

## VARSITY TO REQUEST MAMATA FOR LAND NEAR CAMPUS

# Xavier's plans sports academy

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New Town: St Xavier's University is planning a sports academy that will offer long and short-term courses as well as a law school on the lines of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences.

Father Felix Raj, the vice-chancellor of the university, said on Thursday, said the sports academy would be the first of its kind within any Indian institution run by the Jesuit Fathers.

The academy will have postgraduate and undergraduate courses, besides short-term certificate programmes. "We might run an undergraduate course in hockey, cricket or football. If it is possible, we can have a separate unit for boxing where specialised training can be offered. We will also have programmes in sports management



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Vice-chancellor, St Xavier's University

and sports science," Felix Raj said.

All courses will have two components, academic and training.

The proposed sports academy will not be a part of the university's existing 17-acre campus, located 3km from Tata

Medical Center in New Town. The law school will be set up on the main campus, though.

The vice-chancellor intends to approach chief minister Mamata Banerjee with a request for a 10-acre plot close to the existing campus for the sports academy. "Our decision to have a sports academy is final. But we need more land. We will approach chief minister Mamata Banerjee with our proposal," Felix Raj said.

The university hopes to set up the proposed law school by 2020 and make the sports academy fully operational by 2025, the vice-chancellor said.

Felix Raj is scheduled to leave for London on May 21 to speak to industrialist Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, an alumnus of St Xavier's College, about the university's plans. He will also meet other alumni based in the UK.