

**WEST BENGAL ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 15, 2024



Dr. J. C. Ray Auditorium
Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB)
4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700 032



<https://www.wast.in>

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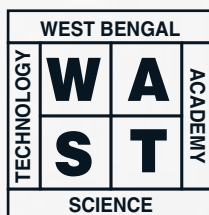
Indian Institute of Chemical Biology

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Past-President

Prof. Somnath Dasgupta

Indian Statistical Institute



(S/65001 of 1990-1991)

West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology

Annual Report 2024

**Thirty Third Annual General Meeting
June 15, 2024**

**Venue :
Dr. J. C. Ray Auditorium
CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB)
4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur
Kolkata - 700 032**



WEST BENGAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CSIR- Indian Institute of Chemical Biology

4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road

Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032

Tel.: (033) 2499-5796

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Dr. Amit Krishna De

Editor, West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology

Hony. Secretary, Indian Science News Association, Kolkata

Former Advisor, Executive Secretary, Indian Science Congress Association, Govt. of India

WAST Secretariat:

CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology

4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur

Kolkata-700032

E-mail: wastsecretariat@gmail.com

Tel.: (033) 2499-5796

Website: <http://www.wast.in>

WAST in Social Media:

YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@WAST_Activities

Annual Report 2023-2024

Report from the Secretary:

Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice President, Hon'ble Council members and all respected fellows and Associates of the WAST: I am honoured to present before the Annual General Meeting of the Academy the Annual Report for the year 2023-2024. The present council has been working since August 2023 and this report include the activities undertaken till March 2024.

SECTION I Council Meetings:

The present Council met 5 times within the period of Aug 2023 to May 2024 to discuss the major plans and activities of the Academy. The main aspects were (i) Framing the Mission and Vision statements for the Academy, (ii) Amendment of the existing rules and regulations of the WAST, (iii) Redesigning the WAST Fellow/ Associate nomination forms, (iv) Reconstitution of the Sectional Committees for 2024-2026, (v) strengthening the financial health of the academy. Details are included in the registration folder.

SECTION II Details of lectures organized by the Academy is listed below.

(i) Prof. M.S. Swaminathan memorial lecture was delivered by Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, former Vice Chancellor of Viswa Bangla University at Sister Nivedita University (SNU) on October 18, 2023.

Prof M.S. Swaminathan was known as 'Father of Green revolution' in India. He is the recipient of innumerable accolades including Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Bharat Ratna, Raman Magsaysay award and World Food Prize. A program titled "Remembering Prof M.S. Swaminathan" in the memory of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, was organized by the Plant Sciences Section of the WAST jointly with the Department of Microbiology and the Department of Biotechnology of the Sister Nivedita University. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, inaugurated the program and Prof. Arun Lahiri Majumder introduced the speaker. Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta highlighted his personal experiences with Prof. Swaminathan as well as his contributions in dealing with the importance of sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and the role of biotechnology in addressing global food security challenges. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks presented by the Secretary WAST, Prof. Maitrayee DasGupta.

(ii) Prof. C.R. Rao Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Probal Chaudhuri of the Indian Statistical Institute at Bose Institute, Kolkata on 07 November 2023.

Professor Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao, one of the greatest names in the discipline of statistics, passed away on August 22, 2023, less than a month before his 103th birthday. He is the recipient of innumerable accolades including Padma Vibhushan, Fellowship of the Royal Society, US National Science Medal, and the International Prize in Statistics. Mathematical Sciences Section of the WAST organized the memorial lecture in his memory at the Bose Institute, Kolkata. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, inaugurated the program and Prof. P. P. Majumder, Former President of the WAST, briefly touched upon the life and works of Prof. Rao. Prof. Sumitra Purkayastha introduced Prof. Probal Chaudhuri of the Indian Statistical Institute, who delivered the memorial lecture. Prof. Chaudhuri gave a heart-warming account of Prof. Rao's research contributions and his journey through the different phases of his life. The most popular works of Prof. Rao were published in the 1940s, involving estimation theory and differential geometry. The talk was filled with several interesting anecdotes involving Prof. Rao. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks presented by Prof. Ayanendranath Basu, Convener of the Sectional Committee-I of the WAST.

