



XAVERIANUM 2025





Faculty Members at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata



XAVERIANUM

2025

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata



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Odyssey: Voices of Change

Change is the eternal rhythm of life. As life unfolds toward its natural end, every moment becomes part of a profound odyssey—an accumulation of experiences that shape, challenge, and enlighten us. These experiences are not merely events; they are lessons that awaken our conscience and inspire us to live with purpose. In this journey, some rise beyond acceptance and become the voice of change. To be such a voice demands courage in adversity, clarity of vision, and the strength to imagine a better tomorrow. It is the resolve to speak for those unheard, to challenge complacency, and to ignite transformation that leaves a lasting imprint on society.

At the heart of every meaningful transformation lies education. Education empowers individuals to think critically, to question fearlessly, and to embrace change with wisdom and compassion. From the ancient Gurukul system to modern centres of learning, educational institutions have always been the crucibles where minds are shaped and values are forged. History stands as testimony to countless individuals who dared to rise, guided by learning, faith, and conviction, and became architects of change. The Jesuit tradition, in particular, has steadfastly championed education as a powerful force for social transformation. This enduring mission was envisioned by St. Ignatius of Loyola, who believed that knowledge, rooted in faith, could illuminate minds and transform hearts, giving birth to a more just and humane society.

Inspired by this rich Ignatian legacy, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, stands as a beacon of hope and transformation. Faithful to its mission of forming men and women for others, the University nurtures individuals who are not only intellectually competent but also socially conscious and morally grounded. Guided by values of love, freedom, justice, equality, and fraternity, the University embodies the true spirit of a Voice of Change—one that acts with compassion and leads with conviction.

The University Magazine, Xaverianum 2025, under the theme “Odyssey: Voices of Change,” is a reflection of this transformative journey. It captures the pulse of the University's life throughout the year—its achievements and aspirations, its struggles and celebrations, its moments of grief and joy. Through stories, reflections, and creative expressions, the magazine bears witness to the University's unwavering commitment to *cura personalis*—care for the whole person—and *magis*—the pursuit of the greater good.

Above all, Xaverianum 2025 seeks to inspire its readers to find joy in selfless service and meaning in purposeful action. It celebrates the quiet courage of those who strive daily to make a difference, reminding us that true fulfillment lies in working tirelessly for the greater glory of God—*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*—and in serving humanity with love, integrity, and hope.

Editor

Editorial



**God gives each one of us sufficient grace
ever to know His holy will, and to do it fully.**

- St. Ignatius of Loyola





From the Vice-Chancellor's Desk

Rev. Dr. J. Felix Raj, S.J.

Most Reverend Father Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Hon'ble Chancellor, Rev. Dr. James Arjen Tete, the Honoris Causa Recipient, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Fr. Dr. Xavier Jeyaraj, Registrar, members of the Governing Board, Controller of Examinations, Deans, distinguished guests, faculty members, officers, support staff, members of St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association and my dear graduating students, I extend a warm welcome to you all at the 7th Convocation ceremony of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

Arturo Sosa as our revered Chief Guest. His presence, alongside many Jesuit Provincials, truly blesses this momentous occasion. It is with immense pleasure that we also welcome Dr. Shashi Tharoor, upon whom we are delighted to confer the Honoris Causa this year.

A heartfelt congratulations to the 1052 postgraduate and undergraduate students, along with 25 Ph.D. scholars, who will receive their degrees today. My deepest blessings and sincerest best wishes accompany you as you embark on your future endeavours.

We are profoundly honoured by the presence of Rev. Fr.



Sixth Convocation of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata 2025



Sixth Convocation 2025

The 6th Convocation ceremony took place on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre. The Hon'ble Chancellor, Rev. Dr. James Arjen Tete, S.J., presided over the event. During the ceremony, 844 students from undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programs were awarded their degrees, with 48 among them receiving prestigious gold, silver, and bronze medals.



The Doctor of Literature (D. Litt., Honoris Causa) was bestowed upon Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), in recognition of his significant contributions to education, exceptional leadership, dedicated public service, and extensive humanitarian efforts.

The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Justice I.P. Mukherji, Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya, who served as Chief Guest and officially released the 3rd volume of the St. Xavier's University Kolkata Journal of Interdisciplinary Research. Additionally, Dr. G. Viswanathan launched the University Magazine, Xaverianum 2024.

Ninth Foundation Day 2025

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day on February 8, 2025 at the university campus. Shri Binod Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest.

In his inaugural speech, Father Felix Raj recalled the university's Foundation Stone laying ceremony in 2013 and



highlighted the unwavering support of Dr. Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Father Felix Raj unveiled the strategic plan of the university, the Vision 2050 along with Mr. Binod Kumar in the presence of dignitaries.

NBA Accredited MBA programme

The MBA Programme offered by Xavier Business School (XBS) has achieved NBA accreditation for a period of three years, commencing with the academic year 2025-26.

AIU grants membership to SXUK

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has granted membership to St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, effective from April 1, 2025, and assigned it to the East Zone.

Strength of Faculty, Officers, other Staff and New Appointees

The Xaverian family welcomed its new members and also parted with some who are exploring new horizons. SXUK as on January 15, 2026, stands together with

- Total administrative and other officers: 23
- Total faculty members: 138
- Total support staff members: 94

Admission Status in 2025-26

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, welcomed 1,339 new students for the academic session 2025-26.

As of December 31, 2025, the total student enrolment at SXUK stands at 4,064.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)

To further its global reach, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) formalized partnerships in 2025 by signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the following reputed institutions:

- Lincoln University College, Malaysia on January 22, 2025.
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology on January 27, 2025.
- Antara Society of Mental Health Sciences on July 23, 2025.
- Mahidol University, Thailand on August 18, 2025.
- West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology, Department of Science & Technology & Biotechnology (DSTBT), Government of West Bengal on November 18, 2025.

Awards and Achievements

We proudly acknowledge the significant achievements of our dedicated faculty members and talented students throughout 2025.

- Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor of SXUK received the esteemed Tagore Award for his lifetime achievements on October 10, 2025, at the House of Lords, Palace of Westminster in London, United Kingdom, as part of the Thought Leadership Summit hosted by the Global Collaboration Forum, Indi Setu. Dr. Amit Ghose, Founder-Director of Indi Setu, and Mr. Manik Dey of London presented the award to Father Felix Raj in the presence of international dignitaries, including British parliamentarians.



- St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) bagged the "Most Usage in East India 2024-25" award from the Knimbus Online Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi on August 26, 2025.
- Dr. Sovik Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Commerce and Management, SXUK received the Best Interdisciplinary Insight Award from the International Conference on Ethics, Equity and Empowerment (ICEEE) on August 9, 2025.
- Dr. Sovik Mukherjee also received two best paper presentation awards for his two different research papers respectively from the Indo Bhutan Social Science Conference held on September 3-6, 2025 and from the New College, Chennai.
- Dr. G. Stephen, Assistant Librarian received the Young Librarian Award from the Academic Library Association, Tamil Nadu on November 8, 2025.
- Dr. Soma Sur, Director, LCERI received the CMA Management Academic Excellence Awards 2025 from the Calcutta Management Association (CMA) on November 20, 2025.
- Our students continued to excel in various curricular,

co-curricular and extra-curricular domains, some of which merit special mention in this occasion:

- Three students of Xavier Business School (XBS) received the prestigious Baroda Achievers Award from the Bank of Baroda on February 1, 2025 for being the top three rank holders in the first three semesters.
- Md. Sahid Raza Hussain of MBA (2024-26) topped the Clio's Matrix-Data Dominion event in Corporeza 2025 at Inspiria Knowledge Campus, Siliguri on March 21, 2025.
- Mr. Rohit Singh and Md. Sahid Raza Hussain of MBA-Finance (2024-26) finished as second Runner-Up in the NISM-SEBI National Financial Literacy Quiz (NFLQ-2025) - Eastern Region.

- Mr. Swagat Maheshwary, CA Kausik Ghosh and Dr. Banhi Guha of Xavier Business School bagged the best research paper award in an international conference, organised by the School of Management Sciences, IEST Shibpur on August 21-22, 2025.
- Anaranya Basu of M.Sc. Statistics (2022-24) secured a fully funded Ph.D. opportunity at Old Dominion University, USA.
- Afsana Zeba Yasmin of M.Sc. Computer Science (2023-25) cleared UGC NET in July 2025.
- Keshav Jhunjhunwala of M.Sc. Computer Science (2022-24) received the Best Paper award at the International Conference on ISDIA 2025, held in Dubai.



**Academic Achievements of the Faculty Members**

In 2025, the following faculty members were awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Their respective details are listed below.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Department including Faculty/School	Completed Ph.D. from University / Institution	Awarded Month/Date
1	Dr. Sovik Mukherjee	Assistant Professor in Economics	Faculty Commerce and Management	Jadavpur University	June 11, 2025
2	Dr. Indrila Deb	Assistant Professor (on contract) in Management	Faculty Commerce and Management	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata	August 1, 2025
3	Dr. Srijita Ghosh	Assistant Professor in Economics	Economics, Faculty of Arts and Social Studies	University of Calcutta	August 25, 2025
4	Dr. Sneha Manger	Assistant Professor (on contract) in Political Science	Faculty Commerce and Management	Jadavpur University	November 4, 2025
5	Dr. Sayani Saha	Assistant Professor in Management	Faculty Commerce and Management	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata	December 22, 2025

Research Projects

- Dr. Chayanika Mitra of Department of Economics, SXUK received a research project on “From Community to Classroom: How Mother’s Engagement in Self Help Groups Shapes Children’s Educational Outcome: Evidence from West Bengal” from the ICSSR on September 5, 2025. The amount sanctioned for the project is Rs. 15 lakhs.
- Dr. Poulami Chatterjee of Department of Economics, SXUK received a research project on “Bridging the Digital Divide: Women in STEM in West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya” from the ICSSR on September 5, 2025. The amount sanctioned for the project is Rs. 15 lakhs.
- Dr. Ranjeeta Mukherjee of Xavier Law School bagged a project on “A Contextual Examination of the Implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012, Concerning Adolescent Intrigue in Meghalaya’s Khasi Hills: A Legal Analysis” from the NLUD Research Endeavour Grant on December 16, 2025. The amount sanctioned for the project is Rs. 5 lakhs.
- Dr. Anurupa Kundu of Department of Psychology, SXUK received a project on “Inter-generational Relationship Quality and Well-Being of Elderly: A Mixed-Method Study in West Bengal in Context of Out-Migration” from the ICSSR on December 20, 2025. The amount granted for the project is Rs. 15 lakhs 10 thousand.



Research and Publications

Faculty members and students of SXUK are committed to research and publications throughout the year. A summary of their research works in 2025 is presented below:

Sl. No.	Category	Number
1.	Books Authored/Edited	13
2.	Book Chapters (Including Conference Proceedings)	61
3.	Articles in Scopus Indexed Journals, UGC Care Listed Journals, Peer Reviewed Journals	106
Total		180

Library

Library resources as of December 31, 2025:

Sl. No.	Items	Books	Print Journals	Magazines	Newspapers	E-Journals	E-Books	Database
1	General Library (Lending & Reading)	14,602						
2	Law Library	8,451	22	29	16	13,764	338,568	18
3	PhD	745	58					
4	MBA	5,651	28					
Total		29,449	108					

Besides this, the following significant inclusions were accomplished in the library in 2025. Key highlights include:

- A separate section with 5,459 Theology and Philosophy Collections is in progress. Out of 8000 books, 2,541 books have already been added/technically processed.
- A new RFID security gate has been installed in the lending library.
- SXUK has signed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Shodhganga with INFLIBNET. 29 thesis of our scholars have been successfully uploaded to Shodhganga – the Indian Electronic Thesis and Dissertation system.
- Institutional Membership registered/renewed with the British Council Library, USIS American Library, and the Ministry of Education, National Digital Library of India. In the NDLI readers club, nearly 2,067 members

registered and accessed electronic content online.

- All subscribed databases renewed – Legitquest & Law Finder law live (AI-based legal databases), Proquest Psychology, HeinOnline Academic Core, Wolters Kluwer, HS Talks Business Collections, and Gale databases included.
- One hundred seventy-three publications were archived, and previous years' question papers were uploaded to the SXUK institutional repository.
- The SXUK Institutional Bibliography from July 2017 to June 2025 was compiled and released as a book. It included 53 books, 250 Book Chapters, 127 articles in UGC CARE/Scopus/WoS/, and ABDC journals, 349 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 11 patent publications, and 62 publications in newspapers and magazines.
- User footfall in 2025: 58,291 visitors (56,289 students, 2,002 faculty members) visited the library.



Twelve thousand twenty-six books were issued, and 12,225 books were returned.

- SXUK - NPTEL Local Chapter is recognized/rated as an active local chapter by NPTEL based on the students' performance in the Jan–Apr 2025 Semester and Jun–Dec 2025 Semester. 71 Xaverians received the IIT certification in both semesters.

Hostels

The academic session 2024–25 at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, was a year marked by vibrancy, discipline, and a deep sense of community. The highlight of the year was the much anticipated Chrysalis'25, the Hostel Annual Day Celebration, held on 22nd February 2025. Another one was the Dan Utsav where the students collected and donated clothes, toys, books, and other essentials for the underprivileged. Their wholehearted involvement highlighted the Jesuit values of generosity, compassion, and service toward society.

At the beginning of the semester, structured orientation programs (July 03 to July 16, 25)) welcomed both new and returning residents. These sessions reminded students of hostel regulations, community living principles, and safety protocols, while also guiding them on time management and personal discipline. A significant contribution to hostel life was made by the G-16 Student Committee, which ensured the smooth running of day-to-day operations and acted as a bridge between residents and the administration. The G-16 together with the hostel administration, has constantly worked to make SXUK hostels a home-like space, the committee fostered a culture where discipline and freedom coexist harmoniously.

Special celebrations, such as the birthdays of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Director, and Director were filled with warmth and gratitude. The year concluded with the Academic Excellence Awards, which demonstrated the hostel's commitment to academic growth and intellectual rigor. Beyond rewarding achievements, these awards symbolized the Jesuit philosophy of striving for excellence not only in academics but also in personal character, leadership, and cultural awareness.



Examinations

I am happy to report that a total of 1052 students successfully graduated from SXUK in 2025, which was a major accomplishment for them. I give the course-by-course breakdown of our 2025-degree graduates.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata	
Degree Recipient List -7th Convocation 2026	
Courses	No of Students
Master of Business Administration	107
Master of Arts in Economics	11
Master of Arts in English	53
Master of Arts in Mass Communication	35
Master of Arts in Psychology	53
Master of Social Work	30
Bachelor of Arts in Economics with Honours	25
Bachelor of Arts in English with Honours	48
Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with Honours	58
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Honours	58
Five-Year Integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)	106
Five-Year Integrated B.Com. LL.B. (Hons.)	53
Master of Commerce	18
Bachelor of Commerce with Honours	266
Bachelor of Management Studies with Honours	122
Master of Science in Computer Science	4
Master of Science in Statistics	5
Ph.D.	25
Grand Total	1077

Scholarships

We are committed to support academic excellence and promoting inclusivity. SXUK awarded scholarships and fee-waivers to 400 deserving students during the sessions 2024–25 and 2025–26 (up to December 31, 2025).

The combined financial aid across the two academic years amounts to ₹ 2.73 crore. Out of this substantial support, the overall scholarship disbursement amounted to ₹2.39 Crore, and the fee concession amounted to ₹34.1 Lakh. The details are given below:

Category	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2025-26 (till 31.12.2025)	Total
Scholarship			
No. of students who received Scholarships granted by the University	164	126	290
No. of students who received Sponsored Scholarships	32	16	48
Total No. of students who received Scholarships	196	142	338
Total Amount (in ₹)	₹ 1,52,15,050	₹ 87,06,150	₹ 2,39,21,200
Fee Concession			
No. of students who received Fee Concession granted by the University	38	24	62
Total Amount (in ₹)	₹ 18,85,800	₹ 15,24,500	₹ 34,10,300
Gross Total Amount (in ₹)	₹ 1,71,00,850	₹ 1,02,30,650	₹ 2,73,31,500

Placement Report

Our students are placed with reputed organisations with satisfactory pay package. Last year, 168 students secured jobs in various corporate houses with maximum placements in MBA with a median salary of INR 6.23 LPA. ArcelorMittal conducted a Campus Drive in SXUK on December 16, 2025, and 2 students got selected with a package of INR 7.3 LPA.





Major Activities and Events in 2025

Culmination of Father Felix Raj's Golden Jubilee of Jesuit Life

St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association (SXUKAA) organised a programme to mark the culmination of the Golden Jubilee Year of Jesuit Life of its President, Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ., on January 3, 2025, at the university campus.



The event featured a cultural performance by Baul singers from Santiniketan, reflecting on the essence of ascetic life. Fr. Felix Raj was felicitated by the SXUKAA office bearers. In a spirit of generosity and compassion, Fr. Raj distributed blankets and shawls to 250 construction workers, maintenance staff, and other workers of the university.

XAVRANG 2025

XAVRANG 2025, the annual cultural event of SXUK, themed "Mythical Odyssey: Eclipse of Eras" took place on January 17-18, 2025.



Students from 50 colleges across Kolkata participated in the event. Mr. Sujit Bose, the Hon'ble Minister of Fire and Emergency Services, Govt. of West Bengal was the Chief Guest on the inaugural day.

Excitement for Xavrang'25 was ignited by the pre-Xavrang events including Football, Chess and Table Tennis. Both the days of the fest had a lively artist line-up.

Annual Sports Day 2025



Xavier University Sports Society (XUSS) of SXUK organised the Annual Sports Day on January 25, 2025 in the university playground. The programme commenced by hoisting the University flag and setting a flock of pigeons free. A parade by the Army Band, Bihar Regiment took place, followed by students and faculty members of each department, support staff members, and alumni members. Faculty members, support staff members and students participated in different sports events.

Celebration of Republic Day 2025

The 76th Republic Day was celebrated in the university campus on January 26, 2025. Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor, hoisted the National Flag. Fathers, sisters, faculty members, students, officers and staff members graced this momentous event. Father Felix Raj in his address highlighted the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the nation's remarkable journey. The event symbolized the spirit of unity and pride in India's democratic values and cultural heritage.

International Women's Day celebration

The Women and Gender Development Cell (WGDC) of SXUK in collaboration with the Regional Labour Office, Barasat, Government of West Bengal organised a workshop on gender sensitization at the university campus on February 19, 2025 to celebrate the International Women's Day 2025. The workshop focused on generation of awareness of the rights of women employees at their workplaces. The WGDC organised a medical camp in collaboration with the Desun Hospital and AM Medical Centre on March 8, 2025 at the university campus.

Fifth Annual Economic Summit



Department of Economics of SXUK in collaboration with the Xavier's University Economics Society (XAVECOS) hosted the 5th Annual Economic Summit 2025 on February 20, 2025 at the university campus. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Alex M Thomas of Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

A panel discussion on "The future of women at the workplace" took place. It was moderated by Father Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor of SXUK. Students from various colleges and universities across the country submitted research papers on different topics. The summit concluded with a valedictory session followed by prize distribution ceremony to research paper presenters for their work.

▶ Faculty Development Programme by IPR Cell



The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell of SXUK in collaboration with the Research and Development Cell (RDC) organised a one-week Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on IPR from February 24-28, 2025 at the university campus in hybrid mode. The FDP was funded by the Department of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Govt. of West Bengal (DSTBT, GoWB). Eminent resource persons were invited to deliver lecture on different topics related to IPR.

▶ Raising the Curtain: A Memorable Day in Pandua

In a heart-warming display of community spirit, Father Felix Raj and a delegation of esteemed Fathers and members of the Association of Jesuit Collaborators (AJC) from St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, travelled 70 kms to Pandua, Hoogly to participate in a joyous celebration on April 6, 2025.

The occasion was the inauguration of a newly constructed stage and a thanksgiving service, which drew a gathering of approximately 2000 people.

▶ General Awareness Programme at Kanthalberia Village

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Legal Aid Clinic in collaboration with the Centre for Social Outreach Programme (CSOP), SXUK conducted a general awareness programme at the

Kanthalberia Primary School, Kanthalberia village on April 7, 2025. The event enlightened the participants from the village about basic rights, steps to take when their rights are infringed upon and provision of free legal aid offered at the university campus.



▶ Events on Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development

SXUK hosted two events under its Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development curriculum on April 25 and 26, 2025 at the university campus. The aim was to emphasise a myriad of ecological issues. Students of Bachelor of Management Studies organised a poster presentation on waste management, plastic pollution, climate change, and species conservation. Dr. Kaberi Dutta, an external expert evaluated the performance of the students.



▶ English Language Camp for Rural School Children

SXUK launched an English Language Camp for rural school children at Uttarayan Primary School in Gobardanga, founded and administered by Mr. Timir Biswas and his dedicated team. The camp aimed at boosting spoken English and communication skills among students. Faculty and students from SXUK resided in Gobardanga from June 8-14, 2025, working closely with local students to overcome language barriers and improve educational outcomes.

▶ Faculty Orientation Programme

Our university organised a Faculty Orientation Programme for its faculty members on June 20, 2025 at the university campus. The orientation focused on the upcoming student



induction for the new academic session 2025-26. A department or school-wise brainstorming session was conducted, where the Heads and Deans of every Department/School reflected on the objectives and outcomes of the orientation programme for their respective Department/School.

▶ International Yoga Day Celebration at SXUK



SXUK celebrated the International Yoga Day, on June 21, 2025. Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor of SXUK inaugurated the celebration and welcomed Ms. Mayurakshi Biswas, the yoga teacher and her team. Participants, including students, faculty members and support staff of the university, had the opportunity to experience an hour-long 'Asanas' (Yoga Session) under the able guidance and motivation of experts in the field.

▶ Alumni Meeting

The Calcutta Province Commission for Alumni Associations held its half-yearly meeting at St. Lawrence School, Ballygunge. The gathering brought together presidents, secretaries, and members from seven member associations. Representatives presented reports on their activities over the past six months. Key issues affecting the province and associations were also discussed. The meeting resulted in the selection of Jeetu Rampuria as the nominee for the JAAI and Shankar Ramalingam, Snehasis Sur, and Vatsal Chirimar were selected as representatives for the North Zone.



▶ LMS Workshop at SXUK

SXUK organised department-wise training programme for its faculty on the Learning Management System (LMS), leveraging the expertise of Shikshak, a renowned London-based company, from June 30 to July 4, 2025. This initiative aimed to enhance teaching and learning experiences by harnessing the full potential of LMS facilities. Vice-Chancellor Fr. Felix Raj visited the programme, interacted with faculty members and encouraged them to adopt innovative teaching methodologies.

▶ Celebration of the 79th Independence Day

SXUK celebrated the 79th Independence Day on August 15, 2025 at the university campus. The celebration began with the hoisting of the National Flag by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ, Vice-Chancellor of SXUK in front of the Britto House amid the august presence of Jesuit Fathers, Sisters, Officers, faculty members, non-teaching staff, alumni members and students. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem collectively.

▶ Placement Summit 2025

SXUK successfully hosted Synapse 2025, the first student placement committee summit, a visionary initiative by the Training and Placement Department of the university. The event featured esteemed guests including Vivek Chawla, Director and CEO of Emami Paper Mills Ltd. as Chief Guest, and CS Debendra Banthiya, Legal Head of Emami Paper Mills Ltd. and an alumna of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. The summit concluded with an interactive session, defining the committee's roadmap and values; professionalism, integrity, and service-driven leadership.

▶ Inter-religious Studies for Global Citizenship

SXUK announced the continued inclusion of its "Inter-religious Studies for Global Citizenship" course in the prestigious Global Citizenship Curriculum Project,

an initiative of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU). This course has been offered to first-year undergraduate students under the NEP curriculum for the second consecutive year. This initiative will empower our students to engage in Global Student Dialogues, fostering cross-cultural exchange with peers from select Jesuit institutions worldwide.

They will also be eligible for the Global Citizenship Fellows Program, a unique opportunity for leadership development and global engagement, culminating in a week-long international study tour next summer. The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University serves as the project's secretariat, facilitating academic collaboration, student participation, and knowledge sharing.

► **Magis Mantra: A Testament to Excellence and Compassion**

The biography of Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK), titled- Magis Mantra was launched on August 26, 2025, at the university campus, coinciding with the 115th birth anniversary of St. Teresa of Calcutta. The event was graced by dignitaries, university employees, alumni, and students. The book, Magis Mantra, features a foreword by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and is a testament to the Jesuit motto of excellence and compassion. Prof. Prabhat Kumar Datta authored the biography.

The event was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor of SXUK in the presence of the dignitaries. Shri Moloy Ghatak, Minister-in-Charge of Law and Judicial Department and Department of Labour, Government of West Bengal; Prof. Shiladitya Chakraborty, Department of Political Science, University of Kalyani; Fr. Dr. Xavier



Jeyaraj, S.J., Registrar of SXUK and Dr. Ranjeeta Mukherjee, Dean, Xavier Law School (XLS); other faculty members and students of XLS and different departments of the university were present.

► **SXUK inaugurates IKS Cell**

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) cell of SXUK organised a special lecture at its inaugural ceremony on September 15, 2025 at the university campus.



► **Centre on Public Policy**

SXUK inaugurated the Father Verstraeten Centre for Public Policy and Governance in the university campus on September 3, 2025. The Centre aims to embody the university's abiding commitment to academic excellence and its engagement with society through research, dialogue and policy intervention.

Prof. Joy Sen, Professor, IIT Kharagpur delivered a speech on "The Contemporary Relevance of Indian Knowledge System within the Fold of SXUK Imperatives." He emphasised the need to reconnect with India's intellectual and cultural roots and reflected on the relevance of the Vedas and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in reviving holistic knowledge traditions.



► Visit to University of Sussex

Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., accompanied by Manik Dey and Nandan Roy, visited the University of Sussex (US), United Kingdom on October 13, 2025. The delegation met with the Sussex university officials to discuss collaborative initiatives, building on the existing MoU between SXUK and the US.

Key areas of cooperation include:

- Summer School programmes
- Business Schools
- Law Schools
- Economics and
- Doctoral programmes

Prof. Simon Thomson, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor of University of Sussex, hosted the team and led a campus tour, showcasing the university’s facilities, including the serene Hall of Silence.

► Approval for raising NCC Unit

We are pleased to announce that our university has got the approval for NCC enrolment in the month of October 2025 and the process of student enrolment has started.



► Celebration of 150 years of Vande Mataram

SXUK paid tribute to 150 years of Vande Mataram, the National Song of India. The NCC Unit of SXUK under 1 Bengal CTR NCC Unit (Indian Army) marked the event with great pride and honour on November 10, 2025 at the university campus. The NCC Cadets of SXUK celebrated this event with a message of unity, devotion and patriotism.

► Father Felix Raj delivers Fifth Annual Christmas Lecture:



Fr. John Felix Raj, S.J. delivered the fifth Annual Christmas Lecture on “Mother Teresa: A Hymn of Compassion and Love” on December 13, 2025 at Parasmani, the university’s social outreach centre in Bolpur, Santiniketan. Faculty members, officers, Fathers and Sisters, research scholars and dignitaries from SXUK and Visva-Bharati attended the programme. Father Felix Raj shared his rare personal interactions with Mother Teresa. Weaving together memories and history, he reflected on St. Teresa’s extraordinary life of service and compassion, describing it as a “hymn for the universe”.

Vision 2030

We are working towards our 'Vision 2030' by expanding both our campus and our courses. The second academic building is nearing completion and will have provisions for modern classrooms and laboratories, library, moot court, etc. The upcoming auditorium will accommodate around 1500 persons, whereas the smaller auditoriums will have a seating capacity for 600 heads and 300 heads.

The university is introducing B.Tech courses in Computer Science and Engineering, Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Computer Science and Engineering-AI & ML from the next academic session following a separate entrance test for filling seats.

The university will start an MTech course soon. An

Integrated MBA, Integrated BEd. and School of Design will also be introduced.

The Executive MBA is attracting a good number of students from the corporate sectors. The university is also contemplating to introduce MBA programme in Healthcare and Hospital Management to meet the ever-changing demand of good executives for running the hospitals effectively and efficiently.

We want to start a Nursing School with both B.Sc and M.Sc Nursing courses. Many of our girls from this state migrate to other states for nursing training as there are very few nursing schools in our state. The courses will be added in due course of time.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our university remains committed to fostering an academic culture that empowers faculty and students to reach their full potential. This report showcases our vibrant learning environment, where innovation, creativity, and critical thinking thrive. As we move forward, we are excited to explore new frontiers of knowledge and push boundaries. I will end with the inspiring words of St. Ignatius of Loyola:

'Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to labour and not to seek to rest, to give of myself and not ask for a reward, except the reward of knowing that I am doing your will'.





