



## FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### IAJU Board Meets in Rome to Advance the Bogotá Agenda



The Board of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) gathered in Rome on 30–31 March 2026 at the General Curia of the Society of Jesus to take forward the vision outlined at the Bogotá Assembly of July 2025. The meeting served as an important moment of reflection and consolidation, as members reviewed the progress of the Strategic Agenda (2024–2028) and reaffirmed their shared commitment to addressing some of the most pressing global challenges of our time. These included democracy and global citizenship, student mental and spiritual well-being, secularization, artificial intelligence, migration and refugees, and environmental justice – areas that continue to shape the mission and priorities of Jesuit higher education worldwide.

The gathering also marked a strengthening of the Board's global character with the induction of five new members representing North America, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific region. Their inclusion reflected IAJU's ongoing effort to ensure broader representation and deeper engagement across its international network.

Over the course of the meeting, representatives from the six regional Jesuit university associations presented their plans for implementing the Bogotá agenda over the next three years. These discussions highlighted both the diversity of local contexts and the shared commitment to collaboration across regions. The work of eight global task forces further underscored this collaborative spirit, as they outlined concrete initiatives in areas such as artificial intelligence, environmental justice, migration, peace and reconciliation, education for marginalized communities, and the holistic well-being of university populations.

A particularly significant moment in the meeting was the interaction with Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus. His reflections invited the Board to think more deeply about the future of Jesuit higher education in a rapidly changing world. He encouraged members to view secularization not merely as a challenge, but as an opportunity to rediscover and articulate Jesuit identity with renewed freedom and clarity. Emphasizing the importance of understanding global trends, he also called for a renewed commitment to democracy as a framework grounded in participation, freedom, and the pursuit of the common good. Fr. Sosa further highlighted the critical importance of collaboration, both within institutions and across the global network, and urged universities to strengthen their service to the poor through inclusive pedagogy, scholarship opportunities, and a clearly defined social mission. Turning to Africa, he emphasized the need for thoughtful and sustainable growth, supported by strong formation in leadership, administration, and teaching.

The Board also devoted attention to key collaborative initiatives that reflect IAJU's global vision. Among these were the Jesuit Global Academy, envisioned as a virtual platform for the formation of faculty and staff, and the proposed Arrupe Center for Peace and Democracy in Hiroshima, which aims to promote research and dialogue on peace, reconciliation, and disarmament. In addition, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to accompanying Jesuit institutions in Africa and Madagascar, exploring practical ways to enhance interregional cooperation and support.

As the meeting concluded, members looked ahead to the next General Assembly, carrying with them a renewed sense of purpose and direction. The Rome gathering not only reinforced the importance of collaboration and shared mission but also signaled a maturing global network, one that is increasingly capable of responding in a coordinated and meaningful way, to the complex challenges facing higher education and society today.

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### Fr General Visits St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata



The visit of Fr. Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata in February 2026, marked a significant and memorable chapter in the institution's journey.

During his time in Kolkata, Fr. Sosa visited the College's Rural Campus at Raghobpur, where he inaugurated Project Udaan, a flagship initiative dedicated to expanding educational access and opportunities in rural communities. The programme seeks to empower local youth through skill development and meaningful engagement, reflecting the College's longstanding commitment to inclusive education and social outreach. The inauguration at Raghobpur stood as a powerful reminder of the Jesuit mission to walk with the marginalized and to bring education to the peripheries.

Later, at the College auditorium, Fr. Sosa addressed a distinguished gathering of the Xaverian Alumni / A.E. His address was both reflective and forward-looking, as he spoke of the enduring responsibility carried by Xaverian alumni in shaping society through integrity, compassion, and service. Emphasizing the Jesuit ideal of forming individuals who are "men and women for and with others," he called upon the alumni to remain rooted in these values while engaging with an ever-changing world.

The visit brought together students, faculty, and alumni in a shared moment of pride and reflection. It reaffirmed the deep connections that bind St. Xavier's College to the global Jesuit network and highlighted its continued commitment to excellence, equity, and social transformation.

## FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### Academic Collaborations between North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj and Matigara Campus



On 27 March, 2026 North Bengal St. Xavier's College, Rajganj & Matigara Campus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in conjunction with the Confederation of Indian Industries' Young Indians (Yi) initiative to increase friendly and cooperative academic involvement for students. [Read more](#)

### St. Xavier's College Jaipur commences National Student Exchange Program with St. Aloysius (Deemed to Be University), Mangaluru.



