



2018

XAVERIANUM



Lakshmi and Usha Mittal Foundation Building



XAVERIANUM

2018

St Xavier's University
New Town, Kolkata



Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

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Keshari Nath Tripathi
GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

RAJ BHAVAN
KOLKATA 700 062

6th June, 2018

Message

I am glad to learn that St. Xavier's University, Kolkata is bringing out first issue of its Annual Magazine, "The Xaverianum" in July, 2018.

I am sure that the magazine will certainly provide a rich and powerful platform for the young minds to explore and express their creative ideas and literary skill. I am confident that the St. Xavier's University will continue the rich tradition of excellence.

I wish the publication all success.

Keshari Nath Tripathi



মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ
मुख्यमंत्री, पश्चिम बंगाल
وزیر اعلیٰ مغربی بنگال

CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

5th June, 2018

মমতা ব্যানার্জী
ममता बैनर्जी
ممتا بنرجی
Mamata Banerjee

MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that **St. Xavier's University**, Kolkata, will be publishing its first Annual Magazine, '**The Xaverianum**' in the month of July 2018.

On the occasion, I convey my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the teachers, students, officials and support staff of the university and wish the initiative a grand success.



(Mamata Banerjee)

Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J.
Vice-Chancellor
St. Xavier's University
Kolkata



Provincial

CALCUTTA PROVINCE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

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The Vice Chancellor,
St. Xavier's University Kolkata,
Premises No. IIIB, Plot No. IIIB/1,
Action Area IIIB, P.S. New Town,
Kolkata – 700156

Date: June 19, 2018

Dear Fr. John Felix Raj,

Greetings to you and to all the Faculty, Staff and Students of St. Xavier's University Kolkata. The first annual magazine of the University is truly welcome. This edition offers a look at how the hopes that many parents have are being materialized and the dreams of many taking wings at the completion of the first academic year in the life of the University. A history has begun. The pages of this magazine will unfold with pride the vitality and engagement of our students, faculty, staff, friends and community members.

It is my pleasure in conveying my best wishes to all of you. It is a matter of great pride that the University has made wonderful progress in academic and co-curricular activities. This is a tribute to its standard of excellence in academics and commitment to quality education.

Holistic development of an individual is the primary concern of our education and every effort is made to ensure that our students are equipped to face the challenges that life possess before them. This calls for cooperation of all concerned at all levels to build up motivation and confidence among our students, transforming them to persons with principles. And with this transformation taking shape, the university transforms itself.

Wishing you all the best for accomplishing greater success and achieving newer heights in the endeavours of this University.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Raphael Joseph Hyde, S.J.
Provincial





**RP - Sanjiv Goenka
Group**

Growing Legacies

Sanjiv Goenka
Chairman

There is an Indian saying that a tree can only be known by its fruits. Great educational institutions all over the world are also measured by the achievements of their students. My alma mater on Park Street, Kolkata through many decades has produced great students, thanks to the devotion, dedication and commitment of its great teachers. Our alma mater, through the blessings of God, has also been on the growth path by continuously creating great academic achievers who have left their historic footprints on the sands of time.

Some people say, a great educational institution, like a majestic tree, is never in a hurry, it takes its own time to present its fruits. My alma mater has also patiently earned the respect, admiration and support of the contemporary society. Recently it has generated fresh momentum having earned the status of a University.

It gives a former student like me pride and pleasure that St. Xavier's University is now ready to publish its Annual Magazine. What can be of greater pride for an ex-student like me to be able to send his warmest greeting and good wishes for the first issue? There is every reason to believe that 'The Xaverianum' editorial team will do its best to inform, educate and entertain the first batch of its readers. Our three hundred year old city has an incomparable tradition of high thinking, high idealism mixed with humility. As an ex-student, I wish the first Annual Magazine of St Xavier's University Kolkata all the success it deserves. May the new magazine flourish in the years ahead reflecting the uniqueness of our alma mater.

(Sanjiv Goenka)

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Message

The First Volume of the Annual Magazine of *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata* – XAVERIANUM - is a symbol of a promising future of this budding Jesuit University located in the "City of Joy".

With the blessings of the Almighty, with the active support of the Government of West Bengal, with the enthusiastic encouragement of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and its illustrious Alumni/ae, and thanks to the herculean efforts and meticulous planning by Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj SJ, this long cherished dream-project the Jesuits of Kolkata became a reality a year ago.

At the completion of its first year, the University is enthralled with a sense of hope for the future. The Management of the University is confident of achieving the expectations placed on this new Jesuit University. It is determined to form the students as men and women, who will imbibe the values of serving others. It will promote serious research on issues and questions, touching upon different aspects of human life. It will provide a forum and a platform for free and liberal thinking and healthy debates, that will protect and promote the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution of India – justice, equality, liberty and fraternity.

History is beckoning *St. Xavier's University* to make its indelible impact on this "City of Joy", on W. Bengal, on India and beyond. The future is promising indeed, and the University is ready to march forward - All for the Greater Glory of God (AMDG).

Rev. Fr. Dr. Sebastil Raj SJ

Vice Rector & Pro Vice-Chancellor

Editorial Board

Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J.
Vice-Chancellor and Chairperson

ADVISORY BOARD

Rev. Dr. Sebastia L Raj, S.J. (Pro Vice Chancellor)
Rev. Dr. Soosai Nayagam, S.J. (Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Studies)
Dr. Soma Sur (Dean, Faculty of Commerce & Management)

MANAGING EDITORS

Dr. Manali Bhattacharya (Convenor)
Dr. Madhuchanda Roy Chowdhury
Dr. Sucheta Kapoor
Prof. Anirban Ghosal

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Prof. Ashis Mitra, Registrar

STUDENT EDITORS

Manuella De Rosario
Eesha Goenka
Yagyaseni Bhattacharya
Shrawani Jha
Rahul Datta
Moumita Pachal
Rishav Gupta
Adrija Bhattacharjee

PHOTO CREDIT

Jarman Emmaneul Nandi



Vice-Chancellor's Report 2017-18

BEHIND THE ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY CURTAIN

In January 2012, when the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee was the Chief Guest for the Convocation of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, she invited the College to be upgraded to the status of the University. Subsequently, with the support of the Alumni Association of the College, We began the SXC Vision 2020 project and a committee of experts prepared a DPR.

The Government of West Bengal favourably responded to an appeal by the Principal of St. Xavier's College by allotting 16.64 Acres of Land for St. Xavier's University. The hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation stone on 27th December 2013, and the

construction work of the Academic Block and the Jesuit residence began by the Basumati Corporation.

The *St. Xavier's University Kolkata Act 2016* was unanimously passed by the West Bengal Assembly on December 15th, 2016 to meet the growing need for higher education with quality facilities. The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi gave his consent to the Act on January 16th, 2017.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata is a Jesuit private and constituent University. The St. Xavier's College Kolkata Educational Trust is the Sponsoring Body of the University. The first Chancellor of the University, the Jesuit Provincial, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, appointed



Rev. Fr. Felix Raj and Prof. Ashis Mitra as the first Vice-Chancellor and the first Registrar of the University respectively. Fr. Felix Raj took over the responsibility with immediate effect on February 16, 2017 and formed the first Governing Board of *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata*.

The First Governing Board Meeting was held on April 28th 2017, at the University Campus in New Town. The Britto House, the Jesuit Residence at the University was inaugurated on the same day. The Governing Board approved two Undergraduate Courses with two sections each (B.Com & BMS) and four Postgraduate Courses (M.A. in English, M.Com, M.A. in Mass Communication, and MSW). The admission process for the courses began in June 2017, and four hundred students were admitted on the basis of merit for the session 2017-18.

The Alumni Association and some other individual Alumni actively participated in the SXC Vision 2020. It has been a collective journey and hard work of all and our perseverance has, by the blessing of the Almighty God, borne abundant fruit. Our dream of establishing the *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata* has become a reality. This is a historic moment for all of us in Bengal.

INAUGURATION:

The University and the Academic Block were inaugurated on 7th July, 2017. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Education Minister, Dr. Partho Chatterjee, Shri Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, the Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal with Mrs. Usha Mittal, Hon'ble Chancellor Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, Fr. Dominic Savio, Rector of *St. Xavier's College* and several other dignitaries graced the memorable occasion.

Mr. Mittal along with his wife flew down from London to witness his Alma Mater spread its wings. He articulated



his experience as a Xaverian at *St. Xavier's College* and the lesson of decision making he learned from his Alma Mater. He observed "today is the great day for Xavier's, Fr. Felix Raj and I had been dreaming for this day for some years now. When we met in London we discussed about it and now it has become a reality."

The Chief Minister congratulated the Jesuit Fathers for setting up another seat of higher learning with strong ethical and human values. She highlighted the contributions of *St. Xavier's college* towards the academic, cultural and social endorsements of West Bengal. She expressed her firm belief that like Harvard and Oxford University, *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata* will soon be of global significance, thriving on the principles of faith and wisdom.

The First Academic Session of the University commenced on 10th July, 2017 with regular classes. There were 395 students on the rolls in two UG courses (B.Com & BMS) and four PG courses (M.Com, M.A. in English, M.A. in Mass Com and MSW) as on May 31st, 2018.

I express my deep and sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development, Firhad Hakim, Shri Debashis Sen, IAS, Hon'ble Addl. Chief Secretary, Shri Vivek Kumar, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, the Government of West Bengal, Xaverians and all stake-holders for their continued support to our mission.



APPOINTMENTS:

1. Administrative Team:

Fr. Soosai Nayagam as Dean of Arts and Social Studies and Associate Professor

Fr. Paul Carlose as Finance Officer

Fr. Arulappan Rayappan as Campus Minister

Prof. Soma Sur as Dean of Commerce and Management and Professor

Fr. Sebastia Raj as Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Ashis Siddhanta as Controller of Examinations

Mr. GP Gupta as Liaison Officer

Mr. Mario Martin as Placement Officer



Administrative Team

2. Faculty Members:

COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT:

Dr. Soma Sur

Prof. Amitava Ghose

Dr. Tanushree Biswas

Prof. Tanmayananda Chattaraj

Prof. Sneha Singh (Part-time)



Faculty Members

ENGLISH:

Rev. Dr. Soosai Nayagam, S.J.

Dr. Sucheta Kapoor

Dr. Madhuchhanda Ray Choudhury

MASS COMMUNICATION:

Dr. Manali Bhattacharya

SOCIAL WORK:

Dr. Sucheta Paul

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME

CO-ORDINATOR:

Dr. Nandini Sen

SUPPORT STAFF:

The University has recruited 43 support staff members for various departments.

DONATION OF AN AMBULANCE:

The Khadim India Limited (KIL) has donated an ambulance to St. Xavier's College Kolkata Educational Trust (SXCKET), the Sponsoring Body of the University. Mr. Suman Burman Roy, President, KIL, delivered the van and handed over the keys and the relevant documents to Father Felix Raj, the Vice-Chancellor on May 27th. We express our gratitude to Mr. Roy and his company for the generous grant. We promise that the ambulance would be put to its full use to serve staff, students and others in their hour of need.



VISIT OF APOSTOLIC NUNCIO:

Apostolic Nuncio, Vatican Ambassador to India, His Excellency Giambattista Diquattro, visited *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata on 7th September.

He was accompanied by His Grace Most Reverend Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata and other dignitaries. He had breakfast with the Jesuit Fathers. He appreciated the Jesuit initiative toward building up of a University.

VISIT OF BURUNDI AMBASSADOR:

Her Excellency Stella Budiriganya, Ambassador of Burundi to India visited *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata, along with Honorary Consul, Mr. Arpan Mitra, on December 21, 2017 and discussed with Fr. Vice-Chancellor the possibilities of Burundi students studying at *St. Xavier's University* under the purview of academic collaboration between *St. Xavier's University* and Burundi.

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION DAY:

St. Xavier's University is "the model to follow", Education Minister, Dr. Partha Chatterjee said at the foundation day function of the *St. Xavier's University* on January 15th, 2018.

Prof. Suranjan Das, the Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University delivered the Foundation Day lecture on "The Challenges of Higher Education in India today".

Father Raphael J. Hyde, the Chancellor of the University, said that the larger objective was to create a centre of excellence and strive to promote a society based on "love, freedom, justice, equality and fraternity".

All the dignitaries came together to cut the Foundation cake which was shared among the staff and students.

AWARDS:

Fr. Felix Raj, former Principal of *St. Xavier's College*, the current Vice-Chancellor of the *St. Xavier's University* was honoured with the prestigious Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence, 2018 on January 16th at the Eleventh Convocation of the College.

Fr. Felix Raj was given the award not only for his "long and dedicated service to the College" but also for his contribution to the field of education in Bengal, said Fr. Raphael Hyde, the Provincial of the Calcutta Jesuit Province.

"Today I stand here with a sense of humility and a feeling of gratitude... I accept this Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence, 2018, conferred on me for my humble service in this institution. By serving this institution for 33 years, I have learnt many lessons. I thank the Principal and the whole Xaverian family for this token of appreciation. *St. Xavier's College* has expanded in infrastructure and achieved high academic standards... I am confident that this high standard will be sustained in the years to come," said Father Felix Raj in his acceptance speech.

He steered the College as Principal from 2009 till he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the *St. Xavier's University*.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY:

- A new Basketball court was inaugurated on September 12th, 2017. We thank Ms Feroza Mogrelia, Director of Sports of *St. Xavier's College* and her team for their efficient organisation.



- The department of Mass Communication organised an Exhibition on still photography on September 12th, 2017 and an inter-college seminar, X-Pressions, on February 10th, 2018, on the theme 'Challenges and Opportunities for media in the Digital Age'. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Ex CEO of Prasar Bharti, who discussed the impact of the Digital World on Radio and TV.

- The department of Social Work organized a Shishu Mela on December 22nd, 2017 for hundred neighbourhood children. Eighty University student-volunteers were involved in the organisation with Programme Officer, Dr. Nandini Sen. The event was preceded by a week of educational, cultural and health awareness activities organised by University students in the neighbourhood schools.

- **Milan Utsab 2018:** *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata, in collaboration with West Bengal Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (WBMDFC), had put up a stall at Milan Utsab, 2018 from February 10th, 2018 to February 19th, 2018, held at Park Circus Maidan to showcase academic opportunities in West Bengal.

The student community had the precious opportunity of knowing about the various courses offered by the newly christened University at New Town and other Jesuit Colleges in West Bengal viz. *St. Xavier's College*, Kolkata, *St. Xavier's College*, Raghobpur, *St. Xavier's College*, Burdwan, *St. Xavier's College*, Asansol, *St. Joseph College*, Darjeeling and *St. Xavier's College*, Rajganj.

Prof. Manali Bhattacharya and Prof. Sneha Singh conducted a career-counselling programme for the prospective students who wish to pursue Mass Communication and Law respectively in the days ahead.

- Bhasha Divas was celebrated at the University on February 19th, 2018 by faculty members, staff and students. The VC received the Torch that was flagged off at Dhaka University, Dhaka, and travelled to Bangalore and Dubai before it was brought to Kolkata.

The purpose was to bring people together and to build a bond beyond borders through the language we speak together.

- The Department of Sports presented 'Xavogames-2018' on April 3rd, 2018. The Chief Guest was Mr. Pradip Dutta who represented the Indian Football Team in 1972.

Medals and Certificates were awarded to the winners to acknowledge their talents in games and sports. The programme included songs and dance performance by the cultural group of *St. Xavier's University*.

We thank Mr. GP Gupta, Mr. Mario Louis, Fr. Arulappan and the enthusiastic team of students for their hard efforts in putting things together.

XAVIER BUSINESS SCHOOL:

St. Xavier's University begins its Xavier Business School from August, 2018. "Xavier Business School" aims at forming "men and women for others" who are competent, committed, compassionate and service-





oriented leaders. XBS offers a two-year full time residential MBA programme, with specializations in Finance, Marketing, HRM and Systems & Operations.

We shall provide state of the art infrastructural facilities – Smart and air-conditioned classrooms, separate hostels for men and women, food courts, green environment and so on.

