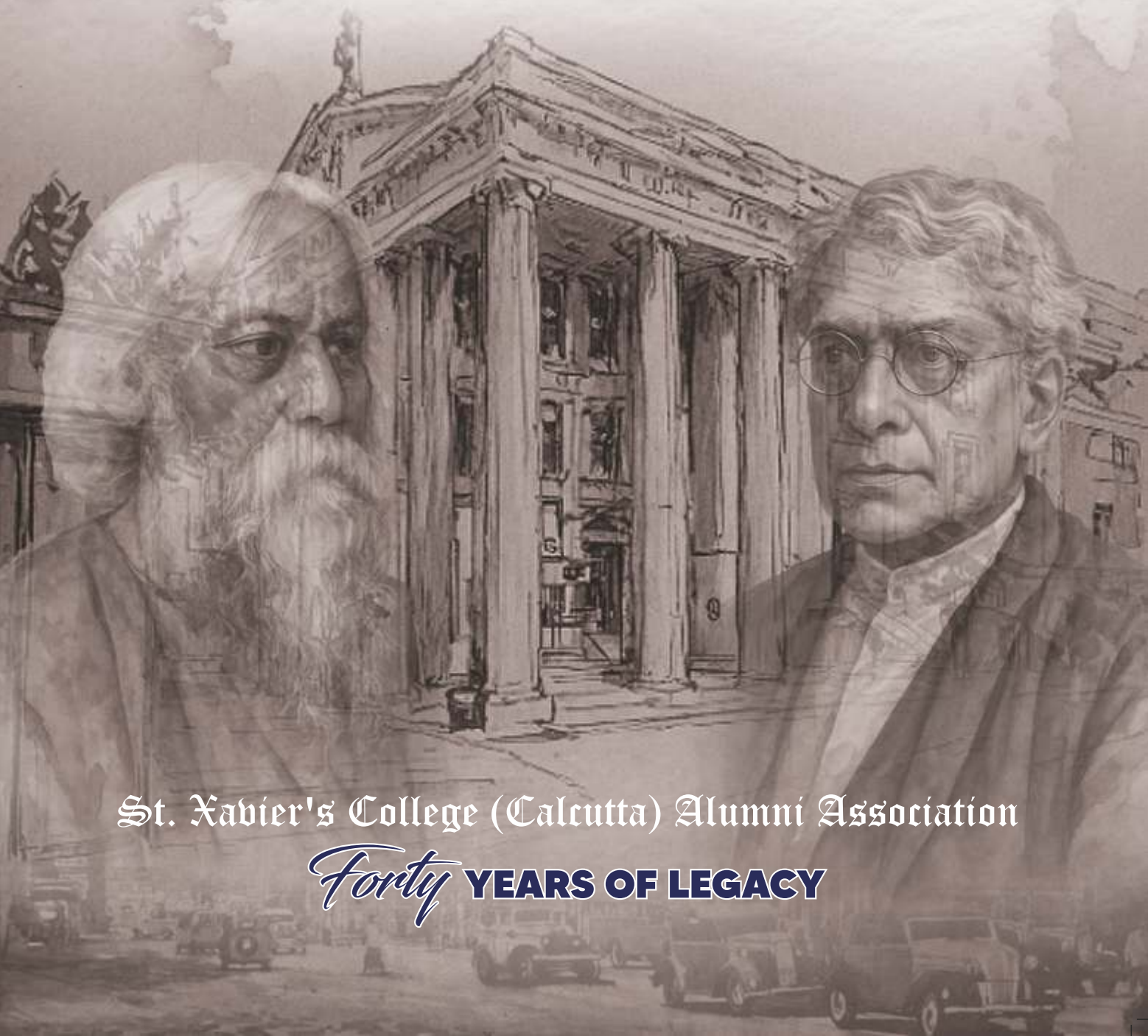




WE XAVERIANS

EDITION: 2025



St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association

Forty **YEARS OF LEGACY**

METRO

Am to enhance students' employability
Corporates lend help to upgrade Xavier's syllabi

CAMPUS

St Xavier's College scores A++

METRO

St Xavier's alumni association turns 40 today

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St Xavier's alumni association turns 40 today

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Jesuit education: Pathway to change

Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Sanyal

The Herald 109

Focus

Mission of Transformation: St Francis Xavier

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St Xavier's College scores A++

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WHATSUP

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Times City

City remembers Father D tienne, Belgian Jesuit priest and Bengali literary figure

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ভিসি নিয়োগে ছড়ি ঘোরাবে কেন্দ্র

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METRO

St Xavier's College scores A++

WHATSUP

St Xavier's College scores A++

PEOPLE

St Xavier's College scores A++

08 | The Herald

Focus

Setting the world on fire: Ignatius of Loyola

CALCUTTA SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025

METRO

St Xavier's College scores A++

CAMPUS

St Xavier's College scores A++



We Xaverians

Edition: 2025

CONTENTS

MESSAGE	03	INTERLOCUTION	
EDITORIAL BOARD	06	Recognising Luminaries at St. Xavier's	37
CONDOLENCES	07	<i>Sambit Dutta</i>	
ARTICLES		CAMPUS BUZZ	41
4 PILLARS		Nihil Ultra: Nothing Beyond Being Human	
Forty Years and the Four Pillars of SXCCAA	09	<i>Eshitha Barua</i>	
<i>Hasnu Mukherjee</i>		WAR OF WORDS	45
DOWN THE AGES	12	The Nihil Ultra Debate: A Journey of Growth Beyond Limit	
Down The Memory Lane - SXC Outer Hostel		<i>Jeetu Rampuria</i>	
<i>Manas Dev & Pallab Sarkar</i>		MEMOIR	47
REFLECTIONS	14	Celebrating the Centenary of Fr. Paul Detienne: SXCCAA's Resurrection of Revered Father	
Kavita Krishnamurthy: The Humming Bird of Indian Music		<i>Dr. Snehasis Sur</i>	
<i>Shome Mukherjee</i>		SPOTLIGHT	50
FOREVER XAVERIAN	16	My Years in College	
Bridging Countries, Building Bonds: From Kolkata to London		<i>Adv. Debanjan Mondal</i>	
<i>Manik Dey</i>		MAN IN ACTION	52
FACE TO FACE	18	Xaverian Epitome... The Infinite Frame	
In Conversation with GM Arjun Erigaisi: A Grandmaster's Gambit at St. Xavier's		<i>Supurna Sarkar</i>	
<i>Sambit Dutta</i>		ON GROUND REPORT	
OVER BOUNDARY - A GLOBAL XAVERIAN	24	Report on Philanthropic Activities	54
The Unlucky 'Professor'		Report on Women's Forum Activities	59
<i>Gautam Bhattacharya</i>		Sangam - Reunion Dinner 2024	66
THOSE WERE THE DAYS	28	Beyond Barriers - Chapter 23	70
The Chapter We Lived, Not Just Studied		Looking Beyond V – Bengaluru	72
<i>Alok Chaturvedi</i>		Xaverians' March for Peace & Human Dignity	77
BEING XAVERIAN	31	XSL - Season 2	79
From Mud Floors to Marble Halls: The Journey of A Boy from Poverty to St. Xavier's College		SXCCAA Chess Championship - Chapter 2	83
<i>Jaip Hossain Sardar</i>		Fellowship at North Bengal	85
ADDING COLOUR TO THE CAMPUS	34	31st Fr. Joris Memorial Nihil Ultra Debate	87
My Experience at St. Xavier's		Interfaith Memorial Service	89
<i>Dr. Panchali Sen</i>		SXCCAA Foundation Day Celebration 2025	90
		Other Activities of SXCCAA (July 2024 to June 2025)	92



From the

Principal's Desk

"In gratitude, we remember where we come from and what we are called to be."

- St. Ignatius of Loyola

“

**We are a
community
built on
values.**

”

Greetings to all those who carry the Xaverian spirit with them across cities, countries, and generations.

As the President of the Alumni Association and Principal of this prestigious institution, it is my heartfelt gratitude and privilege to lead an institution built on the Jesuit vision of forming men and women for others, for society, for truth and for humanity. That vision is not a slogan. It is something I see alive in the work, the presence, and the generosity of our alumni.

The Xaverian journey has never ended at the tumultuous doors of graduation. It continues in every act of generosity, every gathering, every effort to stay connected with the college and its activities. Today, I am deeply grateful for the spirit of philanthropy that lives on among our alumni, as it shows your love for this college and your desire to give back, not just in time, but in energy, ideas, and action.

Across India and beyond, our alumni chapters are active, committed, and full of life. The coordinators and conveners work quietly, often behind the scenes, to bring people together. Yet their dedication is not only admirable - it's essential to the strength of our association.

St. Xavier's College has always stood for more than academics. We are a community built on values. And I see those values in the very unity of our alumni, in the way they support one another, and in how they continue to support the college past their years of tutelage at St. Xavier's.

As President of the Alumni Association and Principal of this institution, I feel proud and blessed to be part of this journey with you. Let us continue to walk together with purpose, with heart, with the learned wisdom of our Father and with the true Xaverian spirit.

NIHIL ULTRA!

Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ

Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

President, St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association



Message from

The Hony. Secretary



**This place
echoes with
the laughter
and lessons
of our
younger
days, so time
may move on
but our ties
with our
alma mater
can never
fade.**



Penning this note, for this edition of 'We Xaverians' is very special for me, because this year our alumni association has completed forty years of meticulous teamwork and commendable philanthropic contribution to the cause of our alma mater and the society. In this edition of 'We Xaverians', let us celebrate forty glorious years of the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association, chartering a legacy of excellence and service.

I have always felt that this has been possible only because every member of SXCCAA upholds the Xaverian legacy which extends beyond academics, fostering a lifelong connection among its students and the last forty years of our Alumni Association stands testament to this enduring bond.

It is important to remember that the legacy of our association is rooted in history. The idea of an alumni association at St. Xavier's College, dates back nearly a century when two of India's greatest luminaries - Rabindranath Tagore and Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose - played an instrumental role in initiating the 'Old Boys' Association'. Both the stalwarts served as Vice-Presidents of the association, laying the foundation for a strong alumni network. However, it was in 1985, that the association assumed its present official structure, setting in motion an era of unprecedented growth.

Over the past two decades, SXCCAA has gained remarkable momentum, evolving into a dynamic and structured body, with its members spanning the globe. Today, with almost 10,000 members, the association has expanded internationally, boasting 10 International Chapters and 6 National Chapters. This extensive network has not only deepened ties among the alumnus but has also played a crucial role in matters concerning the college and its broader mission.

The major activities of the association aim at philanthropy, fellowship and fundraising for the development of the college. Father President, always stresses on the need to concentrate on fellowship activities in order to strengthen our bonds. At the heart of SXCCAA's activities lies a deep commitment to serve the underprivileged. We have undertaken numerous initiatives to support education, healthcare, and social welfare through scholarships for underprivileged students, infrastructure development for schools for the under privileged, for the college and through community outreach programs.

I feel both humbled and privileged to mention that I have had the opportunity to have served as the Honorary Secretary of this association, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. P. C. Mathew, Rev. Dr. Felix Raj and at present under Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio as the Presidents. My years as the Hony. Secretary has built me as a person. The trust that the members of SXCCAA have invested in my purpose to strengthen the association and participate in the growth of our alma mater, has helped me carry forward our work over the years. I have always stressed on identifying the strength of my teammates and to bring their work to the forefront. While working with my teammates, I have learnt that only our work testifies for the kind of person we are. The more selfless our work for the development of our alma mater and for the underprivileged, the richer the integrity of our character becomes.

SXCCAA is an example today because of the relentless hard work of each and every Past Secretary and the members of the Governing Council, who have shown us the way forward, over the years. We are grateful to the Father Presidents and all the Jesuit Fathers, who have given the association so much space, position and status in matters of the college. This year let us reaffirm our love for our shared roots.

We believe 'Once a Xaverian, always a Xaverian!' This place echoes with the laughter and lessons of our younger days, so time may move on but our ties with our alma mater can never fade. This address will be our forever home and keep calling us back! May SXCCAA continue to march ahead and make meaningful contribution to the society. Together, let us honour our legacy and embrace the journey ahead.

Nihil Ultra!

Firdausul Hasan
Hony. Secretary
St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association



From the

Editor's Desk



**Read
Obsessively,
Write
Furiously,
Edit Carefully!**



As we all gather here once again in the hallowed and auspicious halls of St. Xavier's College, we are seldom reminded of the profound responsibility that comes with being a part of this distinguished institution - a legacy not merely of academic excellence, but a commitment to forming "Men and Women of the future for others". It is us Xaverians who truly carry forward the Jesuit ideals laid down in terms of service, compassion and intellectual integrity.

In our journey through the tumultuous and metamorphosis-ical years at St. Xavier's College, our understanding of the world and its magnanimous obstacles extended far beyond the confines of textbooks and examinations, serving not just as a beacon of holistic development but nurturing the minds, hearts and most importantly, our souls.

Philanthropy has been the heart of the Xaverian spirit because our understanding of true philanthropy isn't merely about giving, but about recognising our interconnectedness and obligation towards all of humanity. Whether through organising relief drives for the underprivileged, tutoring students from disadvantaged backgrounds or participating in environmental conservation efforts, we are often known to be agents of positive change.

As an editor, it is my privilege to assemble the works and minds of Xaverians living in numerous parts of the globe and to create a world which can be identified by all Xaverians as it reflects what we did, enjoyed and carry in our minds from the campus situated at Park Street.

May the Xaverian Spirit remain enshrined in the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, "Go forth and set the world on fire." for the greater glory of God and humanity.

NIHIL ULTRA !

Manas Dev

Editor

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association

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Solemnly prays

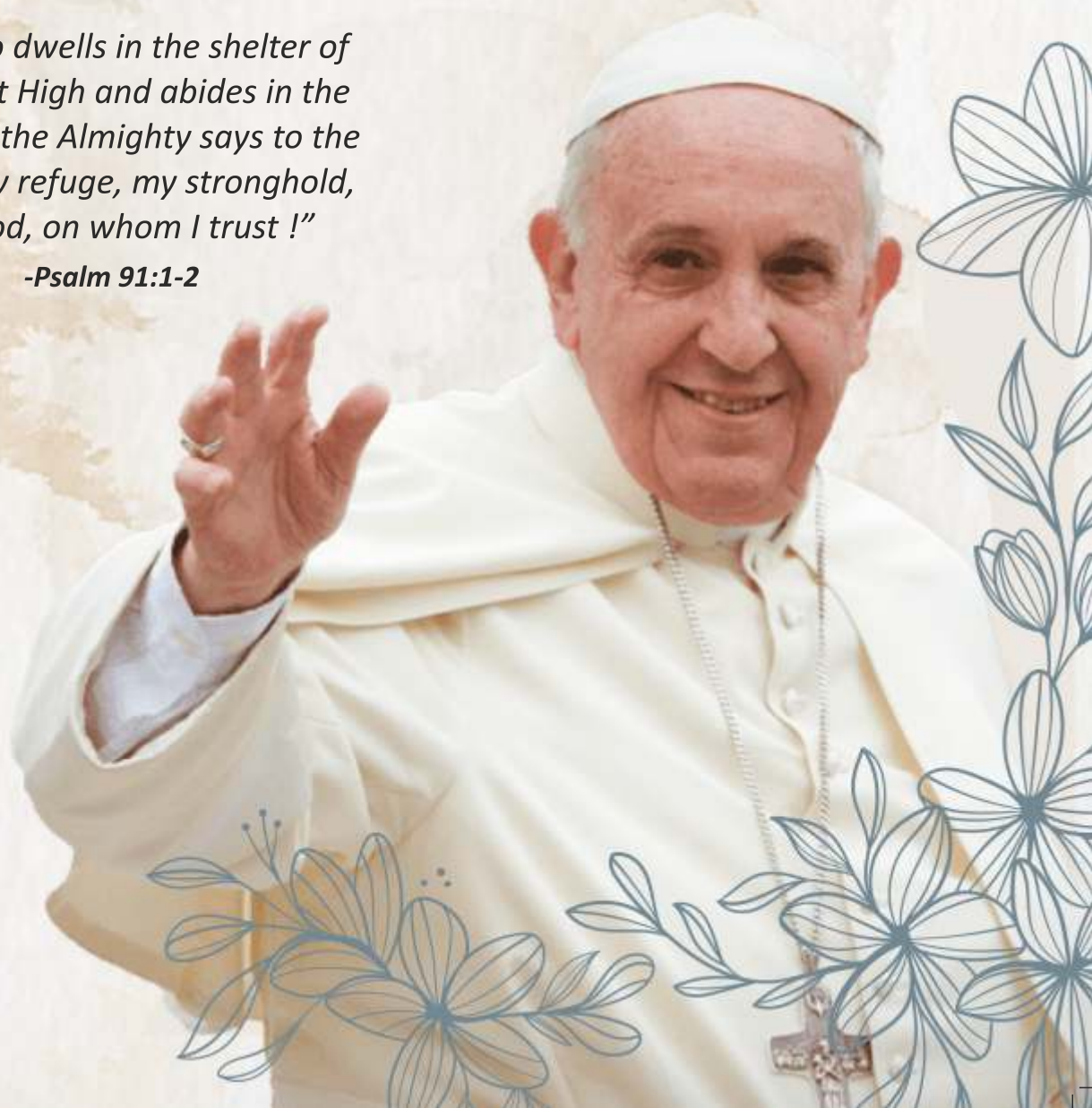
FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF

His Holiness Pope Francis

17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025

*"He who dwells in the shelter of
the Most High and abides in the
shade of the Almighty says to the
Lord, 'My refuge, my stronghold,
my God, on whom I trust !'"*

-Psalm 91:1-2



St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association
Fondly Remembers



Rev. Fr. Patrick Eaton

28th. February 1942 - 26th. December 2024

SJ Former Vice Principal, St. Xavier's College,
Kolkata (1991-2006)



Jb. Syed Manzur Elahi

26th. February 1942 – 12th. March 2025

Eminent Industrialist & Chief Patron,
SXCAA Bangladesh Chapter



Sir Dilip Doshi

22nd. December 1947 – 23rd. June 2025

Xaverian & Former Indian Cricketer



4 Pillars

FORTY YEARS and the FOUR PILLARS of SXCCAA

Hasnu Mukherjee
Sub-Editor, Editorial Board, SXCCAA

Each of us carry a piece of our alma mater in our heart and mind and St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, the premier educational institution, has shaped countless minds over the last 165 years. The alumni association of the college, SXCCAA is not only acclaimed today but is a benchmark for other alumni associations. On the fortieth year of SXCCAA, let us look back at our journey of growth, philanthropy and global outreach. Needless to say, this would not have been possible without the contribution of the Four Jesuit Fathers, the Father Presidents. The strategic leadership and direction provided by our Father Presidents have been the pillars on which stands the monumental edifice of SXCCAA.

