



Goethals News

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St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK)

The seed of a University has been embedded in St. Xavier's College since its inception in 1860. History reveals that the College was in a mode of expansion in many ways. The hallmark of the College, as stated in the almanacs of 1880 and onwards, observes that 'the course of study embraces all subjects and transcends the standards of post-graduation.'

Again the Rector's Report of 1906 refers to an inspection by a body of members appointed by the Senate of the Calcutta University – the observations made by the members regard St. Xavier's with the ability of expansion into further spheres of education, appreciating the prospect and proposal of

Fr. J. Felix Raj, SJ

upgradation into the status of a University.

In January 2012, when the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee was the Chief Guest for the occasion of Convocation, she invited St. Xavier's College to be upgraded to the status of a University. And we could hear the ancient voice of history beckoning us.

Subsequently, I, as the Principal of the College appointed a committee to prepare a DPR (Detailed Project Report). The committee had many meetings and prepared a draft of the St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Bill 2016. We had a number of meetings with the Higher Education

Department of the State Government to take this proposal forward.

With the unstinted support of the Alumni Association, St. Xavier's College began 'Vision 2020' project. The Alumni Association and some individual alumni whole-heartedly and actively participated in this 'Vision 2020.' It has been a hard work and our perseverance has today, by the blessings of the Almighty, borne fruit. St. Xavier's University Kolkata has come into effect.

I express my gratitude to the Government of West Bengal and the West Bengal Assembly for having passed the St. Xavier's University Kolkata Bill unanimously on the 15th of December, 2016.

I thank the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi for giving his assent to the Bill on 16th January 2017.

I express my thankfulness to the Department of Higher Education of West Bengal, particularly to Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Hon'ble Minister in Charge of Higher Education and Shri Vivek Kumar, Principal Secretary of the Department of Higher Education for their support and encouragement in making this 'Xaverian Dream' a Reality.

We plan to inaugurate the University campus at Rajarhat and the first academic session on the 8th



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata - Site Map

The Saint Xavier's University Kolkata Bill Passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly

The St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Bill 2016 was passed unanimously on December 15 in the West Bengal Assembly, paving the way for a new university at New Town, Rajarhat, to meet the growing need for quality facilities and to encourage private investment in the state's Higher Education. The SXUK will be a private and constituent university. The bill provides that the SXUK may have as many constituent colleges situated within Bengal that are established and administered by the Jesuits.

St Xavier's College Kolkata Educational Trust is the sponsoring agency of the university. It will have the power to manage all higher education institutions run by the Jesuit Trust across the State. The trust will provide instruction, teaching, training and research in

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St. Xavier's University

of July 2017.

The Hon'ble Chancellor of St. Xavier's University Kolkata, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy S.J., has appointed Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj S.J. as the first Vice Chancellor and Prof. Ashis Mitra as the Registrar of the University.

The Vice Chancellor has taken up the initial preparation of forming the Governing Board and appointing committees for the formulation of the statutes, rules and regulations.

Rooted in the Gospel values and inspired by the Ignatian charism of forming men and women for others, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata begins its journey in the historically tested tradition of excellence. It is an educational endeavor that accommodates more scope offered to greater number of students.



various disciplines and specialised field of science, technology, law, management, social sciences, medicine, education, humanities, performing arts and several other areas.

the Jesuit Provincial of the Calcutta Province of the Society of Jesus will be the Chancellor ex-officio as the President of the Trust. He will appoint the Vice-Chancellor from among the Jesuits in consultation with the Governing Board.

The university will start operating from the 2017-'18 academic session.

The government had some difficulties with the proposal from the St Xavier's authorities to set up the university on a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model on the ground that there is no such precedence.

"St Xavier's college has been recognised as one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the country, and allowing them to open a university will encourage research in various branches of learning and course of study, promote advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning and extend higher education to meet the growing

needs of society," education minister Partha Chatterjee said, moving the bill.

