Life Sciences hosted the Annual Neuroscience Colloquium 2024, organized by the Indian Academy of Neuroscience, Kolkata Chapter, at Presidency University on September 6, 2024. Prof. Kuntal Ghosh from the Indian Statistical Institute delivered the keynote lecture on "Cortical Magnification Factor in the Retinal Blind Spot." He discussed psychophysical experiments and computational models to explore how intrinsic and extrinsic stimuli affect blind spots.

DLS COLLOQUIUM: TITLE OF THE TALK: A TALE OF TWO DISEASES: CHRONIC PANCREATITIS & PANCREATIC CANCER

Dr. Srikanta Goswami, Associate Professor at NIBMG, Kalyani, delivered a lecture titled "A Tale of Two Diseases: Chronic Pancreatitis & Pancreatic Cancer," discussing his research in cancer molecular biology. He explained how chronic pancreatitis (CP), characterized by progressive inflammation leading to pancreatic destruction, increases the risk of developing pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), one of the most aggressive cancers with no early diagnostic markers.

FIRST PLANT BIOLOGY STUDY GROUP (PBSG) MEETING

First Plant Biology Study Group (PBSG) meeting was held in the Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University on 12.09.2024. It was attended by 12 researchers working in different aspects of plant in various Universities and colleges around Kolkata.



APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

DLS in collaboration with the INSA Kolkata Chapter, hosted a symposium on "Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biological Science" on September 24, 2024. It introduced students to AI's concepts, ethical concerns, and its role in healthcare. Prof. Anupam Basu discussed AI's history and its human implications. Dr. Arpan Pal explained AI's use in diagnosing non-communicable diseases like heart conditions, while Prof. Pralay Mitra focused on AI's contributions to drug delivery, particularly for complex diseases like cancer. The event highlighted AI's transformative potential while stressing the importance of ethical considerations.



SRILEKHA RAHA MEMORIAL ORATION LECTURE

The Department of Life Sciences organized the Srilekha Raha Memorial Oration in memory of Dr. Srilekha Raha, an alumna of Presidency College (Botany Hons, 1969-72). Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee (2022), delivered a lecture titled "Cancer: The Seditious Conflict in Multicellularity and The Homeland Security." His talk explored cancer biology from an evolutionary perspective, emphasizing the role of immunotherapies while questioning their universal success.

Department of Life Sciences
Presidency University, Kolkata
cordially invites you to

Srilekha Raha Memorial Oration

Speaker



Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly,
M.B.B.S, Ph.D., Ph.D.

Specializes in the field of Cancer Biology & Inflammatory Disorder
Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee in Medical Science, 2022
Senior Principal Scientist & Professor (AcSIR),
CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata

CELEBRATION OF 'WORLD WILDLIFE WEEK' -2024

The Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University, in collaboration with Nikon India, celebrated World Wildlife Week on October 1, 2024, with a symposium, photography competition, and exhibition. Esteemed speakers, including Dr. Piyali Chattopadhyay Sinha, Mr. Ripon Biswas, Mr. Soumyajit Maitra, and Mr. Kallol Mukherjee, delivered engaging talks on zoo management, macro photography, and wildlife conservation. Highlights included a virtual photography exhibition by university faculty, demonstrations of Nikon's photographic tools, and student competitions on themes like "Urban Wildlife". The event inspired participants from across West Bengal, successfully promoting awareness and appreciation for nature, wildlife, and conservation efforts.



DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES, PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA

in association with **Nikon**

invites you to observe

THE WORLD WILDLIFE WEEK

Interactive session by:



Piyali Chattopadhyay Sinha
Deputy Director
Zoological Garden, Alipore

Ripon Biswas
International Award winning
photographer
@r_biswas_photography

PHOTOGRAPHY & POSTER MAKING COMPETITION

Registration Link:
<https://forms.gle/7mUz1AG4JFY5Q16>
Siamoditra: 9593668062
Anamitra: 8420402349

JOINT ORGANISERS:

- Dr. Souryadeep Mukherjee
- Dr. Susmita Mondal
- Dr. Puja Ray

DATE: 1st OCTOBER 2024
TIME: 11:00 am - 05:30 pm
VENUE: PC MAHALANOBIS AUDITORIUM

FREGE'S PHILOSOPHY: DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, organized a monthly talk on 3rd October, 2024 on Frege's Philosophy featuring two distinguished speakers, Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Vice-Chancellor of Presidency University, and Prof. Priyambada Sarkar, Former Professor of Philosophy, Calcutta University. Prof. Chakraborty discussed Frege's foundational role in analytic philosophy and its significance in understanding trends in the philosophy of language. Prof. Sarkar elaborated on Frege's notions of sense and reference, emphasizing the priority of sense in developing a theory of meaning. The engaging session addressed key concerns about Frege's ideas, with participants actively interacting through insightful questions.



