

Report: TERRAQUEST 2026: Where Minds Meet the World

Date: January 16, 2026

Venue: Auditorium, Loreto College

The Department of Geography, Loreto College, Kolkata in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Loreto College, successfully organised its first annual departmental event titled “TERRAQUEST 2026: Where Minds Meet the World”, on January 16. A One-Day International Seminar was conducted on the theme “Landscapes to Livelihoods: Exploring Environmental and Societal Dynamics”. The event marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of the department, fostering intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue. The programme commenced at 9:00 a.m. with the inaugural session, which included the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by a prayer service, setting a solemn and reflective tone for the day. This was followed by an introduction to the seminar by Dr. Kaustuva Banerjee, Head, Department of Geography, Loreto College, who outlined the objectives of TERRAQUEST 2026 and highlighted its relevance in understanding the dynamic relationship between environment, society, and livelihoods. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Isha Ray, Energy & Resources Group, UC, Berkeley. Her lecture provided deep insights into concepts of landscapes, global environmental concerns, resource governance, and sustainable development, offering students and scholars an international perspective on contemporary geographical issues. Our eminent resource persons: Prof. Saswati Mookherjee, former Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Lady Brabourne College, Government of West Bengal; Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, former Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Jadavpur University; Dr. Priyank Pravin Patel, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Presidency University enriched the students with their valuable lectures on topics such as City Planning, Gendered space and Mapping. Post lunch the seminar proceeded into parallel sessions of paper presentations and competitions. Paper presentations were done by faculty members, research scholars, and UG/PG students. TERRASTRATEGY Simulation, a role-based competition was conducted at Intra-Department level., TERRASCULPT: Model Making Competition, encouraging creativity and applied geographical thinking was organized at Inter-College level. TERRASTUDIO: A Reel making competition was conducted at Inter-College level. Students from various colleges participated in these categories. These sessions provided an interactive platform for participants to engage critically with geographical concepts and real-world problem-solving. The programme concluded with the valedictory session followed by the vote of thanks, formally bringing a close to the TERRAQUEST. The organizers expressed gratitude to the speakers, participants, faculty members, sponsors and students for their active involvement and support.