Rev. Father Presidents, are always there to sort out our troubles, leading us from the front. Let us charter SXCCAA's journey of growth, under the benevolent guidance of the four Father Presidents.

Rev. Father Joe D'Souza (1985-95) was the founder President of SXCCAA. Among the two significant events started by him, are the Reunion Dinner and the Nihil

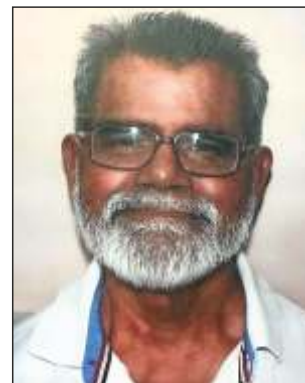


Rev. Fr. Joe D'Souza, SJ

Ultra Debate. Both the events, remain extremely popular till date. It was under the inspiration of Rev. Father Joe D'Souza, that the alumni association helped to build a swimming pool in a remote village of South 24 Parganas. Father felt that the youth there lacked provision for proper exercises like a good swimming facility and given an opportunity, they would be able to excel as swimmers. It is heartening to mention that a number of swimmers, trained at that pool went on to represent the state at swimming events later.

Rev. Father Joe D'Souza will remain special to me because he was the Principal, in my college days.

Rev. Father PC Mathew (1995-2009), guided the alumni movement after Father D'Souza and channelised the huge resource of Xaverians. Father Mathew structured the body to function through meaningful activities.



Rev. Fr. P. C. Mathew, SJ

We all know that Father Mathew was a dynamic force, quick to admonish, if he ever felt that we had fallen short of meeting the benchmark of being a Xaverian and yet, the same

person would call us to his office for a cup of tea, a while later, and explain to us the way forward. It was during these years that SXCCAA supported the complete renovation of the Father Depelchin auditorium, as we see it now. We also helped build the Jubilee Building and in acquiring the land for the expansion of our college, in the EM Bye pass. It was during his term that St. Xavier's College Kolkata, received the autonomous status. Father was in constant touch with the activities of the association by way of checking on our progress. That helped the members to develop a sense of responsibility and at the same time we felt included in the work of the college.

It was at this time, that SXCCAA started the Primary school in Paikhala. The Paikhala Primary School is one of our flagship projects and we continue to work for the school, which has now grown into a valuable educational institution in the area. SXCCAA also helped build a school in Dasghara. It was during Father Mathew's term that one of our biggest fund raisers, Beyond Barriers was initiated. Under his leadership, we learnt the power of reaching out to fellow teammates and of maintaining focus and discipline while working for any project.

Rev. Father Felix Raj (2009-2017), our next President was a visionary, who ignited impossible ideas within our hearts and then showed us the way to turn it into a reality. SXCCAA helped to build the twin hostels, to accommodate both girls and boys. Under Father Felix Raj's guidance, we initiated one of our biggest philanthropic projects, the rural campus at Raghobpur. Today the sprawling Raghobpur Campus houses huge buildings, providing education to hundreds in and around the village. We also helped to build the new B.Ed. building, at this time. Under the leadership of Rev. Father Dr. John Felix Raj the association grew not only nationally but also



Rev. Dr. Felix Raj, SJ

internationally. That was the time SXC was celebrating 150 years and Rev Fr, President wanted the Xaverians across the globe to participate in the celebrations. Father believed that if Xaverians couldn't travel back to their college, we should reach out and travel to meet them. We travelled to different countries together with our fund raiser events, the National convention of Xaverians, Looking Beyond and our International Convention, Beyond Boundaries. Our borders expanded magically! At present SXCCAA has active National Chapters in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad (to be launched in August 2025), North East, Guwahati and North Bengal. We have our international Chapters in US, Canada, UK, Australia, South Africa, Thailand, Singapore, UAE, Bangladesh and in Luxembourg.

It was Father Felix Raj who helped us reach out globally so that we could support the building of the sprawling premier campus of St. Xavier's University in Rajarhat. The alumni association feels humbled and proud to have played a vital role in the birth of the St. Xavier's University, at Rajarhat.

Rev. Father Dr. Dominic Savio assumed responsibility as the President of the association in 2017 and we are still walking in the path shown by his service to our college and society. Rev. Father Dominic is an extremely kind and gentle President, who treats us like children, and nobody leaves his office without some gift. Rev. Father President is very inclusive in his approach and takes a keen interest in the upliftment of not only the teaching staff but also of the non-teaching staff. Father Savio is a leader who is always there for us, be it to listen to our problems, even if they are of a personal nature or related to SXCCAA, Father lends everyone a patient ear.



Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ

A true leader is known best by how he functions during crisis. Father Dominic was instrumental in giving tremendous impetus to the alumni movement

during the pandemic. SXCCAA multiplied its philanthropic activities during the pandemic. Free vaccinations were arranged at our auditorium for more than 10K people. With the help of our Chapter at Dubai, SXCCAA arranged flights for the return of a large number of labours who were stuck in Dubai. When the world was isolated and alone, SXCCAA stood together and peaked its philanthropic work.

It was during Father Dominic's term that our alma mater achieved many academic milestones and the Chapters in South Africa and the North Bengal were launched. Be it Amphan or Covid, our philanthropic work gained tremendous momentum and spread beyond the city of Kolkata to Jharkhand, Pandua and Chamrusai.

Under Rev. Dr. Savio, our rural campus at Raghobpur, saw remarkable extension and growth, both vertically and horizontally. The upcoming Media Hub and Research Centre, which is on its path to fruition, off the E.M. Bye Pass Campus was conceived under Rev Dr. Savio's initiative.

Father President, restructured the association, into four main wings, the Philanthropy team, the Women's Forum, The Sports Committee and the Editorial Board, with its Audio -Visual Unit, all functioning under the Governing Council.

The Women's Forum, a unique body comprising the spouses of Xaverians has gained significance through their work and with the encouragement of Rev Father Dr. Savio. Not only do they support the main body of

SXCCAA, in all our work but they take up philanthropic and fellowship activities independently every month, apart from their signature fund raisers.

Rev Father Dr. Savio felt that the association must keep abreast with the needs of the changing times and new age technology. Father has encouraged the Editorial Board to increase their scope of work. The Audio - Visual team too has become significant and helps in keeping Xaverians across the globe updated and informed about our activities. SXCCAA now has a strong presence in social media.

In keeping with the thoughts of our Founder President, Father Dominic feels that sports play a key role in strengthening our bonds in a disciplined way and it helps to connect with the present students. Over the last two years, SXCCAA, undertaken two major sporting activities, the Xaverian Soccer League and the FIDA rated Chess Tournament, which pump fresh energy and ideas into our work. The games are a bridge between present Xaverians with the alumni members.

'Go forth and set the world on fire', was the call to action, by St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is a line that embodies the transformative leadership of our Father Presidents. We are grateful to them for having harmonised the past of the alumni association of St. Xavier's college with a collective future, a horizon, towards which we are marching, armed with candles of compassion and service.



Manas Dev
St. Xavier's College
1996 Batch



Pallab Sarkar
St. Xavier's College
1996 Batch

Down the Ages

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE SXC OUTER HOSTEL, 219/1 AJC BOSE ROAD

On 219 AJC Bose Road stood an often ignored British-era three-storeyed building, which is now known as Leeming Hostel for Girls, adjoining the Bangladesh High Commission. It may mean nothing to the passing stranger, but for me, it was the womb where I grew from adolescence to adulthood. It has

been the home and training centre for many generations of geniuses — the St. Xavier's College "Outer Hostel." The first person or thing you would invariably encounter was Mr. Hare Ram Sharma, the superintendent. During our stay in the hostel, everyone's favourite pastime was throwing the freshly learned choicest explicit upon him, obviously at a safe distance so his prying ears and eyes would miss them. However, at this point, I salute him. Managing a load of 150 males with raging hormones and youthful mischief is hardly an easy task.

The same strength of 150 gave the new hoteliers unconditional immunity from ragging at the college.



The seniors solemnly announced us as "*hosteler chhele*". These two words were enough to inspire fear and reverence in the eyes of others. However, inside the hostel, the seniors had full authority to "rag" us from dusk to dawn. That month of "ragging" made us men of steel. We all learned to stay awake

all night, especially on the eve of exams. Later during professional life, every interview board seemed like child's play. The eve of exam day eve was very serious. Each hostel room was characterised by how long the table lamp was kept on. One studious fellow would diligently study every evening after dinner with the lamp on. Some lamps would be burning three days before the big day. One of them was mine. The last type of study setup was the desk without a lamp. These desks were owned only by superhumans or demigods like Deba (Debapratim Bhattacharjee) and Manas Deb, yet they outshone many mediocre mortals like me.

Hostel seniors, above all else, taught us how to

behave with ladies—with courtesy that was often considered anachronistic, even by today's standards—and with the respect every lady deserves. There were strikingly handsome seniors – Vasudev, Abhijit, Debmalaya – and we watched in awe as ladies clutched their hearts when they casually walked by. These men taught us how to behave properly with the ladies. We juniors often took advantage of their ardent female admirers by addressing them as “*didi*” and were generously treated at Sharmas at the back gate of SXC.

We missed Saraswati Puja, which was organised in the outer hostel. It was marked by the much-anticipated arrival of the Lady Brabourne College hostel inmates, dressed in their generation-defying yellow sarees. Conversely, boys could enter the Brabourne girls' hostel for the same puja. Many lifetime matches were formed on that day. I sincerely wish this tradition could be revived. In the hostel, one understood the meaning of “brilliance.”

The minimum qualification for a hostel seat was to be a district topper. Everyone was an academic genius. It didn't end there. Some, like Abhijit da, were multitalented — leading the college choir, theatre, drama, and more. Arnab Kumar Hazra “Haju” da was a master of competing, quiz shows, along with a distinction in Economics. That overwhelming display of brilliance rubbed off on people like me.

The heart of a hostel is in the kitchen — the canteen and the dining room. The outer hostel canteen, headed by Arjun Poiria, and the kitchen, led by Babu Poiria, introduced me to “mass management”: feeding 150 hungry stomachs every day, without fail and to everyone's satisfaction, is no small feat. Procuring enough fish and vegetables from Baithakkhana Bazaar and preparing meals in gigantic

vessels got me hooked on cooking. My stint as mess manager for a record six months was later emulated during my professional training. The hostel had trained me well for life.

- Contributed by Pallab Sarkar

I agree to whatever my dear friend Pallab, my roommate of Room. No. 4 has mentioned our haven, that is, the hostel we cherished together. It was from this hostel that I gradually floated myself into the politics of St. Xavier's College, and under the able guidance of Hasan Da (Firdausal Hasan). I was able to be a part of the St. Xavier's College Students' Union, first-time “outer hostel boy” held position in the Students' body. I was helped by the 150 hostelites who stood as a massive force of support and encouragement throughout my years at the sanctuary, which I considered my second home. Our mutual friends who were part of the Hostel, like Sanjiyat Siddique, Sanjib Koner and juniors like Prosenjit Bishnu, Anupam Sanyal, Anand Agarwal and many others, who helped us to make the hostel like a family. The hostel was like a mini-India where boys of different languages, cultures, faiths and traditions established a life-long friendship, which is still continues and will continue forever. Friends like Sujoy, Dubey and many others, who were not part of the hostel, always came for the tea, omelette and bread toast at Arjun Da's canteen, avoiding the sharp eyes of our superintendent. We had friendly matches between the boys belonging to different departments, and we always played with a sense of competitiveness and friendly fervour. The old hostel will always remain in our minds, wherever we go in this world.

- Contributed by Manas Dev





Reflections

KAVITA KRISHNAMURTHY: THE HUMMING BIRD OF INDIAN MUSIC

Shome Mukherjee
Member, Editorial Board, SXCCAA



It is Great Honour as a Music & Bollywood buff to pen down this small tribute about one of the Proud Xaverian and One of the Most Talented Singers in Indian Music – Padmashri Srimati Kavita Krishnamurthy who was conferred upon the 'Xaverian Award for Exemplary Contributions to Indian Music Industry' by the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) in collaboration with their

SXCCAA South Zone Chapter organized the 5th Annual National Meet - "Looking Beyond V" in October, 2024 in the Sheraton Grand in Bengaluru.

During her college days at St Xavier's College, Mumbai, she got an opportunity to record a song in the Bengali film "*Shrimaan Prithwiraaj*" in 1971 with Lata Ji as co-singer under the guidance of the legendary Hemant Kumar Mukhopadhyay. Although young

Sharada (her real name) aspired to work in Indian Foreign Services, she moved to Mumbai when she was 14 to try her luck as a playback singer in the Hindi film industry.

In 1985, she got her big break with first major hit, "*Tumse Milkar Na Jaane Kyon*" from the Hindi film "*Pyaar Jhukta Nahin*" (1985) starring Superstar Mithun Chakraborty. Following the success of the song, it opened up more opportunities for her. However, "*Hawa Hawai*" and "*Karte Hai Hum Pyaar Mr. India Se*", two popular songs from the super-hit movie "*Mr. India*" (1987) – the latter being a duet with Great Kishore Kumar and lip-synced on screen the legendary Sridevi proved to be the turning point in her career.

She has recorded numerous songs in various Indian languages that includes Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Rajasthani, Bhojpuri, Telugu, Odia, Marathi, English, Urdu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Nepali, Assamese, Konkani, Punjabi and other languages.

She is the recipient of 4 Filmfare Best Female Playback Singer Awards (winning consecutively during 1995–1997), and the Padmashri which she received in 2005. She was awarded a Doctorate in Music for her contributions to Indian music by Bangalore-based Jain University in 2015.

Here is a Quick List of Top 5 Kavita Ji Songs compiled by me from my Music Loving Fellow Xaverians of Room – 5, some are our Personal Favorites that we danced to during our College Days in the True Xaverian Spirit – *Nihil Ultra*:

1. *Hawa Hawai* – "*Mr. India*" (1987)
2. *Julie Julie* – "*Jeete Hain Shaan Se*" (1987)
3. *Bin Tere Sanam* – "*Yaara Dildara*" (1991)
4. *Pyaar Hua Chupke Se* – "*1942 – A Love Story*" (1995)
5. *Aaj Main Upar* – "*Khamoshi*" (1997)





Forever Xaverian

BRIDGING COUNTRIES, BUILDING BONDS: FROM KOLKATA TO LONDON

Manik Dey

Former Student, Department of Commerce, Batch of 1983
St. Xavier's College Kolkata

As a proud alumnus of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, it is both a joy and a privilege to reflect on the journey that has brought me from my years in Kolkata to the grand city of London. London has always been a favourite city of mine ever since my introduction in the travel industry with Kolkata being the focal point for my frequent travels to London as a visitor or on business ventures.

Moving to the United Kingdom in 1998 had brought its fair share of challenges, with new ways of life accompanied with a dynamic pace, while a quiet ache of being far from home remained persistent. Entering a completely different industry within the ever-evolving IT sector was a daunting task particularly in a city as bustling and lively as London. The initial years proved challenging, marked by doubt and the continuous effort to carve out a space for ourselves. However, after two years of unwavering commitment and hard work, things slowly started to come together. The business began to expand and my family gradually discovered its rhythm with an emerging sense of community in this unfamiliar setting. As I adjusted to life here, I formed significant and profound connections, through my career, sports and social activities. However, whenever I encountered another Xaverian, there was

always an immediate connection, a distinct sense of camaraderie that went beyond careers and locations. My experience at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, was truly transformative as it not only cultivated my academic success but also gave me the confidence and willingness to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Beyond academics, the college instilled in us a solid foundation of integrity, leadership, and a global perspective. Whether it was the late nights on campus, the passionate discussions in the cafeteria, or the subtle influence of Jesuit principles that shaped our outlook, each experience equipped us to engage with the world beyond our boundaries. In 2012, an incredible opportunity presented itself when we held the inaugural Beyond Boundaries event, graciously supported by Mr. L.N. Mittal and the Arcelor Mittal Group, at the London Museum. That evening was a pivotal moment as it unleashed a wave of networking and united Xaverians from all over the UK. It was both inspiring and invigorating to reconnect with so many people who shared the same foundational experiences.

