

Address by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J., the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, at the 7th Convocation Ceremony of SXUK

Honourable Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Arjen Tete, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Felix Raj, Respected Registrar, Rev. Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, Honoris Causa Recipient Dr. Shashi Tharoor, members of the Governing Board, Deans and esteemed faculties, officers and support staff, distinguished guests, proud parents and my dear graduating students — Good afternoon to all of you.

It is a profound joy for me to stand before you today on this momentous occasion of the **Seventh Convocation of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata**. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to address this august gathering of scholars, educators and achievers. Today is a day of celebration — a celebration of hard work, perseverance and dreams fulfilled.

To the **1,077 students who will receive their degrees today, including our distinguished 25 Ph.D. recipients**, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. Each of you carries within you a story of dedication, perseverance, and success. Today, we celebrate not only your academic achievements but also your intellectual curiosity, moral strength, and the spirit of service that defines a true Xaverian.

You have learned not only from books and classrooms but also from friendships, failures and self-reflection. Education, is not merely the acquisition of knowledge — it is the awakening of wisdom, the shaping of character and the strengthening of the human spirit.

In our rapidly changing world, knowledge alone is no longer enough. We live in an age of artificial intelligence, global interdependence, and complex social realities. The world today faces numerous challenges, including the erosion of democratic values and the rise of divisive forces. As noted by thinkers like Moisés Naim, we're seeing a concentration of power in the hands of a few leaders, driven by populism, polarization, and post-truth narratives.

In this context, the true test of Jesuit education lies not in competing in the global market, but in using our learning to build a more compassionate world. It's about working towards a society where everyone is treated with respect and dignity, and where democratic institutions are strengthened. As graduates of this esteemed university, you have a responsibility that extends beyond personal ambitions – to serve the greater good, think critically, and act ethically.

In Jesuit education, we believe that the purpose of learning is not merely to inform, but to **transform** — to shape men and women for others, who will use their gifts and talents for the greater glory of God and the good of humanity. I am sure your education at St. Xavier's University has not only prepared you for professional success but has also invited you to grow in conscience, compassion and courage.

We live in a world of extraordinary progress — a world driven by innovation, technology and global connectivity. Yet, amid this advancement, we often see a loss of meaning, of values and of human connection. Jesuit education challenges us to respond differently — to balance intellect with empathy, ambition with integrity and success

with service. It asks us not only to be successful but to be **persons of integrity**; not only to be competent but to be **socially conscious and compassionate**.

The value system that has been at the heart of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata — faith, integrity, excellence and service — is what truly sets you apart. These are not just words etched on a wall, but engraved in the hearts to live. In a world often driven by competition and material success, let your actions be guided by empathy, justice and humility. Remember, success without values is hollow and intelligence without compassion can never lead to true peace.

My young friends, as you step out of the secure walls of this university, you are entering a world that is both promising and unpredictable. You will face rapid technological change, environmental challenges and cultural shifts. But within these challenges lie enormous opportunities — to innovate, to collaborate and to create meaningful impact. The world needs critical thinkers who are also doers; professionals who are also humanitarians and leaders who believe that progress must always be inclusive and sustainable.

I encourage you to see yourselves as members of a global community, connected by our shared humanity and a common future. Your education equips you to bridge divides and foster understanding across borders. Every act of kindness, every effort towards equity, and every step towards compassion brings the world closer together.

Let your learning inspire action, and your success become a means of service. As St. Ignatius of Loyola said, "Love is shown more in deeds than in words." Make your education a beacon of hope – illuminating minds, warming hearts, and transforming lives.

Today marks not the end of your learning, but the beginning of a lifelong journey – keep reading, keep questioning, keep growing. Success isn't about rising to the top, it's about lifting others as you climb. The diploma you hold is a symbol of hope, a promise of responsibility, and a testament to your potential.

To the administration, faculty, staff and the alumni of the university, your dedication to holistic education has nurtured generations of enlightened minds – thank you for shaping countless futures.

Dear graduates, as you step into the world, carry the motto Nihil Ultra – Nothing beyond – in your hearts. Be brave in thought, gentle in word, and generous in deed. May your education empower you to serve humanity with wisdom and compassion.

The future is yours to shape – go forth and make it brighter. As St. Ignatius of Loyola said, "Go forth and set the world on fire." May your fire be the fire of truth, compassion, and justice. May you live always Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam – for the greater glory of God.

Congratulations, and may your journey ahead be filled with purpose, passion, and peace.

Thank you.