



SXC CHRONICLES

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NSS Makes a Difference!

Relentless rains in several parts of Gujarat played havoc leading to loss of lives and property. Thousands were left stranded without basic amenities. Their plight moved eight of our NSS volunteers viz. Christian Jignesh, Pankaj Meena, Prashant Yadav, Sanjay Ramchandani, Bhavesh Gohil, Abbas Ghadiyali, Kirti Odedara, and Bharadwaj Aadeshra, who decided to go all the way to Dhanera in the Banaskantha district, which was badly affected. As the flood began receding, they joined hands with the local inhabitants to clean the sludge and sanitize the area. Another group of NSS volunteers assisted NGOs in packing food packets that were distributed in affected areas. Commendable and inspiring is their spirit, who have gone out of their way to help the needy. Their deeds send a message of kindness and compassion. Congratulations!



"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try"- John F. Kennedy



Thalassemia, a blood disorder wherein the body makes abnormal haemoglobin, is prevalent in Gujarat. Often it is not detected at an early stage and hence, thalassaemic patients live on with the symptoms. Genetic counselling and tests help in preventing the disorder. Our College with the help of health experts from Red Cross conducted Thalassemia testing to detect the disorder among the first year students. About 275 students registered and took advantage of this opportunity.

In this short span, NSS also organised various community oriented programmes, viz. visiting old age homes, health awareness programmes, self defence programme for girls, creating awareness about election card, sensitization programme of GST, skill development programmes like 'tie and dye' art. A large number of our students and NSS members benefitted from these programmes. Thank you **Ms Ami Shah** for your encouraging leadership.

A Positive Tab for E-Tab

When the Government of Gujarat announced the distribution of e-Tabs at a nominal cost in order to promote e – learning in academic institutions, **Dr Pranav Trivedi** took up the responsibility of following it up. He meticulously collected data, and approached the authorities. Our college was the first college to receive 440 NAMO e-Tabs for the first year students in the University. Congratulations Dr Pranav Trivedi for successfully coordinating this mammoth task.



Training in API

Annual Performance Index (API) is a mandatory document for faculty seeking increments and promotions; and fourteen of our assistant professors (Adhyapak Sahayaks) at the end of their five year assessment period are on the verge of moving on to acquiring a permanent position. With several amendments to the API format and calculations, there were innumerable questions unanswered and hence difficulty in filling up the forms. Thus, in the Micro IQAC meeting, it was felt that there is a need to organise an awareness cum information

workshop on Annual Performance Index. The workshop was conducted by Dr Chintan Mahida from Arts and Commerce College, Ankla on August 5, 2017 and a large number of staff members attended the workshop. Dr Mahida explained the nuances and the use of a software specially designed by him to help calculate the API points. Dr Mahida also explained the possibilities of publishing books, and securing ISSN/ISBN number for college publications.

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other” – Walter Elliot

Data at Scale: A New Course Offered



Fr. (Dr.) Thomas Schwarz, SJ, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, Marquette University, Wisconsin (USA) spent about five weeks teaching and guiding the BDA and BCA students. He conducted a three – credit course named 'Data at Scale' to the BDA seniors, one credit course named 'Introduction to Data Sciences' to BDA freshers and a 'Certificate course on Python' to the interested BCA and BDA students. He also gave lectures to BCA students on 'What makes Silicon Valley successful?', 'Building successful life with Computer Science' and 'Computer forensics'. This is a definite move towards a permanent MoU with Marquette University for student and cultural exchange programmes.

Celebrating Independence Day

The 71st Independence Day celebration was marked by the luminous presence of our Chief Guest, Mr. Sudhir Jumani, who is also a member of the college IQAC team. Mr Jumani in his motivational speech encouraged the youth and the faculty to be honest and committed in everything that one does. He also highlighted the need for developing a deep rooted patriotism in our hearts, as that will see India rise and shine. He asked all students to pledge to sing the National Anthem at least once a day so that it becomes a driving force towards becoming true Indians. His advice to take this small step held a lot of conviction as he followed this ritual every day and it had made a positive difference to the way he related to India and its diverse cultures and values. Adding beauty to the function was a poem recital by Mr Mohammed Rehan, a speech by Mr Vaibhav Barania and rendition of patriotic songs by NSS volunteers.



