

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Orientation of Student Interns for the JHEASA Newsletter at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata



A group of students from St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, has been selected for internship opportunities associated with the Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (JHEASA) newsletter and its allied academic and communication initiatives.

An orientation programme was organised to familiarise the selected students with the vision and functioning of Jesuit higher education and to prepare them for their roles as student interns. The sessions were conducted by Rev. Dr. Joseph Kulandai, SJ, Prof. Utsav Chatterjee, and Prof. Christina Mirza, who introduced the students to various aspects of Jesuit education, the mission and activities of JHEASA, as well as essential skills in content writing, editing, and newsletter design.

During the orientation, the students were introduced to various aspects of the Jesuit tradition in education, the mission and activities of JHEASA, and the significance of collaborative academic communication within Jesuit institutions. The resource persons also provided practical guidance on content development, news writing, editing, and basic design principles required for newsletter production and related media work.

The orientation programme was coordinated by Prof. Shalabh Agarwal under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata and Secretary of the Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (JHEASA). The initiative aims to provide students with meaningful exposure to academic communication and media engagement while enabling them to contribute actively to the JHEASA newsletter and related collaborative activities within the Jesuit higher education network.

Lyola College of Education Hosts National Seminar on NEP-2020

The National Seminar titled "NEP-2020: Reimagining Teacher Education for 21st Century and Beyond" was a landmark two-day event held on February 27–28, 2026, at Loyola College of Education, Namchi. Organized by the college's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in a hybrid format, the seminar brought together academicians, researchers, and policymakers to discuss the transformative shifts required by the National Education Policy 2020. The event commenced at the college's Jubilee Hall with an inaugural ceremony featuring a keynote address by Prof. (Dr.) Ashis Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of Khangchendzonga State University, who emphasized the visionary role of NEP-2020 in shaping future educators. Led by Patron Fr. Dr. Francis A.V., S.J. and Convenor Fr. Dr. Daniel Bara, S.J., the sessions focused on critical themes such as digital pedagogy, Education 4.0, and the shift toward holistic, outcome-oriented teacher training. By facilitating deep dialogue between local experts from Sikkim University and national scholars, the seminar successfully created a roadmap for integrating ethical grounding and technological innovation into the modern teaching curriculum.

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St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Bangalore) Hosts Green Recognition & Community Outreach, National Conferences, and Celebrates Institutional Milestones

On 5 February 2026, St. Joseph's College of Commerce received a significant institutional recognition at the ITC WOW (Wellbeing Out of Waste) Green Awards 2025, held in Bengaluru. The WOW initiative is ITC's flagship sustainability programme that drives large-scale behavioural change through source segregation, recycling, and community participation across institutions. The College was honoured for its exemplary and sustained commitment to recyclable sustainability practices. The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Shri Karee Gowda, IAS, Chief Executive Officer of the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), along with other dignitaries from the state government and private institutions. As a tangible outcome of its Green Initiative in collaboration with ITC, the College received 5,500 books and 1,000 stationery items, which were distributed to students of government schools, reaffirming the institution's ethos of environmental responsibility and meaningful social outreach.



On 27 February 2026, the Department of Business Administration (BBA) conducted a one-day National Conference on "Global Sustainability: Business Innovation & Policy Initiatives towards Viksit Bharat," sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Southern Regional Centre. The ICSSR is an autonomous body established in 1969 under India's Ministry of Education to promote and coordinate social science research across the country. The conference brought together academicians, industry leaders, and policy thinkers to deliberate on innovative, research-backed strategies for sustainable business and governance. The discussions were firmly anchored in India's vision of Viksit Bharat, the national aspiration of becoming a fully developed nation by 2047.



February 2026 proved to be a landmark month for both sports and institutional development at SJCC. The 35th edition of SPIEL (Sports, Performance, Innovation, Entertainment & Leadership) 2026 -the College's much-celebrated inter-collegiate festival, drew enthusiastic participation from 26 institutions across the city, with the 18th edition of the SPIEL Run formally commencing the festivities on 7 February 2026. On the international stage, V. Aaron Jonathan brought immense pride to the institution by winning the Gold Medal representing India at the South Asian Goal Shot Ball Championship held in Nepal.





