## Keynote Address: "Ethnobotanical Perspectives of Forest"

Speaker: Rev. Fr. Dr. G. Paul Arockiam S.J., Principal, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan

Date: 21st March 2023

## Time: 11:30 AM

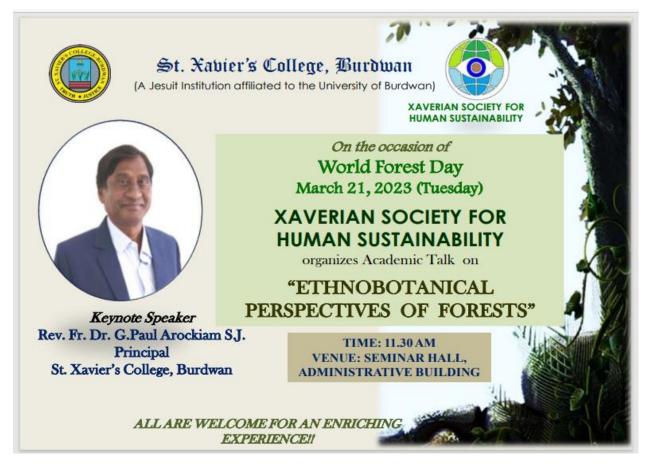
Venue: Seminar Hall, Administrative Building, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan

On 21st March 2023, the Xaverian Society for Human Sustainability celebrated World Forest Day with a series of events, including a keynote address and an inter-departmental forestrybased presentation competition. The program began at 11:30 AM in the Seminar Hall of the Administrative Building with an introduction to the theme of Forest Day and a symbolic plant watering ceremony led by Rev. Fr. Dr. G. Paul Arockiam S.J., Principal of St. Xavier's College, Burdwan. The event was coordinated by Mr. Saurav Sengupta, Head of the Department of Geography, and Dr. Susmita Bhowmick, Assistant Professor of Geography, alongside Ms. Srija Banerjee, President of the Xaverian Society for Human Sustainability.

Rev. Fr. Dr. G. Paul Arockiam delivered the keynote address on "Ethnobotanical Perspectives of Forest," discussing the role of ethnobotanists in utilizing medicinal plants and their sociocultural significance. He elaborated on the ethnomedicinal uses of indigenous plant species for treating various ailments, providing a comprehensive overview of the medico-technological and social aspects of ethnobotany. This insightful lecture was followed by a thematic dance performance by Ms. Srija Banerjee, reflecting the essence of Forest Day.

The second part of the program featured an inter-departmental forestry-based presentation competition, held from 2:10 PM in the same venue. Fourteen participants from various departments presented on diverse aspects of forestry. The competition was judged by Dr. M. Senthil Kumar, Head of the Department of Biotechnology, and Dr. Vishal Maheswari, Head of the Department of Commerce. The Department of Geography secured the first position, followed by the Department of BCA in second place and the Department of English in third. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 133 students and faculty members from multiple departments, making it a successful and memorable celebration of World Forest Day.

## Flyer:



## **Flyer: Forestry based Presentation**

