



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.

Outreach program in the Department of Biological Sciences (July 3, 2026)



On 3 July 2026, 33 students and two faculty members from the Department of Microbiology, Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan (West Bengal), visited the Department of Biological Sciences at IISER Kolkata as part of an institutional study tour. The visit gave students an opportunity to learn about biological sciences research through discussions with IISER Kolkata research scholars. They also toured the DBS instrumentation facilities and the institute's central instruments facility (iCIF). These interactions enhanced students' understanding of the interdisciplinary and translational nature of modern biology, while encouraging their interest in pursuing higher studies and research careers.

Celebration of 21st Institute Foundation Day (July 10, 2026)



IISER Kolkata proudly celebrated its 21st Foundation Day on 10 July 2026 at its Mohanpur campus.

This year's celebration was particularly special as it was observed as an Open Day, welcoming more than 1,000 students and teachers from schools across the region to experience the Institute's world-class teaching, cutting-edge research, and vibrant academic environment.

Institute was privileged to welcome Prof. Gobardhan Das (Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India & Former Director, IISER Bhopal) as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Suvrokalal Dutta (Distinguished International Conservative Political, Economic and Foreign Policy Expert) as the Guest of Honour.

The distinguished guests delivered inspiring special lectures, insharing their valuable insights with students, faculty, researchers, and visitors.

As we celebrate 21 years of excellence, IISER Kolkata reaffirms its commitment to advancing scientific research, fostering innovation, and nurturing the next generation of scientists and leaders.



Summer Camp 2026 at IISER Kolkata (15-22 July, 2026)



IISER Kolkata, in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Science City Kolkata, successfully organized the Summer Camp Programme 2026 from 15–22 July 2026. The week-long programme brought together 70 students and 12 teachers from 53 Kendriya Vidyalayas across the North-Eastern states of India, offering hands-on exposure to interdisciplinary science through lectures, laboratory visits, demonstrations, workshops, quizzes, and educational excursions.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Education and Minister of State for the Development of North Eastern Region, in the presence of Swami Durganathananda Ji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Kalyani; Mr. Dibakar Bhoi, Assistant Commissioner, KVS Regional Office, Kolkata; Prof. Sunil Kumar Khare, Director, IISER Kolkata; Prof. Rahul Banerjee, Deputy Director; Prof. Debasis Koley, Dean of International Relations; and Prof. Anirban Banerjee, Associate Dean of International Relations. The programme concluded with a grand valedictory ceremony and received enthusiastic feedback from participants for its enriching academic experience and vibrant campus environment.



India Tops the World at the 56th International Physics Olympiad 2026



All 5 Indian students won GOLD at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 in Bucaramanga, Colombia – placing India at Rank #1 in the world (jointly with China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea & Taiwan) among 381 students from 87 countries!

- Kanishk Jain – Pune, Maharashtra
- Riddhesh Anant Bendale – Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Rishit Garg – Dwarka, New Delhi
- Shresth Suraiya – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Svarit Joshi – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

This is the second time that the Indian team has made a clean sweep in terms of golds – the last time was in 2018. This is India's 27th appearance at IPhO. In the last 10 years, every Indian student has come home with either a Gold or a Silver.

The team was accompanied by team leaders Prof. Anwesh Mazumdar (HBCSE-TIFR) & Dr. Leena Joshi (St. Xavier's College, Mumbai), and scientific observers Prof. Ananda Dasgupta (IISER Kolkata) & Ms. Nisha Kelkar (Gogate-Joglekar College). While the leaders and observers had to work tirelessly for the final framing of questions and the final arbitration of marks, credit is also due to the entire Physics Olympiad Cell and mentor pool at HBCSE for their hard work in the orientation and pre-departure camps which went a long way towards the success of the students.

India Shines at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad



IISER Kolkata is proud of the stellar performance of the Indian Team at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) 2026 in Tashkent, where the country achieved its best-ever result, with all four team members winning gold medals and placing the country first in the medal tally, jointly with China and Vietnam. At the International Chemistry Olympiad 2026, 363 students from 93 countries participated. Prof. Subhajit Bandyopadhyay of IISER Kolkata served as the Head Mentor of the National Team and played a key role in guiding and preparing the team for this historic all-gold performance.

Vigyan Pratibha Teachers Workshop 2026



The Vigyan Pratibha Regional Centre at IISER Kolkata successfully organized two consecutive Professional Development Workshops for science and mathematics teachers. The first workshop was held from 15–19 June 2026 for teachers from West Bengal Government schools, followed by a second workshop from 29 June–3 July 2026 for teachers from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).

The workshops aimed to familiarize teachers with the innovative pedagogical approaches and teaching-learning resources developed under the Vigyan Pratibha programme, enabling them to foster scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and inquiry-based learning among their students. Faculty members from IISER Kolkata, along with distinguished resource persons from leading academic and research institutions across the country, conducted a series of Vigyan Pratibha Learning Units, interactive sessions, and expert lectures spanning diverse areas of science and mathematics. The programme provided participants with valuable opportunities to engage with contemporary scientific ideas and classroom practices, empowering them to inspire and nurture the next generation of scientists.

