



# St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Magazine 2017-2018







*Dr Hoshang Master discussing his stamp collection*



*Dr. Aditi Sawant with cotton workers*



*Dr. Agnelo Menezes pledging his entire body*



*Fr. Stan on Refugees*



*Harnidh Kaur at Ithaka Events*



*Hindi Play at Antas*



*Kanchan Daniel performing at Saumvedna 2018*



*Kavita Krishnan at Conclave*

## **EDITORIAL**

### *The Story of Inclusion*

*The Government of India's recent policy on education has made "inclusive education" a right for students with varying learning-challenges. Therefore, significant alterations have been incorporated in the teaching, learning and assessment dynamics. The voyage of inclusion in St. Xavier's since 1869 has evolved in stages and can figuratively be called a rhizomatic journey. The terms "rhizome" and "rhizomatic" were employed by philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari to challenge notions of dualisms and binary oppositions in the conception of knowledge. They posit a non-hierarchical and multitudinous approach to knowledge. In India, where education was the prerogative of a select few, St. Xavier's embraced all. The Jesuit philosophy of education has been to tenaciously share its wisdom with people from all walks including the margins and peripheries.*

*Although the spirit of inclusion is embedded in the values of St. Xavier's, an official support system called the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) was started for the first time in 2003. In the true Xavierian spirit, the XRCVC flourished to impact government policies with regard to the visually challenged community. It continues to be a national advocacy and support centre for the blind and low vision across India. The portals of St. Xavier's have been silent witnesses to the graduation of students with other disabilities too. In fact, in the field of Higher Education, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, has pioneered the trailblazing cause of inclusion.*

*The rhizomatic journey of inclusion in St. Xavier's is a panegyric to its Jesuit firmament which celebrates interconnectedness and multiplicity at local, national and international levels. In a prelude to the sesquicentennial milestone of St. Xavier's College, this spirit of inclusion urges its stakeholders to challenge dualism and hierarchies at all junctures. The various activities as recorded in this magazine are a paean to the efforts that each department made to sustain and assimilate the ethos of inclusion.*

*Dr. Rashmi Lee George*

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Dr. Agnelo Menezes  
Principal

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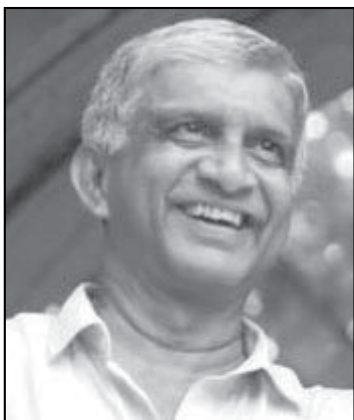


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## From the Principal's Desk



*As we stand at the threshold of a sesquicentenary, there are reasons to feel grateful for the role of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, in the realm of Higher Education. The founding Jesuit Fathers pioneered liberal education which has not only stood the test of time but also has gathered momentum in its intense diversification. While we celebrate diversity and let cultures be, we attempted to embrace inclusion to encompass learning disabilities. St. Xavier's has broken the glass ceiling of gender as early as 1912 when girl students entered the portals for education. In 2003 the Xavier's Resource Centre for Visually Challenged (XRCVC) gave new impetus to making education accessible to the blind and low vision students. In 2017-18, we extended our ambit of inclusion to encompass various disabilities. Thus, this year Antarchakshu organized by the XRCVC catalogued various learning challenges to create awareness among the people at large. The Life Sciences and Biochemistry Department showcased another awareness campaign-cum-conference to give fresh insights into various developmental disabilities. It would be no exaggeration to state that St. Xavier's decided to problematise learning disabilities in the same breath as it attempted to find solutions. Our teaching, learning, and our examination system made concerted efforts to accommodate students with learning disabilities. Despite teething problems, St. Xavier's rose up to the challenge of this major overhaul.*

*While consolidating the autonomous status and reveling in the rich legacy of entering the 150th year, the negotiations to achieve University status have commenced. To don the mantle of being a University requires assiduity which is embedded even in the very edifice of St. Xavier's. The heritage status of Xavier's is a constant reminder of the rich legacy that this institution radiates. The march towards University status is a step towards re-enshrining the vision of the Founding Fathers while creating this magnificent institution. The enduring glow of the Blatter Herbarium, the Caius Research Laboratory, the Heras Institute of Indian Culture and History, the Fell Gymkhana continue to motivate us as we take giant strides into the field of Higher Education. While our international exchange programmes reiterate the universal reach of St. Xavier's, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves that this College has always attracted citizens from around the globe to its campus.*

*Even as we went about maintaining high academic standards along with innovative pedagogical initiatives, we lost some of our stalwart-educationists. Eunice de Souza, the former Head of the English Department, Edward Rodrigues (Eddie), former Head of the Sociology Department, Fr. Emil D'Cruz S.J the former Principal, Fr. Noel Sheth S.J a renowned Indologist, Ms. Debjani Chavan beloved French teacher in our Junior College and Victor D'Souza the ever reliable support staff member of the Physics Department all passed away during the academic year 2017-18. Faculty members like Eunice de Souza and Eddie were instrumental in revolutionizing education through their meaningful and far-reaching pedagogical methods. We also bid farewell to the humanist-humorist Fr. Terence Quadros SJ, who has been transferred to Nashik,*

*As St. Xavier's turns 150, I salute the academicians from every stream, the office staff, the librarian and all the non-teaching staff who have constantly supported the College as it went about creating academic footprints for 150 memorable years. Each of us who have passed through the portals of this College matter, as each of us have contributed in making St. Xavier's not just a College but a way of life.*

*Dr. Agnelo Menezes  
Principal*





# FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMICS / DIRECTOR IQAC

A big thank you to Dr. Gulshanara Shaikh, the previous Vice-Principal Academics who retired on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017. She will be remembered for all her efforts especially in connection with making the Honours Programme even more interdisciplinary by introducing the hub system. Her mentorship and guidance has helped countless students and young faculty. Likewise, much gratitude to Ms. Madhuri Raijada, the previous Vice-Principal Arts who retired at the end of December 2017 but continued to be of service to the institution till the end of the academic year. Her motherly approach and organizational ability will be remembered by all. I would also like to say a big word of thanks to Dr. Radiya Pacha Gupta for her leadership at the Council of International Programmes for the last five years and for taking it to a new level. Welcome Dr. Rashmi George!

The Office of the Vice-Principal Academics has been packed with schedules, meetings, seminars, tough decisions, happy moments and above all much cherished support from the

faculty and students of St. Xavier's College! A big word of thanks to the support and efforts of the Academic Council, Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes, Vice-Principal (Science) Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, Vice-Principal (Arts) Ms. S. Annapurna (from 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018) and Vice-Principal (Junior College) Ms. Vaishali Mohoni.

A total of approximately seventy students received their Honours Certificates at their Graduation Ceremony held faculty wise. The departments offered a variety of activities that included lecture series, workshops, research projects, review of research articles, literature survey, book reviews, Summer School and even Khandala seminars where papers were presented. The objective of involvement in the subject beyond the regular curriculum was definitely met. A big thank you to all the Honours Coordinators from the various Departments, Mr. Subhash Kumar for the software work, layouts and printing of certificates assisted by Mr. Dominic D'souza. The Honours Programme has been in existence for the last thirty-

three years or more here at Xavier's. More recently, after Xavier's got Autonomy many of the courses offered in the Honours Programme moved to mainstream classes. This took the overall academics of the College to a higher level. However, there is always that segment of students who can handle bigger challenges. Hence, the Honours Programme continued to be offered by a few faculty stalwarts. I am grateful to the faculty for their work in the Honours Programme and their service as DQAC Coordinators of their respective departments (see table). On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018, visits were made by a special team to all the Departments to inspect the documentation work done for the DQAC. Thanks Geeta Kotian, Saju George and Lydia Fernandes. A number of faculty were sent for IQAC seminars organized by different colleges during the academic year. As part of improving systems and quality on campus and bringing in new ideas, the IQAC Director held a number of meetings with faculty, alumni and students to plan for the 150 years celebrations as well as to garner resources through the

DEPARTMENT	HONOURS COORDINATORS	DQAC COORDINATORS
BOTANY	Vijaya Lobo	Vijaya Lobo
CHEMISTRY	Abhilasha Jain	Dionysia Coutinho
LIFE SCIENCE	Manasi Kanuga	Radhika Tendulkar
MICROBIOLOGY	Sangeeta Chavan	Karuna Gokarn
PHYSICS	K. Vidasankari	Rohan Jadhav
ZOOLOGY	Pushpa Sinkar	Smita Krishnan
STATISTICS	Piyali Unnikrishnan	Saju George
ECONOMICS	Manali Pawar	Rahul Menon
AIC	Radha Kumar	Anita Kothare
ENGLISH	Pearl Pastakia	Prasita Mukherjee
FRENCH	Alpana Palkhiwale	Alpana Palkhiwale
SOCIOLOGY	Pranoti Chirmuley	Pranoti Chirmuley
MASS MEDIA	Akshara Jadhav	Periyanayagi S.
MANAGEMENT STUDIES	Pritesh Arte	Soni George
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Lydia Fernandes	Lydia Fernandes
INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES	Fr. Prashant Olalekar	-
SIP	Prin. Agnelo Menezes	-
HERAS	Joan Dias	-
LIBRARY	Medha Taskar	-
IMG	Bhaskar Saha	-
PUBLIC POLICY	-	Awanish Kumar

DEPARTMENT	HONOURS COORDINATORS	DQAC COORDINATORS
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TOURISM	-	Radhika Rani
BIOTECHNOLOGY	-	Norine D'souza
COMMERCE	-	Suvaiba Pirani
HINDI	-	Bhagwati Upadhyay
HISTORY	-	Kaizeen Jehangir
POLITICAL SCIENCE	-	Pratibha Naithani
PSYCHOLOGY	-	Karen Almeida
GEOLOGY	-	Bobby Mathew
MATHEMATICS	-	Ashok Bingi

Xavier's Development Programme. A separate report appears elsewhere in this magazine.

The Teacher Assessment Questionnaire (TAQ) was instituted at Xavier's in 1969 before it became mandatory for an educational institution. The teaching assessment of 27 unconfirmed Arts and Science Faculty was conducted in the odd semester and 197 Arts faculty was done in the even semester including the self financing courses of Management and Mass Media Studies. A big thank you to Pushpa Sinkar (for her meticulous work all these years) and the Committee for their painstaking work - Dionysia Coutino, Sangeeta Chavan, Saju George, Kevin D'Cruz and all the senior faculty who pitched in, Miriam Stewart, Madhuri Rajjada, Pearl Pastakia, Raju Shinde, Ruby Pavri, Roy Thomas, Smita Krishnan, Ayesha Dias, Karuna Gokarn, Nandita Mangalore and Fr Roy.

The IQAC organized a "Visioning Consultation," on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018 as a preparation for the 150 years of the College for senior faculty and the governing body of the College and the Higher Education Commission of the Bombay Jesuit Province. The resource persons were Professor Errol D'Souza, Director, IIM, Ahmedabad, Vice Chancellor Dr. (Fr.) Felix Raj, S.J., St. Xavier's University, Kolkatta, Dr. (Fr.) Victor Lobo, S.J., Principal, St. Joseph's Bengaluru and Dr. Sybil Thomas, ASC,

Mumbai University. Principal's and Management from Mumbai colleges were also present.

A sincere appreciation to all the faculty who participated in the seminars organized as part of human resource development of IQAC. We conducted two New Teachers' Seminars during the academic year. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the topics were *Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm* by Fr. John Cyriac, S.J., *Teaching at Xavier's* by Vice-Principal Ms. Madhuri Rajjada (Arts) and *Teaching Methodology* by Vice Principal (Science) Dr. Hrishikesh Samant. On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the topic was *Review of teaching and learning in the classroom* animated by Ms. Madhuri Rajjada and Dr. Geeta Kotian.

Three faculty seminars for all were conducted. On 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, the topic was *Gender Sensitization at the workplace* by Dr. (Fr.) Keith D'souza, S.J. The second seminar was organized by Madhuri Hambarde, Praveen Henriques, Prashant Ratnaparkhi, Alpana Palkhiwale, Pratibha Naithani and Binoj Kutty with the support of IQAC on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 on *CAS, API Score-keeping and Service Conditions* by Ms. Yogini Ghare, Deputy Registrar, CONCOL Section, University of Mumbai. A big Thank You to all the CAS committee for their tireless work during the year. The third seminar was once again presented by Dr. (Fr.) Keith D'souza, S.J. (Rector-

Designate) on the topic *Visioning for St. Xavier's College*.

In June 2018, the fifth autonomous batch was treated to a grand Graduation Ceremony spread over three days i.e. 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018. We had our very own teacher from Jr. College, Dr. Smita Gaurea receiving her Ph.D. from the College. A big word of thanks to Ms. Norine D'Souza, Dr. Geeta Kotian and Dr. Ashma Aggarwal who played a stellar role in the organization. Thanks to the dedication, time and hard work put in by the Faculty on the respective days, the Head of Departments, the Scholarship committee, Bipin, Anand, Shiny, Shefali, and the General Office, Controller of Exams Marazban Kotwal, Hoshang Master, Fiona, Lennox and the Exam Committee, Dr. (Fr.) Pessa and the Treasurer's Office, Kamal, Adrian, Shemaine, Sunita, the Karmacharis, Das, Dinesh and Mr. Kevin D'Cruz, Swapnil, Yogi, Rajesh and Sanjay for the sound and live screening, Periyanyagi S., Bobby Matthew and Conrad Cabral. and many others who all ensured a smooth functioning of the event and made it a memorable day for the students and parents.

We are grateful to God for the 150 years of the College and look forward to incubating the future, Xavier's 2050!!

**Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira S.J.**  
Provost/Vice-Principal (Academics)



## “...(IT) NEVER FORGOT WHAT IT COULD DO”



(Justice Gautam Patel's speech at the Arts-Graduation)

Good evening. Thank you for inviting me. It is a privilege to be here this evening, and it is a very great pleasure to be back to a place I called home for five years. That was a very long time ago, 35 years almost to the day. I can only hope I return here not as the proverbial Prodigal son, and that I will have the opportunity to return more often.

I wonder: does our canteen still make that incredible curry rice and that bizarre red jelly with cream? Perhaps next time.

Back in those days we didn't have a commerce stream in St Xavier's. They were talking about it, but it was still some distance away. Of the eight subjects you have, and you've graduated in one or more of these, I had courses in four. I wanted to do them all, but things were more rigidly confined in those days.

We have not much time, so about my years in Xavier's I'll only say this: what Xavier's gave me, and I do believe this is the most invaluable instruction of all, was the confidence and skills to *teach myself*. That means being unafraid of not knowing, of ignorance, and of committing yourself to being a lifelong student. It's certainly true in my chosen profession, but I think it's just as true everywhere, whatever you choose to do and wherever life takes you. Your marks and exam results will soon become

meaningless. What will survive, and what you will carry with you, is just this: the knowledge that there are things to learn, and that you have the skills and humility to learn them for yourself. Hemmingway said this about Paris, and I say this about St Xavier's: it is a movable feast, for wherever you go, it goes with you. Once you've been in Xavier's, it's in your bloodstream. You're infected, and infected for life, and infected in a good way; the best way possible.

And this takes me to what I want to say next. I know it's usual — even customary — at such occasions to offer some words of great wisdom and so on, but I regret I do not have any of those. All I can point to is what I have *learned* over the years, things that have stood me in good stead.

First, *believe*. And by this I mean *have faith*. Look around you, and please tell me what you see. This is a Jesuit institution, and there's a chapel here, but nobody here has ever foisted this or that religion or doctrine on any student. It is truly and totally plural, and pluralistic. It has a moral compass, but this anchored to societal virtue, not religious dogma. A Church is said to be the house of God, but to be truly a house of God, it must be a place where all are welcome, and all are equal. This, right here, is one of those places.

Treasure it and cherish it, for these places are sanctuaries, and getting rarer each day that passes.

So believe in something, anything — but most of all yourself. Have faith in your abilities. If you're of that mind, believe in God, whatever you conceive him or her to be.

But, equally, and for heaven's sake, lose your religion. There is no greater risk to our world than the corrosiveness of religious intolerance, whatever form it takes, and wherever it comes from. Religion, faith and belief are deeply personal matters, between you and your chosen maker. Please keep it that way and please learn to give space to others for their faith.

The third dimension to the teaching here is this: *learn to listen*. Understand what tolerance really means — it is a courtesy. It speaks to civility. It means learning to *listen* to a divergent view, opinion, faith, belief. It does not require to accept that difference, or become part of it. It only requires you to accept its existence, one that can exist alongside your own. Above all, it means allowing space for a discourse, and the language of any discourse is the language of civility. Today, even the so-called liberals are too shrill, too rabid, too strident about their liberalism. They, as much the extreme right or the extreme anything, also demand the rewriting of history. They, too, demand conformity to their own 'liberal' standard, and this is a false standard.

From spirituality to materialism. That's a big jump, you'd think. Not so. So here's the next thing. Make money, yes; but do it without compromise and without dishonesty. And when you have made it, and please make a lot of it, learn to give it away. Nothing corrupts and diminishes you as much as money; and money is only good for the good you can do with it. I see this all the time in my work now — families ripped apart, brother against sister, son against aged father, all over money, property, things that are ultimately valueless. Of course you should live well. Live as well as you possibly can. There is really no point

in stashing away or hoarding wealth. That is not true wealth. That is a road to misery, and it is misery brought by miserliness. Find generosity, of heart, mind, spirit and wallet, for there will always be those around you who are better off than you and those who are far worse off. You can't do anything for those who have more than you. You *can* do immense amounts for those with less.

Come to my court some day and witness for yourselves first-hand the misery of the modern condition. Watch me struggle with my heart breaking as I go through case papers about children abandoned at the ages of two months, two years, *six years*, on suburban railway stations — I see these in adoption cases, and I see them all the time, and it is devastating to read of a six year old boy and his four year old sister left alone by their mother at a railway station, found there by the police only three days later. What must those three days have been like? It took three years for an adoption to happen. And those three years were years with nothing because nobody gave the childcare home enough money.

Decide things for yourself, but please do it without passing judgment, without being judgmental. Do not blame, for instance, the mother of those two children but try and see behind that curtain of prejudice. What must her state have been to do something like that? Does she deserve to be helped or branded a monster?

You may know the German word *schadenfreude*, to take an irrational delight in the misfortunes of others. Know this: there is no antonym for it in our language. Why is that? The closest we have comes from Buddhist teaching, the word *mudita*, to take an irrational and unbridled joy in the good fortunes of others. Match *mudita*, empathetic joy, with *karuna*, compassion for your fellow being. Always.

If you want it in three short words: *always be just*.

Next. Get a dog. I mean it. Nothing teaches you about life, love, loss and longing as much as a dog. If you can, get two, get three. Dogs make us better

human beings because they, and only they, are capable of the one thing we find so very hard, the one thing against which we so steadily insulate ourselves: unconditional, unquestioning love.

Fine one true friend and stop looking for more. Forget Twitter and Facebook and especially Tinder. Find someone who does not judge you and find you wanting, someone with whom you can be what you really are. How do you know when you've found this person? See if you can sit together for an hour watching the sun set over a darkening sea, sitting in silence, not feeling the need to speak — or to use modern language, to 'share' — and then get up in silence and leave without being forced to say goodbye or make a plan for the next day. A friend with whom, when he or she has gone to work abroad, you have no sense of separation or distance, and you find you can pick up a conversation just where you left off. With this, I assure you, will come the comfort of solitude and, more important, the ability to rid yourself of the fear of being alone.

Imagine yourselves, you and your friend, as being morning runners. And now listen to this verse by Robert Francis, one in a slim volume I found way back in my days here:

*Mid autumn, late autumn  
At dayfall, in leaf fall  
A runner comes running.*

*How easy his striding,  
How light his footfall  
His bare legs gleaming.*

*Alone he emerges,  
Emerges and passes  
Alone, sufficient.*

*When autumn was early,  
Two runners came running,  
Striding together,  
Shoulder to shoulder,  
Pacing each other  
A perfect pairing.*

*Out of leaves falling,  
Over leaves fallen,  
A runner comes running.*

*Aware of no watcher,  
His loneliness, my loneliness,  
His running, my running.*

When you have a friend like this, don't look for another. You don't need it.

I want to end by quoting from a piece that appeared in the New York Review of Books in April 2017. Forgive me for the additional time this will take. I think it's important, and says everything I want to say. It's a piece by David Cole. It tells the story of a young person named Gavin Grimm.

### **This is David Cole:**

Poetry and judicial opinions do not often mix. Judging is ordinarily a prosaic task: weighing arguments, applying tests of legal doctrine, finding facts, stating conclusions, declaring winners and losers, announcing law. This is not the stuff of poetry.

But every once in a while, poetry is called for. It can capture what reasoned judgment cannot. On Friday, April 7, Judge Andre Davis of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit resorted to a poem by the Palestinian-American writer Naomi Shihab Nye, in an extraordinary opinion praising a young man who fought for his rights — and lost. Judge Davis's opinion attests to the courage of Gavin Grimm for standing up for his rights, even as the court denied his request for vindication of those rights.

In 2014, Gavin Grimm, a fifteen-year-old in Gloucester County, Virginia, was diagnosed with gender dysphoria, a condition caused by an incongruence between one's gender identity and the sex one was assigned at birth. Assigned female at birth, Gavin realized, as he hit puberty, that he identified as a boy. The treatment for gender dysphoria includes hormone therapy. But the principal prescription for a transgender boy is to live as a boy. Gavin and his parents informed his high school of this fact at the beginning of his sophomore year, and that year, with the school administrators' approval, he began using the boys' restroom at school, just as all other boys did, and just as Gavin does everywhere else he goes.

None of the other students objected, but when some adults in the community learned that Gavin was using the boys' room, they demanded that the



school board step in. At a school board meeting, Gavin, still only fifteen, told the board that, “all I want is to be a normal child and use the restroom in peace and I have had no problems from students to do that — only from adults ... I did not ask to be this way, and it’s one of the most difficult things anyone can face.” He insisted, “I am just a human being. I am just a boy.”

The school board rejected his plea, and barred him from using the boys’ room, relegating him to a stigmatizing single-stall restroom that no one else used. Gavin sued and, represented by the ACLU (where I am the National Legal Director), won. The Fourth Circuit, relying on a guidance document issued by the Department of Education under President Obama, ruled that excluding Gavin from the boys’ restroom because he was transgender was sex discrimination in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which covers all schools that receive federal assistance. The court ordered the school board to allow Gavin to resume using the boys’ restroom. But the school board appealed. The Supreme Court stayed the order pending the appeal, and Gavin continued to be barred from the boys’ bathroom. After taking office, the Trump administration revoked the Department of Education guidance document calling for equal treatment of transgender students, upon which the court of appeals had relied, and in light of the revocation of the guidance, on March 6, the Supreme Court vacated the decision and returned the case to the court of appeals.

On April 7, the court of appeals dismissed the preliminary injunction, as the Supreme Court’s ruling required. The case itself is not over, and Gavin

will continue to seek relief. But he will soon graduate, without having won the right to use the same bathrooms that all other boys use. Yet his heroism in coming forward stands. The mere decision to come out to one’s parents as transgender requires tremendous bravery in a world that still too often dismisses individuals who are transgender as somehow alien. To come out to one’s principal, as Gavin did as a sophomore, demands still greater courage. To speak up in a public school board hearing, and then to file a federal lawsuit, calls for yet greater reserves. Gavin not only pursued his rights to the end, but did so with the utmost grace. Simply by doing so, he has educated a generation about the plight, and the dignity, of those who are transgender.

Judge Andre Davis was compelled by the Supreme Court decision to join the court’s decision lifting the injunction, because the injunction had in turn rested on the now-withdrawn Department of Education guidance document. But he wrote separately to call attention to Gavin’s courage. The brief but eloquent opinion deserves to be read in full. Judge Davis compared Gavin to Dred Scott, Fred Korematsu, Linda Brown, Jim Obergefell, and others who had “refused to accept quietly the injustices that were perpetuated against them.”

Gavin’s case, Judge Davis maintained, “is about much more than bathrooms ... It’s about protecting the rights of transgender people in public spaces and not forcing them to exist on the margins. It’s about ... the simple recognition of their humanity.” By standing up for that principle, Judge Davis continued, Gavin “takes his place among other modern-day human rights leaders who strive to ensure that,

one day, equality will prevail.”

At the opinion’s close, Judge Davis turned to poetry to capture Gavin’s bravery. Borrowing from Nye’s poem, “Famous,” he explained that Gavin is “famous,” not in the Hollywood sense of celebrity, but in Nye’s sense, because “never forgot what could do.” Here’s the poem, which he quoted in full:

*The river is famous to the fish.*

*The loud voice is famous to silence,  
which knew it would inherit the earth  
before anybody said so.*

*The cat sleeping on the fence is  
famous to the birds  
watching him from the birdhouse.*

*The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.*

*The idea you carry close to your bosom  
is famous to your bosom.*

*The boot is famous to the earth,  
more famous than the dress shoe,  
which is famous only to floors.*

*The bent photograph is famous to the  
one who carries it  
and not at all famous to the one  
who is pictured.*

*I want to be famous to shuffling men  
who smile while crossing streets,  
sticky children in grocery lines,  
famous as the one who smiled back.*

*I want to be famous in the  
way a pulley is famous,  
or a buttonhole, not because it did  
anything spectacular,  
but because it never forgot  
what it could do.*

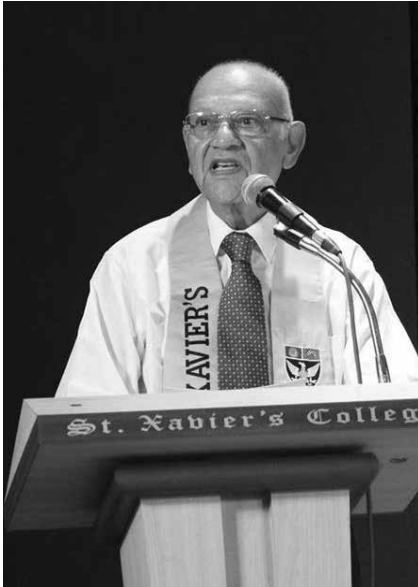
Thank you, and good luck, and from a practicing and devout atheist, god bless.

**Justice Gautam Patel**

‘Inclusion is a right, not a privilege for a select few’

Judge Geary

# MARCH ON INTO THE WORLD OF HARD KNOCKS!



*(Julio Ribeiro's speech to the Bachelor of Science and Information Technology graduates)*

Dear Young People graduating from this hallowed institute St Xavier's College, into the world of Hard Knocks, it gives me immense pleasure to be here today on this memorable day when numerous boys and girls will receive the degree of Bachelor of Science and some others will graduate in the Science of Information Technology.

I said that you will now enter the world of Hard Knocks, but I am aware that most of you your time is yet to come as most of you will opt to study further before you actually join the job market. In the increasingly competitive world specialized studies are the most inevitable in the pursuit of personal dreams. But ultimately at some point of time you will be "thrown to the wolves", in a manner of speaking. St Xavier's must have prepared you for facing future challenges.

In St Xavier's College you have imbibed values that will stand you in good stead in times of trial. When called upon to make a choice, take a hard decision or a principled stand on men and matters. You should be guided by the twin pillars of Truth and Justice that a Jesuit institution like St Xavier's has inculcated in you. Such situation will arise in your lives at one time or the other. That is inevitable. You cannot avoid them. And since you cannot

avoid, CONFRONT. You may suffer at times, but the moment will pass. Believe me, the passing of the moment is also inevitable. And having stuck to the Truth and listened to your conscience you will be a better human being not only in the eyes of your neighbor but, in your own self-esteem which to my mind is more important.

How does one confront such a situation? Courage and equanimity may desert you but the Truth and your sense of justice should not abandon you. I was a junior ranking officer in the hierarchy when I was a D.C.P in Pune City. My immediate superior, the C.P (I will call him Mr. A) had a falling out with his immediate superior, the D.G.P.

Mr. A was soon eased out of office and Mr. B was appointed Commissioner. The big boss the D.G.P was an unforgiving man. He wanted Mr.A to be humiliated and he sought Mr. B's assistance to achieve his objective, a petty objective of revenge! Mr. B, in turn, approached me to give false testimony against Mr.A which I refused to do. Mr. B thought that visions of career progression would cloud my judgments and decisions. When he found he was thwarted in his plans he poisoned the ears of the D.G.P who did not really require an excuse to go after me! This he did with a vengeance but I stuck to the Truth through my tribulations and finally Truth prevailed. Justice was done! It is just possible that I could have lost the battle, but would have emerged with a clear conscience and to my way of thinking, that is infinitely more important than momentary gain.

Like you I am product of Jesuit teaching. My entire schooling was at St Xavier's School. The values they taught me I have carried with me through my career in the police. I was not particularly good at any specialized aspect of policing, but my dealings with the people who came to me with their complaints and with my own juniors, who were often accused of different degrees of impropriety were always straight, sympathetic and transparent. Since I insisted on adhering to Truth

and Justice no one could legitimately complain of my findings and decisions, not even errant subordinates who faced punishment for misdeeds. Since I practiced what I preached they could not fault me.

If you fortunate to reach a position of influence or be catapulted into a leadership role please remember that every human being is entitled to self-respect and dignity, that every human being (including yourself) has some strengths and some weaknesses. A good leader takes each of aides along with him to achieve set goals. He plays to the strengths of his juniors, while trying very gently to paper over individual weaknesses. A leader who attempts to do it in the opposite way, harping on the subordinate's deficiencies, is bound to fail in achieving her or his objectives.

So this is the World of Hard Knocks you are going to encounter in the immediate future. I am told that the job is not buoyant as it should be but in actual fact I do not see too much despondency around the me nor do I see too many young people loitering around. The young people have many more avenues open to them than were available in my days. The choice they make should not only please themselves and their families but should also enrich the life of the community in some way, may be just tangentially.

We as a nation need to be more disciplined. Start with ordinary discipline in the College premises itself. I am told the Principal is very strict about attendance, about behavior, about dress decorum. I congratulate him for that even if spirited youth dislike such restrictions. They will realize later in life how much they have been benefitted by inculcating basic discipline. My NGO P.C.G.T has collaborated with the traffic police to teach basic discipline to road users.

I have not come to preach to young people. I have said what I needed to say to encourage you young graduates to become proud and good citizens of India because without your example to the less- privileged India cannot



hope to sit on the high table in the community of nations. I would like you to become moderate liberals who give credit where credit is due and criticize when criticism is called for.

Now come to more important matters. Youth need to bother about the state of the nation. To my mind, the two important evils to be fought by all citizens, especially youth, are Corruption and Communalism. I am not advocating that you neglect your profession, your business or your job to get involved in the political process. What I urge you as good citizens is to follow events as they are played out and make up your mind on what you consider is right and what you consider is wrong. My view is that corruption and communalism are the two biggest evils that retard the progress of our country. Those who indulge in these two evils should know that you are opposed to those politicians who refuse to abjure thoughts and practices that perpetuate these two evils. Unless the future citizens of the country come forward and announce their intentions to strive for a hate-free, violence-free and corruption-free India, do not expect our country to progress.

It is important for youth to acquaint themselves with politics as reflected every day in our print and electronic media. Make your choice between the

Right of Centre as against the Left of Centre. Decide for yourselves which stream of economics can pull the poor out of their poverty levels quicker. But since humanity and human considerations should be your primary concern, I urge you to vehemently oppose the license given to gau-rakshaks and other extremists elements to kill and maim. Appeals to the baser sentiments of voters in order to gain power should be condemned.

Unless the Rule of Law is vigorously upheld no nation can be safe and unless people are ensured of safety the country will live in perpetual fear and turmoil. The police in India are conditioned to please political bosses. When such murders and lynchings occur they appear to be more eager to arrest the associates of the dead man than the perpetrators of the violence on the specious excuse that by violating the law on cow protection they have brought trouble on themselves!

The atmosphere of fear and terror created by such extremists is the product of their belief that the authorities will protect them from the law enforcers! The manifestation of this understanding was seen by us at Kathua where an innocent eight year old girl was tortured and killed by the local Bar Council. Members came out openly in support of the alleged members because

the victim belonged to a community which they had decided to hate!

Such incidents demean our humanity in the eyes of the world. Even if other countries continue trade with us for economic reasons in their sub-conscious they will think of all Indians as uncivilized and boorish!

These are the factors and trends that youth should deprecate and protest against lauding positive achievements of the State. Do not hesitate to point out like I consistently do that terrorism in any form is dangerous and will ultimately work against progress. Terrorism unleashed by minority group can be contained like it was done in the Punjab, but who can control majority groups if the state shuts its eyes to their doings? Please ponder and decide for yourself.

To conclude, I revert to what I said earlier that you are now venturing forth into the next stage of your journey through life. You will face difficulties at times and you will not have the protected environment of your College to help. But you will have the strength of the values instilled in you by St Xavier's and the support system of your family and friends which remains constant and you can always fall back on those you love.

**Julio Ribeiro**

'Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success'

-Henry Ford

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS 2016 - 2017

Sr. No	SR		Name of the Scholarship	Name of the Awardee
		<b>A</b>	<b>POST FYJC</b>	
1	A	1	the Cursetjee Framjee Wadia, Sir Sassoon J. David, Bai Rattanbai Bomanji Wadia and the Cowasji Jehangir Readymoney Scholarship for highest in FYJC Arts	Jain Ruhi Kartik
2	A	2	the Printer,Lukhansi Nappo, Edwin and Edith Noronha and Munshi Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.J.C. Science	Martis Althea Stella
3	A	3	the Mrs. Amba C.P. Wadia Scholarship for a deserving Parsi boy highest at the FYJC examination.	N.A.
4	A	4	the Pragji Purshottam Bhatia and Vurdhman Jetsey Scholarship for a Hindu student with the highest average in FYJC (Arts or Science).	Jain Ruhi Kartik
		<b>B</b>	<b>POST SYJC</b>	
5	B	1	the Fr. Dreckman, Rev. Frs. Boese, Usteri, Degan, Walrath, Boswin and Mrs.Hermina Miranda Scholarship for highest at the HSC examination (Science)	Johri Tanishka Rakesh
6	B	2	the Prof. Abbas, Ardeshir Dhunjishaw Lalkaka and Maneckjee Framjee Hormusjee Sethna Scholarship for highest aggregate at the HSC examination and continuing with FYBA.	Chandaran Anoushka Paresh
7	B	3	the P. A. Hormasjee Wadia Scholarship to a Parsi lady student for highest in French at the HSC examination.	Desylva Maria
8	B	4	the Meenal Dinkar Rao Mugve Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the H.S.C. examination.	Rodrigues Cindy
9	B	5	the Fr. Sacasa's, Nadkarny-Kothare, Prof. R.N. Bhagwat Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the H.S.C. examination.	Rodrigues Cindy
10	B	6	the Parimal K. Shroff Prize for highest marks in Political Science at the HSC examination.	Mandalik Ila
11	B	7	the Mrs. Cyrilla Juliana D'Souza , Late Joseph Manuel D'Souza and John Damascene D'Almeida Scholarship for a deserving Catholic student in FYBA / BSc.	Austina Fernandes
12	B	8	the Khan Bahadur Burjorjie D. Patel, Sir Dinshaw M. Petit , and Ardeshir Hormasjee Wadia Fund Scholarship for a deserving Parsi student with the best aggregate at HSC examination	Zara Daruvala
13	B	9	The Late Anirudha Jayprakash Bhogle Scholarship for a deserving student with the highest marks in Biology at the HSC examination.	Austina Fernandes
14	B	10	the Neena Nigam Memorial Scholarship for higher learning	Babita Saroj
		<b>C</b>	<b>POST FYBA/FYBSc</b>	
15	C	1	the Jehangir Bomanji ,Tullakchand Maneckchand Vijbhukhandas Atmaram Mehta and the Caius Scholarship for highest aggregate at the FYBA Examination	Valmik Rege
16	C	2	the Prof. C. D. Pinto , and Fr. Hamilton Scholarship for the highest in English Literature at the FYBA examination.	Nicole Mehta
17	C	3	the Hindi Sahitya Mandal Scholarship for highest in Hindi (Ancillary) at the FYBA examination.	Hiral Somani
18	C	4	Meenal Dinkar Rao Mugve Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the FYBSc examination and continuing with Chemistry in SYBSc.	Judith Fernando
19	C	5	the Fr. Sierp, Prof. S.K. Chhapgar for highest in Chemistry at the FYBSc examination and continuing with Chemistry in SYBSc.	Judith Fernando
20	C	6	the College Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.B.Sc.- IT examination	Sarah Correia
21	C	7	the College Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.B.M.M examination	Tanya Khanna
22	C	8	the College Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.B.M.S examination	Adele Xavier D'mello
23	C	9	the Burjor Kaikobad Doctor, Khan Bahadur Hormusji Kharshedji Bhabha, and Dinshaw Shavakshaw Adenwalla Scholarship for a Parsi student highest in FYBA/ FYBSc examination.	Karishma Katpitia



24	C	10	the Dr. Lewis Gomes and the Parsi Association, D.K.Kamdin and R.C Chanrai Scholarship for a deserving student in SYBSc/SYBA	Shubham Sontakke
25	C	11	the Watumull Foundation Scholarship for highest in Accounts at the FYBCom examination.	Sweezel Valiaveetil
26	C	12	the Armand Francis Sequeira and the Ignatius Loyola Scholarship for highest in Economics at the FYBCom examination.	Anju Anil
27	C	13	the Late Squadron Leader O.J. D'Sena and the Late Mansoor Awan Scholarship for highest in Business Communication at the FYBCom examination.	Ivy Rodrigues
28		14		Dominic D'souza
29	C	15	Fredie A Mehta Scholarship for highest in Economics at the FYBA examination.	Arnav Sheth
30	C	16	the A.V. Krishnamurti Scholarship for highest in Physics at FYBSc examination and continuing with Physics	Abhay Mehta
31	C	17	the Dattatraya and Meera Mugve Scholarship for the highest aggregate at the FYBSc examination	Judith Fernando
		<b>D</b>	<b>POST SYBA/SYBSc</b>	
32	D	1	the Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim, Jamsetji Ardeshir Wadia and Joseph Manuel D'Souza Scholarship for highest at the SYBA examination.	Ujjayee Lunkar
33	D	2	the Dr. Shashishekhar Naithani Scholarship for highest in SYBA Hindi (Ancillary).	Janhvi Pandya
34	D	3	the Fr. Bochum, Rev. Fr. H. Heras, S.J. and Prof. N. N. Lala History Scholarship for highest in History at FY & SYBA and continuing with History at TYBA (8 papers).	Ramakrishnan Anjana
35	D	4	the Mr. Erasmus F. C. Sequeira and Principal Mafatlal Vadilal Naik Scholarship for Highest in English at SYBA examination and continuing with English at TYBA	Rishika Jain
36	D	5	the M. A. Bomanji Dubash and Fr. Gisbert Sociology Academy Scholarship for a student highest in Sociology or Anthropology at the FY & SYBA examination and continuing with Socio/ Socio-Anthro in TYBA.	Monica Moses
37	D	6	the Late Prof. Anthony Monteiro Scholarship for highest in SYBSc Chemistry and continuing with Chemistry in TYBSc.	Blossom D'souza
38	D	7	the Mr. Shahrukh B. Paymaster and Mr. Ashok Sumanlal Patel Memorial Prize for highest in Microbiology at the FY & SY and continuing with Chemistry or Microbiology in TYBSc.	Bibakhya Saikia
39	D	8	the Shreevrat Goenka Scholarship for a student of SYBSc highset in Life Science	Som Banerjee
40	D	9	the Prof. R. V. Kamat, Mrs. Allan Asphandiar Dadachanji, Miss Sudha Prabhudesai and Janardhan Dayanand Bhatt Prize for highest in Physics at the SYBSc and continuing with Physics in TYBSc	Arjun Ashoka
41	D	10	the Prof. Dara M. Munshi and M.Krishnan Memorial Scholarship for highest in Zoology at SYBSc and continuing with Zoology in TYBSc.	Wenzel Pinto
42	D	11	the College Scholarship for highest at the S.Y.B.M.S examination	Vishwa Shripal Shah
43	D	12	the College Scholarship for highest at the S.Y.B.M.M examination	Parmeshwari Milind Bhumkar
44	D	13	the Dr. Lewis Gomes, Parsi Association, D.K.Kamdin , R.C Chanrai and Late Mr. Leslie Rebello Scholarship for a deserving Catholic student in the TYBA / BSc.	Blossom D'souza
45	D	14	the Watumull Foundation and the Edmund Campion Scholarship for a needy and outstanding student in TYBCom	Akhila Jose
46	D	15	the Mrs. Kathleen Pereira, Ignatius Loyola Scholarship for a deserving student with the best attendance in SYBCom.	Marison D'costa
47	D	16	the Khushalchand Charity Trust and the Late Aritha Alva Scholarship for a needy and outstanding student in TYBCom.	Aman Dubey
48	D	17	the College Scholarship for highest at the S.Y.BSc - IT examination.	Apurva Agarwal
49	D	18	Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for highest in Economics at FY & SYBA and continuing with Economics at TYBA ( 6 papers)	Arohi Patil

		E	POST TYBA/BSc	
50	E	1	the Mr. Hadi C. Tyabjee , J. J. & G. J. Lalwani and Hilloo Scholarship for highest aggregate at the at the BA examinations.	Bandhuli Abhijit Chattopadhyay
51	E	2	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for girl student highest in AIC at the BA examinatio.	Rashmi Subramaniam
52	E	3	The Shodhan Prasad Dave Memorial Prize for highest in Economics ( 3 Unit ) at the BA examinations.	Shah Yashvi Sagar
53	E	4	the Dewan R.N. Saigal Scholarship for the best Economics Honours Programme student.	Shah Yashvi Sagar
54	E	5	the Carmelita and Charles Nazareth Scholarship for highest in English at the BA examinations.	Bandhuli Abhijit Chattopadhyay
55	E	6	The Dr. Mohamed Bazlur Rehman Scholarship for Catholic student highest in English (6 papers) and persuing post graduation studies	Carnelio Nia
56	E	7	the Fr. Edward D'Cruz Political Science Scholarship for highest aggregate in entire Political Science (8 papers) at the BA examinations.	Kishor Maitreyee Shilpa
57	E	8	the Parimal K. Shroff Prize for highest marks in Political Science at the BA examinations	Kishor Maitreyee Shilpa
58	E	9	the Late Mrs. Kaushalya Sethi Scholarship for highest in Psychology (Major) at the BA examinations.	Dlima Rhea Ann Pavan
59	E	10	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for Catholic girl student highest at the BA examinations.	Rhea Melvin Dcosta
60	E	11	the Mr. Hadi C. Tyabjee and the Pragji Purshottam Bhatia Scholarship for highest at the BSc examinations.	Chalishazar Aditya Munir
61	E	12	the D.L. Modi Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the BSc examinations.	Chalishazar Aditya Munir
62	E	13	Dr. M. P. Sujayakumari and the Department of Life Sciences Scholarship for highest in BSc (3 units) Life Science.	Hamsa Narasimhan
63	E	14	the Department of Life Sciences Scholarship for highest in BSc (6 units) Life Science.	Talwar Mallika Vivek
64	E	15	the Minoo H. Matbar, Burjor Kaikobad Doctor Memorial, and Sarabhai Dipchand Shah Scholarship for highest in Mathematics at the BSc examinations.	Gonsalves Risal Milton
65	E	16	the Prof. Joseph Selwyn Dias, Malcolm Pereira and Prof. Sam J. Khambatta Scholarship for highest in Physics at the BSc examinations.	Gupta Adway Prasanta
66	E	17	Mukul Singhal Scholarship for highest aggregate at the highest aggregate at the BSC examinations n Physics	Gupta Adway Prasanta
67	E	18	the Almeidas' Botany Scholarship for highest in Botany at the BSc examinations.	Singh Harshit Narendra
68	E	19	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for a girl student highest in Statistics at the BSc examinations	Dedhia Nishi Manoj
69	E	20	Dr. Edgar DaSilva Memorial prize for the highest in Microbiology at the T.Y.B.Sc. examination	Keertana Venkatesh
70	E	21	Dr. Edgar DaSilva Memorial prize for the highest aggregate at the T.Y.B.A examination	Bandhuli Abhijit Chattopadhyay
71	E	22	the Prof. J.V.Bhat Memorial Scholarship for second highest in Microbiology at the BSc examinations	Roy Ritvika
72	E	23	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for Catholic girl student highest at the BSc examinations.	Risal Milton Gonsalves
73	E	24	the College Scholarship for Ranking First in B.M.S	Harshita Hanmandas Rathi
74	E	25	the Late Mr. Abdul Hameed Ansari Scholarship for Ranking First in B.M.M (Advertising)	Sanyam Sanjay Nagpal
75	E	26	the Late Mr. Abdul Hameed Ansari Scholarship for Ranking First in B.M.M (Journalism)	Shweta Pradeep Bhutada
76	E	27	the Late Fr. Valero Aleu, S. J. Scholarship to a TYBCom student for highest aggregate at TYBCom examination.	Kalyani Shinde

77	E	28	the Late Fr. Valero Aleu, S. J. Scholarship to a TYBCom student for highest aggregate in Financial Accounting - Paper I at the TYBCom examination.	Jashwant Solanki
78	E	29	the Late Fr. Valero Aleu, S. J. Scholarship to a TYBCom student for highest aggregate in Financial Accounting - Paper II at the BCom examinations.	Kalyani Shinde
79	E	30	the Late Fr. Valero Aleu, S. J. Scholarship to a TYBCom student for highest aggregate in Financial Accounting - Paper III at the BCom examinations.	Aarvind Pandi
80	E	31	the Late Fr. Valero Aleu, S. J. Scholarship to a TYBCom student for highest attendance in the BCom.	Pooja Jaiswal
81	E	32	the Pedro Arrupe, the Late Mr. Alphonsus Stanislaus Saldanha & Late Fr. Charles Saldanha, S.J. Scholarship for a student with all round performance at the BCom.	Sanika Kshirsagar
82	E	33	the Khan Bahadur Hormasji Kharshedji Bhabha and Rev. Fr. Heras, S. J. Scholarship for highest in History at BA examinations and continuing with MA in History.	Miranda Leanne
83	E	34	the Sociology Academy Scholarship for highest in Sociology at the BA examinations excellence in other activities of College and continuing with Post Graduation	Suveera Venkatesh
84	E	35	the Dr. N.A. Irani Memorial Scholarship for best aggregate in Botany at the BSc and continuing with MSc. In Plant Taxonomy	Athira Rajan
85	E	36	the Late Noshirwan H. Sethna Geology Scholarship for highest in Geology at the BSc examinations and continuing with Geology .	Samant Arnav Hrishikesh
86	E	37	the Sheila M. Joseph Memorial Fund Scholarship for highest in Zoology at the BSc and continuing with MSc in Zoology.	Kristan Dhodi
87	E	38	the Sir Dinshaw M. Petit Post Graduate Scholarship and the Ardeshir Hormasjee Wadia Fund for Parsi student of BSc continuing with post graduation studies.	N.A.
88	E	39	the Prof. Saroj Hazari Scholarship for highest marks in 19th Century English Literature at the BA examinations.	Bandhuli Abhijit Chattopadhyay
89	E	40	Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for best aggregate in Economics of the BA exams and continuing with post graduation studies in Economics.	Sadhna Rajeev Naik
90	E	41	the Dr. R. K. Hazari Memorial Prize for second highest marks in Economics at the BA examinations.	Luniya Tarini Jayant
91	E	42	Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for deserving student with best aggregate in Economics of the BA examination and continuing with post graduation studies in Economics.	N.A.
92	E	43	the College scholarship for Ranking First in B.Sc.IT.	Mohit Mahendra Agarwal
93	E	44	Mrs. Kalpana Hansraj Chaudhuri Scholarship for deserving girl student continuing post graduate in Science	Soumya Shrivastav
94	E	45	Mukul Singhal Scholarship for highest aggregate at the highest aggregate at the BSC examinations	Aditya munir Chalishazar
95	E	46	the Late Prof. Cavas J. Shroff Scholarship for highest marks in Statistics at the BSc examinations.	Shah Parshv Pankil
96	E	47	the Ms. Baktawar Sam Sethna Scholarship for female student securing highest in Geology at the BSC examinations	Deshmukh Gargi Girish
		<b>F</b>	<b>SENIOR MA &amp; MSc</b>	
97	F	1	the Dr. Ratan Nadirshaw Sukeshwala and Dr. Dayanand Dattatraya Yellur Scholarship for highest in Geology at MSc Part I.	Renzo D'souza
98	F	2	the Dr. Ratan Nadirshaw Sukeshwala and Dr. Dayanand Dattatraya Yellur Scholarship for highest in Geology at MSc Part II.	Karl Edmond Pereira
99	F	3	the College scholarship for highest in Biotechnology at the M.Sc. Examination	Lad Jueeli Gajanan
100	F	4	the Late Shri R.R. Subramanian Scholarship for a student ranking first in the MA autonomous course in Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology	Mehvish Khalid Shaikh
101	F	5	the Dr. Yvonne Mae Freitas Scholarship for highest in Microbiology at the M.Sc. Examination	Sufiya Mohammed Azam Ansari
102	F	6	the Shreevrat Goenka Scholarship for a meritorious post-graduate student of Life Science	Janhavi Jatin Damani



103	F	7	the Anjanee John Scholarship for deserving student persuing the master's programme in Biotechnology	To be announced later
104	F	8	Dr. M.A. Eswaran Scholarship for a deserving student of M.Sc. Life Science	Farah Ansari
105	F	9		Dean Dsouza
		<b>G</b>	<b>GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP</b>	
106	G	1	Prof. Edward Mendonca and Ashok Kamte Memorial Award for the Student of the Year	Bandhuli Abhijit Chattopadhyay
107	G	2	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the F.Y.B.A. examination.	Valmik Rege
108				
109	G	3	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the F.Y.B.Sc. examination.	Judith Fernando
110	G	4	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the F.Y.B.Com. examination.	Aaraadhya Srivastava
111	G	5	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the S.Y.B.A. examination.	Ujjayee Lunkar
112	G	6	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the S.Y.B.Sc.examination.	Anushka Naruka
113	G	7	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the S.Y.B.Com. examination.	Akhila Jose
114	G	8	Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for the most promising student of the Xavier's Resource Centre for Visually Challenged (XRCVC)	Talha Ansari
115	G	9	the St. Xavier's College Association Golden Jubilee Scholarship for excellence in academics, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.	Shivani Patekar
116	G	10	the St.Xavier's College Association Fr.Balaguer Scholarship for a Senior College student who is outstanding in social work .	Naayl Humza
117	G	11	the Fr. M.M. Balaguer, S.J. Scholarship for hardworking Senior College Catholic student.	Dominic D'souza
118	G	12	the Sabate-Freitas Memorial Fund, Shri & Smt. P. B. Fernandes-Veloz and the Ardeshir Rustomji Thanawala Scholarship for a student who is outstanding in Social Work.	Sybil Pereira
119	G	13	the Sabate-Freitas Memorial Fund, Shri & Smt. P. B. Fernandes-Veloz and the Ardeshir Rustomji Thanawala Scholarship for a student who is outstanding in Social Work.	Digvijay Pandey
120	G	14	the Fenelon Bossuet Godinho Hindi Paritoshik and the Kamla Hindi Paritoshik	Sanika Ranadive
121	G	15	the Prof. Khalil Dehdashti Memorial Persian Scholarship for highest in Islamic Culture Studies.	N.A.
122	G	16	the Hostelite Welfare and Shastri Scholarship for a deserving hostelite.	To be announced later
123	G	17	the Hostelite Welfare and Shastri Scholarship for a Meritorious hostelite.	Som Banerjee
124	G	18	the Vinod Mehra Scholarship for the best cultural talent.	Ruchi Fonseca
125	G	19	the Late Gurcharan Kaur, Amrik Singh, Surender Jeet Singh & Varalakshimi P.Singh Scholarship for a deserving student.	Anil Hanmalu Sawle
126	G	20		Parui Kaushik
127	G	21	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Yasmeen Khan
128	G	22	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Dolores Fernandes
129	G	23	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Briston Fernandes
130	G	24	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Hasmina Khair
131	G	25	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Rubina Khan
132	G	26	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Mariam Sayyad
133	G	27	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Maulvi Sajid
134	G	28	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Christy Fernandes
135	G	29	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Louis George
136	G	30	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Ivy Rodrigues
137	G	31	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Piyush Sahu
138	G	32	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Shubham Gupta

139	G	33	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Shahul Bhujbal
140	G	34	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Jayesh Panchal
141	G	35	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Sanjay Gupta
142	G	36	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Rahul Gajjal
143	G	37	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Sherin Santosh
144	G	38	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Chandrakant Yedge
145	G	39	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Chaitanaya Subodh
146	G	40	S.N. Iyer Q.C & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	Sudeep Tauro
147	G	41	the Gurudas Bailur Scholarship for a deserving student.	Swagat Siby
148	G	42	Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Benilson Noronha
149	G	43	Mrs.Livie Viegas Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Mathew jacob
150	G	44	Mrs.Livie Viegas Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Blossom D'souza
151	G	45	Mrs.Livie Viegas Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Rochelle Saldanha
152	G	46	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for an outstanding student of the college.	Manas Gubbi
153	G	47	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for the . most helpful student of the college	Niharika Gupta
154	G	48	the Prema Arya Memorial Scholarship to a deserving student of Microbiology	Jardin Rebello
155		49		Raghav Mittal
156	G	50	Sheila & Ben Jacob Memorial Arts Prize for a deserving girl student.	Rimjhim Kumari
157	G	51	Chandrakant Gupta Scholarship for a deserving girl student	Prerna Uttankar
158	G	52	O.A. Mathen Memorial Scholarship for a deserving girl student	Nidhi Vartak
159	G	53	Vibha & Bhalchandra Dave Trust Fund Scholarship for a deserving post graduate student of Microbiology	Sanjana Philip
160		54		Chelsley Kennedy
161	G	55	Late. Smt Kaushalya Nayar and Late Shri. Kahan Chand Nayar Scholarship for a deserving girl student	Shivani Nanda
162		56		Shania Mendonca
163	G	57	the Late Prof. Cavas J. Shroff Scholarship for a deserving girl student pursuing B,Sc	Priyanka Jadhav
164		58		Sheelu Gupta
165		59		Ketki Jawade
166	G	60	the Late Mr. Manu Vasudeva and Mrs. Prabha Vasudeva "Nishtha" Scholarship for a deserving girl student in B.A.	Nancy Busi
167	G	61	the Late Mr. Manu Vasudeva and Mrs. Prabha Vasudeva "Nishtha" Scholarship for a deserving girl student in B.Sc.	Rimjhim Kumari
168		62		Vandana Gunda
169		63		Sudina
		<b>H</b>	<b>SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	Lyra Pinto
170	H	1	the Valerian F.X. Pais Scholarship for excelling in academics and representing College in various sports events.	
171	H	2	the Late John C. Pinto Scholarship for an outstanding sportsman (preferably in Hockey / Football).	Mehta Shakshi
172	H	3	the Mr. Hadi C. Tyabjee , Prof. Godfrey G. D'Souza Scholarship for a student with the best record at inter-collegiate or inter-university events.	Pitre Sai
173	H	4	the Mrs. Meherbai Dorabji Hilloo Desai , Joseph Manuel and Prof. Godfrey D'Souza Scholarship for the best male athlete.	Chandan Raviraja
174	H	5	the Joseph Manuel ,Prof. Godfrey D'Souza, Jehangir Rustomji Dhabher, Mrs. M. R. de Souza ,Sir Ness N. Wadia Scholarship and Willie Fernandes scholarship for excellence in Football.	Peters Denzil
175	H	6	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for excellence in Basket Ball	Mascarenhas Valencia
176	H	7	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for Best female athlete.	Menezes Carina
177	H	8	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for a student who has distinguished himself in an individual sport.	Chantelle Mascarenhas
				Nair Rhea

178	H	9	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for excellence in Academics and representing college in various sports events (Senior College)	Kimberly Fernandez
179	H	10	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for outstanding sportsman in Hockey (Junior College)	Kelley John
180	H	11	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for outstanding sportsman in Football (Junior College)	Cristopher Fernandes
		<b>I.</b>	<b>SUBJECT TOPPERS</b>	
181	I.	1	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in A.I.C. (F.Y.BA.)	Madhura Muralidharan
182	I.	2	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Economics (F.Y.B.A.)	Arnav Sheth
183	I.	3	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in English (F.Y.B.A.)	Nicole Mehta
184	I.	4	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Commerce (F.Y.B.A.)	Valmik Rege
185	I.	5	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in History (F.Y.B.A.)	Anant Venkatesh
186	I.	6	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Political Science (F.Y.B.A.)	Prutha Pandharkame
187	I.	7	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Psychology (F.Y.B.A.)	Divya Mahatme
188	I.	8	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Sociology (F.Y.B.A.)	Prabhmeet Kaur Matta
189	I.	9	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Botany (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Shimontika Gupta
190	I.	10	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Chemistry (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Sreerag Sundaram
191	I.	11	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Economics (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Saania Shaikh
192	I.	12	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Geology (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Riya Bidaye
193	I.	13	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Life Science (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Judith Fernando
194	I.	14	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Mathematics (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Shanea Sebastin
195	I.	15	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Microbiology (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Aradhya Kapoor
196	I.	16	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Physics (F.Y.B.A.)	Abhay Mehta
197	I.	17	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Statistics (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Saania Shaikh
198	I.	18	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Zoology (F.Y.B.Sc.)	Shimontika Gupta
199	I.	19	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in A.I.C (S.Y.B.A)	Shreya Vishwanath
200	I.	20	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Anthropology (S.Y.B.A.)	Nayanika Nambiar
201	I.	21	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Economics (S.Y.B.A.)	James Joseph Rohit
202	I.	22	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in English (S.Y.B.A.)	Farah Maneckshaw
203	I.	23	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Commerce (S.Y.B.A.)	Soham Daruwala
204	I.	24	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in French (S.Y.B.A.)	Pratiksha Kaserwal
205	I.	25	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Hindi (S.Y.B.A.)	Jahnavi Pandya
206	I.	26	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in History (S.Y.B.A.)	Ramakrishnan Anjana
207	I.	27	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Political Science (S.Y.B.A.)	Flavia Lopes
208	I.	28	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Psychology (S.Y.B.A.)	Pratha Shah
209	I.	29	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Sociology (S.Y.B.A.)	Monica Moses
210	I.	30	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Statistics (S.Y.B.A.)	Ujjayee Lunkar
211	I.	31	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Botany (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Dolsy Kanjiraparambil
212	I.	32	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Chemistry (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Som Banerjee
213	I.	33	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Geology (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Yohan Pavri
214	I.	34	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Life Science (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Som Banerjee
215	I.	35	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Mathematics (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Arjun Ashoka
216	I.	36	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Microbiology (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Bibakhya Saikia
217	I.	37	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Physics (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Arjun Ashoka
218	I.	38	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Statistics (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Anushka Naruka
219	I.	39	the Certificate of Appreciation for being the subject topper in Zoology (S.Y.B.Sc.)	Wenzel Pinto



# EXTENDING INCLUSION: A PRELUDE TO THE 150<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

With the sesquicentennial celebration of our college being on the anvil, it is an infinitely useful exercise in not just pure nostalgia, but also from an investigative point of view to pause and reflect upon the magnificence of this age-old institution; to take a breather and marvel at the strength and vigor that the wise old tree that is our college still emanates relentlessly. The annals of Xavier's reveal that our college has, not surprisingly, been a trailblazer in laying the foundation of a well-developed individual and nation from time immemorial. Right from its nascent stage, St. Xavier's has aimed to maintain the impeccably high quality it strives for, in each field that its warm aura embraces. Whether it is excellence in education, or commitment towards society, or even its consistent attempts to be a leading institution - it has been a harbinger of acceptance among all sections of society, especially women. Most institutions reach their peak and fulfill their true potential gradually, in stark visual trajectories; however, St. Xavier's has, from its very inception, proved to be one of the torch-bearers in the field of higher education in India. While we sail forth into the sesquicentenary year, safe in the knowledge that this institution will continue to mentor, nurture and guide the young undergraduates and graduates who walk into this glorious institution, we look back upon the various shores that we have both roared and tiptoed past.

Since its establishment, St Xavier's has been regarded as one of the most reputed colleges in India. Back in the 1920's, when India was at its nadir both politically and economically, the very pillars and walls of this institution upheld the future that our Nation endeavored to achieve. Our alumni, upon graduation, often left the shores of the country to pursue higher education at various prestigious universities - the likes of Edinburgh, London, Paris, Oxford to name a few. Today, St. Xavier's continues to mirror the high quality of education, providing students with world class education. Unsurprisingly, former students

have often found themselves holding prominent positions in society- many of them being lawyers, civil servants, provincial ministers, and even lecturers.