(iii) Sarbani Patranabis Deb Endowment Lecture 2023 was delivered by Prof. Sanghamitra Ray, Department of Geology and Geophysics, IIT Kharagpur on November 17, 2023 at Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata.

The Endowment Lecture was jointly organized by the Earth Sciences Section of the WAST and the Indian Statistical Institute. The title of the talk was "If fossils could speak: glimpses from the Late Triassic world". Dr. Shiladri Sekhar Das, Head, Geological Studies Unit, ISI, conveyed the welcome address and reminisced about the life and activities of Prof. Sarbani Patranabis Deb. Professor Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, delivered the detailed activities of the WAST and introduced the speaker. Prof. Sanghamitra Ray talked about the Late Triassic vertebrate fauna from the Gondwana basins of India with case studies from the Tiki and Maleri formations of the Rewa and Pranhita-Godavari basins. She also talked about the palaeobiology of 32 premaxillae of varied ontogeny pertaining to Indian hyperodapedons and the paleoecology of the Late Triassic of India from a holistic perspective. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, felicitated the speaker with sincere appreciation. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks presented by Prof. Somnath Dasgupta, the immediate past president of the WAST.

(iv) JC Sengupta Endowment Lecture 2023 was delivered by Prof. Paramjit Khurana of Delhi University at University of Calcutta, Dept. of Botany, on 30th January 2024.

Prof. J.C. Sengupta was an educationist and a renowned plant physiologist. The Plant Sciences Section of the WAST organized the JC Sengupta Endowment Lecture at the Dept. of Botany, University of Calcutta, in hybrid mode. Prof. Rita Kundu, Head, Dept. of Botany, CU, inaugurated the program and Prof. Amit Ghosh, Vice President of the WAST briefly touched upon the life and works of Prof. Sengupta. Prof. Sampa Das, INSA honorary Scientist, introduced the speaker. The lecture was on "Creating Climate Resilient Crops in the Era of Plant Genomics". Prof. Khurana gave an overview of Indian Scientists' contributions as a partner of International collaborating team in Rice and Tomato genome sequencing. She mentioned her efforts in genome sequencing of Mulberry and developing heat and salinity tolerant varieties of this plant. Finally, she also mentioned how she is applying functional genomic approach to increase wheat productivity. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, felicitated the speaker with sincere appreciation. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks presented by Prof. Krishnendu Acharya, of the Dept. of Botany, CU.

(v) National Science Day Lecture 2024 was delivered ONLINE by Dr. Nakul C. Maiti, Structural Biology and Bioinformatics Division, of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, on 28 February 2024.

Prof. Ranjan Ganguly introduced the speaker to the audience. The Lecture on "Raman Spectroscopy: A Journey Towards Modern Biology" was a comprehensive exploration into the revolutionary role of Raman spectroscopy in biological sciences and explained how it can be used to detect diseases like Parkinson, Alzheimer and Diabetes. Prof. Maity introduced the Raman Spectroscopy Facility installed at CSIR-IICB that is designed and built entirely (except the optics) using indigenous technology, which shows the appropriateness of 2024 National Science Day theme: "*Indigenous Technology for Viksit Bharat*". Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, thanked the speaker for his enlightening talk. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks presented by the Secretary of the WAST, Prof. Maitrayee DasGupta.

(vi) Dr. Sunil Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture 2023 was delivered by Prof. Madhumita Dobe, Chairperson - FAITH (Foundation for Actions and Innovations towards health promotion) at the Dept. of Pharmacology, Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, on 20 March 2024.

