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.

IISER Kolkata Signs MoU with Unilever







IISER Kolkata signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Unilever on 18 September 2026, marking an important step towards strengthening collaboration between academia and industry.

Promoting a Safe, Respectful and Ragging-Free Campus











IISER Kolkata organised the Anti-Ragging Joint Orientation Programme on 11 September 2026 at the R. N. Tagore Auditorium, reaffirming its commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, inclusive and ragging-free campus.

The programme featured a welcome address by the Dean of Student Affairs, who highlighted the importance of anti-ragging awareness, institutional mechanisms and student support systems.

Adv. Sidhant Ghosh, Rescue and Relief Foundation, addressed the students on ragging, its consequences, prevention, and the collective responsibility of students in creating a safe and dignified campus environment.

The programme was attended by members of the Anti-Ragging Committee, along with Mrs. Urmi Sanyal, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector and Administrator, Kalyani Municipality, Government of West Bengal, and Shri Islam, Officer-in-Charge, Mohanpur Investigation Centre.

IISER Kolkata remains committed to promoting a campus culture grounded in respect, dignity, safety and inclusivity, where every student can learn and grow in a secure and supportive environment.

Vigyan Pratibha Hosts Professional Development Workshop for Science and Mathematics Teachers



The Vigyan Pratibha Regional Centre at IISER Kolkata organised a five-day Professional Development Workshop for Science and Mathematics Teachers from 7–11 September 2026, bringing together 38 teachers, including 31 from SCERT Sikkim and 6 from WBBSE-affiliated schools functioning under the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA).The workshop aimed to promote activity-based, inquiry-oriented and conceptually engaging approaches to school-level Science and Mathematics education providing the teachers a valuable platform for professional interaction and exchange of teaching experiences between educators from Sikkim and West Bengal, while encouraging the integration of inquiry-based and experiential learning approaches into school classrooms.

The programme commenced with addresses by the honourable Deputy Director, IISER Kolkata, and the Dean of International Relations and Outreach, IISER Kolkata. It also featured an invited lecture by Dr. Debiprosad Duari on Solar System and Beyond, former Director M P Birla Institute of Fundamental Research with a plenary sessions on scientific inquiry and innovative approaches to Science teaching by Prof. Anindita Bhadra, Coordinator, Vigyan Pratibha IISER Kolkata.











Tug of War Marks National Sports Day 2026 Celebrations



National Sports Day 2026 was celebrated on 29 August, various sporting activities were organised to promote fitness, teamwork, and the spirit of sportsmanship among students.

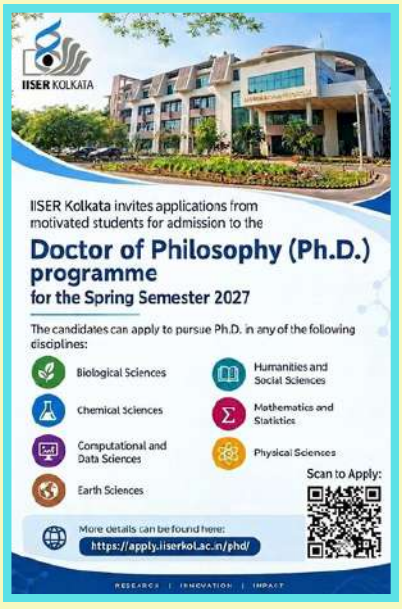


As part of the celebrations, a Tug of War competition between Group A and Group B of the 2026 MS students was organised on 27 August 2026.

The event was organised in accordance with the Ministry's guidelines under the initiative "Khelo India Samvaad – Khel Ki Baat PM Ke Saath", aimed at encouraging participation in sports and promoting a culture of fitness and healthy competition.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate teamwork, camaraderie, discipline, and the joy of sports.

Application Open for Ph.D. Programme, Spring 2027



IISER Kolkata invites applications from motivated students for admission to its Doctor of Philosophy Programme for the Spring Semester 2027.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the official portal for eligibility, application guidelines, important dates and other details.

https://apply.iiserkol.ac.in/phd/

Building a Culture of Fitness and Well-being







Under the leadership of Dr. Mettu Vasudev and with the guidance of Prof. Tushar Nandi, the Student Affairs Section has initiated mandatory weekly two-hour physical health sessions for our incoming BS-MS students.

The sessions will include a variety of physical activities, with the specific activities and formats being decided based on the interests of the students and the guidance of Dr. Mettu.

This initiative aims to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle among our students while fostering fitness, teamwork, discipline, and overall well-being.

International Workshop on Nanobiophotonics Using Structured Light – V2



International Workshop on NANOBIOPHOTONICS Using Structured Light – V2, scheduled to be held on 12th October 2026 at IISER Kolkata.

