

# Goethals News

The Goethals Indian Library & Research Society, Kolkata

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## St. Xavier's College Vision 2020

**S**t. Xavier's is a Jesuit Institution with one history but many stories, one fire with many sparks; it forms men and women for others, men and women who display competence, commitment, conscience and compassion. One of the ten best Colleges in India credited with autonomous status and a College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) status, it is "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held

high". St. Xavier's is the work of God and it shall continue and excel as it fosters sacred sentiments - "*Seemar Majhe Ashim Tumi.*" We celebrate a legacy of 153 years and pledge to prosper with our motto, '*Nihil Ultra (Nothing Beyond).*' We journey with dedication and determination to illuminate the minds of many with enduring wisdom. Though it has already made its mark in the world of higher education, it needs to

expand so that it can cater to a larger number of meritorious as well as needy students in the days to come. The stage is now set for a Jesuit University in Bengal, which is everyone's dream.

It is a march towards new directions. We have initiated Vision SXC 2020. We invite all, Xaverians and Friends, to join the SXC Vision 2020.

- Fr. J. Felix Raj, SJ

### Blessing of the Site



Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal and others during the blessing of the foundation stone of the St. Xavier's College's new campus in Rajarhat, Kolkata.

# St. Xavier's College (30 Mother Teresa Sarani)

By Fr. Dr. Xavier Savarimuthy, SJ  
HOD, Department of Environmental Studies  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)

“**A**midst all the lament and despondence of the millions around you, O Ganges, how can you flow on so silently?” - with this bewildering question echoing in their hearts, on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1859, 155 years ago, seven Jesuit pilgrims from Belgium ventured their journey into this *Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)*. St. Xavier's College was established on 16th January, 1860 as the first seed of the Bengal Mission, ie. today's Kolkata Province. Yes, 154 years, a very long time indeed. The seed that was sown by Fr. Henry Depelchin with the other six Jesuit Fathers, has grown into a large, all-encompassing tree, sheltering 17 UG, 5 PG and 1 B.Ed courses, and under Career Oriented Programmes e also have 5 Certificate and 4 Diploma Courses, and 5 IGNOU Convergence Courses. It has a total strength of 236 teaching faculty, 154 support staff and 7184 students on the rolls. As one of the ten best Colleges in India, credited with autonomous status and a College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) status, its portals stand as “*Seemar Majhe Ashim Tumi*” and its “mind is without fear and the head is held high”.

Today, St. Xavier's College has its added wings in the form of expansion in the following sectors; 1. Park Street Main Hostel, 2.

Central Library, 3. Observatory, 4. Central Research Facility Lab, 5. Jubilee Building, 6. Mini - Auditorium, 7. Cyber Room and 8. Student Facility Centres.

## **A. Park Street Main Hostel into Central Library and College of Education**

Park Street Main Hostel got its space added vertically in the form of third floor adding another 9000 sq.ft to its existing 27000 sq.ft. When it is Christened as Fr. Leeming's Block, remembering a legend who had been a hostel superintendent for 36 years, it will have four floors with a lift facility. The Central Library will be housed in the ground and the first floor having 18000 sq.ft. at its disposal for a state of the art book keeping and reading room facility. The 18000 sq.ft within the third and fourth floor will have the College of Education, with its future aspirations of adding one more section and gradually travelling towards the Post Graduate



Department of Education (M.Ed).

## **B. Observatory**

Fr. Eugene Lafont established meteorological and astronomical observatories at St. Xavier's College in 1865. It was his public popular scientific lecture cum-demonstrations in which he excelled over all his other activities. The fine Physical Laboratory, which St. Xavier's College possesses, is all due to this great scientist. J. C. Bose, C. V. Raman etc. were deeply indebted to Fr. Lafont. In November 1867, thanks to a makeshift observatory set on the roof of the College he recorded daily meteorological observations which allowed him to anticipate with much accuracy the arrival of a devastating cyclone. The government authorities were informed and took immediate measures that prevented the loss of many lives.

