



IISER KOLKATA NEWSLETTER



April, 2024

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISERK) is an Institute of National Importance established as an autonomous institute for higher education by the then Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India, to promote high-quality education and research in basic sciences. It is one of the seven Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research and is one of the first IISERs to be established along with IISER Pune. In terms of research output, it is considered to be one of the leading institutes in India.

Unifying Cultures: 'Yuva Sangam' Bridges Haryana and West Bengal students through Cultural Exchange

The 'Yuva Sangam' event was organised as part of the Central government's 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative to enable cultural exchange between the youth of diverse regional backgrounds.

Acting as the nodal institute, IISER Kolkata warmly welcomed a delegation consisting of thirty seven (37) Haryana students, accompanied by four (4) faculty members from the Central University of Haryana (CUH), Haryana. Students of bachelors and masters programmes of different streams from 22 districts of Haryana visited under this flagship programme. This exchange wasn't just about sightseeing; it was about promoting the 5Ps—tourism, tradition, development, people-to-people connect, and technology—of each region, enriching the cultural fabric of both. During their visit, the students delved into the heart of West Bengal's cultural heritage. The CUH, Haryana delegation and representatives of IISER visited the artists' villages and the cultural tourism destinations of Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman and Birbhum districts from April 14th to 16th 2024, encountering the soul-stirring traditions of these locales. They stayed at Tepantar Theatre village which is in a small village called Satkahunia of Paschim Bardhaman district. This Eco village, run by the theatre group called 'Ebong Amra' is naturally surrounded by the river Ajay and Garh Jungle. During the cultural and academic trip, delegates immersed themselves in Bengal's rich cultural heritage, exploring rural artist communities, experiencing Baul songs, Kabir songs, and folk songs. They visited Shantiniketan, the Viswabharati Museum, Bannabagram Baul Ashram, and witnessed tribal puppetry and music like 'Chadar Badar'. The visit to the village of Dokra artisans showcased ancient metal casting techniques. Delegates delighted in the UNESCO-listed Chhou dance and participated in a theatre-based workshop focusing on listening, alertness, trust-building, and non-verbal communication.

Students were asked to express a problem of the society by creating an image through the body movement. This helped the students in exploring how innovative means like theatre have a value beyond entertainment and can be used as an effective communication tool.

Apart from theatre, this is a hub of experiencing nature and culture. Beyond the stage, it became a sanctuary for experiencing the essence of West Bengal's natural beauty and cultural vitality, enriching the students' understanding of the region's ethos.

In Kolkata, the delegates embarked on a two-day exploration of the city's historical and cultural treasures, gaining insights into its rich tapestry of tradition and artistic expression. The visit included the Alipore Jail Museum – a witness to the struggles of our freedom fighters and political leaders of the freedom struggle, Science City, Victoria Memorial and Dakshineswar Kali Temple. IISER Kolkata also organized a meeting with the Governor of West Bengal with CUH delegates at Raj Bhawan.

As a token of appreciation and friendship, the Director of IISER Kolkata presented each Haryana delegate with a piece of Dokra – a symbol of India's rich artistic heritage and craftsmanship. This gesture encapsulated the spirit of the exchange: not just a meeting of cultures, but a sharing of hearts and minds, creating memories that transcend borders and strengthen our shared humanity.



The Institute agreed to partner with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India (TECC) for hosting a Taiwan Education Centre (TEC) aimed at teaching Mandarin Chinese.



Major Achievements



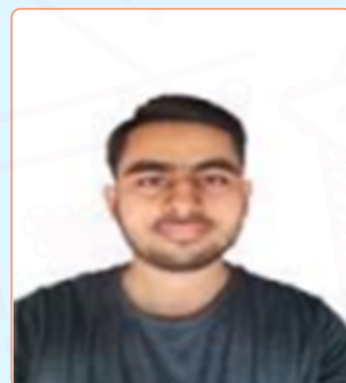
Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma, DBS has been selected as a recipient of a 2024 AAI Laboratory Travel Grant. This grant will provide two travel grants of \$1,250 per laboratory (\$2,500 total) to defray expenses associated with attending the AAI Annual Meeting – IMMUNOLOGY2024 to be held 3-7 May 2024 in Chicago, IL.

Anushandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) invited Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma, DBS to participate in the ASEAN-INDIA Women Scientists Conclave (AIWSC), 24-26 April 2024 Singapore, which was co-organized by Singapore's Agency of Science, Technology and Research (A*Star) with India's Department of Science & Technology and Anushandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Dr. Arnab Majumder, (Roll No. 18RS024) was a PhD student in the Department of Earth Sciences. He was also working with Dr. Sutapa Bose and a Ramanujan Fellow. Dr. Manoj K. Jaiswal was a signatory thesis advisor, as Dr. Sutapa Bose's term was over, and the student continued under her supervision. He completed his Ph.D. almost two years ago and is now NPDF at Jadavpur University. The European Commission has offered Dr. Arnab Majumder a prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Sarfraj Md Juned Fency (Roll No.21IPO29), Integrated PhD student of Prof. Rangeet Bhattacharyya, Department of Physical Sciences won the best presentation award in the Undergraduate Symposium of Precision 2024, the Physics Summit program of Presidency University. The flagship event of Precision, the famed Undergraduate Symposium, was organized this year as a part of Precision. It is a great opportunity for Bachelor's, Master's, and early-stage MSc-PhD students to present their original research work on any branch of physics in front of a like-minded audience of eager young physicists from across the state and the country. Sarfraj presented his ongoing work on the Dynamical Nuclear Polarization as a short talk.



