



Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration

The 4th Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration on Sustainable Development was organised under the aegis of Fr Arrupe Center for Ecology and Sustainability (FACES) in memory of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the founder of Amul better known as the Milkman of India. The oration aims to provide a platform to listen to and learn from thought leaders, social entrepreneurs, development sector professionals and policy makers who have made a significant contribution to the idea of an empowered, prosperous and sustainable society.

This year Dr. Ashok Khosla, eminent environmentalist and Founder & Chairman, Development Alternatives Group, delivered the oration on the topic The Machine Revolution: Fulfilling the Aspirations of Rural India.



In his speech, Dr. Khosla said, “Some 70 years ago, Dr. Verghese Kurien created Amul, one of the most successful social enterprises in history. Over this period, Amul pioneered technical, managerial, and institutional innovations that led to remarkable progress in India’s dairy industry – taking it from one of the least productive in the world to becoming the largest in any country within a few decades. The immense magnitude of Dr. Kurien’s contribution to the nutrition and health of the nation’s people, was accompanied with a comparable impact by the organisations he created on the incomes, social status, education of the dairy farmers, who were his first and most heartfelt concern.”

Nobel Laureate visits XLRI



XLRI organised an interactive session with eminent economist and Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus. Prof. Yunus, fondly known as Banker to the Poor, is a world renowned social entrepreneur, banker, economist and civil society leader. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concept of microcredit and microfinance.

The Grameen Bank model of microfinance now operates in more than 100 countries worldwide. As of today, about 9 million

people benefit from the financial services accorded by Grameen Bank and remarkably, 97 percent of the beneficiaries are women.

The session was conducted by Prof. Madhukar Shukla and was attended by Fr E Abraham SJ, Director, Dr Ashis K Pani, Dean (Academics) along with other faculty and the students of XLRI. At the session, Prof. Yunus talked about business as a medium for solving problems and reducing the disparity between the various economic sections of the society.

Village Exposure Programme

XLRI’s vision to instill social responsibility and create agents of change is embedded in its curriculum and learning programmes. The Village Exposure Programme, scheduled at the beginning of each academic year, is a module unique to XLRI.



The programme aims at introducing students to the predominant problems prevailing in villages and encouraging them to suggest steps for improvement. Students are taken on a three-day visit to the villages around Jamshedpur. During the visits students interact with NGOs, village panchayats and villagers and try to analyse prevalent issues from various perspectives. The programme is designed to help students explore the possibilities of business opportunities in rural India and in turn assist the villagers to have control over their product and resources.