On March 15, 2026, a delegation of nine students and two faculty members from St. Xavier's College Jaipur embarked on an enriching educational and cultural exchange programme at St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru. The program was organized by the Faculty Development Training & Exchange Program Cell (FDTEPC) in collaboration with the Xavier Institute of Management and Informatics (XIMI), Jaipur. This initiative is designed to foster academic partnerships and provide students with valuable cultural exposure. By prioritizing experiential learning outside the traditional classroom setting, this exchange highlights a continued commitment to holistic education and meaningful inter-institutional engagement. [Read more](#)

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### St. Joseph University, Bengaluru hosts Talks on Women’s Empowerment



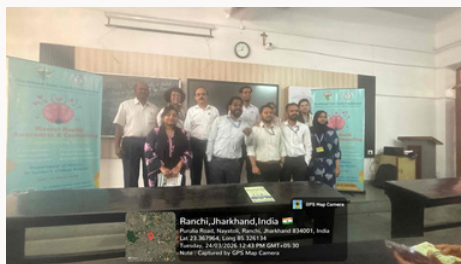
On March 17, 2026 The Women’s Cell of St Joseph’s University, Bengaluru, in association with the Institution’s Innovation Council (IC), organised a thought-provoking talk on “Women Empowerment” at the University Auditorium. The session was delivered by Ms. Nazneen Banu, IDSE, a distinguished serving officer of the Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE). In her address Banu spoke about her personal journey and her upbringing in Bihar where the educations of the girl child was a question. She also spoke about her professional life and the under-representation of women in the field of IDSE. The session deeply resonated with the audience and served as an inspiring call to young women to dream beyond limitations and boldly chart their own paths. [Read more](#)

### Empowering Minds and Inspiring Futures: Outreach in Science Education and Mental Health Awareness

A sensitisation and outreach programme was organised by the Science Club, Department of Education, and IQAC of St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi, at Kishore Nagar School, Namkum, on March 26, 2026. Members of the club showcased improvised models depicting scientific principles. A quiz game (Snakes and Ladders) was also conducted on science-related content.



The Club President, Dr. Anupama Bhargava, explained to the students how science is useful and significant in their daily lives. The Head of the Department, Fr. Dr. Florence Purty, encouraged them to take a keen interest in science and scientific activities. The Principal of the school, Fr. Walter, thanked St. Xavier’s College for this initiative. The Science Club also gifted improvised models and handmade charts to the school. All the members of the club actively participated in the programme.



The Department of History, in collaboration with the Jharkhand Government Youth Commission and the Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, organized a one-day Mental Health Awareness Programme in the college on March 24, 2026, to promote psychological well-being among students.

The programme featured interactive sessions by mental health professionals on stress, anxiety, and coping strategies, while also encouraging open discussions to reduce stigma around mental health. It was well received and reinforced the institution’s commitment to supporting the overall well-being of its students.

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### Faculty Exchange Program between St. Xavier's College, Maitighar, and St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli



Three professors from St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, Department of English, were warmly welcomed at St. Xavier's College, Maitighar, Kathmandu for a week-long Faculty Exchange Program from 26-31 March, 2026. This marked the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February 2024. The program was organised by the Department of Major Arts in partnership with the Office of International Collaboration. Selected students from various disciplines participated in a research-focused workshop on academic writing and publication. This collaboration featured a faculty workshop on creative pedagogical practices, guest lectures, and academic discussions, aimed at enhancing teaching practices and fostering research collaboration. The program also included a session on academic audit procedures and a roundtable on interdisciplinary teaching and extended to outreach initiatives at Pokhara University's IACER and Kanjirowa National School.

### Gold Medal in Indo-Nepal International Athletics Series: St. Joseph's College, Hassan



On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Thejesh K.S, a 1<sup>st</sup> Year BBA student from St. Joseph's College, Hassan brought laurels to the institution on an international stage. He clinched the Gold Medal in the 800 meters event at the Youth Games, Indo-Nepal International Athletics Series, held in Pokhara, Nepal. Demonstrating exceptional endurance and determination, he completed the race with an impressive timing of 1:59 seconds, setting a new Nepal record in the event.

## FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### CSR Contributions from Hitachi, Chennai to St. Joseph's Pre-University College



On 5 March, 2026 St. Joseph's Pre-University College (SJPU) gratefully acknowledged the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions from Hitachi Rail STS India Private Limited and Hitachi Rail STS SpA Project, Chennai, a sum of Rs. 16,00,000. The scholarship supports deserving students from economically poor backgrounds. Mr. Manoj, CEO of Hitachi Rail STS India Private Limited, along with his team, formally presented the cheques to Fr. Joy Rodrigues SJ, Director of SJPU, who had authored the CSR project proposal.

### Career opportunities for marginalised students at St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bengaluru.



Mission Magis is a community-driven initiative of St. Joseph's College of Commerce launched in November 2025 with the objective of supporting students from marginalized communities by providing better career and employment opportunities. To further strengthen the programme, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Disciples Corporate School to provide professional training and placement assistance. After a training programme in February, a recruitment drive was organised between 31 March and 2 April 2026. The following companies conducted interviews for students from St. Joseph's College, Hassan, Loyola College, Manvi, and Loyola College Bannerghatta: TCS, AISECT Ltd., HDB Financial, City Union Bank, Muthoot Finance, Disciples Abroad, Startek, and Lenskart. By providing students with practical exposure to recruitment processes, the initiative aspires to foster social responsibility and empower students through meaningful career opportunities.

## FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai organises 3<sup>rd</sup> Xaverian International FIDE Rating Open Chess Tournament.



From 19 March to 22 March, 2026 St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> Xaverian International FIDE Rating Open Chess Tournament in association with the Tirunelveli District Chess Development Association ( TDCDA). More than 150 players participated in the tournament which included Grandmasters (GMs), International Chess Federation (FIDE) rated players across the region. A total of 8 Rounds were played under the Swiss-System with a time control of 90 minutes + 30 seconds increment per move. Prizes were awarded for specific age groups (under- 7,9,11,13,15) as well as for the categories for Best Veteran and Physically Challenged.

### Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA) organises Start Up Mela.



On 15 March 2026, the Innovation Incubation Council (IIC) of Loyola Institute of Business Administration, (LIBA) in collaboration with the Prof. C.K. Prahalad Centre for Emerging India (CKPC), and the Centre for Artificial Intelligence (CAI), with Espire Club, organised a Startup Mela. It brought rural entrepreneurs from social centres of the Jesuit Chennai province to the campus with the goal of nurturing rural entrepreneurship for building an inclusive and sustainable economy. The Chief Guest, Mr. Jegan Selvaraj, CEO of Entrans Inc, Infisign Inc, and Thunai AI, shared his entrepreneurial journey and encouraged the participants to leverage technology, resilience, and collaboration. The best business ideas were awarded to the women from Ahal centre and JMMEx

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### XLRI- Xavier School of Management, Delhi to open new campus in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh



On 13 March, 2026, XLRI – Xavier School of Management signed an agreement that will lead to the creation of its third flagship campus in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. Speaking about this, Fr. George Sebastian, Director of XLRI Jamshedpur, pointed out that “this campus is going to be designed as a future-ready ecosystem where innovation, sustainability, and responsible leadership will coalesce into the creation of leaders who make the world a better place.” Due to its developing status as a governance and learning center, Amaravati is a perfect destination for this initiative from one of India’s leading schools in education. XLRI hopes to accommodate 1,000 students enrolled in full-time courses as well as 200 enrolled in part-time and executive programmes in the new campus. The campus will be designed as a “future-ready” and sustainable academic campus. The institution will offer state-of-the-art classrooms and collaboration spaces compliant with international accreditation standards.

### St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata organises International Conference on MSMEs and Strategizing.



On 13 March and 14 March, 2026 St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata (SXUK) successfully held its 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on “Indian MSMEs @2047: Greening as a Global Strategy”. The event was organized by the Fr. Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI) in blended mode which brought together 100 delegates and featured 68 research papers. The inaugural session was led by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ, Vice-Chancellor of SXUK, who emphasized sustainability-driven business models. The university also released a new publication, “New Frontiers in Commerce and Management Studies”. The event had international speakers including experts from Italy, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, and India. A special panel of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs including a Shark Tank winner and “The Toilet Man of Bengal”, Dr. Arijit Banerjee, discussed real-world green challenges. Technical tracks covered circular economy, financing sustainability and digital innovation. A training session on research publication was conducted for young scholars.

