



Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
Memorial Museum and Archives
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

AMRAPALI NEWSLETTER

Inaugural Issue

August 2025



To preserve the past is to secure the future





It brings me immense pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives newsletter. This publication is a significant step in our mission to preserve and honor Prof. Mahalanobis' legacy and pioneering contributions, which shaped the field of statistics in India and beyond.

Our museum and archives is more than a repository. It is a vibrant space where Prof. Mahalanobis' life, work, & vision come alive. Through carefully curated exhibits, historical documents, and artefacts, we aim to spark curiosity and promote a deeper understanding of the vital role statistics plays in advancing science & society.

I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who has supported this endeavour, from our dedicated team member to our passionate stakeholders. We invite you to stay connected with us & help us honor the enduring legacy of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and the Indian Statistical Institute.

I hope this newsletter gives you a glimpse into our ongoing efforts, recent activities, achievements & future plans.

Warm regards,
Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
Director, Indian Statistical Institute

MESSAGE

FROM

THE INCHARGE



The past few months have marked a significant phase for PCMMM&A. In collaboration with the National Archives of India, we successfully organized Archives in Action — a two-day national stakeholders' meeting that welcomed over 60 professionals from across the country for thoughtful discussions on archival preservation, digitization, and institutional cooperation.

Alongside this, our core museum work has continued with notable progress. We digitized rare and historically valuable documents, undertook systematic conservation of fragile materials, and initiated the formal accessioning of our object holdings.

The museum also saw a vibrant engagement of visitors. Our structured 60-hour internship programme offered hands-on training in key areas such as digitization, conservation, and documentation, in line with the National Education Policy.

As part of ongoing infrastructural improvements, PCMMM&A has been temporarily relocated to the 3rd floor of the Library (SN Bose Bhavan) during the renovation of the Amrapali Building. This transition has not deterred our momentum and has, in fact, opened up new possibilities for collaborative engagement within the institute.

As we look ahead, I thank every team member and collaborator whose dedication fuels our efforts, especially Avik, Keya, and Abhideep for compiling and designing the newsletter. We remain committed to safeguarding our documentary heritage and building an inclusive and dynamic space for learning and research.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy
In-Charge, PCMMM&A
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

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ARCHIVES IN ACTION

The P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives, in collaboration with the National Archives of India, hosted a two-day stakeholders' meeting on 27–28 January 2025 at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. The event brought together over 60 archivists and professionals from more than 15 states, representing leading archival and cultural institutions across India.



The discussions focused on sharing best practices in archival preservation, research, and collaboration. Participants highlighted the importance of cooperation between institutions and the need to address common challenges in the archival field. Several sessions emphasized the significance of digitization, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, particularly in regional and lesser-known archives.

The valedictory session featured inspiring remarks from distinguished guests, including Dr. K.C. Jena, Deputy Director of Archives, and Shri Naoroibam Raju Singh, Deputy Director from the National Archives of India, as well as Prof. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee, Deputy Director of the Indian Statistical Institute. They addressed the role of archives in preserving national heritage & advancing academic research; they also highlighted the importance of promoting archival awareness, especially among younger generations, and protecting both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The event was organized and coordinated by Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy, in charge of PCMMM&A, whose leadership ensured the event's success. Staff members of ISI's library and team members of PCMMM&A worked tirelessly to execute the event and create a platform for cross-institutional dialogue. This event highlighted PCMMM&A's commitment and effort towards the optimistic note, with participants united in their commitment to ongoing collaboration, interdisciplinary efforts, and institutional support to strengthen India's Archival Landscape & preserve its rich heritage for future generations.



VISITOR HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past months, the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives welcomed a diverse group of visitors, reflecting its growing recognition as a hub of learning and cultural exchange.

Students from several esteemed institutions—including St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College, Maharani Kasiswari College, G.D. Goenka School, Manipur University, and Surendranath College—visited the museum and archives as part of their academic exposure to archival studies and heritage preservation.

The museum also had the honour of hosting Prof. Eryk Dutkiewicz from the University of Technology Sydney and Dr. Sandra Bärnreuther from the University of Lucerne, whose visits added an international dimension to the ongoing dialogues around archives and cultural memory.

A representative from Akashvani visited PCMMM&A for an official interview, reflecting media interest in the museum’s mission and its role in preserving India’s intellectual and cultural legacy. We were also pleased to engage with numerous research scholars, academics, and curious visitors from diverse backgrounds. Guided tours & curated exhibitions were offered to the visitors for deeper insights

These visits offered a meaningful opportunity for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and awareness-building about the importance of archival practices. Guided walkthroughs and curated interactions helped participants better understand the contributions of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and the broader archival ecosystem preserved at ISI.

Active participation & interest from the visitors across India & worldwide for PCMMM&A signifies the importance of Archives in contemporary academic & cultural discourse. PCMMM&A is dedicated to serving as an open and inclusive space for the researchers, scholars, students & general public to connect with the scientific heritage of India.



