



XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

EDONIA News Bulletin

31, PRIMROSE ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 025, SOUTH INDIA

Email: xavierboard@gmail.com

Web: xavierboard.org





President's Message

HONOURING OUR LEGACY, SHAPING OUR FUTURE

It is a privilege to connect with you as we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India. Seventy-five years ago, we began with a clear mission to unite Catholic institutions in the pursuit of academic excellence and value-based education. Today, we don't just look back at our legacy; we look forward to our transformation.

The educational landscape in India is undergoing rapid transformation. With the National Education Policy and the rise of Artificial Intelligence, our role is evolving. We are no longer just educators, we are architects of a new learning ecosystem.

As we step into this new phase, we embrace Education 5.0, an approach that places the human person at the centre of innovation.

We must move beyond producing "I-shaped" specialists. Our goal is to nurture "Delta-shaped" leaders and individuals who combine knowledge with ethics, skill with social responsibility, and innovation with integrity. Our campuses must become spaces where technology and values work together to form socially conscious, future-ready graduates.

To mark this significant year, we are launching key initiatives to strengthen our shared mission:

- **Xavier Mentorship Ecosystem:** Encouraging collaboration between leading and emerging institutions to promote collective growth and excellence.
- **Resource Mountain:** A shared digital repository for our 600+ institutions, fostering collaboration in research and curriculum.
- **Innovation & Incubation:** Building a culture of entrepreneurship and enabling students to become job creators.
- **Faculty Development:** Equipping educators to adapt to AI-driven, immersive, and personalized learning environments.

This Jubilee is also a moment for reflection. Are we reaching the marginalized? Are we forming students with both competence and conscience?

As educators, we are called not only to inform minds but to transform lives. Let us embrace the opportunities before us with courage and conviction.

Let this 75th year be a symbol not only of our legacy, but of our renewed commitment to building a just, sustainable, and value-driven future for the youth of India.



Rev. Dr Praveen Martis SJ

President,
Xavier Board of Higher
Education in India

Secretary General's Desk



THE ARCHITECT OF SOULS: NAVIGATING TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY IN CATHOLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

As Catholic Higher Educational Institutions navigate the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation, we face the critical challenge of balancing technological innovation with foundational Catholic identity. This reflection explores how the shift from "chalkboards to screens" can be steered by the values of *Laudato Si'* and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. By moving beyond passive observation—rejecting the role of the "bystander"—Catholic education needs to essentially foster institutional hospitality, compassionate literacy, and prophetic action. The goal is to transform students into architects of souls who do not merely learn about the world, but feel for it and intervene in its suffering.

A quiet transformation is unfolding across our Catholic Higher Educational Institutions, each unique in its context yet united in its sacred purpose. Classrooms that once echoed with the scratch of chalk and the rhythmic murmur of prayer assemblies now hum with the glow of digital screens. Amidst this surge of Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies, a deeper question lingers: How do we embrace innovation without losing our Catholic identity?

Catholic teachings remind us that tools are meant to serve, not dominate. As Pope Francis emphasizes in *Laudato Si'*, technology must be guided by values that protect both humanity and creation. Seen through this light, technology becomes a companion rather than a threat—an instrument that enhances the human touch instead of erasing it. The recent pandemic proved this potential, demonstrating that prayer and community can indeed thrive within digital spaces when fuelled by intentionality.

However, this progress is shadowed by a stark paradox. The same technology that should build bridges and promote sustainability is too often weaponized for destruction, eroding human rights and dignity. The ancient cry, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9), resounds with every modern digital attack and systemic injustice. We must ask ourselves: What is our response? Are we turning aside, remaining muted, or becoming so caught up in our own concerns that we fail to see the neighbor in need?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25–37) knocks on our doors every minute, reminding us of our mandate. We are commissioned to be **"architects of souls,"** creating environments where students encounter a spirit that allows them to recognize a brother or sister in the "other." Our education becomes truly transformative only when it shifts from merely learning about the world to deeply feeling for it. As Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer famously warned: "Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander." In the eyes of history and faith, bystanders are held accountable alongside perpetrators for crimes against humanity. To prevent such indifference, we must move toward a three-fold pedagogical mission:

- **Institutional Hospitality:** Fostering an openness to diverse ideas and narratives that enriches our collective understanding.
- **Compassionate Literacy:** Instilling the ability to "read" the pain of others, even across digital divides and national borders.
- **Prophetic Action:** Establishing a mandate that moves our students from classroom theory to meaningful social intervention.

As we move forward, may God bless your tireless efforts to spread His love through the vital ministry of Higher Education. Together, let us ensure that while our tools may change, our heart remains steadfast in the service of humanity.



Dr Sr Deepthi UFS
Secretary General
Xavier Board

XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Indian Church leaders discuss Education and Culture with His Excellency Archbishop Carlo Maria Polvani



06 JANUARY 2026



HONOURING
HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP, CARLO MARIA
POLVANI,
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE, VATICAN, ROME

PRESENTING

**Challenges and Prospects: Catholic Higher
Education In India Today**





Delegates from Xavier Board Member Institutions at the Inauguration of the Platinum Jubilee on 24 January 2026

Chief Guest
Most Rev Dr Peter Machado
Archbishop of Bangalore



Chief Guest
Padma Bhushan Prof. P Balaram
Former Director, IISc, Bengaluru



85TH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



The 85th Executive Board Meeting of the Xavier Board was held on 25th January, 2026, with the active participation of all Board members.

The meeting began with a warm welcome, followed by a comprehensive review of the board's recent activities and initiatives. Board members actively participated in discussions focused on strengthening institutional collaboration, enhancing academic standards, and promoting strategic alignment with current developments in higher education.

Significant emphasis was placed on evaluating past programs, including seminars and capacity-building initiatives, and identifying opportunities for future growth. The board members shared valuable insights and recommendations to expand outreach, improve engagement, and ensure effective implementation of upcoming academic and professional development programs.

