



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 highquality education and research in basic sciences.

Celebrating 80 Years of India's Independence at IISER Kolkata



As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, IISER Kolkata joins the nation in commemorating eight decades of freedom, progress, and the spirit of a New India.

Let us celebrate the sacrifices of those who gave us our freedom and renew our commitment to the values of unity, integrity, knowledge, and service to the nation.

Jai Hind! 🇮🇳



Celebrating the Legacy of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray



IISER Kolkata, in collaboration with Vivekananda Vijnan Mission, West Bengal Chapter of Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), organised a commemorative programme on Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray on Tuesday, 11 August 2026, at the M.N. Saha Auditorium, IISER Kolkata.

The programme celebrated the enduring legacy of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, the Father of Chemistry in India, and marked his 165th birth anniversary as well as the 125th anniversary of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited.

The inaugural session was graced by Hon'ble Prof. Kalyan Chakraborty, Cabinet Minister, Government of West Bengal, as the Chief Guest and Mr. Srikumar Ghose Choudhury, Managing Director and Director (Finance), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited, as the Guest of Honour.

The programme brought together distinguished scientists, academicians, VIBHA representatives, faculty members, students and teachers from various schools. The sessions featured addresses and lectures by eminent speakers, including Prof. Narayan Chakraborty, Dr. Jishnu Basu, Dr. Samit Guha and Prof. Ayan Datta, followed by an engaging experimental demonstration by Prof. Sanjio S. Zade and a lecture by Prof. Dulal Chandra Mukherjee, former Professor, University of Calcutta and former President, Indian Chemical Society.

The programme concluded with an audience quiz, concluding remarks, a vote of thanks and the National Song and National Anthem. The event served as a fitting tribute to Acharya Ray's remarkable contributions to science, education, entrepreneurship and nation-building, while inspiring young minds to connect with India's rich scientific heritage.



One Tiranga. One nation. Countless aspirations.



On the eve of India's 80th Independence Day, IISER Kolkata shines in saffron, white and green—proudly joining the nationwide #HarGharTiranga movement.

As the nation commemorates 150 years of our National Song, Vande Mataram, this radiant tribute honours the courage and sacrifices that secured our freedom. It also reaffirms our commitment to advancing knowledge, nurturing young minds, and contributing through science and education to a united, self-reliant, and Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Plantation Programme | 80th Independence Day



On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of our Nation, the Horticulture Section and Nature Club of IISER Kolkata organised a Plantation Programme under the Government of India's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

The initiative reflects our collective commitment towards environmental sustainability, nurturing nature, and building a greener future.

Freedom Run: Celebrating Fitness, Unity and Patriotism



On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of India, IISER Kolkata organised a vibrant Freedom Run, bringing together members of the Institute community in the spirit of fitness, unity and patriotism.

The event celebrated the values of freedom, solidarity and a healthy lifestyle, reflecting the collective spirit of a strong and progressive India.

ACS Fall 2026 Digital Meeting – Global Virtual Symposia on - “Natural Products as Inspiration for New Discoveries in Chemical Sciences”



ACS Fall 2026 Digital Meeting – Global Virtual Symposia on - “Natural Products as Inspiration for New Discoveries in Chemical Sciences” during August 23-27, 2026 by the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry, to be hosted by IISER Kolkata (Prof. Alakesh Bisai <https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/~alakesh/publications.html>), NTU Singapore (Prof. Tan Choon Hong <https://dr.ntu.edu.sg/entities/person/Tan-Choon-Hong>), IIT Kanpur (Prof. Dattatraya H. Dethe <https://www.iitk.ac.in/d-h-dethe>), Queen Mary Univ. of London (Prof. Stellios Arseniyadis <https://arseniyadislab.sbcs.qmul.ac.uk/>).

More details about the event can be found here: <https://www.acs.org/events/fall/digital-meeting/global-virtual-symposia/natural-products-as-inspiration.html>

In Memoriam: Professor R. N. Mukherjee



It is with profound sorrow and a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of our former Director, Professor R. N. Mukherjee.

