



# SXC Chronicles

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## St. Xavier's again in Top 50

Every year, the staff and students eagerly look forward to see the India Today rating of the best colleges in the country. This year, St Xavier's College bagged the 15th position in Arts and 16th position in Science. The survey conducted by The Week magazine positioned us at the 24<sup>th</sup> rank. It is certainly a moment of pride for every Xavierite and an affirmation for the teachers and the Management that the journey is in the right direction. Congratulations to all! As our Principal says, our struggle should be to gradually inch forward towards the top in the coming years.

*"You get what you work for, not just what you wish for"*

## Xavier's adds another jewel in its crown – Bachelors in Commerce

St Xavier's College has exalted to becoming Arts, Science and Commerce College with the introduction of B.Com Business Processing Services from this academic year. As an autonomous college, its journey towards introducing new and innovative courses led to convening a Board of Studies for B.Com BPS and MSc BDA on April 5, 2016. Various experts in the field including academicians from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) participated in the BoS with their inputs. TCS was represented by Padmashree, Dr Bimal Roy and Dr Manikam. These courses have attracted a lot of enquiries and several takers. These are unique programmes designed with the assistance of TCS, keeping in mind the job market in future. Both the programmes had a simple yet meaningful inauguration amidst students, parents and well wishers. *It indeed is a big step for the institution.*



*"Thinking will not overcome fear, action will"* – William Clement Stone

## Research Medal Ceremony



The Annual Research Medal ceremony to confer certificates and medals to the UG and PG students was held on July 16. The Chief guest of the function was Shri Raghuvir Chaudhari, recipient of this year's Jnanpith award. Honourable Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University, Dr M N Patel also graced the occasion. Dr M N Patel in his short speech congratulated students who undertake such challenging tasks along with their studies. Shri Raghuvir Chaudhari too in his address emphasised on this extra work by a student during the college years significantly paving a way for a better life ahead. He appreciated the effort done by the college and students. Over all 57 students received certificates. Congratulations to all those teachers who found spare time to guide the students to make this historic achievement in their life.

## Staff Research Seminar

The Staff Research Seminar was held on April 2, which is an occasion to learn concepts, share knowledge and present one's original research work. The programme was graced by Chief Guest, Dr. Rajmal Jain from Kadi Sarva Viswa Vidyalyaya, Gandhinagar, a well know scientist. It was heartening to see him take a keen interest in the research carried out by our faculty. In his keynote address, Dr. Jain encouraged the faculty to reignite their passion for carrying out research and translate the same to fellow staff members by motivating them to apply for research funding. He emphasized that research gives an added charm to every academician. This year, after the key note address, parallel sessions were conducted for humanities and science subjects. The seminar culminated with a common valedictory function, where certificates were given to those who had presented papers. We thank the Research committee for not only coordinating this event but also for infusing a lot of fresh life and creativity.

One of the highlights of the event was a book release by the Department of Sanskrit. The book titled *Ramayana and Mahabharat: Saamprat samayama punvicharan* was released in presence of Dr. Shantikumar Pandya, (former Head of the Sanskrit Department and a passionate writer). The book is a proceedings of research papers presented by academicians across the state in a UGC sponsored national seminar conducted by the Department of Sanskrit on 'Indian Epics: Rethinking in Modern Timees'. Congratulations to the Department of Sanskrit!.

*"Research is creating new knowledge – Neil Armstrong"*

## Nurturing passion for Mathematics

Madhava Mathematics Nurture Camp was organised in the college from 30 May, 2016 to 4 June, 2016 under the tutelage of **Dr. Udayan Prajapati**. The aim of this camp was to nurture Mathematical instinct of the students who had been selected from the Madhava Mathematics Competition. About thirty-two students were shortlisted from all over India. The resource persons were from TIFR Mumbai, IIT Gandhinagar, IITRAM, Ahmedabad, S. P. College, Pune, School of Sciences, Ahmedabad. Congratulations Dr Udayan Prajapati for your efforts in making Mathematics student friendly.



## Exploring Collaborations to strengthen roots

St. Xavier's College in its efforts to expand and flourish, explored student and staff exchange programmes with various Spanish Universities. **Fr. Robert SJ** and **Fr. Lancy D'Cruz SJ** visited Spain for a week and interacted with several universities. Fr Robert presented the scope of a potential collaboration, which was received by great enthusiasm and several officials have shown a keen interest to visit the college in November, 2016. The College envisages a lot of potential collaborations in the field of Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Psychology and Biochemistry. We hope the MoU leads to a long term collaboration with both parties benefitting in terms of exchange of knowledge, technology and research.