An alumni network had already been set up by those who came before us, but it was with the revitalized

support from the Kolkata Chapter, guided by our President Father Dominic Savio and our Secretary Mr. Hasan, that the UK chapter began to flourish with new enthusiasm. Frequent gatherings and a more engaged approach enabled us to foster a stronger, more dynamic Xaverian community here.

In 2018, I was honoured to organize the second Beyond Boundaries meet in London. It turned out to be a tremendous success attracting more UK-based alumni and further invigorating our expanding network. That event served as a turning point, providing our alumni group with a sense of identity, purpose, and community.

From cultural evenings and professional mixers to community service efforts, each gathering serves as a reminder that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves - a family linked by a common heritage and aspirations.

What distinguishes the UK chapter is the breadth of our experiences - entrepreneurs, academics, artists, and professionals, each contributing in their own unique way but united by the same motto: *Nihil Ultra*. "Nothing Beyond" is more than simply a slogan; it's a spirit. A spirit of pushing boundaries, encouraging one another, and making significant contributions to the world around us.

As more Xaverians join our family, let us continue to build bridges across nations, generations and hearts. Together, we carry on our alma mater's tradition with pride, purpose, and the unyielding confidence that there is nothing beyond the boundaries of the Xaverian Spirit.





Face to Face

IN CONVERSATION WITH GM ARJUN ERIGAISI: A GRANDMASTER'S GAMBIT AT ST. XAVIER'S

Sambit Dutta

Member, Editorial Board, SXCCAA

“Kolkata demands consistency; it doesn’t let you rest on past achievements...”



It was a momentous day at 30, Park Street, as the historic halls of St. Xavier’s College (Calcutta) echoed with the quiet intensity of strategic thinking and youthful ambition. The occasion? The much-anticipated SXCCAA Chess Championship, hosted by the St. Xavier’s College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA). And this year, the event shimmered with an extra glint of brilliance graced by none other than

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, India’s prodigious chess sensation and one of the top-ranked players in the world.

Born in Warangal, Arjun’s tryst with the 64 squares began not in grand auditoriums or elite coaching centres, but on a modest board in his living room, where, at the tender age of five, he would silently

mirror his father's moves with wide-eyed fascination. What began as an innocent curiosity soon transformed into an unstoppable passion. By the time he turned 14, he was a name to reckon with in national circles; and by 18, he had already shaken the global chess fraternity with his lightning-fast calculations and ice-calm composure.

Fresh from a string of international triumphs and emblematic of India's roaring chess resurgence, Arjun walked into the college campus not just as a grandmaster, but as a beacon of discipline, humility, and relentless pursuit. The atmosphere was electric, yet reverent as Xaverians, young and old, rose in applause to welcome a player whose journey from a quiet town in Telangana to global podiums has become the stuff of chess folklore.

Amid this vibrant celebration of intellect and intuition, Arjun sat down with us for a candid conversation—gracious, grounded, and glowing with the quiet fire of a true master.

Q: Welcome to St. Xavier's, Arjun! How does it feel to be here today, amidst so many young chess enthusiasts?

Arjun: It's absolutely wonderful. The energy here is vibrant, and the respect for chess is palpable. St. Xavier's has a legacy, not just in academics but in holistic development, and I'm honoured to be part of this event. (The moment I stepped onto this campus, I felt a surge of warmth and legacy that's rare to find.)

Q: Chess has seen a boom in India lately. How do you see this championship at a college level contributing to that growth?

Arjun: Grassroots events like these are where champions are born. When institutions like SXCCAA encourage chess, it sends a message: intellectual sport matters. Today's participants could be tomorrow's grandmasters. All they need is the right push and consistent support. (And today's hall was brimming with that potential—an exciting glimpse into the



future.)

Q: Your journey has been meteoric. What keeps you grounded amid global rankings and expectations?

Arjun: Honestly, it's the game itself. Chess teaches humility. You win some, you lose some but there's always something new to learn. I also rely on a strong

support system: family, coaches, and friends who remind me where I started. (They remind me to pause, breathe, and just love the 64 squares.)

Q: Any advice for aspiring players who were thrilled to see you today?

Arjun: Keep playing, keep analyzing, and most importantly enjoy the process. Ratings and titles will come if you focus on improving. And don't be afraid of failure. Every blunder is a teacher. (And believe me, those lessons are what truly carve the path to greatness.)

Q: Would you be open to mentoring or supporting college-based chess in the future?

Arjun: Definitely. I think mentoring at the college level can be pivotal. Players at that age are mature enough to absorb complex ideas and passionate enough to commit. I'd love to contribute wherever I can. (Passing on the baton is one of the most fulfilling parts of being in this position.)

Q: Lastly, your thoughts on Kolkata as a chess-loving city?

Arjun: Kolkata breathes chess. From parks to tournaments to intellectual gatherings like this one—there's a deep cultural affection for the game here. And you can feel it at St. Xavier's too! (There's something very poetic about the city's relationship with strategy and silence.)

Q: You've played in many cities across the world, but Kolkata holds a special place in Indian chess. Any personal memories here?

Arjun: Absolutely. Kolkata has always felt like a chess capital to me. I remember playing here in my early

teens—the enthusiasm of the crowd, the late-night postmortems, and the deep respect for the game. The city breathes strategy and storytelling. Every tournament here feels like an event. And of course, the food and warmth are unmatched. I still remember walking into the Alekhine Chess Club for the first time, it was like stepping into a temple of chess. (That memory still lingers like incense in a sacred place.)

Q: Kolkata clearly holds a special place for you. Can you share some of your most vivid memories here?

Arjun: Kolkata is magic for any chess player. My first major memory is the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz in 2021—I won the Rapid title, and then was a last-minute addition to the Blitz field. Despite being a late replacement, I ended Day 1 in the lead, riding high on the momentum that came from my performance in Riga prior to that.

Then, in December 2022, I returned to the event and won the Blitz section again—against a very strong field including Nakamura and Mamedyarov. That night at the National Library, winning with a round to spare, was unforgettable. (It was as if the stars above Kolkata that night were aligned just right.)

Q: You’ve had some dramatic clashes here—any stand-out games?

Arjun: Absolutely, the 2024 Rapid/Blitz saw a real

moment of vindication. In the rapid, I scored a rare 20-move win over Magnus Carlsen, right here in Kolkata. Though he went on to take the overall titles in both Rapid and Blitz, that game was a big personal triumph. Playing and winning against Carlsen in such a setting is something I’ll cherish always. (It felt like a silent roar in my heart—one of those moments where preparation met destiny.)

Q: How do these experiences influence your mindset when playing in Kolkata?

Arjun: They help me feel almost at home. I know the halls, the crowd, the spirit. But that familiarity also brings pressure once I led the Blitz event with just three rounds to go in 2022, only to slip and finish third. Kolkata demands consistency; it doesn’t let you rest on past achievements. (It keeps you on your toes, in the most respectful way.)

Q: Do you see Kolkata as a sanctuary for the game?

Arjun: In a way, yes. From the Alekhine Chess Club at Gorky Sadan, where I first felt the grandeur of Kolkata’s chess culture, to the packed halls at Tata Steel events, there’s a reverence here. Even college tournaments like today’s SXCCAA event carry that tradition forward. (The silence before a move here carries more meaning than most applause elsewhere.)

Q: Let’s talk about today—your first visit to St.



Xavier's College. How was the experience walking through this historic campus?

Arjun: It was inspiring, to say the least. The moment I stepped through the iconic gates of St. Xavier's, I could sense the heritage. There's something timeless about the campus—the old buildings, the trees, the courtyards filled with students and ideas. It felt like the perfect place for an intellectual sport like chess. (A quiet majesty surrounds the walls, whispering stories of brilliance through time.)

I was greeted with such warmth by the alumni, the SXCCAA team, and of course, the students. Their enthusiasm wasn't just for the game but for the discipline and thinking that chess represents. I could see that chess here isn't treated as just a pastime; it's a tradition. And the fact that this event was organized by the alumni association shows how deeply Xaverians care about giving back and keeping the culture alive.

Q: Any standout moment from today's championship event?

Arjun: Definitely, watching the young players compete in complete silence under the high ceilings of the College Hall, with the sunlight pouring in through the stained-glass windows, was surreal. It reminded me of my early days—nervous, excited, dreaming of titles. One boy came up to me after his game and said, "I lost today, but I'll win next year and may be even represent India like you." That's the kind of spark that makes these visits meaningful. (A spark in a young heart that could ignite an empire of dreams.)

Also, I had a short walkthrough of the college museum and the chapel. As someone who travels a lot for tournaments, I rarely get to slow down and appreciate spaces like this. But St. Xavier's felt like a place where tradition and modernity co-exist beautifully. (A place where history smiles gently at ambition.)

Q: Could you see yourself returning here? Maybe even conducting a workshop or masterclass for students?

Arjun: I'd love that. Chess thrives in institutions where critical thinking is celebrated. And St. Xavier's clearly does that across disciplines. If a session or workshop can help even one student see chess as more than a board game as a way of thinking, of life—I'd consider that time well spent. (If I can be even a small part of someone's journey here, it would be a joy.)



Q: You turned Grandmaster at a remarkably young age. Could you tell us a bit about your formal education—how you managed academics alongside competitive chess?

Arjun: I've always believed in the power of education. I did my schooling in Warangal, and currently, I'm pursuing a B.A. degree through correspondence. It allows me to balance my chess commitments while continuing my academic journey. For me, education is not just about qualifications—it's about discipline, structured thinking, and developing a broader perspective. Chess sharpens the mind in a particular way, but formal education builds range and resilience. (Both disciplines shape the mind—one sharpens, the other deepens.)

Q: Was it emotional or meaningful to visit an academic campus like St. Xavier's College, given your unique path?

Arjun: Absolutely. Visiting St. Xavier's was a profound experience. Though I haven't attended a traditional

college in the full sense, stepping into this historic campus made me feel connected to a larger academic legacy. The architecture, the atmosphere, the culture—it all speaks of intellectual tradition and youthful ambition. It was almost nostalgic for something I didn't get

to live, but deeply admire. (It felt like stepping into a dream someone else had for me and I was happy to live it, even briefly.)

Walking through the College Hall, seeing students immersed in conversation, watching them compete in the chess championship, it all reminded me that learning can happen anywhere, but institutions like this elevate it. I felt honoured to be a guest in such a place.

Q: You also met the Fr. Principal during your visit. What was that interaction like?

Arjun: Meeting the Principal was an honour. He spoke with such clarity about the vision of St. Xavier's, not just in academics, but in nurturing well-rounded individuals. We discussed how chess can contribute to cognitive and ethical development, and he shared his thoughts on integrating more intellectual sports into the student co-curricular ecosystem.

What struck me most was the sense of continuity—the way he linked the legacy of the college with its future goals. That conversation reminded me that institutions like St. Xavier's are not just buildings or syllabi—they're living, thinking communities. It made my visit feel even more meaningful. (It was like speaking to the soul of the institution itself.)

Q: We heard you made a quick stop at the college canteen and tried something local. How was that experience?

Arjun: (Smiles) Yes, I did and I'm so glad I did! I tried the veg *chop* and a cup of tea, and it was absolutely delightful. There's something very grounding about sitting in a college canteen, surrounded by the chatter of students, the smell of food, and the hum of campus life.



For someone like me, who hasn't experienced a traditional college environment, this visit was refreshing. That few minutes sitting there with a plate of food, listening to the buzz around me—it was a very real, very joyful moment. It gave me a glimpse into a different kind of

student life, one that's just as meaningful in its own way. (It was a bite of Kolkata and a slice of life—all in one plate.)

Q: Today's championship saw over 300 participants and an equally enthusiastic turnout of parents and guardians. What did that level of involvement mean to you as a guest and champion of the game?

Arjun: It was incredible to witness. The sheer number of young players competing from beginners to seasoned school champions speaks volumes about how deeply chess is being embraced at the grassroots level. But what really stood out to me was the presence and support of parents. Their quiet encouragement, their eagerness to discuss the game with their children, and even the way they waited patiently outside the tournament hall, it all reminded me of my own early days.

Behind every young chess player, there's often a parent or mentor sacrificing time, energy, and resources. Today, I saw that same dedication in every corner of the campus from mothers carrying chessboards to fathers anxiously watching the clock. That level of involvement creates a nurturing ecosystem, and it's exactly what India needs to build the next generation of grandmasters. (It's a silent army of love and belief behind every young mind.)

Q: One of the standout participants in today's championship was young Anish Sarkar, who has already started making waves in the local chess circuit. Did you get a chance to observe his game or interact with him? What's your impression?

Arjun: Yes, I did get a chance to watch Anish play briefly and I must say, he has remarkable composure for his age. His positional understanding and time management already show signs of serious promise. I



also spoke to him after his round, and what struck me was his clarity of thought. He's curious, eager to learn, and not afraid of difficult positions those are rare qualities in a young player.

What's more important than raw skill at this stage is passion and Anish clearly has that. With the right mentorship and tournament exposure, he can definitely climb far. I'll be following his progress and cheering for him. It's young talents like Anish who make these college-level championships so valuable. (He plays like someone who has already begun writing his own legend.)

Q: As someone who came up through tournaments like these, how do you view the platform that the SXCCAA is providing by organizing such a large-scale championship at St. Xavier's?

Arjun: I think what SXCCAA is doing is truly commendable. Organizing a chess championship of this scale inside one of India's most iconic educational institutions sends a strong message: that intellectual sports like chess deserve visibility, structure, and celebration.

What's unique here is that it's not just a tournament, it's a platform. It brings together schoolchildren, college students, alumni, and parents under one roof, fostering not just competition, but community. When an alumni association takes this kind of initiative, it shows a commitment to giving back to nurturing talent at the grassroots level.

For young players, this isn't just another Sunday event. It's a chance to compete seriously, to feel seen, and to imagine themselves walking in the footsteps of champions. That kind of motivation can change

someone's entire trajectory. (And if I could be even a tiny part of that transformation, then today was more than worth it.)

Q: When you were younger, how did it feel to see a stalwart or a titled player at a tournament like this? And now that you're in that position yourself, what does it mean to you?

Arjun: Back then, seeing a grandmaster or even a national champion at a local event felt larger than life. They had this aura—calm, confident, and accomplished. Just watching them walk into the hall or analyze a position would send a wave of excitement through all of us. For many young players like me, that was the spark. It made the dream feel real, tangible.

Now, being on the other side, it's both humbling and fulfilling. I realise how much weight a few minutes of attention, a nod of encouragement, or even just showing up can carry. It's not about celebrity—it's about being accessible, and helping the next generation see that greatness is possible. I see myself in so many of these young players. And if my presence today lights that spark for even one of them, I consider that a privilege. (From wide-eyed dreamer to role model—it's a circle I never take for granted.)

Special Mention: Mr. Vineet Jain





OVER BOUNDARY - A GLOBAL XAVERIAN

THE UNLUCKY 'PROFESSOR'

Gautam Bhattacharya

Eminent Journalist

Former Student, St. Xavier' College Kolkata

Although my interaction with him had largely subsided due to my continued absence from the Cricket press boxes outside India, during the 'cold isolation' of the post-Covid era, it was the same warmth with which he greeted me, when I called him on a sultry July afternoon.

Dilip Rasiklal Doshi was overjoyed when he heard that the much talked about Alumni Association of his Alma Mater, SXCAA, had decided to confer him with the Global Xaverian Award- 2022. After all, a recognition at the 'home pitch' is always special! The Global Xaverian Award, is the highest award that the alumni association of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, confers upon a Xaverian, for his outstanding contribution, in his field of work, internationally. And there is no argument over the enormous contribution of Dilip Doshi to the world Cricket.

Doshi liked it all the more as the ceremony would be held at the event of Beyond Boundaries, at London, the city which DD had adopted. Though the Gavaskars, Tendulkars, Ganguly's and Kohlis have lavish apartments in London today, few know that



Dilip Doshi

Dilip Doshi was the first Indian cricketer to migrate and settle in London. He did have another swanky apartment at the posh Napean Sea Road in Mumbai. To be honest, in the subsequent years DD did not have much to do with Kolkata apart from a few occasional. His life and work seemed to oscillate between Mumbai and London.

But Kolkata and memories of his college days here, continued to occupy a soft corner of DD's heart. After all, he was a 'maidan boy' and had honed his skills at

the college grounds at St Xavier's. This was proved when instead of leaving at the end of the award ceremony, the renowned cricketer Dilip Doshi, charmed us by becoming very much a part of the alumni team and remaining present for the entire Talk Show with Sir Geoffrey Boycott. DD even accompanied the team of alumni members who had travelled from Kolkata, to the dinner that Xaverian Mr. L N Mittal hosted for the alumni at his sprawling residence in London.

I watched Dilip Doshi play, for the first time, at the CC&FC while I was in my teens. For me, the



bespectacled DD, could easily be mistaken for a professor, and armed with an unwavering focus to be the best in his business, DD's brilliance was easily a boyhood wonder. That feeling of awe did not desert me even in the later years! Let me recount an incident to show how deeply it was ingrained in my mind. Sometime in the eighties in a hard-fought Intra-college cricket final, at St. Xavier's College, I remember having warned the team to be extra cautious against

the 3rd year B.Com's spinner Parimal. At this, the Captain of the college team, who was well researched, was livid. Visibly upset, he asked me why we should be 'extra cautious' while playing with Parimal?'