Junior Translation Officer, IISER Kolkata, was the keynote speaker at AIIMS Kalyani's Official Language Workshop.



Dr. Surashree Dutta, Junior Translation Officer, IISER Kolkata, was invited as the keynote speaker at an Official Language Workshop organized by AIIMS Kalyani on the theme "Rajbhasha ki Prashasanik Vyavastha (Administrative Framework of the Official Language)" on Friday, 31 July 2026.

She delivered the address, highlighting the significance of effective implementation of the Official Language policy in administrative functioning.

Dr. Swati Mohan's Visit to IISER Kolkata (July 14, 2026)



In coordination with the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata and the Office of the Dean of International Relations and Outreach at IISER Kolkata, Dr. Swati Mohan—Guidance, Navigation, and Controls (GN&C) Operations Lead for NASA's Mars 2020 Mission at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, California—visited the Center of Excellence in Space Sciences India (CESSI) on 14th July 2025. The delegation from the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata included Ms. Aishwarya Mondal and Ms. Sucharita Bhattacharjee.

The day-long event commenced with focused discussions between Dr. Mohan and faculty members from CESSI and the Department of Physical Sciences (DPS). During the morning session, Dr. Mohan delivered a technical presentation titled "Overview of NASA JPL's Current and Upcoming Missions," offering detailed insights into the Mars 2020 Perseverance mission, the upcoming Mars Sample Return mission, and future planetary exploration initiatives.

Later in the day, Dr. Mohan delivered an inspiring public lecture titled "Seven Minutes of Terror and Beyond: Leading NASA's Mars 2020 Mission." She shared the gripping story behind Perseverance's dramatic landing on Mars, detailing the rigorous engineering challenges, scientific breakthroughs, and human perseverance that made the mission possible. The talk drew enthusiastic participation from students, researchers, staff, and faculty across the institute.



Advanced Functional Analysis School III (AFS-III)

DMS organized a month-long program AFS-III, funded by NBHM and IISER Kolkata, primarily aimed at first year PhD students. The school was held from (29th June to 25th July 2026) had 30 outstation participants, from all across India and 10 local participants. Dr. Arjun Paul, Prof. Shibananda Biswas, Prof. Somnath Basu (from IISER Kolkata) were the local organizers along with Prof. Pratulananda Das (from Jadavpur University) as a co-organizer. PhD students from DMS conducted the tutorials for the lectures. Such schools help make IISER visible to the Indian academic fraternity. DMS plans to conduct more such schools in future.

Academic Interaction with Wiley Editors



Dr. Subhabrata Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Editor, Physical Sciences, Chemistry – An Asian Journal, ChemNanoMat, ChemPlusChem and Dr. Anurag Mukherjee, Deputy Editor, Physical Sciences, and Dr. Somananda Sanyal, Deputy Editor, Physical Sciences (Advanced Physics Research), from Wiley have visited DCS IISER Kolkata on 1st July 2026. They have interacted with Bs-MS students, MSc Chemistry students, PhD students, post-doctorate researchers and faculty members. Also, they have briefly discussed the root map with the guest editors for the IISER Kolkata 20th anniversary special issues.

Prof. Ramya Kumar Visits DCS, IISER Kolkata (July 7, 2026)



Prof. Ramya Kumar from the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Colorado School of Mines, USA has visited DCS, IISER Kolkata on 7 July 2026. She has interacted with students and faculty members. She has delivered an excellent DCS seminar on “ Tuning gradient steepness in copolymers augments intracellular pDNA Delivery”.

Prof. Shashank Deep Visits DCS, IISER Kolkata (July 27, 2026)



Prof. Shashank Deep, Department of Chemistry IIT Delhi has visited DCS, IISER Kolkata on 27 July 2026. He has interacted with BS-MS students, MSc Chemistry students, PhD students, post-doctorate researchers and faculty members. He has delivered an excellent DCS seminar on “Stabilization of Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 at physiological pH: Contrasting roles of CHAPS and arginine in aggregation inhibition”.

Prof. Arvind Kumar Nema Visits DCS, IISER Kolkata (July 22, 2026)



Prof. Arvind Kumar Nema, a distinguished material scientist from Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, IIT Delhi visited DCS, IISER Kolkata on 22nd of July 2026. He has interacted with masters and PhD students and faculty members. He has delivered an excellent DCS seminar on “Site-Specific Assessment and Remediation of Critically Polluted Areas Based on Ecological Risk Assessment”.

Dr. Soumik Siddhanta Visits DCS, IISER Kolkata (July 22, 2026)



Dr. Soumik Siddhanta, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Delhi has visited DCS, IISER Kolkata on 22 July 2026. He has interacted with Bs-MS students, MSc Chemistry students, PhD students, post-doctorate researchers and faculty members. He has delivered an excellent DCS seminar on “Leveraging Machine Learning and Raman Spectroscopy for Advanced Molecular Analysis”.

Faculty Members Achievements



Prof. Subhajit Bandyopadhyay has served as the Head Mentor of the Indian team on India's Historic Performance at the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Prof. Sayan Battacharyya has been invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.