Dr. Sunil Chandra Bose was an eminent cardiologist, who established the Cardiological Society of India. The Medical and Veterinary Sciences Section of the WAST organized the Dr. Sunil Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture delivered by Prof. Madhumita Dobe, who was formerly in the Department of Health Promotion & Education, All India Institute of Health and Public Hygiene, Kolkata. Dr. Dobe's talk was titled 'Reflections on the history of public health in Kolkata; a journey from 1858 to 1911'. Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, inaugurated the program and briefly touched upon the life and works of Dr. Sunil Chandra Bose. Prof. Mitali Chatterjee introduced the speaker, who then took the audience through a fascinating journey of important

public health related anecdotes/events that ranged from the introduction of small pox vaccination, usage of a cholera belt to name a view, as also landmark discoveries made during the period, e.g. Sir Ronald Ross's discovery of mosquito-based transmission of malaria, Haffkine's cholera vaccine etc. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, felicitated the speaker with sincere appreciation. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks presented by Prof. Mitali Chatterjee, Convener of the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Section of the WAST.

SECTION III Training Course for Engineering and Science Students

Two-day Training Course on “Introduction to Programming for Internet of Things (IoT)” at the Department of Instrumentation and Electronics Engg, Jadavpur University, Salt Lake Campus, on 10-11 February 2024.

A large pool of trained manpower in the frontier technology of IoT is required for the Indian Industry. Understanding this need, the Engineering Sectional Committee of the WAST conducted this training course for the Engineering and Science students. The course was fully based on hands-on with the IoT kits and devices. 24 students of nine institutions from Kolkata, Jalpaiguri and Haldia took part in the training course. The course was inaugurated on 10th Feb at 9:30 AM with the welcome address by Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay, Course Co-coordinator. The Chief Guest of the inaugural program was Prof. Anupam Basu, Former Director, NIT Durgapur. He addressed the students and mentioned the use of IoT and the future of this technology. On behalf of the WAST Council, Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President, and Prof Amit Ghosh, Vice President, were present and addressed the gathering. Prof. Swarnendu Sen, Joint Course Co-coordinator, presented the vote of thanks. Special thanks were given to Mr. Sandip Sarkar, Chief Technology Officer, Xconics, for the support in conducting the course with the hardware kits as well as training manpower. In the end on 11th Feb, the valedictory program was graced by Prof. Ratna Ghosh, Head, Dept. of Instrumentation and Electronics Engg and Prof Amit Ghosh, Vice President of the WAST. Responses from the participants were collected through feedback form. The participating students were awarded with the certificates by Prof. Amit Ghosh, Vice President of the WAST.

SECTION IV Induction to the Fellowship and Associateship of the Academy

The nomination process for the Fellows and Associates of the Academy has been done by the Sectional Committees in a timely manner. Based on the recommendation of each Sectional Committee, the Council approved of the induction of 31 eminent scientists/technologists to the Fellowship and 10 promising young scientists/technologists to the Associateship of the Academy. Section-wise lists of the newly elected Fellows and Associates have been provided in this report.

SECTION V Presence of the WAST in the Social Media

During this year, the WAST started its own YouTube Channel, which is available at https://www.youtube.com/@WAST_Activities. All the lectures as reported above were streamed live through the WAST YouTube channel and are now available in the channel playlist.

I convey sincere thanks of the academy to Prof. Vibha Tandon, Director, IICB, Kolkata, for extending her support in holding the Annual General Meeting 2024 in the Institute premises. I would also like to put on record sincere thanks on behalf of the academy to Tata Steel Limited, LPSC-ISRO, JBNSTS and Indian Statistical Institute, for providing generous financial support towards academy activities.

I convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Council and Conveners and Members of all the 13 Sectional committees for their unstinted cooperation, help, and support.

