

The Department of Economics is carrying forward its service to the college under the constant support, guidance and encouragement of the Rector and Principal of the college, Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio S.J. The faculty members along with the students of the department form a very cohesive team. The department has a total of five full time faculty members - Prof. Dr. Mallinath Mukherjee, Prof. Bipra Kumar Das, Prof. Dr. Ranjanendra Narayan Nag, Prof. Dr. Partha Pratim Ghosh and Prof. Dr. Pia Ghoshal (HOD). The department has been blessed by the constant support and guidance from Rev. Fr. Dr. J. Felix Raj S.J. (erstwhile Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata and Vice-Chancellor, St. Xavier's University) and Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio S.J. (Rector and Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata) who have been part of the department which has helped the department achieve new heights and meet new challenges.

The students form an integral part of the Xavier's Economics Society which was inaugurated in 2012 by the erstwhile Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, Rev Father Dr. J. Felix Raj S.J. (Vice Chancellor, St.Xavier's University). Since then the society has achieved many heights.

In 2012 the society organized the annual National Economics Summit- Confluence. The Chief Guest for the event was Prof. Partha Sen from Delhi School of Economics. The Summit saw participation from colleges like Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, St. Stephen's College, New Delhi, St. Joseph's College, Bangalore and many other eminent colleges. The Summit offered many intellectually stimulating events such as Paper Presentation, Debate and Quiz. The students gained immense perspective by attending various lectures on "Indian Economic Policies: Rework or Reimplementation", the theme for that year, by many eminent speakers like Prof. Anindya Sen from IIM, Calcutta.

After the great success of Confluence in 2012 the society organized the annual event with much grandeur in the following years. In 2013 the theme for Confluence was "Financial Crisis in Recent Times". The Chief Guest was Prof. Abhirup Sarkar. Just like the previous years the students enjoyed lectures by leading economists. Participation continued from reputed colleges. In 2014, the theme for Confluence was, "Economic Reforms and Inclusive Growth". The Chief Guest was Dr. Achin Chakraborty, Director Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata. There was enthusiastic participation from colleges across India. In 2015 the Department of Economics, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata organized the tenth Edition of Confluence with the theme "India in the Global Perspective". Confluence X was inaugurated by Prof. Sugata Marjit, Honorable, Vice Chancellor, Calcutta University who was the chief guest for the occasion. Confluence 2016 was based on "India: An Emerging Giant or An Uncertain Glory". The Chief guest was Mr. Rajib Banerjee, Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation & Waterways, West Bengal. Confluence XII was graced by Prof Kausik Gupta, Former Vice chancellor of West Bengal state University, Barasat, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio S.J. and Prof Kausik Gupta inaugurated Confluence XII and shared their insights regarding the theme of the event.

The Department of Economics, St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata organized the twelfth edition of its Annual Economics Summit-Confluence on the 18th of September, 2017 with the theme "Globalization and the Indian Economy". The theme for this day long Economics Summit aimed at critically evaluating the concept of globalization in the backdrop of the current Indian Economic landscape. Confluence XII was graced by Prof Kausik Gupta, Former Vice chancellor of West Bengal state University, Barasat, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Rev.Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio S.J.

and Prof Kausik Gupta inaugurated Confluence XII and shared their insights regarding the theme of the event. The 17th edition of the departmental magazine, Eco Echoes was also launched during the programme.

The Panel Discussion witnessed the stalwarts of the economic circle of Calcutta exchanging their views on the topic "Macroeconomic management of Fiscal Deficit: The Indian Perspective". Moderated by Prof Biswajit Chatterjee, this discussion saw the participation of Prof Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Prof Ambarnath Ghosh and Prof Byasdev Dasgupta, which immensely benefitted the audience during the session. One of the most intellectually stimulating events of the summit was 'Exposition' where students made use of their analytical skills and theoretical knowledge to delve deep into the issues of contemporary relevance. This year, the topics were aptly chosen to be 'Monetary Policy in a developing economy', 'Globalisation and inequality', 'Oil price crisis' and 'Child labour in a developing economy'.

Other events included two flagship events- 'State of Affairs' and 'Crisis', couple of online events like Investomania and Scriptus, which were equally challenging and saw participation from students in huge numbers. The summit also comprised of Debate and Quiz which sought to strengthen the spirit of inquiry and reason within the participants.

Each year the Society launches its Economics Journal - Eco Echoes. This endeavour is undertaken by students with guidance from teachers. The themes have been as follows, 2010: India: Free or Fettered?, 2011: The Indian Economy: Fundamental issues, 2012: Keynes's Revenge: Capitalism at Crossroads?, 2013: Footnotes of Yesterday, Headlines of Today: Brazil, India, China, South Africa. 2014: Rebuilding India : A Story of Contradictions, 2015: India in the Global Perspective, 2016: Indian Economy: An Emerging Giant Or An Uncertain Glory? The 17th edition of the departmental magazine, Eco Echoes was also launched during the programme of Confluence XII.

The Economics Department seeks to strike an optimum balance between academic and co-curricular activities to promote students' personality development along with academic grooming.