Today St. Xavier's College has renovated the observatories into two sections. The first section is with the dome and telescope and the other with a sliding roof for observational research. Both will be used for short time and long time research. In the short time use, it will be used for observing variable stars, measuring lunar topography, Cd calibration, photometry,



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# EM Bypass: A space of one's own

By Prof. Ananya Chakraborti  
Head, Dept of MCV & Journalism  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)

The new campus at Eastern Bypass opens up new horizons for the Department of Mass Communication and Videography. The Department is already renowned for its curriculum and faculty, several of them national award winning technicians and film makers of repute. However what was somewhat restricting is the strict regime followed by the College which often was counter-productive to what was needed and required by the demands of this department.

Recently the curriculum of this department was modified to turn it into an integrated course to include Film Studies and Journalism. This makes it a complete media course which offers specializations in media theory and ample opportunity for practice. Therefore the proposal to shift the department to the new campus promises to be of great benefit to the students. An integrated campus with all the facilities of practical application available due to the presence of EMMRC will provide the students

with an opportunity for hands-on experience in all areas of studio production.

The curriculum of the Department of Mass Communication is a peculiar one – with plenty of practical and application oriented sections. On the one hand it has hardcore theory modules in media and cultural studies. On the other it has entire papers in dissertation, workshops, performing arts and writing screenplays. The course therefore demands a flexible approach with a deep understanding of the nature of the subject, which is easier said than done. The task of understanding the differences of

each course and blend them together is not an enviable one. The students too often find it a challenge to fit themselves into the regular regime followed by other disciplines.

The course demands creativity and the ability to think unconventionally. The wide open spaces in the new campus would provide just that. The integrated department in co-operation with EMMRC can therefore duly be called a 'media hub'. It would give the media students an opportunity to follow the rigorous regular regime of the theory component in the regular classes, without disturbing

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Plan for E. M. Bypass College Building

Blessing of the Foundation stone



SXC Campus, Rajarhat

# Shelter For Xaverian Girls

**Rev. Fr. Felix Raj likes to tread the path less travelled and be the first one to dream up things which nobody thought of before. But dreams are valid only when they are chased by action – and that is precisely what this Jesuit priest does and that is what makes him a visionary.... a pioneer!**

I write this because Father has given shape to a 'need' a 'longing' which every girl who has had to cover long distances just to reach the hallowed portals of 30, Park Street has felt strongly - namely a hostel for the girls who study in this prestigious institution.

At a time when everyone is vociferous about 'Women's Rights', Rev Fr. Felix Raj has actually empowered women by simply bridging the distance between their home and their centre of knowledge.

The achievement is of historical value because the institution is not one or ten or fifty but all of 153 years old, where women started studying from 1978. It is pointless to harp upon the benefits of being able to stay at a hostel which is under the large umbrella of St. Xavier's College and be able to study without worrying about the hours and energy spent in transportation, not to mention the safety issues for women on roads today.

When I was a student of English honours in St. Xavier's College, many of my friends who used to live in the suburbs often complained that they were unable to put in the required amount of hours or concentration into their studies

By Hasnu Mukherjee  
Alumni Member (English Hons-1993)  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)



because much of their time was wasted in the journey to and from the college. Also staying and studying along with ones peers enhances and sharpens each students educational skill due to an interchange of ideas, exchange of notes and so on.

As a teacher of a reputed school for the past 15 years when the R.T.E. came into effect I found myself fumbling uncomfortably as I tried to teach a lot of children who came from a very different social background from the rest of my class. In this regard once I had blurted out to Father, "Father, why should I teach these children" to which came the Educationist's sharp retort, "Then who will?" - Once again I got a glimpse into the mind of the economist I admire so much. Father takes the onus of every work upon himself and starts executing it without delay, rooted to the firm Jesuit belief that "If it is God's work, it shall be done."

On behalf of all the women who have studied in St. Xavier's and struggled to reach it or looked for a peaceful haven - a shelter, where they can pursue their education without interruption I want to

express my gratitude to him for making this hostel. I am sure it will help the little -women students of

St. Xavier's College to excel in their own fields, whatever it might be and they will as 'Daughters of God', nurtured amidst Jesuit values, continue to give birth to new ideas and nurse them with the power of truth and love.