His demise has left an irreplaceable void in the IISER Kolkata community. We deeply grieve the loss and will always remember him for his invaluable contributions, exemplary leadership, and enduring legacy at the Institute.

Our deepest condolences are with his family, and all those whose lives he touched through his work and presence.

May his soul rest in peace. Om Shanti.

In Loving Memory of Prof. R. N. Mukherjee



Department of Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata deeply mourns the passing of Prof. R. N. Mukherjee, former Professor of DCS and Director of IISER Kolkata, on 17th August 2026 and extends its heartfelt condolences. Prof. Mukherjee has supervised five PhD thesis from the Department of Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata

Participation of IISER Kolkata in 'Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat' Campaign (2 August 2026)



IISER Kolkata participated in the Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat campaign as a nationwide youth movement towards the vision of a 'Drug-Free India by 2047' on 2 August, 2026. The students, staff members and faculty members have taken the digital pledge for 'Drug-Free India' and joined the live telecast of the Hon'ble PM address.

DCS, IISER Kolkata Organized "Bio-isosteres: Approach, Synthesis, Improvement and Sustainability (BASIS 2026)" Conference



Department of Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata, organized "Bio-isosteres: Approach, Synthesis, Improvement and Sustainability (BASIS 2026)" conference on 21-22 August, 2026. There were 120 participants including BS-MS, MSc Chemistry, PhD students, post-doctorate researchers and faculty members. There were plenary and invited lectures by eminent scientists. In addition, there were poster presentations from the young researchers from various institutions of the country, which had seven poster awards to be bestowed. The conference briefly discussed the route map for the future of bio-isosteres in India.

Visit of Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya to DCS, IISER Kolkata (21-22 August 2026)



Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya, a distinguished chemical biologist from the Department of Chemistry, IISc Bangalore and Director, IISER-Tirupati visited the DCS, IISER Kolkata on 21 and 22nd August, 2026 and interacted with masters and PhD students and faculty members. He delivered an excellent talk on "Bio-isostere: design, synthesis and applications".

Keynote Lecture by Prof. Rajesh Sudhir Gokhale at BASIS 2026, DCS, IISER Kolkata (22 August 2026)



Prof. Rajesh Sudhir Gokhale, Professor, Department of Chemistry, IISER Pune, and the Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India delivered an excellent lecture on "Future of Chemical Biology in India" at BASIS 2026, DCS, IISER Kolkata on 22nd August, 2026.

Fresher's Welcome 2026 Organized by Department of Chemical Sciences, IISER Kolkata

DCS, IISER Kolkata has organized "Fresher's welcome 2026" on 19 August. There were 530 participants including BS-MS students, MSc Chemistry students, MSc Chemical Biology students, MSc Sustainability Science students, PhD students, post-doctorate researchers, staff members and faculty members. There was a welcome and introduction session for the freshers, followed by cultural program and dinner. It was an amazing and hearty event organize by DCS students.

Special Lecture by Prof. Ehud Gazit at BASIS 2026, DCS, IISER Kolkata (22 August 2026)



Prof. Ehud Gazit, Tel Aviv University delivered an excellent lecture on “Metabolite and ultrashort peptide materials: design, assembly and applications” at BASIS 2026, DCS, IISER Kolkata on 22nd August, 2026

Visit of Prof. Dulal Chandra Mukherjee to DCS, IISER Kolkata (11 August 2026)



Prof. Dulal Chandra Mukherjee (popularly known as DCM), a legendary chemistry teacher, widely recognized for his teaching, mentorship, and extensive research in physical chemistry, molecular spectroscopy, reaction dynamics, and quantum chemistry at Science College, University of Calcutta, visited the DCS, IISER Kolkata on 11th August 2026 and had interacted with masters and PhD students and faculty members.

