



# SXC Chronicles

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## *Diamond Jubilee Year (1955- 2015)*

### **SXCA goes Solar**

With assistance from GEDA, St Xavier's College has installed 75KW solar power on campus. This is part of the mission of the College towards making the campus eco-friendly. The project is expected to bring down the monthly expenditure on electricity to bare minimum. Setting up of the solar system was the dream project of our Principal, **Dr (Fr) Robert A**, who tirelessly followed it up with various officials from GEDA and Torrent Power. Anyone can monitor the daily production of electricity at 172.16.0.60/#. Interestingly, Torrent officials on their last visit to the campus observed that the College is generating more power than it requires and is contributing towards the grid line of Torrent Power. They are thinking of purchasing power from the College.



### **Shri Bhupendra Chudasama visits the College**



Under the autonomous system, St Xavier's College initiated a self financed BSc course in Biotechnology from June 2015. This was a long cherished dream of SXCA. The response was overwhelming with over 470 students applying for 40 seats! In order to launch the programme, none other than the **Hon. Minister of Education, Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama**, and **Prof MN Patel the Hon. Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University**, were invited. And it was our honour and privilege to have got the opportunity to have them as guests of honour. They appreciated the institution for having taken the initiative and set an example for other colleges in the city.

### **Research Medal Ceremony**



The UG-PG Research Medal ceremony was held on August 2 in the XICA auditorium. The Chief Guest of the function was the **Hon. Director of the Dept. of Higher Education, GoG, Shri A.J.Shah**. Shri Shah appreciated the hard work and dedication of both students and staff in carrying out research. The Guest of Honour of the function was Dr Dhiraj Bora, Director of IPR, Ahmedabad. 45 students received recognition. Additionally, two faculty **Dr M Sanyal** and **Dr S Gupta** shared the most coveted 'Researcher of the Year' Certificate. This is an in-house award



ceremony to identify and promote research culture at SXCA. Congratulations to all the students and faculty who won awards.

### MoU with IPR

The Institute of Plasma Research (IPR) and St Xavier's College signed an MoU for research and development on June 2, 2015. The MoU was signed by **Dr (Fr) Robert A** on behalf of SXCA and Dr Dhiraj Bora on behalf of IPR. This is a unique opportunity given to our students to interact with senior scientists of the country and carry out serious research activities along with their regular studies. The MoU focuses on mentoring students, training, curriculum development, and assisting in outreach programmes. Two of our former students, Maitri Pathak and Naznin Shaikh, who had undergone this training at IPR were in the news for their innovation of optical trap which has wide applications in Biosciences and Physics. Congratulations to the Dept. of Physics and **Dr R Iyer** for encouraging research culture among our students.

### Admission process: Online



St Xavier's College introduced online admission for first year UG and PG courses from this year. It was the result of the untiring efforts of **Dr N Desai**. The process was flawless. This year there were no long queues on campus for admissions unlike in the past. The counselling sessions for applicants were also spread out. Each applicant had a time slot and individual messages were sent out. Thank you **Dr N Desai**. We look forward to some more similar steps.

### Designing a road map for academic progress

Various Statutory Bodies of the College under the autonomous system organised their meetings. Various Boards of Study met in August; the IQAC met in July to chalk out further plans; the Academic Council and the Governing Body met in August to take major decisions.

### Inauguration

The new academic year began on June 16. Unlike in previous years, the auditorium was full, most being students of BCA, which has been merged with St Xavier's College. The College began with a two day orientation for freshers organised by the seniors. The orientation was very well planned under the guidance of the head of the co-curricular activities, **Dr S Menon**. It gave an opportunity to some of the newly admitted students to showcase their talents.



### TED<sup>x</sup> at Xavier's

In its efforts to spread ideas TED<sup>x</sup> organised 7 short, powerful talks under the umbrella of 'Beyond the Paradigms'. The programme was organised by a group of students headed by Ms Anushka Gupta from our College. You are encouraged to visit the site and listen to the motivating talks at <http://www.tedxsxca.com/>

### Gujarat Science Excellence

Many of our students and faculty attended the Gujarat Science Congress organised by the Dept. of Botany, Gujarat University. Our faculty and students have won many prizes as well. **Prof K Desai** (First in Poster Presentation in

Ph.D Category), Anushree Pandya (First in Oral Presentation-Physics), Pritesh Katri and Gaurav Prajapati (First in Poster Presentation-Physics), Tejal Gavit (First in Poster Presentation-Chemistry) and **Dr A Makwana** (Second in Oral Presentation-Chemistry, Faculty Category), Anoshi Patel (First in Poster Presentation-Bioinformatics), Boman Doctor (First in Poster Presentation-Biomedical Technology), Yash Somaiya (Second in Oral Presentation-Biotechnology), Dhruv Bhasin (First in Oral Presentation-Mathematics), Aditi Savalia (Second in Oral Presentation-Mathematics), **Dr P Patel** (First in Oral Presentation Ph.D Category), **Dr S Gupta** (First in Poster Presentation-Physics), **Prof K Parmar** (Second in Paper Presentation-Ph.D Category), Prachi Saxena (Second in Paper Presentation-Statistics). Congratulations to all the participants and their mentors.