MONTHLY TALK (SEPTEMBER) : DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The department of philosophy organized the monthly talk on 25th of September 2024 on the topic "General Introduction to Vedas and Upanishads". Professor Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Presidency University delivered the inaugural address. Professor Chakraborty emphasized the importance of Vedas and Upanishads and the practical relevancy of the scriptures for establishing a balance and meaningful life in the society. The speaker of the event was Professor Soma Basu from Department of Vedic Studies, Rabindra Bharati University.



Professor Basu explained a general understanding of Vedas, 'knowledge par excellence; which are a large body of religious texts originating in ancient India. Vedic literature pre-eminently relates to the worship of various natural phenomena personified as different deities. Though praising their divine form was the prime aim, there is none denying the fact that subtle observation and sharpness of intellect and experience from daily life led the ancient seers of the mantras to unfurl basic concepts or ideas of Philosophy. Vedic literature contains is no doubt stupendous and a rich storehouse of not only our past but also of human knowledge system. A celebrated scientist like the stature of no other than Dr. Meghnad Saha did acknowledge the importance of the Vedas and the other ancient texts as explained by the speaker Professor Soma Basu.

KALPAKAHINI O TAR ARTHABODH : BHASHA BYABAHARER EK ABHINABHA RUP: DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI

A Departmental Seminar was organized at the Department of Bengali titled, “Kalpakahini O Tar Arthabodh : Bhasha Byabaharer Ek Abhinabha Rup” on 25th September, 2024. The Honourable Vice Chancellor of Presidency University, Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, delivered the lecture and the audience was very pleased by the lecture. In this connection the lecture has been fruitful for the students and faculty alike and the Department looks forward to organize more of such lectures.



বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আয়োজিত
বিভাগীয় আলোচনাসভা

কল্পকাহিনি ও তার অর্থবোধ:
ভাষা ব্যবহারের এক অভিনব রূপ

আলোচক
শ্রী নির্মাল্য নারায়ণ চক্রবর্তী
(সম্মাননীয় উপাচার্য, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়)

২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪, বিকেল ৩টে
জীবনানন্দ সভাকক্ষ
বাংলা বিভাগ, প্রেসিডেন্সি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

TALK OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER : DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The Talk of the month at the Department of English was held on 25th September, 2024. Prof. (Dr.) Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha, School of Translation and Cultural Studies, Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata was the resource person. He began his talk with an introduction to the Frankfurt School of Marxist Criticism, focusing on Theodor Adorno's *Minima Moralia* and its cohesive themes. He raised questions about confining ideas to new geographical contexts and highlighted interwar commonalities. Emphasizing Adorno's call for critical thinking and resistance to norms, he connected these ideas to Indian traditions, discussing "Radha Tatwa" and the Indian collective unconscious. He also addressed the crisis in electoral democracy and Heidegger's critique of democracy. Concluding with the notion that no grand narrative can fully heal a damaged life, he presented the "Philosopher's SOS" on today's "sinking civilization," leaving a strong impact on participants.

October's Talk of the month at the Department of English was held on 3rd October, 2024. Prasanta Chakravarty, Associate Professor of English at the University of Delhi was kind enough to be the speaker. Introducing the theme of "slowing down," he explored the etymology of "lyric," comparing it with "poetry" and emphasizing that these terms lack a universal definition. He then delved into the elements of lyric poetry and connected them to the theme of dissent in lyricism. Concluding with an analysis of lyricality's formal aspects, his talk earned enthusiastic applause. The talk fostered lively dialogue with attendees from within and beyond the university.

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY
Department of English
presents
TALK OF THE MONTH
on
Adorno's *Flaschenpost* on Damaged Life:
Reading *Minima Moralia* through
Sahajjiya Lens
ANINDYA SEKHAR PURKAYASTHA
Professor,
ILSR Kolkata and Kazi Nazrul
University
Date: September 25, 2024
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Venue: TNS Hall

Presidency University
Department of English
talk of the Month
What does
it mean
to be
Lyrical?
Dr. Prasanta Chakravarty
Department of English
University of Delhi
03/10/24
3.30PM
P.C Mahalanobis Auditorium

PROF. SATADRU SEN MEMORIAL LECTURE: DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The lecture was organized by the History Department on 4th October, 2024. Prof. Lakshmi Subramanian was the main speaker at the event. The lecture explored critical shifts in Indian Ocean studies, focusing on human and non-human activities beyond the shore and the challenges of studying the ocean's fluid properties. It critiqued traditional models, highlighting the ocean as a connected maritime space shaped by colonial and imperial transformations. The speaker emphasized the "spatial turn," materiality, and the agency of non-human actors, referencing scholars like Tamarra Fernando and linking these insights to climate challenges. Satadru Sen's work on Andaman penal settlements was discussed to stress inter-disciplinary approaches and localized studies of islands, bays, and creeks.