The workshop is being organized under the SPARC project and will bring together researchers and academicians working in nanophotonics, biophotonics, structured light, spin-orbit photonics, and chiral nanophotonics.

https://sites.google.com/iiserkol.ac.in/sparc/

Registration Link: https://forms.gle/tU6njfchkkq77uT99

Bio-Vantages: 2026 – Bioanalytical Workshop (BAW)



"Frontiers in Bioanalytical Instrumentation and Methodology," will be held from 14th to 17th December 2026 at the IISER Kolkata Campus.

The BAW website with the updated conference details is available here: https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/~baw/

Bankura Christian Collegiate School Students Visit IISER Kolkata for Outreach Programme



Prof. Balaram Mukhopadhyay organized an outreach program - Visit of Bankura Christian Collegiate School Class XI Students on 11th September 2026.





Sponsored Industry Project



A joint research agreement between Hari Shankar Singhania Elastomer & Tyre Research Institute (HASETRI), Mysore, Karnataka and IISER Kolkata on the project titled "Advanced Materials & Polymer Solutions for Sustainable and Durable Tyres" was signed at the R&D office on 17th September, 2026.

CAFM Hosts Colloquium on Foam Science and Product Performance



The Center for Advanced Functional Materials (CAFM) organized a colloquium by Dr. V. Shrinivas (Research Scientist at Unilever) on "Foam: From Molecular Interfaces to Product Performance" on 17th September 2026.

Department of Chemical Sciences Hosts International Conference on Organometallics & Catalysis



International Conference on Organometallics & Catalysis (ICOC) – Students was convened by the Department of Chemical Sciences from 22 to 23rd September 2026.

DCS Hosts Colloquium on Glycals and Their Applications



The DCS had arranged a department colloquium by Prof. N. G. Ramesh of IIT Delhi on 25th September 2026. He delivered a lecture on "Our journey with Glycals – Carbohydrate derived enol ethers from methodology to total synthesis to biological applications".

The Safety Seminar Organized by the R&D Section, IISER Kolkata, for All





The institute safety seminar was held on 7th September 2026 at the Main Auditorium from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Dr. Somnath Das, Unilever Industries Ltd., Bangalore, delivered the safety seminar and also visited several Research and Teaching labs, and central instrument facilities.

Janmashtami Celebrations at IISER Kolkata





The spirit of Janmashtami came alive at IISER Kolkata as students and members of the campus community came together to celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna. The celebrations brought a warm and festive energy to the campus, providing an opportunity for everyone to come together and enjoy the occasion beyond the usual rhythm of academic life.

A major highlight of the celebrations was the Dahi Handi event, which added an energetic and playful touch to the festivities. Inspired by the traditional celebration associated with Lord Krishna, students from different batches formed teams and took on the challenge of breaking the handi suspended at a height. With human pyramids taking shape and the crowd cheering enthusiastically, the event quickly became a lively gathering of excitement and camaraderie.

The competition was as much about teamwork as it was about reaching the handi. Students relied on coordination, trust, and determination, while their friends cheered them on and encouraged every attempt. The cheers grew louder as the teams got closer to the handi, culminating in moments of celebration when it was finally broken.

More than just a festive activity, the Dahi Handi brought students from different batches together and created a shared experience for the IISER Kolkata community. It was a celebration filled with laughter, enthusiasm, teamwork, and togetherness, capturing the festive spirit of Janmashtami and adding another memorable chapter to campus life at IISER Kolkata.

Celebrating Bappa: A Festive Season of Music, Devotion and Culture





The IISER Kolkata campus recently experienced a vibrant wave of devotion and celebration hosted by Team Bappa Morya! The celebrations commenced with an electrifying Jamming Night, organized in coordination with the Music Club, where singers from across the campus left the crowd spellbound. The excitement then peaked as the much-anticipated Ganesh Chaturthi arrived. A beautiful pandal was erected on campus to welcome Bappa and to open the festivities, the Maha Aarti was held on the first evening, gathering the community in shared prayer. After a grand Visarjan on the following day full of dancing and fond farewells, the celebrations continued in full swing. Team Bappa Morya then joined hands with Team Janmashtami to host a spectacular Cultural evening that stole the show. The stage came alive with an incredible variety of acts, featuring energetic dances and tuneful singing performances. Adding a special touch to the event, students of the campus faculty members also stepped into the spotlight to showcase their wonderful talents. It was indeed a season to remember for every devotee in IISER Kolkata!







Hindi Mah–2026; Celebration at IISER Kolkata



The Rajbhasha Prakoshth of IISER Kolkata celebrated Hindi Mah to promote Hindi as the Official Language and encourage its use in official communication.

