



JHEASA Higher Ed News

November 2025

Volume 3, Issue 11

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

NORTH ZONE JHEASA CONFERENCE

14TH TO 16TH NOVEMBER 2025, JESUIT CURIA, MATIGARA, DARJEELING.



The two-and-a-half-day meeting convened 28 Jesuit higher education leaders, lay collaborators, and academic administrators from the North Zone of the Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (JHEASA) to reflect on contemporary challenges in higher education and discern mission-aligned leadership strategies in the context of the RRSJSA initiative. The gathering emphasized strengthening shared apostolic vision, aligning with national policies and accreditation frameworks, and enhancing institutional collaboration.

The North Zone JHEASA Conference, held from 14–16 November 2025 at the Jesuit Curia, Matigara, brought together 28 Jesuit leaders, lay collaborators, and academic administrators to reflect on contemporary challenges in higher education within the framework of the RRSJSA initiative. The gathering focused on strengthening a shared apostolic vision, improving alignment with national accreditation systems, and deepening institutional collaboration across the zone. The meeting opened with insights from Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal, S.J., and Fr. Dominic Savio, S.J., followed by discussions chaired by Ms. Saluja Chand, and concluded with a fellowship hosted by the SXC North Bengal Alumni. Key sessions addressed global educational trends, NAAC and NIRF preparedness, the RRSJSA audit framework, Jesuit–lay leadership, and opportunities for regional collaboration.

Participants committed to enhancing leadership formation, standardizing documentation for audits, strengthening accreditation readiness, and advancing digital and innovation-driven pedagogy. Institutions also agreed to update MoUs, participate in upcoming workshops, and engage in cross-campus visits to foster greater unity. Daily Eucharistic celebrations reinforced spiritual grounding and apostolic fraternity. The conference concluded with a renewed resolve to cultivate mission-driven, collaborative, and future-ready leadership capable of responding to evolving national and global educational realities.



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WEST ZONE JHEASA CONFERENCE

27TH AND 28TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MUMBAI



The JHEASA West Zone Think Tank Session on “Transitioning into a University” brought together Jesuit leaders, academicians, administrators, and delegates from multiple Jesuit higher education institutions. The session explored the need, feasibility, mission-alignment, and road map for Jesuit institutions in the West Zone to move toward Cluster University formation.

The West Zone JHEASA Conference, held on 27–28 November 2025 at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, brought together Jesuit leaders, academicians, and administrators to explore the vision, feasibility, and mission-aligned roadmap for transitioning Jesuit institutions into a Cluster University model. Rooted in the Ignatian mission of forming “men and women for others,” the discussions examined how Jesuit higher education must evolve in response to NEP 2020, technological disruption, widening inequalities, and the growing need for autonomy and innovation. Key presentations by Fr. Joseph Christie, SJ, Fr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Fr. Learoy Rodrigues, SJ, Fr. Keith D'Souza, SJ, and Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ, highlighted the need for integrated student formation, mission-rooted leadership, inter-institutional collaboration, and strategic restructuring toward university status. The conference also featured leadership from the HSNC Cluster University, whose successful journey—marked by academic freedom, faster decision-making, expanded research, financial stability, and adaptability to emerging technologies—offered a compelling model for Jesuit institutions. Participants from Mumbai, Pune, Goa, and Jamshedpur emphasized that while challenges such as regulatory constraints, minority rights concerns, financial and land limitations, and personnel shortages remain significant, the benefits of a Cluster University far outweigh them. The consensus affirmed that Jesuit institutions must adopt a mission-driven, collaborative, future-ready approach, pooling resources, strengthening leadership, and embracing structural change to ensure long-term sustainability, academic excellence, and deeper societal impact.

Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Meets the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta

Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Asutosh Ghosh, the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, on 3rd November 2025. The meeting took place at the Vice-Chancellor's chamber at the University.



During the interaction, Rev. Dr. Savio warmly congratulated Prof. Ghosh on assuming the prestigious office and conveyed his best wishes for a fruitful and inspiring tenure. The discussion reflected mutual respect and a shared commitment to strengthening academic collaboration between St. Xavier's College and the University of Calcutta. Both academic leaders emphasized the importance of maintaining the long-standing association between the two institutions, which have historically worked together in the pursuit of excellence in higher education and research.

