

NATIONAL CONVENTION, LOOKING BEYOND, IN DELHI. SNAPSHOTS...

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From Zeenat Aman to Kapil Dev, the Third National Convention, Looking Beyond — organised by St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association (SXCCAA) from November 16 to 18 in New Delhi — was a starry affair. The first night saw Xaverians turn up in traditional attire as the theme for the night was Punjabi.

Day Two was dedicated to sessions. While Arvind Gupta, CEO of MyGov, spoke on communication and digital governance, Tanmoy Chakrabarty, group govt affairs officer, Tata Sons; Birendra Kumar Agarwal, executive director, Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited; and Lt Gen (Retd.) Utpal Bhattacharya spoke on 'My country as I see it'. The highlight of the day was the interaction with yesteryear actress Zeenat Aman. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the former vice-president of India, was awarded the Global Xaverian Award.

Father Felix Raj, vice-chancellor of St. Xavier's University, spoke on the 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's Chicago Conference. "The contribution of Swami Vivekananda to the world community were his philosophy of religious universalism, his advocacy of religious harmony and his exaltation to believers to assimilate the goodness embedded in different faith traditions. We take a pledge that as Xaverians we will always march ahead with this determination and conviction that the world is one and that we all belong to the same human family as brothers and sisters," said Father Felix Raj.

On Day Three, Xaverians visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the morning and the evening was all about sports and music.



Father Felix Raj felicitated Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the former vice-president of India, with the Global Xaverian Award. "I am overwhelmed by the honour that you have bestowed on me and overwhelmed by the memories which are dating back to a distant but not forgotten past. They are memories about the time that I spent in the college, about the discipline in which I was initiated. I understood much better decades later the sense of dedication and service that the order of Jesuits had rendered to their students. I was delighted to hear that St. Xavier's University is prospering and is looking forward to doing better. Even more heartening is the fact that beyond a standard pattern of universities in urban centres, you have decided to have a rural sector. The fact that is often missed is that the heart of India is rural India and if we can take the fountain of knowledge to the rural areas, we would be doing a service whose results are difficult to anticipate," said Ansari.