My logic was simple, because Parimal happened to be Dilip Doshi's brother. The captain was not too pleased with my reply but did exercise a little more caution while playing with Parimal. After all, Parimal was a Doshi!

The late Gopal Bose often reminisced about DD's sturdy self belief. Once, they were representing the Calcutta University Cricket team from St. Xavier's College, and DD had done brilliantly and won much praise at the All India University Tournament. Those were the days when Gary Sobers was the reigning supreme superstar of world cricket. And that is when Gopal decided to tease DD by asking,

"Ei je great spinner, Sobers ke out korte parbi?"

Gopal expected him to say that the comparison was unfair because Sobers was Sobers, the Pele of Cricket!

But Gopal was surprised when DD replied, "Of course!"

There was so much conviction in his voice that Gopal was taken aback. Years later, Gopal received a trunk call from London. It was Doshi on the other end. In a calm matter-of-fact voice, Doshi told Gopal, sitting





Dilip Doshi being conferred with the Global Xaverian Award in London

miles away in Kolkata, "*Gopal, tor hero ke out kore dilam.*" The details followed, as to how Sobers, while playing in a Sunday League got tricked by a 'Doshi delivery', and lost his wicket.

Gopal Bose never quite recovered from that incident and had told me multiple times that as a professional bowler getting Sobers out was possible, however for a college student to have that kind of confidence and actually remember to 'retort' to that 'challenge' was quite something.

The story of Bengal cricket can never be written without a Doshi. Dilip Doshi stands as the link between Pankaj Roy and Sourav Ganguly. He is one of the three most celebrated torch bearers of Bengal cricket who have originated from the Eden Gardens. Considering that historically, Bengal remained a push-over in the national cricket scene, all three of these cricketing giants, had experienced a traumatic run to the Indian dressing room. There were countless doubters and critics to write them off before an India Captain 'arrived' from Bengal.

What makes DD stand out is that, as we all know, Pankaj had a sympathetic backer in Bechu Dutta Ray and Sourav Ganguly in a Jagmohan Dalmiya, Doshi, the left arm spinner had none. His journey was lonely - a battle shorn of any 'backing'!

Sunil Gavaskar got DD into the Indian team but the celebrated partnership which began with a bang was destined to be doomed. Gavaskar and DD fell out badly. Neither was Doshi's relationship with the other Indian captains of his time amicable. He had incredible control and an immaculate length, qualities that made him survive in the coldblooded county cricket year after year. Sadly, Doshi lacked in PR skills. He either liked you or did not, leaving no room for a middle path, when it came to maintaining interpersonal relations. His nature was somewhat pugnacious and Dilip Doshi never backed off from a fight, whether it was against a multinational giant or with a cricketing megastar.

His fellow Xaverian Sourav had largely liberated Indian cricket from zonal politics, from internal power

struggles and from vicious designs. But Doshi played in the pre liberalisation era where you either needed a godfather or loads of luck to survive. Sadly, Doshi had none! Notwithstanding the obstacles, DD completed 100 wickets in 28 test matches. A feat that remained unattained by the more illustrious spinners of that era. It was only in the last five test matches that DD faltered and that too in a spinner's graveyard called Pakistan. Cricketing history suggests that the entire Indian team, barring a brilliant Gavaskar, had surrendered in that series. But the knives were already out for Doshi by then and it was not long before DD was cut off and discarded. Even though Doshi took 5 wickets for East Zone against a rampaging Lloyd's West Indies, the selectors had already turned their back on him, by then.

Considering the fact that the chunk of it came from unhelpful tracks in alien overseas conditions, Doshi's stellar tally of 898 wickets @ 26.58 remains majestic. But it did very little to alter the final marksheet of the tragic hero!

Till such time that he had lived, Dilip Doshi never forgot his misfortune or his detractors.

Even at the SXCAA meet at London, DD lamented the cruelties that the Selection Board had meted out to him and which had cut his career short. Till the end Doshi, remained an unhappy hero, brooding over what 'could- have -been' had destiny been fairer towards him.

Yet another misfortune struck DD in his 'sunset years', as he battled severe financial distress.

DD lost a high- profile court case in his later stage of life and paid for it dearly. Cricket left Doshi unfulfilled but the financial loss almost turned him into a pauper. According to unconfirmed reports, Doshi, had to sell off his flat in London, along with several other assets, at the age of seventy-seven years. The situation turned so grim that he had to seek external help until Mick Jagger, his friend, showed up in DD's life, like a saviour. They planned to launch memorabilia of the

Rolling Stones, with DD taking a lead in merchandising them. A new chapter began to unfold!

It is sad that the Spinners' final battle remained incomplete as DD succumbed to a cardiac arrest. Many feel that the stress caused by his sudden financial loss could be the reason for the cardiac arrest, for DD was a strict disciplinarian all his life.

The cricketing 'tragic hero', who never gave in to injustices, on and off the field finally lost his wicket!

We believe that DD may have passed to the fields of a more just, 'cricketing eden', but his undefeated spirit remains. May be in another world DD, who always reminded me of a Professor, is taking a class for the best spinners and is a happy and fulfilled cricketing hero.



**In conversation with Dilip Doshi and
Sir Jeffrey Boycott**



THOSE WERE THE DAYS

THE CHAPTER WE LIVED, NOT JUST STUDIED

Alok Chaturvedi

Former Student, Department of Commerce – Batch of 1989
St. Xavier's College Kolkata

Year 1986, 39 years ago I had passed class 12 with 90% marks. In those days, St. Xavier's College Park Street was the Mecca of Commerce Students. Everybody wanted to study there. Around 800 students were admitted, of which 400 were from St. Xavier's and other Missionary schools, 300 were from Shree Jain Vidyalaya, Maheshwari Bhawan and 100 seats were reserved for SC/ST. I got admitted in the first list itself. But out of fear I had also applied at Goenka, where I was selected, but did not join. Father Maliyekal, only asked me how will you come to college, which I answered to his satisfaction.

First day the excitement was great. We were wearing, for a change, normal clothes and were given various sorts of advice, guidance by the priests - Joe D'Souza, Principal, Father Huart, Rector, Father Mathew, Vice Principal, Arts and Commerce, and we were let off at 8 o'clock. Only 17 from my school could get into St. Xavier's. I was school captain and used to take part in various inter-school events and would know most of the students from missionary schools.

Reaching college at 6 o'clock was a bit difficult, because not too much transport was available at that time. There were couple of double-decker buses from Central Avenue, and trams from College Street. A taxi ride would cost Rs. 1.5/- to college, which was very expensive in those days. I was still dependent on my parents and would get Rs. 10/- as pocket money. My

mother would give me an extra Rs. 10/-, in case, I wanted to have something outside or come back in taxi. During the college, most of the guys would sleepwalk into the college and would attend the classes somehow. Attendance of 75% was compulsory.

Most of the boys, whose parents had businesses, would leave college and go to their offices immediately. This was a good number, nearly 3/4th of the boys went back to their offices.

The tiffin break was from 8-8:20 am, and there were many options -

- **Arun Da's canteen** - serving hot samosas and tea.
- **Delights** - selling south Indian.
- **A small tea stall opposite Saturday Club's entrance** - selling tea, biscuit, and cakes.
- **Annaras** - selling *samosa's* and *kachori's*.
- **Russel Dhaba** - selling tea and samosas.
- **Flurry's**.

Since Flurry's and Russell Dhaba were a little far away, most of the crowd was at other places. The students would pounce on Arun Da's samosa's and there was a huge rush at his canteen. I would normally leave home with some breakfast and would not be hungry by 8 o'clock.

Around October, *Xavotsav* came. I being the school captain, lot of people approached me for passes. But commerce department did not have much say, and the then General Secretary told me to get money (way of subscriptions to the Institute) in exchange of passes. For every 500 rupees, there would be 1 pass. I went out on the road, after college, looking for sponsorship. In the next 15 days, from my own connections, I raised Rs. 50,000/- by way of souvenir, banner. I got about one hundred passes from the General Secretary, but the demand was far more.

The leader in me, decided that one day I will hold the *Xavostav* - bigger and better, and I decided to contest the Class Representative (CR) elections. I made 4 of my school friends stand, and I was the 5th to stand for CR elections. I won handsomely and my other 2 friends also won. We were a team of 3, and was joined by another senior, making us a team of 4.

The elections for the General Secretary took place in November, where the General Secretary backed by us, won by 1 vote. Everybody knew, that we 4 had made all the difference. I negotiated hard with the team and got two berths in the union out of 6. I became the Working Committee Member (WCM) with another team member of mine. That union, of that year, was unstable and there were differences every day.

Because of such disjointed union, *Xavotsav* was not allowed that year. A small two-day function "*Shristi*" was held in its place. The western music and the extravagance were not allowed. In the same year, I had made my intentions to become the General Secretary very clear. Some boys did not like the idea, and 4 of them, tried to attack me with cycle chains. They hit me couples of fists, but I avoided them, ducked them, and a huge crowd gathered outside in support of me. That event gave me a sympathy.

In those days I would stay on after my college and had mixed with the seniors and juniors of the Arts and Science department also. I must mention that Father Maliyekal always supported me. While to the outside world he was a strict disciplinarian but was a very good human being within.

One day, at my class, one boy fainted. He had to be taken home. 3-4 days later, Father and I went over to



his house. The boy had suffered a brain stroke and was paralysed. Since he was young, Doctor said that he would partially recover. Father asked the Gujrati family, whether they needed any financial help. He also arranged visit of a top doctor, for the family and asked me to remind him to give the boy full attendance at college and arrange for a separate training for him once he recovers.

I used to accompany Father, whenever boys went out after break and did not return. Father would take me on his scooter, and we would start with Victoria Memorial, then Flurry's, at Russell Dhaba and other joints as mentioned aforesaid. Father would intimate me at the gate/early in the class that he would go on a ride with me. We would catch around 100 students, and their parents would be called.

On another occasion, I got a phone call from Writers' Building, that one minister would like to get his daughter admitted. I said I cannot do anything, let the girl meet the principal. Next day she came at 12 o'clock, I took her to the principal at the appointed time 12 o'clock. Father read the entire letter and then tore it up. He asked the lady to apply next year and not come with recommendations.

In general, 1986-89, were days when young Rajiv Gandhi was our Prime Minister, and Jyoti Basu was our CM, Sunil Gavaskar had just retired. Calcutta was

still a place where you can get jobs, with a lot of MNC's here. Business and career looked very attractive here. The big CA firms were here. My father wanted me to become a CA, and I cleared the entrance exam in 1988.

1987 elections, there was a tri-party contest, I had about 25 votes, out of 66. There was a lobby from La Martiniere who had about 10 votes and a lobby from Calcutta Boys and St. Xavier's, which had about 12 votes. There was another junior, who had about 15 seats. After a lot of negotiations, it was agreed, that I would be the Assistant General Secretary and would have 3 out of 6 seats, i.e., 1 AG Sec and 2 WCMs. I fully supported this union and *Xavotsav '88* was a great success.

After *Xavotsav '88*, the whole college was supporting me as General Secretary. I stood and won the elections, beating my nearest rival by 54:12. In 1989, we went for our Honours examination and I joined SR Batliboi and Company as an article clerk in 1988 as per my father's orders. I had become General Secretary but would be attending the union maximum 1 hour towards the evening. *Xavotsav* was held with grandeur in 1989.

However, due to my audit assignments outside India, I could come back only in February and though the

accounts were ready, we submitted them in March only. Giving a good profit of around Rs. 60,000/- to the college.

I walked out of the college with a heavy heart, but I along with the help and guidance of Moloy Roy Chowdhury and Chandan Roy Chowdhury, had set up a good union SXC Alumni Association and we would host every year a dinner around December. It was not as grand as it is today, it was a simple affair, but the students mingle with each other over good music and excellent food.

By 1991 – 92, most of my batchmates got jobs. Taj Bengal picked up about 50-70 students. Those in business have gone places. Those who were CAs, MBAs moved to Mumbai and are today CEOs/ MDs of big NBFCs and Banks. Anywhere in the world you go you will find a Xaverian.

I continue to be member of SXCAA and would congratulate the current team, under Mr. Firdasul Hasan, for taking the association to various countries, cities and doing fantastic events and assisting the college.



BEING XAVERIAN

FROM MUD FLOORS TO MARBLE HALLS: THE JOURNEY OF A BOY FROM POVERTY TO ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE

Jaip Hossain Sardar

Former Student, Department of Arts & Science – Batch of 2022
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata

In a world where opportunity often favours the privileged; stories of grit, resilience, and sheer determination shine like rare gems. One such powerful story is that of a boy born in an obscure, poverty-stricken village whose name remains unknown on any of the maps probably exist to human touch. Yet, from the heart of this forgotten place, a young mind rose against all odds, driven by an unshakable belief in education and supported by a few kind-hearted individuals who recognized the potential within. The journey from a mud-walled home to the classrooms of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, is a testament to human endurance, kindness, and the transformative power of education.

Humble Beginnings in a Forgotten Village

Born into a struggling family in a tiny, economically backward village in West Bengal, the child grew up watching the difficulties of rural life. The mother managed the home, while the father—a dedicated and respected teacher in the local village school—earned a monthly salary of only 1500, a meagre amount by any standard. It was a heartbreaking reality that such a noble profession brought in such a small income. Yet, this salary had to support the entire household. With

rising expenses and no other source of income, survival meant working tirelessly in the fields.

To make ends meet, the entire family turned towards the field of agriculture. Each day began before dawn, and went on with long hours under the scorching sun farming paddy seeds—the staple crop in the region. The muddy fields became a second classroom, offering lessons in hard work, resilience, and gratitude. While the father taught in school, time was also spent toiling in the fields, planting hope with every seed.

Despite the grinding hardship, education was never compromised. The father, though struggling financially, remained deeply committed to ensuring proper schooling for the child.

“Knowledge is the only way out of poverty,” was a frequent reminder.

Primary School: A Beginning Built on Hope

The first brush with education came at the age of six at Paikhala Prathamik Vidyalaya, the local village primary school supported by St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association itself. The classroom

then had cracked walls and no benches, where students sat on the dusty floor. Yet, it felt like a palace of possibilities in each passing days walking barefoot for about one kilometre, carrying a slate in a bag and hope in the eyes.

What stood out was not only a hunger for food, but an insatiable thirst for knowledge.

Lessons were often memorized by listening to others. Teachers quickly recognized the talent and began mentoring personally, offering extra notes and books left by former students.

In class 3, a life-changing opportunity arrived — a chance to visit St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and stay for three days during an event called "Sishu Mela". Upon reaching the campus, the sight of beautiful



buildings, large classrooms, and the expansive green grounds left a lasting impression. A dream took birth silently, which was to study at St. Xavier's one day.

High School: A Battle Against Circumstance

To fulfil that dream, the next step followed. After completing class 1 to 4, admission was secured at Jhanjra High School for

secondary education — a larger institution with greater competition. A new set of challenges emerged, and with it the determination to go ahead. Surrounded by bright minds, consistent efforts earned respect from teachers and classmates alike. Eventually, commendable results were achieved in the Madhyamik Examination.

Guided by a passion for Mathematics and Chemistry, the Science stream was chosen for higher secondary studies.

A Ray of Hope: Alumni Association Intervention

After considerable performance in board exams, the dream of studying in Kolkata remained distant due to financial limitations. That's when support arrived from Rev. Father Principal Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ and the Alumni Association of St. Xavier's College Kolkata, who ran a scholarship initiative for underprivileged but meritorious students.

Impressed by academic records and personal background, the alumni association agreed to sponsor admission and living expenses in Kolkata. With their help and guidance, a place at St. Xavier's College was secured—a moment that forever changed the direction of this journey.

St. Xavier's College: A New World

Years later, that childhood dream turned into reality when I got admission at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, for a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry Honours.





However, the achievement brought with it a new set of challenges. Surrounded by more affluent, and confident students, the initial experience was one of discomfort. Limited English proficiency and a rural background made it difficult to adjust.

But giving up was never an option.

Communication skills were worked on tirelessly. The academic environment was gradually embraced, and

adjustment began. By the end of Semester 1, both academic and social confidence had improved. Just as everything started to feel settled, fate struck again—COVID-19 hit Kolkata. What was expected to be a short break turned into a two-year-long lockdown, depriving this bright mind of the precious campus life dreamt of for years.

Despite the setback, focus remained unshaken. Studies continued online with discipline, leading to graduation with strong results in Chemistry Honours.

To carry forward academic ambitions, admission was taken at one of Kolkata's oldest and most prestigious institutions — Rajabazar Science College — for a Master's degree in Chemistry.

Conclusion: A Journey Fuelled by Hope and Humanity

From a struggling boy in a forgotten village to a scholar at one of the country's finest institutions, this story reflects more than just personal success — it embodies what can happen when talent meets opportunity, when mentors choose to believe, and when a community steps up to support.

From the dusty lanes of an unknown village to the prestigious halls of St. Xavier's College, this journey proves that poverty can limit resources but not potential. It stands as a shining example that education, empathy, and determination can rewrite destiny. In a world full of challenges, stories like this remind us of the extraordinary power of the human spirit.