Research Medal Ceremony



Research Medal Ceremony is an annual event organised by St Xavier's College to promote research culture and to encourage more students of UG and PG to experience the enriching process of learning to design and plan experiments, execute, analyse and document the results. This year 54 students completed their research work under the guidance of various staff members. The Chief Guest of the function was Dr Narottam Sahoo, Director of GUJCOST. Dr. Sahoo not only encouraged the students through his inspiring words but above all, his magnanimity in announcing an amount of Rs 1 lakh for the students who pursued research in the current year was very encouraging. He also encouraged all staff members to apply for mini and medium research projects to GUJCOST so that research culture can be supported at Xavier's. The programme also had a display of posters highlighting the findings of the research carried out by the students.

In order to invigorate the passion of research in the faculty members, the college has instituted the “Best Researcher of the Year”, which is conferred on the most deserving faculty member. The selection is based on a point system evaluation format designed by the research committee members. This year, Dr Sanjeev Gupta was the recipient of this prestigious award. To add to his credit, Dr Sanjeev has 12 publications in refereed journals in the current year. We are hopeful that more faculty members emulate his passion for research and development.

“The secret to getting ahead is to getting started” – Mark Twain

Youth Festival – Yugam 2017

In the recently concluded Gujarat University Youth Festival (South Zone), 54 of our students participated in various events comprising literary events, fine arts and performing arts. We won in Poster making (Honey Singh), Debate (Abhignya Sajja and Meghna Sharma), Quiz (Arjun Dhar, Darshit Thakar and Auritro Ghoshal), Western solo vocal (Nishchay Shukla), Western group Song (Cassini Suiaam, Evan Basnet, Ritvika Banta, Nishchay Shukla, Naman Shah and Prachi Kumar), Classical Instrumental – Percussion (Rutvik Pandya) and Classical dance (Brindali Patel). At the Inter Zonal level, the College won first prize in Western solo vocal, second prize in western group song and third prize in Indian Classical dance. College acknowledges the contribution of student participants who practiced for hours to give their best, the mentors, and most of all our student volunteers who passionately assisted our participants. Kudos to **Dr Sudeshna Menon** and all the members of the cultural committee, who supported the students in all the events.



Admission Process: An Online Success Story



SXCA has been receiving an overwhelming number of applicants ever since the College moved into digital mode for admission process. This year, the college received a whopping 5893 applications from across the country for the 880 seats in various UG and PG courses. Currently, College follows an online process, which helps an applicant to apply from anywhere. The merit based method followed for admission was systematic and culminated without major hassles. The academic session's inauguration was held on June 15 for second and third

year students and a week later for the freshers. Congratulations to the Coordinator of Admission committee, **Fr Lancelot D'Cruz SJ** and **Dr Nirmal Desai**. Their leadership and planning kept the Xavier's flag flying high.

"It is not position but contribution that makes a leader"- Apoorva Dubey

'Aatmahatya Nirvarn' Week

The Women Development Cell of St Xavier's College has always responded to the need of the time by creating awareness among students. CWDC in association with the Department of Psychology organised a talk as part of the occasion of 'World suicide eradication week' on September 16, 2017. A talk on 'Treatment as a hope for suicide' was given by clinical psychologists and counsellors, Dr. Nimrat Singh, Mr Udit Thakre and Dr Ajab Primasvala. The talk was attended by over 130 students from all streams. In association with Intas Pharmaceuticals, they also organised a talk on 'Poly cystic Ovarian Syndrome' for girls. Congratulations to **Dr Khushnuma Banaji** and her team for organising such a reflective and awareness generating workshop for the wellbeing of our students.



Minaxi Lalit Science Award Competition

The Gujarat Science Academy in collaboration with the Botany Department of the Gujarat University has been organizing a state level competition for excellence in science subjects for almost a decade. This year, it was conducted on 18 September, 2018. Meritorious students in respective subjects will be awarded certificates during the Science Congress to be held in the near future. About 140 of our students have given the test.

Another Feather in our Cap: MSc Programme in Mathematics

The department of Mathematics has always been enthusiastic in raising the quality of student life in Gujarat. In the past, the department has organised several training programmes and Mathematical Olympiad Tests with this view. This year, **Dr Udayan Prajapati**, Head of the department and his team of faculty have initiated MSc in Mathematics in order to offer a different flavour of Mathematics. The department received an overwhelming response to the course. Motivated by the enthusiasm of the students, the department has also initiated a NET training centre for all students with special emphasis on mathematics. Several students from across the state have enrolled for the course. Thank you and Congratulations, to Dr Udayan and team for developing an invigorating environment for learning mathematics.

"Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardour and attended to with diligence" – Abigail Adams

Dr. Sanjeev Gupta's Master Strokes

Dr Sanjeev Gupta, recipient of the 'Best Researcher of the Year Award' (constituted by SXCA) for the current academic year received research funding to the tune of 34 lakhs from various organisations. This achievement is over and above the several ongoing projects that Dr Sanjeev currently has. The two new projects that he has received are 'Simulation of the transport phenomena and the phase changes in thorium and mixed uranium-plutonium oxide nuclear fuel' funded by DST-RFBR (Indo-Russian) and 'Quantum transport in elemental doped 2D monolayer and atomic clusters' funded by National PARAM Supercomputing Facility-PARAM YUVA-II. A new well-furnished lab has been constructed to nurture his inquisitive mind and to house the new super computer. Congratulations Dr Sanjeev! You make us proud.

Walking a Path for Others!



Sr Mary James and team in collaboration with Blind People's Association organised the Annual meeting of all visually challenged college students in the premises of Blind People's Association. The entire programme was assisted by a group of devoted volunteers. The programme was attended by over 150 visually challenged students of Gujarat University. Various sessions to motivate and encourage the students were conducted. The programme culminated with a cultural programme orchestrated by the participating students.

Improving Educational Standard

Two of our faculty members have gone out of their way to make their contribution to improve school text books. **Dr Arti Oza** contributed to designing Psychology text books and **Dr Devang Pandya** in rewriting Chemistry text books for Gujarat Board. Dr Arti also delivered a lecture on 'Time and Stress Management' at the Grand Education Fair-2017, which was attended by over 300 students. Dr Arti's talk focussed on ways of dealing with stress that is part of student life.

"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it"- Nelson Mandela

Conserving Energy Through Solar Installations

St Xavier's College in its effort to opt for cleaner and natural energy, continued to install solar systems on campus. Latest in the list is a 50HP solar pump for pumping water to the overhead tank. We do hope that with the installation of this pump, the college's electricity consumption will go down further. Next in line is the installation of street lights and illumination of the campus by using LED and solar lights. Congratulations to **Dr Nirmal Desai** and **Fr Robert Arokiasamy SJ** for their vision and continuing effort towards increasing our carbon credit.

Gujarat University Sports Meet

Many of our students participated in various events at the Gujarat University sports meet. A total of 61 students represented St Xavier's College. We were champions in cross country, swimming, chess, badminton double, table tennis, volley ball (24 girls participated), and runner's up in swimming (girls), chess (girls), badminton singles, table tennis (girls) and Table tennis (boys). In the recently held inter collegiate football, basketball and volleyball matches, we were the champions. We value and appreciate the coordination and training imparted by the sports director, **Dr Vijaysinh Padheria** and the untiring spirit of Mr Johny D'Costa.



Refurbished SXCA Website

Web designing is an ever evolving process. With the objective of updating and improvising, St Xavier's College decided to redesign the college website. One of our students, Mr Harsh Palod from BCA offered to help. Harsh designed the website in less than 15 days and uploaded the refurbished website on an auspicious day, the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola. We take this opportunity to thank Harsh for all the help rendered in making it happen and turning it into a visible delight with all the necessary features.

Colloquy

“Lecture is a transfer of the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the student without passing through either”



Several departments organised lectures by inviting subject experts. The department of Biochemistry -Biotechnology organized talks on “Ramachandran Plot” by Dr Linz Buoy George and on “Molecular Chaperones” by Dr. Riddhi Shah. The department of Chemistry organised a talk by Dr Prakash Mehta, Director of Tawata Technologies on “Silane and silicones”, which is a technology currently used in water proofing and layering of roads and pavements. His talk focussed on how a simple technology can have a multitude of applications.

Department of Computer Sciences organized a special lecture on 'The world of Data Science' by Mr. Seemit Sheth (Senior Scientist & Chief Data Scientist, Capital One USA), an alumnus of Statistics department. BCA and BDA students participated in the lecture and benefited immensely from the same. The deliberations enabled the students to visualize a career in Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics and Data Sciences.

