



IISER KOLKATA

NEWSLETTER

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.

Faculty Members Achievements



Professor Punyasloke Bhadury, has been elected as the President/Chair of the International Association of Meiobenthologists (IAM) for a three-year term (2026–2028). Founded in 1966, the International Association of Meiobenthologists is the world's largest professional society dedicated to scientists working on benthic fauna and ecosystems, with members from more than 70 countries. Prof. Punyasloke Bhadury's election to this prestigious leadership position is a remarkable recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field and brings great pride to our institution and the wider Indian scientific community.



Prof. Soumyajit Roy of Materials Science Center, Department of Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata, has been elected as a Councillor of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for the term 2026–2028.

This is a position of significant importance within the ACS, reflecting Prof. Roy's outstanding scientific contributions, international standing, and leadership in the chemical sciences. His election is a matter of great pride for IISER Kolkata and highlights the growing global visibility and impact of our faculty.



The work of Prof. Swadhin Kumar Mandal on CO₂-driven thiol formylation and the development of new green chemical reactions, has been featured as a cover story in *Shaastra*, the flagship science magazine of IIT Madras.



Prof. Priyadarsi De of IISER Kolkata has achieved several notable distinctions: he has accepted an Editorial Board Member position effective January 2026; has been conferred the Prof. Santappa Award by the Society of Polymer Science India (SPSI); his HU-RIZON international research excellence cooperation programme project on zinc-air batteries, in collaboration with the Hungarian PI Prof. Kéki Sándor, has been approved for funding; and he has also joined as a Founding Member of the International Union of Aggregate Science (IUAS), Hong Kong.



Prof. Alakesh Bisai has been elected as a Council Member of the 10th Council of the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) for the term April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029.

This prestigious recognition reflects Prof. Bisai's outstanding contributions to chemical sciences and his continued leadership in advancing research and academic excellence. His election to the CRSI Council brings great pride to the Department of Chemical Sciences and to IISER Kolkata as a whole.



Professor Prasanta Sanyal, Department of Earth Sciences, IISER Kolkata has been elected as a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS).



Prof. Shirshendu Chowdhury of IISER Kolkata has been awarded an Indo–French Emerging Research Partnership Programme (CEFIPRA) project titled “Control of PDEs: Constraints, Coupling, and New Challenges” for the period 2026–2029, sponsored by the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA). The project, approved by the Director of CEFIPRA, is led by Prof. Chowdhury as Principal Investigator, with Dr. Rajib Dutta (IISER Kolkata) as Co-Principal Investigator, in collaboration with the French team led by Prof. Emmanuel Trélat, Director of the Laboratoire Jacques-Louis Lions (LJLL), Sorbonne Université, Paris, and Dr. Kévin Le Balc'h (LJLL, Paris, France).

Participation of IISER Kolkata in the 11th Indian National Exhibition



IISER Kolkata actively participated in the 11th Indian National Exhibition 2025 (National Science, Technology, Education & Job Fair) held at Kolkata from 15th–18th January 2026 as part of its outreach activities. The exhibition provided an excellent platform to engage with students, educators, and the wider public, showcasing IISER Kolkata's academic programs, cutting-edge research, and opportunities in science education.



Frontiers in Modern Biology (FIMB 2026) Conference

The 8th edition of Frontiers in Modern Biology (FIMB 2026) was successfully held from January 15-17, 2026, at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata. Organized by the Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Kolkata, the symposium brought together leading scientists, clinicians, faculty members, and young researchers under the theme “From Basic Science to Translational Research.”

The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Sinha, Executive Director, AIIMS Kalyani, as Chief Guest, Prof. Tirtha K. Datta, Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata, Prof. Jaya Bandyopadhyay, Offg Vice-Chancellor, MAKAUT, as Guest of Honours, along with Prof. Sunil Khare, Director, IISER Kolkata.

FIMB 2026 featured keynote and plenary lectures, invited talks, student presentations, and poster sessions covering diverse areas of modern biology. The highlights of the FIMB was the plenary and Key note address by distinguished speakers, including Prof. Seyed E. Hasnain, Dr. Subeer S. Majumdar Director General, Gujarat Biotechnology University, Prof. Suman Kundu, Director BITS Goa, Prof. Utpal Tatu, Chairman Dept of Biochemistry, IISc Bangalore, Prof. R. Varadarajan, Biophysics Unit IISc Bangalore, Prof. Ruma Banerjee, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, Prof. Ozan Gundogdu LSHTM, UK, Prof. Deepa Agashe NCBS, Bengaluru, Prof. Richa Rikhy IISER Pune, Prof. Ayan Ray AIIMS Kalyani, Dr. Ashish Gupta DRDO, New Delhi and Dr. Sucharita Bose inSTEM, Bengaluru, Prof. Rajat Sandheer, Punjab Univeristy to name few.