Key decisions were taken collectively to further the mission and vision of the Xavier Board, with a strong focus on innovation, leadership, and quality enhancement across member institutions.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all board members for their active involvement and continued commitment to excellence in education.



THREE DAYS NATIONAL- LEVEL ONLINE CONFERENCE on

Research Methodology and Academic Writing: Enhancing Faculty Research Output, Publication Ethics and Grant Writing.



XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

THREE DAYS NATIONAL- LEVEL ONLINE CONFERENCE

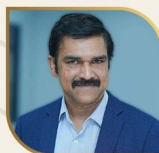
Research Methodology and Academic Writing:
Enhancing Faculty Research Output, Publication
Ethics and Grant Writing.

9th - 11th March, 2026 06:00 - 08:00 PM

DAY- 1

Building Strong Research Foundations

"Idea to Impact: Designing High-quality Research Methodologies for Global Publication".



Dr Santhosh K R

Associate Professor
School of Psychological
Sciences,
CHRIST (Deemed to be
University), Bengaluru

DAY- 2

Ethics, Publishing & Funding Pathways

"The Excellence Framework:
Navigating Global Indexed
publishing and sustainable funding
Strategies".



Dr Aditi Arur

Assistant Professor
Comparative and International
Development Education,
CHRIST (Deemed to be
University), Bengaluru

DAY- 3

"Publishing with Integrity:
Navigating SCOPUS and Web of
Science".
(Commerce & Management)



Dr Baba Gnanakumar

Professor & Director
Centre for Consultancy and
Corporate Training,
Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be
University), Bengaluru

SL.NO	State	No of participants
1	Arunachal Pradesh	4
2	Chhattisgarh	2
3	Goa	4
4	Karnataka	76
5	Kerala	25
6	Madhya Pradesh	3
7	Maharashtra	6
8	Meghalaya	2
9	Nagaland	5
10	New Delhi	4
11	Rajasthan	3
12	Tamil Nadu	24
13	Telangana	5
14	West Bengal	2
	TOTAL	165

THREE-DAY NATIONAL-LEVEL ONLINE CONFERENCE – PARTICIPATION REPORT

The Xavier Board of Higher Education in India (XBHEI) successfully organized a Three-Day National-Level Online Conference on “Research Methodology and Academic Writing: Enhancing Faculty Research Output, Publication Ethics and Grant Writing” from 9th to 11th March 2026, between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. The conference was conducted with the objective of strengthening research competencies, academic writing skills, publication ethics, and grant proposal development among faculty members, researchers, and academic leaders across India.

The conference featured distinguished resource persons including Dr. Santhosh K. R., Associate Professor, School of Psychological Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru; Dr. Aditi Arur, Assistant Professor, Comparative and International Development Education, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru; and Dr. Baba Gnanakumar, Professor and Director, Centre for Consultancy and Corporate Training, Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru.

The three-day programme focused on key themes such as building strong research foundations, designing high-quality research methodologies for global publication, navigating publication ethics, understanding indexed journals and funding pathways, and publishing with integrity through SCOPUS and Web of Science platforms. The sessions also addressed contemporary academic concerns including AI integration in writing, plagiarism, authorship ethics, and strategic grant writing for sustainable research development.

The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from Principals, Research Scholars, Faculty Members, IQAC Coordinators, Academic Administrators, and Institutional Leaders representing institutions from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Goa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.

The conference served as an effective academic platform for promoting research excellence, ethical publication practices, interdisciplinary collaboration, and institutional capacity building. The interactive sessions and active institutional participation reflected the growing commitment of higher education institutions toward quality research, academic integrity, and global scholarly engagement.

The successful organization of the conference reaffirmed XBHEI’s commitment to empowering educational institutions through innovative academic initiatives, research-oriented training programmes, and collaborative professional development opportunities for the higher education community.

Online National level conference

Date:23rd March, 2026 **Time:**6.00PM - 8.00 PM

“VIKSIT BHARAT SHIKSHA ADISHTHAN (VBSA) BILL 2025 AND ITS IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION: STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS FOR INSTITUTIONS”.



XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

“Viksita Bharat Shiksha Adishthan (VBSA) Bill 2025 and its impact on Higher Education: Strategic preparedness for institutions”.

Dr. J. Aloysius Edward
Registrar
 Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University),
 Bengaluru





23 March, 2026



06:00 - 08:00 PM

Target Audience

- Principals and Heads of Institutions
- Academic and Administrative Managers
- Directors and Governing Board Members
- Policy Makers and Education Planners
- Faculty Leaders / IQAC coordinators

SL.NO	State	No of participants
1	Arunachal Pradesh	4
2	Bihar	7
3	Goa	4
4	Himachal Pradesh	5
5	Karnataka	36
6	Kerala	10
7	Maharashtra	3
8	New Delhi	7
9	Punjab	6
10	Rajasthan	4
11	Tamil Nadu	32
12	Telangana	13
13	Uttar Pradesh	2
14	West Bengal	3
	TOTAL	136

VB SA BILL 2025 AWARENESS PROGRAMME – PARTICIPATION REPORT

The Xavier Board of Higher Education in India (XBHEI) successfully organized an academic awareness programme titled “Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adishthan (VB SA) Bill 2025 and its Impact on Higher Education: Strategic Preparedness for Institutions” on 23rd March 2026 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The session was delivered by Dr. J. Aloysius Edward, Registrar, Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru.

The programme aimed to create awareness among educational leaders and administrators regarding the implications of the proposed VB SA Bill 2025 on higher education institutions in India. The session focused on strategic preparedness, governance, institutional compliance, and the future direction of higher education policy reforms.

The event witnessed active participation from Principals, Heads of Institutions, Academic and Administrative Managers, Directors, Governing Board Members, Policy Makers, Education Planners, Faculty Leaders, and IQAC Coordinators from institutions across India.

