

RGU TIMES

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of Raiganj University

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Message



It is my great pleasure to welcome readers to the inaugural issue of RGU Times, the official newsletter of Raiganj University. This publication reflects the vibrant academic, research, cultural, and community life of our University and serves as a platform to celebrate our collective achievements and aspirations. I hope RGU Times will strengthen communication, foster collaboration, and inspire innovation among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and stakeholders. My sincere appreciation goes to the editorial team and everyone who contributed to this initiative. I wish RGU Times every success in becoming a lasting chronicle of the University's journey towards excellence.

Prof. Arnab Sen
Vice-Chancellor, Raiganj University

Message



It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt greetings on the inaugural issue of RGU Times, the official newsletter of Raiganj University. The publication will serve as an important platform to showcase the University's academic achievements, research, innovation, cultural activities, and community engagement. I congratulate the editorial team and the University fraternity for this commendable initiative. I am confident that RGU Times will strengthen communication, inspire young minds and contribute meaningfully to the pursuit of quality education and holistic development. I wish the newsletter every success in the years ahead.

Shri Koushik Chowdhury
Minister-of-State, Dept. of School Education and Fire & Emergency Services, Govt. of West Bengal

Vice Chancellors' Meeting of State Universities



Hon'ble Shri R. N. Ravi, Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of the State Universities, addresses the meeting of Vice-Chancellors and Registrars at the University of North Bengal. Prof. Arnab Sen, Vice Chancellor of Raiganj University, speaks during the deliberations.

Representing Raiganj University at the Vice Chancellors' Meeting of 20 State Universities, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Arnab Sen presented the University's key achievements, ongoing initiatives, pressing challenges, and future vision in the gracious presence of H. E. Shri R. N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of the State Universities, at the University of North Bengal on 9 July 2026.

"Paschim Banga Dibas" observed in Raiganj University

Paschim Banga Dibas (West Bengal Day) is historically observed on June 20, commemorating the 1947 legislative resolution that partitioned Bengal and kept the western districts in India. A one day programme was observed on 20th June 2026 at Raiganj University from 10:00 am. The programme was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Raiganj University, Prof. Arnab Sen and was attended by faculties and employees of different departments and administrative sections of the University.

Celebration of International Day of Yoga

Raiganj University enthusiastically celebrated International Yoga Day on June 21, 2026. The programme was organised in accordance with the International Day of Yoga 2026 theme, promoting the importance of yoga for physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Students, faculty members, and University personnel actively participated in the event. A series of yoga activities was led by qualified instructors who demonstrated various yoga postures, breathing exercises, meditation techniques and relaxation activities.

Observance of Dr. S. P. Mookerjee Fortnight



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee fortnight (23 June - 06 July, 2026) was observed with due respect and enthusiasm at Raiganj University. The programme aimed to remember the life, ideals and contributions of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee to education, national integration and public service. The week-long observance included lectures, discussion sessions, cultural activities, cleanliness drives and student participation programmes. Prof. Mohit Roy of the School of Environmental Studies at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, delivered a thought-provoking speech on the life and sacrifices of "Bharat Kesari" Dr. S. P. Mookerjee. Students, faculty members, officers, and other staff members of Raiganj University actively participated in the events and paid tribute to his legacy.

Symposium on Mass Movements and Bengali Literature

Bangla Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Department of English, Raiganj University, arranged a symposium on the theme of "Ganoandolon and Bangla Sahityer opor tar probab" (Mass Movements and their influence on Bengali literature)



on 20th May 2026. Sri Koushik Choudhury, Minister of State, Dept. of School Education and Fire & Emergency Services, Govt. of West Bengal, and MLA, Raiganj delivered a special talk. Prof. Ashis Bhattacharjee, Vice Chancellor, University of Gour Banga also attended the event as Special Guest. The invited speakers shared their creative insights. Mr. Abhisek Roth, Programme officer from Sahitya Akademi, monitored the programme. All the faculty members of the department were actively involved as speakers, moderators and session chairs. Apart from students, local literary enthusiasts also participated in this programme.

Editorial

It is with great pride and optimism that we present the inaugural issue of RGU TIMES, the official quarterly newsletter of Raiganj University. The publication of this first issue marks an important step in documenting, sharing, and celebrating the academic, research, cultural, administrative, and outreach activities of the University. A university is not merely a place where teaching and examinations take place. It is a living academic community where knowledge is created, ideas are exchanged, talents are nurtured, and society is served. Every lecture delivered, research project undertaken, seminar organized, student achievement earned, extension activity conducted, and institutional milestone reached forms part of the larger journey of the University. RGU TIMES has been conceived to record this journey in a systematic and accessible manner.

The significance of this newsletter lies in its role as a common platform for communication within and beyond the University. It will bring together the accomplishments of students, teachers, researchers, officers, alumni, and staff members. It will highlight academic initiatives, research achievements, innovation, collaborations, community engagement, environmental awareness, cultural programmes, sports activities, and other events that reflect the spirit of Raiganj University. In doing so, the newsletter will help strengthen institutional identity, transparency, visibility, and collective participation.

The vision of RGU TIMES is to become a credible and vibrant chronicle of the University's growth. As a quarterly publication, it will not only report events but also preserve the institutional memory of Raiganj University. It will provide space for ideas, achievements, reflections, and aspirations. It will encourage departments, centres, cells, students' groups, and individual members of the University community to share their work with a wider audience.

At a time when higher education is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, technology-driven, socially accountable, and globally connected, communication has become essential to institutional progress. A newsletter such as RGU TIMES can play an important role in showcasing the University's contribution to teaching, research, innovation, regional development, and public service. It can also inspire students and young researchers by making visible the work being done within the University.

The inaugural issue is therefore not only a publication; it is a beginning. It is an invitation to the entire Raiganj University community to participate in building a shared record of excellence, responsibility, and progress. We hope that RGU TIMES will grow with every issue and become a valued platform that reflects the dignity, diversity, and aspirations of the University.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University authorities, faculty members, officers, staff, students, contributors, and all members associated with this initiative. Their support and cooperation have made this first issue possible. With this inaugural issue, RGU TIMES begins its journey as the voice and record of Raiganj University. We look forward to carrying forward this initiative with sincerity, inclusiveness, and commitment.

