

**‘It is better to debate a question without settling it, than to settle a question without debating it.’**

Keeping this quote in mind, St. Xavier’s School, Bathinda organised the first edition of St. Xavier’s Youth Parliament 2023, *Salva Veritate* (Save The Truth), with the aim of strengthening the roots of democracy and familiarising Xavierites with the working of the Parliament. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Rev. Father Principal, Cidloy Furtado, Coordinator Ma’am, Ms. Archana Rajput and Supervisor Ma’am, Ms. Nupur. The most distinctive feature of this event was that it was an innovative initiative taken by the members of our School Parliament, right from its planning in the nascent stages till its implementation and final execution. This prestigious event commenced with the Opening Ceremony wherein the Secretary General rightly emphasised the importance of promoting critical thinking skills among the learners and fostering an environment conducive to learning. Rev. Father Sony Furtado, the Treasurer, Society of Pilar, was the worthy Chief Guest for the Opening Ceremony. This was followed by the inspirational address by Supervisor Ma’am, Ms. Nupur who applauded the dedication and perseverance showcased by the members of the school Parliament while planning this event. The Chief Guest also praised the innovative ideas and out of the box thinking of the Parliament members. Then the session of the Youth Parliament was declared open with fervour and zeal by the Secretary General. Various delegates realistically represented renowned members of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha of the State of Punjab. The delegates of Lok Sabha enthusiastically participated in a fruitful discussion on the agenda ‘Urban Rural Development Divide Leading Towards Human Migration’, thus presenting the advantages and disadvantages of the same. While the delegates of the Vidhan Sabha, put forth their candid opinions on the agenda, ‘Crime Control with Special Emphasis on the Rising Prevalence of Drug Abuse’. Xavierites skillfully exhibited their public speaking skills and the ability to voice their notions during these sessions. The event concluded with the Closing Ceremony. Mr. Sukhbir Singh, a multifaceted personality, an Ex Faculty of our institution, who has served as the Director of Advanced Academic Studies in the United States of America was the Chief Guest for the Closing Ceremony. The performance of the deserving delegates was acclaimed as they were felicitated with awards and certificates in the verbal mention, honourable mention, high commendation and best delegate category. The members of the Executive Board were also presented with awards as token of recognition for the toil and sincere efforts exhibited by them. The event came to a closure with words of wisdom shared by Rev. Father Principal. This enriching event provided a platform to Xavierites to broaden their horizons, develop an insight into the working of the Parliament and motivated them to indulge in healthy discussions on significant political issues.