University Profile

Administrative Officers and Other Officers	
Name	Designation
Administrative Officers	
Rev. Dr. J. Felix Raj, SJ	Vice-Chancellor
Rev. Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, S.J.	Registrar
Rev. Fr. Joseph Raj, SJ	Finance Officer
Dr. Indra Kanta Maitra	Controller of Examinations
Dr. Anupam Mitra	Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Management
Dr. Sitangshu Khatua	Dean, Xavier Business School
Dr. Ranjeeta Mukherjee	Dean, Xavier Law School
Dr. Tuhin Utsab Paul	Dean, Faculty of Science
Dr. Susmita Halder	Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Studies
Dr. Soma Sur	Honorary Director, LCERI & Coordinator of Ph.D. Programme
Other Officers	
Mr. Partha Mishra	Deputy Registrar
Dr. Tanmoy Kumar Pal	Assistant Registrar
Mr. Avishek Das	Assistant Controller of Examinations
Mr. Malay Mitra	I.T. Coordinator
Mr. Mario Martin Louis	Communication & Protocol Officer (Addl. Chg.: Acting Placement Officer and Campus Supervisor)
Ms. Kasturi Hazarika	Joint Placement Officer
Mr. Joydeep Roy	Deputy Placement Officer
Mr. Prionkur Bose	Admission Officer
Mr. Ajitesh Prasad	Joint Admission Officer
Mr. Sandeep Mundra	Sports Officer
Mr. Ashis Shaw	Legal and Compliance Officer
Mr. Sudipto Bhattacharya	Field Work and Internship Coordinator
Mr. Vinay Rai	Programme Officer
Mr. Puspendu Nanda	Security Officer
Mr. Paritosh Majumdar	Deputy Director, Centre for Social Outreach Programme
Ms. Anwayee Chatterjee	Coordinator, Centre for Social and Outreach Programme (CSOP)
Sr. Karolin C	Deputy Director, SXUK Girls' Hostel
Sr. Thilaga Mary S	Infirmarian and Assistant Director of Girls' Hostel
Ms. Suma D.	Asst. Director, SXUK Girls' Hostel

Departmental Endeavors



Xavier Business School



XAVIER BUSINESS SCHOOL



As a proud member of XAMI (Xavier Association of Management Institutes), Xavier Business School (XBS) under the umbrella of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata offers a two-year full-time MBA programme (AICTE Approved) with specializations in Finance, Marketing, Human Resources (HR), and Business Analytics.

Since its inception in August 2018, XBS has been committed to delivering quality management education and shaping responsible business leaders and entrepreneurs. Rooted in the Ignatian charism, our focus extends beyond academic excellence to developing competent, committed, and service-oriented professionals who make meaningful contributions to society. Upholding the Jesuit motto ‘Nihil Ultra’, we emphasize excellence, ethical leadership, and innovation in management education.

Our MBA curriculum is designed in alignment with contemporary industry demands, integrating theoretical foundations with practical exposure. We foster critical and creative thinking through interactive learning beyond the classroom. A distinguished faculty comprising experienced academicians and industry professionals ensures a dynamic and insightful learning experience. Students engage in G-Talks, panel discussions, workshops, and seminars, gaining real-world perspectives that prepare them for leadership roles.

Strengthening its academic credentials, the MBA Programme has been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for three years (2025-2028)—a recognition of its

commitment to excellence and industry relevance.

To cater to working professionals, XBS introduced the Executive MBA Programme in 2024, designed for weekend learning. With classes held on Saturdays and Sundays, this programme enables professionals to balance career growth with academic advancement.

At XBS, we create a holistic learning environment, nurturing cultural sensitivity, social intelligence, and teamwork. Our vibrant campus fosters a ‘home away from home’ experience, ensuring a fulfilling and enriching journey for aspiring business leaders.



Events



On 10 January 2025, the XBS students embarked on an industrial visit to Diamond Beverages Pvt. Ltd. The students attended a presentation on safety protocols and industry processes which was followed by an insightful session on consumer trends and sales data for various Coca-Cola products. Equipped with safety gear, the students then toured the production facility, observing the entire beverage bottling process from recycled materials to finished products. The Diamond Beverages coordinators provided expert guidance, explaining the intricacies of each machine and patiently answering student inquiries.

Xavier Business School (XBS), St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, successfully hosted the third edition of its flagship annual fest, Xaviesta 2025, on January 31 and February 1, 2025. The fest, which has grown to become one of the most sought-after events among B-schools, was themed "Trinity of Tales," symbolizing a vibrant confluence of business acumen, cultural expression, and sporting spirit. The fest was a perfect blend of business-oriented challenges, cultural extravaganzas, and high-octane sporting events, creating an inclusive platform for students to network, learn, and excel.





In a three day training programme of Business Intelligence in association with the training cell of IIM-Bangalore, the students of XBS were trained from 06 February 2025 to 08 February 2025. The training sessions were largely based on real-life business applications, and the students got an opportunity to not only learn about Business Intelligence but also work on business problems themselves. From learning how to frame effective business questions to working on Power BI and make insightful dashboards, the students of XBS extracted a lot of value from the training program.

The XBS students visited Diamond Beverages Pvt. Ltd. on February 28, 2025, as part of an industrial visit. The HR and Quality Assurance Manager welcomed everyone and gave a brief background of the firm before the visit began. Students then attended a presentation about industrial procedures of the manufacturing process from water treatment to inspection of the finished goods and more important safety measures and precautions were briefed to the students.



The Xavier Entrepreneurship Cell (XEC) hosted X-Pectacular 3.0: Antariksh, the flagship event of Xavier Business School, on 01 March, 2025, bringing a vibrant blend of intellect, creativity, and competitive spirit to the campus. The theme “Antariksh” symbolizing exploration beyond boundaries and the infinite potential of young minds — added a unique cosmic essence to the entire celebration. The various events witnessed a number of competitions among which, a few were; Stellar Quiz Fest (The Business Quiz), AstroQuest (The Treasure Hunt), Dhruv Tara Ki Khoj (The Best Manager), Legal Star Wars (The Law Event) etc.

The finance club of Xavier Business School, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata had organized ‘ARTHAVISHLESHAN 5.0’ – the annual union budget discussion and competition. The event was conducted on 18 March, 2025. The discussion enhanced students’ understanding of fiscal policies, economic planning, and their real-world impact. Participants analyzed the Union Budget, covering key sectors like infrastructure, agriculture, education, and healthcare. Insights were shared on capital vs. government expenditure, taxation policies, financial inclusion, and sustainable development. The session provided a comprehensive view of economic growth trends and the government’s long-term vision.



The Healing Through Colour and Music workshop organized on 26 March, 2025 and 28 March, 2025, brought MBA pursuing students to deepen their understanding of holistic healing techniques. Focusing on the unique therapeutic qualities of color and music, the event provided insights, experiences, and practical applications of these two powerful modalities. Dr. Ruma Basu Gomes, Behavioral Scientist, opened the event with an insightful talk on the powerful combination of colour and music in therapeutic practices. She began by discussing the mind-body connection, highlighting how both visual and auditory stimuli can deeply influence our emotional and physical states. Dr. Gautami Chattopadhyay, Independent Consultant, emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to wellness, where therapies like colour and music can help people reconnect with themselves.



Xavier Business School (XBS) successfully conducted a 10-day Management Development Programme (MDP) titled “Campus to Corporate” for the executives of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) from 28 March to 09 April, 2025. The programme commenced with a formal inaugural address delivered by Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice Chancellor, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata. The programme commenced with the objective; to develop critical soft skills and managerial capabilities, successfully provide orientation on corporate culture, ethics, and professionalism, strengthen communication and interpersonal skills, nurture leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities, and build confidence and enhance decision-making competencies. The concluding day of the programme, i.e. 09 April, 2025, culminated in a valedictory ceremony graced by esteemed dignitaries from Garden Reach Shipbuilders.



XSR Event at Missionaries of Charity, Green Park conducted on 05 April, 2025, the event, conducted by the students of XBS, was all about sharing some precious moments with the inmates of the Missionaries of Charity, Green Park. The students of Xavier Business School at Missionaries of Charity felt connected with the inmates and had a lot of fun. Some of the inmates sang, some shouted with joy, and all of them celebrated together. The students then distributed food items to all the inmates, cooks, and the workers of the establishment. Following this, the students bid their goodbyes to the sisters and the inmates, promising to come

On the 14th of May 2025, a Letter of Understanding (LOU) was formally signed between Xavier Business School (XBS), St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata and the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM). This MoU would be valuable to XBS students as it would bring possibility of placement and internship support for students, the students would also benefit from the operational process of registration on the NISM placement portal, they would understand the working mechanism of the placement portal etc.



Xavier Business School successfully conducted a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled “Power BI Workshop” on 24 May, 2025, aiming to enhance analytical capabilities and technical know-how in data visualization using Power BI. The session was part of the ongoing efforts by the school to foster digital literacy and promote data-driven decision-making among academic and research professionals.





Two-day Faculty Development Programme on “Gamifying the Classroom: Innovative Strategies for Engaging Learners” was organized by the Xavier Business School on 26–27 June, 2025. The session was conducted by gamification expert Mr. Sujitesh Das, Creator & CEO, Badgefree LLP. The FDP explored key frameworks and game mechanics to enhance learner engagement across disciplines. The programme successfully fostered innovative teaching practices.



Two Weeks Induction Programme for 8TH MBA, Batch 2025-27 was conducted with great enthusiasm to formally welcome the 8th batch. The Chief Guest Mr. Radhe Shyam Goenka, Co-Founder & Chairman of Emami Group, inspired students with his entrepreneurial journey, emphasizing resilience, ethics, and long-term vision. The lamp-lighting ceremony and keynote address set a motivational tone, encouraging the cohort to approach their MBA journey with purpose, courage, and commitment.

STRAT-X: The Business Summit 2025, was hosted by Xavier Business School, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, on 12 July, 2025 under the theme “The Strategic Mind Forum.” The summit was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. (Dr.) John Felix Raj, S.J., and Mr. P.M. Prasad, CMD, Coal India Ltd., highlighting academia-industry collaboration and strategic leadership.

The inauguration of the 2nd Batch of MBA (Executive) 2025-27 began with a welcome address by Mr. Vinay Rai, followed by the lamp-lighting ceremony graced by dignitaries including Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., and Dr. Sitangshu Khatua. The Chief Guest, Dr. M.V. Rao, Chairperson, WBERC, inspired executives by emphasizing career growth and personal development. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the fusion of Jesuit values with industry-oriented learning, encouraging participants to embrace the journey with an open mind.



The first panel, “The Future of Business: Vision 2047 – Amrit Kaal,” explored India’s industrial evolution, while the second, “Brick by Brick: The Founder’s Hustle,” celebrated entrepreneurial grit. Eminent leaders and founders shared insights on leadership, sustainability, innovation, and building sustainable ventures, inspiring students and professionals alike. STRAT-X 2025 was a resounding success, reinforcing Xavier Business School’s position as a thought leader in academic-industry collaboration.

A two-day Management Development Programme (MDP) on Sustainable Development was held on 25 & 26 July, 2025 at the IOCL Knowledge Campus, Tollygunge, in collaboration with Xavier Business School, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata. Inaugurated under the theme “A Step Towards a Sustainable Future”, the programme was graced by Shri Jisto Nongbri, Executive Director (Retail Sales), and Dr. Soma Sur, Professor, XBS. Covering sustainability concepts, ESG frameworks, green financing, and AI applications, the MDP engaged 23 IOCL executives. The initiative strengthened collaboration between IOCL and XBS, promoting responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and sustainable corporate practices.



The Xavier Social Responsibility Cell (XSR) of Xavier Business School, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, organized “X-Caritas,” a compassionate outreach program at St. Joseph’s Home for the Aged on 12 October, 2025. The event featured music, dance, and heartfelt interaction with the residents. Students donated essential items, served meals, and shared joyful moments, embodying the Xaverian spirit of service.



Faculty of Commerce and Management





DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT



The Faculty of Commerce and Management is one of the oldest departments of the University. The Department has a large number of students guided by a team of highly qualified faculty members. The Department keeps hosting activities round the calendar with a focus on building a bridge between industry and academics.

of M.Com.. The primary objective of the visit was to provide students with practical exposure to the inner workings of large-scale retail operations and to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry practices.

During the visit, students explored various facets of METRO's B2B and B2C operations, gaining a deeper understanding of how the company efficiently serves a wide range of clientele including traders, Kiranas, hotels, restaurants, caterers (HoReCa), service providers, offices, and independent businesses.

Events

In observance of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Republic Day, the Department of Commerce held its annual poster-making competition on 24 January, 2025. The event's theme, Strength of Youth, Spirit of India, inspired participants to express their divergent views via artwork. Students from all semesters of B.Com Morning, B.Com Day and B.M.S actively participated, exhibiting their artistic abilities. All the participants took part with a strong sense of national pride, a dedication to democratic values, and a deep-seated belief in the power of collective action, the "Spirit of India". The participants conveyed their ideas through the power of art by employing images of freedom fighters, using vibrant colours, and meaningful symbols.

Throughout the academic year, the Faculty of Commerce and Management, with the help of its Xavier's Commerce and Management Society upheld the tradition of promoting learning, inspiration and industry exposure by organising a series of impactful speaker sessions led by distinguished professionals. Each session enriched the intellectual fabric of the university, offering students valuable perspectives that contributed to their holistic academic and professional growth.

The Department of Commerce in collaboration with the Placement cell, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata organized an insightful industry visit to METRO Cash & Carry, a leading wholesale retailer and distributor under Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. on 28th March 2025, for the students

On 8 September, 2025 an engaging and insightful session by Mr. Sanjay Saraf, a highly respected educator and one of India's leading authorities in finance and strategic management, known for his clarity of thought and dynamic teaching approach, guided students on strengthening their financial foundation, navigating professional examinations and making informed career choices in an evolving global business environment.





28 October, 2025, the department further elevated this learning initiative by hosting Ms. Naina More, a three-time TEDx speaker, Chartered Accountant, psychological counsellor, writer and philanthropist. Her session focused on mental health awareness, emotional resilience and personal development. Drawing from her extensive experience and global accolades, she encouraged students to cultivate mindfulness, confidence and balanced leadership in their personal and professional pursuits.



Adding another enriching dimension to the series, on 10 November 2025, the department organised a thought-provoking session by Mr. Sandip Sen, Founder and Director of TCC Management Systems. With over two decades of mentoring experience, he engaged students in discussions on disciplined goal-setting, strategic thinking and effective preparation. His expertise in Quantitative Aptitude and Logical Reasoning offered students practical clarity and long-term motivation. Collectively, these sessions strengthened the university's learning environment by providing students with direct access to celebrated educators, motivators and industry experts. Through these initiatives, the department reaffirmed its commitment to empowering young minds and fostering a culture of inspiration, preparedness and meaningful growth.

The Faculty of Commerce and Management in collaboration with The National Green Tribunal celebrated the Constitution Day in November, 2025 at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The programme was based on the theme "Humara Samvidhan, Humara Swabhiman". Shri Deepto Ghosh, Registrar, National Green Tribunal, offered a speech on the basic aspects of the Constitution of India. This was followed by an interactive session conducted by Shri Yash Kumar Singh, Assistant Registrar, National Green Tribunal. The programme successfully attained its objective of creating awareness and unfolding various aspects of our Constitution in the minds of the students.



Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it." –

Rabindranath Tagore.



Faculty of Arts and Social Studies





DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



The Department of English has been functional since July 2017 and currently offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and PhD programmes. The department reflects the Xavierian model of education, inspired by Ignatian charism that upholds humility, and the expansion of the mind. As an academic community, we are committed to fostering an eclectic, humanistic, and holistic model of education that is interdisciplinary, dynamic,

and continuously evolving. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, ethical engagement, and intellectual curiosity. Innovative teaching methods such as demonstration, theatre-based pedagogy, and classroom performances, along with the integration of audio-visual materials to supplement literary texts, form the core strengths of the department and enhance student engagement and experiential learning.

Events

On 6 February 2025, the PG Semester-IV students of the English department from St. Xavier's University, Kolkata visited the 48th International Book Fair at the Central Park Mela Ground, Salt Lake. This trip was highly anticipated as it marked their first excursion outside the campus, providing a refreshing academic and cultural experience. Students explored various stalls, interacted with publishers and discovered recent

literary and critical works relevant to their field of study. Similarly, there were interactive sessions with organisations like Mirchi Bangla and Gaana where students participated and even won bookmarks. The visit allowed them to engage with diverse literary perspectives and gain exposure to contemporary publishing trends.





The Department of English organised a workshop titled Learning to Speak/Write “in Other Words”: A Writing and Translation Workshop on 1st March 2025. The workshop aimed to attract participants from outside the University and was part of the admission drive organised by the Department of English to facilitate prospective undergraduate students to visit the campus, interact with faculty members, and benefit from meaningful academic discussions. It helped students develop their writing skills and provided an in-depth understanding of translation techniques, while also encouraging creative thinking and linguistic sensitivity. The workshop served as an effective platform for academic exchange and familiarised participants with the department’s pedagogical approach.

On 1 April 2025, the Department of English of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata hosted its flagship event, XavInkspire, titled “Performing Modernism: Mrs. Dalloway, A Century Later”. The event encompassed creative interpretations of modernist texts through the performing arts and highlighted the interdisciplinary engagement of literature with performance. The different cultural segments ranged from medleys in Eastern and Western music, fusion of classical dance forms with jazz, and recitations from T.S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land* in both Bengali and English, to an engaging theme walk featuring characters from classic literary texts and a melodious ensemble performance. Students from all batches showcased their talent and enthusiasm for the discipline through these performances. One of the highlights of the event was the adaptation of Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot*, a modernist play written in 1953, which reflected key features of Modernism and was effectively brought to life by the students on stage. Overall, the event successfully fostered a deeper appreciation of Modernist literature while providing students with a vibrant platform for creative and intellectual expression.

On May 2, 2025, the Department of English of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata hosted a special lecture titled “Fiction and the 18th Century Imagination”, delivered by Prof. Amrit Sen, Professor of English, Visva-Bharati University. Prof. Sen primarily focused on two eighteenth-century novels, *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe and *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift, which are also part of the departmental curriculum. He began his lecture with a brief introduction to the socio-cultural developments of the period, such as the rise of the middle classes, industrialisation, and colonialism, and examined how eighteenth-century literature responded to these changes. Prof. Sen offered critical interpretations of the novels, drawing on the works of eminent critics such as Michael McKeon, Paul Hunter, Leonard Davis, and Ian Watt, among others. His lecture helped students develop a nuanced understanding of the texts, complementing the syllabus while broadening their engagement with the ideas of philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.

The Department of English of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, in association with the St. Xavier’s Kolkata Alumni Association, conducted an interdisciplinary feminist photography workshop titled “Feminist Frames: Gender and Pixelated Politics” on 25 July 2025, facilitated by Ms. Millo Anka, the internationally acclaimed documentary photographer, educator, and founder of the AAMA Collective. Featuring critical discussions on the history of photography and feminist visual theory, the workshop examined the function of the male gaze and gendered representations in visual culture. Ms. Anka emphasised the need for a more scopious, inclusive, and transnational approach to art history, while encouraging participants to critically reflect on visual narratives and power structures. The workshop proved to be intellectually stimulating and enabled students to engage critically with questions of gender, representation, and visual politics across disciplines.





On 27 August 2025, the undergraduate students of the Department of English undertook an academic visit to the American Centre. The primary purpose of the visit was to attend a screening of the film *The Glass Menagerie* (1973), a cinematic adaptation of Tennessee Williams’s renowned play *The Glass Menagerie*. The visit was organised to enhance the students’ understanding of literary texts through their visual interpretation and to provide them with an opportunity to engage with literature beyond the classroom.

The session began with a brief overview of the American Centre and its library facilities, followed by a detailed introduction to their online library system. The students were informed about the various digital resources, academic databases, and research opportunities available through the Centre. This was followed by the screening of the film, which offered valuable insights into the themes, characters, and dramatic elements of the play. The visit proved to be academically enriching, as it helped students develop a deeper appreciation of literary adaptation while familiarising them with the educational resources provided by the American Centre, thereby reinforcing the importance of experiential learning in literary studies. This exposure further enhanced the students’ learning experience.

A Two-Day “Industry Awareness and Corporate Exposure Seminar” was conducted on 28 and 29 August 2025, facilitated by Ms. Akhi Bose, Global Digital Marketing Lead at Capgemini, and Ms. Carmel De Rosario, Senior HR Executive at Infflex Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The seminar was organised for both postgraduate and undergraduate students with the objective of familiarising them with current industry trends and corporate expectations, while also bridging the gap between academic learning and professional practice.

The first day of the seminar began with a session by Ms. Akhi Bose, who enunciated on the importance of Digital Marketing in today’s world, particularly highlighting the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in shaping modern marketing strategies. The talk was followed by an interactive session conducted by Ms. Carmel De Rosario, who focused on the essential steps required to enter the corporate sphere, including interview preparedness, professionalism, networking, and the importance of acquiring skills beyond the prescribed syllabus. The session also featured a mock interview, enabling students to gain practical exposure to the recruitment process followed by Human Resources departments in selecting suitable candidates.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION



Considering the importance that the domain of mass communication has achieved in contemporary times, innovation and challenges have become integral to every aspect of the discipline, and the Department of Mass Communication is no exception. In today's rapidly evolving media landscape, the role of a communicator is not just to inform but also to shape perceptions, making career choices in this field ones of immense responsibility; to wield information effectively is, in many ways, synonymous with wielding influence and power.

The students of the department, who are multifaceted in their talents and interests, receive constructive guidance from experienced teachers who emphasize both leadership and professionalism, ensuring that theoretical knowledge is complemented by practical skills. The department, supported wholeheartedly by the university, strives to provide students with extensive exposure through workshops, seminars, internships, media projects, and industry interactions, enabling them to navigate the complexities of the profession with confidence. In addition to academic excellence, emphasis is placed on nurturing creativity, ethical communication, and critical thinking, preparing students to become responsible and innovative.

Events

The Department of Mass Communication of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) hosted XAVCOMM'25, an inter-college Communication Fest, on 10 and 11 January 2025 at the university campus. More than 200 students from 27 colleges and universities across Kolkata participated in various events scheduled for the inter-college competition, such as news report writing, graphics designing, ad making, podcasting, photography, marketing pitch, street play, press conference, movie trivia, etc. The fest provided a vibrant platform for students to showcase their creativity, communication skills, and teamwork. It also encouraged networking and knowledge exchange among aspiring media professionals, fostering a spirit of collaboration and healthy competition.





Department of Mass Communication hosted on 17 February, 2025 a special lecture 'Language of Cinema' at the university campus. The resource person was Dr. Ipsita Barat, a senior faculty member of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. The session focused on the evolution of film grammar and then delved into the various instances of cinema that developed their own film language due to their unique situation.

On 4 and 5 March, 2025 the digital-filmmaking workshop using AI and Drones was organized in collaboration with the AIMC, New Delhi. Through the workshop the students got the opportunity to learn uses of professional cameras, capturing stable and cinematic shots using gimbals and drones. Experts taught the students how to create short films and use of AI-driven editing tools in colour correction, sound enhancement, and video stabilization.

Department of Mass Communication of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) hosted 'Xav-Create', a graphic design exhibition on 9 April, 2025 at the university campus. Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Vice-Chancellor of SXUK inaugurated the event in the presence of dignitaries. The 3-day exhibition showcased design displays, made by the undergraduate students of second and final semesters.

The Department of Mass Communication organized its intra-departmental info-cultural program, Xphoria 5.0, on 28 August, 2025.

On 10 September, 2025 Master students of Department of Mass Communication, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata had the privilege of attending the trailer launch of Joto Kando Kolkatei, produced by Friends Communication. It helped them to meet the film's director, Mr. Anik Datta, who shared his thought about his creative journey.

The Department of Mass Communication, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) organised a special Industry talk on 7 November, 2025 by Mr. Tahir Abbas, Principal News Coordinator, Times Now Media Group on changing setup of the TV newsroom.



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



The Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Social Studies, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, established in August 2021, currently offers undergraduate and post-graduate courses with specializations in Clinical Psychology and Organizational Behaviour. Currently, The Department has more than 340 students studying at UG & PG level. It also started its Ph.D. programme in 2023. With a vision to excel in research, teaching, and innovation, the department fosters ethical, socially responsible professionals through interactive learning, research opportunities, and collaborations with hospitals, research institutes, and professional organizations.



Events

The Department of Psychology, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata organized a seminar on “The Journey of an Industrial-Organizational Psychologist: Classroom to Corporate” on 28 March, 2025. The seminar emphasised on various prospects in this field of Industrial-Organizational Psychology. The session began with the welcome speech and introduction of the speaker, Dr. Dishari Gupta Sinha. She delivered a thought-provoking lecture on how the scopes of I/O Psychology extends far beyond human resources, and how significant mental health of the workforce is in this regard. The session was interactive with active participation of faculty members and students. It was great to find students





coming up with questions showing their constant eagerness to learn. The highlight of the lecture was that it dealt with how important it is to start the professional journey one step at a time and eventually grow onwards and upwards. The session ended with a formal vote of thanks.

On 2 June 2025, Department of Psychology, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata organized a five-day online Faculty Development Programme on the theme of "Positive Psychology: Pathway to Mental Health." A total of 54 participants with several resource persons from esteemed national and international institutions such as IITs, TISS,

Tilburg University, Netherlands, and Sunway University, Malaysia, participated. The resource persons enlightened us with their knowledge and expertise

A session titled "Hope Over Hurt: Stronger Together for Resilience and Suicide Prevention" led by psychotherapist Ms. Madhuri Sarda (Founder & Director of Annantaa), was organized by the Department of Psychology, on 10 September, 2025. The program raised awareness on suicide prevention, coping strategies, and relaxation techniques, empowering participants to recognize warning signs and seek timely help.



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS



The Department of Economics, strives to assist its students in acquiring the understanding of logic and to instill in them the realization of superiority of reason. Keeping this in mind, the department has organized a flurry of activities in the recent past, wherein the students witnessed inspiring words delivered by the stalwarts in the field. The department believes that only inspired minds can create inspired societies and it is the tireless endeavour of the department.

Events

The 5th Annual Economic Summit on Contemporary Issues in Economic Theory and Policy was organized by the Economics Department, co-sponsored by ICSSR – ERC, on 20 February, 2025. The Summit was inaugurated by Rev. Father Dr. John Felix Raj, Vice Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The Inaugural Speech and Keynote Lecture was delivered by Dr. Alex M. Thomas, Azim Premji University. He spoke on "Kanta Ranadive and Krishna Bharadwaj and the History of Economic Thought," emphasizing the relevance of historical economic thought and the contributions of women economists. The summit included paper presentations by Undergraduate (UG) students and Post-graduate (PG) students, covering topics like environment, health, labour, and socio-economic concerns. Poster presentation on women's participation in the workforce and a panel discussion on the topic; Future of Women at Workplace were also part of the summit.

The two-day event of 3rd Annual Economics Conference, was organized by the Department of Economics, on 21 and 22 February, 2025 which was co-sponsored by ICSSR-ERC. The conference brought together a galaxy of experts in the field of Economics to discuss on a wide range of burning topics in the area. Prof. Jayati Ghosh, Professor, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA, delivered the keynote address on "Has recent growth in India improved the quantity and quality of women's employment?", where she

critically examined the impact of India's recent economic growth on women's employment. Lectures were delivered by some of the stalwarts in the field, including, Prof. Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Saumya Chakrabarti, Visva-Bharati University, Dr. Priyadarshi Banerjee, ISI Kolkata and Prof. Sambit Bhattacharyya, University of Sussex, UK,. Prof. Pulapre Balakrishnan, Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, in keynote address II, on the second day of the conference discussed "Macroeconomic Policy in India with reference to Monetary Policy and Inflation Targeting," noting the limited success of the New Keynesian Phillips curve approach in India and the distributional impact of rising inflation. The valedictory address, was delivered by Prof. Rajat Acharyya, JU, who emphasised the significance of technological advancements and international trade as key drivers of economic development and income distribution.





The Department of Economics organized a special lecture on “Let it be”: Motivating Workers Through Task Autonomy on 17 July, 2025. The department had the opportunity to have Dr. Utteyo Dasgupta, Associate Professor of Economics, Fordham University & Prof. Subha Mani, Professor of Economics, Fordham University as speakers of the lecture. Prof. Dasgupta delivered the lecture on their research on how autonomy in the workplace on various non-pecuniary dimensions may prove to be more productive than the historically established work environment with tightly defined jobs, rates of pay, clearly defined roles of power between employers and workers. Overall the session proved to be highly encouraging and motivating for the students of the Economics Department.

