

6.3.2 Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Archives

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of In-charge	:	Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy
Physical Address	:	Amrapali, ISI, 204 B T Road, Kolkata-700 108
Founded in	:	29th June 1993
Founded by	:	Indian Statistical Institute



Brief Overview of the Museum and Archives

The Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives (PCMMM&A) was founded in 1993 to commemorate the birth centenary of pioneer statistician and the founder of Indian Statistical Institute, Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (PCM). The museum and archives highlight PCM's life and works, including his contributions to the fields of statistics, economics, and planning in India. In addition, it contains his private collection of books and an assortment of rare photographs and documents. Primary objectives of the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives are to collect, preserve, restore, display, disseminate, document of personal, administrative, and rare source materials associated with the life and legacy of Prof. Mahalanobis and the establishment of the Indian Statistical Institute, as well as the development of the Institute and statistical science in India.

The Museum & Archives

PCMMM&A is housed in Amrapali, the erstwhile residence of Prof. Mahalanobis which is situated on the institute's campus in Kolkata. A permanent exhibition featuring photographic displays about the life and work of PCM is located on the eastern side of the house's ground floor. A total of five galleries makes up the museum's exhibit. These galleries feature 921 exhibits spread across 101 panels. The first floor of the house has been preserved for the audience which includes an open lounge (the *Chatal*), PCM's study, and private areas of the residence. On the first floor, a new gallery opened in 2016 depicting Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and his wife Nirmal Kumari Mahalanobis's special relationship with Rabindranath Tagore.

The archival materials of PCMMM&A traces back the evolution of statistics in the Indian subcontinent during and after PCM's lifetime, paying particular attention to his outstanding contributions in this field. The archival materials include official and personal documents, files, correspondence, scientific and literary papers, photographs, newspaper cuttings, diaries, and manuscripts related to Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and Nirmal Kumari Mahalanobis. These collections also includes audio-visual materials such as sound recordings, film footage, negatives, and slides. There are approximately 3 lakh documents, with approximately 1.9 lakh having already undergone preservation treatments, depending on their condition. The digitization of documents began in 2007. To date, approximately 25,000 documents have been digitized,

with metadata for approximately 20,000 documents saved on a customized server and approximately 2000 documents uploaded to the D-Space server.

Note: Presently the Museum & Archives has been shifted to the third floor of the library building temporarily for the renovation work of the existing museum building (*Amrapali*). The physical museum space is closed for the time being for the general visitors. With prior permission serious visitors can access the museum and archives. Also, PCMMM&A has a presence on virtual platforms (Instagram, Facebook & Twitter). General visitors can be reached through these digital mediums.



PCM Museum and Archives: Major Collections

Name of Collection	Brief Overview of Collection
Manuscripts	3,00,000 Manuscripts (Typescript/ Handwritten)
Books	850
Audio-video [Spool, Record, Cassettes]	93 nos., 89 nos., 101 nos.
Photographs	4000 approx.
Negatives	5000 approx.
Slides	1236 slides approx.
Artifacts	1330 approx.

Researchers Visited/ Consulted PCMMM&A

Name of Activity	Affiliation
Reference Services for Researchers and Scholars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sunish Kumar Deb, Assistant Secretary, Bangiya Bijan Parishad. ▶ Amrita Chattopadhyay, Jawaharlal Nehru University. ▶ Ranjit Mondal, Jadavpur University. ▶ Aman Roy, Graduate Centre CUNY, New York, USA. ▶ Anooj Kansara, University of California, Berkeley. ▶ Yaseer Nasser, University of Chicago. ▶ Neel Thakkar, Princeton University, New Jersey. ▶ Gautam Bagchi, Writer ▶ Michel Rayner, University of Sussex, UK ▶ Sutapa Malakar, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune ▶ Jithin K Jacob, Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute

Special Visitors of PCMMM&A

Name of Activity	Name & Affiliation
Special Visitors of PCMMM&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pankaj K P Shreyaskar (Deputy DG, MoSPI) ▶ Nikhil Agarwal (Dy Director, MoSPI) ▶ M. M. Hasija (DG, NSO, MoSPI) ▶ Sudeep Sarkar (Professor & Dept. Chair, Comp. Sc. & Engineering, University of South Florida) ▶ Reena Dewan (Director of Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Kolkata) ▶ N. Dasgupta (Director, Central Research & Training Laboratory, NCSM) ▶ Sanjoy Bhattacharyya (Chief Investment Advisor HDFC, Investment Planner, IIM Ahmedabad) ▶ Dr. Debasish Bandyopadhyay (Director of CSIR-CGCRI) ▶ Sir David John Spiegelhalter (OBE FRS, Chair, Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication, Dept. of Pure Mathematics & Mathematical Statistics, University of Cambridge, UK) ▶ Aleida Guevara March (Doctor of medicine, Che Guevara's daughter) ▶ Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya (Distinguished Professor Dept. of Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)

Major Activities

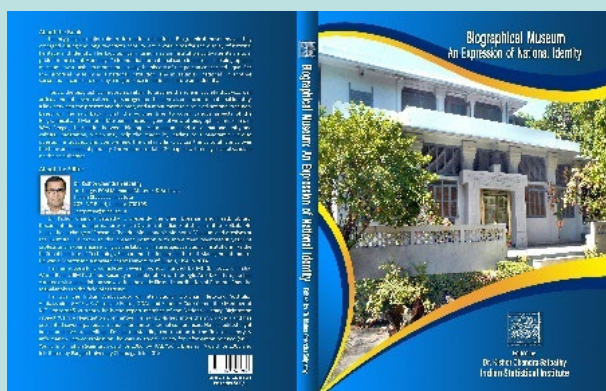
Museum Visit

Guided tours were provided to the visitors by the PCMMM&A Trainees. During 2022-23 PCMMM&A received a total no. of 496 visitors.



