



JHEASA Higher Ed News

June 2026

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FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

JHEASA Strategic Planning Meeting, May 2026



Based on the strategic planning meeting and policy formulation process of JHEASA held at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, from 13–16 May, 2026, the JHEASA Policy Group headed by Dr. Paul Newman undertook a comprehensive exercise to strengthen Jesuit higher education in South Asia. Fourteen delegates from South Asia attended this meeting. The Keynote Address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Felix Raj, SJ, Vice-Chancellor, SXUK on the topic “JHEASA and Jesuit Higher Education Institution-The way forward.” The deliberations of the meeting focused on governance, resource sharing, institutional sustainability, human resource development, quality standards, and collaborative apostolic planning. The meeting culminated in the adoption of key resolutions and action points, laying the foundation for a strengthened governance structure, shared resource network, minimum institutional standards, and a common apostolic plan for higher education in the region. Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Secretary of JHEASA, was gratefully acknowledged for his dedicated coordination of the strategic planning process, which significantly contributed to the successful formulation of the policy framework and future roadmap for Jesuit higher education in South Asia.

JISTF Bi-Annual Meeting Brief: Health and Plastics

JESUITS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM (JISTF)
Organises Biannual Special Lecture Series on
"The Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics"
PROF. PHILIP J. LANDRIGAN, MD, MSC
Boston College, MA, USA
Professor of Biology
Director, Global Observatory on Planetary Health
Director, Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good
27 June, 2026
Saturday, 6 pm
<https://meet.google.com/igb-zvcg-gfw>
COORDINATOR
Prof. Xavier Savarimuthu, SJ
JISTF

The Jesuits in Science and Technology Forum (JISTF) held its second bi-annual Special Lecture Series “The Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics” on 27 June 2026, bringing together 28 Jesuit scientists and scholars. The highly enriching discussions on the critical health and environmental impacts of plastic pollution drew on The Lancet’s latest research, integrating scientific inquiry with the Jesuit mission to care for our common home.

The session opened with a prayer led by Rev. Fr. Leoline, followed by a welcome address from Rev. Fr. Stanislaus D’Souza, SJ, President of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA). Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Secretary of the Jesuit Higher Education Association South Asia (JHEASA), delivered a note of appreciation. Prof. Xavier Savarimuthu, SJ, Coordinator of the Jesuits in Science and Technology Forum (JISTF), hosted the session and introduced the keynote speaker. Professor Philip Landrigan, a distinguished paediatrician and public health expert from Boston College, delivered the keynote address detailing research on micro and nano-plastics circulating in human bloodstreams. The vote of thanks was proposed by Father Sumeth P (Sri Lanka), oncologist and cancer research scientist. The Forum resolved to hold its next off-site meeting on January 23–24, 2027, at St Aloysius University, Mangalore.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Bembala, St. Joseph's Outreach receives Certificate of Appreciation from Government of Karnataka



SJCC's social outreach unit Bembala, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Government of Karnataka for its contribution to Drug Awareness and Responsible Citizenship. The honour was presented by Mr. D. K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister of Karnataka, and Mr. Priyank Kharge, Minister of Home Affairs of Karnataka, recognizing the institution's vision for social concern.

St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Autonomous), Bangalore, signs MoU with AICPA and CIMA



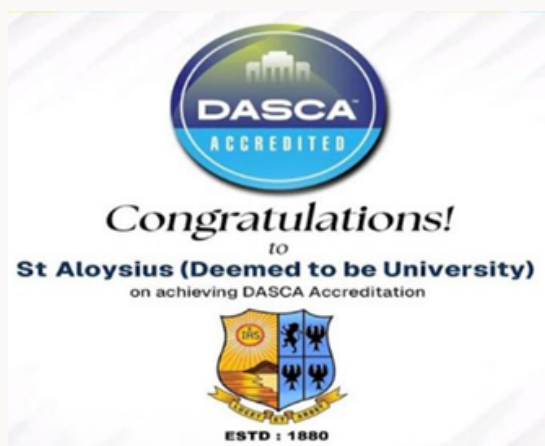
St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Autonomous), Bangalore signed an MoU with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) & the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) on 3 June 2026 to strengthen finance and accounting career pathways in India and met delegates from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) UK, and the International Skill Development Corporation (ISDC) to prepare for the global curriculum revisions scheduled for September 2027.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

St Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru becomes Second Deemed University in State to Achieve UGC Category-I Status, Vice chancellor receives rank of Honorary Colonel, along with achieving prestigious DASCA Accreditation



On June 22, 2026, St Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru achieved a historic milestone by securing the prestigious Category-I status under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Graded Autonomy Regulations. The institution was placed among the elite group of India's highest-performing higher educational universities. St Aloysius holds the coveted NAAC A++ grade with an outstanding CGPA of 3.67 on a four-point scale, reflecting excellence across all dimensions of higher education. With this achievement, St Aloysius becomes only the second Deemed to be University in the state of Karnataka to be granted Category-I status by the UGC.



On 4 June 2026, St Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru, achieved a significant milestone by earning the prestigious Data Science Council of America (DASCA) Accreditation. The recognition fosters St Aloysius University's commitment to preparing students for the rapidly evolving digital economy by assimilating innovative technologies, data-driven learning, and industry-aligned educational practices into its academic foundation. The accreditation also reflects the University's continuous efforts to bolster innovation, interdisciplinary learning, research excellence, and global competitiveness among its students and faculty.

St. Xavier's College, Mumbai celebrates National Statistics Day



On 29 June 2026, the Regional Office (Mumbai) of the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), in collaboration with St. Xavier's College, Mumbai organized the 20th National Statistics Day. The event was held at the Fr. Palacios Hall of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. The central theme for the event was "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data". The event marked the 133rd birth anniversary of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, the foundational architect of the Indian statistical system. The event focused on discussions which included using routine governance databases to improve data quality, drive evidence-based public policy, and replace paperwork with real-time statistics. The program was spearheaded by Chief Guest Dr. Nirupama J. Dange, IAS, Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Mumbai, alongside regional statistics officials. The program highlighted presentation evolving roles of the National Sample Survey (NSS) and data triangulation methods to support socio-economic planning across India.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Loyola College, Mettala, Celebrates Anti-Drug Club



On 30 June 2026, the Anti-Drug Club of Loyola College, Mettala organised a Drug Awareness Programme with a campus-wide campaign to promote healthy living. The key moto of the program was “Choose Life, Not Drugs”. Implemented in alignment with national health initiatives, the awareness drive focused on educating students about the physiological, mental, and legal consequences of substance abuse. Dr. R. Vijayaragavan, Additional Superintendent of Police, Namakkal District, was the resource person for the programme. D. Roselin Anthoniammal, Sub-Inspector of Police, Cybercrime Police Station, Namakkal District attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. Both speakers outlined the strict legal penalties of drug abuse while medical experts explained the severe health damage caused by addiction. The event was spearheaded by key college officials, including the Principal Dr. J. Josephine Daisy and the club coordinators, emphasizing collective responsibility and peer support. Students, faculty, and administrative heads collectively took a formal pledge to reject substance abuse and promote accountability within the campus community

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Trichy celebrates International Yoga Day with 3 Tamil Nadu Air Squadron (Tech) NCC



The International Day of Yoga 2026 was celebrated at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Trichy, on 20 June 2026 as a joint venture between the college administration, the Department of Physical Education, and the 3TN Air Squadron (Tech) NCC. A huge congregation comprising Air Wing NCC cadets, volunteers, and staff members gathered very early in the morning. The event was organized to spread awareness about the global health theme of this year, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”. Synchronized mass rallies were conducted by the attendees using the usual Common Yoga Protocol (CYP). Suggestions for the incorporation of yoga into academic life were provided by the organizers during the interactive sessions.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

St. Xavier's (Autonomous), Palayamkottai collaborates with St. Joseph College (Autonomous), Trichy over research publication programme



The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai collaborated with the IQAC of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Trichy to organise "An Inter-Institutional Collaborative One-Day Research Publication Workshop" on 25 June 2026 where the students learnt the basics of research, from reputed faculty from various colleges like Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Ignacimuthu, SJ, Rector, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai, and Dr. S. Arumugam, Senior Professor of Mathematics Kalasalingam University, Krishnankoil.