Adding Colour to the Campus

MY EXPERIENCE AT ST. XAVIER'S

Dr. Panchali Sen

Former Student, St. Xavier's College Kolkata – Batch of 1986
Dean, International Studies and Programmes
Associate Professor, PG and Research Department
of Political Science

My journey with **St. Xavier's College, Kolkata** spans multiple roles — first as a student, then as a teacher, researcher, mentor, and now as an **a c a d e m i c** administrator. Each of these roles has been a privilege and a process of continuous growth. When I look back, I do not just recall a chronology of events; I remember a transformative experience that shaped the person I am today.



impression on me. I didn't know then that this moment was the beginning of a meaningful association — Fr. Huart would go on to become one of my most impactful teachers.

Learning from Legends

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been taught by

stalwarts of the Department of Political Science. Prof. Kushal Sengupta, with his intellectual sharpness and clarity, introduced us to political theory in ways that made it come alive. Prof. Anil Guha connected textbook learning to real-world governance and institutions, bringing the Indian political system closer to us through his classes. Prof. Malay Banerjee, always dignified and methodical, instilled in us the importance of structure, discipline, and academic rigor.

And then, there was Rev. Fr. Albert Huart, SJ, who taught us Western Political Thought — one of the most foundational courses in the discipline. Fr. Huart had

Student Years: The Beginning of a Lifelong Bond

I first walked into the College as an undergraduate student in September 1986, filled with hope and anticipation. I distinctly remember my very first day — the inaugural event for new students. It was on that very day that I first encountered Rev. Fr. Albert Huart, SJ. He called upon me to distribute rosettes to the dignitaries on stage. I was nervous, unsure, but there was something immediately calming about his presence. His kind and composed demeanor, his striking blue eyes, and his gentle voice left a deep

the unique ability to make complex ideas accessible without compromising on depth. He brought Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau to life. His lectures were so thoughtfully constructed and so clearly delivered that even the most difficult concepts felt understandable.

But what made him truly exceptional was that his influence went far beyond the classroom. As Vice Principal, he carried his administrative responsibilities with quiet grace. He would often take silent rounds of the college, always observant but never authoritarian. His authority stemmed not from position, but from presence. What remains deeply touching is how he would remember the names of his students years after they had graduated, greeting them with that warm, knowing smile. For many of us, he was a model of leadership rooted in humility and care.

The Xavierian Ethos

The College, steeped in Jesuit values of excellence, integrity, and service, cultivated in us a sense of purpose. Our education was never limited to acquiring degrees; we were taught to engage with the world — responsibly and reflectively. The values of critical thinking, compassion, and social justice were imbibed through experience and example.

Among the Jesuit fathers who left a lasting impression on us was Rev. Fr. Gerard Beckers, SJ, affectionately known to many as “Babu”. A quiet yet determined presence, Fr. Beckers embodied the spirit of selfless service and precision. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes, often without fanfare, yet his administrative discipline, personal integrity, and silent efficiency kept several essential functions of the College running smoothly. His style was not about visibility, but about diligent contribution — a model of humble Jesuit leadership that taught us how deeply impactful silent dedication can be.

We didn’t have the internet or smartphones. Information was scarce, but curiosity was abundant. We relied on books, journals, notes, and most importantly, dialogue — with our teachers, with peers, and sometimes, even in solitude. The College library was our sanctuary, a space of exploration and quiet growth.



Co-Curricular Life and Holistic Learning

One of the defining features of student life at St. Xavier’s was the vibrant co-curricular environment. I was actively involved in social work, student-led seminars, and department events. These were not just extracurricular activities; they were an extension of our classroom learning.

We were encouraged to ask questions, to contest ideas, and to articulate our thoughts with clarity and confidence. These engagements helped shape my interest in political communication, comparative politics, and later, human rights.

From Student to Educator

Years later, when I returned to St. Xavier’s as a faculty member in 1993, it felt like a homecoming. To walk the same corridors, now as a teacher, was a deeply humbling experience. My teachers became my colleagues and mentors, and I began to understand,



from the other side of the classroom, what it means to teach with commitment and heart.

I have since served in various roles — Head of the Department of Political Science (2009–2013), Coordinator of the UGC-Supported Human Rights and Duties Education Course, and now, Dean of International Studies and Programmes. These roles have allowed me to contribute beyond the classroom — building partnerships, initiating programmes, and mentoring students across disciplines and borders.

Mentorship and Jesuit Leadership

Throughout my years at Xavier's, I have served under four remarkable Jesuit Principals:

- **Rev. Fr. Joseph D'Souza, SJ**, who set high standards of discipline and simplicity.
- **Rev. Fr. P. C. Mathew, SJ**, who brought vision and inclusivity to the institution.
- **Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj, SJ**, who took the College into a new global academic space.
- **Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, SJ**, under whose current leadership I serve, and who leads with energy, openness, and trust in his team.

Their leadership styles differed, but what united them was a common Jesuit commitment to excellence,

compassion, and the development of the whole person.

Changing Times and Enduring Values

The College has evolved with the times — embracing digital classrooms, international partnerships, and interdisciplinary education. And yet, the soul of St. Xavier's remains unchanged. In a world of increasing fragmentation, it continues to foster unity, critical thought, and service to society.

Students today live in a different world. Technology gives them access to everything, but discernment is key. My hope is that today's Xavierians learn not just how to know, but also how to care.

A Lasting Relationship

My experience at St. Xavier's is not one of nostalgia, but of ongoing inspiration. This institution gave me more than education — it gave me a worldview, a community, and a vocation. I am grateful for the teachers who guided me, especially Rev. Fr. Albert Huat, SJ, who continues to remain a gentle presence in my memories.

St. Xavier's is not merely an academic institution. It is a living tradition, a moral compass, and for many like me, a second home.

To have studied, taught, and grown here is one of the greatest blessings of my life.





Interlocution

RECOGNISING LUMINARIES AT 30, PARK STREET

Sambit Dutta
Member, Editorial Board, SXCCAA

“Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it.”

— Rabindranath Tagore

The words of Gurudev Tagore do not merely echo through the corridors of literature—they illuminate the soul of a civilisation that has forever been shaped by its artists, thinkers, and dreamers. In his quiet certainty lies a profound truth: that destiny favours not the passive, but the prepared; that the gifts of greatness await those who build, patiently and passionately, the vessel to hold them. It is this spirit of conscious cultivation—of becoming worthy through grace, grit, and vision—that Xavier’s has always understood so well.

Embodying that very spirit, Dashobhuja Bangali was celebrated with resplendent grace on 21st February 2024 at St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Kolkata, in proud collaboration with The Telegraph. Held to mark International Mother Language Day, the event stood not just as a ceremony of honours, but as a luminous festival of identity, memory, and merit.

As the evening unfurled its many-hued narratives, it paid homage to those who have not only earned distinction in their fields but have become custodians of Bengal’s intellectual and artistic legacy. From the cadence of a singer’s memory to the eloquence of a public servant, from the resolve of an athlete to the elegance of a scholar—each story shared was a gentle affirmation of Tagore’s truth: that greatness comes not

by accident, but by the readiness of heart and spirit to welcome it.

Shri Kaushik Ganguly



The acclaimed filmmaker was honoured for his significant contributions to Bengali cinema, a journey that had remarkably begun within the walls of St. Xavier’s itself. It was recalled that he had once been granted a six-month sabbatical from academic duties to work in telefilms. Upon his return, it had dawned upon him that the joy found behind the camera far outweighed the contentment of the classroom. He had likened life to a road without a GPS, and had expressed that honours such as this one acted as signposts, reassuring artists that they were on the right track.

Prof. (Dr.) Pabitra Sarkar

The erudite academician and linguist was celebrated for his lifelong devotion to the Bengali language. His speech resonated with passion as he urged that while multilingualism must be embraced, the sanctity of one's mother tongue should never be compromised. He expressed concern over the "khichuri" form that Bengali was gradually assuming and warned against letting such a rich and historic language fade into casual irreverence, especially when it was still spoken by over thirty crore people.

Smt. Arati Mukhopadhyay

The timeless voice of Bengal, Arati Mukhopadhyay was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award- '*Dashobhuj Chirontani*'. In a touching reflection, she remembered her formative years spent under the nurturing guidance of Lata Mangeshkar, who had urged her to begin her riyaz before the break of dawn. She spoke of her learnings from iconic figures like Suchitra Sen and Uttam Kumar, from whom she learnt the subtleties of playback singing. Despite living in Bombay, her heart, she said, belonged to Bengal. For

her, Kolkata remained a city that valued discipline, effort, and the wisdom of elders.

Shri Mehtab Hossain

Footballer Mehtab Hossain was recognised not only for his achievements on the field but for the pride he brought to Bengal's sporting heritage. Though he hinted at personal struggles, he deliberately chose to focus on a larger truth—that Bengalis had always excelled and would continue to do so. His spirited declaration that Bengal's football glory would one day return drew enthusiastic applause, infusing the auditorium with renewed hope. He also reminisced memories of playing in the maiden edition of the Xaverian Soccer League (XSL) fondly and expressed his eagerness to dribble with ball in the hallowed ground of St. Xavier's in the forthcoming seasons as well.

Shri Chandan Sen

Theatre veteran Chandan Sen was honoured for his outstanding contribution to stage and screen. He fondly recalled his many visits to the college, not as a student, but as someone searching for raw talent for

his theatre group. The institution, he reflected, had taught him the philosophy that work and play could harmoniously coexist. However, he also acknowledged that any task, once undertaken, must be pursued with wholehearted devotion.

Shri Anirban Chakrabarti



Recognised as a new-age performer reshaping comedy and character work in Bengali OTT and film, Anirban Chakrabarti spoke with disarming modesty. Having begun his professional acting career in 2018, he had admitted to being overwhelmed by the recognition and expressed his gratitude for being embraced so warmly by audiences in such a short span.

Shri Jeet Gannguli



Singer and composer Jeet Gannguli was honoured for his melodious contributions to Indian cinema. A poignant moment followed when he bowed before Arati Mukhopadhyay on stage to take her blessings. He reminisced about the early days of his journey, when he used to travel from North to South Kolkata just to perform at radio stations as an accompanying

guitarist. In those days, he had been assigned slots alongside legends like Mukhopadhyay, which often left him nervous yet inspired. He credited his father for insisting that he train his ears long before attempting to compose music.

Smt. Raima Sen



Raima Sen was honoured for her graceful and consistent presence in Indian cinema. Standing beside her mother Moonmoon Sen, she was enveloped in an emotional moment. Her mother had quietly noted that Raima's late father would have been immensely proud. Raima herself shared, with equal parts humour and humility, that her friends and colleagues often failed to take her work seriously—but that this honour would serve as a gentle yet firm affirmation that she has indeed done something of substance.

Shri Supratim Sarkar, IPS



Senior IPS officer Supratim Sarkar was recognised for his exemplary service in law enforcement and his literary acumen. A master storyteller, he captivated the audience by contrasting the real-life work methods of detectives with their romanticised portrayals in films

and fiction. With a touch of wit, he remarked that he had anticipated an invitation to deliver a lecture on cybercrime—not to receive an award from his alma mater. The honour, he had admitted, had come as a delightful surprise.

Shri Pranab Chandra



The much-loved businessman Pranab Chandra, owner of '*Mukharochak Chanachur*', was felicitated for his legacy in entrepreneurship. Although not a Xaverian himself, he had felt immense pride receiving the award from an institution attended by both his son and grandson. He spoke with endearing humility about his lifelong journey in business, and said that the honour was a validation of decades of hard work and unwavering dedication to a beloved brand.

Through music, cinema, theatre, public service and sport, each luminary honoured at Dashobhuj Bangali 2025 exemplified the diverse excellence that Bengal

continues to nurture. As they stood on stage, their stories steeped in nostalgia, pride, and purpose served not only as personal testaments but as a reminder of the institution's role in shaping visionaries.

Indeed, 30 Park Street did not merely host an event; it celebrated a legacy of dreams fulfilled, voices raised, and milestones remembered.

Advisors: Dr. Snehasis Sur, Mr. Sujoy Saha

Convenors: CA. Dipan Das, Mr. Sambit Dutta





Campus Buzz

NIHIL ULTRA: NOTHING BEYOND BEING HUMAN

Eshitha Barua
Student, Department of English
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata

The very word “college” evokes a melting pot of emotions. A life beyond the familiar gates of school, a place that had been my home for fourteen golden years. For students across generations who are deeply attached to their schools, college once meant a strange mixture of awe, unfamiliarity, fear, and

a world full of surprises. Despite the ache of parting with the school, the very thought of college life held a promise of hope and excitement. It finally promised the realisation of long-cherished dream that a student waits for.

For any literature enthusiast, walking through the historic gates of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, has always been a dream. The English Department of this college stands as a legacy in itself — a cradle of knowledge shaping its students beyond prose and poetry, gently instilling in them a way of life. It was a moment of sheer thrill when I first stepped into the 'Rohinton Kapadia Hall' (RK Hall, as we fondly



call it), on the day of our physical verification. To me, it felt like an unseen yet intimate meeting with the legendary professor after whom the hall had been named. Since then, I have witnessed several departmental events and examinations there, a hallowed space that quietly murmurs peace, depth, and timeless grace.

On the very first day in this campus, the motto of our institution '*Nihil Ultra*' was revealed to its newly oriented pupil - not just as words inscribed on stone, but as something one would slowly come to understand through the actions, warmth, and thoughtfulness of the people around St. Xavier's.

Life as a differently-abled person has offered me a varied lens to look at the world with a different perspective, beset with regular challenges. And it was this lens that made me treasure the very first welcome that I received here. I still remember, with nostalgia and happy tears, the warm voice of our respected Vice



Principal (Arts and Science), Professor Bertram Da Silva, on my first day, "Hello! Here's our new friend, Eshitha! Any problem, you'll come to us." In that very moment of acceptance, a bond was forged. I knew, without doubt, that here I was not only a name on the attendance sheet but a person, seen and gladly embraced which made all the difference.

Everyone who speaks of St. Xavier's College mentions its discipline, academic rigour, and its long-standing legacy of excellence are undoubtedly true, woven into the very fabric of the institution. But for me, Xavier's has been something calmer. Slowly, it has exhorted a greater truth - one that lives beyond marks, assignments and lectures. It has shown me that there is indeed "Nothing Beyond" being human first. For me, the motto "Nihil Ultra" has unfolded not as a call to endless ambition, but as a quiet reminder that kindness, care, and humanity stand above everything else. The thoughtful ways in which the college has cared about my needs as a differently-abled student have made this truth real, tangible. A desk made specially for my height, the easy access to the elevator, the ever-approachable and helpful staff always ready with a smile - all these little things carried meaning beyond convenience. And most of all, it is the professors' abled guidance and steadfast presence that reminds me every day that I am seen not merely as a student, but as their child. Whether it is an academic doubt or a personal issue, they are always near - ready to listen, help, without hurry or judgment.

And then, there comes the library - the magical wonderland five minutes away from the main building. Though the walk often has felt tedious for me, the library became a sanctuary from initial days

itself. Its wide range of books, the hushed spaces between the endless aisles, the comforting silence that wrapped around me like an old friend - all of it became my refuge. The library has borne witness to my exasperated sighs, my tired smiles, my moments of joy and despair. On days when I could not physically be present, the librarian kindly made arrangements, allowing my father or friends to return or borrow books on my behalf. On other days, especially during quiet rains, the library transformed into a realm of wonder - a peaceful, almost enchanted world away from reality.

An inseparable part of this journey has also been the small cubicle on the ground floor, nestled between the two staffrooms. For my examinations, the college thoughtfully arranged this space so that I did not have to climb stairs or endure discomfort. The cubicle has been more than a physical space: it has been a silent companion, watching over my little triumphs and gentle worries. I have spent countless hours here, not only during exams, but also waiting for my father to come and take me home after classes. In this humble corner, I met strangers who became friends.

These commendable arrangements, small but





significant acts of care, firmly proved that the spirit of “Nihil Ultra” was not limited to lofty ambition but lived quietly in subtle acts of kindness. They remind me that at St. Xavier’s, I am safe and never alone in my struggle - I feel understood and protected. Moreover, it made me realise that differences could actually be beautiful!

The English Academy has been a precious space to hone my literary and creative skills. It was a moment of immense pride to represent the college in Creative Writing (Poetry) at Literaria '25, where I secured the first position — an unforgettable achievement. I also had the joy of anchoring and scripting; passions close to my heart since school. The “Poet in Conversation” segment, featuring the eminent poet Shri Joy Goswami in dialogue with our Deputy President, Prof. Dr. Chandrani Biswas, was especially inspiring. These experiences added depth and delight to my Xavier’s journey, making the world of literature feel vividly alive.

No account of my Xaverian life would be completed without mentioning the little spaces that slowly became my safe haven. The green benches, our favourite zone in the campus, have always been a hub of rambling chats, music and endless laughter. On the other hand, the long corridors, with their old-world charm, have borne witness to my hurried footsteps, suppressed tears and moments of quiet reflection. The canteen - always bustling with life, has remained a

world of its own. Be it laughing my heart out with friends or humming my favourite number all alone, making a new friend over smiles or even tears, it is always a reminder of belonging and of simple joy of being part of a larger story.

The college chapel stands as a silent guardian; its doors always open to those who seek peace. On days of deep distress, I simply slip into its lap, letting the stillness calm my thoughts. The amber light through the stained glass, the coolness of the stone floor, offers moments of deep solace. The cultural societies, vibrant and diverse, weave colour into the life of the college. The societies not only offer respite from the stressful class hours but also offer a golden opportunity to nourish our passions, stage our talents and befriend people across departments.