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[Xavier Institute of Social Service \(XISS\), Ranchi marks Platinum Jubilee with International Conference](#)

The Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi marked its Platinum Jubilee by hosting the International Conference, “Reimagining Governance for Sustainable Futures: Balancing Profit, Purpose, and People in the Age of AI.” The event brought together global scholars, industry experts, and practitioners to deliberate on ethical and sustainable approaches to AI in governance and business. Organised in collaboration with the International Association of Jesuit Business Schools (IAJBS) and the Xavier Association of Management Institutes (XAMI), the conference witnessed participation from the United States, Spain, Indonesia, and India, fostering rich cross-cultural dialogue on human-centered technology and sustainability inspired by Laudato Si’. The proceedings began with pre-conference workshops on AACSB accreditation and research publishing, followed by keynote sessions and plenary discussions led by eminent speakers. The conference concluded with a valedictory address by Magsaysay Awardee Mr. Kulandai Francis and recognition of research excellence, reinforcing XISS’s commitment to ethical, inclusive, and future-ready governance.

[St. Xavier’s College \(Autonomous\), Palayamkottai Hosts International Conference on “Chemical Science for Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development”](#)

The Department of Chemistry at St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai organised an International Conference on “Chemical Science for Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development” to highlight the critical role of chemical sciences in addressing global sustainability challenges. The conference focused on areas such as green technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable industrial practices, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and innovation. Researchers and scholars from across India and around the world participated virtually, making the event a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and global academic collaboration. [Read More](#)

[St. Xavier’s College \(Empowered Autonomous Institute\) Mumbai, Organises Cricket Match for the Visually Challenged](#)

On 3 February, 2026 St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Mumbai hosted Goonj Trophy. The flagship event was an inclusive cricket match held for the visually challenged. The two teams comprised of Xavier’s students, alumni, Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) members, and students from Wilson College. The event was organised by the Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) in collaboration with the Students Inclusion Cell along with supporting partners like Tata Investment Corporation limited, [read more](#).



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Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru Organises Social Analysis - “Rural Employment Policy in India - From MGNREGA to VB GRAM G Act 2025”



Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru organised a Social Analysis – a four-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop from 24-27 February 2026 on the theme “Rural Employment Policy in India – From MGNREGA to VB GRAM G Act 2025”. The workshop was aimed to help NGOs, CSOs and Community leaders from Karnataka to develop critical thinking and a deeper understanding of MGNREGA (The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005) and VB GRAM G Act 2025 (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)). The workshop was attended by 13 participants who reflected on rural employment policies, exploring policy shift, etc.

On the first day, participants were introduced to social analysis methods and tools to understand how social structures, power relations and institutional arrangements influence policy outcomes and access to rights.

On the second day, Dr Kiran Kamal Prasad, Founder Director of Jeevika, highlighted the key provisions of MGNREGA, such as legal guarantee of employment, wage payments, the role of gram sabhas and mechanisms for transparency and accountability. On the third day, Ms Rakshita Swamy, Director of SAFAR NGO and a member of MKSS movement, provided a comparative analysis of MGNREGA and the VB GRAM G Act 2025.

The workshop also focused on social audits and accountability mechanisms.

The workshop concluded with an action planning session, where participants reflected on strategies to strengthen grassroots mobilisation, promote social accountability, and advocate for protecting labour rights within rural employment programmes. [Read More](#)

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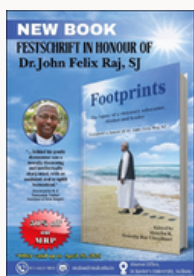
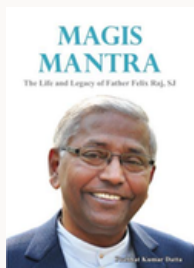
St.Xavier's College, Maitighar Fosters Journalism Excellence and Leadership Exchange through Collaborations

The three-day News Writing Workshop 2026, organised by the Faculty of Journalism, Department of Major Arts, St. Xavier's College in collaboration with the Nepal Investigative Multimedia Journalism Network, concluded on 4 February 2026. Adjunct professor at New York University, Abu Dhabi, and veteran journalist Kunda Dixit facilitated the workshop, highlighting the significance of reading before reporting and writing. A total of 32 students from St. Xavier's College as well as various community colleges, (RR Campus and Namuna Machhindra College) in the Kathmandu Valley participated in the workshop. This workshop strengthened the ethos of journalism through industrial and international academic collaboration