Xavier Business School is a member of XAMI (Xavier Association of Management Institutes) which includes Jesuit Management Institutes like XLRI, XIMB, LIBA and XISS. Being a Jesuit institute, inspired by the Ignatian charism, XBS aims to form global leaders for today and tomorrow to create a better world. To us, every student is indeed a burning candle that lights up other candles. We thank Fr. Sebasti Raj and Prof. Soma Sur for their systematic coordination of the admission procedure.

NEW COURSES:

St. Xavier's University is introducing the following new UG and PG courses in the academic session 2018-19: BA in English, BA and MA in Economics and BA in Mass Communication.

FACILITIES:

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, is located in a sprawling campus of 16.64 acres, in the fast-growing locality of New Town, Kolkata. The entire campus is being developed aesthetically. The location of the University Campus is very conducive for road transportation. Further, the University is just 9 kms away from the Kolkata International Airport. The Academic Building is a 10 Floor-Structure, of which six have been completed. All the classrooms, computer labs, halls, etc., are air-conditioned and equipped with latest communication systems – power point projectors, Internet connections, etc. There are three types of classrooms – ordinary ones, gallery type and amphitheatre type.

In order to disseminate the required information to the various projects and programmes of the University, a completely new library and research building is getting ready, with the latest facilities and conveniences. The library already has over 5,000 titles/books and more books and journals are being added on a regular basis. It has access to E-journals and E-books and the students are permitted to make use of these facilities. The entire building is air-conditioned – staff rooms, reading rooms, reference rooms, conference hall, etc.



Lakshmi and Usha Mittal Foundation Building

The University has a special computer lab, and also a language lab with licensed softwares. Internet facilities are available in the entire academic block and in the library, with a high-speed broadband connectivity, and also WiFi facilities.

St. Xavier's University offers hostel facilities to its students, particularly to the students of MBA Degree Programme, as this programme is a residential one. Separate hostel buildings for women and men are available. More hostel facilities are planned in the years to come.

PLACEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

There is a bright future for employment. On successful completion of their studies, the outgoing students will be absorbed in the Commercial Organisations, Government Agencies, etc., through a systematic placement procedure. On the part of the students, hard work, commendable character and personal conduct, proficiency in English and good knowledge of the subjects are essential to get a good placement. With the full cooperation of the students, we can ensure the employment of all our outgoing students after completing successfully their course.

ONE HISTORY WITH MANY STORIES:

St. Xavier's University is a Jesuit institution with one history but many stories, one fire with many sparks. It opened its doors to students in July 2017 with the blessings of many distinguished Alumni and leaders.

SXUK is built on a long-standing Jesuit heritage and timeless traditions. We attest our motto of "Nihil Ultra", upholding the illustrious Jesuit legacy, our commitment to creativity, leadership and persistent standards, our affiliation to the onerous task of providing quality opportunities in the fields of teaching-learning, research, consultancy and placement.

Today, no community can afford to be complacent. The future is making critical demands and continuously raising the bar. It is a brave new world out there and we have boundless benchmarks to respond to. Change is the paradigm and sustained innovation, the new mantra. The talented and dedicated students and faculty always play a special role in making the legend that is *St. Xavier's University* today. We return daily to our visualised future – to strengthen our focus.

I thank Fr. Sebastia Raj, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ashis Mitra, our Registrar, Deans, administrative team, faculty, support staff and the first batch of our students for the successful completion of one academic year. The journey has been pleasant and fruitful, for we walked together towards tomorrow with a deep faith in the Almighty and a firm hope in the spirit of Majis.

Let me conclude with the words of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore:

I have become my own version of an optimist.
 If I can't make it through one door,
 I'll go through another door,
 Or I'll make a door.
 Something terrific will come,
 no matter how dark the present is.

Rev. Dr. J. Felix Raj SJ
 First Vice-Chancellor

University Profile

Name	Designation
Rev. Fr. Raphael J. Hyde, S.J.	Chancellor
Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J.	Vice-Chancellor
Rev. Fr. Dr. Sebastia L Raj S.J.	Pro Vice-Chancellor
Prof. Ashis Mitra	Registrar
Rev. Fr. P. Paul Carlose, S.J.	Finance Officer
Dr. Ashis Siddhanta	Controller of Examination
Rev. Dr. Soosai Nayagam, S.J.	Dean, Arts & Social Studies
Dr. Soma Sur	Dean, Commerce & Management
Rev. Fr. Arulappan Rayappan, S.J.	Campus Minister

Foundation day	16th January, 2017
MOTTO	"NIHIL ULTRA"
Number of Courses	U.G. - 2 and P.G. - 4
Total Number of Students	395 (U.G. - 231 & P.G. - 164)
Number of staff	
Administrative	10
Teaching	
FULL TIME	10
PART TIME	1
GUEST	37
Total Teaching staff	48
Support Staff	43



Editorial Note

St. Xavier's University began its journey exactly a year ago, in July 2017. The launch of the university magazine, "Xavieranum" marks this momentous occasion. The title "Xavieranum", literally meaning "Of Xavier's", has been deliberately chosen; because this magazine is a platform – a platform that showcases the creativity of the institution's students, faculty and staff members.

A maiden venture always throbs with new aspirations, ideas and energies. To encapsulate the beating heart of this newborn institution, the first issue of "Xavieranum" is built around the theme of "New Horizons in Education". In their contributions to the fiction, non-fiction and visual arts sections, the student, staff and faculty members have interpreted this theme in their unique ways. Education, in the Xaverian parlance goes way beyond the mundane curriculum. The Xaverian education builds individuals who strive for more than mere academic excellence to uphold values of justice, love and fraternity. The various events over the past one year embody this spirit and have been accordingly represented in this magazine.

Anniversary is a time for both nostalgia and new beginnings. Thus the magazine not only glances at the achievements of the year gone by but also captures the vision for the future. The institution is already expanding with the addition of new courses in the coming academic year. As *St. Xavier's University* welcomes new students and teachers in the future, "Xavieranum", the annual university magazine will continue its journey, every year. The Xaverian spirit of Nihil Ultra (nothing beyond) views perfection as an ever receding horizon, never allowing its members to rest on their laurels. And "Xavieranum", the voice of *St. Xavier's University*, will resonate this spirit in the years ahead.

**Team,
Xavieranum 2018**



INTERVIEW





Interview with Mr. L. N. Mittal

XAV SIR, YOU HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN ABOUT THE INFLUENCE THAT ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE HAS HAD IN YOUR LIFE. WHAT DO YOU THINK DIFFERENTIATES A XAVERIAN FROM THE REST?

LNM The quality of education one receives at St. Xavier's is unquestioned. But the benefits of attending the college are more than this. It instils a very strong belief system in its students, encouraging them to challenge generally accepted perceptions, and to adopt a mind set that contributes positively to society. I believe the combination of these three aspects are the key benefits one gains from by being a part of the St. Xavier's family.

XAV WHAT IS THE MESSAGE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO ALL STUDENTS OF ST. XAVIER'S, ESPECIALLY THE BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS?

LNM I have a simple message - without dedication and commitment, one will never succeed. That, and to challenge what you believe is possible. I am very fortunate and thankful to have been successful in my career. Yet had I not started with a willingness to continually learn and evolve and a commitment to maintaining a positive work ethic, it is unlikely I would have been able to achieve what I have.

XAV SIR, YOU HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED PURSUITS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION, BE IT

BY SUPPORTING ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY OR THE SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY. HOW IMPORTANT IS QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THE INDIAN GROWTH?

LNM Ensuring we have an educated and engaged workforce with the appropriate skill-set for the modern world is critical to India's future. Our country is forecast to be the fastest growing economy over the next decade. Our economic growth will create jobs, and we need to ensure we have the right people, with the right skills to fill them. Education has a critical role to play in ensuring that happens.

XAV SIR, YOU HAVE LIVED A LIFE TRUE TO THE MOTTO OF ST. XAVIER'S – NIHIL ULTRA (NOTHING BEYOND), WHAT IS THE NEXT MILESTONE FOR THE KING OF STEEL, PADMA VIBHUSHAN, XAVERIAN LAXMI MITTAL?

LNM I don't tend to look back, I always look forwards – there will be plenty of time for reflection in later life. Although we have had many successes in the past, I believe that we have many opportunities and challenges ahead of us – that is always my focus. In the near-term, we hope to shortly conclude the acquisition of Ilva, Europe's largest steel company. We have also made a competitive offer for Essar Steel in India. If we're successful, it will be the first time

ArcelorMittal has a steelmaking presence in India. These are both major acquisitions, that are equally exciting and challenging.

But if I look longer-term, I think every industry in the world needs to be prepared for disruption. Technological change is faster today than ever before. We are therefore working hard to ensure ArcelorMittal successfully transforms for the future and that we react to mega-trends that will shape our industry's future. We also need to ensure steel plays a central role in helping the world transition to a low-carbon economy. Given its inherent recyclability and the many sustainable benefits our steel products bring to our customers, steel is well-placed to sit at the heart of a low-carbon, circular economy. But as an industry we do need to reduce our carbon footprint. This is a challenge we are aware of, and we are already embracing some very exciting carbon capture and re-use technologies in our business. So, there is a lot happening that keeps me busy and focussed.

XAV ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY IS IN ITS EARLY YEARS OF GROWTH AND IS TRYING TO CREATE A SEPARATE NAME FOR ITSELF. DO YOU WANT TO GIVE ANY SUGGESTION REGARDING THAT?

LNМ Well, as you say the University is in its early days but from what I understand it has got off to a great start in life. It benefits from the St. Xavier's brand and reputation, and the same people are behind it, driving its direction and growth. I know its leaders are highly motivated and have the required knowledge to make it a great success. I think it has a very bright future and will grow to be recognised as one of India's leading Universities.

XAV WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM? WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY?

LNМ When we look at the Indian education system we must look at the starting point – primary school education. The most recent Annual

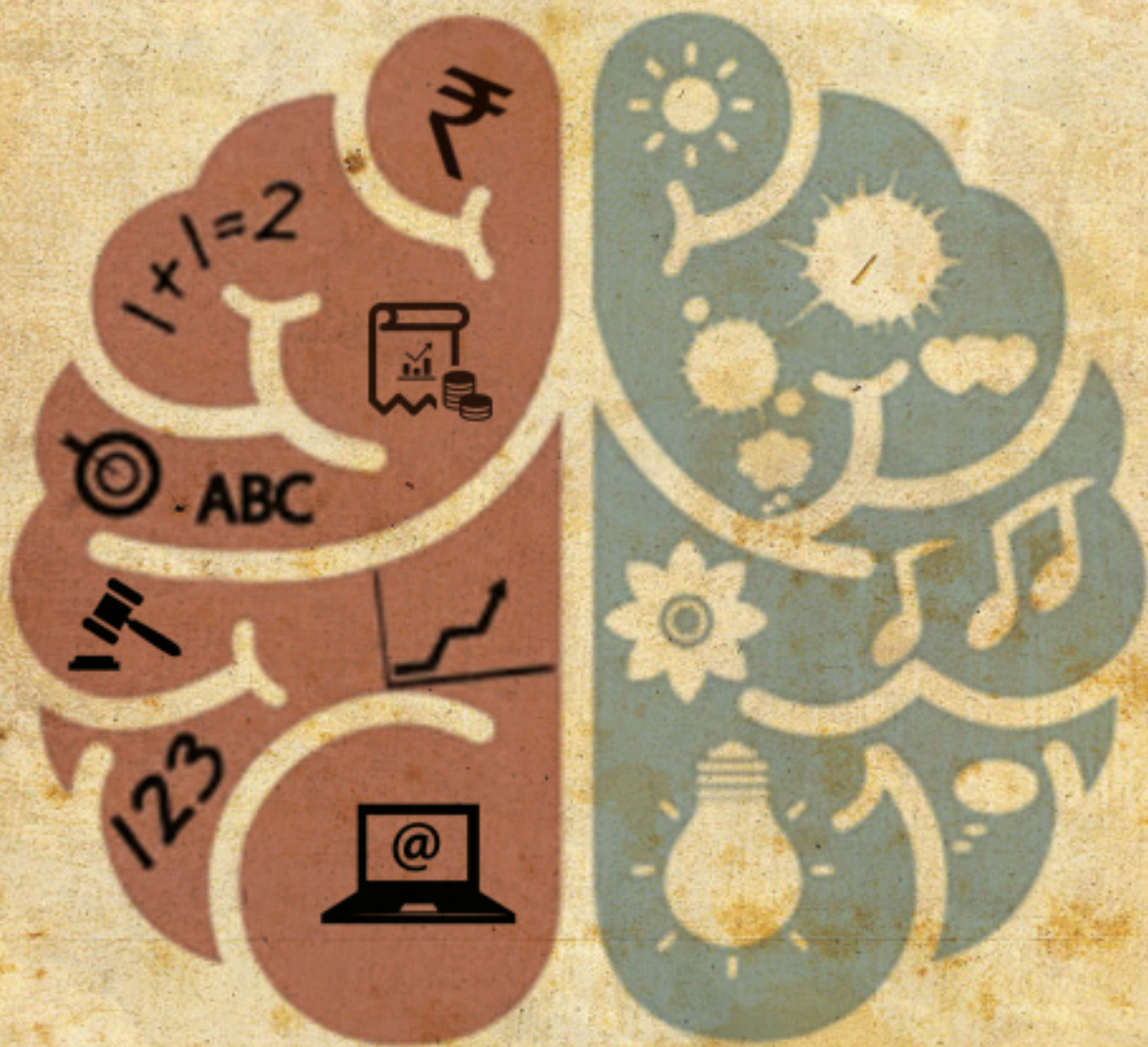
Status of Education report shows what is now a routine outcome: 5th grade children cannot read a grade 2 text. Indian schools are adopting technology to overcome such issues. Technology can be of great benefit, but it should be viewed as a supplement, not a replacement, to traditional teaching methods. So, I see three areas of urgent reform if primary schooling is to be a positive foundational experience: further investment in technology, investment in teachers, and a radical rethink in teaching methods.

Regarding St. Xavier's University, I hope it becomes an institution that helps to create a modern, developed India. That means a university with an academic curriculum suitable for a 21st century India. As a businessman involved in global manufacturing, I am keen to see study in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects reach global levels of excellence. The skills associated with STEM subjects are critical for sustainable development. This is something that we focus on at Arcelor Mittal; we are encouraging students to focus on these areas so that we have the scientists and engineers we require for the future. But I also recognise the need to develop societal skills, so students leave with critical thinking and societal purpose as well as, say, engineering or business capabilities.

XAV WHEN YOU HEAR THE NAME ST. XAVIER'S, WHAT IS THE FONDEST MEMORY YOU RECALL?

LNМ That's a difficult question to answer – I cherished all my time at St. Xavier's. However, two memories stand out. First, the day I heard I had secured admission is very memorable. I was initially denied admission as my English, at that time, was not sufficiently fluent. I refused to take no for an answer and my persistence paid off. The second memory I recall very fondly is the day I graduated at the top of my class. It was a very proud moment for me and demonstrates how hard work can bring reward and success in life.

DEPARTMENTS



Department of Commerce



M.Com (2017-2019)

The Commerce Department has held a position of prestige at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. This is evident from its brilliant alumni who have prospered all over the world, in numerous spheres such as business, government and international bodies. The Post Graduate and Undergraduate departments of Commerce at St. Xavier's University, that were inaugurated in July, 2017, have the potential to add new glory to their tradition.

The Post Graduate course provided by the department has two areas of specialisation – Accounting and Finance and International Business. The PG department plans to give an in-depth training in research methodology, in the third semester of this course, in order to equip the students with the tools and software knowledge necessary for them to complete their projects in semester four.

The Bachelors in Commerce department provides a course that is multidisciplinary. It consists of 14 core





B.Com - 1 (2017-2020)



B.Com - 2 (2017-2020)

papers, 4 discipline-specific elective papers, 4 generic elective papers, 2 ability enhancement compulsory papers, 2 skill-enhancement papers and 2 additional compulsory papers.