One would be amiss to speak of lecturers without commenting on the very lecturers that populate the prestigious institution itself - for the faculty at St. Xavier's has always encouraged students to move beyond simplistic book learning and quintessential examination procedures. Encouraging critical thinking not as a mere token tool, but as a practical privilege - a fact echoed by the accusation hurled by a writer in the 1921 issue of the college magazine at text books, of making one's "brain lethargic" - Xavier's has always ensured that students are given every opportunity to not just explore the world around them, but critique it rationally as well. Ahead of the curve as always, Xavier's boasted of facilities like a well-furnished and equipped chemistry lab, actively stocked geological and botanical departments - all at a time when primary education itself was not a tree sown in the garden of many. Moreover, when Father Heras came to St. Xavier's in 1922, he brought with him an opportunity to relive ancient history by establishing a museum on campus. This museum encompassed the wide spectrum of his experiences and artifacts collected while travelling around western Asia. The year 1904 witnessed the inception of the famed Literary Union, which was eventually renamed to the Debating Society. The college has also been well endowed with the Students' Library which is stocked with books from a wide spectrum of subjects.

Like the myriad of books that adorn the shelves of our library today, the students too, were encouraged to be as multidimensional as possible - for holistic development, right from the early days of the college, has been a priority. To this end, students undertook excursions as part of their coursework often - the college organized tours to the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra, palaces in Rajasthan and even the exquisite temples of Mahabaleshwar

back in the 1920s. Such tours are conducted often, and form the basis of creative assignments and projects for students who, for the most part, remain blissfully unaware of the history and legacy that their submissions end up being inevitably soaked in.

The founders of St. Xavier's believed that true education, in its essence, was only realized when students ventured out into the real world and applied their learning to contribute towards the progress of society as a whole. The compulsory social involvement program was thus borne out of this sentiment, in 1996, but even prior to that a lot of emphasis was given to social service. During the First World War, the college, on being denied permission to form a volunteer corps, decided to aid in another fashion. There were several uneducated Indian soldiers in the war hospitals, and on appeal of Sir N.G. Chandavarkar, several students from the college volunteered to read and write the soldiers' letter for them. By the 1940s, the college already had a functional social service unit that was conducting adult literacy classes, attending to family case work and dealing with child delinquency. The Social Service League was formally established in 1951 by Father A. Coyne and still marches strongly today, each stride not betraying the six decades of history infused within each step. Mental well-being is an aspect of student welfare often overlooked and dismissed, but the college has a long history of providing psychological support to its students, a trend that began with the appointment of a student counselor in the year 1954.

Another pillar of college foundation is its encouragement toward inclusion





and diversity of the college fabric and the institution's Jesuit drive to provide to society. In the year 1908, "there were four Europeans, 67 native Christians, 33 Brahmins, 12 Jains, 77 other Hindus, 15 Muslims, 160 Parsis and 4 Jews" who made up the student body. Acceptance has always been a hallmark of St Xavier's and right from the early days of the college, efforts have been made to foster the same. The college held annual Hindu - Muslim gatherings since the year 1916. This was an attempt by the college to bridge the communication gap that often caused conflict between the two communities. In fact, Mr. M.A Jinnah himself was the chief guest for the fifth such gathering held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1922. An interesting account of the resilience of the organisers of this event is present in the February 1923 volume of the magazine *"as usual, attempts were being made in certain quarters to throw cold water on the enthusiasm of the workers and to 'nip the movement in the very bud' but thanks to Kind Providence and the unflinching ardor of the workers, the gathering came off at last and was an unparalleled success."*

The flame of inclusion burned brighter with the fact that our institution also carried a beacon to promote education for women in India – for at a time when India's seat of political control was just being shifted to Delhi, and states like Bihar and Orissa were yet to be formed, the leaders at St. Xavier's were paving a way for an entirely different world of new beginnings. In 1912, St. Xavier's opened its doors to Catholic Women from Bombay. Accredited as a sign of 'Coming of times' by a

writer in the Times of India, it is often hypothesized that these doors would have been opened at an earlier stage had it not been for the lack of space to accommodate these ladies. It was only after the library was moved to the newly built wing in December 1911 that this 'latest educational experiment of the Fathers' was launched.

The first nine women 'Xaverians', as they called themselves, strode past the arches proudly in January 1912. However, it was only after 1917 that the college could boast of its first three female graduates. These numbers slowly and steadily increased over the years, even the years approaching the sesquicentennial celebration of our college. The initial decision to introduce a co-educational system was due to the beliefs of the Fathers that 'Until Catholic girls can be provided better education than that of the boys, the girls ought to have the opportunity to fulfill a strict duty of conscience by attending, if possible, a Catholic College'

Women could be found fulfilling this opportunity to the best of their capacity in the two quarters secured exclusively for them. The highlight of these large rooms was undoubtedly the ping pong table, which would be used with zeal to practice for the Annual Ladies' Ping Pong Tournament that was soon introduced. Within the liberal walls of the institution, the women had the freedom to spend their extra time engaging in extracurricular endeavors like badminton, tennis and to meet and extrapolate on a variety of topics with other likeminded women – no easy feat in those times. The only lurking shadow of patriarchal hypocrisy – the belief that, despite all their qualifications, women could not be lecturers was quelled finally in 1953 when Fr. M.M. Balaguer fought through the existing social norms, and appointed the first female lecturer of our college, in the department of Microbiology.

The centenary issue of the college magazine in 1969 boldly proclaims- "If the mists of ignorance which veil our future were to rise for a moment, we would glimpse St Xavier's College in 2069, populated by a staff and student

body predominantly female". Our corridors today stand as silently proud witnesses to the fact that this vision did indeed become reality, and the warm rays of progress emanating from this college, like beaming sunlight, have allowed women to achieve their endeavors at an insurmountable rate.

Diversity and inclusion weren't just phrases taken literally, for even diversity of thoughts and the inclusion of all shades of opinions were principles that the college upheld as early as 1917; evident from the establishment of a club with a mysteriously deceptive title- "The X Club". Rather than being a secret society, it was a forum where Xavierites of different backgrounds came together to discuss pressing issues related to the broader Indian society. Father Goodier, who later became the archbishop, was instrumental in its establishment. He believed that participating in this forum was essential training in citizenship. The club tackled and presented papers on topics such as - "Can a democracy manage an Empire?", "The Problem of Indian Education", to name a few.

Thus, approaching the sesquicentennial year of the institution, we breathe easy and sigh in relief - content with the knowledge that the foundation of St. Xavier's has remained stable and its legacy has continued to blossom, like an immortal flower, through these 149 years. By instilling not only excellence in education, but also a desire to provide for society, promote inclusion and accept diversity, the institution is nurturing and continues to nurture global leaders. Individuals touched by Xavier's continue to carry it with them, as they proudly stride past the hurdles that life has to offer- in no small part due to the lessons they learned under the roof of the institution that harbored and fostered not just their body, but their very souls. A smile adorns our face as we read the phrase "It's not a college, it's a way of life"; and with us smile all the countless others who know the phrase to be more than the absolute truth.

**Shaurya Singh**  
**Vaishnavi Sinha**  
**Sruthi Venkateswaran**  
FYBA A

# THE JESUIT ETHOS

The Greek word Ethos has been defined as, “the characteristic spirit of a culture, community or institution as manifested in its attitude, aspirations and way of proceeding”. In other words, Ethos means the guiding spirit and beliefs or what an institution stands for. Of the many guiding beliefs that make up the Jesuit Ethos, I will choose four, which I think are fundamental for any Jesuit, Jesuit institutions and anyone associated with the Jesuits. They are also fundamental for anyone who wants to live a life that is both fully human and divine.

The overarching characteristic which encompasses all others is the **MAGIS**. The word “Magis” has often been rendered “More”. It is in fact the adverbial form of the adjective “maior,” and can be translated “to a greater extent” or “more nearly” in addition to “the more.”

In the life of Ignatius (and so in the life of any Jesuit and those associated with the Jesuits), however, the “Magis” was more than a word or a term, it was an attitude. Ignatius possessed this attitude even before his conversion from knight for king, to knight for God. He always desired to do better; to do more. He was never content with the status quo, with the tried and tested. For him mediocrity was never an option. This attitude showed itself in his bravery, daring and courage both in battle and at other times. In the initial years after his “conversion”, the Magis was about DOING MORE. After his “conversion”, however, it was not merely “doing more”, but “doing more for God the heavenly king”. He believed that if the saints before him could do so much for God, he too could do it and even better. Thus he was constantly searching for newer, better and more challenging ways of doing things. This desire to do more, sometimes led to extremes in the hope that he would be considered as one who had gone beyond; who had done more.

Soon, the “Magis” became not so much a quality but an attitude. It became an attitude that permeates all that an individual is and therefore does.

The man or woman of the “Magis” is constantly driven to rediscover, redefine and reach out for the more, the newer, the better only because that is what God wants for him or her. Then, the good becomes better, the better becomes better still and the better still becomes still better. The man or woman of the “Magis” is one who is bold with a holy boldness which has its roots in Jesus and in Jesus’ relationship with the Father. Everything that such a person does flows from this relationship.

In a day and in an age when a person’s worth is often measured by what he or she has or possesses, the “Magis” of Ignatius comes as a breath of fresh air. When so many are striving to “achieve” greatness by increasing their possessions and material wealth, the Magis invites and challenges us to focus not on having but “on being”. When so many are placing their trust in externals and property, the Magis invites us to realise the temporariness and passing nature of all things and that God alone is eternal and permanent. When so many have made “things” ends in themselves and are possessed by them rather than possessing them, the Magis challenges us to realise that the basic reason of our creation and existence is to praise, reverence and serve God alone.

A second quality or characteristic is that of “**Temporariness or Impermanence**”. Ignatius’ experience of external beauty turning into wrinkles, creases, folds and tucks led to the realisation that all in the world was passing. Nothing was permanent and eternal except God. This realisation led to living full in the present moment with no regrets of the past or obsession with the future. It led to the realisation that all was a gift from God and that we are only Trustees. Being a trustee meant that we must be responsible in our use of things. Accumulation, amassing, hoarding and waste must be avoided.

The world today has woken up to the fact that we have for centuries abused the world that we have been given in trust. We have converted our wants into our needs. We live profligate, wasteful

and decadent lives, thinking only of our selves. The quality of temporariness reminds us of our responsibility as trustees. It challenges us to reduce our needs and our carbon footprint on the earth and endeavour to leave the world a better place for coming generations. It brings home the fact that since we are not owners, we must be willing to share. Any attempt toward selfishness and the desire to have and accumulate more is a sign that we have exceeded our role. It is a sign that we do not respect God and others and that we have attempted to become like God. This was Original sin (Gen 3:5, 15-16, 19) and continues to be our sin even today.

A third quality is “**Finding God in all things and all things in God**”. Ignatius was convinced that all things began and ended with God and that God was at the centre of all that happened. When Ignatius chose the name of Jesus for the Society he founded, it was because of this conviction. He knew that God was the originator and sustainer of all that happened in the world. All that happened that was according to God’s plan and will. The challenge is to see and become aware of this fact. Ignatius was so aware of this that the first exercise in the Spiritual Exercises titled, “The Principle and Foundation” makes explicitly clear that the prime (even sole) purpose of our creation is the praise, reverence and service of God. This makes life meaningful. All that is created in our world has to be used to help us in this threefold purpose. It follows then, that if something helps, it will be used. If it hinders, it will be given up. The consequence of such a realisation and way of life is “Indifference”. Indifference in this context means that after we have done all that is required to be done and can do no more, we are at peace with the result because that is what God wants and that is God’s will. The result (whether it what we want or not) will be accepted with equanimity. To reiterate this point, Ignatius added a summarising meditation as the last meditation of the Retreat. In this final meditation titled “The Contemplation to Obtain love”, there are four parts. The



end of the first becomes the means to the second and so on, till finally after the fourth part, the one making the Retreat is able to see and find God in all things and all things in God. The movement in the meditation is from gratitude to love and finally to union with God and all of creation.

We need to develop the ability to see and find God in all things, persons and events. All that exists is an integral part of God's creation. This means that everything is sacred and filled with the presence of God. As the Jesuit palaeontologist, philosopher and theologian Teilhard de Chardin put it so beautifully, "there is no reality that is only profane for those who know how to look". It means therefore, that we avoid 'clear' distinctions that we sometimes make of the sacred and the secular and the holy and the unholy. It means that we look at the world and people as Christ would have looked, as when he saw a potential disciple in the tax collector Matthew (Mt 9:9) and in the woman whom everyone else regarded as a sinner, one who loved much (Lk 7:47). Our response then,

to God's creation must be awe and reverence. We must be able at all times to sing with the Psalmist "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth! Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted by the mouth of babes and infants.... (Ps 8:1-2).

It is fairly easy to see, find and experience God when things go the way we want them to go. However, when our plans go awry and when things do not happen the way we want them to, it is important to know that God is in control.

The fourth characteristic is that a Jesuit is necessarily "**A man for others**". Since Jesus was Ignatius' model, it is no surprise that this characteristic was an important part of his life. In his challenge to those who wish to follow him, Jesus demands a total denial of self (Mt 16:24; Lk 9:23; Mk 8:34). This demand when expressed positively necessarily means that a disciple must be willing to be a person for others. In practical terms this means a movement from Egoism to Selflessness, from the craving to possess to the will to let go, from accumulating to sharing,

from materialism to generosity, from consumerism to detachment and from social injustice to an option and concern for the poor.

While it is challenging to live out these ideals much like it is challenging to live out the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12), there is no doubt that there have been many (Jesuits and others) who have lived them out. These are not only Saints and holy men and women recognised by the Church, but many others who have dared to place God at the centre of their lives. Because they did so, everything and everyone else took second place including their very selves and so their own ego. They could thus realise that all they had and possessed was given in trust and so had to be shared; that God continued to be in control no matter how many times things seemed out of control. They could thus naturally be men and women for others and their entire lives became lives of the MAGIS. These challenge us to do the same and even more.

**Fr. Errol Fernandes SJ**  
Vice-Principal (Commerce Section)

## EDUCATION "OUT OF THE BOX": A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH

On taking over the Department of Inter Religious Studies (DIRS) at St. Xavier's college in 2014 it was surprising to find quite a few students, who demonstrated a lack of interest in religion and expressed atheistic leanings. Interreligious dialogue to them meant primarily exchange about religious texts, teachings and rituals. However, they seemed very keen on rallying together for the common cause of saving the planet. Hence, we chose "Cocreate Cosmic Compassion" as the motto of the DIRS and followed an "out of the box" approach to religion and reality. This has led to an amazing amount of learning through compassionate practice and dialogue on holistic spirituality that pervades all of life.

### From Self-Esteem to Self-Compassion

Although the first year Bachelor of Arts 2015-2016 batch of students during a class discussion<sup>1</sup> readily acknowledged that they are part of the "selfie generation", they were quite reluctant to accept and admit their narcissism. When I half jokingly remarked that Narcissus was the first guy who admired his selfie in the pool of water, it suddenly dawned on them that absorption with clicking selfies, a common practice among youngsters today, could be one of the obvious indicators of narcissism. 'I click, therefore, I am' reflects a startling self-preoccupation.

The students complained that factors like parental and social conditioning, the consumer-oriented media and the job driven education system foster individualism and self-promotion by drilling the desire to excel in a highly competitive world. The desperate attempts to be toppers in college result in soaring levels of stress and a sense of inadequacy to measure up to the lofty standards of success. It is not surprising that depression among college youth is on the rise and we have begun to hear of attempts at suicide even culminating in death in a few cases.

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<sup>1</sup> This class, which was part of special course on 'Giving Voice to Values,' was co-facilitated by Dr. Orla Hazra, Ms Candice Menezes MA. M. Phil. and Dr. Fr. Prashant Olalekar.

In a TED talk in 2013 Kristin Neff speaks of a study in USA which shows that an epidemic of narcissism prevails in American culture and she points out that the narcissism levels of college undergraduates over a period of 25 years was at the highest levels ever recorded.<sup>2</sup> She states that many psychologists believe that this is related to the self-esteem movement in the schools and the vicious social dynamics that can stem from the constant need “to feel better than others to feel good about ourselves.”<sup>3</sup> The urge to compare oneself and succeed in the rat race is inevitable in such a scenario. While low self-esteem is detrimental to self-worth and needs to be addressed it does not necessarily imply that developing high self-esteem is the solution. Students feel that they cannot measure up to the high standards expected of them and hence judge themselves harshly. There is a tendency to self-judgment on making a mistake or noticing some flaw. This leads to the nagging sense of failure for not being perfect. They can get trapped in narcissism, self-absorption etc. when trying to keep a sense of high self-esteem with the desire to be special, above average, and stand out.

Kristin Neff suggests a way out from this deadly trap: self-compassion.<sup>4</sup> She points out that self-compassion has the advantages of self-esteem without its drawbacks. Self-compassion is a way of relating to ourselves kindly and non-judgmentally. It entails embracing ourselves as we are with our strengths and weaknesses. Imperfection, failure and suffering are not to be avoided but accepted gracefully as they help to connect us with other human beings who are struggling in the same boat. It engenders a sense of solidarity. She argues that genuine self-compassion connects us with ourselves and leads to reaching out in compassion to others. Self compassion rather than self-esteem can be a good starting point for students to enter the wider world of compassion.

### **Compassion: To Feel One With**

Compassion is often mistaken for a sentimental feeling of pity or sympathy for those whom we consider less fortunate than ourselves like the poor and marginalized resulting in a patronizing attitude. This could lead to generous acts of charity that bring about a sense of satisfaction in the one who gives. Although this attitude and behavior may be better than indifference or insensitivity, the yawning gap between giver and receiver is not bridged. The temporary need of the recipient may be fulfilled without addressing the root causes of inequality.

The root meaning of compassion is *cum patior* which means to suffer with, to share solidarity with, to feel one with.<sup>5</sup> Rather than mere sympathy there is a sense of empathy and bonding with a desire to relieve the suffering of the other. While the suffering is painful the bond of kinship and solidarity provides motivation to relieve the pain as far as possible.

Compassion implies a sense of interrelationship with the other who is not considered as separate. It is based on the basic insight that ‘the other’ is not a totally separate ‘other’ and ‘I’ am not a totally separate ‘I’. This remarkable quote is right on target “What is the difference between kindness and compassion? Kindness gives to another. Compassion knows no “other.”<sup>6</sup> This remarkable insight is right on target. Compassion is not about loving others who are considered different from ourselves. Loving others can be considered as loving ourselves and is in our best self-interest. The realization that when you hurt another you are hurting yourself, and when you love another you are loving yourself, can make all the difference. This awareness helps to bridge the perceived gap between self and the other. It becomes much easier to love and forgive our enemies from this point of view.

The root meaning of compassion applies to self-compassion too. In the case of self-compassion it would imply accepting even the dark areas of our lives, embracing the pain of failure in a spirit of solidarity. At times we are ready to be understanding of the faults and failures of other but we can be quite harsh with ourselves. Accepting our brokenness and wounded selves can help to reach out in compassion to those who are broken and wounded. Truly embracing self can enable embracing the other and vice versa

### **Contrasting Models of Success: Ladder of Competition or Circle of Compassion**

Matthew Fox in his revolutionary book “A Spirituality Named Compassion and the Healing of the Global Village, Humpty Dumpty and Us” presents the biblical symbol of Jacob’s ladder to demonstrate the problematic due to competition and greed in the quest for perfection and success.<sup>7</sup> In a dream Jacob sees angels climbing up and down a ladder reaching from earth to heaven (Gn. 28:10-19). The hierarchical paradigm of the Jacob’s ladder involves an up/down dynamic in which the individual in his quest for excellence and perfection strives to climb higher up the ladder and in the process, consciously or unconsciously, tramples on those down below him. Greater success in this hierarchical model lies in reaching up higher and higher. This competitive ladder model fosters independence, inequality, exclusivity and elitism.

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2 Kristin Neff, “The Space Between Self Esteem and Self Compassion,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvtZBUSplR4>, accessed on 22 May 2018.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Matthew Fox, A Spirituality Named Compassion and the Healing of the Global Village, Humpty Dumpty and Us, (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1979), 3.

6 Tzvi Freeman, Daily Dose: Compassion, Chabad.ORG, [https://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/66675/jewish/Compassion.htm](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/66675/jewish/Compassion.htm), accessed on 29 December 2017.

7 Matthew Fox, 36-43.

Fox also offers the alternative paradigm of Sarah's circle which is in sharp contrast to that of Jacob's ladder.<sup>8</sup> On hearing that she will give birth in old age Sarah can't help laughing in utter disbelief (Gn 18: 11-15). When God's creativity surpasses human imagination and the apparently impossible becomes reality she names the child Isaac that means 'laughing boy' (Gn 21:1-4, 6-8).<sup>9</sup> The joyful feminine paradigm of Sarah's circle subverts the stressful masculine one of Jacob's ladder. The key value here is compassion in contrast to competition. This countercultural model fosters interdependence, equality, inclusivity and concern for the least. The paradoxical saying of Jesus "The last will be first and first will be last" (Mt 20:16), which undercuts the lust for power among the disciples, makes sense from this countercultural point of view. In stark contrast to the individualistic, isolated, stressful climbing of the social ladder we are invited to the interdependent, communitarian, refreshing dance of celebration. Sarah's circle is a model of compassionate laughing and dancing in an inclusive, interdependent, egalitarian community.

The aggressive cutthroat competition prevalent in society often gives the impression that competition and greed are inbuilt in humans. There may seem to be no other option in a corporate culture where 'survival of the fittest' holds sway with profit as the bottom line. The renowned psychologist Dacher Keltner asserts that recent transdisciplinary scientific findings challenge the common assumption that humans are basically selfish, greedy and competitive. "We see that compassion is deeply rooted in our brains, our bodies, and in the most basic ways we communicate. What's more, a sense of compassion fosters compassionate behavior and helps shape the lessons we teach our children."<sup>10</sup> The wisdom of nature reveals that compassion, which is cosmic in scope, is vital for the survival of life.

The earth is a great school of learning in this regard, a 'peace institute' that surrounds every minute of our lives. Not by competition and exploitation has the earth evolved over the ages but rather by immense projects of co-operation and co-ordination, patient groping and searching, one species linked in life-and-death fashion to another, so that, all along the way, life might perdure.<sup>11</sup>

### **Inclusivity: Shift From 'Me' to 'We'**

Most genuine educationists would readily agree with Swami Muktananda who asserts that the purpose of education is to move from "me to we."<sup>12</sup> This calls for a radical shift from the current mentality of 'I, me, mine' to one that includes concerns beyond our narrow egoistic framework to those that are more universal. The goal is to move from the self-centredness and individualism that undergird the ladder model to the communitarian consciousness and eco-social concern of the circular model.

Compassion reaches out especially to those on the margins. It opts for the poor and ensures justice for the least. Proximity to the poor serves to inculcate a world view that looks at issues through the perspective of the poor. Gandhi's talisman, while giving us a touchstone for discernment to make the right choices, challenges us to give priority to those who need our compassion the most.

I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away.<sup>13</sup>

Special exposure visits are designed for the course on 'Joy of Self Discovery' as part of the Quest for Excellence Programme (QEP) as well as for the Jagruti programme for the first year Junior college students. The "out of the box" interactive movement meditation sessions with slum dwellers and the destitute, who are treated like the waste of distorted development projects in a corporate culture, play an important role in the process of holistic education. Experience in these remarkable transformative encounters has shown that compassion is not a one-way street; the positive flow of energy is mutual. In the process of giving we feel so blessed by those whom we reach out to bless. We have learnt that care and concern for the marginalized results in a profound sense of joy and wellbeing increasing the desire to reach out. This is in keeping with the recent research as pointed out by Keltner, "Being compassionate causes a chemical reaction in the body that motivates us to be even more compassionate."<sup>14</sup> Compassion is a divine gift that can be experienced and multiplied in the giving. The students return from these exposure visits on the one hand disturbed by the cruel injustice of the situation and on the other hand with a deep sense of gratitude for the joy of compassion and solidarity. There is a noticeable shift in attitude from 'I click, therefore I am' towards 'We care, therefore we are'.

8 Ibid. 44-67.

9 Ibid. 44.

10 Dacher Keltner, "The Compassionate Instinct", *Greater Good Magazine*, March 1, 2004 [https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/the\\_compassionate\\_instinct](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/the_compassionate_instinct), accessed 29 Dec 2017.

11 Jane Blewett, "Social Justice and Creation Spirituality", *The Way*, January 1989, 22.

12 Swami Muktananda, "Integrating Values in Education – Moving From 'Me' to 'We'", *Islamic Voice*, May 2018 Vol. 31-05 No. 377, <http://islamicvoice.com/integrating-values-in-education-moving-from-me-to-we/>, accessed on 24 May 2018.

13 <https://www.speakingtree.in/blog/gandhis-talisman>, accessed 20 May 2018.

14 Keltner, *ibid*.



Thich Nhat Hanh, the renowned Buddhist monk and peace activist, promotes 'interbeing' thus making us aware that to be is to interbe.<sup>15</sup> Since the education process is designed to listen to the cry of Mother Earth and the cry of the poor the community of compassionate concern is not restricted to humans alone but goes far beyond to include other species and the whole of the cosmos that embraces us in the interconnected, interdependent, compassionate web of life.

**Fr. Prashant Olalekar SJ**  
Director, DIRS

15 ThichNhat Hanh, To be is to interbe, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\\_wXaWLRWRI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_wXaWLRWRI) accessed on 21 May 2018

## YOURS TRULY



**Dearest Xavier's,**

I am beyond honoured to leave your premises as a proud graduate. I am reminded though - as one is often reminded of their ordeals during a time of immense accomplishment - of a time when I wasn't certain if I'd make it. For while you probably are aware that I have cerebral palsy, you might not be aware of my 6 year long struggle with Hodgkin's lymphoma - a rare type of blood cancer that first engulfed my soul and body in 2012. I came to St. Xavier's in 2015, hoping to start my life anew - but I relapsed for the third time in 2016.

In the time since then, I have been forced to confront the fickle nature of not just my mortality, but mortality in general. To say that this was easy would be a disservice to not just myself, but everyone involved - for simply put - it was not. Often bombarded with the notion that I was engaged in a sort of personal 'battle', the truth is on most days I just felt like plain old me - pushing myself to wake up early, scrambling to complete assignments and presentations, and sprinting across the picturesque corridors of our college to get from one exam to the other - all the while balancing doctor's appointments and going for

chemotherapy - after college hours, that is, so that I wouldn't enter the defaulter's list. The days when I thought I wouldn't make it, when I found it impossible to carry on, came as unwelcome guests often do, but here I am - proud, and with my head held high, to be a part of the graduating batch of 2018 of this esteemed institution.

But make no mistake - despite sometimes feeling alone, I only realize as I write this that I was not - and I would like to thank all those who accompanied me throughout, silent companions like shadows, but potent like the very sun that creates them. My first token of gratitude needs to go to my parents, especially my mother, for her unconditional support and the innumerable sacrifices she has made for me across the last 21 years. Thank you, Ma - I wouldn't have made it here without you by my side. I don't need to 'thank' you, but in a way, I truly do.

Principal Agnelo also comes to mind, for his policies of inclusion provided me with the invaluable freedom to graduate with a major of my choice, - something that is so often overlooked and discredited by the rest of my peers. I also need to mention Linda Ma'am and Fleur Ma'am, who encouraged me to be independent and travel alone - an impossible feat to me, one that I never thought I would achieve. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to Professors Pearl, Karen, Kaizeen, Dean, and Professor Sangita - though she never taught me, even! The list could go on, and honestly it does - there are so many professors whose kindness, and unabridged belief in my ability to persevere are what kept me going through all the times when I felt like I couldn't go on.

My friends too, have my immense

gratitude and love for never failing to look beyond my limitations - and to stand by me - proud, and undeterred; in what were probably the hardest years of my life.

More than my own story, I want to tell you that no situation is completely bereft of hope - no matter how insurmountable the odds, they can always be beaten. The light at the end of the tunnel is no mere flicker, it is a roaring, beaming light - one that I was blessed to see. I want you to know that it's okay to make mistakes, - to stumble, to be vulnerable and to seek help when you need it. As the saying goes - what's important is not how many times you fall, but how many times you find the strength that flows through your veins, through your very sinews - to get up and carry on.

Whatever your takeaway from this is, don't let it be anything other than the fact that everyone is engaged in their own battles. And as I was too, and continue to be; so are others - which is why in testing times like these, it is more important than ever to be considerate, kind and humane, and to never let go of any opportunity - be it as small as a speck of dust - that you have to reach out to people and show that you care. Words cost nothing - indeed, they may not be much, but they can change people's lives; trivial acts of kindness could be the spark leading to the flame that ignites and engulfs one's belief in humanity. I should know - for Xavier's, you and the people I've met because of you - have been that spark for me. I burn today, bright and observable from afar - and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Sincerely,  
**Candice D'Souza**  
TYBA (Psychology)

# REBUILDING FROM BRICK ONE: XAVIER'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



When I was asked to take over as the director of Xavier's Development Programme we had to literally rebuild from Brick One. The office no longer existed, the team had been disbanded and the e-files were scattered all around the campus. Thanks to the unconditional support of the Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes, the work began. The first step was to get some office space and build an office from scratch which included flooring, painting, hunting for old furniture behind the hostel building, getting it polished, putting in lights, fans, getting phone lines set up as well as internet and wifi. As is the normal when one plans for two weeks it takes at least two months. We finally had a functional office towards the end of September, 2017. In the meantime, meetings were going on with faculty, students and alumni as to what was the vision for the 150 years, what was the mission and what were our goals. Yes we wanted to celebrate but we also wanted to incubate the future. We wanted to give thanks to God and we wanted to do more inspired by the 'magis' of St. Ignatius. We had received a legacy and we did not intend to leave it just as it was given to us without doing our bit. We wanted to reconnect with alumni and we wanted to bring it new friends who would support us in our vision for Xaviers 2050. We hoped to build a Women's Hostel, maintain the heritage buildings including making the Palacious Hall and the Library above usable at a more pleasant temperature. We wanted to create Teacher's Chairs and Endowment Chairs, upgrade our classrooms and research facilities, create a brand new conference facility at Khandala and also look to building a state-of-the-art satellite campus. The following report

entails the steps taken to build the Xavier's Development Program Office and the tasks undertaken hitherto.

1. On 3rd October 2017, Mr. Debadatta Sen was appointed as the XDO (Xavier's Development Officer) for the primary role of strategizing a robust fund-raising office, accountable for the funds raised through various initiatives.
2. On 21st November 2017, Ms. Venora Lobo was appointed as Communications and Public Relations Officer for the XDP and was entrusted with the primary responsibility of alumni engagement, social media communication strategy, merchandising and coordination with various external media and marketing agencies.
3. On 3rd December 2017 morning, Fr. Roy along with Ms. Venora Lobo addressed the alumni and teachers who attended the College feast Mass of Peace. An AV created by the XDP was shown to the audience. This video brought to attention the way forward in terms of the College's 150th year celebrations and fund-raising plans. With the help of work-study students/volunteers, POS swipe machines were set up alongside alumni registration desks and donations in cash and cheque were collected successfully. There was sale of merchandise at the souvenir desk set up outside the main hall. Bookmarks created by the XDP team were sold and given as souvenirs to those who made contributions.
4. On 3rd December 2017 afternoon, the principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes along with Fr. Roy and the XDP team conducted a meeting in the S.C.A.V.I with alumni. Some eminent professors including Dr. Sam Taraporevala and Mr. Jangoo Mistry were present. Ideas were

welcomed and noted. Crowd-funding, endowment chairs, batch-wise donations, SEO marketing were some of the key ideas.

5. On 9th December 2017, the principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes followed by Fr. Roy addressed the parents of St. Xavier's Senior College. Parents were invited to register their names and areas of expertise and indicate through the registration process their willingness to help the college in the 150-year events and/or fundraising. POS swipe machines were set up once again alongside registration desks and fund were collected. 174 Friends of Xavier's registered.
6. On 16th December 2017, the principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes followed by Fr. Roy and Mr. Debadatta Sen addressed the parents of St. Xavier's Junior College. Parents were invited to register their names and areas of expertise and indicate through the registration process their willingness to help the college in the 150-year events and/or fundraising. POS swipe machines were set up once again alongside registration desks and funds were collected. 329 Friends of Xavier's registered.
7. On 8th December 2017, Mr. Debadatta Sen and Ms. Venora Lobo made a presentation to the Jesuit management consisting of Fr. Conrad Pessa, Fr. Keith D'souza, Fr. John Rose and Fr. Roy. The need for a clear Vision and Mission statement for the college came about. Also, the urgent need for website restructuring adding a payment gateway and going in for a separate alumni website. The latter was made available by Prof. Kevin D'Cruz and alumni.xaviers.edu was kick started.
8. On 14th December 2017, a similar

presentation was made to the Management Team including the Academic Council. Fr. Keith was also present and Project writing for all our appeals in order to make a strong case for fund-raising was requested for by the XDP.

9. On 20th December 2017, the XDP met with Fr. John Rose who suggested various IT improvements for the smooth functioning of the office. The Facebook Alumni Page was created on this day.
10. The First Sesquicentennial Meeting to discuss events for 150 years was held in the XDP office on 6th Jan 2018. Fr. Roy made a blessing prayer and inaugurated the new XDP office at the start of the meeting. Principal Menezes addressed those present and a brainstorming session followed. Teachers were asked to volunteer themselves as Chairpersons / Committee Members of Committees formed.
11. The Second Sesquicentennial Meeting was conducted in the College Multi-media Room on 23rd January 2018. Fr. Roy who introduced the project of 'endowment chairs' chaired this meeting. Ms. Venora Lobo took the group through the finalized list of events and more volunteer ship was invited. An alumnus from Bangalore and former Professor Ms. Nandini Sardesai were present along with the President of the St. Xavier's Ex-students Association Ms. Niloufer Marolia. There was a plea made for setting up online infrastructure for fund-raising and events. The Chairs of each committee have been requested to bring in their committees and tentative dates finalized for their respective events.
12. The Third Sesquicentennial Meeting was conducted in the College Multi-Media Room on 23rd February 2018. This meeting saw a much larger participation. Attendees included former professors and an alumnus. A few committee chairpersons made

presentations and an alternate event calendar was suggested.

13. Merchandising: One vendor has been short-listed to supply key chains in the college logo. The XDP is in the process of placing orders for mugs, paper bags, lapel pins and badges to replenish souvenirs in the merchandise store.
14. Appeal letters to corporates have been created, signed by the Principal and the Director, XDP asking CSR points of contacts to collaborate with St. Xavier's College. These will be sent out to more than 50 corporates by end of February, 2018. Meetings were also held with the office bearers of the St. Xavier's Ex-students Association to overcome some technical issues. A big thank you to the Association for the generous gift to XDP and for the years of hard work in running the Association.
15. Internships and other hires:
  - Denzil Lopes: Commerce work-study student, hired as the office administrator for XDP
  - BVOC students (3): Interns who assist with data management and supply social media content during their free time in college.
16. Almbase: XDP has commercially engaged Almbase (owned by a Xavier's Alumnus based in USA) as a platform to engage with Alumni and raise funds. Along with Fr. Pessa and the Treasurer's office, Xavier's Knowledge Center and Axis bank, the XDP is working towards launching the official payment gateway for fund-raising.
17. During the month of March 2018, a lot of time was spent get the payment gateway set up. There were numerous challenges with creating separating systems for Indian donors and foreign contributions and following all the government regulations. During this time efforts were made by many faculty

to align the 150 events along with the regular events that take place in college and to set in place systems so that there is a smooth flow between events and also to set in place guidelines for student volunteers.

18. During the month of April 2018, preparation was made for the alumni get togethers in the USA. Efforts were also made to put in place an app for easier transference of donations received.
19. In the month of May 2018, Fr. Roy used his visit to the USA for other work to make presentations at the four alumni meets put together by XDP with the help of Cynthia Gomes-James (Dallas), Sunil De Souza (Los Angeles), Edwin Colaco (Boston) and Michael and Margaret Ng (New Jersey).

At the end of the month of May we had to say goodbye to Mr. Debadatta Sen who has migrated to Singapore and to Ms. Venora Lobo who had to attend to the call of motherhood. She continues to support us from home during her maternity leave as we search for a new team. We are grateful to Ms. Emily Andrade who has stepped out of retirement to once again help us at XDP for the time being. A special thanks to the whole XDP team, to alumni and to the numerous faculty who have been pitching in. Special thanks to Perrie and Ashma and to Dominic for their tireless efforts over these last few months, to Kevin and Khyati for their tech support, to the Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes for his continuous support and to all the faculty who are pitching in day in and day out.

The list of all the activities are available on [alumni.xaviers.edu](http://alumni.xaviers.edu) but please mark your calendars for 29th December, 2018 (5.00 pm) the Inaugural Mass with the Cardinal in the Quad and 3rd January, 2019 (4.30 pm), the Inaugural Function at Brabourne Stadium.

**Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira, S.J.**  
Director, XDP and  
Coordinator,  
Sesquicentennial Celebrations



**Photo Credit:** Khyati Bohra (Knowledge Centre)

# IN CONVERSATION WITH GLOBALISATION



# COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Marcel Proust once rightly said, 'the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes'. Indeed, travel opens novel avenues; it helps shatter one's short-sightedness regarding cultures and cultural experiences. Travel randomises skewed perceptions of traditions and of the illusion of what is "correct." This applies particularly to those who travel to seek knowledge in foreign lands --- students. International students quintessentially experience and most assuredly benefit from such experiences. With India currently at the realm of globalisation in the industrial and numerous other sectors, internationalisation of education has also broadened academic horizons in India. This is precisely what St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, attempts to emulate.

The Council for International Programmes (CIP) is aimed at providing opportunities to students of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and its global partner schools to participate in numerous international exchange programmes for students and members of faculty. Through various collaborative efforts, the CIP has organised diverse programmes, the most well-known, and competitive ones, being the Harvard College in Asia Programme (HCAP) with Harvard University, USA, the Ontario-Maharashtra-Goa programme with universities in Ontario, Canada, and the Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship Programme to spend the Trinity term at the University of Oxford, UK.

In the academic year 2017-2018, St. Xavier's College played host to **twenty-three** international exchange students for one semester to one year and **fifty-eight** international students for short-term programmes. The students mainly were from USA, France, Spain, Germany, South Africa and Japan.

The college successfully enrolled **eleven** of its own students in various international universities in France, Spain and USA for a one year study abroad and **twenty-four** students took the opportunity for short-term programmes in the USA.

The following is a detailed account of the international programmes organised by St. Xavier's College and its global partner schools.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR OUTGOING STUDENTS

Thirty-five Students of St. Xavier's participated in the following international programmes:

### Long-Term Programmes:

**St. Louis University, USA:** TYBSc student Mr. Hamsa Narasimhan and SYBSc student Ms. Pragya Mishra were selected to study for a year at St. Louis University, USA. In accordance with the MOU between St. Louis and St. Xavier's, they received a full tuition waiver.

**Comillas Pontifical University, Spain:** TYBA students Ms. Zoe Daruwala and Ms. Sayali Nagwekar were selected to study for a year at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid, Spain. They received a full tuition waiver

**IESEG School of Management, France:** SYBA students Ms. Shreya Vishwanath, Daksha Parmani; TYBMM student Mr. Sanyam Nagpal and TYBSc student Ms. Neha Jain were selected to study for a year with a full tuition waiver at the IESEG School of Management, France.

**Sciences Po, France:** TYBA students, Ms. Andrea Noronha, Ms. Kriti Mahajan, and TYBMM student Ms. Shweta Bhutada were selected to study for a year at Sciences Po, Paris, with a full tuition waiver. Ms. Kriti Mahajan was also awarded the prestigious Erasmus Scholarship.

### Summer Programmes:

**Harvard University, USA:** The 'Harvard College in Asia Programme' (HCAP) is one of the most competitive and sought after programmes for students of St. Xavier's. This year, eight students, namely, Ms. Shivani Suresh (SYBSc), Ms. Trishala Mishra

(SYBSc), Ms. Janvi Gandhi (SYBSc), Ms. Sonal Raj (SYBMS), Ms. Surpreet Bhasin (SYBSc), Mr. Abhay Mehta (SYBSc), Ms. Deborah Yazhini (SYBA), and Ms. Yasmeen Khan (TYBCom) were selected to participate in a nine-day conference themed "**Redefining Leadership: Initiative and Influence in the Modern World**," at Harvard University, USA from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

**University of Notre Dame, USA:** Five students, Mr. Darpan Saluja, Ms. Sara Desai, Ms. Kimberly Vaz, Ms. Karunya Sunil, and Ms. Akshata Jain availed of an opportunity to be part of the Student International Business Council Program (SIBC) for eight days in April 2018.

**Ottawa University, USA:** Three students, Ms. Charu Trivedi, Ms. Disha Sawant, and Ms. Gayatri Karnik, participated in the Ottawa University Summer Program in May 2018 at Ottawa University, USA.

**University of Stuttgart, Germany, St. Louis University, USA, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and St. Xavier's College Department of English Collaborative Programme:** In May 2018 five of our students, Minella Fernandes, Ipshita Peters, Jessica Rapose, Gauri Shirke and Mallika Ahuja visited the University of Stuttgart, Germany for a week. Besides cultural trips, the students attended lectures and seminars on American short stories, Visual Culture of the US and Survey of American Literature.

**University of California, Berkeley, USA:** Three students, Mr. Tony Joseph K, Ms. Krisha Dadia and Ms. Kajol Shah enrolled in the summer programme offered by the University of California, Berkeley, USA, May to June 2018.

## ST. XAVIER'S PROGRAMMES FOR INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

These programmes extend from one week to two months up to two semesters. During the year we hosted on our campus **81** international students.

### **Long -Term Programmes:**

**Semester Programmes:** Nine students from Soka University, Japan, namely Kouhei Kinoshita, Nanae Akiba, Hideki Okamoto, Shusei Fujimoto, Aya Tsumuri, Ayako Kina, Kazutaka Suzuki, Natushi Kohara, and Yuya Goto and two students from EM Normandie, France, namely Mr. Victor Nouzarede and Mr. Charles Michel Bourgeois-Fouad spent one semester at St. Xavier's College, while two students from St. Louis University, USA, namely Ms. Rucha Patel and Ms. Madison Baumgart spent half a semester at St. Xavier's College.

**One-year Programmes:** One student from the USA, namely, Ms. Nikitha Kanuri; four French students from IESEG (France), namely, Mr. Clement Delaplace, Mr. Simon Sztabholz, Mr. Thomas Andre Maurice Guezennec, and Mr. Antonin Bernard Abel Durand; two from Sciences Po (France), namely Ms. Victoire Ambeza and Mr. Garde Baptiste; and three students from Comillas Pontifical University (Spain), namely Ms. Clara Ruiz Linaje, Mr. Jonas Garcia Fernandez, and Ms. Patricia Elosua Feliciano availed of the one-year exchange programme and took varied courses in SY/TYBMS and SY/TYBA.

### **Short-term Programmes:**

**Intensive English Language Course:** For the fourth consecutive year, we had six students from Soka University, Japan, with two members of Faculty, participating in a specialized, intensive short-term English language course. The students accompanied by their professor were on our campus from 5<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>-February 2018. At the end of the course, a certificate of participation was given.

**India Studies Programme:** Eight students from University of Notre Dame, USA, visited St. Xavier's for a short programme on art, history and culture of India under the "India Studies Programme" between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2018.

**Xavier's-Berkeley Summer Programme:** For the fifth consecutive year, we organized a programme for students from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. This three-credit course 'India in a Globalized

World: Post Colonialism, Neo-Classicism & Beyond' was fully developed and conducted at St. Xavier's College. The course was held every Friday, for 2 months in June-July 2017. The credits of the Berkeley students were transferred to their University. Ten students from the University of California, Berkeley, participated in this course.

**Hindi Language Programme:** Ten American students from various universities in California, USA (The Regents of the University of California) visited Xavier's for a specialised course in Hindi Language. The course was conducted by an alumnus of St. Xavier's College, Ms. Divya Naithani. The students were on the campus for nine sessions from September to November 2017.

**HCAP Programme:** Eight students from Harvard University, USA were on campus for a 10-day program on Redefining Leadership in the second week of March 2018.

**In Conversation with Globalization:** Sixteen students and four faculty members from University of Stuttgart, Germany and Stellenbosch University, S. Africa participated in a week long programme organized by the Department of English. The theme for the year 2017-18 was "Globalization and Sustainability".

### **MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18**

Memoranda of Understanding were signed with universities to encourage the development of visits and informal exchanges among faculty, students, and administrators in education, research and outreach, to organize joint conferences, to develop joint research programs and exchange of students during the academic year or summer terms. These institutes include: Ottawa University, USA; Sophia University, Japan; The Universidad del Salvador, Argentina; The Regents of the University of California, USA; UC Berkeley Summer Session Agreement, USA; Harvard College in Asia Programme Agreement, USA. In the last eleven years, Xavier's has 33 MOUs signed with universities spanning all five continents.

### **VISITS BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTES IN 2017 – 2018**

Numerous representatives and members of faculty from reputed international universities visited St. Xavier's College in the academic year 2017 – 2018 to discuss possible tie ups, student and faculty exchange programmes and research opportunities. The Minister of Higher Education, Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor (Ireland); the Ambassador of Ireland, Mr Brian McElduff and several faculty members from Dublin City Univ., and Limerick Univ., Ireland visited Xavier's. Delegates from Harvard University, USA; Univ. of Notre Dame, USA; Ottawa University, USA; The Regents of the University of California, USA; Syracuse Univ., USA; Univ of Kentucky, USA; Northern Arizona Univ., USA; Miami Univ. Ohio, USA; Univ. of Sydney, Australia; UIC, Barcelona, Spain; SOKA Univ., Japan; Univ. of Surrey, UK; and SOAS Univ., UK visited the college.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the course "In Conversation with Globalization" and also the Mumbai-Stuttgart sister city venture. The Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, Mr. Fritz Kuhn and the State Secretary, Petra Olschowski Minister of Science, Research and Art, Baden Wuerttemberg along with a delegation from Stuttgart and Baden Wuerttemberg, Germany visited St. Xavier's College.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the Members of the Committee, namely Ms. Neelam Shetty, Ms. Kaizeen Jehangir, Ms. Lydia Fernandes, Ms. Radhika Rani, and Ms Rashmi George, for their continual support, without which it would be almost impossible to organise the aforementioned programmes with high efficiency. Together we introduced a system of mentoring for all international students on campus to help them cope with and familiarise them with the college and the education pattern. Furthermore, in future, we intend on having a formal orientation programme for the international students, and have an in-house student committee to facilitate cooperation between our students and the incoming international students.

**Dr. Radiya Pacha-Gupta**  
Director

## HCAP 2018

In January 2018, eight students from St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai attended the Harvard College in Asia Programme at Harvard University. The students came from varied streams - Sonal Raj from SYBMS, Deborah Charles from SYBA, Yasmeen Khan from TYBCom. and Shivani Suresh, Surpreet Bhasin, Janvi Gandhi, Trishala Misra and Abhay Mehta from SYBSc. The conference titled - Redefining Leadership in the Modern World, had delegates from nine top colleges and universities in Asia including our own. The conference also focused on bringing people together from a diverse set of backgrounds across continents and to help cultivate a mutual understanding and respect for each other's cultures. Delegates attended lectures on leadership ranging from topics in entrepreneurship to military and nuclear conflict to religion. Discussion sessions were organized post each lecture so as to bring in different perspectives and viewpoints of the delegates. The delegates were given campus tours and were taken around the city of Boston by their respective hosts. The delegates mingled and interacted with each other with several fun activities such ice-skating and karaoke playing the role of a catalyst.

A subsequent conference was held in the college in the month of March for the delegates from Harvard University



at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai. A total of eight delegates from Harvard University attended the Mumbai conference which followed the same theme. The topics were varied from the film industry to NGO's and social inclusion. Rumana Hamied - CEO of Cipla Foundation, Dr. Vibha Krishnamurthy founder of Ummeed Child Development Center and Shaheen Mistry of Teach for India graced a panel which discussed and debated on Leadership and challenges in the nonprofit sector. Celebrated actor and social activist, Rahul Bose, had his say on the leadership principles

he picked up from sports, directing and social activism. From a cultural aspect, the delegates were taken around the city of Mumbai and visited the museums, art galleries and the iconic heritage sites across the expanse. The delegates also explored the Elephanta islands and were enthralled by the history of the place.

Both the Harvard and Mumbai conferences not only enriched the respective delegates academically and culturally, but also helped develop a global perspective of the various issues and challenges concerning the modern world.

## AT NOTRE DAME

The traveller's pride lies not in the number of places traversed. It is how s/he acculturates himself and imbibes his experiences into a cohesive whole that defines the travels' worth.

My visit to the University of Notre Dame in USA as part of an exchange program is something that will be remembered fondly always. In addition to attending class and participating in case competitions, I actively indulged in a cultural extravaganza only a few are fortunate enough to experience.

On arriving at Notre Dame, what struck

me as being particularly beautiful, was the 1200- acre campus of the University. Frozen lakes, prancing squirrels, lush lawns, and winding pathways—things that dreams are made of.

My schedule was planned meticulously by my hosts, with a perfect balance between course work and cultural bonding. Over the week, I took classes on Design, Management and Marketing. In one student discussion, we formed teams and explored the possibility of Apple Inc.'s expansion into the fitness and artificial intelligence

sectors. In addition to lecturing, these classes had plenty of room for hands on experience. In one design class, I learnt page layout and alignment. By the end of the week, I had my very own cover page for a magazine of my choice!

At Notre Dame, course work did not seem to be the sole activity students did for most part of their day. Everyone seemed to be involved in so much more than what classroom space provided. Therefore, it was only fitting that I too be given something more than only classwork. Soon after, I was allotted



a team to work with on a final case presentation. The case prompt dealt with the imposition of American tariffs on Chinese aluminium and steel, and China's retaliation to the same. Our response to this included suggesting several business opportunities that would be available due to such a tariff war. One of our many suggestions was that E-commerce platforms in India take an active part in the buying and selling of steel and aluminium. While the Ministry of Steel already runs a platform by the name 'MSTC Metal Mandi', private players in the sector are rare. Further, we supported our case by providing a detailed study of the usage of stainless steel in the infrastructure and energy sectors in India and concluded that mimicking models like

MSTC Metal Mandi would not only give an impetus to E-commerce in this sector, but also boost developments in the infrastructure and unconventional energy markets. The innumerable hours we spent preparing for this case guaranteed not only my subsequent winning, but also lasting friendships with magnificent people.

My cosy group of friends became wider at each subsequent baseball game, or at one of the grand dinners at their halls, attracting Colombians, Australians, Chinese and Japanese. I learnt hard-work and diligence from the Japanese, politeness in speech from the British, and a certain efficiency of work from the Germans. Given our cultural backgrounds, there was a lot to tell, imbibe, and ponder over. What followed

was soccer games at open air stadiums, bowling competitions, dance shows, rock climbing and so much more.

An interesting evening was spent touring the entire campus on foot. My hosts were delighted to narrate to me fascinating stories of how everything on campus came to be. The University is home to the Fighting Irish and incidentally has a French name. Legend has it that although built by a Frenchman, it housed many Irishmen in its formative years. A warning is given to each student at Notre Dame—"Do not climb the stairs up to the main building, or you won't graduate." Although the origin of this one is hazy, it made for an interesting challenge on that day.

Of the places I visited, parts of South Bend just outside of the University appealed most to me. The town is quiet, little, and one can detect a tranquillity in its life. While it is a serene life, it is by no means lonely.

Academic rigour, mini-adventures, encounters with strangers, and an assortment of stories for anyone who asks, are a few things that featured in my trip this year. I am grateful to the CIP for this opportunity. My trip turned out to be incredibly fulfilling and I cannot wait to host students from Notre Dame in January next year!

**Akshata Jain,**  
SYBA

## OTTAWA UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAM

When most hear Ottawa, they think of maple syrup, a handsome PM and hockey. That certainly isn't wrong. But the Ottawa I spend my summer in was in a different country although it was in the same continent. Ottawa, Kansas is a small American town of 13,000. The people of Ottawa live in large houses, greet strangers on the street and have at least one dog each. And having seen the more significant of the American cities like New York and San Francisco, this tiny rural community was the best part of my trip.

My month long stay at Ottawa

University began unfortunately when all the students on campus had left home for the summer. So my interaction with the students from the University was limited to the post grads who were helping with the program and under grads staying back the summer for sports. Nonetheless, I, along with two of my friends and fellow Xavierities, persisted to make the most of our month there.

There wasn't a single day of the week that was unaccounted for in our schedule. That is not to say that we were busying studying all the time. Quite the

contrary, as most of our week was spent on activities we hadn't even heard of back home, much less imagined doing halfway around the world. All days weren't as fun as the other, but each taught me about a different aspect of the American life. A trip to the town hall and the tours of fire station and police station did not give me a lot of interesting stories to tell back home but they showed me how people go to great lengths to see their community prosper. A spirit that is often lost in one of the biggest cities in the world. The ride along with a patrolling police officer however, is an interesting story of not



just about a runaway high schooler and the process to locate her but also of civic responsibilities and the inevitable conversations about racism.

The weekends were the most dynamic, as we visited a breakout room. We were only a step away from breaking out when the time was up. It was frustrating as it was satisfying to learn that the other team didn't make it either. Another weekend we were taken out camping. The single most marketed skill I got from the trip was here- I rode a horse all on my own. I even got to wear cowboy boots. Between that and a smores on the campfire, I don't feel as scared of haunted movies about cabins anymore.

The best weekend, had I to choose,

would be the host family stay. We were put up with local families to get a more hands on experience about life in the Midwest. Our hosts lived on a farm just outside town and were deeply involved with Ottawa Chamber of Commerce. They were incredibly accommodating and well versed in Indian culture having already hosted an Indian student before.

My greatest takeaway from the summer program was, without a doubt, my classes. The course was called Psychology in Films and it was taught by Dr. Pilar Galiana. The four weeks we were there we had different themes for the lectures. The first week was supernatural where we saw *The Awakening*. The second week was

crime where we saw cult classics like *Memento* and *Fargo*. The next week was Asian cinema and the final week was for our presentations where we saw the movies that we wished to present like *12 Angry Men* and *Blue Valentine*.

The list of things we did there is endless and there is not way I can fit it all here. You'll have to catch me in the foyer for that and even then an entire day may not be enough. A month may not be long enough to understand the complexities of rural America and the international media has a way portraying people but never in my travels have I meet a people more friendly, more welcoming than that of Ottawa.

**Gayatri Karnik**  
FYBA

## STUTTGART MUMBAI EXCHANGE

**Online course between University of Stuttgart, Stellebosch University and St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)**

The Stuttgart-Mumbai online course In Conversation with Globalization commenced in September of 2017, via online interactions between students from the universities of Xavier's, Stuttgart and Stellenbosch. The theme for this year was Globalization and Sustainability. The notion of globalization and sustainability was discussed through issues such as Architecture, Culture, Education, Environment, Mobility. One student from each country was put into a team and interactions took place largely through emails to complete a series of group assignments. After that, the students finally met in January of 2018 at the Xavier's campus to begin a week of studying and touring. Mornings consisted of touring around the city- we visited everything from the Kanheri caves to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) museum - which was followed by an enlightening lecture in the afternoon by professors from our very own college. Evenings were left free for the students, which we spent either studying or roaming around the city. On one evening, the students got to experience the Stuttgart Orchestra



perform at the NCPA theatre, a truly unique experience that ended with the group performing a well-known Bollywood song. The highlight of the visit was certainly the last day where, after the burden of presentations had been lifted, the students and professors enjoyed a lovely night at the Taj Hotel to celebrate the Mumbai-Stuttgart sister city relationship. The event allowed us to spend one last night with our new friends, as well as get a taste of Germany's favourite foods including bratwursts and sauerkraut.

After a tearful goodbye, students from Mumbai and Stuttgart met once again in Germany in May, and the students from Stellenbosch were sorely missed. Mornings were reserved for lectures, which ranged from Shakespeare to Edgar Allan Poe to more obscure American authors, and even art history. Afternoons were for sightseeing; we got to explore the famous TV tower, the Stuttgart library, the BMW museum, and many other memorable sights. The full day trips to the quaint town of Esslingen and the grandeur

of Ludwigsburg were particularly refreshing after the city air of Stuttgart. The Stuttgart trip was well planned and allowed students to mingle with one another outside of the set classes and assignments, and all our hosts were extremely welcoming and forthcoming, resulting in the formation of a lasting bond.

The Mumbai students were also asked to make a small presentation on the current scenario of the city, and thus we set out to encapsulate in a mere thirty minutes the shifts in ideologies, both progressive and regressive, that have shaped the city over the past decade. The presentation was attended by approximately thirty people, most of

whom were part of the Global Learning initiative. An engaging discussion followed immediately after, geared mainly at tackling the socio-political problems of India, and the realisation of modern Mumbai being but a microcosm of modern India as a whole.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the kindness shown to us by Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp who was present during many of the outings and often joined us for lunch after lectures. He introduced us to a scrumptious soup restaurant, and we liked it enough to visit it a couple of times thereafter. Moreover, he made sure to inform us of ongoing campus activities, and even procured us passes to a choir concerto

as a surprise.

The highlight of our visit to Stuttgart, apart from the friends we made and the places we saw, was definitely the food. From Schnitzel to Brezels, we were eager to try everything, and our native friends were more than happy to regale us with impressive folklore about the same. Our meals together were often the best part of the day, and both the beer and the conversation flowed freely. Overall, the trip was a beautiful experience that I shall cherish always, and we were all grateful to have been a part of this global exchange.

**Gauri Shirke**  
SYBA

## SUMMER SCHOOL AT UC BERKELEY, 2018

Attending UC Berkeley for the summer in 2018 was, without doubt, one of the best decisions I have made. I was excited when I heard of this opportunity and was determined to take it. After a relatively easy but long application process, when I first stepped foot on the UC Berkeley campus, or 'Cal' as the locals call it, I was mesmerised. The beautiful campus with lush green lawns and a clear blue sky was as inviting as it could get with several students relaxing and walking about with smiles on their faces. The culture at Berkeley was hard to not notice. A vibrant college town with a huge population of international students for the summer, Berkeley was

a fascinatingly diverse place. It is a place that accepts for who you are, and who you want to be rather than who you should be. The courses I took at the Haas School of Business were less theoretical and more practice-oriented. The first course, Leading People, was a class on Organizational Behaviour and its theory. It teaches one to be a better leader rather than just a good manager. The Professor, Janet Brady, used different methods such as group activities, movie clips, and surveys to help us understand the importance of being a better, involved leader who can inspire and encourage their teams. The second course I opted for was

Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, taught by Prof. Core Worthington. As the title suggests, this class helps one to develop their negotiation and dispute resolution skills, especially when it comes to situations in the work place. This was an extremely self-reflective class which helped me understand my skills better and taught me how to put my strengths to use in situations that call for some persuasion. Both these courses were poles apart from each other, but focused on the actually practical knowledge that one needs when working in the 'real world'.

**Kajol Shah**  
FYBA

'We are less when we don't include everyone'

- Stuart Milk





**Photo credit:** Synara D'Souza (FYBA)

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Aakanksha Tated (FYBA) | Rhema D'Souza (FYBA),  
Ayesha Medonca (SYBA) | Amee Parikh (FYBA)

# CAMPUS DYNAMISM



# SPIRIT PAPERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD

The Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology (AIHCA) had a series of programmes in collaboration with two Latin American countries namely: Brazil and Argentina. Since Latin American countries also share a rich legacy like India, it was only natural for the department to collaborate with them. Just as its namesake, the department chose to highlight strands of culture found in various art representations such as photography, films and painting. Some of the highlights that St.

Xavier's College campus saw were the following:

With a view to showcase culture from different parts of the world, the AIHCA department collaborated with the Xavier's Institute of Communication, the Consulate General of Brazil in Mumbai and the Museum Society of Mumbai and organized an International photo exhibition from 5th to 15th July 2017. It focused on indigenous people of Brazil called Xingu people who are an ancient-Pre-Columbian-tribe living near the Xingu river. The

objective of the exhibition was to have a bird's eyeview into the culture of the Xingu people who have survived the onslaught of intense colonization. The photo exhibition entitled XINGU:- Spirit Papers from another world was curated Mrs. Sheila Maureen Bisilliat. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Consul General of Brazil and had a foot fall of over a thousand persons. Our inhouse students acted as docents for the same.

Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare

# BIOWAVES: DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND US



The Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry, along with the Caus Research Laboratory, in association with Veruschka Foundation and Yash Charitable Trust hosted a one day conference called *Biowaves: Developmental Disabilities and You*, on the 22nd of December, 2018. The conference was preceded by a one day awareness campaign titled '**Know Better, Do Better**' held on the 20th of December, 2018, organised by the First Year BSc students of the Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry. This campaign was an attempt to break the myths around intellectual disabilities and sensitize the society about the negative attitudes, discrimination directed at people with developmental disabilities, and the lack of their actual social inclusion.

