



# SXC Chronicles

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*Diamond Jubilee Year (1955- 2015)*

## Swachh Bharat!



Motivated by the values of Mahatma Gandhi, a group of NSS volunteers under the leadership of **Prof. Ami Shah** cleaned the basketball area on October 2, 2014. Some staff members also joined the students in the *swachata abhiyan* by working in groups. The only person who worked silently by himself was Fr. Robert, our Principal. The programme was followed by students and faculty members taking an oath to keep the campus clean and tidy!☺ Anyway, the campus is cleaner after the oath. Swachh Xaviers!

## MoU with IPR

The Department of Physics and Electronics entered into a strategic MoU with the Institute of Plasma Research for students research programme, organising seminars/workshops and other related co-curricular activities, the expertise of scientists of IPR as visiting faculty to teach our students. Congratulations **Dr. Rajesh Iyer** for giving direction to the Department and a renewed vision by planting milestones one after another. The Department also collaborated in the Science Day celebrations with IPR where over 60 Xavierites contributed as volunteers in explaining the nuances of advances in Physics.

## Christmas celebration for staff

Staff Christmas celebration was conducted on December 23, 2014. Unlike other years, the entire Xavier parivar along with their families had gathered to celebrate Christmas with the Management in the front yard of the College. The centre of attraction was Santa who enthralled young and old alike. There was a separate Christmas celebration for students of both the hostels. It was such a joyous moment to see Xavier's as a *parivar*.



## Youth Festival

Our winning teams of the Gujarat University Youth Festival continued their journey of winning many more accolades at various levels. The College won first prize in Western Solo, Western Group and in Quiz at the inter zone. We won second prize in Western Solo and Western Group at the Western zone. Moushmi Das went up to the Nationals and won second prize in Western Solo. Congratulations to all participants, and **Dr Sudeshna Menon** and team who managed the programme in the absence of Coordinator Fr Vincent Saldanha.

## Handprint Challenge

Ten students of SXCA were part of a team which participated in the Handprint Challenge Competition organized by SAYEN (South Asian Youth Environmental Network) and the CEE (Centre for Environment Education). The team included Jahnvi Kapadia as Team Leader and Aayushu Maheshwari, Abhishek Shah, Gem Christian,

Himanshu Gehlot, Manali Modi, Namrata Bashani and Devangara Lashkary. **Fr. Lancelot D’Cruz** coordinated the effort. The team has emerged as one of the 5 final winners of the Handprint Challenge, 2014. As part of the handprint challenge, 6 workshops were organised by Dr Santosh Yadav, Mr. Jothi Xavier, and Fr Lancelot D’Cruz to train students in ‘Documenting Biodiversity’ and on ‘Site-specific Art Installation’.



### Our winners

**Dr. T.C. Pandya** was awarded the second prize in the National Competition for Innovative Experiments in Physics (NCIEP-2014) held during the 29th Annual convention of Indian Association of Physics Teachers at Chandigarh. Congratulations Dr Pandya, we take pride in your achievement.

### Building Capacity

Three of our faculty members **Dr. Clement C.J., Dr. Arti Oza,** and **Prof. Vijay Dandhukia** attended a capacity building programme by TCS titled ‘Campus to Corporate’. It was a 75 hrs module designed for the staff to train students to prepare them for corporate life. We are confident that our Dynamic Career Cell will use the knowledge to offer more attractive programmes to our students.

### Rifle shooting

The College Women Cell in their efforts to empower girls organized a rifle shooting training programme in collaboration with the Gujarat Police. About 114 enthusiastic students took rifles to aim and shoot a wooden board which was placed at a distance. Later most participants realized that they were shooting in the air rather than at the board ☺.

### Seminar on RTI



IQAC in an effort to expose our staff members to various aspects of life organized a state level workshop on RTI for the Principals and faculty of various colleges. Renowned RTI activist, Dr. Ramchandram, was the resource person. The workshop was very informative and well appreciated by the participants. Inspired by the workshop, a Principal of a college went ahead in filing RTI application in order to get justice. Thank you Dr. Ramchandram for empowering the academia.

### Resource Persons

Many of our faculty members delivered talks on various topics. **Fr. Vinayak Jadav, Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Dr. T.C. Pandya, Dr. Maulik Gadani, Dr. Udayan Prajapati. Prof. Prashantkumar Patel and Dr. Khushnuma Banaji** contributed as resource persons. We are grateful to you for taking such an active part in empowering Xavierites. The Department of Mathematics together with the Department of Statistics organized a state level workshop in Problem Solving and Enrichment in Mathematics. The Department also organized a National Mathematics Talent Competition (NMTC) of AMTI (National Level), Madhava Mathematics Competition, and MIMANSA quiz.

### Learning beyond lectures

The Department of Gujarati and Hindi also organized guest talks, and visited Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, Gandhi Ashram and Gujarat Vidhyapith. The Department of Sanskrit also organised a popular lecture for students and faculty.