Prof. Biplab Maji has been selected to receive CRSI Bronze Medal 2026 in recognition of his outstanding research contributions to the field of Chemistry.

Faculty Members Achievements



Prof. Alakesh Bisai has been nominated as a core committee member of the ANRF Technical Program Committee for Organic Chemistry under Advanced Research Grant Program.



Prof. Tushar Kanti Nandi has been nominated as a member of senate at IISER Berhampur.



Dr. Shirshendu Chowdhuri has accepted the invitation to serve as a Core Committee/Extended Committee Member of the Technical Program Committee for the Advanced Research Grant (ARG)–MATRICS under the aegis of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).



Prof. Ananda Dasgupta has been appointed as a Scientific Observer representing India at the 56th International Physics Olympiad to be held in Bucaramanga, Columbia.



Prof. Golam Hossain has been invited by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to serve as a Core Committee/Extended Committee Member of the Technical Program Committee (TPC) for the Advanced Research Grant (ARG) – MATRICS.



Prof Amit Basak DCS, IISER Kolkata has received CRSI gold medal 2027 for his excellent research in organic chemistry and chemical biology.

Faculty Members Achievements



Prof. Swadhin Mandal, DCS, IISER Kolkata has delivered a departmental seminar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA on 22nd of July 2026.

Vigyan Pratibha Cluster Camp (27-28 July, 2026)



Vigyan Pratibha Regional Centre at IISER Kolkata successfully organized a two-day Cluster Camp at Fulmalancha Hritu Bhakat High School (H.S.) on 27th and 28th July 2026. The camp witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 200 students from seven schools located in the remote regions of the Sundarbans. Designed to promote scientific temper and inquiry-based learning, the programme provided students with opportunities to deepen their scientific understanding through interactive activities and discussions that went beyond the conventional textbook-based approach.

Students Achievements

Dr. Desoshree Ghosh a PhD student of Prof. Priyadarsi De has been awarded the prestigious Walter Benjamin postdoctoral Position by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) at the University of Potsdam in Germany, where she will be working with Dr. Matthias Hartlieb.



Mr. Debjit Biswas, Ms. Pampa Chowdhury, Mr. Monosij Nandy and Mr. Braja Kishore Paul have received Best Poster Presentation Award at the 37th CRSI National Symposium in Chemistry & CRSI-ACS Lectures, held at IACS, Kolkata (July 2-4, 2026).



Mr. Subrata Das, Research Scholar, Dept. of Chemical Sciences participated in the Gordon Research Conference on Systems Chemistry under the International Travel Support (ITS) scheme at Portland, USA.

Alumni Achievements



Dr. Debgopal Jana a PhD student of Prof. Alakesh Bisai has been selected for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) fellowship. He will be working under Prof. Daniele Leonori at RWTH Aachen University, Germany.



Seminars and Colloquiums

[DMS Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami -- Survey of algebraic cycles, Date: Thursday, Jul 02, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

[DCS Visitor's Seminar] Dr. Ramya Kumar (Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Colorado School of Mines) -- "Tuning gradient steepness in copolymers augments intracellular pDNA Delivery", Date: Tuesday, Jul 07, 2026, Time: 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

[DMS Seminar] Shilpak Banerjee (Faculty, IIT Tirupati) -- Slow Entropy and Combinatorial Constructions in Ergodic Theory, Date: Wednesday, Jul 15, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[DMS Seminar] Suddhasattwa Das (Faculty, Texas Tech University) -- Approximating dynamical systems by their spectral measure, Date: Thursday, Jul 16, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Seminar Series] Dr. Pranav Haridas (Faculty, Kerala School of Mathematics) -- Quasiconformal Mappings and Teichmüller Theory, Date: Monday, Jul 20, 2026, Time: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[DES Seminar] Dr. Ajay Kumar (IISER Pune) -- Thermomechanical self-regulation of continental lithosphere explains its growth, evolution and deformation, Date: Tuesday, Jul 21, 2026, Time: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Pratik Tarafdar (INAF-Observatory of Cagliari (OAC)) -- Tapping into the cosmic 'hum': pulsars, gravitational waves, interstellar medium, and beyond, Date: Thursday, Jul 23, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami -- Survey of algebraic cycles, Date: Thursday, Jul 23, 2026

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Soumyakanti Bose (SRM University-AP) -- Loophole-free Bell-inequality violation between atomic states in cavity-QED systems mediated by hybrid atom-light entanglement, Date: Monday, Jul 27, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Seminar] Sudip Pandit (Post Doc, Kings College London) -- Buium-Coleman method for the Zilber-Pink conjecture for curves, Date: Wednesday, Jul 29, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Tanmay Kumar Poddar (Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology (IPPP) Durham University) -- Searching for ultralight bosons with astrophysical probes and quantum sensors, Date: Wednesday, Jul 29, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami -- Survey of algebraic cycles, Date: Thursday, Jul 30, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

[DMS Seminar] Dr. Somnath Basu, Date: Friday, Jul 31, 2026

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