A paper presentation session was organized by the Department of Economics on the theme “Socially Necessary

Green Development in India”; on 25 August, 2025. The presentation was delivered by Dr. Shouvik Chakraborty, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), UMASS Amherst, based on his joint work with Dr. Rohit Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The presentation focused on the pressing challenges of inequality and carbon emissions in India and the scope of achieving a socially just green transition.

The Department of Economics organized a special lecture on “Issues in Development Economics” on 2nd September 2025. The lecture was delivered by Reverend Father Dr. John Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor of the University. The session explored the moral, social, and economic dimensions of development and highlighted the need to move beyond conventional measures of growth.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



Social work as a profession has historically evolved in response to the shifting social, economic, and political landscapes of society. The Department of Social Work at St. Xavier's University was established in 2017 with the vision to create men and women for others has been consistently working towards a society endowed with freedom, justice and equality. The MSW programme offers specializations in Human Resource Development, and Family and Child Welfare with an aim to train professionals dedicated to social change. The department hosts various events to foster the objective of participatory teaching learning methodology.

Events

The Department of Social Work inaugurated the academic year with a two-day orientation for senior MSW students. Students from diverse socio-cultural and economic backgrounds joined the course to pursue a career in professional social work. The programme featured an overview of academic and fieldwork expectations, internship reflections and faculty-led discussions. Emphasis was placed on professionalism, integrating theory with practice, and cultivating the values essential to social work training.

Two workshops on Counseling Skills and Techniques were organized on 26 July and 13 September 2025 with an aim to enrich students' skills in therapeutic communication and reflective practice. Combining theory, demonstrations, role plays and group exercises, the sessions strengthened foundational competencies. The workshops remained interactive throughout and concluded with informal tea gatherings that fostered connection between students and faculty.

An interdisciplinary special lecture series on 7 August,

2025 brought together perspectives from Economics, Mass Communication and Law. Speakers addressed India's economic structure, evolving media landscapes and judicial procedures. With strong participation from Social Work and Economics students, the programme broadened academic horizons and encouraged informed engagement with contemporary socio-economic and legal developments.

The 2025-27 batch, Semester I students visited Development Action Society and DRCS to observe community-based interventions first-hand on 8 August, 2025. They learned about women's empowerment, sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient livelihoods. The visits deepened students' understanding of participatory development and highlighted the diverse avenues through which social workers facilitate positive social change. This was an exposure visit to orient them for their fieldwork placements.

A dynamic session on field placement and job readiness was organized on 27 October, 2025 with YouthInvest Foundation, offering practical insights into professional expectations in the sector. Through engaging activities and discussions, students explored communication, digital skills and fieldwork challenges. The programme strengthened confidence and preparedness for future social work roles.

As an initiative for industry - academia interface a special lecture by Mr. Debayan Dutta, CSR Executive from NTPC held on 29 October, 2025 highlighted the transformative role of Corporate Social Responsibility in social development. Showcasing initiatives in livelihoods, education, agriculture and health, the session offered students valuable insight into CSR's policy framework and community impact. The department warmly welcomed 38 MSW students and faculty from St. Edmund's College, Shillong on 4 November 2025. The interaction included discussions on academics and



fieldwork, alongside enjoyable cultural activities. A campus tour and meetings with university administrators enriched the exchange, creating a memorable experience of collaborative learning and inter-institutional camaraderie.

Students and faculty of MSW had the unique opportunity to interact with renowned development economist Prof. Jean Drèze on 11 and 12 November, 2025. He shared insights on India's social security systems and welfare challenges. The engaging discussion encouraged critical reflection, sincerity of purpose and active citizenship, inspiring students to deepen their commitment to social justice. Prof. Jean Drèze delivered a compelling lecture on "Public Action for Social Security and Economic Democracy." He discussed rights-based welfare, economic participation and democratic values in economic life. Drawing nearly 250 participants, the session concluded with an enthusiastic Q&A and vote of thanks.



The department hosted 58 MSW students and faculty members from Bishop Heber College on 7 November, 2025. The lively interaction session focused on academics, placements and fieldwork experiences. Faculty members encouraged students to learn collaboratively and uphold social work values. The visit concluded with a campus tour and tea, marking a warm and enriching academic exchange.



Faculty of Science





DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS



The Faculty of Science at St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, was established in August 2022 with the introduction of its postgraduate programmes in Statistics and Computer Science. The Faculty offers a vibrant and welcoming environment that blends academic engagement with meaningful social interaction. It strives to create an intellectually stimulating atmosphere by integrating theoretical knowledge with practical application, thereby preparing students to meet contemporary academic and industry challenges.

programme - B.Sc. (Hons.) in Statistics and Data Science and one postgraduate programme - M.Sc. in Statistics. The faculty at present includes Five full-time teachers, Two adjunct Professor and two visiting lecturers. The Department imparts extensive theoretical knowledge and rigorous practical training to its students through a multi-faceted teaching system.

Events

The Department of Computer Science commenced in August 2022 with the launch of its postgraduate M.Sc. programme in Computer Science. The department is supported by a team of five full time faculty members and two visiting lecturers who bring diverse academic and industry perspectives to the classroom. Teaching methods in the department maintain a balanced approach, combining traditional pedagogical practices such as textual exegesis with modern educational tools, including PowerPoint presentations, audio visual media, hands on experimental exercises, and interactive sessions.

Faculty of Science of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata (SXUK) represented its delegation team at the 32nd West Bengal State Science and Technology Congress held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Center in Newtown, Kolkata on the occasion of National Science Day on February 28, 2025. Dr. Aniket Biswas, Dr. Priyanka Talukdar, and Dr. Mrinmoyee Bhattacharya along with 21 postgraduate students of Statistics and 7 postgraduate students of Computer Science department of SXUK were the delegates. Dr. Arpan Pal, Chief Scientist at TCS Research delivered the Prof. Prasanta Chandra Memorial lecture. Dr. Pal shared his insights on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in enhancing human capabilities across various sectors such as healthcare,

The Department of Statistics started its operations from August 2022. It currently offers one undergraduate





education, and industry. Dr. Tapan Misra, former Director of ISRO, while delivering the Sir C.V. Raman Memorial Lecture, discussed radar technology and its applications in space research, weather forecasting, and earth observation. Dr. Haradhan Maity from Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College, Naihati conducted a session on mathematical applications in river processes and discussed how statistical and mathematical models are used for predicting river dynamics, which is crucial for environmental conservation and disaster management.

The Faculty of Science, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, organized an online session on "Fighting Financial Crime with Data" on August 13, 2025, via Zoom. The session was conducted by Mr. Shaswata Mukherjee, Assistant Vice President – Regulatory Compliance, HSBC. The program was attended by around 55 students, and it ran smoothly until 9:10 PM. The session witnessed active participation from both students and the speaker. Students raised several important questions, which were addressed effectively by Mr. Mukherjee. The interaction created a fruitful learning environment, and participants found the session useful and insightful. Overall, the program was successful in enhancing students' understanding of the role of data in combating financial crimes and demonstrated the real-world application of statistical and analytical tools.

Department of Computer Science of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) organised an offline session on "Data and Analytics: Trends and Opportunities in the AI era" on September 4, 2025 at the university campus. The session was conducted by Mr. Saurabh Mukherjee, Head of Data-AI Practice, Accenture. 60 students attended the programme. Faculty members of the department were also present. The session was successful in enhancing students' understanding of the role of data in analytics and demonstrated the real-world application of statistical and analytical tools. Participants found the session highly enriching.



Department of Computer Science of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) organised the fourth industry tech-talk "From Automation to Autonomy: Data Science in the Era of Robots" on November 4, 2025 at the university campus. Prof. Maria Kyrarini from Santa Clara University (SCU), California, USA was the resource person. 90 students of departments of Computer Science, Statistics, and Data Science attended the session. The special lecture helped students to understand concepts of human-robot interaction, robot learning and assistive robotics to enhance human performance.





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Xavier Law School





XAVIER LAW SCHOOL



Upon approval from the Bar Council of India, Xavier Law School (XLS), a constituent unit of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, introduced undergraduate law programmes on August 3, 2019. Rooted in and inspired by the Ignatian charism of forming ‘men and women for others’, XLS strives to train its students in the twin path of ‘Satya’ and ‘Dharma’.

XLS, since its establishment has progressed with remarkable pace to bring its dreams to fruition. Since it has come into existence, it has witnessed a continuous improvement in terms of infrastructural amenities and more importantly in terms of achievements of its students. The mission of XLS is manifold. It intends to set international standards for legal education that are contemporary and relevant in the 21st century. It aims to promote academic exchange and academia-professional interface with the latest pedagogy and techniques. It attempts to bridge the spatial divide and take the benefits of education to the poor and marginalized for the purpose of their empowerment.

Events

On January 10, 2025, Xavier Law School hosted a Drug Abuse Awareness Campaign in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), West Bengal, and the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Institute of Psychiatry–CoE (IPGME&R-SSKM Hospital), Kolkata. The campaign was part of a weeklong initiative marking the observance of International Mind-Body Wellness Day from January 6 to 10, 2025. The awareness programme aimed to educate law students on the psychological, physical, and legal aspects of substance abuse, while promoting awareness, empathy, and informed advocacy. It served as an effective platform to bridge the gap between legal knowledge and mental health advocacy. The initiative also encouraged students to reflect on their future roles as legal professionals in addressing substance abuse through rights-based approaches.





The 3rd edition of the Xavier Mediation Competition (XMC) was successfully organized by Xavier Law School from April 2, 2025 to April 4, 2025, providing a national platform for aspiring legal professionals to demonstrate their skills in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. The three-day event was held across the Academic Building and Fr. Albert Huart Hall at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The competition commenced with an engaging Opening Ceremony, featuring a cultural performance by Dhvani.

The Best Negotiating Pair (XMC Cup) went to Jindal Global Law School; the Runner-Up Negotiating Pair was from Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad; the Best Mediator (Magis Cup) was won by Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad and the Best Counsel award was won by Xavier Law School, Kolkata. The 3rd XMC reinforced Xavier Law School's commitment to nurturing excellence in mediation and peaceful dispute resolution.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Legal Aid Clinic in collaboration with the Centre for Social Outreach Programme conducted a general awareness programme at the Kanthalberia Primary School, Kanthalberia Village, on April 7, 2025, enlightening the residents of the village on their basic rights, steps which

can be taken in case the rights are infringed upon and the provision for free legal aid made available at our University campus.

On June 28 and 29, 2025, Xavier Law School, in collaboration with Surendranath Law College, hosted a Two Days National Conference on "Deciphering the New Criminal Laws in India – A Paradigm Shift in Effective Criminal Justice Administration." The objective of the conference was to provide deeper insight into the recent reforms in Indian criminal law and their implications for effective justice delivery. A significant moment was the launch of the e-cover of an upcoming edited volume, to be published by Serena Publications, featuring selected papers from the conference. The event served as an important academic platform for critical discussion on India's evolving criminal justice framework.

On August 9, 2025, Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, hosted a distinguished special lecture for students as part of their course on Information Technology Offences. Advocate Soumyajit Raha, the eminent speaker addressed the students by outlining the three fundamental stages in the investigation of crimes involving digital forensics and data





protection: (1) Identification of evidence, (2) Collection of data, and (3) Preservation of evidence. The session concluded with question answer session and vote of thanks.

Xavier Law School completed six years of its running on 3rd August, 2025. The occasion was celebrated as the 7th Foundation Day Programme on August 20, 2025 at Fr. Albert Huart Hall with a cultural programme featuring musical dance and theatrical performances by students of the School. Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., the Vice-Chancellor, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, delivered the Foundation Day address, congratulating the students and faculty on its illustrative journey so far and briefed them on the initiatives and opportunities lying ahead. A key highlight of the programme was the staging of an original drama adaptation of Sadat Hasan Manto's short story 'Naya Qanoon', highlighting the transformative experiences and challenges in India's constitutional journey.

August 23, 2025 witnessed a Panel Discussion titled 'Jail to Correctional Homes: A journey' organized by Xavier Law School. This panel discussion, being a part of the course on Penology and Victimology (Honours), aimed to provide a practical glimpse of the prison system in India and the challenges faced by the inmates. This august gathering was graced by the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan (Professor, WBNUJS), Adv. Jayanta Narayan Chatterjee (Senior Advocate, High Court at Calcutta), Smt. Aparajita Bose (Project Director and Consultant, Alok Foundation) and Smt. Madhurima Dhanuka (Consultant, India Justice Report) as the keynote speakers. The surprise of the event was the appearance of Sk. Eklash -whose biopic was documented in the film 'Bohurupi'. The session ended with a fruitful

audience interaction.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Legal Aid Clinic collaborated with Centre for Social Outreach Program (CSOP) of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and conducted a Legal Aid Camp at village Kulberia on Saturday, September 13, 2025. The students took a leading role by enthusiastically providing services for the camp by visiting the families, distributing leaflets and interacting with the villagers before the program. The objective of the program was to create legal awareness among the villagers and provide to them free legal aid.

The Xavier Society of Law and Justice (XSLAJ) of Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, proudly organized the Second Edition of its National Flagship Event – The Ignatius Trial and Advocacy Competition 2025 (IGNITAC'25) from October 9 to 11, 2025, with the kind approval and blessings of Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SXUK and Chairperson of XSLAJ.

Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, organized its first national workshop titled "UDGAM – Chapter One" on October 16 and 17, 2025. The theme, "Honour Culture and Crimes," examined the intricate relationship between cultural tradition, social morality, and the legal framework governing human rights and dignity. The emblem of 'Udgam' and 'Manthan' – the first Annual Memoir – were unveiled, featuring student reflections on honour and law. Sessions included a symposium with experts from law, media, and mental health; performances like 'Bismil', 'Bekas Beeti', musical pieces by Team Dhvani, and presentations exploring media's role in shaping the idea of honour. The Valedictory Ceremony, graced by actor Sabyasachi Chakraborty, honoured students with awards for excellence and insight.





FATHER LAFONT CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI) is a dedicated wing of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, named after Father Eugene Lafont (1837-1908), Jesuit priest from Belgium and a pioneer of scientific research and education in India. The Centre embodies his spirit of scientific curiosity and innovation, serving as the university's hub for advanced research and creative exploration. Involved in the development of research and innovation LCERI organizes special lectures, International and National seminars, conferences, certificate course etc.

Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI), in collaboration with India Japan Laboratory of Keio University, Japan, conducted an Online Certificate Course on "Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM)" from 6 January to 28 February 2025. Thirty-seven participants successfully completed the course, which covered topics on disaster risk, global frameworks, climate adaptation, and resilience strategies, enhancing participants' preparedness and leadership in disaster management.

Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI), St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, with support of SXUK Alumni Association (SXUKAA), organized a two-day international conference on "Sustainable Development: Creating a Unified Foundation with Research and Practice" on 21 and 22 March, 2025. The event featured eminent speakers from India and abroad, including experts from Keio University (Japan), XIM Bhubaneswar, Jadavpur University, Thammasat University (Thailand), and Curtin University (Australia). Over 50 research papers were presented across interdisciplinary themes—economic, environmental, and social sustainability—fostering academic exchange and innovative discussions on global sustainability challenges.

One-Day National Conference on "Emerging Issues in Accounting, Finance, and Management", was organized



by the Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI) on 26 July, 2025. The conference provided a dynamic platform for academic exchange and enrichment. The event featured eminent academicians and industry experts who shared insights on evolving trends in finance, accounting, and management.

With over 100 participants and around 80 paper presentations across nine technical tracks, the conference fostered rich discussions on topics like corporate finance, taxation, HR, analytics, and sustainability. The event concluded with a valedictory address by Professor (Dr.) Amalendu Bhunia, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani. Eminent academicians and industry experts shared insights on evolving trends in finance, accounting, and management. The conference received high praise for its academic depth, interdisciplinary approach, and networking opportunities.

Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI), organized the Sixth Doctoral Colloquium on 28 and 29 July, 2025, at the university campus. A total of 39 doctoral scholars from various disciplines presented their research papers. The discipline specific sessions were chaired by distinguished panel of external experts from reputed institutions such as Visva-Bharati (University), West Bengal. National University of Juridical Sciences, University of Burdwan, Institute of Psychiatry - Kolkata, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, IISWBM, University of Calcutta, who provided valuable insights and feedback. The discipline-specific sessions fostered rich academic discussions, enhancing the research quality and scholarly development of the participants.





The Ph.D. Inauguration for the 2025–2026 batch of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, was organized by Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI), on 1 August, 2025. The Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., extended a warm welcome to the new scholars and addressed them on the Xaverian ethos, highlighting the significance of research and its vital role in higher education. The programme was attended by the Deans, Officers, Research Supervisors, and the newly admitted thirty-six Ph.D. students from the disciplines of Commerce, Economics, Mass Communication, English, Law, Social Work, and Psychology. Rev. Dr. Xavier Jeyaraj, S.J., Registrar, spoke on the academic cultures, rules and regulations of the university.

Father Lafont Centre for Excellence in Research and Innovation (LCERI) and the Mother Teresa Chair for Peace of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata, jointly organized an Extension Lecture on “Mother Teresa: Instrument for Peace” on 31 October 2025. Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, delivered an inspiring lecture highlighting Mother Teresa’s life of compassion, peace, and service to humanity, enriched with personal anecdotes of his interactions with her. The session, which began with a prayer and welcome address by Professor Soma Sur, concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Gautam Dutta. The lecture deeply resonated with the university’s values, reminding all the enduring power of peace, empathy, and selfless service.





CENTRE FOR GLOBAL NETWORK AND INITIATIVES



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK), and Lincoln University College (LUC), Malaysia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 and 22 January, 2025. The agreement aims to foster mutual academic and research collaboration between the two institutions. The MoU was signed during a visit by the Vice-Chancellor of SXUK, Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Raj S.J., to Kuala Lumpur. The key aspects of the collaboration include enhancement of academic collaboration between the two institutions, facilitating an exchange of academic insights and promotion of research partnerships between them. The agreement is part of SXUK's efforts to create international opportunities for its students and faculty and provide a global perspective on education.

On February 5th, 2025, an event concerning the signing of MoU between St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar took place virtually. The event commenced with the introduction of the dignitaries present on either side. The MoU signing was presided upon by Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar. Prof. Ashis Mitra, Registrar, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, Prof. Debashis Bandyopadhyay, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of KIIT were also present at the event.

Centre for Global Network and Initiatives initiated signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between St Xavier's University, Kolkata and Mahidol University, Thailand on 18 August, 2025, at SXUK campus. The meeting between the two universities witnessed deliberations regarding the research activities conducted at Mahidol University. Both institutions expressed significant interest in the

possibility of student exchange. To mark the beginning of the collaboration the Mahidol University team conducted a session with the Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of various departments of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata viz. Computer Science, Statistics, etc. on 19 August, 2025.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and the West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Biotechnology (DSTBT), Government of West Bengal on 18 November, 2025 at SXUK campus. Fr. Dr. Xavier Jeyaraj, S.J., Registrar of SXUK and Shri Vijay Bharti, IAS, Secretary Department of Science Technology, Biotechnology (DSTBT), Government of West Bengal signed the MoU. After the signing, delegates from both institutions engaged in an elaborate exchange of ideas regarding the avenues of research and development that both may collaboratively engage in future.



CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES



The Centre for Language and Communication Studies, established in the year 2024 is committed to focus on language and communication proficiency among students. The Centre for Language and Communication Studies at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, is dedicated to enhancing language skills and communication strategies among students and professionals. It aims to provide a rich academic environment focused on language acquisition, linguistics, and communication theories.

On 25 February 2025, a Fireside Chat on “Passport to the Mind and World: How Foreign Languages Unlock Cognitive Potential and Global Opportunities” was organized by Centre for Language and Communication Studies, in Amphitheatre 323 of the Academic block of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Indranil Dutta, Professor, School of Languages and Linguistics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The audience for the session comprised the Masters students of the Department of English. During the session Prof. Dutta discussed the relevance of language learning in a world where Artificial Intelligence is progressing at a fast pace. He mentioned the cognitive advantages of learning multiple languages. The moderator skilfully conducted the discussion and threw light on the differences between languages and the ongoing research in the field of language studies. The last leg of the session included a question-and-answer session, wherein the students engaged in an intellectually stimulating discussion.

A Seven Days English to Hindi translation workshop titled: “Decoding Words: Emerging Trends in Understanding

Translation Studies” was conducted by the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, which commenced on 16 June, 2025. The Inaugural Ceremony of the workshop was graced by Dr. Chandrakala Pandey, Former Professor of the Department of Hindi, University of Calcutta and former Member of Parliament. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Jeyaraj Xavier, Respected Registrar of the University. Some participants were physically present during the workshop and others had joined online. This was followed by 6 sessions from 17 June, 2025 to 22 June, 2025.





Engaging with AI: A Technical Introduction to AI based Applications for Professional Assistance” (A 7-Day Communication through AI Workshop) was conducted online by the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata from 1 September, 2025 to 7 September, 2025. The Inaugural Ceremony of the workshop conducted on 1 September, 2025 was graced by Dr. Chinmay Chakraborty, (Associate Professor, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India). This was followed by 6 sessions from 2 September, 2025 to 7 September, 2025 and covered

significant topics such as “AI in Communication: Enhancing Language, Messaging, and Collaboration”, “Demystifying AI: Foundations for the Modern Professional”, “Ethics and AI: Navigating Responsibility in a Digital Workplace” etc. The workshop witnessed engaging sessions by distinguished faculty members and professionals, spanning areas across technological domains. The workshop was committed towards the introduction of the participants with AI based apps, which would be beneficial for usage in the professional fields with respect to communication.



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME (CSOP)



In consideration with the very foundation of voluntarism, selfless service to the society and also in line with the rich Jesuit tradition, the Centre for Social Outreach Programme was established at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, in the year 2018. Initially called as Xaverians in Action (XIA), the Centre for Social Outreach Programme, acts as an important structure within the university, that has been entrusted with the responsibility of conceptualizing and implementing sustainable community based social outreach programs and also the overall administration of the Non Academic Credit Programme for UG Students. Based on the ethos of Jesuit Charisms, the Centre for Social Outreach Programme, focuses on transforming men and women for and with other, who renders selfless service to the society by realizing God in all things, believes in services of faith and promotion of justice, leadership and developing a faith based process of decision making.

Symposia, a policy-formation event by CSOP at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, was held on 22 March 2025 for final-year students to help bridge their academic credit gap. Focusing on "Urban Slum Re-development" participants were divided into teams, given research time, and engaged in structured speeches with allotted rebuttals. The interactive format encouraged critical thinking and collaboration. Overall, the

event was conducted smoothly and proved successful.

A Documentary Analysis event was conducted by CSOP on 10 April, 2025. The participants were sent a documentary on a prevalent Social Issue. They had to watch the documentary and give an analysis of the documentary in their own words. The submission had to be made through another Google form. They recorded a video of one minute, analyzing about the documentary and social Issue. A two pages document was also submitted stating an elaborative analysing of the documentary and its impact on the society. It was an event





objective to spread social awareness among the citizens of this society.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK), in collaboration with Gobaredanga Uttarayan, organised an English Summer Camp 2025 from 8 to 14 June, 2025, inaugurated by Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J. The camp aimed to build English fluency through storytelling and self-expression, with activities like speaking, reading, word-building, jumbled words, and games such as Musical Chairs. With 28 students participating, guided by SXUK volunteers, the camp boosted confidence, communication, and creative expression, nurturing meaningful academic and personal growth.



The CSOP Cleanliness Drive, launched on 4 September, 2025, aimed to promote hygiene, health, and an eco-friendly campus. Conducted four days a week, it involved about 60 first-semester students working in teams to clean designated areas and raise awareness. The initiative gained recognition for visibly improving campus cleanliness and awareness among students.

In the NGO Fieldwork Program conducted on 6 September, 2025, total 80 students had been placed in eight NGOs, namely, Loreto Rainbow House, Kolkata Maryward



Social Centre, Seva Kendra Calcutta, Samaritan Welfare Foundation, Gana Unnayan Parshad, Behala Keertika, St. Joseph's House and Tiljala Shed, for a 30-hour fieldwork internship. Students worked with underprivileged children, women and elderly people through teaching, workshops and creative activities. The objective of the programme was to build empathy, communication skills, leadership, teamwork and problem-solving abilities while offering real-world exposure to social issues, ultimately shaping socially responsible young adults.

The CSOP Awareness and Survey Program aimed to help students understand rural socio-economic conditions while promoting financial literacy in Dharmatala Pachuria. A Financial Literacy Awareness Drive was held on 30th October, followed by household surveys on 31 October and 1 November, 2025. Students collected data on education, income, healthcare, facilities, and government schemes. Findings highlighted poor water quality, limited healthcare and low access to schemes. The initiative has built students with empathy and awareness.

The CSOP celebrated Children's Day 2025 at Kathalberia Primary School, on 16 November, 2025, with 54 dedicated volunteers from the Commerce and Management departments. The event featured a drawing competition with 55 participants, including former students, and a friendly cricket match that encouraged teamwork and joy. Medals were awarded to drawing winners and a trophy to the cricket champions. Volunteers who had completed their service still joined, reflecting CSOP's positive influence. The collective effort made the celebration meaningful and memorable.

Sishu Mela 2025 – Celebration of Sharing & Caring, the flagship outreach initiative of the Centre for Social Outreach Programme (CSOP), the social outreach wing of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, was joyfully organized on December 19, 2025. From early morning till dusk, the university campus transformed into a vibrant playground of laughter, creativity, and togetherness, welcoming children from adopted villages, partner NGOs and the University staff's children into a space of warmth and belonging. The programme stood as a living testament to CSOP's vision—where service meets celebration, and where every smile echoed the promise of care, compassion, and shared humanity.

Societies





XAVIER'S COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (XCMS)



The Xavier's Commerce and Management Society (XCMS) serves as a vibrant centre for professional growth at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. XCMS is dedicated to shaping future leaders by merging theoretical learning with real-world application through targeted workshops and events in commerce and management. At the heart of XCMS's mission is hands-on learning in organizational dynamics, with specialized departments in Production & Logistics, PR & Marketing, Technical and Creatives, Operations, Research & Development and Event Coordination. These events empower members to gain first-hand experience across business functions while upholding values of innovation, ethics, and professionalism.

Events

At Xavrang'25, Xavier's Commerce and Management Society (XCMS) successfully conducted three key events — Monopoly, Shark Tank, and Finance. These focused on financial strategy, entrepreneurship, and real-world business challenges. XCMS's leadership in these events attracted enthusiastic participation from multiple institutions, significantly enriching the overall fest experience.

X-Inovae'25, themed Kalpavriksha: Roots of Wishes, was a flagship three-day inter-college fest organized by XCMS featuring participation from 13 renowned institutions., it showcased competitive events like Chanakyaniti (Best Manager), Dhanpravah (Finance), Ranneeti Chakravayuh (Strategy), Prabhav (PR & Marketing), and Chitrakatha (Pixels & Prose). The fest was highlighted by a fireside chat with Mr. Aman Gupta, Founder & CMO of boAt, and concluded with a high-energy comedy session by renowned

Stand-Up Comedian Mr. Ashish Solanki, making it a grand, impactful celebration.

On 21 and 22 August 2025, X-Vision'25 was organised by the Xavier's Commerce and Management Society (XCMS), as a part of Faculty of Commerce and Management. The event served as an engaging and impactful introduction to the field of management for the first-year students of the Commerce and Management Department. Designed to spark creativity, analytical thinking and collaborative skills, the event provided an ideal platform for students to experience the culture, values and academic spirit of XCMS while showcasing their emerging talents. The day commenced with an inspiring opening ceremony, which set a positive and energetic tone for the activities that followed. Participants then took part in three skill-oriented competitions: Prism Breaker (PR and Marketing), Assets Aurora (Finance) and Spectrum Cipher (Human Resource). Each event was thoughtfully structured to imitate real-world challenges.





X-Verse '25, the cosmic-themed intra-college fest hosted by the Xavier's Commerce and Management Society (XCMS) was held on 8 November 2025 which transformed the university campus into a vibrant hub of creativity, strategy and spirited competition. Guided by the theme "Cosmos: Nothing Beyond," this edition marked the largest and most ambitious X-Verse to date, brought to life through exceptional coordination and dedication within an impressive two-week preparation period. X-Verse '25 showcased six engaging and intellectually stimulating competitions: Solaris Prime (Best Manager), Jovian Capital (Finance), Athenian Arsenal (Strategic Management), Neptura Nexus (PR and

Marketing), Ares Arena (Sports Management), and Astral Lore (Tales and Design).

