

**PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT**  
**[JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2024]**

Respected Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), our Chief Guest for the programme today, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta - Prof. Santa Dutta (De), Respected Provincial, Fr. Dr. James Arjen Tete SJ, Respected Rector, Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy SJ, Vice-Principals, Deans, Member Secretary of the 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 18<sup>th</sup> Convocation and Valedictory Ceremony of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. May the Almighty bless us all abundantly!

Today we are gathered together to congratulate and honour the 2754 undergraduate, postgraduate, B.Ed. and Ph.D. students who will receive their degrees on this solemn and memorable Convocation Day. You have, I am sure, enjoyed a rich and fulfilling time at St. Xavier's. 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 move forward in life, 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 and with others!

As we say goodbye, I would like to revisit the past to take stock of the present and plan for the future. The 165-year history of this college is a heritage which we endeavour to preserve as the foundation on which we chart new directions into the future in order to propagate the spirit of Nihil Ultra which means 'Nothing Beyond', but which also signifies to us the fact that nothing is indeed 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 almost 19 years.

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

Our National Institutional Ranking Framework (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 6<sup>th</sup> rank in India Rankings 2024. I congratulate every member of the Xaverian community for all the effort and hard work we have put in together as a team.

In our drive for academic expansion, we are proud to state that we offer Ph.D. programs in nine disciplines, namely, Post-Graduate and Research Departments of Physics, Biotechnology, Microbiology Commerce, Computer Science, English, Bengali, Political Science and Economics respectively, the Program in Economics being the latest to have been started from the current academic session. Next on our agenda are doctoral programs in Sociology and in Education.

The following courses have commenced from this academic session:

- i) A Certificate Course in Hospitality Management in collaboration with Chowman was inaugurated at the Raghampur Campus on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2024 which has received very good response.
- ii) Online Web Designing and Programming Course from the Computer Centre of the College.

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

During the financial year 2024-25 (as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024), a total amount of Rs. 3,88,73,042/- (Rupees three crore, eighty-eight lakhs, seventy-three thousand and forty-two only) has been received by the College as research project grants of faculty and other grants received by the College.

Some of the notable awards, achievements and research activities carried out in the College during the year include:

- 1) **The Research Score in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has gone up to an all-time high of 68%.**
- 2) **A total number of five patents have been published:**
  - Three patents on Composter, Biofertilizer and Arsenic Mitigation in paddy fields have been published under the supervision of Dr. Arup Kumar Mitra, Associate Professor, Microbiology Department.
  - Dr. Sumanta Dutta, Assistant Professor from the Postgraduate and Research Department of Commerce (M.Com.) published a patent titled "A Longitudinal Study of Controversial Television Advertisements in India: A Semi Office Analysis," awarded by Patent office India.
  - A global patent on "Conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to Alcohol" was published by Dr. Sanjib Ganguly, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, in collaboration with IISER, Kolkata.
- 3) High end publications have been published in Scientific Reports, Cell Press and Frontiers in Microbiology.
- 4) **Collaboration with Indian Institute of Remote Sensing Indian Space Research Organization (IIRS-ISRO):**

Our College is now a network institute of Indian Institute of Remote Sensing-Indian Space Research Organisation (IIRS-ISRO) outreach program. The name of our Institute is included in the online application form of IIRS Outreach Programme. Our students can register for the online courses being offered by IIRS-ISRO EDUSAT platform now through our institute.

IIRS Outreach Programme focusses on strengthening the Academia and User Segments in Space Technology & its Applications using Online Learning Platforms. Under this programme the two modes of content-delivery system are developed using online learning platform, i.e., Live & Interactive mode (known as EDUSAT) and e-Learning mode.

5) **Major Projects Awarded:**

- The project under 'Vision Viksit Bharat, 2047', titled, 'Vulnerability and Social Security of the Elderly: A Study with reference to West Bengal', was awarded a grant of Rs. 18 lakhs by ICSSR. It is hoped that the outcomes of the study will help identify the vulnerabilities of the elderly and provide suitable policy interventions. Congratulations to Dr. Saswati Chaudhuri, the Principal Investigator and the Co-Investigators! Wishing the team all the best!
- Dr. Arup Kumar Mitra, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, and Dr. Sharadia Dey, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science Department were sanctioned and approved a research grant of around 10 lakhs from the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for their project titled, 'Urban Bioaerosols over lentic ecosystem in urban backdrop'.
- Dr. Arup Kumar Mitra, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, along with the faculty members of the Computer Science Department attained two skill India programs under PMKVY 4.0 on 'In Vitro devices and Biotechnology' for 92 students. This is the first and the only College in

West Bengal getting this skill India program in collaboration with industry as a finishing degree for Master's students in Microbiology.