The Department of History, Presidency University cordially invites you to the



5th Satadru Sen Memorial Lecture 2024

Reconfiguring Indian Ocean studies: Cultural, Spatial, and Non-Human Perspectives

Lakshmi Subramanian




Professor of History, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, CSSS Kolkata (Retd.), and the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, BITS, Pilani, Goa

Date/Time/Venue:
Friday, 4 October, 2 PM
P. C. Mahalanobis Auditorium,
First Floor, Baker Building,
Presidency University, Kolkata

POLITICS OF HISTORY WRITING : SOME REFLECTIONS FROM PARTITION STUDIES/ HISTORY FOR CHILDREN INITIATIVES: DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The seminar "Politics of History Writing: Reflections from Partition Studies/History for Children Initiatives" by Dr. Anwesha Dasgupta which was held on 3rd September, 2024 explored the politicization of history in post-independence India, highlighting its role in shaping new identities like "New India" and "Hindu Rashtra." Speakers discussed how history is often influenced by the political acceptance or rejection of narratives, emphasizing the need for verifiable, temporally grounded facts. The seminar called for history writing that fosters critical thinking and sensitivity, particularly in children. It noted shifts in NCERT textbooks from the 1960s' informative approach to the more analytical and inclusive framework introduced in the 2005 update.



Department of Political Science

invites you to a lecture on

Politics of History Writing

Some reflections from Partition Studies/History for Children Initiative

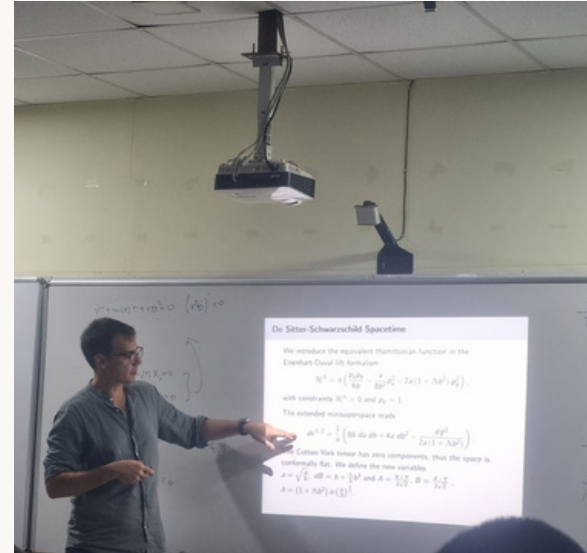
By. **Dr. Anwesha Sengupta**
Faculty member, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata

Date: Tuesday, 3rd September 2024
Time: 3.30 pm
Venue: Department of Political Science Seminar Room

THE COMMON SOLUTION SPACE OF GENERAL RELATIVITY AND MODERN COSMOLOGY: DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

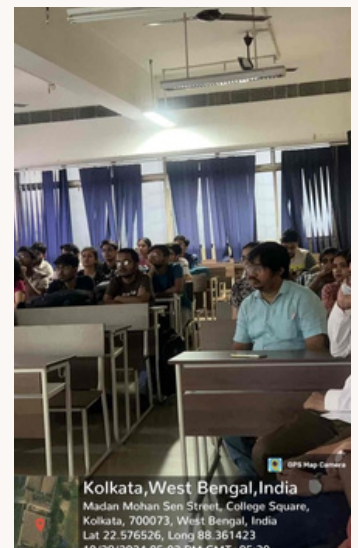


On 21st October, 2024, Dr. Andronikos Paliathanasis delivered a lecture on the shared solution space of General Relativity (GR) and Modern Cosmology, focusing on analytical solutions to understand the behavior of differential equations in these fields. He discussed simple to complex solutions, emphasizing their role in explaining phenomena like dark energy and the inflationary phases of the universe using viable cosmological models. The session was highly interactive, with participants engaging in discussions, making it an enriching and insightful experience for all attendees.