Each event was designed to test participants through industry-inspired challenges that required analytical depth, creativity, and strategic thinking. Students from various departments brought exceptional energy and passion to every round, making each venue a space for collaboration, competition, and meaningful learning. The event concluded on an energetic note, the audience was treated to a lively stand-up comedy performance by Mr. Anmol Garg, whose corporate storytelling and sharp humour added a refreshing and memorable end to the celebration.





XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY CULTURAL AND ARTS SOCIETY (XUCAS)



Xavier's University Cultural & Arts Society (XUCAS) serves as a dynamic platform for students to explore, nurture, and showcase their talents in music, art, dance, and theatre. The society is dedicated to promoting diverse art forms while preserving and honouring cultural traditions. Through its activities and events, XUCAS aims to enhance artistic competence, foster creative expression, and build confidence among students. With a steadily growing and enthusiastic student body, the society continues to welcome new talent and looks forward to organising innovative and impactful cultural initiatives in the future. Drawing from past experiences, XUCAS actively encourages healthy competition, teamwork, and inclusivity, while remaining firmly committed to its pursuit of artistic and cultural excellence.

enthusiasm, colour, and energy throughout the day. The day-long celebration featured a wide range of cultural activities, including dance performances and musical renditions, conducted through various competitive events. XavKala'25 stood as a testament to the creative spirit and collaborative culture of the university community.

XUCAS also celebrated the Philanthropy Day through a cultural program held on 26 August, 2025. The members presented song and dance with exuberance and gaiety.



Events

XavKala'25, the annual cultural festival of Xavier's University Cultural & Arts Society (XUCAS) of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, was successfully held on 29 March 2025. The festival provided a vibrant and engaging platform for students to showcase their cultural involvement and creative abilities. With participation from over 1,000 students across various academic disciplines, the university campus was filled with

XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY DEBATING SOCIETY (XUDS)



The Xavier's University Debating Society strive to engage with the arena of debating, quizzing, Munning, and all forms of public speaking. XUDS has always had a flurry of activities centred on public speaking, working to further propel the culture of voicing of opinion and confluence of perspectives. The society conducts activities and events with the aim to establish among the students a vital message of the era: 'to discord to concord: Xperience. Unite. Deliberate. Stimulate'.

The Xavier's Inter- Model United Nations 2025 (XAVMUN' 25) hosted by the Xavier's University Debating Society of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata was held on 22nd and 23rd of August 2025 in the campus of our university. The programme brought together passionate and dedicated students to engage in diplomatic debates, negotiations, and discussions. Diplomacy at XAVMUN'25 for the first Inter-College Edition of Model United Nation Conference at St. Xaviers University, Kolkata. Students even outside Calcutta participated in the conference, including school students and more than fifteen colleges.

Events

The Society members organized a number of competitions and events in the University Fest 'Xavrang 25' such as Agree to Disagree: Breathless: Mock Parliament: Turncoat Debate; Quiz O Grand etc.

XINFLAIR 2025, a Xinephile event in collaboration with XUD was a Cinematic Discourse, a debate competition which was about the cinema and various aspect of cinematography, conducted on 20 March 2025, the members of XUDS collaborated with the film Society.

Albert Huart Memorial Debate, the Flagship Debate Competition for Xaviers University Debating Society was conducted on 28 March 2025. As one of the society's flagship initiatives, the debate serves as a platform for rigorous intellectual engagement and the promotion of critical discourse within the university community. Conducted in the Oxford Style format, the event invited participation from various student societies across Xavier University.





XPOSURE



Xavier's University Photography Society





Embracing the words of Ansel Adams “Photography is an austere and blazing poetry of the real” XPOSURE, the Xavier University Photography Society, stands guided by its eternal motto: “Veni. Vidi. Cepi.” (I came. I saw. I captured.). The society serves as a creative haven where students explore, express, document, and celebrate their artistic vision and visual narratives. At its core, XPOSURE strives to foster creativity, inspire innovation, and build a vibrant community of budding photographers through collaboration, learning, and artistic storytelling. Its mission is to provide a platform for experimentation and self-expression through workshops, competitions, and inter-college participation, such as the recently held Xenith’25 A Poetry of Pixels.

The society encourages narrative sensitivity, promotes inter-departmental collaboration, and contributes to the university’s cultural fabric through the visual documentation of events, festivals, and student life. XPOSURE thrives under the leadership of a passionate team driven by teamwork, mentorship, and creative integrity. Standing as the university’s dedicated photography society, XPOSURE remains a vibrant confluence of art and community rooted in creativity, responsibility, collaboration, and respect for perceptive integrity.

Events

XPOSURE, the Xavier University Photography Society, in association with the St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata Alumni Association, hosted “Xenith’25: A Poetry of Pixels,” an inter-college Photography Exhibition and Competition, on the 30 and 31 October, 2025. The exhibition celebrated the art of visual storytelling through themes such as Monochrome, Minimalism, and Contrast. The event was honoured by the presence of the Guests of Honour- Mr. Abhirup Basu, PR

Professional at Adfactors PR; Mr. Goutam Bose, Senior Consulting Photographer, Millennium Post; and Mr. Siddhartha Sarkar, News Editor, News18 Digital. The exhibition was formally inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a tour of the photographs on display. The exhibition showcased a rich tapestry of visual narratives captured by students of 35 prestigious institutes across the country.

The second day featured an exclusive Photography Workshop conducted by Mrs. Lopamudra Talukdar, a Fujifilm X Ambassador and Global Photographer. In her masterclass ‘Where Strangers Become Stories,’ she shared her expertise and guided students through the nuances of composition, storytelling, and visual emotion.

The event culminated with a closing ceremony and prize distribution, honouring the winners of various photography categories. The esteemed panel of judges, included Mrs. Lopamudra Talukdar, along with Mr. Pranay Pariyar, a renowned street photographer, and Mr. Siddhartha Paul, a distinguished visionary of the fields of street and documentary photography, who evaluated the entries based on creativity, technique, and thematic depth.





XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY FILM SOCIETY (XINEPHILE)



Xinephile, the Xavier's University Film Society is a vibrant collective of students and professors who share a deep passion for cinema and its various artistic forms. Since its inception on 13 March, 2020, XUFS has evolved into a thriving community that encourages students to look beyond the cinematic lens - to appreciate true art, engage in critical discourse, and understand cinema as a reflection of life itself.

The society believes that film is not just a medium of storytelling but a mirror to society and a language of emotion and intellect. Over the years, XUFS has organized screenings, discussions, workshops, and interactive events to nurture a culture of critical appreciation and creative exploration among cinephiles at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK).

Events

The year 2025 marked a significant chapter in the journey of XUFS - a year defined by dynamic collaborations, bold creativity, and enthusiastic participation. From intellectual debates to artistic recreations, XUFS continued to bridge the worlds of cinematic critique and creative expression, inviting

students across departments to explore the limitless universe of film

'XineFlair: A Cinematic Discourse' organized by Xavier's University Film Society in collaboration with Xavier's University Debating Society (XUDS), was a debate competition based on the motion: "Self-help movies perpetuate unrealistic expectations and harm their audience more than they help." The event, held on 20 March, 2025, featured six teams, each comprising two speakers—one for and one against the motion. The event was conceived as an intersection between debate and cinema - where students engaged in spirited discussions that examined film as a cultural and intellectual phenomenon.

Participants took to the stage to present bold and thought-provoking arguments, questioning how characters are represented on screen, how gender and class are portrayed in films, and what these narratives reveal about the world we inhabit. The event encouraged students to think critically about the power and politics of representation in cinema. Xineflair witnessed a blend of eloquence, analytical depth, and passionate discourse.





The cinematic fervour continued as XUFS took centre stage at Xavrang'25, the annual cultural fest of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The society curated a series of film-themed events that combined creativity, performance, and technical skill - transforming the fest into a lively celebration of cinema in all its colours and emotions.

Through Tamasha, the participants transformed open spaces into dynamic stages of expression, addressing pressing social issues through gripping street performances. The raw intensity of their acts captivated the audience and earned standing ovations, proving that cinema's social conscience thrives in every form of storytelling.

In Tees Maar Khan, participants turned into visionary filmmakers, pitching original movie concepts complete with storylines, character sketches, and budgets. The event merged creativity with practicality, drawing admiration from both the audience and judges for its originality and professional polish.

An entertaining fusion of knowledge and performance, ABCD saw participants act out movie titles while answering rapid-fire trivia. The event drew one of the largest and most interactive crowds at the fest, filled with laughter, guesses, and spontaneous participation - truly embodying the communal joy of cinema.

Phata Poster Nikla Hero (Recreation of a film scene with a Twist) was a tribute to the

flamboyance of Bollywood, this event invited teams to recreate famous film scenes with unexpected and often hilarious twists. The event's exceptional footfall and energetic audience reactions turned it into a crowd-puller, celebrating imagination, humour, and the enduring appeal of cinematic drama.

In Reel Ho Naa Ho, participants captured the vibrancy of Xavrang'25 through the lens of their cameras, creating engaging short reels that highlighted the fest's spirit. The reels showcased artistic framing, editing finesse, and a keen eye for storytelling - proving that even in seconds, film can leave a lasting impact.

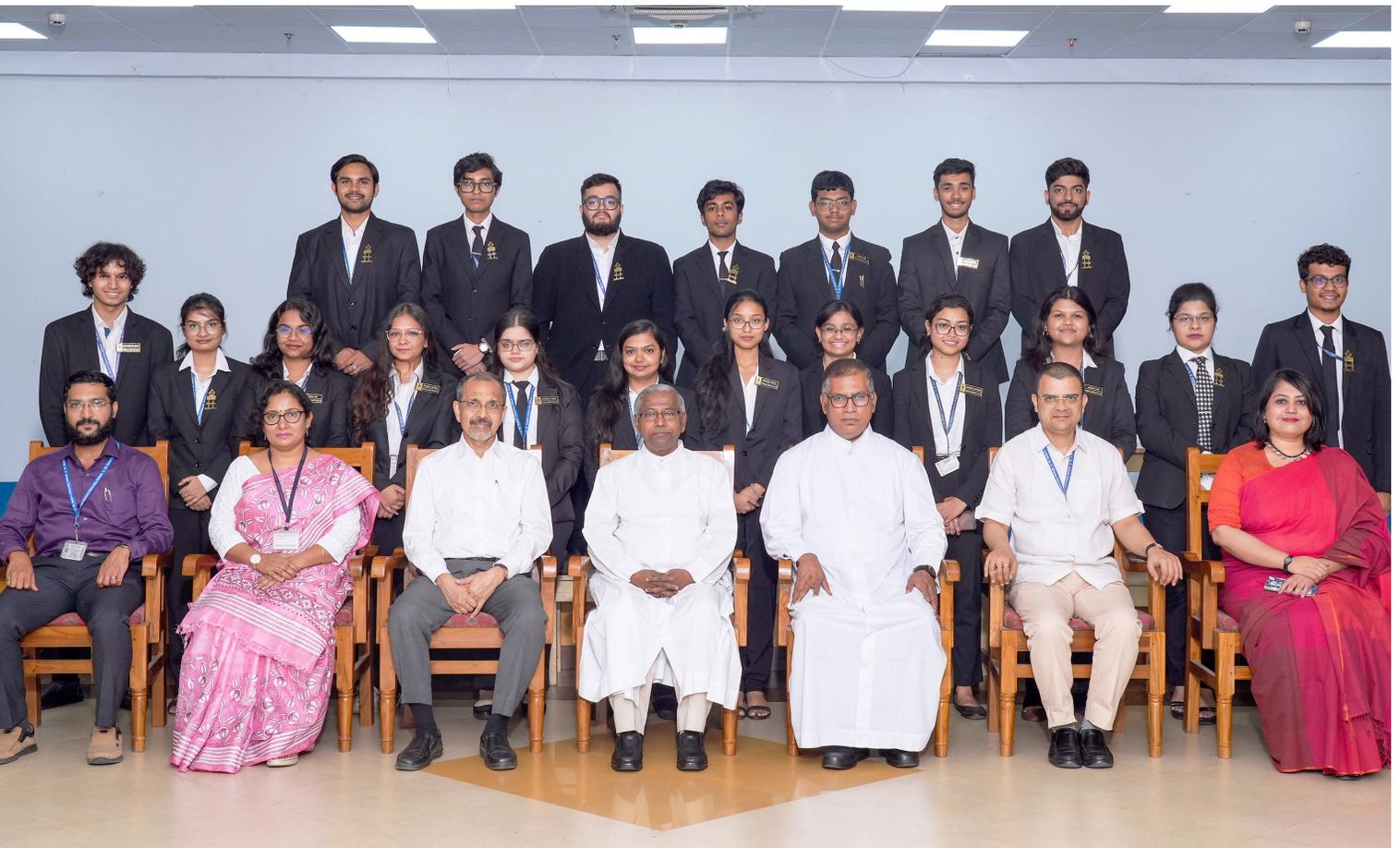
With Humshakals, the stage erupted in laughter and applause as participants flawlessly mimicked legendary film personalities. The audience's response was electric, turning the event into a light-hearted yet impressive showcase of acting talent and observation.

In Housefull, participants stepped into the role of film editors - the silent architects of cinematic rhythm. They reimagined Bollywood scenes through creative montage-making, transforming familiar moments into new emotional narratives. The screenings drew praise for their innovation and technical brilliance.

The 2025 chapter of XUFS was defined by innovation, collaboration, and celebration. From the intellectual vibrancy of Xineflair with XUDS to the high-energy cinematic carnival at Xavrang'25, the society successfully showcased the various dimensions of film - as art, as performance, and as a voice of culture. With record-breaking participation, enthusiastic audiences, and glowing feedback from judges, guests, and faculty, XUFS reaffirmed its role as one of SXUK's most dynamic and creative societies. Every event this year stood as a testament to the society's guiding vision - to foster critical engagement, artistic expression, and a shared love for the moving image.



XAVIER SOCIETY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (XSLAJ)



XSLAJ was constituted on 03 August, 2020, on the auspicious occasion of the first anniversary of Xavier Law School. XSLAJ is a student body that endeavours to provide a platform to the students to hone their skills and partake in a plethora of co-curricular activities. The Society primarily looks to disseminate knowledge and generate legal awareness among its members and the community at large. XSLAJ seeks to provide a platform for budding students to exploit their privileges of being prized members of this community, endeavouring to contextualize classroom learning in social phenomena. The Society recognizes the necessity of situating law outside the four corners of the curriculum and inculcating the interdisciplinary fervour of modern legal education among the students of Xavier Law School.

Events

The 3rd edition of the Xavier Mediation Competition (XMC) was successfully organized by Xavier Society of Law and Justice (XSLAJ) of Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata from 2 April, 2025 to 4 April, 2025,

providing a national platform for aspiring legal professionals to demonstrate their skills in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. The three-day event commenced with an engaging opening ceremony, featuring a cultural performance by Dhvani and an inspiring address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor.

The Preliminary Rounds, where participating teams engaged in simulated mediation sessions. These sessions highlighted key skills such as active listening, critical thinking, empathy, and persuasive negotiation. Day 3 of the event featured the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, and Final Round, with top teams competing at an exceptional level of professionalism and collaboration.

The Final Round was judged by experienced professionals in the field. The Best Negotiating Pair (XMC Cup) was from Jindal Global Law School, the Runner-Up Negotiating Pair: from Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad; Best Mediator (Magis Cup): Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad; Best Counsel: Xavier Law School, Kolkata The event concluded with a closing ceremony and felicitation of dignitaries.



The Xavier Society of Law and Justice (XSLAJ) of Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, proudly organized the Second Edition of its National Flagship Event – The Ignatius Trial and Advocacy Competition 2025 (IGNITAC'25) from 9 to 11 October, 2025. The event was supported by an illustrious array of sponsors and collaborators — Coal India Limited as the Presenting Partner, MCO Legals as the Title Partner, Asian Paints as the Event Partner, Aamsrav & RK Electronics as Associate Partners, Manupatra and LawFoyer as Knowledge Partners, Dexon Global LLP as the Research Partner, Legal Bites as the E-Resource Partner, and LiveLaw.in, Knowledge Steez, DesiKanoon, Legal Specs, and LawBhoomi as Media Partners. With IGNITAC'25's resounding success, XSLAJ continues its journey toward fostering legal scholarship and professional excellence, setting higher benchmarks for future editions.





XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS SOCIETY (XAVECOS)



XAVECOS, Xavier's University Economics Society, was founded in the year 2019 with the objective to take the responsibility of providing the students opportunity to participate in deliberation on economic issues through various academic events such as, seminars, conferences and workshop. The society is functional through the active participation of students under the supervision and guidance of a professor-in-charge.

Events

XAVECOS hosted a two-day online workshop on Data Analysis with R from 2 January to 4 January, 2025. 77 participants joined the event, representing a diverse range of institutions, including ICRIER, BITS Law School, Symbiosis School of Economics, Jadavpur University, University of Calcutta, Delhi University, University of Burdwan, IDSK, Women's Christian College (Chennai), Doon University, Himachal Pradesh University, UPES Dehradun, Scottish Church College, The Heritage College, Lady Brabourne College, and many more.

A Lecture Series on Political Economy was organized by, Xavier's University Economics Society (XAVECOS) which was conducted on 7 January, 15 January and 22 January, 2025. The speaker of this series was Dr. Subhanil Chowdhury, Head,

Department of Economics, SXUK. This series was attended by the students and faculty members of the university.

Department of Economics, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata in collaboration with XAVECOS successfully hosted 5th Annual Economics Summit 2025 on 20 February 2025. This prestigious event brought together talented undergraduate and postgraduate students from renowned institutions across India, including Jadavpur University, Presidency University, Madras School of Economics, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Amity University, Praxis Business School, Ashutosh College, and Gurudas College, Kolkata.

The inauguration of the event started with the lecture by our esteemed guest Dr. Alex M Thomas, Faculty, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. The title of his lecture was "Kanta Ranadive, Krishna Bharadwaj and the History of Economic Thought"

An innovative poster presentation by undergraduate students showcased fresh economic perspectives, while a panel discussion on The Future of Women at the Workplace sparked insightful conversations. The session was moderated by Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor of SXUK, and featured esteemed speakers Prof. Sahana Roy Chowdhury, faculty, IMI Kolkata, Dr. Supurna Banerjee, faculty, IDSK and Ms. Ruchira Goswami, faculty, NUJS.

The summit concluded with a thought-provoking valedictory address by Prof. Asis Kumar Banerjee, Economics Emeritus, University of Calcutta. The event culminated in a prize distribution ceremony, recognizing outstanding research and presentation.

On 14 August, 2025, the XAVECOS proudly hosted its 4th Intra-Departmental Debate Competition at St. Xavier's

University, Kolkata. The event brought together talented undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Economics department, who engaged in a thought-provoking discussion on the topic "Import Tariff is a Prelude to the End of Globalization". The event showcased the intellectual prowess and eloquence of our students.





XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY (XULS)



Xavier's University Literary Society was designed to act as a space for the students to be introduced to an amalgamation of literary activities, ranging from book club discussions to interactions with literary personalities, providing students with opportunities to forge bonds and learn from stalwarts of the field.

Xavier's University Literary Society (XULS) brings together passionate readers, writers, and thinkers who believe words have the power to transform perspectives. This vibrant community of literary enthusiasts creates spaces where students can dive deep into meaningful conversations, share their creative voices, and challenge conventional thinking through the art of storytelling.

Events

From January to May 2025, XULS breathed life into their vision through two exciting ventures: launching X Cavare, a captivating literary magazine brimming with student creativity, and hosting X-Lore, a literary festival that turned campus into a celebration of words, ideas, and artistic expression.

XULS conducted its inaugural intra-university literary festival, X-Lore, on 28 February, 2025 and 01 March, 2025, at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The festival operated under the theme 'Timeless Tales' focusing on narratives that

remain relevant across different time periods and cultures.

The festival name itself, X-Lore, represents the celebration of storytelling in all its forms, whether written, oral, or unspoken. This inaugural event marked a significant milestone for the university's literary community, bringing together students from various disciplines to engage with literature through creative and analytical approaches.





Events of varied colour and flavour were conducted like; Culture Clash, Judged by the Cover, Page to Podium, What's in a Profile, Dress the Part, The Fame Factor, Weave a Tale, The Rewrite War, Redacted Rhymes, The Publishing Career Seminar. The festival ended on a high note as a student band took the stage, with the XULS professor-in-charge surprising everyone by joining in for an impromptu sing-along that perfectly captured the evening's celebratory spirit.

XULS, over the past 6 years, has actively engaged in critical writing of literary pieces across different mediums and in literary competitions which allows the student body to enhance their skills and be exposed to broader perspectives of the field.

XULS endeavours are spread across a myriad of activities. The society is known to organize treasure hunts, blackout poetry competitions, story writing competitions along with Shayari events as well to have a celebration of languages and entertainment on the same forum. The society also has its own podcast titled "Wars, Poetry and Everything in Between" where students and professors alike get together to rave over books, authors, literature & life.

On 3 November, 2025, XULS held an orientation for the newly appointed Working Committee. It started with a short investiture for the core and was led by Dr. Prayag Ray, the Professor-in-Charge. Students from various departments who were interested in literature showed up and engaged in an insightful discussion.





XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY (XAVPSYCH)



"In times of crisis, the mind does not need perfection, it needs presence."- Dr. Viktor Frankl.

The Xavier's University Psychology Society (XAVPSYCH) plays a meaningful role in shaping how students understand and engage with mental health. It creates spaces where conversations feel safe, creativity becomes expression, and psychology becomes something lived rather than studied. With each initiative, XavPsych encourages the campus to think with openness, act with empathy, and support one another through shared understanding.

Events

Psynergy 25, the first intercollegiate psychology fest in Kolkata, was organized by XAVPSYCH, the Psychology Society of St. Xavier's University, to showcase psychology's diverse applications beyond mental health on 01 March, 2025

The day featured eight events of diverse nature and themes judged by distinguished professionals. The events ranged from intellectual endeavours such as The Roots

of Reasoning, a debate and Psy Q, a quiz competition to events where students showcased their creativity, namely, Between the Synapses, a street play competition, Mind Map, an art competition using multiple media to display consciousness, Psych Palette, a poster competition on emotions, and PsyRhythm, a dance competition. The Synapses focused on themes of social psychology while PsyRhythm delved into psychological phenomena, from a social justice lens.

The flagship event was Psyinnovate, an entrepreneurial challenge where participants pitched innovative business ideas integrating psychology with practical applications. The prize distribution concluded the day, with Sister Nivedita University being awarded Best College, marking an enduring impact on all involved.

PSYSPHERE'25, held on 10 October 2025, in adherence to the World Mental Health Day, brought this vision of the day to life. Instead of treating mental health as a



distant idea, the fest explored what it truly means to care for the mind during chaos and uncertainty. The theme, “Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies,” encouraged students to look beyond theory and understand the realities people face during crises. The day opened with a powerful start as Marga Studios took over the Quadrangle with a special Nukkad Natak. Students from all departments gathered quickly, filling the space with anticipation as the performance unfolded. Through raw, compelling storytelling, the act revealed the weight of unspoken struggles, the hesitation people feel before seeking help, and the quiet resilience hidden in everyday life. What began as an ordinary morning on campus transformed into a moment of collective reflection, marking the true beginning of PSYSPHERE’25.

The energy shifted with Turncoat: Ctrl + Alt + Heal event, where participants switched between opposing viewpoints on redesigning social media for mental well-being. The event showcased confidence, quick thinking, and a strong understanding of psychological perspectives. One of the judges remarked, “The ability of participants to shift perspectives while staying grounded in empathy and psychological insight was remarkable. It reflected the very essence of PSYSPHERE.” The day concluded with Live Minds: Voices of Psyche, an inter-department street-play competition. Through thoughtful and engaging performances, students highlighted issues such as abuse, stigma, bullying, and psychological first aid.





XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY SPORTS SOCIETY (XUSS)



Xavier's University Sports Society of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, works with the motive to build in the students' core qualities like leadership, teamwork, responsibility and respect for others. These are qualities which are carried a true Xaverian. The society with its commitment and enthusiasm has organized and participated in various in and off campus events fueling the sportsman spirit in the students of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

Events

Xavier's University Sports Society celebrated its Annual Sports Meet on January 25, 2025. The event brought together students, faculty, and non-teaching staff in a vibrant display of sportsmanship and camaraderie. The final day was the culmination of a month-long sporting calendar. Throughout January, the campus was abuzz with various

heats and competitive rounds for both men and women. The occasion was graced by Cmde Ajay Yadav, Naval Officer-in-Charge, West Bengal, who served as the Chief Guest. In his address, Cmde Yadav drew from his own college experiences, encouraging students to embrace the discipline of sports as a cornerstone of personal growth. The "Athletes of the Year 2024-25" for both the men's and women's categories were felicitated. The day concluded as a resounding success, leaving the university community inspired by the values of perseverance and teamwork.

On the January 17 & 18, 2025, St. Xavier's University hosted its flagship sports fest, Xavrang'25. The two-day extravaganza featured a diverse lineup of 10 indoor and outdoor events, including Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Tug of War, Carrom, and Chess. The campus buzzed with competitive energy as students from over 17 colleges across West Bengal arrived to showcase their skills.

While the competition was fierce, the host institution maintained a strong presence on the leaderboard; St. Xavier's University emerged victorious in Table Tennis, Volleyball, and Football, securing a proud moment for the home teams.

Team XUSS and the fresh batch of MBA students jointly conducted an induction program on July 18, 2025 to encourage all students to participate in sports and the sports society as members.

The St. Ignatius Cup brought the focused intensity of 5-a-side football to the forefront. The tournament provided a platform for players to display intricate footwork and rapid-fire teamwork. The compact format ensured a series of high-scoring matches and thrilling finishes, further cementing the university's reputation for hosting premier athletic competitions.



Beyond the sprawling fields, the indoor arenas of St. Xavier's University buzzed with intense competition during the Inter-Department Indoor Tournaments. Held from September 2 to 14, 2025, the event saw a massive turnout, with over 300 students from every corner of the university stepping forward to represent their departments. Under the seamless coordination of the Society members, the tournaments were held during break hours and after classes, ensuring a vibrant atmosphere without disrupting the academic schedule.

The Carrom boards saw the highest engagement, drawing a staggering 118 participants in the opening rounds. The pace shifted from precision to speed as the Table Tennis tournament took over. With 95 participants battling it out in the Games Room, the event was a display of lightning-fast reflexes and agility. The Chess tournament offered a quieter, more cerebral form of competition. 80 tacticians went head-to-head in a battle of wits and foresight.

In a nod to the rapidly evolving world of competitive gaming, the university hosted a high-stakes BGMI Tournament, drawing the finest tactical minds and sharpshooters from various departments. Moving from the physical courts to the digital battlegrounds, the event saw teams navigating intense "drops" and strategic rotations with professional-level precision.



While the indoor tournaments tested strategy and reflexes, the outdoor events at St. Xavier's University were a grand display of raw athleticism and endurance.

Under the open sky, the campus transformed into a theater of high-stakes competition. These flagship outdoor events drew massive crowds, creating an electric atmosphere where departmental pride and sporting excellence went hand-in-hand. The Volleyball tournament was a masterclass in teamwork and explosive power. The court saw fierce rallies, with players leaping to deliver thunderous spikes and diving for tactical saves. The Throwball matches brought a unique blend of agility and tactical placement to the outdoor arena. Characterized by swift movements and powerful, precise throws, the tournament saw intense participation from 4 teams of the university's various departments. The Basketball court remained the epicenter of speed and stamina as 8 teams battled it out.





XAVIER'S SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (XSSI)

The Xavier's Society for Science and Innovation (XSSI) at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, academic excellence, and professional development in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cyber security, Business Analytics, and Biostatistics. XSSI envisions a vibrant scientific community dedicated to innovation and knowledge-sharing through events, workshops, and research initiatives.

The society functions as an interdisciplinary hub, fostering networking, mentorship, and global collaborations. It organizes guest speaker events, hackathon, provide publication opportunities, and support participation in conferences and science outreach initiatives. Leadership and professional development will be emphasized through committee roles, industry interactions, and skill-building sessions.

XSSI's structure consists of a core committee led by a Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer from final-year postgraduate students in Computer Science and Statistics, while a working committee includes representatives from all academic years. Admission is based on merit, past experience, and faculty evaluation.

The society upholds transparency, accountability, and discipline, with structured impeachment procedures in case of non-compliance. By fostering scientific inquiry and engagement, XSSI aspires to contribute meaningfully to national well-being, upholding the ethos of St. Xavier's University and its motto, "*nihil ultra*" (nothing beyond).