There is project work that is compulsory to both, the PG as well as the UG departments. In addition to this, students are required to participate in summer internships with various firms and NGO's. The syllabus

has been created complying with the UGC guidelines, while also taking into consideration the academic requirements for commerce students, in an era when the country is grooming an integrative spirit within its global economy.

The Commerce students have already participated in a variety of intra and inter-collegiate events such as seminars, workshops, international events, sports,



business quizzes, social service events, from their entry into the prestigious St. Xavier's University in July, 2017. The students of the Commerce Department took part in various academic and extra-curricular activities in esteemed institutes such as St. Xavier's College, JD Birla College, Shri Shikshayatan College and Jadavpur University. The students of the department claimed the first prize at the Business event at JD Birla College.

The teaching-learning programme of this department consists of the following important components:

1. Subject-orientation at the beginning of the semester.
2. Preparation of a detailed lesson plan.
3. Case-study based lectures on the theoretical topics, as far as practicable.
4. Seminar presentation by the students in the respective area of a subject.

5. An emphasis on teaching subject knowledge, rather than mere preparation for the examination.
6. And finally, tutorial classes which helps to link the subject knowledge with the method of preparation for the semester examination.

The academic programme of the Commerce department is closely supervised by the Dean and the Professor-in-charge, in order to ensure the accountability of all stakeholders of the University. The department is committed to improving the standards of academic life, for both the students as well as the faculty, with the development of the University.

'NIHIL ULTRA.'

Department of Management



BMS - 1 (2017-2020)

Inspired by the Ignatian charism of forming men and women for others, St Xavier's University, Kolkata started its journey in July, 2017.

In the spirit of Nihil Ultra (nothing beyond), St Xavier's University is embedded in an educational endeavour that ensures academic excellence and promotes a

society based on love, freedom, liberty, justice, equality and fraternity.

The university started with two undergraduate degree courses for commerce and management i.e. Bachelor in Commerce (B.COM) and Bachelor in Management Studies(BMS)



BMS - 2 (2017-2020)

BMS is a prestigious honours programme in management that spans over a period of three-years consisting of six semesters. In the final year i.e. in semester-5, the students will be offered a specialisation in any one of the functional disciplines i.e. Finance or Marketing. The University started the BMS course with a total intake of 116 students.

The Department seeks to bridge the gap between the academia and the industry through seminars, conferences, workshops and management fests organised throughout the year.

The strong foundation of the department lies in its faculty. The department has its own regular faculties, as well as visiting faculties from reputed institutions.

The enduring strength of the department is the quality of the students. The students' community has always been very enthusiastic and vibrant. They are taking part in different extra-curricular activities and attending various fests organised by premier institutions. With their untiring hard work and selfless dedication, the students are grabbing every opportunity to show their excellence, credibility and enthusiasm.

The students' participations in Xavotsav 2018 (St. Xavier's College), Shri Shikshayatan Fest 2018, IBTIDA 2018 (Jadavpur University), Spectrum (NIFT)'18, JD Birla Institute and Amity fest are worth mentioning in this context.

With the encouragement of the vice-chancellor and the active initiative of the students, the department has organised few intra -university events as well.

A Business quiz competition was held on 21.8.17 wherein the students participated with great zeal and enthusiasm.

There was also an Inter-class Debate Competition held on 25.8.17, which gave the students an opportunity to interact with each other and share their views and opinions.

The USP of the department is its curriculum design, theoretical as well as practical exposures offered to the students and over and above the healthy student-teacher relationship. The whole idea behind this is to develop the Xavierian culture and expand the department's excellence and expertise in every field.



Department of English



Department of English (2017 - 2019)

The Department of English of St Xavier's University, New Town, got to a much-awaited start in July, 2017 with the introduction of an MA programme in English. The first meeting between teachers and students took place on 10th July, 2017 in Room 305, on the third floor of the new green and off-white academic building. Professors Sucheta Kapoor and Chandrani Biswas sensed excitement and keen anticipation whirling round the room as they read out a list of topics students would be studying during their two years at the university.

In the First Semester itself students read texts like Geoffrey Chaucer's *General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales*, Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy*, Sidney's *An Apology for Poetry* and Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*, travelling imaginatively, in the process, from London, where Chaucer's pilgrims begin their journey to Kanthapura, a small caste-ridden village in South India. Not every meeting was held in Room 305; students often walked a short distance to an 'amphitheatre' on the third floor, where, in modern state-of-the-art surroundings, they heard eminent guest speakers such as Professors Krishna Sen and Chinmoy Guha talk animatedly about classical

thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Longinus and Sidney and also cultural movements such as modernism and post-modernism.

In addition to studying more authors and texts in the second semester, students got the opportunity to step out of their classrooms when they visited the Kolkata Book Fair in January, 2018. The visit was organized by the Department of English to enable students to break free from routine classes and re-discover the joy of reading books on their own. Opportunities were also created so that students could exchange ideas with colleagues and experts at other institutions: in February 2018 a large number of students attended an international conference entitled 'Nineteenth-Century Synergies: Ventures at Home and (Ad) Ventures Abroad' organized by the Department of English, Presidency University, Kolkata. This was followed by five students from the department participating in a national conference at the University of Calcutta entitled 'Literature, Theatre and Cinema: Adaptations and Appropriations' in March, 2018. The students returned from the event with participation certificates as well as

engaging stories about speakers and presentations. Earlier, in November 2017, during the first semester, two students from the department had attended a road show organized by the Italian Consulate in Kolkata where they had gathered information about higher studies in Italy.

The hallmark of Xaverian culture being to combine the quest for excellence in studies (*nihil ultra*) with extra-curricular activities, students from the English department were actively involved in clubs such as the Cultural Club, the Social Work Club, the Debating Club and the Literary Club. In August 2017, the Cultural club put up a variety programme including musical and dance performances at the amphitheatre which the Faculty of Arts and Social Studies audience enjoyed to the hilt. Members of the Cultural Club have been a constant presence in the cultural life of the university, be it at the Foundation Day celebrations held in January 2018, the *Bhasha Divas* commemoration held in February, 2018 or the 'Xavogames 2018' organised in April, 2018. Liss M Jose and Rashika Anthony, both very talented vocalists, did the department proud by winning the coveted first prize at a musical competition held at *ILead*, Kolkata.

Members of the Literary Club showcased their literary and artistic talents on a wall magazine which drew the attention of one and all in the academic building foyer—not only for its content, but also for its striking colours and layout. In addition, members of the club represented the university at various festivals including Xavotsav 2018 held at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Among other things, Xavotsav 2018 saw a small company of amateur actors from the department stage an English play from an original script.

Students belonging to the Social Work Club demonstrated avid interest in outreach activities and

were involved in social welfare projects notable among which was the *Shishu Mela* held at the university in December, 2017.

Apart from using every opportunity to debate in class, members of the Debating Club participated in various debating competitions held within and outside the university winning accolades from the audience and special mentions from the judges for their argumentative skills.

The Department of English believes in interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and motivates students to think beyond the narrow confines of their subject. In line with this philosophy, students were encouraged to participate in events organized by other departments within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, for example, the seminar, 'X-Pressions: Challenges and Opportunities for Media in the Digital Age' organized by the Department of Mass Communication in February, 2018. Five students from the department attended the event.

'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'. Two boys from the English department, Akash Das and Benjamin Neville Goldsmith Jajo proved they are not dull by making the time to play carom and going on to win the third prize in the carom competition for postgraduates in the Faculty of Arts and Social Studies.

The academic year 2017-2018 ended with Dr Sucheta Kapoor, the Professor-in-Charge of the department, working in collaboration with the Placement Officer of the University to help students obtain summer internships of their choice. During the semester break, students landed summer internship opportunities in reputed organisations such as the Hope Foundation in Kolkata.



Department of Mass Communication



Department of Mass Comm. (2017 - 2019)

The Department of Mass Communication started its journey from 10th July, 2018. It started with MA in Mass Communication course. The department always tries to provide its postgraduate students an in-depth knowledge of media, especially in areas like print, television, radio, new media, advertising, public relations and so on. The course offers both theory and practical knowledge to the students. The faculty consists of both academic as well as professional experts who impart their experience for the overall development of the students.

Though at its infancy, the Department managed to successfully execute various activities, events and workshops for its students. Its first event was an 'Extempore Speech Competition' in the month of September, 2017 on the topic "Clean India, Healthy India" and "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan". Soon after, in the same month, the Department organized an Inter-departmental Debate competition, where students of

postgraduate departments like English, MSW and Commerce spoke on the topic "Media Plays a Positive Role in Women Empowerment".

The Department successfully organized its first ever 'Photography Exhibition' on the 12th of September, 2017 under the supervision of Professor Asok Dasgupta (visiting faculty from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata) and Dr. Manali Bhattacharya (Prof. in-charge, Mass Communication, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata). The event was judged by renowned photo journalist, Mr. Subrata Patranabis.

On 3rd November, 2017, a lecture delivery competition was jointly organized by St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and Syndicate Bank, SXUK Branch, on the theme "My vision - Corruption Free India" on the occasion of 'Vigilance Awareness Week'.

The students got an exclusive opportunity to go for an industrial visit to the Printing Press of 'The Times of



India', at their Salt Lake office on the 14th of February, 2018 where they learnt about the challenging task of producing newspapers.

The department organised, on the 10th of February 2018, an inter-collegiate seminar - "X-Pressions" on the theme "Challenges and Opportunities for Media in the Digital Age". This was the first intercollege seminar hosted by the University. The seminar was graced by eminent speakers like Mr. Jawhar Sircar (ex CEO of Prasar Bharati), Mr. Sidhartha Ray (CEO Response India Pvt. Ltd.), Mr. Atanu Ghosh (Film Director), Mr. Snehasis Sur (Senior Correspondent, Doordarshan), Mr. Mahesh Motwani (Executive Vice President of the Kolkata Office, Lintas Media Group) and Mr. Anirban Chaudhury (Editor, 24 Ghanta news channel). Students and faculty members from reputed colleges of Kolkata participated in the seminar, making it a huge success.

Various renowned experts also visited and addressed the Department like Dr. Mrinal Chatterjee (Director of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal), Print and TV senior journalist (NDTV) Nupur Basu who held the screening of her documentary "The Velvet

Revolution" on 7th August 2017 and Dr. Venkat Iyer (Director of School of Law, Ulster University, UK) who enlightened the students on 'Journalistic Ethics' on 1st September, 2017.

The students of this department also participated in various sports and cultural activities both inside and outside the campus. Two students Subhramjoy Datta & Sidrah Hamid came second in the university carom competition. Subhramjoy Datta also won second position in the inter-departmental University chess competition. Ten students from Mass Communication department took part in the street play competition at Sri Shikshayatan fest and were placed in the third position.

The Department is offering its students in the month of May, an internship of two months where the students will be able to gain industrial experience. They are doing their internship in reputed media houses and will gain a lot of practical experience. The Department is looking forward to building a state of the art Studio floor and Sound Lab Equipment for the students that will be operational from the coming semester. BA Mass Communication will start from the academic year, 2018.

Department of Social Work



Department of Social Work

Professional Social Work is covered with social development and well being of the vulnerable, under privileged, marginalised and the socially excluded. As a profession, it sensitises students with the theoretical and practical understanding of social situations and ways of bringing about social development and social change.

The Department of Social Work (MSW) organised different activities for its first batch of students along with regular theoretical classes.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

As a part of their orientation programme, the students visited an old age home at Chetla, Kolkata, run by Help Age India. During their visit, the students interacted with the staff and inmates of the home and experienced the necessity of such institutions for the aged; they learned about the social, financial and family situations that compel the old to leave their own homes and the joys and sorrows of living in an old age home.

The students visited DON BOSCO Nikita and witnessed

the dedication of the staff of the organisation in running the Centre and the challenges faced by the trainees (belonging to marginalised groups) in completing training courses. The Social Work students along with the staff of the Organisation, took part in a community mobilisation programme, on the hospitality course offered by DON BOSCO Nikita.

Students visited a Children's Home run by CINI ASHA in Chetla, Kolkata and a Short Stay Home for boys located





in Sealdah Railway Station. CINI Officers, working for the promotion of education among the underprivileged, spoke to the Social Work students about the difficulties faced by the underprivileged children in gaining access to primary education. They also learnt about the functioning of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 and the Child Line 1098 services. While interacting with the inmates of the Homes, Social Work students got to learn about social, financial and family problems like domestic violence which compel children to run away from their homes.

PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Students and Faculty members were invited by Action Aid India, Kolkata Chapter to participate in "Experience-Sharing workshop on Rapid Urbanisation is Exerting Pressure on Water, Sewage and Waste in Kolkata: Finding Solution" on 13th September, 2017. Students actively participated in group discussions on understanding the problems of sustainable waste management and planning ways of improving waste management in Kolkata.

The students and the Faculty members of the Department participated in the "International Conference on Anti-Human Trafficking: Theory to Practice" organised by Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre on 25th and 26th of November, 2017. Listening to foreign ambassadors, legislators, activists, victims of trafficking were eye opening experiences for the Social Work students.

CONCURRENT FIELD WORK PLACEMENT

The Social Work students were placed in three non-governmental organisations for their concurrent field work namely DONBOSCO Tech at Park Circus, Kolkata; Seva Kendra at Radha Nath Chowdhury Lane, Kolkata and Ankur Kala at Park Street, Kolkata. Under the guidance of the Faculty members and active support of the organisations, students have gained immense experience from their concurrent field work placements.

RURAL CAMP

A seven-day rural camp (in collaboration with Udayani, Kolkata) was successfully organised in Pandua (situated in the Hooghly District of West Bengal) from the 12th to the 17th of February, 2018. The purpose of the camp was to sensitise students to rural environment, rural life, rural economy, rural problems, rural administration and development and help them experience group living. Students learned about the awareness and development work undertaken by Udayani at Pandua. The students conducted home visits, visited government primary schools, Anganwadi centres, witnessed the ongoing MGNREGA work in the villages and visited the office of the Panchayat Samiti. They met and interacted with the Block Development Officer, activists working for Right to Food and Right to Work and members of the self-help groups formed by Udayani. Students interacted with the students of *St Xavier's Primary School*, Pandua and



conducted a group session on 'Being Good Citizens' and recreational group activities with the students. Focused Group Discussions were conducted with adolescent girls to help them realise the need of education and economic self-sufficiency for women.

Support Staff



Support Staff Members

Non-Teaching staff forms an integral part of the educational system of our university and their services are indispensable in the quest to enhance quality education. The role played by non-teaching staff in the university and their contribution help to make education more relevant to the needs and aspirations of the university. Hence, it can be said that the non-teaching staff are the brand ambassadors of the University.

These days, generating good public relations is not a goal that resides in one particular person or department. It's something that the whole university can contribute to. Regardless of an employee's job title or day-to-day duties, the non-teaching staff plays a vital role in promoting the university's public image and reputation. We might not realise it, but the non-teaching staff are actively promoting the University's values, mission and goals every time they come in contact or interact with students or public at large.

Our university is supported by non-teaching staff in roles such as the liaison, placement, reception, campus managing, staff manning departments like Vice Chancellor's office, Registrar's office, Finance, Deans' office, Library, Reception, Controller of Examinations, Information Technology, Internal Security, Store and Medical to work closely on areas of developing and obtaining resources, set up and operate equipments, complete administrative tasks, supervise students and participate in activities and events conducted by the university.

The non-teaching staff worked hand in hand during the inauguration ceremony and the Foundation Day of the University. A fire awareness training was organised to enable them to handle situations in case of exigency. An orientation programme was also organised for overall development of staff. The non-teaching staff celebrated the birthday of their Vice Chancellor. A soulful choir was presented by them during Christmas celebrations at the

university. A stall of St. Xavier's University at Milan Mela was manned by the non-teaching staff providing information about the courses conducted at the university to the prospective students. A picnic was organised wherein the non-teaching staff along with the Fathers and teaching staff enjoyed a day of fun, frolic, food and games. The non-teaching staff also participated in smooth conduction of admission procedure, AICTE inspection and were involved in arrangements during events, seminars and functions organised by the university.