The meeting concluded on a cordial note, with Rev. Dr. Savio expressing his hope that the University, under Prof. Ghosh's leadership, will continue to achieve new milestones in academic innovation and service to society.



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The West Bengal AICUF Unit celebrated Adivasi Diwas on 9th November, 2025.



Tribal community in six Kolkata Arch Diocese Metropolitann parishes participated in the cultural extravaganza. AICUFers from Loreto College, St.Xavier's University and college also put up a spectacular performance. Students from Raghapur, Bandel and Jadavpur University also participated in the programme. The presence of fathers, sisters and tribal leaders gave the needed encouragement to the AICUFers to successfully organise the Adivasi Diwas after a gap of five years. But today's successful organization has adequately compensated for the five years' gap. We hope to have a meaningful celebration every year.

Cross-Cultural Learning in Action: SXC Maitighar Hosts 2nd SXC-SCC Exchange Program



SXC Maitighar successfully hosted the 2nd edition of SXC-SCC Cultural Exchange Program from November 1-6, 2025, in collaboration with St. Claret College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, India. Visiting students and faculty participated in academic sessions and cultural immersion activities, gaining deeper insight into Nepal's heritage and the Xavarian community. Dr. Chinmaya Dash, IQAC Coordinator at SCC, conducted a workshop on "Quality Assurance and Enhancement through IQAC Collaboration" for SXC faculty while Ms. Preethi Jose, Assistant Professor at SCC, facilitated a Life Skill Development session for student leaders. Principal Fr. Dr. Augustine Thomas, S.J., and Vice Principal Ms. Saluja Chand led a leadership workshop for the visiting students and Class Representatives, further strengthening academic and cultural ties.



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Beach Clean-up Drive organized by Loyola - ICAM College of Engineering and Technology - LICET (Autonomous) with The Times of India Newspaper

The NSS and YRC units of Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology (LICET), in collaboration with The Times of India, organized a beach cleanup campaign titled "Rise for the Sea – Our Chennai, Our Pride" at Marina Beach near the Lighthouse on the 8th of Nov 2025. Volunteers from LICET and other institutions actively participated in collecting and segregating waste to promote environmental awareness and protect marine ecosystems. The event began with an address on the importance of cleanliness and sustainable practices, followed by the distribution of cleaning materials and group-based cleanup activities.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Signs MoU with WB State Council of Science & Technology



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology, Department of Science & Technology, Biotechnology (DSTBT), Government of West Bengal, on November 18, 2025, at the university campus. The MoU was signed by Fr. Dr. Xavier Jeyaraj, S.J., Registrar of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, and Shri Vijay Bharti, IAS, Secretary, DSTBT, in the presence of Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor. Coordinated by Dr. Manali Bhattacharya, the event opened discussions on future collaborative research and development.

https://www.sxuk.edu.in/sxuk_news

XIM University Hosted Colloquium on "AI @ India"



XIM University hosted a colloquium titled "AI @ India: Work, Markets & Cities in Transition" on November 1, 2025, at the New Campus Mini Auditorium. Jointly organised by the School of Human Settlements, School of Computer Science and Engineering, and School of Economics, in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), the event was endorsed by the Ministry of Electronics and IT as a pre-summit initiative for the AI Impact Summit 2026. Distinguished speakers discussed AI's impact on India's economy, employment, and urban transformation.

Read More: <https://xim.edu.in/event/colloquium-on-ai-india-work-markets-and-cities-in-transition/>



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Events at St. Xavier's College,(Autonomous),Palayamkottai,Tirunelveli

ABOUT THE INSTITUTION
St. Xavier's College was established in 1951 at Palayamkottai by Jesuit Priests with the aim of training young men and women of quality to be leaders in all walks of life so that they may serve the poor and/or nation. The College is a member of Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and is an agent of social change, instilling in the youth an awareness of the great need in our country for social justice based on brotherhood and dignity of the human person. The College is founded by Most Rev. A. J. G. Gonsalves, C. S. J. The AAC confirmed the status of College with Potential for Excellence in 2004, 2008, and 2014. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, awarded St. Xavier's College status in 2014. Achuthan is a prominent institution for higher learning, due to its excellent programmes and academic standards.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Patrons
Rev. Dr. S. Ignacimuthu, S.J. – Rector
Rev. Dr. S. Lazar, S.J. – Secretary
Rev. Dr. Godwin Rufus, S.J. – Principal
Convenors
Dr. A. Jayaseeli, Head, Department of Zoology
Dr. L. Joelin Michael Raj, Head (IV),
Department of Botany
Organizing Secretaries
Dr. T. Elizabeth Thangamani Sunitha
Dr. M. Joe Virgin Largia