- Our research activities were published by ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation). Congratulations to the faculty members of the Physics Department.
- Soham Ghosh, a student of PG Microbiology received the First Prize in the National Competition Bio E3 organized by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.

Our growth has warranted expansion of the existing infrastructure. We have managed so far with dexterous and judicious planning. As a Heritage College, we cannot alter existing structures to accommodate the facilities required for further expansion. So we have begun to expand our boundaries by 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.

An Incubation Centre for innovation linked entrepreneurship and Community Radio Station will also be set up here at this campus.

The construction of the Communication Hub and Research Facility Building is going on in full swing.

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 Raghampur 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, over the last ten years' time span, the Raghampur Campus has undergone extensive expansion and upgradation, has opened postgraduate departments, and is offering vocational courses designed to meet and fulfil the needs of the local populace.

The campus has now got a physical makeover with the twin G+7 buildings with all kinds of state-of-the-art amenities.

**I now have the privilege of presenting the Annual Report, 2024.**

#### ➤ **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR**

**During the year, six faculty members have received their Ph.D. Degrees from different institutes of eminence.**

**14 students completed their Ph.D. Degrees from St. Xavier's College out of whom two are our own faculty members.**

Congratulations to all of them!

**During the year,**

- Around 25 faculty members including the Principal have received national and international awards.
- Around 4 books, and 8 Book Chapters of our faculty members have been published.
- 14 departments published their annual magazines and journals.
- Around 22 research articles were published in national and international journals.

- Around 27 of our faculty members presented papers in national and international seminars and conferences.
  - Around 31 of our faculty members were invited as Resource Persons and have conducted workshops and delivered talks at different institutions of eminence.
  - As many as 192 national and international seminars and workshops were organized and conducted by the College.
  - Several Faculty Development Programs were organised by various departments to improve the quality of Teaching-Learning-Research in the College
- Congratulations to all involved!

➤ **FOURTH CYCLE ACCREDITATION BY NAAC**

The process of accreditation was initiated in January 2024 and was successfully completed after the two-day Peer Team Visit from NAAC on 8th and 9th of November 2024. Concerted efforts of all teachers, support staff, students, alumni members and stakeholders culminated in the meticulous organization and execution of the event, to the satisfaction of the Peer Team Members.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, has been accredited by National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) with the highest Grade A++ in the Fourth Cycle, which is valid for a period of seven years from 21.11.2024.

We are one of the very few colleges in the country to have been awarded the highest grade A++ in the third and the fourth cycles consecutively.

Congratulations to the Jesuit Fathers, Staff, Students, Alumni/ae, Parents and all the Stakeholders.

➤ **COLLABORATION WITH TATA MEDICAL CENTRE AND ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE IN THE FIELD OF ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH**

As an evidence of the enhancement in the quality of teaching learning and syllabus formulation, it may be reported that recently, the management of Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata has shown keen interest for academic collaboration with St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

In the initial meeting dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, a team from Tata Medical Centre came to the College and initiated the discussion for collaboration. Primarily, four departments, viz., Microbiology, Biotechnology, Data Science and Physics were considered for this Academic Collaboration. As an immediate follow up detailed syllabus of the College was sent to the team.

A team from SXC visited Tata Medical Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for a day-long detailed discussion. The experts from the centre made presentation on the following areas in which they ask for collaboration:

- Molecular Medical Microbiology.
- Medical Physics.
- Molecular Nuclear Medicine.
- Clinical Oncology.
- Radiotherapy Technology (approved by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board).

As a follow up, to this visit, detailed discussions took place in an in-house meeting and it was proposed that certificate or diploma courses may be offered on the above areas. It was decided that

in the next meeting, deliberations on syllabus formation, actual role of SXC, fee structure, course delivery pattern and other relevant issues will be taken up.

➤ **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 be of great help to corporate houses and industries.

The Cell has bagged a number of consultancy projects during the year. A group of faculty members are now involved in the live projects undertaken by the Consulting Club, the student wing of the Consultancy Cell and this Club has been able to get a good number of projects and a number of projects undertaken by the Consulting Club has already been completed and appraised by the clients.