Editorial Team
RGU TIMES

3-Day Workshop on 'R'

A three day hands on workshop on 'R' for Life Sciences and Physical Sciences was successfully organised jointly by the Departments of Botany, Mathematics and Sericulture of Raiganj University under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Arnab Sen, Vice Chancellor of Raiganj University from 2nd to 4th June 2026. More than 50 participants from different branches of science attended the workshop. Prominent scientists and



academicians from reputed institutes like Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, University of Kalyani, Nadia and Ramananda College, Bishnupur delivered their lectures during the workshop.

The programme provided participants with practical training in data handling, statistical computing, and graphical representation of scientific data, with special emphasis on applications in Life Sciences and Physical Sciences. Through interactive lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on sessions, participants gained valuable experience in using R for data analysis and research-related tasks.

Foundation Day Celebration of AASM Garden

The 42nd Foundation Day of the AASM Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Garden, Raiganj University, was observed on February 21 2026, at the Garden premises with great enthusiasm and reverence. The programme was graced by Dr. Durlav Sarkar, Registrar of Raiganj University, and Prof.



Parimal Mandal, Director of the AASM Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Garden. Speakers at the event highlighted the historical significance of the AASM Garden and its contribution to the conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants, and encouraged students and the wider community to take active initiatives to conserve, cultivate, and sustainably utilise medicinal plants.

World Environment Day, 2026 Celebrated at Raiganj University

The 54th World Environment Day was celebrated on 5th June, 2026, at Raiganj University by the Prof. Asim Kumar Bothra Environment Conservation Centre (PAKBECC) in collaboration with IQAC, following the global theme "Inspired by Nature, for Climate. For Our Future". The programme began with a sapling plantation drive on the university campus, promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Arnab Sen, Vice-Chancellor, along with Deans, faculty members, officers, staff, research scholars, and students. The event featured the prestigious Prof. A. K. Bothra Memorial Lec-



ture, delivered by Prof. Abhaya Prasad Das, Retired Professor of Botany at the University of North Bengal, and a lecture on soil health and sustainable agriculture by Dr Subrata Ghosal, Agricultural Chemist at the District Soil Testing Laboratory, Raiganj. A quiz competition on environmental awareness was also organised for students. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation and reinforced the University's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability.

Legal Awareness Programme

The Department of Law, Raiganj University, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Raiganj, and Bapu (NGO), organised a Legal Awareness Programme at Sri Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Raiganj, on January 20, 2026. The programme aimed to educate students and adolescents about their legal rights, social re-



sponsibilities, and contemporary legal challenges. A key feature of the event was the presentation of two awareness-based dramas performed by LL. M. students. Through engaging performances, the dramas sensitised the audience to critical social issues such as child trafficking, cybercrime, and online fraud. The programme effectively combined legal education with creative outreach, promoting legal literacy and social awareness among young learners.

Workshop on “Safeguarding Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage”



On the occasion of International Museum Day, the Centre for Studies in Cultural Relations, Raiganj University, organised a two-day Workshop on “Safeguarding Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage” on 18–19 May 2026 at the P.R.D. Memorial Hall. The workshop aimed to raise awareness of the preservation and protection of cultural heritage and its significance to future generations. The programme featured distinguished resource persons, including Prof. Chitta Panda, Former Curator of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, and Dr. Sudas Lama, Associate Professor of History at the University of North Bengal and Director of the Akshaya Kumar Maitreya Heritage Museum, Sri Prollhad Biswas, WBCS (Exe.), Officer-in-Charge, Museums and General, Karnajora. The workshop provided a valuable platform for discussing strategies for preserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The event successfully fostered greater appreciation of cultural resources and highlighted the role of educational institutions in heritage conservation and public awareness.

Workshop on AWS Cloud Computing, Generative AI & Career Opportunities



The Department of Computer and Information Science (CIS), Raiganj University, in association with Learning Spiral Limited and AWS Training & Certification, organised a One-Day Awareness Workshop on AWS Cloud Computing, Generative AI & Career Opportunities on June 24, 2026, at P.R.D. Memorial Hall. The programme featured expert lectures covering key aspects of AWS cloud services, Generative AI, industry-recognised certifications, job preparedness, and career pathways in the IT sector. Participants gained valuable insights into current technological trends, skill requirements, and opportunities available in the rapidly growing digital economy. The workshop served as an important platform for enhancing technological awareness and career readiness, inspiring participants to explore professional opportunities in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and related domains.

Birth Anniversary Celebration of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur

A commemorative programme was organised by the ST/SC Cell, Raiganj University, on March 27, 2026, at the P.R.D. Memorial Hall, to celebrate the 215th birth anniversary of Purna Brahma Sri Sri Harichand Thakur. The event brought



together faculty members, researchers, students, and admirers of Sri Sri Harichand Thakur's ideas and teachings. The speakers, Prof. Babulal Bala, Prof. Parimal Mandal, Prof. Debasish Biswas, Assistant Professors Dr. Swapan Pal, and Dr. Talu Besra, highlighted the lives and teachings of Harichand Thakur and Guruchand Thakur, emphasising their profound contributions to social reform, education, equality, and the upliftment of the Matua community. The programme provided an enriching platform for reflection on their enduring legacy and concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from attendees.

Awareness Programme on the Prevention of Disability and Drug Abuse

An Awareness Programme on the Prevention of Disability and Drug Abuse was organised on June 5, 2026, at the Department of Sanskrit. The programme was jointly conducted by the Centre for Differently Abled Persons (CDAP), Raiganj University, in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Mission, Uttar Dinajpur, and the Social Welfare Office, Uttar Dinajpur. The event was attended by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arnab Sen, along with distinguished speakers and officials. Through



their insightful addresses, the speakers highlighted the importance of preventing disabilities through timely healthcare, awareness, and inclusive social practices. They also emphasised the growing concern of drug abuse and the need for collective efforts to educate young people about its harmful effects. The programme served as an important platform for promoting social awareness, healthy lifestyles, and community responsibility among students and participants.