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
Associated as College with Potential for Excellence by AAC
Associated at A+ Grade with College AAC in the IV year by NAAC
PALAYAMKOTTAI

GOVERNMENT SIDDHA MEDICAL COLLEGE PALAYAMKOTTAI
jointly organizes

STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON HERBAL HEALTH



Date: 28th November 2025
Venue: Caussanel Hall, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai

State level workshop on Herbal Health

A state Level Workshop on Herbal Health was successfully held on 28th November 2025 at Caussanel Hall, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Botany and Department of Zoology of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) and the Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai. The patrons were the college Rector, Secretary, and Principal. The workshop featured expert sessions by three resource persons: Dr. K. Malliga on Siddha medicine, Dr. P. Pandikumar on ethnobiology in drug discovery, and Dr. S. Mutheeswaran on medicinal plants for PCOD control. It aimed to bridge traditional knowledge with modern science for holistic wellness.

Read More:

<http://stxavierstn.edu.in/dept/Botany/events/2025-2026/Dept%20Of%20Botany%20%20State%20Level%20Workshop%20on%20Herbal%20Health%2028%20th%20November%202025.pdf>

International Conference on the theme "The Human Algorithm: Reimagining Society in the Age of AI"

PATRONS
REV. DR. ANTHONY ROBINSON SJ
RECTOR, LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI
REV. DR. D. THOMAS ALEXANDER SJ
SECRETARY AND CORRESPONDENT,
LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

CHAIRPERSON
DR. J. V. ANANDA
CONVENER
REV. DR. A. LOUIS ALBERT S.J.

CO-CONVENERS
DR. M. GAUTAMAN
MRS. BROWNE AMITHA
DR. R. DHITANSEEM
ORGANIZING SECRETARIES
MRS. S. SIVA PRIYA
MRS. SUDERMATHI KANNAN R
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
DR. S. SIVA PRIYA
MRS. JUDITH I
MRS. SHERILINE JOSIMA J

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) Chennai, India

Department of Sociology
in collaboration with
UNITAR International University Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
invites you to

Dr. S. Xavier Britto Annual Endowment Two-day International Conference
on the theme
THE HUMAN ALGORITHM: REIMAGINING SOCIETY IN THE AGE OF AI

19 & 20 November 2025

Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

100

The Dr. S. Xavier Britto Annual Endowment International Conference on the theme "The Human Algorithm: Reimagining Society in the Age of AI" was successfully held from 19th to 20th November 2025 at LS Hall, Loyola College, Chennai. The event was organized by the Department of Sociology in collaboration with UNITAR International University, Malaysia. Inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. M. Thamilarsan and featuring a keynote by Tan Sri Dato Sri Ir. Dr. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, the conference included sessions by international experts from NASA, UNESCO, and industry. Day two featured a keynote by Dr. Laura Nelson and concluded with a valedictory address by Dr. Vasanthi Ranganathan.

Read More:

https://www.loyolacollege.edu/events/AY25-26/SOC1/invitation/691cbac250d7c_b46134340364191a.pdf



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International Conference on Entrepreneurship for a Sustainable Future

The International Conference on Entrepreneurship for a Sustainable Future was successfully held from 18th to 19th November 2025 at Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram. Organised in collaboration with the School of Management Studies, CUSAT, and ASEM Lifelong Learning, the event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Junaid Bushiri and featured a keynote by Prof. Dr. Johannes Lindner. Sessions included global perspectives on entrepreneurial pedagogy, curriculum design, and policy discussions, with presentations by international experts from Austria, Portugal, and Denmark. The conference concluded with a valedictory address by Prof. Dr. Sam Thomas. Selected papers will be published in Scopus-indexed journals.