Three students from the Student Quality Circle-UDAAN at St. Xavier's College, Maitighar. Ms. Bimmi Shrestha (BIM 2022 batch), Mr. Parikshit Maharjan (B.Sc. CSIT 2022 batch), and Ms. Samikshya Bhatta (BA 2022 batch), accompanied by Dr. Basu Dev Ghimire, Head of the Department of Physics, participated in the NextGen Leaders: 3-Day Residential Leadership Training Program for JHEASA North Zone Institutes which provided the students with invaluable opportunities to expand their horizons and strengthen their capacity to lead with purpose and impact. Additionally, St. Xavier's College, Maitighar students had the opportunity to participate in a student exchange program with the university's BBA students, which helped them gain new perspectives through collaborative learning and cultural exchange.

Footprints of Vision: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Father Felix Raj



Footprints: The Legacy of a Visionary Educator, Thinker and Leader is a book to celebrate the life, work, and legacy of Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ, a distinguished Jesuit priest, visionary educationist, and founding Vice-Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. It is a 'Festschrift', a collection of essays written to honour a notable scholar or leader. The collection features essays from a diverse group of scholars, educators, colleagues, and collaborators inspired by Father Felix Raj's vision and dedication. Each essay reflects not only scholarly depth but also the values Father Felix Raj has consistently embodied: striving for excellence, mentoring with compassion, and nurturing the holistic development of students and society. Several of the essays explore how Father Raj lived this ideal in both his professional and personal life. His leadership as Principal of St. Xavier's College and founding Vice-Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, combined academic excellence with ethical values and social inclusivity, emphasizing curriculum development, research, and mentorship. The volume also highlights Father Raj's engagement with society beyond academia. Essays discuss his involvement in civil society, interfaith dialogue, and partnerships with social organizations addressing education for marginalized communities, social justice, and holistic development. Personal anecdotes portray him as not only an academic leader but also a compassionate mentor, spiritual guide, and visionary thinker, illustrating how his example inspired those around him. The Footprints stands as a testament to Father Felix Raj's enduring legacy, reinforcing the ideals of vision, dedication, and service that define his life.

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Spanish Ambassador at St Aloysius (Deemed to be University) signifies a milestone visit



On February 3, 2026, Juan Antonio March Pujol, ambassador of Spain to India, visited St Aloysius (Deemed to be University), marking a significant milestone in the University's ongoing efforts to strengthen international academic and cultural engagement. As part of the visit, the ambassador toured the iconic St Aloysius Chapel, where he expressed deep appreciation for the world-famous paintings, praising their artistic excellence and spiritual depth. He also conveyed his admiration for the University's commitment to preserving its rich heritage and cultural legacy. Following the chapel visit, Juan interacted with the university's staff and faculty members. During his address, he underscored the importance of international collaboration in higher education, innovation, and the expanding scope for academic partnerships between institutions in India and Spain.

National Science Day observed with the theme: 'Women in Science – Catalysing Viksit Bharat'

The National Science Day, 2026 was observed at the institute on 27th February at the LCRI Hall of the University. Prof Jayakara Bhandary, Principal and Professor of Botany, Dr P Dayananda Pai - P Sathisha Pai Govt First Grade College, was the chief guest. Prof Vidya Shetty, professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, NITK, Surathkal, was the guest of honour. Dr Praveen Martis, SJ, vice chancellor, St Aloysius (Deemed to be University), presided over the programme. The speakers emphasised the contribution of women in the field of science and encouraged students to be innovative and take leadership in the scientific field.

Academic Collaborations and Conferences

In the month of February 2026, several academic and collaborative initiatives were undertaken by St Aloysius (Deemed to be University). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with NASSCOM Future Skills Prime to enhance skill development opportunities for students through industry-aligned certification courses. Additional Memoranda of Understanding were also signed with Sarada Vilas College, Mysuru and St Mary's College, Shirva.