Maitrayee DasGupta

Sectional Committees for the Year 2023-2024

Sectional Committee I: Mathematical Sciences

Ayanendranath Basu	ISI Kolkata (Convener)
Indrajit Lahiri	University of Kalyani
Sudeshna Banerjea	Jadavpur University
Rahul Mukerjee	(ex) IIM Kolkata
Mihir Kumar Chakraborty	(ex) University of Calcutta

Sectional Committee II: Physical Sciences

Mrinal Pal	CGCRI, Kolkata (Convener)
Pathik Kumbhakar	NIT Durgapur
Bikas K. Chakrabarti	(ex) SINP, Kolkata
Sukhen Das	Jadavpur University
Abhijit Kr. Das	IACS, Kolkata
Swapan Kumar Pradhan	Burdwan University
Aswini Ghosh	IACS, Kolkata

Sectional Committee III: Chemical Sciences

Nikhil Guchhait	University of Calcutta (Convener)
Samita Basu	SINP, Kolkata
Subratanath Koner	Jadavpur University
Chinmay Chowdhury	IICB, Kolkata
Kumaresh Ghosh	University of Kalyani
Tarun K Mandal	IACS, Kolkata
Surajit Chattopadhyay	University of Kalyani

Sectional Committee IV: Engineering and Technology

Swarnendu Sen	Jadavpur University (Convener)
Amlan Jyoti Pal	UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Indore
Amitava Datta	Jadavpur University
Dipankar Chattopadhyay	University of Calcutta
Sekhar Chandra Dutta	IIT-ISM Dhanbad
Subrata Chakraborty	IEST Shibpur
Suvankar Ganguly	Tata Steel

Sectional Committee V: Earth and Planetary Sciences

Joydip Mukhopadhyay	Presidency University (Convener)
Subir Sarkar	Jadavpur University
Saibal Gupta	IIT Kharagpur
Sankar Bose	Presidency University
Prabir Dasgupta	Durgapur Government College
Supriyo Mitra	IISER Kolkata
Sudipta Sengupta	(ex) Jadavpur University

Sectional Committee VI: Plant Sciences

A. N. Lahiri Majumder	Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata (Convener)
Sudip Chattopadhyay	NIT Durgapur
Swapan K Datta	Biswa Bangla University
Sampa Das	(ex) Bose Institute, Kolkata
Krishnendu Acharya	University of Calcutta

Sectional Committee VII: Animal Sciences

Arun Bandyopadhyay	IICB, Kolkata (Convener)
Sudip K Ghosh	IIT Kharagpur
Rathindra Nath Baral	Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata
Siddhartha Jana	IACS, Kolkata
Subrata Adak	IICB, Kolkata
Ellora Sen	National Brain Research Centre, Gurugram

Sectional Committee VIII: Medical and Veterinary Sciences

Mitali Chatterjee	IPGMER, Kolkata (Convener)
Jayasri Das Sarma	IISER Kolkata
T. Ramamurthy	NICED, Kolkata
Alakendu Ghosh	IPGMER, Kolkata
Santanu Guha	Medical College Kolkata
Jharna Roy	(ex) University of Calcutta
Bibhuti Saha	School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata

Sectional Committee IX: Biochemistry and Biophysics

Susanta Roychoudhury	IICB, Kolkata (Convener)
Rukshana Chowdhury	Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute
Analava Basu	NIBMG, Kalyani
Koustubh Panda	University of Calcutta
Subrata Majumdar	Bose Institute
Shelley Bhattacharya	Visva-Bharati
Tanya Das	Bose Institute

Sectional Committee X: Agriculture and Forestry

Biswapati Mandal	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani (Convener)
Tapan Purakayastha	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
Gouranga Kar	ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, West Bengal
Bikash Mandal	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
Pratap Bhattacharyya	ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack
K.G. Mandal	ICAR-Mahatma Gandhi Integrated Farming Research Institute, Bihar
Pratip De	ATARI Kolkata