## EM Bypass

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their practical exercises and projects. The projects that they follow would not only be studio practicals but also an experience in the Educational projects that are regularly shot and edited for the EMMRC projects. This in much needed practical hands on experience in studio production would automatically give the students a headstart when they go out in the competitive market-place seeking jobs.

There is much to be achieved in terms of expanding into a masters course and a possible hub for media research, possible the only one of its kind in Bengal. In the serenity of the campus surroundings the scholars would find a department with a grand audio-video library, a rich faculty and all the facilities required for higher education related to media. And the added bonus would be a regime created by a clear and complete understanding of the nature of the course. A shift to the new campus is a moment that the department of MCV is eagerly looking forward to.



# SXC Raghampur Campus

By Cheryl Francis

Director, NSS and Dept. of Social Work,  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)

*“Ami biswash korte parchi na je ami o St. Xavier's College e porte parbo” (I can't believe that I too can study at St. Xavier's College), exclaimed 16 - year old Sarika Pailan who studies in class 11 and has been coming regularly for all Sunday visits organized by college students at Shalpokur (a neighbouring village of Raghampur) since she was in class 9.*



Deepika Korali, an earnest and sincere student from Debipur, another neighbouring village is currently studying in class 12. A first-generation learner, she passed her Madhyamik examinations and was elated to learn that St. Xavier's College is beginning its extension centre at Raghampur. Like her, there are many students in the surrounding villages who now see their dream coming true.

This is a clear outcome of the “College to Village, Village to College” project, popularly known as PRAYAS, initiated by Fr. Felix Raj, SJ in 2006. Also known as the “one rupee revolution,” it is an ongoing effort to bring about overall development of the students both in the College and in the Villages. With nine Bengal villages (Debipur, Shalpokur, Ghostomath, Bolorampur, Nurshidarchowk, Bholakhali, Gurap, Jhantipahari and Mirga) under its ambit, Prayas has gradually metamorphosed from being a project into being a full-fledged movement.

*“No elite College goes in search of people who are poor and marginalized. A renowned and reputed College like St. Xavier's going to the rural milieu only proves that the Jesuit option for the poor is enhanced and concretized”,*

said Fr. Joseph Raj, SJ who is presently the Secretary of St. Paul's HS School, Raghampur.

Prayas has turned out to be a remarkably successful endeavour - the primary objective being the provision of continuous support and assistance to the less fortunate children, both academically and materially. Since its inception, the number of villages under Prayas increased rapidly. Initially there were only two villages, Gurap and Pandua in Hooghly district. However, from 2007 onwards there was no looking back. Within a span of eight years, we have spread our work to nine villages of which six are situated in South 24 Parganas.

*“What differentiates Prayas from many social initiatives is that it has stayed the course. I am delighted that a new campus is being set up at Raghampur because of the Prayas initiative. I am particularly happy because I had worked at Raghampur as part of the Prayas initiative. Our small efforts are bearing fruit”,* replied Asad Rauf of Comp. Sc, 04-07 batch, when asked to share his thoughts on the Raghampur project.

The foremost component of the

movement is the organization of Prayas camps. The camps (College to Village and Village to College) have played a very important role in motivating the village children to pursue higher education. From 2006 to 2013, there were 48 'College to Village' camps held where almost 800 College students participated. From 2007 to 2013, 12 'Village to College' camps were held wherein more than 600 village children were involved. It was during the latter that village children got an opportunity to remain in the College premises for three days per camp. The College,

through the students provided these young boys and girls from the villages with a dream- a dream to study further, to be well-read and perhaps, to one day call themselves a Xaverian. The 'dadas' and 'didis' became their role models. Till today the College students spend their Sundays in these villages teaching and sharing their life. In fact, these villages are called “our extended families”

With the Raghampur campus, many such dreams will be fulfilled. Ropena Naskar, a 15 year old girl from Ghostomath wants to be “an independent and educated woman”. She now feels that her parents will allow her to receive college education as she will not have to travel far from her home and she will also have the company of her other friends for her security, which is naturally a major concern for parents.