Students of St. Pauls Cathedral Mission College



Students of Maharani Kasiswari College

VISITOR HIGHLIGHTS



Akashvani (AIR) interview at PCMMM&A



Students of G.D.Goenka School



LIS Students of Manipur University



History (Major) Students of Surendranath College



Prof. Eryk Dutkiewicz, University of Technology, Sydney



Dr. Sandra Bärnreuther, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

At the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives, the mission to safeguard historical documents and ensure their accessibility for future generations continues to advance. Significant efforts have been made in digitizing rare archival documents, conserving fragile documents, and systematically accessioning museum objects. All these efforts are driven by a commitment to preserving the legacy of the Indian Statistical Institute & its founder, Prof. P.C.Mahalanobis.

A wide range of historically significant documents has been digitized to ensure preservation and accessibility. Correspondence, field notes, scientific reports, research papers, and policy reports related to the economic and scientific development of India and ISI were digitized, and the process is continuing. Through digitization, efforts have been made to preserve the valuable documents and make them accessible for scholars and researchers.

Physical verification and evaluation of the condition of archival documents is as vital as digitization. It ensures their longevity. Surface cleaning, deacidification, and providing necessary treatments to the fragile documents with utmost care ensures that these documents remain intact for future generations.



A thorough verification of museum artifacts has been completed. Based on the verification, accessioning and cataloging of the artifacts have been started, aligning with the ICOM's documentation standard.

Our commitment towards maintaining a balance between heritage with the possibilities of the digital age ensures that the legacy of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis remains preserved for the younger generations. Every effort has been made to safeguard the knowledge tradition and make it accessible for research exploration. Together with our stakeholders, we're keeping this spirit of inquiry and learning alive at the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives.



FROM MEDIA



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

“Archives In Action” Stakeholders’ Meeting Concludes Successfully At ISI

By India Education Diary ... — On Jan 29, 2025



“Archives In Action” Stakeholders’ Meeting – Day 1 Highlights

By OdAdmin — On Jan 28, 2025

Ministry of Culture

Stakeholders’ Meeting on ‘Archives in Action’

Posted On: 29 JAN 2025 3:36PM by PIB Kolkata

Kolkata, January 29, 2024

“Archives in Action” meeting held during 27th – 28th January at Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata

₹18.28
By Editor Desk - January 29, 2025 7:48 pm

Like 0



Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives (PCMMM&A) of the Indian Statistical Institute in collaboration with the National Archives of India, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organised a two-day stakeholders' meeting on "Archives in Action" which started today at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

The programme was inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolising the positive and collaborative spirit of the gathering. Prof. Dhurjati Prasad Sengupta, Chair, PCMMM&A Committee, delivered the opening remarks, emphasising the vital role of stakeholder participation in preserving institutional history and advancing future archival efforts.

Shri Arun Singhal, Director General, National Archives of India (NAI) and Chief Guest delivered an impactful inaugural address, underscoring the pivotal role of institutional archives in preserving the nation's history and culture. He emphasised that documentary heritage is not only essential for understanding our past but also for shaping our present and future. Shri Singhal further outlined the National Archives of India's ongoing efforts to safeguard and promote India's documentary legacy, highlighting its importance as a valuable educational resource for generations to come.

In the Spotlight: PCMMM&A's Work Recognized by National and Regional Media

We are thrilled to share that PCMMM&A's activities got noticed by the National and Regional Media. Our recent initiatives are gaining attention across several platforms, and PCMMM&A's inclusive environment and collaborative efforts are being highlighted.

Our team is dedicatedly and passionately working towards making the archival space inclusive for all. These media coverages are a testament to the hard work of our team members.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP), PCMMM&A has introduced a structured 60-hour internship programme, designed to connect formal learning with real-world experience.

This internship programme offered students a unique opportunity to dive into the dynamic, multidisciplinary world of museums and archives. Our interns were given exposure to a variety of hands-on activities of museum and archival work, such as digitisation, preservation, documentation, archival management, etc.

Guided by our dedicated team, the interns received professional and personalised mentorship, ensuring an effective learning experience. This programme not only allowed them to apply formal learning in a real-world setting but also inspired them to grapple with the responsibilities towards safeguarding our shared cultural legacy.

We're excited to see these young minds grow as they contribute to our collective mission, and we look forward to welcoming more students to this collective exploration.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE



**Prof. Sanghamitra
Bandyopadhyay**

Director



**Prof. Dhurjati
Prasad**

Chairperson



**Prof. Shiladri
Sekhar Das**

Member



Dr. Paramita Das

Member



**Dr. Kishor Chandra
Satpathy**

Convener

OUR TEAM



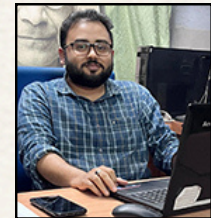
**Dr. Kishor Chandra
Satpathy**

Incharge



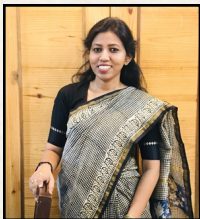
**Monali Mitra
Paladhi**

Dy. Librarian



Avik Kumar Das

Associate Scientist A



Keya Das

Repro Assistant A



Abhideep Mitra

Repro Assistant A



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VISITING HOURS
10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

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