If I were asked to choose the most unforgettable part of St. Xavier's College, it would undoubtedly be the lush green ground that stretches like a quiet heart at the centre of the campus life. For most, it is a space of energy and festivity — where Xavotsav sets the ground ablaze with music, colours, and laughter; where the chaotic footsteps and carefree chatter of students at break hours weave a tapestry of youthful exuberance. Yet for me, the ground has always whispered a serene tune.

Often, I find myself standing there alone, away from the bustle, letting the soft breeze brush against my face as I gaze quietly at the endless azure sky. In those rare, unspoken moments, I gently recite lines from my favourite poems or hum a Rabindrasangeet under my

breath - songs of longing, love or loss. The scent of rain, the hush before a summer drizzle, the weight of heartaches unspoken- these too settle softly on the green. The ground holds all of it silently, patiently. It has been less a stage of noise for me, and more a secret space, where my scattered thoughts and quiet dreams have always found a place to rest.

As I walk these familiar paths with two years behind and more to come, St. Xavier's continues to mold me steadily, teaching that strength rests in patience, perseverance, love and unshakable determination. Here, I am not merely a learner, but a young soul spreading her wings - shaped by trust, lifted by hope, and encouraged to reach beyond doubts towards dreams waiting to be accomplished.





War of Words

THE NIHIL ULTRA DEBATE: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH BEYOND LIMIT

Jeetu Rampuria
Former Student, St. Xavier's College Kolkata



As students of St. Xavier's College Kolkata, we feel proud to say that the City of Joy is also known to be the intellectual capital of the country. It patronises art, culture and literature in its myriad forms. In fact Calcutta seems to celebrate everything cerebral.

St. Xavier's College, a premiere educational institution of Kolkata, in keeping with the Jesuit philosophy of an all-round development of students, encourages several forums of extra-curricular activities for an all encompassing and holistic growth of the students as individuals. This ensures that the students excel in

their respective fields and at the same time remain compassionate humans, ready to serve those in need.

The Xavier's Debating Society is one of the most active and popular forums among them. The Debating Society participates in various inter college/university debating events while its members participate individually too, in debates organised by various well-known social platforms in and outside Kolkata.

Since its inception, the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association endeavours to integrate its activities with those of the college, our alma mater and



it was with such thoughts that the Nihil Ultra Debate was first started. It was named the Nihil Ultra Debate, in keeping with the motto of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, meaning Nothing Beyond.

The debate was dedicated to immortalise the legacy of one of our most renowned Vice Principals, Rev. Fr. Paul Joris S.J. and is since then popular as the Fr. Joris Memorial Nihil Ultra Debate.

We recall fondly that this Debate and the Reunion Dinner, Sangam are the earliest of SXCAA's events, which are continuing with renewed glory, till date.

During the early years, when resources were limited, it was not so easy for the association to get sponsorships for events of such scale. To overcome these challenges and to propagate the event, it was decided to invite the association of The Statesman, a leading newspaper of those times. For many years, not only did The Statesman patronise the Nihil Ultra Debate but their celebrated Editor Late Mr. C. R. Irani took a lot of interest in the event and would spend hours discussing topics and speakers with the organisers. Mr. Irani would even exercise his contacts to reach out to renowned and prolific debaters and invite them to participate in the event. Such was the popularity of the event.

We feel happy to state that the Nihil Ultra Debate is now being partnered by an equally significant newspaper, The Telegraph. Sanjay Budhia, a Xaverian and the scion of Patton, the leading industrial group, is the generous patron who supports this event for many years now.

Over time, the stature of Speakers and the hype around this event has grown so much that the Nihil Ultra Debate has become one of the most sought after debating events of the city.

And it is not surprising that our city now waits for this mega 'war of words', given that some of our topics have been the likes of, Parliamentary form of democracy has failed in India; We are witnessing Euthanasia of Bollywood; It is necessary to re-narrate our history or Privacy is an illusion in the digital age.

Such topics offer much intellectual exercise and adds insight into the issues from different perspectives when they are tabled by some of the best speakers of our times.

The Nihil Ultra Debate has had notable Speakers from a wide spectrum of the society, from academicians to bureaucrats, actors to doctors, industrialists to stalwarts from the entertainment industry, lawyers to journalists, to offer the much- enjoyed spark to our brains.

With time, we have also changed the format for the panel formation. Earlier, the debate used to be organised between the Xaverians and the other side would be from other premiere educational institutions like Loreto, XLRI, St. James or it would have Xaverians Vs Doctors, Xaverians Vs Industrialists and other similar formats. Over the last few years, we have raised the bar of this event and now the speakers are from a much broader spectrum of renowned personalities of national and international acclaim.

As a Xaverian, who has been keenly interested and deeply involved in this event for many years, it has been very satisfying to watch its growth. One more notable way in which the Nihil Ultra Debate has moved way up in the scale is that since 2024, it has become an International event. In 2024, for the first time, the debate was held in Dubai. It was organised on a luxury ship, on water. SXCAA has truly pushed its limits towards excellence, in organising this debate. We can proudly say that the Nihil Ultra Debate has lived up to the true essence of 'nothing beyond'.





Memoir

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF FR. PAUL DETIENNE: SXCCAA'S RESURRECTION OF REVERED FATHER

Dr. Snehasis Sur
Former Hony. Secretary, SXCCAA
President, Press Club Kolkata

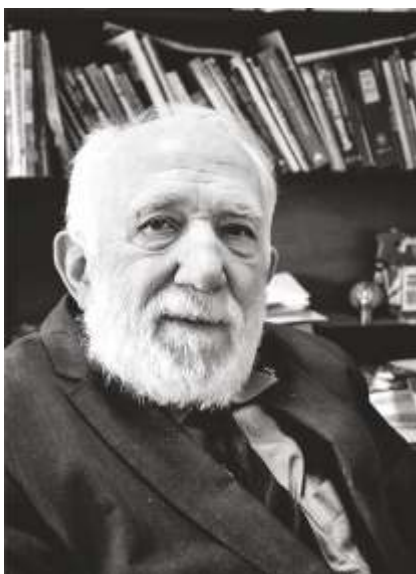
The year 2025, is significant for the alumni association, not only because we touch the milestone of forty years but also because it is the centenary year of Father Paul Detienne.

Fr. Detienne belonged to the Kolkata Province for several years of his initial Jesuit life and spent much time in, Santiniketan, Srirampore and Basanti too. However, he left India in 1980's and returned to his native Belgium.

Rev. Fr. Paul Detienne, SJ, was a Jesuit Priest of Belgian origin, who came to Kolkata and embraced Bengali language as his own. Such was his love for the language that he emerged as a legendary litterateur in Bengali Language. He was awarded with *Rabindra Purashkar* and *Narsing Das Award* in recognition of his contribution to Bengali literature. He was known for his acumen and humorous writings in Bengali, including his works of translation of liturgical and religious works and research on Bengali language and literature. His column '*Dairyr Chherapata*' and '*Roj Namcha*' published in major Bengali magazines, brought him

much acclaim. He also authored several books in Bengali, which were highly appreciated.

We can say that it was the Alumni Association of St. Xavier's College(Calcutta), which was instrumental in



REV. FR. PAUL DETIENNE

bringing Father Detienne back to Kolkata. The publication, '*Parampara*'-2006, to mark the 75th year of the Bengali Literary Society (BLS) of the St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata, in collaboration with SXCCAA, carried an article on Fr. Detienne, SJ written by Fr. Mathew Shillings, SJ. Prof. Chinmay Guha, who was part of the editorial team and the former Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University and a former Secretary of BLS, contacted Fr. Detienne SJ in Belgium, with the help of Rev. Fr. Albert Huart, SJ former Vice Principal (Arts & Science), St. Xavier's College and Mr. Biswajyoti

Dasgupta, who was the co-editor of the publication and a founding member of the SXCCAA and former Secretary of the BLS of the College.

Prof. Guha then personally interviewed Fr. Detienne, SJ, in Belgium. The interview was later published in

the popular magazine, '*Desh*'. It was this interview that gave Fr. Detienne, the impetus to reconnect with Bengal and the Bengali language. He later started writing regular columns in the magazine *Desh* for almost a year.

Fr. Detienne was awarded the *Rabindra Purashkar* by the Govt. of West Bengal, which he received in person, in Kolkata. Henceforth, Fr. Detienne, started coming to Kolkata more often to reconnect with the people he knew and revisit the places where he stayed during the first stint of his tenure in Bengal.

In the year 2015, at the closing ceremony of the '*Bhasha Dibos*' celebration of the College organised by SXCCAA in collaboration with BLS taken place on 21st February, Fr. Detienne was present at that august gathering and his book '*Lalpere Golpaboli*' were published on that day.



On the occasion of the centenary of Rev. Fr. Paul Detienne, SJ, St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) paid a befitting tribute to him. With the patronage of its President and Principal of the College, Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, SXCCAA joined the College to organize several programmes.

SXCCAA organized a Felicitation Ceremony to congratulate Fr. Detienne on receiving the *Rabindra Purashkar*. A condolence meeting was arranged by the alumni association, to pay tribute to the Jesuit Priest who embraced Bengali language, at the College Auditorium. The Prayer Meeting was attended by stalwarts from the field of art, culture and literature including many of his admirers and acquaintances. So, in a way, SXCCAA was instrumental in the resurrection of Rev. Fr. Paul Detienne, SJ, to the land, language, literature and life of Bengal.

The first program to celebrate the centenary of Fr. Detienne, SJ, was organised by SXCCAA in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 18 February 2024. It was held at the main stage of the Annual Book Fair in the Ramna Maidan. This event was graced by Jesuit Fathers from Kolkata. Mr. Ramendu Majumder, an eminent cultural personality of Bangladesh spoke on behalf of the Book Fair Committee, Bangladesh. We fondly remember that Fr. Detienne, SJ, had inaugurated the Dhaka Book Fair in 1916, on his visit to Dhaka and Kolkata and that marked Father's last visit to this part of the world.



SXCCAA took an active part in organizing a daylong seminar, at the Raghobpur Campus on 16 November, 2024. Eminent personalities like Prof. Dr. Pabitra Sarkar, Former Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, Mr. Harsha Dutta, Former Editor, *Desh*, Prof. Suranjan Midde, Former Head of the Department of Bengali, Rabindra Bharati University, Dr. Sadhana Karali, Headmistress, St. Paul's School, Raghobpur, Mr. Biswajyoti Das Gupta and Mr. Swapan Mukhopadhyay, eminent Researcher, Scholar and Writer and Snehasis Sur, Journalist, among others were part of the celebration. A commemorative volume, a compilation of the speeches of the seminar and other research articles were released during the convocation of the college on 16 January 2025.



Fr. Detienne, SJ, had studied in the Bengali Department of *Visva Bharati*, Santiniketan as an external student and used to visit his *Alma Mater*, whenever he visited Bengal. Hence, it was only befitting that SXCCAA along with the College collaborated with the Bengali Department of *Visva-Bharati*, Santiniketan to organize a seminar on Fr. Detienne on 27 February 2025. Rector of the College, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ and Principal of the College and President of the Alumni, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, along with a delegation of the association, led by Mr. Firdausul Hasan, the Hony. Secretary of SXCCAA, represented the college and the alumni association at the seminar.

The *Visva-Bharati* was represented by its Vice Chancellor Prof. Soren, Head of the Bengali Department, Prof. Manabendra Mukherjee, Deans of *Vidya Bhavana* and *Rabindra Bhavanas*. On this occasion the Fr. Paul Detienne, SJ, Centenary Commemorative Award was presented to the eminent writer and former Head of the Programme, All India Radio, Kolkata, Smt. Krishna Sarbari Dasgupta for her latest book, '*Padma Luchi, Paduka Haran Ebong Ananya*'. Prof. Pabitra Sarkar and Prof. Chinmay Guha, Former Vice Chancellors of Rabindra Bharati University, highlighted several aspects of Fr. Paul Detienne's life and contribution in Bengali literature, at the seminar.

A thanks giving Eucharistic Mass was celebrated in Bengali at the local Jesuit House, Parasmani, on 28th

of February, with Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ, Rector as the main celebrant and Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of the College and President of the SXCCAA, as the co-celebrant. The Hymns were chosen carefully from *Rabindra Sangeet* and the Reading was also taken from Tagore's *Geetanjali*. Mr. Bjay Kumar Singha, a senior ashramite of Santiniketan and a student of Fr. Detienne, in Basanti, participated along with other alumni members of the college and professors and students of *Visva-Bharati*. The choir was presented by the former students of *Sangeet Bhavana, Visva-Bharati*.



It is heartening to share that both, the seminars held at Raghabpur and Santiniketan and the Holy Eucharistic Mass at Santiniketan are available on YouTube, for those of our friends, who missed the heart-touching celebration at Shantiniketan in February.





Spotlight

MY YEARS IN COLLEGE

Adv. Debanjan Mondal
Former Student, St. Xavier's College Kolkata
Managing Partner, Fox & Mandal



A college is more than just a place for completing one's education. It is an 'in-between' stage that facilitates the transition from childhood to adulthood and tempers the invincibility of youth with the imminent responsibilities and failures that await us in the future. It can make or break an individual and herein comes the importance of the college one studies in.

It was in the month of July, 1990 that I crossed the field and stepped into St. Xavier's College. It was a momentous day for us, the boys from the St. Xavier's Collegiate School! The day that many of us had been waiting for since we had stepped into our teens. For us, it signified a kind of 'liberation'! Throwing aside our uniforms and black shoes, we could not wait to start this journey in the 'free' environs where we would

study the subjects of our choice in garments of our preference.

College was a crucial time of my life, when I had to balance my work as an apprentice in the law firm and at the same time, attend enough classes to qualify for my examinations. My professors respected my decision to begin 'work' that early and my friends helped me tide over all difficulties.

I was fortunate to graduate from a college like St. Xavier's where the influence of the professors went beyond academics and helped shape my outlook in life. This influence served me in good stead in the years that followed. I fondly remember the gentle guidance of Professor Kapadia, the spell-binding brilliance of Professor Da Silva (Bertie), the scholarship of the other senior professors like Father Patrick Walsh, Professor Proniti Bose, Professor Ranjit Ghosh and the infectious enthusiasm of the younger teachers like Professor Chandrani Sinha and Professor Partha Mukherjee. From the exploits of Beowulf in the Anglo-Saxon period to the desultory genius of Joyce in the 20th century, they took us through the annals of the history of English Literature. Their lessons went far beyond the pages of books and the syllabus. More than thirty years after graduating, I can still recall with clarity Prof. Da Silva's lectures on Shakespearean comedies,



Prof. Kapadia's explanations of Jane Austen, Mrs. Sinha intriguing us with the logic of metaphysical poetry and Mr. Partha Mukherjee leading us down the labyrinthine thoughts of T.S. Eliot, thoughts that "follow like a tedious argument/ of insidious intent/ to lead you to an overwhelming question..."

It is a credit to their teaching that I, in spite of moving away from literature to law right after college still remember this three decades later.

The beauty of academics in St. Xavier's College was that as young, inquisitive minds, we all had questions aplenty and our professors always had the time and patience to answer them. We were admonished and then again encouraged with warmth, thrown out of classes and then re-admitted with a smile and without realising it then, taught to become responsible and

capable human beings ready to take on the big bad world outside the green gates. Through the beauty of thoughts and words, the teachers ennobled our young minds, made them malleable to ideas and influences and kept them from becoming obdurate.

However, it was not all solemn reflection in college. Organising Xavotsav with the senior boys we idolized, the debates on the green benches that went on long after the bell had rung, the football matches, the college elections, the chaos of canteen lunches and the laughter that echoed in the corridors, these are memories that no photograph can capture. They will live in my heart forever. Friendships forged in the college years were also unique as diversity was our strength. We all had friends from various backgrounds, faiths and beliefs for we came together in an environment that celebrated unity and dialogue. 'Men and women for Others', was not just a slogan, for us it was a way of life.

The college years had swiftly flown by but the life lessons I learnt from the Jesuit Fathers stay ingrained in me forever. Apart from the friendships forged, the values of kindness, charity remain. Above all our quest to seek '*Magis*', the Jesuit ethos of 'more', to always strive for something greater than myself, have made me the person I am today. We have a popular saying that, 'You can take me out of St. Xavier's but you cannot take St. Xavier's out of me.'

The Xaverian in me will live on as a quietly confident person, as a socially conscious citizen of the world and as an individual who is eternally grateful for the gift of good education and values.





Man In Action

XAVERIAN EPITOME... THE INFINITE FRAME

Supurna Sarkar

Former Student, Department of Arts, Batch of 1995
St. Xavier's College, Kolkata



My years at St. Xavier's College (Calcutta), were not just a phase of academic pursuit – they were the crucible in which my passion, personality, and purpose were forged. The vibrant campus, steeped in intellectual fervour and cultural richness, offered me more than a degree; it gave me a sense of identity. Surrounded by inspiring mentors, brilliant peers, and an environment that encouraged critical thought and creative expression, I discovered the power of storytelling – a discovery that would go on to shape my career as a documentary filmmaker.

Today, as a proud Alumnus and a professional in the world of 'visual narratives', I look back at those formative years with immense gratitude. It is both overwhelming and an honour that our beloved Reverend Father Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata and the globally esteemed Alumni Association of the College (SXCCAA) have continued to recognize and nurture my craft. Through their support, I have had the privilege of making Documentary Films on some of the College's most notable Literati, as well as projects that have deepened my bond with the Institution and allowed me to

preserve and celebrate the very essence of Xaverian spirit.