*"As we grow in awareness, our fear of loss, not having enough or being insufficient matures into love of giving, sharing and collaboration." – Joseph Rain*

## Admission process

Just as it was last year, the online admission process in Xavier's began from June 2 to 13, 2016 but with a difference. This time the admission programme was conducted with the help of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which made data collection more easy. Over 5000 applications were received for a total of 550 seats in



various courses. The demand was very high for all science subjects, making it very difficult for several departments to select their required number of students. Xaviers has been observing this unrelenting rush ever since the college was conferred the autonomous status. As is the tradition, the college conducted the inauguration on June 15 and classes began from the next day. The freshers were given an orientation by staff and students of the college to familiarize them with the systems and ethos of the college.

*“The beginning is the most important part of the work” – Plato ☺*

### Internship: Extension and Experiential Learning Opportunity

**Dr Rajesh Iyer**, Head of the Physics Department, was invited by ISRO to carry out a project called SAFAR for monitoring the weather condition in Ahmedabad. About 60 of our students were directly involved in this mammoth project. As an outcome of the project, the students will be developing a mobile Apps through which one shall get the weather forecast. Congratulations! Moreover, 13 students from the Physics/Electronics discipline were selected to do projects at IPR as part of the MOU signed with them.

### Super computer on campus

**Dr Sanjeev Gupta**, Department of Physics, continues to make history in research. Apart from publishing several research articles in journals of high impact factor, he was awarded a one year international project in collaboration with Dept. of Physics, University J.J. Strossmayer, Osijek, Croatia. As part of this collaboration, he has had two more publications. Recently, Dr Sanjeev has been awarded a DST grant of Rs 20 Lakhs for setting up a super computer laboratory for Computational materials and nanoscience research. Three Cheers! Xavier’s now has a super computer on campus!

### Environment friendly initiatives

Ganesh Chaturthi is fast approaching; so is the rush for POP based idols in the city. This year our students organised a workshop under the leadership of **Prof Ami Shah** to train students in making idols using clay. This is an environment friendly initiative taken up by our students to bring in awareness. This is an exemplary way of showing that Xavierites not only care for the nature but also believe in spreading the awareness of environment friendly alternatives.



### Invited Talks



Various departments have organized invited talks: The department of Mathematics organized the Fr Valles Series of lectures in association with Ahmedabad Ganit Mandal; Dr N.R. Ladhawala spoke on ‘Continuity of real value function’ and Prof B.R. Sitaram on ‘Simple models for advanced mathematics’, Prof VR Trivedi on ‘Fr Valles and Mathematics’ and Kiranmai Yanamal on ‘Emotional Intelligence’. The Department of Economics organised a talk where Dr Kishore Bhanushali gave a discourse on Research methodology to students of Economics.

The Department of Biochemistry organised a special lecture on ‘Ramachandran Plot’ by Dr Lincebuoy George. Professor Kensuke Okada of Laboratory of Agricultural Development Studies (LADS), University of Tokyo gave a lecture on ‘Plant nutrient acquisition through biochemical functions of roots and microbes’ to a large group of students. The department of Chemistry organised a talk on IPR by Dr Amit Dodiya.

### Laurels at Mathematics Olympiad

Under the leadership of **Dr. Udayan Prajapati**, Head of the Mathematics Department, a group of students had represented India in the 57<sup>th</sup> International Mathematical Olympiad at Hong Kong. Dr. Udayan has been coordinating the regional Mathematical Olympiad for Gujarat and this is the second time he represents India at the International forum. The team won one silver and five bronze medals. Congratulations!

### Blood donation camp

The NSS continues to touch the humanitarian chord in the college with various programmes. They organised a blood donation camp where many students donated blood. NSS also conducted the Thalassemia camp where 214 first year students participated. These events, not only help students to become aware of their own health but also help them inculcate values of sacrifice and benevolence. These are some of the values that Xavier’s stands for and promotes on campus.

*“No – one has ever become poor by giving” – Anne Frank*

### Glamour on Campus



One of the illustrious alumni of our college and bollywood star Mr. Rajeev Khandelwal visited the campus with Ms. Gauhar Khan. Mr. Rajeev had graduated with Chemistry in 1994. He toured the campus and spent some time with the present staff of the Chemistry department and visited the department. Thereafter, he interacted with a packed audience in the XICA Hall for more than an hour. He emphasized that college is the place where the seeds of what one wants to become in life is sown and hence every student should ensure that he/she never loses focus. He entertained the students by sharing some of the memorable incidents on campus that happened when he was a student. Thank you Rajeev for returning to the alma mater and bringing in a spurt of energy to the campus.

### Tarumitra initiatives and Tree Plantation drive

Under the leadership of **Fr Lancelot D’Cruz SJ**, the Tarumitra activities were initiated. Over 100 students enrolled for a training programme on campus development by increasing greenery. Ms. Deepti and Mr. Raju, known for creating environmental consciousness were the resource personnels for the training. They focused on sustainability in environmental consciousness. This was preceded by a tree plantation drive by NSS volunteers under the able guidance of **Prof Ami Shah**. Over 300 trees were planted on campus to add to our existing green cover. Fr Rajiv Chakranarayan also helped in procuring some of the plants. The event was also covered by the DD network. Thank you one and all for your contribution to this noble cause. Continue to take care of the plants so that they grow and branch out to give shelter and shade to many.



