

IISER KOLKATA Newsletter



August, 2025

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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.

IISER Kolkata welcomes inaugural batch of the 2-Year MS Program in Sustainability Science



We are thrilled to welcome students from across India who have joined this interdisciplinary journey to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Faculty from Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Humanities are coming together to deliver a rich and holistic learning experience. Here's to building a more sustainable future—together!

Visit of Delegates from British Deputy High Commission Kolkata



IISER Kolkata had the privilege of hosting Ms. Brahmadatha Maya Reghurajan, Senior Technology & Innovation Adviser at the British Deputy High Commission Kolkata and Mr. Joshua Bamford, Head of Tech, British High Commission for a high-level dialogue on advancing research partnerships, technology transfer and joint academic ventures with leading universities in the UK, further cementing IISER Kolkata's role as a global hub of innovation and excellence.

Outreach program in the Department of Biological Sciences



On 29th August 2025, a group comprising fifty-six students and four faculty/staff members from the Department of Microbiology, Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan, West Bengal, visited the Department of Biological Sciences at IISER Kolkata as part of their institutional study tour. The visit provided the students with a valuable opportunity to explore advanced research in biological sciences and engage in meaningful interactions with the research scholars at IISER Kolkata. The visitors were introduced to ongoing research projects in Professor Supratim Datta's laboratory as part of the program. They had the chance to visit the DBS instrumentation facilities and the facilities that are part of the institute's central instruments facility (iCIF). These interactions helped deepen the students' understanding of the interdisciplinarity and translational research in modern biology and fostered scientific curiosity and enthusiasm for higher studies and research careers. Mr. Debabrata Sutradhar coordinated the visit with the help of students in Professor Datta's lab.

AIIMS Kalyani & IISER Kolkata Meet

AIIMS Kalyani and IISER Kolkata faculty interaction session held at IISER Kolkata. This initiative aimed to strengthen institutional ties and encouraged the exchange of scientific knowledge between the two Institutions.



Vigyan Pratibha Science and Mathematics Circle cum Exhibition



আইসার কলকাতার উদ্যোগে বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনী হরিণঘাটার পানপুরে

সংবাদদাতা : আইসার কলকাতার বিজ্ঞান প্রতিভা রিজিওনাল সেন্টার এর উদ্যোগে হরিণঘাটা এবং চাকদাহ ব্লকের ১৭টি উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয় সক্রিয়ভাবে সার্বোচ্চ টেকনোলজি ও ম্যাথমেটিক্স বিষয়ে মডেল প্রদর্শনী করে। এখানে অংশ নিরেছিল অষ্টম থেকে দশম শ্রেণী ছাত্র, ছাত্রীরা। পঞ্চাশটি মডেল এই প্রদর্শনীতে স্থান পায়। এই প্রদর্শনীর উদ্দেশ্য

পার্থক্য, বিজ্ঞান, জটিল চিন্তার বিকাশে সামগ্রিক শিক্ষা। ১৭ টি বিদ্যালয়ের কয়েকশো ছাত্র এই অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত হন। বিজ্ঞান মডেল তাদের চিন্তার খোরাক হয়ে ওঠে। মডেল বিষয়ে যে সমস্ত ছাত্র ছাত্রীর বিশ্লেষণ করেন তাদের বিশ্লেষণ এতটাই মনোজ্ঞ হয়ে ওঠে যে ছাত্র ছাত্রীরা তা সহজেই অনুবোধ করতে পারে। আইসার কলকাতার বিজ্ঞান প্রতিভা রিজিওনাল সেন্টার এর পক্ষে এই

অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন অধ্যাপক প্রদীপ কুমার মহান্তি, বিপুল হালদার, অমিত কুমার দাস, এশা লাহিড়ী। এই মনোজ্ঞ বিজ্ঞান প্রতিভা অনুষ্ঠানে এছাড়াও বিশিষ্ট জনের মধ্যে উপস্থিত ছিলেন হরিণঘাটা ব্লকের সমষ্টি উন্নয়ন আঞ্চলিক মহাশোভা বিদ্যালয়, হরিণঘাটা পঞ্চায়েত সমিতির সভাপতি কামাল উদ্দিন মন্ডল, পানপুর আদর্শ বিদ্যালয়ের প্রধান শিক্ষক অভ্যর্থনা যোগ্য প্রমুখ।



আইসার এর উদ্যোগে হরিণঘাটার পানপুরে মডেল প্রদর্শনী।

ফটো : নিজস্ব

The Vigyan Pratibha Regional Centre at IISER Kolkata organized the Vigyan Pratibha Mathematics and Science Circle at Panpur Adarsha Vidyapith, Haringhata, Nadia on 19th August 2025.

