

St. Xavier's College, Ranchi — Role as a Knowledge Partner

International Conference on Voter Registration & Voter Registers - 2026

September 2–3, 2026, Organized by Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand

Venue: National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi

About the Conference

India has assumed the Chair of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026. The Chairship is being led by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC), and being supported by India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM). It is in this backdrop that the International Conference on Voter Registration & Voter Registers 2026 was organized by the Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand, in association with the Central University of Jharkhand. It was held over two days, on September 2 and 3, 2026, at the National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi.

The conference brought together election officials, academics, and researchers from across the country and abroad to discuss voter registration systems, electoral rolls, and democratic inclusion.

St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, was one of three official Knowledge Partners of the conference, alongside the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi and NUSRL, Ranchi.

Central Role of the St. Xavier's College at the Conference

St. Xavier's College was among the most actively involved of the three Knowledge Partners in the actual running of the conference. Its faculty were present at almost every level of the event — from the Organizing Committee and the Inaugural Session platform, to chairing and moderating technical sessions, to recording proceedings as rapporteurs. This depth of involvement reflects the trust placed in the College and its standing in the field of electoral literacy and political science education in Jharkhand.

Institutional Leadership

- **Rev. Dr. Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur, S.J.**, Principal of St. Xavier's College, represented the College among the Distinguished Guests and delivered an address as **Guest of Honour** during the Inaugural Session on Day 1 — one of only a handful of institutional heads to be given this honour. He also took part in the lamp-lighting ceremony and the launch of the conference's book and souvenir on Voter Registration and Voter Registers, and was formally felicitated on stage.
- **Prof. B.K. Sinha**, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities & Head, Department of Political Science, represented the College on the Organizing Committee and proposed the Vote of Thanks at the Valedictory Session on Day 2, formally closing the conference.
- **Dr. Ashutosh Kr. Pandey**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, also served on the Organizing Committee, chaired Parallel Technical Session 12 on Day 2, and co-authored two research papers presented in the technical sessions — combining an organizing role with academic contribution.



Lighting of the ceremonial lamp at the Inaugural Session



Principal felicitated with a traditional memento



Principal receiving a floral bouquet on stage



Launch of the book and souvenir on Voter Registration and Voter Registers



Principal delivering his address at the podium



Prof. B.K. Sinha felicitated with a traditional shawl



Vote of Thanks by Prof. B.K. Sinha,



Dr. Ashutosh Kumar Pandey felicitated with a traditional shawl



Exchange of floral greetings on stage



Group photograph of the Organizing Committee and dignitaries



Students of College with Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand



Faculty of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi with Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India

Academic and Coordination Role Across Sessions

St. Xavier's College supplied Masters of Ceremony for six of the twelve parallel technical sessions held across the two days — the largest such contribution among the Knowledge Partner institutions — as well as a rapporteur, ensuring the College's presence ran through the entire technical programme, not just the inaugural and valedictory events:

- Dr. Sachindranath Mishra (Assistant Professor, Department of English) — Sessions 1 and 4
- Prof. Ivana Chakraborty (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology) — Sessions 2 and 5
- Dr. Jui Banerjee (Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration) — Sessions 3 and 6
- Dr. Saumya Maniny Sinha (Assistant Professor Department of Political -Science) served as a Rapporteur, formally recording proceedings for Parallel Technical Session .
- Dr Shreya Pandey (Assistant Professor Department of Political -Science) served as a RDepartment of Political -Science) served as a Rapporteur, formally recording proceedings for Parallel Technical Session .
- Mr. Abhi Arya (Student , Department of Political -Science) — Session 7 and Session 10
- Ms. Swastika Pandey (Student , Department of Political -Science) — Session 8 and Session 11
- Mr. Shaurya Raj (Student , Department of Political -Science) — Session 9 and Session 12

Student Presence

The 12 Members from the ELC (Electoral Literacy Club) of St Xavier's College ,Ranchi had Served as the Volunteer's During the Event

- Dravin Singh (Official Campus Ambassador)
- Muskan Shukla (Official Campus Ambassador)
- Raj Nandani (Official Campus Ambassador) and 9 others

A total of 72 students from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi took part in the two-day conference, of whom 12 served as volunteers supporting the smooth running of the event. This gave the College a strong visible presence at the venue throughout, including at the inaugural session, the panel discussions, and the closing group photograph.

Summary

As a Knowledge Partner, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, played a central and highly visible role in the conference — institutional leadership through its Principal's prominent presence at the inaugural proceedings (address, lamp lighting, book launch, and felicitation), academic weight through faculty on the Organizing Committee and as a session chair and paper contributor, operational backbone through faculty moderators and a rapporteur across half the technical sessions, and strong ground presence through 72 participating students, 12 of whom served as event volunteers. Taken together, this makes St. Xavier's College one of the most substantially engaged institutions at the conference, reflecting its standing in electoral literacy and civic education in Jharkhand.

Video Links:

Highlights of Day 01 :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fBercuqEUi_9xeYiTYBdqAZLpiLEMmWI/view?usp=drivesdk

Highlights of Day 02:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GgK15ZJeDHnLFYmkkwzgA_rVKTyDY0uj/view?usp=drivesdk