Sectional Committee XI: Social Sciences

Maitree Bhattacharya	University of Calcutta (Convener)
Manas Pratim Das	All India Radio, Kolkata
Amalesh Mukhopadhyay	(ex) DST, Govt. of India
Ambika C. Banerjee	(ex) East India Pharmaceutical Works
Sk. Emdadul Islam	(ex) Birla Industrial & Technological Museum
Shree Bhagwan Roy	(ex) Indian Institute of Biosocial Research & Development, Kolkata

Sectional Committee XII: Environmental Sciences

Pradip K. Sikdar	IISWBM, Kolkata (Convener)
Asis Majumdar	Jadavpur University
Pinaki Sar	IIT Kharagpur
Tapan Kumar Dutta	Bose Institute
Sandip K. Mukhopadhyay	University of Calcutta
Tapan Adhya	KIIT, Bhubaneswar
Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay	University of Calcutta

Sectional Committee XIII: Electrical and Computational Engineering

Animesh Maitra	University of Calcutta (Convener)
Rajib Bandyopadhyay	Jadavpur University
Anupam Basu	IIT Kharagpur
Ranjan Mallik	IIT Delhi
Dipti Prasad Mukherjee	ISI Kolkata
Debotosh Bhattacharjee	Jadavpur University
Chandrakanta Kumar	ISRO, Bangalore

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List of Fellows Elected in 2023

Section I: Mathematical Sciences



Debjani Chakrabarti

Professor
Department of Mathematics
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

Specialization:
Operations Research

Email:
debjani@maths.iitkgp.ac.in
drdebjanic@gmail.com

Section II: Physical Sciences



Ashis Bhattacharjee

Professor
Department of Physics
Institute of Science, Visva-Bharati,
Santiniketan

Specialization:
Condensed Matter
Physics (Experimental)

E-mail:
ashis.bhattacharjee@visva-bharati.ac.in
ashis2691@gmail.com

Section III: Chemical Sciences



Mahammad Ali

Professor
Department of Chemistry
Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Specialization:
Inorganic Chemistry

E-mail: m_ali2062@yahoo.com



Ayan Datta

School of Chemical Science
Indian Association for the Cultivation
of Science, Jadavpur

Specialization:
Computational
Chemistry,
Physical Chemistry

E-mail: spad@iacs.res.in

**Saumen Hajra**

Professor
Centre of BioMedical Research
(CBMR)
SGPGIMS Campus, Lucknow

E-mail: saumen.hajra@cbmr.res.in

Specialization:
Organic Chemistry,
Asymmetric synthesis &
catalysis

**Sk Manirul Islam**

Professor
Department of Chemistry
University of Kalyani

E-mail:
manir65@rediffmail.com
smimanir65@gmail.com

Specialization:
Physical Chemistry,
Heterogeneous
Catalysis, Polymer
Chemistry

**Pinaki Talukdar**

Indian Institute of Science Education
and Research Pune
Chemistry Department
Maharashtra, India

E-mail: ptalukdar@iiserpune.ac.in

Specialization:
Supramolecular
chemistry, Chemical
biology, Molecular and
supramolecular
fluorescence sensors

Section IV: Systems Engineering and Materials Science

**Sriman Kumar Bhattacharyya**

Vice-Chancellor
Shiv Nadar University Chennai
Rajiv Gandhi Salai (Omr)
Tamil Nadu

E-mail:
vc@snuchennai.edu.in
bsri@civil.iitkgp.ac.in

Specialization:
Structural Engineering

**Dipak Kumar Maiti**

Professor
Department of Aerospace Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

E-mail: dkmaiti@aero.iitkgp.ac.in

Specialization:
Aerospace Structures



Debabrata Pradhan

Associate Professor
Materials Science Centre
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

E-mail: deb@matsc.iitkgp.ac.in

Specialization:
Materials Science &
Engineering



Manoj Kumar Tiwari

Director
IIM Mumbai.
Professor on lien with Higher Academic
Grade (HAG)
Department of Industrial and Systems
Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