Institutions from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, Delhi, West Bengal, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh participated in the programme. Prominent participating institutions included St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University), St. Joseph’s University, Jyoti Nivas College Autonomous, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Auxilium College (Autonomous), St. Ann’s College for Women, Xavier University Patna, Loreto College Kolkata, and Don Bosco College Itanagar among many others.

The programme served as an important platform for academic dialogue and policy understanding, enabling educational institutions to better prepare for future regulatory and governance changes in higher education. The interactive discussions and institutional participation reflected a strong commitment toward academic excellence, quality assurance, and transformative educational leadership.

The successful conduct of the programme reaffirmed XBHEI’s commitment to empowering educational institutions through policy awareness, strategic planning, and collaborative academic initiatives.

ANDHRA AND TELANGANA REGION

PRINCIPALS MEETING:

Principals meeting for the Hyderabad Colleges was conducted at St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet on 27th October 2025. The agenda was to discuss various activities to be conducted in collaboration with Xavier Board and to discuss various issues being faced by the Colleges and to address them to the Parent University. The principals and the Correspondents of five Xavier Board Colleges were present at the meeting.

Dr. Fr. L.Joji Redddy and Dr. Sr. Velangini attended the Executive Committee meeting at the Xavier Board office, Bangalore on 06/11/2025.

PEER MEDIATION PROGRAMME INTRODUCED IN COLLEGES ACROSS HYDERABAD BY NEISSR

A two-day Peacebuilding Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on Peer Mediation was successfully conducted on 5–6 February 2026 at St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women, Hyderabad. The programme marked a significant step towards institutionalizing peacebuilding as a student-led initiative in colleges and universities, with the aim of celebrating diversity and fostering peaceful, inclusive higher education institutions. The programme was jointly organized by St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women, Hyderabad, the Northeast Institute of Social Sciences and Research, and Peace Channel Nagaland, as part of the institutional collaboration and national peace campaign for Peaceful India Hopeful Youth:

Celebrating Diversity, initiated by the Diocese of Kohima. The training brought together 45 student leaders from colleges across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, including participants from Little Flower Degree College, Loyola Academy, St. Ann's College for Women (Mehdipatnam), St. Ann's Degree & PG College for Women (Mallapur), St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women (Nacharam), and Maris Stella College, Vijayawada. The programme commenced with a formal inaugural session featuring a prayer and the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing knowledge and enlightenment. Sr. Dr. Velangini Kumari, Principal of St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of peace-based leadership, ethical values, and social responsibility in contemporary academic environments





WORKSHOP : LATEST TRENDS IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

The Department of Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, and IQAC at St. Joseph's College for Women (Autonomous), Visakhapatnam, organized a prestigious two-day Science Academies Education Programme titled "Lecture Workshop on Latest Trends in Mathematical Sciences" from 27th to 28th February 2026 in collaboration with Xavier Board of Higher Education Ap & TS Region.

SPONSORING ACADEMIES

The program was sponsored by the Indian Academy of Sciences (Bengaluru), the Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi), and The National Academy of Sciences (Prayagraj). These academies play a vital role in advancing science education and recognizing talent across India.

XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA (XBHEI):

Established in 1951, this collaboration brought a focus on academic excellence rooted in ethics and inclusive leadership.

UTTARA ANDHRA SOCIETY FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES (UASMS)

Founded in 2018, UASMS collaborated to ensure the North Coastal Andhra region remains updated on the latest mathematical developments.

PROF. S. MINAKSHI SUNDARAM MEMORIAL SOCIETY (SMSMS):

This partnership honoured the legacy of the gifted 20th-century mathematician Prof. S. Minakshi Sundaram, who left a lasting impact on the field at Andhra University.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND RESOURCE SPEAKERS

The workshop featured intensive lecture sessions led by distinguished academicians from premier Indian institutes:

- Prof. Gadadhar Misra (ISI, Bengaluru)
- Prof. K. Srinivas (The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai)
- Prof. P. D. N. Srinivasu (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam)
- Prof. Narasimha Kumar (IIT, Hyderabad)

These experts explored the rapid advancement of mathematical sciences through technology and interdisciplinary collaboration, emphasizing mathematics as a foundational tool for modelling complex systems.



PARTNERSHIP WITH DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY:

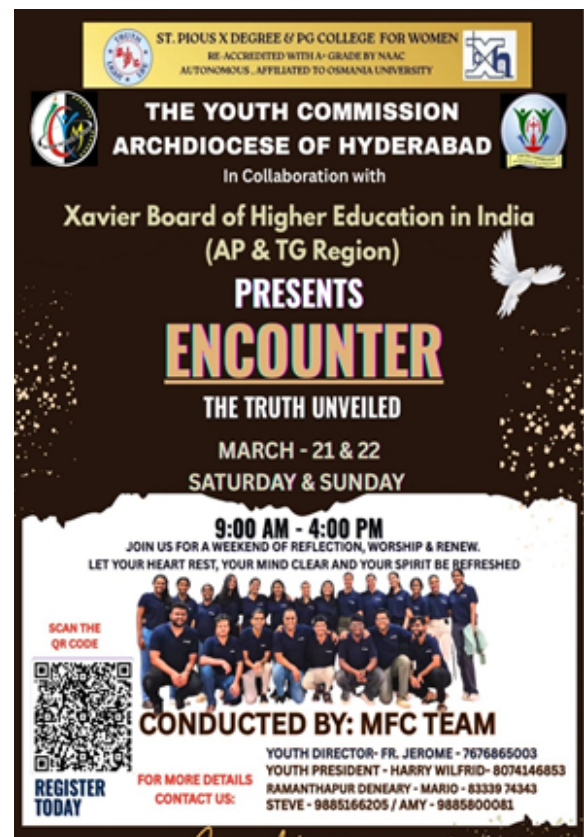
Dr. Phil Armstrong and Dr. Sanjay Purushotam from Dallas Baptist University, Texas, USA visited St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women, Hyderabad and St. Ann's College for Women, Mehedipatnam on 2nd February, 2026. Both the colleges signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dallas Baptist University (DBU), Texas, on February 2, 2026. The event marked a significant milestone in the college's international collaboration efforts through partnership with Xavier Board of Higher Education in India.

