



# Principal's Report 2020

Respected Swami Atmapriyananda Maharaj, Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Respected Provincial, Rev. Fr. Raphael Joseph Hyde S.J., Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, Dr. (Prof.) Sonali Chakravarti Banerjee, Respected Rector, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy S.J., Vice Principals, Member Secretary, Academic Council, members of the staff, teaching and support, alumni/ae, benefactors, parents, well-wishers, friends, and my dear students, I wish you all a happy and joyous New Year 2021 and extend a warm welcome to all to this 14th Convocation & Valedictory Function of the College. May the Almighty bless us all abundantly!

I place before you the Annual Report for the year 2020, I would like to remember where this college has come from on its journey to the present moment.

Back in the 50's, St. Xavier's was happy and content to stand quietly apart as a centre of unassuming excellence in academics and also in sports, theatre and music. Some of the best sportsmen and musicians nurtured their talents in these precincts. In the swinging 60's, just down the road from the vibrant nightlife on Park Street, the college also stood apart as an oasis of tranquility surrounded but untouched by the passionate and often turbulent ideologies of student movements.

Some things don't change. St. Xavier's is still an oasis of tranquility, still a bastion of discipline, still an institution of all-round excellence, but perhaps we are less unassuming now because we are no longer content to stand quietly apart. We have removed the elitist tag, that, for reasons unknown, was

attached to the college. We have integrated ourselves into the mainstream of the public consciousness and made ourselves an institution of higher education that attracts the best brains in the state, if not the country.

This is because, driven by a dream to expand and excel, the college has pushed the limits of its ambition to grow and develop as it strides into the future determined to find and make its place as a college ready for the challenges of the digital age.

And so here I stand now before you as the Head of an institution solidly rooted in tradition even while it is driven by a vision of its future and the service to humanity that is its privilege to provide. As a record of this, I ask your permission to provide the Annual Report, 2020

## VARIOUS PROGRAMMES & EVENTS HELD DURING THE YEAR

### 13th Convocation & Valedictory Function of College

- The 13th Convocation and Valedictory Function of the College, presided over by Rev. Fr. Raphael Joseph Hyde S.J., Provincial of the Calcutta Jesuit Province, was held on 16th January, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. His Excellency, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of Calcutta University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Prof. Asis Kumar Banerjee, former Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta, was the recipient of the 'Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence 2019'.



In the absence of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio S.J., Principal of the College conferred the degrees on the 2270 passing out students on behalf of the Senate of the University of Calcutta. 27 Instituted Gold Medals were also awarded to the students on that day.

The second part of the Convocation & Valedictory of the College, which is the award and the prize distribution ceremony was held on 18th January, 2020.

• **'Xavotsav' 2020 / Beyond Barriers:**

The Students' Council organised the annual Students' Cultural Festival, "Xavotsav", 2020.

46 pan-India colleges participated in this huge event attended by over 30,000 happy and enthusiastic young people.

- The annual fund-raising 'Live in Concert' 'Beyond Barriers' was organised by the alumni association on 26th January 2020. The programme was a grand success.
- **Sports Day 2020**

The Annual Sports Day of the College was organized in two phases:

On Saturday, 1st February, 2020, the Park Street Campus was the venue for an exciting and well attended Sports Day.





Sports Day at the Raghobpur campus was held on 8th February, 2020. There was an enthusiastic turn out by students and staff.

• **Shishu Mela 2020**

The Department of Social Work organized "Shishu Mela 2020" on 16th February, 2020 on the College Ground. Around 1000 children, from seven villages of South 24 Parganas and 10 NGOs participated in the event.



• **'Sanyog / 'Xavullash' Programme / DoshobhujBangali 2020**

'Sanyog 2020' (An International Torch Light Peace Rally to commemorate BhasaDibas - International Mother Language Day, was organized by the College in association with the Alumni Association.

On 22nd February, 2020, a cultural programme, 'DoshobhujBangali' was organized. Ten eminent personalities from India and Bangladesh were felicitated by the Principal.

• **Inter-College State Sports and Games Championship 2019-20:**

St. Xavier's College was selected as the Host College for the Inter-College State Sports and Games Championship 2019-20, organised by the Education Directorate, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal from 23rd to 29th February 2020. Nineteen District teams from all over the State participated in in the week-long sporting event at the premises of Sports Authority of India, Netaji Subhas Eastern Centre, Kolkata. Many established sportspersons and government officials attended the programme.