On the international academic platform, Reverend Doctor Praveen Martis, SJ, Vice Chancellor, and Doctor Ronald Nazareth, Registrar, represented the University at the QS India Summit 2026, organised by QS Quacquarelli Symonds and held from 1–2 February 2026 in Goa, under the theme "India at 2047: Building Skills, Achieving Scale, Driving Innovation." Additionally, Reverend Doctor Praveen Martis, SJ, attended the India–Spain Conference on Higher Education: Indian Higher Education Institutions and Spanish Conference of Rector Universities (CRUE) held from 19–20 February 2026.



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St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata Organises a lively event for children from various villages and institutes

The St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata organised Shishu Mela on February 8th, its annual event for the children from adjoining villages and areas of Kolkata, as well as from various NGO, organizations and the schools under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The theme this year was "Viksit Baachpan: Empowering the Future." 21 NGOs and adopted villages, including groups working with differently-abled children, orphanages, and local KMC primary schools were a part of this exhilarating event.

The campus opened its gates to about 900 children from various rural and urban backgrounds, turning the green field into a sea of laughter and energy. Important delegates, including Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, Rev. Fr. Anthony T. Rodrick, Director, Seva Kendra Calcutta, along with Rev. Dr. Sacaria Joseph, SJ, Rector, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, graced the occasion and also blended into the sea of joy with the children. A huge number of students from the college volunteered for the event and turned the day into a stream of memory that will last forever. [Read More...](#)



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St. Xavier's University, Kolkata marks a decade of growth and Hosts 7th Convocation Ceremony



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) celebrated two significant milestones, its 10th Foundation Day and the 7th Convocation ceremony in February, 2026; highlighting a decade of academic growth, institutional achievements, and future expansion. The university celebrated its 10th Foundation Day on February 9, 2026, at the Albert Huart Hall. The event began with a prayer and a video presentation showcasing the institution's journey over the past decade. In his welcome address, Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ, Vice-Chancellor emphasized the university's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and social responsibility.



On February 21, the university held its 7th Convocation ceremony at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town. Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, attended the ceremony as Chief Guest. On the occasion, Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament was conferred the honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) degree. A total of 1,052 undergraduate and postgraduate students, along with 25 Ph.D. scholars, received their degrees, while 17 students were awarded gold medals for outstanding academic performance. Presenting the annual report, Father Felix Raj announced the introduction of a B.Tech programme in 4 subjects from the 2026 academic session and plans for future programmes including M.Tech, Integrated MBA, Integrated B.Ed., and new schools of Design and Nursing. As the university enters its second decade, its leadership reaffirmed its vision of combining academic excellence with social commitment and global engagement.

Three-Day Residential Leadership Training Programme at Xavier University, Patna

A three-day Residential Leadership Training Programme was conducted from 13–15 February 2026 at Atmadarshan, Xavier University, Patna, under the aegis of the Jesuit Higher Education Association South Asia (North Zone). Organised under the patronage of the Vice Chancellor and Registrar and coordinated by faculty with the support of an organising committee, the programme sought to nurture self-aware, value-driven, and socially responsible student leaders through the Jesuit pedagogy of reflection, discernment, and experiential learning. Set within the serene and spiritually enriching 36-acre green campus, the programme provided an ideal atmosphere for intellectual engagement and personal growth. It brought together student leaders and faculty representatives from Jesuit and allied institutions across India and Nepal, including colleges from West Bengal, Meghalaya, Bihar, and Kathmandu, thereby fostering intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and a spirit of collaboration rooted in shared values.



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The programme featured a rich blend of expert-led sessions, interactive workshops, and reflective exercises focusing on key dimensions of leadership such as self-awareness, ethical decision-making, MAGIS, cura personalis, communication and media engagement, digital tools for next-generation leaders, and sustainable leadership practices. Participants actively engaged in discussions, group activities, and community-building exercises that encouraged critical thinking, empathy, and responsible leadership.



The residential format further enhanced the experience by promoting community living, informal interactions, and the building of lasting friendships. The Closing Ceremony, graced by the Provincial of Patna Jesuits, emphasized the call to lead with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to service. Cultural performances by participants celebrated the rich diversity of regions and traditions, reinforcing unity in diversity. Certificates were awarded in recognition of active participation, and a local sightseeing programme in Patna added a cultural dimension to the experience. The programme concluded on a deeply enriching and inspiring note, successfully achieving its objective of forming reflective, competent, and compassionate young leaders equipped to contribute meaningfully to their institutions and society.