E-mail: mkt09@hotmail.com

Specialization:
Industrial Engineering,
Manufacturing Systems,
Optimization and
Heuristics

Section V: Earth and Planetary Sciences



Jyotisankar Ray

Professor
Department of Geology
University of Calcutta

E-mail:
jyotisankar.geocal@gmail.com
jsray65@hotmail.com

Specialization:
Igneous Petrology,
Mineralogy and
Geochemistry



Sanjoy Sanyal

Professor
Department of Geological Sciences
Jadavpur University

E-mail:
sanjoy.sanyal@jadavpuruniversity.in
sanyal.sn@gmail.com

Specialization:
Metamorphic Petrology,
Geochemistry &
Precambrian crustal
evolution

Section VI: Plant Sciences



Sujit Roy

Assistant Professor
Department of Botany
UGC Centre for Advanced Studies
The University of Burdwan

E-mail:

sroy@bot.buruniv.ac.in,
sujitroy2006@gmail.com

Specialization:

Molecular-genetic
aspects DNA damage
response and repair
mechanisms in plants



Sucheta Tripathy

Senior Principal Scientist
CSIR-IIC
Professor of Biological Sciences
Academy of Scientific and Innovative
Research, Ghaziabad

E-mail:

tsucheta@iicb.res.in
tsucheta@gmail.com

Specialization:

Plant Genomics

Section VII: Animal Sciences



Tapati Chakraborti

Professor
Dept. of Biochemistry & Biophysics
University of Kalyani

E-mail:

tcbiochem@gmail.com
t_chakraborti@yahoo.com

Specialization:

Biochemistry,
Immunology, Cell
Biology, Parasitology,
Phytocompounds based
therapeutics



Madhusudan Das

Professor
Department of Zoology
University of Calcutta

E-mail: madhuzoo@yahoo.com

Specialization:

Endocrinology, Cell
Biology, Human Genetics

Section VIII: Medical and Veterinary Sciences



Suparna Chatterjee

Professor
Dept of Pharmacology
Institute of Postgraduate
Medical Education & Research, Kolkata

E-mail: drsupchat@gmail.com

Specialization:
Clinical Pharmacology
with focus on
Pharmacovigilance



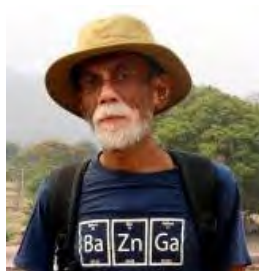
Satinath Mukhopadhyay

Professor
Dept of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Institute of Postgraduate
Medical Education & Research, Kolkata

E-mail: satinath.mukhopadhyay@gmail.com

Specialization:
Endocrinology and
Metabolism

Section IX: Biochemistry and Biophysics



Gautam Basu

Former Professor of Biophysics
Bose Institute

E-mail: gautamda@gmail.com

Specialization:
Structural and
Computational Biology;
Biophysical Chemistry



Raghunath Chatterjee

Associate Professor
Human Genetics Unit
Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata

E-mail:
rchattejee@isical.ac.in
raghuchatterjee@gmail.com

Specialization:
Genetics, Genomics and
Epigenetics



Nakul C Maiti

Division of Structural
Biology and Bioinformatics
CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
Kolkata

E-mail: ncmaiti@iicb.res.in

Specialization:
Biophysics and Structural
Biochemistry



Rupa Mukhopadhyay

Senior Professor
School of Biological Sciences
Association for the Cultivation of Science
Kolkata

Specialization:
Biological interactions,
Electron transport in
biological Indian systems,
Single Molecule Level
Structural Biology

E-mail: bcrm@iacs.res.in

Section X: Agriculture and Forestry



Sankar Acharya

Professor
Dept. of Agricultural Extension
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
Mohanpur, Nadia

Specialization:
Agricultural extension,
communication
and social ecology

E-mail: acharya09sankar@gmail.com



Deb Prasad Ray

Principal Scientist & Head
Chemical & Biochemical Processing Division
ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre
Engineering & Technology