*“The best friend of earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth”. - Frank Lloyd Wright*

## Independence Day Celebration

The 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated in the Open Air Theatre amidst a large number of students and staff. The Chief Guest of the function was **Prof Arti Kumar**, HoD, Department of English. In her address, she recited a patriotic poem of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, and invited all to come together for the common goal of uniting India. The event was made colourful with two thought provoking speeches by Manthan Goswami and Harshal Sanghani and patriotic songs by NSS volunteers. The NCC volunteers ignited patriotism with a beautiful march past.



## Initiatives by Women Development Cell



The Women Development Cell is action oriented. It organised a talk on 'How students can make a difference' by Ms Nandini Raval. The main focus of the talk was to become aware of the hardships of life, to enjoy life and at the same time be responsible. Another workshop on 'Legal Literacy and Self Defence' was conducted a fortnight later. Ms Shweta John and Mr Mayur Mandora were the resource personnel. This event was organized in collaboration with Suraksha Setu- a unit of Gujarat Police. Large number of students took advantage of these programmes. We wish the cell continues to grow and

significantly contribute to developing men and women of integrity.

## Training in Equal Opportunity for all

St Xavier's College organised a special workshop with the theme 'Equal Opportunity for All'. This was a day long programme with the intention of creating awareness and promoting gender sensitivity among students. The programme was attended by over 150 students and organised by the SC-ST Cell of the College with the assistance of College Women Development Cell and RUSA. The programme was conducted by Ms. Priti Macwan. Thank you **Dr I L Mehara** and **Dr Khushnuma Banaji** for coordinating and mobilising students to make this programme a success.



## Advanced BSc. Programme in Physics

By offering the advanced BSc. programme, the Department of Physics has carved a niche for all science colleges of Gujarat. Our college has been offering this programme in association with PRL and ISA for several years. Many bright and passionate students of Physics from across the state participated in this in-house programme of 21 days of learning physics with the best. This year 33 students participated in the programme during the summer break. Hearty Congratulations to the department of Physics, especially **Dr Rajesh Iyer** and **Dr Clement CJ**.

## New Appointments

The following staff members have been appointed to Xaviers to conduct various courses

- **Dr Nandini Ghosh, Ms Sonal Thakur, Prakash Bhati** to the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology
- **Dr Divya Hangal** to the Department of Chemistry
- **Ms Steffi Mac** to the Department of English

- **Mr Prabal Dev Bhuyan** as JRF in the Department of Physics
- **Ms Miral Mujani** and **Mr Kishan Vyas** to the Department of Mathematics

We welcome them all to Xaviers Parivaar and wish them a fulfilling journey.

## Snippets

- ✓ **Mr Wilson Christian** after serving the College for more than 26 years took voluntary retirement. We miss a dynamic person. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.
- ✓ Inaugural payer service was organised by the Campus Minsitry on June 25 in SAH
- ✓ The feast of St Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated on July 30 in SAH. The entire programme was coordinated by Brothers from Premal Jyoti, who enthralled the audience with games and songs.
- ✓ **Dr Sebastian** and **Dr Sudeshna Menon** presented a paper on ‘Making vision a reality: The experience of St. Xavier’s College, Ahmedabad’ in Christ University, Bangalore
- ✓ *Vishvayoga din* was celebrated on June 21 in SAH. Over 250 students participated.
- ✓ Inauguration of MSc Biochemsitry was held on June 27.
- ✓ A meeting of the religious group was held on July 2 in the XICA auditorium where **Sr. Mary** and **Fr Roland D’Souza SJ** conducted sessions highlighting their strengths and how they can contribute to the development of Xaviers.
- ✓ PGOP has been completed by the Campus Minsitry for all first year students. It has been extended to SY and TY students. Congratulations!
- ✓ A team of representatives from TCS interacted with students and faculty of BCom BPS and BDA for an entire day.
- ✓ **Dr Clement CJ** and **Dr Sebastian** attended a workshop on Quality in Higher Education organised by KCG and presented a paper
- ✓ **Dr Sudeshna Menon** and **Dr Dweipayan Goswami** participated in a training programme on Research Project writing organized by GSBTM.
- ✓ Utkarsh, the body that takes care of challenged studens had their formal ingauration held amidst many dignitaries. This year we have 42 students in various subjects. **Sr Mary James** continues to take care of them with the assistance of student volunteers. Thank you Sr Mary!



*“Alone We Can Do So Little, Together We Can Do So Much” – Hellen Keller*

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*Quality builds the Nation*