The ambition and motto of the non-teaching staff shall always be to offer efficient and courteous service, to act with fairness, integrity and diligence and to be responsible for the allocated work and working in consonance with the Xaverian spirit and values for the betterment of St. Xavier's University.

A sincere note of gratitude is extended to our Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans and the teaching fraternity for their continuous guidance and support to the non-teaching staff in executing their duties and responsibilities and in assisting in the smooth running of the university.



SOCIETIES

The Cultural Society

Formed in January 2018, the first cultural society of *St. Xavier's University* has taken on a wide range of performing arts such as music, dance and theatre. Since its inception, it has rapidly worked to motivate the students to come together and to provide a platform for them to showcase their budding talents. The University now has its very own musical band, and Western and Eastern dance groups, as well as a theatre group.

The students have come forward enthusiastically and displayed their talent on different occasions such as - The University Foundation Day – on the 16th of January, *Bhaasha Divas*, and the Sports Day.

4. At 'Xavotsav', *St. Xavier's College's* Fest, the students won third place in both the 'Hair Styling' competition as well as the 'Mehendi Artone'.
5. The University was placed 2nd in the dance competition, 'Antakshari', and the 'Food Relay' at the college festival of *JDBI*.
6. In Plexus '18, organised by *KPC*, University won 1st place in the 'Bollywood Act' competition.
7. Finally, in the *Ilead* Fest, the students of the University won 1st place, both in the 'Solo Singing' as well as the 'Duet' category.



The society is ever growing and the students are full of zeal. We eagerly look forward to an addition of new talent to our Xaverian culture and to fostering a healthy competitive spirit. The society is enthusiastic about organizing an intra-collegiate talent fest in the month of August, and various other cultural events in the future. The cultural society remains relentless and steadfast in the quest for greater flourish.

They have also represented the University at intercollegiate events in different institutions.

Some of the achievements are -

1. The *St. Xavier's University* dance team placed first at the annual cultural fest at *NIFT*.
2. At the *Shri Sikshayatan College* Festival, 'Srijan', the University won third place for their 'Street Play', 1st place in Hair styling, and was also placed 2nd in 'Junkyard Architecture', One minute to Fame and Card Making.
3. The students of the University stood 2nd in the Fashion show in *Ibtida'17* held at *Jadavpur University*.



Debating Society

It is often said, "For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate."

Debating is a form of art that can lead to absolute and utter chaos if not conducted properly. Joining a debating society in an educational institute gives the student an opportunity of exposure to the world of knowledge, arguments and questions. Most importantly it makes the student more confident to face the world ahead.



With the mission to cultivate better reasoning skills, to develop rational thinking and judgemental skills – St. Xavier's University formed the Debating Society in 2017.

Popularly known as DEBSOC, the society has already taken part in a host of events, mainly debates and quizzes conducted by prestigious institutions.

The Society has also taken up the initiative to organise its own events. An Intra – Model United Nations was organised by the society in February 2018. Enthusiastic participants from different departments of the university came together and involved themselves in heavy debates and discussions.

The Society has also organised a Parliamentary Debate Workshop in March 2018 conducted by students from the Xaverian Debating Society at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Park Street. It was a thoroughly interactive session, which gave the students an overview about parliamentary debates and created yet another platform for them to explore and showcase their expertise.

The Debating Society is a cornerstone laid by the University to help the students develop themselves as strong personalities and face the world with confidence and credence.

Some of our achievements are :

- Valsal Chinimar placed 2nd in Block and Tackle by JDBT-Commercio Conclave'18.
- Rahul Datta placed 2nd in English Debate by NNFT-Spectrum'18.
- Team comprising of Viraj Kapoor and Mangalam Poddar placed 2nd in Debate by JDBT-Verve'18 where Mangalam Poddar was also adjudged Best Speaker (against).
- Team comprising of Viraj Kapoor, Manek Agarwal and Akash Roy placed 2nd in Quiz on Films by Amity Amiphorila.
- Team Comprising of Vishal Nahata and Riobadh Agarwal placed 3rd in the Mastermind Quiz by JDBI-Verve'18.
- At Xavotsav'18 by SXC, a team comprising of Krishna Malpani and Bhawna Agarwal was placed 2nd in the Googly Quiz.



Sports Society

Sports can have a powerful influence on all aspects of life, particularly in the health and wellbeing of humanity.

The Department of Sports of *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata* proudly presented 'Xavogames-2018' on 3rd April, 2018.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest, Mr. Pradip Dutta and the Guest of Honour, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj.



Medals and certificates were awarded to the winners to acknowledge their performance in various Indoor Sports and games such as Chess, Carrom and Table Tennis. Thanks to the efforts of everyone, including Mr. G.P. Gupta, Mr. Mario Louis, Fr. Arulappan and the enthusiastic group of students, the event went off without a hitch.

The Basketball Team (Men and Women) has benefited enormously from the addition of Mr. Puneet Singhania as coach. The practice sessions conducted by him have been popular and effective, for which the students are very grateful. The team undergoes rigorous practice with the coach twice a week.



The Football team was formed in August 2017. They are preparing to represent SXUK in the upcoming tournaments.

We look forward to finding eager new recruits to participate in the sports society in the year to come.



Commerce and Management Society (XCMS)

Societies in colleges help individuals develop their personal and team skills, irrespective of whether it is a cultural society or an academic one.

With the Xavierian spirit of camaraderie, self-assessment, persistent modesty and intellectual pursuit, the department of Commerce and Management of *St Xavier's University, Kolkata*, created the Xavier's Commerce and Management Society (XCMS).



of XCMS is to ensure that students are equipped with the capacity to make effective choices in their field of knowledge.

Since its inception, the society has already shown its inclination towards organising and hosting events and programmes related to commerce and management.



The society was formed in January 2018 with a core committee and a working committee including students from B. Com, BMS and M. Com. The students from all the three disciplines have come forward and joined hands to fulfill their dream of reaching the height of success, triumph and perseverance in the field of commerce and management.

The society was formed with the mission to set a benchmark for acquiring skills required in business and commerce. The main objective

The society has participated in a number of events organised by reputed institutions and colleges. The students eagerly participated and showcased their talents in many of the business events and fests.

Apart from other inter and intra-collegiate awards won by the society within such a short span of time, SXUK has also been awarded the 'Best Overall College' by *JDBI Commercio Conclave 2018*.





EVENTS

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Inauguration ceremony of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

The inauguration ceremony of *St. Xavier's University* Kolkata took place on 7th July 2017. The momentous occasion was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Education Minister Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Mr. Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, the Chairman and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, Mrs. Usha Mittal, Hon'ble Chancellor Father Jeyaraj Veluswamy, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Father Felix Raj, Hon'ble Rector Fr. Dominic Savio and several other dignitaries.

Mr. Mittal articulated his experiences as a student of *St. Xavier's College* and the lesson of decision making he learnt from his Alma Mater. He has since secured emotional and moral assurance on numerous occasions in his business career from the values *St. Xavier's*





inculcated in him. The Chief Minister congratulated the Jesuits for setting up yet another seat of higher learning of strong ethical and aesthetic virtues. She highlighted the contributions of *St. Xavier's* towards the academic, cultural and social endorsements of West Bengal. She expressed her firm belief that like *Harvard* and *Oxford*, *St. Xavier's University* Kolkata will soon be of global significance, thriving on the principles of faith and wisdom.

The Chancellor, Father Jeyaraj Veluswamy called the inauguration a function of divine sanction and reminded all about the precious responsibility of service to a greater number of students for the greater glory of God. Codes of custom and cultural practices are propagated by the educations of *St. Xavier's* and Father Chancellor

thanked all the men and women who have contributed to the making of this historical moment - the birth of *St. Xavier's University* Kolkata.

Father Felix Raj, the first VC of *St. Xavier's University*, Kolkata expressed his gratitude to Mr. Mittal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Government of West Bengal and all the stake holders of *St. Xavier's* for their unstinted support and cooperation. He ordained the students, let *St. Xavier's* be the DNA, the genetic code that students have reached out to the world with. Father VC pledged reciprocal exchanges of service and patronage, loyalty towards academic and social relationships and invoked the Grace of the Lord who presides over the good and glory of the human race.



Foundation Day Celebration



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata observed the first anniversary of its foundation on 15th January, 2018. The University marked the occasion by organizing a Foundation Day Lecture followed by a cultural program put up by the students of the university.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Education, Parliamentary Affairs, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal. The Guest of Honour was Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University. Rev. Fr. Raphael Hyde, Provincial of the Calcutta Jesuit Province and the Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj, Vice Chancellor, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, Rector & Principal, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and Prof. Asish Mitra, Registrar, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, also graced the occasion which was attended by the Deans, the Professors and the Students of the university.

The program began with the hoisting of the University Flag outside Britto House by the Chancellor, the Guest of Honour and the Vice Chancellor. This was followed by the Prayer Song, which was performed by the students.

Rev. Fr. Raphael Hyde, Provincial of the Calcutta Jesuit Province & the Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata gave the Foundation Day message and also





blessed the occasion. He said that the larger objective was to create a centre of excellence and strive to promote a society based on "love, freedom, justice, equality and fraternity".

Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj, the Vice Chancellor, gave the Welcome Address wherein he not only described the University as a "dream come true," but also placed on record the support of various people, particularly, the Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee, the West Bengal Government and the alumni of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. He also informed that the celebrations were being held a day in advance because the Convocation & Valedictory Ceremony of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata was scheduled for the 16th of January, 2018.



The Guest of Honour, Dr. Suranjan Das, who delivered the first Foundation Day Lecture of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, spoke on "The Challenges of Higher Education in India Today."

The Chief Guest, Dr. Partha Chatterjee, hailed St. Xavier's University as "the model to follow." He said that St. Xavier's is an institute which is backed by a legacy of excellence. The quality of education imparted continues to attract students.

The dignitaries cut the Foundation Day cake to mark the celebrations, which was followed by a cultural program put up by the students of the university.



Prof. Asish Mitra, the Registrar of the University, thanked the teachers and the students for putting up a wonderful program. He also placed on record the support of various people, especially Fr. Vice Chancellor, the Jesuit Community and St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association.

The program ended with the teachers and students expressing hope that St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, will become the anchor of higher education in the country, in the days to come.



International Mother Language Day, 2018

Legendary poet Rabindranath Tagore said- “Matri bhasha, matri dugdho Shomo”, which means one’s mother language is equivalent to a mother’s milk.

Our mother tongue is the language which we learn effortlessly, growing up, and this brings us to the celebration of International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day was celebrated on 19th February, 2018 at the *St. Xavier’s University* campus. SANYOG is an international torch-light peace tour that was patronized by *St Xavier’s College*, to commemorate the International Mother Language Day.

Team SANYOG first handed over the lit torch to our Vice Chancellor, Reverend Father Dr. John Felix Raj in the presence of a few alumni members, faculty members and students of the university. This was followed by the singing of the national anthem of Bangladesh as well as of India. The members of the audience observed a minute of silence in honour of the martyrs of the language movement. A musical program was performed by the students of *St. Xavier’s University*. The occasion was finally blessed by the kind words of our very own, Father Vice Chancellor.



Nihil Ultra Award



Excellence 2018, conferred on me for my humble service in this institution. By serving this institution for 33 years, I have learnt many lessons. I thank the Principal and the whole Xaverian family for this token of appreciation. St. Xavier's College has expanded in infrastructure and achieved high academic standards... I am confident that this high standard will be sustained in the years to come," said Father Felix Raj in his acceptance speech.

Fr. Felix Raj, former Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and the current Vice-Chancellor of the St. Xavier's University was honoured with the prestigious the Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence 2018 on January 16 at the eleventh Convocation of the College.

Fr. Felix Raj was given the award not only for his "long and dedicated service to the College" but also for his contribution to the field of education in Bengal, said Fr. Raphael Hyde, the Provincial of the Calcutta Jesuit Province.

"Today I stand here with a sense of humility and a feeling of gratitude... I accept this Nihil Ultra Award of

He steered the College as Principal from 2009 till he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the St. Xavier's University in 2017. A doctor in Economics from Rabindrabharati University, Fr. Felix Raj was rector of the College for six years from 2006. He was also the Vice Principal of the Commerce department of the College for 12 years from 2007.

Fr. Felix Raj, former Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and the current Vice-Chancellor of the St. Xavier's University was honoured with prestigious the Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence 2018 on January 16 at the eleventh Convocation of the College.

"The fruit of Silence is prayer.

The fruit of Prayer is faith.

The fruit of Faith is love.

The fruit of Love is service.

The fruit of Service is peace". ~ Mother Teresa

Xervicio 2017: We Rise by Lifting Others

In keeping with the the Ignatian charism of "Forming Men and Women for Others", *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata* organised its first outreach programme, christened 'Xervicio', by the first batch of students between 17-22 December 2017. The theme for this 'Shishu Mela' was to bridge the urban- rural divide by taking the benefits of education to the poor and marginalized, for their empowerment.

On the 17th of December, the semester examinations of the students of *St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK)* got over. However, that did not mean rest for them as all the 80 student volunteers had already braced themselves to work hard for their first event.

For one week 80 UG and PG students worked tirelessly with nearly 100 children from several schools and civil society organizations in the neighbourhood like Purukkiit SSK, Safalya Shishu Siksha Niketan and Child Care undertaking a range of training activities including Music, Dance, Art and Craft, English and Math skills and, Nutrition, Health and Hygiene.

For many students, this was their first experience at working with children. Students chalked out a plan after intense discussion, debate and repeated meetings. Some children understood what was being taught in seconds while others took time, but all were eager to join this activity. In fact the numbers grew with time. As one volunteer reports, "the best part was, no child said 'no.'" A week of teaching, training, learning and unlearning culminated in a fun fair on 22nd December 2017.

Jointly decorated by the students and children, the venue was dressed in Christmas colours of red and white. A fifteen-feet Christmas tree decorated with colourful

presents took centrestage. Balloons and banners, handmade posters with thematic messages, colourful cutouts and streamers, red and white paper fans, cotton



snowflakes, stars and Christmas balls helped to create a festive air. At the centre of the central courtyard were two boards full of photographs of the preceding week's preparatory and training activities.

Students and staff had assembled early in the morning to make sure everything was ready and welcoming for the children, their teachers and parents. The event was inaugurated in an innovative manner with the signing of a massive earthen pot and lighting of lamps placed atop it by the University authorities including the Hon. Vice Chancellor, Rev Father Dr. John Felix Raj, Pro Vice

Chancellor Rev. Father Dr. Sebasti L. Raj, Registrar. Prof. Ashis Mitra, Dean of Commerce and Management, Prof. Dr. Soma Sur and Dean of Arts and Social Studies, Rev. Father Dr. Soosai Nayagam. Ms. Cheryl Francis, Director Dept. Of Social Work and NSS, *St. Xavier's College* also graced the occasion with her presence.





In his welcome speech Father Vice Chancellor told the assembled the children how he looked forward to the creation of a university where many of them would also study in the future. Pro Vice Chancellor Rev. Father Sebastia Raj said that this was the beginning of a long journey with many such events in the future.

An hour long cultural performance by the children along with their youth 'trainers' from the university followed. This included a graceful dance performance by girls from Child Care followed by a musical and recitation performance by the primary children from Purukiit school. Students of Safalya Shiksha Niketan came up with two dance numbers of their own.

There was an interlude when students of Child Care Home displayed a new Japanese technique in arithmetic which had been taught by the students. It was unbelievable that in a short span of time maths became a form of entertainment for the 250 plus crowd assembled at the event. Usually 'Maths' and 'Entertainment' don't go together and it's practically impossible to incorporate it into an onstage event and make it fun, but that's what SXUK will be famous for - making the impossible things

possible. An acrobatic group dance performance by Child Care girls followed - a feat that they learnt in a very short span of time.