### Jagrat activities

Jagrat Forum began the year with an inaugural function on July 4, 2015 for 164 Adivasi and Dalit students. The Chief Guest was Dr Dilip Vasava, Assistant Professor at Gujarat University and a former Chemistry faculty at St. Xavier's College, along with Ms Komal Rana of Tata Consultancy Services. The function included a cultural programme presented by the second and third year students and an introduction of the new batch of students.

In this semester, two workshops have been held for the FY Jagrat students. A workshop on 'Goal setting and planning' was held for 63 students on July 11, 2015. **Prof I Mehra** and **Prof P Makwana** were the resource persons with assistance from Vaibhav Jain from TYBSc. A second workshop on "Understanding myself and my society" was held on September 19, 2015 for 51 students. Dr Dilip Vasava was assisted by Shivaji Vasava and Vaibhav Jain. The SY students had a workshop on July 25, 2015 for 55 students. **Prof S Vaishnav** and **Prof A Oza** were the resource persons. The same batch of 55 students participated in a second workshop on 'Study Skills and Exam Preparation'. Heartfelt thanks to **Dr I Mehra** for the excellent power point presentations and to **Prof P Makwana** for the interesting sessions. The TY had a one-day workshop on "Career Planning" conducted by **Dr P Desai** and **Dr I Mehra**. Special thanks to Vaibhav Jain and his team for the logistical support at all the workshops.

### MoU with Almamapper

*Almamapper* is a utility platform for students to share their views, connect with alumni, share knowledge and information with fellow students. SXCA signed an MoU with *Almamapper* in August. We do hope that this initiative will nurture a more vibrant academic culture and unite all alumni in the near future.

### Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola



The feast of St Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, was celebrated on July 31 with a solemn mass in the SAH though there was no electricity as a fall out of the heavy rains the previous day. A large number of students and staff participated in the celebration that followed the mass.

### Spanish team visits College and interacts with staff on collaboration

A group of 11 Spanish teachers including Professors from Deusto University (Bilbao) visited the College campus on July 24, 2015 and interacted with faculty and students to understand the Jesuit role in University Education. The Director of Alboan, Maria del Mar, also visited the campus on July 23 and interacted with faculty members. Each group shared their heart warming experiences as teachers in their context. SXCA also explored the possibility of student exchange programme and collaborative extension activities. We do hope that these interactions inspire and encourage our teachers.

## PGOP programme

Campus Ministry under the leadership of **Fr R D'Souza** and **Sr Mary J** with the assistance of a devoted group of volunteers successfully organised the Personality Growth Oriented Programme for all FY and SY students. Unlike in other years a number of experts from outside were roped in to conduct these programmes. The PGOP programme leaves such a lasting impact on students that there is a demand to conduct the same programme for third year students too!

## Yoga day celebration

International Yoga Day was celebrated at SXCA. Students were trained under the supervision of a yoga expert, Mr. Sandeep Kamath. The training created health and physical fitness awareness in our young students. Some students also participated in an International Yoga Day celebrations on the GMDC grounds. We do hope that inspired by the initial training many students will adopt these values and continue to practice yoga as a way of life.



## Thalassemia camp

The College NSS under the leadership of **Prof A Shah** organised a Thalassemia awareness and medical check up camp on July 4, 2015. This programme was arranged in collaboration with Red Cross Society and Rotary Club.

146 students participated in this camp. NSS also organised a 'Know AIDS for No AIDS' camp where Mr Pawankumar from Ahmedabad Muncipal Corporation and Mr Kamakumar Kar, Regional Head of NSS, gave lectures. NSS also organised a programme on self-defence for girls by Vibuti Parmar, our own student and a Karate black-belt holder. The NSS coordinator **Prof A Shah** herself took the training! NSS keeps organising various social oriented programmes such as hospital visit, cleanliness drive, slum visit, interaction with construction workers, etc. Keep it up!!



