

Annual Report 2025-2026

Report from the Secretary:

Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice President, Hon'ble Council Members, and all respected Fellows and Associates of the Academy. It is my honour to present before this distinguished Fellowship the Annual Report for the year 2025–2026. The present Council has continued its work with dedication and vision and just like last year, this year has also been marked by vibrant academic engagements, impactful outreach initiatives, reaffirming the Academy's commitment to advancing scientific research, education, and societal development.

During the year, the Council met several times between September 2024 and February 2026 to deliberate on major plans, academic programs, and administrative matters of the Academy. The Council implemented the changes in the WAST rules made in the AGM 2025 and also recommended new changes in rules for presentation before the AGM 2026.

Throughout the year, multiple academic events, scientific lectures, and outreach programs were successfully organized fostering knowledge sharing and inspiring future scientists. For wider accessibility most of these sessions were streamed live on the WAST YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/@WAST_Activities). Active dissemination via its Instagram platform, enabled wider participation from students, researchers, and science enthusiasts. Following is a brief description of the key events and activities.

Annual Oration – 24th May 2025

The Annual Oration was held at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) Kolkata and delivered by Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta. His lecture, titled “Letter to Einstein from Bose,” explored the historical and scientific significance of Prof. S.N. Bose's seminal communication to Prof. Albert Einstein, which laid the foundation of Bose–Einstein statistics. The talk was followed by an engaging discussion and presentation of a commemorative plaque.

Endowment Lectures

- **Prof. J.C. Sengupta Endowment Lecture on 20th November 2025:** Organized by the Sectional Committee VI: Plant Sciences. The lecture was organized in collaboration with the Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University, Kolkata, and was delivered by Dr. Naveen Chandra Bisht, eminent Scientist from National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi. His lecture was on “Connecting the Evolution of Glucosinolate Metabolism from Leucine Metabolism”.
- **Sarbani Patranabis-Deb Endowment Lecture on 28th November 2025:** Organized by the Sectional Committee V: Earth and Planetary Sciences. The lecture was organized in collaboration with the Department of Geological Sciences, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, at the S. Deb Memorial Hall and was delivered by Dr. Anindya Sarkar Emeritus Professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics, IIT Kharagpur, on “Isotopes, Archaeology and Climate: Decoding 5000 years' History of India”.
- **Sunil Chandra Bose Endowment Lecture on 2nd February 2026:** Organized by the Sectional Committee VIII: Medical and Veterinary Sciences. The lecture was hosted by IISER Kolkata and was delivered by Dr. Amita Aggarwal, Executive Director, AIIMS Bibinagar, Hyderabad. Her lecture was on “Urinary Biomarkers in Lupus Nephritis—Where Are We?”.

Science & Technology Day Lectures

- **National Technology Day was celebrated on 11th May 2025,** in which a virtual lecture was delivered by Shri Somes Bandyopadhyay, MD of GSECL, on the use of state-of-the-art technologies in the Indian power sector. The lecture highlighted emerging technologies such as hydrogen, battery storage, and machine learning and discussed India's power sector growth, emphasizing renewable energy, energy access, and efficiency.

- **National Engineers' Day was celebrated on 15th September 2025** at Jadavpur University. Dr. Debashish Bhattacharjee, FAScT, delivered a lecture on "The Challenge of Critical Materials, Energy Transition and Finding Indian Solutions," emphasizing the need for indigenous capability in critical materials and sustainable technologies.
- **National Science Day was celebrated on 28th February 2026** in the N. R. Sen Auditorium, Rajabazar Science College Campus, in a programme jointly organized by the Indian Science News Association (ISNA) and WAST. Prof. Dulal C. Mukherjee delivered an engaging lecture on Raman's scientific legacy. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti delivered the keynote address on the theme of *Frugal Innovation*, and Prof. Bikas K. Chakraborty reflected on the scientific excellence of pioneers such as Prof. J.C. Bose and Prof. S.N. Bose, underscoring how resource constraints never hindered their achievements.

Outreach Activities

- **On 4th April 2025**, a vibrant *Science Motivational Program* was held at Chhatri Vivekananda Vidya Bhavan, Purba Medinipur, in collaboration with the Science Communicators' Forum. The program featured engaging demonstrations on "Joyful Learning of Science through Experiments and Analysis" and included the unveiling of a statue of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti inaugurated the event and delivered an inspiring address.
- **On 5th April 2025**, another Science Motivational Program was organized at Garh Haripur Gajendra Narayan Higher Secondary School, Paschim Medinipur. Eminent speakers including Prof. Chittaranjan Sinha, FAScT, and Dr. Damodar Maity encouraged students to cultivate scientific thinking through observation, reasoning, and experimentation.
- **On 11th April 2025**, the Academy partnered with ScienceTech Academy and Swami Vivekananda Institute of Science & Technology to organize ScienceTech 2025, a major inter school event featuring science exhibitions and quiz competitions. With participation from 35 schools and over 400 attendees, the event successfully fostered scientific curiosity and innovation among young learners.
- **On 24th November 2025**, an outreach program was held at Alipurduar Government Engineering and Management College, where Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti delivered an induction lecture titled "What It Takes to Be an Engineer," motivating students to approach their academic journey with discipline and curiosity.
- **On 30th January 2026**, an outreach program was conducted at Taki Government College, focusing on multidisciplinary approaches to disease biology. Prof. Siddhartha S Jana, FAScT, School of Biological Sciences, IACS, spoke on "Drive and Curiosity fuel the passion for science". Dr. Syamal Roy, FAScT, ICMR Emeritus Scientist, IACS, spoke on "From atom bomb to our knowledge in immunology" highlighting the role of basic science in understanding human diseases.