In the Jesuit spirit of togetherness and inculcating a community feeling, a group of children from the three organisations together with their student mentors made and served Jhal Muri – to the dignitaries and all 260 people present at the venue. After all, this was one of the nutritious snack using locally available materials that the student volunteers had taught them during their week together. Every precaution was taken to maintain hygienic habits like washing hands, washing the vegetables before cutting, covering the food etc. Preparation and serving of Jhal Muri within a span of barely 10 minutes was a logistic challenge in itself as the dish had to retain its freshness while preventing it from becoming soggy!

After the programme the performers and other children and their teams were taken to the basketball court where they played a number of games and conducted races. This was followed by a sumptuous picnic lunch which was sponsored by a philanthropic giver. All the while student volunteers made sure that the children and their accompanying teachers and parents were safe and enjoying themselves.

Students and children enjoyed participating in the games and food stalls that were put up by a group of students. Games stalls included '7 up 7 down', 'Hit the Cans' and 'Car Racing' while food stalls included one on dry snacks and soft drinks while another one on indian street food. The Vice Chancellor along with the dignitaries and faculty visited the stalls and interacted heartily with the participants.



After an hour of endless fun at the stalls and basketball court everyone assembled at the Hall Of Fame for the closing ceremony. The ceremony began with a ceremonial cake cutting by Father VC. Children rolled in laughter when videos of their favourite cartoons were



screened. Towards the end there walked in a dancing Santa with his companions showering colourfully wrapped gifts on all the children. A quick photo shoot with the participating Didis and Dadas helped to secure memories before the children left for home.

Exhausted but happy the students celebrated the successful completion of their first University programme with photos, cake and music. You can say one down, many more to go. The aim still remains the same to grow by helping others. Nihil Ultra, always.

X-pressions 2018

The department of Mass Communication of St Xavier's University, Kolkata, organised its first inter- collegiate seminar, "X-Pressions" on 10th of February, 2018. The theme was 'Challenges and Opportunities for Media in the digital age.'

Eminent media professionals were invited as Resource Persons. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev Fr. John Felix Raj inaugurated the seminar and gave the welcome address. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Ex CEO of Prasara Bharti. He discussed the impact of Digital World on Radio and TV.



Other esteemed speakers included Mr. Siddhartha Ray, CEO, Response India Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Snehasis Sur, the Senior Correspondent at Doordarshan, Kolkata, Atanu Ghosh, film director, Mr Mahesh Motwani , Executive Vice President of Lintas Media Group and Mr Anirban Chaudhury, editor of 24 Ghanta. Each presentation was followed by question and answer session.

This was followed by the student session where one student from each of the invited colleges spoke on the

theme. Students of St Xavier's College, Loreto College, Shri Shikshayatan College, Murlidhar Girls' College, and S.A. Jaipuria College were invited. Along with the students, faculty members from these colleges also participated in this interactive seminar.

The day-long seminar was followed by distribution of certificates to the participants.

FACILITIES



Library



The library at SXUK, is in its infancy, considering the age of the university. However, the endeavours it has undertaken in providing knowledge to its students can only be envied or serve as a template to be followed by others. The library at SXUK functions with the sole purpose of making knowledge accessible to all its students at their convenience.

Under the guidance and leadership of our esteemed Vice Chancellor Dr Fr. Felix Raj S.J and our Library Director Dr. Fr. Soosai Nayagam S.J, the Library have embraced modern technology to protect and spread knowledge available in the Library.

All books are RFID tagged which help in the easy tracking, issuing and return of books, which the students themselves can do with a self-help kiosk. The latest version of KOHA a Linux based software is used for this purpose. The 23rd version of DDC is used to catalogue book, journals, cds and magazines.

The Lending library on the ground floor caters to the students and the P.G. Library on the second floor caters to the post graduate students.

Students can access e-books on their mobiles, laptops, tablets and computers installed in the reading rooms. The e-resource is a repository

of a vast range of books and titles on various subjects which students can access by the help of campus Wi-Fi system provided to both the students and faculty.

Access to INFLIBNET, NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY, JSTOR and a host of other journals are available for academic and research purposes. In all there are more than 5000 titles available in the library.

Dr Fr Soosai Nayagam S.J, the Library Director with the blessings and support of our Honourable V.C. Dr. Felix Raj S.J. is trying to give library a different shape and dimension by moving it to the new building. This will help St Xavier's University to achieve the pinnacle of academic glory.



Xavier's Information Technology



Information and Communication Technology is significant and unceasingly creating an environment of Digitalization in order to facilitate best services towards emerging need of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. St. Xavier's University IT Departments started its onward march from May, 2017 under the direction of Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj SJ Vice Chancellor and Prof. Ashis Mitra, Registrar along with Technical Guidance of Prof. Shalabh Agarwal, HOD of Computer Science Dept. St. Xavier's College, Park Street, whose tireless effort and intervention and accompanying leadership of Mr. Jarman Emmanuel and Mr. Sudip Shekhar Dutta made the IT infrastructure come to an existence at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

Following are the main functionalities of the IT dept. of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata:

1. Provide IT facilities to Entire University's Departmental Offices and computer laboratories (Commerce and Management Lab, Language Lab and MBA Lab).
2. Provide IT facilities to the Videography and Print Media lab with updated and resourceful software supported by IMAC systems.
3. Provides Audio- Visual and Projector facilities to the high-tech classrooms and in some other major events of the University.
4. Entire University's students and Staff Data management has been implemented through ERP Software which is being executed by IT Dept.
5. In house ID Card generation system with present time Photo and Picture capturing.
6. Entire University Campus is observed and supervised with 24x7 CCTV which is maintained by IT Dept.
7. E-Book Resource for the students where more than 5000 books are available through Wi-Fi Mode in the Campus which is also control over by IT Dept.
8. IT dept. facilitates service to Amphitheater with Dolby Digital Sound System for commencement of smart Classes, Debates, Group Discussion, Seminar and other internal events.
9. IT department also looks after the Creation of Digitalized Banner and Videography & Video editing work on the various occasions and events of the University.
10. Entire University Campus is designed with high tech Networking Backbone and High Speed Internet Connectivity in Duplex and Half Duplex mode to cater internet facility to beneficiaries which is also looked after by IT Dept.

IT Dept. extends its supports and resources to all the stakeholders of St. Xavier's University.

Placement Cell



The Placement Cell of St. Xavier's University endeavours to bridge the expectations of the students vis-a-vis the industry as a whole. The students dream to be associated with the best corporate house and on the other hand the corporate houses intend to hire the best minds.

The cell shall undertake an array of activities to cement the student-corporate relationship viz. resume writing workshops, GD Sessions, mock interviews, and other job oriented activities. These activities shall be undertaken in collaboration with the stalwarts from leading business houses.

PROCESS

The university shall attempt to help each students in exploring placement opportunities by inviting various companies for campus recruitment of students, who are on the verge of completion of their degree/post degree courses.

The final placement will be undertaken in a systematic interaction with the business houses and continuous career counseling of the students. This will evolve as a win-win model for those involved.

CONSTITUTION

All placement related activity shall be carried by a committee comprising of students and faculty members. The placement officer shall be acting as a catalyst between the university and the corporates.

REGISTRATION

Students interested in availing placement support from the university will have to register themselves for placement. Those who do not wish to avail any kind of placement support need not register themselves.

Placement Cell shall attempt to get the best corporate houses for placement/internship. We are pleased to announce that some of our post-graduate students are undergoing internship in some of the leading organisations like **Jet Airways, State Bank of India, Balmer Lawrie, Tata Hospital, Tractors India Limited, Press Trust of India, United Bank of India, Hyatt Regency etc.**

Infirmary



The Infirmary of our university is equipped to render basic medical support to its students manned by a trained health-care attendant from Messrs. Tribera Care Private Limited. A separate provision is in place for the boys and girls falling sick during class hours, semester examinations or any events in the university. All medications are administered under the strict advice of a medical specialist. The university is having a

collaboration with the nearest hospital viz. Ohio Hospital for handling medical emergency. Ambulance facility is also available at the university for transporting the students to the nearest hospital in case of any eventualities. The infirmary usually functions during the class hours. We at SXUK firmly believe, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."



Hostels

The highly anticipated plans for the hostel of St. Xavier's University have finally been accomplished and students will be able to avail its services from August, 2018. St. Xavier's University has built two separate buildings for its female & male students. The capacity of each building is thirty students per floor. And with 10 floors in each building, the University will soon be able to host around 300 students in each building. Each room will be of 200 square feet with an attached balcony. The rooms will be in twin sharing mode. From August, 2018, G+ 2 floor will start operating.

Food Court



The food court at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata aims to cater to its students and staff members throughout the working hours and operates as distinct units at the ground level and on the fifth floor for its staff and students respectively. The fully-operational and well equipped kitchens work to ensure that the food served is fresh and nominal for those to buy. The food court is spacious enough to accommodate its students as they enjoy their sumptuous meals.



Contributions ...



Cradle of Sanctity and Goodwill
Priyadarshini Gupta, M.Com (2017-19)



Standing Tall
Anisha Ghosh, Mass.Com (2017-19)



Enchantment of the intersection - **Yagyaseni Bhattacharya, M.Com (2017-19)**



Through the drops
Anisha Ghosh, Mass.Com (2017-19)



Evanescence and Rebirth - **Priyadarshini Gupta, M.Com (2017-19)**



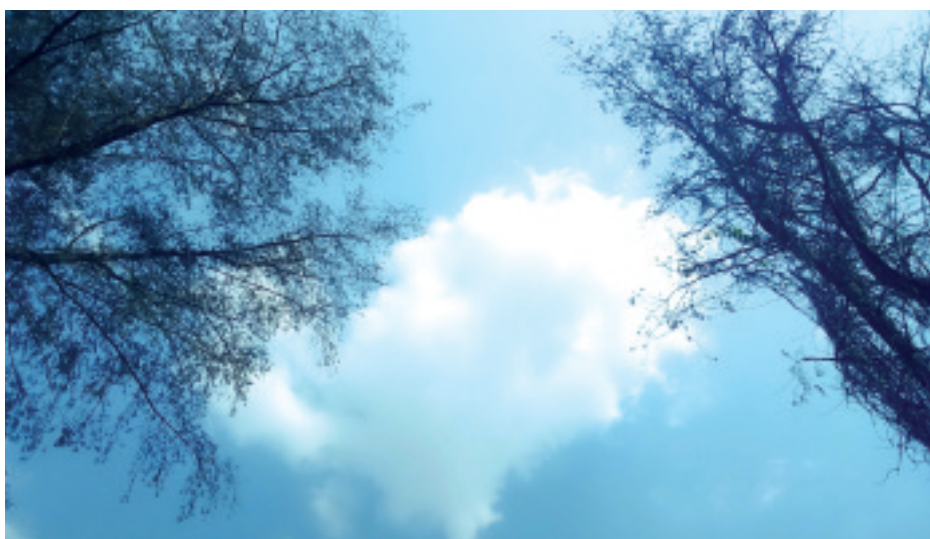
Freedom vs Captivity: A monochromatic contrast
Priyadarshini Gupta, M.Com (2017-19)



A New Horizon - **Malisha Anthony, Dean's Office (Commerce and Management)**



When nature decides to allure - **Yagyaseni Bhattacharya, M.Com (2017-19)**



Into the sky, **Anisha Ghosh, Mass.Com (2017-19)**



Road to Nowhere - **Kinjal Majumdar, M.A., Mass Comm. (2017-19)**

The New Horizon in Education in the City of Dreams

The view of the Sunday crowd in front of the bungalow was vivid from the left window of the car. Hundreds, perhaps, thousands of hands stood waving at the figure on the balcony, with many struggling to capture a decent picture. Randeep stared at the commotion for a few minutes and then turned his head towards the windshield, blankly, almost aimlessly. Flocks of people crossed the road and joined the crowd to get a glimpse of the famous Bollywood celebrity, Arman Kapoor on his birthday. "What a contrast to my own dull and monotonous life; after the dreadful labour of six hours and you get almost nothing, doing something you hardly feel satisfied with!" sighed Randeep. The left door of the car opened as Kritika got in, examining her digital camera.

"Did you get any decent pictures?" asked Randeep as he accelerated the car.

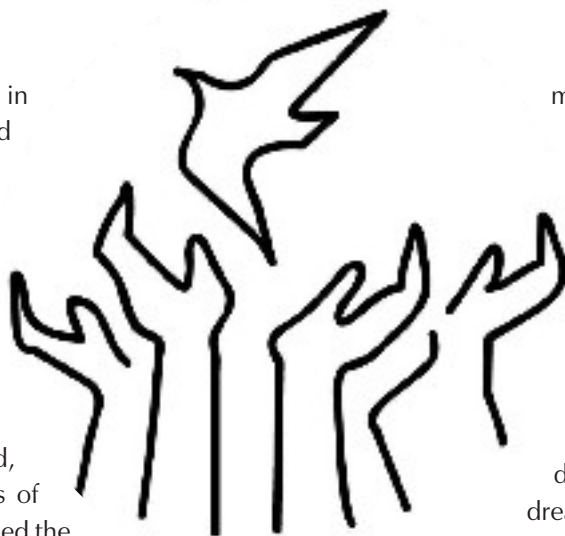
"No, I don't think so. Hey! This one's fair, isn't it?" asked Kritika turning the camera towards Randeep.

"Yeah!"

"You should have come with me. He was more clearly visible from where I stood than from the car's window."

A silence followed. Kritika turned her head away with a look of compassion, realizing that she shouldn't have said that.

When he couldn't sleep till late at night, Randeep removed the blanket that lay over him and walked up to the balcony. Marine Drive stood mostly silent at



midnight, making the sound of the lashing waves more audible. Randeep lit a cigarette and gazed at the road and at times, at the dark, limitless sea.

"What purpose did I have to move to Mumbai after resigning from the service at the government school in Kolkata? Only to pursue my dream in this so-called 'city of dreams'! Bullshit!"

Sitting at the dinner table, Randeep's father asked, "Is everything going fine, Riju?" Randeep kept silent for a moment and then replied, "I... I wish to quit the job and move to Mumbai. I want to do something better." "Something better like?" his father queried as he mixed the dal with rice. "If I can do something in films...." the statement was left incomplete and several questions were hurled at him by his mother in one breath.

"Are you totally out of your mind, Riju? Who gave you this stupid idea? Your friends? Don't listen to them! They want to ruin your career. You have a government job; there cannot be a more prestigious job than that."

"It's not about doing a prestigious job. But... But look, you have always trusted me. Trust me this time as well, please?" Randeep pleaded passionately.

"You wanted to study literature, and we agreed. But now when you have got a government job, you wish to quit it?"

"But it yields no fame. I will die, perhaps unknown to the world. And moreover, it's not the reason why I attended the acting classes."

"I knew it. It's for this reason that I didn't want you to go for acting classes. Why don't you say something?" demanded Randeep's mother, turning towards her husband.

"What if you can't make any fortune over there? It's no less difficult than climbing the Mount Everest", commented Randeep's father.

"I will find a job."

"You think you can leave Kolkata for Mumbai, to do something better? Fine, but when you return I want to hear that you're really doing something better."

These were the last words Randeep had heard; he then moved to Mumbai. That was nearly five years ago and he was still looking for that something better. All these years, he had worn a mask of deception, lying to his parents about his new job at a government school, when in reality, he was working as a pizza boy. He was lucky to get this job despite him being over-qualified for it, after having received a series of rejection from various educational institutions, due to a lack of vacancy. But now, the mask was suffocating him more and more with every passing year. This apartment, the car all belonged to the lady sleeping in the bedroom; she was even bearing most of the expenses of Randeep's retired parents and of the family. At times, Randeep thought that all he was good at was deceiving- deceiving his parents and also himself with the promise of a fruitful future. "Only a few days more as a junior artist, only a few more minor roles. One day they will surely say, 'Mr. Randeep, we would like you to play the lead role', that day might not be far away", he had thought to himself. But the vision of a fruitful future was fading away with every passing day as a junior artist, Randeep's dejection was at its height as he decided to quit.