Events

The Data Insights competition was held on 17 January, 2025. The event challenged participants to apply data analytics in strategic decision-making. Competitors were tasked with analyzing Airbnb listing performance across various neighborhoods, focusing on factors influencing booking rates, pricing strategies, and revenue potential. They were given 24 hours to conduct their analysis, generate insights, and submit a comprehensive report.

On the event day, participants presented their findings, showcasing their ability to interpret complex datasets and deliver actionable business intelligence solutions. The competition, judged by Ayan Dey and Arijit Das, co-founders and directors of Aeonix Research and Innovations LLP, honored Tushar Bhotika from St. Xavier's College as the Winner, earning both First Place and the Executive Pitch Award. Meanwhile, Tunir Adhikary and Arkadeep Mondal from Sister Nivedita University secured the Runner-Up position.

The Creative Intelligence competition, held on 17 January 2025, provided a unique platform for participants to blend artificial intelligence with artistic storytelling. Focused on the theme "Mythological Moments – A Journey through Art and Storytelling," competitors were tasked with creating AI-generated artwork inspired by Indian mythology. Participants had to select between two themes—"An Unexpected Betrayal" or "Eternal Love"—and produce a story-driven visual representation of a significant mythological moment.

Submissions required three interconnected images showcasing the creative progression, a description of the mythological inspiration, and details on the AI tools or custom models used for generation. AI-generated pieces had to include prompts, while custom models required a submission of the code and methodology. On the event day, participants presented their artwork and explained the underlying story behind their creations.

Judged by Ayan Dey and Arijit Das, co-founders and directors of Aeonix Research and Innovations LLP, the competition saw Prateeti Ghosh from Gokhale Memorial Girls' College emerge as the Winner, while Shubham Gulati from Heritage Law College secured the First Runner-Up position. The People's Choice Award was earned by Asmita Ghosh and Shubhangee Dey from Loreto College, recognizing their exceptional storytelling through AI-generated visuals.



ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY KOLKATA

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association (SXUKAA) was established with 135 Founding Life Members on 03.01.2020. With the Batch of 2024 graduating from St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, the Association has a total of 4741 Life Members as on 31.03.2025.

Members of St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association can become 'Special Members' of SXUKAA. Many members of SXCCAA have expressed their interest to become Special Members of SXUKAA. At present, SXUKAA has 22 Special Members.

Events

St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association (SXUKAA) organised a programme to mark the culmination of the Golden Jubilee Year of Jesuit Life of its President, Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, SJ, on January 3, 2025, at the university campus. The event featured a thought-provoking cultural performance by Baul singers from Santiniketan, who presented a specially curated show titled 'Sanyasi Jiban', reflecting on the essence of ascetic life. This artistic tribute added a unique spiritual dimension to the celebration. As a gesture of admiration and gratitude, Fr. Felix Raj was felicitated by the SXUKAA office bearers. A specially composed song dedicated to his golden jubilee was played, further enhancing the emotional resonance of the occasion. In a spirit of generosity and compassion, Fr. Raj

distributed blankets and shawls to 250 construction workers, maintenance staff, and other workers of the university.

On February 20, 2025, the St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association conducted a Health Check-up Camp at St. Xavier's School, Pandua. This outreach initiative was aimed at promoting health awareness and providing basic medical support to the children of the school. This noble initiative reflects SXUKAA's continued commitment to social responsibility and community development.

The St. Xavier's University Alumni Association (SXUKAA) successfully organized the President's Cup Cricket Match on February 22, 2025. The much-anticipated event featured an exciting match between the SXUKAA Alumni Team and the St. Xavier's University Faculty and Staff Team. The event fostered a spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and nostalgia, strengthening the bond between the alumni and the university faculty. The successful execution of the President's Cup Cricket Match stands as a testament to the vibrant engagement between past and present members of St. Xavier's University.

St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association organized a Trip to Malaysia & Singapore between April 11, 2025 – April 16, 2025. The alumni led by Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj, SJ, Vice-Chancellor, SXUK & President, SXUKAA, and other Jesuit Fathers of the SXUK Jesuit Community visited the tomb of St. Francis Xavier in Melaka and held a get-together with the Alumni based in Singapore.





The alumni gathering was well attended by SXC Alumni based in Singapore. The delegation also made a visit to Singapore Management University (SMU) to explore avenues of collaboration between SXUK and SMU.

As part of the Philanthropy Day celebrations, the SXUKAA organised a Blood Donation Camp at the University campus. The medical teams from Life Care Blood Bank and Kothari Medical Centre Blood Bank were felicitated for their service and support. This year's camp witnessed an overwhelming response with 225 donors voluntarily coming forward to contribute to this noble cause. The participation of students, faculty, staff, and alumni reflected the true spirit of philanthropy, compassion, and community service.

The biography of Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj, SJ, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) & President, St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association (SXUKAA) was released on the occasion of the 115th Birth Anniversary of Mother Teresa on August 26, 2025 at

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The day also coincided with the birthday of Fr. Felix Raj. The biography titled 'Magis Mantra – The Life and Legacy of Fr. Felix Raj, SJ' has been authored by Dr. Prabhat Kumar Datta, Adjunct Professor, SXUK and was released in the presence of eminent persons including Fr. James Arjen Tete, SJ, Provincial, Calcutta Jesuit Province & Chancellor, SXUK, Janab Javed Ahmed Khan, Minister for Disaster Management, Government of WB, Shri Sujit Bose, Minister for Fire & Emergency Services, Government of WB, Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Adamas University, Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, SJ Rector, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata & Fr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata and a host of industrialists, academicians and other eminent people of the city. The special programme was organized by SXUKAA to commemorate the occasion. The dignitaries paid floral tributes to Mother Teresa. The program ended with a cultural programme by the students of SXUK.





XAVMILAN 2025, the 3rd Annual Reunion Dinner, was held on December 20, 2025 with enthusiastic participation from alumni members, creating an evening filled with reconnecting, reflection, and shared memories. The event aimed to strengthen the enduring bond between the alumni and the University while celebrating the spirit of togetherness and belonging within the Xavier community. On the occasion, as a mark of their gratitude, St. Xavier's University Kolkata Alumni Association (SXUKAA) felicitated all the Jesuit fathers of SXUK. The Governing Body members of SXUKAA were also presented with a memento in recognition of their dedicated service. The evening was further enlivened by a band performance, which added vibrancy and energy to the programme. Alumni members enjoyed the music and informal interactions, reminiscing about their time at the University and strengthening old friendships.

SXUKAA organised a Christmas Program on December 23,

2025 for the faculty and staff members of SXUK. A beautiful cultural programme was put up by the staff members and students on the occasion. Rev. Fr. John Felix Raj SJ, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SXUK & President, SXUKAA shared his Christmas Message on the occasion. As a mark of their gratitude SXUKAA, felicitated Rev. Fr. President all the Jesuit Fathers on the occasion. The joy of the festive season was shared with the lesser privileged as Fr. President handed over some winter garments to them.

SXUKAA organised its Annual Christmas Gathering on December 23, 2025. It was attended by eminent guests including Doctors, CEOs and others apart from Jesuit fathers and other members of the Xaverian family. A video presentation on SXUK was shown on the occasion apart from a cultural program put up by the staff and students. The celebratory mood of the evening was enhanced by a performance by Mr. Peter Gomes and a sumptuous dinner.





ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' BOARD



Established on 30 August, 2019, the Students' Board of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata represents leadership, creativity, and inspiration, empowering students to lead by example and actively shape university life. Following its early success with the Christmas Carnival in 2019, the Board has since organised impactful initiatives, including health camps and blood donation campaigns. Its flagship endeavour, the annual cultural fest Xavrang, has become a defining symbol of unity, creativity, and campus spirit. Through consistent excellence and innovation, the Students' Board continues to foster inclusivity, nurture leadership, and build a legacy that inspires generations of Xaverians.

A meeting was held on 25 March 2025, with 73 Class Representatives and 11 Society Secretaries. The one-hour discussion involved various facets of university life, including discussions on dress code enforcement, discipline, and improved campus hygiene. Key annual events of the Board were also reaffirmed in the said meeting.

On 10 September, 2025, the Students' Board of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, organized a "Mock Parliament" meeting for the academic year 2025-26 with Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J. The meeting ended with the Father Vice-Chancellor's kind remarks on fostering better student community engagement, reflecting a sense of accountability and social responsibility.

On 28 October 2025, the Students' Board of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, had its Investiture Ceremony. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. John Felix Raj, S.J., and Respected Registrar, Rev. Fr. Dr. Xavier Jeyraj, S.J., who conferred the badges to the newly chosen Class Representatives, Working Committee Members, and Office Bearers of the Students' Board for the academic year 2025-26. The event concluded with the premiere of the Xavrang'26 Official Video, leaving the audience inspired and eagerly waiting for this inter-college flagship event of the Students' Board.

Events

Xavrang'25, themed "Mythical Odyssey: Eclipse of Eras," was held on 17 and 18 January, 2025, at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, with participation from 50 colleges. Hon'ble Minister of Fire and Emergency Services, Govt. of West Bengal, Mr. Sujit Bose, inaugurated the fest. Pre-Xavrang events were held on the 11 and 12 January, 2025. The fest witnessed a total of 53 events, including the flagship competitions. The electrifying performances by renowned DJs and bands made it a memorable and vibrant two-day celebration.



Facilities





FATHER ARRUPE CENTRAL LIBRARY

Father Arrupe Central Library at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata was established with the vision to provide world class knowledge resources not only to cater to the curricular requirements but also to inspire intellectual enquiry and research. The Library building spans over an area of 21,870 sq.ft., encompassing ground floor and four floor building along with a centralized air-conditioned library. It has a seating capacity of 350 persons and follows Open Access System blended with hi-tech facilities. Library has a lending library in the ground floor, reading library in the first floor, Law and MBA library in the second floor and Ph.D library in the third floor.

Father Arrupe Central library is fully automated with KOHA Library Management System and integrated with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) with bar coding of books, RFID tags, Self-Issue/Return kiosk that enable laser scanning of issues and returns. Information Kiosk (Digital Signage) has been installed in the main entrance of the library to display the library holdings, new arrivals and notice/event. Using Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC/Web OPAC), the users can search the library online catalogue by author, title and keywords.

The users also can get to know latest addition of periodicals, books and status of a document. Our library is an active member of E-ShodhSindhu Consortium and member of NDLI (National Digital Library of India) in order to avail the benefits of various services. In addition, our library is enrolled as Institutional Member of British Council Library (BCL), USIS Library, Kolkata and DELNET to avail the service of Inter Library Loan. To maintain the research quality and avoid the unethical process our library has plagiarism detection tools. We have subscribed Turnitin feedback Studio software and DrillBit - Extreme software with support of INFLIBNET UGC-ShodhSuddhi Project. The library organizes events like workshops, training sessions and orientation programme for faculty members, students and staff round the year.

Events

On 30 May, 2025, Fr. Arrupe Central Library, organized a day workshop about Turnitin Feedback Studio. Mr. Gowtham Raval from Turnitin conducted a workshop demonstrating the Turnitin Feedback Studio plagiarism detection tool. The speaker explained its key features, including creating classes, assignments, instructor and student accounts, and showed how to upload papers to check similarity and AI scores. The workshop aimed to raise awareness among newly admitted research scholars about using Turnitin for plagiarism checking, helping them avoid research misconduct and copyright issues.



The NDLI Awareness Program was conducted on 15 July, 2025 to spread awareness on the perspectives and features of the National Digital Library of India (NDLI), including its content range, resource types, access options, Indian language interface, mobile app, and NDLI Club. The programme highlighted NDLI's free, 24/7 accessibility for learners from primary school to post-doctorate level, offering both national and international resources. The session emphasized how NDLI supports virtual learning and keeps students, staff, and researchers engaged in academic activities.

Manupatra Database Orientation Session was organized





on 01 August, 2025. Mr. Runak Roy conducted a practical session on the Manupatra online legal database, covering its table of contents, content coverage, login process, Manu search, legal search, and legal analytics. His training was highly beneficial and kept Xavier Law School participants engaged, encouraging meaningful use of Manupatra for academic learning and research. Dr. Stephen G, Assistant Librarian, further explained how to access the database both on and off campus.

Mr. Abhishek Narayan from Knimbus Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, conducted a practical session on the Knimbus Digital Library platform for SXUK users on 06 August, 2025. The orientation session, highlighted the key features, including a discovery tool, off-campus access, and mobile apps for Android and iOS of digital library. His training engaged faculty and research scholars, encouraging meaningful use of Knimbus for learning and research anytime, anywhere. Dr. Stephen G, Assistant Librarian, further explained the registration process for off-campus access to the SXUK Digital Library through Knimbus.



Fr. Arrupe Central Library, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, organized the Xaverian Academic Bookfest 2025 on 12 and 13 August, 2025 at the university campus. The event was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ, Registrar of the university. Thirty-two publishers and distributors showcased about 18,500 titles, including textbooks and reference works

across disciplines such as literature, commerce, management, economics, law, computer science, psychology, and fiction. Faculty, research scholars, staff, and students actively participated and suggested enriching the library's collection based on the displayed titles.

The INFLIBNET Corner was launched at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, on 12 August, 2025. In the launching programme the purpose of strengthening connections between the INFLIBNET Centre and academic libraries was explained. The Corner provides a dedicated library space with posters and displays to inform learners about the Centre's scholarly communication services.

The SXUK Library celebrated the 133rd birth anniversary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the Father of Library Science in India on 12 August 2025. Dr. Stephen, Assistant Librarian, highlighted Ranganathan's professional contributions, including his five laws of library science, the Colon Classification System, and the Classified Catalogue Code. His achievements were recognized with the Padmashri award by the Government of India and the Margaret Mann Citation by the American Library Association in 1970. The celebration honored his lifelong dedication and enduring legacy in the field of librarianship.





PLACEMENT CELL

The Training & Placement Cell of the university plays a significant role in empowering the young minds. The Cell is manned by a team of faculties from various domains and students.

Resource Personalities are invited by the Cell to help the students to mitigate the challenges of the corporate world effectively and efficiently. The students are also taken for Industrial Visit accompanied by their faculty members and officers. This basically helps the students to get a fair idea about the dynamics of the corporate world. Industrial Visit are mainly focused towards manufacturing or service sector. The young minds are encouraged to participate in the mock tests conducted by different recruiting companies like Erudite, ICA, Career Launcher etc. The students are also encouraged to take up internship with various organizations during their academic pursuit. This helps them immensely in bagging offers from leading organization.

strategies. Few Grooming sessions were organised by Industry Experts to enlighten the students about the market demands and how the students need to prepare or upskill themselves.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, successfully hosted its 1st Student Placement Committee Summit – Synapse 2025 on 26th July 2025, a visionary initiative by the Training and Placement Department. The summit marked a key milestone in promoting a placement-driven culture and enhancing student-industry synergy. The keynote speaker of the summit, Shri Vivek Chawla offered invaluable insights into career preparedness, internship exposure, and professional growth. His address inspired over 100 student placement committee members with its emphasis on humility, discipline, and hard work.

The Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Training & Placement Department, successfully organized

Events

On January 15, 2025, a representative from Teach for India visited the university campus to enlighten our students to join their organisation and enkindle a spark of education in lives of many underprivileged students after joining their organisation.

An Industry Visit was organised for M.Com. students at Metro Cash and Carry on 28 March, 2025, to gain a practical experience and visualise how an Industry operates. The purpose of this visit was to get the exposure on modern retail operations, supply chain management and bulk trending



a lecture series themed 'Bridging the Gap: Industry Insights for Next-Gen Leaders' on 29 August 2025. The initiative aimed to enhance students' practical knowledge and provide them with valuable industry insights beyond the academic curriculum.

A workshop on "Making a Noticeable LinkedIn Profile & Cracking the GD" was conducted by Mr. Mohit Shaw, Consultant, St. Xavier's University; on November 3rd, 2025. Mr. Shaw began the session by explaining the concept of a Group Discussion (GD), describing it as a core area of the selection process. He emphasized that a GD is not a tool to select candidates but rather to eliminate them, thereby highlighting its crucial role in recruitment and evaluation.

To provide practical exposure, a mock Group Discussion with on the topic "Education System is Outdated." was also conducted.

INFIRMARY

Infirmary at the ground floor of the academic block at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata is the place where the well-being of our students, faculty and staff is taken care with top priority. Staffed by trained medical professionals, students are served at most care.

The University Infirmary is equipped with essential medical supplies, a clean and safe environment to handle minor sports injuries, sudden illnesses or an unexpected health concern

during class hours/exams, the infirmary serves as the first point of support before further medical intervention, if required.

Infirmary functions with the support of emergency task force committee, 24 x 7 ambulance service in the campus, tie up with nearby hospitals for any emergency.

Also, both boys' and girls' hostels have their own units for the sick inmates supervised by Sisters of the University.





ST. XAVIER'S UNIVERSITY HOSTELS

The SXUK hostel year unfolded as a vibrant tapestry of creativity, teamwork, and collaboration, transforming the campus into a home away from home where talents flourished, bonds deepened, and every resident found a meaningful space to belong, contribute, and grow.

Events

Shaam-e-Mehfil set the tone behind the canteen on July 29, 2025, as hostelites wove together melodious singing, heartfelt shayari, witty stand-up comedy, and energetic dance performances into an evening of shared laughter and cultural expression that helped new students bond effortlessly with seniors, realizing the essence of "HOME AWAY HOME" through creative self-expression and mutual welcome.

The Hostel Inauguration in Arrupe Hall on, August 4, 2025 extended this spirit of welcome, blending addresses by hostel authorities with dance, music, and interactive games so that first-year students could connect with peers, understand hostel norms, and begin their journey in an atmosphere of warmth and mutual support, where collaboration turned strangers into family.

Collaboration between parents and hostel administration took center stage during the online Parents' Interactive Session on August 11, 2025, where the Vice Chancellor and key officials engaged with families, explained hostel initiatives, and responded constructively to feedback, reinforcing a transparent partnership for students' holistic growth and making the hostel a lived reality of care and accountability.

Team spirit became the heartbeat of the hostel with the "Introduction of the Teams" on August 25, 2025, where residents were grouped into eight Jesuit-inspired houses—

Xavier's, Britto, Canisius, Berchman, Rodriguez, Arrupe, Loyola, and Gonzaga—creating a friendly structure for year-long competitions and collaboration that embodied "HOME AWAY HOME" by fostering loyalty, rivalry, and unity. That same evening, the Dodgeball tournament converted the basketball court into an arena of strategy and solidarity, as evenly matched teams battled through thrilling matches before Rodriguez and Berchman clinched the championship, proving that victory in sport is built on trust, coordination, and shared resilience—key ingredients for a community where individuals thrive together.

The birthday celebration of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor on August 27, 2025 in Arrupe Hall continued this collective energy, with students, faculty, and hostelites coming together through dance, music, and heartfelt speeches to honour a leader whose vision for community and excellence unites the entire Xavier's family, making meaningful contributions to institutional legacy.

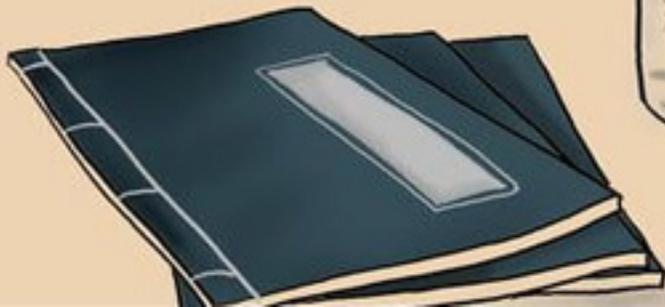
Teachers' Day on September 5, 2025 brought gratitude into focus as students and Sisters celebrated their mentors through a warm gathering on the basketball court, cake-cutting, and creatively designed fun games like Task Manager, Catch and Drop, and Bomb in the City, in which staff, Sisters, and hostelites played side by side, blurring hierarchies and strengthening bonds of respect that realize the "HOME AWAY HOME" ideal through lived appreciation.

Sporting spirit continued into October with the Short Pitch Cricket tournament during Chrysalis '26, where league matches, semi-finals, and a gripping final culminated in Team Berchman's victory, but the real triumph lay in the friendships forged on the field and the collective pride that echoed around the hostel grounds, contributing to personal growth and communal harmony.





Contributions



Beyond the Darkness : Finding My Own Light

She came in as light in my night,
 Tried to make me see things in the dark.
 But I was sitting in the corner,
 scared of darkness.
 Her guiding and harsh words pierced my heart.
 I never trusted in whatever she said,
 but I trusted her.
 Tried to follow the beam,
 but it was faint.
 You know they say trust yourself before you trust someone else,
 but I couldn't trust myself with it;
 Got dependent on her.
 Maybe she knew and realized it;
 she showed me the way and left.
 Now I was on my own,
 struggling to keep up with every moment,
 even got lost in the darkness again.
 But this time, something changed inside me.
 Suddenly, out of nowhere, I stumbled and was able to see clearly:
 there were steps leading to a door;
 maybe I reached.
 It was now up to me to open it or not;
 I realized no one would do it for me,
 only I could.
 So this time, I wasn't waiting for someone to open the door;
 I stepped and opened it myself.
 There was sunshine and the vastness of the sky;
 I felt liberated.
 It was hard to come out of it, but it wasn't impossible.
 All it needed was for me to do it for myself,
 not for others.
 Now I realized why she said,
 "It's only possible if I want to do it for me."
 This time, I did it for me,
 for my dreams.
 And yes, finally, I came out of the darkness.

Deepika Kedia

B.A. Mass Comm., Sem. I

Inside

There are some
Parts of me
Deeply moved
By the world around

These are dark,
Fragile and afraid
Of how they might sound
Powerful as they are,
I seldom address them,
Wearing a mask above,
Is how I embrace them.

Sadly, that is not-
A good way to deal,
For you must be honest,
Know how you feel

On days like these,
I stay alone.
Where I can hear,
The voice of my own.

Thus, opens a path-
I rarely visit,
So fearful yet so vivid.

Shagun Sharma
B.A. Eng. Sem. V

The Skyward Pilgrim

I wandered forth where silence drew its thread,
A silver path through breathless, woven skies;
The dawn hung low, like words we leave unsaid,
And time poured soft through fate's unblinking eyes.

Each step unsealed the dust of sleepless years;
The earth exhaled forgotten, hidden wombs;
The wind, once wayward with ancestral fears,
Now murmured truths in prophet-shadowed plumes.

Beneath a sky inked deep with distant flame,
I climbed the ridge where turning souls convene;
The air grew warm with echoes none could name,
And truth shone clear where doubt had draped its screen.

Then hush, like worn white linen, veiled the scene,
No fire, no flight...just tranquil, vast, serene.

Siddhartha Das
B.Sc. Statistics & Data Science, Sem. I



Bliss

And I felt myself after a long time. Decades, even. The passion, the burn, the hopelessness, the agony, the forgotten laughter — they bled through me.
I had been long dead, heart that had crumbled into nothing but dust, leaving behind an empty cage that once held life itself — life that was no longer mine. These empty sockets no longer held my soul. My flesh and bones had become one with the world.
But still, I felt myself — after a long time.
The ever so soft wind was what I exhaled, the rain was my tears, the trees were my heart, and time — was now where my soul belonged.
I was not a God, nor was I a man, nor a supernatural being. Rather... I was hope, uncertainty, fear, curiosity — and maybe, a little bit of love itself.

ISHA GUHA CHOUDHURI
B.A. Psychology, Sem. V

Wings to live

Icarus flew too close to the sun, he must be a fool they say,
Yet each mortal is an Icarus yearning to soar miles away.
For Icarus, they say his greed had drawn him to the flames,
Failing to realise the sun was all he had craved.

The sun glared upon his ardent wings sailing him taller than he could ever see,
A long-engraved ambition to set free, closer to a home where he longed to be.
Falling in love with doom, his idiocy they screech,
But oh, I wonder, has one ever fallen in without the idiotic solicit.

And as the flames melted his wax, one feather at a time
He darted even closer, for adoring the sun was not his crime.
Gratitude to his wings that tirelessly tried,
Yet Icarus fell, drowned and died.

While falling for his doom, his lips parted into a smirk,
Oh, Icarus knew, falling for his home was never a fall at all.
The longing that made him free, lets us be too,
As it paved the skies for those whose wings had never flailed before.

Soham Chowdhury
B.A. Psychology, Sem. I

Peace and love

All around the mundane world,
Everyone is out running in the marathon of life,
To make a life for themselves,
Or for the family they have created.

When the dawn comes,
The breeze welcomes us for a new day,
Yet, humans find it hard to find hope,
Because nowadays everyone looks for happiness,
In those Instagram quotes.

Peace is what everyone wants,
Yet when the evening breeze offers it,
With the birds singing and communicating,
Everyone is with their headphones.

Those small and simple things in life,
Where a small chocolate or fairy lights,
Were the things we chased,
Now we sit in a corner of the room,
Daydreaming of a life,
Where peace and love will be a constant presence.

The world of adults is something we thought to be overrated,
Now when responsibility falls upon us,
Making us tired, sad, and sometimes depress,
We now realize how much their lives were underrated.

So now, when there is chaos, bustle and hustle of life,
We now realize, that there is always a light,
Even when the close doors and windows make no sound,
The heart says, we will find our own kind of,
Love and peace in this chaotic world.

Debaroti Mondal

M.A. English, Sem. I

A Song for the Day

Write me another song for the day,
Another story to remember you by.
For days fade away fast,
Turning into dust in time's tide.
Once living lives forever,
The essence left behind as the flesh perishes.
Of good, of bad, of endless deeds,
Strung into the mesh of space and time—
Mine, yours, and our story.

Archismaan Paul
BMS



Amrita Kumari
M.A. Mass Comm.



Ratul Das
Assistant Professor, XLS, SXUK



Rahul
CoE Office



Aranyak Ghosh
M.A. Mass Comm.



Subhasish Majumdar
VC Office



Arijit Jana
B.Sc. Statistics, Sem. I

The Pilgrim's Benediction

Through corridors of silence, where starlight weeps,
 The soul embarks, unfurling from mortal sleeps;
 A vessel carved of dust yet crowned with flame,
 It sails the ocean where eternity has no name.
 Love descends like an unseen psalm,
 A hush of mercy, a celestial balm;
 It binds the fractured marrow, the grieving bone,
 And whispers, forgive—only then are you truly known.
 The saga of life is no fleeting disguise,
 But a hymn of dawn sung beneath infinite skies;
 Each wound is a scripture, each scar is a star,
 Illuminating the pilgrim on voyages afar.
 Peace does not thunder, nor conquest declare,
 It lingers like incense in sanctified air;
 It is the covenant between heart and divine,
 A river of quiet where tempests resign.
 Yet grave is the longing that shadows the quest,
 A hunger unspoken, a fire unconfessed;
 The pilgrim seeks not gold nor crown,
 But the nameless Truth where all veils fall down.
 At times, in the mirror of grief we are shown,
 That to lose is to find what was never our own;
 The search is not outward, in stars or in clay,
 But inward—where silence has more to say.
 Discovery lies in the fracture of night,
 Where sorrow is kindled into luminous light;
 Forgiveness the lantern, compassion the chart,
 To heal is to voyage through the dark of the heart.
 At last, when the pilgrim surrenders the fight,
 He beholds the Infinite clothed in quiet;
 The saga was never of conquest or fame,
 But of finding in ashes the unuttered Name.

Anuprova Gupta
 B.Com. LL.B., Sem. III



Asmaul Afroz Khan
 B.A. Mass Comm., Sem. II



Unlearning Perfectionism

I had learnt early on
That I had to be the best at what I did.
“Learning” didn’t matter
Nor the fact that I was a kid.
If someone did it better
It wasn’t worth doing anymore,
For if I wasn’t perfect
My hobbies became a chore.

Practice till it was all I did
Because it was only the results that mattered.
If I couldn’t do it like a pro
Then my self esteem was shattered.
I couldn’t enjoy things
And do them simply for pleasure
They couldn’t simply be hobbies,
I needed results that I could measure.

So I stopped indulging in all my hobbies,
For someone else always did it better.
I couldn’t bring myself to be happy for them
Always a ruthless go-getter.
My life grew dry and bleak
All because I couldn’t let myself have fun,
So I decided to try once again
And give it one last run.

I started a new hobby
With the sole intention to learn.
I vowed not to simply chase results
I wanted my passion to return.
I was far from perfect,
Could barely get the basics right.
But at last, I was enjoying myself
For there was no internal fight.

I learnt that to have fun
Small victories mattered too-
Every milestone hit was worth celebrating,
Not just a checklist to go through.
Failures were opportunities to learn from
Not an excuse to run crying,
It’s important to pick yourself up
And continue to keep trying.