Ms Dhiruben Patel, ex-president of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad and well-known writer, delivered a lecture on 'Feminism and women writings' to students of Gujarat literature. Shri Ram Mori a well-known author and winner of Yuva Gaurav Puraskar also gave a popular lecture on “Sarjan Prakriya” to the literature students.

Capacity Building Programmes

The department of Physics-Electronics organised the Advanced Physics Programme for the state of Gujarat. The department of Biochemistry - Biotechnology conducted the GSBTM sponsored workshop for students of six science colleges in Ahmedabad, with the objective of preparing them for competitive exams. More than 50 students participated in the 12 day long programme.

Organisation Development Programmes

With the help of Mr Arvind Chittewale, College IQAC has been organising faculty development programmes for staff and management. The programme aimed at developing organisational skills and building in a cohesive force among faculty members. The programme was very well appreciated and we look forward to having more sessions in the coming semester.

Activities of the SC ST Cell

The SC/ST Cell of SXCA has been doing commendable work by conducting skill oriented workshops for students. Some of the workshops, which the Cell has conducted is based on the following themes: Goal setting and Self esteem; Academic Excellence; Why to study, Time management; Note taking tactics; Learning style; How to attend lectures?; Reading skills etc. We salute the indomitable spirit of the Coordinator, **Dr I.L Mehra** and a large number of highly involved faculty including **Dr. Pinky Desai, Dr Atul Makwana, Mr Puransinh Makwana, Mr Sourabh Vaishnav, Mr Vijay Dhandukia and Dr Sanjeev Gupta** for their enthusiasm and earnest effort.

Educational Extension

Faculty members of Chemistry department are extending a helping hand by interacting with over 150 students and staff of St Xavier's Loyola School. **Dr Divya Hangal, Ms Deesha Khetani and Dr Atul Makwana** explained how theoretical knowledge in Industrial Chemistry can be converted into entrepreneurial success by conducting a workshop on manufacturing colourful candles. These candles have a huge market during Diwali.

Extension Galore

Fr Lancelot D'Cruz SJ continues to enthrall all with his motivating, informative and transformational oration. He was invited to be the Chief Guest at the inaugural function of an exhibition on 'Science, Maths and Environment' held at the Panchamrut International Public School at Nikol, Ahmedabad.

He was also invited to deliver a special lecture at a Workshop on 'Access and Benefit Sharing' organized by the Gujarat State Biodiversity Board at Dediapada. After the function, Fr Lancelot inaugurated a new office for 'Aadi Aushadhi' in the same premises. He also conducted a two day workshop to teachers and students of Vedruna School at Unai, South Gujarat.



Botanical Field Trip



The Botany students visited the Serenity Botanical Garden and Library at Koteswar on September 3, 2017 for a Botanical Field Trip, ably guided by Dr. Santosh Yadav, Dr. Rashmi Yadav and **Fr. (Dr.) Lancy D'Cruz**.

The campus is home to an amazing 838 species of vascular plants belonging to 485 genera and 121 families, which have been naturally grown or planted over the years. It is an invaluable treasure for botanists and nature lovers. Descriptions of the plants have been put on

ceramic plaques or on cards for the benefit of the visitors.

They also visited the vegetable and herbal garden as also the Serenity Herbarium and Carpology Museum.

Mehuko Students Interact

The Non Formal Education Wing of our college, which has a tie up with Sophia University, Tokyo has an experiential learning module designed with the objective of learning the social and cultural threads and diversity of children growing in slums. Every alternate year, students from an organization called "Mehuko" visit Ahmedabad and interact with the slum kids for 3 – 4 days. This year a group of 25 students of Mehuko had a very interactive session with the slum kids.



Orientation Programme

To help all the freshers settle into Xavier's life, every year after the admissions, an Orientation Programmes is conducted to not only familiarize the students with the vision and mission of the institution and understand the basic value system of the Jesuit education, but also to make them feel at home. Innovative and fun activities were interspersed with short introductions to various academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that are part of the Xavier's way of learning. The orientation programme was overseen by an enthusiastic group of senior volunteers and a group of experts from an organization called "Catalysts".

"Education is the passport for the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". – Malcolm X.