Visit of Prof. Cyril Bressy to DCS, IISER Kolkata (12 August 2026)



Prof. Cyril Bressy, Aix-Marseille Universite, CNRS, Centrale Marseille, France, a reputed membrane catalysis and chemist, visited the DCS, IISER Kolkata on 12th August 2026. He had interacted with masters and PhD students and faculty members and delivered an excellent talk on “Compartmentalized Multi Catalysis: Chirality as Probe, Separation of Enantiomers and Active Transport”.

Faculty Members Achievements



The proposal of Prof. Alakesh Bisai, DCS, IISER Kolkata entitled 'Natural Products as Inspiration for New Discoveries in Chemical Sciences', has been accepted by the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry and will be hosted as part of the ACS Fall 2026 digital meeting.



IIT Madras Shaastra highlighted a work from Prof. Soumyajit Roy's group in their website. They have stated that (<https://shaastramag.iitm.ac.in/news-brief/break-and-make>) "Roy's group has shown that crystallisation does not occur all at once. Instead, matter gradually develops a local order before becoming a fully formed crystal. Using a dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)-based system, the researchers tracked crystal formation in solution. They used an in situ cryo-crystallisation technique, which rapidly freezes samples and allows scientists to capture intermediate stages of the process."



Prof. Sayan Bhattacharyya of the Department of Chemical Sciences was elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Sciences (INSA).



Prof. Swadhin Mandal, DCS, IISER Kolkata has received PIFI award as a Distinguished Scientist by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on 20th of August 2026.

Awareness Seminar on "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" Organized at IISER Kolkata (5 August 2026)



An awareness seminar on "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" by Bhahma Kumaries (PBIVV) in association with Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, has done on Wednesday 5 August 2026. Many people including BS-MS students, MSc Chemistry students, PhD students, post-doctorate researchers, staff members and faculty members have participated.

Students Achievements



Mr. Soumadip Guchhait Won the best oral presentation at EnRISE 2026 conference organised by IIT Indore.

Dr. Pradip Pattanayak, a PhD student of Prof. Pradipta Purkayastha, has been selected for the JSPS postdoctoral fellowship. He will be working under Prof. Yasuda Takuma at Kyushu University, Japan.



Dr. Sabyasachi Das, a PhD student of Prof. Sayam Sengupta, and Mr. Pradip Kumar Hansda, a PhD student of Prof. Debasish Halder, have received Best Poster Presentation Awards at the BASIS 2026 National Symposium, held at IISER Kolkata (August 21-22, 2026).

Mr. Bishes Ray, a BS-MS student from the DCS IISER Kolkata, got PhD offer from the University of Tokyo, Japan.



The following six students, who have completed their MS/MP projects during 2025-26 under the supervision of Prof. Alakesh Bisai, got PhD offers from abroad Universities:

- Ms. Sangeeta Roy joined the PhD program at the University of Missouri, Columbia, USA.
- Mr. Souvik Halder joined the PhD program at the University of Alberta, Canada.
- Mr. Anirban Mondal joined the PhD program at the University of Halle-Wittenburg, Germany.
- Mr. Souhardya Mondal joined the PhD program at the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.
- Ms. Rita Bhunia got an offer to do a PhD at the Philipps University of Marburg, Germany
- Ms. Swagata Chattopadhyay joined the PhD program at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Alumni Achievements

We are delighted to share that Dr. Gaurav Baruah, a former BS-MS Biology major student of our Department (Class of 2015), has been appointed as Assistant Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.



He was introduced to ecological research during his BS-MS dissertation in the laboratory of Prof. Robert John Chandran. Following his BS-MS degree, Dr. Baruah pursued his PhD at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, and subsequently carried out postdoctoral research in Switzerland and Germany. His research has resulted in several high-impact publications in leading international journals. Notably, he has published a single-author research article in *Ecology Letters*, Dr. Baruah and Prof. Robert John Chandran co-authored a research paper published in *Ecology and Evolution* in 2025.

We congratulate Dr. Gaurav Baruah on this well-deserved appointment and wish him continued success in his academic and research career.

The Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Kolkata, is delighted to share the wonderful news that Dr. Titas Sengupta, a BS-MS alumnus of IISER Kolkata from the Department of Biological Sciences (Class of 2014), has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2026 Simons Foundation Fellows-to-Faculty Award.

The Fellows-to-Faculty program of the Simons Foundation recognizes and supports outstanding early-career scientists as they transition from postdoctoral research toward independent, tenure-track faculty positions. The 2026 cohort comprises 15 scientists selected for their promising research programmes and potential to make significant contributions to their respective fields. Dr. Sengupta is among the recipients supported through the Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain (SCPAB). Her research focuses on epigenetic regulation of memory in response to aging and the environment.



Website Link: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/2026/07/31/announcing-the-recipients-of-the-2026-fellows-to-faculty-awards/>

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Titas Sengupta on this prestigious recognition and wish her continued success in her journey toward an independent academic and research career.



Dr. Sridip Pal, our former student from the 2009 batch who graduated in 2014, has recently joined TIFR Mumbai as a faculty member.

After completing his PhD at the University of California, San Diego, Sridip pursued research at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and Caltech, and subsequently served as a Junior Professor at IHES, France.

**IISER KOLKATA**

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata

**PHD ADMISSIONS OPEN
SPRING 2027**

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata is a premier institute of national importance dedicated to excellence in science education and research. The Institute is consistently featured in the Nature Index and is recognised for its strong research output and high-quality scientific publications. IISER Kolkata offers rigorous training and opportunities for cutting-edge research across Biological, Chemical, Physical, Mathematical, Earth and interdisciplinary sciences. PhD scholars work closely with accomplished faculty and benefit from advanced laboratories, modern instrumentation, and high-performance computational facilities. The programme emphasises strong theoretical foundations, independent research, and active participation in seminars, conferences, and collaborative projects, leading to impactful research publications in reputed journals. Beyond academics, IISER Kolkata promotes a vibrant campus life with active participation in sports, cultural, and extracurricular activities, fostering holistic development. Fellowships are provided as per Government of India norms.

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

**PHD APPLICATION PORTAL OPENS ON
20.09.2026**

Scan QR code for relevant details

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

Seminars and Colloquiums

[CAFM Seminar] Prof. Sachin Handa (Univ. of Missouri, USA) -- "From Green Chemistry to Industrial Impact: Catalytic Innovations for Sustainable Chemical Synthesis", Date: Tuesday, Aug 04, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

[Bibha Chowdhuri Memorial Lecture] Prof. Sudeshna Sinha (IISER Mohali) -- Leveraging Chaos for Logic, Date: Wednesday, Aug 05, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS seminar] Swarnendu Banerjee -- Understanding ecosystem responses to climate change through dynamical systems, Date: Wednesday, Aug 05, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

["Nasha Mukta Bharat"] Bhahma Kumaries (PBIVV) (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India) -- Awareness seminar on "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan", Date: Wednesday, Aug 05, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

DMS Learning Seminar on Morse Theory, Date: Friday, Aug 07, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Documentary and Discussion by Slashd, Date: Saturday, Aug 08, 2026, Time: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Adarsh Raghu (Kings College, London) -- Martingales and First Passage Problems in Stochastic Thermodynamics, Date: Tuesday, Aug 11, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[Group Seminar] Dr. Sayak Ray (Institute of Physics, University of Bonn (Germany)) -- Metastability in Interacting Light-Matter Systems: From Photon BEC to Dicke Superradiance, Date: Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026, Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[DMS Seminar] Debmalaya Bandyopadhyay (Postdoctoral Fellow with Daniel Horsley at Monash University, Melbourne) -- Towards P\'osa's Conjecture for $\mathbb{S}^3$ -uniform hypergraphs, Date: Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Somdutta Ghosh (University of Notre Dame) -- Heavy-Element Synthesis in Compact Object Mergers: From r-Process Nucleosynthesis to Neutrino Flavor Oscillations, Date: Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DCS Seminar] Prof. Cyril Bressy (University of Marseille, France), Date: Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[DCS Seminar] Prof. Cyril Bressy (University of Marseille, France), Date: Thursday, Aug 13, 2026, Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami (Visiting Researcher, IHES, France) -- Survey of algebraic cycles, Date: Thursday, Aug 13, 2026, Time: 4:10 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar, Date: Friday, Aug 14, 2026, Time: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[DCS Visitors Seminar] Dr. Sudip Pan (SRM University Amaravati) -- Ligand-Stabilized Complexes from the Computational Perspective, Date: Tuesday, Aug 18, 2026, Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. H. V. Ragavendra (University of Padova, Italy) -- Gravitational waves as the new probe for precision cosmology, Date: Tuesday, Aug 18, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[Gluon - The Physics Journal Club] Prof. Pradeep Mohanty & Prof. Kamaraju Natarajan (DPS, IISER-K) -- What holds them together? Phase-separation without attraction! & Watching Quantum Materials Away from Equilibrium: An Ultrafast Journey Through Electrons, Phonons and Spins, Date: Wednesday, Aug 19, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Hirak Chakraborty (Sambalpur University), Date: Wednesday, Aug 19, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Seminars and Colloquiums