Inter institutional youth parliament organized by North Bengal St. Xavier's college



The Department of Political Science at North Bengal St. Xavier's College hosted the 3rd Inter- Institutional Youth Parliament 2025 on 11th November, 2025. It was based on the theme "India at the Crossroads: Federal Balance and Educational Transformation". Participants from multiple colleges took part in dynamic discussions on federalism, Centre-State relations, nuclear policy and the National Education Policy 2020, reflecting a growing commitment to informed and responsible youth engagement.

<https://nbxc.edu.in/news/events-seminars/department-of-political-science/inter-institutional-youth-parliament/>

Field Visit Programme by XLRI, Delhi



XLRI DelhiNCR's Village Immersion Program (VIP) 2025 ended in November 2025. It was part of the Business Management curriculum, involving nearly 180 students engaging with rural communities in Jhajjar district, Haryana. The five-stage program—orientation, field training, village visits, report writing, and a student-led closure ceremony—focuses this year on waterlogging's impact on infrastructure, livelihoods, and living conditions. Twelve student groups are exploring villages including Kaloi and Munimpur. Supported by Reliance Foundation, local Panchayats, and guided by BDPO Sumit Beniwal, the program deepens students' social responsibility and rural understanding, nurturing ethically aware leaders committed to sustainable development.



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Events at St Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru



MoUs Signed

St Aloysius (Deemed to be University) signed MOUs with Automation Anywhere; De Paul Arts & Science College, Edathatty; Don Bosco College, Kottiyam, Kollam; Don Bosco College, Angadikadavu, Iratty, Kannur Kerala; Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram; Don Bosco College, Mannuthy, Thrissur, Kerala; GOAL India Academy; Vision Sports Technique Pvt. Ltd. (Sports Reconnect) and Futura Sports Catalyst Pvt. Ltd. (ZEMO).

St. Aloysius, (Deemed to be University) Mangaluru, Student Awarded Prestigious Charpak Scholarship



Vandana Resquinha, a student of St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru, has been awarded the Charpak Scholarship, one of the most prestigious and competitive international scholarships offered by the Embassy of France in India. Her selection places her among a distinguished group of students recognised for their academic excellence and potential for global engagement.

Read more:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DReHG5fEiwx/utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBjNWFIZA==



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Lecture session on “Western Scholars and the India We’ve Imagined” and “Saint Joseph in South India : Tēmpāvanī as a Work of the Christian Imagination” held at Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Goa in collaboration with Francis X Clooney, Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University, Massachusetts

XCHR HISTORY HOUR



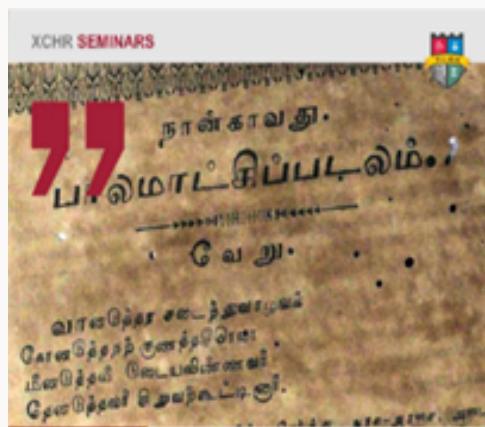
Western Scholars and the India We've Imagined

Francis X Clooney
Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University

TUESDAY
11 November 2025
6 pm

XCHR
PORVORIM

XCHR SEMINARS



Saint Joseph in South India
Tēmpāvanī as a Work of the Christian Imagination

Francis X Clooney
Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University

THURSDAY
13 November 2025
10 am

XCHR
PORVORIM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
LIMITED SEATS

XAVIER CENTRE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
83 Bunder Road, Panjim, Goa 403521, India
xchr.vub.edu.in

Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Goa, in collaboration with Francis X Clooney, Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University, Massachusetts, organized a Lecture session pertaining to the ‘History Hour’ category on November 11, 2025 from 6 p.m., titled — “Western Scholars and the India We’ve Imagined”. Anu K Antony, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani, Goa, acted as moderator of this session. The lecture delved into how Westerners have interpreted and constructed Hindu traditions over many centuries, evaluating the mixed results of these interpretations, acknowledging both the positive and negative influences and contributions of Western scholarship. The lecture concentrated on offering a brief overview of this long encounter, examining in detail the strengths and weaknesses of the Christian missionary scholarly tradition, showcasing how this tradition has shaped the study of Hinduism.