A series of activities including quiz competitions, a Hindi song competition, and a note-writing competition were organised for the purpose. The celebrations further featured a Hindi theatrical performance, 'Ubhaychar', presented in collaboration with Rangshilpi. As a part of the programme, a Rajbhasha Workshop was also held with Shri Gangeshwar Singh, former IPS officer and poet, as the Chief Guest. The event included the Rajbhasha Pledge and the unveiling of the Institute's Annual Hindi magazine, 'Mayukh'. The celebration provided a platform for the Institute community to engage with Hindi language, literature, and culture while strengthening awareness and promoting the use of Hindi in official work.

Faculty Members Achievements



Prof. Sunil Kumar Khare has been appointed to several key national-level committees, serving as Chairman of the National Rapid Analytical Testing Facility Committee, FSSAI (2026–onwards); Chairman of the BioE-3 Enzymes Committee, DBT (2025–onwards); Chairman of the SUNIL Programme Committee, DST (2024–onwards); and Co-Chairman of the International Bilateral Programme Committee, DST (2025–onwards).



Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma has been conferred the Global Excellence Award 2026 at the 3rd International Conference on Advancing Science and Technologies in Health Science (IEM-HEALS 2026).



Prof. Punyasloke Bhadury and his team have been awarded a prestigious DBT-BIRAC AMRIT Grant for a major national project focused on restoring mangrove ecosystems across India's coastal states.



Prof. Swadhin Kumar Mandal has been honored as a Distinguished Scientist by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).



Prof. Subhajit Bandyopadhyay has been selected to receive CRSI Bronze Medal 2027 in recognition of his outstanding research contributions to the field of Chemistry.



Prof. Rahul Banerjee has been nominated as Hon'ble Chancellor to the 10th Executive Council of the Vidyasagar University.



Dr. Susmita Roy has edited a new book entitled "Energy Landscapes of Nucleic Acid Folding and Assembly" published by the American Chemical Society (ACS) as part of the ACS Symposium Series.

Faculty Members Achievements



Dr. Rajib Dutta has been awarded a prestigious research grant under the Indo-French Emerging Project Partnerships Program of the Indo-French Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research.



Dr. Shirshendu Cowdhury has been awarded a prestigious research grant under the Indo-French Emerging Project Partnerships Program of the Indo-French Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research.



Prof. Sourin Das is leading the Quantum Mission grant under the "Quantum Algorithms" theme from IISER Kolkata in collaboration with IISER Pune, AFMC Pune, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, and IIT Tirupati.



Faculty Members Achievements



September 2-3, 2026: Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma delivered an Invited talk titled "Multi-omics Profiling of Microglial Metabolic Reprogramming during Virus-induced Neuroinflammation" at 6th Genomics India Conference 2026, organized by Genotypic Technology Pvt. Ltd., IISc Bangalore, UAS Bangalore, TIGS and NCBS, Bangalore.





September 12, 2026: Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma received the prestigious Global Excellence Award 2026 at IEM-HEALS 2026: The International Conference on Advancing Science and Technologies in Health Science. It was held at Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Salt Lake Campus, Kolkata, India.

This distinguished recognition celebrates her outstanding contributions, visionary leadership, and impactful work in the field of science and health research. Her relentless pursuit of meaningful scientific discovery and her inspiring leadership continue to motivate generations of young researchers.



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September 24-26, 2026: Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma delivered a keynote lecture on "Deciphering the Neuroimmune Axis: Molecular Mechanisms of Murine β-Coronavirus-Induced Neuroinflammation and Demyelination" at the 40th Annual Meeting and International Conference of the Society for Neurochemistry, India (SNCI), at Pondicherry University. The theme of the conference was "Integrative Neurochemistry: Neuroinformatics and Therapeutics".

Students Achievements



Mr. Tuhin Subhra Pal, a 4th-year PhD research scholar in the Department of Biological Sciences working under the supervision of Prof. Anindita Bhadra, was awarded the Conference Attendance Grant and the Accessibility Grant by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB), UK. These grants facilitated his attendance and oral presentation at the European Conference on Behavioural Biology (ECBB 2026), held in Cambridge, UK.



Mr. Bishal Hazra (22RS014) from Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma's lab won the Dr. GM Taori Young Scientist Award for best oral presentation at the SNCI International Conference 2026. The conference took place from 24-26 Sept 2026 at Pondicherry University. The theme of the conference was Integrative Neurochemistry: Neuroinformatics & Therapeutics.