About 50 parents from four villages who were recently interviewed regarding this initiative were extremely optimistic. Debjani Dolui, a parent from Nurshidarchowk said, “Ami khub khushi je ekhon amader gramer chele-meyera St. Xavier's College e

## New St. Xavier's College at Raghampur



*pore bhalo chakri pabey.* (I'm very happy that now our village children will get good jobs after studying in St. Xavier's College). Others spoke about how they would not hesitate to send their daughters to College for further studies.

When we began our work in Debipur initially, we found that children, especially girls, dropped out of school after the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> standard. In stark contrast, today we find students who have completed M.A. and are pursuing B.Ed. A good number of students, mostly girls, have completed 12<sup>th</sup> standard and are presently attending Government Colleges for which they need to travel considerably long distances. For them, St. Xavier's College at Raghampur will prove to be a blessing. As Fr. Dejus of Baruipur Diocese rightly puts it,

*"Now these village children will develop well. They will not have the fear of an elite College, its culture, language and environment etc. They would now feel more confident and at home with the environment which will encourage them to study better."*

The immense commitment with which this work is undertaken reaps its reward in the hope and trust that the village residents bestow on St. Xavier's College and the activities that the College undertakes on their behalf. The presence of St. Xavier's College's extension centre in Raghampur will certainly bring about positive change in the people of the area. It will provide an opportunity to village children to realise their academic aspirations.

Mrs. Uma Majhi the village animator from Debipur who helped coordinate all the village activities with the College was extremely grateful when she heard about the Raghampur campus and this is what she had to say, *"Ami Father Felix Raj ke dhonobad ditechai je uni ei gramer unnotir jonno gramer chelemeider bhalo porashorar babosta korchen. St. Xavier's*

*College e pore gramer jubok ebon jubikara/ ekta bhalo pothe cholte shikbe".* (I want to thank Fr. Felix Raj for making way for the development of the villages and making this arrangement for the village children. After graduating from St. Xavier's College, our village youth will surely lead a good and successful life.)

The SXC campus at Raghampur is ready to kick start this academic session beginning July 2014. Bengali Honors, Commerce and B.A. General will be offered initially. Though the medium of instruction will be Bengali, special classes in English will be held for the students. Along with formal education, the College plans to offer vocational training, computer skills, and courses on spoken English, along with co-curricular activities like sports, social service, NCC, dance and music. This would help build their personalities and enhance their prospects in the job market.

So many dreams..... so many aspirations.... so many expectations..... on the verge of being fulfilled. This will be possible only with a dedicated and committed group of faculty, cooperation from the local leaders and persistent support of parents and the village community.

## PLAN FOR SXC - RAJARHAT CAMPUS



**"I am 'a member of the Xaverian family'. My government's allotment of 16.65 acres of land to St. Xavier's is an investment in the promise of quality education. It is our intention with a vision for tomorrow. St. Xavier's College is a name and it will be a University tomorrow and gain fame not only in Bengal but the world. I am ready to contribute to the College from the proceeds of my paintings. This is the age of expansion, equity and excellence. Let me know about anything that I can do for you, I will always be by your side".**

**- Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, India, while Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of the St. Xavier's College 's new campus in Rajarhat, Kolkata on December 27, 2013.**



## St. Xavier's College

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atmospheric extinction of stars and solar observation. In the long term use the observatory will be used for B.Sc and M.Sc students of astrophysics for their research projects. It will be involved in exchange programs with other institutes, of which St. Joseph's College, Bangalore is already involved with. Outreach programs for the school students will be carried out on this renewed structures.

### C. Central Research Facility Lab

The glory of an academic institution rests on the integral scientific research it performs. Keeping this objective in mind, with the UGC grant, the College is well equipped with a state of the art Central Research Facility Lab on the fourth floor above the Chapel. The science and bio-science departments carry out quality research program with the guidance from the faculty to the research scholars pursuing their doctoral research. At present there are 14 research scholars carrying out various research in the field of microbiology and biotechnology.

### D. Jubilee Building

The Jubilee Building attained a renovated third floor with cooler class rooms, editing and animation labs in the third floor for the Multimedia Department. Xavier's Academy of Dance and Music (XADAM) is gifted with a spacious hall and a class room in the same floor. The renovation will give them modern facilities to conduct courses related to modern fine arts.