Lectures organized by WAST

- **On 14th May 2025**, a seminar titled "Sensors & Soft Skills for Real-World Applications" was held at Dream Institute of Technology. Prof. Sugata Munshi, Former Professor of Electrical Engineering at Jadavpur University spoke on 'Electrical Sensors: The Eyes and Ears of Engineering', and Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President of the WAST, and Professor of Electrical Engineering at Jadavpur University, delivered a talk on 'Soft Skill Development for Engineering Profession'.
- **On 8th November 2025**, a national-level seminar on "Science, Technology & Innovation for Sustainable Development" was organized at Bankura Sammilani College. Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, President, WAST, spoke on "Science Leading to Engineering Application – Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)", Prof. Chittaranjan Sinha, FAScT, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Jadavpur University, spoke on "Sustainable Energy Technology Towards a Greener Environment – A New Paradigm" and Prof. Somenath Garai from Banaras Hindu University spoke on Utilization of Quantum Technology for Sustainable Production of Green Solar Hydrogen from Seawater for Energy and Automobile Operations".
- **On 9th December 2025**, a distinguished lecture on "Cell Communication through Notch – A Paradigm of Biological Complexity" was delivered by Prof. Spyros Artavanis-Tsakonas,

Professor (Emeritus) Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School. The program was jointly organized by the Department of Biochemistry and Department of Biotechnology, University of Calcutta, Indian Academy of Sciences and WAST.

- **From 21st–23rd January 2026**, the Academy partnered with IIT Kharagpur and BIT Mesra to organize the 1st International Conference on Frontiers in Surface Engineering and Additive Manufacturing (FSEAM 2026). The conference featured extensive participation from national and international institutions and strengthened academia–industry collaboration.
- **On 16th February 2026**, WAST partnered with University of Kalyani to organize a National Symposium on “Role of Chemical Sciences Towards Sustainable Development”. The keynote address by Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti set the tone for the symposium, highlighting the transformative role of science in addressing sustainability challenges.

Regional Development through Science, Technology, and Innovation

The academy undertook an in-depth examination of the transformative impact of science and technology on regional development in their respective fields through a series of comprehensive reports prepared by the sectional committees. The Part-I was brought out in December 2025 in which three sectional committee reports were incorporated, viz. Sectional Committee-I: Mathematical Sciences, Sectional Committee-V: Earth and Planetary Sciences and Sectional Committee-XI: Social Sciences. Four other sectional committees, viz. Sectional Committee – II: Physical Sciences, Sectional Committee – VI: Plant Sciences, Sectional Committee – IX: Medical and Veterinary Sciences, and Sectional Committee – X: Agriculture and Forestry, have also finalized their reports.

Instituting a New Annual Endowment Lecture

The Council accepted the offer of Mrs. Santa Saha, wife of Late Prof. Dilip Saha, FAScT, for instituting an annual endowment lecture in the memory of Late Prof. Dilip Saha from the 2026-2027 cycle. The family donated Rs. 5.0 Lakhs for this endowment. This annual endowment lecture will be organized by the Sectional Committee V - Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Last but not the least the Academy facilitated the nomination and selection process for Fellows and Associates, the future torch bearers of these missions. Based on the recommendations of the Sectional Committees, the Council approved the induction of 32 eminent scientists into the Fellowship and 6 promising young scientists into the Associateship of the Academy. A section-wise list of elected Fellows and Associates is provided in this booklet.

On behalf of the Academy, I convey my sincere thanks to Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Director, IIT Kharagpur, for co-hosting the Annual General Meeting 2026 at the Institute Research Park in New Town. I would also like to place on record the Academy's sincere appreciation to IIT Kharagpur, IACS Kolkata, TRP Global, and Prof. Manoj Tiwari, FAScT, for their generous financial support towards Academy activities.

During this reporting year, the tenure of the Council and the Sectional Committees came to a close, and new committees have been duly constituted. On behalf of the outgoing Council, I extend sincere appreciation to all members for their unwavering support and cooperation over the past three years. I convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Executive Council and of all Sectional committee Convenors and members for their unstinted cooperation, help, and support. The Academy warmly welcomes the newly constituted Council and Sectional Committees and looks forward to their leadership in advancing its mission in the years ahead.

Maitrayee DasGupta