Commemorating The Ingenious Dr. A. R. Rao

The celebration held at XICA Auditorium to celebrate the 109th birthday of Prof. A. R. Rao was a befitting tribute to one of the founders of Modern Mathematics in Gujarat. The program was organized by St. Xavier's College in association with Ahmedabad Ganit Mandal, Vikram Sarabhai Community Science Centre and Prof. A. R. Rao Foundation. Prof. A. M. Vaidya presided over the function that was graced by eminent mathematicians. Fitting for the occasion was a lecture given by Mr Shivam Patel on 'Mathematical reflection on chess board' and release of a Hindi translation of a book entitled, 'A Manual of Mathematical Models and Teaching Aids' by Prof. A.R.Rao.

Snippets

- Teacher's Day was celebrated by students with all enthusiasm. A very meaningful get together was organised at 11 am on SAH. One of the alumni gave a moving speech online.

- **Dr Nandita Ganguly** published a paper in 'Journal of Atmospheric and Solar Terrestrial Physics' (Elsevier). The work was conducted as part of the INSA fellowship that Dr Nandita had received in 2016. Congratulations!
- **Dr Arti Oza** attended an International conference on 'Psychology beyond Horizon' and presented a paper on 'Understanding difference of emotional intelligence and family adjustment level in obesity and high blood pressure patients'.
- New staff recruited: **Ms Annaashirvadita** in English, **Dr Dhawal Jayantkumar Bhatt** and **Dr Savan Ketankumar Patel** in Mathematics. We welcome them to the Xavier's Parivar.
- Ms. Baby Michael, a student of first year Industrial Chemistry bagged the opportunity to attend an unpaid Vocational training programme at IFFCO, Kandla
- Mr Parth Soni Ajaykumar of TY Electronics won the Gold medal, the Late Shri Rasikbhai G Shah Memorial Medal for the year 2016 - 17
- A prayer service was conducted to commemorate St. Ignatius Loyola's feast.
- **Ms Swati Joshi** has initiated a Spoken English programme for students who need guidance to communicate in English.
- **Dr Kirtan Parmar** has conducted a two day workshop on SPSS for MBA students at KS School of Business Management.
- **Dr Kinjal Desai** successfully defended her PhD thesis and later resigned from the Department of Biochemistry-Biotechnology. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.
- **Ms. Shital Doshi** submitted her PhD synopsis to Gujarat University. We wish her all the best for her thesis submission.
- **Ms Shital Doshi, Dr Kinjal Desai, Dr. Dweipayan Goswami** and **Mr Dhaval Patel** attended an International conference at Kolkata. Ms Shital and Mr Dhaval won prizes for best presentations in separate categories.
- Onam was celebrated by our students from Kerala State with great aplomb. The main attraction of the celebration was a beautiful floral decoration, which is a tradition followed during Onam. The students also had organized games and fun events as part of the celebrations.
- Ms Mansi Porwal won the first prize in a poster presentation competition held at Nirma University as part of a seminar on 'Recent Advances and Future Trends in Chemical Technology 2017'. Her presentation was on "Microwave and solvent exfoliation of graphite to graphene".
- **Dr IL Mehera** authored a book titled 'Asthithwa ni Sajgata' on personality development. The book was published by Parshva Publication. Congratulations.
- St Xavier's College hosts a large number of Christian students. A get together of the Christian students was conducted to bring in more familiarity amongst them.
- As part of the International Yoga Day, the staff and students of the College organized and participated in an elaborate function emphasizing on the technique as well as benefits of doing Yoga everyday. Years of practice has also led to incorporating Yoga in our curriculum as a soft skill programme.
- **Dr. Nirmal Desai, Dr. Mallika Sanyal, Dr. Uma Hari Krishnan, Dr. Pranav Trivedi, Dr. Devang Pandya** participated in National seminars
- **Dr. Mallika Sanyal** delivered guest Lecture at Kadi Sarva VishwaVidyalaya, at Gandhinagar Camps
- The administrative staff had a two day picnic cum group building programme in Glen View, Mount Abu. The sessions were conducted by **Fr Roland D'Souza SJ**. It is an outing that they look forward to and is an opportunity to come together to share and enjoy.
- The department of Mathematics has initiated a training programme to clear CSIR NET examination. About 46 students are taking advantage of this facility.
- We deeply mourn the sad demise of Prof S.S. Bhau and retired Office Superintendent, Mr Paul Macwan. May their souls Rest In Peace.

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean" - Ryunosuke Satoro

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