Highlights of the Event:

- 1. International Opportunities:** Dr. Sanjay Purushotham, India Liaison for International Affairs, DBU, addressed students on various Master's degree opportunities available at DBU.
- 2. Faculty Development:** Mr. Phil Armstrong spoke on "Sustaining the Teacher: Practices of well-being for teaching and mentoring."

The event witnessed the release of the poster for the International Conference scheduled on February 17-18, 2026, in collaboration with DBU.

The MoU aims to foster academic collaboration, student exchange, and research opportunities between the two institutions. This partnership is expected to enhance global exposure for students and faculty, promoting cross-cultural understanding and



ENCOUNTER – THE TRUTH UNVEILED:

A two-day Youth Prayer for the catholic students of Hyderabad region titled “Encounter – The Truth Unveiled” (Reflections, Prayer and Renewal) conducted by the MFC team, was held at St. Pious X Degree and PG College for Women, Nacharam, Hyderabad on March 21st and 22nd, 2026.



EASTERN AND NORTH EAST REGION

The first meeting of the Eastern and North East region was held online on
Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 6pm.

The session commenced with an opening prayer and a warm welcome to all participants. Special gratitude was extended to the President of the organization, who attended despite a demanding schedule, alongside appreciation for the collective dedication of all regional representatives present.

Core Agenda Items & Strategic Proposals

Four primary institutional objectives were outlined to enhance regional cooperation and student development:

National Examination Preparation: Member institutions were requested to identify and select candidates interested in civil services and All India Examinations. This initiative coincides with the organization's 75th anniversary, aiming to increase community representation in national administrative and legal positions through substantial scholarship and funding support, shared between the central office and individual colleges.

Regional Conference: Plans were introduced for a joint conference for the Eastern and Northeastern (E & NE) regions, hosted by a member university in collaboration with the All India Association for Christian Higher Education (AIACHE).

Faculty Development: Independent Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) tailored specifically to the needs of the E & NE region were proposed.

Institutional Synergy: The signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) among regional member colleges was recommended to formalize and strengthen inter-institutional collaboration.

Key Recommendations and Discussions

The floor was opened for strategic input, yielding several actionable suggestions:

- 1. Academic Autonomy and Quality Assurance:** In alignment with NEP 2020 mandates requiring all colleges to achieve autonomy by 2035, a strong recommendation was made to host a dedicated program on College Autonomy, alongside a faculty workshop focusing on Assessment and Accreditation preparation.
- 2. Student Engagement:** A proposal was raised to organize a comprehensive regional student program within the current year (2026), reviving successful models from previous years.
- 3. Inclusive Student Selection:** To ensure equity in the civil services training initiative, it was suggested that candidate selection be clearly categorized between urban and rural demographics using a structured ratio.
- 4. Research and Accreditation Metrics:** Attention was drawn to an internationally peer-reviewed journal published by a member college, emphasizing its value as a crucial metric for upcoming accreditation cycles.
- 5. Capacity Building:** A request was put forward to organize specialized workshops focusing on academic writing and publication skills to elevate faculty research output.
- 6. Institutional Resource Sharing & Network Growth**
- 7. Asset Mapping:** Member institutions were encouraged to declare their unique institutional strengths so that other colleges could draw upon this expertise as needed. As an immediate example, a commitment was made to establish a 'Peace Chain' initiative to train faculty and students in peace mediation.
- 8. National Support:** Assurance was given from the central leadership that the National Office would provide robust support to the region, acknowledging the geographical remoteness and wide span across multiple states.
- 9. Membership Expansion:** Representatives were urged to connect with non-member Catholic institutions within their respective states to encourage enrollment. It was noted that lifetime membership registration is now available via the official website pro bono, with the standard membership fees waived.

The meeting concluded with an expression of gratitude for the active interaction and mutual support among the members, closing with a reflective prayer.

REPORT OF THE:**ACADEMIC CONCLAVE OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN EAST AND NORTH EASTERN REGION****March 14-15, 2026****Venue: Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli, Guwahati, Assam****Theme: A road map for Academic Leadership and Institutional Networking: Christian Higher Educational Institutions in the East and North Eastern Region.**

In a historic and unprecedented initiative, Christian Higher Educational Institutions from the East and North East Region of India came together for the first time under the joint banner of the All India Association of Christian Higher Education (AIACHE) and the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India. The two-day Academic Conclave, held on 14–15 March 2026 at Don Bosco Institute, Karguli, Guwahati, marked a significant milestone in fostering academic leadership, institutional networking, and mission-driven education in the region.

The conclave, themed ‘A Road Map for Academic Leadership and Institutional Networking: Christian Higher Educational Institutions in the East and North East Region’, brought together 40 participants representing 19 institutions. It created a vibrant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and shared vision among educators committed to academic excellence, social responsibility, and nation-building.

The inaugural session, moderated by Sr. Janet, began with a prayer by Most Rev. Thomas Menamparampil, SDB, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, who invoked God’s blessings and called for responsible democratic participation, critical thinking, and value-based leadership among youth. The dignitaries present included Fr. Dr. X. Vedam, SJ (Secretary, AIACHE), Fr. Dr. C. P. Anto (Principal, NEISSR), Dr. Sr. Nirmala (General Secretary, AIACHE), Dr. Madhumanjari Mondal (Principal, Scottish Church College and President, AIACHE Eastern & North Eastern Region), and Rev. Dr. Fr. Paul Pudussery (Secretary, Education Commission, North East Region).