Publication

'Biographical Museum: An Expression of National Identity' edited by Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy



Book Cover



Book opening ceremony at KCC, Kolkata

Preservation Treatment

Conservation and Documentation for the preservation of the collection to ensure availability to present and future researchers. During this financial year, approximately 2394 nos. of archival documents were provided preservation treatment after assessing their condition.



Demonstration of Preservation techniques to the trainees

Current Project

Social Media Volunteer Programme for PCMMM&A



**Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
Memorial Museum and Archive
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata**

**CALL FOR
SOCIAL MEDIA
VOLUNTEERS !**

Requirements

- Knowledge of social media
- SEO marketing skills
- Canva/Photoshop, video editing skills
- Research Skills

Candidates must be proficient in English

Job Profile

- Content creation
- Engagement through content
- Maintaining & developing social media calendar



Benefits for the Volunteer

- Museum management experience
- Work experience
- Handling archival materials
- Museum exposure and future opportunities
- Certificate

Contact

Interested candidates may please send their CV, Statement of Purpose, and Work Sample to ksatpathy@isical.ac.in

For more details please visit - <https://www.isical.ac.in/~museum/>

Application Deadline 30th October 2022

*This is a non-paid programme

Poster of social media volunteer Program

New Joining

- ▶ Avik Kumar Das Joined PCMMM&A as Associate Scientist 'A' on 5th September,2022

Participation in events

Participation in Seminars/ Conferences:

1 Offline:

Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy delivered an invited Talk on “The Role of Archivist of Prasanta Chandra Memorial Museum & Archives” during the celebration of ‘World Heritage Week – Durga Festival’ at Kolkata Centre for Creativity.

Online:

The Role of Archivist of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives in Commemoration of P. C. Mahalanobis: a Case Study from India by Kishor Chandra Satpathy and Keya Das on 7th September 2022 at Section on University and Research Institution Archives (ICA-SUV), Université de Montréal. **(The theme of the conference was “Commemoration and Archives in Universities and Research Institutions.”)**



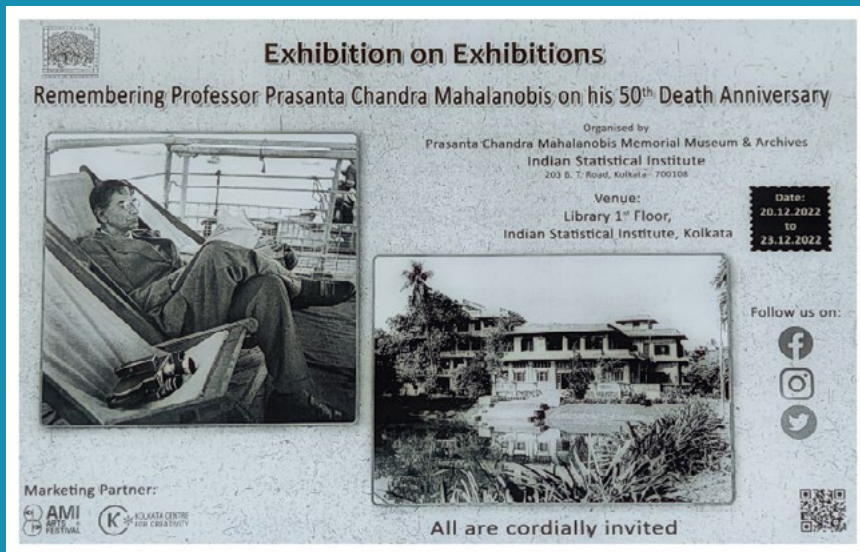
2 Online:

Virtual Exhibition on “Father of Indian Statistics: Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis during 19th-25th November 2022 to celebrate Heritage Week 2022.

3 To celebrate 92nd Foundation Day and commemorate the 50th death anniversary PCMMM&A has organized an exhibition on Professor's participation and contribution in various exhibitions over the years, this exhibition is entitled "Exhibition on Exhibitions".



Inauguration of the exhibition by Prof. Bandyopadhyay



Poster of the Exhibition

4 Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives have jointly participated in *Acharya Satyendra Nath Bose Bijan 'O' Prajukti Mela* (Science & Technology Fair) with Research Scholars from **Agricultural and Ecological Research Unit (AERU), ISI** and **Laboratory for Cognitive systems and Cybernetics Research, ISI** from 19th Jan 2023 to 23rd Jan 2023 at Hedua Park.



Special acknowledgement by Paschimbanga Bijan Mancha

5 Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives has organised a daylong seminar on 'Restoration of Museum Buildings: Issues & Challenges' on 16th March 2023 at the Indian Statistical Institute.



Photographs of the Seminar