



# Principal's Report 2023

Respected Shri Bratya Basu, Minister in Charge of Higher Education & School Education, Government of West Bengal, our Chief Guest for the programme today, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, Prof. Santa Dutta (De), the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute (Deemed-to-be University), Belur Math, Howrah, our Nihil Ultra Awardee for 2024 - the Hon'ble Pro Chancellor, the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute (Deemed-to-be University), Swami Atmapriyananda Maharaj will receive the award on behalf of the Institution, Respected Provincial, Fr. Dr. James Arjen Tete SJ, Respected Rector, Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy SJ, Vice Principals, Deans, Member Secretary, Academic Council, members of the staff, teaching and support, alumni/ae, benefactors, parents, well-wishers, friends, and my dear students, I extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this 17 th Convocation and Valedictory Function of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. May the Almighty bless us all abundantly!

St. Xavier's is privileged and happy to honour the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research

Institute (Deemed-to-be University) as the 'Nihil Ultra Awardee 2024' for their remarkable achievements in the field of Indian Spiritual and Cultural Heritage, in trying to actualise Swami Vivekananda's educational vision of harmoniously blending the best elements of the East and the West. Thank you for accepting this humble expression of appreciation from all of us at St. Xavier's!

St. Xavier's is a 164-year old institution with a history and a heritage which, I am proud to say, we endeavour to preserve. At the same time, we chart new directions into the future in order to propagate the spirit of Nihil Ultra which signifies to us the fact that nothing is beyond our imagination, our grasp, or our achievement.

This vision of limitless academic possibilities began to take shape in 2006 when the College was conferred autonomy. I do believe we have justified that honour over the last 18 years.

For our unceasing efforts to maintain the highest academic standards, we have been honoured with numerous acknowledgements for our academic successes and achievements.





We have been through 3 cycles of NAAC assessment, achieving an A++ grade in the last assessment in 2017.

Our NIRF ratings have further validated our attempts to maintain the highest possible academic values and standards. We have been consistently placed among the ten best Colleges in India by NIRF, MHRD. This year our College has secured the 5th rank in India Rankings 2023 conducted by National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. I congratulate every member of the Xaverian community for all the effort and hard work we have put in together as a team.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata has introduced the new Curriculum 2023 from the academic session July 2023-24 in accordance with NEP 2020.

We are proud to state that during this academic session, our College started Ph.D. programs in 8 disciplines. Ph.D. Program in Political Science has commenced from this academic session 2023-24. Next on the agenda is to begin a doctoral program in Economics, for which the Inspection team from the University of Calcutta visited the PG and Research Department of Economics and the inspection has already taken place.

And so we gratefully acknowledge the support and confidence we continue to receive from the University of Calcutta, and we personally thank the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for extending support to our mission of purposeful academic expansion.

Since we envision St. Xavier's to be a research-oriented institution, we have begun to lay greater and greater emphasis on research. Significant and increasing volume of quality research is being undertaken by many Science departments as witnessed by the increasing amounts of research project grants the College has obtained.

We also intend to increase our applications for patents based on research projects with significant practical applications.

In order to improve the research niche in St. Xavier's College, the professors of the College have been encouraged to carry out research projects and accordingly they have been allotted with Intramural Research Fund for a maximum period of two years.

There was an upper limit of Rs. 2 Lakhs for Social Science and Humanities and Rs. 3 Lakhs for Science faculties. The maximum period of Grant is for two years and on the basis of the performance after the first, the grant would be renewed

as per the recommendation of the expert committee. The interviews were held at three different dates for 28 different professors of the College.

A sum of Rs. 31.90 Lakhs was sanctioned to 24 different faculty members, of which ten were from the life sciences, five from the physical sciences, one from the environmental sciences and eight from the social sciences. The Grant in Aid was mainly for equipment and software as non-recurring grant and the recurring grant was for consumables, contingency and travel. This exercise has increased the research culture in our College.

As stated in the Guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, envisages the promotion of quality research within the Higher Education system. Research and innovation are important aspects to enhance quality education by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Societal challenges of our country can only be addressed by having a strong and vibrant higher education ecosystem with an emphasis on research, innovation, and technology development.

In line with the requirements of the UGC and the NEP 2020 for establishment of Research and Development Cell in Higher Education Institutions, St. Xavier's College has also established a Research and Development Cell in March, 2023 under the Chairmanship of the Principal of the College.