Specialization:
Agricultural Chemicals

E-mail: debprasad.ray@icar.gov.in



Dibyendu Sarkar

Assistant Professor
Survey Selection & Mass Production
Regional Research Station
(Coastal Saline Zone)
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya

Specialization:
Soil Science, Agricultural
Chemistry, Soil Fertility,
Soil Biology

E-mail: dsarkar04@rediffmail.com

Section XII: Environmental Sciences



Shaon Ray Chaudhuri

Department of Microbiology
Tripura University

Specialization:
Microbial Technology

E-mail: shaon.roychaudhuri@gmail.com

Section XIII: Electrical and Computational Engineering



Rabi Chowdhury
Managing Director (Generation)
CESC Limited

E-mail:
rabi.chowdhury@rpsg.in
rabi.chowdhury@rpsg.in

Specialization:
Asset Management
Services, Environment
and Sustainability



Utpal Garain
Professor
CVPR Unit
Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata

E-mail: utpal@isical.ac.in

Specialization:
Computer Science and
Engineering



Samir Kumar Pal
Senior Professor
S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic
Sciences, Kolkata

E-mail: skpal@bose.res.in

Specialization:
Femtosecond and
Picosecond time
resolved Laser
spectroscopy,
Instrumentation,
Biomolecules, Bio-Nano
Interface and Self-
organized molecular
assembly, Light
Harvesting, Dye
Sensitized solar cells



Sudip Misra
Professor
Department of Computer Science and
Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

E-mail: sudipm@iitkgp.ac.in

Specialization:
Internet of Things,
Wireless Sensor
Networks

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List of Associates Elected in 2023

Section III: Chemical Sciences



Bijan Kumar Paul
Assistant Professor
Mahadevananda Mahavidyalaya
Barrackpore

E-mail: paulbk.chemistry@gmail.com

Specialization:
Photophysics and
PhotoChemistry



Biplab Maji
Associate Professor
Indian Institute of Science Education and
Research Kolkata

E-mail: bm@iiserkol.ac.in

Specialization:
Organic Synthesis and
Catalysis

Section IV: Systems Engineering and Materials Science



Aranyak Chakravarty
Assistant Professor
Jadavpur University

E-Mail:
Aranyak.Chakravarty@jadavpuruniversity.in

Specialization:
Multiphase Flow and
Heat Transfer, Nuclear
reactor thermal-
hydraulics and safety,
Bio-fluid dynamics

Section V: Earth And Planetary Sciences



Tapabrota Sarkar
Assistant Professor
Indian Institute of Science Education and
Research (IISER) Kolkata

E-mail:
tapabrato@iiserkol.ac.in
tapabrato@gmail.com

Specialization:
Metamorphic petrology,
Petrochronology



Proloy Ganguly

Assistant Professor
Durgapur Government College

E-mail: pganguly06@gmail.com

Specialization:
Proterozoic tectonics and
terrane evolution

Section VIII: Medical And Veterinary Sciences



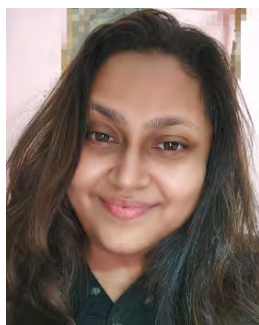
Debanjan Mukhopadhyay

Assistant Professor
Presidency University

E-mail:
debanjan.ihs@presiuniv.ac.in
debmicro543@gmail.com

Specialization:
Visceral Leishmaniasis

Section IX: Biochemistry And Biophysics



Nabanita Chatterjee

Senior Scientific Officer
Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute,
Kolkata

E-mail:
nabanitachatterjee@cnci.ac.in
nabanita.chatterjee@yahoo.com

Specialization:
Cancer Biology,
Inflammatory Disease

Section X: Agriculture And Forestry



Bappa Das

Scientist
ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research
Institute