Prof. Amitab Roy (St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata) spoke on strengthening academia–industry collaboration through joint research, innovation ecosystems, and industry engagement. Fr. Varghese (Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology, Kerala) addressed digital transformation and introduced the concept of AI-integrated learning models. Mr. Alok John (Ass. Prof., Patna Women’s College) emphasized the critical role of Research and Development Cells in building institutional research culture aligned with national and global priorities.

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Madhumanjari Mondal described the conclave as a first-of-its-kind historic gathering aimed at sharing best practices while openly addressing institutional challenges. Fr. Dr. C. P. Anto the president Xavier Board East and North East region and Principal NEISSR, in his thematic introduction, emphasized the need for a context-sensitive and value-based roadmap for higher education, highlighting youth empowerment, promotion of indigenous knowledge systems, peacebuilding initiatives, and the importance of listening to marginalized communities of the North East.

Fr. Dr. X. Vedam, SJ, in his address, underscored the untapped collective potential of over 1000 Christian higher educational institutions in India and called for stronger collaboration to influence educational policy and practice. He emphasized culturally rooted education, critical thinking, and the need for teachers to act as change-makers. Rev. Dr. Fr. Paul Pudussery, in his special address, highlighted the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence while stressing the responsibility of educators to safeguard human dignity, concluding with the powerful insight that while AI shapes technology, educators shape humanity.

The keynote address on 'Academic Leadership in a Changing India: Faith, Excellence and Responsibility' was delivered by Rev. Fr. V. M. Thomas Vattathara, SDB, Founder and Advisor of Don Bosco Institute. He presented a compelling framework for institutional transformation through the stages of Inform, Reform, Form, Perform, and Transform, while also addressing contemporary challenges such as globalization, employability, technological disruption, and the need for visionary leadership rooted in values.

The plenary and technical sessions featured a distinguished line-up of speakers. Mr. John Peter emphasized accountability, academic planning, and the need to move beyond superficial accreditation practices. Mr. Kishor Das highlighted youth as peacebuilders through peer mediation and the establishment of Peace Centres in higher educational institutions.

Sr. Dr. Sheela Paul presented on student-centric curriculum design, advocating experiential and participatory learning approaches, while Dr. Samrat Bhattacharjee highlighted entrepreneurship, innovation, and incubation initiatives that foster practical learning and student-led enterprise.

The second day began with a special lecture by Dr. S. P. Singh (St. John's College, Agra), who reflected on Christian higher education as a space for dialogue, peacebuilding, and social cohesion in a fragmented world. He emphasized reconciliation, dignity, and the role of education in fostering compassionate and critically engaged citizens. A recap of the previous day's proceedings was presented by Dr. Asish Malhotra (Union Christian College, Shillong).

Sessions on collaboration and research were led by Fr. Dr. Babu Joseph (Salesian College, Siliguri), who shared institutional experiences and challenges, and Dr. Gayreen Lyngdoh (Synod College, Shillong), who emphasized the importance of faculty and student exchange programmes for knowledge production and academic enrichment.

In the focused round table, Fr. Dr. Jose Palely Devassy, Vice-Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, highlighted the integration of academic excellence with Gospel values in light of NEP 2020, emphasizing holistic formation, multidisciplinary approaches, and ethical leadership.

The concluding panel discussion featured Fr. Dr. X. Vedam, Fr. Dr. C. P. Anto, Dr. Rudolph Manih, Dr. Madhumanjari Mondal, and Dr. John Peter, who deliberated on key regional academic priorities, leadership models, and strategies for strengthening institutional collaboration.

A major highlight of the conclave was the formal adoption of the “East and North East Region Declaration on Academic Leadership and Institutional Networking.” The declaration provides a clear and collective roadmap for the future of Christian higher education in the region, emphasizing:

- Visionary Academic Leadership rooted in ethical governance, excellence, and holistic human development inspired by Gospel values.
- Mission-Driven Academic Excellence aligned with NEP 2020, NAAC, and NIRF while preserving Christian identity and value-based education.
- Institutional Networking and Collaboration through faculty and student exchange, joint research, shared resources, and sustained academic partnerships.
- Youth Leadership for Peace and Social Transformation by empowering young people as peacebuilders through dialogue, diversity, and reconciliation initiatives.
- Research, Innovation, and Social Engagement addressing regional needs, promoting sustainability, and encouraging emerging fields of knowledge.
- Faculty Formation and Capacity Building through continuous professional development, research training, and leadership formation. The declaration was formally read by Barnic Rajianlung Gangmei, Assistant Professor at NEISSR, Nagaland.

The valedictory session featured reflections by Fr. Dr. X. Vedam, SJ, who emphasized the need to translate the outcomes of the conclave into sustained institutional action. Fr. Cletus Sebastian, Executive Director of Don Bosco Institute, expressed gratitude for the successful organization of the programme.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Sr. Joyti Kispotta, who acknowledged the contributions of AIACHE, the Xavier Board, all speakers, moderators, and participants, as well as the hospitality of the host institution.

This first-ever regional convergence marks a new chapter in the journey of Christian higher education in the East and North East Region. It signals a strong collective commitment to collaboration, innovation, peacebuilding, and transformative leadership, ensuring that these institutions continue to serve as centres of excellence, values, and social transformation.

KARNATAKA REGION

The period from December 2025 to February 2026 was marked by significant academic initiatives, institutional collaborations, student achievements, and a continued commitment to sustainability and holistic development. The College actively fostered innovation, research, and community engagement while strengthening its national and international academic presence.

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES AND RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

Xavier Board Northern Region President, Prof. Sr. Molly Abraham, Principal Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, participated in the The SJCC Research Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, organized a Seven-Day National-Level Experiential Workshop on Research Methodology (1–7 December 2025), enhancing research competencies among participants. Executive Council Meeting held at Christ University Campus, Bengaluru, on January 24–26, 2026.