With the first streak of daylight falling upon her, Kritika opened her eyes. The glass of the door to the balcony was covered with dew. On the other side, was vaguely visible the shadowy figure of Randeep, dozing on the chair. Kritika opened the door and stood for some time, staring at her husband. She gently nudged him. "Is it morning already?" asked Randeep. Kritika drew a chair and sat in front of him. "What's wrong?" Randeep questioned, as Kritika continued to stare at him.

"Why don't you just do it?" she asked.

"Do what?" asked Randeep, now irritated.

"The role offered to you by Sandeep Kumar?"

"That guy will never offer me the lead role. And I am not going to accept that supporting role again."

"Do you expect everything to fall into your lap? You were offered about five roles after you decided to quit and you rejected all of them."

"I am tired of these insignificant roles. I didn't spend three years in acting school to do such menial jobs. Anyway, let it go. I am getting late for work."

"Look, either you wander around the city as a pizza boy and spend more sleepless nights dejected, or you can set your feet on the path to success." Kritika got up and walked away. She paused for a while, turned around and said, "By the way, it's not really about the role. It's about the performance and winning the hearts of the masses."

Randeep sat on the bench at the station, waiting for the train. An announcement of the arrival of a train heading towards Andheri was made and within minutes, the train arrived with a loud honk. The crowd in the station disappeared as the train compartments were filled. Randeep got on his feet and boarded the train.

After getting off, he walked towards the Retro Studio. He got inside and went up to the director, Sandeep Kumar, who was busy, deep in conversation with another man.

"Sir..." said Randeep in a feeble voice.

"Yes?" the director turned towards Randeep.

"I am Randeep Banerjee. You called me for a minor role in the film two days ago."

"Yes, yes, I remember."

"I am ready to do the job, if it is still available, Sir."

"Alri-", the director was cut short by the other person.

"May we have a word in private, Sandeep?" asked the other person, while staring at Randeep all this time.

The two got up, walked a little far away from Randeep and began discussing something.

"Great! Perhaps, I have lost this role too and they are

thinking of giving it to someone else. Kritika will probably gun me down for not accepting the role when it was first offered to me. Now I have to continue deceiving everyone. I should have become an astrologer, at least I would have earned money for deceiving people.” Such thoughts ruminated in Randeep's mind.

The two men came back and looked at each other. Perspiration formed on Randeep's forehead. The director then said, “The lead actor, Ravi Shirvastav is having a problem with our scheduled dates.

We were thinking of signing you for the lead role. Are you in?”

- **Saumyadeep Mukherjee**
M.A. (English)

Inside

It was charcoal Blackness - a deep, gnawing darkness, that threatened to penetrate even the depths of your skin. It crawled and scratched on your arm, and you watched as the dead flakes rode on the winds of darkness and disappeared into the night. You proceeded warily, like a ship led awry by the violent wind, not knowing which way will lead towards home. The darkness obfuscated the myriad of pathways. Here, there were no street lamps to light your path, just some coloured spots of the mind that moved when you approached them. Presently you came upon a tree. An ancient specimen with a thousand arms that disappeared into the stygian darkness, all bare save one. On that twisted, gnarled arm dangled a chinar leaf. Deep, deep red, almost as if it had been washed in blood. The flaming hue seemed to dance before your eyes, its rhythm unbroken by the winds of darkness. It untangled itself from the branch, and quivered and fluttered mid-air, all the while beckoning to you to follow its mad, frenzied movements. You obeyed swiftly, drawn intuitively towards it, your eyes never leaving the splash of red. Then, a rumble caused you to stop and turn back- in horror you watched the misty blackness seeping into the tree, and its arm animated with a new, morbid purpose as it were, stretched itself out after you, to pull you back into the dark hole. You ran, sprinting after the scarlet hue. You ran till the gnarled arms could get you no more; you ran till the blackness around you paled, till the blood red of the chinar exploded in the bleached space.



You watched the fire in the sky, mesmerised. The dancing flames stirred your soul- looking back; you saw the mouth of the tunnel growing smaller and smaller. You have left it far behind. It will threaten you no more.

- **Sharmistha Chatterjee**
M.A. (English)

Growing up between the Pages

Ruskin Bond wrote, “Book readers are special people, and they will always turn to books as the ultimate pleasure.” From clay tablets and papyrus in the past to Kindles and e-books in the present, books have been a vital part of the human civilization. Like everything else on Earth, books can be divided into various categories, with the most popular division being ‘fiction’ and ‘non-fiction’. Even though learning never ends, the stereotypical idea of education claims that we do most of our reading and learning in institutions. With the exception of language-based subjects, we learn from books that generally belong to the ‘non-fiction’ category. Be it geography, science, mathematics or history, we rely on chapters full of facts and figures. However, that is not the only form of education that matters. Over the years, the fictional world has been my partner in crime against boredom, reality and difficult times. Be it short stories, fables, fairy tales, novels, poetry or comics, each form, with its own charm, has taught me something new. To be fair, the lessons I took away from the fictional world were always on human emotions, but morals and emotions weren’t the only lessons I learnt. I’ve travelled the hills with Ruskin Bond and gone to Japan with Murakami. I’ve learnt about the history of our world by reading period romance novels and felt the unfathomable pain of people in Afghanistan with Khaled Hosseini. I’ve learnt about codes, symbols and religions while travelling through Europe with Dan Brown and learnt not only about war but also about the consequences of a war with epics like *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*. Sherlock Holmes, James Bond and Chacha Chaudhary became the rocks that I sharpened my mind with. I understood more about our country’s history and political connotations by reading the novels of Arundhati Roy and Amitav Ghosh than any history book that was a part of my syllabus. I’ve discovered mysteries of space and science with every science fiction book I read and found answers to questions that had plagued

me. More than that, each of these books made it easy to ask the difficult questions and to think beyond what my mind could comprehend. Ruskin Bond further added, “Those who do not read are the unfortunate ones. There’s nothing wrong with them; but they are missing out on one of life’s compensations and rewards.” Most teenagers these days focus only on their textbooks and would rather spend their leisure time playing games or watching videos on their electronic gadgets, rather than exploring the worlds open to the readers of fiction. However, today institutions are realising the value of these books, with many universities including classes and dissertations relating to fictional books like Harry Potter and Game of Thrones for subjects like cultural studies, psychology, political science, economics and linguistics among many others. Education was never meant to be learnt within four walls, by poring over text books while passively accepting and mugging up facts. The idea of education is to learn, to instil values, beliefs and skills in people, so as to make them better human beings and improve their quality of life. A regular habit of reading from a young age can enrich any child’s education and take learning beyond the school premises and hours. The inclusion of ‘storybooks’ or fiction as a compulsory part of the student’s education can add marvel and excitement to the curriculum followed by educational institutions.

Someone once told me that the best thing to inherit is a library, with each book being a new experience. Walt Disney said, “There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island”, and with the power of this treasure, mankind can make a quantum leap, which no amount of gold, jewels or money can match up to.

- Eesha Goenka
M.A. (Mass Com)

From Black Boards to Smart Boards!

Nowadays, society is affected by the information and communication technologies (ICT) that stresses the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications computers as well as necessary enterprise software, middleware, storage, and audio-visual systems. These enable users to access, store, transmit, and manipulate information. What has changed after the ICT in education? Are there improvements with this new “material”? What are its new horizons?

ICT introduces e-learning. E-learning can be simply defined as the domain that covers all methods of training, with the help of computers, such as online training/learning, distance learning and web based learning which can be accessed at our convenience. In practice, e-learning is often seen as a means of training, from any computer station equipped with an internet connection, where many types of information and communication technologies can be used, for example: audio, video, computers, laptops, tablets, whiteboards, web based tutoring systems and mobile devices. The most important horizon today for e-learning, are the online courses aimed at unlimited participation and

open access via the web through audio- video tutorials and e-books.

The 1990s was the decade of computer communications and information access, particularly with regard to its popularity and the accessibility of internet-based services such as electronic mail and the World Wide Web. At the same time CDs became the standard for distributing packaged software (that replaced the floppy disk). This allowed large, information-based software packages such as encyclopaedias to be distributed, cheaply and easily. As a result educators became more focused on the use of the technology to improve methods of teaching for students.

Computer based systems, ICT and any technology in general, should not be viewed as "add-ons" but as tools which are an integral part of a person's learning experience. These tools have to be used in an adaptive way, depending on the different parameters around the learning process, to continue creating infinite new horizons.

- Anusree Chaudhuri
M.A. (Mass com.)

Indian Education: On the Road to Demographic Dividend or Demographic Disaster?

The Indian Education scenario is a much-discussed topic, especially by the youth. We are both the products, as well as the critics of this system. The purpose of this write-up is not to criticise the system and complain about it, but to evaluate where it is taking us and what can be improved.

I have always been a firm believer of the fact that whenever we participate in anything, we should ask ourselves, “why we are doing it?” It is very important to understand the purpose behind doing anything, so that we are able to do it well. The problem with the Indian

education scenario fundamentally, begins here. The very mind set with which many of us approach education is fundamentally incorrect. Unfortunately, most of us see education as a means that enables us to earn money and to acquire technical skills. However, the true purpose of a successful education system should be character formation, the development of mental abilities, innovation and skill development. In order for our education system to be successful and meaningful, it is very important for us to change our mind set from the former to the latter. The renewed outlook and approach towards education, itself, will make a lot of difference.



Let us analyse some of the major issues that the Indian education scenario presents us with.

There is excessive stress placed on gaining good academic results. In most cases, the academic results of the students are taken to be a measure their capabilities. Indians are very judgemental when it comes to the examination results of a student. The Board Exam result is like a baggage that every student must carry around and that particular sheet of paper, in most cases, determines the future quality of life of that student. The concept that has been fed to all students is that this is the sheet of paper which will determine the college he/she will get into, which eventually will decide the type of job he/she gets, and will in turn, again, determine the quality of life he/she will have. These examinations have become like the World Cup final. If you win it, you are remembered as the World Champion, but if you lose just that one game, no matter how good you have been in the other games of life, history will write you off.

Moreover, is it right to judge the capability of a student, by merely taking into consideration how well he/she has answered a given set of questions during a three-hour

time period, on a particular day? Even the world's greatest mathematician can make a calculation error. Does this discount the fact that he is a great mathematician?

A major problem in our country is dropouts. A major reason for this is the outlook towards education. As I have discussed earlier, if we see education just as a means that enables us to earn money, we will dropout of the system as soon as this purpose is achieved. A farmer may find it more "profitable" to make his son work in the field than to send him to school. The Government of India had started the Mid-Day meal scheme, and this scheme has been hailed as a success.

However, if we are to truly analyse the reason behind its success, it is that the parents are happy that they do not have to worry about at least one meal. It is unfortunate that it is the smell of rice, and not the eagerness to learn, that attracts students to school. Talking about the economically secure section of the society, if we are to truly analyse it, isn't the craze behind getting the MBA tag or becoming an engineer, pandering to the

advertisement of "assured placements" and the lure of six digit salaries?

There is an urgent requirement to make the learning process interesting and interactive. Education should not just be about learning facts. It should be a process of holistic development. In most cases, presently, the student comes to the class, listens and writes down what the teacher says, learns by rote and reproduces it exactly in the same way, in the answer scripts. We must realise that the purpose of a school or a college is not to sharpen the student's capacity for memorizing, but enable his brain to be able to think better. We must focus on developing the thinking skills of a student, rather than just his memory power. The classes have to be made interesting. This will not only make students interested in attending class, but also make the understanding process easier.

There has to be a greater focus on practical knowledge. In fact, practical experience makes learning easier too. A student, who has never seen a hill or a mountain, may never understand the accurate difference between the

two. Moreover, it is very important for students to be taught how to apply their theoretical knowledge in practice. Students may be taught theoretically, what the banking system is, but they will not understand how it actually works, unless they themselves are given first-hand experience of it. We need to stop producing “useless graduates” and instead produce “employable graduates”. When it comes to working in an office, it is not about vomiting out mugged-up answers, but more about applied skills.

A major disease that has plagued the Indian Education system is that education has become a business. It has been rightly said that religion and education, are two of the biggest disguised businesses in India. Education was always meant to be a service.

The rise of Private Tuition / Coaching classes or the system of Chartered teachers is one of the major flaws in this regard. I believe, this is both a cause and effect of the poor quality of teaching in the school and college classrooms. It is an ‘effect’ in the sense that the very reason that students have to opt for such classes is that they find that learning in the classroom is not effective enough. And, in many a cases, unfortunately, it is a ‘cause’ as some teachers may deliberately victimize students in order to get them to attend their tuition classes. If teaching in our schools and colleges was good enough, would students require attending such classes? Moreover, if some students require some extra help, why can’t it be provided within the school or college framework itself?

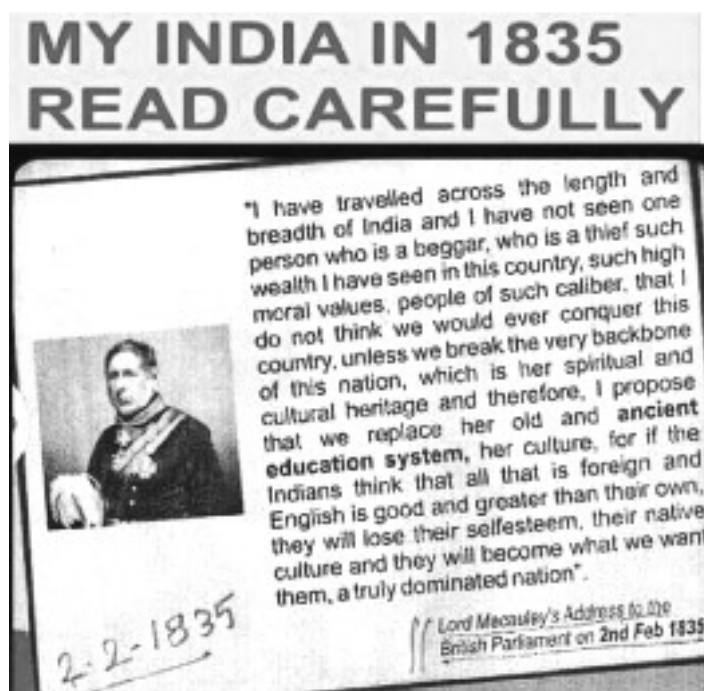
Many people argue that coaching classes are necessary for competitive or entrance exams, since schools and colleges do not usually provide training for that. However, don’t coaching classes for such exams disturb the level playing field, especially for students belonging to the economically weaker sections of society? These exams are meant to test the true merit of the students, but unfortunately, they only end up testing how well the students have been able to apply the formulas that they’ve learnt in the coaching classes.

There should be more flexibility and choices made available to students to allow them to pursue what they desire, instead of forcing them into stereotype courses. To prevent and reduce dropouts, especially among the

weaker sections of society, there should be better provisions for vocational courses. A country of 121 crore people still has a shortage of trained mechanics and electricians! We have to improve the classroom situation. Examinations should not just be limited to testing theoretical knowledge. A student’s report card must provide his true and holistic picture. We need to focus on developing thinking skills and not just memory skills.

Indians have been the most intelligent people on the earth since the dawn of civilization. When given the chance, we have always proved what we are capable of, whether it is in the case of the software industry, healthcare industry or any other booming sector. However, first it was the British, and now it is the present education system (which may just be leftovers of the British era), that is crippling us.

India is known for its population. It is up to us whether



we look at it as “human resource” or we look at it as “population explosion”. It is up to us whether to extract a demographic dividend out of it or to make it into a demographic disaster. I just pray and hope that the Human Resource Development of our country is in safe hands. We want a system that not only prepares us for examinations, but prepares us for life as well.

- Vatsal Chirimar
M.A. (Mass Com.)

INDIA :The Rising Star on the World Horizon?

