



# SXC CHRONICLES

March 2026, Issue 20

## COLLEGE/ DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

### DR. THOMAS PUCADYIL AS THE DIRECTOR OF BRIC-NCCS, PUNE

Dr. Thomas Pucadyil, who is a former Biochemistry student of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad, has been named Director of BRIC-NCCS, Pune. He is currently a Professor of Biology at IISER Pune, where he began his journey of research career. His work is primarily focused on proteins that influence cell membrane integrity, a critical area in the field of integrated biochemistry. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and the Indian Academy of Sciences, and was awarded the Shanti Swarupnagar Prize in 2018 in honour of his efforts. He will take charge from interim Director Dr. Manisha Inamdar, and the handover process is currently under transition.



### VASANTOTSAV – A SPRING CELEBRATION

The spring season was joyously welcomed by the Sanskrit Department of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad through an event, the Vasantotsav. Beginning with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, the programme included the performance of Saraswati Vandana by the students, creating a calm and serene atmosphere.

Faculty members shared their thoughts, followed by a Vasant Geet and a lively dance performance that showed the essence of spring. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, making it a beautiful celebration of the season, culture and tradition.

### WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The CWDC Unit of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad celebrated International Women's Day on 7 March, 2026 at the Open Air Theatre (OAT). To engage students, the programme included fun activities like games and sports.

Activities like "Take One, Give One," matching famous women with their achievements, rapid-fire rounds, identifying actresses from film dialogues, and spelling games were held. Sports events such as the Lemon Spoon Race, Tug of War, Relay Race, Dog and the Bone, and Kho-Kho were also organised.

More than 350 students joined the event, with support of over 30 volunteers. Winners and participants received chocolates, making the celebration fun and enjoyable.



### NSS VISIT TO BLIND PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION: VISION IN THE DARK

The NSS Unit of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad organized a visit to the Blind People's Association (BPA) under the segment "Vision in the Dark." The primary objective of the visit was to help students understand the lives, challenges and capabilities of visually impaired individuals through direct interaction with them.

During the visit, NSS volunteers participated in an engaging session that significantly changed their perspective about the world. They were introduced to various technological advancements designed to assist visually impaired individuals in their daily lives. The students also explored the Japanese Manual Therapy section, where visually impaired learners are trained in specialized therapeutic skills. The experience fostered empathy and awareness in them leaving the volunteers with a new outlook towards the blind people.



### BLOOD DONATION CAMP BY NSS

The NSS Unit of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad organized a voluntary blood donation camp on 16 March, 2026 in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society Blood Bank. It was conducted as part of its ongoing commitment to community service and social responsibility.

The camp was carried out under the supervision of a professional medical team, ensuring proper screening, safety and care for all donors. A total of 161 units of blood were collected, reflecting enthusiastic participation among the students as well as staff. The initiative stood as a meaningful support towards healthcare needs in the community.

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND RECOGNITION

Akansha Tripathi actively participated in the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, organized by MY Bharat in collaboration with the National Service Scheme. The programme provided a vibrant platform for youth engagement, dialogue, and nation-building initiatives.

In another proud achievement, Dhruv Manghani was conferred the Swachhta Hero Award 2026, organized by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Surat Region), recognizing his contribution towards cleanliness and civic responsibility.



### 19<sup>TH</sup> UTKARSH DAY CELEBRATED WITH SPIRIT OF INCLUSION AND SERVICE

The 19<sup>th</sup> Utkarsh Day was organized on 15 March, 2026 by the Campus Ministry and Utkarsh Cell of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad. The event promoted inclusion, empowerment and the spirit of "being a person for others," with participation from 50 specially-abled individuals and 55 student volunteers, along with guests from Ahmedabad University. The formal programme included prayers, lamp lighting, speeches and inspiring messages by dignitaries, including the Chief Guest,

Shrimati Nandini Raval. A highlight of the event was a meaningful skit on empathy and inclusion, followed by cultural performances by students. The programme concluded with a reflection session where volunteers shared their experiences and learnings. The event successfully fostered unity and a deeper sense of social responsibility among all participants.

### MICROBIAL MAESTROS CONCLAVE: IGNITING INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY!

The Department of Microbiology organized a National Conference on "Microbial Maestros for Sustainable Development". The event brought together eminent academicians, researchers, and students to explore the vital role of microorganisms in achieving sustainable development. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Satya P. Singh, former Head of the Department of Biosciences at Saurashtra University, who shared valuable insights into current advancements and future directions in microbiological research. The conference also provided students with an enriching opportunity to interact with distinguished experts, including Dr. Nasreen Munshi from Nirma University, Dr. Shweta Agarwal from Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, and Dr. Harsha Soni from HVHP, Kadi. The event was well-received and proved to be an intellectually stimulating platform for knowledge exchange and academic engagement. The college extends its congratulations to Dr. Mohammed Faisal Ansari and his dedicated team for organizing such a meaningful academic initiative and for creating valuable learning opportunities for students.

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

### ONLINE LECTURE ON LITERARY JOURNALISM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Gujarati, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad organized an online lecture on 9 March 2026, with Dr. Fr. Vinayak Jadhav as the resource person. The session focused on the topic "Literary Journalism and Its Implications" and was attended by students and faculty members.

During the lecture, the speaker elaborated on the relationship between literature and journalism, highlighting how both fields complement each other. He discussed both theoretical and practical aspects of literary journalism, offering valuable insights into its applications and outcomes. His engaging style of presentation provided a fresh perspective and enriched the understanding of the participants.