• **Annual Christmas Celebrations 2020 at St. Xavier's College:**

The College along with the Alumni Association organized the annual Christmas Celebration on 21st December 2020. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee graced the occasion.





During the Christmas season, the College organized a philanthropic programme, 'GIFT BOX' on 20th December 2020 in the Raghobpur Campus of the College and the Paikhala Prathamik Vidyalaya to distribute food items and winter garments to the marginalized, under-privileged populace and students, and to residents of old age homes.

## COMMENCEMENT OF NEW PG COURSES FROM THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21

I am proud to announce that as part of our expansion plan, two more PG courses, namely, M.A. in Sociology and M.Sc. in Economics were introduced in the 2020-21 academic session.

## NIRF RANKING 2020

Our College was placed 7th in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), 2020, rankings, published by MHRD on 11th June, 2020. We secured a better rank in comparison to the previous year and our score increased in all categories.

I wish to personally thank and congratulate our Jesuit Community, the staff, our students, alumni members, parents and well-wishers for their dedicated work and support.

## VARIOUS GRANTS & RESEARCH GRANTS ALLOCATED TO THE COLLEGE AND FACULTY

The total grants sanctioned and received by the College under the different schemes for the year 2019-20 was Rs. 4,04,54,466/- (Rupees four crore, four lakhs, fifty-four thousand, four hundred and sixty six).

The total sanctioned grants received by the faculty of the College was Rs.1,39,68,999/- (Rupees one crore, thirty-nine lakhs, sixty-eight thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine).

Congratulations to all involved!

## DBT BUILDER GRANT ALLOCATED TO THE COLLEGE

The Departments of Microbiology and Biotechnology of our College received the prestigious DBT Builder Grant of Rs. 2.96 crores from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

The Expert Committee of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, reviewed the Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Microbiology under the DBT Star College program.

St. Xavier's College was awarded Grade 'A' and the subsequent release of grant under the DBT Star College Scheme was recommended.

Congratulations to all involved!

## ADMISSIONS 2020-21

Last year's lockdown and the fears of the pandemic severely impacted all spheres of life including education. I am proud to announce that St. Xavier's rose to the occasion and took its campus online on MS Teams. The next challenge was admissions.

While the college has been conducting online applications for many years, this year we had to develop a platform through the college website to make the actual admission process, previously held on campus, completely online. The entire admission procedure was replicated digitally. I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all who were involved in the online admission process, and especially the core team which developed the admission system in house and put it into successful operation.

The selection process for the UG candidates was made on the basis of the marks obtained in the XII Board/Council examination. However, for all PG courses, online admission tests were conducted by the Office of the Controller of Examinations.

The total number of applicants to the various courses (UG, PG, B.Ed. & Raghobpur Campus) was 26,738. The total number of candidates admitted was 2,744.

## SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE STUDENTS AND STAFF DURING THE PANDEMIC

- The College administration engaged professional psychiatrists to provide online counselling facilities for students, their parents, and also for teachers and support staff.



- The Principal maintained regular communications through the website with students and staff to offer reassurance and support.

Following the Jesuit tradition of service, the College authorities reduced the fee structure of the current students for the months of August, 2020 to December, 2020 keeping in mind the difficulties, financial and otherwise caused by the pandemic. Lab fees were completely waived although computer based lab classes were conducted online and Science department lab classes were taken through virtual lab setup wherever possible. E-resource facility charges and fees under some other heads were reduced substantially. Arrangement for further reduction was made for the students of the Raghampur campus.

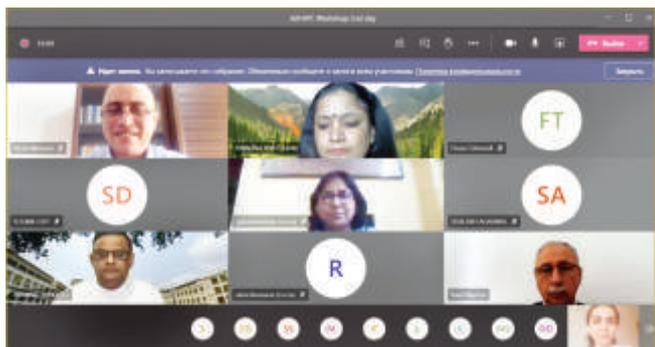
Yet the college did not renege on its financial commitment to teaching and non-teaching staff on college-created posts, who constitute more than 50% of total staff strength.