Researchers, special educators and professionals in the fields of Developmental Disabilities graced the occasion to clarify about developmental

disabilities. Students made several charts which explained The Cell to the details about various developmental disabilities (Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome), and progress in the field of Stem cell research.

The students and teachers along with Dr. Tatyana Dias, Founder of the Veruschka Foundation and alumnus of the Department, left no stone unturned in preparing for the campaign and conference. They ensured that the presentations by the students were accurate, and comprehensible to the lay people. The exhibition was set up in the college hall. The charts were arranged on one side, and the stalls were set up by several NGOs on the opposite side. The event began at 10:00 am with the Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes' address. The exhibition was attended by many parents of children with disabilities, teachers and students from various disciplines. Dr. Agnelo Menezes revisited the exhibition in the

afternoon. He gave a keen ear to the explanations and sought clarifications through many queries about the topic. The commissioner for Disabilities, Mr. Nitin Patil was a special invitee for the camp and appreciated the efforts of the students and the College. The exchange of information that transpired throughout the day enabled the FY students to gain a deeper understanding of the disabilities that most of them had only encountered in theory. Arpan, a catering service run by Yash Charitable Trust that employs adults with developmental disabilities graciously provided an amazing lunch for everybody at the exhibition.

The conference was aimed at creating a platform for interaction between scientists, clinicians, special educators and students to understand the science of developmental disabilities and challenges involved. In addition, it sought to raise awareness about unscientific and unethical treatment options being offered as 'cures' for such disabilities.

The campaign and conference were not only a learning experience for the people who attended it but also for the students who got an opportunity to interact with people who were either parents or close relatives of people suffering from such disabilities.

Ms. Riyansha Arora  
FYBSc



# CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF MATERIAL CULTURE

The Heras Institute started a UGC sponsored Diploma Course in "Conservation and Preservation of Material Culture", a one year part-time course designed to equip students with a professional understanding of natural and cultural heritage conservation. It is a specifically designed skill based course for professionals and motivated participants working in areas related to sustainable heritage conservation. The structure of the course encapsulates lectures, hands-on practical training,

field studies, project work, independent learning, group discussions etc.

The Course commenced with a series of lectures in Art and Architecture of India, to provide a basic understanding of Material Culture. Thereafter, the practical process of conservation work was initiated with the support and guidance of the Science faculty of the College. For instance, by using some of the artifacts of the Heras Institute, students were taught methods of Chemical Conservation to clear away

metallic rust on the cannons placed in the Institute. Further, the students detected micro-organisms in old paintings, rare books and manuscripts which were later treated in the laboratories. The Course is in progress with further studies in the preservation of paper, stone, metal and paintings, and will conclude with field trips and a project work.

**Dr. Joan Dias**  
Director, Heras

## AVOIDABLE APOCALYPSE

The 2017-18 batch of First-year History students conducted an exhibition on the 5th of February this year. It was called 'Avoidable Apocalypse', and it focused entirely on the two World Wars and the dictatorships. This endeavour was undertaken to mark the completion of 100 years of the end of the First World War.

Under the able guidance of the Head of Department, Associate Professor Avkash Jadhav, the students began their preparation in January 2018. Different groups took up various aspects of the World Wars and the Dictatorships for display in their respective sections. This exhibition was intended to help students think creatively, expand their horizons, and experiment with the tools at their disposal. Each group came up with novel and creative ideas for presentation. The Principal, Dr. Agnelo Menezes granted the college hall for this project, which widened its scope. The students had access to the various logistical facilities which were made available by the college.

Many eminent guests visited the exhibition. A brief inaugural ceremony was organized, in which all the guests were felicitated with saplings, shawls and coffee table books of college. Ms. Khushboo Jain was the compere for the inaugural. Ms. Jiniya Chattopadhyay sang the Saraswati Vandana and Ms. Kankangi Bhabhe performed the Ganesh Vandana. Ms. Judy Sherine Faber presented the Vote of Thanks.



The students employed many innovative techniques for their exhibits: some groups chose to make models, whereas others dressed up as certain historical figures. Certain highlights of the exhibition were the bioscope for visitors to enter, a small tunnel, the simulation of a Nazi gas chamber (complete with gas machines, spotlights, students enacting dying inmates, guards, and Hitler himself). Another interesting exhibit was one which displayed scenarios of 'virtual history', which is a very controversial branch of considering possibilities in History. Many groups also presented tactile objects to make the exhibition accessible for visitors with visual impairment. These tactile objects were created in collaboration with the XRCVC.

The exhibition was a massive success. Faculty members from other colleges, students, parents, well-wishers, teachers of history and various schools from all over Mumbai visited it, and gave a positive and heart-warming feedback. There was also extensive media coverage by Mumbai Mirror, the Free Press Journal, Maharashtra Times and DNA on the exhibition. It was called a 'masterpiece' and praised for its emphasis on a hands-on approach to the study of history. The entire process of planning and execution paid off well. Thus, it was an extremely enriching experience for all the students, as they not only delved deeper into the mysteries of History, but also tapped the hidden potential within themselves.

# THE BLENDING OF NEUROLOGY & SPIRITUALITY



“Recent Developments in the Neurological Sciences and the New Interpretation of the Spiritual Aspect of Humans”, an International Symposium was organized by IISR (Indian Institute of Science and Religion), Delhi and St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Mumbai. It was held on 9-11th February 2018 at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai. It is the 12th of its kind on cutting-edge

themes in science-religion interfacing. The speakers were nationally and internationally reputed experts in the field from different branches of science and from different religions. The participants were scholars, mostly from India with different scientific and religious backgrounds. Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira, S.J. was the Convener of this International Symposium.

## ‘JACK AND JILL’

This is a story of Jack and Jill who did NOT go up a hill but, who were upon a tree and it is from there that they came tumbling down!. Well, Jack and Jill were squirrels! One unfortunate evening in November, their nest fell down. On one side was the busy Mahapalika Marg and on the other, the Metro work which had just begun. Luckily for Jack and Jill, two kind-hearted Xavierites (Tanishq and Darshana, FY Maths-Stats-Eco) found them before omnipresent crows and dogs could munch on them! The students brought Jack and Jill to the Zoology lab which has been receiving injured and orphaned animals every now and then and putting the faculty in quite a spot.

Two to three days old, eyes not yet open, virtually furless, these baby squirrels constituted a challenge but the Zoology Department rose to the occasion. Mr. Conrad Cabral received them while Malaika, a Second Year BSc student shifted them to my house. After making one unsuccessful attempt to reunite them with their mother, it was clear to me that it had fallen to my lot to nurture them. I had rescued squirrels before but never handled such *altricial* and young ones. Vets and animal rescue experts (Devna Arora has carried out a fantastic job, do visit her website) were consulted. A tiny basket furnished with a small hot water bag, several soft cotton sheets and a worn out woollen cap, turned into their home! A hunt was soon launched to find the smallest syringes which could be used to feed

their tiny mouths. Internet search yielded an idea as to the ideal milk composition for squirrels. Finally, fat-rich milk plus homemade ghee became their initial food which they gulped in microliters every two to three hours throughout the day and night! After each feed they were gently wiped with cotton swabs dipped in warm water. This not only cleansed them down but also made them pee and poop. Mothers of many mammals lick the backs of their young ones so that the babies may carry out their basic excretory functions.

Naturally the squirrels needed round the clock attention and traveled with me every day to college and back home. They were perhaps the youngest to attend UG College! Dr. Smita not only provided them with some safe space in her room but also appreciated my efforts with small gifts and encouraging words! Dr. Pushpa took pride in observing each milestone the squirrels and I achieved. She also invited and encouraged people to take interest in and appreciate our exhibits number 1 and 2. Sometimes the squirrels travelled in the luxury of Dr. Madhuri’s car. The students brought in various things like home-pressed coconut oil and baby milk. They offered suggestions, took pictures and brought in their friends to admire Jack and Jill. The lab staff happily allowed us access to warm milk and water for these tiny squirrels. As a house revolves around a newborn child, the whole department was



attending to these baby squirrels.

Jack and Jill responded well to all this attention and care. Within two weeks they opened their eyes! We celebrated the day with chocolates. The squirrels were growing fast. They gradually moved ahead from milk to a mixture of boiled egg yolk and Cerelac (yes, baby food!). They were becoming more adventurous and explorative with each passing day. Now no more travel to college. Instead, a room in my house was given to them. They had a clear view of the trees through the window mesh. The room had to be made squirrel proof. The door and the windows had to be kept shut all the time. Electric plugs were covered and dangling wires fixed. Delicate and potentially dangerous items like the flower vase, plastic boxes and table lamps were removed. Books were shifted out and anything that could harm them or be harmed by them was removed. Clearly, the wooden window frame could not be removed. Jack and Jill enthusiastically sharpened their ever-growing teeth upon and around the frame. A hanging nest was made for them which they accepted immediately.

The curtain rods and window mesh became their playground. They loved to run up and down the curtains and chase each other, the curtain folds being their favourite hiding spots! By now the squirrels did not need to be hand-fed, so feeder and water bowls were kept for them. They then graduated to solid food and enjoyed a platter of various seeds, flowers, fruits, nuts and dried coconut. My husband, little daughter and occasionally even mother took up the duties of babysitting when I was away.

Being a heterospecific caretaker, I couldn't provide Jack and Jill all that their natural mother might have, though I did my best. Soon they would leave and for that, they had to be prepared. So we built rope bridges from the window to the trees outside. Before leaving, they would have to practice moving on ropes. So the room was crisscrossed with ropes going up and down, from left to right and at various angles. Food was dangled from the ropes (cords) to attract them. Squirrels are natural climbers; after all they are arboreal. Their scientific name is *Funambulus pennantii*. *Funambulus* means tight-rope walker. Jack and Jill

lived up to the name!

As they were growing, their distinctive personalities emerged. Jill was shy and cautious but more adventurous. She was the first to try new things. She avoided human contact, in fact, she would give a sharp nibble if our fingers happened to go too close to her! Jack was more peaceful and loved to be petted! He came readily when called while Jill usually just stared back. Jill enjoyed grapes while Jack adored apples. However, both of them wanted to taste the piece of food in the each other's mouth even if their plates were full!

Soon the mesh-window was opened. I dreaded that they would leave quickly and thus be lost. But Jack and Jill took their own sweet time to venture onto the rope bridge. Those days it was a great pleasure to come home and see them sitting on the open window panes looking at the world from a high vantage point, their tails swinging in the wind. Eventually, on the last day of March, Jack ran along the rope bridge and went to the tree, some ten feet away! That was when I recalled the my year-old daughter's first day at her daycare

center – I was restless all through the day! Similarly, I anxiously stood at the window to watch every move of Jack's as he went up and down the tree, stared at the crows, nibbled at various things and caught some insects to eat. He had now become vocal. Coming back, he twittered something to Jill who eagerly went to sniff him. What was he telling her? He kept venturing farther and farther away but came back home to sleep every night for about a week. Then one day he never returned. I could see a squirrel running along with many others and who stopped momentarily when I called his name. That might have been Jack. I hope he is doing fine. My wish for him, is, to borrow words from Rudyard Kipling, 'Wood and Water, Wind and Tree, Wisdom, Strength and Courtesy, Jungle-Favour go with thee!' Jill was not so lucky. She succumbed to an internal injury. We don't know how and when it came about, but she died en route to the vet's clinic. Even today, when I hear a squirrel calling from a tree I remember Jack and miss Jill sorely.

**Dr. Sujata Deshpande**  
Department of Zoology

## SAUMVEDNA: 2018

On 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2018, the Xavier's Political Science Association organized a fundraiser, named "*Saumvedna*", which translates to empathy and compassion, consisting of memorable musical performances. The previous fundraiser: "We Can Make a Difference" was focused on providing help and support to Acid attack survivors. This year the fundraiser aimed to make a lasting impact on the lives of children suffering from Thalassemia.

The Political Science department, under Dr. Pratiba Naitthani, has been attempting to go beyond the boundary of the college in order to make considerable contributions to those in need in our society. Working on the very Jesuit principle of 'giving back' to society, which forms the foundation of the Social Involvement Programme (SIP) of our institution, the department had held successful fundraisers in the

previous years as well and had received an overwhelming response for the same.

The Fundraiser was a night that consisted of two brilliant performances. The first performance was the musical maestro Ustad Taufiq Qureshi's *Surya* followed by a performance by the dynamic band 'Kanchan Daniels and the Beards'. Fundraiser'18 essentially aimed at fulfilling the wishes of Thalassemia patients through an NGO called 'The Wishing Factory' an initiative by Mr. Parth Thakur who has been working to create a moment of joy in lives people affected by Thalassemia.

The crux of *Saumvedna* was not merely to collect money for the cause, but also to create awareness about the problems and impact of thalassemia. Dr. Jayshree Sharma, Head of the Blood Bank from KEM hospital was present for this

purpose. She shared some information about thalassemia, along with an engaging video and stories of young kids who are battling thalassemia.

The event was a culmination of tireless efforts put in by countless students and staff members. The constant and comprehensive support of our Principal, Dr. Agnelo Menezes, was instrumental in the smooth conduct of this far-reaching fundraiser.

**Gokul Lavania,**  
TYBA- Dept of Political Science

# THE DEUTSCHE डाक EXPERIENCE

Walking into our third year history class, Ms. Kaizeen Jehangir and Ms. Vailaneena Govindan informed us of a class project that would challenge us creatively. A challenge we accepted wholeheartedly! We were to organize an exhibition on the 8th and 9th of September, 2017, highlighting Germany's tumultuous history, through its official stamps.

Dr. Hoshang Master, a former faculty member of the chemistry department allowed us to raid his collection of over 1 lakh stamps. After an arduous process of comprehensive research, the third year students of the History Department chose around 300 stamps. These would chronicle Germany's history, beginning in the 1870s, with the creation of the German empire, to the reunification of East and West Germany in the 1990s. Amongst this vast collection there were definitely some highlights such as - the Hyperinflation stamps (see Image 1) and the German War Graves Commission stamp (See Image 2). The hyperinflation stamps marked a period of inflation, when Germany's currency literally became worthless, as evidenced by the fact that stamps were valued at 2, 50,000 marks (former German Currency). The German War Graves Commission stamp on the other hand, recognized the work of the commission in providing graves for fallen soldiers in the World Wars and to Holocaust victims.

Enlisting the help of Ms. Alisha Sadikot, founder of The Inheritance project, we began our preparation for the exhibition as early as June. This included Research, Marketing, PR, Logistics, Design and Documentation teams which kicked into full gear. Months of hard work would boil down to those two fated days in September.

D-day arrived and we were overwhelmed with the warm and positive responses we received, from the 1500 plus visitors, over the two days of the exhibition. From budding stamp collectors to philatelists clubs, from history enthusiasts to simply curious minds, all flocked in large numbers to discover the history of Germany through stamps. Our youngest visitor was a 13 year old avid stamp collector, and our oldest- an 86 year old stamp enthusiast.

We organized guided tours in English, Hindi and Marathi. One of our classmates, Anjana Ramakrishnan, even conducted a tour in Korean, for our Korean foreign exchange students. We aimed to provide an alternate learning experience, which went beyond the textbook. Students from the Teach for India initiative, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Higher Secondary Municipal School (Worli), St. Peter's School (Mazgaon) and our very own St. Xavier's Boys Academy School visited. Students from Jhunjhunwala, Wilson, Sophia, Ruparel and Elphinstone



colleges also seized the day and made a field trip out of the visit.

Inclusivity and accessibility were the major aims of our exhibition. We collaborated with the Xavier's Resource Center for the Visually Challenged to design a tactile stamp display station, for the visually challenged. A tactile diagram workshop was also conducted by Ms. Shizanne D'mello of the XRCVC, which taught participants how to produce their own tactile diagrams.

The exhibition would test us both as a class and individually, through the grueling work and attention it demanded. But it all proved to be worth it in the end because of the abundant praises we received. The exhibition sealed our fate as a class; we emerged to be a family, sticking by each other through the upcoming semester and hopefully even after.

**Ms. Tamara Rasquinah**  
TYBA, History

# STUTTGART MEETS MUMBAI

January 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the online course "In Conversation with Globalization".

This course was a consequence of the memorandum of understanding signed between the University of Stuttgart,



Germany and the Department of English St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp from the University of Stuttgart and Dr. Shefali Balsari-Shah the former Head of the English Department initiated this programme which has moved from strength to strength in the last ten years. Subsequently, this partnership has included Stellenbosch University, South Africa as well. This year was also the 50th anniversary of the Mumbai-Stuttgart sister city venture. In connection with the sister-city



celebrations, The Lord Mayor of Stuttgart Mr. Fritz Kuhn and the State Secretary Petra Olschowski Minister of Science, Research and Art, Baden Wuerttemberg alongwith a delegation from Stuttgart and Baden Wuerttemberg visited Mumbai. They also visited St. Xavier's College because of its ties

with the University of Stuttgart. St. Xavier's College hosted the delegation with a felicitation in the College Hall. Both the Lord Mayor Fritz Kuhn and State Secretary Petra Olschowski Minister of Science, Research and Art addressed the audience on the theme of Globalization and Sustainability.

Further, student-representatives from St. Xavier's, University of Stuttgart and Stellenbosch University had a panel discussion in which the Lord Mayor and the Minister of Science, Research and Art participated.

## TIFR BECKONS PHYSICS

In February of 2018, we the physics students of St. Xavier's College, batch of 2017-2018, attended four sessions of laboratory visits to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). This activity was arranged by the Department of Physics to expose the students to the current techniques and research at TIFR as well as to perform more involved and advanced experiments in areas of physics that are not accessible in our college laboratory. The two main domains of physics that are not measureable and accessible in our college laboratories are those of high power laser spectroscopy, nuclear and particle physics. Hence the four experiments were designed around these areas while incorporating other well-known areas such as electronics, optics and basic spectroscopy.

The first experiment undertaken was

the detection of cosmic ray muons and the measurement of the efficiency of a detector. This exposed us to more advanced optics such as wavelength shifting fibre optics as well as the routine techniques of advanced physics such as the use of a differentiator and scalars for counting pulses. The second experiment was the measurement of the thickness of a metal foil using the stopping power of alpha particles. Here we used a pre-arranged radioactive substance that emitted alpha particles of known energy and measured the shift in their energy on passing them through a thin metal foil such as gold and silver. It was a unique experience to undertake an experiment of this kind in nuclear physics at the undergraduate level. The third experiment was based on using and understanding the different kinds of advanced gamma ray (high energy

radiation) detectors. We were exposed to very advanced detectors such as high purity germanium and understood their characteristics such as their sensitivity through measurements. The fourth and final visit was a demonstration and exposure to Raman Spectroscopy and the more advanced technique of Stimulated Raman Spectroscopy where we were also given a tour of the institutes advanced optics lab and the instruments they have, such as the vibration isolating table.

The students unanimously agreed that the visits were an incredibly valuable experience. It helped them understand their current syllabus in physics better and also exposed them to the frontiers of current physics.

**Mr. Arjun Ashoka**  
TYBSc, Physics

## ECC REPORT

The Cultural Committee, also known as Extra Curricular Credits Committee primarily records and monitors the ECC hours and points of students. We also organise many events, workshops, seminars, life skill programmes which encourage students to increase their general awareness and enrich their talents. This year, the Committee was divided into 6 sub-departments and the Debate Society. The separate sub-departments were created for Xavier's Dance Society (formerly Western Performing Arts Dance) and Western Performing Arts (WPA): Music, Indian Performing Arts (IPA): Music and Dance, Literary Arts (LA) and Fine Arts (FA).

The activities of each sub-department were:

### Fine Arts:

2017-2018 has been a great year for Fine Arts. Several workshops were organised with an overwhelming response for each. The 'STRING ART' Workshop conducted by the college technician Mr. Dinesh, organised on July 13 and it served as a kick start for the ECC. The numbers of interested participants were more, so a second session was held. Creative and \ intercatve, these sessions were a fun learning experience for all students and the team. Another such workshop was the 'SOSPESO ART', where an Italian craft form primarily used for decor was taught to the attendees on September 11 and 12. The last workshop for the year was organized for the ECC Carnival : 'LETTERING ART'. It was a one day

workshop where the participants learnt a creative form of letter making.

Along with these workshops FA also participated in inter-college events. 'ABCP - Anybody Can Paint' workshop was carried out on the 'FUN DAY' for underprivileged students. These children had a splendid time bringing their imagination to life.

### Western Performing Arts Music:

We began the WPA activities by conducting a Mega Audition for all those interested in participating in any western vocal or instrumental events. The platform was open to all students and received an exceptional turnout . These Mega Auditions were judged by Mr. Bryan Ernest, a singer, songwriter and expert in the field of music.

The students who qualified were then allocated to various events at different fests like A cappella Malhar, Band Event Malhar, Umang Classical Jam, Umang Acapella, Youth Fest Solo and Duet Singing, etc. Most of the students who participated ranked among the top three winners across various college fests.

A guitar workshop which was conducted by our in-house student Noah Jacob on the 14th of February, 2018 highlighted the various uses of the guitar. Here, Noah spoke about his journey as a musician, shared his ideas and techniques with the audience and answered any questions that both musicians and non-musicians in the audience had.

Following this, we organized a singer-songwriter talk conducted by Mr. Bryan Ernest on 16th, February, 2018. The workshop mainly covered his original music compositions and how he achieved over the years, the art of being able to compose and write music and his personal experiences as a musician. Bryan was accompanied by Nathan D'souza, WPA Music Coordinator.

Our last event was a Singing Competition that took place on the 16th of February, 2018 (for all those who qualified at the Mega Auditions but did not get a chance to participate throughout the year.) The judges for this event were Aarifah Rebello, song-writer, drummer, etc. and Dean D'souza, singer, music conductor, who is currently doing his Master's at St. Xavier's.

#### 1. **Xavier's Dance Society (Western):**

Xavier's Dance Society, formerly the Western Performing Arts conducted numerous workshops with renowned personalities gracing the events. The events include:

#### 2. **Pre prominition: A Jive Workshop**

The first workshop of the XDS involved the attendees who learned the basics of Jive as well as Ballroom. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Marlon, Jive instructor on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 in the college Hall.

#### 3. **Bollywood Workshop:**

A Bollywood Dance Workshop was conducted by choreographer Rohit Chawla on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. Choreographer to a number of Bollywood stars; this dancer had the students learning a dance sequence to the beats of popular Indian dance songs.

#### 4. **Fusion Bollywood workshop:**

The Bollywood choreographer Aadil Khan, on 6th February, 2018 took under his wing the students of St. Xavier's college and had them dancing their feet off to the latest Bollywood tunes as he brought energy and enthusiasm to the students.

#### 5. **Jazz Funk- Split Sole Dance:**

As a part of ECC Carnival a pure jazz workshop was organised for the students by the trainers of Split Sole dance academy, who taught the students the fundamentals of jazz. They also offered a scholarship to students with potential.

#### 6. **Post prominition: A Jive workshop:**

We conducted another Jive Workshop with Marlon on 16th February, 2018, which was a success as the students enjoyed jiving to the lively tunes, Marlon had to offer.

#### 7. **Slackline Workshop**

Conducted by Tanaya Nair, a student of FYBSc on 17th February, 2018, the workshop was meant to teach the basics of an extreme performance art in a safe environment.

#### **Literary Arts:**

Literary Arts has 3 Societies under it, the Xavier's Film and Literature society, The Hindi Theatre Society (Fitoor) and The English Theatre Society (Playhouse).

#### **XAVIER'S FILM AND LITERATURE SOCIETY**

**Chaitre – Film screening and QnA session:**

The first event of the academic year was held on 23rd August, 2017 in the SCAVI. Organized in collaboration with Cinetic, a venture that aims to promote independent filmmakers. This event included the screening of Indian director Kranti Kanade's short film Chaitra followed by a QnA session with the director himself that ranged over various topics related to film making, scripts, themes, independent films, etc.

#### **Dancer in the Dark – Film Screening and Discussion**

The second event was the screening of the film Dancer in the Dark by Lars Von Trier held on 11th September, 2017 which was followed by a discussion initiated and guided by the members of the Xavier's Film and Literature Society.

#### **A Clockwork Orange – Film Screening and Discussion**

A Clockwork Orange by Stanley Kubrick was screened on 9th January, 2018 in collaboration with the Academy of Sociology and Anthropology. The film was used as a starting point to initiate a critical discussion on the idea of dystopian societies, dystopian literature and Foucauldian concepts of power and governmentality.

**A Discussion on Resistance Music with Bhanuj Kappal** A discussion on resistance music with its focus mainly on the development and globalization of rap music and its variants in the context of India were introduced to the audience by Bhanuj Kappal, a journalist and a writer who focuses on music and culture. Held on 14th February, 2018 it was the concluding event for the society.

#### **English Theatre Society**

1. Society Orientation (4<sup>th</sup> August 2017): Introduction to the society, followed by some theatre games led by the members of the core committee.
2. Audition Workshop (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017) covered the audition process from preparing monologues to improvisation. Participants each acted in a scene and then received feedback from the rest of the crowd.

3. Acting Workshop (18<sup>th</sup> September 2017): Conducted by Meghana Telang, the former head of the ETS (2015-16). She taught participants various new acting techniques like characterisation, etc.
4. The core committee of the ETS also assisted the actors for Ithaka 2017 with their performance and rehearsal through the months of September and November
5. ECC Carnival (16<sup>th</sup> February 2018): Put up a play, written and directed by Zachary Borthwick. Acting auditions were also held for the same.

### **Fitoor - Hindi Theatre Society**

Fitoor is the Hindi Theatre Society of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai involved in intra and inter college events related to theatre. Not sticking to the contemporary language Hindi we had events in both Hindi and English making it appeal to a wider set of audience and having better events. The events, this year fared well thanks to the publicity that was done through 'Memes' which most students found relatable.

### **Xavier's Poetry Slam**

The event took place on 15th September 2017 in the MMR gathering people from our college and other colleges as well. We had three guest performers for our event, a former student and a popular poet in the Mumbai Poetry Circuit, Snehal Khandekar, poet and script writer, Tahir Khan and the main performer Mohammad Sadriwala, a top class poet and story teller. Apart from these there were other known performers from our own college, including Farah Maneckshaw (TYBA), Gouri Bhuyan (TYBA), Darshil Shah (SYBA), Nethra Menon (SYBA), Priyanka Paul (SYBMM), and Shivani Lalan (SYBA). Apart from poetry we had two other very special performances which featured an unforgettable blend of music and poetry. Performed by Surendra Surwade (TYBA) and Nathan D'Souza (TYBSc), it was a delight to watch them perform.

### **Teen Tigada - A game event**

On 24th November 2017, at the start of the new semester, Fitoor organised a gaming event, Teen Tigada. It included a game of Taboo, Pictionary and UNO with a little twist. We welcomed a bunch of enthusiastic people who walked out of that room post the event with a wide smile on their faces and a whole new bunch of friends.

### **Script Writing workshop by Shivani Patekar**

On January 29, 2018, a week before the application for submission of scripts for its annual fest 'Jashn-e-Fitoor', script writing workshop was organised. The event was led by Shivani Patekar, an ex-Xavierite, former Cultural Secretary, Director, Actor. She conducted a workshop on the ideation of a script; idea, storyline and how to joist them together to form the perfect script.

### **Annual Theatre festival of the society: Jashn-E-Fitoor**

The final event conducted by Fitoor was its annual theatre event called 'Jash-e-Fitoor'. It was conducted on February 15, 2018 in the college Hall. With three top notch plays performed there's no doubt about the fact that the whole event was a hit. The preparation started a month before the event which included auditions, selection of script, practice, etc. The plays were Riwaayat by Som Banarjee (TYBSc) and Bhavya Jain (SYBA), Zubia Sheikh's Qaid, featuring Vidhanth Chettri (TYBVoc)

The final play was a satire, written and directed by a Fitoor committee member Janaya Sindhu. Called 'Deewar' it talks about how human nature is a funny thing. It was put on screen by actors from our society- Aishwarya Mohan and Rhea Vakharia while the narration done by Janya.

### **Indian Performing Arts Music:**

Indian Performing Arts Music conducted a grand music workshop on November 27, 2017. This session, headed by Smt. Radha Kumar, Shri. Aditya Saool and Smt. Urmi Vaz. It was an interactive Musical workshop with Practical Interface and Demonstration on the SITAR AND TABLA on the essence of RAAG AND TAAL along with dynamic discussion on the concept

of Samay Chakra, Raag Ragini Paintings and Math and Laya.. The students were asked to bring their instruments to get a firsthand experience from the workshop. Similarly students with their interest in other arts like dancing could enhance their knowledge with two students dancing on the TAAL and Laya that's being explained in the workshop.

### **Indian Performing Arts (Dance):**

On July 18, 2017, the Committee conducted mega auditions for various inter-collegiate as well as intra-college competitions. As a part of this, under Indian Performing Arts (Dance), auditions were held for Indian classical dance forms such as Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kathak and Indian Folk Dance forms including Lavni, Bhangra and Garba. The auditions were judged by Prof. Dr. Radha Kumar and ex-Xavierite Ms. Sindhuja Bhesette. On November 17, 2017, a dance workshop was conducted by Ms. Aastha Oza, a certified instructor. The purpose of the workshop was to kick-start, the new semester with great energy and enthusiasm, by learning the jovial folk dances, Bhangra and Garba.

### **Debate Society:**

The Xavier's Debating society conducted a Debate on the topic "Are colleges infested with fests?" in August in association with Bombay Times. It was followed by Xavier's first ever Panel Discussion on "Aadhar - A scam?" which was an enriching experience for the audience. The Debating Society also organised the most awaited debate of the year the "Student and Faculty Debate" which was moderated by the Principal and Sheena Oberoi and the students' side bagged the winning spot.

The Xavier's debate society also sent a team of students to Bangalore, Christ College for a national level debate where the students performed well.

Along with these, Cultural Committee also conducted 4 mega events, 'Yeh India ka Time Hai' — a cultural event for expressing the vision of India on 2020. 'Cultural Exchange Programme' (Soka University - Xavier's) in collaboration with the Committee, 'Fun Day' and

the annual feast of the College's patron saint 'St. Francis Xavier' — 'Traditional Day'.

The ECC committee on behalf of the College organised a mega program on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017. It comprised of debates moderated by the Principal and various musical performances by students of our college on September. This event was conducted on the advice of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and was supported by the National Film Development Corporation. The event 'Yeh India ka Time Hai' was based 'India 2022'. The college Hall was packed with enthusiastic students expressing their dreams on the future of India.

The Committee organised a Fun Day on November 25, 2017, for the underprivileged kids from the Vidya India Organisation. Around 40 kids from the Byculla centre of the organisation came to the college and

participated in many activities ranging from painting to dance and games. Anybody Can Paint (ABCP) workshop, painting on canvas without any use of brushes was held in the Fr. Fell Gymkhana of the college. A gaming session was then organised, where games, which helped in building up the vocabulary of the kids were played. The Coordinators along with the kids danced to the tunes of the Bollywood music. The last activity in this event was a photo session with the Principal and distribution of Mementos.

On December 3, 2017, Traditional Day Events were organised by the ECC Committee. The day started with a Mass in College Hall. This was followed by Peace Procession with a theme organised by the committee in collaboration with the DIRS. A DJ was invited for a Jam Session in the College Hall. The committee also made provisions for publicising festivals such as Antas, Zephyrus and Econundrum

along with various food stalls and photo booths that were set up around the campus

On December 13, the collaboration with Min on Concert Team organised a Cultural Exchange program between St. Xavier's College and Soka University, Japan. Indian Bollywood Songs and Japanese Folk Dances were performed by the students of both these institutions. A song from Bollywood movie 'Slumdog Millionaire' was played using Japanese instruments. Hundreds of participants including the Soka University Faculty and the Min On Concert Officials gathered in college Hall to witness this Musical Fusion.

Finally, all the activities of ECC Committee 2017-18, were concluded by the 3 day annual event of ECC — 'ECC Carnival' which was held this year from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**Dr. Ashma Aggarwal**  
Convenor, Cultural Committee

## SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME

As the world grows more prosperous, the people in every nation seem to grow poorer in charity, compassion and grace. The advent of the internet and social media in particular has created a generation of non-verbal communicators. It is here that social work has played a critical role in St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai.

As part of the Social Involvement Programme (S.I.P), students during the academic year 2017- 2018 got involved with and contributed to Non Government Organizations (NGOs). They were thus sensitized about gender equality, promotion of health, poverty alleviation, increasing the literacy ratio and dignified livelihood in order to reduce vulnerability among the elderly, differently-abled and women. The involvement of students in such social work has given our First Year students, including those with disabilities and/or those lacking fluency in Indian languages, a platform to participate in campaigns, social events and empowering activities in order to

spread awareness, as well as to explore and engage with ground realities of our society.

In this academic year, 913 students of First Year, 23 students of Second Year and 38 students of Third Year participated in the regular obligatory component of the S.I.P. The following figure is a configuration of the students' participation (percentage wise) in the social activities with NGOs involved in the following social activities: Education (71%), Differently – Abled (18%), Women (2%), Elderly (2%), Health (2%) and Awareness on Social Issues (5%).

### Activities Initiated by S.I.P. Department



Through the regular programme the S.I.P department of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) has initiated the following social service activities:

- **Rally for Rivers:** The S.I.P. Department mobilized students to participate in the Rally for Saving Rivers organized by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. This awareness rally was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 from CST station till Metro theatre. Through this campaign students spread awareness among the general public about the importance of rivers and usefulness of vegetation which lie on the banks of rivers.
- **Civil Defence Workshop:** Students participated in a Fire Safety and Self Defence Workshop organized by Maharashtra State Home Guards at the Civil Defence Headquarters on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Students were briefed about the protocol followed by the Fire Department and this increased the student's knowledge about fire safety measures.



- **The Wishing Factory:** The S.I.P. department motivated students to work with patients suffering from life threatening diseases (e.g. Cancer). Along with activities to increase awareness, the students visited patients and helped in fulfilling their wishes. The work also included preparation of a street-play, poster-making, slogan-raising and organizing art and craft sessions
- **Spit in Bin:** Students participated in the awareness campaign organized on 25th September, 2017

to make people stand up and have a clean and spit free Mumbai.

- The department provided volunteers to support visually challenged students from the college or outside to help them in writing their exams and/or with their studies.
- Study materials were collected by the S.I.P Department and were sent to the tribal and under privileged children.
- Volunteers were assigned to students who could not afford

professional teachers to coach them.

S.I.P. has empowered students to engage with social, economic, political and psychological realities. As students participated and got involved in various social service activities, they were exposed to different socio-economic backgrounds and, cultures, etc. It is the vision of the college that S.I.P contributes towards making the students of St. Xavier's College more compassionate, humble, patient and grateful to their families for a life without depravation and one of peace.

## THE SOCIAL SERVICE LEAGUE (SSL)



The Social Service League (SSL) has become an institution within college that represents active student involvement and leadership in social service. In recent years, the SSL has managed to regularly carry out a number of social service activities and this year was no exception with 5 major projects, namely- Project Care, Blood Drive, Rural Camp, Project Paint, and Souvenirs being executed under the watch of the SSL's Executive Committee and Fr. Terry Quadros. As per the SSL's motto- "Where Goodwill Meets Opportunity"- the SSL, strove to create a space that attracted people who were interested in serving society.

Project Care is the SSL's flagship project; the primary objective of this project is to add to the lives of underprivileged children through teaching and activities. In partnership with two NGO's, volunteers for this project went to slum areas in Byculla and Mahalakshmi to supplement the formal education the children were being

given. Not just tutoring, but games and other activities were conducted in order to enrich the children's learning and to, simply put, entertain them. The project ended on a bang with "PC Mela", where all the children our volunteers work with are brought together for 2 days of good and simple fun, turning out to be a great success.

Blood Drive is a blood donation camp organised on-campus where the primary objective is to ensure that the blood shortage faced by Mumbai on a daily basis can be reduced by the contribution of our, actual blood, sweat, and tears. With one Blood Drive every semester, the SSL managed to gather over 500 donations of blood. With every donation filling one bag, which in turn can be used for three separate individuals- the SSL managed to infuse over 1500 lives with life.

Rural Camp is another project that has managed to stick around for decades now, where volunteers are taken to a rural area of Maharashtra. When there, they engage in manual labour for 10 days to benefit the locals. This year, Camp was held in "Shanti Niketan", a Jesuit campus in the Manor-taluka of Palghar district. Volunteers constructed a check dam, levelled ground, shifted rocks, and made sand as per the requirements. An important aspect of

this project is character building where "city-brats" are made to live in less than comfortable conditions and come to enjoy it through the bonding in the unique environment that Rural Camp creates amongst the volunteers.

Project Paint's objective was simple- "One Month, One School". This project aims to brighten the environment in which children study through a few coats of paint, beautiful art, and a lot of love. The pictures probably say more than words ever could.

Souvenirs is the SSL's goodies department- it aims to "upcycle" waste into beautiful products that can be sold to generate a revenue that can be used by the SSL for other projects.

After almost thirty years as the Director of the SSL, the SSL was forced to bid farewell to Fr. Terry. The literal face of the SSL in college as the manager of the Counselling Centre and as a friend to many students that have had the joy and privilege of enjoying his company, Terry will be missed. The SSL wishes him the best in his new posting in Nashik. His legacy will be remembered and carried forward by the new generations of Executive Committee members and the Secretariat.

**Dylan D'Souza**  
(Assistant General Secretary)

# LIBRARY REPORT

## Highlights of the year

Library Tours were conducted for students right from FY to the PG classes. Students devoted one lecture to the same, and the activity was held for about 25 batches of students over a period of a month and a half, right from 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 till 24<sup>th</sup> July. The tours were recognized and encouraged by the Principal as one of the best practices of College.

55 students completed their Departmental SIP in the Library. Their responsibilities included fixing magnetic tapes inside books, shelf reading, helping make stack guides, sorting and checking of gift books, and finding journal articles.

Two Exhibition cum sale of books were organized by the Library in the gallery of the Hall, by Orient Blakswan in August 2017 and then by Strand Book Stall in November 2017. The response to the Strand sale, especially from students, was overwhelming.

Seven CCTV Cameras were installed in the Lending and Reference Libraries in October 2017.

A new pair of Lenovo servers were acquired through a UGC Grant for 4.5 lakhs. The Operating system of Library Management software SLIM was shifted from Linux to Windows. The data migration for the same was done from April to June 2018.

2 PCs with internet access were made available near Staff table from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

A portable flatbed scanner for scanning book covers was acquired in January 2018.

Free Airtel WiFi wiring was added to the Lending and Reference Library in May 2018.

CFL lights in the Reference Library are now supplemented by LED lights for efficient but brighter light.

The Computers and Education books were shifted to the back of the Lending Library. We want to phase out the Paperback collection slowly

to make space for the regular books in the coming year. The Reference and Honours Room also saw some shifts in the sections.

Dr. Pratiba Naitthani gifted the library a copy of the calligraphic edition of the Indian Constitution

## Working Hours

The Library was kept open for extended hours from 9.00a.m.–9.00p.m. with the cooperation of the Commerce Library attendants.

## Acquisitions and Gift Books

The general budget of the Library is supplemented by UGC Grants for various specific subjects. This year we continued spending UGC-PG grants for purchase of books in the Post-Graduate Departments of Botany, Geology, Life-Sciences and Biochemistry, and Microbiology.

Books purchased: 882

Gift Books: 1218

Journals+ Magazines subscribed: 96  
(Indian 83, Foreign 13)

Gift Journals: 26

New Journal subscribed from this year:  
Journal of Communication Media Watch

## LIBRARY COLLECTION

The total number of records in the SLIM database exceeds 1,11,000.

Books: 98360, Bound volumes of Journals: 10615. CDs, DVDs VCDs: 511

## Gift Books:

Many Gift books were received this year, 1218 were added to our records. Major donors were the Central Hindi Directorate, Dr. Pearl Pastakia, The Principal, Dr. Agnelo Menezes, Mr. Firdaus Gandevia, Dr. Suma Chitnis, Mrs. Pratibha Kanitkar. Late Debjani Chavan, our Jr. College French Teacher whose books were gifted to the Library by her husband. New publications of Housing and Land Rights Network were also received.



Old Bound volumes of Journals on Christianity were taken away by St. Pius College through the mediation of Fr. Keith D'Souza, our new rector.

## Library Displays

We could hold only 15 Library Displays this year. The server breaking down for 108 days paralyzed the cataloguing work. Special displays were held on the demise of Dr. Eunice D'Souza, and Stephen Hawking. A special display of books on World War I and II was on for a month to support the History Dept's exhibition about the same.

**Library Binding:** 230 Journal volumes were bound.

## Library Automation and Digitization

The HP Server for Library automation broke down on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017. We were provided with a pair of new Lenovo servers under UGC grant costing Rs. 4.5 lakhs. The Library software was installed on the new server on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017. Unfortunately, we lost 108 days of work. We also decided to migrate from Linux Operating System to Windows OS. The Library data was sent for migration on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and data in Windows OS was installed on the server on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Abbyy Fine Reader, an OCR recognition software was purchased and installed on the Digitization server on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The process of converting pdf files of College magazines etc. started immediately and is expected to be completed by August 2018.

## LIBRARY STATISTICS

### Library Membership

Arts:-  
Sr. College : 575  
Junior College: 137  
Science:-  
Sr. College : 445  
Junior College: 41  
M.A:- 34  
Ph.D.(Sc.) :- 00  
Ph.D.(Arts) :- 0  
B.Voc (Software Development):-23  
B.Voc (Tourism) :-14  
Paperback Section:- 16  
Self Financing Courses:  
BMS:- 58,  
BMM :- 106,  
B.Sc (IT): 112,  
Forensic Science: 1,  
M.Sc:-97,  
M.Sc. (Biotech):- 50,  
M.A (Public Policy) :-39  
Staff:- Teaching: 87  
Non Teaching: 19;  
Visitors : 05  
Total:- 1848 users were issued Library Cards.

Letters issued for Library Visit to other institutional, University Libraries:-13,  
Visiting Cards issued 5.

Total No of Books referred in the Library:- 17239

No of Books issued from Lending Library:- 10748

No of Books issued from Reference Library:-2462

No of Books issued from Honours Library:- 4029

Total No of CD/DVDs issued from Multimedia Library:- 14

Total No of CDs issued from Lending Library:- 17

**Library Committee:** The Library Committee was headed by Dr. Rashmi George.

### Library Education

Ms. Sonali Paradkar continued teaching a course in Library Science for six F.Y.B.A. students with learning disabilities. She conducted lectures,

practicals, set exam papers and evaluated the same.

### Staff Activities/ Achievements

Ms. Medha Taskar's Marathi translation of Rabindranath Tagore's *Bouthakuranir Haat* was reprinted by Mehta Publishing House in May 2018.

Ms. Sonali Paradkar coordinated the entrance exams of BMM and BMS of the College for the second consecutive year. She also attended a half day workshop on "High impact presentation skills" at Bai Ratanbai Gharda Memorial Library at Bandra on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Mr. Jay Thorat attended a one-day national seminar on "Library revolution: re-engineering libraries for the next generation" at Smt. Kapila Khandwala College of Education, Santacruz, Mumbai on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018.

Mr. Kevin D'Souza joined in place of Sandeep Berde in December 2017.

**Medha B. Taskar**  
Librarian

## LANGUAGE LAB

The Language Lab aims at helping students acquire proficiency in the language and soft skills necessary for effective communication. Students with the help of language learning software installed on 26 computers in the spacious air conditioned lab and the most recent books on soft skills experience the freedom to learn at their own pace.

The year commenced with a diagnostic test administered across all the divisions of FYBA. Students for the special course were selected based on their performance in the test. At the Language Lab, which was open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the instructors were present for student consultation and for other ongoing courses.

### Advanced English Workshops

A series of workshops, open for all students, was hosted by the Language Lab during the summer holidays of 2018. The duration of each session

ranged from one to three days. A total of 41 students from different schools and colleges attended these workshops. Certificates of participation were given on completion of the same.

Workshops Conducted
Making Business Presentations
Web Content Writing
Developing Job Interview Skills
Handling Collocations
Building Vocabulary for TOEFL
Advertorial Copywriting
Rediscovering Phrasal Verbs
Optimizing IELTS Score
Communication Techniques for Public Speaking

### Spoken English Workshop through Regional Languages

A 42 hour workshop on Spoken English through Hindi/ Marathi was conducted for vernacular medium students. The objective was to enhance

communication skills of learners who had difficulty in expressing themselves in English. Students received Certificates of participation at the end of every workshop.

### International Programme

The Language Lab was instrumental in organizing an Intensive *English Language Course* for six students of Soka University, Tokyo as part of the International Programme in February 2018. The highly interactive audio-visual sessions held in the Language Lab also provided a platform to the participants for interacting with St. Xavier's UG and PG students from Arts, Science and Management Studies.

### Internship through the Language Lab

Ann Thompson a Masters of English student from SNTD University, completed her 120-hour mandatory internship through the Language Lab in her 4th Semester in the months of February and March 2018. The

internship was followed by a Viva Voce conducted by Dr. Drupadhi Chatopadhyay, the current Head of the Postgraduate Department of English, SNDT University in coordination with the Language Lab on our campus.

### Looking Forward

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes, who resolutely believes in the potential of Language Lab in making our students, industry-ready by incorporating the necessary skills besides acquiring subject knowledge. The Language Lab

is looking forward to its educational, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities as we enter the new academic year 2018-19.

**Jyoti P More**  
Faculty-in-Charge,  
Language Lab

## MALHAR: UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT!

As soon as the Organizing Committee for Malhar 2017 was chosen, one thing became abundantly clear, we were in no way conventional. And what better way to celebrate than assigning an unconventional theme to the entire festival: Upside Down: Ek Atrangi Andaaz!

Going into the festival, we had the vision to make the festival more approachable and memorable. Reaching out to more colleges, and making sure we made every attempt to be more inclusive in our approach, were the two major ideals that persisted throughout the festival. In fact, to make the festival more memorable would only be possible by making it a more enjoyable and comfortable experience for the audience and workforce alike, which was our goal. Along with this, the team was also given the responsibility to go all the way back to trace the 38-year-old history of Malhar which unearthed a treasure trove of interesting facts about the festival.

To stand true to its theme of unconventionality, the festival kicked off with a Football Tournament. For the first time in several years, Malhar had a full-fledged sports event. The tournament hosted teams from colleges across Mumbai including teams of visually challenged participants. Malhar, in its tradition to ensure that it remains socially conscious, had two events aimed at giving back to society; Mini Malhar Day, the day of fun-filled activities with differently-abled and underprivileged children, and the Malhar Food Donation Drive, a drive to provide essential food items to charitable organizations. Malhar was preceded by several pre-events including Malhar at Carter's, a publicity event with performances by several

talented artists, the annual Yard sale at St. Peter's, the proceeds of which go to charity, Malhar Mela, an internal publicity event with activities and games for the students of Xavier's, and our annual Press Conference which was graced by renowned composer Ram Sampath and IPS Officer Quaiser Khalid who unveiled the lineup for Malhar Conclave, 2017.

The lead up to Malhar came to an end with the Eliminations on 6th August which was a prelude to the dynamic and vibrant talent the college was to play host to on the days of 12th, 13th and 14th of August. The first day of the festival, Malhar Conclave was graced by several personalities of prominence such as Shabana Azmi, Gopal Subramaniam and Kavita Seth among several others. Conclave also saw the addition of a new musical segment which included renowned artists like Uday Benegal and DIVINE as well as a spellbinding performance by the Symphony Orchestra of India. The second and the third days of Malhar witnessed top-notch performances by students in several events, the highlights of which include The Indian Band Project (Hindi Band Event), the Football Simulation event, Footloose (Western group dance event), Verse-atile (Performance Poetry Event), Field Domination (sporting event), What an Idea (Startup event) and Time is Monet (Caricature event). The much-awaited Amateur Night with stunning performances from amateur



artists was preceded this year by an energetic performance by DIVINE that instantaneously brought the entire workforce and audience on their feet.

Additionally, the workforce was also given a mandate of making several processes in the festival more streamlined, leaving behind a system that would be fluid and transparent. In the process, the workforce functioned as a well-oiled machine along with the support of the encouraging staff committee, the organizing committee and the brilliant volunteers who form the backbone of this festival. Indeed, Malhar exemplifies how a common purpose can unite people so fundamentally different to achieve something spectacular. As Malhar 2017 came to a close on 14th August, for many of us, the festival never really ended and has left its mark, indeed proving to be a roller coaster ride for everyone involved and was the experience that gave us memories, lessons and bonds that would most certainly stand the test of time.

**Michele Mary Bernadine**  
(Chairperson)

**Shikhar Shah**  
(Vice-Chairperson – Conclave)





*Dr. Agnelo Menezes, the Principal addressing the audience*



*Ms. Smruti Koppikar at the Graduation*



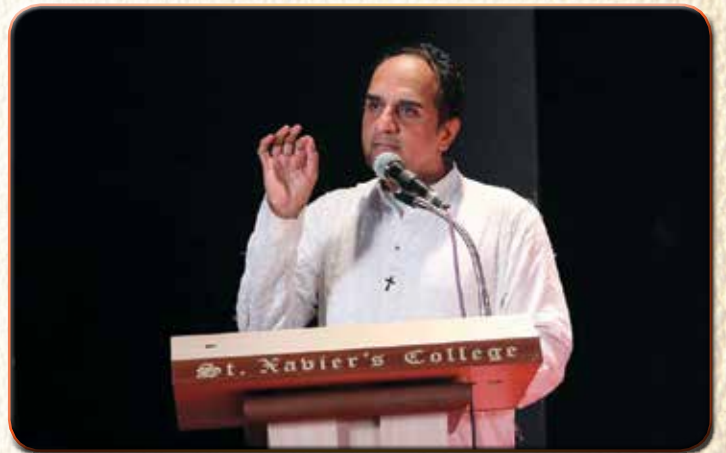
*Justice Gautam Patel at the Graduation*



*Mr. Julio Ribeiro at the Science Graduation*



*Fr. Keith D'Souza, the Rector at the Graduation*



*Fr. Dr. Roy Pereira Vice Principal for Academics*



*Gauri Bhuyan speaking at the Graduation*

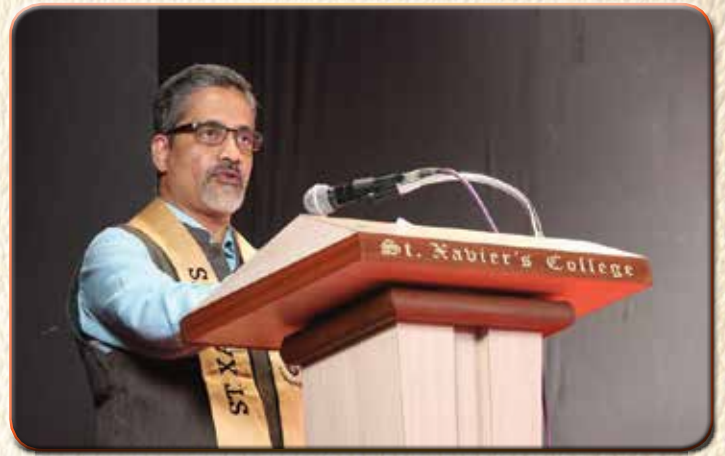


*Science Topper*





*Jahnvi Pandya - Student of the Year*



*Dr. Hrishikesh Samant Vice Principal for Science*



*Ms. Annapurna Vice Principal for Arts*



*Commerce Graduation*



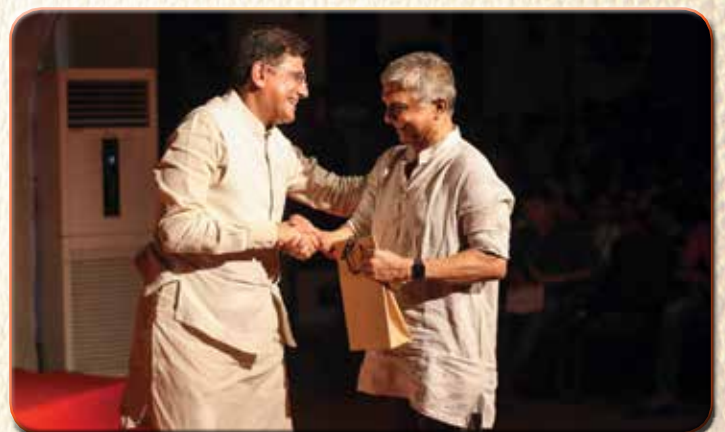
*Lord Mayor of Stuttgart Fritz Kuhn and State Secretary Petra Olschowski Minister of Science, Research and Art, Baden*



*ACP Vasant Dhoble at the History Exhibition*



*International Symposium - Neurological Sciences and Spiritual Aspect of Humans*



*Finance Minister Piyush Goyal felicitated by Dr Agnelo Menezes at Conclave 2017*





*Vividha 2018*



*Niti Samvaad \_ Keynote Address by P. Sainath*



*Niti Samvaad - Gender & Policy with Padmini Swaminathan & Lakshmi Lingam*



*Niti Samvaad \_ Dissent & Dialogue with Makarand Paranjpe, Sudhakar Solomon, Meghnad Bose*



*Taufiq Qureshi and Shikharnaad performing for the Fundraiser*



*Paul Goodwin - Shakespeare as a Dramatist Workshop*



*Commissioner for Disabilities, Mr. Nitin Patil*



*Tejomay Magazine Launch*





*R.K.Mathur Chief Information Commissioner of India*



*Team of Civil Defense Volunteers with staff and students*



*Pandit Rupak Kulkarni on the Flute and Pandit Satish Vyas on the Santoor on 25th January, 2018*



*Pandit Rajan and Sajan Misra performing for the Janfest 2018 Grand Finale*



*Rahul Bose at Harvard College in Asia Programme January 2018*



*Hindi Department with their awardees*



*Gauri Sawant at Marathi Paul Padhate Pude*



*HCAP Panel Discussion with Shaheen Mistry, Vibha Krishnamurthy, Rumana Hamied*



## RADIO LIVE

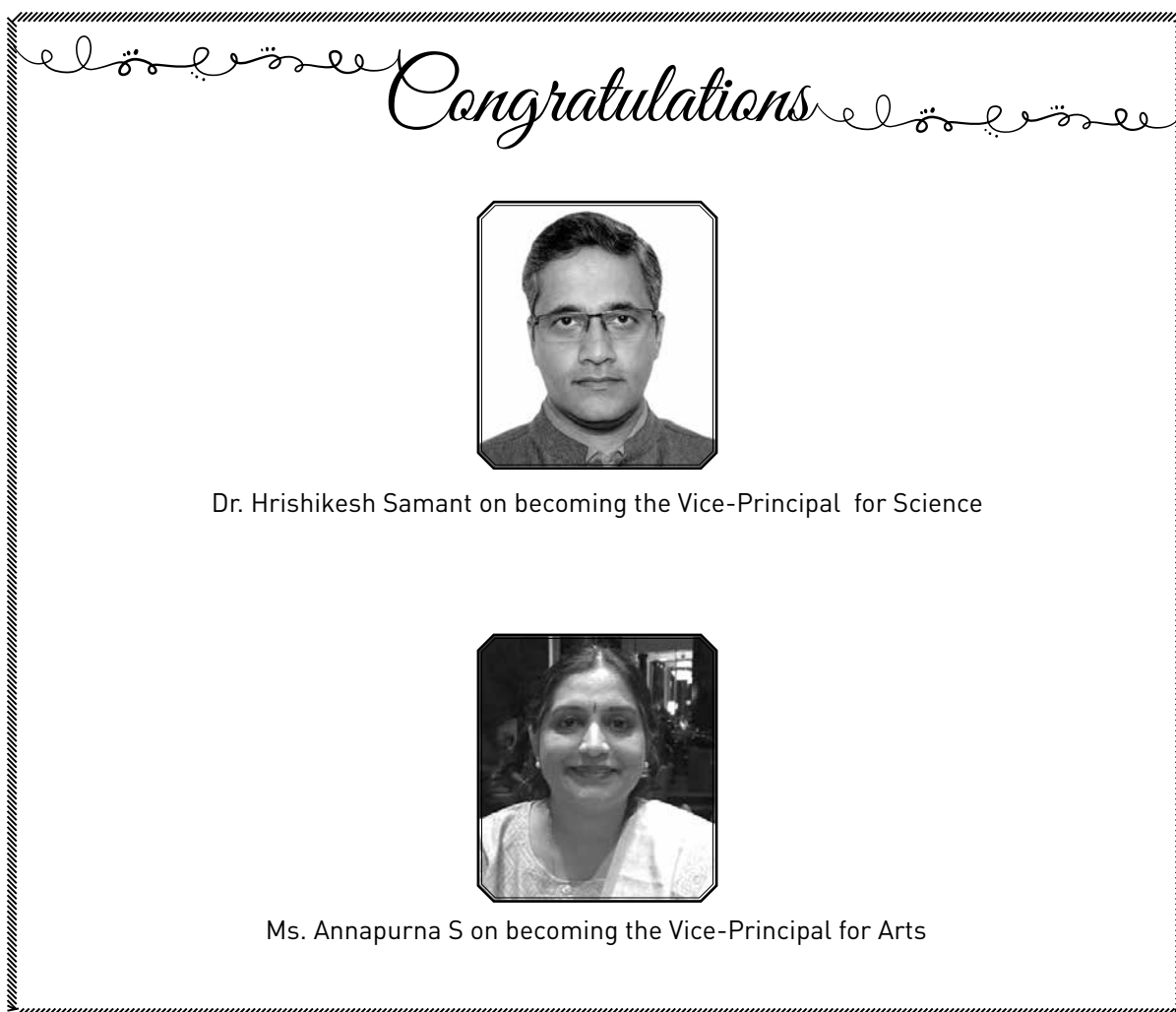
Two *Radio France* journalists visit the stomping grounds of the younger generation to talk about their life's journeys. Having interviewed their guests earlier, the journalists go on to explore the environments, hopes and fears of artists, activists and young professionals through live sessions. By bringing everybody together on stage for the first time and through recorded testimonies, interactions with the audience and live images created by an illustrator, the journalists map a place and a generation, while underlining ongoing shifts in society. Through Radio Live, "Bonjour India" aims to create a network of young and inspiring young leaders. As a part of "Bonjour India" Festival organized by the French Embassy, this live interview on "Life stories on stage" was held in



Collaboration with St Xavier's college on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The participants who spoke about their first-hand real life experience included Dhrubo Jyoti, a 27 year old journalist writing on cast issues and gender bias, Vivek Chaudhary, a 27 year old journalist

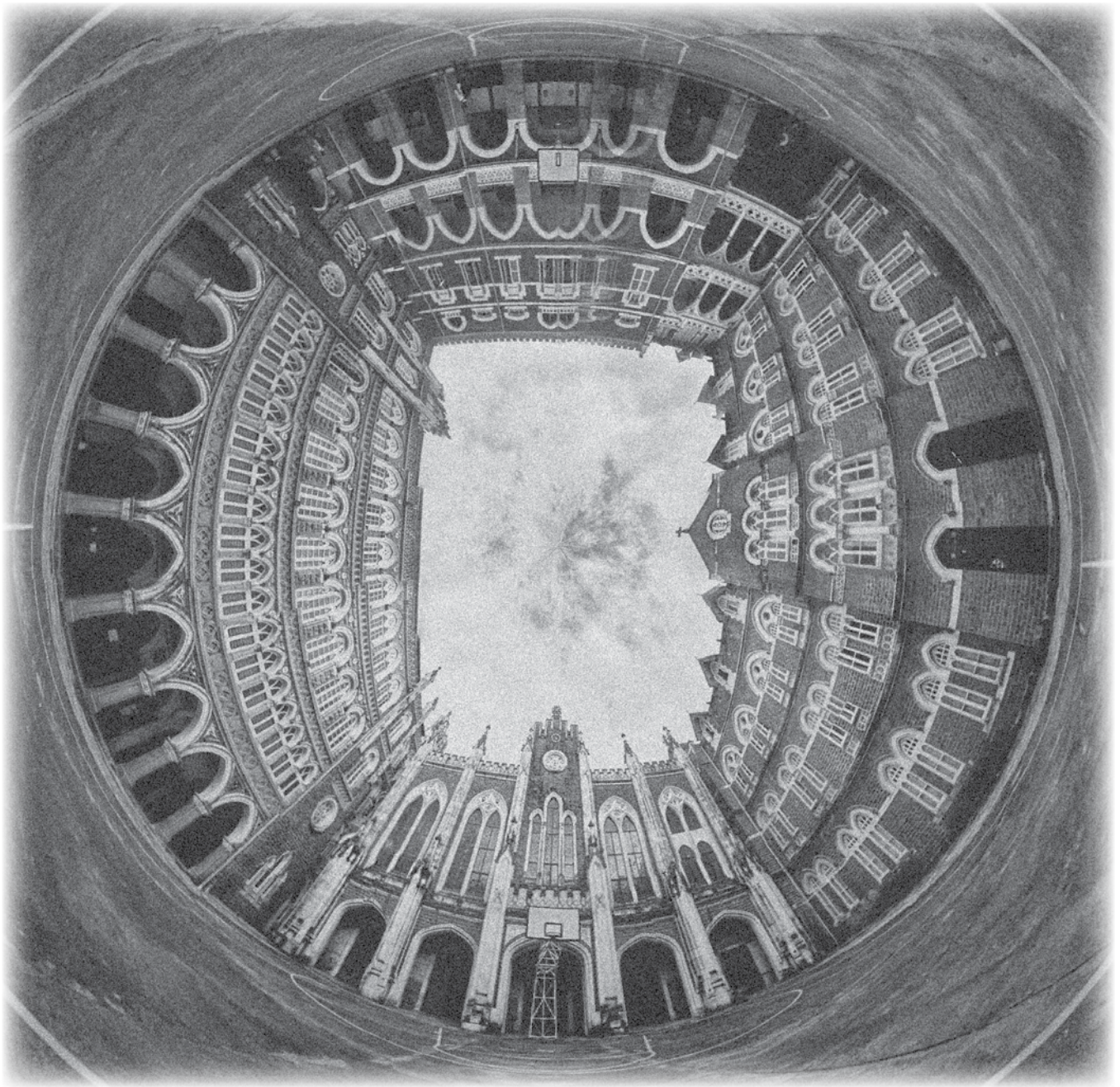
from Ahembabad working on women's issues, Sumeet Samos, a 24 year student studying Dalit Literature at JNU. And Ines Tanovic Sijercic, a civil activist from Sarajevo.

