

# Xavier's to start school of philosophy

**Somdatta Basu**  
@timesgroup.com

**Kolkata:** As a part of Jesuit value education and commitment to interfaith studies, St Xavier's University, Kolkata, is going to start a School of Philosophy & Religion. The religious and laity will be able to study in the school that will offer both undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

"The department will offer specializations in Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. We shall

offer more religion studies later. Today religion plays a crucial role in order to build up the spiritual and ethical character of society. It is important that people understand both religion and philosophy," said the vice-chancellor, Fr. Felix Raj.

The VC added that the university had no immediate plans to transition from online to offline mode of teaching. "I

don't want to disrupt the rhythm of the students. Hence, we will only begin the on-campus classes from the new academic session starting from July," said Fr. Felix Raj.

St Xavier's University is planning to hold the second convocation on February 6 at the Rajarhat-New Town campus. This year 451 students will be graduating and they will receive their degrees in the convocation. "We have decided to

conduct the convocation in a blended mode where the event will

be live-streamed. Only the 79 award winners will be allowed to be present in-person. The first 10 rank holders from each subject have been invited to attend it," said Fr. Felix Raj. At the event, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will preside over the ceremony. The Guest-of-Honour is Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, director, Indian Statistical Institute.

**2ND CONVOCATION  
PLANNED ON FEB 6**