## ONLINE TEACHING-LEARNING DURING THE PANDEMIC

The lockdown in March last year briefly brought classes to a halt. But the administration ensured that from April all students received adequate study materials and lectures to prepare for semester examinations. Quite a few teachers resumed class in the online mode with full attendance and participation of students.

Subsequently it was decided that for the next semester, regular classes according to full routines would be conducted online on the Microsoft Teams platform. The college worked overtime to put the system into place so that the new semester classes could begin as early as 10th August, 2020. 1st year classes commenced from 23rd September 2020.

To ensure a smooth online teaching-learning process, the



college purchased licensed versions of “Microsoft Teams”. A core team of fifteen members comprising faculty and office staff received training from the Vendor. Inhouse training programs for teachers and office staff were conducted by the Core team.

Rather than rely on external software agencies who would not be conversant with college systems, the setting up of MS Teams was successfully completed by the Vice-Principals’ offices. Inhouse Training programs were organized for professors to acquaint them with the online system and all the digital facilities it offered.

At the start of the semester, students were mailed a Handbook for Online classes outlining the protocols, rules and procedures for online classes.

## ONLINE MODE/PROCEDURE OF EXAMINATIONS 2020

Soon after the UGC issued the guidelines for holding final semester examinations, St. Xavier’s College conducted, priority-wise, all the backlog examinations, starting from 21st September, 2020. The last of these examinations – all the Odd Semester Examinations of UG & PG were completed by mid-February 2021.

## Ph.D. CELL OF THE COLLEGE

At present, there are 43 Ph.D. Supervisors and 81 Research Scholars in all, enrolled in Ph.D. Programmes in Physics, Microbiology, Biotechnology and Commerce.

The total number of registered research scholars is 61 out of 69 enrolled scholars in the Ph.D Program.

The first Ph.D. Open Viva-Voce Examination was conducted on 10th November, 2020. This is one of the major landmarks in the academic history of St. Xavier’s College.

The online Research Advisory Committee Meetings are being continuously conducted to expedite the progress of the scholar during these trying times. This endeavour once again re-inforces the indomitable spirit of St. Xavier’s College amidst the ongoing pandemic.

## Ph.D. PROGRAMME IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

St. Xavier’s College expresses its heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the University of Calcutta for approving the introduction of Ph.D. Programme in Computer Science. The College will soon be applying for Ph.D Programmes in Bengali and English.



St. Xavier's College also gratefully acknowledges the confidence bestowed by the University of Calcutta in conducting the Ph.D. Programmes in the Departments of Physics, Microbiology, Biotechnology and Commerce till date.

The future vision of St. Xavier's College lies in the introduction of 15 Post-Graduate Departments and 15 Ph.D. Programmes within a span of five years from now.

## VARIOUS PROGRAMMES & WEBINARS HELD DURING THE YEAR

During the year, a total number of 117 programmes & webinars were organized by different departments of the College.

## PLACEMENT CELL OF THE COLLEGE

During the session 2019-20, the number of students placed in various Companies was 592. 43 Companies visited our College to conduct the on-campus recruitment process. The College also conducted 27 off-campus recruitments. The minimum package offered to our successful students was Rs. 3 lakh per annum and the maximum package offered was Rs.21.5 lakhs by D.E. Shaw, Hyderabad.

Our students participated in various Talent Acquisition Competitions and have acquired admirable ranks.

For the session 2020–21, due to the Covid 19 pandemic situation, the Placement Cell of the College conducted the recruitment process virtually and we have been receiving requests from various companies like D.E. Shaw, Deloitte US-India, etc.

## INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MOTHER TERESA SARANI CAMPUS AND THE RAGHABPUR CAMPUS OF THE COLLEGE

### 30 Mother Teresa Sarani Campus:



The College Reception has been fully renovated and given a brand new look. Maintenance including repairing, painting, electrical and plumbing has been going on in the College. Interior Decoration and furniture work has also been completed.

Fire protection work has been going on in the B.Ed. and the Central Library Building. A fire-fighting tank and a lightning arrestor is being installed to serve the whole campus.

### Raghabpur Campus of the College:

The Raghabpur Campus of St. Xavier's College now owns 7 acres of land. A new academic block is under construction with a space area of 65,000 square feet. The proposed building has a structure of G+IV Storied College Building.