## Workshop on Gender sensitivity

SXCA organised a workshop on 'Promoting Gender Understanding and Sensitivity' on August 10, 2015. Most of the staff members participated. The goal of the workshop was to create greater understanding among faculty about gender issues and to help people to be more sensitive in creating an environment of respect and inclusiveness in the College. The resource persons led the group into the nuances of gender awareness through activities and discussion. A similar 10 hours workshop was organised for students on September 26 to make them conscious of equity and equal opportunity for all. Over 60 students participated.

## Sports

The girls Volleyball team did exceptionally well by winning the inter-college trophy. This is the first time that the College has won this trophy in the last 25 years! Congratulations to the Volleyball team. We have also done well in other inter-college matches. We were champions in Badminton (women singles), Swimming (women) and Football, and runners up in Badminton women doubles, Basketball (men and women), Table Tennis (men and women), and Cross Country



(men). The College also acknowledge the contribution of **Dr V Padheria** who tirelessly motives our sports persons to do their best.

### Research funding initiatives

Generating research funds is one of the thrust areas at SXCA. Last year 13 minor research projects were submitted to UGC. SXCA with the initiative taken by **Dr A Makwana**, and **Dr (Fr) F Franco** did it once again. The College has submitted 7 MRP (**Dr N Ganguly, Dr S Gupta, Dr A H Makwana, Dr UB Gothi, Dr Sebastian, Dr M Gadani, Prof S Patel**), and 2 proposals (Biochemistry-Botany, and Physics-Electronics) for seminars.

### Administrative revamping

SXCA in its efforts to revamp the administration organised an interactive seminar with an ERP software company 'Auromeera' after studying and negotiating with various software companies. The interaction with Auromeera experts was attended by many staff members who wished to be part of the developmental plan. At the end of the interaction, the entire group felt that we should be moving towards such automated mode to improve the quality of the service to our stakeholders. Impressed by the nuances of the software, SXCA has procured the software. One will be able to see all the data updates in the College Office in near future. The College appreciates the efforts of **Dr N Desai** in helping the College move forward.

### WDC workshops

Women Cell of SXCA actively participated in the parade organised by Gujarat University as part of the one week celebration of women empowerment. It also organised a talk on 'Effect of Hormones on Behaviour' by Dr Priti Shah where over 80 students participated. The talk focused not only on how hormones affect our behaviour, but also on how our behaviour affects the release of hormones!



### SXCA shines in Academics

Our students of Semester-IV have secured 17 positions in the top 50 in the Gujarat University: Hetanshi Vora (2), Farhatjahan Shaikh (3), Divya Iyer (4), Ratnapriya Lal (13), Chandani Menpara (16), Aditi Savalia (20), Chaurasia Seema (22), Maria Johny (27), Ramanbhai Dalvi (28), Rishika Nair (29), Nikhil Tharol (30), Jinali Shah (31), Anushree Pandya (34), Riya Joshi (40), Damini Mehta (44), Gracy (45), Sreeja Pillai (49). The following students of BCA were also in the top list. In Semester-1 Nandini Soni (1), Modi Jatin Sunil (12), Harsh Jain (13), Ashini Vora (17), Hussain Itawa (17). In Semester -IV, Ashita Patel (1), Jyoti Luhana (2), Taher Mandsorwala (6), Akash Sheth (9), Safiya Rangwala (10). Indeed a joint effort of students and teachers and an outcome of a proper academic culture in the College! Congratulations!

### Youth festival



63 of our students participated in 26 events in the Gujarat University Youth festival (South Zone). SXCA was victorious in 10 events, including the Rally. We won in Elocution: Mohammed Rehan, Poetry recitation: Kiranjyot Kaur Valecha, Debate: Batul Merchant and Robin Saji, Quiz: Arjun Dhar, Devang Rathod and Nishith Mehta, On The Spot



Painting: Sophia Joseph, Cartooning: Sneha Pant, Mimicry: Arth Vaishnav, Indian Group Song: Robin Saji, Kaushal Pithadiya, Swastik Roy Choudhury, Ishani Gokli, Kavya Rawal and Rosemary Vasava, Western Group Song: Vaimani Shah, Cassini Suaini, Christopher Alexander, Vanessa Kisku, Sonu Thomas and Marlyn Zinto. The Rally invites special mention as it was the centre of attraction. Congratulations to all the winners and the core team of staff who put in a lot of hard work.