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### St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata celebrates Women's Day at Raghampur campus launching Project Udaan and hosts Oxford style International Debate Competition



On International Women's Day (8 March 2026), the Centre of Gender Studies at the Raghampur Campus of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, in collaboration with the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA), launched Project UDAAN – "Learn & Earn", an initiative aimed at empowering rural women through skill development and livelihood opportunities. The programme received an encouraging response, with over 250 women registering to participate. The project will provide free hands-on training in producing marketable items such as designer envelopes, rakhis, gift bags and pickles, enabling women to earn sustainably. The training and marketing support will be led by Sangita Sureka along with the SXCCAA Philanthropy Team. The launch event was attended by distinguished guests including Swati Nandi Chakraborty and actress Mimi Dutta, who appreciated the initiative promoting grassroots women's empowerment.



On 14 March, 2026, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata hosted an international debate, "X-Change", organised by the Students' Council in association with the Xaverian Debating Society. The initiative brought together students from various Jesuit institutions across India and Nepal. The debate aimed to encourage reflective thinking and academic dialogue among students. Participants included Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, St Xavier's College Kathmandu, St Xavier's University Kolkata, St Xavier's College Burdwan, St Xavier's College of Management and Technology Patna, St. Joseph College, Darjeeling and North Bengal St Xavier's College. It followed the Oxford-style debate format known for its structured approach to arguments. The topic for the debate was "This House believes that Artificial Intelligence is Undermining Human Originality." St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata was the champion, with St. Xavier's College, Kathmandu, the first runners up and St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, the second runners up

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### Crystal Year Celebration and an eventful month at Loyola - ICAM College of Engineering and Technology



The Crystal Year and the 15th College Day of Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology (LICET), celebrated on 26th March 2026, was conducted with great enthusiasm, marking fifteen years of academic excellence and holistic development. The event commenced with a vibrant procession themed “Spirit of LICET,” followed by cultural and devotional presentations reflecting the institution’s values. Rev. Dr. Justin Yassappan SJ delivered the welcome address, highlighting LICET’s growth and achievements. The Chief Guest of the day was Shri Vijay Sankar. A key highlight was the release of the Crystal Reflections souvenir and an annual video showcasing institutional milestones



The SHE Forum of Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology, Chennai, organized the Women’s Day Celebration 2026 on 6th March under the coordination of Dr. G. Kavitha, Dean of Women Students, to honor women’s achievements and student talents from Meraki’26.



The Youth Red Cross (YRC) Club of LICET organized a First Aid Training Program to equip students with essential life-saving and emergency response skills. The session, conducted by Mr. S. Prakash from the Indian Red Cross Society, Chennai, covered key topics such as the importance of first aid, emergency helpline numbers, CPR techniques, fire safety measures, and handling choking incidents

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The Department of Information Technology, in association with the Computer Society of India, organized TechNova on 17th March 2026, a technical event aimed at promoting innovation and technical skills among students.

The Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science organized the Industry–Academia Conclave 2026 on the theme “Resilience, Innovation & Agility in the Age of AI” for students and faculty. Moderated by Mr. Nelson Naveen, CEO & Founder of Catepilla, Origine, and Clenz AI, the conclave featured eminent speakers from Cognizant, Verizon, Yashmia Consulting & Technologies, and Tata Consultancy Services.

Students of the institute displayed their skills too. Team TORQUE TWISTERS from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, guided by Mr. M. Martin Charles, AP/Mech, participated in RIVALS 2026 – the 7th National Level Mini Bike Race organized by Karagam Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, and was awarded “Best Team – 100 cc.” The team was the only one to integrate a life-saving innovation through a dirt bike, incorporating a Fire Detection and Fire Extinguishing (FD & FE) system. P. Jinisha Sagaya Princy, T. Kaviya, and X. John Arockia Xavier from Third Year ECE, along with Durkesh Kumar from Fourth Year IT, secured the Technical Excellence Award for their project titled “CFD-Optimized IoT-Based Smart Storage System for Onions” in the e-Yantra Innovation Challenge (eYIC) 2025–2026, organized by IIT Bombay, under the guidance of Mr. F. P. Mahimai Don Bosco, AP/ECE.