[DPS Seminar] Dr Dwaipayan Chakrabarti (University of Birmingham, UK) -- Programming Colloidal Self-Assembly for Open Crystals and Empty Liquids, Date: Thursday, Aug 20, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Somdatta Sinha (INSA Honorary Senior Scientist, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata) -- Modelling Classification and Host- Pathogen Co-Evolution Through in Silico Analysis of HIV-1 Genomes & Genes, Date: Thursday, Aug 20, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

[Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami (Visiting Researcher, IHES, France) -- Survey of algebraic cycles Date: Thursday, Aug 20, 2026, Time: 4:10 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

[DPS-DES Colloquium] Prof. Sanjib Kumar Agarwalla (Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar) -- Neutrino Tomography of Earth, Date: Thursday, Aug 20, 2026, Time: 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

DMS Learning Seminar on Morse Theory, Date: Friday, Aug 21, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Somdatta Sinha (INSA Honorary Senior Scientist, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata) -- Introduction to Synthetic Biology, Date: Saturday, Aug 22, 2026, Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Identity, Maths Club seminar, Date: Saturday, Aug 22, 2026 - Sunday, Aug 23, 2026, Time: 9 p.m. - midnight

Identity, Maths Club seminar, Date: Sunday, Aug 23, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Somdatta Sinha (INSA Honorary Senior Scientist, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata) -- Introduction to Systems Biology, Date: Monday, Aug 24, 2026, Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

[DMS Seminar] Suresh M. Hegde (Prof, National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal) -- An insight into Graph Labellings and Applications, Date: Monday, Aug 24, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Animesh Chatterjee (CERN, Switzerland) -- Beyond the Standard Model Searches with Neutrino Experiments, Date: Monday, Aug 24, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Learning Seminar] Dr. Soumalya Joardar -- Date: Monday, Aug 24, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Colloquium to fresh 1st year student] Prof. Soumitro Banerjee (DPS, IISER-K), Date: Monday, Aug 24, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Prof. Utpal Banerjee (University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology (MCDB)) -- Developmental Metabolism and the patterning of the Mammalian Pre-implantation Embryo, Date: Tuesday, Aug 25, 2026, Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Ion Santra (KU Luven, Belgium) -- The world of nonequilibrium reservoirs, Date: Tuesday, Aug 25, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

DMS Seminar and Colloquium, Date: Thursday, Aug 27, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

[Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami (Visiting Researcher, IHES, France) -- Survey of algebraic cycles, Date: Thursday, Aug 27, 2026, Time: 4:10 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

[Lecture by Dr. Souvik Goswami] Dr. Souvik Goswami, Date: Thursday, Aug 27, 2026, Time: 5:40 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

DMS Learning Seminar on Morse Theory, Date: Friday, Aug 28, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

[DMS Learning Seminar] Dr. Soumalya Joardar -- Date: Monday, Aug 31, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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