



Vice-Chancellor's Report 2017-18

BEHIND THE ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY CURTAIN

In January 2012, when the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee was the Chief Guest for the Convocation of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, she invited the College to be upgraded to the status of the University. Subsequently, with the support of the Alumni Association of the College, We began the SXC Vision 2020 project and a committee of experts prepared a DPR.

The Government of West Bengal favourably responded to an appeal by the Principal of St. Xavier's College by allotting 16.64 Acres of Land for St. Xavier's University. The hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation stone on 27th December 2013, and the

construction work of the Academic Block and the Jesuit residence began by the Basumati Corporation.

The *St. Xavier's University* Kolkata Act 2016 was unanimously passed by the West Bengal Assembly on December 15th, 2016 to meet the growing need for higher education with quality facilities. The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi gave his consent to the Act on January 16th, 2017.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata is a Jesuit private and constituent University. The St. Xavier's College Kolkata Educational Trust is the Sponsoring Body of the University. The first Chancellor of the University, the Jesuit Provincial, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, appointed



Rev. Fr. Felix Raj and Prof. Ashis Mitra as the first Vice-Chancellor and the first Registrar of the University respectively. Fr. Felix Raj took over the responsibility with immediate effect on February 16, 2017 and formed the first Governing Board of *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata.

The First Governing Board Meeting was held on April 28th 2017, at the University Campus in New Town. The Britto House, the Jesuit Residence at the University was inaugurated on the same day. The Governing Board approved two Undergraduate Courses with two sections each (B.Com & BMS) and four Postgraduate Courses (M.A. in English, M.Com, M.A. in Mass Communication, and MSW). The admission process for the courses began in June 2017, and four hundred students were admitted on the basis of merit for the session 2017-18.

The Alumni Association and some other individual Alumni actively participated in the SXC Vision 2020. It has been a collective journey and hard work of all and our perseverance has, by the blessing of the Almighty God, borne abundant fruit. Our dream of establishing the *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata has become a reality. This is a historic moment for all of us in Bengal.

INAUGURATION:

The University and the Academic Block were inaugurated on 7th July, 2017. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Education Minister, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Shri Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, the Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal with Mrs. Usha Mittal, Hon'ble Chancellor Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, Fr. Dominic Savio, Rector of St. Xavier's College and several other dignitaries graced the memorable occasion.

Mr. Mittal along with his wife flew down from London to witness his Alma Mater spread its wings. He articulated



his experience as a Xaverian at St. Xavier's College and the lesson of decision making he learned from his Alma Mater. He observed "today is the great day for Xavier's, Fr. Felix Raj and I had been dreaming for this day for some years now. When we met in London we discussed about it and now it has become a reality."

The Chief Minister congratulated the Jesuit Fathers for setting up another seat of higher learning with strong ethical and human values. She highlighted the contributions of St. Xavier's college towards the academic, cultural and social endorsements of West Bengal. She expressed her firm belief that like Harvard and Oxford University, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata will soon be of global significance, thriving on the principles of faith and wisdom.

The First Academic Session of the University commenced on 10th July, 2017 with regular classes. There were 395 students on the rolls in two UG courses (B.Com & BMS) and four PG courses (M.Com, M.A. in English, M.A. in Mass Com and MSW) as on May 31st, 2018.

I express my deep and sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development, Firhad Hakim, Shri Debashis Sen, IAS, Hon'ble Addl. Chief Secretary, Shri Vivek Kumar, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, the Government of West Bengal, Xaverians and all stake-holders for their continued support to our mission.



APPOINTMENTS:

1. Administrative Team:

Fr. Soosai Nayagam as Dean of Arts and Social Studies and Associate Professor

Fr. Paul Carlose as Finance Officer

Fr. Arulappan Rayappan as Campus Minister

Prof. Soma Sur as Dean of Commerce and Management and Professor

Fr. Sebastia Raj as Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Ashis Siddhanta as Controller of Examinations

Mr. GP Gupta as Liaison Officer

Mr. Mario Martin as Placement Officer



Administrative Team

2. Faculty Members:

COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT:

Dr. Soma Sur

Prof. Amitava Ghose

Dr. Tanushree Biswas

Prof. Tanmayananda Chattaraj

Prof. Sneha Singh (Part-time)



Faculty Members

ENGLISH:

Rev. Dr. Soosai Nayagam, S.J.

Dr. Sucheta Kapoor

Dr. Madhuchhanda Ray Choudhury

MASS COMMUNICATION:

Dr. Manali Bhattacharya

SOCIAL WORK:

Dr. Sucheta Paul

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME

CO-ORDINATOR:

Dr. Nandini Sen

SUPPORT STAFF:

The University has recruited 43 support staff members for various departments.