E-mail:
bappa.iari.1989@gmail.com
bappa.das@icar.gov.in

Specialization:
Weather-based models
for crop yield forecasting



Shaon Kumar Das

Senior Scientist
ICAR RC for NEH

E-mail:
shaon.iari@gmail.com
shaon.iari@yahoo.com

Specialization:
Biochar, Carbon
Sequestration and
Organic Nutrient
Management

Section XIII: Electrical And Computational Engineering



Soumya Chatterjee

Assistant Professor
National Institute of Technology Durgapur

E-mail:

soumya.chatterjee@ee.nitdgp.ac.in
chapeshwar@gmail.com

Specialization:

Signal and image
processing applications
in condition monitoring of
high voltage equipment

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Glimpses of the Programs organized during 2023-2024



Annual Oration on 4 July 2023



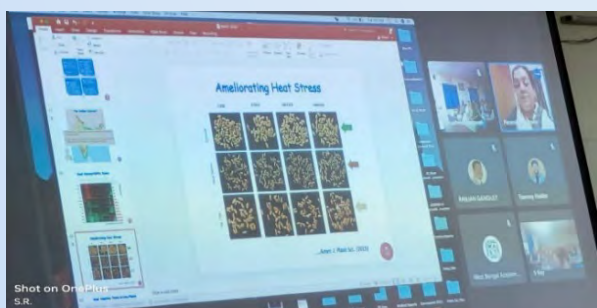
Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta delivering the talk titled
"Remembering Prof. M.S. Swaminathan"
on 18 Oct 2023



Prof. Probal Chaudhuri delivering the Prof. C.R.
Rao Memorial Lecture on 7 Nov 2023



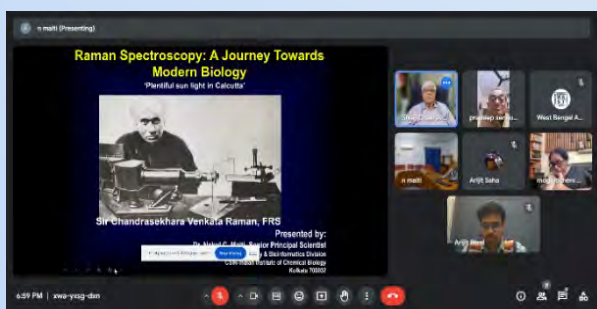
Prof. Sanghamitra Ray delivering the Sarbani
Patranabis Deb Endowment Lecture
on 17 Nov 2023



Prof. Paramjit Khurana delivering the JC Sengupta
Endowment Lecture on 30 Jan 2024



Hands on Session in Progress in the IoT Training
Course held on 10-11 Feb 2024



Dr. Nakul C. Maiti delivering the National Science
Day Lecture on 28 Feb 2024



Prof. Madhumita Dobe delivering the Dr. Sunil
Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture on 20 Mar 2024

WAST Website PPT - YouTube

youtube.com/watch?v=Hlu9LHyLvB4

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WAST

Dr. Sunil Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture at IPMER Kolkata by...

Two-day training course on Intro to Programming FO...

Introduction to Programming for Internet of Things (IoT) Organized by West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology

Two-day training course on Intro to Programming FO...

J.C. Sengupta Endowment Lecture 2024

Remembering M.S. Swainathan @ SNU on October 18, 2023

Sarbani Patranibis Deb Memorial Lecture 2023 on 17th Novembe...

Lecture in memory of Prof CR Rao

WAST Website PPT

Nov 26, 2023

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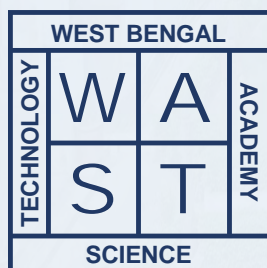
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1 video

2 videos

1 video

1 video



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