Observation of Hul Diwas

Raiganj University observed Hul Diwas on June 30, 2026, to commemorate the Santhal Rebellion (Santhal Hul) of 1855, one of the earliest and most significant tribal uprisings against British colonial rule in India, led by the legendary Santhal leaders Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu, along with Chand and Bhairab. Programme was organ-



ised by Santali Department in association with ST/SC Cell, Raiganj University. The programme was graced by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Arnab Sen and Prof. Prasanta Kumar Mahala, Director, IQAC. Prof. Babulal Bala of the Dept. of History, and Prof. Debasish Biswas of the Dept. of Economics at Raiganj University, delivered special addresses, methodically tracing the movement's historical significance and urging the younger generation to embrace the virtues of togetherness, resilience, and social equality exemplified by Sidho and Kanhu.

Birth Anniversary Celebration of Thakur Panchanan Barma

On February 14, 2026, Raiganj University observed the 160th birth anniversary of Thakur Panchanan Barma—a distinguished social reformer and great personality of North Bengal. The programme was organised by the ST/SC Cell, Raiganj University. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arnab Sen offered the floral tribute at the portrait of Panchanan Barma. Faculty, research scholars and students of the University marked the auspicious day by remembering his contribution to social reform and education.

Online Internship on AI for Industry and Business

The Department of Computer & Information Science, organized a 30-hour Online Internship Programme on “AI for Industry and Business” from 14th June to 20th June 2026. The internship covered a wide range of topics, including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Internet of Things, Industrial Automation, Data Analytics, and Business Intelligence. A key feature of the programme was its emphasis on hands-on learning through live projects and case studies, enabling participants to gain practical experience and problem-solving skills. The internship also provided a platform for networking with professionals and experts from diverse sectors.

ভারতীয় প্রতীক্সে দে সংস্কৃতঃ সংস্কৃতিস্থতা

প্র. প্রশান্ত কুমার মহলা

সংস্কৃত বিভাগ, রায়গঞ্জ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ভারতবর্ষ বিশ্ব দরবারে যদি প্রতিষ্ঠা লাভ করে থাকে তার জন্য দুটি কারণ। একটি হল সংস্কৃত ভাষা এবং তার সংস্কৃতি। সংস্কৃতি বলতে সমগ্র সাহিত্য, আচার-আচরণ, চাল-চলন চিন্তাধারা খাদ্য-পেয় পোশাক-পরিচ্ছদ, ধর্মীয় বিশ্বাস প্রভৃতি সমস্ত কিছুকেই বোঝায়। ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতি বিশ্বের সর্বপ্রাচীন সমৃদ্ধ বিভিন্ন সংস্কৃতির মধ্যে একটি অনন্য সংস্কৃতি। বিবিধতার মধ্যে একতা, সহিষ্ণুতা, আধ্যাত্মিকতা তথা “বসুধৈব কুটুম্বকম্” (সমগ্র বিশ্ব একটি পরিবার) সিদ্ধান্তের জন্য সমগ্র বিশ্বে ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতি পরিচিত। ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতিতে বিভিন্ন ধর্ম, ভাষা তথা কলার একটি অপূর্ব সমন্বয় দেখা যায়। ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতির মূল ভিত্তি হল আধ্যাত্মিকতা, বেদ-উপনিষদ এবং দর্শনশাস্ত্র সমূহ। প্রতিটি প্রাচীন গ্রন্থে একটিই বার্তা দেওয়া হয়েছে ‘শৃংখল্য সর্বং অমৃতস্য পুত্রাঃ’। অর্থাৎ আমরা সবাই সেই এক পরমেশ্বরের সন্তান। সনাতন বৌদ্ধ, জৈন ও শিখ ধর্মের জন্ম এবং শান্তিপূর্ণ সহাবস্থান এই সংস্কৃতির একটি বড় বৈশিষ্ট্য।

বৈচিত্র্যের মধ্যে ঐক্য

ভারতের অগণিত ভাষা, পোশাক, খাদ্যাভ্যাস এবং রীতিনীতি রয়েছে। তা সত্ত্বেও একটি অভিন্ন জাতীয়তা এবং গভীর সাংস্কৃতিক চেতনা সমস্ত ভারতীয়কে একসূত্রে বেঁধে রেখেছে। এই সংস্কৃতি সব সময় অত্যন্ত উদার। যুগে যুগে বিভিন্ন চিন্তাধারা, জাতি এবং বহিরাগত সংস্কৃতির আগমন ঘটেছে এই ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতিতে। ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতি সেই সহস্রধারাকে গ্রহণ-বর্জন-সংশ্লেষণের মধ্য দিয়ে আপন করে নিয়ে উত্তরোত্তর সমৃদ্ধ হয়েছে। ভারতীয় সংস্কৃতির একটি বড় বৈশিষ্ট্য হল অতিথি পরায়ণতা। ‘অতিথি দেবো ভব’ (অতিথি ঈশ্বরের সমতুল্য) ভারতীয় সমাজব্যবস্থার একটি মূলনীতি। এখানে পারিবারিক বন্ধন ও পারস্পরিক সামাজিক সম্পর্কে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্ব সহকারে গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।

সংগীত, নৃত্য, চিত্রকলা এবং দুর্গাপূজা, দীপাবলী, ঈদ, ক্রিসমাসের মতো উৎসবগুলি এই সংস্কৃতির প্রাণ। দেশের প্র-

ত্যেকটি নিজস্ব ঘরানায় এগুলি উদ্ভাপিত হয়। এই সমস্ত তত্ত্ব ভারতীয় ভাষা সংস্কৃতিতে লিপিবদ্ধ হয়েছে। আমরা শাস্ত্রের দ্বারা পরিচালিত হই। শাস্ত্র শব্দের অর্থ ‘শাসনাৎ শাস্ত্রম্’ অর্থাৎ আমাদের যে শাসন করে তাকে শাস্ত্র বলা হয়েছে। ‘শিষ্যতে অনেক ইতি শাস্ত্রম্’। ভাততীয় সংস্কৃতিতে অষ্টাদশ শাস্ত্র বা অষ্টাদশ বিদ্যার কথা বলা হয়েছে—

অঙ্গানি বেদাশ্চত্বারো মীমাংসা ন্যায়বিত্তরঃ। ধর্মশাস্ত্রং পুরাণঞ্চ বিদ্যাহ্যোতা চতুর্দশ।