Another academic seminar with Prof. Clooney was organized on November 13, 2025 from 10 a.m to 12 noon titled — “Saint Joseph in South India : Tēmpāvanī as a Work of the Christian Imagination”. The seminar examined Tēmpāvanī as a creative encounter between Christianity and Tamil literary culture, showcasing a masterful blending of literature across religions and cultures — The 4000 verse-long poem composed in an elegant Tamil style, is certainly the most famous work of Costanzo Gioseffo Beschi (1680-1747), an Italian Jesuit missionary who worked for decades in Tamil Nadu, South India.

Read More : https://open.substack.com/pub/xchr/p/western-scholars-and-the-india-weve?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

And

https://open.substack.com/pub/xchr/p/saint-joseph-in-south-india-tempavani?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web



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Lecture session on “Ideas that Changed Our Understanding of the Universe in the last century” by Richard D’Souza, Director, Vatican Observatory, Rome, and Talk session with Professor Remy Dias concerning the subject of “Oral Histories and Intangible Culture of Goa” held at Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Goa

XCHR HISTORY HOUR



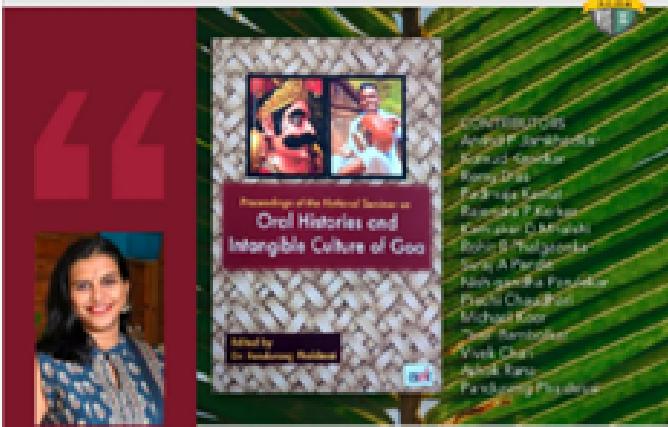
Ideas that Changed Our Understanding of the Universe in the last century

Richard D’Souza
Director, Vatican Observatory, Rome

Friday 21 November 2025
6 pm

XCHR FORUM

XCHR CONVERSATIONS



Oral Histories and Intangible Culture of Goa

Tanvi Bambolkar Pandurang Phadke
In CONVERSATION WITH Remy Dias

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Prachi Desai
Michael Desai
Tanvi Bambolkar
Vivik Desai
Ashish Desai
Prashant Desai

Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Goa in collaboration with Richard D’Souza, Director, Vatican Observatory, Rome, organized a Lecture Session under the ‘History Hour’ category on November 21, 2025 from 6 p.m., titled — “Ideas that Changed Our Understanding of the Universe in the last century”. The lecture session was moderated by Amey S Parab, Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Goa Medical College and Hospital, Goa. The lecture session focused on the three fundamental questions of the human race as reflected by modern astronomy — Where do we come from? Where are we going? Are we alone in the Universe? The esteemed speaker, Richard D’Souza, has aimed to trace the trajectory in the history of these ideas that dramatically changed our understanding of the Universe we live in.

Read More : https://open.substack.com/pub/xchr/p/reminder-ideas-that-changed-our-understanding?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web



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Study Tours organized



International Immersion Program 2025 –A group of 32 students and staff members visited the National University of Singapore (NUS) on 23rd November 2025 as part of the ongoing 5-day international study tour in Singapore; The M.Sc. Biochemistry students and School of Education (B. Ed) had an educational study tour to Ooty; Physical science student had a study tour to Roorkee, Mussoorie and Dehradun.

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XIIS), Ranchi, celebrated Platinum Jubilee



The Xavier Institute of Social Service (XIIS), Ranchi, celebrated its Platinum Jubilee on 20 September 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. The event, themed “Profit with Purpose – Leading Ethically in the Digital Age,” included a lamp-lighting ceremony, welcome address by Dr Joseph MarianusKujur, SJ (Director, XIIS), and keynote by Dr Alok Kumar Mishra(AIU). It featured panels on sustainability and tech for good. Key highlights were reflections on XIIS’s 70-year journey, its academic growth, and future vision towards becoming Xavier University, Ranchi. The event underscored ethical leadership and alumni involvement in social development.