Some of the research activities carried out in the College during the year is furnished below:

- Development of a device producing Alcohol from carbon-dioxide by Dr. Sanjib Ganguly of Chemistry Department in collaboration with IISER, Kolkata.
- A product developed by the Microbiology Department called Tea-bact for holistic improvement in Tea cultivation has gone for field trial in a Tea Garden in Jalpaiguri.
- A three-week online Technology based Entrepreneurship Development (TEDP) Program on Plant Tissue Culture and Mushroom Cultivation, sponsored by DST-NIDHI has been conducted successfully by the Department of Microbiology with 238 participants.
- A sum of Rs. 2 Lakh has been received from IIT Delhi towards joint collaborative research on air pollution monitoring between the Department of Environmental Studies, St. Xavier's College and Centre of Atmospheric Sciences, IIT, Delhi.



As we grow and expand, we recognize that we have used existing infrastructure on this campus to the utmost limit. However, as a Heritage College, we cannot alter existing structures to accommodate the facilities required for further expansion. We have managed so far with dexterous and judicious planning.

But it is now time to expand our boundaries, which is why we have begun the process of building another campus at E.M. Bypass as part of our 'Vision 2025'. Presently home to the Educational Multimedia Research Centre, this campus is envisaged as a Media Hub for the Mass Communication and Multimedia Departments.

Research-based Science departments and some PG departments will be shifted to another wing at this campus to free up space on the Park Street campus.

This campus will host an Incubation Centre for innovation linked entrepreneurship. A Community Radio Station will also be set up here to cater to the information needs of local people.

In the midst of expansion, we remain a College with a conscience whose mission is to reach the benefits of quality education to the underprivileged, the marginalized, and to students from the rural hinterland. I am happy and proud to announce that our Raghbhpur campus has successfully bridged the rural-urban divide and has brought about significant changes in the rural areas it serves. With our generous investment and endowment, the campus, which has been undergoing extensive expansion and upgradation, has opened postgraduate departments, and is looking to offer vocational courses designed to meet and fulfil the needs of the local populace.

We aim to take this commitment and service to society in further directions. So, we have set up a School of Gender Studies to empower girl students/women with knowledge self-confidence and also to facilitate awareness amongst their family members, neighbours and others with regard to gender equality and consciousness.

Skill Hub Initiative at Raghbhpur Campus: The first batch comprising 44 candidates have successfully completed their training programme from the Skill Hub under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana 3.0 at the Raghbhpur Campus of the College. In all, 109 Higher Education Institutes across India and 7 Higher Education Institutes from West Bengal were selected under this scheme.

A new academic block (G+4) building with 60,000 square feet floor space for classrooms and another 3500 square feet for faculty guest room has been constructed in the rural campus.

A multi-utility building of (G+4) with 22,500 square feet is under construction. This building will house the Canteen, the Centre for Gender Studies, the Social Research Development Centre, Laboratories for Geography and Science subjects, and a Vocational Training Centre.

The BAM 1022, Real-Time Portable Beta Attenuation Mass Monitor was installed at the Raghbhpur Campus on 17th July 2023 under the Sensor-based Air Measurement Observatory over South Asia (SAMOSA) project.

**Having recounted our academic aspirations and achievements as well as our future goals, I now have the privilege of presenting the Annual Report, 2023.**

Today we are gathered together to congratulate the 2503 under-graduates, post-graduates, B.Ed. and Ph.D. students who will receive their degrees on this solemn Convocation Day. We have shared time and place together and it has been mutually fulfilling. Your presence has enriched the College as much as we have endeavored to enrich your life and prepare you for the journeys that lie ahead of you. Now as you depart, take our blessings and best wishes with you. Cherish and carry with you the ideals and values we have tried to share with you, and I exhort you most of all to always live your life as men and women for others!

**During the year, 9 faculty members have been awarded their Ph.D. Degrees.**

**11 students are awarded their Ph.D. Degrees from St. Xavier's College under the supervision of our Professors:**

Congratulations to all of them!

**During the year,**

- Around 20 faculty members including the Principal have received national and international awards.
- Around 14 books, 5 edited books and 10 book chapters of our faculty members have been published.
- During the year, 14 departments published their annual College and Departmental magazines and journals.
- Around 47 research articles were published in national and international journals.
- Around 18 of our faculty members presented papers in national and international seminars and conferences.
- Three patents were published by our faculty members.