**Anjali Lokur**



Dr. Hrishikesh Samant on becoming the Vice-Principal for Science

Ms. Annapurna S on becoming the Vice-Principal for Arts



**Photo Credit:** Khyati Bohra (Knowledge Centre)

**Section Editor**

Chetan Bhatnagar (SYBA)

# FARE FORWARD

## DR. ASHA NAITHANI-DAYAMA



After serving the college dutifully for 36 years, Dr. (Ms.) Asha Naithani-Dayama took Voluntary Retirement on 4th October,

2017 from the Department of Hindi. Having been Vice Principal (Arts) of the college for 6 years, she also enriched the institution by being the Convener of various committees such as the Malhar Committee, the Indian Music Group, the Student Council, Extra Curricular Committee, Women's Development Cell & Staff Room Committees. As Chairperson of the Hindi Sahitya Sangeet Natya Academy she took Antas (Hindi Festival) soaring to new heights, and while airborne she also provided invaluable inputs to the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Board of Management, Finance Board, Staff Appraisal Screening Committee, NAAC Committee, Autonomy Review Committee, Research Committee, College Magazine Committee, Custodian Committee, Library Committee and X-Factor Committees. Further, Dr. Asha was a recognised

PG teacher and a PhD guide. She also published two books and several articles.

It is said that a great teacher inspires, and Dr. Asha Naithani Dayama is a person who seamlessly fits into this ideology. Not a mere proponent of Hindi language - but also responsible for reigniting a sense of immense motivation in all the students that she taught - she inspired her students to wander free and wild in the world, but never to forget where their roots lie.

Always stating that to a parent, a child's life is akin to a half blank photo frame - a huge frame, albeit with a small passport sized photograph in it - she analogized that in the way that the photograph could be placed anywhere and everywhere inside the frame, so can a child's life take them to places far, far away from home - and by extension, their loved ones. Through analogies like these, she reminded us silently and pleasantly of the innumerable struggles our parents go through and the investments they make for our well-being. She made us cherish our parents more - a fact that I'll be eternally grateful to her for.

Not just an amazing teacher but also a perfect mother, a beautiful wife, a loving daughter, she donned many hats - the greatest being that of a magnificent human being. Bawling through sentimental movies, giving all-encompassing hugs whenever she ran into you in the corridor - tiny incidents like these reminded us that she is a mother to every single student she has taught.

Content with the glories of health, wealth and prosperity, Asha Ma'am finely balanced not just an illustrious career, familial life but also an insatiable wanderlust. Undoubtedly one of the best teachers I've had, she always came well prepared for a lecture - a fact that her knowledge and expertise could fully testify for. Always a keen learner that inculcated life skills and etiquette besides basic bookish knowledge, she insisted on being an agent of truth - provided that the truth did not hurt anyone else, in the vein of being crude. Every single advice she mentioned has left an indelible mark on my personality, and I'm sure this is a sentiment that my peers proudly echo.

**Aafreen Haider**  
SYBA

## DR. DIONYSIA COUTINHO



Dr. (Ms.) Dionysia Coutinho retired on 30th June 2018, after ardently serving the Department of Chemistry for 34 years.

Vice Principal (Science) for a duration of 6 years, her remarkable work ethic manifested in various vibrant shades and hues - for she was an active and adored member of the multiple committees, such as Admissions (Junior & Senior College), Examination, Attendance, Junior College School, Steering, Custodians,

IQAC, Magazine, International Council, Staff Placement, TAQ, Unfair Means and Women's Development Cell.

Dr. Dionysia Coutinho possessed what you would call a respite showering, pleasant personality, which naturally translated into her being an extremely sweet person. Inventive and creative, she always managed to present her own experiments with a flair that allowed the theoretical and experimental concepts to linger longer within the minds of her students - for she brought the subject of Organic Chemistry and Colour Chemistry to life! Even her approach to safety in the laboratory had its own spin to it, for to stress the

importance of the same, she often cited real life anecdotes or other personal stories that made the safety protocols to be followed not just priorities, but also gave them an air of relatability. She donned quite a few hats, for not only was she Vice Principal for six years, but also acted as a guide for Masters Students in N.S. Research Lab. Always a champion for unity within department, her emphasis on it not only permeates the department now, but will continue to do so for years to come.

**Mr. Marazban Kotwal**  
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry



## PROF. FREDDY HAVALDAR



*Prof. (Dr.) Freddy Havalдар, Department of Chemistry, retired on 30th November, 2017. Having served the college*

*enthusiastically for 34 years, he was also an integral member of the Infrastructure Committee, Library Advisory Committee, Research Committee, Staff Placement Committee, UGC Committee & Unfair Means Committee.*

Dr. Freddy H. Havalдар was a research oriented person, and was actually the very first person in our college to have filed and published both National & International Patents. This not only helped the department's wealth of knowledge to expand, but was a topic of much admiration amongst his peers and other professional individuals - such as the NAAC peer team. Not

only did he possess a painstakingly assembled, voluminous amount of research - with 55 papers being published in journals of high repute, but he also guided 21 PhD. Students and 6 M.Sc. student adeptly through their coursework. His research ethic got him another feather in his cap when he was awarded a twelve thousand dollars fund for a project conducted jointly by the Norwegian Government and Hofseth Biocare, a company based in Norway. In another series of firsts, he was actually one of the first college teachers to officially acquire the post of 'professor' in the college, which was not an easy feat by any means - the panel found him eligible for the post, in no small part due to his academic rigour and research base. Head of the Department for 5 years, he was always very enthusiastic about the all round development of students - one that went well beyond the confines of the syllabus - for he endorsed students

going out and giving competitive exams, aptitude tests in chemistry, and even participating in inter collegiate activities! Further, under him as Head, the Department of Chemistry organised an International Conference in Chemistry, a Symposium with Royal Society of Chemistry and a Research Scholars' Meet - 2017 in Chemistry. Beyond the college his expertise has been utilised by several agencies as well - the most notable of which being him being appointed as the chairperson of judges for Avishkaar(2015-2016), an intercollegiate research competition. He was always inclined towards instilling scientific fervour amongst students. An ardent backer of Xavier's Association of Chemistry, his research ethic is one that the department continues to both admire and strive towards.

**Mr. Marazban Kotwal**

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

## DR. GULSHANARA SHAIKH



*Dr. Gulshanara Shaikh retired in 2017, after impeccably serving the institution for over 32 years. A teacher with a remarkable work*

*ethic, her diligent and relentless strive for pure perfection also often poured into every committee that she was a part of - official membership notwithstanding.*

Dr. Gulshanara Shaikh was undoubtedly a perfectionist, one who wanted everything in perfect place and order. Perfection never comes easy, but this never deterred her - for she would happily stay back in college

till late, just to ensure everything was in a perfect line up for the next day - even testing everything out once herself, if need be. Not only was she a beacon of unabridged knowledge to her students, but also to the professors in the college too - any new professor who joined, regardless of stream, often found himself/herself approaching her for not just inquiries, but even the prospect of mentorship. Indeed, of such great magnitude were her friendliness and motherly aura, that she never minded helping out people - even at the last, crucial moments. One of the first founding members of the Xavier's Association of Chemistry along with Fr. Roy, she was one of the first few to envisage XAC at its current glory. Vice Principal for a year, she was also

personal mentor to me and was always there for me, both in the professional and personal spheres of my life - for which I am eternally grateful. Together we made a great team in executing a lot of department and college activities. Currently, she is mentoring several projects of students involved in the National Initiative on Undergraduate Science at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR) Mumbai. She is also an invaluable part of the team of reputed chemistry professors developing inquiry based teaching-learning modules in organic chemistry.

**Mr. Marazban Kotwal**

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

'It is never too late to give up your prejudices'

-Henry David Thoreau



## MS. MADHURI RAIJADA



Ms. Madhuri Raijada retired on superannuation on 31st December 2017, after serving in St. Xavier's College

for 23 years in the Department of Sociology. Along with her competence in Sociology, she has also served the College by being the Vice-Principal (Arts) for a period of 1 ½ years, and as the BMM Co-ordinator for 6 years. She has also served the College by being an active member of the Cleanliness Committee, Custodian Committee, Discipline Committee, Exam Committee, Grievance Cell, International Council, IQAC Committee, Magazine Committee, Placement Committee, Unfair Means Committee, Women's Development Cell and has also been a part of the Core

Team for Nostalgia, Disha (National Seminar) and the Autonomy Review Committee.

### A thank you to Ms. Madhuri Raijada

Ms. Madhuri Raijada was a supremely productive and significant faculty member of the College. Her association with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology lasted 26 years, during which she taught a variety of courses like Introduction to Sociology, Indian Sociology, Urban Sociology and Sociology of the Life Course. The breadth of these courses, peppered with her personal anecdotes, groomed many students to become strong and successful individuals. Additionally, she worked tirelessly to make the Sociology of Work and Management course a unique experience for her students by blending critical lessons from the field. Her administrative and time management abilities served

as an inspiration for all of us. She juggled many hats with aplomb and her engagement with students and colleagues, going beyond the academic space, is legendary. She was a true Jesuit in spirit and exhibited immense deliberation and discretion in her various capacities. Her enthusiasm for creating a sense of community and well-being through organizing various events have brought much joy and learning over the times we shared with her. We will continue to miss the firm mothering and her constant encouragement to incorporate Xavierite ideals in our pedagogy and our roles beyond the classroom space.

**Ms. Radhika Rani**

Assitant Professor, Department of Sociology

**Ms. Ankita Gujar**

Assitant Professor, Department of Sociology

## DR. MANEK MISTRY



A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning amongst his students being from any age

group. Mr. Manek Mistry is that professor who has inspired us all by his good teaching and experiences from which he has learnt and still learning by sharing it all with his students.

There is no such day when his class and lectures go boring because he knows how to keep his students attention and get them engaged with the topic. Starting with the 15 minutes sun basking so as to produce the essential vitamin D by our skin and meanwhile sharing his views on what he recently found interesting, he then catches and holds on to every single minds with his interesting and fascinating way of teaching. He usually tells stories which are mostly hilarious but do has

a meaningful end to it. Despite going slow in teaching one will never find any faults because he has that charm and will to make sure each and every single person gets to understand that one single topic which he had finished in that particular time. He enjoys the interactive session between him and his students especially clarifying their doubts and sometimes demonstrating them. He has excelled in his work and loves outings on field trips because he believes that plant knowledge is learnt much better on field with actual specimens in hand. Apart from that we get to see his other new side- that a young playful kid hanging onto a tree with a big cheerful smile. He has worked on Ratnagiri district flora, work given under by the BSI and has shared some of his interesting experiences during his lectures. *Fimbristylis merrillii* is reported as a new record to India from Ratnagiri by Manek Mistry & ten HOD, Dr Saramma Almeida. *Spermacoce mauritiana* is reported from Western India in his thesis and also *Aponogeton*

*sataranensis* is reported from Ghothne Plateau in Ratnagiri, which is the second locality of this species. 10 RET species are also mentioned in his thesis. He always tries to resolve the taxonomic problems with full efforts. His hardwork and dedication has inspired us all. He also has an excellent knowledge in palynology which is his area of interest. Apart from that he has taught in schools, NGOs and colleges which shows his enthusiasm and passion for teaching and learning.

Dr. Manek gives the best piece of advice, motivating one whether it is a simple project work, or on how to be healthy and fit, on using the technology in a right way, or to sleep on time, by simply asking questions or giving practical examples and making you realise you where one went off the track.

While he is good at teaching, he is a very humble and kind person. From feeding grains to squirrels and birds, he also offers a helping hand to everyone. He is very good at making his own style of special tea which is now famous by

his name “Manek sir ki chai” in the evening. Whole staff members are his fan of “chai” now. Whenever he gets anything to eat he always shares it. And Vitamin C tablets are for free especially to those who catch a cold. He has always advised his students to

follow their passion. Today each of his students will be grateful and thankful to him for having such a dedicated and wonderful teacher.

After his retirement, he still visits college almost every evening. Not so much for the love of Botany but to feed

the sparrows outside the Staff room, and to then if time permits, to make Manek’s special Chai in the Botany Department.

**Ms. Varsha Giri**

MSc – Botany (2016-18)

## MS. MANGALA (SURABHI) POTNIS



*Ms. Surabhi Potnis, Department of Chemistry, retired on 4th January, 2017. A dedicated member of the department*

*that honoured the institution with her invaluable service for 37 years, she was also an active and cherished member the Documentation Committee, Infrastructure Committee, Magazine Committee, Purchase Committee, Staff Placement Committee and the Women’s Development Cell.*

Professor Mangala (Surabhi) Potnis was, by no exaggeration, one of the most academically sound and disciplined people in the department. Extremely knowledgeable as a person,

it hardly surprises one to learn that during her own college days in Xavier’s, she stood first in Chemistry in all of Mumbai University – winning a gold medal. While her subject of expertise was Organic, when the new subject of Analytical Chemistry was brought in, she dove headfirst into teaching it – viewing the task as a productive challenge, having never learned it formally in her student days herself. Head of the Department for nearly half a decade, she played an instrumental role in steering the department into the uncharted territories of Autonomy. Her expertise came very handy when it came to designing the syllabus, as she not only partook in the syllabus design herself; but also critically analysed our suggestions for the same using the scrutiny of her fantastically analytical mind. This analytical mind was put to great use, for she could

dissect the smallest and biggest of things into digestible pieces and tell us where improvements could be made. A science enthusiast, she was actively involved with various science education platforms for school children - to the extent that she assisted with the Junior Science Olympiad program, (conducted by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR), Mumbai) for years -and once even led a team of students abroad to win several Gold Medals at the Olympiad! The department continues to be inspired by her ability to view daunting tasks as challenges to be overcome, and this sentiment is one that we plan to carry forward.

**Mr. Marazban Kotwal**

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

## MS. VERONA VAZ



*Ms. Verona Vaz, Department of English (Junior College) retired on the 2nd of December, 2017. An active and dedicated teacher who*

*infused the elusive vials of knowledge and passion into her subject. She enriched the institution in a myriad ways – for she served diligently on multiple Faculty Committees, including the Attendance Committee, Cultural Committee, Discipline Committee, International Council, Magazine Committee, SUC Staff Advisor, Unfair Means Committee and the Women’s Development Cell.*

*She walks into class,  
with a smile on her face,*

*And waits for students  
to settle in their place.*

*Then she begins her lecture with a  
melodious flow, Keeping the rhythm up,  
till there’s but a minute to go.*

*The most boring topics  
are made intriguing,*

*We’re hooked on from the beginning.*

*And when she sees someone  
going slip into slumber,*

*She’ll call out the name -  
not the roll number.*

To say that Ms. Verona Vaz was one of the best and most beloved

English teachers at Xavier’s would be an exercise not in hyperbole, but in unabridged truth. Always teaching the class in uniquely unconventional ways, her creativity ensured that the subject never got boring. Taking the effort to memorize every student’s name and not just referring to them as mere numbers, genuineness seeped through her very being. Employing her sharp wit often, her lectures were infused with a sense of humor – the occasional laughter ensuring that there was never a dull moment in her class. As Neha Goregaokar from 2015 to 2017 batch aptly puts it, “Verona ma’am is the best English teacher that I have ever had. She made English, that is usually just an extra subject for science students, our favorite subject. I will always remember

the discussions and debates that we had in class.”

Outside the lecture room, Verona ma’am was an incredibly sweet human beings as well - with a warm and loving heart to boot. To many of the students, she was not just a teacher, but a close friend. Always there to help those with problems in life - not just related to studies but other things too - her generosity and kindness were famous

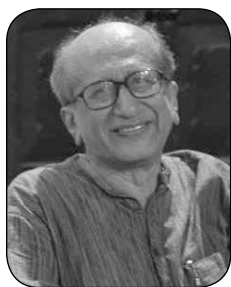
in its own way. This kindness and approachability manifested organically often, for she was always welcoming to students who chose to sit with her in the staff room during their free lectures. As Mr. Jayant Prabhu, a colleague from the Chemistry department says, “Without a doubt, she was one of the best teachers we had for a long time in the college. Her dedication, discipline, and sincerity were the qualities for which

she was loved and respected for by her innumerable students.”

Sentiments like these echo throughout the staffroom and every classroom she visited, and it is a testament to her legacy, kind hearted personality and skill that the echo only grows louder as time itself passes.

**Rishad Ghiara**  
2011-2013 batch

## FR. TERRY



July 1985, sitting in LR20C, with another 100 FYJC students I wait, eager and anxious to begin college life. In comes this enthusiastic,

smiling priest. He’s here to give us freshers an orientation to Xavier’s. He talks about self-awareness, self-acceptance, choices and values, responsibility and accountability (all this without being preachy). He was able to connect with us all, first and last benchers alike, leaving us energized and ready to fly!

With a smile on my face and a glow in my heart, I’m thinking... “Wow! I’d like to inspire a group like he did.... maybe... someday!”

*‘Provocans Ad Volandum’*

That’s Father Terence Quadros, aka Fr. Terry, aka Fr.T, aka TQ who has been on the Xavier’s staff for about 36 years (add in the 5 years that he was here as a student, that makes a grand total of 41 years). During this time, he has concurrently worked at the Counselling Centre (for over 30 years), in the Hostel (for 32 years), with the Social Service League (for over 30 years), taught Psychology at Senior College (for 10 years), conducted the choir (for 10 years), along with a host of other endeavours. Fr. Terry, with his art, music, humility, humour and genuineness, showed us in innumerable ways, that Xavier’s was not just a college, but a way of life!

*‘I touch the future...I teach.’*

As Director of the Social Service League, Fr. Terry was the glue that bonded the team of students who happily spent their vacations away from the comfort of home, doing manual labour. Ex-SSLites have very fond memories of Rural Camp, Team building Camp, Project Care, Cheshire Home on Sundays, the annual Exhibition and Blood Donation Drive. We learnt to appreciate what we had in our lives; we worked with each other and made a difference to those who were not as fortunate as us.

Fr. Terry was the catalyst for our personal transformation. With stories, anecdotes and notes from God (Dear t, love g ....in small case... because that’s the kind of relationship they have), his life learnings and insights were shared with us.

*‘Service...love all.’*

Playing his guitar and singing quirky songs (with the original, adapted or composed lyrics), he educated and entertained us with Terry tunes. Moods and songs ranged from the absurd hilarity and sarcasm of Tom Lehrer to the soul stirring intensity of an original composition, *Roses in the Sea*.

With humourous (and often lengthy) introductions, his performances on the college stage, on occasions like Teacher’s Day, were equally engaging. His song about Xavier’s (sung as a duet with the Principal, had a punch line at the end of each verse that left us in the audience cheering and hooting with laughter, every time we heard it

performed, first with Fr. Emil, then with Fr. Frazer and most recently, with Dr. Agnelo (yes...it is Dr. ..Not Fr.).

Our college anthem ‘Roots and Wings’ has been composed by Fr. Terry and Fr. Roy, with a melodious chorus and verses that express the values that we stand for.

*‘Dear Father T...’*

The Counselling Centre was like an oasis of comfort in the turbulent waters of college life, for all types of students and crises. We knew that Fr. Terry was there to listen with empathy, positive regard and a non-judgmental attitude.

We could also go there if we wanted to borrow (almost) anything that we needed, a band-aid, a calculator, scissors or a lab coat.

With his help we were able to turn ‘failures’ into ‘learning experiences’. Countless students and their parents have benefitted from his career guidance and personal counselling.

*‘You are normal, continue growing!’*

Many of us rediscovered our creativity thanks to Fr. Terry’s workshops on poster making. With pictures (from old magazines), paint, brushes and lateral thinking, we learnt to hit upon the right captions to express ideas. The first time I made a poster, he came to my side and said “You’ve got potential. Now, may I give you some feedback on how to improve the balance in this poster?” His belief in me worked as a self-fulfilling prophecy and I started painting on tee shirts as well.

His characteristic style of lettering (that we have fondly labelled 'Terryfont') pops up in various spots around college, on notices and posters, reminding us about commitment, compassion and cleanliness. 'Garbage Can...Why can't you?' was one of my favourites!

*'As you let your light shine, you give others permission to do the same.'*

Fr. Terry's artistic temperament was expressed not just through his posters, but also through poetry, music, photographs and personal, handwritten letters. With the advent of computers and the internet, his letters adapted format to emails, but lost neither the artistic nor the personal touch, with attachments of photographs, verse and music.

Adapted to technology like many of us (uses an I-pad) and yet unique (one of

those rare persons who did not have a mobile phone...), Fr. Terry will always be the serene person who calmly helped us help ourselves, through storm and stress, and then sat back to share the simple pleasures of a chocolate or a cup of hot coffee with an alumnus come to visit!

*Don't forget to wash that cup!*

We almost took it for granted that whenever we come back to college as ex-students, there would be at least one familiar face on campus to greet us with a warm smile. However, Fr. Terry has now moved beyond the portals of Xavier's and embarked upon another chapter in his life. He is at the Shrine of the Infant Jesus at Nashik ...saying to us all...

*For all that is past, I say 'Thanks'. For all that is to come, I say 'Yes'.*

As an ex-student Zia Hajeebhoy put so eloquently...

*"Timeless and ageless, some things never change,*

*but Xavier's without Terry, will be a bit strange."*

So, as I conclude this article with love and appreciation for one of the most wonderful human beings I have had the pleasure of encountering in this lifetime, I'd like to say...

***Hasta Mañana...God Bless you Father T,***

*For all that you have done, for Xavier's and for me!*

**Ruby Pavri**

Head, Department of Psychology

"Inclusion- Its amazing what happens when we allow the flower that is us, the flower that is them, to become part of the bouquet"

- Laurie Buchanan





**Photo Credit:** Khyati Bohra(Knowledge Centre)

**Section Editors**

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# OUR ALUMNI

# ASHWIN SANGHI



Ashwin Sanghi

Ashwin Sanghi graduated from St. Xavier's College in 1990 with an Economics Major. His keen interest in reading and writing enabled him to move from business to writing fiction – thriller. Currently, Mr. Sanghi ranks among India's highest selling English fiction authors. Some of his famous books are *The Rozabal Line*, *Chanakya's Chant* and *The Krishna Key*.

***When did you graduate from Xavier's and which subject did you major in?***

I was in Xaviers for five years—both junior and senior college. I graduated in 1990. During my junior college years, I was a science student, but switched to arts in senior college and graduated with an economics major.

***What were your career plans back in your undergraduate days?***

I wanted to be an entrepreneur. My background was in business having been born into a trader family. I used to attend college until noon and then skip classes to go to my dad's office to assist with marketing and accounts (the practice usually got me into lots of trouble owing to my patchy attendance in the afternoons). In parallel, I was working towards an MBA admission. After completing my graduation from Xavier's, I went on to Yale for my Master's.

***What inspired you to move into writing thriller fiction?***

My passion for reading was ignited when my maternal grandfather would

bombard me with books that were far ahead of my time. He would insist that after reading every book I write a letter detailing what I liked and what I didn't. That was the genesis. But the writing spark happened much later. I was in Srinagar and ended up visiting the tomb of a Muslim pir. The shrine is called Rauzabal or "Tomb of the Prophet". I was utterly fascinated with the stories and myths surrounding the tomb. This led to my first book—*The Rozabal Line*.

***What challenges did you face with regard to your audience when you first started writing?***

I was rejected by literary agents and publishers 47 times. Frankly, commercial fiction writing in India did not take off primarily because of our snobbish attitude towards genre writing. Most Indian authors were busy churning out literary fiction and publishers continued actively searching for the next Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, or Jhumpa Lahiri. They could hardly be bothered with finding the Indian equivalent of Robert Ludlum, Frederick Forsyth, Jack Higgins, or Tom Clancy. That was my biggest challenge. Satyajit Ray would not have given us *Feluda* if an Indian market for mysteries, suspense, adventure and thrillers did not exist. It's sad that we allowed ourselves to cede space to foreign authors in these genres. I'm happy to see that this is changing rapidly now. We should have our own versions of *Miss Marple*, *Nancy Drew*, *Hardy Boys*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *Hercule Poirot*!

***How has school and college education influenced your career choices?***

Both school and college were hotbeds of cultural activity. Cathedral School was one which encouraged debates, dramatics, elocution, music and sports. This was true of Xavier's too. Cathedral and Xavier's allowed me to find my voice. These institutions taught me the power of the word—spoken or written.

My deviation from the business world into the literary world was based upon the foundation built at these institutions.

***What was your college experience at Xavier's like?***

One word comes to mind—fun. All our teachers were easily approachable and friendly. There was a general air of bonhomie always, inside and outside the classroom.

***What changes would you like to see in Xavier's?***

I would hope that Xavier's can be a torch bearer in education reform. Our entire Indian academic framework has become irrelevant and moribund. It needs revitalization. Frankly, it needs to be reprogrammed to the needs and challenges of today. The charge will have to be led by autonomous colleges of repute such as Xavier's.

***Any memories from your undergraduate days you often revisit?***

I cannot forget the hours wasted in the canteen over endless cups of chai; or sitting in contemplation at the Indian Music Group's facility; or spending consecutive nights listening to music greats at the Janfest.

***Something about Xavier's that will never change?***

The fundamental character and purpose. Xavier's has always striven to provide a holistic experience to its students. The aim has always been to instil academic excellence coupled with creative thinking, innovation and human values. I sincerely hope that that will always remain constant.

***As one of our most distinguished alumni, what advice would you give to the current Xavierites?***

Failure happens in all our lives but the real failure lies in not getting up to try again. This is the only true education for life.

# PETAL GAHLOT



Petal Gahlot

***What are your recollections of St. Xavier's College? (any specific memories of the curricular, extra-curricular, co-curricular activities, classroom education)***

Xavier's is the place where I became the person I am today. Every curricular and extra-curricular activity I participated in, went a long way in helping me develop my skills and talents. For me, my term as Treasurer of the IMG was perhaps the most memorable one. It was my first experience of handling sensitive responsibilities, the IMG's finances, and was the first step towards realizing that I could do well at being a public servant.

***To what extent did college help you in nurturing your ambition to attempt the Civil Services Examination?***

As I mentioned earlier, my experience as Treasurer of the IMG gave me the confidence that I could do well at a job that requires one to handle such responsibilities. I had also been a good student, though better at Political Science and French Literature than Sociology. But the confidence I needed in myself to prepare for and attempt the exam came from my years at College.

***How did you prepare for the Civil Services? How did you overcome the challenges that you faced (if any at all) while preparing for the Civil Services?***

I attempted the Civil Services Exam twice. I had a different, and more haphazard approach might I add, for the first attempt and so I didn't even make it past the first obstacle, that is, the preliminary exam. It was disheartening and upsetting, but I

snapped out of it within a day and devised a new strategy. I started from scratch, identified my mistakes and tried to correct them the second time. The thing that mattered the most was single minded determination and hard work. I did not study for 16 hours a day, as many people claim, but the 6-7 hours a day I did study for, I put in my 100% concentration and focus. And that is what helped me overcome the challenge of failure and then the fear of failure. I also was confident of my preparation the second time but I was mentally prepared for the eventuality of not making it.

***How are you negotiating your life through the new postings and the new people thanks to being a new entrant in the Civil Services? (Could you also tell us about your posting and other allied things here?)***

I have served at the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi for 3 months as Assistant Secretary and then at the Embassy of India, Paris for a year and ten months as Third Secretary on Language Training and then as Second Secretary (Political). I will soon be taking charge as Consul at the Consulate General of India, San Francisco, though I will primarily be doing the MA in Translation and Interpretation at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in French, to become a qualified French-English-Hindi interpreter for the Government of India.

It has been an interesting journey so far. Living in new places, interacting with new people and cultures was the reason I chose the Foreign Service and it has exceeded my expectations. However, this does come at the cost of my personal life. My husband is in the IAS and therefore is posted in India. We therefore cannot live together for more than two weeks once in every 4-6 months. So, it is certainly difficult but worth the effort. The satisfaction I derive from my work is immense and I have been lucky to learn from some of the best officers and diplomats in our Government today.

***How far has the classroom-culture or***

***the general environment of your alma mater helped you in your current role as a Civil Servant?***

A Civil Servant needs to be patient and open to contrasting ideas and beliefs. This patience and respect for others' opinions and thoughts was something I found in our classrooms at Xavier's. It was an intellectually stimulating environment where I also developed my own thought process and convictions which today help me do my job well.

***Would you like to suggest any changes in Xavier's approach to education?***

I think Xavier's is a field of opportunities for anyone who seeks these out and knows how to utilize them. But often it is the same bunch of people who are involved in most of these activities. Perhaps there could be a way to make the atmosphere more inclusive and equip as many students as possible to harness these opportunities at their disposal. The College is not a place reserved only for confident and ambitious students, but also shy ones who need that little push to break out of their cocoons. I'm sure new and innovative exercises of team building can be devised for this purpose.

***Would you like to give a message to our students?***

I would like to tell Xavierites that they have come to the best college of the city, and possibly even the country, and that there is a plethora of learning opportunities available. This is where your life can take the course it was destined to take. The friends you make here will stick with you for life. This is the place which will open your mind and bring out the best in you.

But there will also be detractors and people who will try to pull you down, ridicule you or make fun of your interests and skills, simply because they don't understand their value. This happened to me as well. People thought I was crazy for taking French too seriously as a subject or being too politically opinionated. But here I am, making a living out of precisely those things, winning praise from respectable

people.

Believe in yourself and don't let other people's lack of perspective dent your confidence. Uniqueness is valued everywhere and make efforts to polish it.

***Anything else that you would like to write/say?***

I would like to thank the college magazine for honouring me with this

chance to present my thoughts and feelings about Xavier's. As I said, it was at Xavier's that I became the person I am today. All that I learnt at College turned out to be essential life skills. I was also very lucky to have great teachers at Xavier's.

Mrs Aruna Sundresh, Ms Pratiba Naithani and Ms Alpana Palkhivale in senior college, Ms Verona Vaz and Mrs Anjali Lokur in junior college gave

me the encouragement I needed to understand myself and my talents and take them forward. They had a lasting impact on me and I am truly grateful to them all.

I must also mention Father Terence Quadros, who was always available to hear me out and discuss even mundane questions of life. Though he is no longer at Xavier's, he has stayed in touch and for that I am very thankful.

## AISHWARYA DONGRE



*Aishwarya Dongre*

***What are your recollections of St. Xavier's College?***

St. Xavier's is an institution that shall always remain close to my heart. It is an academic institution that has given me a box full of love, memories and a lot of opportunities. One thing that holds very dear to my heart and something that I yet stand by is this one line from the college song – Xavier's gives me roots and wings.

The super tight schedule that the autonomous system ensured has really worked wonders for me especially during preparation for the UPSC exam as well as my current training period. I really cribbed but as things just had to be done, it helped me systematize my routine. The focus I put on extra-curricular activities, especially with the whole process of starting Xavier's Intra-collegiate classical dance event-Nrityangan, practicing for Malhar despite a crunch in time and space, and getting people to participate in cultural activities was something I cherish and hold with great fondness.

With regard to classroom education

I really am reminded of the focus the faculty would put in regard to research papers, presentations. It kept us on our toes and made us approach our course content with greater enthusiasm.

Besides this, the array of people I have met and the acceptance of all, that the college teaches, is something I take back with pride. And of course, the memory of the gothic structure, the favourite huge windows of classrooms and the arches are embedded so deeply within my mind, that these snapshots serve as fodder during the drought days in my normal, crazy schedule.

***To what extent did the college help you in nurturing your ambition to attempt the Civil Services Examination?***

I was very clear from the beginning that I wished to pursue a career in the civil services of the nation. With all honesty the college has shaped my being and directed me well in the process of preparation.

At an academic level, the focus on in-depth studies, emphasis on reference work and the continuous zeal to be on my toes with regard to current happenings in order to fit well in classroom discussions kept me going in the direction. My choice of English literature as one of my subjects helped me appreciate specific words, sentences and content which helped me while studying truckloads of books. My third year combination of Economics and Political Science worked wonders for me as it gave me a general overview of the two most sought after subjects in the UPSC exam. They formed the base

on which I built my preparation. I really owe a great deal to this foundation as it helped me score the highest in the country in my political science optional subject paper for the main examination.

At the personality front, the continuous opportunities to interact with the underprivileged as part of the Social Involvement Programme and the Project Care assignment strengthened my zeal to work for the people of the country by entering the most significant aspect of aid to the people- ie the government. The empathy I developed yet stays with me. Similarly, the college focused on overall development besides just academics. This is one of the biggest highlights of college life, as, if developed well it shapes you as a holistic person. Thus the dancing amidst CIAs and End Semester exams kept the mind going healthy enough to continue the same during the super strenuous UPSC preparation process.

I also believe that this overall shaped my personality that enabled me to exude confidence while I gave my personality test in round 3 of the UPSC exam journey.

***How did you prepare for the Civil Services? How did you overcome the challenges that you faced (if any at all) while preparing for the Civil Services?***

After graduating in 2015, I shifted to Delhi. I took a break year to prepare and gave the exam in 2016. I cleared it in my first attempt with an All India Rank 196. I did the initial course training at Delhi with the constant aid of two other sources: The Hindu Newspaper and



Insights on India forum.

(Disclaimer- It is not necessary to shift to Delhi or Pune to prepare. Self study is what helps you sail through).

### Basics of the Exam

1. There is no Definite Booklist that can be strictly followed. Based on the conventional list of books followed, stick to the ones that suit your comfort level which includes even petty issues like the font size of the content. This is because you have to establish a very strong and long-lasting relation with these books.
2. The exam is NOT about your knowledge but a test of several qualities that shall aid you in public administration. This includes time management, patience, perseverance, and commitment to your study goals and getting up each time you fall (when you do badly in a test, when you feel disconnected from social circles). Constant reminders of your end should motivate your means.
3. The need for constant revision. The more said of it the better it is. Revision includes various stages from reading, understanding, and applying concepts to current affairs, writing tests.
4. This is a test for you to know something about everything, and everything about something. Hence be curious about everything and gain an insight about things. Remember, at the end you are going to be a knowledge enriched person, and well then who should be complaining?

### The Mindset for the UPSC Journey is the Mindset needed for a sustainable life.

I closely equate the two, as I reiterate that the journey and the process moulds you into a beautiful human. These five pointers helped me to face constant challenges where every day could seem like doomsday

1. *Self belief and faith* are your only two companions. Hard work is definitely an eligibility criteria,

but believing in your abilities is the key that turns the Civil Service Examination lock.

2. It is an *Individual Journey*. You shall have the support of your parents and close friends, but every time you fall you cannot rely on them. Consider this exam as a boxing ring where the opponent (the pressure) pushes you to the ground. It is only YOU who can get yourself up at the n<sup>th</sup> minute, bleeding and sweating, but definitely more strong and victorious.
3. *Pursue your interest*, hobby or some varied activity other than studying. It aids you to open your mind and be more holistic. For me Dancing (Bharatanatyam) and Meditation proved to be very useful in not just adding their qualities of discipline and calm into my daily schedule but made me feel more like a human and not a robot.
4. *Association with positivity and motivation*, has to first begin at an internal level within your mind. Guide yourself to be positive and constantly remind yourself why you are giving this exam. Aid it with external sources like The Motivational articles of toppers on the Insights on India platform, You tube Videos like TedTalks, Self-help books.
5. *Be Happy*. The dearth of this quality and feeling makes us weary. Express a sense of gratitude to anything good that happens to you each day, even if on one day your ability to breathe has been the only good thing that has happened. Recognise it and give it its importance. Inhale your blessings and exhale your gratitude. It works wonders!

Remember, this is your journey. You get to carve the path to your destiny. The UPSC Civil Service Examination is just a means to the larger end. You always will have other options to reach your end.

***How are you negotiating your life through the new postings and the new people thanks to being a new entrant***

### ***in the Civil Services? (Could you also tell us about your posting and other allied things here?)***

With my rank, I am allotted the Indian Police Service (IPS) with my cadre being Kerala. Currently I am undergoing a vigorous training at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad. It's a 1.5 year long training with a 6 month phase for District Probation Training. Here our day begins at 5.22 am with a crazy physical training regime. It includes cross country runs of 16kms, route marches with a backpack and rifle totally weighing 14 kgs on you as you traverse a route of 40kms. We also have been exposed to firing with different arms. The appreciation to Tactical planning for operations is also taught. We have sessions for battling obstacles which include Tarzan Swings to Crawling through barbed wires. Drill classes are a highlight in order to instill the sense of command and discipline. I have learned to ride the horse, fearlessly jump from a height of 83m during our bungee jumping exercise and even crawl through muck with a rifle. I have also faced punishments if I was 2 seconds late for the fall in or if an extra thread stuck out in the uniform.

Our indoor training is equally interesting with continuous exposure to law subjects, forensics, security issues, policing in modern India to name a few. We are exposed to the policing administration as well as cultural norms all throughout the country through our Bharat Darshan. We also have had election attachments to realize the security lines that go into such a huge process. The aim of this academy has been to create a strong but sensitized police order. It shapes you to such an extent that you take immense pride in the uniform.

Here it's a constant struggle to survive, be injury free, perform at cultural evenings, attend formal dinners, excel everywhere and yet be human. You begin prioritizing your needs, of which your body being the temple is at the top. I negotiate through this training period, by engaging in things and people that keep me going forward because at training as well as in life

we are bound to find energies that are hell bent on pulling you down. Thus, continuous self-motivation, respecting the need for hard days to strengthen us are things that keep one going.

***Would you like to suggest any changes in Xavier's approach to education?***

It would be great if Xavier's orients itself more to discussion on current affairs. This wouldn't just be for UPSC aspirants but for all to develop a sense of awareness coupled with curiosity.

## PRANJAL PATIL



*Pranjal Patil*

***What are your recollections of St. Xavier's College?***

Thank you for giving me the privilege of giving this interview. One's alma mater is always very special. St. Xavier's was the most sought after college by writers and readers alike when I was in college. I am sure that it must be the same even today. Bollywood movies portray college life as being just about fun and romance, propose days and rose days, festivities and parties. While in school, most of us study hard fantasizing about the happy college world waiting for us. In reality, college is different. The admission to St. Xavier's College, Mumbai was a huge victory for my family and me. I started travelling alone by Mumbai local train during rush hours. (My father dropped me to college daily for the first 2 months). The world of Xavier's was unknown and unseen for me. Except for myself, I used to consider all other classmates as smart and intelligent. For the college assignments, I used to work for many months while others were able to complete the same work in few

There are a number of students who wish to prepare for the exam. Thus, a formal group with a mentor could be considered for discussions in regard to studies. A less exam-oriented but continuous knowledge enhancing process for academics must be considered. Otherwise, the autonomy system works wonders to keep your socks always pulled up. A mentor-mentee system between juniors and seniors would also be a great idea

***Would you like to give a message to our***

***students?***

Life is hard, but so are you. Everything is uncertain – thus embrace the uncertainty. It is extremely important that you remain happy and trust me this joy must come from within you and not external elements. Keep yourself self motivated, shut out noises that pull you down, trust and love fiercely and create such immensely strong memories that you don't regret even one moment in your life!

days. Now I know, it was the magic of Guru Computer which was yet to give its Mantra to me.

I was very reserved while my class mates would casually talk among themselves. Thanks to my friends, I started writing and talking to myself about any insignificant things like umbrellas, clothes, burgers and other such things. This was to overcome my inhibition in communication. I made very good friends in college. My friends, Kesia, Christina, Sneha, Revati were my constant companions although some of us took different subjects in the third year. We jelled so well that even while writing university exam, we had a great fun since Sneha and Revati were my scribes. I can never forget the Dr. Taraporewala's compassionate yet firm hand shake. His dynamism, his ever-growing energy and his concern for students continue to inspire me till date. Ms. Aruna Sundresh's motherly treatment towards her students was very comforting and encouraging. In fact, it was my motivation to attend the most challenging lectures at 8:00 am. Either in the foyer or on our way back to CST station, long conversations with Dr. Agnelo (fondly called Aggie sir) on many significant and insignificant topics were engaging. I still remember Aggie's sense of humor.

Father Arun had always shown tremendous faith in his student's abilities. In spite of my reluctance, he convinced and motivated me to make a presentation on Durkheim in our Sociology class. Pratibha Ma'am's

classes used to awaken the great debaters or the hidden quarrelsome journalists within each one of us. We got our training of exchanging ideas without fighting over any topic. Ms. Ritu Mathur taught us just for one year, but taught us the value of patience and hard work for our life time. She used to spend hours with me suggesting corrections and improvements in my answers for the TYBA exam. Based on my experience of organizing various activities for the Political Science Department, I successfully organized the Model United Nations at IAS training Academy in Mussoorie along with my fellow Officer trainees.

***To what extent did college help you in nurturing your ambition to attempt the Civil Services Examination?***

I got to know about the civil services when I was in college. A friend and I were just going through some magazines in the Reference Library when we came across some piece of information about Indian Administrative Services by chance. Gradually, I developed the determination and motivation to study for the same in days to come.

The XRCVC provided me the much-needed psychological and academic support throughout and even today. For the first time, I was introduced to the screen reader software called JAWS (Job Access with Speech) in the XRCVC. I had never used the computer before. Moreover, this software was in English. Learning it became doubly difficult for me. But our computer teacher was as

calm and patient as his name Prashant Naik suggested. Honestly, even today, I know the computer only as much as I need to know it. This small rectangular-shaped technological wonder called laptop made me independent in the world of knowledge. It empowered me to top the Mumbai University in Political Science in 2010. It later also opened up the doors of JNU and civil services for me. If it were not for Xavier's I am not sure I would have gone to JNU or whether I would have cleared the UPSC exam or not.

***How did you prepare for the Civil Services? How did you overcome the challenges that you faced (if any at all) while preparing for the Civil Services?***

Since the Civil Services examination demands general and deep understanding of various socio-economic issues of national and international importance of a graduation level, I was comfortable with self - study. Along with reading the newspaper daily, I joined the test series for all the papers. It gave direction to my preparation and kept

me disciplined in studies. I had to scan the basic reference books essential for writing the exam. It was an extremely time-consuming process and many a times frustrating too. However, many websites and online forums are now bringing about a level playing field in the civil services preparation.

***How are you negotiating your life through the new postings and the new people thanks to being an entrant in the Civil Services? (Could you also tell us about your posting and other allied things here?)***

I finished my training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in the month of May. Right now, I am posted as Assistant Collector (under training) in Ernakulam, Kerala. In our district training, we are required to learn the functioning of civil administration, police, judiciary and revenue administration through our observations and attachments with various departments. Besides, it is an opportunity to understand the culture, language and to empathize with the

most pressing concerns of the common masses.

***Would you like to give a message to our students?***

I don't want to appear very old or senior and give a message to the current students. However, just as a friend, I want to say make as many friends as you can in college. In fact, you should be able to say that you could fall short of anything in future but not long-cherished friends from your college days. Have fun so that you can fondly remember each and every moment spent during your college days. Read voraciously so that no exam in the world scares you. Study sincerely so that your teachers would take pride in calling you their students. Allow me to make slight changes of my own to the words of Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, a Buddhist scholar and educator. He urges the youth to challenge themselves in their studies and life with courage, wisdom, tenacity and perseverance by being true to themselves as youth.

'You have a responsibility to make inclusion a daily thought, so we can get rid of the word 'inclusion.'

-Theodore Melfi



**Photo Credit:** Mr. Kevin D'Cruz (Knowledge Centre)

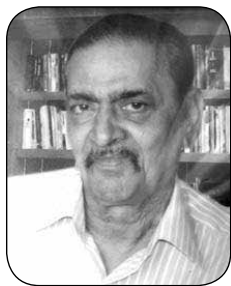
**Section Editor**

Chetan Bhatnagar (SYBA)

# LEST WE FORGET!



## DR. MARSELIN R. ALMEIDA



On the 5th of December 2017, India lost one of its most important, talented and influential plant taxonomists. Former Curator

of the Blatter Herbarium, Dr. Marselin Rusario Almeida, who was suffering from chronic diabetes and was undergoing dialysis, passed away. Dr. Almeida was not just a mentor to many of us, but also a very passionate teacher and botanist and for years, i.e. from 1970s to 2017, he was synonymous with Blatter Herbarium. Dr. Almeida's publications which came out from the Blatter Herbarium during this period were of international standard and put the Blatter Herbarium and himself on the world map. His monumental 6-volume Flora of Maharashtra, which took him 20 years to complete (1996-2014), is the crowning achievement of his long and distinguished career as

a botanist. Every Saturday, he would visit the Blatter Herbarium Library and work on his dream project of Flora of Maharashtra. Not only did he work for himself in the BLAT library, but he also mentored many research students in the department. During his second innings with BLAT in the capacity of Advisor, he guided many PhD students who were working under Mrs. Almeida's supervision on various Taxonomic or Floristic problems. He also helped the Herbarium to get several funded projects and, along with students, worked on these projects as a consultant or advisor.

After his retirement, he continued to contribute to the field of Indian taxonomy in the form of books – Dictionary of Generic Names of Flowering Plants and Ferns in Maharashtra (Almeida & Almeida, 2005); Konkani Names of Plants (with comments on *Hortus Malabaricus*) (2007); Dictionary of Specific Epithet (with their meanings, local names,

Sanskrit names and their Botanical Equivalents, in Maharashtra) (Almeida & Almeida, 2008); Hand-book of Diseases and their Herbal remedies (2010).

Under his able guidance and collaboration, the State Forest Department published 3 books – A check list of plants of Ahmednagar District (2007); A check list of plants of Nasik district (2010); A checklist of vascular plants of Gadchiroli District (2013). Most of his publications / books were published from the Blatter Herbarium and / or from Mrs. Magdelin Almeida Environmental Centre, Sawantwadi. The copyrights of these books lie with the Blatter Herbarium.

We salute Dr Marselin R. Almeida and are determined to carry forward his research work at Blatter Herbarium.

**Dr. Rajendra Shinde**

Head, Department of Botany  
Director, Blatter Herbarium

## EDWARD AGAPITO RODRIGUES



An excited buzz began going around campus about a newly appointed professor soon after I was admitted to St. Xavier's as a student. Edward

A. Rodrigues joined the Sociology department on 2 January 1987. Discerning students during my time chose Literature and Economics; and Psychology was a perennial favourite. Sociology was perceived to be 'soft and easy', a primarily descriptive discipline and an option that does not demand intellectual rigour.

Eddie, the campus buzz had it, rejected this characterisation of his discipline. He was serious about (social) theory, and insisted on building sophisticated conceptual frameworks in his classes. Eddie was formally my teacher between 1988 and 1991 and in those

three years he pushed me to explore uncharted territories, taught me to doubt everything and question everybody. I grew to recognise and enjoy grappling with the complexities of social structures and understand the manner in which we might understand our own agency. Eddie taught us to read carefully while being attentive to all that lay between the lines.

Quite a few generations of students began to measure our growth at the annual sociology seminars in Xavier's Villa, Khandala; and the anthropology fieldtrips (to the Sardar Sarovar dam rehabilitation sites, and to Vyara, Surat in the late eighties, for instance) were a highlight for many of us in Xavier's – something Eddie planned and put together with great care and thoughtfulness. We learnt to write and present field-reports, and nurtured our commitment to engage with both the politics and ethics of doing social science research.

There are few things in the world that can rival a passionate teacher discover the form and substance of pedagogy in the initial years of his / her vocation. During his long teaching career Eddie excelled at teaching at all levels of tertiary education – he taught undergraduates in St. Xavier's and also designed and taught postgraduate courses in the University of Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. But I like to believe that he had a special yen for initiating students into the discipline. His commitment to serious students of the discipline was total. Those first few batches that Eddie taught were marked indelibly by his presence.

Alongside his teaching Eddie was also an active member of the Committee for the Protection of Democratic Rights (CPDR), Mumbai, and worked closely with the Indian People's Human Rights Commission (IPHRC). He was a member of the fact-finding team that investigated the police firing in

Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar, Mumbai in July 1997. Writing this report catalyzed his interest in the Dalit question and he went to complete his PhD on 'Modernity and the Project of Dalit Emancipation: A Sociological Investigation of Experiences in Western India.' More recently Eddie had moved to the Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai where he helped conceptualise and design the PhD programme before accepting a Professorship in Sociology in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU),

New Delhi in 2012.

Edward 'Eddie' Rodrigues passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 in his home in JNU, Delhi. He was a teacher, a pedagogue, who, over three decades of teaching across two universities, nurtured multiple generations of students. Always challenging his students, Eddie taught his students to be demand more of themselves, never settling for anything less than the best they could be. An inspiring

and charismatic figure on campus numerous batches of students over the past three decades learnt the meaning and possibilities of a committed social science practice under his tutorship. He was a consummate practitioner of the increasingly threatened art of making connections. Eddie was a singular presence, even as he insisted on the primacy of the collective.

**George Jose**  
Ex-student

## FR. EMIL D'CRUZ, SJ



After retiring from the college, Emil moved into pastoral ministries at Nashik and Bandra where he continued to exercise his

talents as a pastor and friend to many. He was then called upon to serve as

Socius to the Provincial. He brought to this job his wisdom and vast experience and also his infinite capacity to listen patiently to others. Many a time, an aggrieved Jesuit would pour out his complaints to Emil and then cool down before going to meet the Provincial! The support staff too remember the kindness showed to them in all circumstances. Emil could be firm in demanding work but he never raised

his voice or said unkind things.

Emil has gone to meet his Lord and Maker. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy of how to combine academic excellence with pastoral outreach, all done with admirable fidelity to the Jesuit way of life. May the Lord whom Emil served so faithfully welcome him into Paradise.

**Luke Rodrigues**

## EUNICE DE SOUZA



Just about a year ago, there was an unprecedented deluge of tributes. Writers, e s p e c i a l l y poets, rarely receive such extensive media

coverage. But Eunice de Souza was an extraordinary literary figure: volumes of poetry published in several languages around the world, a substantial body of critical writings and anthologies, an eagerly-awaited weekly column in a local newspaper, all displaying a prodigious intellect, mercurial wit and incomparable turn of phrase.

For St. Xavier's, she was a legendary teacher who evoked both trepidation and adoration. She invariably arrived early for class, carrying a pile of books. Often she would read out from them, then toss out a sliver, a crumb of an idea, and wait for some brave soul to pursue it. Silence was pierced with sarcasm,

caustic and relentless. Nobody with the slightest sense of self-preservation dared admit to being content as a boiled cabbage. Trying to measure up to her expectations could be agonizing but that sardonic smile, when it came, was a reward to be savoured.

Eunice fizzed with restless energy, always looking ahead to the next challenge, especially when it concerned the Department of English. She established *Ithaka*, the annual literature and drama festival, nurturing it from early student performances directed by Rex Baker (then head of the British Council in Mumbai) to large productions executed entirely by a host of talented students (many of whom went on to become successful theatre professionals). Department publications followed: the annual academic journal, volumes of poetry, and a collection of critical essays on the then newly-emerging field of popular culture. She invited several renowned academicians, writers and performers

from India and overseas, thus creating a vibrant and stimulating setting for intellectual discovery. Mysteriously, magically, she somehow raised funds to support all these endeavours.

Eunice was the quintessential maverick, fearless and outspoken. As a member of the Staff Council, she fought fiercely for the rights of teachers. Her impact extended to Mumbai University: during her stint on the Board of Studies in English, the syllabus was revamped significantly and path-breaking courses were introduced. Behind her uncompromising public persona was a warm, generous side reserved for a privileged few.

"I'm not here to win popularity contests," she often said, "but to make people think." She managed to do both, spectacularly.

**Dr. Shefali Balsari-Shah**  
Former Head, Department of English

# MADHUSUDHAN BHAGWAT



To say that Professor Madhusudhan Bhagwat was a kind hearted, benevolent soul would be to make an understatement

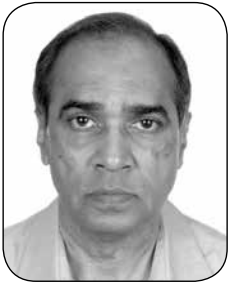
of gargantuan proportions. A social and friendly person, his kindness permeated way beyond the academic sphere of his life – for he gave back

to the universe by engaging in social service as often as he could. His legacy of kindness made itself felt every week – every Sunday, he would enrich the lives of underprivileged children who lived nearby by providing them with a fine concoction of both academic knowledge (through classes) and fun and engaging activities such as storytelling. Purchasing school material for children of non-teaching staff by means of the funds he painstakingly collected from the college staff, his

philanthropic nature was only spurred on by his resourcefulness. A very accommodative person by nature, his absence was sorely felt in the college premises after he retired in 2013. As he leaves this world in peace, we look back in awe at the trail of happiness and joy he left behind– and hope to embark upon it in our own little ways.

**Inputs Dr. Shyamala Bodhane**  
Head, Department of Physics

# NOEL SHETH SJ



Noel journeyed through life with purpose. His Jesuit identity always before him, he applied himself meticulously to every task given

him with the hope that it would benefit others. The eldest of four brothers, he lost his father when he and his siblings were still young. He felt responsible for the family. His mother hailed from Kandivali and with faith and fortitude looked after her sons and provided for their education through her earnings.

It was in St. Xavier's High School, Dhobitalao that Noel completed his schooling and then decided to join the Jesuits of the Bombay Province; he did so on June 20, 1960. His flair for languages showed in his knowledge of Gujarati—his father was a baptized Gujarati—Marathi, Hindi and English. After philosophy, Noel was asked to prepare himself in Sanskrit and Indian Culture to be part of the staff of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. He performed brilliantly in his M.A. in Sanskrit from Pune University and was offered a full scholarship to Harvard to complete his doctorate in Sanskrit. At Harvard, he impressed both staff and students with his extraordinary competence in Sanskrit and on occasion was invited by the professor to teach his confreres. Back in India,

the wider needs of the Jesuit Assistancy decided his superiors into assigning him to Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV), Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Pune. He resided in the Papal Seminary and functioned as dean of the Inchoate Department of Indian Studies and Social Sciences in the Faculty of Philosophy. Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Jainism and Sikhism were the subjects he taught. His name is included in the Who's Who of Sanskrit Scholars of India.

Noel had the capacity to put together an immense amount of detail so that the knowledge of subjects he taught was almost exhaustive. His effort to excel in all he attempted also meant that he had high expectations of his students. Not only was his learning appreciated in JDV but also at the national and international levels. He was called to participate in and preside at international meetings and seminars. Throughout his teaching career, he came across not only as a scholar but also a simple and amiable person. With a mind for detailed planning as well as sensitivity for the views of others, he served terms as rector of the Papal Seminary (1991-94) and later of JDV (1999-2005). He helped bring technical modernization to the JDV campus and was presented the Dr. Sam Higginbottom award for the best principal (president) in India, 2004-2005 by the All India Association for Christian Higher Education.

His identity as a Jesuit priest characterized his commitment to the Church and the Society of Jesus. Ordained on March 23, 1974 Noel cherished the priesthood and the ministry that it implied. Because of his deep knowledge of Oriental Religions, he could appreciate the contribution of other faiths in understanding the world of religion and be pluralist while preserving his Christian identity. At the time of his death, Noel was a member of the International Secretariat for Ecumenism and advisor to Fr. General in Inter-religious matters.

Noel had noteworthy qualities of both, head and heart. Gentlemanly in his actions and very humane in his dealings with others, he could listen, assess and respond truthfully, yet gently, to what was said to him. He walked tall yet made everyone feel that they mattered to him. He set great store on being impartial in his dealings with his associates, staff and students. It was easy to recognize the kindness that emanated from him. He enjoyed meeting Jesuit companions and shared in the fun and food of such gatherings. When he returned from an overseas engagement, he brought something not only for his own community but also for others. For health reasons, Noel was careful about his diet and took few chances. Noel's Jesuit confreres are grateful to God for having him in their midst for 57 years; we feel his loss acutely.

It was my privilege to chat with Noel on the very day (June 26, 2017) he was to fly to Bogota, Columbia where he completed his life's journey in this

world. We offer our condolences to his two surviving brothers and his many friends both in India and abroad. May God grant Noel eternal rest and may

perpetual light shine on him.

**Errol D'Lima SJ**

## ADIEU, MADAME DEBJANI CHAVAN



"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer

nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

- Etienne de Grellet

Poignant quotes like these lend themselves well to the memory of Madame Debjani Chavan, a truly beloved teacher to all those who knew her, or had the pleasure of being taught by her. Always greeting everyone she met with a lovely, infectious smile, she donned many more hats than that of just a teacher – namely those of a mentor, a guide, a counselor and above all, a second mother to all those students she taught. Affable and highly

approachable, she refused to miss a chance to reach out to any student in need. Forever generous with not just her time, but her advice as well, she was, it seems, possessed by a silver tongue – for she knew not just what to say, but also how to say it.

Her passion and unabridged love for French remain unparalleled – for she was as keen a teacher as she was a keen student – boasting of an insatiable appetite to learn new things and share them with others, be whatever they may. Always resplendent with food, movie references and personal anecdotes, she made learning exquisitely enjoyable – for every class was a surprise, and we savored each bit of it. To her, no question was too dumb and no doubt too silly – she would relish all our responses – encouraging and motivating us to further expand our horizons. Her scolding too, was a tree whose warm shadow we would frolic under – for we knew her best intentions

for us never left the valves of her heart.

Insisting on being critical and opinionated often, she welcomed diverse opinions during class discussions – thereby initiating us to the Xavier's tradition of plurality and diversity; a trait that would become a part of each one of us. Her zest for life, her love for both her subjects and her students reflected and radiated into everything she did. Imbibing imprints of her very heart and soul into all that she did, it is no wonder that the quality of her work spoke for itself.

Madame Debjani continues to remain a part of us – the academic and life lessons she imparted play across the synapses of our minds like the very movies she used to show us with pure joy and glee. *Au revoir Madame, Au Revoir.*

**Ms. Anusha D'Souza**

Ex-student & Current Faculty for French in Junior College

## VICTOR D'SOUZA



Mr. Victor D'Souza, much loved Laboratory Assistant of the Department of Physics, was a perfect study in consistency –

for he was as punctual and helpful in the lab as he was kind and hardworking outside of it. Famously proactive and adored for his tendency to never refuse

those in need, he even found ways to aid those who weren't physically present – for in case of any undue absence, he would be eager to not only assign duties to fill up the emptied spot, but even supervise examinations to ensure that everything went off without a hitch. A gentleman at heart – a fact compounded by his good behavior and straight forwardness – he was a regular in the Kamgar office, conversing with his peers politely as ever. An invaluable aid to both students and professors alike

during the time of examinations, we strive to imbue our lives with shades of not only his impeccable work ethic, but also his enthusiasm to help regardless of circumstance.

**Inputs by**

**Mr. Anthony Thomas**

(Laboratory Assistant, Zoology),

**Mr. Gurunath,**

(Laboratory Assistant, Geology), **Mr.**

Sydney Bangera,

(Laboratory Attendant, Chemistry)

'Tolerance is a poor substitute for embrace'

-Jamie Arpin Ricci





**Photo Credit:** Khyati Bohra (Knowledge Centre)

# REFLECTIONS

# HUMANITY THE MOTHER OF ALL RELIGIONS



Sometimes I look up at the skies and wonder

Is there really someone up there?

Or is it just a feeling?

An eye in the yonder

Or just the trust of upbringing?

Is there really an almighty power?

Or just your conscience

A voice telling you right from wrong.

Is it the voice of heaven?

Or just a quiet song?

Is it the almighty that brings blessings?

Or the love of thy neighbour?