"This is a historic moment for all Jesuits in Bengal and St. Xavier's College in particular," said Father Felix Raj, principal of St. Xavier's College Kolkata, who has been at the forefront of the initiative to set up the university.

"I thank the chief minister, the Bengal Government and all the legislators for being supportive to our cause. Now, we will be able to serve more students and set up another centre of excellence," added the principal.

The alumni of St. Xavier's College welcomed the move. "It is a big day for us and a good start. We shall stand by the Jesuits to make it a world class university," said Firdausul Hasan, the honorary secretary of St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association.

The Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee visited the St. Xavier's College on December 23, and shared the joy with the Jesuits. She has been very supportive of the Jesuit projects in Bengal. She joined the alumni in a Christmas celebration that evening.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK)

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ
Chancellor



Fr. J. Felix Raj, SJ
Vice-Chancellor



Prof. Ashis Mitra
Registrar



Fr. Paul Carlose, SJ
Finance Officer



Fr. Arulappan Rayapan, SJ
Campus Minister

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata



Courses to be offered from 2017-18

UG:

- B.Com
- BBA/BMS

PG:

- MA in English
- MA in Mass Communication)
- M.Com (Finance & International Business)
- MSW.

Courses to be offered from 2018-19 session

- BA in Mass Communication
- MA Multimedia and Animation
- MBA
- MA in Economics
- B. Ed.
- M. Ed.



SXUK Academic Building 2017



A chapel at the Jesuit residence

Pictures by Pabitra Das

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENTS
31 July 2011	The St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association, under the leadership of its President, Rev. Fr. J. Felix Raj, SJ, envisaged SXC Vision 2020 which included the establishment of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.
20 January 2012	At the Convocation Ceremony of the College, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee's invitation to St. Xavier's College to become a University. The Principal, Fr. J. Felix Raj S.J. officially conferred on her the status of 'the first associate member' of the St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association.
17 March 2012	Fr. Principal constituted a 'Think Tank' Committee on February 22, 2012 to prepare a DPR for St. Xavier's University. The first meeting was held on March 17, 2012. The members of the 'Think Tank' were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Suranjan Das • Prof. Bertram Da Silva • Mr. Snehasis Sur • Fr. J. Felix Raj, S.J. (Principal) • Mr. Sanjiv Goenka • Prof. Ashis Mitra • Fr. George Ponodath, S.J. (Rector)
05 August 2013	The Rajarhat land was purchased from the Government.
30 August 2013	Receipt and possession of Rajarhat land from WBHIDCO.
27 December 2013	The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation stone, blessed by His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza in the presence of Provincial, Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ, Principal, Fr. J. Felix Raj, SJ, Rector, Fr. Dominic Savio, SJ and many distinguished Guests and Alumni.
15 December 2016	St. Xavier's University Kolkata Act was unanimously passed in the West Bengal Assembly.
16 January 2017	The Act was assented by the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi.
08 February 2017	The West Bengal Government notified 8 th February 2017 as the date of effect for which the provisions of the St. Xavier's University Kolkata Act 2016 came into force.
15 February 2017	The Hon'ble Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ appointed Fr. Felix Raj S.J. as the first Vice Chancellor and Prof. Ashis Mitra as the first Registrar of the University.
16 February 2017	Fr. J. Felix Raj S.J. took over the wings of the University with immediate effect.



St. Xavier's University gets Vice-Chancellor

Father Felix Raj, SJ, the principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata is the first Vice-Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

"As Vice-Chancellor, my first task will be to form the Governing Board of the university, which will consist of 36 members," Felix Raj said, adding that he would take over the reins of the Rajarhat University with "immediate effect".

Father Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ, the

Chancellor of the University who appointed Fr. Felix Raj as VC, also appointed professor Ashis Mitra as Registrar.

The Governing Board consisting of 36 members including a State Government nominee and a UGC representative, will meet for the first time at the University campus on April 28.