আয়ুর্বেদো ধনুর্বেদো গান্ধর্বশ্চেতি তে ত্রয়ঃ। অর্থশাস্ত্রং চতুর্থং চ বিদ্যাহ্যষ্টাদশৈব তাঃ।।

অর্থাৎ চারটি বেদ, বেদের ছয়টি অঙ্গ (শিক্ষা, কল্প, ছন্দ, জ্যোতিষ, নিরুক্ত এবং ব্যাকরণ), মীমাংসা, ন্যায়শাস্ত্র, ধর্মশাস্ত্র, পুরাণ এভাবে চৌদ্দটি বিদ্যার সাথে আয়ুর্বেদ, ধনুর্বেদ, গান্ধর্ববেদ এবং অর্থশাস্ত্রকে যোগ করে বিদ্যা আঠরো প্রকার। মানুষ কীভাবে জীবন যাপন করবে তার দিশা নির্দেশিত হয়েছে এই শাস্ত্রে। যেমন শ্রীমদ্ভগবদ্গীতা। কেউ কেউ শ্রীমদ্ভগবদ্গীতাকে হিন্দুদের ধর্মশাস্ত্র না বলে মনুষ্য জীবন-যাপনের ম্যানুয়েল বলে অভিহিত করেন। আমরা যেমন নতুন কিছু জিনিষ কিনলে সেখানে একটি ম্যানুয়েল থাকে সেই জিনিষটিকে কীভাবে ব্যবহার করা যাবে। ঠিক সেরকম গীতা হচ্ছে একটি ম্যানুয়েল মানুষের জীবন-যাপনের জন্য। “যোগঃ কর্মসু কৌশলম্” বর্তমান সমাজ ব্যবস্থায় মানুষ এত লোভী, ঈর্ষা-পরায়ণ, ক্রোধী কেন হয়ে পড়েছে তার সুন্দর নিদান দেওয়া হয়েছে শ্রীমদ্ভগবদ্গীতায়—

ধ্যায়তো বিষয়ান্ পুংসো সন্তস্তেষুপজায়তে।

সঙ্গাৎ সঞ্জায়তে কামঃ কামাৎ ক্রোধোভিজায়তে।।

ক্রোধাৎ ভবতি সম্মোহঃ সম্মোহাৎ স্মৃতিবিভ্রমঃ।

স্মৃতিভ্রংশাৎ বুদ্ধিনাশো বুদ্ধিনাশাৎ প্রণশতি।।

অর্থাৎ বিষয়গুলি(শব্দ-রূপ-রস-গন্ধ-স্পর্শ) নিয়ে চিন্তা

করলে সেগুলির প্রতি মানুষের আসক্তি জন্মায়। আসক্তি থেকে জন্ম হয় কামনা অর্থাৎ বিষয়ভোগের আকাঙ্ক্ষা। সেই কামনা প্রতিহত হলে জন্মায় ক্রোধ। ক্রোধ থেকে জন্ম নেয় সম্মোহ বা মূঢ়তা। মূঢ়তা থেকে হয় স্মৃতিভ্রংশ। স্মৃতিভ্রষ্ট হলে বুদ্ধিনাশ হয় এবং বুদ্ধিভ্রষ্ট হয়ে গেলে মানুষের বিনাশ বা পতন হয়।

মানুষের গর্ব কখন ভগবান্ সহ্য করে না। তাই আমাদের শাস্ত্র সব সময় বলে এসেছে—

অতিদর্পে হতা লঙ্কা অতিমানে চ কৌরবাঃ। অতিদানে বলিবদ্ধঃ অতি সর্বত্র গর্হিতম্।।

বর্তমান সমাজ প্রেক্ষাপটে যদি বিচার করি এটি অত্যন্ত প্রাসঙ্গিক একটি কথা। অত্যন্ত ঔদ্ধত্য এবং অহংকার প্রদর্শনকারীদের পতন যে অবশ্যম্ভাবী এখানে কোনো সন্দেহের অবকাশ নেই। মহাভারতের কথা মনে রাখতে হবে যে অভিমন্যুর মামা ছিলেন স্বয়ং ভগবান কৃষ্ণ, পিতা ছিলেন অদ্বিতীয় ধনুর্ধর অর্জুন। তাকেও রণভূমিতে মৃত্যুবরণ করতে হয়েছিল। তাই বলা হয়েছে—

মাতুলো যস্য কৃষ্ণশ্চ পিতা যস্য ধনঞ্জয়ঃ। অভিমন্যোর্গতাঃ প্রাণাঃ কালস্য কুটিলা গতিঃ।।

যাঁরা আজকে অন্যের বলে নিজেকে অতি শক্তিশালী মনে করছেন তাঁদের অবশ্যই মনে রাখতে হবে— ‘নৈষা তুষার জনিতা শ্রমিতা বিপত্তিঃ’। সৃষ্টিকর্তা ব্রহ্মা যে পদ্মফুলের উপর বসে আছেন, ভগবান্ বিষ্ণু যে পদ্মফুলকে হস্তে ধারণ করে আছেন, যে পদ্মফুল মা লক্ষ্মীর নিবাসস্থান, স্বয়ং বাগ্দেরী সরস্বতীর যে ফুলটি অত্যন্ত প্রিয় এতো বড় বড় দেব-দেবীর অত্যন্ত প্রিয় সেই পদ্মফুলের উপর যখন তুষারপাত হয় সেই বিপদ থেকে তাকে কেউ রক্ষা করতে পারেন না। তাই আমাদের মনে রাখতে হবে—

হরিণাপি হরেণাপি ব্রহ্মণাপি সুরৈরপি। ললাটলিখিতা রেখা পরিমাষ্টুং ন শক্যতে।।

NITI Aayog: Cooperative Federalism, Data-Driven Governance, and Sustainable Development in India

Prof. (Dr.) Debasish Biswas

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India's development planning shifted decisively in 2015 when NITI Aayog succeeded the Planning Commission. The new institution was designed as a think tank fostering cooperative federalism—aligning national priorities with state-level realities through bottom-up inputs—and competitive federalism via comparative indices that encourage performance benchmarking. Its mandate includes SDG monitoring, innovation promotion through the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), real-time data platforms such as the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP), and flagship programmes like the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP). This article offers a concise assessment of NITI Aayog's evolving role, incorporating 2023–2026 statistics and observations from development economics, with attention to regional equity, gender, and sustainability concerns relevant to Eastern and North-Eastern India.

