



SXC Chronicles

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With a Little Help from My Friends...



About 40 volunteers from Utcars, NSS and CWDC came together to brighten a day in the lives of 37 orphans from the Mahipatra Rupam Ashram on 15 September.

The volunteers kept the children engaged from 9 am to 4 pm with games such as Fire in the Mountain, Passing the Parcel, and *Tom and Jerry* cartoons. Lunch was also served.

On 1 September, 40 Utcars volunteers spent time with 25 residents at the Rahelba Vrudhashram home for the aged.

Fr Lancy Takes Charge



New head: Fr (Dr) Lancelot D'Cruz took over as acting principal in April. Fr Lancy has a PhD in Tribal Medicinal Plants from Gujarat University. He has long been part of the Botany department.

Blood Donations Exceed Expectations

Xavierites donated 109 units of blood, more than twice the target of 50 units, in a drive organized by the college's NSS unit in association with the Red Cross Society on 14 September. The six-hour event, where 165 students volunteered blood, aimed to raise awareness about children with thalassemia major who have to undergo regular blood transfusions. Each donor received a certificate, memento and refreshments.



Good cause: Hariom Gaurav overcame his nervousness to donate blood for the first time during this event.



Students Bring Home Cultural Gold

We bagged trophies in every one of the 13 events we participated in Youth Fest 2019 Kala Yagna held 5-7 September. We came first in Rally, Debate, Classical Vocal (Indian), Classical Instrumental, Street Play and One-Act Play; second in Western Solo Singing,

Group Song Western, Classical Dance, Quiz and Elocution; and third in Indian Group Song and Mime. We then went on to represent the South Zone at the inter-zonal leg of the competition.

We also won big at Vishleshan+ 2019, the national-level festival hosted by N.R.I.B.A.

Field Trip to Shoolpaneshwar



Annual jaunt: The trip allows students to study plants in their natural habitat.

Eighteen third-year Botany students went on a field trip to Netrang and the Dediapada forests of Shoolpaneshwar in South Gujarat from 29 August to 02 September.

Guided by eminent botanist Dr Santosh Yadav, as well as Fr Lancy

D'Cruz, Dr Rashmi Yadav and Mr Piyush Pateliya, the students explored local flora, including semi-evergreen to moist deciduous forest, 575 species of flowering plants, and vast bamboo brakes. They also talked to the tribal Bhagat community,

who are a part of the local Bhil-Vasava community about their local venture Aadi Aushadhi, to gain insight into and to create awareness about local medicines. Aadi Aushadhi has been collaborating with Fr Lancy and St Xavier's for several years now.

Workshop on Econometrics



XICA's department of Big Data Analytics joined hands with the St Xavier's department of Economics to organize a workshop titled 'Econometrics with R' on 19–20 September.

Econometrics deals with the use of mathematical methods. The workshop focused on introducing the use of open-source software R programming to aid in computation and analysis of data. Dr Smruti Bulsani took the workshop, which was attended by 50 students.

Students Visit AIR station



The English department organized an educational tour to All India Radio's local station in Navrangpura on 28 August. Forty-five second-year students of Functional English were introduced to different technical instruments and aspects of radio broadcasting, such as the audio recording room and live room.

Programme officer Trilok Sanghani explained how the radio station functioned. Professor Jui Upadhyay led the tour.

Honouring Gandhi @150



Clean-up crew: NSS commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The college's NSS unit organized a Swaccha Abhiyan at Kalupur Railway station to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The three-day event led by Prof. Vijaysinh Dhandhukiya of the Economics department, included two rallies; a

cleanliness drive where 47 NSS volunteers cleaned water stands on all 12 platforms at the station; and a *nukkad natak* titled *Main Bhi Gandhi*. The volunteers helped railway officials by having passengers fill in feedback forms, and by distributing cloth bags in

order to encourage them to reduce their dependence on plastic bags.

At the rally on 02 October two NSS volunteers channelled Hindi film characters Munnabhai and Circuit—complete with *jaadu ki jhappi*—to spread their message.

Student Wins ISRO Quiz

Bhaumik Vyas, second-year student of the Physics department, came first in a quiz competition held on 08 October at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Exhibition by SAC Ahmedabad. The quiz was based on remote sensing and interplanetary missions. The event was organized as part of SAC-ISRO's Space Week celebrations. Around 25 students participated in the competition. Vyas was awarded a photo of GSLV MK-3, notable for its role in the Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2 missions. It will further be used in Gaganyaan.