St. Xavier's (Autonomous), Mahuadanr's Principal conferred with Doctor of Letters



Rev. Dr. Joseph MK, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (D. Litt), (Honoris Causa) by the University of Central America for his accomplishments in public life in promoting education for establishing a just and equitable society.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Xavier Institute of Engineering, Mumbai (XIE) Faculty Lead Cyber-Security Training Initiative at KoJUS, Burkina Faso



Two faculty members from the Department of Applied Sciences and Humanities at Xavier Institute of Engineering (XIE), Mr. Dnyaneshwar Kadam and Mr. Mustafa Dosani, arrived at Kosyam Jesuit University in Burkina Faso on 4 June 2026 to undertake an academic outreach and research initiative. The professors will spend a total of 45 days at the university, engaging in intensive academic research while conducting a specialized technical training programme for local students. As part of this collaboration, they are delivering a six-week curriculum titled “Foundations of Cybersecurity Automation with Python.” The programme has been designed to provide students with a strong foundation in computing and cybersecurity, progressing from basic programming concepts to enterprise-level data processing and security applications. The programme will culminate in a capstone project presentation, where participants will showcase integrated utilities developed during the course, reflecting the knowledge and practical expertise gained throughout the six-week training.

Xavier School of Management (XLRI), Jamshedpur achieves Triple Crown Accreditation along with getting stage at 3rd ET Education Annual Education Summit



XLRI achieved the prestigious Triple Crown Accreditation by earning EQUIS accreditation, joining the elite group of institutions globally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), Association of MBAs (AMBA), and EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). This significant milestone reaffirms XLRI’s unwavering commitment to academic excellence, global quality standards, impactful research and responsible management education. Further strengthening its global academic presence, Dr. (Fr.) Sebastian George, SJ, Director, XLRI, represented the Institute as an esteemed speaker at the 3rd ET Education Annual Education Summit 2026 in New Delhi, contributing to the national dialogue on “The Great Curriculum Reset: Designing Degrees for Jobs That Don’t Yet Exist” His participation reflected XLRI’s continued leadership in shaping the future of higher education, innovation and responsible management learning.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, meets Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Higher Education and Technical Education, Government of West Bengal



Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, paid a courtesy visit to Shri Jagannath Chattopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Higher Education and Technical Education, Government of West Bengal, and Chairman of the West Bengal State Council of Higher Education, at Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata, on 25th June 2026. During the meeting, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Hon'ble Minister on his recent appointment and conveyed his best wishes for his leadership in further strengthening higher and technical education in the state. As a token of goodwill and appreciation, he also presented a memento of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, to the Hon'ble Minister.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reaffirm the shared commitment towards promoting excellence, innovation, and holistic development in higher education in West Bengal.

Courtesy Visit of Shri Kalita Majhi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing Department, Government of West Bengal to St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.



On 22 June 2026, Shri Kalita Majhi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing Department, Government of West Bengal, and MLA, Ausgram, paid a courtesy visit to St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. During his visit, he met Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of the College, and held a cordial discussion on matters of mutual interest, including higher education, social development, and community welfare. The visit reaffirmed the longstanding spirit of mutual respect and constructive engagement between St. Xavier's College and the Government of West Bengal, reflecting a shared commitment to educational excellence and the holistic development of society. The College deeply appreciated the Minister's gracious visit, which further strengthened the relationship between the institution and the Government in advancing initiatives for the public good.

FEATURED NEWS FROM JHEASA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

The students of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata in collaboration with the Kolkata Police, took part in "Daud Se Dhyan", an initiative of the Govt. of West Bengal



On 19th June 2026, the students of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata in collaboration with the Kolkata Police, took part in "Daud Se Dhyan", an initiative of the Govt. of West Bengal, the event is part of the state's official build-up to International Yoga Day (June 21). The initiative is designed to encourage citizens, especially the youth and the senior citizens, to embrace a healthy lifestyle by combining regular physical activity, followed by guided yoga sessions, encouraging a holistic approach to health and wellness.

The students assembled at the Victoria Memorial for a spirited 2km run followed by a rejuvenating yoga session. The event provided a wonderful experience, promoting physical fitness, and mental well-being among the students.