Asmita Chaudhury

B.Com. (Morning), Sem. III

Void Memories

The bustling wind, the caring eyes,
All the fleeting moments, which parted with goodbyes.
The childhood that appears overcast with the dim images,
Which slowly lose their light,
The voices that she hardly remembers,
And none of the moments being bright.
Matching shoes with matching dresses,
Running towards the doors,
Stumbling upon the diverse guesses.
The childhood that left her with hardly any memories,
Taking away her closest person but pointing out her enemies.
The passing of the days, that she could hardly recall,
Makes her wonder how she could contribute even if a little, overall.
She couldn’t help but question herself,
“Where did it go wrong?”
Why it had to be her
Who was pushed so hard to be strong.
Cause she is an ordinary girl,
Living an ordinary life,
Just a little different from the majority.

Upasana Das

B.A. Psychology, Sem. V

The sonnet of life

Life Is A Story Awaiting Ears
Life Is A Play Of Smiles And Tears
Life Is A Friend, Philosopher, Guide
He’ll Show The Way When The Time Is Right

Life Is A Game Of Warmth And Rain
Life Is A Game Of Pleasure And Pain
Life Is In The Little Things
The Little Things We Often Miss

Life At Times Is Winter’s Death
But O That’s Life In Every Breath
Each Winter Brings The Thought To Mind
Can Spring Be Really Far Behind?

Each Passing Night The Hands Will Pray
The Sun Will Rise Another Day

Jeet Dutta

M.A., English, Sem. I



Of Courage and Ordinary People

“Ordinary people...and no one knew they had it in them... it is just plain human courage and it takes your breath away...” - The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.

A recent rewatching of Satyajit Ray's 'Pratidwandi' got me thinking. It is not just their valour that Siddhartha respects the Vietnamese people for, it is their stubborn refusal to let their “ordinariness” daunt them, that wins his true admiration.

Every day we come across people who are ‘ordinary’ - mundane in their demeanour, boring in their disposition and perhaps even grumpy. They are habitually clumsy, often timid and are sometimes social misfits. Yet, there lurks within them an indomitable spirit, a courage that they too are perhaps unaware of.

Back when I was ten, I had read a short story by Ruskin Bond called ‘The Thief’s Story’. In the story, a young ‘thief’ steals a lumpsum amount from the struggling writer he works for, but is soon filled with remorse and guilt. He visualizes the writer’s face upon discovering the theft - a kind face suddenly turned infinitely sad not for the loss of money but for the loss of trust. This is when the thief takes the bold decision to return the money that is not rightfully his. But it rains and the notes turn soggy. The next morning, the writer finds the moist bundle of notes, deduces everything, and yet pretends not to have understood a thing.

This is a tale of quiet courage stemming from empathy.

Then there is Jhogru from Leela Majumdar’s ‘Holde Pakhir Palok’. He is old and poor. His only friends are Rumu and Bogi, the two children at the house he works for. Jhogru allows his imagination to run haywire as he effortlessly weaves intricate tales to keep the children in good humour. Growing up, I have come to realise that these fantastic

tales, crafted by Jhogru, were not only for Rumu and Bogi but for Jhogru himself too. Spinning the yarn was Jhogru’s own bold way of fighting poverty, loss, and grief. The little bit of his hometown, Dumka, that he carried in his heart everywhere he went, reflects Jhogru’s inner child - a brave one at that, refusing to let the darkness of an adult world engulf him. Jhogru is fortitude personified.

Coming back to Ray, the theme of courage brings to my mind a rush of characters. One such character is Ashok, from the film ‘Kanchenjunga’. In the midst of the mighty Himalayas he, an unemployed young man with an ailing mother, finds the pluck to refuse a job offered to him out of arrogance and pity. Ashok later observes that he could not have declined a similar offer in Kolkata. He attributes his new-found strength to the grandeur of the hills, the tall pine trees, and the strange clouds. “I felt as if I was a hero, a giant, someone who does not obey others”, he muses.

Writing this essay, I realise that films and books are in fact replete with ‘ordinary’ characters displaying extraordinary courage. There is Uttiyo from Tagore’s ‘Shyama’, Jatayu from ‘Feluda’, Moti Nandi’s Khidda, the young seamstress from ‘A Tale of Two Cities’, young Apu from ‘Pather Panchali’ and many more.

I also realise that courage is multifaceted and nuanced. It is the art of embracing ‘darkness’, both literal and metaphorical, without fear. And after all, there should be no reason to fear darkness. As Bishe (from Leela Majumdar’s ‘Tongling’) would have observed - “Bhoye abar kisher, kei ba amake dekhte pachhe andhokare?” ‘What’s there to fear - who on earth will be able to see me in darkness?’

Oindri Mandal

B.A. Economics, Sem. III

A Voyage toward Discovery

Life often feels like a voyage — a small, fragile boat carrying me across vast and uncertain waters. I began with questions instead of maps, chasing horizons that seemed to slip further away with every step forward. At first, I believed discovery waited somewhere out there, beyond the edge of the sea. But as the days passed, I realized the truest voyage was unfolding quietly within me.

Failures arrived like storms — fierce, unsettling, yet shaping me into someone stronger. Friendships became lighthouses, steady and bright, guiding me when darkness blurred my way. Hope revealed itself in unexpected places, like small islands rising suddenly from the waves, reminding me that even in emptiness, there is always something to hold on to.

Still, I know my voyage is not mine alone. Every heart sails on its own ocean — some drift in calm breezes, others battle relentless storms — yet all of us are voyagers, writing our own

stories on the same endless sea. This is the saga of life: a grand tapestry woven with joy and grief, courage and fear, loss and love. Each voice is a chapter, and together, they create the story of us all.

And so, I continue my voyage — not to escape the storms, but to embrace them, knowing they shape the traveler I am becoming. For perhaps the meaning of this journey lies not in reaching a final shore, but in sailing fully, bravely, and tenderly through the ever-changing tides of the saga we all share.

Because every voyage adds its echo, and together, our voices of change create the true Odyssey of life.

Nimisha Agarwal

BMS, Sem. I



Harmony of Religions in the Land of Enlightenment

I was fortunate to visit the Land of Enlightenment, Bodh Gaya, Bihar, for a month during the Summer Internship Program from June 5 to July 6, 2025. In my family, my father and my brother are followers of the Buddhist religion. Many Buddhist believers are willing to visit Bodh Gaya, where the Buddha Siddhartha Gautama was enlightened under the Bodhi Tree 2,600 years ago. It is considered the most sacred place for Buddhist pilgrimage.

I visited the Maha Bodhi Temple Complex in Bodh Gaya many times during my stay. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002 for its historical and cultural significance. I noticed that near the Maha Bodhi Temple, there was the Vishnupad Temple, a Hindu temple. It was dedicated to Lord Vishnu and was known for the footprint believed to be of Vishnu. The temple was a popular pilgrimage site for Hindus, particularly for performing Pind Daan rituals for their ancestors. There was a Jama Masjid (a large mosque), an Islamic Mosque was situated behind the western wall of the Mahabodhi Temple. The mosque was established by the British in the 19th century to serve Muslim workers involved in the temple's restoration.

I witnessed the harmony of religions and people living in the land of enlightenment. There were many pilgrims coming to the Mahabodhi Temple, the Vishnupad Temple, and the Jama Masjid. The believers have also been living around there for years with peace and love.

Our world and humanity have been destroyed by many wars, such as the Russia-Ukraine, India-Pakistan, Iran-Israel, and Thailand-Cambodia wars. I was thinking why people were fighting and killing each other. We are all human beings; whoever dies or from whatever country, we are all the same. It is the loss of humanity by war, poverty, injustice, and man-made disaster. I am from Myanmar, and the country has experienced civil war for more than six decades. I have experienced the ugliness of war, the cruelty of war, and the destruction of war. Now the country and the world need peace, love, justice, and forgiveness.

On 5 July 2025, I spent eight hours in the Meditation Park, the Maha Bodhi Temple Complex. I intended to honor the 80th birthday of Daw Aung San Su Kyi, the State Counsellor of Myanmar (Burma), U Win Myint, the president of Myanmar (Burma), and all the political prisoners, who were arrested unjustly by the military coup d'état since February 2021. I prayed for the peace of the world, and that all religions re-identify their basis in love for humanity on earth. As Psalm 85:10-11 said, "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky".

Nay Myo Htet
MSW, Sem. III



Beyond the Horizon: Voyage of the Soul

The sea was calm that morning, yet the horizon seemed to hum with possibilities. There is a certain magic in that line where the sky kisses the water — distant, mysterious, and forever shifting. It whispers to you, calling not with promises of treasure, but with the thrill of the unknown. I have often felt that life, too, offers us such horizons, places we can only reach if we are willing to sail beyond what we already know, trusting that the winds will carry us where we are meant to be.

There is a unique thrill in setting out on a journey without knowing exactly what lies ahead. A voyage is often imagined as a physical journey — a ship cutting through the waves, a traveler mapping unknown lands. But for me, it has always been something more intimate: a journey of the mind and spirit, a slow unveiling of who I am and who I wish to become.

When I first stepped into my professional life, I believed discovery meant finding clear answers like solutions neatly packaged and goals ticked off with satisfaction. Early in my career, armed with academic training and youthful confidence, I thought the map was already drawn. But the world has a way of gently (and sometimes forcefully) telling you otherwise.

There were times when I stood before a class, realizing that teaching was as much about listening as it was about speaking. Once, during a student seminar in a Macroeconomics class for B.COM students, a student shared her struggles as a first-generation learner coming from a marginalized background. The room fell silent, not because the data was striking, but because her story was. It made me realize that discovery often lies beyond charts and statistics; it lives in empathy, in the courage to hear and be heard.

My work also took me beyond the familiar, into the realms of interdisciplinary research, policy discussions, and international collaborations. At first, these ventures felt like deep waters,

full of unknown currents. There were moments of self-doubt, especially when facing experts with decades of experience or navigating cultural differences in thought and approach. But each encounter was a reminder: the voyage is not about avoiding the unfamiliar, it is about letting it change you.

Failures became their kind of compass. A rejected paper, a project that didn't meet its target, and each of which felt like a storm at sea. But storms strip away illusions. They test the sturdiness of your vessel and force you to adjust your sails. Over time, I began to see that every professional setback was not the end of the journey, but a waypoint that often redirected me towards better shores.

What I cherish most are the small, unplanned discoveries: a student whose curiosity reignited my own. This research finding challenged my long-held assumptions, a conversation that opened a new perspective on a familiar problem. These moments remind me that a voyage is rarely linear; it meanders, it surprises, it demands patience. What makes a journey towards discovery truly rewarding is that it changes the voyager. You set out seeking answers, but you return with better questions. You leave thinking the world is a map to be read; you come back realizing it is a story to be lived.

And perhaps the most important thing I have discovered is that there is no “final destination” in this journey. The horizon will always keep moving, and that is the point. So, if you ever find yourself standing at the edge of an opportunity or an unknown path, take the step. Even if you can't see where it leads, trust that it will shape you in ways you can't yet imagine. Because beyond the horizon lies not just a new place, but a new you.

Dr. Sovik Mukherjee

Assistant Professor (Economics)
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Tour of Kashmir & Ladakh

India is a fascinating country that boasts of a diverse climate and geography, ranging from hot deserts to cold deserts. My family is a bunch of travellers, and we have explored most parts of India. This love for travelling comes from my father who is passionate about exploring new places and my mother who supports him in all the journeys.

Let me take the reader through one of our memorable trips. We travelled from

Dibiyapur to Delhi, and then from Delhi to Srinagar and Ladakh. In Srinagar, we visited the beautiful Baisaran Valley, which can be explored on a

horse. It is known as Mini Switzerland of India. It was an unforgettable experience for me.

We also spent two days and one night in a houseboat on the famous Dal Lake.

Visiting the floating market on Dal Lake in Srinagar is a unique and vibrant experience. The market is bustling with local Kashmiris selling fresh produce, flowers, and other goods from their wooden boats. It's a great way to immerse oneself in the local culture and interact with the friendly vendors.

India is truly a remarkable country with diverse landscapes, and my family and I love to explore it.

The beauty of Srinagar's Dal Lake is a sight to behold and worth a visit. If one has the opportunity, one must make sure to visit at least once.

While in Srinagar, don't miss out on the chance to visit Gulmarg and Sonamarg. Gulmarg is a place where one can find snow even in the summer season. There are three phases to explore, which can only be accessed by cable cars. However, horses can take one up to the first phase. In the second phase, one will find everything covered in snow, activities like sledge riding and ice skating may be enjoyed there.

On the way from Kashmir to Ladakh, I visited the Kargil War Memorial, and it became an unforgettable experience for me. This solemn place stands as a tribute to the soldiers who bravely fought and made the ultimate sacrifice during the Kargil War of 1999. As I walked around the memorial, I was deeply moved by the wall of martyrs' names, each one representing a life lost in defence of our nation. The towering peaks surrounding the memorial served as a poignant reminder of the harsh terrain the soldiers fought in. The atmosphere was both respectful and reflective, and I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude and awe for their courage and patriotism. It was a humbling experience to stand in the presence of such sacrifice and resilience. As we

know, everything is beautiful in its way, and we should not judge anyone or any place's beauty. When one visits Ladakh, one may feel that it is a dry and barren land. However, as the saying goes, "Never judge a book by its cover." Ladakh is a stunning place, and even though it may not have much vegetation, it is still a sight to behold. Leh is the capital of Ladakh and there, the travellers should stay two days for the acclimatization. One of the most important places on my journey was Khardungla, the second-highest motorable pass in the world. However, due to low oxygen levels, visitors are recommended not to stay there for more than ten minutes.

We set out early in the morning, traveling from Leh to Pangong Lake. The drive was both exhilarating and challenging. As we charted our way through the mountains, the terrain shifted from rocky desert to alpine meadows. The altitude was evident, with each climb feeling a little harder to manage. As we continued our journey, the landscape began to change, and there it was—Pangong Lake. We arrived in the late afternoon, the golden light of the setting sun reflecting off the surface of the water. It was almost surreal.

The lake stretched endlessly before me, its water a deep, vibrant blue, so clear that the mountains on the other side of the lake seemed to be floating in mid-air. The sun hadn't yet fully risen, and there was a peaceful hush over everything.

Walking along the shore, I felt the crispness of the air and the serenity of the place wash over me. It's as if the world stops here. The colours of the lake change with the light—sometimes dark blue, sometimes a turquoise green, reflecting the sky and the surrounding mountains. I have shared a few snippets of my trip with readers here, by which I hope to captivate the tiniest reflection of the ethereal beauty I had the good fortune of discovering.

During my trip in the year 2022-2023, I visited many amazing places that I would recommend to others.

In Leh, we visited Tiksi monastery and Nubra Valley, where one of the largest statues of Lord Buddha is located. We also went to Turtuk village, which offers a view of Pakistan. Overall, these were some of the most memorable places I visited, and I highly recommend them to other travellers.

Edwin Thomas Anish

B.Com. (Morning) Sem. I



SURVIVAL FOR PEACE

In the Bible, peace (Hebrew: Shalom) is more than just the absence of conflict. It encompasses wholeness, well being and harmony in all aspects of life; with God, within oneself and in others. The Oxford English Dictionary defines peace as freedom from civil unrest and disorder; public order and security. Scholarly studies emphasize it as the absence of war. But the question arises is peace relevant only in terms of concern about “war and large scale violence” or is it more diverse?

Concerns regarding the present situation of the world is in question due to its current position. Whether it is about the Gaza war or the chaotic situation due to the growing of AI or the natural disasters like Nostradamus predicted or the social disruptions- all these can be taken into context in consideration of the above statement. If peace in physical sense is lacking, then what about mental peace? Within the cacophony of the physical unrest, mental peace is degrading each day and it feels as if peace now has become an anachronism.

In recent days if someone asks about the well being of an individual the reply is either “fine” or “well” and scarcely “good.” The World Health Organization reported in 2019, that 1 in every 8 people, or 970 million people around the world were living with a mental disorder, with anxiety and depressive disorders being the most common. In 2020, the number of people living with anxiety and depressive disorders rose significantly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initial estimates show a 26% and 28% increase respectively for anxiety and major depressive disorders in just one year. So going back to the concerns of individual health it seems that the repressed thoughts are being subconsciously spoken due to the lack of peace in life. Historically or contemporary positive peace remains a minor research focus but one may put forward that mental peace to some extent is an extension of positive and negative peace.

It is important to go through some case studies in order to understand how mental health is compromised. Anandabazar Patrika recently released a news about a Palestinian man under the detention of the Hamas, digging his own grave. The incident is of such pathos that one cannot imagine the mental condition of neither the man nor his family members who might still be hoping for his return.

Secondly the rise of AI has snatched the jobs of multiple employees, creating a havoc not only in the life but also in the mental state of all the employees and their families who are out of jobs. According to the report of Economic Times, TCS have announced to reduce its workforce by roughly 2% which is approximately 12,000 employees. This too goes for the teachers in West Bengal who have been ousted from their job, by a strange turn of fate. So is it not war? War within oneself? Where is peace then?

The struggle to survive, to compete, to contest have driven away peace. Suicide, murders, famine, natural destruction is as if flourishing. The Economic Times reports due to heavy rainfall 80% of the marginal farmers have incurred loss in business resulting in India. Man’s greed, ambition, thrive for perfection, modernity, development have reached such an extent that understanding of the basic necessity of peace has become extinct over time. Man’s rapacity, competitions have destroyed peace in all possible ways. While Aristotle sees peace as a well-ordered state or polis, for Plato peace is a harmonious society where each class of citizen fulfilled its specific role, leading to internal peace. But that internal peace has vanished all together in contemporary times.

The only way to attain peace is perhaps returning to Nature as Rousseau says in Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men. His argument about the leading role adopted by inequality and corruption due to development of society and private property may be seen as a philosophical foundation for the dystopian critique of modernity.

In conclusion the only solution I find in the saying: “I Waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined to me and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock and establish my steps.”(Psalms 40: 1-2). Thus, it is perhaps the Divine and the returning of Nature who might save us from this destruction and bless us with the ultimate peace which one desires.

Oindrila Khan

B.A. English, Sem. V

“All power is within you; you can do anything and everything.”- Swami Vivekananda



The Green Odyssey (Voices of Change): Sustainable Development For Today's Youth

Sustainable development is not merely a goal, it is a journey. Today's youth are embarking on an odyssey of transformation, where they are not only confronting global crises but also becoming powerful voices of change. This essay explores how young change-makers are shaping a sustainable future through innovation, advocacy, and leadership.

In an era when the planet is confronted with the most severe environmental challenges it has ever seen, the idea of sustainable development is a beacon of hope for securing a brighter tomorrow. Sustainable development is the achievement of the current needs without compromising future generations' ability to achieve their own. This harmony among economic development, environmental conservation, and social welfare is critical for the survival and future health of our planet. For the young people today, this theme is absolutely of paramount importance.

Young people today are coming of age in an age of fast change. Global warming, pollution, loss of species and scarcity of resources are not distant potentialities, but everyday reality. And yet, this generation is also the most knowledgeable and networked in human history.

With information, education, and technology, young people are better placed than before to meaningfully contribute to sustainable solutions. They are spearheading climate justice movements, green innovation leaders, and upholding institutions to account.

Advocacy is one of the most important ways in which young people contribute to sustainable development. They are creating awareness and influencing change through social media campaigns, community-based initiatives, and global forums. The "Fridays for Future" movement led by Greta Thunberg continues to motivate students everywhere to call for action from their leaders on climate change.

In India, 17-year-old Licypriya Kangujam has been a key

advocate for environmental change, pushing for climate education and disaster readiness.

Education also takes a key position in enabling young people for sustainable development. When children are taught about environmental, economic, and social issues. They are more likely to behave responsibly and influence others in the same vein. Programs such as UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) initiative have been incorporated into school curriculums across the world, encouraging ecopreneurship from an early stage. In India, several universities and schools have integrated SDG-centered projects that encourage awareness and action at the local level.

In addition, sustainable development creates new opportunities for youth entrepreneurship. Green enterprises, organic farming, sustainable tourism, and renewable energy industries provide enormous scope for employment and innovation opportunities. One such case in point is Ayaan Chatterjee from Kolkata, who has created biodegradable packaging solutions from agricultural waste, solving both plastic pollution and rural unemployment. Young Indian engineers, through companies like Ather Energy, are transforming the electric vehicle industry and providing sustainable urban transportation solutions.

Governments, institutions, and societies have to understand that young people are not only beneficiaries of development but also critical partners in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Youth-friendly platforms where young people are engaged to participate in policymaking, budgeting, and implementation processes are crucial to ensure their voices and solutions are integrated. Initiatives such as the UN Youth Envoy and India's Youth4SDGs campaign are establishing youth spaces where young change-makers can actively contribute to sustainability work.

In conclusion, sustainable development is everybody's business, and the youth are at the center of this revolution. By arming them with the skills, know-how, and opportunities to lead, society is investing in a future that is green, equitable, and inclusive. Thus, the odyssey of today's youth is one of hope and action i.e a path where they are both warriors and visionaries. Their voices are not just calling for change, they are becoming the change. The future of a world that is sustainable depends on the youths of today, the leaders tomorrow.

Soham Dey
MBA, Sem. III



From Archetype to Awakening: The Collective Unconscious as a Map for Societal Change

Change, whether personal or societal, often feels like a sudden rupture — a protest, a revelation, a turning point. But beneath this surface lies a deeper psychological rhythm, one that has guided human transformation across generations. Carl Gustav Jung called this the collective unconscious: a shared reservoir of images, instincts, and patterns that shape how we understand ourselves and the world. This essay explores how the collective unconscious, particularly through archetypes and the process of individuation, provides a profound map for understanding not only of personal growth but also of broad social movements and cultural shifts. Framed within the theme “Odyssey: Voices of Change”, it argues that meaningful change is not only historical or political — it is also deeply psychological and symbolic. The following aspects may be understood before proceeding to understand their contribution to the idea of societal change:

The Collective Unconscious: A Shared Psychic Foundation

Jung distinguished the personal unconscious (shaped by individual experiences) from the collective unconscious, which is inherited and universal. According to Jung, every human inherits a kind of symbolic memory bank filled with archetypes — recurring figures and themes such as the Hero, the Shadow, the Mother, and the Trickster. These appear in mythology, religion, literature, and dreams, and they reflect psychic tendencies rather than concrete images.

The significance of the collective unconscious is that it transcends cultural and historical boundaries, suggesting that deep within, human beings share psychological structures. These structures do not dictate behavior but influence perception, desire, and transformation. When change erupts — whether in an individual’s identity or a society’s consciousness — it often corresponds with the activation or confrontation of these shared symbols.

Archetypes in Culture and Social Movements

Archetypes are not static images. They are dynamic forces that emerge when triggered by events, crises, or collective needs. For instance, the Hero archetype emerges during times of uncertainty, where people long for guidance, protection, or moral clarity. Whether it’s a mythic warrior like Odysseus or a modern icon like Malala Yousafzai, the Hero reflects society’s desire for courage and redemption.

During periods of unrest or systemic inequality, the Rebel or Revolutionary archetype becomes prominent — from anti-colonial leaders to climate activists. These figures embody resistance to oppressive systems and the yearning for new beginnings. They don’t only speak for themselves; they activate something already present in the collective psyche — the demand for justice, voice, and renewal.

In a similar way, the Healer or Caregiver archetype gains

prominence during or after trauma — pandemics, wars, or social breakdowns. It reflects the collective need for recovery, connection, and nurturance.

These patterns remind us that movements for change are not just political responses — they are psychic expressions, manifestations of shared inner needs that come to life through action and symbol.

The Shadow: Confronting What We Suppress

Central to Jungian theory is the Shadow archetype, representing parts of the psyche that are repressed or denied — aggression, fear, guilt, or shame. Individually, avoiding the Shadow can lead to internal conflict or stagnation. Collectively, societies that suppress historical injustices or uncomfortable truths risk projecting the Shadow outward — leading to polarization, violence, or ideological extremism. However, Jung emphasized that confronting the Shadow is not destructive, it is transformative. Awareness of the Shadow allows individuals and societies to become more whole. Movements such as Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, or postcolonial critiques of history can be viewed as collective confrontations with the Shadow. These are not only social awakenings but also psychological reckonings, demanding that what was hidden must be acknowledged.

In this way, the Shadow becomes a voice of change — not loud at first, but inevitable. Societal healing begins when repressed truths are integrated into the collective narrative.

Individuation and The Collective Odyssey

Jung used the term individuation to describe the lifelong process of integrating various parts of the psyche into a balanced whole. It involves encounters with archetypes, especially the Shadow, and culminates in the emergence of a more authentic self. This process mirrors what societies go through in times of upheaval and renewal.

For example, after a war, a country might experience a cultural identity crisis, followed by new expressions in literature, film, and philosophy. These are not random. They are symbolic reflections of a society trying to heal, reimagine itself, and move forward. Just as individuals seek meaning, purpose, and wholeness, civilizations do too.

The metaphor of the Odyssey is relevant here. Like Odysseus, both individuals and cultures journey through trials, illusions, and transformations — not just to return home, but to return transformed. The collective unconscious provides the mythic structure for this journey, offering symbols that guide, warn, and inspire.

Change does not arise in isolation; it is rooted in the deep symbolic patterns that shape human life. The collective unconscious reveals that our greatest transformations are not accidental but follow ancient rhythms — encounters with the Hero, the Shadow, the Healer, and countless other archetypes



that surface when they are most needed.

These figures do not merely belong to myth or psychology; they are expressions of our shared inheritance, reminders that the human story is cyclical, layered, and profoundly interconnected.

To engage with the collective unconscious is to recognize that growth and renewal begin at the level of imagination and symbol. When we confront the Shadow, we heal; when we embrace the Hero, we act; when we awaken the Healer, we restore. Societies, like individuals, move forward by listening

to these deeper patterns and allowing them to reshape the way we think, create, and live together.

In the end, the collective unconscious does not simply explain change; it embodies it. It is the hidden current beneath our histories and identities, carrying with it the possibility of becoming more whole. To acknowledge its presence is to understand that the journey of transformation is not just external progress but an inner awakening that connects us across time, culture, and humanity itself.

Shradha Pradhan

M.A. Psychology, Sem. I

Whispers on the Wind: An Odyssey of Change

*“Every scar has a voice.
And every voice holds an odyssey.
You are not broken — you are becoming.”*

In an ever-changing world, where time moves in shadows and in light, each spirit embarks upon its odyssey—pursuing meaning, pursuing power. Not every voyage starts with maps, nor does it end upon shores we see, some travel within the quiet heart, shattering chains to be free. Change is not a thunderclap, nor a fire born in suffering, It’s the gentle whisper of peace, the healing after rain. It’s in the voice that shakes, but even then dares to stand tall, It’s in healing scars and getting up after a fall. We tread through periods redefined—of unlearning what they taught ,reclaiming dreams once kept buried deep, reshaping every notion. The classroom gets expanded to all streets, where questions flourish and grow, and learning is to challenge norms, to feel, think, and know. Peace and love are not platitudes—they are slow revolutions .The seeds of change we sow every day in minds that seek to expand. In soft deeds, in bold strides, in poems and in songs, we mark the beat of a change that makes a thousand things right. From village green to city lights, the youth now rise and speak, of tomorrows green and clean, of futures good and meek. They mark the planet’s hurtful

breath, with hope in hands they stand . To create a world where justice expands, where compassion guides the earth. “Behind every scar lies a voice — not of pain, but of power, echoing the journey only the brave dare to live.”

Vocal cords of change abound—they whisper, thunder, and chant, from creatives, idealists, revolutionaries, and the bravery they all portray. Every word a spark, every story a torch, every decision a storm again, every life a story still untold, with promises to chase. We are in transition, evermore—between yesterday and today, unfolding ourselves, restructurings truth, with purpose on our brow. This odyssey, this wide journey, is not one we merely take— But one we shape for all to follow, in every step we make. Let us sail with open hearts and voices bold and free, for change starts with tales we share, and dreams we are willing to see. Odyssey isn’t the destination—but the desire to get up and begin, A stardust-drawn journey, etched deep within the heart.

Ritika Pal

B.A. LL.B., Sem. VI

Affogato

Tonight, I made an affogato. Simple ingredients, really, just two scoops of vanilla ice cream and two shots of hot espresso. As I poured the dark liquid stream over the pale, frozen dome, something in me stirred.

The espresso, bold and intense, reminded me of life’s heat—those moments of passion, urgency, and emotion that come rushing in.

The ice cream, felt like a symbol of peace- soft, still, untouched by the world’s fire.

On their own, they’re beautiful, but when the espresso is poured over the ice cream, there’s this odd sizzle, a transformation.

How the sharpest, most overwhelming moments in life often melt into the gentler ones.