Taste of Collaborative Writing

Students met three authors behind *Altitudinis*—a unique book co-written by 10 people—at XICA Hall on 04 October.

The event was organized by the English department, and included Kusum Chopra, Priya Narayanan and Indira Nityanandam, the last of whom also teaches at XICA. Since *Altitudinis* is a cross-genre multi-author work, the event was an ideal setting to introduce students to different genres.

According to the authors, the first 10 chapters of the book—which combines elements from genres such as romance, thriller, mystery and science



Rapt attention: Faculty also participated in the hour-long event.

fiction—were written without a plot.

Ahmedabad-based author, journalist and activist Chopra, came up with the concept for the

story. She told students, “you must have faith and trust in each other for collaborative writing.”

The event ended with a Q&A session.

Teaching Internship in Physics

Six Xavierites—Ankan Majumdar, Neel Vadodaria, Shyama Soni, Harish Sen, Jay Pandya and Yashesh Ratnakar—have begun teaching physics to higher secondary students at Zydus School of Excellence, under an internship initiated by their department.

The interns, three each from TY BSc and MSc, were chosen by their faculty members through a demo lecture from a pool of 30 volunteers. The six-month internship began in August.

Dr Rajesh Iyer, HoD, says the department is planning a similar programme for second-year undergraduates later this year.

Quiz, Lecture Mark Statistics Day



Statistics faculty: (Standing, from left) Prof. Pravida Raja, Dr Kirtankumar Parmar, Dr Nandita Christy, Dr Shraddha Bhatt, Dr Aruna Pandya, and (seated) Prof. Baldevsingh Bhadauria

As many as 120 students and faculty members from St Xavier's College, Gujarat Arts and Science College and M.G. Science College came together at the XICA Auditorium to mark National Statistics Day.

Dr Arnab Laha, Professor of Statistics at IIM, Ahmedabad was the keynote speaker at the event—that also included a quiz contest—which was organized by the St Xavier's Statistics department.

The Government of India

has declared 29 June—the birth anniversary of P.C. Mahalanobis—as National Statistics Day.

Known as the father of Indian Statistical Research, Mahalanobis founded the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata.

Xavier's ni Gaadi Chali... Again!

Our football team has cemented its position at the top for the eighth consecutive year. Their 4–0 win over Gujarat Arts and Science College at the finals of the Intercollege Sports Meet on 23 September marked the end of a smashing 21-team tournament.

The boys had kept their opponents from scoring all through the competition, beating J.G. College 4–0



Champs: A jubilant football team celebrates another win.

on 17 September and Government College, Gandhinagar, 3–0 on 20 September, before giving

M.G. Science College a 6–0 drubbing in the semi-finals.

Unsurprisingly, the finals face-off drew a massive

crowd of fans despite the early start time of 7.30 am.

While opponents Gujarat Arts and Science College—who beat New L.J. College of Commerce in their semi-final match—played valiantly, Kevin Bhagora, Musamiyan Ahmed, Prithvi Nagpal and Jenit Gamit each scored a goal for St Xavier's amid “traditional” cheers and chants, such as “Xavier's ni gaadi chali....”

Fire Safety Workshop



The Open-Air Theatre was the venue of a Fire-Safety Workshop on 7 September. The event was organized by our NSS unit and conducted by firefighters from Jamalpur and Navrangpura.

Students witnessed a fire safety and rescue demonstration, and were also encouraged to try their hand at using various firefighting gadgets. They were also encouraged to consider a career in fire and safety.

Onam Celebrated with Gusto



Fun times: The college's Malayali students organized the celebrations and included others as well.

A sliver of Kerala arrived in campus on 14 September as students celebrated a mostly traditional Onam.

The entrances to XICA and the foot of the grand staircase were adorned with a *pookalam*, the traditional

floral rangoli; about 20 girls performed the *thiruvathira* dance; and, in a case of cross-cultural participation, both Malayali and non-Malayali students were seen sporting *kasavu mundus* and sarees.

Maveli's decidedly non-

traditional entry on a Royal Enfield Bullet delighted merrymakers, who were also treated to several more dance performances. The festivities ended with a serving of *ada payasam*, but not before hostelites trounced non-hostelites in tug of war.

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