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) conducted a Two-Day National Seminar on “Fostering Innovation, Inclusion and Sustainability in Higher Education Institutions” (15–16 December 2025), sponsored by ICSSR – Southern Regional Centre, addressing emerging challenges and transformative practices in higher education.

SPORTS AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The College recorded remarkable achievements in sports and extracurricular domains.

Naisha Shetty secured three medals at the All India Inter-University Swimming Championship and four silver medals at the Khelo India University Games.

Pulluri Amrutha Varshini achieved recognition in the Worldwide Book of Records for participation in a Tandava dance world record.

Mahesh (II B.Com F) led the NSS Karnataka contingent to win the Best Squad Award at the State Republic Day Parade.

B.Com (Travel & Tourism) students won the Overall Championship at Ire-Questa 2026.

V. Aaron Jonathan represented India and won a gold medal at the South Asian Goalball Championship (Nepal).

The 35th Edition of SPIEL 2026, including SPIEL Run (7 February), witnessed participation from 26 institutions, reaffirming the College’s sporting excellence. The Annual Sports Day (31 January 2026) further promoted fitness and team spirit.



Spiel'2026



BBA Conference – National Conference on Global Sustainability: Business Innovation and Policy Initiatives towards Viksit Bharat

BJES Institution Day (28 February 2026), during which long-serving staff members were felicitated, with three SJCC staff members receiving special recognition for their dedicated service.



DIAMOND BENEATH YOUR FEET - CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AT DE PAUL COLLEGE, MYSORE

22 January 2025 marked a significant milestone in the history of De Paul College Mysore with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Institute of Medical Science and Technology Council (IIMSTC). As part of this landmark collaboration, a Centre of Excellence titled “Diamond Beneath Your Feet” was formally instituted on the campus.

The occasion was graced by several eminent dignitaries from academia, industry, and skill development bodies. The distinguished guests included Prof. Shivachithappa, Vice Chancellor, Mandya University; Dr. Sreedhar Saraswathi, Chairman, IIMSTC; Dr. Sanju Thomas Abraham, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Apex Skill Development Centre for Healthcare; Ms. Shelly Karnati, Managing Director, Global Universities Consortium (GUC); Ms. Nandhini Thakur, Manager, Karnataka Skill Development Council and GUC; Prof. Venkataramana, Registrar (Evaluation), Mandya University; and CA Narayanan Nambiar, Chairman, Global FTI. Re. Dr. Baiju Antony CM, the principal of the college and members of the management and staff of De Paul College participated in the grand ceremony.

The MoU aims to create transformative opportunities for students through global internships, international scholarships, advanced technology laboratories, and international academic pathways. The Centre of Excellence, Diamond Beneath Your Feet, is envisioned as a platform to nurture hidden talents, enhance employability, and promote global exposure among students.

The event underscored De Paul College’s commitment to academic innovation, industry collaboration, and global engagement, reinforcing its vision of holistic and future-ready education.

MONTFORT COLLEGE

The 6th International Conference on Counselling and Psychotherapy (ICCP 2026) was held from 7–9 January 2026 at Montfort College, Bengaluru. Organised in collaboration with the Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada, and the Neuropathways Institute, Bangalore, the conference brought together scholars, practitioners, and students from across the world to engage in meaningful dialogue on contemporary issues in mental health.

With over 650 participants, ICCP 2026 witnessed the presence of students, faculty members, clinicians, counsellors, and researchers representing institutions from India, Australia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Ethiopia, and several other countries. More than 30 keynote speakers from countries including Germany, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Japan, South Africa, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States shared their expertise and perspectives on emerging global mental health challenges.

The theme of the conference, “Building Bridges for Wellness in the Digital Era,” reflected the growing need to integrate technological developments with culturally responsive mental health practices. Over the three days, the conference featured a diverse academic programme including plenary keynote addresses, panel discussions, symposia, research paper presentations, poster sessions, workshops, and interactive town hall discussions.

ST. CLARET COLLEGE INAUGURATES NEW ANNEX BLOCK: A MILESTONE IN GROWTH AND VISION



St. Claret College, Autonomous, marked a significant milestone in its institutional journey with the inauguration and blessing of the new Annex Block on Friday, 24 October 2025. As part of the Patron's Day celebrations, Most Rev. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore blessed and dedicated the state-of-the-art facility, while Dr. Fr. Sabu Koottarapalli, Provincial Superior, formally opened the building.

The ceremony began with a solemn blessing rite invoking God's grace upon the new structure, which is poised to support the college's expanding academic and administrative needs. The Annex Block houses modern classrooms equipped with advanced teaching technology, seminar halls for academic discussions and training programmes, dedicated faculty spaces, and a range of student-support facilities — all designed to enhance the learning environment and foster holistic development.



KERALA NORTH REGION

The Xavier Board – Kerala North Region continues to uphold its commitment to fostering academic excellence, collaborative engagement, and value-based education among Catholic Higher Education Institutions. The activities and initiatives undertaken during this quarter reflect a shared vision of strengthening institutional networks, enhancing quality standards, and responding proactively to the evolving demands of higher education.

This quarterly report presents a comprehensive overview of the key programmes, meetings, and academic initiatives organised within the region. It highlights efforts to expand membership, promote faculty development, and encourage resource sharing among member institutions. The period also witnessed active participation in national-level academic discussions, particularly on NAAC reforms and emerging trends in higher education.

Through sustained collaboration and collective leadership, the Xavier Board – Kerala North Region continues to serve as a dynamic platform for innovation, academic growth, and the holistic development of educational communities.

The Regional Meet of the Xavier Board – Kerala North Region was held on 7 January 2026 at 3:30 p.m., bringing together Principals and academicians from Catholic Higher Education Institutions. The meeting served as a platform for collaboration, dialogue, and strategic planning, reaffirming the Board's commitment to academic excellence and value-based education.