Their talks highlighted advances across disease biology, microbiology, structural biology, neuroscience, and evolutionary biology, emphasizing the integration of basic research with translational outcomes. Approximately 300 students and 55 faculty members across the country participated in FIMB 2026.

It is worth noting that IISER Kolkata will launch a Master's programme in Chemical Biology from the upcoming academic session. The institute is also identified as a hub CoE in Biotechnology, serving as a nodal point for other IISERs.



77th Republic Day Celebration

The IISER Kolkata community enthusiastically celebrated the 77th Republic Day of the Nation. The members actively participated in the Ganarajyam Pride Run 2026 after the program.



IISER Kolkata Alumni meet and Alumni Award 2026

The 10th IISER Kolkata Alumni Meet 2026 was held on Saturday, 03.01.2026 in the hybrid mode. There were 28 alumni members joined in person and 20 more in online mode. Prof. Sunil Kumar Khara, Director, IISER Kolkata has inaugurated the program and addressed the gathering.

Dr. Prantika Bhowmik, PhD student of Prof. Dibyendu Nandi at the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences, IISER Kolkata, presently Assistant Professor at IISc Bangalore has received the IISER Kolkata Alumni Award 2026 for academic excellence.



Dr. Uditendu Mukhopadhyay, BS-MS student of Department of Physical Sciences, IISER Kolkata, presently Assistant Professor at IIT Bombay also has received the IISER Kolkata Alumni Award 2026 for academic excellence.



Mr. Harshvardhan Dwivedi and Mr. Sagar Damania, BS-MS students of Department of Earth Sciences, IISER Kolkata, founders of Geology Concepts have received the IISER Kolkata Alumni Award 2026 for Entrepreneurships.



Mr. Kaushlendra Kumar, BS-MS student of Department of Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata, presently Secretary of Bihar legislative assembly has received the IISER Kolkata Alumni Award 2026 for Administrative excellence.

Student Achievement

Mr. Jayant Karwadiya, a PMRF scholar and PhD student working under the supervision of Prof. Gopala Krishna Darbha in the Department of Earth Sciences, IISER Kolkata, has been awarded the Best Poster Award at the International Conference “MICROM 2025 - Microplastics in Organic-Rich Matrices”, held on 26-27 November 2025 in Novi Sad, Serbia. The award also includes complimentary participation in the subsequent MICROM conference.



Alumni Accolades

Our alumnus, Dr Biswajit Roy has joined the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) Goa, a Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Institute, as a Scientist in the Past Climate and Ocean Sciences Division. Dr. Roy is an organic geochemist whose work includes applying lipid biomarker and isotope-based approaches to investigate environmental change and biogeochemical processes in Polar and Ocean ecosystems. Dr Biswajit Roy has also become Associate of Indian Academy of Sciences



Dr. Shyam Nandan, a BS-MS alumnus from the 2007 batch, has recently joined the Department of Earth Sciences at IIT Kanpur as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Nandan completed his Master's thesis under the supervision of Prof. Supriyo Mitra, following which he pursued his Ph.D. at ETH Zurich. In addition to his academic achievements, he is also the founder of the company RichterX.

Ekta, an alumna of IISER Kolkata, who worked under the supervision of Prof. Gopala Krishna Darbha, has been awarded the prestigious and highly competitive JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship to carry out research at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. Notably, Ekta is the fourth consecutive student from the Environmental Nanoscience Laboratory to secure a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship



Dr. Ajay has secured a prestigious three-year postdoctoral researcher position at the University of Oulu's DIWA (Digital Waters) Flagship program. DIWA is a cutting-edge research and innovation ecosystem, dedicated to advancing digitalization in the water sector through the development of Digital Twin technologies for water systems.

Dr. Ajay will collaborate with the worldwide DIWA research group, focusing on critical aspects of the impact of declining Arctic sea ice on the northern hemisphere water cycle.

An Extra Mile.... 3.0

An Extra Mile... 3.0, the third edition of the Staff Day at IISER Kolkata, celebrated people, participation and collective pride. The formal session was held at the M. N. Saha Lecture Hall Theatre. It was graced by Shri Pradeep Kumar Ray, Registrar of IISER Berhampur, as the Chief Guest. The arena witnessed addresses by the Chief Guest, Registrar and Director of IISER Kolkata, acknowledging the indispensable role of staff members. The programme featured prize distribution to the staff for sports events and a photography contest. Cultural performances by staff and their children featured songs, dances and instrumental pieces, with spontaneous participation from faculty adding warmth and vibrancy to the occasion. The celebrations later moved to the Inquivesta Ground, where Pata R Moruddyan enthralled the audience with a block-buster open-stage performance. The Times of India, the print and media partner for the programme, covered the celebrations in their entirety.