On 15th August, 1947, the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru had said, "The future beckons to us. Whither do we go and what shall be our endeavor? To bring freedom and opportunity to the common man, to the peasants and workers of India; to fight and end poverty and ignorance and disease; to build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation, and to create social, economic and political institutions which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman." The ambition of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was to "wipe every tear from every eye." And our forefathers had presented their vision of India and expected us to build an India of their dreams.

Our country has come a long way since 1947, and there are a number of things that make us proud today. Our GDP has crossed the one trillion mark. We have become the second fastest growing economy of the world. We have earned a good reputation from the world at large; with our developments in various fields –whether it is information technology, biotechnology, industrial research, etc. "The country of snake charmers" has become the largest exporter of computer software in the world. The "India Brand" has caught the attention of global business leaders.

However, there is another side to it too. The converse, which should concern us greatly, is how much we get carried away by our achievements - modest as they may be - and fail to recognize the barriers that obstruct us from realising our full potential. Various statistics point to the fact that for every rupee spent by the government on development, less than ten paisa of the amount actually reaches the beneficiary. The media and researchers are constantly highlighting the massive amounts of money being spent in corrupt practices such as the ₹ 250,000 crores loss of revenue to the government due to tax evasion, ₹ 50,000 crores additional cost to the country because of delays in project implementation, due to bureaucratic red tape and ₹ 2000 crores offered as bribes by truck drivers at various check points in the country.

Even after 67 years of independence, about 300 million people in our country cannot manage two square meals a day. Only 74.04% of our country is literate (not even considering the fact that anybody who can write his own name in a regional / national language is considered to be literate). The literacy rate is well below the world average of 84% and literacy among Indian women is only around 64%. A number of Indians do figure in the Forbes' List of Richest People in the World, but on the other hand, India has one of the largest populations living below the poverty line.

The contradictions about India do not stop here. Most of the scientists and doctors living in America are Indians, but many Indian villages do not have a primary health centre even today. We feel proud when an NRI or a Person of Indian Origin, wins an international award. But has not the meaning of NRI changed from Non-Resident Indian to Not Really Indian (as Mr. Shashi Tharoor had once put it)?

India has become one of the world's largest producers of various fruits, vegetables and cash crops, but we also have one of the highest numbers of farmer suicide rates, in the world.

All of us have a vision about our country. More often than not, we talk about "India 2030", "India 2050" or "India: The Next Superpower". It is good to have such visions and dreams but we need to also focus on how we are going to actually achieve this vision or dream. It is easy to promise bullet trains or to talk about completing the work that has been pending for the last 60 years within 60 months, but how are we actually going to accomplish this? Our leaders have shown us the light at the end of the tunnel, but not how they are going to build the tunnel.

Another important point to be noted here is that in order for India to become the superpower that we want it to become, each one of us needs to change and make our contribution towards the cause. Most of us would agree

that corruption is one of the major impediments en route the path of our becoming a superpower. However, what is the solution to such a problem? The problem in India is that each one of us is corrupt to a certain extent. We continuously try to make things “easy” for ourselves by paying a bribe. But if we analyse it, corruption is the most fundamental problem of our country. And corruption is not only concerned with money. My idea of an apt definition of corruption is, “Doing what you are not supposed to do or not doing something that you are supposed to do”. Therefore, corruption is something that starts from something as fundamental as lying to other people. An “educated” Indian spitting on the road is also an act of corruption. The problem is quite widespread. The only way to root out corruption is to stop being corrupt ourselves in our daily activities.

The next important thing that we need to do to contribute in building an India of our dreams is to change our attitude. Three important points need to be noted in this regard.

First of all, we need to develop a love for our country. A display of love for our country should not just be restricted to attending cultural programs or sending text messages on Independence Day or Republic Day, but must go beyond that. What is urgent is the need to develop a sense of belonging towards our country. We are very eager and proud when referring to our personal belongings – My house, My car, My office and even My Computer. But we lack the same sympathies when referring to My Country, My India. And this is the basic reason why we do not come forward to contribute in the process of the development of our country. We simply do not care. If given a chance, we do not think twice before leaving the country and relocating abroad, without first even giving a thought to how our services would benefit our own country. And perhaps, this is where we lose out. The most number of successful scientists, doctors and IT professionals in the US are Indians. Just imagine, what India would be like if these gentlemen and women who call themselves NRIs had rendered their services here, instead of becoming ‘Not Really Indian’ (NRI)?

The second point in this regard is that we need to rise above negativity. We need to stop losing hope; with

phrases like “*Is desh ka kuch nahi ho sakta*”. Yes, there may be enough reasons to despair. Farmers' suicides and the sight of rotting grain in a country where millions still go hungry, is an assault on our national dignity. But at the same time, the fact that a good GDP growth rate has helped pull millions out of poverty is not to be scoffed at. We talk about the importance of attracting foreign investors but we ourselves are the most vociferous critics of our country. It is a well-known joke that the best way to identify an Indian is to start criticising India. The person with the most vituperative criticism will be an Indian.

The third important point of this discussion is that we need to start respecting the political system of our country. It is true that there are so many leaders, who supposedly represent us in the Parliament, that are unfit to do so. But aren't we the ones to blame for this? Do we actually vote for a candidate who realistically states, before the elections, that he cannot solve the water and electricity problem within a fortnight? Or, do we vote for someone who vociferously claims that he will solve the problems of 60 years within 60 days? Instead of watching entertainment programmes on television do we take the time to watch how our representatives behave in Parliament? Even if we are aware of how our representatives behave do we build up the courage to question them? Or are we too careless and insensitive to do so? Do the future youth of India express a desire to enter the political system of our country or is he/she too preoccupied with searching for jobs in some multinational company?

If we really want to see India becoming a superpower, all of us need to make a united effort to accomplish it. We are labouring under the misconception that we have been born to become a superpower and will become so, even without any effort on our part. Becoming a superpower is not just about economic growth. It entails overall growth and development. I believe that we can make a collective attempt to build the India that our forefathers envisioned. India will only become a superpower when we are able to “wipe every tear from every eye.”

- Vatsal Chirimar
M.A. (Mass Com.)

From Classical to Electronic

“Education has no limits”

Education in India has always been a matter of concern. If we try to recall the evolution of education, it has changed a lot and improved for the better. From studying under the trees to the innovation of smart classes, it has been a long journey and our educational system can be improved further.

Today, children are more attracted to ipads, mobile phones, tabs etc. They find books boring and monotonous. To give education a new horizon, we can bring the concept of e- books to schools.

An introduction of e-books in schools will not restrict the students to studying only what the pages of books can teach but it will urge them to explore. Instead of sticking to only one book, students will have different books written by different authors at their disposal at all times.

When we asked a student of class 12 named Shweta about what she preferred more, books or e-books, she replied "I would prefer e-books over books as the latter will be expensive and it is not possible to buy all the books on a particular subject. I would prefer reading from e-books as it simply requires an internet connection".

We also interviewed a B.A student named Priyanka about the advantages of accessing e-books. Her reply was "The service is instant and I get a huge amount of information in a short interval of time. It is very helpful for completing my projects and assignments".

E-books should be introduced in school and college libraries and students should be given research work on different topics. In this way, their depth of knowledge will increase and their intellects will be honed from an early age.

These facilities should be made available to students, beginning as early as middle school. Tutors should be made available to teach students how to access and use these facilities. To avoid the misuse of the internet, proper precautionary arrangements should be made.

It is not necessary that e-books should be limited to schools and colleges. We can download it on our personal computers, laptops, tabs etc. We don't need any physical space to store it. E-books are sold nowadays with bonuses, which we usually don't get with printed books and this adds value to our purchase. It also saves paper, which in turn saves trees, which is a major environmental issue today.

In this era in which technology is evolving rapidly, e-books can be read anywhere, while travelling or while waiting in a queue. They are also portable, unlike our traditional books.

E-books certainly have the capacity to make learning interesting. People of all ages should start reading e-books to gain knowledge instead of just spending time in front of the internet and killing their brain cells.

- **Smriti Niwas Manwa**
M.A. (Mass Com)

The Fading Blackboard

With letters being turned into e-mails and our morning dailies to e-papers, it is this lucky little letter "e" that has significantly gained humongous importance in this era. Technology is limitless. From substituting doctors at operation tables with robotic arms, to swapping virtual pages on Kindle, every small and big field of art and

science is witnessing a new horizon; and so is education.

In every corner of this gigantic world, formal education begins usually at school, where teachers are given the responsibility to bring out the best in us. And when we talk about school, we just cannot overlook all those nostalgic elements which are associated with it. Chalks,

dusters, benches, bell and...the blackboard. But sadly, our schools are changing just as much. Instead of a blackboard, what we see is a screen and a projector. This is mostly because people have started to believe that audio-visual learning is far more impactful.

Blackboards have been in use for a long time. Initially, in a very rudimentary form, clay tablets were used by students from Babylonia and Sumeria. They would inscribe on the tablets and later rub it with a wet cloth or if necessary, would bake and preserve it. Next, slates were used and finally blackboards were in vogue. Our very own modern 'Sidhu Jyatha' (Google) says that; 'one fine morning in 1801, James Pillans, headmaster and

geography teacher at the Old High School in Edinburgh, Scotland, realised that it was useless teaching a world map without its proper representation. And so, he formally introduced the 'blackboard'.

Cut to 200 years later, technological advancements have altered so many mundane things in our lives. And, with the progress made in artificial intelligence, it is possible that teachers will be substituted with robots very soon! Thus "Change being the only constant", blackboards might soon be seen only in films, printed books and in our tales!

- Bhupali Dutt
M.A. (Mass Com)

New Horizon in Education

As a Bengali, for the past few hundred years, we have had hardly any constant respect for something other than education. Irrespective of your gender, caste or religion, education has prevailed in Bengal for longer than any other state in our country. So what is new? What has the 'new wave' brought in not just in the City of Joy but in the largest democracy in the world, generally? I would say, everything. The new horizon of education has brought in certain opportunities that our forefathers, no matter how educated, could never have imagined in their wildest of dreams.

From sitting under a banyan tree with a 'slate' in hand to sitting in air-conditioned rooms with an iPad in our hands, we have come a long way, not only with the mode of education but with the content being taught as well. Who would have imagined that one day, some child with a Nikon camera in his/her hand would sit in a classroom learning about the right amount of focus and reflection required to click a proper landscape photograph? The birth of the internet has pretty much changed the future of education. Now we can shut out our teachers and classroom, if we do not understand the topic or if we are not in a mood to study. We can put our teacher on rewind mode, can make them pause, or speak fast or slow, as our teachers are now Google, Wikipedia, and YouTube. And computers and laptops are our new classrooms.

The system of education has come a long way. The teachers, classrooms and even the students have changed. In ancient times, India had the Gurukul system of education in which anyone who wished to study went to a teacher's (Guru) house and requested to be taught. If accepted as a student by the guru, he would then stay at the guru's place and help in all the activities there. This not only created a strong tie between the teacher and the student but also taught the student everything about running a household. The guru taught the child everything he wanted to learn, from Sanskrit to the holy scriptures, and from mathematics to metaphysics. All learning was closely linked to nature and to life, and not confined to memorising some information. In the modern school of education, the curriculum is confined to "modern" subjects such as science and mathematics, and subjects like metaphysics and philosophy are considered unnecessary. Teaching is confined to classrooms and the link with nature is broken, and the close relationship between the teacher and the student is gone. Modern day education is aided by technology in various forms like computers, projectors, internet, and much more. Diverse knowledge is being spread among people. Everything that can be simplified has been made simpler. Science has explored every aspect of life. There is much more to learn and all the more to assimilate. The internet provides limitless knowledge; there is no end to

it. One can learn everything that he/she wishes to. Every topic has developed into a subject. Skill-development and vocational education are a relatively new addition to the modern system of education. There is something to learn for everyone. These days, even a toddler goes to a kindergarten.

In our grandparent's generation, a child no matter what age, if they were interested in studying, their parents would just take them to the nearest school and ask the teacher, teaching a certain class, who was also probably their next-door neighbour, to enroll their son as a student the next day. And he would agree. Today, parents stand in lines for hours and spend hundreds of rupees, and for what? To get their five-year-old child into the best kindergarten school. And why do they do so? To ensure that their child's higher education is secured at some good high school, eventually. What the child will do in the next 20 years has already been decided by his parents since the day he was born.

This is where the evolution of education comes in. This planning of 20 years ahead has changed. There are endless possibilities and the world is moving so fast. You never know if something new will crop up, when your child is ready to go to college. In today's world, if he or she is good at some sort of an unconventional skill, they

can pursue it. Fashion designing, web designing, photography, nutrition, dance, music- if you are interested, there is an academy somewhere around, interested in teaching you.

But for every pro, there is a con. Our education is confined to schools and colleges. It has become a process of spoon feeding, cramming of facts and dates, complicated mathematical formulas, theories and doctrines. Modern education has spread more ignorance than knowledge. The study of the "How" is missing in our world which causes ignorance. We have come a long way, gained a lot and lost a lot in the process, but as we evaluate the changes that the new horizons in education have brought, we must believe that the only way, is forward. The world is changing faster than ever and education is our only way to cope with it. We might not sit under a banyan tree anymore but we sure still have a reason to. Knowledge is power and power has never come easy. Much has changed in the past few centuries regarding education but if something has not, it is its necessity.

- Medha Basu
BMS-1

Education - "Replacing an Empty Mind with an open one"

New Horizon - Education.

"Sky is not the limit" is a phrase we all heard while growing up. In a similar way there are no limitations for Education, there is no age bar or specific mode to imbibe education.

For the betterment of students the growth of education is necessary. Education should not only be confined to classrooms and books. It should also include travelling,

getting to know different cultures, traditions, ways of living, interacting with the people, sharing ideas and opinions, working as a team, brain storming etc.

Technology has played a vital role in the expansion of the horizons of education. The education system in the world is growing rapidly, with technology opening up various new avenues and platforms for learning. E-learning in today's day and age, has overtaken the traditional modes of teaching and is considered as one of

the most convenient means of education. This type of education may occur in a classroom or even outside the classroom. Using tools such as laptops, computers, tablets and even overhead projectors - have helped students all over the world in learning things, that might otherwise have been unavailable to them.

Moreover, students can learn more by participating in various activities such as debate, quizzes, fests, seminars or presentations which will help them to develop their potential and widen their horizons.

I would like to conclude that both technology and the power of imagination go hand in hand. The more you use your imagination, the more you will be able to use technology effectively, to educate yourself. Infinite horizons belong to those who have an infinite imagination.

Believe in your infinite potential, the only limitations you face are the ones you set for yourself.

- Malisha Anthony

Office Assistant, Dean Office (Commerce & Management)

बच्चे जैसा था वो.....

अपनी अपनी नादानि यों सेबके चेहरे खिलाता, बेफिक्र मुस्कराता था
सरल हृदयवाला, छोटी चोट पर मोतियां छलकाता था

क्या खबर बेखुदी की, एक ताली पर पलकें झपकाता था
जिंदगी भी शर्त रखना भूलजाए कुछ ऐसा था वो
बच्चे जैसा था वो.....

आंखों में उसके समंदार और आशाओं का पानी है,
मासुम कहते लोग थे, हजारों कठिनाइयां समा के शांति बिखेरता था वो
खुशियां कहां आशाएं कहां लगन कहां

हिंसा इनस वालों का जवाब था वे,
बच्चे जैसा था वो....

- Manshi Gupta, Dept of Mass.com.

কবিতার কথা

কবিতায় লিখে রাখি
তোমার আমার ব্যস্ত জীবনের কথা,
অবসরে কাটানো ক্ষণিক মুহূর্ত,
জানিনা কবে এতো কাছাকাছি এসে
স্বপ্নের দেশে চলেছি দুজন,
ডেকেছে ভালোবাসা হাতছানি দিয়ে...