Students from 17 State Government schools of Haringhata and Chakdah blocks took part in a Science Exhibition, where they displayed exciting exhibits and models. Their work highlighted creativity, curiosity, and fresh ideas in the world of science and technology.

The event continued with a two-day session on 21st and 22nd August 2025, focusing on specially designed Vigyan Pratibha Learning Units. These sessions encouraged students to go beyond textbooks and explore science in a more hands-on and engaging way.

Adding to the excitement, professors, scientists, research scholars, academicians, and science enthusiasts joined the circle to interact with the students. Their guidance and words of encouragement motivated the young participants to keep exploring the wonders of science.

Institute Colloquium by Prof. Padmanabhan Balaram (former Director of IISc Bangalore)

It was a matter of great honour and privilege for the IISER Kolkata fraternity to have Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan Prof. Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bangalore with us. He enlightened the faculty and students with his Institute colloquium on “Evolution: The Rise of Chemistry, the Birth of Biology and Beyond”. His great insight, visionary views and Midas touch left the audience spellbound.

It is all the more noteworthy that he is one of the three architects for creating IISERs along with Prof. S. Sivaram and Professor S. Dattagupta. The occasion became more of a celebration as Prof. Sivaram was also present amongst us.

We IISER Kolkata community place deep regards and gratitude for their unconditional support for the growth of the institute.



Independence Day Celebrations and Har Ghar Tiranga



Celebration of National Sports Day at IISER Kolkata



National sports day was celebrated from 29th August, to 31st August, 2025 with much enthusiasm in our Institute to honor the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player, MAJOR DHYAN CHAND.

Part of the Executive Committee of LIGO-India Scientific Collaboration

CESSI member Prof. Rajesh K. Nayak has been appointed as a member of the Executive Committee of the LIGO-India Scientific Collaboration (LISC).



Prof. Rajesh K. Nayak, HoD CESSI & DPS, IISER Kolkata



Faculty Member's Achievements



We are glad to share that Prof. Swadhin Mandal and Prof. Rahul Banerjee, Department of Chemical Sciences, have been awarded the prestigious J C Bose Grant this year. This is a proud moment for the institute and all of us. Congratulations, Prof. Swadhin Kumar Mandal and Prof. Rahul Banerjee!



CESSI associate Prof. Nirmalya Ghosh has been appointed as 'Research Advisor' in Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS), specifically for providing research advisory towards developing solutions on areas of GenAI assisted Plasmonic Sensing projects executed by TCS Innovation and Research Lab.



Prof. Dibyendu Nandi delivered the Institute Colloquium at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research on 20 August 2025. His talk was entitled "Stellar Magnetism and Life".

Prof. Rajesh Kumble Nayak delivered an Invited talk at Nation Space day event at IIT Kharagpur, on 23 August 2025.



Alumni Accolade



CESSI Alumni Dr. Soumyaranjan Dash, who did his PhD with Prof. Dibyendu Nandi, has joined the National Solar Observatory USA as a Brinson Postdoctoral Fellow. He was highlighted in a recent National Solar Observatory press release available at the following link.

<https://nso.edu/press-release/nsf-national-solar-observatory-welcomes-2025-brinson-postdoctoral-fellow-in-solar-physics/>



CESSI Alumni Dr. Suvadip Sinha, who did his PhD and Postdoctoral work with Prof. Dibyendu Nandi has joined as Curator at the National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



We are glad to share that IISER Kolkata Alumni, Dr. Deepak Kumar Jha, has joined as an Assistant Professor at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. Dr. Deepak Kumar Jha did his PhD under the able supervision of Prof. Prasanta Sanyal, Dept. of Earth Sciences. Congratulations, Dr. Jha.

Mr. Zahid Ahmad Ganie, IISER Kolkata Alumni from Dr. Gopala Krishna Darbha's group in the Department of Earth Sciences have recently been awarded the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship at Kyoto University, Japan.



Ms. Tisha Dash, an alumna of IISER Kolkata, has been selected as one of 37 recipients of the 2025 Quad Fellowship. This prestigious program is supported by the governments of India, Australia, Japan, and the United States and brings together outstanding students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to promote international collaboration across the Indo-Pacific region.





Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISER KOLKATA) is an autonomous institute focusing on science and education located in Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal, India. It was established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India on 11th July 2006 and promoted to the status of an Institute of National Importance in 2012 vide the NIT Amendment Act. It is considered to be one of the leading institutes in India in terms of research output. In 2024, it was ranked fourth among the academic institutions in India by the Nature Index 2024. IISER Kolkata strives to provide world-class training to its PhD students so that they gain confidence to become an independent researcher. Research in the core areas as well as in the interdisciplinary areas is pursued with equal emphasis in an intellectually stimulating environment.

Applications are invited from motivated students for Ph.D. programme in any branch of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Computational and Data Sciences, Geological Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Physical Sciences. Please see the URL (<https://apply.iiserkol.ac.in/phd/>) for relevant details.

**Key dates for Spring 2026 admissions:**

- PhD application portal opens: 17.9.2025
- Application portal closes: **12.10.2025**
- Publication of shortlist for the Interview: 15 - 22.10.2025
- Selection Interview window: October 29 - November 26, 2025



Scan QR code for relevant details

For further details visits us: <https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/>



Seminars, Lectures and Colloquia

[DPS Seminar] Prof. Isao H. Inoue (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba, JAPAN) -- Slow Electronics: Harnessing Time for Ultra-Low-Power Edge Devices, Date: Friday, Aug 01, 2025.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Ragavendra H V (INFN, Italy) -- Scalar-induced gravitational waves as probes of primordial correlations, Date: Tuesday, Aug 05, 2025.

[Bibha Chowdhuri Memorial Lecture] Prof. (Dr.) Annapurni Subramaniam (Indian Institute of Astrophysics) -- Universe and its building blocks of stars and galaxies, Date: Wednesday, Aug 06, 2025.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Partha Pratim Datta -- Deeper understanding of the cellular roles of CgtA towards finding new drug targets in bacteria and High-resolution Cryo-EM Structures of Tobamoviruses Infecting Commercial Crops. Date: Wednesday, Aug 06, 2025.

[DPS Seminar] Prof. Jayeeta Bhattacharyya (IIT Madras) -- Carbon dots as versatile and bio-compatible emitters, Date: Thursday, Aug 07, 2025.

[DCS visitor's seminar] Sukdev Bag -- Molecular engineering: From directing group designing to drug mapping in genome, Date: Monday, Aug 11, 2025.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Dhruvaditya Mitra (The Nordic Institute of Theoretical Physics (NORDITA), Stockholm, Sweden) -- The plasma membrane through the lens of theoretical physics, Date: Tuesday, Aug 12, 2025.

[DMS Seminar] Pritam Ganguly (Postdoc at Paderborn University) -- Dimension-free estimates for the vector-valued Hardy--Littlewood maximal function on the Heisenberg group, Date: Wednesday, Aug 13, 2025.

[DBS Seminar] Dr Tanmoy Saha (Instructor at Harvard Medical School Associate Bioengineer at Mass General Brigham) -- Harnessing Nanoscale Cellular Communication for Next Generation Anticancer Therapeutics, Date: Wednesday, Aug 13, 2025.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Prof. Mahuya Datta (Stat-Math Unit, ISI Kolkata) -- Bracket generating distributions, Date: Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025.

[DMS Seminar] Biltu Dan (Assistant Professor) -- Partial divisibility of random sets Date: Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025.

[DCS visitor's seminar] Dr. Debayan Chakraborty (Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai) -- "Exploring energy landscapes of model polyampholytes and intrinsically disordered proteins using minimalist models", Date: Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025.

[DMS Seminar] Subhajit Ghosh (Assistant Professor) -- Spectral gap of some continuous-time random walks
Date: Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025.

[Institute Colloquium] Prof. P. Balaram (Emeritus Professor, Molecular Biophysics Unit, IISc Bangalore) Date: Thursday, Aug 21, 2025.

[DMS Seminar] Ayan Pal (Assistant Professor) -- A Finite Mixture Model for Multiple Dependent Competing Risks with Applications of Automotive Warranty Claims Data
Date: Thursday, Aug 21, 2025.

[DBS seminar] Prof. Susan Alberts (Professor of Biology Duke University, Durham, USA) -- Aging in the natural world: the ecology and evolution of longevity in a natural primate population, Date: Friday, Aug 22, 2025.

[CAFM Seminar] Prof. Saikat Talapatra (Southern Illinois University) -- Porous and Layered Nanostructures
Date: Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Sourav Kundu (IISER Kolkata) -- Backbone-mediated charge transport in a double-stranded DNA, Date: Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025.

[DMS seminar] Dr. Md. Amir Hossain (IMSc Chennai) -- Fell bundle C^* -algebras as Cuntz-Pimsner algebras
Date: Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025.

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