### E. Joris Corner and Cyber Room

Remembering "Papa Joris" of the Commerce Department, the student facilities for stationery, buying mementos of the institute, Xeroxing is placed in the ground floor of the Jubilee Building. The text books



written by the faculty of the College or important prescribed textbooks for the courses offered at the institute is made available in the Joris Corner. Internet facility for the students is made available in the Cyber Room next to the Joris Corner. There are 52 computers with internet browsing, printing and scanning facilities. Students make use of the Cyber Room to get themselves upto date with information technology and for assignment preparations.

The former 'Green Room' and the 'Computer Centre' are converted into a mini auditorium named after former general of the Jesuits, Fr. Pedro Arrupe. It is well utilised for fresher's welcome, farewell functions of the various departments and other associations for conferences and interviews. The syndicate Bank will be setting up a ATM counter meant for students and the public at the back gate area of the College.

This amazing growth of St. Xavier's College in Kolkata province has taken place only because we have always tried to achieve our goal which is, to serve mankind, to enrich the spiritual thoughts in the human souls, and to spread the divine light of knowledge in

everyone. And throughout this endeavor, God's grace has always been with us. In the words of St. Ignatius, "We do everything for the greater glory of God, by only seeking His Grace and Love."

Swami Vivekananda, the youth icon of Bengal once said, "Get up, and set your shoulder to the wheel - how long is this life for? As you have come into this world, leave some mark behind. Otherwise where is the difference between you and the trees and stones? - They too come into existence, decay and die .."

According to The Bible's 'The Acts of the Apostles', we can quote that, "If what they have planned and done is of human origin, it will disappear, but if it comes from God, you cannot possibly defeat them". - Keeping this in mind we should always try to move from falsehood to the truth, from darkness to the light, and from mortality to immortality.

At the very end let us recapitulate the words of one of Bengal's finest sons, Rabindranath Tagore, who said, "O Lord, Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might". These words should challenge the faculties and students to commit their lives to the cause of the poor and the marginalized.

## Salt Lake Loyola House

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) has a **Guest House** (Loyola House) in Salt Lake. The House is meant for **Professors** and **Foreign Students** who come for **Exchange Programmes**.



## Researchers at Goethals



**Debashis Debnath** on Archive, Hooghly, W.B..

**Deepti Myriam Joseph** on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women Missionaries in Bengal, Kolkata.

**Francis Sunil Rosario** on Social Teachings of the Church and Leadership in Bengal, Kolkata.

**Joppa George** on Indian History in 19th to 22nd Century, Princeton University, USA.

**Saptarshi Mallick** on Serampore Missionaries, Hooghly, W.B.

**Schildmann** on German Cultural History, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.



## Lecture and Visit to the Library

**Dr. Francis X. Clooney, SJ**, *Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology, Harvard Divinity School and Director of the Center for the Study of World Religions* spoke on “**Inter-Religious Learning as Christian Value**”

on 27 - 01- 2014 at Xavier Hall, St. Xavier's College. It was very successful and well attended. The Goethals Indian Library and Research Society had organised the lecture.

## New Arrivals

**Holistic Vision** by Holistic Science Research Center, Krishna Graphics, Gujarat, India. 2013.

**The Church and Human Rights** by CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development, New Delhi, 2012.

**Tripod - The Social Teachings of the Catholic Church** by Kin Kwok Printing Press Ltd., Hong Kong, China, 2010.

**Violence in Today's Society** by Shalini Mulackal & Roy Lazar A, Indian Theological Association (ITA), Bangalore, India, 2011.



## mails & emails

A rich mine, where the gold is sure to inspire minds in millions - **Saptarshi Mallick**, Hooghly, W.B.

I've been here before, some three years ago. Its an excellent eclectic collection - **Joppa George**, Princeton University, USA.

Very Beautiful, quite and good working atmosphere - **Schildmann**, Humboldt University, Germany.

It is great to visit this place again and again, well maintained - **Debashis Debnath**, Hooghly.

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