The Alumni Association, under the guidance of a forward-thinking administration, is not just a network but a living, breathing force of community, society and continuity. From mentorship programmes and scholarships to heritage events, outreach drives, and creative collaborations, it plays a vital role in connecting generations of Xaverians. As an active member, I remain committed to contributing to its initiatives – be it through filmmaking, mentorship, or curating events that echo the values instilled in us.

To be a true Xaverian is to never leave the College behind – it is a lifelong journey of learning, giving back, and carrying forward a legacy of excellence, compassion, and creativity. Rooted in the College's timeless Motto, 'Nihil Ultra' - Nothing Beyond..., I strive to uphold that spirit in every frame I compose and in every story, I tell. It reminds me to go beyond limits, to challenge the ordinary, and to keep pushing boundaries – both in my craft and my commitment towards the Xaverian community. I stand proud to be part of that continuum, not just as an alumnus, but as a living embodiment of the 'Xaverian Epitome'.





On Ground Report



LIGHTING LIVES, SPREADING SMILES: A CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY BY SXCCAA

Yogesh Chopra
Convenor, Philanthropy Committee, SXCCAA

In keeping with the Jesuit ethos of "Men and Women for Others", St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) has continued its steadfast commitment to philanthropy through a series of impactful initiatives that have touched hundreds of lives across rural Bengal and beyond.

Celebration of Philanthropy Day – The Birthday of Father President (July 2024)

'In giving we receive'. Looking back at the celebration of the most important day in the SXCCAA calendar, Philanthropy Day was observed on the birthday of Father President on 24th July 2024. Like always, the day was spent taking stock of year-long philanthropic activities of SXCCAA. Several members and representatives from different organisations felicitated Father and wished him on this special day. Father President handed over token gifts to the beneficiaries.

Mega Medical Camp at Chamrusai, Paschim Medinipur (September 2024)

SXCCAA in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare – Government of West Bengal organized a Mega Medical Health and Eye-checkup camp for the students and boarders of Premananda Ashram Boarding School, Chamrusai, Paschim Medinipur on Sunday, 1st September, 2024. More than 700 beneficiaries attended the mega camp featuring several medical departments like pediatrics, gastro, pathology, chest medicine, eye and general medicine.

Further, game kits were distributed to the students of the school and rations and food items were handed over to the residents of the Ashram. Tree Plantation Drive was also carried out at the Ashram premises.

Flood Relief for Arambagh and Khanakul (September 2024)

In the wake of devastating floods in the Hooghly district, SXCCAA along with the college came forward to provide immediate support to the affected



communities. On 26th September 2024, Father President flagged off the first consignment of relief materials, which was received by Mr. Kamanasish Sen, IPS, SP of Hooghly Rural Police. This collaborative effort showcased the strong bond between institutions and the community in times of crisis.

NSS Special Camp and Community Outreach at Paikhala (October 2024)

The Department of Social Work, in association with NSS Unit I and II, organized a special camp from 24th to 30th October at Raghbapur Campus and Paikhala village. 42 students immersed themselves in community service, organizing health and education awareness programs, and leading cleanliness drives.

SXCCAA extended support through provision of essential ration and materials for the Camp.

SPREAD THE LIGHT: A Festival of Giving (November 2024)

Marking the twin festivals of Durga Puja and Diwali, SXCCAA held its annual “Spread the Light” initiative on 4th November 2024. This year, SXCCAA tried to reach out to Missionaries of Charity, Kalighat; *Shoisob* – NGO for street children; *Srijan Harinavi Vidyapeeth* – NGO working with HIV+ children.

Essential items such as rice, dal, toiletries, cakes, and bed linens were donated. The effort saw generous support from our own alumni members along with different corporate contributors.

LET’S SHARE AND CARE: Christmas Philanthropy (December 2024)

The flagship philanthropic programme “Let’s Share and Care” was celebrated with great joy on 22nd December 2024 across Paikhala Primary School and Raghbapur Campus, touching over 700 children from rural areas and NGOs like *Swapno Chhaya*.

Children were gifted specially curated Christmas goodie bags filled with food, stationery, and hygiene items. New school bags, magic shows, cultural performances, and drawing competitions brought smiles to their faces.

Additionally, this initiative extended to *Christo Sewa Ashram*, Kalna; *Chamrusai Premananda Ashram* Boarding School, West Midnapore; *Pathar Pratima* and *Sealdah* shelters; several NGOs in Burdwan and

Gariahat

In total, more than 1,000 children and elderly citizens were reached with festive gifts and winter blankets.

Mega Medical Camp at Raghbapur (January 2025)

On 19th January 2025, a Mega Health Check-up Camp was conducted in collaboration with PB Eye Foundation and the Department of Health and Family Welfare - Government of West Bengal, offering services across 8 areas including eye, dental, gynaecology, ENT, paediatric and general medicine. With 1,119 patients served — including 675 in ophthalmology, the camp also facilitated 150+ cataract surgeries and distributed free spectacles and medicines. The camp was organised at the Raghbapur Campus of the college benefitting localities of Raghbapur and surrounding villages. This initiative reaffirmed the Association’s commitment to healthcare in rural belts.

Sustained Outreach: January – June 2025

During 2025, the following activities were carried out:

- Two wheelchairs donated to Chamrusai Ashram, Kharagpur
- 30 new bed sheets to Nirmal Hriday, Kalighat
- Stationery support to Harinavi Vidyapeeth
- Bengali textbooks for migrant workers’ children in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu
- Ration and logistics support to Sishu Mela 2025, catering to over 750 children
- Support for Prayas Camp 2025

A Heartfelt Thanks

The success of these initiatives stands as a testament to the boundless generosity, passion, and collective spirit of the Xavierian community. We extend our deepest gratitude to every member, volunteer, donor, and benefactor who continues to walk with us in our mission of upliftment through service.

May these seeds of kindness grow into forests of change, and may SXCCAA continue to light up lives — one initiative at a time.

Convenor: Mr. Yogesh Chopra

Committee Members: Mr. Vikas Gupta, Mr. Deepak Gupta, Mr. Ahmed Sunny Reza, Mr. Stephen Mercas, Mr. Vineet Jain, Mr. P. Hariharan.

Celebration of Philanthropy Day 2024



Mega Medical Camp at Chamrusai, Paschim Medinipur



Mega Medical Camp at Raghabpur





Let's Share And Care





Spread The Light





A Tapestry of Grace and Giving: The Year That Was for SXCCAA Women's Forum

Nupur Majumdar
Convenor, Women's Forum, SXCCAA

"She remembered who she was and the game changed." – *Lalah Delia*

In the radiant glow of shared dreams and untiring devotion, the Women's Forum of the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) charted a memorable journey through the seasons of 2024–25.

"There is no force more powerful than a woman determined to rise." —W.E.B. Dubois

Of Birthdays and Blessings: Philanthropy Day at Little Sisters of the Poor

When the Forum chose to mark Father Preident's 60th birthday by sharing joy with the elderly at Little Sisters of the Poor, it wasn't just a gesture—it was a testament to the Forum's essence. A cultural mosaic woven by children's performances filled the hall with music and laughter. As Father cut his birthday cake alongside residents who shared his birth month, smiles radiated across generations. Members of the Forum gifted clothing, bed linens, snacks, and concluded the day

with a lovingly prepared lunch.

Meanwhile, the North Bengal Chapter celebrated Father's birthday on 24th July at "Sparsh O Spandan," an orphanage in Siliguri, where children danced, played, and received utility items as gifts.

Walking in Service at Raghampur

There are places where simplicity speaks volumes, and Raghampur is one of them. On the day of the Alumni Office inauguration, the Forum not only rejoiced in being part of a milestone but extended their warmth to the local community by distributing 100 umbrellas — small canopies of hope under open skies.

At another milestone for Raghampur, the Women's Forum celebrated the valedictory function for beautician and bakery students. Chief Guest Mrs. Jaya Seal Ghosh graced the event as young trainees received their certificates with joy and pride.

Continuing this vision of skill empowerment, the Women's Forum also conducted a Professional Bakery





& Confectionery Training at the Raghbapur Campus. Renowned bakery chef and Forum member Ruchi Chandak mentored the participants through an extensive hands-on training program. On 8th July 2025, 9 young women were formally assessed and are



now being certified by FICSI (Food Industry Capacity & Skill Initiative), a Sector Skill Council under NSDC and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. Aligned with NSQF standards, this certification ensures nationally recognized, industry-ready skills—paving the way for sustainable employment and future growth in the food processing sector.

Southward Bound: Looking Beyond – V

At the Looking Beyond – V National Meet at Grand Sheraton (18 - 19 Oct 2024), the South Zone Chapter of the Women's Forum was inaugurated. Mrs. Joyita Mullick (Convenor) and Mrs. Prita Ghosh (Co-convenor) received badges from Father Principal.

On 19th evening, members from Kolkata and South Zone came together to present Agamani, followed by



an exquisite performance by danseuse and Xaverian Dr. Devlina Kumar. It was a true celebration of culture,



leadership, and Xaverian unity.

Tea, Ties, and Triumph: The Annual Tea Meet

Held on 22nd November 2024 at the College Basketball Court, the Annual Tea Meet radiated festive warmth and Xaverian spirit. Under decorative lights





and the aroma of teas and treats, members mingled, celebrated, and reconnected.

A highlight was the felicitation of Mrs. Darshita Trivedi, Advisor, Women's Forum; Mrs. Nupur Majumdar, Convenor, Women's Forum.

Singer Trissha Chatterjee's soulful melodies and curated stalls, games, and health booths added to the vibrant evening.

The Warm Glow of Christmas: Share & Care

On 12th December 2024, the Forum hosted the Share & Care Christmas Meet at Little Sisters of the Poor. Christmas carols, gifts, a special lunch, and a joyful Santa — portrayed by Ruchi Chandak — created a magical afternoon. A donation of INR 50,000 was also made towards the construction of the school in Paikhala.

North Bengal Chapter mirrored this spirit at Chathat village near Siliguri, spreading warmth with food, books, Christmas caps, and performances. Blankets for elders and old clothes were also distributed.



From Terraces to Treasure Hunts: Fellowships in Full Bloom

- **Bijoya & Diwali Fellowship** (25th October, 2024): Diyas, lights, and laughter marked this indoor celebration.
- **Winter Fellowship** (13th January, 2025): Celebration of togetherness with Music and more.



Women & Beyond – Chapter 3: A Tribute to Resilience

On 5th March 2025, the Forum painted an evening with colours of courage and stories of strength. A classical performance guided by XADAM set the stage for heartfelt celebration. Two phenomenal women were felicitated - Dr. Minu Budhia – Author, Psychotherapist, and Mental health advocate and Ms. Piyali Basak – Mountaineer and Everest summiteer.

A panel discussion, moderated by Mrs. Hasnu Mukherjee, opened up heartfelt conversations on perseverance and purpose with the achievers of the evening.



Wisdom in Circles: Learning, Growing, Empowering

The Forum bloomed in intellect and inspiration through a spectrum of workshops:

- Yoga & Wellness (20th September, 2024): A rejuvenating blend of pranayama, face yoga, meditation, and Zumba.



- Zero Waste Workshop (6th January 2025): With eco-activist Mrs. Shital Bavishi, members explored how to lead sustainable lives.

- Darts Workshop (10th April, 2025): Mentors Mrs. Hasnu Mukherji, Ms. Saba Ali, and Mrs. Sushmita Roy led an engaging session.



- Jewellery Hacks (28th April, 2025): Mrs. Vandana Daga shared caring and purchasing tips.
- Healthy Diet (28th May, 2025): Dietician Dr. Rashmi Agarwal busted food myths and inspired nutritional change.

- Decoupage Craft Workshop (25th June, 2025): Mrs. Ekta Rana guided members through artistic crafting.

- Strength Training (26th June, 2025): Experts at AIM Gym emphasized fitness and bone health post-40.

Each workshop wasn't merely a class; it was a celebration of curiosity and community.



Wings in the North Bengal: The Heartbeat of Siliguri



The North Bengal Chapter has been an inspiring force of action and learning:

- Cyber Crime Awareness Workshop (27th February, 2025): Young experts helped members protect their digital identities.
- Saponification Workshop: Mrs. Riki Agarwal taught soap and bath salt making using organic ingredients.

• Health & Happiness (20th January, 2025): Nutritionist Sunita Kedia emphasized holistic wellness.

• Jewellery, Strength Training, Diet, and Decoupage Workshops: Each event fostered creativity, empowerment, and well-being.

• Jewellery Workshop and Darts Session: Teaching grace and grit in unique ways.

This regional chapter shone with its own light—gentle, grounded, and growing.

The Story Continues...

With every event, workshop, and gesture of kindness,

the SXCCAA Women's Forum continues to reaffirm its purpose—to support, uplift, and inspire one another through service, solidarity, and sisterhood.

"Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them."

With grace in their hearts and strength in their hands, they march on—lighting lives, spreading smiles, and scripting stories that will echo for years to come.

Advisor: Mrs. Darshita Trivedi

Convenor: Mrs. Nupur Majumdar

SOME OTHER GLIMPSES OF YEAR LONG ACTIVITIES OF SXCCAA WOMEN'S FORUM







Sangam 2024: A Goan Celebration of Xaverian Spirit

On the breezy evening of 30th December 2024, the grounds of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata transformed into the vibrant, sun-kissed shores of Goa as SXCCAA hosted Sangam – the Annual Reunion Dinner (RUD). With colourful beach décor, tropical vibes, and electrifying energy, this year's theme brought a wave of freshness to the most awaited event in the alumni calendar.

Xaverians from across the globe came together in large numbers, rekindling old friendships and forging new memories under the open skies. The massive footfall was a testimony to the resounding success of the evening, reaffirming RUD's place as one of the most cherished traditions of the alumni association.

A special highlight of the evening was a dazzling choreographed performance by SXCCAA member Sapan Ray, whose sequences lit up the stage and set the tone for the cultural extravaganza that followed.

The occasion also marked the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Batch of 1999, with heartfelt felicitations extended to Mr. Amit Bajoria and Mr.

Vivek Bajaj, among others from the cohort. The evening honoured several pillars of the alumni community, with Past Secretaries Mr. Ramesh Biyani, Mr. Naresh Gupta, and Mr. Imran Zaki, as well as GC Member Ms. Sujata Rampuria, with Xaverian Awards in recognition of their enduring contributions. Mr. Atiar Munshi, a dedicated staff member, was also felicitated for his unwavering service to the institution.

As the formal segment concluded, DJ Hrish took over, and the night turned into a high-octane celebration of music, dance, and Xaverian camaraderie. The sumptuous dinner, catered by Tangerine, offered a spread as memorable as the evening itself.

Sangam 2024 was not just a reunion—it was a celebration of belonging, a tribute to tradition, and a heartfelt farewell to the year, wrapped in the colours of joy, unity, and the ever-vibrant Xaverian spirit.

Advisors: Mr. Malay Roychowdhury, Mr. Zahid Rafique
Convenors: Mr. Rajeeb Buvaria, Mr. Deepak Gupta,
Mr. Pawan Dalmia
Special Mention: Mr. Sambit Dutta









BEYOND BARRIERS CHAPTER 23: A NIGHT OF MUSIC, MEMORIES, AND XAVERIAN PRIDE

On the evening of 25th January 2025, SXC grounds came alive with rhythm, nostalgia, and celebration as SXCCAA hosted its much-anticipated annual musical extravaganza, Beyond Barriers – Chapter 23. Drawing over 10,000 Xaverians and guests, the event was a grand confluence of talent, tradition, and togetherness.

The night's highlight was a dazzling performance by popular playback singer Shalmali Kholgade and her troupe, who set the stage ablaze with her powerful vocals and infectious energy. From soulful melodies to foot-tapping hits, the audience was treated to a musical journey that resonated with joy and jubilation.

Beyond the performances, the evening carried deep cultural significance. As part of Beyond Barriers 23, a

centenary tribute was paid to two iconic personalities — legendary actor Xaverian Raj Kapoor and musical genius Salil Chowdhury. The tribute, presented by the Calcutta Youth Choir, was a moving homage to their enduring legacy and contribution to Indian cinema and music.

Adding to the celebration, Father President felicitated distinguished alumni - Mr. K. K. Kanoi, Mr. Vikas Khosla, and Mr. Dharmen Trivedi, who have played key roles in the growth and strength of the alumni association.

Beyond Barriers Chapter 23 was more than just an event, it was a reaffirmation of the spirit that binds every Xaverian across generations.

Advisors: Mr. Naveen Bhattar, Mr. Pankaj Shah
Convenors: Mr. Vikas Khosla, Mr. Dharmen Trivedi



Felicitation Ceremony



Mr. Vikas Khosla and Mrs. Vritti Khosla



Mr. K.K. Kanoi and Mrs. Seema Kanoi



Mr. Dharmen Trivedi and Mrs. Darshita Trivedi



Jesuit Fathers with Advisors and Convenors of Beyond Barriers, 2025

Glimpses of the Evening



LOOKING BEYOND V: THE XAVERIAN FAMILY MEETS AT SOUTH

The St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) in collaboration with its SXCCAA South Zone Chapter organized the 5th Annual National Meet of Xaverians Looking Beyond V, 18 - 19 October, 2024 at the Sheraton Grand Whitefield Hotel and Convention Centre, Whitefield, Bengaluru. More than 75 Xaverians across India and more than 150 Xaverians from the South Zone attended this 2-day long extravaganza.