DONATION OF AN AMBULANCE:

The Khadim India Limited (KIL) has donated an ambulance to St. Xavier's College Kolkata Educational Trust (SXCKET), the Sponsoring Body of the University. Mr. Suman Burman Roy, President, KIL, delivered the van and handed over the keys and the relevant documents to Father Felix Raj, the Vice-Chancellor on May 27th. We express our gratitude to Mr. Roy and his company for the generous grant. We promise that the ambulance would be put to its full use to serve staff, students and others in their hour of need.



VISIT OF APOSTOLIC NUNCIO:

Apostolic Nuncio, Vatican Ambassador to India, His Excellency Giambattista Diquattro, visited *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata on 7th September.

He was accompanied by His Grace Most Reverend Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata and other dignitaries. He had breakfast with the Jesuit Fathers. He appreciated the Jesuit initiative toward building up of a University.

VISIT OF BURUNDI AMBASSADOR:

Her Excellency Stella Budiriganya, Ambassador of Burundi to India visited *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata, along with Honorary Consul, Mr. Arpan Mitra, on December 21, 2017 and discussed with Fr. Vice-Chancellor the possibilities of Burundi students studying at *St. Xavier's University* under the purview of academic collaboration between *St. Xavier's University* and Burundi.

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION DAY:

St. Xavier's University is "the model to follow", Education Minister, Dr. Partha Chatterjee said at the foundation day function of the *St. Xavier's University* on January 15th, 2018.

Prof. Suranjan Das, the Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University delivered the Foundation Day lecture on "The Challenges of Higher Education in India today".

Father Raphael J. Hyde, the Chancellor of the University, said that the larger objective was to create a centre of excellence and strive to promote a society based on "love, freedom, justice, equality and fraternity".

All the dignitaries came together to cut the Foundation cake which was shared among the staff and students.

AWARDS:

Fr. Felix Raj, former Principal of *St. Xavier's College*, the current Vice-Chancellor of the *St. Xavier's University* was honoured with the prestigious Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence, 2018 on January 16th at the Eleventh Convocation of the College.

Fr. Felix Raj was given the award not only for his "long and dedicated service to the College" but also for his contribution to the field of education in Bengal, said Fr. Raphael Hyde, the Provincial of the Calcutta Jesuit Province.

"Today I stand here with a sense of humility and a feeling of gratitude... I accept this Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence, 2018, conferred on me for my humble service in this institution. By serving this institution for 33 years, I have learnt many lessons. I thank the Principal and the whole Xaverian family for this token of appreciation. *St. Xavier's College* has expanded in infrastructure and achieved high academic standards... I am confident that this high standard will be sustained in the years to come," said Father Felix Raj in his acceptance speech.

He steered the College as Principal from 2009 till he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the *St. Xavier's University*.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY:

- A new Basketball court was inaugurated on September 12th, 2017. We thank Ms Feroza Mogrelia, Director of Sports of *St. Xavier's College* and her team for their efficient organisation.



- The department of Mass Communication organised an Exhibition on still photography on September 12th, 2017 and an inter-college seminar, X-Pressions, on February 10th, 2018, on the theme 'Challenges and Opportunities for media in the Digital Age'. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Ex CEO of Prasar Bharti, who discussed the impact of the Digital World on Radio and TV.

- The department of Social Work organized a Shishu Mela on December 22nd, 2017 for hundred neighbourhood children. Eighty University student-volunteers were involved in the organisation with Programme Officer, Dr. Nandini Sen. The event was preceded by a week of educational, cultural and health awareness activities organised by University students in the neighbourhood schools.
- **Milan Utsab 2018:** *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata*, in collaboration with West Bengal Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (WBMDFC), had put up a stall at Milan Utsab, 2018 from February 10th, 2018 to February 19th, 2018, held at Park Circus Maidan to showcase academic opportunities in West Bengal.

The student community had the precious opportunity of knowing about the various courses offered by the newly christened University at New Town and other Jesuit Colleges in West Bengal viz. St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, St. Xavier's College, Raghobpur, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan, St. Xavier's College, Asansol, St. Joseph College, Darjeeling and St. Xavier's College, Rajganj.

Prof. Manali Bhattacharya and Prof. Sneha Singh conducted a career-counselling programme for the prospective students who wish to pursue Mass Communication and Law respectively in the days ahead.

- Bhasha Divas was celebrated at the University on February 19th, 2018 by faculty members, staff and students. The VC received the Torch that was flagged off at Dhaka University, Dhaka, and travelled to Bangalore and Dubai before it was brought to Kolkata.

The purpose was to bring people together and to build a bond beyond borders through the language we speak together.