The ice cream doesn’t reject the espresso. It accepts it, absorbs

the heat, changes texture, flavor, identity: to affogato. Maybe we’re all affogatos in some way. A little sweet, a little bitter— More nuanced.

My affogato lasted only a few minutes, but in those few minutes, it taught me something:

it ain’t about choosing between hot and cold, rush and rest, sorrow and joy. It’s about the dance between them.

And sometimes, the most fleeting things leave the richest taste.

It was just a dessert. But it was not just a dessert

Vidhisha Mussady

B.A. Economics, Sem. III



“A Voyage Towards Discovery”

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

The word “Voyage” denotes a long journey to a distant or unknown place especially over water or through outer space, and the word “Discovery” is the act of finding something that was previously unknown. Therefore, “A Voyage Towards Discovery” embarks upon a journey of self-discovery like setting sail on a vast ocean. We do not know what is ahead, but we are driven by a sense of curiosity and adventure. It is a path that winds through the depths of our own hearts, revealing hidden strengths, desires, and passions. As we navigate this inner landscape, we discover new aspects of ourselves and unfold the world before us along four paths: I) The Path to Adventure, ii) The Path to Commitment, iii) The Path to Self-discovery and iv) The Journey Continues.

I) The Path to Adventure : Every transformative journey begins with a whisper, a subtle stirring from within that invites everyone to step beyond the familiar. A remarkable example is Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and a renowned aerospace scientist, whose curiosity and passion for science and technology challenged him to focus on an adventurous career on the SLV-III project, India’s first satellite launch vehicle.

Kalam’s life is a testament to how the voyage towards discovery can lead us to new heights and help us realize the power of adventure. Despite challenges, he stayed focused and worked hard towards the success of the adventurous project. His legacy continues to inspire us to explore, discover, and innovate, making the world a better place.

ii) The Path to Commitment: As we progress on our voyage, the changing landscapes offer moments of challenge. We learn to trust our inner compass, to listen to our intuition, and to have faith in the unknown. The path is not always easy and clear, but it is always worth it. Fr. Stan Swamy, SJ, Jesuit priest and human rights advocate, exemplifies this profound phase of commitment. Swamy’s journey took a significant turn when he began working with the Adivasi communities in Jharkhand with a keen sense of commitment, advocating for their rights to land, resources, dignity and social justice. He became a vocal critic of the government’s policies and corporate interests that exploited the Adivasis, often putting him at odds with powerful forces.

Even while facing pressure, harassment, and eventually, arrest under false charges, Swamy remained steadfast in his commitment to justice. Even in his final days, Swamy’s spirit remained unbroken, inspiring others to continue the fight for justice and human rights. His legacy is a reminder that the voyage towards discovery is a lifelong journey marked by commitment and a true sense of purpose in serving others.

iii) The Path to Self-discovery: As we journey deeper, we meet the kernel of self-discovery, unveiling of our authentic selves and inner strength. We discover that we are capable of more than we ever imagined and that our lives have meaning and significance. This realization is the greatest treasure

of all, and it sets us free to live our lives with purpose. Few embody this transformation as profoundly as Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa and a global icon of freedom and equality. Growing up in a rural village in South Africa, Mandela was deeply influenced by the injustices of apartheid and the struggles of his people. He became involved in the anti-apartheid movement and joined the African National Congress (ANC), becoming a key leader in the fight against racial segregation. He spent 27 years in prison for his activism, but even in confinement, he continued to learn, grow, and reflect on his values and purpose. His experiences behind bars helped him discover his inner strength and resolve to fight for a more just and fair society.

After his release from prison, he played a crucial role in negotiating an end to apartheid and became the first black president of South Africa, leading the country towards reconciliation and healing. Mandela’s story is a testament to the transformative power of self-discovery and the human spirit, his leadership inspired a nation and the world, proving the power of forgiveness, compassion, and unity.

iv) The Journey Continues: The voyage toward discovery is not a single moment but a lifelong unfolding. Each step reveals new horizons, new questions, and new opportunities for service. The life of Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, illustrates this continuous journey. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia, Mother Teresa walked the streets of Kolkata. The experience she had during a train ride in 1946 interiorly moved her to leave the Loreto convent and establish the Missionaries of Charity to serve the poorest of the poor, the sick, the dying and the abandoned regardless of their faith and background. She dedicated herself to serving the marginalized, setting up homes for the dying, orphanages, and clinics, and advocating for the rights of the poor.

Her selfless service and compassion inspired countless people around the world, earning her the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Mother Teresa’s story is a testament to the power of a continued journey, and the impact one person can have on the world. Her voyage towards discovery led her to a life of purpose and service, leaving a legacy that continues at the street of Kolkata and across the world.

It is a path that leads us to a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. As we continue this journey, we grow, evolve, and become the best version of ourselves. May we all be brave enough to embark on this adventure, and may we discover the treasures that await us within.

Sr. Thilaga Mary, JMJ

Infirmarian and Assistant Director
Girl’s Hostel



The Girl who Rose with Every Fall- My Odyssey

I was ten when I first held a badminton racket. It felt too long, too heavy, too unfamiliar at the hands of a table tennis player. I was on the wooden badminton court for the first time for the admission selection of the badminton academy. I wasn't sure how to hit the fast approaching shuttle. With my shaky hands and inquisitive gazes of the other players, coaches and my parents, I swung the racket and missed. I missed all the other 9 shuttles as well. I was embarrassed and thought that I didn't have it in me to become a shuttler.

That day began an odyssey — not across oceans or kingdoms, but across the narrow court lines of discipline, courage and determination.

For the next eleven years, I lived in a rhythm, most didn't see. While others slept, I ran drills in the early dawn. While festivals lit up the city, I chose matches. Just the cold echo of shuttle hits and my own relentless breath reminding me to keep going. Badminton didn't just shape my routine, it shaped me.

I learned to listen-not to taunting applause or criticism — but to the voice within. That voice didn't always roar. Sometimes, it whispered: "Get up." Sometimes, it cried. But it always stayed. I was timid, shy and a silent observer. My opponents shouted after winning a point while their supporters cheered at the top of their voices.

Gradually when all these became too much to handle, one day I shouted "Come on" after winning a point, I went up to the umpires to stop the disturbing cheers. I protested the cheatings. I couldn't believe my ears when I heard my voice those times. And yet, there were moments I wanted to quit. Like the time I lost a championship I'd trained months for, the sting of failure louder than the cheering for my opponent or the day someone casually said, "It's time to stop playing and start focusing on your studies, what will you gain by being a player? Will you get a job?" It was as if my love, my passion for badminton or my strength needed justification. There were injuries that benched me. During Covid, I couldn't go for my practice, gained weight and faced tremendous backlash from my coaches and other players. All these things broke me. Those moments taught me what no coach ever could: how to forgive to heal. I forgave the version of me who sobbed after any loss. I forgave my body when it needed rest, not performance. I even forgave the silence — the times when I craved encouragement and met doubt instead.

I unlearned the myth that crying was weakness. I unlearned that results were everything. And I relearned joy — the kind you feel when you hit the perfect smash that no one can lift. Each match wasn't just a game — it was a conversation with myself. Each pain, a reminder of what I could survive. Each victory, a footnote. The real win was always internal: confidence, clarity and grit.

Physically, I became stronger than I ever imagined. The early-

morning sprints, the endless drills, shuttle runs, shadows, 2000 non-stop skips, the burns in my muscles — they built more than endurance. I learned to breathe through pain, to listen to my body, and to push when I wanted to quit.

Emotionally I became confident — not the loud, showy kind, but the kind that walks into a room and doesn't shrink. I started owning my space — both on and off the court.

And something else changed too.

I found a fire within myself. I found myself stepping up — in school, in group work, in life. Badminton made me a leader. Not the one who barks orders, but who leads by doing, by showing up, by staying steady under pressure. Unknowingly, I had become the girl people looked to — because they knew I wouldn't fold when things got hard. Through it all, I found my voice of change. Not loud but rooted. Not aggressive, but firm. A voice that speaks up now — in classes, conversations, and decisions — not because I know everything, but because I've learned to trust myself.

My journey with badminton is my personal revolution, my Odyssey.

Every time I face something tough — an exam, a failure, a doubt — I go back to that girl on the court. The one who redefined herself, who got a whole new identity, who stumbled, who cried... but got back up like a phoenix from burning ashes.

I smile. I'm not the same docile, introvert girl anymore, who couldn't stand up for herself, who couldn't reply to insults, who hid in a corner and shed silent tears. I am a free spirited soul who has learned to accept her wings, who has become a fighter ready to tackle anything.

This journey has made me State number 8 in women's singles and State number 3 in women's doubles.

I didn't just learn to win but to rise.

Avidha Mojumder

M.Sc. Statistics, Sem. I

Forgive to Heal

Forever the understanding one; never the one to be understood,
 The child of that family was adored among them, yet never understood.
 Gave her the name of childishness, when all she wanted was a little sense of the world.
 Masked her real self, couldn't hold it all in yet she survived.
 She was once a little girl too, yet when the storm hit, she tried to survive it.
 The people she trusted, didn't stand with her and blamed her instead.
 The things she had to survive were hurtful and no one stayed at the end.
 Left with her siblings all alone, she grew up faster than anyone else could.
 Being the good girl she always was, she tried to maintain it till her last breath.
 When people asked, she always smiled and answered instead.
 Never expecting anything from anyone, she did all on her own.
 No one was around, and she stood tall and strong like a tigress.
 Like the bold and strong woman, she was always meant to be.
 But in the chaos caused by life, somewhere in the journey she lost herself.
 The ones who failed her, came around in her life again.
 And she greeted them with a smile and warm food.
 She wanted to be a writer, a teacher, a lawyer, and much more.
 Yet, when duty of the society called, she had to get married.

When reached, the place called her new home.
 More changes all within a dusk to dawn
 She lost the spark in the marriage.
 The new home turned her into an eternal carriage.
 Then came a new life, as a mother she gave her all.
 Taught her daughter the virtues and the vices of the world.
 Didn't let the world affect her, protected her from others.
 Yet when questioned of what she likes and does for herself,
 All she talked about was her family's choices.
 Never paid attention to when her identity changed
 When the girl vanished to become the carriage herself.
 Allrounder she was, from cooking to all other chores she excelled,
 But others saw only the body and service she was able to entail.
 Her sacrifices were ignored.
 Her cries for help were pitied.
 Her soul was crushed.
 Like many other flowers in the field, she suffered.
 After exhaustion, she chose herself with a smile that looked real at last.
 A life of her own, where no one dared to judge her for who she was.
 To find solace she understood it was necessary to uncover
 The power of forgiveness; only to heal the core of 'her'.

Debaroti Mondal
 M.A. English., Sem. I



Nikhil Kasera
 B.M.S., Sem. I



Upasana Das
 B.A., Psychology, Sem. V



In the Name of God and Country

"We became rats the day we stopped asking why"

CHAPTER 1: The Dead Never Screamed

"They told us that dying for the motherland was holy. That bleeding for our god was beautiful. I believed them. I believed everything."

I was born in Velmira, not a country, an invisible cage dressed in marble and scripture. From the moment I could walk, I was fed chants instead of lullabies. War was not destruction, it was divine. Religion wasn't belief, it was law. Questioning either of it was blasphemy.

I didn't finish school. I didn't need to. None of us did. We were raised to die, not to live.

Ryn, my childhood best friend, joined the army with me. We thought we were chosen, called by God to protect Velmira's holiness.

Then war came.

The nation cheered. Children waved crimson flags. Women offered their sons with smiles stained in pride. The President wore medals like holy relics and promised: "I will fight beside you. I will die with you."

But once the dust cleared, and the blood began to boil in trenches, something inside me began to rot.

We weren't fighting evil. We were manufacturing it.

Our own soldiers were falling to friendly fire. One moment they breathed beside you, the next their skulls were ashes.

We ducked in the trench, Ryn lighting a cigarette with shaking fingers.

"Bet Velmira's already writing poems about us," he smirked.

"Make sure they spell my name right," I said.

He laughed briefly in defiance.

And then, Ryn!

A shell. From our own line.

It didn't just kill him. It shredded him. A red mist. Bits of him landed on my face. On my hands. I didn't scream. I didn't cry. I shut down.

I fainted. When I awoke, my legs were gone. The doctors called it mercy.

Mercy!

They sent me back home.

But home was gone too.

What once was a city; full of prayers, parades, mothers and laughter; was now a graveyard with no names.

I dragged myself through the ruins. My arms burned. My body bled.

There were corpses rotting in bathtubs. Families curled in corners, their faces frozen in terror. Children with glassy eyes clutched bones instead of toys. Men were impaled on what used to be flagpoles. Dogs gnawed on limbs.

Everything smelled like rust and gasps that never escaped.

I passed a church with its roof caved in, crushed worshippers still kneeling inside.

Ash fell like snow.

No one screamed. No one moved.

And then a fragile voice made its way out. From a woman

hunched over a pile of bodies, it said "The dead never screamed."

But I knew better.

They did scream. They still scream. Inside my skull. Every time I close my eyes.

I sat among the dead, medal in hand, watching crows pluck the eyes from the people who once cheered for war.

Something inside me cracked.

CHAPTER 2: The God That Forgot Us

"They said the war was over. But I never heard it end."

Years passed. The world above rebuilt itself with concrete and lies.

Politicians danced on screens, laughing. The same men who promised to bleed beside us. Now they toasted victory while wearing the same suits they once knelt in.

Soldiers were paraded, photographed, patted on the back, given medals like silence pills.

But we knew. We knew it was better to die than return.

I lived in a bunker, not by choice. No legs. Just memories. Just screams. A flickering tube-light blinked like a dying heartbeat. The only sound was static and my thoughts.

The television droned on. The same politician. The same golden teeth. The same rehearsed lines: "Our country has achieved divine victory. War is, and will always be, the only road to peace."

Then he smiled.

That smile. I stared. Not blinking. My best friend's broken watch in one hand. The medal in the other. The medal they gave me for surviving what should've killed me.

"A truth redesigned." "Lies, coated in prayer. Loyalty, weaponized. Faith... forged into chains."

He laughed and something inside me erupted. I threw the medal.

CRACK.

The screen shattered. A spiderweb of dead color. But the laughter? It didn't stop. It echoed. Through the walls. Through my veins. Through the place where my legs used to be.

The cracked screen blinked, showing half his smile and a thousand fractures.

And I whispered:

"Why?"

The first question. The one they fear the most.

The dead never screamed. Maybe it's time they did.

As I stared into the broken screen, the politician laughed one last time — a hollow, demonic chuckle stitched into my bones.

"The scariest part isn't the cage.

It's that we stopped seeing it."

Dipanjan Ganguly

B.Sc. Statistics, Sem. I

The Reflection of Hope

A soft breeze blew across the window panes. Birds screeched. The traffic lights were illuminated into sparks of red, green and orange hues occasionally, as the vehicles drove by. It was the usual hustle and bustle of city life; mundane, busy, boisterous. A cracked mirror lay on the ground of the pavement reflecting two differing realms. One of darkness and despair, the other bright and hopeful. Meera, a teenage girl on her way back home from school caught a glimpse of it. Her eyebrows tweaked with curiosity and, perhaps a strange wave of nostalgia hit her. The duality in the visuals of the mirror both enchanted and saddened her. The wilted rose beside it reminded her of melancholic endings that led to more meaningful beginnings. She got transmuted into her past. The past that had been so swiftly forgotten by her, wrapped carefully in love, tucked away neatly and delicately into the inner chambers of her soul. A sacred but scarred place that no one could ever visit, except for Meera herself, that too rarely. She remembered her past in flashbacks. The

past that now seemed so distant but still as vivid as daylight. She snapped out of her reverie soon enough as she heard the buzz of city life all around. Meera sighed, turned around and resumed her walk back home. As she took one last look at the broken mirror that symbolised so many things to her, a lingering sense of sadness gnawed at her. She walked away, leaving the mirror behind as if she was leaving behind her haunting past once again. She was done reminiscing. She decided to finally set herself free as the future summoned her. The clouds darkened, it began to rain and just like that the tarnished mirror along which served as the reflection of her past faded into oblivion.

Perhaps, the reflection doesn't hold much power, our perception does... May we all perceive the world in a brighter hue.

Angana Mazumder
B.A. English, Sem. V

The Weight of Responsibility

I met my friend in school. She lived near my house and I would often walk home with her after class. We were inseparable, sharing our dreams and aspirations with each other. But life had other plans.

Tragedy struck when her parents passed away in a tragic accident. At that time, she had just completed her graduation, and her brother was in 9th grade. She was devastated, and I was there to support her through the darkest days of her life. As time passed, she became the sole caregiver for her younger brother. Despite her own dreams of pursuing higher education or starting a career, she took on a job to support her brother's schooling. However, the meagre salary barely covered their living expenses.

As the days turned into weeks, and the weeks into months, my friend's life became a never-ending cycle of work, home, and worry. She would often go without meals so that her brother could eat. Despite her sacrifices, her brother's education suffered, and he had to drop out of school. My friend's health began to deteriorate due to the immense pressure and stress. She lost her job, and their situation became even more dire.

The small apartment they lived in seemed to shrink further

with each passing day. The walls, once a warm and comforting presence, now seemed cold and unforgiving. My friend's brother would often look at her with worried eyes, sensing the despair that threatened to consume them.

One day, her brother came to her with tears in his eyes, "What will happen to us?" he asked, his voice trembling with fear. She replied, "I'll find a way, beta." But deep down, she knew she couldn't. The words felt hollow, even to her own ears.

The weight of responsibility crushed her, and she fell ill. Despite her brother's efforts to care for her, her condition worsened. In the end, she realized that her sacrifices might not have been enough to give her brother the life he deserved. As she lay in bed, surrounded by the darkness that seemed to close in around her, she wondered if she had done enough.

I visited her every day, trying to offer what little comfort I could. But even my presence seemed inadequate against the overwhelming struggles she faced. The story ends with a sense of despair, highlighting the struggles of those who shoulder immense responsibilities at a young age.

Swastika Hazra
M.A. English, Sem. I



The Swarms

He was sitting on one of those cement benches found strewn along railway platforms. It was a stretch to call them benches as they never developed several of its features to be recognized as such. It was really a lump of cement that seemed to have forced its way through growing out of the bedrock of a platform and this one was in a particularly rough shape. It was obviously built carelessly on top of never being too strong themselves, just sprung out and having to wrench open through the hard surface as necessary in such railway stations. All that had obviously taken its toll and now it stood with a barren look along with chipped off edges and crumbling pieces though it was rather new compared to the other seats around the platform. He wasn't perplexed by this anomaly for he considered perhaps that in itself was the reason for its mishandled formation, already enough benches were around, so building an addition wasn't given the same effort and notice.

As he was sitting he had his head bent down at his feet where mosquitoes were gathering at a steady rate. It was a rather common phenomenon in dusk especially from the parts he was from. But apprehension bloomed strongly upon his face. The mosquitoes could always sense his bare skin and could feel the naked warmth of the blood flowing inside. Those pests had notoriously good instincts to attack the unprotected. When he had first arrived here to find all others seats occupied, he had to walk a while finding one empty owing not only to its condition but for its placement. The bench was situated at an the far end corner of the platform under a shriveled tree which could have been welcoming on a hot summer day but in a damp autumn evening, it just made the seat more invisible under the glooming shade and the worst as he knew is that it hosted swarms, swarms of mosquitoes that spring up after a drizzle of rain in the dark.

He had barely been sitting for a couple of minutes when a seemingly unsuspecting mosquito came buzzing close around his feet while his body stiffened in response. It was so unassuming that if he didn't know any better of something, he had experienced for almost all of his memorable life, he wouldn't be aware of all of its intentions and that this blood sucking vermin knew exactly where it was going. It would head for the gaps, between his shoes and ankles or vulnerable spots below the trousers since they always began in the downs. He shook his leg driving it off and waited almost breathlessly, it did not come back for a while as slowly somewhere within he felt a giddy sense of joy, of suppressed hope rising up but he held their chains on being aware of how delusional and unlikely it was. The passage of three minutes as displayed in the railway clock brought him some sense of relief. Just as he was about to breathe openly, he heard the slight but sharp buzz being back and he let it out as a sigh as his foolish hopes withered away back into a deep furrow of resignation somewhere he did not dare to find. He did not dare to look at the mosquito either, but from the slight sensations and sounds of it, it seemed that the reappearance was in numbers. Mosquitoes kept bursting out slowly but steadily from their

invisible ruts like murky smoke while the tree with its dark dripping leaves seemed to vomit out some more blackness. They flocked around his feet, some had sat down on his shoes and trousers irresistibly searching for the bare skin to dig their burning needle in. Unwillingly the the imagery floated up to his eyes sending a shiver up his spine quaking him that left rendering him weak and disgusted.

He shook his limbs vigorously and stood up, He looked around with a helpless expression for a while then instinctively looked up at the station clock but there was still more than twenty minutes to pass till his desired train was to arrive. To call it his desire would be misleading for the destination was not his own, never to be desired but one made to be needed and that train was the only option to reach it for now or as far as he could know.

The other benches are still being occupied; he has to sit down again to keep his legs fresh as it is pretty unlikely to find even one seat empty in the train, especially at this time and route when the demand is high. The seats in there are more plain and efficient in comparison to the one on which he is sitting, yet they are stiffer which the boy didn't care for. But now he couldn't help wishing to be on them instead since at least there would be no mosquitoes in a rushing train. When he inevitably sat down again he tried to distract himself by humming a tune of his liking and tried to look forward at the countless still lights and the moving people but the bench felt increasingly uncomfortable. He was a bit surprised at this as he had managed decently enough even in similar battered seats, he had to for the time being and purpose dangling ahead, sometimes the train sometimes a bus but now it seemed almost a wonder to himself how he had endured all that rather unperturbedly before, his awareness led him to a nervous apprehension that this bench might crumble at any point, Yes! didn't he hear a couple of chips breaking off when he stood up abruptly? The more he looked at it the more cracks he noticed at its base as he dragged himself to the middle away from the crumbling edges curling himself up as tightly as possible as if to reduce himself- the weight, body and all and be safe from the fall and the mosquitoes. The tune he was humming was reduced as well to a forceful buzz and it started to sound more as an annoyance instead while the swarms of people thronged at stalls or counters picking up tickets or accessories, scattering long quickly searching for their spots to travel off to and again flocked there. "Ah!" he shrieked out as he felt a sharp sting in his feet below, looking downwards he immediately jerked himself up in horror for the pests had multiplied significantly in numbers now almost formed a black net below him that was pulsing abysmally. He took a few quick but deep breaths trying to gather all his strength but with no better plan he could find then just ending up lashing, striking and waving at them wildly while a few curses slipped past along his wide flailing.

He had always hated the mosquitoes, they barely contributed to anything except pain and annoyance, were sickeningly innumerable with barely any uniqueness



to find and although he knew few came in different shapes and sizes but before the one and thousands it brought no difference there just more of a nuisance spreading suffering more efficiently in swarms. He looked at his palms, yes he had smashed off one or two but their remains and infected blood smeared onto him which was for nothing as how did it matter among the seemingly hundreds down below? they immediately struck back unbothered as if the two lost ones among them would simply be replaced by more of them. Among this hatred what truly frustrated him was that amidst all his tumult he also had a sense of respect for them, the mosquitoes were relentless even determined as they never let go, although ungrateful they always knew what they wanted and went flying straight for their sustenance no matter how many waves or slaps they felt. A newly hatched mosquito would immediately find its wings and fly, would make its place in the world and knew it had to get blood which it did well going up against far larger animals nothing stopped it unless it was soundly crushed while drawing out their will until the end. At the same time, he resented them for perverting these aspects of which could be done for so much more. He had once left his own dwelling as he felt either too sheltered or too abused for his own sides of exploration or understanding to grow and he managed through a few nights until these abhorred pests in their dark cloudy swarms drove him back. He had tried to persist by avoiding or to tolerate but he couldn't, he couldn't ignore or bear the continuous pricks and stings even after pulling all of his determination, will and ideas his body gave in to the face of these filthy beings who had so easily found their place and strength in this world while he struggled for a couple of nights but his pain was overwhelmed by the ignominy and loss he felt towards himself. These wild brutes use their inhuman endurance and persistence to inflict pain, just to serve their base desires of hunger and procreation without a shred of consideration. He was helpless, he felt weak in front of these brutish hordes no matter how much he smacked or stomped. These mosquitoes in their countless form would disperse momentarily after his outbursts avoid his grasp but no sooner than the swarm would draw back to him, plunge their needles and sting him in his naked aching skin. No matter how much he tried to ignore, protect or cut them off the resistance would fall flat to their relentless unmerciful pinches, the corporeal body of his was always a slave to them afraid of the painful stings while the protective nets, repellants and smoke could only do so much unless he remained shut in his room. He wanted to brush it all off until he had managed to push himself onto the train but five long minutes still remained. His legs stung badly, it was burning up with each bite and shaking them off or any resistance seemed utterly pointless at this state, he felt

so impotent..so chained, why would such creatures always get the better of him? Trying to gather all his strength, he attempted to cut it all off, only a faint buzzing and headache remained as he closed his eyes and stood up when suddenly a shock tinged up his torso as he winced up in pain and disgust.

A mosquito had stealthily snuggled itself in his shirt now finding the raw soft skin plunged its barb right below his left shoulder. The bite although was anticipated almost flung him aside, he didn't expect the mosquito to get in so close but the sting lit a fury in him which in an instant overpowered his resignation into a maddening rage. He flew at the mosquitoes punching wildly at the air, clapping furiously till his palms went red but they slinked off as usual to wait somewhere in the darkness to pounce back. The wound still burning he trailed behind them blindly rushing about oblivious to the announcements followed by screams and a sharp whistling nearby, he had decided he would no longer listen to the buzz and din and only then was he momentarily aware of a bright flashing light as he felt a heavy jolt lifting him off the feet.. an immense pain as if a thousands of them had stung him at once but then it was quiet, the buzz and din was truly no more.

It was two hours after the accident, the passerby and passengers had noticed a boy suddenly take a frenzied run while screaming, waving and stomping around and although some tried to warn him shouting to call out but in vain for it was too late, he kept on hurling himself till down the tracks when the train hit him. Although the long winding vehicle screeched to a pause at this emergency it had enough momentum that the body was flung far and he fell squashed and soon died bloodied. After the initial shock many rushed to the body and gathered around it, after some scattered attempts finding him dead got desperate to assign the blame somewhere- the rail tracks, the train schedule, the government and drugs nothing was excluded from their attempt to dispense accountability. When the excitement died down it was replaced with lamentation adorned by buzz and murmurs of consolations for "the poor boy..." and "such a waste of a young life" including less glittering ones as "youth and their suicides these days" and along the swarm dispersed to their own routes clicking their tongues, the medics and officials would take a while to come. These officials and the press would theorize this unfortunate accident with speculations of possible mental afflictions, addictions or mishaps, perhaps there would be this news in the papers tomorrow in a small column by the side while there now lay a squashed indifferent flesh as flies and mosquitoes start hovering to swarm around it.

Soham Mitra

M.A. English, Sem. I



The Revenge of A Spy

'If not by the bullets, we will be taken care of by this deadly winter,' quivers the man. His only audience for last seventy-two hours is his friend and colleague Issac Issar who, has been keeping surveillance at the white, two-storeyed building in front of them like a monk at meditation. Even the siren of the 'Policja' or the Polish National Police would not perturb him at this point, let alone his colleague's words. 'Issie, let's storm out and extract him,' this time the man suggested with growing impatience. 'Correct identification will save us from many embarrassments Troy. We are at a foreign land conducting secret operations. Patience Please', the response was full of poise.

But, before the 'respondent' could finish the sentence, three grenades were hurled targeting the white house. 'Bull's eye! That smiling-butcher must have been in hell by now,' laughing with a sinister face, Troy Goldberg announced it with aplomb. 'Do you have confirmation?' asked Issac. 'I saw a movement, on a wheelchair. Who else can it be apart from that decrepit monster?' answer came with a sense of zeal. 'I need to do some on-ground check before the Policja comes in', rejecting his powerful assumption claims Issac.

As the duo enter the debris of the house, they could hear a siren. Poland is an ally nation of their motherland, yet they ran a highly sensitive covert operation within Polish territory without informing the authority. The diplomatic consequences could be disastrous if they get caught, so they must make themselves invisible before the police reaches the place. Not only that, every trace of their 'intrusion' must be deleted from record in such a way as if they never existed. So far, the cover for the duo have been rock-solid. They came from Munich to meet their ailing relative residing in this remote village of Northern Poland. It is a touch and go trip, so the tenure of the visa is for seven days. As German citizens, their identities have been established as Albrecht Merkel & Josef Lowe. They have been residing in Munich for two generations, at least the records have been made in that way. The ground-work was done well in advance. Now, no last moment glitch is permissible.