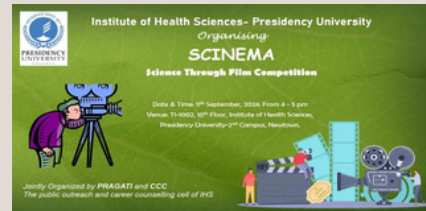


CAUSAL ANALYSIS OF LONDON'S CYCLE HIGHWAY TO REDUCE HEAVY TRAFFIC: DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Dr. Kaushik Jana, Assistant Professor at Ahmedabad University, delivered a talk titled Causal Analysis of London's Cycle Highway to Reduce Heavy Traffic on October 28, 2024, at the Professor Anil Bhattacharya Memorial Seminar Room, Department of Statistics. Coordinated by Dr. Suman Guha, the session focused on Dr. Jana's development of statistical tools for analyzing complex data. A former postdoctoral researcher at Imperial College London and Ph.D. graduate from ISI Kolkata, Dr. Jana emphasized applying statistics to practical issues, with interests spanning environment, climate change, and public health. The talk provided insights into the impact of cycle highways on traffic reduction.



MONTHLY COLLOQUIUM, CAREER COUNSELLING SESSION, SCI-NEMA : IHS



Between September and October 2024, IHS hosted three colloquiums, a career counseling session, and the event Sci-nema. On September 11, Dr. Dipanjana Datta, Molecular Geneticist and State Coordinator for the Organization of Rare Disease, delivered a talk on "Practicing Clinical Genetics as a Scientist," followed by an interactive Q&A session. The same day, Sci-nema showcased six student-created short films on health and environmental issues, applauded by attendees. On September 18, Dr. Soumitra Sau from Amity University discussed "The Elg1 Replication Factor C-like Complex" in a colloquium. In October, Dr. Soham Chanda (Colorado State University) lectured on "Cellular Mechanisms of Synapse Development," while Dr. Sumit Kumar Hira (University of Burdwan) presented on "Dendritic Cell Therapy to Counter Tumor Evasion."



WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION STRATEGY FOR CRACKING CAT, IBPS, SSC AND RRB, NTPC : LIBRARY

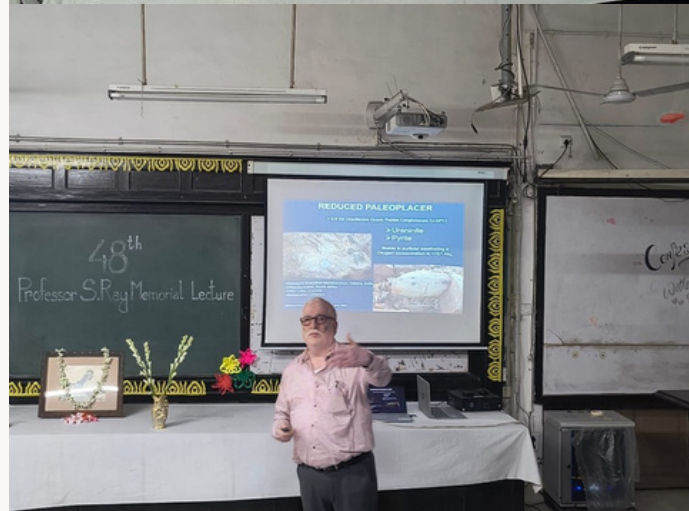
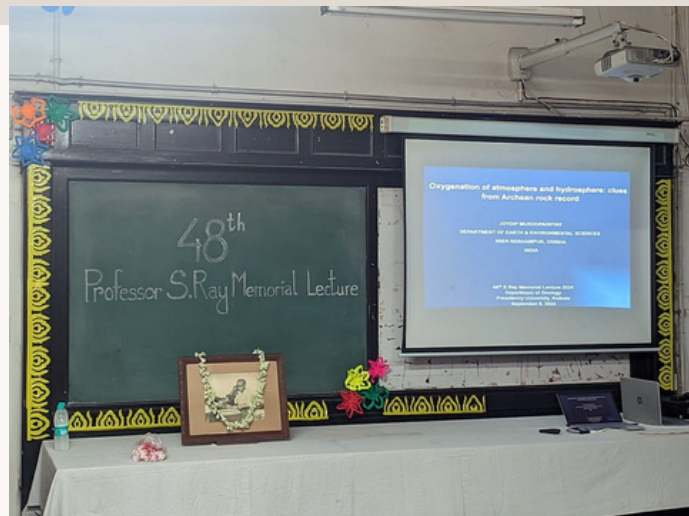
A workshop was organized by the Central Library on 26th September, 2024 for all aspirants of competitive examinations. Mr. Arun Sharma, a household name for CAT aspirants, was invited to be the resource person. The workshop was well attended by both UG and PG students of Presidency University as well as students from other universities, colleges and management institutes. The event was widely appreciated by all attendees.