Are we puppets of the divine?

Or is that a mask under which we cower?

In the name of God, many battles we have fought,

Many martyrs have we slaughtered

Is it God who divides brother from brother?

Or is it man's intention to divide and conquer?

Is it religion that teaches us to slay a brother?

Or is it man's hunger for power?

To answer these questions in an endless battle

A sword which has seen many deaths

For answers we look in the books and scrolls of old

Though in the humbleness of a child they hold

For what is religion, the toddler doesn't know

But with all his might goodness he shows

A rebel am I to say this but what I say is true-

With age the true meaning of life we subdue.

The sacred bond of family we break

And in turn, for love, we ache

For in our race for money forgotten have we

The mother of all religions

HUMANITY

**Natasha Martis**

SYBSc

# WILDERNESS

Wilderness is innate

To moorlands

And desert winds

The reckless soul

Of reckless demeanour

Rendered at rest

In raging vigour

Of heedless winds under a winter sky

When lungs burn for a breath

After a breathless run downhill

And sodden boots

Attract flies which won't stop buzzing



So let's race barefoot

On dried grass and sharp stones

No fabric between the earth and the skin

Just the dry strands of limp hair

Down the side burns and bare backs

Return the wilderness of dying souls

And they'll ravage the foliage

Tearing through the wind

Drenched in dirt and sand and mud

They carry the wild flowers and thorns

Scurrying right through the thistle

The wilderness is a cruel whip

And a sly tongue over the wounded skin.

(Inspired by Withering Heights by Emily Bronte)

**Zil Gala**

FYBA

## DARK FIRE

There is something  
About the night  
That stirs the rot  
Behind your wooden façade  
Kindles the timber  
Ringed with feelings  
To light up  
The mysterious darkness  
And when day arrives  
There is no way  
To hide the burn  
To erase the stains  
The ash remains  
To resurrect the phoenix  
Of uninhibited honesty.

**Shifa Zoya**

FYBA

## LOST CITIES

Black frames that sparkle white,  
The building fills my sight.  
Tall and firm of liquor fame,  
Unbowed to it's owner's shame.

First appears then is hidden,  
Just like a beast unbidden.  
Shrouded in unholy grey smoke,  
From lit cigarettes that choke.

Will he never ever know?  
Oh I do not think so, no.  
Like concrete's just a plain wall,  
He does not see me, not at all.

**Shifa Zoya**

FYBA

## CANCEROUS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

I know its hard to resist the allure  
When the European boys and girls  
Are smoking gaily.  
But you've got to guard against the Lure,  
For else you'll be taking puffs daily.

Trying new things is a wonderful Philosophy,  
And I greatly respect you for it,  
But its better applied to art and gastronomy,  
And that's why I'm throwing a fit.

You see, you've probably always  
Taken good heath for granted  
As most healthy people do, we're  
Programmed that way.  
And those who are ill can't understand it-  
Why you throw what you blend with, away.

Smoking takes a toll on your life span  
It's sheer ignorance which makes  
You regard it as benign  
Make it a habit, and you won't live  
Long enough to be a gran  
Education's a start, and yea, it's a concern of mine.

Conversing with someone whose Breath is foul,  
As well as the lack of concern for  
Your own well being that it implies,  
Will leave me piqued and liable to Growl.  
Quiet frankly, I'd rather make a  
Part-time of swatting flies.

In short, young prawn, you had  
Better never look at a cigarette Again,  
And think, "Well maybe just a drag Or two..."  
Or I'll disown you faster than you can count to ten  
And to make sure that you really regret It, I'll sue.

**Malvika**

SYJC



## BUT HE LINGERED

He lived quite a simple life.  
Some would say too simple;  
But he was content, roaming freely,  
He was content, breathing freely.  
He used to sing songs suited to every mood;  
Songs of lament, of sorrow came as easy to him,  
As the songs of joy and hopefulness, for he played  
The instrument that was the human soul.

He used to travel every year across the land,  
Making perilous journeys – once he almost lost a hand  
But no one ever really could say why,  
Why was this man, poor and dressed in rags,  
So grateful for being under this lilac sky?  
And why did he always sing of places far away  
Could he not renounce his vagabond ways?  
And settle down, find a place to stay?

When he was in one place, he would sing of another  
He would tell tales of reuniting lost brothers,  
Brothers that had been scattered across the land,  
Like twin stars, sentenced to belong to different skies,  
And during these tales, one could hear him deeply sigh  
For his lust for wandering had no beginning, nor an end  
He'd be in one place, serenading, when his soul would send  
Him miles away, to strange surroundings and people even stranger.

But these strangers would soon become his friends,  
And before the seasons changed, he would tearfully say  
Goodbye to these strangers he united, in such a strange way.  
Feuding families, completely reduced to tears,  
Friends that had lost touch, over the years,  
Enemies, eager to impale each other with spears,  
All would stop, and share a strange sense of belonging  
One that seemed like it always lingered, and had no ending.

But one day, men with swords and siege weapons came  
And they told him – “you're only allowed to stay  
On land from here to there, and you'll do what we say  
For the King commands us, and he's blessed by the Lord  
And what are you in front of him – O, puny Bard?”  
He meditated upon this for a bit, but then he marched  
Past their barricades, and into what we now call the 'Beyond',  
And that was the last time he was seen.

We missed him dearly, all of us still do  
If you knew him, you definitely would too.  
People speculate all sorts of horrible things,  
Saying that he was beaten to a pulp, and fed to dogs  
That he was shattered into pieces, like faulty cogs,  
And true, no one has seen him for a while.  
But if you listen quietly at night, you can hear  
The faint hum of his songs, played to perfection.

Maybe he's truly gone, but it's so clear to see  
That the notes he played lingered, and so did he.

Chetan Bhatnagar  
SYBA

## LOVE OVERDOSE

Ever had too much of love?  
Or not a bit at all.  
Isn't it tough?  
Maybe you think  
I made a wrong call.

Everyone is desperate,  
For love and care.  
No one wants to be  
last in line or wait,  
Something no one wants to share.

Accepting love is easy,  
Realizing others are  
deprived is baffling.  
Dealing with pain after is crazy,  
While they are left tackling.

Gather love you have left,  
Begin to share with all.  
Will do no good to have it kept,  
Love till you penetrate  
through the heart's wall.

Caroline D'Souza  
FYBA

## PAINTED NAILS

Painted nails, painted nails,  
What is it that you hide?  
Those chipped off,  
bitten pieces of me,  
That your anxiety has caused you.

Painted lips, painted lips,  
What is it that you hide?  
Those dry flakes of blood on me,  
That your nervousness has caused you.

Painted cheek, painted cheek,  
What is it that you hide?  
Those visible marks  
of scratches on me,  
That your silence has caused you.

Painted eyes, painted eyes,  
What is it that you hide?  
Those marks of dried tears on me,  
That HE has caused you.

Swati Anwesha  
FYBA





# THE BLACK HOLE

(A POEM ON THE DARK WORLD OF A DRUG ABUSE VICTIM)

Darkness engulfs her  
Falling into the abyss,  
deeper and deeper.  
Nothing's clear.  
But she wants to face her fear.  
Disturbing voices in her head,  
Following her even  
when she goes to bed.

DARKER AND DARKER  
AND DARKER.

Everything's out of control.  
She tries to cling on,  
But she's slipping away.  
Her life's drifting away.  
She feels high but now she's low.  
It's time to let the 'Ecstasy' into the blood flow.

Suddenly, there's nothing!  
"What on earth is happening?"  
All she sees is jet darkness,  
Just jet blackness.  
Falling deeper and deeper  
she does,  
into nothingness.

The abyss grows bigger and bigger.  
She wants to scream  
but she cannot,  
She's lost the will over her body,  
Something she forgot.

The chemicals drive her into  
a black hole,  
she doesn't want to fall into.  
She tries, harder and harder,  
but in vain!

Unbearable and sickening is the pain!  
Oh! The nasty tricks played by her brain.

"Make it stop!" "Go away!"  
Shouts the girl every day.  
She sees men chasing her.  
Hooded figures haunting her.  
Friends and family mocking her.  
Voices in her head provoking her.

She screams at the top of her voice,  
All of a sudden, she sees  
a young girl playing with her toys.  
Happy and beautiful.

Lovely and cheerful.  
The little girl's no one but her.  
This realisation dawns  
upon her, and  
before she can process the memory,  
There's darkness again.  
The little girl has faded away.  
She's pushed further  
Into the never-ending dark pit.

She's become a prisoner of  
her own mind.  
Dark thoughts grapple her.  
Memories strangle her.  
Voices suffocate her.  
The darkness blinds her.

She dreads the day she touched the stuff.  
Little did she know,  
letting go of it is more than tough.  
Today, she'd have not been here.  
In this dark dungeon,  
where no one's there,  
to lift her up when she's fallen.

The darkness encapsulates her  
She falls deeper and deeper, and  
There's nothing around.  
She falls into the abyss,  
where there's no ground.

Thinking of the little girl,  
She dreams of a light  
at the end of the tunnel.  
She closes her eyes, and  
weeps silently.

DARKER AND DARKER  
AND DARKER.

Now she's gone.  
No sight of her.  
The black hole closes  
And disappears.  
She's become a prisoner for life.  
She lives in eternal darkness.  
Every day it turns even more,  
DARKER AND DARKER AND DARKER...

**Judy Sherine Faber**  
FYBA

# THE LAST OF HIS TRIBE: THE POEM WITHIN THE POEM

Mikhail Philip Kattuparambil  
FYBA

She's suffered the real deal, an Australian original,  
Oodgeroo Noonuccal is an Australian Aboriginal.  
In 1970, her job was that of a scribe,  
Wrote about a man, the last of his tribe.

Willie McKenzie's his name, he's an old, retired male,  
And yes, don't forget, this is a true tale.  
It's 24 lines, it's a poem, not a song,  
She writes about the times before white people came along.

For these aboriginals, the universe will never be the same,  
For when the whites entered, they weren't glad they came.  
The poem didn't rhyme, I hope it didn't bore her,  
But at least her literature was diaspora.

"Change is the law, the new must oust the old",  
Forced migration from native homelands, that sounds bold.  
McKenzie's tribal name was Geerbo, but then he had to have it changed, His white boss gave him that name, they  
had that arranged.

The Brits swooped on Australia like a bunch of vultures,  
Questioned their need to alter their identity in another culture.  
Due to mimicry, white name adopted, left none the wiser,  
Geerbo adopts the language of the colonizer.

You can detect the essentialism, they do highlight,  
But forget your identity and culture? That wasn't right.  
The white boss told Geerbo who he should be,  
The colonizer decides what is and isn't a particular identity.

Geerbo couldn't do what he wanted, his old life he did miss,  
This poem shows Geerbo's subaltern status.  
There's a "sudden sting of tears", there's a "lot of repression",  
Geerbo has little access to his own means of expression.

Can't enact old scenes, a servile living in fear,  
Back in the old days, he'd use his "boomerang and spear".  
To "lead a corroboree", just one more chance,  
Oh, a corroboree's a traditional Aboriginal dance.

Semiotics were their identity, that was their thing,  
Using A, I and U, a system of tongue-clicking.  
Semiotics define a race, it's a system of signs,  
Here, it's their means of communication, it's their ties that bind.

Geerbo's lost his identity, aimlessly he roams,  
Just another resident in the "Salvation Army Home".  
A Darwada tribe member, now he's just tired and hurt,  
"A white man's burden" is what his race is considered.

Currently, he's lost in the "teeming city crowds",  
Used to a peaceful place, now it's very loud.  
Were the colonizers cruel? Where's the piety?  
By worlding, he's brought into the dominant Eurocentric global society.

Geerbo expired, his space gone and his identity he did lose,  
But why aren't you guys being true to yourselves? What's your excuse?

# Les Mots Français

## Qu'est-ce-qui importe à la fin ?

Un jour, il y avait une discussion profonde de la préparation d'un testament ! Soudain je me suis rendu compte que c'est moi qui dois le faire, le préparer ! A ce moment une idée m'a frappé, suivie d'une chaîne de pensées. J'étais vieux! Le mois prochain, les anges me béniront, ils m'offriront une nouvelle destination. Quelle fantaisie ! Mais, c'est la réalité ! La mort va arriver sans choix, sans aucun doute, sans aucune notification. Et puis, j'étais perdu dans mes songes.

Il y a toujours une évolution d'une institution et même d'une personne. On a des étapes différentes, et à chaque étape on apprend et on s'évolue. On apprend beaucoup de choses grâce aux expériences. Moi, même aujourd'hui j'apprends chaque jour en observant la nature, les enfants, la société, mes amis. Oh non! Je ne dois pas errer, je ne peux pas. Je me ballade à travers mes rêves, mes pensées et mes étudiants. C'est difficile pour le paternel de 149 ans de ne pas errer, non! Ah ! Vous êtes choqués. J'ai beaucoup de la chance, j'ai 149 ans. Aujourd'hui c'est le moment de célébrer mais aussi de recréer ! L'année prochaine j'aurais de la chance d'avoir 150 ans. Quelle merveille! Quel bonheur! La plus belle partie c'est que les anges soutiennent nos efforts nos décisions parce que nous créons notre réalité !

Aujourd'hui je vois les personnes qui font concurrence, qui luttent, et à cause de tout cela il y a beaucoup de jalousies et de rancunes. Ils ont beaucoup d'argent, l'auto la plus chère, les portables à jour. Je leur moque en disant, où est votre paix? Dans les applications de vos portables se trouvent <<headspace>> <<meditation>>. Quel dommage ! Pour nous, il y avait des rendezvous avec notre famille. La vraie paix pour nous était de parler avec nos enfants ! Aujourd'hui tout est compliqué ! Malheureusement on a oublié de vivre. Je ne veux pas comparer les générations, parce que bien sûr il y a une progression, mais il faut comprendre de vivre. Et oui, je ne suis pas tellement vieux, j'ai un compte au Facebook, mon compte personnel au Instagram !

Quand je vois mes étudiants qui ont bien réussi, je peux fièrement propulser les idées. Je suis sûr, que comme moi, ils n'auront pas de regrets, s'ils commencent à vivre la vie entièrement ! Essayez de se respecter, de s'aimer, et puis il y n'aura plus de pessimisme. C'est tout à fait facile de renoncer, mais difficile de lutter contre les difficultés.

La seule différence entre vous et moi, c'est que votre vie est guidée par la comparaison, vous êtes jugés

par les autres sur Facebook ou Insta. Moi, je poste, mais cela ne m'importe pas. Je regarde fixement sur mon photo et contemple, quelles sont mes forces et mes faiblesses. Comment je peux m'améliorer. Tout ce qui se passe dans votre vie vous postez au Snapchat. La vraie photo est celle que j'ai capturée dans mon cœur, avant d'invention d'appareil photographique. Moi, je prends plaisir dans chaque chose qui se passe. J'aime beaucoup quand les étudiants postent les photos avec moi, quelle nostalgie ! Comment je suis fier, comment je suis content d'avoir si bons souvenirs. Les 149 ans que j'ai tout à fait dédiés aux étudiants, c'est la preuve que les efforts n'étaient pas inutiles.

J'ai reçu des étudiants divers de toutes classes sociales, de tous niveaux, mais la satisfaction que j'ai eue de les voir transformer, quel plaisir ! Grâce à cette bonne transformation et de motivation que j'ai reçues, je suis vivant même aujourd'hui! Ils ont raison, pourquoi je suis si heureux, si satisfait parce qu'ils sont ma motivation ! Et donc Ce n'est pas la fin de moi, oui c'est 150, mais comme j'ai dit, c'est une des étapes. Il y a toujours une progression !! À bientôt

**Urmi Sethia**  
SYBA

## Sommeil Éternel

Des gens viennent. Des gens vont. Rien ne change. La vie continue toujours. Le soleil se lève et la terre se gravite. Quoi ce soit une personne riche soit une personne pauvre, à la fin, la mort arrive. Les derniers rites sont différents, mais bientôt, toutes les choses retournent à leur normalité. La vie continue.

Malgré cela, l'idée de la mort est effrayante. Prenez une minute pour penser à propos du monde après

votre mort. Nous sommes anxieux soudainement et nous faisons un retour à la réalité. Nous ne réalisons pas que la mort soit très similaire à dormir. Comme la personne qui est en train de dormir ne s'occupe pas du monde autour de lui, quand on est mort, on ne sait pas qu'est ce qui se passe autour de nous et ce sont les autres gens qui s'en occupent. Alors vous entrez dans un monde qui est complètement nouveau et non affecté par les

problèmes actuels. C'est une fuite pour le meilleur ou pour le pire, c'est votre choix.

La personne morte est toujours libérée des pièges de cruauté et de haine. Le seul espoir que l'on peut avoir c'est une mort tranquille, sans beaucoup de souffrance. Comme on dit: la naissance est par accident, la mort est inévitable!

**Anushka Rajesh**  
FYBA

## 150 ans

Dans l'esprit de fêter l'anniversaire de 150 ans de notre collège, regardons les autres événements qui se sont passés en 1869.

En Inde, le père de notre pays, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi est né à Porbandar. Sa femme, Kasturba Gandhi aussi est née dans la même ville et la même année. Le poète célèbre, Ghalib s'est décédé dans cette année. L'école de La Martinière s'est ouverte pour les filles en Calcutta.

Aux Etats-Unis, Ulysses Grant le commandant de l'armée qui a gagné la guerre civile des Etats Unis, est devenu le président. La première organisation pour les ouvriers Africain-Américains, le Coloured National Labour Union,

s'est réunie à Washington DC. C'était la première organisation sans aucune discrimination, après l'abolition d'esclavage. « Black Friday », la chute dans la Bourse se passe dans cette année à cause de la manipulation du marché par deux capitalistes. L'association pour le suffrage des femmes s'établit et commence à lutter pour le droit des femmes de voter. L'université de South Carolina a ouvert ses portes aux gens de toutes les races. Hiram Revel devient le premier Africain-Américain d'être élu au Sénat. En France, pendant les élections, l'opposition gagne 45% des sièges, ainsi offrant une opposition la plus forte dans l'histoire du pays.

En chimie, Dmitri Mendeleev a présenté, pour la première fois, le

tableau périodique qu'on utilise même aujourd'hui. L'écrivain russe Leo Tolstoy, publie son roman célèbre « War and Peace ». Le premier conseil du Vatican s'établit à Rome. Le canal de Suez en Egypte s'est ouvert, après avoir être construit par les anglais. Cela signifie que les Européens n'auront pas de besoin de contourner l'Afrique afin d'arriver en Asie. En Angleterre, le premier collège médical pour les femmes a été fondé.

Alors, on peut voir qu'il y avait des autres événements dans l'histoire du monde dans l'année 1869. Le narcissisme, c'est une maladie, contre laquelle, on doit se protéger.

**Anant Vemkatesh**  
SYBA

## Pour Madame Debjani,

La vie est pleine de rencontres et d'adieux. Les gens viennent dans votre vie chaque jour, vous dites bonjour, vous dites bonsoir, quelqu'un reste pour quelques minutes, quelqu'un reste pour quelques mois, ou pour quelques ans et il ya des autres qui restent à jamais. –If You Could See Me Now (Cecilia Ahern)

Madame,

Vous avez été une inspiration dans ma vie. Je pense que c'est difficile

d'utiliser « passé composé » en écrivant cette note parce que c'est tout à fait choquant que vous n'êtes pas ici maintenant avec nous, mais vous vous trouvez dans un endroit tellement éloigné de nous. Madame, je me souviendrai toujours comment vous nous avez enseigné 'L'Impératif' du verbe 'Avoir' avec les prononciations drôles « Aie, Ayons, Ayez ». C'est à cause de vous que j'ai choisi d'étudier la littérature française. C'est à cause de votre encouragement que je

peux lire en français. Madame, votre sourire et votre enthousiasme dans la classe me manquent. Vous êtes professeure parfaite. Vos souvenirs sont éternels. Un de vos traits parmi tous les autres qui me manque beaucoup est comment vous nous appeliez « My babies, My bachàs ». J'ai perdu une pierre précieuse de ma vie et c'est vous. Vous êtes toujours dans mes souvenirs. Vous me manquez ! Rest in peace.

**Melita Chettiar**  
SYBA

## Mme. Debjani

Si vous me demandiez pourquoi j'aime si tant la langue française, une des raisons dont je vous parlerais, c'est Mme. Debjani. Bien que j'aie commencé à apprendre le français en sixième, c'est grâce à cette professeure que j'ai appris comment parler cette langue. De surcroît c'est sa passion pour l'enseignement et son amour pour le français qui m'en ont fait tomber amoureux.

Elle brossait toujours les tableaux de la culture française. Son enseignement était le moyen pour nous d'échapper aux murs de la salle de classe afin de découvrir la France. Je me souviens encore du cours où elle nous a introduit aux bateaux-mouches à Paris; elle nous a raconté comment elle commettait chaque fois la même erreur en essayant de regarder simultanément à droite et à gauche de crainte que quelque chose lui manque. Elle nous a conseillé de regarder la rive

gauche en allant vers la Tour Eiffel et celle à droite en retournant. J'en avais inconsciemment fait une note mentale sans savoir qu'un an après, pendant l'échange culturel en France, je lui rappellerais de son conseil au cours d'une promenade en bateau sur la Seine. Cet échange était la première fois que j'ai visité la France et j'avais la chance d'avoir eu Mme. Debjani comme une partie intégrale de cette expérience inoubliable.



J'ai appris beaucoup d'elle. A part la connaissance du français, c'est sa joie de vivre et son optimisme que j'ai essayé d'apprendre et d'acquérir. Elle restera toujours l'une des meilleures personnes que j'ai eu le privilège de connaître.

Pour moi, Mme. Debjani sera à jamais le déclencheur qui a suscité ma romance pour la langue française tant et si bien que j'envisage de poursuivre une carrière en français. Je lui en serai toujours reconnaissante. J'espère

avoir le pouvoir d'inspirer au moins une personne à aimer le français comme elle a inspiré tous ses élèves.

**Bandhuli Chattopadhyay**  
Alumna

## 150 MOTS

On pense que la mort c'est effrayante, quelquefois nous pensons qu'elle est un événement dans un avenir lointain. Cependant, nous ne réalisons jamais que chaque jour nous mourons peu à peu. Chaque matin quand nous nous levons, une partie de notre vie s'est finie et c'est déjà poussé dans le passé. C'est une partie de nous qui est morte, et nous fait rendre compte de l'avenir. Le 13 novembre 2016, c'est un jour très important pour moi. Ce jour-là mon dernier grand parent est mort. La 'petite-fille' en moi était morte aussi, 'l'enfant' en moi était mort. Je suis devenue une adolescente, peut-être un peu plus sage, avec les plaisirs de cette époque de ma vie mais aussi une révélation des souffrances de vivre. Maintenant je suis une étudiante d'université. Mais dans quelques ans ce chapitre

de ma vie se terminera. Je n'aurai plus ni les cours, ni les professeurs, ni les classes etc. Je n'aurai plus ni mes amis avec moi tous le temps, et ni la stabilité et ni la sécurité qui m'entourent maintenant. Je peux souhaiter, espérer, crier ou prier mais les ans qui sont dans le passé ne reviendront jamais. Pourtant, il y a toujours quelque chose qui les suivra qui les remplacera. Si l'écolière dans moi n'était pas morte, l'adolescent ne viendrait pas. Si je ne quittais jamais mes amies écolières, je ne connaîtrais pas les gens magnifiques qui constituent une partie importante de ma vie universitaire. Comprenez-vous ce que je parle? Toutes ces morts devaient avoir lieu pour que quelque chose de meilleur ou de pire suive, sûrement, la dernière mort que nous mourrons doit être suivie de quelque chose, n'est-ce pas?

L'humanité a perdu les décennies à la recherche de cette condition qui suit la mort physique. À mon avis, c'est évident. Nous venons d'observer un modèle. Toutes les morts métaphoriques sont suivies des situations dont la base est notre choix. Selon moi la dernière mort est suivie d'une condition qui est aussi une conséquence de nos choix. Un de mes livres favoris dit: 'Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde, qu'il a donné son Fils unique, afin que quiconque croit en lui ne périsse point, mais qu'il ait la vie éternelle' et 'Celui qui croit en lui n'est point jugé; mais celui qui ne croit pas est déjà jugé, parce qu'il n'a pas cru au nom du Fils unique de Dieu'. J'ai adopté cette philosophie de la mort et donc je n'ai pas peur ni de la tombe et ni de la mort.

**Joanna Georgesom**  
FYBA

## Le cadavre

Je tristement vois le cadavre en putréfaction et demande la cause de la mort au médecin. Il se gratte sa barbe il fixe ses yeux derrière des lunettes sur moi, il dit dans une voix terne, "Nous sommes désolés, madame. Nous faisons tout ce que nous pouvons. Nous lui lisons les poèmes de Byron, les drames de Musset et les citations de Wilde, Austen et Sand...mais, tout en vain... le manque d'imagination l'a tué. Il est mort d'un désordre mortel d'être sans imagination.

Oui! Mes chers lecteurs, ne soyez pas étonnés. C'est la vérité de ce monde. Ce désordre a consommé beaucoup de possibilités, beaucoup de gens et beaucoup



de civilisations. Les milliards de personnes meurent chaque jour et milliards de plus mènent une vie pire que la mort- une vie ordinaire; une vie des journaux, des comptes bancaires, des voisins gênants; une vie d' où nous n'avons pas d'évasion; une vie cloîtrée où aucun oiseau ne chante, aucune couleur ne saigne, aucun poème ne brûle et aucune idée ne bouge. Est-ce que c'est la vie? Est-ce que cette vie sans

imagination est la réalité? Non, la réalité est seulement un collier des faits tissés dans le fil d'imagination; la réalité est seulement un rêve qui a été réalisé. C'est comme Gibran dit, "Tout ce que nous voyons aujourd'hui fait par la génération précédente, était avant son apparition, une pensée dans l'esprit de l'homme ou une impulsion dans le cœur d'une femme." L'imagination est nécessaire pour l'avenir. L'imagination est la mère du futur. Nous devons notre 2018 à la fantaisie d'un Tesla et aux rêves d'un Newton. Nous devons nos passions aux soupirs d'un Beethoven et à la vision d'un Delacroix. Nous devons notre encre aux sentiments d'un

Musset et aux larmes d'un Lorca.

L'imagination est l'avenir, mais, l'imagination est aussi le présent. L'imagination est la lumière qui nous éveille à la beauté de la vie; à la poésie de cette existence; aux possibilités autour de nous; à la connaissance de qui nous sommes et qui nous pouvons être. Antoine Saint Exupéry dit, " Fais de ta vie un

rêve et d'un rêve, une réalité." Nous pouvons être tout ce que nous rêvons pourvu que nous rêvions!

Donc, chers lecteurs, ne vous réveillez pas! Noyez-vous dans le sommeil de l'imagination, et peut-être, un jour vous pouvez découvrir le virus qui gouverne notre monde; le virus qui a tué l'imagination des gens et qui les a enchainés à une

existence sans espoir, sans couleur, sans beauté, sans connaissance, sans possibilité, sans vie- une existence morte. J'espère que vous compreniez l'existence de ce désordre; le vrai désordre n'est pas l'imagination, mais, l'absence d'imagination- la mort de l'âme universel!

**Saniya Pathare**  
FYBA

## Le jour des morts.

Avez- vous entendu de ce jour? Est-ce un jour de pleurer à propos de la mort de quelqu'un?

Ou est-ce comme halloween?

Non! La vérité est qu'il provient de la culture mexicaine qui croit que la mort est une étape normale de la vie et le deuil y est irrespectueux, donc les mexicains fêtent ce jour avec leur famille pour garder les bons souvenirs de ceux qui sont décédés. Ce jour est comme un mélange des croyances traditionnelles antiques et des pratiques religieuses chrétiennes. Chaque an on le fête le 2 novembre.

En France après la fête de l'halloween c'est la fête de tousaint le 1 novembre. Ce sont les jours fériés en France. Ce jour- là, les églises sont drapées de noir, les gens vont aux cimetières, les cimetières sont ornés de chrysanthèmes (une fleur spéciale pour cette occasion qui symbolise la paix et la résurrection). La pratique traditionnelle était de chanter des prières à l'église suivie d'un souper à minuit composé de lait, de grains noirs, de bacon, de crêpes et de cidre. Mais juste comme en Inde, où on a oublié l'importance religieuse de Diwali, et cette fête est devenue une fête de craquelins éclatants et de la

bonne nourriture, même Navratri est devenu un jour de jouer à garba également en France le motif réel de cette journée est oublié et aujourd'hui ce jour ne symbolise qu'une réunion de famille parce que la plupart de gens en France sont athées.

Mais les indiens croient beaucoup dans la vie après la mort. Alors que pensez-vous, est- ce que cette une bonne idée de célébrer ce jour en Inde aussi?

**Prishita Gada**  
FYBA

## L'enseignement de Cent-cinquante

Aujourd'hui, Madame Professeur, dit - 'Mes enfants,  
Écrivez quelque chose sur 'Cent Cinquante'

Alors, j'écris, trois petites lignes, elles suivent -  
Oui, à mon main, mais seules trois lignes vivent ...

Le, c'est un article défini masculin, ordinairement,-  
Aussi – il chante la note sixième doucement!

Cent, c'est le centième nombre, élégant évidemment,-  
Il tord lui-même en anglais pour annoncer l'heure heureusement !!

Cinquante, c'est demi-centaine d'ans, n'a besoin d'introduction,-  
Cela fait compléter la phrase de la célébration !!!

**Swagat Siby**  
SYBA

## La Mort, Mon amie

Quand j'ai dit «La mort est notre amie»,

La protestation s'emplit la pièce,

«Non !Non ! Non.»

«Elle unit tout et tous,» je chuchote,

On s'inquiète et on murmure,

«Elle nous sépare, elle nous éloigne.»

«N'ayez pas peur» j'en prie,

On pleure, on crie,

« Notre plus grande peur, nous avons peur.»

«C'est peut-être un nouveau voyage» je supplie,

On lutte, on est en colère et on est désespéré,

«Ce n'est pas un nouveau voyage! Nous voulons

l'inverser»

«Nous devons faire la paix» j'insiste,

Il ya un grand bruit, on se cache,

«Sauvez-nous, Sauvez-nous.»

«Elle arrive!» je hoquette

Les larmes glissent sur mon visage.

«Pour nous emporter.»

«La mort est notre amie» je crie,

Essayant désespérément de me convaincre.

"La mort, mon plus grand adversaire, je vous souhaite

la bienvenue"

Le tsunami nous efface.

**Nicole Mehta**

SYBA

## Reviens

Cruauté de ce monde,

Est souvent adressée aux hommes

Voici une incidence contraire,

Et donc j'ai pris la plume.

Une fois par jour tout normal,

Super normal cette chose étant,

Quelque chose qui a frappé mon épouse,

Ce qui causa sa détresse grande.

Enceinte, elle était avec mon bébé,

Elle n'était pas prête, ou elle était, peut-être.

Furieusement elle a décidé,

Elle a résumé que je respecterai sa décision,

L'avortement sembla le seul moyen,

Mais elle ne pouvait pas faire ça, Arrête, Hé!

C'était mon enfant aussi,

Je suis sa mère mâle,

Est-ce que je n'avais aucun droit?

Qu'elle a décidé de le tuer juste comme ça?

Oh, pauvre bébé, ma petite réflexion,

Mon ambition ou c'est l'affection décroissante?

Que savait-elle de mes plans,

Avait- elle oublié que tu étais un symbole de notre  
amour?

J'ai rêvé tout, tes traces, ton sourire,

Maintenant, c'est juste un rêve lointain.

Oh, reviens, reviens, mon petit cœur,

Retraces- tu par n'importe quel moyen?

Ton père t'aime, écoutes-tu?

Pardonne-moi !

Tu étais la seule raison,

Que j'ai attendue plusieurs saisons,

Pour faire mon épouse, une mère, une femme.

P.S. : Cet article parle de la mort physique d'un petit  
enfant ainsi que de la mort de l'amour parental.

**Siddhita Sonawane**

FYBA

## La Mort

Qu'est-ce que c'est que la mort, tu me demanderas  
Mourant, je dirais  
En disparaissant  
Je n'ai jamais été témoin d'une mort  
Comment pourrais-je savoir ?  
J'en ai juste entendu parler  
Les pauvres âmes qui se noient  
Qui sont brutalement assassinés  
Qui succombent aux leurs blessures  
Qui devant leur propres yeux,  
Abandonnent leur vie  
Qui se donnent à leur mauvaise santé  
Mais est-ce seulement tout ce qui est la mort.  
Qu'est-ce que c'est que la mort, vous me demanderiez  
encore  
Je dirais que c'est perdre l'espoir  
L'espoir en ce que tu es  
L'espoir en ce que tu crois

Parce que, c'est quoi la vie sans espoir  
Mais juste une vie d'un rat pris au piège dans la roue  
Qui continue à marcher pour quelqu'un d'autre  
Qui garde le mouvement jusqu'à ce qu'il soit fatigué  
Qui garde le mouvement jusqu'à ce qu'il soit mort.  
Qu'est-ce que c'est que la mort vous lui demanderiez à  
une femme  
Elle dirait être dans la prison de la société.  
Qu'est-ce que c'est que la mort vous lui demanderiez à  
un homme  
Il dirait, être le héros tout le temps à cause duquel ma  
véritable identité s'efface.  
Qu'est-ce que c'est que la mort, vous me demanderiez  
La mort efface tout dans la vie  
Ma santé  
Mes intérêts  
Ma personnalité  
Mon identité  
Moi.

**Akanksha Tated**

FYBA

## Adieu

La dernière année au collège  
Avec les émotions mixtes...  
Qui sait ce qui va arriver  
Tout croit que la sortie va nous soulager...  
  
Pas de CIAs, pas de cours à 8 heures  
Je ne sais pas si Saint Xavier vais me manquer  
Pas le code vestimentaire ou les nouvelles règles  
radicales  
La liberté nous attend  
  
C'est vrai que tout me manquera  
Mais un coin de mon cœur sait  
Qu'il faut garder les souvenirs  
Et il faut continuer  
  
Maintenant que je pense à ça  
Les escaliers Hogwarts me manqueront  
aussi les professeurs et Fr. Terry  
et surtout mes amies chéries...  
  
Je sais que je ne me rends pas compte  
De l'importance de ces souvenirs  
Peut être une fois que je sortirai de ce nid,  
Je chérirai ces irremplaçables souvenirs...

**Mrunmayee Pathare**

SYBA

## Commence

J'étais en train de penser qu'est ce qu'on doit faire  
Et je ne suis arrivé à rien de concret  
Qu'est-ce que tu veux, mademoiselle ?  
Je voudrais être la meilleure,  
Je voudrais comprendre tout, savoir tout, sans  
contraintes  
  
Mais toutes tes envies sont futiles  
Pourquoi tu gaspilles ta vie ma chérie?  
Est-ce que tu en as vraiment envie?  
Pourquoi cette compétition, ce concours d'être la  
meilleure?  
  
Mais non. C'est une erreur grave!  
Comment vas-tu être la meilleure, si tu n'es pas  
heureuse à l'intérieur?  
Mais quand vas-tu te comprendre? Te regarder!  
Aujourd'hui, change ta définition de la vie  
Au lieu d'être 'la meilleure' essaie d'être heureuse et de  
rendre les autres heureux!  
Commence.

**Urmi Sethia**

SYBA



## 150 choses que Xavier's m'a appris

Premier, il faut travailler et avoir la persévérance

Gagner le succès dont vous aspirez.

Deuxième, vos amis- Il faut les garder bien

Ils sont toujours là, ils vont vous encourager.

Troisième, respecter vos professeurs ,

Âge? Expérience? Connaissance? Ils ont tout.

Quatrième, on ne sait pas tout, il ne faut pas s'inquiéter,

On vient ici pour apprendre, on va y arriver.

Cinquième, chaque matin, une tasse de café,

Avant les cours juste pour se sentir frais.

Sixième, aimer votre matière, c'est nécessaire.

Passion avant tout, les problèmes financiers sont secondaires.

Septième, il ne faut pas juger les autres.

Chacun a des problèmes différents des vôtres.

Huitième, ne pensez pas aux autres ou à leurs jugements.

Ils ne méritent ni votre énergie, ni votre temps.

Neuvième, il ne faut pas participer dans toutes les fêtes.

Faites ce que vous aimez, aimez ce que vous faites.

Dixième, restez curieux et posez des questions sans penser

Aux autres qui après ces années du collège,

on ne va pas même rencontrer!

Onzième- c'est pour les autres 140 choses que j'ai appris...

Je ne peux pas les énumérer ou peut-être je les ai oubliées.

**Simran Vijan**

SYBA

(French) Section Editor  
Bandhuli Chattopadhyay

## Thanatos

Il t'attend

Il veille sur toi

Il t'attend

Il te regarde

En attente de cette date

d'expiration pour arriver

Pour les destins de te dire

Que ton horloge tourne

Pour te dire

Que ton temps est fini

Et ta fin est proche de toi

Dont l'absence prolonge la vie

Dont la présence le termine

Comme le décrit Iliad:

Il a un cœur de fer

Il ne montre pas de pitié

Il ne discrimine pas

Il a un spirit aussi impitoyable que

le bronze

Il saisit notre corps

Il arrache notre âme

Le résident des Enfers

L'enfant de la Nuit Noire

Le Dieu Grec de la Mort

Peux-tu deviner , qui est-ce ?

Oui c'est Thanatos

**ÀkankshaTated**

FYBA

## बपतिस्मा कहानी का सारांश

इस कहानी को मैं ओमप्रकाश वाल्मीकि की श्रेष्ठतम रचना कहूँगा। जो बात विख्यात दार्शनिक न समझा पाए, वह वाल्मीकि ने एक ऐसी कहानी के माध्यम से बयान की है, जिसे पढ़ने के बाद हर व्यक्ति सोचने को मजबूर हो जाएगा कि क्या मनुष्य धर्म के लिए या फिर धर्म मनुष्य के लिए बना है। यह कहानी घूमती है रमजानी के इर्द-गिर्द। रमजानी बेहद मधुर बाँसुरी बजाता है और संगीत व शायरी में ही वह अपने खुदा की बंदगी करता है। रमजानी जाति से सफाई कर्मी है। उसके अनुसार धर्म-जाति व अन्य बंधनों में खुद को बाँधे रखना फ़िजूल है। धर्म से बड़ा कोई फरेब नहीं, ऐसा उसका मानना है। उसकी शादी मारिया से होती है, जो धर्म से ईसाई है, पर जात से वह भी सफाईकर्मी ही थी। रमजानी और मारिया की संतानें भी ईसाई धर्म के रीति-रिवाजों के अनुसार

जीवन जीना सीख जाते हैं और उनका बपतिस्मा भी करवा दिया जाता है। क्योंकि रमजानी को धर्म से कोई मतलब नहीं था। वह मारिया व अपने बच्चों के बार-बार कहने पर भी बपतिस्मा नहीं लेता। वह अपने आप को मसूरी की सुंदर वादियों में बाँसुरी बजाते हुए देखने में ही संतुष्ट रहता है। उसकी खुशमिजाजी के सब कायल होते हैं और वह खुद भी दूसरों की खुशियों में अपने सुख तलाशता है। मसूरी शहर के लंठौर इलाके में रमजानी के प्रति लोगों के मन में अलग ही आदर-भाव होता है, इसलिए इससे उम्र में बड़े जान पड़ने वाले भी उनसे रमजानी चाचा कहकर मुखातिब होते हैं। शहर के इसी इलाके में झड़ी पानी से वापस लौटते वक्त रमजानी देखता है कि देहरादून के फादर डिसूज़ा एक दुर्घटना में घायल हो जाते हैं। रमजानी अकेले ही फादर को

अपने पीठ पर लाद कर अस्पताल ले जाता है और अपना खून देकर उनकी भी जान बचाता है। मन को झकझोर देने वाली बात यह है कि मसूरी के फादर रमजानी का अंतिम संस्कार ईसाई धर्मानुसार करने से साफ इंकार कर देते हैं, क्योंकि उसका बपतिस्मा नहीं हुआ होता है। क्या मात्र प्रतीकात्मक रस्में इंसान को दो गज का ताबूत भी मयस्सर न होने देंगी? क्या रमजानी को भी खून देने से पहले पूछना चाहिए था कि वह पहले बपतिस्मा करा ले, फिर आकर खून देगा?

**संदेश :** हमें व्यक्ति का मूल्यांकन उसके व्यवसाय से नहीं, बल्कि उसके व्यवहार से करना चाहिए।

**अंशुल कुमार**

बी. ए. द्वितीय वर्ष

## तू ही है अपने जीवन का शिल्पकार

कैसे हो शिल्पकार? हाँ सही पढ़ा आपने। मैं यह इसलिए कह रही हूँ क्योंकि, हम सब हैं अपने ही जीवन के शिल्पकार। वह हम ही हैं, जो अपनी ज़िंदगी को बदल सकते हैं। बस, हममें आत्मविश्वास होना चाहिए। आत्मविश्वास ही वो पेट्रोल है जो आपकी ज़िंदगी की गाड़ी को भगा सकता है।

किंतु मुझे यह सोचकर खेद होता है, कि विश्व को बदलने वाले आज के युवा छोटी - छोटी बातों के लिए हार मानकर अपनी मूल्यवान ज़िंदगी दाँव पर लगा रहे हैं और उन्हें लगता है कि आत्महत्या ही एकमात्र उपाय है, पर नहीं दोस्तो! आत्महत्या करके आप दुनिया को यह दिखाते हैं कि आप कायर हैं और ज़िंदगी से भागना चाहते हैं।

जरा सोचिए, परीक्षा में असफल होने से, क्या आपकी ज़िंदगी खत्म होती है? इस बड़े से ब्रह्माण्ड में आपको करने के लिए कुछ नहीं है? एक बार असफल हुए तो क्या हुआ? आप फिर से पूरी जी-जान से मेहनत कर सकते हैं। क्योंकि मेहनत करने वालों की हार नहीं होती।

परीक्षा हमारी क्षमताओं और कुशलताओं का आकलन करने के लिए नहीं होती। वे बस साल भर में जो पढ़ते हैं, उसका आकलन करती हैं। दसवीं और बारहवीं की परीक्षा से डर तो सबको लगता है। पर वह तो हमारे जीवन का सिर्फ एक पड़ाव है। परीक्षा में अच्छे अंक न मिलने से या पसंदीदा महाविद्यालय में प्रवेश न मिलने से हमें निराश नहीं होना चाहिए।

जरा अपने चारों ओर गौर से देखो। नेता, अभिनेता, कलाकार, व्यापारी और बड़े पदाधिकारी जो अपने क्षेत्र में सफल हैं, उन्होंने सिर्फ अकादमिक अंकों को महत्व नहीं दिया, बल्कि उन्होंने अपनी क्षमताओं पर विश्वास रखा। छोटी-छोटी परीक्षाओं और चुनौतियों से वे नहीं डरे। वे हर मुश्किल का सामना डटकर करते हैं।

मैंने कहीं सुना था कि माँ जिराफ़ जब अपने बच्चे को जन्म देती है, तब जिराफ़ के पैर लंबे होने की वजह से वह नीचे गिरता है। पर माँ जिराफ़ उसे उठाती नहीं, उसे जोर से लात मारती है। बच्चा

लुढ़क कर गिर जाता है। माँ जिराफ़ फिर से लात मारती है, तब उस बच्चे को खुद खड़ा रहकर भागने के लिए तैयार रहना पड़ता है। इसी तरह माँ बच्चे जिराफ़ को तब तक लात मारती है, जब तक वो खड़ा रहकर भागना नहीं सीखता। इससे हमें माँ की महानता समझ में आती ही है। पर यह भी समझ में आता है कि गिरने के बाद ही हम उठना सीख सकते हैं।

यह जरूरी नहीं कि दुनिया जिस दिशा में भाग रही है, उसी दिशा में ही हमें भागना है और सफल भी होना है। हमें अपना रास्ता खुद तैयार करना चाहिए। ऐसा रास्ता जिसमें हमें आनंद मिले और उसमें रूचि हो।

हम सभी को यह बात समझनी चाहिए कि यदि हमारे चार रास्ते बंद हो गए, तो चार हजार नए रास्ते खुल सकते हैं। अतः हमें निराश न होकर बार - बार प्रयास करना चाहिए।

**रसिका एम. गस्ती**

एफ. वाय. जे. सी. (आर्ट्स)

## मानवता

संसार बनेगा सुखमय सारा,  
आपस में होगा भाईचारा;  
मानव को मानव हो प्यारा,  
एक-दूजे का बने सहारा।

न हिंदू, न सिख - ईसाई,  
न हम मुसलमान हैं;  
मानवता है धर्म हमारा,  
हम केवल इंसान हैं।  
दुनिया के लोगों को हरदम,  
यही रहे संदेश हमारा;  
मानव को मानव हो प्यारा,  
एक-दूजे का बने सहारा।

हर भाषा, हर देश मानव,  
अपने ही तो सारे हैं;  
मानवता अपनायी जिन्होंने

उन के वारे-न्यारे हैं।  
सभी धर्मों की तुलना में,  
मानवता धर्म है सबसे न्यारा;  
मानव को मानव हो प्यारा,  
एक-दूजे का बने सहारा।

धर्म के ठेकेदार तक़रार करें,  
मानवता धर्म बस प्यार करे;  
भला यदि चाहते हो सबका,  
मानवता का लगाओ नारा  
मानव को मानव हो प्यारा,  
एक-दूजे का बने सहारा।

आदमी से तो पशु ही अच्छे,  
जो करते तक़रार नहीं;  
अधिकांश आदमी दानव हैं,  
जो करते कभी प्यार नहीं।

दानव! यदि तुझको मानव बनना है  
अरे मूर्ख! मानवता का ले सहारा  
मानव को मानव हो प्यारा,  
एक-दूजे का बने सहारा।

सारी दुनिया में प्यार  
सुख में कुल संसार  
सत्य का ही व्यापार  
एकता का कर-प्रचार  
ईश्वर इतनी शक्ति दे सबको,  
मानवता अपनाए सारा संसार;  
मानव को मानव हो प्यारा,  
एक-दूजे का बने सहारा।

### शुभम गुप्ता

बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## टिक-टॉक, टिक-टॉक

टिक-टॉक, टिक-टॉक  
समय चल रहा पर तू खड़ा वहीं।

इस गहरी रात में, तू जी रहा है या नहीं,  
सितारे टिमटिमा रहे,  
न लोग गुनगुना रहे,  
पर ज़िंदगी का एक पल बढ़ते जा रहा।

टिक-टॉक, टिक-टॉक  
समय चल रहा पर तू खड़ा वहीं।

दिल दिमाग की गुफ़्तगू में तू अकेला पड़ गया,  
वजन है बाँह में, न पैर उठ रहा,

देख के भी तू उसे अनदेखा कर रहा,  
जितनी देर तू खड़ा वहाँ, उतना ही अँधेरा तेरे अंदर पनप रहा।

टिक-टॉक, टिक-टॉक  
समय चल रहा पर तू खड़ा वहीं।

दिन गुजर रहे पर तू अभी तक वहीं,  
हिम्मत की जो है कश्ती तेरी हिचकोले खा रही,  
बेखौफ रहे उस बेनाम डर से,  
अब जो समय निकला, न जी पाएगा तू कभी।

टिक-टॉक, टिक-टॉक  
समय चल रहा पर तू खड़ा वहीं।

### समीरन घोड़मारे

बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## प्यार

नफरत छोड़ कर प्यार से आओ,  
जीवन बगिया महकाते जाएँ,  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें,  
प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

प्यार की शिक्षा लेकर जाओ  
हम जीवन को सजाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें,  
प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

नफरत जो हमसे करते हैं,  
उनसे हम सब करें प्यार।  
जो करते हैं हमारा बुरा,  
उनका हम सब करें सत्कार।  
यदि नफरत से लड़ना है हमको,  
प्यार के शस्त्र चलाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें,  
प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

नफरत को मिटाकर तू मानव,  
प्यार बसा ले अपने अन्दर।  
स्वर्ग-सी धरती लगने लगेगी,  
मानव जीवन भी होगा सुन्दर।  
सभी धर्मों को छोड़कर हम सब,  
मानवता धर्म अपनाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें,  
प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

संसार फिर से खिल उठेगा,  
नफरत को अगर मिटा दें हम।  
सभी संतों, महात्माओं ने माना,  
अहिंसा का शस्त्र नहीं है कम।  
इन महात्माओं के विचारों को हम सब,  
जीवन भर अमल में लाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें,  
प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

ना हिन्दू ना सिख ईसाई,  
ना हम मुसलमान हैं।  
मानवता है धर्म हमारा,  
हम केवल इंसान हैं।  
प्यार की भाषा सबसे अच्छी,  
सीखें और सिखाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें,  
प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

हर भाषा हर देश के मानव,  
अपने ही तो सारे हैं।  
प्यार जिनको करना आया, उनके वारे-न्यारे हैं।  
ईश्वर इतनी शक्ति दे हमको,  
हम जीवन भर प्यार निभाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें, प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।  
नफरत बैर की तोड़ दीवारें, प्यार के पुल बनाते जाएँ।

शुभम गुप्ता

बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## इंसान की खोज

गर्दिशों से आज़ाद करे ऐसा ये ज़माना नहीं!  
उल्फत की बूँदों से छलकता ये पैमाना नहीं!  
कुछ तो हुनर था इस कम्बख़्त इंसान में,  
वरना इस कोहरे में रहना उसका फसाना नहीं!

वक्त ने लेकिन बदल दी है नियत इस इंसान की,  
उसी की प्रतिभा ने की है घोषणा उसके कयामत की,  
स्वार्थ की बेड़ियों ने जकड़ लिया है उसके अस्तित्व को,  
अब उसे बचा नहीं सकती उसकी खुद की परिपक्वता भी!

राहों से काँटे चुन लेता था वो खुद अपने दम पर,  
मुझ पर नहीं, उसे भरोसा था हम पर,  
लेकिन आपसी रंजिश ने खोखली कर दी उसकी रूह ही,  
खुद की ही चिता पर लेट गया वो प्रगति के भ्रम पर!

बेकरार है ये समां उसकी आरजू देखने के लिए,  
झूम उठा ये सावन उसकी पुकार सुनने के लिए,  
लेकिन खुद की बंदिशों में सिमटकर रह गया है अब वो,  
न जाने कितनी मिन्नतें करनी होंगी उसकी एक झलक पाने के लिए!

ज़िंदगी की हर कसौटी पर खरा उतरना होगा उसे,  
अपनी पहचान प्रस्थापित करनी होगी फिर से,  
दुनिया में सही कर्म-पथ को उजागर करना-  
क्यों कहते हैं उसे खुदा का बंदा, वो साबित करना होगा उसे!  
एक नए युग का शुभारंभ होगा उल्हास के साथ  
होगी उसमें प्रेम और दूजे के संग की सौगात,  
खुद के अहंकार को हराकर खुद को ही जीतेगा ये इंसान,  
बस इस चक्रव्यूह को पार कर अमरत्व पा लेगा इंसान!

प्रथम वी. बरोत

एफ. वाई. जे. सी.



## एक आखरी कविता

रूमी!

तुम्हारे लिए यह कविता लिखती हूँ।

कुछ सवाल हैं मेरे

जो अभी तक के सिर्फ

कागज़ के बंद दरवाज़े गूँजती थी,

खलिश की तीलियों-सी मेरी

रूह को जगा देती थी।

पर आज खुले घूमने का शौक चढ़ा है

रुसवाई का सबक,

या शायद सब कुछ खो देने का शौक।

कहाँ हो तुम?

किस बुनियाद पर खड़े अपनी नाकामियों पर

खौफते हो तुम?

किस साहिल पर खड़े, समंदर की लहरों

के साथ, उस सूरज की तौहीन करते हो?

तुम्हारी खुदारी का बयान तो स्याही भी करती है।

क्या इस दुनिया की रीतों से अभी मुँह मोड़ लिया करते हो?

उन रास्तों से जिनका कोई आरंभ ना अंत,

गले से लगा लिया करते हो?

उनके पत्थरों से उनके ठोकरों से,

अभी भी जीना सीख लेते हो?

यहीं कई बार तुम्हारे शहर से गुज़रती हूँ,

किसी पथ पर आ पहुँचती हूँ,

तो तुम्हारी याद धीरे से

किसी कल्पना की तरह निकल आती है।

किसी बिछड़े हुए पत्ते की तरह,

छूकर सी निकलती है,

और फिर बेरोक हवाओं संग उठती है।

तुम्हें हमेशा मैंने इसी तरह याद किया है।

पत्तों की सरसराहट वाली,

उँची उड़ान भरता पंछी।

कभी सोचती हूँ अगर वक्त ने

हमें माफ किया होता तो कैसा होता?

अगर बेवकूफी से नहीं, बेहरहमी से नहीं

बल्कि तकल्लुफ़ से प्यार किया होता तो कैसा होता?

कभी जाना है बाहरी दुनिया में लोग खुद से

कितनी दूर रहते हैं? कभी सोचा है?

मुखौटा पहनना तो हमने कभी सीखा ही नहीं,

पर काश! किसी ने सच्चाई अपनाना भी सीखा लिया होता।

हम अपनी कमियाँ गिनते रहे, और

ज़िंदगी पिछले दरवाज़े से बिन बताए,

चुपके से निकल गई।

और हम हाथ फैलाए,

खिड़की पर मुरझाए

सपने लिए, राह देखते रहे।

इस कागज़ पर मैं अपनी रंज की

सीमाएँ रेखती हूँ?

एक ऐसी जगह जहाँ मैंने मेरी यादों

को कैद कर लिया है।

कि हम इस ताल्लुक-ए-खातिर यूँ लापरवाह हो गए।

सुकूत के सपनों में,

अंत की सच्चाई झलकती है।

क्या मेरे हिस्से की खुशी मिल गई तुमको?

इस टूटे दिल की राहें क्या तुम्हारी

सपनों की इमारत बना सकीं?

जब रक़ीब की आँखों की चमक से,

अपने दिल को बहलाती हूँ,

प्यार को मज़बूर करती हूँ,

उनके चेहरे से तुम्हारी परछाई नहीं हट पाती।

जब रक़ीब की खुली काकुलों में,

अपनी उँगलियों को लपेटती हूँ,

तो तुम्हारे होने का एहसास होता है।

तुम्हारे वो शब्द

वो हँसने का तरीका, वो बिलखना।

सभी उस लम्हे को बेगाना करते हैं,

जिसमें तुम नहीं हो।

तुम्हारे न होने पर भी,

तुम्हें जो चाहा वो पा लिया है,

मुझे कवि नहीं कविता बना लिया है।

सिमरन मेंडन

एफ. वाय. जे. सी.

## मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळ : एक कुटुंब

सेंट झेवियर्स कॉलेजमध्ये दाखला घेणे हे प्रत्येक विद्यार्थ्याचे स्वप्न असते. हे कॉलेज फक्त अभ्यासासाठी नव्हे, तर विविध कार्यक्रमांसाठी देखील प्रसिद्ध आहे. मल्हार तर या कॉलेजचे प्रमुख आकर्षण आहे. मल्हारसारखेच या कॉलेजमध्ये अजून विविध उत्सव, कार्यक्रम साजरे केले जातात. विविध मंडळे हे कार्यक्रम आयोजित करतात. मी पण कसाबसा अभ्यास करून मार्क्सच्या जोरावर कॉलेजमध्ये दाखल झालो. आणि कॉलेजमध्ये आल्यावर समजले की अभ्यासाव्यतिरिक्त देखील खूप काही आपण करू शकतो. अभ्यास तर मी करायचोच, पण अजून खूप काही करण्याची इच्छा होती. थोडा विचार केला आणि ठरवले की आता कोणत्यातरी मंडळात जाऊन कोणत्यातरी विभागात काम करून थोडा वेगळ्या प्रकारचा अनुभव घ्यायचा. कॉलेज सुरू झाले होते विविध मंडळात स्वयंसेवेसाठी अर्ज देखील सुरू झाले होते. विविध मंडळात अर्ज केले, पण बरेच दिवस

मला त्यांच्याकडून कुठलीच नोटीस किंवा संकेत मिळाला नाही. मी खूप निराश झालो आणि निराशा दूर करण्यासाठी मी माझा अभ्यास चालू केला. मला एकदिवशी मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळाचा ई-मेल आला की त्यांनी मला स्वयंसेवक म्हणून निवडले आहे. मला हे पाहून खूप आनंद झाला होता. पण ते मंडळ नेमके कसे होते हे मला माहीत नव्हते. तो अगदी माझ्यासाठी एक नवीन अनुभव होता. मी पण ठरवले होते की या मंडळाच्या सर्व कार्यक्रमात सहभागी होणार आणि त्यांचा मनसोक्त आनंद घेणार. मी शिक्षक दिवस, तेजोमय, आमोद, मराठी दिवस अशा विविध कार्यक्रमात सहभागी झालो होतो. जर मला कोणी विचारले की मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळ हे तुझ्यासाठी काय आहे. तर मी सांगू इच्छितो, हे एक मंडळ नसून माझ्यासाठी एक कुटुंब आहे. मला इथे एक वर्ष झाले आहे. इथले जे कमिटी सदस्य आहेत आणि होते ते सर्वांना एक कुटुंब मानतात व त्यांच्याशी तेवढेच प्रेमाने वागतात. मला बाकीच्या

मंडळाचे माहीत नाही कारण मी त्यांच्यासाठी कधी काम केले नाही. पण मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळासोबत राहून मला जो अनुभव मागच्या एका वर्षात आला आहे त्याच्यावरून मी हे सांगू शकतो की या मंडळाने मला खूप चांगल्या अशा अनमोल आठवणी दिल्या आहेत. या मंडळामध्ये राहून माझा आत्मविश्वास खूप वाढला आहे. झाडाला कशी मोठे होण्यासाठी पाण्याची गरज लागते तसंच आयुष्याला मोठे होण्यासाठी चांगल्या अनुभवाची गरज लागते. मला ते अनुभव या मंडळाने दिले आहेत व पुढेही देत राहील असे मला वाटते. हे मंडळ माझ्यासाठी काय आहे ? हे एक मंडळ नसून माझ्यासाठी देखील हे एक कुटुंब बनले आहे आणि मी या कुटुंबात सदैव रहावे अशी माझी इच्छा आहे.

**शुभम सोनटाके**

एस. वाय. बी. ए.

## ट्रेनमधील अल्पसंख्यांक

अमानुष राक्षस, मी सांगते नं, अगदी अमानुष राक्षस असतात डब्यात !

एखाद्या नवख्या व्यक्तीकडून जर विरार लोकल मध्ये भर संध्याकाळी चढण्याची चूक झाली, तर गाडीतून उतरल्यावर तिच्या मुखातून असे शब्द प्रेमाने नाही बाहेर पडले, तरच नवल. सकाळी ८ ते ११ आणि दुपारी ४ ते रात्री ९ या वेळेत ट्रेन ने प्रवास करण्याची धास्तीच निर्माण झालीय माझ्या मनात. अगदी अटळ काम असल्याशिवाय या वेळेत ट्रेनच्या आसपास फिरकायचंही नाही, असा पण मी व माझ्या ओळखीतील अनेक माणसांनी केलाय. कॉलेजमुळे ट्रेनने प्रवास करणे भाग होते, ज्यामुळे ३ वर्ष लोकलने प्रवास केला. पर्सनल फिजिकल स्पेस राखण्याची सवय लोकलने अगदी काही महिन्यातच मोडून काढली. पण गर्दीच्या वेळी ट्रेनच्या डब्यात चढण्याचे व इच्छित स्थानकावरच उतरण्याचे कसब काही मी शिकले नाही. काही लोकांना वाटतं मी माणूसघाणी आहे, ते काही अंशी खरंही आहे. त्यामुळे तुम्हीच विचार करा, एका ड्यू-ड्यू हलणाऱ्या, क्षमतेपेक्षा दुपटीने भरलेल्या खोक्यात माझ्या समजूतदारपणाच्या आणि शांततेच्या पाऱ्याने किती उच्चांक गाठला असेल.

पहिलं वर्ष जरी अशा प्रकारच्या काहीश्या अति निगेटिव्ह विचारांना सोबत घेऊन प्रवास करण्यात गेलं. तरी नंतर अनेक अनुभव असे आले, ज्यामुळे ट्रेनप्रति द्वेषभावनेची तीव्रता कमी झाली. खरंतर ट्रेनप्रति द्वेष नसतोच; धडकी भरते ती त्या अमानुष

राक्षसांमुळे. उगाच सरसकट आपली लोकल बदनाम.