As the duo scout through the debris, Issac noticed the broken handles of a wheelchair. Upon closer inspection, he discovered the body of a man, trapped under the concrete rubble. He barely managed to lift some of the debris aside and looked at the body, but failed to find any similarity with the photo given by the Headquarters. "Troy, is he the same Rumel Von Hatarton aka the 'smiling-Butcher?' The man in the photo was young, cruel and a monster, at least the documents found from the 'Drachaw' concentration camp had claimed so. But this body is tender and wrinkled, has all the weakness of a human flesh." The siren of Polish National Police was nearing; Troy gently tapped on his shoulder. "Make it fast Issie, collect the sample for DNA test. I have clicked the photos. It is confirmed."

In a hurry, while they were sneaking out, Issac stumbled upon something. It was an arm of some human being which stood

erect from the pile of the rubbish. He almost ignored it but then something drew his attention. A tattoo to be precise, made him stop. He looked at it closely and his face changed in a jiffy. With childlike inquisitiveness coupled with some odd excitement, he tried to dig the place ignoring Troy's repeated plea to flee.

After much digging, he could see the face of the body lying underneath. Issac's face turned pale in an instant. He started shivering. Initially, in an almost inaudible voice he said, "I could not forgive granny, I am sorry. I could not forgive." Troy asked gently, 'What are you saying Issie?' There was no reply, at least not an audible one. But the soliloquy continued as did the teardrops. Troy, requested him to come to his senses, but to no avail. Sensing imminent danger, he finally pulled Issac out of the place and followed the escape plan that Issac himself once had chartered. All the way, his colleague kept on saying the same thing, "I could not forgive granny, I am sorry."

Months passed, the duo received special acknowledgement for their special operation in Poland. Neutralizing a war criminal, that too after eight decades is by no means an easy task. Rumel Von Hatarton aka the 'Smiling-Butcher' had been the dread of the 'Drachaw' concentration camp who surpassed senior Nazi officers in cruelty. He firmly believed that his face was blessed with some sort of divine bliss, one which can alleviate the pain of the dying during their penultimate hours. So, he would often present himself to the people sent to gas-chambers with a smiling face, telling how he was saving them the death-trauma even if they did not deserve it. His 'crooked delusion' stayed as a nightmare for those inmates who had got liberated by the 'Red Army' at the fag-end of WWII.

However, mysteriously, after the war, this smiling-butcher simply vanished. Some had reported that he was spotted in Argentina in sometime during 50s', then years later some said he settled in Switzerland. Nothing concrete could be established. But, the kin of the victims never lost their zeal to find him. The revenge was inevitable, so it was served. As expected, Poland made some noise at International Forum, but it was taken care of. The message was loud and clear, holocaust-criminals will not be spared.

Everything went as per the seamless planning of the Headquarters only with one aberration. Issac applied for Voluntary retirement. The Headquarters chief of staff, Brenda Norman was not ready to let him go. "He is a clear asset, the ones modern espionage demands," discussed Brenda with her colleagues. But every request was turned down. At last, with a bit of disgust, she decided meet Issac who, after returning from the operation has been living in his ancestral farmhouse at the seabeach.

With the cyan blue wave of Mediterranean dancing within meters, Issac's ancestral home looks irresistible to Brenda. Troy was accompanying her. Seeing her overwhelmed, Troy



said, “Issac had spent his childhood years here, with his grandmother. His parents used to work in the city, come during vacations. Please come inside.”

As they went inside, Brenda heard someone humming, may be a song. On careful examination she understood, it’s not a song, it’s a soliloquy. “I could not forgive granny, I am sorry. I could not forgive”, repeated Issac on a loop. Same words, same pause without any change.

“It’s Brenda here Issac, I want to reconsider your decision, please”, without much ado the chief of staff directly plunged into the topic. Issac did not pay any attention, just kept on saying the same thing. Brenda tried to catch his gaze a few times, but to no result. Then, she asked Troy if there was any other member in the house whom she could talk to. “His parents died in a car crash, apparently, they too were agents of the Headquarters. Issac believed it was an assassination. Three years back, he lost his grandmother as well. Since then, he was on his own and his life centred around seeking revenge from the enemies of the country, especially the smiling-butcher.”

“But smiling-butcher belonged to the era of WWII. Has his family suffered due to Rumel Von Hatartan?”, asked Brenda. Before Troy could utter a word, in a fit of unfamiliar rage, Isaac jumped off the sofa saying, “Yes, yes, suffered. Suffering that led to vengeance and vengeance to more suffering.”

Brenda could not understand a word. Troy was completely clueless. They wanted to hold Issac to calm him down, but he, in a frenzy, was jumping and wailing like a child. In that excitement, he suddenly stumbled upon the corner of an iron chest injuring his left feet. While Troy got busy to tender him, Brenda’s gaze fell on a small diary that fell out of the open chest. The cover is made of green velvet, pages have turned yellow, some are tattered.

“At least some decades old,” utters Brenda. “Granny”, howls Issac looking at it. The Chief of Headquarters could not resist

the temptation to breach the privacy of the personal diary. There are interesting entries of a newlywed young woman, filled with very personal experiences. Brenda quickly flipped through them until her eyes stuck at one page which reads...

“Will the darkness of the past ever get over? Today, my dear Joe, revealed his heart to me. After 5 years of marriage, I get to know, Joe had a brother, a twin brother. But, why have not I seen him? Joe wailed and wailed. He got separated from him at Drachaw while the Red Army liberated the camp. Joe’s parents helplessly watched that the Nazi commander of the camp kidnapped the poor lad only to use him as a human shield to escape justice. Where is he now? Is he alive? Joe is so upset...”

Brenda’s hand was shivering. She was trying to make sense out of it. Two photographs fell out of the last pages of the diary. One in monochrome where two kids were sharing the frame in rather sombre mood and the other frame was of recent times. It is of an old man, sleeping peacefully than ever. Troy looked at the photos and said, “It is the man whose body was found in the rubbles of the white story building.” Brenda looked up and saw the photo of Issac’s granddad hung on the wall. The puzzle is solved. “He was the twin brother of Issac’s long-lost granddad. Look at the similarity between the photos”, said Brenda in a sombre tone. The tattoo on the arm of his body was an identity mark for the Issar family, one that first caught the attention of Issac. Rest fell in place.

Now there is a sound of eerie laughter in the room. Once a seasoned field agent of the Headquarters is saying out loud, “They say, He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how. I got it wrong, all wrong. It was never revenge, she taught me to forgive. She only meant to forgive, to heal.” His words echoed in the sprawling waves of Mediterranean. Brenda and Troy lost their logic in them.

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Sustainable Development: Empowering Today’s Youth for a Resilient Future

In the face of climate change, resource depletion, and social inequities, sustainable development has emerged as an essential framework to secure a balanced future. For today’s youth, this is both a profound responsibility and a transformative opportunity.

Sustainable development is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. It encompasses environmental conservation, economic growth, and social inclusion—principles that resonate deeply with the aspirations of young people worldwide.

Modern youth are uniquely positioned to champion this cause. Equipped with digital tools, global connectivity, and innovative mindsets, they can drive impactful initiatives—from promoting renewable energy and responsible consumption to advocating for inclusive policies and education

reform. Their engagement is vital in shifting communities and industries toward practices that respect ecological limits and promote social equity.

Moreover, sustainable development fosters skills such as critical thinking, leadership, and collaboration, preparing young individuals to navigate an increasingly complex world. By embracing sustainability, today’s youth can become catalysts for meaningful change, shaping societies that are not only economically prosperous but also socially just and environmentally secure.

In essence, empowering youth through sustainable development is an investment in a resilient and equitable future for all.

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শুকুর কবিতা

গ্রীষ্মের এক ভোর, মৃদু-মন্দ হাওয়া বইছে, শতদ্রু বসে আছে গঙ্গার ঘাটে। কোলের ওপর রবি ঠাকুরের কবিতার বই খোলা। গুঁর এই এক নেশা, সেই অল্প বয়স থেকে গঙ্গার ঘাটে এলে সঙ্গে একখানা রবি ঠাকুরের কবিতার বই থাকবেই, কবিগুরু কবিতাগুলো গুঁর জীবনের সঙ্গে অদ্ভুত ভাবে খুব মিলে যায়। কিছুক্ষণ পর হঠাৎই খেয়াল হল, পাশে এসে একটি মেয়ে বসেছে। পরনে কালো পাড় সাদা শাড়ি। কত জন্মের বিষন্নতা, অদ্ভুত মায়া ঘিরে আছে মেয়েটিকে। শতদ্রুকে চমকে দিয়ে হঠাৎ মেয়েটিই জিজ্ঞাসা করে উঠল “রবি ঠাকুরের “শেষ” কবিতাটি প্রিয় বুঝি?”

শতদ্রু কি উত্তর দেবে বুঝতে না পেরে আসতে করে “হমম” বলে ঘাড় নাড়ল। পরক্ষণেই মেয়েটি বলে, “আমি বিপাশা, আপনার নাম?” নিজের পরিচয় দেওয়ার পরই শতদ্রু বলে, “আপনাকে তো এখানে এর আগে কখনও দেখিনি।”

“আসলে ব্যস্ততার কারণে আসা হয়ে ওঠে না। তবে জানেন, মনের সঙ্গে লড়াই করতে গিয়ে যখন বড় ক্লান্ত হয়ে পড়ি, তখন এখানে আসি। একটু শান্তির খোঁজে। তা আপনি কি এখানে প্রতিদিনই আসেন? জবাব ও প্রশ্ন বিপাশার।

শতদ্রুর উত্তর, তা আসি বটে, মাঝেমাঝে সুযোগ পেলেই চলে আসি। নদীর দিকে তাকিয়ে জীবনের অর্থ খোঁজার চেষ্টা করি।” বলে শতদ্রু একটা দীর্ঘশ্বাস ফেলল।

বিপাশার প্রশ্ন, “তা এখন গন্তব্য কোথায়?”

“বাড়ি ফিরব, বালিগঞ্জ।”

বিপাশা বলল, “তা হলে চলুন, এক সঙ্গে যাওয়া যাক। আমিও ওদিকেই যাব।”

ঘাটের সিঁড়ি বেয়ে উঠে এসে ওরা রাস্তা দিয়ে হাঁটতে শুরু করে। একটা গাড়ির সামনে এসে বিপাশা বলে, “আসুন এটা আমার গাড়ি, উঠে পড়ুন।” গাড়িটার দিকে তাকতেই একটা অজানা আতঙ্কে শতদ্রুর বুকটা কেঁপে উঠল। যেন পাঁচ বছর আগের এক ভয়ঙ্কর অতীতে ফিরে গেল সে; আজকের মতোই সেদিনও শতদ্রু গঙ্গার ঘাট থেকেই ফিরছিল। রাস্তা পেরোনোর সময় হঠাৎ করে দ্রুত গতিতে ছুটে আসা একটা গাড়ি ওকে সজোরে ধাক্কা মারে। ব্যাস তারপর সবটা অন্ধকার হয়ে যায়। সেই দুর্ঘটনায় ডান হাতের শক্তি হারায় সে।

অতীতের ভাবনায় বিভোর শতদ্রুকে হঠাৎই বিপাশা বলে ওঠে, “কী হল, দাঁড়িয়ে গেলেন কেন?” শতদ্রু চমকে উঠে বলল “নাহ, কিছু না।” তার পর গিয়ে উঠলো গাড়িতে গাড়ি চালাতে চালাতে বিপাশা বললো, একটা কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করতে পারি?”

“করুন।”

বিপাশা তখন বলল, “অনেকক্ষণ ধরে লক্ষ্য করছি, আপনি ডান হাত ব্যবহার করছেন না। কোনও অসুবিধা?”

আবারও যেন অতীতের স্মৃতিগুলো শতদ্রুকে ধাক্কা দিয়ে যায়। দীর্ঘশ্বাস ফেলে সে নিজের অতীতের ঘটনা বলা শুরু করে বিপাশাকে। তার কথা থামার পর অদ্ভুত একটা নিস্তর্রতা কাজ করছিল গাড়ির মধ্যে। হঠাৎ করেই বিপাশা বলে ওঠে, “আমি ভীষণ দুঃখিত, আসলে সেদিন ডিভোর্সের ফাইনাল ডেট ছিল। সেই কাজ মিটিয়ে কোর্ট থেকে ফিরছিলাম। মানসিক ভাবে এতটা বিদ্রুস্ত ছিলাম, যে নিজের মধ্যেই ছিলাম না। দুর্ঘটনার পর যখন জ্ঞান ফিরেছিল, তখন আপনার খোঁজ নিয়েছিলাম। জেনেছিলাম, আপনার অবস্থা ভালও ছিল না। তাই অন্য কোথাও নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়েছিল। অবাধ হয়েছিলাম

ভেবে, যে আমার বিরুদ্ধে পুলিশে কোনও অভিযোগ করা হয়নি। তবে সেদিন থেকে অপরাধবোধ কাজ করছে। আজ এতদিন পর আপনার কাছে ক্ষমা চাওয়ার সুযোগটুকু পেয়ে মনে হচ্ছে পাপের বোঝা হয়তো কিছুটা কমল।”

আবারও নিস্তর্রতায় ভরে গেল চারপাশ। খানিক পর হালকা হেসে শতদ্রু বলল, “অনেক আগেই আপনাকে ক্ষমা করে দিয়েছি। এসবই আসলে নিয়তি।”

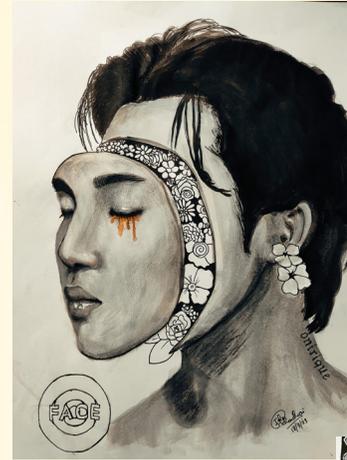
এসবের মাঝে কখন যে অনেকটা সময় পেরিয়ে ওরা বালিগঞ্জ পৌঁছে গিয়েছে, দু’জনের কেউই বুঝতে পারে না। হুঁশ ফেরে হর্নের শব্দে। শতদ্রু বিপাশার দিকে তাকিয়ে বলে “আসি তাহলে?” হঠাৎই কী মনে করে শতদ্রু পেছন দিক থেকে ডাক দেয়, “শুনছেন?”

ডাক শুনেই বিপাশা গাড়ি থামিয়ে জিজ্ঞাসা করে, “কিছু বলবেন?” শতদ্রু গাড়ির জানলার কাছে মুখ এনে বলে, “জানেন তো আমাদের সঙ্গে যা ঘটে, তা কিন্তু সবসময় কাকতালীয় হয় না। কিছু ঘটনা কিন্তু ভাগ্যের ইঙ্গিত, যা হয়ত কোনও নির্দিষ্ট উদ্দেশ্যেই ঘটে। যেমন ধরুন, আজ আপনার সঙ্গে এভাবে দেখা হয়ে যাওয়া। এলাম এবার।”

কয়েক মুহূর্তের নিস্তর্রতার পর বিপাশা হেসে জবাব দেয়, “এতই যখন জানেন তা হলে এটাও নিশ্চয়ই জানেন, বিপাশা শেষে শতদ্রুতেই মিশেছিল। চলি এবার ভাল থাকবেন।”

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তোমার ঘরে বসত করে কয় জনা...

সেদিন মুম্বলধারে বৃষ্টি নামল শহরের বুকে। অফিসফেরতা বহু যাত্রী কাক-ভেজা হয়ে হয়রান। কেউ বাসের অপেক্ষায়, কেউ বা আবার জমা জলের মধ্যে গাড়ি বা বাইক নিয়ে এগোতে পারছে না, আবার কেউ অতিরিক্ত ভাড়া চাওয়ায় অ্যাপ ক্যাবে চড়তে অনিচ্ছুক। এমন কলরবের মধ্যেও তিলোত্তমা যেন ভিজতে ভিজতে হাসছে। অথচ মানুষের মনে চিন্তার ছাপ, কী ভাবে বাড়ি ফেরা হবে জানা নেই।

সন্দীপও তেমনই, রুবির মোড়ে বেহালার জন্য বাসের অপেক্ষায় দাঁড়িয়ে ছিল। যতই ভিড় হোক না কেন, একটা বাস পেলেই উঠবে। তার বয়স চব্বিশ। সদ্য সফটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের চাকরি পেয়েছে সল্টলেকের নামকরা এক কোম্পানিতে। বাড়ি বেহালায়। বাবা নেই, মা শহরের একলা ঘরে থাকতে নারাজ তাই বধর্মানে মাসিদের সঙ্গে থাকেন।

কলেজে থাকতেই ক্যানসারে বাবাকে হারায় সন্দীপ। তখন যাদবপুর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের দ্বিতীয় বর্ষের ছাত্র ছিল সে। তার পর, বাবার জমানো কিছু টাকা আর মায়ের সাহায্যে কোনও রকমে পড়াশোনা শেষ করে সে। আপাতত চাকরি।

আজ বাসের অপেক্ষায় প্রায় আধ ঘণ্টা দাঁড়িয়ে থাকতে গিয়ে অস্থির হয়ে উঠেছে সে। এমন সময় পিছন থেকে এক জন মহিলার ডাক ভেসে এল কানে, “দাদা, বলছি টালিগঞ্জের র বাস কি এখানে দাঁড়ালে পাওয়া যাবে?” পিছন ফিরতেই সন্দীপ দেখে চেনা একটা মুখ, “স্নিগ্ধা!”

স্নিগ্ধা সেই মেয়ে যে সন্দীপের কলেজ-জীবনের হাজারো তুফানের মধ্যেও ছাড়া হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছিল। প্রত্যেক মানুষের জীবনে হয়তো এমন একটি ছাড়া থাকে যারা ঝড়বৃষ্টি শেষ হলেই হাওয়ার মতো উধাও হয়ে যায়।

“সন্দীপ! তুই এখানে?”, অবাক সুরে বলে ওঠে স্নিগ্ধা।

“হ্যাঁ, এই অফিস থেকে ফিরছিলাম। বৃষ্টিতে পুরো ভিজে গেছি তো, ছাতার তলায় আয়”, একসময়ের সহপাঠিনীকে ডাকে সে।

সন্দীপের ছাতাটি নজরে পড়তেই স্নিগ্ধা বলে, “এটা সেই ছাতাটা না?”

কলেজের শেষ দিনে সন্দীপকে এই উপহারটি দিয়েছিল স্নিগ্ধা। ‘বন্ধুত্বের’ চিহ্ন হিসেবে। প্রথমে সন্দীপ সেটি ব্যবহার করেনি, তবে পরে খামখেয়ালিপনার কারণে পুরনো ছাতা হারিয়ে ফেলার পর এখন এইটিই তার সম্বল।

সন্দীপ বলে ওঠে “হ্যাঁ, সেটাই...”

স্নিগ্ধার পরের প্রশ্ন, “তুই বেহালাতেই থাকছিস? অফিস নিশ্চয়ই অনেক দূরে?”

“হ্যাঁ বেহালার বাড়িটায় বাবার স্মৃতি জড়িয়ে রয়েছে। তাই আর ছেড়ে যেতে পারি না। সল্টলেকে অফিস করতে ধকল হয় ঠিক-ই। তাও... আচ্ছা তুই কী করছিস আজকাল?”

“আমি? শেষমেশ একটা চাকরি পেয়েছি বুঝলি, তবে আমেরিকা উড়ে যেতে হবে, হাতে সময় তিন দিন। তাই তো এত বৃষ্টি-বাদলা মাথায় করে পাসপোর্ট অফিসে দৌড়ছিলাম।”

“তা হলে শেষমেশ তোর বিদেশ যাত্রার স্বপ্ন সত্যি হল বল!” খানিক গর্বের সুরে বলে ওঠে সন্দীপ।

“সত্যিই তাই; আচ্ছা তোর তো আরও পড়ার ইচ্ছে ছিল। হঠাৎ ঘাড়ে চাকরির ভূত চাপল কবে?”

“আরও যে লেখাপড়া করব, তার আর অবস্থা নেই। মায়ের বয়স হয়েছে, এই পরিস্থিতিতে বাড়ির দায়িত্ব না নিলে পরে আর কী করবো?”

দু’জনের বহুদিনের জমে থাকা কথা যখন মেঘ ভাঙা জলের মত বারে পড়ার উপক্রম, তখনই টালিগঞ্জের একটি বাস এসে উদয় হয়।

“আচ্ছা এটা আমার বাড়ির দিকে যায় তো?” জিজ্ঞাসা করে স্নিগ্ধা।

“হ্যাঁ, তবে টালিগঞ্জ মোড়ে নেমে একটু হাঁটতে হবে।”

“যা বৃষ্টি পড়ছে, এর মধ্যে দেরিও হয়ে গেছে কত...”

“তুই ভিজে ভিজে হাঁটবি নাকি? এই ছাতাটা নিয়ে যা। আমি তো বাস থেকে নেমেই বাড়িতে ঢুক যাব, ভিজবো না।” বলল সন্দীপ

“কিন্তু তোকে ছাতাটা ফেরত দেব কী করে? আমি তো আর এই দেশেই থাকব না!” প্রশ্ন করে স্নিগ্ধা।

“তাতে কী হয়েছে! পৃথিবীর কোনও এক কোণে, কোনও এক বাইপাসের মোড়ে ঠিক এক দিন দেখা হয়ে যাবে; তত দিন পর্যন্ত আমাকে মনে রাখিস। ধরে নে এই ছাতা-ই মনে করাবে তোকে,” এক গাল হাসি হেসে জবাব দেয় সন্দীপ।

মেয়েটি ছাতা নিয়ে চলে যায়। হঠাতই চশমার কাচ ঝাপসা হয়ে যায় সন্দীপের। বৃষ্টির জল নাকি অন্য কিছু? তার চোখ তখন আটকে টালিগঞ্জের বাসের দিকে, আর মনে একটাই প্রশ্ন, “আর কি কখনও দেখা হবে না?”

হয়তো আরও একটু সাহস থাকলে হয়তো সে বলে দিতে পারত, সেই সব কথা যা দীর্ঘ ৫ বছর ধরে বলা হয়ে ওঠেনি। আবারও হয়তো আটকে পড়ে ছেলেটা; হয়তো এটাই ভবিষ্যৎ সেই সমস্ত সন্দীপের যারা মনের মধ্যে কথার উপর কথা জমায়, শুধু বলতে পারে না বা বললেও অনেকটা দেরি করে ফেলে। তারা আটকে থাকে স্মৃতিঘেরা জালের ও পারে। হয়তো বেড়া ডিঙিয়ে কখনই এপারের মানুষ হওয়া হবে না তাদের।

এ সব ভাবনার পাহাড় ডিঙিয়ে, ভিড় বাসে ঝোলাঝুলি করে বাড়ি ফিরতে বেশ বেগ পেতে হয় সন্দীপকে। ক্লান্ত শরীরে কিছু না খেয়েই ঘুমিয়ে পড়ে। এমনকী রোজ রাতের মতো মাকে ফোনও করা হয় না।

পর দিন সকালে তার ঘুম যখন ভাঙে, তখন বেলা দশটা। অভ্যাসবশত পাশে থাকা মোবাইল নিয়ে দেখতে শুরু করে সে। হঠাৎ একটি অচেনা নম্বর থেকে আসা মেসেজ দেখে চোখ কপালে উঠে যায় সন্দীপের। পরক্ষণেই মুখে একটি স্মিত হাসি।

জীবনে চলার পথে প্রত্যেক মুহূর্তে যেন লুকিয়ে থাকে কিছু অপূর্ব আশ্চর্য; তাই অক্ষর ওয়াইল্ডের ভাষায় “expect the unexpected...” কথাটা আজও প্রাসঙ্গিক। দৈনন্দিন জীবনের টানাপড়েনে নিজের ভাল লাগা হারাতে থাকা মানুষের কাছে এমন আশ্চর্যই স্বপ্নের মতো।

হাজারো অপূর্ণ কাহিনির ভিড়ে সন্দীপ-স্নিগ্ধা যেন একটি বৃষ্টি-ভেজা রূপকথার গল্প, যার সাক্ষী হয়ে হাসতে থাকে তিলোত্তমা। শহরের প্রত্যেকটা গলিতে তখন একটাই সুর বয়ে যায়-

“একজনে ছবি আঁকে এক মনে ওরে ও মন

আর একজনে বসে বসে রং মাখে ওরে ও মন

আমার সেই ছবি খান নষ্ট করে কোন জনা?

তোমার ঘরে বসত করে কয় জনা মন জানো না...”

Based on the sub-themes:

Peace and Love & The Saga of Life

Arpan Banerjee

B.A. Economics, Sem. III



Best Essay of Anti-Ragging Awareness Essay Competition August 12-19, 2025

Thorns of Tradition: Bleeding Between the Lines**Theme: Ragging breaks, Empathy Builds***"I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!"**- P. B. Shelley, 'Ode to the West Wind'*

Ragging is not a joke. It is ritualised humiliation, institutionalised violence disguised as culture. And perhaps most dangerously, it is remembered only through the affective murk of laughter. Ragging has learned to survive through silence. Through forgetfulness that is never really forgetting. Through wounds that heal just enough to hide but never enough to vanish.

The aftereffects of ragging resurface in fragments. A joke at a fresher's party triggers a flashback. A question during a viva brings the phantom of that sleepless, shame-drenched night. The body remembers long after the mind dissociates.

Ragging does not begin as violence. It begins as a demand disguised as a game. And then it slips into humiliation, into fear, into shame. What starts as "tradition" becomes a test of survival, where breaking down is seen as weakness and silence is mistaken for maturity.

Campuses pride themselves on traditions. But when tradition sanctifies violence, when power is constructed through the breaking of another, the institution becomes what Eliot would call an "unreal city", full of forms but devoid of spirit. Under the guise of brotherhood, ragging enforces hierarchy. Under the excuse of humour, it enacts violence. The joke becomes the weapon. And silence, the price of survival. In this, it reminisces Michel Foucault's idea of disciplinary power, that is, subtle, invisible and internalised.

Ragging is not a moment. It is an affective assemblage. It marks bodies, organises space, dictates behaviour. It creates its own mythology, "I went through it, so must you", and then demands loyalty to that myth. But what it truly creates is a culture of pain-as-pedagogy. And in doing so, it forgets the most elemental truth: that empathy, not cruelty, is what builds character.

Empathy interrupts. It listens where ragging commands. It observes, not to judge but to understand. It is slow where ragging is abrupt. It is soft where ragging is sharp.

If Eliot's "Waste Land" is populated with hollow men and fractured souls, Shelley's "West Wind" offers a counter-current; a wind that "moves everywhere", that scatters and lifts, that

breaks only to renew. Shelley, too, like the ragged fresher or the torn poet, pleads: "I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!" It is a cry of vulnerability, of exposure but also of transformation. The same winds that destroy can also carry seeds of new life. The same institutions that once broke us can also be rebuilt into spaces of radical care.

In Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind", we are reminded that destruction and healing are often breath apart. But the difference lies in intent. In empathy. "Drive my dead thoughts over the universe", he writes, "like withered leaves to quicken a new birth." Empathy becomes the wind that carries, not shames. It does not demand erasure of the past but uses it to fertilise a future.

And yet, we must not rush towards hope without first holding space for the trauma. In this too, Eliot teaches us. Healing is not linear. "Winter kept us warm", he writes ironically. Even suffering, when sustained long enough, becomes home. And we must be wary of how the ragged often become ragers, not because they are inherently cruel but because they mistake survival for strength. Trauma, left unprocessed, calcifies into cruelty.

But empathy disrupts this cycle. It allows rupture. It allows softness without shame. It transforms tradition from something inherited into something chosen.

Institutions across the globe are slowly waking up to this. Mentorship replaces hazing. Dialogue replaces silence. In some universities, the senior is no longer a gatekeeper but a gardener, tending not testing. This is not a utopia yet but it is a signal.

To end ragging is to retell the story. To reclaim what was broken and imagine what can be rebuilt. And perhaps, to finally mean what Shelley meant when he prayed,

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

In the end, this is not a call to arms. It is a call to listen. To hear the silence beneath the laughter. To notice the droop of a shoulder in the corridor. To resist the easy temptation of "I went through it, you will too". To remember, and in remembering, choose differently.

Ragging breaks. But empathy builds. And in this rebuilding, we return from wastelands, perhaps not whole but human.

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*Pray as if God will take care of all; act as if all is up to you. "**- St. Ignatius of Loyola.*





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