## An Old Xavierite speaks

Siddharth Iyer, a budding journalist of our College had the unique opportunity of interviewing TV actor Mukesh Khanna, famously known as Shaktimaan and Bheeshma, who interestingly is an ex-Xavierite. During the interview Mr. Khanna shared his Xavier's experience in depth. We welcome Mr. Khanna to visit our campus any day to bring in reminiscence of the old days.

## Seminars



The Department of Physics organised a popular lecture by Dr. Douglas R. Banayi from the department of Physics, Michigan Technological University, on 'Simulated Scanning Tunnelling Microscopy and Spectroscopy based on First Principles Methods'. Congratulations for exposing Xavierites to such renowned scientists.

## Fr. Joe Remembered

Fr Joe Braganza was remembered on December 11, 2014 by Xavier Centre for Development. During his retirement period Fr Joe had worked for the upliftment of the poor children of the neighbourhood. The programme was organised by XCD under the supervision of Sr Usha. **Fr Vincent Saldanha**, one of the Trustees of XCD spoke to a group of student volunteers and evening school students about the contributions of Fr Joe.



## Culfest Highlights

Culfest 2015(Urja) reflected the vibrant energy across the entire campus of our College. It was a mixture of cultural and sports events. In all, 955 students (a whopping 43.4% of our total number of students), participated in as many as 23 cultural events! There were many firsts in this Culfest, Urja 2015. For the first time in the history of Xavier's a weeklong celebration was held with over 2200 students and staff members involved, in collaboration with XICA. The distribution of medals to both students and faculty was in the list of firsts. Functional English students emerged as champions while the runners up trophy went to the Psychology students of the English medium.

## Diwali Celebration



Campus Ministry organised Diwali celebrations for students of Utkarsh and members of Prerna group. All the members participated in the celebration. **Fr Roland D'Souza** in his Diwali message highlighted that every day is a Diwali in our life and our life should also light up the lives of all on this campus.

## Republic Day Celebration

Republic Day was celebrated with gaiety. **Dr Sarvar Sherry Chand** was the chief guest for the function. She received the salute from our NCC wing and hoisted the National Flag, followed by an inspiring speech by the "Orator of Xavier's", Mr. Manthan Goswami. He inspired those present to imbibe the ideas of our national leaders in their life. The event also witnessed soulful rendition of patriotic songs by a group of Biochemistry students.

## Alumnus visit campus

An alumnus of St Xavier's College, Dr. Brain Q Silver, an accomplished sitar player visited the campus on two occasions. First for the release of his book on his mentor Prof. W Alvi, and later for a soulful recital on the sitar. We are grateful to **Dr Rajesh Iyer** who coordinated the entire event.

## College receives grants

**Fr Principal** went to the UGC office in Delhi to make a presentation in connection with UGC grants to the College. The presentation was so good that UGC immediately sanctioned Rs.150 Lakhs. The College also received a grant of Rs. 3.4 lakhs from RUSA exclusively for mentoring SC/ST/OBC students.

## Alumni Meet

Looking at the pace at which the College alumni are taking shape, **Fr Vinayak Jadav** began to think out of the box. In order to bring greater cohesiveness among students and faculty, he has come up with the idea of Departmental Alumni Association. After a series of brain storming sessions, the first departmental alumni meet was held on January 17. All the departments got a chance to interact with some of their past students, and students got a chance to share reminiscence of their stay in Xavier's. Welcome back to Xavier's in a new avatar. We thank all the departmental coordinators who took the lead to bring about this new bonding.



## Snippets

- ✓ **Dr. Udayan received M.Phil guideship for Mathematics from GU**
- ✓ **Two students, Dr Jigar Patel and Dr Ajay Gupta were awarded Ph.D. from Kadi University under the guideship of Dr. Mallika Sanyal.**
- ✓ **Prof. Shital Doshi attended a workshop on 'Grow your Cells and Harvest Chromosomes' at Nirma University**
- ✓ **Dr. Mrudul Gadhvi re-joined the College after completing his post-doctoral work in the US under Obama-Singh Fellowship at Stony Brook University, New York**
- ✓ **Prof. Prashantkumar Patel cleared CSIR-UGC for Junior Research Fellowship securing the first rank in Mathematical Sciences.**
- ✓ **St Xavier College was the host for the National Basketball competition in November this year.**
- ✓ **Dr. Devang Pandya attended a workshop at INFLIBNET, Gandhinagar; Dilip Vasava was invited by Gujarat Environment Management Institute (GEMI) to attend a workshop on e-waste management.**
- ✓ **Dr. Arti Oza was presented with a special award by G.L.S. Trust of Education for her services rendered during 49<sup>th</sup> National and 18<sup>th</sup> International conference organized in Ahmedabad.**

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*Quality builds the Nation*