ट्रेनमध्ये बायकांच्या डब्यात मला नेहमी काही ठराविक प्रकारचे प्रवासी दिसायचे - अर्धा रस्ता ऑफिसचं आणि अर्धा रस्ता रात्रीच्या जेवणाचं टेन्शन डोक्यावर वाहून नेणाऱ्या काहीशा ओल्ड बायका, उद्याच्या मीटिंगची तयारी करून मग अवांतर वाचनासाठी फॉरेनची प्रेमकथा वाचत बसणाऱ्या करीयर ओरीयेंटेड यंग बायका, बाहुबली किंवा तत्सम प्रसिद्धी कमावलेला कुठलातरी टॉरेंट वर उतरवून वाया-वाया करत १० फोन्स मधून शेअर होत होत आलेला चित्रपट पाहणाऱ्या गृहिणी, आईकडे गेमसाठी हट्ट करणारी लहानगी मुले, असाइनमेंट पूर्ण करू पाहणाऱ्या तरुणी, इत्यादि. या सगळ्यांमध्ये मी सायलेंट ऑब्झर्वर या अल्पसंख्यांक गटात बसते.

अलीकडे डब्यात एका गटसंख्येत मात्र पुष्कळ वाढ झालीये. तो गट आहे कानात इयरफोन्स घालून कुनाल शानू, सोनू निगम, हनी सिंघ, अरिजीत सिंघ ची गाणी ऐकत बसणाऱ्या म्युझिक लव्हर्सचा. ही मंडळी म्हणजे डब्यातली सगळ्यात बोरिंग, असे प्रथमदर्शी वाटते. पण त्यांचे चेहऱ्यावरचे हलकेच बदलणारे भाव, थिरकणारी बोटं बघून ते कुठल्या प्रकारचं गाणं ऐकत असतील हे ओळखण्याचा नवा खेळ मला त्यांच्यामुळेच मिळाला. त्यांचे अनुकरण करत एकदा मीही दुपारी १ वाजता कानात इयरफोन्स अडकवून ट्रेनमध्ये चढले. निर्धोक वेळ

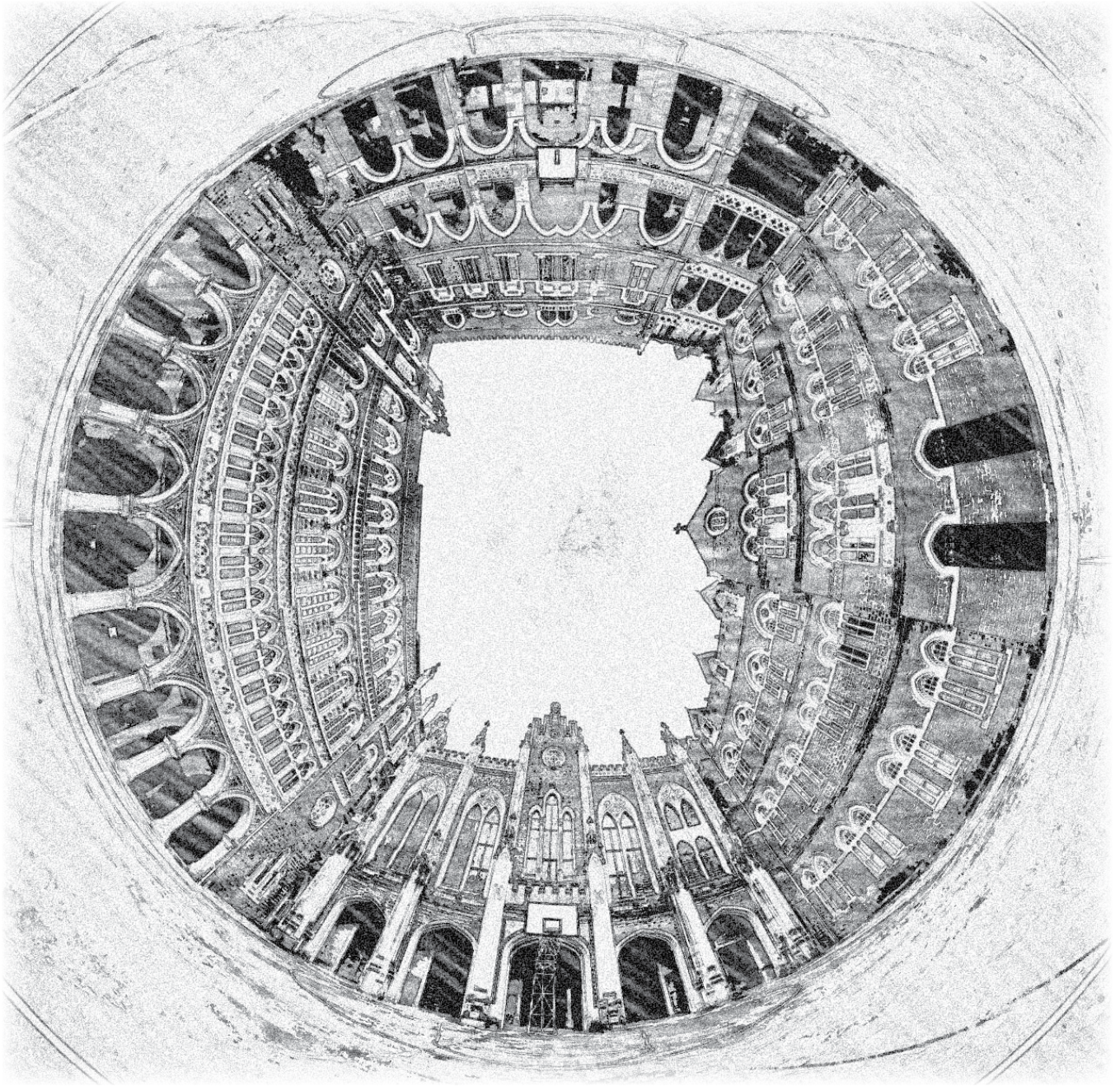
होती. त्यामुळे विंडो सीट सहज मिळाली. समोरची सीट रिक्त होती, पण पाय वर ठेऊन बसून स्वभाववृत्तीतील श्रीमंती दाखवणे मला काही जमले नाही. जरा पाय लांब पसरून मात्र नक्कीच बसले. कानात चन्ना मेरेया चे वेदनादायी शब्द घुमत होते. दोन स्टेशन नंतर एका माय-लेकीची जोडगोळी माझ्या समोर येऊन बसली आणि माझे पसरलेले पाय निरुत्साहीपणे मी ओढून घेतले. अरिजीतची जागा मोहितच्या मटरगश्तीने घेतलेली. प्लेलिस्टमध्ये आता सगळी उडत्या चालीची गाणी होती. आणि मी अजाणतेपणे जरा जोरातच गाऊ लागले, अगदी हावभावांसहित. समोरची लहान मुलगी कदाचित माझे निरीक्षण करत माझ्या गाणी ओळखण्याच्या खेळाचं तिचं व्हर्जन खेळत असावी, कारण अचानक जेव्हा माझं लक्ष तिच्याकडे गेलं, तेव्हा ती तिच्या आईला एखाद्या म्युझिक व्हिडियोमधील गायकाचे शोभतील असे हावभाव करून दाखवत होती. आणि हे भाव व्यक्त करण्यासाठी तिला प्रत्यक्ष गाण्याची, हेडसेटची गरज नव्हती.

हा छोटासा सीन पाहून मला फार गंमत वाटली, आणि हे त्या मुलीच्या आईने लगेच हेरलं. तीही माझ्याकडे बघून हसली. त्यादिवशी पहिल्यांदाच मला जाणवलं. की अल्पसंख्यांकांत फक्त मी एकटीच नाही उरलीय.

**कश्मिरा सावंत**

द्वितीय वर्ष कला





**Photo Credit:** Khyati Bohra (Knowledge Centre)

**Section Editors**

Shifa Zoya (FYBA),  
Jiniya Chattopadhyay (FYBA),  
Saniya Pathare (FYBA),  
Sunaira Peris (FYBA),  
Monali Gupta (FYBA)

# CHRONICLES



# ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

In the academic year, the department conducted various activities to enrich the students learning quotient. The department organized educational activities that brought out opportunities of internship for all the 5 batches in both under-graduate and post graduate students in collaboration with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum) especially during the exhibition "India and the World". Our field activities as well as in-house activities explored the facets of our cultural heritage in the realms of heritage management, tourism, museology and archaeology. These activities would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Museum Society of Mumbai (MSM), formerly the Museum Society of Bombay, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), the Consulate General and Promotion Centre of the Argentine Republic in Mumbai, Consulate General of Brazil in Mumbai and of course our very own College

During the year 2017-2018 our activities began with homage paid to the late Mr. Fredrick Stevens (architect of CST station) followed by a heritage walk around CST and the Railway Museum along with his great-great granddaughter Mrs Diana Robertson. This was organized for the department by Dr. Kothare in collaboration with the Museum Society of Mumbai, Bombay Local History Society and Central Railway. Dr. Kothare conducted a Befriending Museum Workshop for Adivasi students of Nandurbar on 16th May, 2017. Catering to the interests of culture, the department, in collaboration with the Xavier's Institute of Communication, Consulate General of Brazil in Mumbai and the Museum Society of Mumbai, organized an international exhibition titled XINGU:- Spirit Papers from another world by Mrs. Sheila Maureen Bisilliat from 5th to 15th July 2017. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Consul General of Brazil and had a foot fall of over a thousand persons. The students acted

as docents for the same. The Brazil Film Week- 2017 (from 3rd to 7th July), a joint event with the Consulate General of Brazil in Mumbai and the Department of English was held in the SCAVI. The students submitted film reviews for the same.

Keeping in mind its goal of conserving heritage, the department organized a *Paramparik Karigar* workshop on Bandhini by National award winner artist Sulamain Khatri on 8th August 2017. This was well attended. Between 10th and 11th August 2017 a practical flint knapping workshop by Dr. Tosabanta Padhan (Asst. Professor Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, Asi. Keilh College of Arts and Social Sciences, Asmara University, Eritrea, North Eastern Africa) and Dr. Shreekant Jadhav, Deccan College of Archaeology (Pune), was organized with the department giving them both theoretical and hands on experience about the prehistoric art of tool making.

A fieldtrip to Bhuj from 11th to 14th August 2017 was organized by the department for the undergraduate and post-graduation students, Dr. Anita Rane- Kothare assisted by Mr. Jason Johns guided the students through the site and gave an on-site lecture at Dholavira and the Rann of Kutch. The annual Eco friendly Ganesha activity was conducted in collaboration with the Museum Society of Mumbai and the Consulate of Brazil for children from Kamathipura on 19th August at CSMVS. It consisted of a lecture by Dr. Kothare who was assisted by Mr. Jason Johns, a clay modeling session for the children followed and after the arti the children immersed their Ganeshas at Gateway of India. On 16th September, an interactive lecture cum Heritage walk to St. Peter's Armenian Church (Fort) was conducted by Mr. Jason Johns in collaboration with the Dept. of B. Voc Tourism, Jai Hind College and the Museum Society of Mumbai, wherein the cultural tradition and history of the community was explored by the participants. As done annually, a site seminar was organized at Ajanta and Ellora caves in collaboration

with Prof. Emeritus Walter Spink and Dr. Shreekant Jadhav, Deccan College of Archaeology Pune. The students had on-site lectures with lecturers at Ajanta on 22nd-23rd September and at Ellora on 24th September wherein they explored the concept of Cave architecture, Iconography, Archaeology, etc. Mr. Jason Johns accompanied the S.Y.J.C students with Mr. H. Naqvi, History- Junior College and gave interactive on site lectures from 24th -28th October at the sites of Ajanta, Ellora, Bibi-Ki- Maqbara, Daulatabad, etc. A lecture series from 13th—17th November on "Mother Earth and Her Secrets of Sustainability" by Ms. Kaumudi Malladi was organized by Dr. Radha Kumar as a part of the QEP programme. The department, in collaboration with the Consulate of Argentina and the Xaviers Research Center for the Visually Challenged, organised a workshop (DivyaDrishti) by Argentinian muralist Mr. Pablo Ramirez Arnol on Painting with aroma colors. It is a unique concept that allows the visually challenged students to indulge in art work using their inner-vision rather than their eyes. Sighted students could get a similar experience using an eye mask.

The department conducted a field visit to Nashik on 11th of December for undergraduate and post graduation students to the Pandav Leni Caves and Gargoti mineral museum Sinnar as it is a part of their syllabus on Archaeology, Tourism, Heritage Management, etc. Dr. Anita Rane- Kothare assisted by Mr. Jason Johns guided the students through the site and gave an on-site lecture and conducted an interactive activity for them. On 30th April, 8th September, 24th November 2017 Mr. Jason Johns accompanied visiting exchange students and their professors from Belgium, St. Xavier's College Jaipur and Dept. of B. Voc. Tourism, Jai Hind College to Elephanta Caves and gave an interactive lecture on the site. On 18th of November, Dr. Anita Rane- Kothare assisted by Mr. Jason Johns gave an interactive lecture on the site of Elephanta to the Bizot Group (directors



of various museums across the world), which was well received. Mr. Jason Johns accompanied the F.Y.J.C students with Mr. H. Naqvi, History- Junior College and gave interactive on site lectures from 29th -31st December at the sites of Karle, Shaniwar Wada, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Simhagad, Pratapgadh, etc. The department held its annual departmental festival Vividha2018 :Kalotsav- Craft traditions of India in the Woods of the College on 11th and 12th January 2018. The exhibition featured the various crafts and artisitic traditions in India. Along with this interactive workshops on pottery and batik were also held.

A selected group of M.A Part II students led by Mr. Jason Johns and The Explorers took a group of Architects from all around India for a heritage walk in South Mumbai and Elephanta Caves on 12th and 13th January 2018. Mr Jason Johns led the F.Y.B.A and M.A students of the department (28<sup>th</sup> January 2018) and the cross-faculty students (4<sup>th</sup> February 2018) to the Kanheri cave complex for exploring the Buddhist Cave architecture. Two walks through the exhibition "India and the World" at CSMVS were organized for the T.Y.B.A and F.Y.B.A students of the department in the month of January by Mr. Jason Johns in collaboration with the Education Department and the Museum Art Conservation Centre, CSMVS. The students who were accompanied by Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare and Mr. Jason Johns, had on-site lectures with lecturers at Ajanta and Ellora from 5th to 9th March 2018. In these lectures, they explored the concept of Cave architecture, Iconography, Archaeology, etc.

## **STAFF ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLICATION:-**

### **Dr. Anita Rane- Kothare**

- Was invited to deliver guest lectures at Somaiya College on Buddhist art; Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya on Heritage Laws and Antiquarian Acts; H.R College on Indian Culture and Art at S.N.D.T College Matunga on Museology, J.J. School of Art for

a lecture on Temple Architecture, etc. Conducted heritage walks for Hindustan Times and was covered by the press

- Presented a research paper titled "The Role of a Semester- Course "Development of Heritage Management and Tourism in India" at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Mumbai in Creating Heritage Awareness" at the International Conference on Heritage Management Education & Practice: Exploring Connections across Disciplines & Stakeholders, July 28 – 31, 2017; Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad
- Presented a joint paper with Mr. Jason Johns titled, "The role of the Museum Society of Mumbai in Creating Heritage awareness" was also presented.
- Published a Research paper titled "Political organizations and feudalism during the Rashtrakuta period: For understanding the extent of the art in the Empire" in Xplore - The Xavier's Research Journal. Vol. 8, Issue 3, (Humanities & Social Sciences Edition) December 2017, ISBN -2249- 1878. Was selected to present a paper at the The International Conference on Land Transportation, Locomotive Heritage and Road Culture -Centre for Heritage Studies at University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka between 14th to 15th December 2017. Her paper was titled "Neolithic Cartography And Trade Routes In South Western Coastal Maharashtra, India". The paper was published.
- Presided as Chairperson of a session on 7th January 2017 at the Cama Oriental Research Institute seminar, "From Nisa to Niya – Reappraising Cultural Conduits and Commercial centers along the Silk route".
- Was the resource person for the Television Series: Epic Channel

### **Dr.Radha Kumar**

- Was invited as a Key note Speaker

at Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhania school at their Model United Nations Conference on 22nd July 2017

- Was invited on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017, to present a theme-based-Concert at Singhania School called "Raagatimka." It was an integration of Art, Performance and Lecture demonstration.
- Was invited to be a resource person at the Science honours programme called JIGYAASA conducted by K.C College on 14th October 2017. The session was on Music and Spirituality.
- Was invited to deliver a lecture cum demonstration in the Organization Tabla Connect on 6th September 2017. The topic was "Universal Rhythm."
- Was invited as a Resource person to deliver a lecture at the Executive training programme of the Stockholm School of Economics' delegates.
- Received the Mrs Avabai B. Wadia Research Fellowship for 2016-2017. Presented a research paper titled "Silk routes leading to Buddhist Roots –Tracking through the literary sources." on 6th January 2017 at the Cama Oriental Research Institute seminar from Nisa to Niya –Reappraising Cultural Conduits and Commercial centers along the Silk route.
- Research article published in the Research Journal – Manavayatan ISSN- 2249-0612. Vol V1 – 2017 titled "Documenting the Buddha's Role in furthering Political Humanism".
- Resource person for Television Series: Epic channel. Episode 1- Auspicious Beginning Episode 6- Shringar

### **Mr. Jason Johns**

- Was invited to J.J School of Architecture as a part of the Built Heritage Studies in Conservation Course to deliver a lecture on

“Intangible Heritage in Built Structures” on 13th February 2018 as the Department of AIHCA deals with training students in Heritage Management and Conservation.

- Paper titled “Development of Syncretic Mystical Christianity in

China - A resultant of its spread by the Silk Road:- A brief comparative overview of the pattern of evangelization, the cross-influences and the result” was selected at the The International Conference on Land Transportation, Locomotive

Heritage and Road Culture -Centre for Heritage Studies at University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka between 14 to 15th December 2017. The paper was published.

**Dr. Anita Kothare – Rane**  
Head, Department of AIHCA

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

*“I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide them the conditions in which they can learn”.*

–Albert Einstein

The Department of Biotechnology strove throughout the year to provide the young minds in our department a conducive environment to maximise their understanding of Biotechnology through various activities.

### Department activities:

- **E-Learning Course on the Basics of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity conservation and Ecosystem services**

- o Using the learning management system platform, coursesites.com, a short introductory e-learning module on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and ecosystems was conducted in collaboration with CMPA Project, Indo-German Biodiversity Program, GIZ, Germany, in May 2017.

A 10 -day module on Introduction to Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services was conducted on coursesites platform from 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2017- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017. This module was introduced as a mandatory prerequisite for the Environmental Biotechnology course (MSBTS904). 29 students enrolled for the course and actively participated in the online interactions and assessments. The course content was provided by GIZ and was coordinated by Dr. Shiney Peter and Ms. Norine D’Souza.

- **Guest Lectures/ Sessions:**

- o PG Department of Biotechnology

and Department of Microbiology organized a talk on ‘Heal, Fuel and Feed the World with Food Science & Biotechnology” by Dr. Sangeeta Prakash, faculty member from Department of Food Technology at University of Queensland, for all PG Bioscience students of St. Xavier’s College on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

- o Dr. Hrishikesh Pandit, Research Associate at NIIRH and an alumnus of the department, conducted a session on Leadership Skills and Team Work for the MSc-II students on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

- **Workshops:**

- o A one-day workshop on Science communication: “Academic Editing and Popular Science: What You Need to Know” in collaboration with Cactus Communications, Mumbai was organized for all PG Biosciences students in St. Xavier’s College on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- o A one-day workshop on nuances of science editing “From Desk to Journal: A Closer Look” in collaboration with Cactus Communications, Mumbai was organized for all PG Biosciences students in St. Xavier’s College on 12 January, 2018.
- o A one-day hands on session on Bioinformatics: “Beyond the bench-Bioinformatics for beginners” was conducted for UG Biotechnology students from various colleges in Mumbai on 9 February, 2018.

- **Palindrome 2018**

Palindrome, the annual intercollegiate festival, held by

the Postgraduate Department of Biotechnology is an event ‘by the students, for the students’. The festival encompassing the theme “through a looking glass” was held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018. Lupin limited, the title sponsor of the festival for the past seven years, continued its association with the department this year too. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Gopal Rao, Senior Manager – Global Business Development and Services Outsourcing, Biotech Division, Lupin Ltd. Students from around twenty colleges from Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane participated.

### a) Workshops

- Workshop on Basic Bioinformatics, conducted by Ms. Norine D’Souza for UG and PG Biotechnology students from various colleges in Mumbai.
- Workshop on Forensic science, The Forensic Factor, conducted by Ms. RivaPocha, Partner, FACTS for UG and PG Biotechnology students from various colleges in Mumbai.
- Workshop on Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship, conducted by Mr. George Tharakan, Managing Director, Navigation Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. and Alltrac Tracking Solutions Pvt. Ltd for UG and PG Biotechnology students from various colleges in Mumbai.

### b) Events:

- Biobiz: a competitive event based on Bio entrepreneurship
- Cerebrocracker: Quiz.
- Cascade: relay event based on

concepts in Biotechnology.

The students associated with Sparsh Charitable trust, an NGO working for the development of an integrated society by making a difference to the lives of underprivileged children, women and communities. Team Palindrome contributed by engaging with students from various local government schools for three weekends. They taught the students various concepts in science and guided them through the preparation of working models. On the last day, a science exhibition was organized, and the school students exhibited the models designed by them. The social cause was well appreciated by the organization as well as the teachers of the schools involved in the activity. The highlights of this activity were also covered by one of the leading daily newspapers, "The Free Press Journal".

- **Palindrome Magazine:**

Palindrome Magazine is an annual publication by the Post Graduate Department of Biotechnology which serves as a platform for students to showcase their creativity and share their opinions on relevant matters in the biosciences sphere. The 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine, published in November 2017, focused on attempting to give readers a fresh perspective on diverse topics including the GM crop scenario in India, CRISPR and the role of big data in biological science. Along with the regular features on Palindrome events, social outreach programme and research activities in the department, this edition also featured an acknowledgement to the department for having completed a decade since its inception.

- **Industrial Visit:**

- o The Department in association with Lupin Limited, Pune organized a one-day visit to the Biotechnology division located at Ghotawade, Pune on 14<sup>th</sup>

April, 2018. The students and the faculty got an opportunity to visit the Research and Development, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Departments. Students were familiarized with the research scenario at the industrial level, the research areas, techniques and equipment used. This was supplemented with a visit to the quality control department where students witnessed the stringent quality control measures practiced and the high-end facilities used to test a commercial product, hence creating a lucid outline of the work methodology. In addition, they also informed students of the kind of work currently underway in the field of biosimilars, and the future prospect areas associated with them.

### **Research Activities:**

- **Grants:**

- UGC- **Minor Research Grant:**

- Ms. Norine D'Souza completed a two-year UGC sponsored (Rs. 2, 70,000/-) minor research project on "*Role of chloride ion channels in glioma and their exploitation in therapy*"

- **Poster Presentation**

- o Minal Nenwani and Norine D'Souza, Interfamilial sequence based structural analysis of prions – A bioinformatics approach in understanding disease transmission, 'Bioinnova': National conference on food, nutrition and healthcare, Mumbai, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, ISBN No- 978-93-5300-348-7 - **Abstract**
- o Tanvi Kaku, Nehal Dwivedi, Mehvash Godiwala, Shweta Johari, Advait Kayal, and Norine Dsouza, Enhancing the yield of PHB by use of chemical inducers, International conference on Microbial Technology for a better tomorrow, Pune 17<sup>th</sup> –and 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, ISBN No- 978-93-87665-45-3 – **Abstract**
- o Hanzel Saldanha, Kris Silveira, Priyanka Subramani, Roma Sundar, Sushmita Varhadi, Arshad Shah

and Norine D'Souza, The effect of media on biofilm formation ability by cadmium tolerant isolates, International conference on Microbial Technology for a better tomorrow, Pune 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, ISBN No- 978-93-87665-45-3 - **Abstract**

➤ **Student Research Projects:**

- In the third semester, students completed group projects (in the department) on various aspects of biotechnology guided by the faculty. Listed below are a few project topics:
  - o Production of Dextran using Food Waste and its Utility in Bacteriological Media under the guidance of Dr. Biswa Prasun Chatterji.
  - o Production of Dextran from beet pomace and its utility in growth of fungi and probiotics under the guidance of Dr. Biswa Prasun Chatterji.
  - o Enhancing the yield of polyhydroxy butyrate (PHB) by use of chemical inducers under the guidance of Ms. Norine Dsouza.
  - o Media optimization and substrate suitability study for biofilm formation by cadmium tolerant microorganisms under the guidance of Ms. Norine Dsouza.
  - o Effect of polyphenols extracted from *Phaseolus vulgaris* on proliferation and iron uptake: an *in vitro* perspective under the guidance of Dr. Shiney Peter.
  - o Cytotoxicity of plant extracts and their combination with chemotherapeutic drugs on human cell lines under the guidance of Dr. Shiney Peter.
  - o Prospecting *in vitro* models for assessing cytotoxicity of food colours under the guidance of Dr. Shiney Peter.
  - o Cytotoxicity profiling of *Musa sp.* (Banana inflorescence) and *Mangifera indica* (Mango kernel) extract: an *in vitro* study under the guidance of Dr. Shiney Peter.

- Semester IV students completed external projects over four months (December – April) at IIT Mumbai, ACTREC, TIFR, BARC, CIFE, NIRRH, NIIH and DAE-CBS.
- **Student participation in seminars/workshops/conferences:**
  - o **Biocamp 2017:**
  - **BioCamp, Novartis Biotechnology Leadership Camp 2017**, is a pioneering event conducted by Novartis, a leading international pharmaceutical company, wherein, 50 Post graduate students and researchers across the country will get an opportunity to interact with leading experts in the pharmaceutical and biotech fields, learn about breakthrough medicines to address patients' unmet medical needs, understand trends and challenges in the pharmaceutical sector, receive first-hand experience about starting and running a biotech company and network with experts. The selection was based on a written test and multiple rounds of interviews. Three of our students (Kris S, Priyanka S and Komal M) were selected for the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Novartis Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) on the theme 'Future of Medicine: New frontiers for reaching and meeting patient needs'
  - o **Seminars, Conferences and Workshop:**
    - An interactive session on 'Heal, Fuel and Feed the World with Food Science and Biotechnology' by Dr Sangeeta Prakash, faculty member from Department of Food Technology at University of Queensland, on 27 September, 2017.
    - An interactive talk on "Intersection of Science and Business: How an Idea Translates from Bench to Market" by Dr. Sunny Shah, Assistant Director at the ESTEEM Graduate Program at University of Notre Dame, USA, on 21 November, 2017.
- Academic Editing and Popular Science Writing Workshop held at St. Xavier's College on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017
- Seminar on Introduction to basics of Flow Cytometer at IIT, Mumbai on 8 December, 2017
- Biolutions, a seminar to stimulate awareness of the growing impact and vast developments in the Biological Sciences field, and its impact on modern day society, held at Sophia College on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017
- MSc. Semester II students participated in an intercollegiate festival conducted by Department of Biotechnology, Ruia College on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017 and won the first and second prizes in Quiz.
  - Tejas S and Rutuja Chalke – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize
  - Ruqayya M and Vedanshi D – 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize
- Lecture series on Regenerative Biology- From Lab to Bench side held in January 2018 at NCBS, Bangalore
- Seminar on New Targeted therapies for cancer, autoimmune and infectious diseases at IIT Mumbai on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2018
- BIOWAVES 2018, a seminar organized by the Department of Life Science and Biochemistry at St. Xavier's College on 22 January, 2018.
- Seminar on Design of functional delivery systems using nanotechnology at IIT Mumbai on 30 January, 2018
- One Day Symposium on Stem Cells and Cancer organized by Somaiya Group at on 5 February, 2018
- Seminar on Creativity and Life in Science held at NCMR-NCCS, Pune on 8 February, 2018
- A talk on Neuroscience– Then and Now organized at Sophia College on 10 February, 2018
- Lecture Series on Microbial Science Outreach Initiative held at NCMR-NCCS January– March, 2018.
- Lecture Series on Reproductive Health held at NIRRH, Mumbai January– March, 2018.
- Workshop on Mass Spectrometry held in St. Xavier's college in collaboration with The Indian Chemical Society and The Indian Society for Mass Spectrometry in December 2017.
- Popular science lectures by IWSA and Caius Research Laboratory, St. Xavier's College on Renewable Carbon Engineering: Role of Chemical and Biological Sciences by Dr. Arvind Lali on 16 February, 2018.
- Cancer Awareness Program: Facts and fiction organized by Department of Microbiology on 28 February, 2018.
- Career Guidance seminar organized by Department of Microbiology on 21 April, 2018
- **Faculty Activities:**
  - o Dr. Biswa Prasun Chatterji conducted lectures for the postgraduate students of the Department of Life Sciences and Microbiology in the field of IPR management at St. Xavier's College.
  - o Dr. Shiney Peter and Ms. Norine D'Souza were appointed as the resource team members for the project "Integrating concepts in the undergraduate Biology lab course" conducted by Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education – from September 2017 onwards.
  - o Ms. Norine D'Souza was appointed member, resource team, under the programme "Vigyan Pratibha Resource generation camp" conducted by Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education for introduction of novel methods of teaching – learning for Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers – August 2017 onwards.
  - o Dr. Shiney Peter and Dr. Ira Vashist participated in a one-day International symposium on



Cancer and Stem Cells conducted by Somaiya group on 5 February, 2018.

- o Dr. Shiney Peter and Ms. Norine D'Souza attended a three-day workshop on "Techniques in Proteomics" sponsored by LTMT and conducted by SIES college, Sion, 26 to 28 February, 2018
- o Ms. Norine D'Souza was the resource person for the Bioinformatics workshops conducted in *Palindrome* in January 2018 and Beyond the bench – Bioinformatics for beginners in February 2018
- o Ms. Norine D'Souza conducted lectures on bioinformatics for MSc-Semester IV students at SIES College in March – April, 2018.
- o All faculty members attended the Faculty seminar on Visioning organized by IQAC in April 2018.
- **Extension Activities:**
- o Quest for Excellence Programme: The department had offered two courses under the Sciences Hub for UG students across the sciences from St. Xavier's College.
- Bioinformatics Course was conducted by Ms. Norine D'Souza. 20 students across the biological

sciences discipline participated and successfully completed the course.

- Animal Cell Culture Course was conducted by Dr. Shiney Peter. 10 students across the biological sciences discipline participated and successfully completed the course.
- o All faculty members coordinated the organization of *Palindrome* 2018.
- o Ms. Norine D'Souza and Dr. Shiney Peter were appointed as examiners for MSc Biotechnology examinations conducted by R. Ruia College (Autonomous), Mumbai.
- o Dr. Shiney Peter was also inducted as the subject expert in Biotechnology on the Board of Studies, Department of Biotechnology, R. Ruia College (Autonomous), Mumbai.
- o Ms. Norine D'Souza and Dr. Shiney Peter conducted interactive laboratory sessions on concepts in Biochemistry and Cell Biology in the department for School students from Shikshyatan, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in February 2018.
- Dr. Biswa Prasun Chatterji, our faculty member since 2012 took up a new assignment with D Y Patil

University in Pune as an Associate Professor from August 2017. Dr. B.P Chatterjee was a very popular and inspiring teacher. He was also instrumental in the curriculum development since the inception of autonomy in the department. His insights and expertise have helped the department to become an excellent learning and development hub in the various aspects of Biotechnology for PG students in the city. We wish him all success in his future endeavors.

➤ Dr. Ira Vashisht, PhD in Biotechnology, was appointed as an Assistant Professor in August 2017.

➤ Dr. Karuna Gokarn, Associate Professor, Microbiology, took over as the Head of the Department from December 2017 onwards.

**Dr. Karuna Gokarn**  
Head, Department of Biotechnology

## BOTANY

The Botany department remained as vibrant as ever in 2017-2018.

Dr. Shinde was appointed as the Head of Department with effect from 21 June, 2017.

Dr. Manek Mistry retired on 30 June, 2017. Mr. Royston Anil Lobo as well as Mr. Saif Khan joined the faculty on an ad-hoc basis.

### Mous Signed With Various Institutions/ Organizations:

- The Natural History Museum (NHM), London and the Blatter Herbarium, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, signed an MOU on 17 July 2017 for research

collaborations between the two institutions.

- G.M.M. Women's College, Bhiwandi and St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai signed an MOU on 8 February, 2018 for mutual collaborations in research, teacher training, usage of infrastructure and facilities like Blatter Herbarium.
- Rajarshi Shahu Mahavidyala (Autonomous), Latur & St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai signed an MOU on 24 February, 2018 for faculty and student exchange, sharing and mobilization of resources, infrastructure, and

utilization of resources from the departments, especially from Botany Department.

- The Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai signed an MOU with Satish Pradhan Dnyansadhana College (SPD), Thane on 17 May, 2018 for collaboration between the Botany departments of both institutions. Blatter Herbarium will help Dnyansadhana College prepare for a Biodiversity Audit of their premises.
- The Botany Department of St Xavier's College (SXC), under the guidance of Dr. Shinde, conducted

a Biodiversity Audit (Tree Census) of the SPD College in the month of May 2018. Along with the students of SPD, MSc students of SXC conducted the tree census and analysed the data collected by them. The official report was submitted to the Head of the Botany Department of SPD College on 19 May, 2018. The techniques of Tree census and Tree identification were taught to UG students of SPD by MSc Students of SXC.

#### **National Seminar:**

1. The Blatter Herbarium, Botany Department and National Society of the Friends of the Trees organized a day-long seminar on "Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP): A living Treasure amidst Concrete Jungle & Sustainable Urban Forest Management". Eminent Scientist and Director of the Bombay Natural History Society, Dr. Deepak Apte gave the keynote address on "Development and Conservation: A new paradigm".

Other renowned speakers included Dr. Renee Borges, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on "The Forgotten Pollinators: Urban Forests as their Refugia" who warned against the environmental as well as economic consequences of the reducing populations of well-known and not so well-known insect pollinators. Dr. Vidya Atreya (IISER, Pune) and her student Mr. Nikit Surve (alumni of SXC), delivered two separate talks on "Leopards in Maharashtra" and "Leopards and Human Conflict with reference to SGNP" respectively. Dr. Mayur Nandikar, Scientist and Head, Navroji Godrej Centre for Plant Research, Shirwal, Satara, spoke on Endemic Flora of SGNP. Mr. Issac Kehimkar, Naturalist, gave an illustrated talk on "Butterflies of SGNP" and Mrs. Mugdha Karnik, Director of Extra Mural Studies of University of Mumbai, spoke on a much-debated topic, "SGNP – The Warli and Other Tribal Settlements, Problems and New Approaches to

solve them."

MSc Botany Students also put up a small exhibition of Plants and Cosmetic products

2. Interdisciplinary Seminar "Confluence", on Biostatistics, organized by Department of Botany, Statistics and Zoology, St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous), held on 12 January, 2018.
3. Two-day workshop: "Introductory Course on Geographic Information System (GIS) in Plant Science Research" (16 and 17 March, 2018) by Dr. Rajasri Ray, Indian faculty from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. M.Sc. and Ph.D. students of the Botany department attended the workshop.

#### **Ph.D. Awarded:**

In April 2018, Ms. Smita Gaurea was awarded a PhD by the University of Mumbai for her thesis entitled, "Comparative study of resins from selected plants of families Burseraceae, Dipterocarpaceae, Rubiaceae and Sterculiaceae, under the guidance of Professor Ujwala Bapat, (retired), former HOD of the Department

#### **NET, SET and GATE:**

Ms. Snehal Unde, M.Sc. (2016) and Mr. Jatin Vaiti (M.Sc 2016) qualified for the GATE exam in the subject of life sciences.

Ms. Snehal Unde also qualified for the CSIR-UGC-NET for JRF and SET exam.

Along with her, Mr. Saif Khan (MSc 2017) and Ms. Kiran Thuma (MSc 2016) also qualified for the SET exam.

#### **Guest Lectures:**

The Department organized a number of guest lectures by visiting scientists –

1. Dr Renee Borges, Professor, School of Ecology: "Cross kingdom interactions-Mutualism and parasitism in tale of three cities" on 21 July, 2017
2. Dr. Meena Haribal, Scientist, Cornell University, Ithaca,

USA: "Chemical ecology and importance of native plants" on 4 January, 2018

3. Dr. Leon Pereira, Asst. Professor, Universal Business School: "Snakes and Gardens" on 1 February, 2018
4. Dr. K. Prasad, Research Associate, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta: "Salient Features of the Family Orchidaceae with special reference to genus *Habenaria* in Peninsular India" 29 January, 2018
5. Dr. Pratap Naikwade, Asst. Professor, ASP College, Devrukh: "Stress Physiology and Plant Molecular Biology" on 17 February, 2018
6. Ms. Rani Om Prakash, Curator, Natural History Museum, London: "Molecular Systematics: The APG system of classification of flowering plants" on 28 February, 2018
7. Mr. Rohit Pansare, Principal Environmental Planner, Environmental Management Centre, LLP, Mumbai: "Remote Sensing and its applications" on 24 February, 2018

#### **Training received by faculty:**

- The teaching faculty of the department participated in all the seminars conducted by the college including a Seminar on "Gender sensitization" by Fr. Keith D'Souza SJ. organized by St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous). on 12 July, 2017
- Dr. Rajendra Shinde participated in the STEM Teacher Training Workshop on Research Based Pedagogical Tools held from 10-13 December, 2017 at IIT, Gandhinagar.
- Dr. Rajendra Shinde attended a Training on "PFMS-EAT and DBT Module" on 11 October, 2017 at Institute of Government Accounts and Finance, Regional Training Centre, Mumbai-01.
- Mr. Alok Gude attended a workshop on teaching and

learning skills in plant physiology and biochemistry on 3 and 4 March, 2018 and Dr. Vijaya Lobo attended a workshop on teaching and learning skills on Plant Molecular Biology on 1 March, 2018, both organized by Teaching and Learning Centre, Department of Botany, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

- Dr. Vijaya Lobo attended a Workshop on “Revised syllabus on MSc Part II, Botany (Plant physiology and Biochemistry)” organized by the Department of Botany, the Institute of Science, Mumbai on 12 June, 2017.
- Mr. Royston Anil Lobo attended National Science Academies’ Lecture Workshop on “Advances in Toxicology” organized by the Haffkine Institute for Training, Research and Testing, Mumbai, on 22 and 23 February, 2018.

### Field Trips:

**As a part of the curriculum, the Department organized various field trips:**

- The T.Y.B.Sc. were taken to Khandala, Pune as a part of the curriculum. The trip duration was 28 to 31 July, 2017.
- The S.Y.B.Sc. were taken to BPT Garden, Mumbai on 12 January, 2018 and to Hanging Gardens and Kamla Nehru Park on 16 February, 2018, as a part of the curriculum.
- The F.Y.B.Sc. were taken to the College garden and the nearby area in batches of 10, once a week, as a part of the curriculum.

### Faculty Activities:

#### Dr. Rajendra D. Shinde

1. Visiting Faculty at Dapoli Urban Bank’s Arts and Science College, Dapoli for MSc in Taxonomy
2. MSc Lectures at the University of Mumbai (Mithibai College), Mumbai
3. Visiting Faculty for the Biodiversity Course BIO5.03 at the Centre for Excellence in Basic Biology, - DAE-

MU, Mumbai University.

4. Pancham Khemraj Mahavidyalaya, Sawantwadi for M.Sc. Taxonomy.

### Publications:

#### Books:

- 1) **Rajendra D. Shinde 2018. “Floral Diversity of Nandur Madhmeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary – A pictorial guide”. Nashik Wildlife Division, Nashik. ISBN 978-93- 5300-168-1**
- 2) Contributed to – **“Important Medicinal Plant Resources of Maharashtra and Online Data base of Medicinal Plants of Maharashtra”** – sponsored by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission, Govt. of Maharashtra and Agharkar Research Institute, Pune. The book was released on 22 February, 2018 by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Phadnis at his Chamber in Mantralaya, Mumbai.

### Research papers:

- 1) **Rajendra D. Shinde & Rajdeo Singh (2017), Lectotypification of *Seneciobelgaumensis* and *S. gibsonii* (Asteraceae) in Rheedea, 27 (2): 99-102. ISSN: 0971-2313 <https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedea.2017.27.2.18>**
- 2) **Rajdeo Singh & Rajendra D. Shinde, (2017), Lectotypification of *Doronicum Hewrense* Dalzell & *Vicoacernua* Dalzell (Asteraceae) in Journal of Indian Bot. Soc., 96 (3&4): 302-304. ISSN: 0019-4468, e-ISSN:2455-7218.**
- 3) **Rajendra D. Shinde (2017), Aarey Milk Colony Mumbai as Forest Territory - A Status Report in Xplore- The Xavier’s Research Journal 8 (3): 80-95. ISSN: 2249-1878**

### Patent:

Dr Rajendra Shinde and Dr. Kalpit Mhatre filed a Patent to the Patent Office, Government of India, Mumbai on May 22, 2018 related to Herbal Medicine.

### Evaluation of Ph.D thesis:

- Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj, Nagpur – evaluated Ph.D thesis and conducted Ph.D Viva-voce examination April 12, 2018
- Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Department of Botany, May 2018.

### Reviewer for Journal and RGSTC – (Funding Agency)

1. Refereed a Project Proposal for Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (Nov.22,2017).
2. Reviewed Manuscripts of Research papers for the Journal of Bombay Natural History Society (JBHNS), Journal of Threatened Taxa (JOTT) and Rheedea.

### Invited for talks:

- 1) “Scope of Botany and importance of taxonomy” at GurunanakKhalsa College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Matunga on 7 August, 2017.
- 2) “Importance of Taxonomy with reference to Research, Industries and other allied areas” at Bhaskar Waman Thakur College of Science (VIVA College) Virar – 21 August, 2017
- 3) Delivered a talk on “the Concept and importance of Biodiversity in Forests”, at a Workshop on Community forest rights organized by Kashtkari Sangathan, at Dahanu – 26 September, 2017
- 4) Resource person at Manghanmal Udharam College of Commerce, Pimpri, Pune – State-level one-day seminar on “Smart Cities: Strategies, Opportunities and Challenges for sustainable Environment” - Delivered a talk on – “Biodiversity in Smart Cities” - 10 January, 2018.
- 5) Patna Women’s College – DBT Sponsored Workshop – Resource Person for DBT to speak to a gathering of Principals from Bihar and Jharkhand about DBT Star College Scheme and its benefits – Case Study of St. Xavier’s College, (Autonomous), Mumbai on 25 January, 2018.

- 6) Lala Lajpat Rai College as a Resource Person at National Seminar on Biodiversity Management Concerns and Challenges. Delivered a talk on "Agricultural Biodiversity – Use it or lose it." - 17 February, 2018.
- 7) Resource Person at Ruparel College for a workshop on Autonomy- 3 March, 2018.
- 8) Resource Person for Autonomy Seminar at Jai Hind College on Assessment, Evaluation and Exam Norms under Autonomy on 20 March, 2018.

#### Popular Publications:

1. Article in Marathi weekly magazine – *Lokprabha* – "Jhadajhudpanchya Desha" (Flora of Maharashtra) in Marathi. March 2018.
2. Popular article in reputed Marathi weekly newspaper – 'Disha' by Zee Marathi – on "April cha phulora."

#### Appointments:

1. Mentor's committee for DBT STAR college scheme, B.K. Birla College, Kalyan from 16 April, 2018
2. Member of Advisory Committee for DBT Star College Scheme – Patkar College, Goregaon(W), Mumbai.
3. Plant Expert Committee in Maharashtra State as per Rule 1 of the Maharashtra Biological Diversity Rules 2008, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Government of Maharashtra.
4. Elected as a member of Board of Management from Teaching

faculty, at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai for the period from 2017-2019.

5. Elected as member of BOS in Botany at the University of Mumbai for the term of five years starting from 1 September, 2017 to 31 August, 2022.
6. Member of Selection Committee for Biotech Consortium India Ltd, for interviewing students from different universities Sponsored by DBT on 21 and 22 September, 2017.
7. Member of BOS in Botany at Ruia College (Autonomous), Mumbai and Mithibai College (Autonomous), Mumbai

#### Mr. Alok Gude

##### Publication:

Gude, Alok (2018), in Life Sciences Protocol Manual, DBT Star College Scheme, Identification of timber-yielding plants, pages 41-49.

##### Paper Presentation:

Presented a paper entitled 'Biodiversity enhances Ecosystem Services' at the 6<sup>th</sup> international conference on 'Recent Trends in Life Sciences' (ICRTLS-2017) 29 and 30 December, 2017, at New Arts, Science and Commerce College, Parner, District Ahmednagar, sponsored by BCUD, SPPU and Microbiologist Society India.

**Paper setter** for FYBSc Botany all papers of Semester 1 and 2, University of Mumbai for year 2017-18.

**Examiner** for TYBSc Botany practicals for the 5<sup>th</sup> semester at Ruia, Wilson and

Khalsa Colleges, and for MSc. part I practical exams semester 1 and 2 at Ruia College (Autonomous).

#### Dr. Vijaya Lobo

**Paper Presentation:** Attended and presented poster "Potential Biofertilizers - isolated soil bacteria." in the Seminar on "Biosciences: A Journey towards Innovation" organized by Department of Biotechnology, Bioanalytical sciences and Environmental sciences, Birla College held on 10 March, 2018.

**Member** of the Placement Committee; also the departmental coordinator for the Quest for Excellence program, and DQAC.

#### Dr. Manek K. Mistry

Gave a lecture and demonstration on "Palynology" to M.A. part 1 students of Ancient Indian Culture of the College on 30 November, 2018.

#### Mr. Saif Khan:

**Publication:** Naaz, Khan S.Y. – "Study of Reduction Properties of Enzyme Alcohol Dehydrogenase from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Meyen ex. Hansen on Some Selected Compounds". Int. J. Life. Sci. Scienti. Res., July 2017; 3(4):1234-1237.

#### Dr. Smita Gaurea:

**Publication:** Gaurea, S.H., Smrity P and Bapat U C (2017). 'Antifungal activity of gum-resin extracts of *Boswellia serrata*, *Commiphora mukul*, *Gardenia resinifera* and *Shorea robusta* against some plant pathogenic fungi'. Indian Phytopathology, 70 (2) 224-227.

#### Dr Rajendra D. Shinde

Head, Department of Botany

## CHEMISTRY

It has been a year of transitions for the Chemistry Department. Dr. Freddy Havaladar retired as the HoD on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira, S.J. took over as the HoD on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. He had put in 34 years of service. A few months before that was the retirement of Dr. Gulshanara Shaikh [Vice-Principal (Academics)] who gave

32 years of service to the college. A few months before that Ms. Mangala Potnis retired as HoD after 37 years of service. More recently on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 Dr. Dionysia Coutinho [Former Vice-Principal (Science)] retired after 31 years of service. Their distinguished teaching career has influenced the lives of thousands of students. We thank

them for their many contributions to the department and to the college and wish them well for the future. This past year Dr. Milind Shreykar and Mr. Onkar Lotlikar also served in the department for which we are grateful. In their place, we welcome Dr. Sandip Kale and Dr. Nikhila Bhat. Another transition was the graduation of 55



Chemistry students. As one batch crosses the threshold, we are also excited to welcome the new batch of '**Class of 2019**', the **150<sup>th</sup> batch**.

A lot of innovative ideas were implemented by our faculty and students for generating interest in the field of Chemistry by reaching out to schools and other institutes. At the same time, the intellectual requirements of our Chemistry students were taken care of by various events on our college campus.

A workshop on 'Mass Spectrometry' was organized by 'The Indian Chemical Society' (ICS) in collaboration with St. Xavier's College, Mumbai on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The workshop which included a lecture, hands-on practical session and a session for problem-solving was conducted by Dr. R.K. Vatsa, Professor and Senior Research Scientist, BARC. It was very well appreciated by students from St. Xavier's College and other colleges as well.

The Xavier's Association of Chemistry (XAC) continues to expand and flourish and has hosted a number of lectures and events throughout the year to increase interest and appreciation of chemistry in students, under the enthusiastic guidance and mentorship of our faculty-in-charge, Dr. Ashma Aggarwal.

- As part of our Chemistry Outreach Programme, third year Chemistry students went to Municipal Schools at Colaba and Chembur and taught chemistry to 8th standard students.
- To emphasize the fun aspect of Chemistry, the XAC volunteers organized an exhibition which was attended by students from the Colaba Municipal School.
- Remedial classes and study sessions on spectroscopy, stereochemistry and electro-chemistry were conducted by our ex-students: Kyle, Neha and Aditya. Three of our third year students Neha, Dipanshu and Anshuman delivered talks on interdisciplinary topics which were much appreciated by the students.
- Workshop on Lab safety was conducted by Borosil.

- A series of three workshops on 'How to memorize the periodic table and the significance of elements' was also held.
- Lectures and talks by eminent scientists helped to bring exciting new developments in science to the students. Some of the noteworthy lectures were: 'Chemistry of Cooking' by Joshua D'costa 'Probing Materials: Journey through a sliding window of Space and Time Scales' by S Basu from BARC 'Better Living through Green Chemistry' by Dr. Ram Mohan, Illinois Wesleyan University, USA 'Career guidance talk for students in the fields of Chemistry and Physics' by Dr. R.K. Vatsa, President, ICMAS & ICS (Mumbai Branch), Prof., Department of Chemistry, BARC 'Molecular machines' by Dr Roop Mallik, Prof., TIFR
- The Annual Intercollegiate Chemistry competition 'Alchemia' was hugely successful and saw participation of students from eight colleges from Mumbai. The annual Chemistry Department Magazine 'Elemental' was also released.

#### **Khandala Seminar:**

The annual Khandala seminar was organized from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 by Mr. Marazban Kotwal and Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira.

The group had seventy enthusiastic students and encouragement from the HOD persuaded ten faculty members to join in for the first time ever. It was truly an experience of 'chemical bonding.'

#### **Faculty Member Achievements:**

Dr. Abhilasha Jain published a chapter on Fenton and Photo-Fenton Processes in a book titled: 'Advanced Oxidation Processes For Wastewater Treatment Emerging Green Chemical Technology' (ISBN-13: 978-0128104996).

Dr. Freddy Havaladar, Dr. Ashma Aggarwal and Dr. Pralhad Rege published a paper titled: 'Stability indicating RP-HPLC method for simultaneous determination of

Beclomethasone Dipropionate and Clotrimazole from dosage form' in International Journal of Chem Tech Research Vol. ,10(9): 437-442(2017)

Dr. Geeta Kotian attended IQAC workshop 'The Revised NAAC Approach: Some Salient Features' on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at KES Shroff College, Kandivli.

Dr. Geeta Kotian, Dr. Ashma Aggarwal and Ms. Saima Khan attended 'NAAC – Revised Assessment and Accreditation Framework' workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Royal College, Mumbai.

Dr. Geeta Kotian, Dr. Ashma Aggarwal and Ms. Saima Khan participated in a two-day faculty Development Programme 'Innovative Methods in Teaching and Learning: ICT Tools' on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 at Sterling College of Pharmacy, Nerul.

Dr. Pralhad Rege participated in a/an:

- One day national symposium titled "Towards Formulation of An Alternative Democratic Education Policy" on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at University of Mumbai.
- Interdisciplinary national workshop on 'Electron Microscopy of Nanoparticles' organized by S.I.W.S college of Science, Wadala Mumbai in association with NCNNU, University of Mumbai, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017
- "BIOWAVES 2018" organized by Dept of Life Science & Biochemistry St. Xavier's College on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018.

Dr. Abhilasha Jain participated in a/an:

- Workshop: Microanalysis Dept. Of Chemistry, Thakur College of Science and Commerce, Kandivli. (E) 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017
- International Symposium on Recent Developments in the Neurological Sciences & the New Interpretation of the Spiritual Aspects in Humans on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai and IISR, Delhi.

Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira, S.J.

- Presented a paper titled 'Neuroscience, Mindfulness and Creativity' at Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts, Pune on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Presented a paper titled 'Recent Developments in Neuroscience and Understanding our Spiritual Nature' at International Symposium on Recent Developments in the Neurological Sciences & the New Interpretation of the Spiritual Aspects in Humans, on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- TEDxDJSCE Talk on 'Why we remember and why we forget: A Metaphor for life' on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- Conducted a talk for Life Sciences Department at Khandala Villa on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017
- Presented a paper on 'Networking and Collaborations: Are we resisting it? Why is it an uphill start?' at XIDAS, Jabalpur on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017
- Attended the UGCC-MHRD Institutions of Excellence meet at AICTE, Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
- Gave a full day Seminar to 200 Staff of St. Joseph's Arts & Science College, Bengaluru 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- Appointed as a member of CDC, Nirmala Niketan College from

the Academic Year 2017.

Mr. Marazban Kotwal continues to serve as the Controller of Examinations, Dr. Ashma Aggarwal serves as the Staff Coordinator for Extra Curricular Activities and Dr. Geeta serves on the Scholarship Committee. We also appreciate the contributions of Dr. B.D. Bonde and Mr. Himanshu Gupta in small and big ways.

As we enter the 150<sup>th</sup> year of St. Xavier's College we look forward to taking the department and the college to greater heights.

**Dr. (Fr.) Roy Pereira, S.J.**  
Head, Department of Chemistry

## COMMERCE (ARTS)

The year has been very fruitful and beneficial for the Department of Commerce (Arts Section). Following is the list of the research and the co-curricular activities carried out in this year:

### Faculty Research:

This year Dr. Suvaiba Pirani presented and published three academic papers and attended one College seminar. The details are listed below:

'TQM in E-Commerce, Issues, Execution and Challenges' for the two day, 2<sup>nd</sup> Multidisciplinary International Conference on Dynamics of Globalization Indian Scenario at Maharashtra College of Arts, Science and Commerce on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

'Corporate Governance in Banks' for the one day International Conference on Commerce, Banking, Economics, Management, Law, Social Sciences and Environmental Concerns at M B Harris College of Arts and A. E. Kalsekar College of Commerce and Management on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

'Affordability and Access to Higher Education in India' for the one day National Conference on "Innovative Practices and Emerging Trends: Quality Research in Higher Education" at N.S.S. College of Commerce and Economics on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Young Teachers Seminar on "Review of Teaching and Learning in the classroom" at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

### Students Co-curriculum Activity:

The department had organized a Quest for Excellence Programme (QEP). It was a series of 4 lectures conducted in the field of "Entrepreneurship and its Insights" by Resource Person; Mr. Furqan Shaikh, Head – Department of BMS/BMM/BAF/BBI - Rizvi College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai

### Social work by the Department:

The department also organized Social Involvement Programme (S.I.P.).

The students helped Lifetrust NGO by preparing charts and posters

on the 'Evolution of Money'. It was successfully completed and submitted for the understanding of the students studying in the public schools.

### Placement before Graduation in 2017-18

Four Eco-commerce students got **campus placement** from the college in 2017-18.

01	Mallika Jhaveri	Deloitte Shared Services
02	Vikrant Mehra	The Red Pen
03	Aivin Saji	Ernst & Young
04	Meet Shah	P3 Architectural Solutions

We are extremely proud to carry out the department work efficiently and effectively to reach to an enhanced level. We also congratulate the students who have received placement this year. We the department members are looking forward to this year eagerly.

**Dr. Suvaiba Pirani**  
Department of Commerce  
(Arts Section)

# COMMERCE (B.COM)

The academic year 2017-2018 was special to the commerce section as it was the 30<sup>th</sup> year of its effort in creating many success stories by continuously offering quality higher education and all round development to its students. Here are some highlights of the academic year 2017-18.

Faculty member, Mr. Kamaji Bokare was awarded a Ph. D. in Economics under the guidance of Dr. D. S. Tikate by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018. His doctoral research was on 'A Cost Benefit Analysis and Impact Evaluation of Economic Development with reference to Maharashtra'.

Mr. Sanjay Parab resumed his post on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 after two years of FIP leave to pursue his Ph. D. On his rejoining, Mr. Navneet Sangha, who had filled in for Mr. Parab, left the department leaving behind sweet memories. We are thankful to him and wish him a happy and peaceful journey ahead.

Yasmeen Khan, a third year BCom. student went to Harvard University, USA in January 2018, as part of a student exchange programme. She gained valuable insights and great experience.

Though most commerce students came to college after working throughout the day, they have shown excellence in academics which can be seen in the results. The following three students from third year BCom secured the highest CGPA:

Jose Akhila	3.82
Attari Tasneem Mustafa	3.79
C.R.K.K. Akhira	3.63

As in the past, the commerce department continued to organise various activities in the academic year 2017-18 as well. The list of activities is below:

## Prayer Service and Orientation:

An inter-religious prayer service was organised on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 for first,

second and third year students to start off the academic year. The Orientation for newly admitted first year students was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 to acquaint them with each other and the college campus.

## Graduation Ceremony:

The Graduation Ceremony for the fifth Autonomous batch was organised on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 to felicitate the BCom. graduates of the academic year 2016-17. The chief guest, Mr. Ralph Mawar, alumnus of batch 2010-11, a practicing CA, and the guest of honour, Mr. Aman Bhैया, alumnus of batch 2011-12, the Assistant Vice-President and Programme Head, SBI Foundation, encouraged the graduates and motivated the present students by sharing their past and present experiences. The students were delighted with the separate programme that had been organised for them for the first time.

## Guest Lectures:

Dr. Prasad Karnik, Technical Director, International Institute of Sleep Sciences, and Ex-Centre In-Charge, Thane Campus, University of Mumbai, delivered a lecture on the topic 'Wake up to Sleep' on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017. He pointed to the fact that the youngsters of the cities like Mumbai are suffering from sleep disorders and a good night's sleep is now only a dream to them.

Colonel H. K. Gopinath, Deputy Chief Officer of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Area (Signals) delivered a lecture on 'Indian Army – Service with Pride in Valour' on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. He highlighted several career opportunities available to young graduates in the Indian Army.

## Cultural Programmes:

Cultural programmes were organised on the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 and that of St. Francis Xavier on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017. As part of the Christmas celebration which took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017, a students versus staff cricket match was organized.

## Outdoor Seminar:

A study cum excursion programme was conducted for the third year students on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at Xavier's Villa, Khandala. The theme of the seminar was 'Values of Life'. Its objective was to provide learning opportunities to the students beyond the curriculum.

## Expressions 2K18:

It is an inter-class competition which is organised every year with a number of events. It was organised on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The highlights of the event were the Personality Contest and debate on the topic 'The Right to Privacy Vis-à-Vis the Aadhaar Scheme'.

## Coaching Centre for Competitive Examinations:

On behalf of the 30<sup>th</sup> year of its service, the commerce section started a coaching centre in the academic year 2017-18 to prepare those aspiring to write competitive examinations such as UPSC and MPSC. The coaching classes were conducted twice a week throughout the year by the faculty of the commerce section and Dr. Joseph Rodericks, who passed the Civil Service Examination in 2009 and was selected for Indian Defence Estate Service.

## Sitare– 2017:

After a break of two years, the commerce section organised Sitare–2017, an inter-collegiate national level competition for the night college students on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The competition was organised for the seven events – Elocution, Power Point Presentation (PPT), Quiz, Solo Singing (Bollywood), Solo Dance (Folk), Carrom (Double) and Chess wherein 16 night degree colleges from various parts of the country and 38 junior colleges from Mumbai participated. St. Vincent College, Pune won the Best College trophy. The results of Sitare–2017 are as mentioned.

Power Point Presentation (PPT) (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Melita Martis	St. Xavier's College–Autonomous, Mumbai
	Shiva Kumar	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lokare Vaibhav P	Night College of Arts and Commerce, Ichalkaranji, Dist: Kolhapur
	Patil Akshay M.	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Renny Peter	St.Vincent College of Commerce,Pune
	Leslie Joseph	
Elocution (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Akshay M. Ilke	Night College of Arts and Commerce, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wagh Saurabh Shantaram	Late Sau. Ratnaprabha Vaishmpayan Arts, Science College, Nasik
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Humraaz Shaikh	Navneet Night Degree College, Mumbai Central, Mumbai
Quiz (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Zaheed Shaikh	St. Vincent College of Commerce, Pune
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Akhila Jose	St. Xavier's College–Autonomous, Mumbai
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mangesh Kisan Parthe	Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Edu. Society's Arts and Commerce College, Parel, Mumbai
Solo Singing (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Pramil Iswalkar	Navneet Night Degree College, Mumbai Central, Mumbai
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ajay Sing Thakur	Gujarat Arts and Commerce College (Evening), Ahmadabad, Gujarat
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ganeshacharya Prajakta Shahaji	Night College of Arts and Commerce, Kolhapur
Solo Dance (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ashwini	Chh. Shivaji Night College, Solapur
2 <sup>nd</sup>	KoleSarvesh K.	Night College of Arts and Commerce, Ichalkaranji, Dist: Kolhapur
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Neha Ranawade	Public Night Degree College, Santacruz (E), Mumbai

Chess (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Musaddique Anwer Wahiduz Zafar	A.I.T's Arts Commerce and Science Night College, Malegaon, Dist: Nasik
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tejas Gamare	Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Edu. Society's Arts and Commerce College, Parel, Mumbai
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Johnson D'souza	St. Vincent College of Commerce, Pune
Carrom (Double) (Senior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Akshay Pradhan	St. Vincent College of Commerce, Pune
	Snaden Xavier	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lalu Rathod	St. Xavier's College–Autonomous, Mumbai
	Akshay Chavan	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Prakash D.Maru	Mahatma JyotibaPhuleEdu. Society's Arts and Commerce College, Parel, Mumbai
	Omkar Jethe	
Solo Singing (Junior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	A. Gayathry Krishnachandran	The Andhra Education Society's Junior College, Wadala (W), Mumbai
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Prashansa Thorat	B. M. Ruia Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Gamdevi, Mumbai
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Raj Ashok Salian	I. E. S. Junior College, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Solo Dance (Junior Category)		
Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the College
1 <sup>st</sup>	Samruddhi Khair	B. M. Ruia Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Gamdevi, Mumbai
2 <sup>nd</sup>	SirilSabu	St. Xavier's Junior College, Bhandup (W), Mumbai
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Samiksha Pawar	Maharshi Dayanand College, Parel, Mumbai

As with the last twenty-nine years, the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the commerce section was filled with academic endeavours and extra-curricular activities and we look forward to the 31<sup>st</sup> year with more hope and enthusiasm. May God continue to bless our efforts.