Seminars and Colloquiums

IKCR Designing Workshop, Date: Tuesday, Sep 01, 2026, Time: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

[DPS-CESSI Colloquium] Prof. David Hilditch (University of Lisbon) – Building Spacetime, Date: Tuesday, Sep 01, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DPS Colloquium] Prof. Sandip K Chakrabarti (Director, Indian Center for Space Physics (ICSP), Kolkata) – My Journey from General Relativistic Astrophysics to Space instrumentation, Date: Wednesday, Sep 02, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DPS Gluon Seminar] Prof. Sandip K. Chakrabarti (Director, Indian Center for Space Physics (ICSP), Kolkata) – Informal DIscussion on my Interaction with the "Super-Giants", Date: Wednesday, Sep 02, 2026, Time: 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Deep Chatterjee (MIT Kavli Institute) – Real-time science and multi-messenger astronomy with gravitational waves, Date: Thursday, Sep 03, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[Seminar Series] Dr. Souvik Goswami (Visiting Researcher, IHES, France) – Survey of algebraic cycles, Date: Thursday, Sep 03, 2026, Time: 4:10 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.

[Vigyan Pratibha Special Lecture] Dr. Debiprasad Duari – Solar System and Beyond, Date: Monday, Sep 07, 2026, Time: 11:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Ananya Adhikari – Capturing neutron stars, Date: Tuesday, Sep 08, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] DBS Seminar – DBS Seminar, Date: Wednesday, Sep 09, 2026, Time: 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Special Lecture by Prof M Banerjee, Date: Wednesday, Sep 09, 2026, Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[DPS Seminar] Dr. Purba Chatterjee (University of Pennsylvania) – Physical Learning in Soft & Living Matter: From Loopy Vascular Networks to Continual Learning Machines, Date: Wednesday, Sep 09, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Subir Kumar Nag and Dr. Kavita Kumari (Scientist (Agricultural Chemistry) FRAI Division, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, Kolkata) – Emerging Contaminants in Aquatic Ecosystems: Bioaccumulation, Endocrine Disruption, Molecular Responses, and Food Safety Implications, Date: Wednesday, Sep 09, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

[Outreach Event of DCS] Prof,Balaram Mukhopadhyay (IISER-K), Date: Friday, Sep 11, 2026, Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Seminars and Colloquiums

[DBS Seminar] Dr. Kanchan Garai (TIFR, Hyderabad) – Single-molecule investigation of Alzheimer's biomolecular condensates, Date: Friday, Sep 11, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Learning Seminar] Dr. Soumalya Joardar, Date: Monday, Sep 14, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Ronno Das – Inclusion-exclusion in topology and algebraic geometry, Date: Tuesday, Sep 15, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Safety Training, Date: Tuesday, Sep 15, 2026, Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

[DBS Safety Training] DBS Safety Training – DBS Safety Training., Date: Wednesday, Sep 16, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Ronno Das – Inclusion-exclusion in topology and algebraic geometry, Date: Wednesday, Sep 16, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

[GLUON Faculty Talk] Prof. Anandamohan Ghosh & Dr. Chandan Dutta (DPS, IISER-K) – Random Matrix Theory: A curious case of β ensemble & From Entanglement to Steering: Harnessing Quantum Correlations for Thermodynamic Advantage, Date: Wednesday, Sep 16, 2026, Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar] Ronno Das – Inclusion-exclusion in topology and algebraic geometry, Date: Thursday, Sep 17, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

CAFM Seminar Collab with Unilever, Date: Thursday, Sep 17, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

[DCS Visitor's Seminar] Prof. Kallol Ray (Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany) – "SMALL MOLECULE ACTIVATION AT TRANSITION METAL CENTERS: STRUCTURE- FUNCTION CORRELATIONS", Date: Friday, Sep 18, 2026, Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DMS Topology & Geometry Seminar, Date: Monday, Sep 21, 2026, Time: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cyber Security & Awareness, Date: Wednesday, Sep 23, 2026, Time: 11 a.m. - noon

[(DBS Seminar)] Dr. Partha Pratim Datta (Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Kolkata) – The essential GTPase Obg/CgtA functions at the systems level in Vibrio cholerae & Comparative cryo-EM studies reveal the molecular basis of Tobamovirus host specificity, Date: Wednesday, Sep 23, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

[DCS Special Colloquim] Prof N G Ramesh (IIT Delhi) – "Our Journey with Glycals – Carbohydrate derived Enol ethers From Methodology to Total Synthesis to Biological Applications", Date: Friday, Sep 25, 2026, Time: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

DMS Identity Math Seminar, Date: Saturday, Sep 26, 2026 - Sunday, Sep 27, 2026, Time:10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

'Smarane Rabindranath', Date: Tuesday, Sep 29, 2026, Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

[DBS Seminar] Dr Jayanta Mukherjee (Bose Institute), Date: Wednesday, Sep 30, 2026, Time: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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