### Invited Talks

Many departments took advantage of the UGC grant for organising invited talks. The Dept. of Gujarati-Hindi organised a talk by Dr. Ramshankar Pujari in June. The Dept. of Economics organised lectures on 'Economy of Gujarat' by Dr. Rohit Shukla, and Dr. Hemant Kumar Shah. The Dept. of English organised a talk on 'Digital Humanities' by Nishant Shah, from Luneburg University. We appreciate all the HoDs and faculty of the given departments who invite dignitaries and resource persons to the campus so that students are exposed to the real technical world outside. Congratulations and keep it up!



### Vishleshan cultural festival

After tasting success at the Youth Festival, our students participated in *Vishleshan*, a cultural competition organised by GLS Institute. Our students won in Poster making (Boman Doctor, first), Face Painting (Yash Somaiya, first), Rangoli (Moushumi Dave, second), Collage (Boman Doctor, third), Classical solo dance (Priyanka Pandit), Western group dance (Dhruvit, Pushparaj, Aatmi Shah, Shikha Sanghvi, Pankti Joshi, Shivani Shah, Havantika Vaghela, Devanshi Doshi, first), Indian vocal solo (Kaushal Pithadiya, third), Western vocal duets (Vanessa, Christopher Alexander, first), Business Quiz (Manthan Goswami, Nishith Mehta), Debate (Manthan Goswami, Nishith Mehta, Jerry Fernandez), Creative writing (Jerry Fernandez). Congratulations ☺ ☺

### Diamond Jubilee Lecture series

The Dept. of Biochemistry organised popular lecture series as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Various resource persons were roped in to give students an exposure to the latest research advances in the Biosciences. Some of the topics covered were 'Analysis of Archeal chaperonins in *E.coli*' by Dr. Riddhi Shah, 'Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR)' by Dr. Dweipayan Goswami, 'Academia- Industry Interphase' by Dr. Bhadrash R. Rami, 'Vaccine in Today's Scenario' by Dr Priti Desai, 'Protein structure- function relation and its implications' by Ms. Shanaya Shah, 'Identifying genes responsible for Coloboma: A rare genetic eye disease' by Ms. Aara Patel. Congratulations!

### Study tours



Third Year Botany students spent four days (Sept 6 to 10, 2015) in the forests of Mt Abu on a Botanical field trip. They were guided by an expert Botanist, Dr. Santosh Yadav, and the Botany faculty **Fr (Dr) L D'Cruz, Ms Ancy, Mr Musabhai** and **Mr Satishbhai**. The students documented over 350 species of plants in the areas around Nakki Lake, Gurushikar, Tiger's Path and Abu Road. These included some rare species of orchids, insectivorous plants, endemic species, etc. The stay at the Jesuit villa Glen View, was a memorable experience thanks to the hospitality provided by Fr Cyprian!!

A group of nine Third Year Botany students along with **Dr K Dubal** attended a workshop on "Environmental Awareness" held at C.U.Shah College on September 18, 2015. The students were Mansi Uadadoriya, Nazia Hawa,

Himshree Bhatt, Bindu Bhoje, Tara Gavli, Varsha Bhadoriya, Pinky Agrawal, Bhoomi Joshi and Ridhi Bhati . This is another attempt by the department to add value to the regular course which they are studying. Congratulations, **Fr (Dr) L D'Cruz** for the initiative and vision.

### Independence Day celebrations

The 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was appropriately celebrated at St Xavier's College. The day began with the flag hoisting. The Chief Guest was Prof Malek, retired HoD of the Dept. of Psychology. Prof Malek in his address emphasised that the youth must be guided in the correct direction so that they become agents of change. The celebration had a host of events such as motivational speech, dance, patriotic songs, poems and a skit with social theme. The day concluded with a treasure hunt where large number of students participated.



### Xavier's receives Rs.150 lakhs under College with Potential for Excellence

St Xavier's College has moved into the third phase of the UGC funding under the CPE scheme. SXCA received a notification stating that part of the money is being released. The College got into action mode by setting up a CPE steering committee to look into the meaningful execution and monitoring of the funds.

### Green action week

Consumer Education and Research Centre celebrated Green Action Week at SXCA in collaboration with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation with an interactive session on 'Safer and more sustainable food for all'. A large number of students of the Biosciences participated.

### Advanced BSc programme

The Dept. of Physics with the help of **Dr R Iyer** and **Dr CJ Clement** have been offering an Advanced BSc programme during the summer vacations. Many students from the State take advantage of this in-house programme. The Astro Club of the Dept. also organized a Venus and Jupiter gazing programme.

