

Chemtrails of Astraeus' Rhapsody

Astrovaganza 2025

Xaverian Astronomical Society

"Something as mere as age in the immensity of Curiosity, is but a young Sun against the entirety of the Sky."

The cosmos aligned as **Astrovaganza 2025, the flagship event of the Xaverian Astronomical Society, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata** launched into action, witnessing a novel unfurling of the intricate patterns of the **Cosmic Tapestry**, in a journey through the frontiers of science, intellect, and imagination, across the three-day celebration of its unfathomable grandeur. The third edition of the annual flagship event of the Society spanning over **26th, 27th and 28th February 2025** marked its significance in form of being the first grand-scale long-running event of XAS. In its course, the astro-community's collective passion in Astronomy, was celebrated in the form of several comprehensive events including its highlight; a talk session; ***"Tale of Telescopes"*** by **Sir Tapas Baug, Associate Professor, S.N. Bose Centre of Basic Sciences** on the 28th, in collaboration with the **Postgraduate and Research Department of Physics**, in celebration of National Space Day 2025.

The event's resounding was substantially supported by exclusive sponsorships from:

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Dr. Suparna Roy Chowdhury, Dr. Ashadul Halder and XAS Core Committee with RJ Animesh, 91.9 Friends FM, at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 28, 2025

Day 1: The Cosmic Spark

The event commenced at D'Souza Hall with an inspiring inaugural session featuring an address by Fr. Principal Rev. Dr Dominic Savio, SJ, followed by a thought-provoking speech from Dr. Suparna Roychowdhury, Deputy Vice President of XAS. The session concluded with the Vote of Thanks delivered by the Secretary of XAS, officially igniting the interstellar adventure.

The first challenge, **Bandits of Callisto**, tested participants' astronomical knowledge in a mind-blogging quiz session hosted by **Sayak Chowdhury, Alumni of SXC**.



Bandits of Callisto (Quiz) at D'Souza Hall, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 26, 2025

Event Horizon, the idea presentation event, commenced next, where visionaries stood before a panel of esteemed judges—**Dr. Tapati Dutta and Dr. Sarbari Guha from the PG & Research Department of Physics**, along with **Dr. Rahul Sharma from the Department of Chemistry**. Each team unravelled concepts that stretched the boundaries of possibility, mirroring the very nature of black holes: once an idea crossed the threshold, there was no turning back.



Event Horizon (Idea Presentation) at D'Souza Hall, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 26, 2025

Amidst the frenzy of the cosmic extravaganza, another set of cruisers were en route to some disclosures of the encrypted Tapestry. The coding event; **Code Nebula: Encrypt the Universe**, inspired by the idea of Galileo as a coder, encouraged innovative problem-solving, where algorithms and functions simulated cosmic encryption. Held at CLAB-4, presided by **Prof. Kaushik Goswami from the Department of Computer Science**, as the esteemed judge, the event attracted all the tech enthusiasts eager to "debug the cosmos" and optimize reality.



Code Nebule (Coding Event) at CLAB4, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 26, 2025

Day 2: The Cosmic Courtroom

Held in **Room 35A**, **The Great Cosmic Parley** was an Oxford-style debate on the motion: *"This house regrets the prevalence of techno-pessimism."* Judged by **Hamed Aziz Safwi, Alumni of SXC, Ex-Assistant Secretary of the Xaverian Debating Society**, the debate saw rigorous intellectual battles before a final team emerged victorious.

While the college rooms were all busy, the mind too, was animated; its creative luminosity in its interstellar trail to decorate the Cosmic Tapestry in its variegated colours. The online events encouraged remote participation.



The Great Cosmic Parley (Debate) at Room 35A, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 27, 2025

Astral Aesthetics

Poster Design

It explored the theme "*Cosmos, a timeless waltz.*"



Winner of Astral Aesthetics receiving award from Dr. Tapas Baug at D'Souza Hall, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 28, 2025

Anthologies of Andromeda

Creative Writing

This event reflected on the themes of cosmic impermanence against the clock, and Earth's diaphanous fragility.



Winner of Anthologies of Andromeda receiving award from Dr. Tapas Baug at D'Souza Hall, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 28, 2025

Astral Gaze

Astrophotography

It showcased breathtaking celestial captures.



Winner of Galactic Gaze receiving award from Dr. Tapas Baug at D'Souza Hall, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 28, 2025

Day 3: The Cosmic Tapestry

"Tale of Telescopes", the highly-anticipated Talk session where Prof. Tapan Baug took us, out of the walls of the **Rohinton Kapadia Hall**, and through the history of observational astronomy in a storytelling style. He began with **Hans Lippershey's accidental discovery of combining lenses**, which led to the first telescope, and traced its journey from **Galileo's improvements to today's JWST**. The session wrapped up with a **fun and insightful Q&A**, where other professors added their own questions—some serious, some humorous—making the experience both engaging and memorable.



"Tale of Telescopes" by Dr Tapas Baug, at RK Hall, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on February 28, 2025

The course of the events proceeded to D'Souza Hall, where the **Award Ceremony** took place, followed closely by the **Felicitation Ceremony** of the members of the Xaverian Astronomical Society, marking the final stroke at the Cosmic canvas.

Astrovaganza 2025 transcended a mere event—it celebrated scientific curiosity, creative expression, and the pioneering spirit of the XAS which continues to inspire future cosmic explorers.

As they say, *"Inspiration was an inkling away to the eclipse; but Time had its ambiguous intent wrote at the constellations; 'Helios illuminates Luna'"*.

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