### HINDI DEPARTMENT'S GUEST LECTURE

On 18 March 2026, the Department of Hindi organized a guest lecture titled "Various Dimensions of Hindi Literature: An Overview." Around 78 students from different faculties attended the session. The lecture was given by Dr. Mridula Parikh. She shared her perspective on Hindi literature, talking about its history, different types of literature, and the contributions of famous writers. Her talk helped students immerse into Hindi literature and understand it better.



### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE 3 H'S

The Department of Psychology organised a one-day international conference titled "Resilience to Revolution: Hope, Healing and Harmony." The conference focused on bringing together the students, academicians, researchers, and practitioners to engage in meaningful dialogue on emerging perspectives in psychology and mental health.

The event featured activities like the keynote sessions, panel discussion, and scientific sessions that seek to foster hope, healing, and harmony while addressing contemporary psychological challenges in a rapidly changing world. As a part of this academic endeavor, the Department of Psychology have published an abstract book for the conference.

### PHYSICS DEPARTMENT'S INSIGHTFUL LECTURE

The Department of Physics hosted an engaging talk on "The World of Magnetic Monopoles," delivered by Dr. Vivek Kumar. The session offered students a fascinating glimpse into one of physics' enduring mysteries—that unlike bar magnets, magnetic monopoles are hypothetical particles with a single pole, a concept first introduced by Paul Dirac in 1931. The lecture gave students valuable insight into theoretical physics and the questions that continue to drive it forward.



## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

### PRESENTING RESEARCH PAPERS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Dr. Sanjeev K. Gupta with his SRF students Mr. Rajesh Chitara presented two Research Papers at the International Conference on Photophysics and Photochemistry (ICOPP), held from 26–28 March 2026. The conference was jointly organized by the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy. Dr. Gupta also served as a Judge for the Poster Presentation Sessions. He also contributed to the academic evaluation process. The team gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad.

### WORKSHOP ON UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH DESIGNS

Dr. Atman from the Department of Economics conducted a session on Understanding Research Design, the session was a one-day workshop. The main focus of the session was the conceptual foundations of research design, different types of research designs, and sampling strategies. The session was organised by N.S. Patel Arts College (Autonomous), Anand, in collaboration with the Higher Education Department, Government of Gujarat (GoG), and the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG).



### MR. SHAUNAK VYAS'S ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Shaunak Vyas was honoured with the Best Drama Director Award at the Global Gujarati 2026 Awards, organised by Gujarat Tourism at Kutch Yatra Resort, Dhordo. He dedicated this recognition to his entire team, his family, and his mentor Dr. Vikram Panchal, acknowledging the role of his guru, fellow artists, audiences, and the St. Xavier's College community in his 25-year journey in theatre.

This milestone was celebrated on World Theatre Day (27 March) at the Rang Shreshthi Felicitation Ceremony by TIHAI GROUP. He thanked Mr. Hetal Thakker and Mr. Arvind Vegada for championing Gujarati culture and performing arts, calling this award a renewed commitment to the growth of Gujarati Theatre.

### FACULTY RESEARCH AND ACHIEVEMENT

Several faculty members contributed to academic research through notable publications and presentations. Dr. Shivani Shah (Department of Commerce) published her work on consumer perceptions of online shopping in Ahmedabad in the International Journal of Management, Economics and Commerce.

Dr. Tanushka Mehta published two articles on monetary policy and banking challenges in the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts and the International Journal of Novel Research and Development.

Dr. Shivani Shah also presented a paper on e-marketing and consumer purchase decisions at the International Conference on Advances in Theory, Research & Practices in Management, organized during the centennial celebrations of Gujarat Law Society, and was awarded the Best Paper Presentation Award.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IN THE INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR**

Ms. Janet Joseph and Ms. Komal D. Mistry published a paper on ESG perspective on the economic rise of India: A study of selected pharmaceutical companies. The study was published in the Journal of Informatics Education and Research. The study focuses on the increasing significance of social, environmental and governance practices in defining sustainable growth, corporate responsibility and long-term performance in the Indian pharmaceutical sector.

## **STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **SUCCESS OF ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT**

Mahi Joshi and Aastha Makwana from the Department of Economics (Div-A) presented a research paper under the guidance of Mr. Vijaysinh Dhandhukiya at a National Conference on “SANATAN DISCOURSE IN TRIBAL TRADITIONS-3.0” held on 16 March 2026. This conference was organised by the ‘Student for Holistic Development of Humanity Foundation, Gujarat’. This was indeed an insightful experience for the students. The event was held in collaboration with the Research and Development Cell, VNSGU giving students an opportunity to progress in the field of Research and Development.

Additionally, Shreya Banerjee from the Department of Economics secured 1<sup>st</sup> Position in the Creative Cape Competition at ATOM-X: The National Level Management Fest, 2025–26 making the college proud. The event was organised by the Faculty of Management, GLS University.



### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

Ralph Rajesh brought laurels to the college by securing First Position for his poster presentation at a two-day National Conference held at Charotar University of Science and Technology. He also presented a research paper at a National Conference at Bhavan's College, reflecting his active academic engagement. Congratulations on this achievements.

### **STUDENTS DECODE POST-COVID FMCG BUYING TRENDS**

Het Mehta and Sonia Dennis, under the guidance of Dr. Shivani Shah, have published a research paper titled “Changing FMCG Buying Behaviour through E-Commerce: A Comparative Analysis of Pre- and Post-COVID-19 in Ahmedabad City” in the International Journal of Novel Research and Development. Congratulations!

#### **Credit Note**

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