**Fr. Errol Fernandes, S.J**  
Vice-Principal (Commerce)

'Children who live together, learn to live together'

- Anonymous



# ECONOMICS

## Economics

The following is a tabulated representation of the activities of the Economics Department

**Dr. Agnelo Menezes, Principal**

Sr No.	Date	Programme	Purpose
1	2017-18	Academic Council, University of Mumbai.	Committee Member
2	2017-18	Foundation Course Committee, University of Mumbai.	Chairperson
3	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep, 2016	Nirmal Niketan Institute , Local Managing , College Of Social Work	Committee Member
4	25 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017	Board Of Studies, Education, Mumbai University.	Committee Member
5	7 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	Affiliation & Approval Department, Mumbai University, Additional Seats Meeting.	Committee Member
6	8 <sup>th</sup> June to 18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017	ICSSR-WRC Mumbai University Jointly Organising A Ten Days National Workshop On Understanding Research Methodology In Social Science For SC/ST Students	Committee Member
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2018	Economics, Board Of Studies, Mumbai University.	Committee Member
8	17 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	Department Of Students Development Meeting Of Organising Committee	Chair Person
9	8 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 2017	Thakur College Of Science & Commerce , IQAC Committee Meeting	Committee Member
10	28 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	Ramnarain Ruia College (3 Years), Board Of Studies Foundation Committee	Committee Member
11	2015-18	Unfair Means Committee , St. Xavier's College, Mumbai	Committee Member

**Dr. Aditi Sawant – HOD, Department of Economics**

<b>Research Publication : Dr. Aditi Sawant</b>
Aditi Sawant and Rimcy Cyriac (2017) An Analysis of Cotton Crop Insurance in India with Special Reference to Maharashtra: Causes and Concern Xplore, Vol.8, Issue 3, Pp.73-79 ISSN 2249-1878
<b>Research Journal Editor : Dr. Aditi Sawant</b>
Xplore, The Research Journal of St. Xavier's College, (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition) Vol. 8, Issue 3, December, ISSN 2249 - 1878
<b>Research Project : Dr. Aditi Sawant</b>
Principal Investigator in UGC sponsored MRP on 'India's Competitiveness in the Cotton Production in the International Market under WTO Regime: Issues and Concerns' University Grant Commission 2015-18 Amount : 12.30 Lakhs

**Invited as Guest Speaker at International and National Level : Dr. Aditi Sawant**

Title of the Paper presented	Title of Conference/ Seminar	Date of the event	Organized by
India- Turkey Trade Relationship : Exploring new Avenues	Focusing on India and China, the stages of the Global Crisis and Turkey	Sep 12, 2017	Celebi Strategic Management Investment & Financial Consulting Services, Istanbul, Turkey
Distress of Farmers : Case Study of Vidarbha	Guest Lecture	Feb 17, 2018	Ramnarain Ruia College, Matunga, Mumbai

	<b>Professional Development Activities : Dr. Aditi Sawant</b>
1	Board of Studies Member, Mithibai College, Vile Parle
2	Board of Studies Member, Amity University
3	Chairperson of Exam Committee, NMIMS Deemed University
4	Organized Students' Internship with Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, New Delhi
5	Organized Students' Internship with Centre for Development Research and Action, Mumbai
6	Conference attended on Doubling Farmers Income at ICAR-NAARM and MANAGE, Hyderabad, Telangana on November 7-9 <sup>th</sup> 2017
7	One day workshop for PFMS-EAT & DBT at Ministry of Finance, Mumbai on October 11, 2017

**Ms. Aparna Kulkarni, Assistant Professor**

<b>Research Publication : Ms. Aparna Kulkarni,</b>
An Exploration of India's Macroeconomic Status Post Demonetization: Aparna Kulkarni, Xplore, Vol.8, Issue 3, Pp.73-79 (2017) ISSN 2249-1878

**Invited as Guest Speaker: Ms. Aparna Kulkarni,**

<b>Title of the Topic</b>	<b>Title of Conference/ Seminar</b>	<b>Date of the event</b>	<b>Organized by</b>
Spreading Financial Awareness among Young Investors	SEBI Workshop	24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018	St. Xavier's college, Mumbai.
Spreading Financial Awareness among Young Investors	SEBI Workshop	13 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018	Clara's college of Commerce, Versova, Andheri.
Budget Bharat ka	Guest lecture on Union Budget 2018-19	19 <sup>th</sup> March, 2018	VAYU, Youth organization

<b>i.</b>	<b>Paper Presentation</b>
1	Presented a research paper on 'Maximum Governance and Minimum performance' at a National Conference on 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018 organized by St. Mira's college, Pune.
2	Presented a research paper on 'Indian renaissance: Myth or reality' at a National Conference on 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> February, 2018 organized by S. P. college, Pune.

**Ms. Preksha Lalwani : Assistant Professor**

<b>i.</b>	<b>Extension, Co-curricular &amp; field-based Activities</b>
1	Organised the RBI visit to Financial Inclusion and Development department for FYBSc students 22/01/2018
2	Organised & Participated in a 4 day workshop on "Statistical Application for Behavioral Sciences" on 6th,7th,8th,10th Nov 2017 at Mithibai college
3	Attended a 2 day national seminar on "Climate change & Indian Economy" on 23rd & 24th Feb 2018 at SIES College

**Programs organized by the Department of Economics:**

Department Annual Seminar, Khandala 13-14<sup>th</sup> January  
 Annual Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture on 27<sup>th</sup> February  
 Annual Lalit Doshi Memorial Debate on 5<sup>th</sup> January  
 Annual Board of Studies Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February  
 Academic Exchange Programme with St. Xavier's College, Jaipur 09<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> Jan

Students Internship with Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT New Delhi (Diwali and Summer Vacation)  
 Students Internship with Centre for Development Research and Action (Summer Vacation)  
 Participated in National Cleanliness Drive at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus on August 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Annual Guest Lecture series:-  
 Mr. Vijay Paradkar, Vice President, M&A, Mahindra Group, 21<sup>st</sup> November  
 Mr. Subir Gokarn, Executive Director, IMF, 7<sup>th</sup> December  
 Prof. Ritu Dewan, Director, Centre for Research Development and Action, Mumbai, 8<sup>th</sup> December  
 Prof. Anurandhati Agte, Department of Economics, S P College, Pune, 8<sup>th</sup> December  
 Mr. Kabira Namit, Economist, Education Global Practice, World Bank Group, 11<sup>th</sup> January  
 Remedial Lectures by:-  
 Kshiti Gala, Research Associate, IGIDR, February-March  
 Mr. Purv Shah, Faculty, Bombay Stock Exchange, 10<sup>th</sup> February  
 Ms. Shreya Surana, Asst. Prof at R.A Podar College on 20th February  
 Ms. Aparna Kulkarni (SEBI Resource Person) on 21st February

**Dr. Aditi Sawant**  
**Head, Department of Economics**

## ENGLISH

The academic year began with forty eight students selecting to major in English Literature, doing everything to fulfil their academic requirements whilst multitasking with responsibilities as festival heads and internships and contributing to the glee and gusto in the department on the whole. All for the love of the subject.

Poised on the brink of the 150<sup>th</sup> Year of our College, we look back and acknowledge the leadership of those we knew and learned from, as well as those legends we only hear about. Among the former is Dr. Eunice de Souza, or as her students called her, simply, Eunice.

Eunice, a world renowned poet, critic and academician, taught here for over thirty years, retiring as Head of the Department in 2000. She shaped its traditions and lived up to the formidable challenge of being a catalyst for change. The change began with inducing students to question settled habits of thinking and behaviour and went on to provoke the journey through the mind, in search of making the world a better place. She passed away early this academic year, leaving behind hundreds of persons, students, readers and colleagues, wondering as in Hamlet, 'where shall we look upon her like again'? Her legacy to the nation, our College and this Department is inestimable.

On the first day of *Ithaka*, the English

department festival, Ms. Rashmi Lee George, organised a solemn meeting in memory of Eunice, who nurtured the festival in its inception. She culled out slides and a touching video on the life of the poet and invited her colleagues and literary associates to pay tribute to her. The principal, Dr. Agnelo Menezes, spoke of her warmly, highlighting her unique and innovative ways of bringing out the potential of the students.

Ms. Rashmi also organised a workshop by Paul Goodwin on staging Shakespeare in collaboration with the British Council and Tata Lit Live. A literary treasure hunt, creative writing workshop and poetry *baithak* were among other *Ithaka* events held under her guidance.

Dr. Prasita Mukherjee assisted with the *Ithaka* journal which revolved around the theme, Transcending Borders.

Performances at *Ithaka* included 'Mr Robinson', written and directed by Neil Nagwekar and Rucha Takle (TYBA), a murder mystery, 'Night Must Fall', adapted from Emlyn Williams' play by Simran Vijan (SYBA), 'A Playwright's Nightmare', adapted from the Russian tragedy by Bulgakov by Ipshta Rhea Peters and Rishika Jain (TYBA) and 'Leave it to Him', a short sketch with a spiritual theme scripted by Rahul Dravid, (BMM). The Festival Heads were Isha Jain and Juhi Valia

The Department endeavours to take

Literature beyond the classroom. The Honours (or 'Quest for Excellence') Program, Discipline-centric Social Involvement Program (SIP) and *Ithaka*, the annual festival of literature, are efforts to take our students in that direction. For the Honours Program, the Department organized a three part series of workshops on Early Cinema ('The Pioneers', 'Here Come the Comedians' and 'Narrative and Aesthetics') by Professor Jethu Mundul, ex-faculty, FTII. This was followed by Dr. Vidya Kamat's workshop, 'An Introduction to World Mythology'. The Department is grateful to Dr. Shefali Balsari-Shah (Former Head) for assisting with the program. A Film Week was also organized in collaboration with the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology and the Brazilian Consulate.

As part of the SIP organised by the Department, volunteers had to procure secondary resources on various topics pertaining to English Literature, Media Studies and Effective English Skills.

Another SIP activity useful to the students addressed the need for a workshop on CV writing, interview and Group Discussion Skills.

The LIC Gateway Litfest was held at NCPA from 22 February to 24 February, 2018, addressing the topic of Women Power in Indian Literature. Rhea Bhatia, SYBA, received the third

prize in the essay competition at the festival.

The Annual Department Seminar was held in college on 20 January, 2018.

Among our guest speakers, we had this year, the opportunity to interact with Professor Abdul Razak Gurnah from the University of Kent on the subject of post-colonial literature. Later in the year, Vikram Sridhar enthralled us with

his story telling workshop. We thank 'Arcs of a Circle Artists Residency Programme' for bringing him to the department.

Congratulations to Dr Rashmi Lee George for achieving a Doctorate in English Literature from SNDT University. She worked in the field of Native American Literature from an ecocritical perspective under the

guidance of Dr Mala Pandurang. Her thesis was called 'An ecocritical study of changing concerns in indigenous fiction of North America from 1990 onwards.'

Thanks to all the staff and students for a year filled with activities and pursuits.

**Dr. Pearl Pastakia**  
Head, Department of English

## FRENCH

This year has been a mixed year for the Department of French. On the one hand, various activities were organised to help students appreciate the French language and culture, while on the other hand the department experienced a huge loss with the demise of Ms. Debjani Chavan, lecturer of French at the Junior college. She was a pillar of our department and, with her in-depth knowledge of the subject, her enthusiasm and dedication she inculcated in our students a love for the language.

The year began with a small quiz to commemorate the event 'Storming of the Bastille' on 14<sup>th</sup> July. A half day workshop was organised by IFI on 'La Presse et FLE' on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 for French teachers in Mumbai. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, a live radio

programme 'Radio Live' was organised by Radio France under the aegis of 'Bonjour India'- a two month long cultural exchange programme between France and India wherein, the youth of both nations shared their Life stories on stage. On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Ms. Cynthia Eid of FIPF (*Federation Internationale des Professeurs de français*) visited the department and spoke on 'Innovative methods in teaching of French'.

In the months of July and August, two workshops were organised for the French students, a translation workshop conducted by Ms. Nitya Suryanarayan who has completed Masters in Translation and Interpretation from Jawaharlal Nehru University. The other was on *Corpus thematique* wherein students were taught how to elaborate upon a theme through various media

of expression. This was conducted by Ms. Bandhuli Chattopadhyay. Both these students have been selected by the French Embassy for the "Assistanat Programme 2017-18" under which they will be staying in France for 8 months and will be teaching English to French students.

Ms. Alpana Palkhiwale attended 'TV Congres régional de l'Asie Pacifique' organised by FIPF-Federation Internationale des Professeurs de Français, at The University of Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and presented a paper on '*La diversité linguistique et culturelle dans la littérature francophone de l'île Maurice*'.

**Ms. Alpana Palkhiwale**  
Head, Department of French

## GEOLOGY

The Geology department had an academically-pleasant stint in 2017-18 due to the efforts of our staff and students.

Ms. Farjana Birajdar successfully defended her doctoral thesis titled '*Temporal and Spatial Variability of Himalayan Glaciers in Chandra-Bhaga Basin, Himachal Pradesh, India*', under the guidance of Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, and has been awarded Ph.D degree by the University of Mumbai in July 2017.

Renzo Dsouza an M.Sc student qualified the CSIR-UGC JRF/ Lecturership examination in December 2017

Nishant Singh Chouhan and Lynette Dias - two of our graduating students

secured ranks in the Joint Admission Test for Masters (JAM) an exam for admission to IIT in MSc.

Our under-graduate and post-graduate students successfully completed internships.

- 1) Riya Bidye- Department of Geology, Delhi University
- 2) Lynette Dias- National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa
- 3) Arnav Samant- Environmental Resources Management (ERM), Mumbai.
- 4) Shiba Nikalje- Narmada Bachao Movement

### Faculty activities:

Dr. Ashwin Pundalik attended the 34<sup>th</sup>

Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists, in Amravati, 19 -21<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

Dr. Ashwin Pundalik acted as a resource person in Research division of Dhruti Vaidya Design Studio, Mumbai, on a research project on Mahabaleshwar area in May 2018.

Dr. Bobby Mathew Participated in Dr. G. D. Bendale Memorial National Conference on Groundwater: status, challenges and mitigation, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Moolji Jaitha College, Jalgaon.

Dr. Hrishikesh Samant participated in the 'National Workshop on engaging with public universities



in India: Autonomy as an idea and its practice' organized by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

He was invited to deliver a lecture entitled *Selection of Mineral Material for Rasashastra and Hand Identification of Certain Minerals on 18th January 2018* at the Teacher's Re-orientation Training Program, sponsored by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi and organised by Department of Rasashastra, G.D.Pol Medical College, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. He also delivered lectures entitled *Mapping of Vegetation Using Remote Sensing*. And a *Lecture titled: Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and its Monitoring* at the RUSA- University of Mumbai – UGC HRDC Refresher Course – Advances in Biosciences, Birla College, Kalyan on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

#### Lecture Series:

Geology Department in collaboration with Gemological Institute of India and the Forum of Indian Gemologists organized Terra lecture by Dr. Datta Mainkar on Diamond deposits of India on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

#### Special Visit:

H.E.Brian McElduff, the Irish ambassador to India, visited the Department of Geology on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. He visited the department collection of rocks, minerals, fossils and gemstones and appreciated the work of the department.

#### Field work:

Field work is an integral part of our subject and this year too our students were trained by our faculty in various aspects of field geology and geological mapping. Short duration field visits were organised to places around Mumbai city. The first-year students visited the Utan-Dongri -Gorai area, Elephanta Island and Tungreshwar Hills to understand local geology. The second-year students visited Udaipur and Zawal areas, Rajasthan for understanding the nuances of Precambrian Geology and Economic mineral deposits hosted by the Precambrian rocks. The annual geological field mapping camp was held at Malvan, District Sindhudurg, Maharashtra where our third-year students were rigorously trained for a period of ten days in techniques of geological mapping.

Our post graduate students carried out fieldwork in the sedimentary terrain around Hoshangabad district, Madhya Pradesh under the guidance of Dr. Ashwin Pundalik and Dr. Hrishikesh Samant.

#### List of Publications and Conference presentations :

1. **Hrishikesh Samant, Ashwin Pundalik, Joseph D'souza, Hetu Sheth, Keegan Carmo Lobo, Kyle D'souza, and Vanit Patel.** "Geology of the Elephanta Island fault zone, western Indian rifted margin, and its significance for understanding the Panvel flexure." *Journal of Earth System Science* 126, no. 1 (2017): 9.

2. Sheth, Hetu, Ishita Pal, Vanit Patel, **Hrishikesh Samant**, and Joseph D'Souza. "Breccia-cored columnar rosettes in a rubbly pahoehoe lava flow, Elephanta Island, Deccan Traps, and a model for their origin." *Geoscience Frontiers* 8, no. 6 (2017): 1299-1309.
3. Sheth, Hetu, **Hrishikesh Samant**, Vanit Patel, and Joseph D'Souza. "The volcanic geoheritage of the Elephanta caves, Deccan traps, western India." *Geoheritage* 9, no. 3 (2017): 359-372.
4. Sheth, Hetu, Vanit Patel, and **Hrishikesh Samant.** "Control of early-formed vesicle cylinders on upper crustal prismatic jointing in compound pahoehoe lavas of Elephanta Island, western Deccan Traps, India." *Bulletin of Volcanology* 79, no. 8 (2017): 63.
5. Kale M.G and **Ashwin Pundalik.** Petrography of Baneta sediments, Central Narmada Basin, Hoshangabad District, Madhya Pradesh. Published Abstract. November 2017. National Conference and 34<sup>th</sup> convention of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists (2017).

#### Projects awarded:

1. Mr. John Dsouza  
"Petrography and Geochemistry of Precambrian rocks from Mangaon Pluton, Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra" (Rs. 70,000/-)

**Dr. Pravin Henriques**  
Head, Department of Geology

## हिंदी-विभाग :- शैक्षणिक गतिविधियाँ

हिंदी साहित्य (बी. ए. प्रथमवर्ष) के विद्यार्थियों ने संत जेवियर विला, खंडाला में दि. १९/०१/२०१८ को 'हिंदी भाषा का परिचय' प्रश्नपत्र का प्रस्तुतिकरण किया।

सबसे पहले कु. वंशिका, कु. आकांक्षा और कु. दीपाक्षी ने रचनाकार गुलज़ार पर प्रस्तुतिकरण किया। कु. वंशिका ने गुलज़ार के व्यक्तित्व पर प्रकाश डाला। कु. आकांक्षा ने गुलज़ार के साहित्यिक योगदान को रेखांकित किया। कु. दीपाक्षी ने गुलज़ार के फिल्मी जीवन की चर्चा करते हुए फिल्मों में गुलज़ार जी के अवदान का परिचय दिया। दूसरे समूह के अंतर्गत कु. ऐश्वर्या ने डॉ.

हरिवंशराय बच्चन के व्यक्तित्व पर विस्तारपूर्वक अपने विचारों को व्यक्त किया।

तीसरे समूह के अंतर्गत कु. जीबा ने मन्नू भंडारी के अध्यापन और लेखन को लेकर सारगर्भित और बेहतरीन प्रस्तुति की। चौथे समूह में जेवियर दास ने कथा-सम्राट प्रेमचंदजी के व्यक्तित्व का परिचय दिया। इस समूह के दूसरे विद्यार्थी आयुष सिंह ने प्रेमचंद जी के कथासाहित्य पर विस्तृत चर्चा की। कु. मौसम ने हरिवंश राय बच्चन की कविताओं पर प्रस्तुतिकरण किया। कु. किमया ने आपका बंटी उपन्यास पर प्रस्तुतिकरण किया।

कु. मोनाली ने संत कबीर पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत

किए। कु. पद्मिनी ने मन्नू भंडारी के व्यक्तित्व और रचनाओं पर अपनी बात रखी।

बी. ए. द्वितीय वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों में कु. हीरल, कु. सिडेल ने हिंदी फिल्मों में कॉमेडी - कल, आज और कल, कु. वल्लरी और कु. कृतिका ने रोमांस और बॉलीवुड - कल, आज और कल पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए। कु. सानिया और कु. वैदेही ने रियलिटी शोज, कु. मनिषा ने विज्ञापन पर प्रस्तुतिकरण किया। कु. आफ्रीन, कु. रिया और कु. नम्रता ने बॉलीवुड के गीतों पर बेहतरीन प्रस्तुतिकरण किया। कु. फेबा, कु. सारा ने हिंदी फिल्म : कल और आज कु. स्नोलिका ने पुरानी

फिल्मों के पात्रों, कु. रानी तथा कु. आरुषी ने विज्ञापन प्रक्रिया पर प्रस्तुतिकरण किया।

## LEARNING OUTCOME

कुल मिलाकर इस प्रस्तुतिकरण से हिंदी साहित्य के विद्यार्थियों का आत्मविश्वास बढ़ा। साथ ही उनके बोलने की कला में भी निखार आया।

इस सेमिनार से विद्यार्थियों में प्रकृति और पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूकता उत्पन्न हुई। इसके अतिरिक्त छात्र-छात्राओं ने दैनिक जीवन में आत्मनिर्भर होना सीखा। इस प्रकार सामूहिक कार्य के दृष्टिकोण से यह प्रस्तुतिकरण सफल और सार्थक रहा।

**अतिथि व्याख्यान :** हिंदी-विभाग द्वारा दि. २ फरवरी, २०१८ को बी. ए. द्वितीय वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों के लिए टेलीविज़न धारावाहिकों के पटकथा लेखन एवं संवाद लेखन शीर्षक पर अतिथि व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर 'अरविंद बब्ल प्रॉडक्शन प्राईवेट लिमिटेड' की डायरेक्टर और सृजनात्मक लेखिका डॉ. रेखा बब्ल ने

विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया।

हिंदी-विभाग द्वारा दि. २३ फरवरी, २०१८ को संत जेवियर कॉलेज की पूर्व हिंदी विभाग प्रमुख एवं रचनात्मक लेखिका डॉ. आशा नैथानी-दायमा द्वारा बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष तथा द्वितीय वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों का टेलीविज़न एवं फिल्म पटकथा तथा संवाद लेखन शीर्षक पर मार्गदर्शन किया गया। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने विद्यार्थियों एवं हिंदी प्राध्यापक के साथ अपने सृजनात्मक लेखन संबंधी अनुभव साझा किए। उनके द्वारा दिए गए अध्ययन - अध्यापन संबंधी सुझावों से हिंदी - विभाग लाभान्वित हुआ।

**SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME (S.I.P.) - (2017-2018) :** हिंदी के अस्सी विद्यार्थियों ने SIP के अंतर्गत ५ घण्टे का समाज-सेवा संबंधी कार्य पूर्ण किया। इसके अंतर्गत विद्यार्थियों ने मुंबई म्युनिसिपल स्कूलों के विद्यार्थियों के लिए हिंदी में विविध प्रकार के चार्ट बनाए। इन चार्टों द्वारा बच्चों के लिए हिंदी, गणित तथा सामान्य ज्ञान संबंधी आकृतियाँ भी बनाई गईं। प्रथम वर्ष के

कुछ विद्यार्थियों ने शारीरिक रूप से अक्षम (दिव्यांग) विद्यार्थियों को ५-६ घंटे शैक्षणिक कार्य में सहायता प्रदान की। कुछ विद्यार्थियों ने SLOW LEARNER विद्यार्थियों को REMEDIAL COACHING प्रदान की थी।

**विशेष उपलब्धि :** कु. जिनिया चट्टोपाध्याय (बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष) एवं कु. नूपुर जोशी (बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष) ने दि. १३/१/२०१८ को बी. एम. रुइया गर्ल्स कॉलेज ग्रांट रोड, मुंबई द्वारा आयोजित अंतरमहाविद्यालयीन हिंदी भजन प्रतियोगिता में सम्मिलित रूप से भाग लिया। दोनों छात्राओं ने अपने 'टीमवर्क' का परिचय देकर मुंबई के दो विश्वविद्यालयों 'मुंबई विश्वविद्यालय' एवं 'एस. एन. डी. टी. महिला विश्वविद्यालय' में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। दोनों छात्राओं ने प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त करते हुए हमारे कॉलेज के लिए ROLLING TROPHY हासिल की। हिंदी-विभाग तथा कॉलेज प्रिंसिपल की ओर से दोनों छात्राओं को कु. जिनिया चट्टोपाध्याय एवं कु. नूपुर जोशी को इस उपलब्धि के लिए बहुत - बहुत बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएँ!

# HISTORY

Every year the History department organizes several field visits, guest lectures and other extra-curricular activities to provide its students with wholesome learning. Such events were undertaken this year as well for the benefit of the students.

## Field Visits

The Third Year students visited several museums across the city; including Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Heras Museum, Piramal Art Gallery, TARQ Art Gallery, and the Archdiocesan Heritage Museum at St. Pius X College for their course on Museum and Archival Studies during the months of June, July and August. The students also visited the 'India and the World' exhibition at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya.

From January 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, the annual History Seminar was organized at Khandala for the Third Year students on the topic 'Mughal India'.

The Second Year students visited the **Elephanta Caves** on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 to study rock-cut architecture and its cultural significance as part of their course on 'Ancient India'.

As part of the community outreach activity under the **Social Involvement Programme (SIP)** the department of history under Mr. Avkash Jadhav organised an Awareness and Clean up drive at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and at Kanheri Caves, Borivli (East), Mumbai on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. A special session was conducted on the conservation and preservation of the historical Kanheri caves. The students were addressed by the Forest Officer Mr. Bhalerao. In all more than 60 students participated in this activity.

## Guest Lectures

As part of new initiative '**Windows of Social Sciences**' Dr. Upadhya (Head of the Hindi Department) was invited to speak on the *Narratives of partition in Hindi Literature* and Dr. Pratibha Naithani Head of the Political Science department was invited to deliver a talk on the *Constitution of India* as part of the study of History of modern India for the Third year B.A students.

A guest lecture on 'The Great Fire of 1803' was delivered by **Dr. Sukriti Issar**, faculty at Sciences Po on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 for the benefit of the

Third Year students studying the 'Urban Heritage of Mumbai' and other interested participants.

For the course on 'Indian Cinema in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mumbai', a guest lecture was organised by Ms. Kaizeen Jehangir whereby **Ms. Parinaz Jal**, Assistant Director on the film *Fitoor* addressed Third Year Students on filmmaking techniques.

As visiting faculty for the course on 'Museum and Archival Studies', Ms. Alisha Sadikot gave several guest lectures on the nuances of putting together an exhibition.

## Exhibitions

Third Year students put together an exhibition on German Stamps as a part of their internal assessment for the course on 'Museum Studies' on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September, under the guidance of Ms. Kaizeen Jehangir, Ms. Vailaneena Govindan and Ms. Alisha Sadikot. The exhibition, titled '**Deutsche Dak**' displayed German stamps from late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1970s that were part of a collection held by Dr. Hoshang Masters. The exhibition traced the history of Germany from its unification,

World War I, formation of the Weimar Republic, the rise of Adolf Hitler, to its split into East and West Germany and gradual reunification through stamps from these respective periods. Apart from the display of these stamps, the exhibition also included guided tours, documentary screenings, games, and a host of other activities. Students from schools and colleges, such as St. Mary's School ISCE, St. Xavier's School, Sophia College for Women, Wilson College, Khalsa College, etc visited the exhibition. The exhibition saw nearly 1500 visitors over two days with the youngest visitor aged five and oldest aged 92.

The students of the First Year organised an exhibition as part of their internal assessment on the theme World Wars and dictatorships titled '**Avoidable Apocalypse**' on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, in the St. Xavier's College Hall under the guidance of Mr. Avkash. Jadhav. The occasion was graced by Dr. M. D. David (Former Head of the Department of History, University of Mumbai), Dr. T. R. Ghoble (Former Head of the Department of History, University of Mumbai), Dr. Manjiri Kamat Head of the Department of History, University of Mumbai, ACP. Vasant. Dhoble, Fr. Tony. (Rector), Principal Dr. Agnelo. Menezes, Mr. Umesh Nagarkar Deputy Director from Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee, Mrs. Deepali Sukthankar Vice President Axis Bank Western Region, Mr. Pandurang Mhaske, editor of Sakaal times, Mrs. Mrinmayi. Natu from Maharashtra Times, Mr. Mitaksh. Jain from Mumbai Mirror, Ms. Zarin from Free press Journal newspaper, Mr. Vedant from ABP Mazha news channel, Mr. Umesh TV9 news channel, Mr. Devendra Jadhav International award winning documentary maker, Mr. Pranav. Kumar Additional CSC/ DIG RPF Central Railway, Mrs. Ramaa Subramaniam, Director of Pride Age India, faculties and students from Patkar college, Goregaon, Khalsa College, Matunga, Jai Hind College, Churchgate, Wilson College, Charni Road, also students and teachers from Pawar Public School, Kandivli. The exhibition was also supported by the Indo-Japanese Association and the

N.C.C Naval Unit of Siddarth College who had put up stalls. The exhibition also witnessed a great response from the in-house staff and the students of both Junior and Senior College.

### Extra Curricular Activities

The first event of the History Group in 2017 was a quiz on World War II, held on 1<sup>st</sup> September to commemorate the beginning of the war. Titled '**Q-Day: This (World) War**', the event saw 8 teams competing to win. The event was a roaring success with students from across several streams participating.

The History Group also organised the **Career Guidance Seminar** for the students of the department on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018. The speakers were Mr. Navin Jambhulkar (I.P.O.S) on preparation for the Civil services and other competitive examinations, Prof. Elvina Pereira of St. Xavier's Teacher's Training College on career options in academics, Mr. Chaitanya Marpakwar from Mumbai Mirror on career options in Journalism, Mr. Prasanna from Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) on careers in museology, Ms. Deepti Anand from the startup Past Perfect on career options in documentation and archiving, Ms. Vrunda Pathare from Godrej Archives on archival science as a career option, Ms. Khushboo Sheikh from Max Mueller Institute of Foreign Languages on career options in foreign languages.

On behalf of the History Department, two Third Year students, Irene Leo and Rizpah Cardoza participated in the annual fest '**Hysteria**' organised by the History Department at Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018. Irene was awarded the **Second Prize** in the Students Research Seminar Contest on 'India and World Commodities' for her paper titled 'The Gamechanger – Saltpetre Industry of India'.

### Faculty Report

The faculty has represented the History Department of St. Xavier's College at local, national and international platforms.

Ms. Kaizeen Jehangir, faculty member of the History Department gave a talk

on '**Archaic Globalisation: India's Connection to the Silk Route**' to exchange students from University of California, Berkeley on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

Associate Professor Avkash Jadhav resumed in the second semester as the Head of the Department after successfully completing his two years of FIP leave (November 2015-November-2017) in November, 2017. He submitted his PhD thesis on the 'Emergence of the Labour Movement in Bombay: A historical study from 1920-1945' to the Department of History, University of Mumbai on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

### I: Faculty Report:

#### Mr. Avkash Jadhav

1. Received the prestigious **Foreign Travel Grant** (FTG) from the (ICHR) **Indian Council for Historical Research Grant** to participate as a Keynote speaker for an International Conference of MIRDEC (Masters International Research Development Centre) in Madrid, Spain from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.
2. Was recommended by the **Ministry of External Affairs of India**, New Delhi to represent India in the **SAARC Conference** at Colombo Sri Lanka, on 'Buddhist Cultural Trails: Journey Through Time and Space of Merchants, Monks and Pilgrims' on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. The Special Grant was approved by the **Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation**, New Delhi.
3. Was nominated as the member of IQAC (Internal Quality Assessment Committee) of Thakur College of Science and Science, Kandivli, Mumbai in September, 2017.
4. Has been deputed on the Scientific Committee and Editorial Board of Three International Journals since July, 2017:
  - a) International Community of Visual Culture,
  - b) International Community of Social Sciences,
  - c) International Community of Human Sciences.

5. Conducted Contact lectures in History for the Post Graduate students of Distance learning (IDOL) at the University of Mumbai, Kalina. The sessions for M.A. Part-I were on Modern Maharashtra and for M.A. Part-II on The History of the U.S.A for the academic year of 2017-18.

## **II: Seminars and Conferences:**

- 1) Invited as **Keynote Speaker** for an International Conference by MIRDEC (Masters International Research Development Centre) the title of the paper was '*The Transition of political imperialism to economic imperialism: A historical study of the genesis of the native capitalist class in the textile industry of Bombay in the 19<sup>th</sup> century*' in Madrid, **Spain** from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.
- 2) Invited to participate and present paper on '*The role of British legislations and the working class movement in Bombay: A Historical study of the Factory Acts of 1881 and 1891 in India*' at **World Social Science Congress, at Madrid, Spain** from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.
- 3) Participated in the National Conference on '*Industry Disruption & Reimagining the Role of Education*' organized by ASSOCHAM (Associate Chamber of Commerce) and L.N.Wlingkar Institute of Management, Mumbai on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.
- 4) Participated and presented research paper on '*Kanheri: The Spartan caves with the Reflections of cultural and economic trails in western India*', at the **SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)**, conference on Buddhist Trails in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.
- 5) Conducted a session for the 120<sup>th</sup> Orientation Course at the HRDC, Staff Academic College, University of Mumbai on '*Mentoring Students for Social Change*' on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

- 6) Conducted a workshop on the '*Role of Teacher in Nation Building*' under the Faculty Development Programme of IQAC at Thakur College of Science and Commerce, Mumbai on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

- 7) Invited to present research paper on '*The life and teachings of the Mahatma: An Edifice for the Communal Harmony in India*' at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Taqreeb conference Series, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Convention Centre, New Delhi, on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 organised by the Qutbi Jubilee Scholarship Program (QJSP).

- 8) Invited to present research paper on '*The forgotten history of the dalit textile workers in Bombay in the pre-independent era and the economic philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar*' at Osmania University, organised by the Department of law on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

- 9) Invited as a resource person to conduct a session on '*Tenacity of the Slums in Mumbai*' at the Slum Studies Centre of Ramnarian Ruia College, Mumbai on 22<sup>nd</sup>, January, 2018.

- 10) Presented a research paper on '*Unheard Voices of the Partition: Reflections from Sindhi poems*', at the International Seminar organised by the Department of English, University of Mumbai, Kalina Mumbai, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018.

- 11) Was invited to recite his poem titled '*Aabhal Mazhe Sansar*' in Marathi on the denotified tribes of India, at the book release event at the Department of History, University of Mumbai on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

- 12) Was the Co convener of the International Symposium on '*Religion and Science: Development in Neurological Sciences*' held at St. Xavier's College, Autonomous, and Mumbai from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Also Chaired the Technical session at the Symposium.

- 13) Invited as a Keynote speaker at to deliver a talk on the *Indo-US*

*relations from 1947-2017*, Nagindas Khandwala College, Mumbai on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

- 14) Invited as Inaugural and Keynote speaker for the V<sup>th</sup> inter-collegiate annual student seminar on '*Aspects of Local History*', at L.J.N.J College, Vile Parle, Mumbai on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

- 15) Invited in Jai Hind College as a resource person to deliver a talk on the '*Water Management system in Mumbai: Special emphasis on the discovery of underground water tanks*', on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

- 16) ) Presented a research paper on '*The textile industry of Bombay at the intersection during the Quit India Movement*' at the National Seminar organized by the Indian Council of Historical Research and the Department of History, University of Mumbai at Green Technology Institute, University of Mumbai on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

- 17) Invited as the Resource person and to Chair the Technical Session and presented research paper on the '*Eulogising the folklore of the Hero through Commemorative traditions*' National Seminar on '*Contribution of folk Traditions to Indian Culture*' organized by the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

- 18) Invited as a Plenary speaker and presented a research paper on '*Convergence and the stratification of the textile workers movement of Bombay during the freedom struggle of India*' for the National Seminar on Revisiting the freedom struggle movement and the Resistance of Sub-altern groups jointly organized by the Institute of Distance Learning University of Mumbai and NCERT, New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

## **III: Publications:**

1. Published article on '*The Transition of political imperialism to economic imperialism: A historical study of the*



*genesis of the native capitalist class in the textile industry of Bombay in the 19<sup>th</sup> century* in the International of MIRDEC-4th, International Academic Conference on Social Science, Multidisciplinary and Globalization Studies, 04-07 July 2017, Madrid, Spain Masters International Danismanlik Arastirma Yayincilik Masters International Consultancy Research and Publishing MIRDEC Publishing Istanbul, Turkey (pp 4-17). ISBN: 978-605-82290-0-6

2. Article on *Meta narratives of Urban Demography: Revisiting Mill lands then and now- A Case study of Mills of Mumbai*, 'Indica', Journal of the Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture Vol. 54, September, 2017. pp.176-190 (ISSN.0019-686X).
3. Publication of the Article on 'Dr. Ambedkar: Champion of Social liberation and Economic Emancipation' Biz Ness The Research Journal of The NESS WADIA College of Commerce ISSN: 2277-4823 • Pune • Vol. I– Issue VI • January 2018 (Annual). pp.25-28
4. Publication of the poem titled “*Killing the Dove*”, in the Anthology *Symphony of Peace*, Edited by P.Gopichand and P.Nagasuseela, Author Press publication, New

Delhi, 2017.p.48. (ISBN. 978-93-86722-74-4).

5. Publication of the poem titled *Tabula Rasa*, in the book *Remember Me: You Me and Dementia*, Edited by Sailesh Mishra, Silver Innings publication, Mumbai.p.22.(ISBN. 978-93-852221-05-7).

#### **IV: In the Press:**

1. Article on 'Disability and Discrimination v/s Challenges and Measure: A study of the research Survey', to be published in the edited Volume titled 'Exclusion and Inclusion of Disadvantaged communities: Issues and Challenges to be published by Department of Adult, continuing Education and Extension, Savitribai Phule, Pune University.
2. Article on 'Establishing the Reflections of Dharma and its Influence on the Working Class Movement in the Pre- Independent Era of Bombay City' to be published in the edited Volume by Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
3. Article on 'Comparative study of Kanheri, Mandapeshwar, Elephanta and Jogeshwari Caves: Reflections from the cave architecture' of Mumbai in the upcoming Research Journal of Department of Pali, University of Kolkatta.

4. Article on 'Intentions and Disparities in the application of Human rights: An Evaluation' in 'Utkarsh' the research Journal Vol. VIII (May- August, 2017) with ISSN: 2395-356X.
5. Article on *The role of British legislations and the working class movement in Bombay: A Historical study of the Factory Acts of 1881 and 1891 in India* in the International Journal of Social Sciences of Global Knowledge Network.
6. Article on *Kanheri: The Spartan caves with the reflections of cultural and economic trails in western India* in the edited book of SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo, Srilanka.
7. Article on *The life and teachings of the Mahatma: An edifice for Co-existence and communal harmony in India*, edited book at the Taqreeb Conference at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Convention Centre.
8. Article on *The forgotten history of the dalit textile workers in Bombay in the pre-independent era and the economic philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar* in the edited book of Osmania University Department of law.

**Mr. Avkash Jadhav**  
Head, Department of History

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **Information Technology**

“Change is the only constant” is a phrase the I.T. world lives by, and we have tried to imbibe this in our department through our academics, workshops and co-curricular activities.

### **Khandala seminar**

#### **T.Y.B.Sc.IT:**

The entire student batch, along with faculty of the department. Mr.. Roy Thomas, Mr. Subhash Kumar, Ms.. Lydia Fernandes and Mr.. Rachana Pandey visited the Xavier's villa, Khandala on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Aug

2018 for conducting presentations in the following subjects : E-commerce and M-Commerce, Data Warehousing, Artificial Intelligence and Network Security and Internet Technologies. Group activities and games were conducted towards the end of the session.

#### **F.Y.B.Sc.IT:**

The entire student batch along with faculty of the department., Ms. Lydia Fernandes and Ms Rachana Pandey visited Xavier's villa on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2018 for conducting the CIA 2 Project/ presentation for Computer Graphics

subjects. Students had made games in Unity and some of the groups had also used Python programming.

### **Department Magazine Release**

The first edition of our Department Magazine, **BITMAP** with the theme “**making trends meet**” was released on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018, under the guidance of Ms. Lydia Fernandes. The Magazine had articles on Artificial intelligence, Open Source Technologies, decentralized internet, cloud and quantum computing etc. and some interesting projects done by our TY IT students.



### **AIBots Workshop/ Debate/ Panel Discussion/Research Paper Presentation**

**Quickwork Technologies**, in collaboration with Department of Information Technology conducted their annual event AIBots on 18th Nov 2018. The event started with ChatBot and AI training workshop and was followed by a Hackathon competition. In the afternoon session, a debate was conducted on the topic “Artificial intelligence-A blessing for humanity?” This was followed by paper presentations on “Applications of AI on Internet Of Things” by TYIT students.

The last and the most interesting session was a panel discussion on “Applications of Artificial Intelligence” led by Mr. Sai Giridhar from Yes Bank.

### **Ethical Hacking Seminar**

This session was a part of the pre - Xenith event and was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018. It marked the beginning of Xenith. The speaker, Mr. Rizwan Shaikh is one of the top ten ethical hackers in India. He introduced the concept of ethical hacking to the students and suggested that in order to prevent our systems from attacks one needs to understand the ideology of a hacker.

### **Department Festival - Xenith**

**The Department Festival - Xenith 2018, with the theme of discovering dimensions** was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018. The highlight of day 1 was **XenExpo**, an exhibition organized by the enthusiastic IT students. It had exhibits like obstacle avoiding robot,



rubik's cube solver, power saving house model made by our TYIT students, exhibits on hologram, hyperloop, Sudoku solver by our FYIT students and presentations on Android, Linux OS, Bluetooth and NFC by the SYIT students. We also had a 3D printer and 3D pens on the display where one could go and make their own 3D objects. People from varying departments including teachers and students appreciated the exhibits that were put up for display.

**The talk on Internet of Things:** IoT is the future of the technological world as it is said. We tried our best to convey this message through the talk conducted by Mr. Rishi Sharma, Founder of Faclon Labs. It was an informative session as he told us about IoT, its emergence, and its increasing applications and how it is beneficial to us.

**Game Theory:** A quiz based on IT and Pop-Culture with a lifesize board was a great attraction for board-game lovers. The team that knew the answer was required to press a buzzer in their phones. There was an elimination round followed by the finals, where 4 teams competed each amongst each other.

**Gaming Lounge:** Gaming Lounge has been a tradition of Xenith, where we find the maximum crowd. Students were fascinated by the Latest PlayStation setups on LED TV Screens, where they were able to experience FIFA and other retro games. A FIFA tournament was held throughout the day and the winner was announced at the end of the day.

**The Talk on Virtual Reality:** Virtual Reality and its integration into the world of film-making is the new buzz in the market. Mr. Zain Memon told us how he has been using this technology in his company and how it has been taking over the film-making industry. It was truly an interactive and enriching session.

**Cerca Trova:** The Treasure Hunt was organized completely reflecting the theme of our college, that is “Inclusion”. The event was organized by students with disabilities. The clues for the hunt were in such a format that one could mildly experience a how a blind or a dyslexic individual manages to read. The participants enjoyed unfolding the mysteries through the clues provided, while trying to reach their destination simultaneously.

**CAD designing workshop:** A CAD designing workshop for 3D printing was organized by The Curiosity Gym Team. They showed us 3D printed objects such as a demo of The Gateway of India, a dice, an elephant, a fidget spinner and many more. The 3D printer invoked curiosity and knowing about its technicalities satisfied the inquisitive minds. This workshop was followed by a competition where the winner was awarded a prize.

**Android workshop:** The workshop was conducted by Mr. Aaron Johns on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. An introduction to Kotlin was given to the students and the use of SQLite database in android with Kotlin was taught in these two sessions.

**QEP program:** This program was conducted by Mr. Subhash Kumar and a 2 credit course on “emerging technologies” was designed by him for the students willing to take a dive into the deep ocean of new technologies

flooding the IT industry. A total of 25 students enrolled for the course which began in Jan 2018.

**Placements:** We got a good number of placements through both on campus and off campus placement drives, Special thanks to the placement cell of St. Xavier's college. A total of 7 students got placed in Deloitte, 5 in Infosys, 10 in Capgemini, 1 in Ernst & Young, 1 in Kapso Business Services, 1 in Breathing room, 8 in TCS and 5 in L&T Infotech.

#### **Projects:**

Every year the T.Y.B.Sc.I.T students as part of their mandatory project work have to come up with innovative ideas which need to be implemented using hardware or software or both. Some of the projects undertaken this year, under the guidance of the department faculty, were as follows:

#### **1. CHAOS (recursive acronym for CHAOS Has An Other Side): Undertaken by Vyshak Manikandan and Farhan Thakur**

**The Rubik's Cube Solver:** The thought of trying every possible combination to a rubik's cube has occurred to all of us at least once, while trying to solve a cube. Although this may seem impossible for a human to do since there are 43 quintillion combinations to a 3x3 rubik's cube, the rubik's cube solution generation algorithms does exactly that, but 43 quintillion is a really big number even for a computer. Even the best i7 machines won't be able to find a direct solution just by merely

generating combination of moves and trying it out.

The algorithm significantly reduces the number of combinations, by generating sequence of moves of length 3. This gives the algorithm 4000+ moves to choose from and instead of solving the entire cube in 1 go, we used the concept of 'happiness function' which gives a happiness value to every state of a cube.

#### **2. Labyrinth Solver : Undertaken by Joben Coutinho and Bryce Fernandes**

Labyrinth Solver, is a 4-wheeled bot (programmed by an Arduino board) that is functioned to navigate across a labyrinth and can be manually controlled by a user with the help of an Android app. The bot contains 3 ultrasonic sensors (placed in the front, left and right of the bot) which measures the distance between the objects and the car.

Each wheel is connected to a DC motor, which, in turn is connected to a motor shield placed on the Arduino. The motor shield maintains the voltage load of the 4 motors. The bot is powered by a 12 V rechargeable Lead Acid battery. A Bluetooth module is added to control the bot remotely, since most devices have Bluetooth for sending and receiving data across devices.

The Android app contains 5 buttons – one to enable Bluetooth and pair the device to the bot and the other four to control the movements of the car (front, left, right and reverse).

For solving the labyrinth, the bot follows a certain algorithm.

#### **3. Shiko : undertaken by Ms Kathryn Kane and Tiana Chimbaikar**

A fun and exciting Android game that helps in developing a child's skill at spelling, memory, emotion, understanding, and mathematics, all through a series of fun minigames with a colourful and intuitive UI and a star based incentive system.

It focuses on being an app that not only entertains a child, but also provides a learning aspect.

The entire app is designed in a child friendly manner to create memorable experiences.

#### **Seminars and workshops attended by Faculty:**

Ms. Lydia Fernandes attended a one day orientation Program on new NAAC methodology on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 in Kandivli Education Society's BK Shroff College of Arts and MH Shroff College of Commerce. She also attended a workshop on "High Impact Presentation skills" at Bai Ratanbai Gharda Memorial library, Bandra on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Roy Thomas**

Head, Department of IT

## **LIFE SCIENCE AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

#### **Faculty Appointments and Confirmations in the Department**

- Mr. Joshua John Miranda (MSc Biological Sciences, TIFR), June-August 2017 and Mr. Aditya Sethi (MSc Medical Biotechnology, Manipal University) November, 2017 - April 2018 were appointed in place of Dr.Radiya-Pacha Gupta, who retired in August, 2016.
- Dr.Anupama Harshal Wadavlikar

was appointed on CHB Jun-Aug 2017.

- Dr.Radiya Pacha-Gupta, Jun 2017 - Apr, 2018 was appointed in lieu of Dr. Seema Das who is on a two year sabbatical.
- Dr. Peehu Pardeshi (PhD Biosciences, IIT-Bombay) and Ms. Priya Jadhav (MSc Microbiology, Pune University) joined from 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, 2017 in the FIP vacancies of Mr. Prashant Ratnaparkhi and Ms.

Sangeeta Shetty, respectively.

#### **Events**

The Department celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. To commemorate the event, 40 activities were planned and organized over the academic year 2017-18 for the students, staff, non-teaching staff of the College, those from other colleges and the public.

- **Nutritional Awareness Workshop**  
'Aaharva Poshan-vishayak Karyashala' in Marathi for the non-

teaching staff of the College on 9<sup>th</sup> Jun 2017. It included short lectures and games on balanced diet, nutrition, lifestyle and nutritional disorders, exercise and sleep. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Sangeeta Shetty, Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, Dr. Maya Murdeshwar and was well-received by all 61 participants.

- **Science Orientation for FYBSc Life Science students** was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> Jul 2017. It was planned and entirely managed by the SYBSc and TYBSc students.
- A **Career Fair** was organized for TYBSc and MSc students of the dept. on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 2017. A total of 13 speakers (10 alumni and 3 external speakers) were invited.
- **Khandala Educational Seminar** for SY and TY students on 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2017.
- A **two-day National Camp and Conference** was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2018 in collaboration with The Verushka Foundation, Desai Foundation for Change, and the Caius Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Research. It was open to members of the public to raise awareness about developmental disabilities. Mr. Nitin Patil, Commissioner for Disability, Maharashtra State was the special invitee for the camp. The One-Day National Conference: 'Developmental Disabilities and You' held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2018 was inaugurated by Dr. Keki Turel, renowned Neurosurgeon. 16 speakers spoke on the various aspects of dealing with developmental disabilities and enabling families with special children to lead a quality life.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> volume of the department magazine '*Lignum Vitae*' was released at the national conference. The editorial board consisted entirely of FY and SYBSc students of the dept.
- MSc-II students were taken on a visit to the **Bloom In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Centre,**

**Leelavati Hospital,** Mumbai on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2018.

- An exhibition of charts and models made by **TYBSc Environmental Science students** was held on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018 in the College Woods and was kept open to all students and staff of the college to spread the message of green technology and sustainability.
- **TYBSc and MSc II farewell** was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2018 in the College Hall.

#### **Inter-Institutional / Inter-Departmental Collaborations**

- Dr. Priya Sundarrajan- Research co-guide for MSc Home Science (Food Processing and Preservation) students, Ms. Ankita Arolkar and Ms. Sonali Singh, Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science, Mumbai. Project title: 'Screening and isolation of protease producers and application in food processing industry'.
- Dr. Priya Sundarrajan - Ms. Janjri Jasani, CERE (Center for Environment Research and Education): QEP on 'Global Climate Change and Social Justice'.
- Dr. Radhika Tendulkar and Dr. Nandita Mangalore, Members, Editorial Committee, 'Spectrum' - a monthly science newsletter for school students. The 5<sup>th</sup> Issue (Mar 2018) was a collaborative endeavour of the Dept. of Life Sciences, Sophia College for Women, Mumbai, and the Dept of Life Science and Biochemistry, St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, under the DBT STAR College Scheme. SYBSc student Mr. Ishaan Patil designed the layouts and graphics for the newsletter.
- Dr. Bhaskar Saha guided Ms. Shraddha Wadhare (BS Leeds Univ, MS Neuroscience, Glasgow Univ, UK) on a 2-month Neuroscience project in the Caius Research Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Research.
- Dr. Manasi Kanuga- lectures on

Biostatistics for the Diploma in Forensic Science, Department of Zoology, and for MSc students of the PG dept. of Biotechnology in College.

- Dr. Maya Murdeshwar- Dr. Sujata Deshpande, Dept. of Zoology: SYBSc QEP 'To map the biodiversity in selected ecological niches and microhabitats of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai'.

#### **Social Outreach Activities**

- Department. SIP: SYBSc students conducted health awareness workshop on 'Sanitation and Personal Hygiene' and 'Diseases' (Malaria and Cholera) for 110 Std. 9<sup>th</sup> students of the Worli Sea Face BMC School in collaboration with Teach for India. The 1 hour session included activities, games and a puppet show. Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, Ms. Sangeeta Shetty, Dr. Bhaskar Saha, Dr. Manasi Kanuga, Dr. Priya Sundarrajan accompanied the students.
- Dr. Radhika Tendulkar and Dr. Maya Murdeshwar conducted a session on 'Nutrition and Lifestyle disease awareness' for school children visiting from Shikshayan School, Arasvankadu village in rural Tamil Nadu, and Lumens School, Vapi, Gujarat.
- Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, Dr. Binoj Kutty, Dr. Bhaskar Saha, Dr. Priya Sundarrajan conducted a science teaching-cum-practical session for Std. IX students at the Worli Sea Face BMC School on occasion of National Science Day on 28 Feb, 2018.
- Dr. Maya Murdeshwar compiled a Power Point presentation on 'Career Paths in Biology after Std. XII' for students of rural Bihar and Jharkhand.
- Dr. Peehu Pardeshi worked in collaboration with the NGO 'Doctors For You' and IIT-Bombay, on the poor condition of SRA housing facilities in Mumbai and the high incidence of TB among the residents. Her research work indicated a direct



correlation between the two and has received wide publicity in the national media leading to corrective action by the Govt. of Maharashtra.

### College Toppers (2016-17)

2<sup>nd</sup> in Science stream: Ms.Hamsa Narasimhan (TY 3U), Ms. Mallika Talwar (TY 6U)

### Department Toppers (2016-17)

- BSc 6U Life Science - Ms.Mallika Talwar
- BSc 3U Life Science – Biochemistry  
Ms.Hamsa Narasimhan
- MSc Life Science (Applied Medical Sciences) Ms. Janhavi Damani

### International Scholarships:

1. Holland Scholarship, Netherlands -Ms.Asmita Dubey (TY 6U)
2. TROPIMUNDO Erasmus Scholarship, Netherlands - Ms. Samyuktha Rajan (TY 3U)
3. Neurasmus Program, Netherlands – Ms. Sharmistha Muralidharan (TY 3U)
4. Le Cordon Blue, Paris – Ms. Aarohi Sanghvi (TY 3U)
5. International Max Planck Research School for Molecular Life Sciences - Mr. Aditya Sethi (Dept. faculty)

### National Scholarship:

DST-SHE fellowships to MSc-I students: Ms. Farah Ansari and Ms. Merlyn C.

### College Scholarships:

SY - Ms. Judith Fernando and Ms. Karishma Katpitia

TY (6U) - Ms.Mallika Vivek Talwar, Ms. Prerna Uttankar and Ms. Soumya Srivastav

TY (3U) - Ms. Hamsa Narasimhan and Mr. Som Banerjee

MSc I - Mr. Dean D'Souza and Ms. Farah Ansari

MSc II - Ms. Keya Pankaj Kulkarni

### Internships

12 TYBSc students completed their internships at various pharmaceutical companies, research centres, environmental NGOs and corporate houses in India and abroad.

### International Exchange Programmes

- TY (3U): Ms.Ananya Agnihotri (USA) and Ms. Mallica Pandya (Daegu Haany University, South Korea) completed the 1-year exchange programme.
- SY: Ms.Surpreet Bhasin, Ms.Janvi Gandhi and Ms.Shivani Suresh participated in the HCAP program at Harvard University, USA in Jan, 2018.

### Awards& Achievements

- Ms. Jinali Mody (TYBSc 3U) was selected for a 5-day leadership development programme for young women held between 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at King's College and the colleges of Oxford University in association with the Mayor of London. The programme was organized by the Transcontinental School Innovation Alliance (TSIA).
- Ms. Modi won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize as part of the team that represented St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, at the Milgrad Business University of Tacoma, Washington, USA.
- MSc I students Ms. Lizanne Oliveira and Ms. Esha Shanbhag bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Science Quiz event 'Cerebrocracker' at Palindrome, the annual fest of the PG Dept. of Biotechnology at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018. Ms. Reanne Fronteiro and Ms. Deepthi Nambiar also participated in the same.

### Alumni

- Ms. Roshni Ann D'Souza (TY 3U, 2015-16) completed MS in Human Genetics from Imperial College, London, with distinction and was awarded the Dean's Medal for Best Overall Performance.

- Ms. Arundhati Mohanty (MSc, 2014-15) has been awarded a research grant of 5000 pound sterling by the Rufford Foundation for her research work on the conservation of forest owlets at Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.

- Ms. Srushty Chaphekar (MSc, 2016-17) has been awarded a certificate of appreciation for her work at Cellworks, Bangalore. She had earlier been working with the Psychologist Dr. Amish Gupta, Limitless Coaching Pvt. Ltd. Ms. Chaphekar cleared the UGC-CSIR NET exam held in Dec, 2017.

### Research Projects

All UG students completed short research projects in various subjects and as a part of QEP. MSc Part II students completed their dissertations under the guidance of dept. faculty.

### Conferences/ Seminars

UG and PG students participated in conferences and seminars organized by the College and other colleges in Mumbai.

### FACULTY

#### Research Guidance

Dr.Priya Sundarrajan received recognition as a PhD guide from the University of Mumbai in July, 2017.

#### Publications

- Pawaskar S, Venkat J, Mishra P, **Mangalore N.** (2017) *In vitro* antimicrobial activity of *Mimosa pudica* and *Mangifera indica*. *Bionano Frontier*. 10(2):1-4. ISSN 0974-0678 (Print), 2320-9593 (Online).
- Pawaskar S, Shah H, Trivedi B, **Mangalore N.** (2017) Estimation of non-enzymatic antioxidants from *Ficus racemosa* Linn. and *Caesalpinia bonducella* Linn. *Bionano Frontier*. 10(2):1-4. ISSN 0974-0678 (Print), 2320-9593 (Online).
- Pawaskar S, Bisht S, **Mangalore N.** (2017) Comparative study of the

levels of various phytochemicals and water soluble vitamins in some Indian medicinal plants. *Bionano Frontier*. 10(2):1-4. ISSN 0974-0678 (Print), 2320-9593 (Online).

- **Pacha-Gupta R.** (2017) Internationalization of Education at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai: A Retrospective Review of International Programmes between 2010 and 2017. *Xplore – The Xavier's Research Journal*. 8(3):48-57. ISSN 2249-1878.
- D'Costa C J, **Kanuga M.** (2017). Effect of glucose on sperm motility in *Danio rerio* as a model for diabetes: A preliminary study. *Int. J. Adv. Res.* 5(6):823-832. ISSN 2320-5407.
- **Sundarrajan P.** (2017). Saving a fragile legacy: Big History and Biotechnology. *Int. J.*

*Transformation of Consciousness*. 3:99-112.

- **Sundarrajan P** and R. Maya Sundari. (2017). Assay of  $\alpha$ -L-iduronidase and detection of Mucopolysaccharidosis I: A report in South Indian population. *World J. Pharmaceutical Res.* 6(140):1117-1125. ISSN 2277-7105. DOI: 10.20959/wjpr201714-10048.
- Damani J J, **Pacha-Gupta R, Mangalore N.** (2018) Maltase inhibitory activity of aqueous extracts of *Zingiberofficinale* Rosc. and *Trigonellafoenum-graecum* Linn. *Pharmacogn. J.* 10(2):226-229.

#### Book Chapter:

D'Souza J, Mehta S, **Saha B.** Chapter 4: Neurobiology and Neurochemistry, in *Concepts of Biotechnology*, Kaushambi Publications, (in press).

#### Conferences/ Seminars

##### National Conference - Invited Speaker:

Dr. Priya Sundarrajan, Saving a fragile legacy- 'The study of all existence' - SSLA conference on Interdisciplinarity and Big History, Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts, Pune between 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2018.

##### International Conference - Poster presentation:

Dr Priya Sundarrajan, Lavanya Indurthi and Vishwas Sarangdhar. Development of versatile shuttle vectors for Genetic manipulation in *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*. Poster No. 21, page 60. 5<sup>th</sup> South Asia Biosafety Conference, 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2017, Bangalore.

All staff members participated in various national level and college-organized conferences and seminars.

