

Inaugural Address of Reverend Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ  
**On the Inauguration of the New Campus of St. Xavier's College, Simdega,  
on 6 March 2026.**

### **1. Opening Greetings**

Honourable Members of Parliament (MPs), respected Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), esteemed Deputy Commissioner, Circle Officer, Block Development Officer, His Lordship Vincent Barwa, the Bishop of Simdega, beloved religious Provincials, Superiors and Heads of institutions, government officials, Jesuit fathers, teachers, faculty members, staff, alumni, friends, and my dear young students—good morning, and blessings of peace and joy to each one of you.

Today is a moment of grace, history, and vision. We gather not only to inaugurate a building, but to unveil a dream, long cherished by the Ranchi Province of the Society of Jesus and by the people of Simdega—a dream now shaped into this new and beautiful campus of St. Xavier's College, Simdega.

### **2. The Gift of Jesuit Education to Chotanagpur**

Since 1540, Jesuit education has sought to form “*men and women for and with others*”—competent, compassionate, and committed to the common good. This College is the latest chapter in that global mission.

Simdega is a land rich in tribal culture, courage, and resilience. Yet it is also a land where many struggle with poverty, unemployment, educational deprivation, and migration due to a lack of opportunities. The founding of St. Xavier's College in 2016—beginning modestly at the Samtoli campus with just 456 students and 15 professors—was a direct response to these realities.

Today, as we step into this new campus, we celebrate not only its architectural beauty but its socio-moral purpose. The 72% tribal population of this district deserves accessible, affordable, and high-quality education. Jesuit education here is therefore not a luxury; it is a moral responsibility and a missionary calling.

### **3. Jesuit Vision: Education that Transforms**

Jesuit education worldwide rests on three foundational pillars:

**a) Depth of Thought.** We form individuals who think critically, analyse deeply, and discern wisely. The Jesuit document *Characteristics of Jesuit Education* states: “We aim to educate the whole person to the fullness of their humanity.”

**b) Magnanimity and Generosity**

The Latin root of *MAGIS*—our guiding ideal—means “the more,” the greater good. *MAGIS* is not about ambition but about service—seeking not only what is MORE but also what is BETTER for the Greater Glory of God and humanity.

**c) Formation in Faith, Justice, and Solidarity**

Faith that does justice is at the heart of Jesuit work. In Simdega, this means strengthening the voices of the marginalized, empowering tribal youth, and committing ourselves to the dignity and rights of every person.

#### **4. New Campus: a New Chapter, a New Responsibility**

The new campus is not merely a relocation; it is a call to renewed responsibility. The college has witnessed steady growth in student numbers, improvement in academic performance, and growing visibility in the region. This new environment of this campus marks a turning point. Here, future leaders of Jharkhand and India will be formed: leaders imbued with a sense of justice and love for the poor.

#### **5. The Educational Thrust of the Society of Jesus Today**

The Society of Jesus has articulated four Universal Apostolic Preferences (2019–2029), which guide all our ministries worldwide. They provide the framework for what this college must strive for.

##### **i) Showing the Way to God**

This campus must provide spaces for reflection, discernment, silence, and dialogue. Young people today face enormous pressures—digital distraction, identity confusion, loneliness, and lack of direction. This college must help students discover meaning, purpose, inner freedom, and hope in life. All this should lead them to God.

##### **ii) Walking with the Excluded**

This is a call to stand with the poor, the marginalized, the indigenous, and those denied dignity. Simdega, with its tribal majority, reminds us that our mission is not academic excellence alone, but also social equality, cultural dignity, and the empowerment of communities. This college must always remain a home for the excluded, not a fortress for the privileged.

##### **iii) Journeying with Youth**

Young people are the protagonists of change. The Jesuit document *Jesuits and Youth Ministry* says: “Accompanying youth is not an option; it is a sacred responsibility.”

Here in Simdega, you have the opportunity of accompanying young men and women who may be the first in their families to enter higher education, who dream of a better life, who carry the aspirations of entire communities.

##### **iv) Caring for Our Common Home**

Inspired by the encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, Jesuit education must foster ecological consciousness. Simdega is blessed with forests, rivers, and rich biodiversity. The new campus should become a model of ecological sensitivity—solar energy, water harvesting, waste reduction, and green landscaping. Let this place teach students that caring for creation is not an academic subject, but a way of life.

#### **6. The Vision-Mission and Motto of St. Xavier’s College Simdega in the context of the UAPs**

Your vision to build a just, secular, and democratic society, and to form credible, creative, and socially committed citizens—especially for the service of the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized—echoes the very heart of Jesuit education. It reminds us that learning is not meant solely for personal advancement but for transforming society through conscience, compassion, commitment and competence.

In your Mission, I see a roadmap that aligns well with the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus. Your motto, *Lucens et Ardens* — ‘Let your light shine’ — is not merely a poetic phrase, but a prophetic call to each one of you to radiate the light of wisdom, compassion, courage, and integrity in a world that often struggles with shadows of inequality and injustice.

### **7. Call to the Professors and Staff**

Respected Professors and Staff, your intellectual competence, moral integrity, and compassionate presence are invaluable to shape the future of the students who pass through the portals of this institution. I urge you to become Mentors, Guides, and Companions of young minds. You can do so through teaching with passion, accompanying with patience, correcting with love, and being an inspiration by the example of your life.

### **8. Call to Government Leaders and Administrators**

To our respected MP, MLA, DC, and officials of every department, this college stands ready to collaborate with you and depends on your collaboration in order to meet its objectives and goals. We need to work together in order to transform Simdega into a model district of educational empowerment and social progress.

### **9. Call to the Jesuits of the Ranchi Province**

My Jesuit brothers in the Ranchi Province,

Your predecessors—missionaries, teachers, pastors, and social workers—walked through forests, lived in remote villages, learned tribal languages, and gave their lives for the people of Chotanagpur. You inherit this sacred mission. The new campus is not merely a sign of achievement; it is a renewed call to humility, service, and creativity in mission.

### **10. Call to the Students**

My dear students, you are the reason this institution exists. Education is not only a privilege; it is a responsibility. I invite you to three commitments: **Discover your potential, serve your community and become Leaders of Transformation.**

### **11. Conclusion: “Let Your Light Shine.”**

May this college continue to be a beacon of faith, justice, excellence, inclusion, and hope for humanity. With joy, gratitude, and great expectation,

*I formally dedicate this new campus of St. Xavier’s College, Simdega, to the people of this land, and to the future generations who will benefit from the education offered here.*

May God bless this institution abundantly. **Thank you.**