IISER CELEBRATES STAFF DAY



Staff Day at IISER Kolkata, held in association with The Times Of India, was celebrated with enthusiasm, highlighting the vital role of staff in the institute's growth. The formal session at M N Saha Lecture Hall was graced by the registrar of IISER Berhampore as chief guest, along with addresses by the director and registrar of IISER Kolkata. Sports award winners were felicitated, followed by cultural performances by staff, their children and faculty. The celebrations concluded at Inquivesta Ground with an energetic open-stage performance by Pota aar Marudyan, bringing together students, staff and families





National Science Day Celebration



Join us at IISER Kolkata for a vibrant day of science exhibitions, interactive displays, and inspiring talks. Explore innovations, meet leading scientists, and get inspired!

10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

27 FEBRUARY, 2026



IISER KOLKATA
R.N. TAGORE AUDITORIUM



Seminars and Colloquia

[DPS Group Seminar] Dr. Saiyad Ashanujjaman (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) -- Indications for a 152 GeV Higgs Boson at the LHC, Date: Tuesday, Jan 06, 2026.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Paramita Dasgupta (CCAPP, The Ohio State University) -- Radio Detection of the Highest Energy Particles in the Universe, Date: Thursday, Jan 08, 2026.

[DBS Seminar] Professor Kasturi Mitra from Ashoka University -- Mitochondrial priming of Drosophila adult stem cells through integration of light and dietary cues Date: Friday, Jan 09, 2026.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Supriya Mandal (Institut Néel, Grenoble, France) -- Scaling superconducting qubits: remote entanglement and hardware-efficient modularity Date: Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026.

[DES Seminar] Dr. Poulami Roy (Durham University, UK) -- Understanding Earth from Deep Mantle to Deep Time: A Geodynamic Modelling Perspective, Date: Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026.

[DPS Group Seminar] Mr. Archisman Panigrahi (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA) -- Tomographic imaging of superconducting order using particle-hole interference and detecting topological superconductors with spin chirality, Date: Friday, Jan 16, 2026.

[DCS Visitor Seminar] Dr. Samiran Sen (Institut Pasteur) -- Trust wisely: A Bayesian framework for protein model refinement, Date: Monday, Jan 19, 2026.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Jiawei Zhou (Nanchang University) -- Rational homotopy theory and algebraic models: lecture 1, Date: Tuesday, Jan 20, 2026.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Gorapada Bera (SCGP, Stony Brook, NY, USA) -- Uniqueness in the local Donaldson-Scaduto conjecture, Date: Tuesday, Jan 20, 2026.

[DMS Colloquium/Seminar] Dr. Gorapada Bera (Research Assistant Professor, SCGP, New York) -- Associative submanifolds of G_2 -manifolds and adiabatic limits, Date: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026.

[DMS Seminar] Dr. Avijit Pal (Faculty, IIT Bhilai) -- Function theory and operator theory on domains related to μ -synthesis, Date: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026.

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Debasish Paul -- Development of live-cell sensors reveals a transient metabolic checkpoint regulating cell cycle entry, Date: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Partha Nandi (National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences, South Africa) -- Decoherence Signatures of Quantum vs Classical Gravitational Waves, Date: Thursday, Jan 22, 2026.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Arpit Das (University of Edinburgh) -- Generalised Global symmetries and its applications in 2D CFTs Date: Thursday, Jan 22, 2026.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Jiawei Zhou (Nanchang University) -- Rational homotopy theory and algebraic models: lecture 2, Date: Thursday, Jan 22, 2026.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Jiawei Zhou (Nanchang University) -- Rational homotopy theory and algebraic models: lecture 3, Date: Monday, Jan 26, 2026.

[DMS Seminar] G. Krishna Teja (Postdoc at ISI Bangalore) -- Title: A study of Erdős matrices, Date: Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026.

[DPS Seminar] Prof. Tapan Mishra (School of Physics, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER)) -- Novel phenomena in the quantum walk of interacting particles, Date: Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026.

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Saurabh Chattopadhyay, Ph.D (University of Kentucky College of Medicine) -- Novel functions of the interferon system against virus infection, Date: Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026.

[DMS Seminar] Stéphanie Nivoche (Faculty, Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France) -- Kolmogorov widths asymptotics in different holomorphic function spaces, Date: Thursday, Jan 29, 2026.

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