S. RAY MEMORIAL LECTURE: DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

The Geological Institute, Department of Geology, Presidency University, hosted the 48th Professor S. Ray Memorial Lecture on 6th September 2024 at the Old Lecture Theatre. Prof. Joydip Mukhopadhyay (IISER Berhampur) delivered an engaging talk on "Oxygenation of Atmosphere and Hydrosphere: Clues from Archean Rock Record," focusing on Earth's early oxygenation events through paleosol studies of the Singhbhum Craton and atmospheric evolution.

The offline event attracted experts, students, and enthusiasts, providing an interactive platform for learning and networking. The Geological Institute expressed gratitude to Prof. Mukhopadhyay and all attendees, promising more enriching events in the future.



EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

The Geological Institute, Presidency University, hosted an inspiring lecture titled "Exploring Antarctica" by Prof. Sudipta Sengupta from Jadavpur University on 20th September 2024 at the P.C. Mahalanobis Auditorium. Prof. Sengupta, the first Indian female scientist to participate in an Antarctic expedition (1983), shared captivating insights into Antarctica's unique features and research opportunities.

The event attracted students from various institutions, creating a dynamic academic atmosphere. Attendees were deeply engaged by her experiences and knowledge. The Geological Institute expressed gratitude to Prof. Sengupta and the Department of Geology for supporting this successful event and looks forward to future enriching sessions.

EVENTS OF NSS CELL

CELEBRATION OF NSS DAY

On NSS Day (24 September 2024), NSS Cell Unit 1 of Presidency University, led by Dr. Jayeeta Deshmukh from the Economics Department, hosted presentations on cleanliness. Economics students Purba Banerjee, Shreyasee Dasgupta, Sumedha Chatterjee, and Kollolini Dey highlighted the importance of maintaining a clean, sustainable environment. The presentations emphasized community collaboration and encouraged youth participation in cleanliness efforts, such as reducing plastic waste and joining campaigns like Swachh Bharat. The speeches aimed to inspire a sense of personal responsibility in keeping public spaces as clean as private ones, motivating action for a cleaner future.



NSS VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THE "DIWALI WITH MY BHARAT" CAMPAIGN

As part of the "Diwali with MyBharat" campaign, NSS volunteers from Presidency University organized impactful initiatives from October 27-30, focusing on traffic management, market cleanliness, and hospital patient awareness. In College Street, they assisted traffic authorities, guiding pedestrians and managing congestion to improve road safety during the festive rush. Volunteers also led a market cleaning drive at Barnoporichoy Market, promoting the Swachh Bharat mission. At Calcutta Medical College, they organized a rally encouraging support for hospital patients through donations and companionship. These efforts demonstrated NSS's commitment to community welfare, safety, and compassion, spreading Diwali's spirit through civic action.



- **EVENTS OF NSS**
CELL

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON SWACHHATA HI SEVA

On 17th September 2024, the NSS Unit 3 of Presidency University, Kolkata, organized an orientation program on the Swachh Bharat Mission, led by Dr. Puja Roy from the Department of Life Sciences. The event focused on spreading awareness about cleanliness and hygiene. Students participated in discussions, seminars on waste management, and sustainable practices. The program successfully highlighted the role of individuals and communities in contributing to a cleaner India, reinforcing the university's commitment to national cleanliness efforts.



SWACHHATA HI SEVA: CLEANLINESS DRIVE

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission from 17th September to 2nd October 2024, NSS Unit 2 of Presidency University, led by Dr. Mery Biswas from the Department of Geography, organized cleanliness drives to promote hygiene. Highlights included a Campus Cleanliness Campaign, a Hostel Cleanliness Drive, and two impactful Community Cleaning Drives. These initiatives engaged students in improving both university and public spaces, emphasizing personal responsibility and raising community awareness about cleanliness. The events were highly successful in fostering a culture of hygiene and cleanliness.



FRESHER'S ORIENTATION BY THE DEBATE SOCIETY

The Debate Society of Presidency University organized a vibrant Fresher's Orientation on September 19, 2024, to introduce newcomers to the university's rich tradition of debate and intellectual engagement. The event highlighted the legacy of figures like Henry Vivian Derozio and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, emphasizing debate as a pillar of critical thinking, public speaking, and confidence-building.

Attendees were introduced to various debate formats, from Oxford and British Parliamentary to turncoat and extempore styles. The session celebrated the society's prestigious history and inspired freshers to uphold the university's tradition of excellence in discourse and intellectual curiosity.



OBITUARY



**Presidency deeply mourns the
passing of Ex-Principal
of Erstwhile Presidency College,**

Prof. Sanjib Ghosh