- Around 62 of our faculty members were invited as resource persons and conducted workshops and delivered talks at different institutions of eminence.

As many as 90 national and international seminars and workshops were organized and conducted by the College. Congratulations to all involved!

### **INAUGURATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES AT ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA**

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) inaugurated its School of Social Sciences & Humanities on August 22, 2023. The inaugural event began with a blessing ceremony followed by the inaugural session at Fr. Depelchin Auditorium.

An introduction to the School's objectives and planned activities was elaborated which included a range of activities encompassing application and experiential learning and research, organizing multidisciplinary seminars and workshops, and arranging for student internships.

The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion on Multidisciplinary Possibilities: Views from the Field. Professors from different universities were invited to discuss the need and relevance of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary social science research with reference to their own experiences.

### **THE CONSULTANCY CELL OF THE COLLEGE**

In pursuance of excellence in the field of research and consultancy, the College has been continuously exploring new areas, where consultancy services could be offered. Based on the recommendations of the UGC and NAAC, the College intends to build a strong foundation of research, consultancy and training. It is expected that our expertise and innovative business strategies will help corporate houses and industries to a great extent.

### **MOUs SIGNED DURING THE YEAR**

The College signed 8 new MoUs with international institutions namely Suzhou Xianghui Technology Co. Ltd, China and Advantere School of Management, Madrid, Spain and with national institutes namely IIT Delhi, Solaire Initiative Pvt Ltd, Orissa, Nordic Centre in India and many others.

### **PLACEMENT CELL OF THE COLLEGE**

The 2022 Placement Session marked yet another amazingly successful Placement record. A total of more than 900 students enrolled from different streams. Out of 1,179 registrations, we have placed 672 students through on-campus drives and off-campus interviews from various departments.

### **EMRC (Educational Multimedia Research Centre)**

EMRC Kolkata, an integral part of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) is the only media centre under UGC/MHRD to be hosted by an undergraduate college. All other UGC Media Centres are hosted by universities. It is also one of the oldest Centres having been established in August 1986.

The core activity of the Centre is the generation and delivery of educational content in multiple platforms – video, multimedia, web portals and even online. These are developed with the help of faculty and researchers from premiere institutions of higher education and research. Contents are generated for the enrichment of the young and inquisitive with a view to opening a window to the world for them.

EMRC Centre keeps on setting benchmark in quality and productivity for others to emulate. As a result, this year also the accolade to our crown was the Best Documentary award at the Prakriti Video festival 2023, for "The Magician of the Red Soil" and again in the 24th CEC-UGC Educational Video Festival the jury recommended for Citation "The Magician of the Red Soil".

EMMRC, Kolkata had been given the responsibility to translate 35 UG and 2 PG MOOC courses in Bengali. All the courses have been dubbed / subtitled in Bengali and sent to CEC (Consortium for Educational Communication), New Delhi for further dissemination.

The Centre has further been allotted translation of 45 UG courses from English into regional language. In its attempt to reach education to pupil's homes, particularly during the pandemic, EMRC-Kolkata created a special digital learning corner along with the regular MOOC courses that are run through SWAYAM platform. The EMRC also launched an e-learning corner called 'Wisdom Online' to help students find suitable courses on Google Classroom.

The Centre can now boast of its own studio which was acoustically treated and made ready for production this year. About 32 programs have also been shot in this new studio.



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

- Mr. Bidyut Kumar Saha, Support Staff in the Physics Laboratory, who passed away on 12/02/2023.
- Mr. Ajoy Phulmali, Support Staff working in the College Canteen, who passed away on 22/02/2023.
- Himanshu Mall, 3rd Year student of Economics (Honours), who passed away on 11/05/2023.
- Nihar Agarwal, 2nd Year, Semester-III student from the B.Com. (Morning) Department passed away on 30th September, 2023.

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

And finally, it is my special privilege to express my deep and sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Santa Datta (De). We appreciate and depend on your support and good wishes which we value and confidently rely on. As an Autonomous College, affiliated to the University of Calcutta, St. Xavier's is proud of its close association with the University which has been and continues to be generous and supportive in all possible ways. We thank you Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for this association which inspires and motivates us in our quest for excellence.

Nihil Ultra. Nothing Beyond. Because there is indeed Nothing Beyond that we will not aspire to and attain.