➤ **MOUs SIGNED DURING THE YEAR**

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

➤ **PLACEMENT CELL OF THE COLLEGE**

Our College has a well-structured and highly effective Placement Cell, providing numerous opportunities for students to transition successfully into the professional world. The Cell's proactive approach, starting with the recruitment of volunteers from the newly admitted batch and organizing them into efficient teams, ensures that the placement process runs smoothly. Our engagement with a wide range of companies - both new and regular recruiters - demonstrates our commitment to expanding opportunities for students across various disciplines, from B.Com. and B.M.S. to specialized fields like Biotechnology and Data Science.

During the academic year 2023-24, we managed to bring 70+ companies for on campus recruitment. Over 600+ students participated in the placement drives and 100+ internships were offered resulting in unprecedented standards set for the upcoming years. Furthermore, the impressive range of cost-to-company (CTC) offers, from ₹4 lakhs to ₹24 lakhs per annum, underscores the quality of placements secured by the students.

Overall, our dedication to fostering strong industry connections, supporting students, and maintaining high operational standards has evidently paid off, with more than 550 students placed this year. The outlook for the future seems promising, with expectations of even greater success in the coming years as economic growth continues to revive.

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

EMRC Kolkata, an integral part of St. Xavier's College, is the oldest and the only media centre under UGC/MHRD to be hosted by an undergraduate college.

One of the best practices of the centre is to augment the best of technology to fine tune not only the content but also the medium by which the content is disseminated, primarily by the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform of the Ministry of Education, namely the SWAYAM. The activities

highlight the extent of the outreach the centre has made in the field of quality content-creation for SWAYAM, giving the best of resources for the most deserving student community not only within the country, but also beyond borders.

During the year, more than 15 UG and PG MOOC Courses have been uploaded on SWAYAM platform by the Centre.

MOOC training programs and a practical guide towards proposing and preparing MOOCs were also organized by the Centre for the faculty of various Colleges and Institutions of eminence.

The Centre is also involved in the preparation of various documentary films.

#### ➤ **EMPOWERMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF**

Soft Skill Development, Mental Health Management and Personality Development Programs have been conducted for our Support Staff.

#### ➤ **SOCIAL COMMITMENTS**

- The Centre for Gender Studies organized capacity building workshops and events such as “Beyond Binary” to foster gender equity
- St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Kolkata has begun collaborating with HEAL, a wildlife and nature conservation organisation to promote student awareness and activity on wildlife conservation.
- St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Kolkata in collaboration with the Election Commission of India established its ‘first of the kind Electoral Literacy Club to pioneer voter vigilance amongst the youth.
- Under Operation Sadbhavna Scheme, St. Xavier’s College Kolkata recently sent a team of students and teachers to the remote borders along the line of actual control adjacent to China in Arunachal Pradesh as a part of a Central government project that aims to provide opportunity for students to experience the environment of bordering areas and to promote economic development of villages located in the borders.
- Environment consciousness programs and activities have been carried out within the campus at Park Street and Raghapur as also in the neighbouring areas.

#### ➤ **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**

I must mention that this institution is blessed with a very active and co-operative Alumni Association which has been an integral part of our Institution and has played a pivotal role in all the developmental and various philanthropic activities of the College.

The Association organised various seminars, programmes and Chapter Meetings throughout the year, - International Mother Language Day, ‘Beyond Barrier XXII’, All Bengal Fide Rated Rapid Chess Championship 2024’ with the participation of 332 students from 60 schools, colleges, IITs across West Bengal and Fr. Joris Memorial Nihil Ultra Debate which was held in Dubai - to name a few.

#### ➤ **PHILANTHROPY**

The various philanthropic activities comprised organization of two Free Medical Camps in association with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal for the staff,

students and the local populace of Raghampur and the second one for the students and boarders of Premananda Ashram Boarding School, Chamrusai, Paschim Medinipur wherein more than 1000 people benefited, donation of 15 artificial limbs for the benefit of the physically challenged, Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) programme, 6 cycle vans, including one motorized van was donated to the beneficiaries from 5 UBA adopted villages under Bishnupur Block-I and 5 from other College adopted villages of South 24 Parganas.

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

- Fr. P.C. Mathew, SJ, former Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.
- Prof. N.K. Kuri, former Professor in Physics of our College, who passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.
- Prof. Rishen Kumar Mukherjee, Guest Faculty, from the Department of M.Com. since 2009, who passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.
- Jhelum Bandyopadhyay, a final-year postgraduate student in Physics, who passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.

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

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep and sincere thanks to our two special visitors: first, our Chief Guest, Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), for honouring us with his gracious presence, and finally the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Santa Dutta (De) for her 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.**

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