The proposed area for construction is a standalone G+IV Storied College Building covering a land area of more or less 92 decimals land.

The building will house 58 class rooms, conference halls, double height hard courts, infirmary rooms, an electrical station and other service facilities. Washrooms have been constructed for handicapped students on each floor.

I take this opportunity to thank the Daughters of St. Anne's Convent, Kolkata, who kindly donated 21 decimals of land lying adjacent to the College which made this development possible.

### ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES:

- The alumni association organized a health camp at the Raghabpur Campus on 12th December 2020. 550 patients registered for the camp. Eye Glasses were provided to 150 patients while 74 cataract surgeries were performed.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni members and their families for their efforts and hard work in making this camp successful.
- On the auspicious day of Good Friday and Easter Monday last year, St. Xavier's Community and St. Xavier's College



(Calcutta) Alumni Association shared food materials with more than 500 needy local people with assistance from Kolkata Police after following all stipulated safety norms.

- On 24th April 2020, the alumni association, in their endeavor to salute the COVID Warriors distributed 300 PPE kits to doctors, medical staff and healthcare support providers of a city based private charity hospital. The kits were personally presented to them by Fr. Rector and Fr. Principal.
- The charity programme continued on 6th May, 2020 as St. Xavier's Community along with SXCCAA extended their support to needy students and support staff members. Dry rations and food packets were also distributed to more than 300 needy students and co-workers of St. Xavier's College and School. St. Xavier's College and School decided to continue this support until the lockdown is lifted.
- On 27th March 2020, relief materials were distributed to 60 families in Paikhala Village under Panauka Gram Panchayat, South 24 Parganas District. A repeat distribution was done on 2nd April, 2020 at Paikhala Prathamik Vidyalaya since the number of beneficiaries increased after the earlier distribution.

- On 6th April 2020, 2500 needy families were supported and the Pandemic Relief Distribution was carried out in six Gram Panchayats, namely, Panakua, Kulerdari, Keoradanga, Amgachhia, Bonhoogly and Bishnupur.
- From 13th to 18th April 2020, a major Relief Distribution Drive was carried out for six days. The relief distribution went well with the help of many committed village volunteers and with the support of the the Panchayat Pradhan and Panchayat members of Panakua Gram Panchayat and the Officers of Nepalgunj Police Station.
- Other philanthropic activities included disbursing monetary aid and everyday necessities to families and villages affected by the Amphan cyclone.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE

During this year:

- 5 faculty members received national and international awards.
- 6 books were published by the faculty members.
- 21 faculty published research articles in different national and international journals and 13 faculty members presented papers in different national and international seminars and conferences.
- 40 faculty members were invited as Resource Persons to different national and international programmes and 41 members attended national & international conferences, faculty development programmes and Refresher Courses, etc.
- As many as 207 national and international seminars, workshops and webinars were organized and conducted by the College.





## **Congratulations to the following staff members (teaching & support) who have completed 25 years of service in the College as on 31/12/2020.**

### **Teaching Staff:**

Sl	Name of Faculty	Length of Service
1.	Dr. Partha Pratim Ghosh (Economics Dept.)	25 years and 9 months
2.	Dr. Ashish Kumar Nag (Chemistry Dept.)	25 years and 7 months
3.	Dr. Arghya Kumar Banerjee (English Dept.)	25 years and 5 months
4.	Prof. Subir Srimani (Commerce Dept.)	25 years and 2 months

### **Support Staff:**

Sl	Name of Support Staff	Length of Service
1.	Mr. Sanat Das	25 years and 2 months

### **The following support staff members have retired during 2020:**

Sl	Name of Support Staff	Length of Service
1.	Mr. Tapas Kumar Singha	33 years and 9 months
2.	Mr. Clement Kerobin Baptist	38 years and 5 months

Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to them for their dedicated and committed service to St. Xavier's College.

## **Academic Excellence**

I congratulate all the 2250 under-graduates, post-graduates and B.Ed. students who receive their degrees on this solemn Convocation Day. May you be men and women for others!

My congratulations to all the students who have performed well academically and have acquired ranks. These students will be rewarded with gold medals today.

This year, the College had five Ph.D. Recipients from among our Professors.