Structure, Leadership, and Key Mechanisms:

Chaired by the Prime Minister, NITI Aayog comprises a Governing Council of Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors, a Vice-Chairperson, full-time expert members, and a CEO. In April 2026 the institution was reconstituted with economist Shri Ashok Kumar Lahiri appointed Vice-Chairperson, bringing fresh economic and regional insight. Two hubs—Team India for Centre-state coordination and Knowledge & Innovation for research—support its catalytic functions. The ADP, initially covering 112 underdeveloped districts and later extended to blocks, uses real-time dashboards across health, education, nutrition, and infrastructure to drive convergence and measurable improvement. Competitive indices (SDG India Index, Innovation Index, Fiscal Health Index) create peer pressure and learning opportunities among states.

Updated Statistical Contributions and National Progress:

NITI Aayog's data products provide critical governance insights. The SDG India Index 2023–24 records a national composite score of 71/100, a 14-point gain since the 2018 baseline and five points above the 2020–21 edition, with notable advances in poverty eradication, water and sanitation, and clean energy. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (2023 Progress Review, based on NFHS-5) shows the headcount ratio falling from approximately 24.8% around 2015–16 to 14.96% by 2019–21—a near halving that lifted millions from simultaneous deprivations in nutrition, health, education, and living standards (NITI Aayog, 2023, 2024). Complementary work includes millet production projections for nutritional and climate security, district hospital performance monitoring, and sector reports supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat and green transition goals. NDAP and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform further democratize data and opportunity.

Observations and Challenges:

From a development economics standpoint, NITI Aayog's shift toward outcome-oriented, data-responsive governance marks a welcome departure from top-down planning. The MPI reduction validates multi-sectoral schemes, yet regional disparities persist, with Eastern and North-Eastern states often showing higher incidence; this underscores the value of place-based strategies and cross-state learning facilitated by NITI. Gender dimensions are partially captured in MPI indicators (nutrition, cooking fuel, assets), but fuller integration of unpaid care work and time poverty metrics would strengthen alignment with SDG 5 and feminist economics insights. Environmental initiatives such as LIFE and the green transition division are timely for climate-vulnerable agro-ecological zones,

including North Bengal's tea and biodiversity regions. However, NITI lacks the fiscal allocation powers of its predecessor, limiting its ability to translate analysis into resourced action. Competitive indices risk highlighting gaps without adequate capacity support for lagging states.

Key recommendations include: (1) exploring limited performance-linked financial instruments to bridge diagnosis and implementation; (2) accelerating district/block-level disaggregation with explicit gender, disability, and climate lenses plus care-economy indicators; (3) strengthening state-level knowledge partnerships, especially for Eastern India's infrastructure, skills, and sustainable agriculture priorities; and (4) enhancing last-mile data access and vernacular tools through NDAP to empower panchayats and local administrations.

Conclusion:

NITI Aayog has successfully repositioned Indian governance around cooperative federalism, evidence, and innovation. Updated indicators demonstrate tangible progress on poverty and sustainable development goals, while programmes such as ADP illustrate the power of real-time monitoring and convergence. Yet its advisory character and capacity asymmetries constrain deeper impact. With renewed leadership and a clear mandate for Viksit Bharat @2047, targeted institutional strengthening—combining analytical excellence with selective resource leverage and equity-focused design—can amplify NITI's role as the vital bridge between national vision and subnational action. For scholars and policymakers concerned with inclusive, regionally sensitive development, NITI Aayog remains both a significant achievement and an institution whose evolution will shape India's federal trajectory in the coming decades.

NCC & NSS NEWS

Raiganj University NCC Company Records Active Participation and Achievements

The NCC Company of Raiganj University, attached to 5/11 Bengal Battalion NCC, remained actively engaged in training, public service, ceremonial duties, awareness activities, and student development programmes during January–June 2026. The activities reflected the continuing commitment of the NCC Company towards discipline, leadership, civic responsibility,



physical fitness, and national service. The cadets participated in the Inter College State Sports and Games Championship 2025–26 at Raiganj Karnajora Sports Complex. During the 77th Republic Day celebrations, the NCC Girls' team secured second place and the Boys' team secured third place in the District-Level Republic Day Parade Competition. Corporal Pratab Barman was also felicitated for his outstanding contribution to the Idea and Innovation/Start-up India event under the Darjeeling and Sikkim Group.

A major achievement during this period was the participation of 37 cadets from Raiganj University in the Combined Annual Training Camp CATC DR-16, held at Malda College from 14 March to 23 March 2026. The cadets performed well in several camp competitions. In Passing the Ball, CPL Rimpa Singh and Cadet Sujoy Barman secured second place. In Tug of War, the team led

by Cadet Akrish Das won second place. In Group Dance, the team led by LCPL Dolly Barman secured third place. In Musical Chairs, Cadet Shamim Akhtar and Cadet Nazahat Banu jointly secured second place. Cadet Nazahat Banu was adjudged Best Cadet, securing first place for outstanding all-round performance throughout the camp. Cadet Akrish Das also received a special prize as Master of Ceremonies.

Raiganj University cadets also participated in CATC DR-4 at Malda Government Model Madrasa, where Cadet Apurba Shil won first prize in Passing the Ball and Cadet Biplab Mondal received a camp award for serving as Senior Cadet of A Company. The NCC Company further contributed to social and national service activities, including a World Tubercu-



losis Day awareness rally, an internship programme on disaster management in collaboration with the National Disaster Response Force and the Department of English, an Agniveer Camp at Siliguri, Paschim Banga Dibas volunteering duty, and the 12th International Day of Yoga celebration at Raiganj University.

NSS Units of Raiganj University Undertake Community Service and Awareness Activities



The National Service Scheme (NSS), Raiganj University, continued its active engagement in student-led community service and social outreach through a range of regular activities during the year. The NSS units conducted campus cleanliness drives, village adoption programmes, plantation activities, health and sanitation awareness campaigns, digital literacy initiatives, voter awareness programmes, community outreach services, blood donation camps, and observance of important national and international days.