"St. Xavier's College, which gave birth to the University, kept its quality for 157 years and has become the number one college in

India with 3.77 CGPA out of 4. The university will emulate that. It will in no way compromise on quality," Fr. Felix Raj told the press.

Firdausul Hasan, honorary secretary, St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association, said: "The University is the materialization of Father Felix Raj's visionary dreams. We are thankful to him for giving us the chance to play our part in Vision 2020 and do something for our alma mater." ■

Congratulations for establishing St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

In our contemporary world where knowledge plays a huge role in shaping the destiny of humanity, Universities are called to excel in human, moral and social values for the common good of all people. Through your hard work for decades, St. Xavier's has achieved its goal to be a light to Bengal and beyond through your academic endeavours. I wish all the best in your future plans and goals. I wish that St. Xavier's University

becomes a true 'Light and Salt' to Bengal, India and beyond.

I would be very happy to be involved in the department of Theology in case you would consider this proposal to begin somewhere in the line. The Universities in Western countries have opened departments of Theology and it has added a new dimension to the learning process, bringing theology out of the Seminary and Religious

curriculum. Many lay persons and those interested in the field of theology join the program and get to know what theology can do to bring change and transformation in society.

I hope my humble suggestion will be taken considerably for the good of the Church and our society and for building leadership in the future.

Fr. Sunil Rosario

Some Highlights of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Act 2016

- St. Xavier's University, Kolkata may have constituent Colleges situated within the territory of West Bengal established and administered by the Jesuits (Chapter II, No. 3.3).
- The Hon'ble Governor of the state of West Bengal will be the Visitor of the University (Chapter II, No. 11.1).
- Rev. Fr. Provincial, the President of the sponsoring Trust (St. Xavier's College Kolkata Educational Trust) will be the Ex-officio Chancellor of the University (Chapter II, No. 12.1).
- The Vice Chancellor shall be a Jesuit (Chapter II, No. 14:4).
- The University will have a Governing Board with 36 members (ex-officio, nominated and representatives of teachers and support staff) and the Governing Body members shall hold office for a period of four years (Chapter III, No.:27:1).
- The University will have an Executive Council with 13 members (Chapter III, No. 30:1).
- The other authorities of the University shall include the Academic Council, the Faculty Council, the Board of Studies and the Finance Committee (Chapter III, No. 26).

Mamata at St. Xavier's

A Staff Reporter

The Telegraph : Dec. 23, 2016

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee once again played Santa Claus to St. Xavier's College, promising an annual funding of Rs 7 crore to the just-born St. Xavier's University at the college's annual Christmas meet this evening.

"Our congratulations to the institution and Father Felix Raj for the new university. The foundation stone has already been laid and a lot of money has been spent to get it going. It is a very big project. I was asking Felix Raj how much is spent on salaries of the teaching and non-teaching staff," Mamata said.

She then announced with a magician-like flourish: "I can give you a little something. On behalf of our government, we would like to announce that we will give Rs 7 crore annually for the pay package." A regular guest at the Christmas meet hosted by the St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association, Mamata had donned Santa's hat a few years ago when she handed over a formal letter



Father Felix Raj, principal of St. Xavier's College, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Archbishop Thomas D'Souza at the St. Xavier's College Christmas meet. (Pradip Sanyal)

allocating 16.4 acres in Rajarhat for St. Xavier's University during the 2012 Christmas meet.

Principal Father Felix Raj thanked the chief minister and the state government. "This sanction is a test, a challenge to all of us.... We

consider this gesture a Christmas gift to St. Xavier's and we pledge to honour it and raise it to the greater glory of god and to the welfare of our state of Bengal," he said.

Mamata's Christmas benevolence extended to the Jesuit Province of

Calcutta as well as she allotted four acres of land in the Kalyanpur block of Asansol, for St. Xavier's College, Asansol, which functions out of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School at present. "A four-acre plot is available adjacent to Asansol college, the housing department has assured me. You can contact (mayor) Sovan Chatterjee after this," said Mamata, who got her own Christmas gift from St. Xavier's - a dokra statue of Mother Mary, made in Ausgram, Burdwan.