- The Department of Sports presented 'Xavogames-2018' on April 3rd, 2018. The Chief Guest was Mr. Pradip Dutta who represented the Indian Football Team in 1972.

Medals and Certificates were awarded to the winners to acknowledge their talents in games and sports. The programme included songs and dance performance by the cultural group of *St. Xavier's University*.

We thank Mr. GP Gupta, Mr. Mario Louis, Fr. Arulappan and the enthusiastic team of students for their hard efforts in putting things together.

XAVIER BUSINESS SCHOOL:

St. Xavier's University begins its Xavier Business School from August, 2018. "Xavier Business School" aims at forming "men and women for others" who are competent, committed, compassionate and service-





oriented leaders. XBS offers a two-year full time residential MBA programme, with specializations in Finance, Marketing, HRM and Systems & Operations.

We shall provide state of the art infrastructural facilities – Smart and air-conditioned classrooms, separate hostels for men and women, food courts, green environment and so on.

Xavier Business School is a member of XAMI (Xavier Association of Management Institutes) which includes Jesuit Management Institutes like XLRI, XIMB, LIBA and XISS. Being a Jesuit institute, inspired by the Ignatian charism, XBS aims to form global leaders for today and tomorrow to create a better world. To us, every student is indeed a burning candle that lights up other candles. We thank Fr. Sebasti Raj and Prof. Soma Sur for their systematic coordination of the admission procedure.

NEW COURSES:

St. Xavier's University is introducing the following new UG and PG courses in the academic session 2018-19: BA in English, BA and MA in Economics and BA in Mass Communication.

FACILITIES:

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, is located in a sprawling campus of 16.64 acres, in the fast-growing locality of New Town, Kolkata. The entire campus is being developed aesthetically. The location of the University Campus is very conducive for road transportation. Further, the University is just 9 kms away from the Kolkata International Airport. The Academic Building is a 10 Floor-Structure, of which six have been completed. All the classrooms, computer labs, halls, etc., are air-conditioned and equipped with latest communication systems – power point projectors, Internet connections, etc. There are three types of classrooms – ordinary ones, gallery type and amphitheatre type.

In order to disseminate the required information to the various projects and programmes of the University, a completely new library and research building is getting ready, with the latest facilities and conveniences. The library already has over 5,000 titles/books and more books and journals are being added on a regular basis. It has access to E-journals and E-books and the students are permitted to make use of these facilities. The entire building is air-conditioned – staff rooms, reading rooms, reference rooms, conference hall, etc.



Lakshmi and Usha Mittal Foundation Building

The University has a special computer lab, and also a language lab with licensed softwares. Internet facilities are available in the entire academic block and in the library, with a high-speed broadband connectivity, and also WiFi facilities.

St. Xavier's University offers hostel facilities to its students, particularly to the students of MBA Degree Programme, as this programme is a residential one. Separate hostel buildings for women and men are available. More hostel facilities are planned in the years to come.

PLACEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

There is a bright future for employment. On successful completion of their studies, the outgoing students will be absorbed in the Commercial Organisations, Government Agencies, etc., through a systematic placement procedure. On the part of the students, hard work, commendable character and personal conduct, proficiency in English and good knowledge of the subjects are essential to get a good placement. With the full cooperation of the students, we can ensure the employment of all our outgoing students after completing successfully their course.

ONE HISTORY WITH MANY STORIES:

St. Xavier's University is a Jesuit institution with one history but many stories, one fire with many sparks. It opened its doors to students in July 2017 with the blessings of many distinguished Alumni and leaders.

SXUK is built on a long-standing Jesuit heritage and timeless traditions. We attest our motto of "Nihil Ultra", upholding the illustrious Jesuit legacy, our commitment to creativity, leadership and persistent standards, our affiliation to the onerous task of providing quality opportunities in the fields of teaching-learning, research, consultancy and placement.

Today, no community can afford to be complacent. The future is making critical demands and continuously raising the bar. It is a brave new world out there and we have boundless benchmarks to respond to. Change is the paradigm and sustained innovation, the new mantra. The talented and dedicated students and faculty always play a special role in making the legend that is *St. Xavier's University* today. We return daily to our visualised future – to strengthen our focus.

I thank Fr. Sebastia Raj, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ashis Mitra, our Registrar, Deans, administrative team, faculty, support staff and the first batch of our students for the successful completion of one academic year. The journey has been pleasant and fruitful, for we walked together towards tomorrow with a deep faith in the Almighty and a firm hope in the spirit of Majis.

Let me conclude with the words of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore:

I have become my own version of an optimist.
 If I can't make it through one door,
 I'll go through another door,
 Or I'll make a door.
 Something terrific will come,
 no matter how dark the present is.

Rev. Dr. J. Felix Raj SJ
 First Vice-Chancellor