As part of its humanitarian and social responsibility initiatives, NSS Unit III and NSS Unit IV organized a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on 16 March 2026 at the Raiganj University campus. The camp was held with the objective of promoting voluntary blood donation, humanitarian values, and awareness about the importance of timely blood donation among students, faculty members, staff, and the wider community.

The Annual Special Camp 2026 of NSS Unit III was successfully organized from 19 March to 25 March 2026 at Maraikura Village, Uttar Dinajpur. The seven-day camp focused on community engagement, social awareness, and rural development through various extension activities. The inaugural programme was graced by Mr. Agnimeel Das, Regional Director, NSS Regional Directorate, Kolkata, as the Chief Guest. Raiganj University also celebrated the International Day of Yoga 2026 on 21 June 2026 at the University Playground. The programme was jointly organized by the



NSS Units and NCC of Raiganj University. The event aimed to promote the importance of yoga for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being among students, teachers, and members of the university community.

Through these activities, the NSS units of Raiganj University continued to uphold the spirit of service, social responsibility, community participation, and holistic development among students.

Raiganj University granted access to PARAM RUDRA

Raiganj University has been granted access to the PARAM Rudra Supercomputing facility at IIT Patna by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). PARAM Rudra is a high-performance computing system based on a heterogeneous and hybrid configuration of Intel Xeon 2nd Generation Cascade Lake processors and NVIDIA Tesla A100 GPU cards. Access to such an advanced supercomputing facility is an important step for strengthening scientific research at Raiganj University. High-performance computing enables researchers to perform large-scale data analysis, molecular modelling, bioinformatics, artificial intelligence-based studies, climate and environmental modelling, and other computationally intensive research activities. This facility will help faculty members, research scholars, and students undertake contemporary research with greater speed, accuracy, and analytical depth.



Central Library: Advancing Knowledge, Research and Academic Excellence

The Central Library of Raiganj University continues to serve as the University's principal knowledge and information resource centre, providing comprehensive academic and research support to faculty members, students, research scholars, non-teaching employees, and external members. The library's collection now comprises more than 67,166 books, catering to diverse disciplines and research interests. The library also provides access to a wide range of high-quality digital resources. Through the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative and the e-Shodh Sindhu (ESS) consortium, users can access leading international journals and e-books, as well as renowned academic platforms such as JSTOR, J-Gate+, Economic & Political Weekly (EPW), AIR Online, and e-PG Pathshala.

Sports Corner

The Cricket Team of Raiganj University represented the University at the East Zone Inter-University Cricket Tournament (Men) 2026, hosted by Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha, from 11th to 22nd January, 2026. Raiganj University began its campaign on 13th January, 2026, with an impressive victory over OUAT University, Bhubaneswar, demonstrating commendable teamwork, discipline, and sporting spirit. Despite their strong performance in the latter stages, Raiganj University did not progress. Participation in the tournament provided the players with valuable competitive exposure and an opportunity to showcase their talent on the regional stage.



What is 'Light'?

The term 'Light' is commonly used to refer to radiant energy that can produce the sensation of vision. The nature and properties of light are discussed in the branch of Physics called Optics. In geometrical optics, many fundamental principles of light are studied purely geometrically, without assuming anything about the nature of light. In physical optics, many experimental results are explained primarily by considering the wave nature of light. Quantum optics concerns the interaction of light with atomic systems. Reflection of light by a mirror or other object; refraction by a lens or prism; diffraction of light as it passes by the edge of an opaque object, and interference patterns resulting from diffraction are very common optical phenomena in everyday life. Nature of Light:

Historically, different theories have been proposed regarding the nature of light. In 1675, Romer determined the velocity of light, c . Scientific inquiry into the wave nature of light began in the 17th and 18th centuries. Robert Hooke, Leonhard Euler, and Christian Huygens proposed a wave theory of light based on experimental observations. Sir Isaac Newton proposed his corpuscular theory of light based on experimental studies of the visible spectrum through a prism. According to Newton, light is composed of particles, or corpuscles, emitted by a luminous body. According to Huygen's mechanical wave model of light, together with Fresnel's model, a beam of light consists of longitudinal pulses, explaining reflection, refraction, interference, and diffraction of light. Newton's corpuscular theory explained all these optical phenomena, too. In the year 1849, terrestrial determination of the speed of light was performed by Louis Fizeau, who reported that the speed of light in water was less than that

in air. Huygen's theory correctly concluded that light effectively slowed down on entering more dense media and at last succeeded over Newton's model after 100 years. In 1803, the 'Double slit experiment' by Thomas Young played a very crucial role in the study of interference based on Huygen-Fresnel wave theory. The 19th century saw the success of wave theory in describing light; it also witnessed the rise of atomic theory in describing matter. In 1873, Maxwell explained light as the propagation of an electromagnetic wave. According to Maxwell's equations, light is considered a transverse electromagnetic wave consisting of vibrating electric and magnetic fields at right angles to each other and also at right angles to the direction of propagation of light. Visible light is a narrow part of electromagnetic radiation (700 nm -400 nm range), and in a vacuum, all electromagnetic radiation travels at the speed of light $c = 3 \times 10^8$ m/s. With Maxwell's electromagnetic theory, another unexplained optical phenomenon, 'polarisation of Light' and 'double refraction' were explained. In 1901, Max Planck hypothesised that the frequency of light emitted by the black body depended on the frequency of the oscillator that emitted it, and the energy of these oscillators (atoms of the black body) increased linearly with frequency and quantised with $E=h\nu$. In 1905, Albert Einstein explained the photoelectric effect – the liberation of electrons from matter by electromagnetic radiation of certain frequencies and introduced the term 'photon'. The radiation itself behaves like a stream of particles or quanta of energy $h\nu$. These quanta later came to be known as photons. With the development of the quantum theory of atomic and nuclear structure by Niels Bohr and others, it became apparent that light and other forms of electromagnetic radiation are emitted

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and absorbed in connection with energy transitions of particles of the substance radiating or absorbing the light. In these processes, the quantum or particle nature of light is more important than its wave nature. When the transition of light is under consideration, wave nature dominates particle nature. In 1924, de Broglie showed that there is a complementarity between particles and waves, known as wave-particle duality. In 1927, Heisenberg proposed that simultaneous measurement of two complementary values – position and momentum of a subatomic particle is impossible. The more precisely one value is measured, the more flawed will be the measurement of the other value – The Uncertainty principle (the elementary idea of Quantum Mechanics), which prompted Einstein's famous comment 'God does not play dice'. Conclusion:

Does light consist of particles or waves?