Dr. Rubina Mondal, (Roll No.13RS003), a Postdoctoral Research Fellow of Dr. Anindita Bhadra at The Dog Lab, the Department of Biological Sciences, has been awarded the ASAB research grant of £10,000 for a year. In addition, she has also recently received the Developing Nations grant from the Animal Behavior Society, of \$1500 for a year.



Dr. Sahabaj Mondal, (Roll No. 18RS111), a PhD student of Prof. Debasish Haldar in the Department of Chemical Sciences, has joined as an Industrial Chemist (Group A Gazetted Officer), Govt. of West Bengal.



Mr. Hiralal Pasi, Ms. Rajni Marick, Mr. Md. Zeeshan Akhtar and Ms. Annie Sunita Kerketta were the winners of the Competitions organised by the Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Kolkata (Office 2).



Seminars and Colloquia

[Lecture Series] Prof Swapan K Pati, Date: Monday, Apr 01, 2024.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Challenger Mishra (University of Cambridge) -- Mathematical Conjecture Generation and Machine Intelligence, Date: Monday, Apr 01, 2024.

[DPS Colloquium] Prof. Srubabati Goswami (Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad) -- Now you see me now you don't : The oscillating neutrinos, Date: Wednesday, Apr 03, 2024.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Sakuntala Chatterjee (Professor, S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Salt Lake City, Kolkata) -- Noise in Bacterial Chemotaxis, Date: Wednesday, Apr 03, 2024.

[DCS Colloquium] Prof. Arindam Banerjee (IACS Kolkata) -- Hydrogelator with Antibacterial Activity and Sustainable Drug Release, Date: Monday, Apr 08, 2024.

[DCS Seminar] Prof. Dipakranjan Mal (IIT Kharagpur) -- Synthesis of Bioactive Natural Products, Date: Monday, Apr 08, 2024.

[DPS Seminar] Prof. Sitabhra Sinha (The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai) -- Devo-Eco: A new science of interactions underlying development, Date: Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024.

[DMS Seminar] Dr. Shubhamoy Nandan (ABN AMRO Bank, Netherlands) -- Spatial populations with seed banks in random environment, Date: Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024.

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Sarmistha Mahanty (India Alliance Early Career Fellow, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru) -- Organelle dynamics in epithelial barrier development and regeneration, Date: Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024.

Lecture on new criminal laws, Date: Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024.

[Institute Colloquium] Prof. S. Ramakrishnan (IISC Bangalore) -- Random Walks in Polymer Science, Date: Friday, Apr 12, 2024.

[DPS Seminar] Prof. Sidhartha Goyal (Department of Physics, University of Toronto) -- Competition across scales in biology, Date: Tuesday, Apr 16, 2024.

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Kenneth Shindler (F. M. Kirby Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Departments of Ophthalmology and Neurology, University of Pennsylvania Scheie Eye Institute, Philadelphia) -- Optic Neuritis: Clinical Features and Unmet Needs Driving Current Research, Date: Wednesday, Apr 17, 2024.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Labani Mallick (University of Manitoba & Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics) -- Activities of Galactic Nuclei and their Impact on Black Hole's Event Horizon, Host Galaxy, and Beyond, Date: Wednesday, Apr 17, 2024.

[Talk on 'Molecule to Medicine'] Dr Ajay Mandal -- Talk on 'Molecule to Medicine', Date: Thursday, Apr 18, 2024.

[DPS Colloquium] Prof. Mohit Randeria (Ohio State University, USA) -- Are There Bounds on the Superconducting Transition Temperature?, Date: Thursday, Apr 18, 2024.

[Special Lecture] Prof. Shubha Tole (TIFR, Mumbai) -- Promoting student satisfaction during PhD training AND Promoting neuronal fate in the developing Brain, Date: Thursday, Apr 18, 2024.

[DPS Colloquium] Prof. Nandini Trivedi (Ohio State University, USA) -- Quantum Spin Liquids: A New State of Matter with Fractionalized Excitations, Date: Friday, Apr 19, 2024.

[DBS Talk] Dr. Krishanu Ray, Date: Friday, Apr 19, 2024.

[DBS Talk] Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly, Date: Tuesday, Apr 23, 2024.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Anirban Das (Seoul National University) -- New Ways to Detect Light Dark Matter, Date: Tuesday, Apr 23, 2024.

[DBS Talk] Dr. Krishnananda Chattopadhyay -- DBS Talk Date: Wednesday, Apr 24, 2024.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Aritra Gupta (Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Valencia, Spain) -- Seesaw determination of the dark matter relic density, Date: Wednesday, Apr 24, 2024.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Supratim Sengupta (Professor, DPS, IISER Kolkata) -- Origin of life, Date: Wednesday, Apr 24, 2024.

[DBS Talk] Prof. Prosenjit Mondal, Date: Tuesday, Apr 30, 2024