### Utkarsh inauguration



Utkarsh had its inauguration in July. Ms Pravina was the Chief Guest. She encouraged students to take up their studies seriously for a better future. The members are also working on improving their performance in examinations with the help of Utkarsh volunteers and past students. They are making quick progress with their meticulous planning.

### Seminars

Various departments organised UGC sponsored National seminars. The Dept. of English organised a seminar on 'Knowledge, Affect, Power: Feminism in Social Justice Discourse and Practice'; the Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics on 'Using SPSS and SCILAB'; the Dept. of Sanskrit on 'Indian Epics: Rethinking in Modern Times', and the Dept. of Gujarat-Hindi on 'Adivasi Sahitya: Sidhho ane Padkaro'. It is indeed heart warming that many depts. are coming forward to show their strength in organisational skills and research. A big thanks to **Dr (Fr) F Franco** and **Dr A Makwana** for wholeheartedly supporting the research seminar thrust at SXCA.

### Our Young Researchers!

**Dr S Gupta** keeps bringing laurels to SXCA with his research and publications. In his recent work accepted for publication by 'Elsevier' a reviewer wrote about his paper titled "Elasticity of DNA nanowires": "It seems that this is a very complete work, appears to have been performed in a very careful and meticulous manner, and the authors

present their results in a frank and honest way, without hyperbole or exaggeration. The English is excellent, and the presentation is logical and easy to follow. Results are well commented on and figures well presented. These results are of interest to researchers in the engineering science". Congratulations **Dr S Gupta**. Keep publishing ☺

Many of our faculty **Dr TC Pandya, Rajesh Iyer, Dr DG Trivedi, Dr AJ Trivedi, Dr S Gupta** were resource persons. **Dr UB Gothi, Dr TC Pandya, Dr S Gupta, and Dr AP Patel** published papers, and attended workshops. **Dr TC Pandya** and **Dr AP Patel** have been awarded for their innovation in Physics. They have been also appointed to various academic committees.

## Snippets

- ✓ *Inauguration prayer service was organized on June 20 at the St Xavier's Church. It was attended by a large group of students and staff*
- ✓ *Dr Dilip Vasava, has resigned and joined the Dept. of Chemistry at Gujarat University. We wish him all the best.*
- ✓ *The proposal submitted by the Dept. of Chemistry for FIST has been shortlisted for a presentation in Bhubaneswar. Fr (Dr) Robert A and Dr N Desai represented the College. We are now awaiting the response from DST.*
- ✓ *The British Council visited St Xavier's College and interacted with students and faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry with a view of student exchange.*
- ✓ *Staff and students of the Depts. of Chemistry and Biochemistry visited 'Sushen', a pharmaceutical company as part of Industrial Exposure.*
- ✓ *Teachers' Day was celebrated in the College. A large number of students and staff turned up for the celebration where Radha Rajiv Mehta, a student of Sanskrit gave a motivational speech. She was also invited by the Chief Minister of Gujarat to speak on 'beti bachao, beti vadhavo' during a function in Junagadh.*
- ✓ *An open house was conducted for students on August 1, 2015 where many students voiced their concern and also appreciated what they liked about SXCA*
- ✓ *Dr D Pandya conducted a quiz competition for Biotechnology students to enthuse them in the subject.*
- ✓ *Prof DV Katara received UGC minor research project worth Rs 3.23 lakhs and Dr R Iyer 30 lakhs from ISRO*
- ✓ *Prof F Christy and Prof B Shah have submitted their PhD Thesis.*
- ✓ *The Dept. of Chemistry organized NET training for MSc. Students.*
- ✓ *Fifty six students of Industrial Chemistry along with two faculty went on a picnic to Tirupati Natural Park in Visnagar ☺*
- ✓ *Career Cell under the leadership of Dr CJ Clement organized a training in 'Insurance in digital marketing' by 'Bajaj Allianz'*
- ✓ *Dr U Prajapati and Dr UB Gothi were appointed as PhD guides by GU. Congratulations.*
- ✓ *Dr P Trivedi and Dr Uma of the Dept. Chemistry have initiated a one to one interactive session with students to develop their critical thinking in Chemistry. Keep it up.*
- ✓ *Fr Donald Dias Memorial Football tournament was held on our campus. This year our College team reached in semifinals ☺*
- ✓ *Fr David Roy has been appointed as the Vice Principal for Computers*

Thanks to **Ms Sneha Pant** and **Fr V Saldanha SJ** for editing and **Fr. R D'Souza SJ** for photo documentation.

SXC Chronicles is for private circulation only. Help us document your achievements, big and small. You can reach us at: [iqac@sxca.edu.in](mailto:iqac@sxca.edu.in)

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