The convention started with a fellowship dinner on the 18th Evening where the evening was curated by the musical performance by very talented Mr. Sunil Koshy, Xaverian Fashion Walk with Miss Universe India 2010, Xaverian Ushoshi Sengupta, the show-stopper of the evening followed by a charming show by DJ Julius Sharma.

The formal inauguration ceremony of the Looking Beyond V was held on the 19th morning, with the

prayer by Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ, Rector, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata followed by an invocation dance by Miss Rashika Roy. Father Principal shared his vision of expansions and future prospects of the college in the forthcoming years. Mr. Santosh S. Lad, Minister of State, Department of Labor, Government of Karnataka, present as a Chief Guest for the Event, appreciated the initiative of SXCCAA on holding the convention in Bengaluru. Honorary Secretary of SXCCAA shared his thoughts on the Alumni movement to work hand in hand with the Alma Mater. Mr. Rudra Shankar Roy, Coordinator, SXCCAA South Zone Chapter placed the Chapter Report to the delegates. In this very session, Dr. Snehasish Sur, Mr. Yogesh Chopra, Mrs. Sudeshna Roychowdhury and Mr. Arjun Dhawan were conferred with the 'Xaverian Award for Exemplary Service' for their outstanding contributions to the College and Association. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the official launch



of the SXCCAA Women's Forum South Zone Chapter.

The pre-lunch session began with the graceful performance by versatile Mrs. Sharmila Mukherjee and her Sanjali Dance Troupe with the presentation 'Hansheeka the adaptation of the Swan Lake Ballet', followed by felicitation of Illustrious Xaverians 2024 - Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, Mr. Dhruba Mukherjee, Mr. Vishal Almal and Mr. Abhisek Gupta who, later, shared their success stories and the impact of Xavier's on their celebrated careers.

The post lunch session resumed with the marvelous oratory skills of Mr. Charu Sharma, sharing his thoughts on 'The Changing Scenario of Indian Sports and the Global Trends', followed by felicitation of Padma Shree Syed Kirmani with the 'Xaverian Award for Exemplary Contribution in Sports' and a talk-show conducted by Mr. Goutam Bhattacharya. Business Panel discussion was also held with Dr. Gopichand Katragadda, Dr. Suborno Bose and many other lustrous personalities and moderated by Mr. Atri Bhattacharya, IAS.

It is noteworthy to mention, SXCCAA South Zone Chapter being one of the most vibrant chapters of SXCCAA has handed over a cheque of INR 5,00,000 to Father Principal as a mark of their humble paying back to their *Alma Mater* during this convention for the development of the upcoming Media Hub of the College. This embodies the commitment and the love

and respect of the members of the South Zone chapter for the institution.

The evening show was curated with a dance performance entitled '*Agamani*' presented by the Women's Forum Members of SXCCAA both from Kolkata and South Zone with a guest appearance of Xaverian Dr. Devlina Kumar. Post the performance, the 'Xaverian Award for Exemplary Contributions to Music' was conferred upon Padma Shree Kavita Krishnamurthy Subramaniam for her illuminated career in the Indian Music Industry which was followed by a marvelous Classical Musical Performance by Musical Duo Subhra-Mani. The other snippets of the convention include the Mega Auctions for the fundraising of the Upcoming Media Hub of St. Xavier's in Anandapur - E.M. Bypass, Group Photograph, Wine Tasting Session and lots of fun-joy-laughter and music.

With her sensational voice, Smt. Kavita Krishnamurthy Subramaniam, summed up the Xaverian spirit of love and benediction as she sang '*Pyar hua chupke se...*'

Advisors: Mr. Sanjib Koner, Mr. Gautam Bhattacharya

Convenors: Mr. Umesh Goenka, Mr. Arun Bhattar

Special Mention: CA. Dipan Das, Mr. Sambit Dutta, Mrs. Kavita Bajaj Lohia, Mr. Ranoj Mukherjee

South Zone Chapter: Mr. Rudra Shankar Roy, Mr. Hunaid Topiwala and their team





Felicitation of Dr. Snehasis Sur



Felicitation of Mrs. Sudeshna Roychowdhury



Felicitation of Mr. Yogesh Chopra



Felicitation of Mr. Arjun Dhawan

Illustrious Xaverians 2025



Some other Glimpses of Looking Beyond V





XAVERIANS' MARCH FOR PEACE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

On 16th August 2024, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata along with the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA), took the streets of Kolkata in a solemn and powerful march to express solidarity in response to the unprecedented incident that shook the city.

The peaceful procession was led by the administrators of the institution and saw the participation of Jesuit Fathers, professors, alumni members, staff, and current students — all united in purpose and voice. With silent resolve and collective presence, the Xaverian community sent out a clear message: that

violence against human dignity has no place in society.

This march was not merely a symbolic act but a reaffirmation of the core Jesuit values of peace, justice, compassion, and respect for every individual. As Xaverians, standing together in the heart of the city, we upheld our commitment in defending the fundamental rights and dignity of all people regardless of background, belief, or circumstance.

At times of unrest, the Xaverian family walked together — not just in protest, but in hope.





XAVERIAN SOCCER LEAGUE (XSL): SEASON 2, WHERE LEGACY MEETS THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

Xaverian Soccer League (XSL) – Season 2, held on the 10th and 11th of May 2025 at the St. Xavier's College Grounds, was a spirited celebration of Xaverian unity, sportsmanship, and tradition. Organised by the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA), the event brought together students, alumni, and national-level players in this high-octane football tournament, embodying the true meaning of “*Nihil Ultra – Nothing Beyond*”.

The journey for Season 2 began with a serious and strategic owners' meet, which seamlessly transitioned into an exciting, power-packed auction where team owners, armed with thorough research and boundless enthusiasm, bid passionately to build balanced and competitive squads. The auction hall buzzed with anticipation, camaraderie, and competitive zeal, setting the tone for what would become a landmark sporting event.

The event was preceded by a press conference on 6th May 2025, where SXCCAA proclaimed its commitment to holistic development and outlined the league's transformative goals.

Behind each team stood a committed group of alumni owners who brought more than financial backing. They led with vision, dedication, and heart, nurturing their teams like family and reinforcing the core values of discipline, sportsmanship, and community

engagement. Their presence infused the league with not just strategic depth but a strong sense of Xaverian identity.

The two-day league culminated in a gripping final that saw Digital Strikers lifting the Champions' Trophy after a spectacular showdown with defending champions Credo Accelerate, who finished as the worthy runners-up. The tournament's individual accolades went to William Damien Xavier, who was named Player of the Tournament for his exceptional consistency and skill, and Duane Dominic Andrews, who earned the Top Scorer title with his relentless attacking prowess.

With Season 2 now etched in the college's sporting chronicles, the journey of XSL moves forward with greater promise. Plans are already underway to make future editions even more inclusive, impactful, and inspiring. For now, the turf rests, the trophies shine, and the Xaverian heart beats stronger waiting for the next kick-off, the next story, and the next chapter in this extraordinary saga of football and fellowship.

Advisors: Mr. Chandan Roychowdhury, Mr. Shahid Ahmed Khan

Convenors: Mr. Dharmendra Singh, Mr. Aritra Nandy

Special Mention: Prof. Feroza Mogrelia, Prof. A. P. Mondal



The Auction Day



The Match Days



Eight Teams of XSL-2



The Valedictory Ceremony



SXCCAA FIDE RATED RAPID CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP – CHAPTER 2: A GRAND CELEBRATION OF STRATEGY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association (SXCCAA), in collaboration with the Department of Sports, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, successfully hosted the 2nd Edition of the FIDE Rated Rapid Chess Championship from 9 to 11 June 2025. The tournament drew close to 400 participants from leading schools, colleges, universities, and premier institutions like the IITs across India.

On the valedictory ceremony taken place on 11th June 2025 at Fr. Depelchin Auditorium, GM Dibyendu Barua graced the occasion as the chief guest and expressed his gratitude towards the Alumni Association and the College for hosting such a big championship with such large numbers of participants.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata emerged as the standout institution of the tournament, being awarded as the Best College in the Open Category as well as the Best Team Award, reiterating its dominance both in individual brilliance and team performance.

The 2nd FIDE Rated Rapid Chess Championship not only reinforced St. Xavier's legacy of academic and co-curricular distinction but also replicated its commitment to nurturing the minds that will shape tomorrow's world.

Advisor: Mr. Ranoj Mukherjee

Convenor: Mr. Vineet Jain

Special Mention: Prof. Feroza Mogrelia, Mr. Sambit Dutta





FELLOWSHIP AND FELICITATION IN SILIGURI: A SPECIAL EVENING WITH JESUITS

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association along with its North Bengal Chapter organised a Fellowship Dinner on the occasion of JHEASA North Zone Conference which brought together Jesuit Fathers, Professors of various Jesuit Institutions from India, Nepal, Bhutan, and neighbouring provinces on 4th October 2024 in Siliguri.

The event offered a beautiful opportunity for members of SXCCAA — from both the mother chapter in Kolkata and the North Bengal Chapter — to connect, celebrate, and share moments of camaraderie over dinner and music, just ahead of the festive season.

Rev. Fr. Joe Arun, SJ, Director, LIBA, Chennai, has been felicitated by Father President on being appointed as the Chairperson of the State Minorities' Commission, Tamil Nadu. Mr. Goutam Deb, Hon'ble Mayor of Siliguri Municipal Corporation was also present as the Chief Guest of the evening.

Father President also felicitated former Secretary of SXCCAA, Dr. Snehasis Sur, on being conferred with his doctoral degree.

Father President handed over the badges to the newly designated committee member of SXCCAA Women's Forum, North Bengal Chapter.

To celebrate the evening, after cake cutting, dinner was served and the same was joined by several Members of SXCCAA North Bengal Chapter as well.

It was an evening that beautifully blended gratitude, recognition, and the timeless Xaverian bond—an event that will be remembered with fondness by all who attended.

Coordinators: Mr. Sujoy Saha, CA. Dipan Das, Mr. Sambit Dutta

Special Mention: Mr. Vinamra Goenka and his Team of SXCCAA North Bengal Chapter





THE 31ST FR. JORIS MEMORIAL NIHIL ULTRA NATIONAL DEBATE: A BATTLE OF WITS ON DIGITAL PRIVACY

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) successfully hosted XXXI Fr. Joris Memorial Nihil Ultra National Debate on 3rd May 2025 at Fr. Depelchin Auditorium, with the motion being *"This House believes that privacy is an illusion in the digital age,"* sparked a thought-provoking and high-voltage exchange of ideas among some of the most distinguished voices in journalism, academia, law, and public discourse from across the country.

Arguing for the motion were renowned journalist and media commentator Mr. Paranjay Guha Thakurta, acclaimed academician and translator Dr. Rakshanda Jalil, co-founder of Alt News Mr. Pratik Sinha and legal scholar Prof. Dr. Shameek Sen, each of whom dissected the evolving notion of privacy with striking clarity and urgency. They highlighted the pervasive influence of surveillance capitalism, data harvesting, and the erosion of personal boundaries in an increasingly connected world.

Countering them with equal conviction were noted author and columnist Smt. Bharati S. Pradhan, senior advocate Mr. Anirudh Chari, journalist Mr. Indrajit Kundu and political analyst cum debater Mr. Yashoroo Dey. They argued that while digital vulnerabilities exist, privacy remains a right worth

defending—one that continues to evolve through legal frameworks, technological advances, and informed citizenship.

The debate was masterfully moderated by (Retd.) Justice Sanjib Banerjee, whose sharp insights and balanced interventions kept the discourse lively and focused. Smt. Vritti Khosla, member of the SXCCAA Women's Forum, ably served as timekeeper, ensuring a seamless flow of the event.

The Motion was carried through showing of hands by the audience, after an intense 2 hours of engaging war of words from both proposition and opposition.

With compelling arguments, sharp rebuttals, and a palpable energy of respectful dissent, the Fr. Joris Memorial Debate once again proved itself to be a beacon of critical thinking and public dialogue. As the audience left the auditorium, they carried with them not only an enriched perspective on the question of digital privacy, but also a renewed appreciation for the democratic space that such platforms continue to protect and promote.

Advisor: Mr. Jeetu Rampuria

Convenors: Mr. Naleen Jain, Mr. Jayajit Biswas

Special Mention: CA. Dipan Das, Mr. Sambit Dutta



Handing Over the Winning Trophy to Team Proposition



Felicitation of Mr. Sanjoy Budhia



Moderator : (Retd.) Justice Sanjib Banerjee



Team Opposition



Team Opposition



A SOLEMN TRIBUTE TO HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS: INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association came together on 29th April 2025 in a spirit of solemnity and unity to organise an Interfaith Memorial Service in remembrance of His Holiness Pope Francis, who passed away on 21st April 2025. The service was held to honour the life, legacy, and spiritual leadership of the Holy Father, whose passing was deeply mourned across the globe.

Calcutta Youth Choir presented their Tribute through Music. Prayers were offered across multiple faiths reflecting the inclusive, compassionate, and ecumenical spirit that Pope Francis himself embodied throughout his papacy.

Special Mention: Dr. Romit Beed, Dr. Snehasis Sur



SXCCAA CELEBRATES 40 GLORIOUS YEARS WITH REFLECTION, RENEWAL, AND JESUIT VALUES



St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) marked a major milestone on 13th April 2025,

celebrating its 40th Foundation Day with a day steeped in pride, purpose, and profound reflection. The celebration began with a ceremonial flag hoisting in the iconic college quadrangle, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony that symbolised four decades of enduring Xavierian spirit and community service.

To honour this landmark year meaningfully, SXCCAA hosted a day-long Orientation Program on Jesuit

History, Values, and its effect on Higher Education, attended by over 100 enthusiastic members, including alumni from other Jesuit institutions. The sessions were designed to deepen understanding of the Jesuit identity and to reaffirm the Association's commitment to forming "Men and Women for and with Others."

The orientation was structured around four enlightening sessions on Jesuit History and Spirituality, Jesuit Values, Jesuit Vision in Higher Education, and Lay-Jesuit Collaboration. These sessions were conducted by esteemed Jesuit Fathers: Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswami, SJ, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Rev. Dr. Joseph Kulandai, SJ, and Rev. Dr. Peter Arockiam, SJ. The final session, co-led by Rev. Dr. Peter Arockiam and Former Secretary of SXCCAA Dr. Snehassish Sur, provided a rich dialogue on how Jesuits and laypersons can collaborate more meaningfully in the mission of education and service.



In the post-lunch sessions, Father President, delivered a thought-provoking talk on the Jesuit vision for higher education and the road ahead, urging participants to integrate Ignatian principles into their professional and personal lives.

A highlight of the day was the release of a commemorative booklet, capturing the essence of Jesuit traditions and philosophies. The publication featured two reflective articles: "Jesuit Vision in Higher Education" by Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, and "Jesuit Values in Shaping the Future and Mind" by Rev. Fr. Jeyraj Veluswami, SJ - both offering deep insights into the moral and intellectual framework that has shaped generations of Xaverians.

All participants were given away certificates of completion, and the event concluded with a warm fellowship lunch, celebrating the enduring bond among alumni and the shared responsibility of carrying forward the legacy of *cura personalis*, excellence, and service to others.

As SXCAA steps into its fifth decade, this Foundation Day was not just a celebration of the past but a recommitment to the Jesuit ideals that continue to guide its journey forward.

Organising Committee: Dr. Snehasis Sur, Mr. Vikas Khosla, CA. Dipan Das, Mr. Sambit Dutta



Report on Other Activities of The Association (July 2024 to June 2025)

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA) organized several events and activities in the ongoing calendar year under the abled guidance of Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata and President, St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association in the major 3 aspects namely Philanthropy, Fellowship and Networking. The association is thankful to all the respective advisor(s), convenor(s) and/or coordinators along with all the benefactors and stakeholders who made these ventures successful.

Event(s)	Date	Advisor	Convenor / Coordinator
Teachers' Day Celebration and Fr. Joseph Maliyekal Memorial Football Match	05 September 2024	Mr. Shahid Ahmed Khan	-
President's Day Celebration	02 November 2024	Mr. Smarajit Mitra	Mr. Ajay Chachan Mr. Vishnu Agarwal
JAAI Calcutta Province Meeting - Burdwan	08 December 2024	-	Coordinated by- Mr. Jeetu Rampuria
Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary Celebration	12 January 2025	-	Coordinated by- Mr. Vikash Khosla Mr. Sambit Dutta
Annual Convocation & College Foundation Day	16 January 2025	Mr. Romit Beed	Mr. Sushil Maheswari Mr. Ajay Gupta
Annual Picnic	02 February 2025	Mr. Deepak Gupta	Mr. Arjun Bahri Dhawan
Fr. Joe D'Souza Memorial Cricket Match	01 March 2025	Mr. Ricky Chandra	Mr. Joydeep Sen
Father Provincial Visitation	21 March 2025	-	Coordinated by- Mr. Vikas Khosla Dr. Snehasis Sur
Rabindra Jayanti Celebration	09 May 2025	-	Coordinated by- CA. Dipan Das
** Friday Fellowship Treat is organized every Friday in the Room No. 5 where all the Xaverians meet together to rejuvenate and reinvent themselves and to stay connected at large.		-	Coordinated by- Mr. Arun Bhatte Mr. Sushil Maheswari Mr. Ajay Chachan



St. Xavier's (Kolkata) Jesuit Community 2024-25



St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCAA)
Governing Council 2024-25



Formal Launching Ceremony of
"We Xaverians 2024" on 24 July 2024





St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association
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10 Years Completion of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Raghabpur Campus

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