সে কথা ধরে রাখি কবিতায়
একাকী আঁকি তোমার ক্লান্ত মুখ,
ছড়িয়ে দিই পাতায় পাতায় উষ্মতা
প্রেম-অপ্রেম, অবহেলা ত্যাগিল্য...
নিষ্ঠুর ভাবে তুলে আনি কবিতায়
তোমার আমার চিরন্তন ছবি।

- Subhashish Majumdar

Office Assistant, Vice-Chancellor's Office

ফুসমন্তর ফুস্

ফুসমন্তর ফুস্ -
 দ্যাখ্ খেলা দ্যাখ্ - নুনের কেজি
 সাত টাকা হুস্ হুস্ !
 গোপ-গোপ্তার টানপোড়েনের
 দ্যাখ্ দ্যাখ্ কায়দুস্ -
 আস্লে পুলিশ মুচ্কি হাসিস্
 মারবে নাকো টুস্ -
 আলতো হাতে টনিক কাগজ পুজোর থালায় থুস্ -
 ফুসমন্তর ফুস্ -

ফুসমন্তর ফুস্ -
 বাষ্প ভেলায় নীলচে আলোয়
 ফুলটুস্কি টুস্!
 জলপরীদের বিজলী ঠমক,
 ঠুনু ঠুনু লাল পানির হুমক্,
 রংবাহারি ভোজের জমক্ -
 মন্ত্রীমশাই খুশ্ !
 - ফুসমন্তর ফুস্ !

ফুসমন্তর ফুস্ -
 যজ্ঞিবাড়ির জগডুম্বুর,

দেশের মাটি টইটুম্বুর -
 ফাঁকে-ফাঁকড়ায় ভর্তি আছে
 -গণতন্ত্রের জুস্!
 সিঁধ কাঠিতে বিঁধ বানিয়ে
 নল ডুবিয়ে চুস্!
 -ফুসমন্তর ফুস্!

ফুসমন্তর ফুস্ -
 বিবেক আবার কী?
 শুটকি মাছের ঘী-
 হনুমানজী সঙ্গে আছেন
 করবে তোমার কী?
 মন্ত্র পড়ার ঠাম্ জানলে,
 কল্-কাঁচিতে শান্ থাকলে,
 বক-যন্ত্র ঠিক রাখলে -
 যতই আসুক আমলা-পুলিশ,
 যতই ঠুকুক মামলা-নালিশ,
 যা কিছু হোক জম্বুদীপে -
 সব-ই ভৌঁ ভৌঁ ভুস্!
 ফুসমন্তর ফুস্!
 ফুসমন্তর ফুস্!

- Prof. Ashis Siddhanta

Controller of Examinations, SXUK

নবদিগঞ্জের দিকে

পুঁথির পাতা, বেরঙ খাতা,
 পড়ছি শুধু, জানছি না।
 বইয়ের কথা বইয়েই থাকুক,
 সত্যি করে মানছি না।
 নতুন কিছু শিখব বলে,
 মিথ্যে কথা বাড়াই না,
 আমরা সবাই শিক্ষিত দল,
 সব ঝামেলায় জড়াই না।
 জ্ঞানের আলো, শোনায়ে ভালো,
 তবে তাতে নেই লাভ কোনো।

কাজের বাজার, বেকার হাজার,
 ফেলো কড়ি আর চাল গোনো।
 সময় এবং সুযোগ বাড়ুক -
 শিক্ষা হোক অগ্রসর
 পুরোনো বাধা কাটিয়ে ফেলে,
 ছাত্ররা হোক আরও প্রখর।
 জীবন শেখায়, পড়ায়-লেখায়,
 আমরা নতুন ছাত্রদল।
 জ্বালবো নতুন শিক্ষার দীপ,
 ঘুটিয়ে দেবো সব বাদল।

- Pritha Das

M.Com

সময়

সবুজ ঘাসের নীচে শেকড়ের শিরায় শিরায়
 যে জীবন শুয়ে আছে, সময় রেখে গেছে যাকে
 কবর ফুঁড়ে সে যেন হাত বাড়াতে চায় আশায় —
 ডিম ছেড়ে উড়ে গেলে পাখি নতুন নিশানায়— নীলঞ্জনায়
 শূণ্যতা লেগে থাকে তার খোলায় খোলায়,
 এ যেন এক রুদ্ধ নিঃশ্বাস।
 সময় নামে বটের বুড়ি বেয়ে বেয়ে,
 সময়ের সর কেটে প্রহর গোনে বক,
 দূর দূর নিনাদে প্রহর গোনে হৃদয় মঞ্জিলে,
 ফিসফিস কথা বলে লক্ষ বছরের ইতিহাস
 কখনো অনুরণিত হয় আফ্রিকার বিলুপ্ত অরণ্যে।
 ভগ্ন প্রাসাদের গায়ে গুটি গুটি পায়ে এগোয়
 টিকটিকিটা, সময়ের নিশানা চেয়ে পতঙ্গের খোঁজে—
 রূপসী বধূ মুখ দেখে আরশিতে দীঘির জলে
 সময় শিকার করে নিয়ে গেছে কতটুকু তার,
 সময়ে সব এমনই ফুরোয়
 নিঃসঙ্গ জীবনীর গল্প লেখে হারানো কথারা,
 আর মুহূর্তের প্রহেলিকায় নিভে গেলে জীর্ণ দৃষ্টি
 ধরা দেয় নতুন দিগন্ত সময়ের আবহে—
 নিঃশব্দে, নিরালায়।

- Akash Das, M.A. (Eng)



আবেগহীন

একরাশ কথার খেলায়
 মৌনতার মিছে অভিনয়
 করে যেতে হয়...
 প্রেম-অপ্রেমের জীবনে
 মোন হারাবার ক্ষণে
 নারীরা কী নির্দয়।।
 সময় মোমবাতির মতো
 মোমের গায়ে তীক্ষ্ণ ক্ষত
 উষ্মতায় গলে যায়...,
 হৃদয় অনুভূতির ধোঁয়ায়
 দেশলাইয়ের বারুদের ছোঁয়ায়
 নীল শিখায় জ্বলে যায়।।
 ব্যর্থতার কৌশল ঢাকতে
 জীবন বাঁচিয়ে রাখতে
 কবিতায় ছন্দের দীনতা...,
 শব্দ ভীড়ে হারিয়ে যাওয়া
 শোকমিছিলে খুঁজে পাওয়া
 তোমার চেনা আবেগহীনতা।।

- Subhashish Majumdar

Office Assistant, Vice-Chancellor's Office

Doses of New Horizons Every Week

The routine, the deadlines, the rehashing of the daily workload,
Squashes the zeal out of us during the five long days of the week.
The energy of the setting sun blots out every thought,
Of new horizons and drains away the fervour of being alive.
Just then, it arrives, as we are about to lose our drive;
Like drops of rain to the sun-cracked dry land of the mundane... The Weekend!
The hours spent being docile and lazy, on days without an alarm, which is no less exotic
Than the vineyard situated far and away from bustling life, on a hill-lapped orchard.
The sweetened fragrance and endlessly rejuvenating winds,
Cleanses the crannies of the dusty state of mind.
Doors and windows of aspirations, the zealous aims to make one's existence stand out,
Once again pulsate to revive the possibilities of life.
The week-long dwindling spirits are embalmed in droning drudgery,
And new horizons arise every weekend.

- **Debapriya Sarkar**, M.A., English

Crossroads of Life

(Because a new horizon awaits us at every crossroad)

Felt the beautiful wisps of wind around me,
Felt the surroundings mutiny
Felt the harshness all over...
Felt the paradoxical comfort undercover.

Felt the thin line between right and wrong
Felt the beauty of the Eternal... So strong
And after sensing it all, now I know
I should have trusted my instincts all along.

Trust which is hard to come by
Especially when confusion reigns
Taking a stand becomes too challenging
Whirlwinds of chaos when conquer our brains.

Eternal we believe everything to be
Forgetting dust we are and to dust
we will have to return,
Failing to anticipate the fickle nature of things
We remain unprepared for the crossroads and
intersections.

Standing now on the Crossroads Of Life
Now I know... Looking back is never an option
Actions give way to actions...
Roads lead on to Roads
Slowly the "had been's" become the "by gones"
And we are left, in two minds, Torn!

- **Yagyenshi Bhattacharya**, M.Com

- **Mario Ghosh, M.A., English**

Blue

- **Manuella De Rosario**, MA, English

Cassiopeia

- **Manuella De Rosario, MA, English**

Nurizon

The voice of my Ancestors,
The captivating captivity of captors.
The fall,
Of dead leaves in Autumn;
I am the Dark of the sun.

The Receding currents rolling in the deep,
The naiveté
Of the sacrificial sheep.
The brimming passion of the lover;
I am the now, I am the never.

The Starless Sky at night,
The Darkness,
Engulfing the Light.
The Demons lurking within the Evangelist;
I am the Beauty, I am the Beast.

The Stage
And the Page,
The lonely cry of the Sage.
The Shrill voice of freedom inside the cage;
I am the eternal
For I have no age.

- **Mario Ghosh**, M.A., English

Mind of Things

Do you breathe,
The breath of breathing?
Or feel,
The crimson ocean seething
Rise you, to take the fall?
Gamble like a Fool,
And lose it all.

Do you long for a longing much longer?
Or decay,
In the decadence of desire
Just to get stronger?
Do you wake in the waking of dreams?
Or whisper,
The whispery frailties of a scream?

Do you thrive,
In the new founded newness of new?
Or kiss,
The temple of your thoughts, adieu?
Do you rust in the rustiness of rustics?
Or Plasticize,
The plasticity of a smile too plastic?

Do you feel the change,
In the changing horizons of change?
Or do the voices in your head,
Still clamour for revenge?
Does the old really,
Pave the way for the new?
The Journey into the mind of things, is thus,

- **Mario Ghosh**, M.A., English

Hymn to Happiness

The drop that falls from the eye,
The vision that blurs the sky,
One moment is enough to break,
To put a stop, to make it great.
Happiness it is called,
Little curvy, can be small,
But so straight and so naive,
Like a giggle after a fight.
It's a spark that lights up a candle,
And drives away your darkness,
That you find so hard to handle.

It is there, you have to wait.
There'll be rainbow after a storm,
This, I can bet.
Let's cherish the tiny bits we get,
And never think,
Of what we don't have yet.
Peace it is named,
That is fuel to this game.
If you really want to win,
From happiness, you should begin.

- **Labani Sarkar**, MA, English

Throws

"We are sorry!" they said,
 The words struck me like thunder.
 "Go again," I said,
 Thinking it must be some blunder;
 The same set of words,
 This time, with double the intensity,
 And it shattered, in a flash of a second,
 The very core, of my entire entity.
 Devastated I was,
 The world seemed to have come to an end,
 Reluctant to accept the truth,
 It's meaning I did apprehend.
 Trembling, pestering, shivering, paining,
 I thought of terminating this breath as well.
 For, the notion of not seeing her,
 Hugging her, kissing her anymore,
 Tormented me like hell!
 I shrieked and grieved,
 And groaned and yelled,
 Without a hand, that could be held.
 "Why only me? And why so soon?"
 I lost my spirit and fell aswoon.
 Then in a trance, She did appear;
 Held my arm and drew me near,
 Then placing my head on Her lap,
 Locked my palm within Her grasp.

Floating hair and flashing eyes,
 A tale She told, and did surmise;
 Pertaining to my birth it was,
 A similar pain, a similar cause.
 "For four and thirty weeks I bore,
 And just six months of business more,
 Before I could nuzzle or embrace,
 My little foetus, by Divinity's grace.
 But jinxed and cursed the moment was,
 My joy in sorrow soon did pass,
 The umbilical thread you did wrap,
 Around your neck like a fancy strap.
 Strangled, choked and suffocated,
 You kicked, punched, exasperated,
 And then untimely we did part,
 Endless trauma, ailing heart!
 After a lengthy incubation, you did lie,
 Fading, and sulking without a cry.
 I lost you to the pangs I thought,
 But like a lion you then fought.
 Your loud vagitus the room did fill,
 Like Achilles when he hurt his heel,
 And though for days we did separate,
 At last, we both, did conglomerate.
 And yet again, history repeats itself,
 Be brave my son, all must be well,
 For it's an affair of some exiguous nights
 Before you and I perpetually unite. "

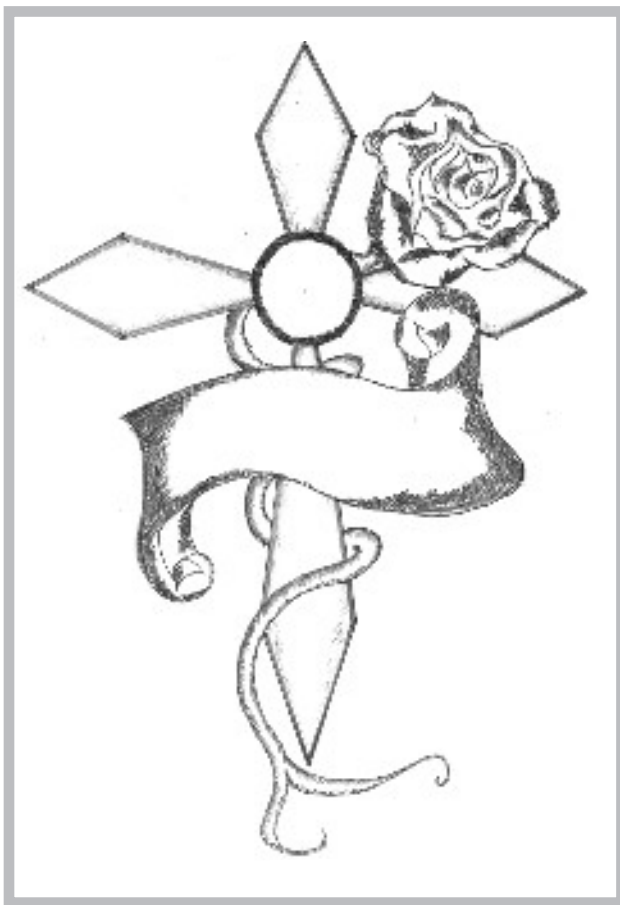
- Rohit Prasad, M.A., English

The Theory of Almost Everything

Stars, God and Women- all the mystery thus began,
 Theory of the black hole, a universe without a space-time span.
 Elaine followed Jane, who inspired him towards his fame.
 Past, like the future, is indefinite and exists only as spectrum of possibilities, according to him.
 He says, quiet people have the loudest minds and the,
 Enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, but the illusion of knowledge,
 No one created our universe and no one directs our fate.

He created, I would say, the theory of living- not just existing.
 A Brief History of Times to The Origin of Almost Everything; however,
 Women were a complete mystery to him.
 King he was, in his own world. He lived with physical boundaries, but-
 In his mind, he was free
 New horizons, he opened for us all
 Globe will miss him, on the shoulders of Giants - And in the dreams, to find, The theory of Everything.

- Shakuntika Archa, M.A., English



Mr. Victor Naskar, Attendant
Vice-Chancellor's Office



Change in the horizon of life
Disha Giria, B.Com-1 (2017-2020)



Tune in to the world
Anik Bose, BMS-II (2017-20)



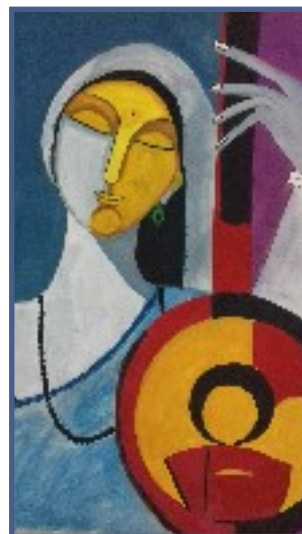
The colours of horizon - Priyadarshini Gupta, M.Com (2017-19)



Favorina Suting - M.A. English (2017-19)



Ruth De Rosario, Office Assistant, VC office



Mirabai in 21st Century
Bhupali Dutta, MA Mass Comm. (2017-19)



University Stone Laying Ceremony



University Stone Laying Ceremony



University Inauguration



Front Office



Academic Building



Amphitheatre Classroom



Governing Board Members, SXUK



Basketball Court Inauguration



Intra College Table Tennis Competition



Green Campus



Britto House

*Thank
You*



Nihil
Ultra