Jesuit Residence at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, 2017

A++ Xavier's seals status of best in India

St. Xavier's College has become the first in India and one of the three colleges in the country to earn the highest grade of A++ in the new evaluation scale of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The 157-year-old institute run by Jesuits scored a cumulative grade point average of 3.77 out of 4, the highest so far in India.

St. Joseph's College Devagiri, Kozhikode, and Cotton College, Guwahati, are the other two institutes in the A++ league with an average of 3.76 each.

The UGC had conferred on St. Xavier's the status of "College of Excellence" and "College with Heritage Status" in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

"It is the fruit of our hard work. I appreciate the unstinted efforts of Prof. Partho Mukherji, the Co-ordinator of the IQAC, his team, all my staff, students, their parents, alumni, benefactors and friends for their cooperation, interest and involvement in the college.... This is yet another milestone in our march towards educational service," Father Felix Raj said.

The criteria used by the council to assess institutes are curricular



aspects, teaching-learning and evaluation, research, consultancy and extension, infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progression, governance, leadership and management, and innovation and best practices.

The NAAC team led by Prof. Arunoday Saha, former Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University, had visited St. Xavier's on January 9 and 10.

The NAAC has not only identified the strengths of St. Xavier's but also given suggestions for further improvement.

Father Felix Raj said the strengths identified by the NAAC peer team include "good and democratic leadership and governance system, clear vision and mission of the college, suitable curriculum with good feedback system, academic flexibility, curriculum enrichment, online admission process, catering to diverse student community, sound teaching-learning and evaluation system and faculty exchange programmes, international exchange programmes, collaborative and departmental research, adequate facilities, publications, extension activities like "College to Village and Village to College", scholarships to marginalised students, modern and digitised library, good student support and progression and maintenance of its heritage status".

The suggestions include more postgraduate and PhD courses, involvement of teachers in consultancy, more research in arts courses, further flexibility in the choice-based credit system, new vocational courses and an Academic Staff College.



Researchers at Goethals

- **Indrani Dasgupta** on History of Chotanagpur, Kolkata, India.
- **Moinak Choudhury** on Himalayan Travel Narratives and Colonial Representation, Kolkata, India.
- **Nishan Bhattacharya** on Teaser for Xavier's Institute of Management, Kolkata, India
- **Prof. Timothy Alec Allender** on Jesuit and Loreto connection, Sydney, Australia.
- **Swapan Kumar Mandal** on Land Reclamation and its political context of Sundarban, Gosaba - a case study 1930-70, Kolkata, India.
- **Torsha Chowdhury** on Indian Religion, Kolkata, India.
- **Upelina Bina Murmu** on Survey on Chinese Economy, Kolkata, India.
- **William Gomes** on Portuguese in India, Kolkata, India.

mails & emails



- The Goethals Indian Library is very resourceful and an immense opportunity given to me to enhance my knowledge. **Upelina Bina Murmu**, Kolkata.
- The Library has a great collection of rare books for research. **Torsha Chowdhury**, Kolkata.
- Fantastic collection on Portuguese. **William Gomes**, Kolkata.



SXUK Campus - 2017

New Arrivals



Christian Directory of West Bengal by P. Detienne, Brahma Mission Press, Calcutta, India, 1971.

Emerging Issues on Inclusive Growth, Business and Environment by J. Felix Raj S.J., Dominic Savio, S.L. Chakravarty & Samrat Roy, Regal Publications, New Delhi, India, 2016.

Encyclopedia Anglo-Indian by Melvyn Brown, Calcutta, India, 1995.

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The Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius by Louis J. Puh, S.J., St. Paul Press Training School, Bandra, India, 2015.

Who Killed Swami Laxmananda? by Anto Akkara, Veritas India Books, Kerala, India, 2016.

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