Light is a particle! (Newton)

Light is a wave! (Huygens)

Light is unequivocally a wave! (Fresnel)

Light is a wave – an electromagnetic wave! (Maxwell)

Light is also a particle! (Einstein)

Wave – particle duality! (Louis de Broglie)

Uncertainty principle (Heisenberg): Quantum Mechanics

"It seems as though we must use sometimes the one theory and sometimes the other, while at times we may use either. We are faced with a new kind of difficulty. We have two contradictory pictures of reality, separately neither of them fully explains the phenomenon of light, but together they do" - Albert Einstein.

Vande Mataram and Indian Nationalism

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The immortal song Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in his classic novel Anandamath in 1882. The very first two words of the song, i.e., Vande Mataram, later became a rallying cry during the freedom movement and influenced the socio-political and cultural life of Bengal, nay India, through the ages. Rabindranath Tagore was the first person to publicly sing the song in 1896 at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress; but the song's enormous popularity was attained during the Swadeshi movement. Abanindranath Tagore's Art of the image of 'Bharat Mata' on the theme of Vande Mataram marked the beginning of a new era of worshipping Mother India. The singing of the song at the Benaras session of the Indian National Congress in 1905 by Saraladevi Chowdhurani added to its widespread popularity and helped spread nationalism among Indians. Keeping in mind the appeal of the song in fostering patriotic sentiment among Indians, Aurobindo Ghose writes in 1907 that it was a mantra of a new 'religion of patriotism' given to the nation by Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. As per police reports, the revolutionaries were so influenced by the song that their 'war cry' was 'Vande

Mataram', and hardly any revolutionary document was not headed with 'Om Bandemataram'. Subrahmanya Bharati, the famous nationalist Tamil poet, helped propagate Vande Mataram by first translating it in



1905. The novel Anandamath was also translated into various Indian languages, including Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, and Hindi.

The message of the song metamorphosed into a slogan, a symbol of expressing anti-British feeling, and a reviving mantra of patriotism in different parts of India and abroad. For example, a European mis-

sionary complained that 'a native of Rajahmundry got a few street boys and paid them some rupees under the condition that they shout at every European, Vande Mataram. As a reaction against the banning of Vande Mataram by the College authorities, a 'Vande Mataram Protection League' was started with the object of enforcing students' right to shout Vande Mataram as they pleased at Rajahmundry Arts College in Deccan.

The working-class people of urban areas and the rural poor were used to raise the slogan 'Vande Mataram' during their protests against any misdeeds by the colonial rulers. Not only that, the slogan was rapidly adopted during the trial of Aurobindo Ghose and many other accused, who boldly shouted Vande Mataram in court. Khudiram Bose was hanged in 1908, and he began his statement with 'Vande Mataram'. Finally, it may be said that in the course of the freedom movement, the song 'Vande Mataram' and its rallying cry became a symbol of defiance of British authority, and at the same time it assumed the character of disseminating the hallmark of nationalist spirit in India.

Macrofungal Diversity and Carbon Sequestration: An Emerging Nature-Based Solution for Climate Change Mitigation

Prof. (Dr.) Parimal Mandal

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Carbon serves as the fundamental building block of life. It forms a vast array of biological and chemical compounds, including hydrocarbons, amino acids, proteins, carbohydrates, and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Among these, carbon dioxide is a naturally occurring atmospheric gas that plays an indispensable role in maintaining life on Earth. Although present in

roots, fruits, and seeds, forming the foundation of terrestrial food webs. This natural process not only supports biological productivity but also regulates atmospheric carbon levels, thereby maintaining ecological equilibrium. However, anthropogenic activities such as industrialization, fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and intensive agricultural practices have dramatically

the role of fungi in carbon sequestration has received comparatively less attention. Macrofungi, commonly recognized as mushrooms, represent the reproductive structures of many fungal species. Beneath the soil surface, these organisms develop extensive networks of microscopic filaments known as mycelia, which collectively constitute one of the largest biological systems on Earth. Many macrofungi establish symbiotic associations with plant roots, known as mycorrhizae. In this mutually beneficial relationship, plants supply carbohydrates to fungi, while fungi enhance the absorption of water and essential nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen. Research indicates that a substantial proportion of carbon fixed through photosynthesis is transferred from plants to fungal networks. The fungal biomass, composed largely of chitin-rich cell walls, serves as a stable reservoir of organic carbon. As fungal mycelia proliferate throughout the soil, they facilitate the incorporation and stabilization of carbon within soil organic matter, effectively sequestering carbon for extended periods. Forest ecosystems rich in macrofungal diversity often exhibit enhanced carbon storage capacity due to the ability of fungal mycelia to improve soil structure and promote long-term carbon retention. Recent studies suggest that mycorrhizal fungi transfer billions of tons of carbon annually from plants into soils, highlighting their crucial role as the global stable carbon reservoir. Therefore, conserving fungal biodiversity is essential for both ecosystem functioning and climate change mitigation. The excessive use of chemical fungicides can adversely affect beneficial fungal communities by disrupting mycorrhizal associations and reducing fungal biomass. In contrast, organic farming practices—including the application of compost, vermicompost, biofertilizers, crop rotation, and reduced chemical inputs—promote fungal diversity and soil health. Such sustainable agricultural practices enhance soil carbon storage, improve nutrient cycling, and strengthen ecosystem resilience. Recognizing and protecting macrofungal diversity and mycorrhizal networks is therefore vital for advancing natural carbon sequestration and achieving long-term environmental sustainability.