From 3rd August to 9th August, 2015 fifteen students from the Department of Economics of St.Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata went on a student exchange programme with the Department of Economics of St.Xavier's College, Jaipur and fifteen students from the latter college came for the same to St.Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. A new experience altogether, the programme was both educationally and culturally enriching for the students from both the colleges.

The fifteen students that went from Kolkata to Jaipur consisted of eleven students from the second year and four students from the third year. It was a seven day long programme which included classes with the students of Jaipur, visit to the Reserve Bank of India, guest lectures by eminent professors and many more educational activities. The programme began with an orientation held on the 4th of August, followed by an introductory session and two guest lectures by Dr. Anjan Chakraborti and Dr. Panchali Sengupta, both professors of economics from St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling. The following day had the Kolkata students visiting the RBI along with the faculty and students of St.Xavier's College, Jaipur. It was a very informative visit for the students as they went to the Banking Hall, met the Banking Ombudsman and got to know how the central bank of the country functions. A special session on monetary policy was also held at the RBI which was of particular

interest to the students. The day after, regular classes were scheduled with the respective semesters which were taken by the faculty members of St. Xavier's, Jaipur and St. Joseph's, Darjeeling.

On the 7th of August the students had to present a report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation on the five topics that were given to the students. The students were divided into eight groups and each group consisted of students from both St. Xavier's, Kolkata and Jaipur as well as students from St. Joseph's, Darjeeling. After the report presentation, group eight was declared to be the winner and a closing ceremony was held where trophies and certificates were distributed among the participating students. The day ended with a group dinner which was held at "Chauki Dhani", a heritage village where the students experienced Rajasthani hospitality. The next day the students were taken to visit a self-sufficient village called Tilonia. There the students saw how the villagers perform their day to day activities by using solar energy, how they make things by recycling waste products and many other activities that help them lead an independent life. The last day the students were allowed to go on a city tour by themselves where they explored the entire city with all their enthusiasm. On the whole it was a very enriching experience for the Kolkata students and the hospitality of the students of Jaipur made this programme even more rewarding.

As a host the students of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata also had a wonderful experience with the fifteen students that came from St. Xavier's College, Jaipur. Fifteen new faces, with a different culture and from a different corner of the country had come to share with our students the experience of learning for one week. They were welcomed by an orientation programme on the 3rd of August, 2015. We started our welcome with a tour of the college and the vicinity. They were staying in St. Xavier's College Hostel during this exchange program. They were mesmerized by the lush green field of our college. They attended their first class of Macroeconomics on the morning of 4th August, 2015 and learnt about National Growth Accounting. In the afternoon they attended a lecture delivered by Dr. Ranjanendra Narayan Nag – Professor of Economics in St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. He spoke on Macroeconomic Debates - How the Classical Model is different from the Keynesian Model and minutely explained the problem that arises in our country due to difference in opinion between the finance minister and the governor of the RBI. It was not only enriching for the Jaipur students but also for our students who enthusiastically attended all the lectures. On the next day they attended a practical class with us on Statistical Data Interpretation taken by our Head of the Department Prof. Pia Ghoshal. They were taught how to use relevant data for our economics empirical testing. They also agreed that this would help them to make use of data in the papers that they would present on the next day. The day progressed with a lecture by our earthwhile Principal, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J. He enriched our young minds with an influential lecture on Inclusive Growth and Human Development. He empirically proved that population is not a problem for India; we have to utilize our resources in a sustainable manner which left us with a lot of food for thought. Later in the evening, our students sat down with all the students from Jaipur in the Green Benches of our college to help them and to discuss about the group discussion which was going to be held on the next day. They all quite enjoyed this interaction and apart from the topic, they talked about each other's cities and a comparison of lives in both the cities. Day Four had Group Discussion and Paper Presentation lined up for students of both the colleges. The group discussion was moderated by the third year students and all put down their views one at a time on the topic – "Was Greece right in accepting the austerity measures?" The

discussion was followed by paper presentation. Valuable comments were given by Dr. Ranjanendra Narayan Nag and Dr. Partha Pratim Ghosh, which enriched the paper presentation session. Thus it led to a sharing of knowledge amongst us. Day five had a guest lecture lined up for us delivered by Prof. Achin Chakraborty, wherein he explained to us the concept of Inequality and how it is a burning problem for developing countries. He linked the issue of poverty and inequality in a fine manner. We were all inspired by his words. On the next day also we had another guest lecture by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri on Trade and Development. He explained how multinational companies outsource the jobs and how this helps our country. He also explained why we should invest more and specialise on sectors that we are good at rather than developing every product in the market on our own. The Jaipur students were glad that they could attend lectures delivered by such eminent speakers and personalities during this exchange program. It was not only an academically enriching experience but also an intellectually stimulating visit. On the last day they went on their own going around and seeing the evening life of the City of Joy. They surely went back with memories and as more learned students.

The students of the department collaborated with the NSS Department to study the local rural economy of West Bengal to understand the rural problems and devise policy prescriptions to address the rural problems. They visited four villages of Debipur, Nurshidachowk, Paikhala and Hogulkuria in March and April 2017. They had very fruitful interactions with the villagers, on the basis of which the students prepared a report on every village. Their experiences and their suggestions were discussed in an interactive session supervised by Prof Kausik Gupta and Prof Ajitava Raychaudhuri.