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

The discussion session witnessed active participation and focused on key areas:

- Initiating a membership drive to include more institutions in the Kerala North Region
- Organising seminars, workshops, and training programmes for faculty, non-teaching staff, and students
- Promoting resource sharing among member institutions
- Strengthening collaboration and academic networking

Key Developments and Outcomes

- A list of newly added colleges was prepared, and 13 new institutions were successfully included in the Xavier Board Kerala North Region, expanding its academic network.
- The President, Vice President, and Secretary actively participated in the One-Day National Level Conference on NAAC Reforms and Skilling in Emerging Technologies held on 24 January 2026. This participation enriched the leadership's perspective with up-to-date insights on accreditation reforms and emerging academic trends.
- A comprehensive list of resource persons from the North Kerala Region was prepared, focusing on expertise in NAAC accreditation and ranking systems in higher education institutions, which will support future training and quality enhancement initiatives.



The North Kerala Region of Xavier Board strengthen inter-institutional collaboration, expands the network of member institutions, and initiates to set a clear direction for future academic initiatives. It reaffirms the Xavier Board's collective commitment to fostering excellence, innovation, and value-based education in the Kerala North Region.

KERALA SOUTH REGION



COLLABORATION WITH IQAC -BISHOP BENZIGER COLLEGE OF NURSING , KOLLAM HELD ON 24 TH MARCH 2026

Kerala Southern Region of Xavier Board of Higher Education in India successfully organized a Regional Conference of Educational Administrators and Academic Leaders in Higher Education on 24 March, 2026 at Bishop Benziger College of Nursing, Kollam on the theme: Resetting Higher Education Trajectory in the Era of Autonomy and Innovation. The Chief guests of the day Rt Rev.Bishop Paul Antony Mullasserry, Bishop of Diocese of Kollam, Rev,Fr. Praveen Martis S.J, Vice Chancellor of St. Aloysius Deemed to be University arrived the conference venue on time and were warmly welcomed by the college band.

The conference commenced with the Inaugural Ceremony held from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The inaugural session began with a prayer song by the college choir, setting a solemn and respectful tone for the event. The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Fr. Joseph John, Vice-President of the Xavier Board (South Region) and Manager of BBCON. He gave a brief history of the institution and the pivotal played by the diocese of Kollam in the ministry of education. This was followed by the Presidential Address by Rev. Dr. James John, Manager of SJCET, Palai, Kerala. He appreciated the participation of the member institutions and reaffirmed that XB is the one the best platform for enhanced collaboration and network.

Session I Academic Sessions

Rev.Dr. Praveen Martis S.J.,was the key resource person and he handled an enriching session on Transforming HEIs into Autonomous Colleges and Universities.Focused on “Transforming Higher Education Institutions into Autonomous Colleges and Universities”. The session was very informative and interactive.

Session II

Addressed the “Role of Higher Education Institutions in Sustainable Local Economic Development”. The session was led by Prof. Dr. Biju Terrance, Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, University of Kerala. He emphasised the significance of community engagement to be initiated by the academic institutions.

Session III

Discussed “Promoting Innovation in Higher Education in the Context of YIP-Kerala”. The session was conducted by Shri Nipun Raj S., State Delivery Manager, YIP, K-DISC, along with Shri Justin B., District Programme Officer, YIP, Kollam. The session did inspire the participants to work more on this area

Open Session

The Open Session featured discussions led by Dr. James John, the President of Xavier Board , Southern Region, Kerala, Dr. Reji Varghese, Former Principal of St Berchamens College, Changanasserry and Dr. Sr. Usha A.A, Pricipal St. Joseph’s College for Women Alappuzha. The session focused on current issues in higher education, sharing of best practices, innovative ventures, and institutional development strategies and collaboration for Internship.

Valedictory Session

The conference concluded with a Valedictory Session, marking the successful completion of a day filled with insightful discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaborative engagement among participants. During the session Rev.Fr. James Joseph, Manager of SJCT, Palai, Kerala expressed the gratitude to the Bishop Benziger College of Nursing fraternity led by Rev. Fr. Joseph John, the Manager of the college and the Vice president of Xavier Board, Southern Region, Kerala. Also had a photo session with all the participants and the organising institution team. The organizing team thanks specially Dr. Fr. Praveen Martis for his gracious presence and participation. He also visited Fatima Mata National College Autonomous and Bishop Jerome Engineering College in Kollam on the day of Conference in his capacity as a National President of Xavier Board of Higher Education, India.



NEWSPAPER COVERAGE IN MALAYALA MANORAMA



NORTHERN REGION

OVERVIEW

The Xavier Board Northern Region has been actively implementing the planned activities for the academic year 2025–2026 in alignment with the action plan. The region continues to focus on academic enrichment, collaboration, and capacity building through regular webinars and institutional participation.

LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

Xavier Board Northern Region President, Prof. Sr. Molly Abraham, Principal Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, participated in the Executive Council Meeting held at Christ University Campus, Bengaluru, on January 24–26, 2026.

WEBINAR ACTIVITIES

The Northern Region has been consistently organizing monthly webinars in collaboration with the Xavier Board Northern Region on relevant and contemporary topics

JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE, DELHI.

January 30, 2026: A webinar on “Artificial Intelligence and the Christian Educator: Teaching with Wisdom in the Digital Age” was organised by Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, Northern Region. The seminar focused on understanding the ethical and value-based integration of artificial intelligence in education, particularly within Christian institutions.

The keynote address by Fr. Dr. Paul Pudussery, CSC offered valuable insights into how AI is reshaping educational models and emphasized the responsibility of educators to integrate technology with ethical discernment, wisdom, and respect for human dignity.