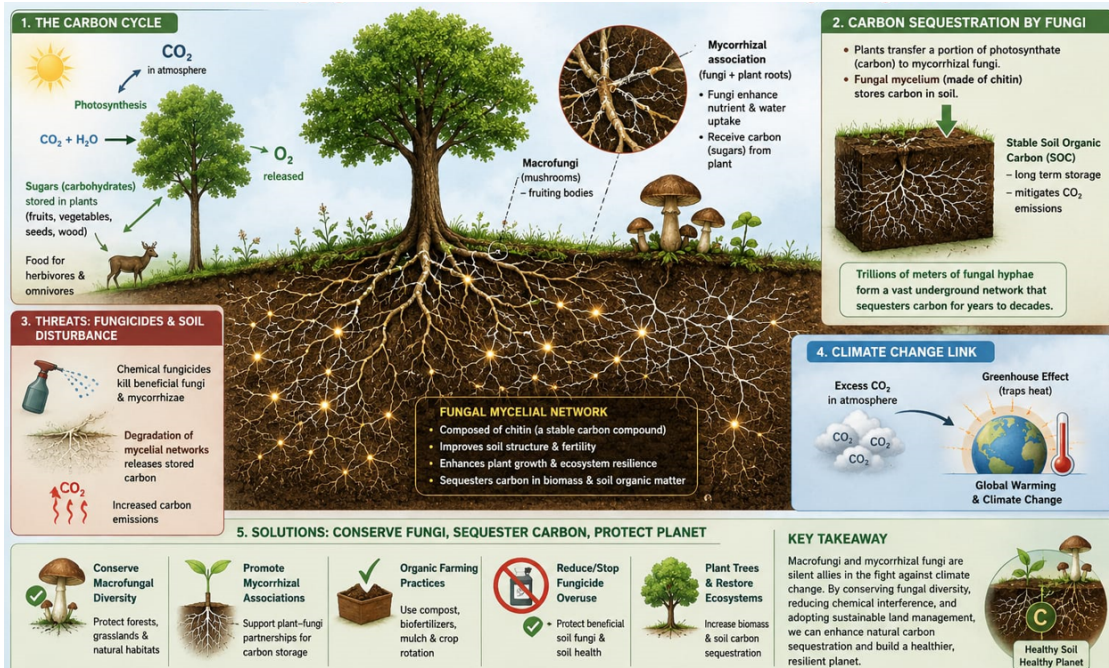


Fig. Conceptual illustration showing the role of macrofungi and mycorrhizal fungal networks in carbon sequestration, soil organic carbon formation, ecosystem resilience, and climate change mitigation, highlighting threats from fungicides and soil disturbance and strategies for fungal conservation and sustainable land management.

relatively low concentrations 430 ppm or 0.0430% (on a molar basis) in air, atmospheric CO₂ serves as the primary source of carbon for green plants during photosynthesis. Through photosynthesis, plants capture solar energy and utilize it to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates and other organic compounds. These photosynthetically derived products are stored in various plant tissues such as leaves, stems,

increased atmospheric CO₂ concentrations over the past century. Elevated carbon dioxide levels intensify the greenhouse effect, leading to global warming, climate change, and associated environmental challenges. Consequently, enhancing carbon sequestration has become a critical global strategy for mitigating climate change. While afforestation and forest conservation are widely recognized approaches for carbon capture,

STUDENT REPORTER

Cosmic Paradox: The Neutron Star Mystery That Defies Physics

Prakash Mahato, UG 6th Semester (Edited by: Prof. (Dr.) Apurba Kanti Deb, Department of Physics, Raiganj University)

We have always been fascinated by how the smallest things in nature connect to the biggest objects in space. We all learned in school that the smallest thing in the world is the atom. However, as time went on, scientists found out that the atom is not the final stop. If we break it down, we get protons, electrons, and neutrons. However, did one ever think about what happens when these tiny particles face the craziest forces in deep space? If we look at the night sky, we see countless stars and planets. One very unique type is the White Dwarf, which is basically a dead, super-heavy star. Moreover, right after the White Dwarf stage comes an even more extreme and mysterious object, the Neutron Star. A neutron star is born when a massive star dies and collapses under its own gravity. The crushing pressure inside is so intense that it forces electrons and protons to smash together, turning them into neutrons. This creates a giant ball made out of a thick "neutron soup." To understand how heavy this is, imagine taking one single teaspoon of this material. On Earth, that one teaspoon would weigh

about 6 billion tons, which is as heavy as Mount Everest!

Nevertheless, this is exactly where modern physics gets stuck. According to quantum mechanics and the rules of physics, the pressure at the absolute centre of a neutron star is just too much for normal neutrons to survive. The math says they must break apart into strange, heavier particles called hyperons, or melt down into a chaotic soup of quarks. Furthermore, this is the main puzzle: if these hyperons actually form, the star's core should soften. If it becomes soft, it cannot resist gravity and should collapse instantly into a black hole. Because of this, older theories say that neutron stars heavier than twice the mass of the Sun cannot exist. However, recently, space telescopes discovered massive neutron stars that are 2.35 times as massive as our Sun and are perfectly stable. This "Hyperon Puzzle" leaves scientists totally in the dark, showing that a huge piece is missing from our physics textbooks.

In India, astronomers using the Giant Metre wave Radio Telescope (GMRT) discovered five new

millisecond pulsars in globular clusters, adding fresh clues about how neutron stars behave under extreme conditions. At the same time, physicists at IISER Bhopal are running gravitational-wave simulations to determine whether neutron star mergers reveal exotic quark matter. Globally, gravitational-wave detectors like the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and Virgo have already observed neutron star collisions, proving that these dead stars are laboratories of new physics. NASA's upcoming Roman Space Telescope will soon find hidden neutron stars using microlensing, while the SKA Observatory will map pulsars across the sky to probe their dense interiors. In the end, these dead stars show us that the universe is way more creative than any laboratory we have on Earth. By refusing to turn into black holes, these heavy neutron stars are silently telling us that a whole new chapter of physics is waiting to be written. The answers to our biggest questions are not hidden inside a microscope, but floating out there, billions of light-years away in the dark sky.

Selected Publications of Various Departments in Peer Reviewed Journals (January to June 2026)

Faculty of Science and Management:

Department of Botany

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