- 1) Dr. Ipsita Barat from the Film Studies Department
- 2) Dr. Pabitra Debnath from the Mathematics Department
- 3) Dr. Tapalina Bhattasali from the B.Com. (Morning) Department



- 4) Dr. Zaid Al Baset from the Sociology Department
- 5) Dr. Ritendra Roy from the Department of Education

I am happy to announce that Dr. Ritun Chakraborty Chaudhuri is the first Ph.D. candidate from our College, under the guidance of Dr. Kasturi Sarkar from the Microbiology Department.

Congratulations to all of them!

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

- 1) Fr. Joseph Kulandai, S.J. as the Vice Principal of the Commerce (Morning) Department of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, with effect from 10th August, 2020. Father has also been appointed as Management Nominee of the Governing Body of the College and as a Trustee Member of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.
- 2) Fr. David Paul Raj S.J. has been appointed as the Superintendent of St. Xavier's College Hostels with effect from 25th June, 2020.
- 3) Dr. Soheli Ghose has been appointed as the Dean of the Department of Commerce (Evening) with effect from 1st July, 2020.
- 4) Dr. Partha Pratim Ghosh has been appointed the Head of the Department of Economics from 4th January 2021.
- 5) Dr. Jhimli Dasgupta has been appointed the Head of the Department of Biotechnology from 4th January 2021

We fondly remember and pray for the repose of the souls of:

- Fr. Gaston Roberge S.J., Jesuit Priest, former Director of Educational Multimedia Research Centre and Professor in the Department of Mass Communication & Videography, who passed away on 26th August, 2020.
- Dr. Samir Kumar Lobwo, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce (Morning), who passed away on 20th July, 2020.
- Prof. D.N. Bose, Honorary Visiting Professor in the Department of Physics, who passed away on 9th August, 2020.
- Prof. T.K. Basu, retired Professor from the Department of Commerce, who passed away on 11th August, 2020.
- Prof. Kamalendu Roy, retired Professor from the Department of Commerce, who passed away on 11th March, 2020.
- Prof. Ram Chandra Mishra, Retired Professor in Hindi of our College, who passed away on 5th February, 2021.
- Mr. Pradip Kumar Biswas, Head Clerk of our College, who passed away on 23rd August, 2020.
- Mr. George Rozario, Retired Support staff, who passed away on 24th November 2020.



The College is planning to begin Masters Courses in Education, Data Science and History in the near future.

To accommodate the physical demands of further growth, the College plans to create

another campus on the E.M. Bypass property. The vision is to transform this campus into a Communication Hub.

I envisage many more UG departments introducing PG courses that will inevitably lead to Ph.D. programs. In this way we may hope to offer students a seamless academic transition from level to level with varying points of exit. I see this campus bursting with the passion and valour of young minds pushing the horizons of endeavour in their quest for excellence so concisely enshrined in our college motto, Nihil Ultra, Nothing Beyond.

I see this college introducing popular, cutting edge programs in a signal departure from the traditional courses in the basic sciences, arts and commerce, to make the college contemporary and relevant and an exciting and attractive destination for students looking for new kinds of academic experience and training. I see no limit to the possibilities of the future except our own ambitions.

Let me now conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to all the Governing Body Members, Vice Principals, Member Secretary, IQAC Co-ordinator, Deans, teaching faculty, support staff, alumni/ae, students, parents, well-wishers, friends and benefactors for their whole-hearted co-operation and support.

Let our service continue to bring joy to many more people in the spirit of the Jesuit Magis. NIHIL ULTRA! May it always drive us on.

- Rozi D'Cruze, 1st Year B.Ed. Student, who passed away on 28th January, 2020.
- Sangita Das, 2nd Year History Honours student from the Raghbapur Campus of the College, who passed away on 11th February, 2020.
- Aman Rai, Semester-V Political Science Honours student, who passed away on 15th October, 2020.
- Neelangshu Sahaa third year Physics Honours student, who passed away on 15th February, 2021.
- Mr. Pankaj Benani, a dedicated alumnus of our College, who passed away on 11th February, 2021.

May their souls rest in peace! We express our deep condolences to their family members.

Having presented my report for the year 2020, I would now like to look ahead to the course we have chartered for the future.

### New Initiatives – Looking Beyond

In addition to traditional courses, the College is planning to offer some online courses, especially multi-disciplinary courses, in order to cater to students irrespective of their geographical location.

A Ph.D. programme in Computer Science is going to commence very soon.