An interactive discussion followed, encouraging participant engagement, where the questions from the participants were answered by the speaker. A short online quiz and feedback form were shared to reinforce key learnings from the session. The seminar successfully encouraged reflective dialogue on technology, ethics, and values in contemporary education among 70 participants across northern region.





BHOPAL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The online webinar titled “Utilising AI to Personalise Learning and Improve Assessment in Education” was conducted on 28 February 2026 by the Department of Computer Science and Application from The Bhopal School of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India (XBHEI). The session progressed with an insightful discussion led by Dr. Vijay Panse, focusing on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in modern education. The speaker elaborated on how AI-driven tools such as adaptive learning systems, intelligent tutoring platforms, and data analytics can personalise learning experiences by catering to individual student needs, learning styles, and performance levels. Practical examples were shared to demonstrate how AI enhances engagement, identifies learning gaps, and supports continuous academic development.

The latter part of the webinar focused on the application of AI in assessment and evaluation, highlighting innovations such as automated grading systems, real-time feedback mechanisms, and competency-based assessment models that improve efficiency and reduce bias. The session also addressed key challenges, including data privacy concerns, ethical implications, and the necessity for educators to develop digital competencies for effective AI integration. An interactive question-and-answer segment allowed participants to engage with the speaker and gain deeper insights into real-world applications. Overall, the webinar emphasised the importance of balancing technological advancements with human expertise to create ethical, effective, and student and Faculty learning environments. It was attended by 115 participants.

TAMIL NADU REGION

MEETING DETAILS

- Organization: Xavier Board of Higher Education in India
- Region: Tamil Nadu Region
- Type of Meeting: Online Networking and Collaboration
- Date: 20 January 2026
- Time: 6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.
- Venue / Platform: Online - Google Meet

RESOURCE PERSON

Rev. Dr. Praveen Martis SJ

President – Xavier Board of Higher Education in India

Vice Chancellor – St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University),
Mangalore

The programme was hosted by Dr. V. Jude Annie Cynthia, Secretary, Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, Tamil Nadu Region, who coordinated the proceedings of the meeting.

The meeting commenced with a prayer led by Dr. Fr. Arokiasamy Xavier, Vice President, invoking God's guidance and blessings for the deliberations.

This was followed by the Welcome Address by Dr. Sr. Arokia Jayaceli, President, Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, Tamil Nadu Region. In her address, she warmly welcomed the members and emphasised the importance of coming together as a regional body to foster collaboration and shared mission.

A brief introduction to the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India was presented by Sr. Deepthi, General Secretary, Xavier Board. She outlined the history and evolution of the Board, highlighting its foundation, vision, and mission. She explained that the Board presently comprises 54 member institutions across the country and continues to carry forward its educational mission rooted in Christian faith and Gospel values, with a strong commitment to service, justice, and transformation through education

In his address, Rev. Dr. Praveen Martis SJ reflected on the significance of the forthcoming 75th year of the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India. He shared insights on planning meaningful activities and initiatives to commemorate this milestone year.

HE PROPOSED SEVERAL FORWARD-LOOKING IDEAS, INCLUDING:

- The preparation of a coffee table book and documentary publications, such as books and magazines, to chronicle the work, service, and contributions of the Board over the years, thereby helping a wider audience understand its purpose and impact.
- Encouraging more institutions to join the Board, thereby strengthening its collective voice and outreach.
- Exploring ways to provide scholarships for students from underprivileged backgrounds, reaffirming the Board's commitment to inclusive and equitable education.

Rev. Dr. Martis also addressed current challenges faced by minority communities across the country, emphasising the need for institutions to stand united as one body, safeguard rights, and work collectively to resolve emerging issues. He highlighted the importance of supporting institutions and individuals through solidarity and advocacy.

He further suggested the creation of official social media platforms for the Xavier Board to promote awareness, disseminate information, and share updates on the services offered and events organised by the Board.

The Resource Person also provided insights into planning activities for the 75th year celebrations, focusing on opportunities to meet, collaborate, and network on contemporary issues. He emphasised the need for the Board to handhold member institutions and extend support wherever required.



WESTERN REGION

CIRCULATION & OUTREACH

The Western Region diligently circulated information regarding all major programs and initiatives of the Xavier Board, actively encouraging member institutions to participate with enthusiasm and commitment. This sustained communication fostered greater engagement across the region

VIKSIT BHARAT INITIATIVE

Several member institutions participated in the Viksit Bharat initiative, reflecting a shared vision of national development and responsible citizenship among students and faculty.

RESOURCE PERSONS DATABASE

A comprehensive list of qualified and experienced resource persons was meticulously prepared and submitted to the Central Office, strengthening the academic and training framework of the Xavier Board.

UPSC SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Information regarding the UPSC Scholarship Training Program was effectively disseminated to all member institutions, encouraging aspiring students to benefit from this valuable opportunity

UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETING

The region is planning to convene a Regional Meeting after the holy season of Easter, aiming to review progress, strengthen collaboration, and chart future initiatives.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Plans are underway to organize a Leadership Training Program for students and faculty of member institutions, in collaboration with Christ University Lavasa Pune , during September or October of the upcoming academic year. This initiative seeks to nurture transformative leadership rooted in values and excellence.

INTER-COLLEGIATE FEST - UDAAN

The Western Region proudly highlights the successful conduct of the Inter-Collegiate Fest UDAAN, organized by Christ College Pune. The fest witnessed vibrant participation from member institutions including Nirmala Niketan College, Sophia College, Carmel College, and St. Xavier's College, among others, making it a celebration of talent, creativity, and unity.

TEACHERS' TRAINING PROGRAMME (COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE)

In a remarkable inter-regional collaboration with the North Eastern Region, a three-day Teachers' Training Programme was successfully conducted at NEISSR College in association with Peace Channel and ASHA Foundation. The programme witnessed the participation of 130 teachers from 43 schools across three districts of Nagaland, making it a meaningful endeavour in capacity building and educational empowerment.