#### Grants awarded in 2017-18

Name of Investigator	Title of the project	Amount sanctioned	Funding agency
Dr. Priya Sundarrajan	Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles and their characterization	Rs.60,000/-	University of Mumbai, Minor Research Grant
Dr. Maya Murdeshwar (&Dr. Sujata Deshpande, Dept. of Zoology)	Mapping the microscopic biodiversity in selected ecological niches of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai, under changing seasons and climatic conditions.	Rs.8,00,000/-	DBT-Foldscope, Department of Biotechnology, GOI
Dr. Bhaskar Saha	<i>In vitro</i> Analysis of the Effect of Zinc Toxicity on the Nervous System	Rs.75,000/-	University of Mumbai, Minor Research Grant

Dr. Seema Das and Dr. Priya Sundarrajan continued to receive aid for their UGC Minor Research Grant sanctioned in 2015-16.

All faculty members actively served on various College Committees.

**Dr. Nandita Mangalore**  
Head, Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry

'No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive'

- M.K. Gandhi

# MANAGEMENT STUDIES

The focus for the academic year 2017-2018 was to further enhance and reinforce the culture of research based interactive learning amongst the students. The theme for the year “Inclusive Campus” was also incorporated in our department activities and projects that were undertaken by the students.

This report gives a brief overview about the activities of the department in the academic year 2017-2018

We strongly believe that students should have a good understanding of the concepts and only then can they apply it in a practical scenario, in a way that suits the situation best. Bringing about changes in the course structure, we have now added new elective papers and have also constantly worked on the syllabus to make it more relevant. The department now offers three electives, each in Semester V and Semester VI in addition to the existing compulsory courses. This provides the final year students with a wider choice, in order to further pursue their specific subject interest from the field of management. The two new courses introduced were **Training & Development (Semester V)** & **Econometrics (Semester VI)**

With the incorporation of the new taxation structure in the country, we have designed a new course, “**Elements of Taxation**” which includes both,

the Direct taxes and the norms under the new GST Policy. “**Operations Management**” is introduced in Semester III, so that with Productivity & Total Quality Management (Semester IV) and Supply Chain Management (Semester V), the study of Productions in Management studies is comprehensive and complete. The Board of Studies helped a great deal in bringing about all these relevant changes in the course structure.

## ZEPHYRUS 2017-2018

The numerous workshops and lectures (by invited-industry professionals) have given our students an insight into the practical problems and challenges faced by the companies and these sessions have been a great forum to enhance the teaching learning experience.

Zephyrus 2017-2018 was held on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. Both the conference, as well as the events, were tailor-made keeping in mind the theme of the festival, ‘The Turn of the Tide.’ The aim was to have a critical analysis of the undercurrents in the environment in which businesses need to operate.

The Zephyrus Pre-Note event was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018. This was the inaugural talk of Zephyrus 2017-18 - where the audience was addressed by **Mr. Suresh Narayanan, the**

**Chairman and Managing Director of Nestle India.** His talk focused on ‘Transformational Leadership’ and his session left the audience spell bound as he shared his experiences from his various tenures across the globe.

The first day featured 5 events, running simultaneously, with participants from numerous Mumbai based colleges. These events (Marketeer Knows Best; Improvise, Adapt, Overcome; Board Room Games; Mock Stock, etc.) simulated various aspects of corporate maneuvering thereby helping participants as well as the organizing team have a massive take home, in terms of learning about various nuances of business in India.

The second day featured 3 events, two of which were the second level of the previous day’s events. These rounds were energy packed, and received great response from the participating contingents.

The two days of events led up to the final, much looked forward to culmination of Zephyrus –the day of the **Zephyrus Business Conference**. This, hosted in the college hall boasted of an audience of 400+ eager undergraduate students from various colleges and streams from across the city.

The speakers for Zephyrus 2017-18 included the following names from the world of management, finance and marketing:

- **Mr. Ajit Balakrishnan (CEO, Rediff.com)**
- **Mr. Mansoor Khan ( Director/ Producer/Business Man)**
- **Mr. RajnishDhall (Managing Director, Micro Housing Finance Corporation, Ex Xavierite Batch of 1989)**
- **Mr. Eapen Alexander George (Executive Director, Muthoot Group)**
- **Mr. Amarjeet Singh (Executive Director, SEBI)**
- **Mr. Jaydeep Shetty (CEO, Mineral**



(Mr. Suresh Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director , Nestle India)

*Fashions, Ex Xavierite Batch of 1989)*

- **Mr. Kannan Balan (Head, Centre of Expertise, S&M Nestle India)**



*Principal, Dr. Agnelo Menezes handing over a token of appreciation to Mr. Suresh Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestle India*

The department also organized a couple of other workshops which are as follows:

**1. Seminar on Ethical Hacking:**

The ethical seminar conducted by Mr. Sachin Dedhia, founder of Sky Net Secure Solutions as a part of the SPC Module on Cyber Security enlightened the students about criminal investigations, ethical hacking & I.T security as well as mobile forensics etc. involving some real world case scenarios.

**2. Alcoholic Anonymous Seminar:**

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who once had a drinking problem. The men who founded this fellowship in India 52 years ago conducted this seminar.

**3. Social Media Marketing:**

This course involved learning the various techniques required to

build a business and to increase its presence on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Under QEP , 25 students registered for the certificate programme “ Six Sigma” It was a two credit programme and we had students from other departments who had registered for the course.

The department also offered a short term certificate course on Social Media Marketing which was conducted by IIDE (Indian Institute of Digital Education). A total of 25 students from different streams who had registered for the certificate course gave a very positive feedback about the sessions that were conducted. The practical experience that the students were exposed to, had made the entire 5 day course a very well received one and we plan to have many more such relevant certificate courses in the coming academic year.

The students of SY BMS visited various facilities like Sarvodaya Hospital, Blood Bank and a few other production facilities to study the concepts of Total Quality Management. These visits enhance the learning of the concepts explained in the classroom.

**Achievements:**

The students of SYBMS won several inter-collegiate festivals and a large number of students across all the three years participated in conferences and case-study competitions in various colleges. Many of our students have won first place in events at Adorea (Wilson College BMS Festival), Aura (College Festival of St. Andrews College), Kaleidoscope (Sophia College, College Festival), the Business Conclave 2017 (at NMIMS), Zenith 2018 (SK Somaiya College Festival), Emblaze 2017 (Mithibai College), Mumbai MUN (NMIMS Mumbai) etc.

Aditya Jain and Nihal Saldanah (TY BMS) won the *first prize in a case-study competition organized by HR College* and they went on to represent

Mumbai in the International case study competition that was held by the *Milgard School of Business, University of Washington, Tacoma.*

Apart from these achievements, many students have also taken part in student exchange programmes with **Harvard University (HCAP)** as well as the **University of Notre Dame.**

Most of the students interned in various organizations during their Diwali, Christmas and summer break and shared their experiences with the class. Internship not only helps to bridge the gap with the industry but also builds the confidence of the students.

The use of the anti-plagiarism software ‘Turnitin’ has made sure that all assignments and projects are true and original. The students have been guided by the teachers to inculcate a spirit of research and the end result has been worth the effort. Their projects were commended by not just the external academic experts who had come to evaluate them but by industry experts as well.

We have also started the process of applying for the ISSN Number for our research journal Insight and we hope to get it by December 2018. 25 students of the TY batch got placed in some of the leading firms in the country especially in the field of consultancy, Marketing & Human Resources. Many of the students have also secured admissions for their Post Graduate programmes in institutions in India and abroad.

It’s been a great year for us at the department and we were able to learn a lot from the workshops and seminars organized at St. Xavier’s College for the teaching faculty.

I would like to conclude by saying that it was by the grace of God that all our efforts and endeavors were successful and we will strive to raise the bar higher in the coming academic year.

**Ms. Soni George Tharakan**  
Head, Department of  
Management Studies

# MASS MEDIA

## BMM Activity Report 2017-18

Over the course of this academic year, the BMM Department invited experts from various fields to provide our students with insights into the media industry. These guest lectures complemented the coursework and helped in informing the students of the practical aspects and the finer nuances of various kinds of media. The resource persons facilitated exploration of various media fields through their practical experiences and interactive sessions.

We had guest lectures in the form of seasoned journalists such as Meena Menon and Shaji Vikraman from Indian Express, and other senior reporters from DNA, Mid-Day and Mumbai Mirror who covered legal and crime reporting, reporting in conflict areas, political reporting, environmental journalism and gender and sexuality reporting. Pranav Kuttaiah discussed town planning and demographics as part of policy research. Ragini Shah, a senior lawyer, covered intellectual property rights whereas Anil Galgati, an RTI specialist, taught the TYBMM student how to create a report based on RTIs. Rafiq Baghdadi, a journalist and historian, conducted a heritage walk around the Mazgaon Village.

We invited speakers from the TATA Lit Fest to interact with the students. Alan Rosling spoke about the new upsurge of entrepreneurship in India and the challenges in it. Thomas Blom Hansen explained the challenges posed to the Indian economy through caste and community, while Michael Fehr and Nell Leyshon spoke about the art of story-telling.

We had international interactions with faculty from University of Columbia, University of Kent, and University of Notre Dame, who spoke about investigative journalism, colonialism, and creating narratives through numbers respectively. Nimrod Assouline from the Consulate General of Israel spoke about India-Israel international relation.

Professionals from media industries

interacted with students on branding, public relations, entrepreneurship, and strategy related topics. These topics were covered by Divya Morparia (Brand Manager at Vodafone), Sunil D'souza from DDB Group, Thapas Joseph from Fountainhead MKTG, Varun Mundkar (Strategic Head of UBER APAC Regions), and Vidhit Chitroda. Amey Panvalkar conducted a workshop on Account Planning.

Creative writing and content creation were extensively covered by media professionals from Girnar Soft, BBC World Wide and Provocateur Advisory. Amitava Kumar, an author, discussed the aspects of book writing.

Beyond curricular and co-curricular lectures, the BMM Department also had sessions with a more self-exploratory objective, to gain insights on mapping areas of professional interests with Joanna Britto and Shamira Abdullah (proprietor of Beyond Boundaries). Krishna Warriar from XRCVC conducted a workshop on sensitization with our students.

## SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

April 2018

### List of Courses:

#### A. Title: Media and Visual Anthropology

Faculty : Ms. Vinita Bhatia (Retd. Professor, Dept of Sociology, SXC)

Number of students enrolled: 10

Course details: The course was meant to bring exposure on using Anthropological approaches to understand Media as a representation and cultural practice.

Assignment: The students were individually assigned to choose a subject and write an extensive essay based on the topics covered in the course.

#### B. Title: Lens Time

Faculty: Ms. Priyal Thakkar (Commercial Photographer/ Artist/Colorist)

Number of students enrolled: 17

Course details: The course included a mix of practical classes and

understanding theory behind the art of photography. The students were given a basic introduction to photography through practical sessions and how to apply the basic skills to enhance visual imagery and storytelling value of everyday pictures.

Assignment: The students did practical photography projects based on various subjects and were graded on the same.

#### C. Title: MAJLIS- 'Know Your Rights' (KYR)

Faculty: A team of Lawyers from MAJLIS

Number of students enrolled: 10

Course details: The course was meant to give an understanding to students about legal approaches to understand individual rights on topics related to - Domestic Violence, sexual harassment of women at Workplace and Muslim Women Rights.

Assignment: The students were given a written individual assignment on the topics above mentioned.

#### D. Title: Hand Lettering Workshop

Faculty: Ms. Vidhi Mehta

Number of students enrolled: 13

Course details: The course was an attempt to introduce students to the basic skills of Hand- Lettering, Brush Lettering, Illustration March Script.

Assignment: The students did a practical assignment of a theme based illustration using the techniques discussed in the course.

## Workshops

### Art & Visual Communication

A certificate course conducted in art, history and visual communication.

Faculty: Dr. Manjiri Thakoor, (Former HOD, Academy of Fine Arts and Craft, Rachana Sansad Former Deputy Curator, National Gallery of Modern Art Mumbai)

Venue: HERAS

Class: FYBMM

No. of sessions: 04 (17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017)

The workshop was a series of four



lectures meant to give an understanding to the media students about signs and verbal communication from historical ages to nineteenth century. The lecture also included how images from everyday life of mankind have been adapted into forming visual culture.

### **Understanding Political Systems and Media**

Faculty: Prof. Dr. Sudhakar Solomon, (HOD Political Science department, Wilson College)

Venue: LR 63

Class: FYBMM

No. of sessions: 04 (August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)

No. of students: 58

The lecture series was meant to give students an understanding of state, political institutions and the role of media from the beginning of twentieth century to the contemporary situation.

### **Sports Business Management Certificate Course**

Faculty: Mr. Alex Twichen and team of faculty members from **Sports Pyramid**

Venue: Seminar room

No. of students: 15

No. of sessions: 06 (18<sup>th</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> September)

The workshop was a series of extensive sessions to explore all the facets of sport in the country, ranging from Infrastructure to the running of specific sport events. With dedicated sports professionals, it helped the students gain an understanding of the industry and provide sustainable and innovative solutions.

### **Students Project**

#### **The Nullah project**

The first year BMM students worked on a 3- month long research project about nullahs in Mumbai and the settlements that have developed around it. A group of 28 students worked together to find out about the nullahs and talk to settlers around them for environmental journalists—Darryl D'monte, and Nidhi Jamwal. The process involved tracking places where nullahs flowed. The students were asked to form a questionnaire comprising two parts: the first part for the interviewer's observations included noting aspects like edge conditions of the nullah,



the vegetation near it, and the type of settlements around; the second part comprised of questions for the respondents that the students sought, living around the nullah.

The questionnaire revolved around gauging what people thought of the nullah, their knowledge about it, and about taking initiative to clean it. It also provided an understanding of what the process of cleaning the filthy water bodies did to the invisible class divide in the area. This was followed by the actual fieldwork. The observations were diverse as many were reluctant to talk, not wanting to draw attention to them. Others spoke on the condition of remaining anonymous and provided a lot of information of the history of the nullah and were sympathetic of the effects that the smell or garbage created. This project exposed the students to live work culture and gave them an understanding of reality.

The teams worked from December 2017 to February 2018, in co ordination with the department and the organizers of the project

### **The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of Zeitgeist Media Conference –**

#### **Prism- Ideas in the Media**

The two-day annual conference included talks by Dr. Aparna Dutt-Sharma, Ninad Shah, Radhakrishnan Sreenivasan, Pavan Dahat and Khushboo Ranka along with panel discussions chaired by Darryl D'monte

& Rohan Chakravarthy. The conference turned out to be a meaningful experience as it helped the students to gain an insight of the real world. It enhanced various career options and created opportunities for the students to explore in future.

### **Beyond Academics**

#### **Student Exchange Program- Shikshayatan, Arasavanangadu Tamil Nadu**

Continuing the association with rural community school, 14 students were hosted in college campus from 8<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This year we had six students from Lumens School, Vapi, Gujarat and 14 students from Arasavanangadu, Tamil Nadu. The "City Immersion Program" comprises of understanding opportunities in higher education along with experiencing features of city life. The students visited Bombay Stock Exchange, Nehru Science Centre, Railway Museum and a kitchen tour in McDonalds.

The BMM students visited Shikshayatan School during summer vacation in April to experience the impact of community schooling. Some of the interesting things which the BMM students learnt in their stay of two weeks included making flower garlands, Taekwondo, Yoga and basics of Tamil language.

**Ms. Perrie Subramaniam**

Head, Department of Mass Media



# MATHEMATICS

At the onset of this semester Mr. Rahul Katkam joined the department as a replacement to Ms. Meenal Kolkar who was on maternity leave. Dr. Ashok Bingi coordinated activities in the department, as well as conducted interviews for different posts for the core committee of the Mathematics Association. This year the Mathematics Association conducted various activities for students. FY mathematics students were given an orientation in the MMR just as they joined senior college. Following this a workshop on 'Origami and Mathematics' was conducted by Ms. Mimansa Vahia, an alumni of our college. Ms. Meenal Kolkar resumed college in the month of October and took over as Head of the department from the subsequent semester.

Many guest lectures were organized by the department during the course of the year. Dr. Sudhir Jain, a scientist from BARC was invited to give a lecture on 'Quantum Chaos, Graphs and Random Matrices'. A lecture series on 'Basics of Game Theory' was conducted by Mr. Felix Almeida, former Head of the Mathematics department. At the end of this lecture series participants were expected to submit assignments given by Mr. Felix. Students who attended this lecture series were given certificates of participation.

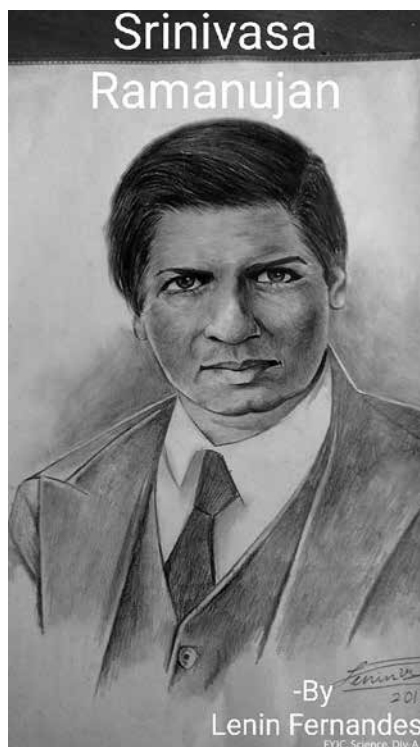
The department magazine was released in the month of February by Mr. Felix Almeida.

## MICROBIOLOGY

### MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT 2017-2018

The year 2017-18 saw Ms. Sufiya Ansari ranked first among our post graduates with a CGPA of 3.88 of 4 and Ms. Keertana Venkatesh ranked first amongst our graduates with a CGPA of 3.84 of 4.

One of the highlights for the department was a Doctorate in Microbiology awarded to Ms. Karuna Gokarn by



TY students went for the Khandala seminar in the month of January. The students gave informative presentations on various topics. Mr. Aditya Garg conducted a 'Problem Solving' activity for students.

Dr. Ashok Bingi participated in the STEM Teacher Training Workshop on Research-Based Pedagogical Tools held from 11th Oct. – 14th Oct 2017 at Sacred Heart College, Kochi, Kerala. He is appointed as the official ambassador of the Faculty Development Program conducted at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology in collaboration with Maplesoft and Binary Semantics from

June 2017 – June 2018.

Mr. Shailesh Goregaonkar conducted CFC (cross faculty course) and Ms. Saradadevi conducted SCS (scientific communication skills) course for the second year Mathematics students.

Ms. Radhika Patodia, TYBSc, was ranked well in the all India IIT PG entrance (JAM). She also secured the second rank in the Madhava competition, which is a national level competition conducted by HBCSE under the aegis of NBHM. Our S.Y.B.Sc student Ms. Shaniya got selected for MTTS (Mathematics Training and Talent Search) programme. Mr. Rajath Krishna (Batch 2016-17) has been offered a Royal Society Fully-funded 4 year PhD position at Centre for Research in String Theory, Queen Mary University of London. He will be working under the supervision of Dr. Matt Buican on Superconformal Field Theories.

As part of department-centric SIP, the mathematics department offered remedial coaching. A few students from the first year completed 5 hours of SIP under this activity. Some of them taught their classmates who were weak in studies. Others helped junior college students and economics students who have not had a mathematics background. These activities were coordinated by Mr. Rahul Katkam.

**Ms. Meenal Kolkar**

Head, Department of Mathematics

the Mumbai University in March after she successfully defended her thesis entitled "Extraction of siderophores from *Mycobacterium smegmatis* and their evaluation as novel therapeutic agents".

Our faculty and students engaged in several activities -

#### Student Activities

**A. Being socially responsible:** The SYBSc students checked the

potability of water points in the college every month through the academic year.

**B. Peer learning:** SYBSc students welcomed the fledgling FYBSc batch with an exhibition entitled 'HOW I MET MICROBES' on 10<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017 in the Microbiology Laboratory. Students learnt from each other about the various aspects of Microbiology and its scope. Other interested Junior, Senior

college students and faculty also visited the exhibition. This annual exhibition creates bonding, teaches team work, boosts confidence and self-worth amongst students.

The Exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Vivien Amonkar, former head of department.

**C. Organising And Attending Talks And Seminars:** Students helped in the organization of talks, workshops and seminars and attended them.

❖ **Compost Bin Inauguration:** The Compost Bin was set up by Ms. Sangeetha Chavan in association with the Stree Mukti Sanghatna was inaugurated by Dr. Anthony D'Souza SJ, our Rector on 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Students of the T.Y.B.Sc. and S.Y.B.Sc. participated by adding canteen waste into the bin after segregation.

❖ **Seminar At HBCSE, Mumbai:** Five T.Y.B.Sc. students attended a seminar on 'Genomics, post-genomics, ...and back to the basics' at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science and Education (TIFR) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.

❖ **Lecture By Dr Sharad Kale:** The DBT sponsored lecture by Padmashri Dr. Sharad Kale lecture's on 'Environmental Sustainability' was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 to a packed audience of teachers and students of F.Y., S.Y. and T.Y. and M.Sc.

❖ The science fiction movie, **Contagion** was screened on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Sept. The movie touched upon the quick spread of virus and disease from one country to another. Dr. Aparna Talekar conducted a discussion on issues relevant to microbiology from the movie.

❖ Department of Microbiology together with the Department of Biotechnology organized a lecture by Dr. Sangeeta Prakash, Professor, Dept of Food Technology, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland, Australia, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017. The speaker spoke about 3-D Food Printing.

❖ A **workshop** on Scientific writing was conducted by Cactus Communications in association with the department of Biotechnology on 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017. Many of our students participated in it and this led to one of our students eventually being placed with the company.

❖ **Science Day:** Department of Microbiology along with Cancer Patients Aid Association hosted a talk by eminent Molecular Oncologist Dr. Dhananjaya Saranath on Cancer Awareness-Facts, Fiction & Myths on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

❖ **Career Guidance Seminar-2018** was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Guest speakers invited were alumna, Ms. Harsha Kavale, Associate Director, Cipla, Dr. Shilpa Verekar, Head - Technical Projects (PAN India), Microchem Silliker Pvt Ltd, and alumnus Mr. Mahesh Jagtap, Mumbai. Sales Head-India at PQE Group, Pharma Quality Europe, Italy.

❖ **UMAX (Undergraduate Microbiology Association of Xavier's):** organized the activities for the Silvassa trip, Khandala seminar, Micro day and the Farewell for our M.Sc. and T.Y.B.Sc. students.

**D. Honours programme:** was co-ordinated by Ms. Sangeetha Chavan. The first years had a workshop on antimicrobial effects of plants, herbs and spices for 2 credits conducted by Ms. Miriam Stewart. The second year studied the cytotoxicity of chemicals using animal tissue culture conducted by Dr. Pampi Chakraborty for two credits. The thirds years attended a lecture series on IPR (Intellectual property rights) conducted by Dr. Biswa Prasun Chatterjee for 1 credit.

**E. Celebrating Micro Day:** Micro Day was marked by the release of the department magazine; "**The Michronicle**" on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. The Principal, and Dr. Vivien Amonkar graced the occasion and released the

magazine. The annual magazine was compiled by a team of very enthusiastic T.Y.B.Sc. students led very ably by **Editor-in-Chief Neha Banwani**. For the first time The Michronicle was uploaded on to the college website.

**F. Educational visits and Khandala seminar :**

**Silvassa trip** was organized for the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017. We visited four factories there.

**Khandala seminar, St. Xavier's College villa:** was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February, for S.Y. and T. Y. students. The annual evaluation of the Department was completed using a feedback questionnaire and a discussion. Students and staff shared their thoughts on how to improve the curricular and co-curricular activities of our department, which will be implemented in the next Academic year. Dr. Karuna took a session on Learning Skills and students were guided into understanding their learning type.

**G. Educational Visit by M.Sc.s:** The MSc Part 2 students visited Dombivali, CETP in March, 2018. MSc Part 1 students visited Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre to see techniques in virus cultivation.

**H. Lectures and talks by our ALUMNI**

Our alumni Ms. Judann Ambrose, Senior Manager Global Marketing at Biogen, USA Ms. Gargi Banerjee, a Masters student in France, and Dr. Andrew Salazar, Merck, Germany and Dr. Ritwik Sawarkar, Max Planck Institute interacted with our current students to share their experiences and guided them at various times during the year.

**The TYBSc and MSc II farewell :** was hosted by the UMAX and M.Sc. Part 1 students on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2018

**I. The Department under the leadership of Faculty member Ms. Sangeetha Chavan continued the task of Solid waste management**

using canteen waste, with the help of students from the department. Ms. Chavan also initiated a cleanliness drive in the canteen.

## J. Student Achievements and Awards

**Internships:** Most of our SY and a few of our FYBSc students worked on an internship in the winter and summer breaks. Several students were chosen on an All India Level and Globally for prestigious internships such as the POBE-2018 (Ms. Ishi Mahajan, Ms. Saanjibati Adhikari), JNCASR, Summer Research Fellowship Programme (Ms. Ishita Bapna, Ms. Sreedeepta Saha), WINStep Scholarship at University of Chicago (Ms. Shiva Joshi), Institute of Chemical Technology (Ms. Savannah Baptist, Mr. Mathew Salazar and Mr. Marwan Malik), BITS, Pilani (Mr. Kartikeyan Premrajka) and IISER, Pune (Ms. Devaunshi Mudodi) during the months of April, May and June 2018.

❖ **Research Projects:** Every SYBSc, TYBSc and MSc Part 2 student participated in internal project activity guided by the faculty members of the department.

❖ **M.Sc. II External project:** All MSc Part II students worked on their external dissertations in premier institutes like ACTREC, BARC, TMH and NIRRH for 4 months from May to August 2017.

❖ **17<sup>th</sup> Microbiolympiad :** 34 students of our department i.e. 9 FY, 11 SY and 14 TY students participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Microbiolympiad, an all Maharashtra quiz contest on various aspects of Microbiology.

❖ **Research Award : T.Y.B.Sc.** students Bibakhya , Ritvik, Lavanya, Sian and Lenisa obtained the Second Prize in Oral Presentation at K.C. College at Jigyasa Undergraduate Research Scholars Meet 2018 and presented a paper entitled 'Effect of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) in consortia on the growth of Moong (*Vignaradiata*)'

❖ **Bioentrepreneur award :** Miss

Durva Panchal and Miss Flevia Anthony won the First prize for their 'RHIZO-FARM-KIT' on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, in the Bioentrepreneur 2018 fest held at C.H.M. College, Ulhasnagar.

❖ **Competitive exams :** Several of our T.Y.B.Sc. students cleared all India competitive exams for postgraduation which include the JEEBILS, JAM and CAT.5 of our M.Sc. II students cleared the GATE exam and 1 student cleared SET.

## K. Faculty achievements

❖ **Research Publications by faculty**

- **Gokarn K** and Pal RB (2018). Activity of siderophores against drug-resistant Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, *Infection and Drug Resistance*, 11: 61—75, Impact Factor: 3.779.

- Patrawala R, Odakayi R, palkar S, Rodricks C, Algamary B, Amonakr V and Chakraborty P (2017). Screening of feather degrading bacteria and its application, *International Journal of Advanced Research* 5(7):565-573: doi:10.21474/IJAR01/4753

- **Chakraborty P**, Kulkarni S., M.G.R. Rajan and Sainis KB (2017). *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains from ancient and modern lineages induce distinct patterns of immune responses, *Journal of infection in developing countries*, 11(12):904-911 doi:10.3855/jidc.8596

❖ **Research Presentations**

- **Dr. Karuna Gokarn was an invited speaker** at the International Conference on Clinical and Pharmaceutical Microbiology to be held on October 18-20, 2017, at Rome, Italy. She presented a paper on "Preliminary evaluation of anti-tuberculosis potential of siderophores against drug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by mycobacteria growth indicator tube-drug sensitivity test".

❖ **Research grants**

- Ms. Sangeetha Chavan completed the UGC Minor research project on 'Effect of silver and titania

nanoparticles on soil microbial diversity'. Grant obtained Rs 3,47,000/-.

Dr. Karuna Gokarn completed the UGC Minor research project on 'Cloning of genes involved in the biosynthesis of Exochelin MS from *Mycobacterium smegmatis*.' 2015-2017. Grant obtained : Rs. 2,82,000/.

❖ **Seminars, Conferences and Workshops attended by Faculty outside college**

- Ms Miriam Stewart participated as a delegate in the Mini-Symposium on 'Current Challenges in Cervical Cancer : Screening, Early Detection and Prevention' organized by Cancer Patents Aid Association on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Mumbai, India.

- Ms Miriam Stewart attended a one day Seminar on Predictive Microbiology and Prof. J.V. Bhat Memorial Lecture jointly organized by CHIFSS, Bhavan's Research Centre and AFSTI- Mumbai Chapter held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 at Bhavan's College.

- Ms. Sangeetha Chavan and Dr. Aparna Talekar attended the workshop on 'Integrating Concepts in the Undergraduate Biology Laboratory Course' held in Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR) on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 .

- Ms Sangeetha Chavan attended the workshop on Statistics for biological sciences using R software – conducted by the Dept of Statistics, St .Xavier's College on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2017.

- Dr. Pampi Chakraborty attended the 'Applied Bioinformatics Workshop', organized by Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, Mumbai on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

- Faculty members also attended various staff seminars and talks organized in college through the year.

❖ **Orientation programme**

- Dr. Aparna Talekar and Dr.

Pampi Chakraborty attended the Orientation programme conducted by the UGC-HRDC at the University.

#### ❖ Subject Expert

- Ms. Miriam Stewart continued as Subject expert in Microbiology on Ad hoc subject board (BOS) of Mithibai College
- Miriam Stewart was Microbiology Subject Expert to interview candidates for a full-time faculty appointment for the Academic year 2018-2019 at Mithibai College, Mumbai.

#### Other faculty activities

##### Miriam Stewart

- Was Resource person for Heras Institute workshop on 'Methods Of Conserving Material Culture' and took a series of lectures and practicals on Biodeterioration and Conservation of Ancient Books and Paintings
- Was Resource person involved in formulating a syllabus for the UGC course on Conservation of Material Culture held by the Heras Institute.
- Was judge for FYBSc Quiz at 17<sup>th</sup> Microbiolympiad in Shirpur

#### Pradnya Gogte

New Faculty Appointment, MSc Microbiology, submitted Ph.D thesis to Mumbai University.

The Department has had a very successful Academic year 2017-2018 with a plethora of activities which encouraged learning and brought home a number of accolades. We firmly believe that developing academic and social responsibilities in our students and igniting our own potential benefits society and our Nation.

**Ms. Miriam Stewart,**  
Head of Department

## PHYSICS

#### ACADEMICS

In this academic year, the department implemented course - wise project based learning for all the three years. Every student did one project per theory course, per semester, as a part of their practical course. These projects helped the students to understand the concepts and increase their level of confidence in the subject. They were highly motivated and interested to use open source softwares like 'octave', 'tracker', 'matlab', etc. for their projects.

The second year syllabus was reframed and implemented from June 2017. The teachers prepared a course plan and followed it. The feedback given by the students showed good appreciation of the course structure. The students of Scientific Communication worked in a group of 5/6 for their project of making a video-film to communicate concepts or experiment related to physics.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4cetKjEduOD2FxeMgl7N\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4cetKjEduOD2FxeMgl7N_g)

#### Department Activities

- Annual Physics Exhibition was held in the month of August 2017. The class of SY and TY students took part in the exhibition. It was well-attended by college students and teachers from all streams, and also by students from neighbouring schools.

- PROBE-2018- An Intercollegiate Seminar for presentation of Research papers in the undergraduate level was conducted on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2018. Mr. Rajesh Singh was the convener.

- TY students were taken to Matheran to watch the Lunar Eclipse.

- FY students were taken to HBCSE for an educational visit.

- TY students visited the TIFR on four different Saturdays to study the following experiments/ demonstrations from Nuclear Physics and Atomic-Molecular Physics:

- Muon detection
- Absorption of alpha particles by materials of different thicknesses
- Comparison of Cerium Bromide and high purity detectors using Gamma ray radioactive source.
- Demonstration of NMR spectrometer.
- Demonstration of LASER Raman Spectrometer.

- FY and SY students were offered a Quest for Excellence programme on 'Defence Technology Innovations'. Mr. D.S. Chauhan from Mumbai University was the

resource person. The students were eager to learn the technical details and develop innovative projects in the lab related to this field.

#### Faculty Training :

- Dr. Leena Joshi attended the 91<sup>st</sup> Refresher Course on Experimental Physics held during September 25, 2017 to October 11, 2017 by Science Academy at Ruia College, Matunga.
- Dr. Leena Joshi participated in the Physics Resource Generation Camp towards generating new experiments for Olympiad training programme, held between 12<sup>th</sup> to 14 March 2018 at HBCSE, Mankhurd.
- Dr. Leena Joshi and Dr. Rohan Jadhav attended a lecture workshop on LASERS and their applications, held on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Jan'18 at IWSA, Vashi.
- Mr. Ajay Yadav attended a one day workshop on 'Recent Amendments in UGC Norms for the API under CAS' held on 16<sup>th</sup> September'17 at K. J. Somaiya College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Radhekrishna Dubey attended a one day workshop on 'Recent Amendments in UGC Norms for the API under CAS' held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at K. J. Somaiya College, Mumbai.





### Guest Lectures

1. “Computational methods” by Dr. Deepak More, Associate Professor in Physics, Somaiya College, Mumbai (8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018).
2. “Quantum Monte Carlo Methods” by Dr. Cyrus Umrigar, Adjunct Professor, Dept of Physics, Cornell University, USA.

### Staff achievements:

1. Dr. S.P. Bodhane worked as an Observer in the 48<sup>th</sup> international Physics Olympiad, held at Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
2. Dr. K. Vidasankari is selected as a member of Physics Board of Studies of Mumbai University. She also takes M.Sc, Part I and Part II lectures as a visiting faculty in B. N. Bandodkar College of Science, Thane.

### Students’ achievements :

1. TYBSC students formed the Physics Society under the aegis of the Department of Physics

with the objective of kindling in greater interest in learning and understanding Physics. Two orientations were held for FY & SY students.

2. The Annual Physics Magazine, ‘CELERITAS’, was launched with the theme, ‘Simplicity behind Complexity’. Student volunteers of all the three years were involved in bringing out the above magazine under the able guidance of Dr. Leena Joshi and Dr. Rohan Jadhav.
3. Our SYBSC students, Mr. Sreerag Sundaram and Mr. Rekhi Param Prasad participated in the “Kaun Banega Physicist” Competition, held at VES college, Chembur and bagged the first prize.
4. TY student, Mr. Kaushik Parui won the best presentation award at the Research scholar’s meet held at K.C. college, Mumbai.
5. TY student Mr. Anshuman Naik gave a lecture on ‘Quantum Physics for eight year olds’ at Alchemia Student Talk 2018 in Chemistry department, St. Xavier’s College.

He is also the Team Leader of the team “Aqua Hub” working on a project to extract water from the atmosphere. The team code was XW110738FH. Mr. Amit Lavanya from TY, Mr. Sreerag Sundaram and Mr. Prince Shukla from SY are also part of it. This is one of the 98 teams in the world, competing for water abundance XPrize.

6. Mr. Arjun Ashoka topped the Science Faculty scoring an overall CGPA 3.94 out of 4. He has secured admission in Cambridge University for his Masters program in Physics. He has also won the prestigious “INLAKS” Fellowship for this program.
7. Mr. Arjun Ashoka & Mr. Sachin Kanuga have cleared JAM entrance examinations.
8. Mr. Arjun Ashoka and his team in Hyperloop India manufactured and assembled the Pod in Bangalore. It was transported to the SpaceX Headquarters in Los Angeles for the final round of the competition. They had the logos of Sponsors who had paid between 3 to 20 Lakhs on the pod, which cost 1.1 Cr to manufacture and transport. Additionally they had 5 college logos on the pod to represent the colleges that made up the team. St. Xavier’s College Logo is prominently placed on the side of the pod alongside the BITS Pilani logo and others. Their team won third prize in the finals. Photo given above.

**Dr. Shyamala Bodhane**  
Head, Department of Physics

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science selected ‘Right to Life’ as the annual theme for the year 2017-18 and all the activities of the department were organised based on it.

We began the year with the annual *Goolam Essaji Vahanvati* talk on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017, on the topic of ‘Right to Life of Refugees’. We had the honour

of hosting two speakers – Father Stan Fernandes S.J. and. Mr. Ranjan Chauhan. Father Stan Fernandes discussed with students the work undertaken by the Jesuits for the welfare of Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu and for the refugees in Afghanistan. He described the threats in Afghanistan and the challenges faced by them while

working with the Sri Lankan refugees. Mr. Chauhan captivated the audience by discussing the condition of refugees in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the little-known facts about victims of Article 35 A. Both the speakers shared heart-rending stories about the plight of people, deprived of their basic right to life, liberty and dignity.

In the same month, we proudly hosted Ms. Aishwarya Dongre, who cleared the UPSC exam and was training for Indian Police Service (IPS), from the 2015 batch (Pol-Eco). Not only did Ms Aishwarya get ranked 196<sup>th</sup> in the country, she also topped her optional subject Political Science in the UPSC exam. Aishwarya gave the students an insight into the dedication and hard-work that goes into preparing for the civil service exams. In her presentation, she not only shared her unique experience with the civil service aspirants, but also gave them a list of tips and techniques on preparation for this gruelling test. Her frank advice gave a clear picture to the students, who enjoyed interacting with her.

A Research Paper Writing Workshop, by Professor Kannamma Raman from the Civics and Politics Department of Mumbai University was organised to help our students in research methodology. Professor Raman provided a detailed presentation to the students on various aspects of writing a research paper, and the key components of a good research paper.

In September, we held the second annual Awareness Campaign, choosing First Aid as our topic for the year was Right to Life. The First Aid is a primary step to save the life of an individual. A group of volunteers went to the Civil Defence Centre for two days and got basic training in First Aid. The Civil Defence also sent its trainers to the college on the day of the event to help and supervise the students to understand the First Aid. The event was held in the hall, with stalls on different possible situations in which one would be required to provide first aid, as well as the solutions to these. The stalls even had games and demonstrations, which were interactive. This helped us achieve our goal of getting the audience interested and involved, to learn in a fun way. Along with Fortis Hospital, we also held talks throughout the day on basic CPR training. Fortis Hospital

also held an organ donation drive, creating awareness about the need for organ donation. A number of students pledged their organs. Our Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes himself was a great inspiration, because he has pledged to donate his entire body.

In the month of August, The Annual Parimal K. Shroff National Essay Writing Competition was held. The topic for the essay was “The Crisis in the Middle East and the Right to Life...”.

In September, we conducted an event called ‘The Prologue’, a curtain-raiser for the annual Fundraiser. Dr. Ashok Gupta of the Reconstructive Surgery Foundation, as well as Lalita Bansi, a survivor of an acid attack and treated by Dr. Gupta were the guest speakers. They discussed their experiences with the audience, as well as their review of last year’s fundraiser. The Prologue reviewed the previous fundraiser and gave a glimpse of the 2018 Fundraiser to the audience, including the press. Dr. Gupta, as our guest of honour, also presented the winners of the National Parimal K. Shroff Essay Writing Competition with prizes and certificates.

In the month of November, the Xavier’s Political Science Association organised two talks: the first was by Dr. Arvind Kumar, the Head of the Geopolitics and International Relations Department of Manipal University and the second talk was by Dr. Sanjay Chaturvedi, a Professor from Punjab University. An expert in nuclear strategy pertaining for India, Dr. Kumar, gave the students an insight into the current nuclear strategies adopted by India and the future course to be taken by India. Dr. Sanjay Chaturvedi discussed the globally important topic of climate change, with special reference to security in the ‘Global South’.

The annual intercollegiate Youth Parliament was held in January 2018, with the topic “The Right to Privacy and

National Security”. The second flagship event of the department *Saumvedana* – The Fundraiser was held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This year the Fundraiser was held to help The Wishing Factory, a NGO which works with and for the patients of Thalassemia and fulfils the wishes of children with thalassaemia. The Wishing Factory is founded by one of our own students Parth Thakur. The fundraiser showcased two prominent artists, Kanchan Daniel and the Beards, an indie band, and percussion maestro and composer Mr. Taufiq Qureshi and his band Surya. It was a proud moment for us to witness Taufiq and his son Shikharnaad, both ex Xavierites, perform on stage.

Continuing with the tradition to provide a platform to our students to research and write articles, the annual department magazine *Samvad* was released in February, with the theme- Right to Life. It received an overwhelming response with articles, caricatures and research papers on various aspects and interpretations of Right to Life. Students from different streams wrote research papers which was really encouraging for the department.

Thus 2017-18 was a hectic, eventful and busy year for the department. I am grateful to our Principal, Dr. Agnelo Menezes, who has been very kind, considerate and cooperative and has made many valuable suggestions at various stages. I would like to thank both the committee members, XPSA and *Samvad* the department magazine. I would also like to thank Joshua Crasto and his team who headed *Saumvedana*-The Fundraiser. It was a work force of hundred volunteers who made the fundraiser a successful event. In the end, I extend my gratitude to my colleague Ms. Shazia Shaikh, for always being there and for her unconditional and consistent support and cooperation.

**Dr. Pratiba Naitthani**

Head, Department of Political Science

# PSYCHOLOGY

## Reports on the Stranger Things that happened in 2017-18

The year 2017-18 was filled with new experiences and activities for the three staff members of the Psychology Department Ruby, Linda and Karen Almeida, (who was filling in for Dean) ably supported by our Teaching Assistant, Priya Baid. Along with a new TYBA combination (Eco-Psycho) offered this year, (which was not *that* strange), we would like to file a report on the happenings and other 'Stranger Things'...

We began with some special training for our TYBA psychology major students in the Psychology Lab (*which, unlike the Hawkins Lab, has no gateway into another dimension that we know of*). Dr. Trinjha Khattar conducted a **team building** session and resource persons from Monk Prayogshala handled **Research Capacity Building**. These skills are essential for writing good research reports and working together (*and in case one has to conquer potential demogorgons who may enter into our world through the open portal, trust and teamwork would be mandatory*).

The other **workshops** through the odd semester (*Season 1*) and even semester (*Season 2*), attended by interdisciplinary groups of students, have been tabulated below.

THEMES	RESOURCE PERSONS
Relationships & Communication: a psychodynamic perspective	Rupa Kalahasthi & Shruti Murali
Creative Arts Therapy and expression of sexuality	Devika Mehta
Interdisciplinary research study on Globalization & Health	Dr. Sonia Suchday Professor & Head, Psychology Department, Pace , NY, USA
Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy	Shama Shah
Psychology of Storytelling	Toru Jhaveri
Animal Assisted Interventions	Aditi Bodas & Malvika Lobo, Annual Angels Foundation
Mindfulness	Prerana Dharnidharka
Forensic Psychology	Janavi Doshi
Sports Psychology	Maurelle D'Sa

We also had various **guest speakers**, some of whom interacted with interdisciplinary groups in a series of lectures and others who addressed specific classes. Two of these were **symposiums** with more than one speaker. (*Unfortunately, Will, Mike, Dustin and Lucas were unable to come and share their experience of tackling the Shadow Monster*).

THEME & FORMAT	GUEST SPEAKERS
Interaction with the TY psychology class on 'The emerging field of Cognitive Psychology'	Dr. Narayanan Srinivasan Professor & Head, Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences, University of Allahabad
Lecture Series on 'Behavioural Economics' for an interdisciplinary group	Poorvi Iyer Research scholar/ PhD student (LSE, UK)
SYMPOSIUM in collaboration with COSI on Busting Myths about Work with Industrial and Organizational Psychology Research	Dr. Aarti Shyamsunder (Proprietor, Psymantics Consulting, Bangalore) Dr. Comila Shahani-Denning (Professor, Hofstra University, New York) Dr. Pradnya Parasher (Founder and CEO, ThreeFish Consulting)
Lecture for an interdisciplinary group on 'Emotional Intelligence at the Workplace'	Mr. Rajiv Chelladurai (Wisdom Coach and Founder Ergos Mind)
Interactive lecture for Counseling Psychology students on 'Group Therapy' (encounter group)	Rhea Gandhi (Psychotherapist)
Lecture Series on 'Understanding the Extraordinary Behaviour of Ordinary People'	Ms. Maureen Almeida, Retired Head of Psychology Dept. St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
Lecture for the POA class on 'Suicide: Awareness and Prevention'	Mr. Farrokh Buchia, Ms. Khushnam Engineer and Ms. Gargi The Vahishta Foundation
Possibilities (Self awareness and Actualization- Training for counselling CIA 2)	Mr. Aspi Shroff Founder of NGO 'Possibilities'

The **Next Step** was held as a symposium, on 12th February, the objective being

to give our current students a glimpse of the PG courses and potential career paths they can choose from after graduating with Psychology. The resource persons (many of whom were alumni of the department) from diverse fields, with varied experience, were invited to throw light on the kind of coursework, evaluate the course with respect to the pluses and minuses and share some personal insights from their journey towards a career path. Those who have had a lot of professional experience spoke about the profession/ career rather than a course. This endeavor was undertaken to help our students make a more informed choice regarding their Next Step from St. Xavier's College. (*Chief Hopper was scheduled to speak, but was caught up... in the vines and had to be rescued himself*)

Resource persons	Theme / course / career path
Sandhavi Venkatesh	From Christ college, Bangalore to Lecturer at MNWC Parla "Still figuring it out..."
Dr. Hemal Shroff	Interdisciplinary courses at TISS
Dr. Rizwana Nulwala	Psychiatric Social Work
Vir Amar Dasmahapatra	"Follow your passion..."
Ashini Shah	Diagnostics & Therapy
Sanjana Meher	SNDT Churchgate & Clinical work
Dr. Ann Dolly	Working with Corporates (Industrial Psychology)
Goral Shroff	Management (MBA Marketing from K J Somaiya) currently working with Deloitte, Human Capital Consulting
Siddhartha Fondekar	Govt Law college (after MA in Industrial Psychology from Mithibai)
Jyayasi Kapadia	BEd (currently a two year course)
Priyanka Bajaj	Montessori training and teaching at School
Dr. Wilbur Gonsalves	Courses at UDAP, Kalina, University of Mumbai
Toru Jhaveri	Advertising
Dr. Noellene Fialho	Human Development, Nirmala Niketan and school counseling
Sonal Elvis D'Silva	Music and Sound

The TY abnormal Psychology class went for a **field visit** to the Dilkhush special

school. The group was supervised by Ms. Linda Dhakul. *(Eleven, with her special telekinetic abilities, would have loved to be part of that visit, but was off on a quest to locate her biological mother).*

As part of our **extension work**, the following activities were organized *(some of these were conducted at locations outside college, but there was no need to use Will's map of underground tunnels to get to the location):*

- Two department centric SIP activities were offered this year.
- Assisting an outstation student in adjusting to the college and the city. (35 students completed this mentoring and befriending activity and submitted reports).
- Public Awareness Initiative regarding mental health, in collaboration with the SAA, Pune. Four senior members of the SAA set up their exhibition in the XIMR corridor for one day. (The 30 students had registered for this brought in two other adults and participated in the interactive lecture/discussion aimed at sensitization towards and destigmatization of mental illness).
- We also collaborated with the BMM department, who had invited 13 rural students from Shikshayatan Middle School in Arasavangkadu, Tamil Nadu, to visit our campus. Few TY Psychology students conducted

activities with these children, aimed at boosting their personal efficacy and esteem.

- After undergoing the structured exercises themselves, the counseling psychology students reached out to diverse groups outside college (housewives, the elderly, teenagers, caregivers of children with cancer) to conduct mini workshops on self-awareness, actualization and positive thinking.

The Annual **Khandala Seminar** was held from 29th November to 1st December. The theme was 'Psychological Review of Famous persons, characters, events and trends'. Two staff members and 109 students (47 FY, 48 SY and 14 TY) attended. Twenty nine papers were presented. Lives of famous personalities (Princess Diana, Vincent Van Gogh, Robin Williams), characters (from the sitcom Friends, Power dynamics in the Game of Thrones, Po from Kung Fu Panda, Darth Vader), and events (The Salem Witch trials, Playing the Trump card in US elections) were analyzed through a psychological lens. Audience members gave constructive feedback on the presentations they heard, using the criteria identified by the department *(they had pen and paper for this, they did not need strings of light bulbs to communicate).*

We also participated at the **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Bombay Psychological Association (BPA) conference**, in collaboration with Dept. of Psychology SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, titled

'Positive Footprints Towards a Healthy Society': A National Multidisciplinary Conference. It was held at Smt. P.N. Doshi Women's College, Ghatkopar (W) on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. 14 students from St. Xavier's registered and 6 papers were presented. They were accompanied by the Ms. Ruby Pavri. *(Bob could have added his bit to the positive, creative problem solving ideas, but unfortunately, he was attacked by hive mind controlled demodogs and so didn't make it to the conference).*

This year's department **magazine** Uncommon Sense had articles around the intriguing theme Psychology of Contrasts. *(Had Joyce, Jonathan, Nancy or Steve read it, they might have gotten more insight into the Upside Down).*

As we end this report, we would like to acknowledge the support given by the inclusion committee and the tremendous personal effort put in by our two **students with disabilities**, who successfully completed their TY with a psychology major, in spite of the physical challenges. We also place on record our congratulations to our Psychology student Jahnavi Pandya on earning the **Student of the Year Award** for her various academic and co curricular achievements. As she and our TYs step out from our college portals, it almost seems like they are entering an *alternate reality*. With learnings from the past and '*now memories*' we wish them all the very best as they leave the familiar, to experience *even more Stranger Things!*

**Ms. Ruby Pavri**  
Head, Department of Psychology

## PUBLIC POLICY

The Public Policy program was envisioned by Principal Agnelo Menezes based on the need of the hour to provide multi-disciplinary skills to understand, analyze and evaluate the ever-expanding role of the government in the economy, polity and society. The program aims to create public policy analysts trained to solve real world problems affecting the lives of large groups of citizens.

It is a constant endeavor of the department to get external experts from the field of academics, government and NGOs.

Some examples of the student enrichment programs conducted in college and attended in the city:

- Workshop on Designing Policy Solutions for drought in Maharashtra with Georgetown University students

- "Understanding The GST Reform" by Dr. Ajit Ranade
- Historians' Workshop On History And Hermeneutics: Beyond Texts By Prof. Kanchana Mahadevan
- A Talk on Maharashtra Farmers' Protest and interaction with the leaders of the successful strike: Ajit Nawale & Ashok Dhawale
- Mumbai Return: Journeys Beyond

## The City by Urbz - Exhibition

- An Eye On The Future of India-US Relations with Arun Kumar and Frank Wisner
- Immigration and its Discontents
- International Migration After Brexit, Brussels, and Trump- A talk by Dr. Neeraj Kaushal
- 'Water Talk - 2017' by Centre for Water Policy, Regulation and Governance (CWPRG)
- Panel Discussion: Rivers of the Future: Evolving Approaches to Integrated Water Management organized by Columbia Global Centers
- Launch of the book "I do What I do" by Raghuram Rajan
- Talk by Ashok Toprani Director, NSSO on the Indian Statistical Service
- Workshop on Introductory R for Public Policy and Data Analysis
- Work Readiness Session: Talerang
- Archiving the Mill Lands: Mythologies of Mumbai
- Workshop on Public Policy by University of Chicago
- Conversation with Suresh Narayanan, CEO Nestle India
- Populism and the Retreat of Globalisation – discussion with Ashutosh Varshney and Ridham Desai
- Public Health Policies – Guest lecture by the CEO of SNEHA, Vanessa D'souza
- Niti Samvaad Panel Discussion: Environment and Development in the Urban Jungle with Stalin Dayanand (Vanashakti), Pravin Darade(IAS) & Nandini Deshmukh
- Niti Samvaad Film screening: Q2P by Paromita Vohra followed by a panel Discussion on Women's access to a toilet in urban spaces
- Niti Samvaad Keynote Address: The Idea of the Nation by Gurcharan Das

- Niti Samvaad Panel Discussion: Dissent & Dialogue with Makarand Paranjpe, Sudhakar Solomon, Meghnad Bose
- Niti Samvaad Panel Discussion: Gender & Policy with Padmini Swaminathan & Lakshmi Lingam
- Niti Samvaad Keynote Address on Protest and Politics in the Agrarian Sector by P. Sainath
- Niti Samvaad: In Conversation with Shyam Benegal
- Interaction with Mr. Bandula Jayasekhara, a media personality from Sri Lanka on bilateral relations between India & Sri Lanka
- Vision IAS workshop on Civil Services as a career

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Bhumika Jain was selected as a delegate for the Harvard US-India Initiative Conference held at Delhi on 6-7th January, 2018. She was also shortlisted for the Idea Fair held in the conference wherein she presented a proposal on the "Supply Side Reforms for Menstrual Hygiene Management in Rural India."

## Brenda Marbaniang

- Has India Benefitted from the Launch of E-tourist Visas in Nov 2014? A Fact check <https://www.boomlive.in/has-india-benefitted-from-the-launch-of-e-tourist-visas-in-nov-2014-a-factcheck>
- Rape Cases rise under Modi Govt? How The Congress Got It Wrong (published for BOOM Live) <https://www.boomlive.in/rape-cases-rise-under-modi-govt-how-the-congress-got-it-wrong/>

## Published for India Spend:

- In Mumbai TB deaths, sparks data dispute between Govt, NGO,
- o <http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/in-mumbai-tb-deaths-spark-data-dispute-between-govt-ngo-36834>
- o Featured in The Quint: <https://www.thequint.com/fit/mumbai-tb-deaths-spark-dispute-between->

## [bmc-praja-foundation](#)

- o Featured in NDTV every life counts, <https://everylifecounts.ndtv.com/mumbai-tb-deaths-spark-data-dispute-15779>
- Mumbai Spend: Now you can track how Mumbai Spends its money
- o <http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/mumbaispending-now-you-can-track-how-mumbai-spends-its-money-31981>
- o Featured in Hindustan Times <http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/mumbai-heavy-rains-floods-keep-a-track-of-how-bmc-spends-its-money-in-real-time/story-GJWNGMr7NaBsOqcCfWSt8M.html>
- o Featured in The Quint : <https://www.thequint.com/news/india/how-mumbai-bmc-spends-money>
- About 321 children died of diarrhea in 2015, reflecting basic health failures (published for India Spend, <http://www.indiaspend.com/indias-great-challenge-health-sanitation/about-321-indian-children-died-every-day-of-diarrhoea-in-2015-reflecting-basic-health-failures-45116>
- o Featured in Business Standard). [http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-s-health-care-failure-diarrhoea-killed-321-children-a-day-in-2015-117072900135\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-s-health-care-failure-diarrhoea-killed-321-children-a-day-in-2015-117072900135_1.html)

## Published for Fact Checker

- SC Dilutes Dowry Law Citing Misuse. Yet Dowry Claims a Life Nearly Every Hour <http://factchecker.in/sc-dilutes-dowry-law-citing-misuse-yet-dowry-claims-a-life-nearly-every-hour/>

## Sankalp Singh

- Climate Change: Event or Process? (<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/02/19/climate-change-process-event/>)
- We used to care for you,



Dear Environment (<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/07/15/used-care-dear-environment/>)

- “Bonn”- Voyage for India: What can India do in climate change debate? (<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2017/11/09/bonn-voyage-india-can-india-climate-change-debate/>)
- Climate Change Debate: Shift in polarity? (<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2018/01/26/climate-change-debate-shift-in-polarity/>).

#### Sports:

Bronze Medal in Discus Throw during Annual Sports Event held in College (2018).

#### Award:

Awarded A grade and certificate of excellence by United Nations Humanitarian Summit (Rio +23) programme in 2016, Mumbai

#### Stuti Agarwal

- Mumbai University Handball Tournament: St. Xavier's College Women's Handball Team - 3rd Place
- Mumbai University Football Tournament: St. Xavier's College Women's Football Team (Captain) - 3rd Place

#### Kalyani Palkar and Tanya Desai

- Participated in the DR Gadgil Memorial Paper Presentation at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, where they presented a paper 'Women in Agriculture' on January 18, 2018.
- An article titled 'Night Schools in Mumbai' accepted for publication in the Madras School of Economics' magazine 'Athena' (ISSN: 2347-6125).

#### Vidushi Verma:

- <http://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/8/13567/Voices-From-Jammu-And-Kashmir-On-The->

#### Kathua-Rape

- <http://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/3/13633/AFSPA-Revoked-in-Parts-of-N-E-It-is-Horrible-That-It-Still-Exists-Says-Irom-Sharmila>
- <http://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/2/13581/BJP-Youth-Wing-Member-Claims-Responsibility-For-Burning-Down-Rohingya-Refugee-Camp-Deletes-Tweets>

Faculty Publications and Seminars Attended

Mr. Awanish Kumar:

Editing and Refereeing Responsibilities

- Member, Editorial Board, Yesteryears: Journal of Railway History (a new journal published by Central Railways)
- Member, Editorial Board, [www.onlabour.in](http://www.onlabour.in), a website on labour in India.
- Member, Editorial Board, the blog of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies, Bangalore. Available at <http://fas.org.in/blog/>
- Referee, Economic and Political Weekly (-2015 Present)
- Referee, Irish Journal of South Asian Studies (IJSAS) (-2018pres)

National Peer-Reviewed/Journal Publications

- 'Village India: Change and Continuity,' Review of Agrarian Studies, Vol. 7, No. 2. Available at [www.ras.org.in](http://www.ras.org.in)
- 'Agrarian Questions: Old and New,' Review of Agrarian Studies, Vol. 7, No. 1. Available at [www.ras.org.in](http://www.ras.org.in)

Presentations at International and National Peer-Reviewed Conferences

- 'Gairan Land Movement in Marathwada, Maharashtra State: A Dalit Land Question?' Second International Dalit Studies Conference, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS),

Delhi. January 22-24, 2018.

- 'Class in Itself? Caste for Itself? Exploring the Latest Phase of Rural Agitations in India,' International conference on New Extractivism, Peasantries and Social Dynamics: Critical Perspectives and Debates, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Moscow, October 13-16, 2017.
- 'Studying the new (Dalit) movements in Gujarat and Maharashtra: Contested questions of land and labour in India,' International conference on New Extractivism, Peasantries and Social Dynamics: Critical Perspectives and Debates, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), Moscow, October 13-16, 2017.
- 'At the Margins of the Hindi Heartland: Bihari Identity and its Contradictions,' Paper presented at the third International Conference on 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision,' Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Patna, March 24-27, 2017.

Significant Publications in Popular Media

- 'Communal Violence: Reconciliation is not possible without truth' (in Urdu), The Wire Urdu, 30 November 2017.
- 'India's Unique Enigma of High Growth and Stunted Children,' The Wire, 22 September 2017.

Public talks/lectures delivered

- Speaker, Round Table on the Emerging Frontiers of the Labour Movement in India, Deputy Chairman Hall, Constitution Club of India, Delhi. March 9-11, 2018, organized by the ActionAid Association, with the Urban Action School and the Workers Solidarity Network.
- 'A New Dalit Land Question?', Wednesday Seminar at Centre for Political Studies,



*Niti Samvaad Panel Discussion: Dissent & Dialogue with Makarand Paranjpe, Sudhakar Solomon, Meghnad Bose*

Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. 24 January 2018.

- 'Indian Agriculture', Summer School on Public Policy & Advocacy, National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS), Pune, 23 May 2018.
- Speaker, Panel Discussion on Globalisation and Nationalism, the Economics department Festival: Econundrum 2018. 5th January, 12pm to 1:30pm.

#### Other Engagements

- Judge, Final Round of

12<sup>th</sup> Inter-Collegiate/Institute/Department Avishkar Research Convention: 2017-18, Organised by the University of Mumbai, December 20, 2017 at KLE Society's Science and Commerce College, Kalamboli, Mumbai.

- Byte featured in a news story in The Economic Times, 18 June 2017: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/when-cea-arvind-subramanian-spent-35-hours-over-7-days-in-a-classroom-teaching-economics/articleshow/59196410.cms>

Nandini Naik:

- Attended a workshop on "Contemporary Themes in India's Economic Development and the Economic Survey" conducted by the CEA Dr. Arvind Subramanian from 11th to 17th June 2017
- Participated in the Conference on "Political Economy of Public Policy" at the Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Mumbai on 15th and 16th of December, 2017
- Attended the India Today Conclave on 9th and 10th of March 2018 at Mumbai

It is heartening to note that many of our students have secured employment with well-known organizations like IGIDR, World Resources Institute, Lynk Global, Educational Initiatives, Adfactors, Charoen Pokphand-CP group, TISS CSR Hub etc.

Being the youngest PG department on campus we are proud to have taken forward the flagship policy conclave Niti Samvaad initiated last year to greater heights this year. We look forward to expanding our horizons in the new academic year.

**Dr. Agnelo Menezes**  
HOD and Principal

## SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

The academic year 2017-18 was an extremely engaging year for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology as well as for its student subsidiary -The Academy of Sociology and Anthropology. We proudly present the key events conducted over the year:

#### The Inter-class Mentorship Program:

The second Inter-class mentorship program between the First Year and Third Year students of Sociology and Anthropology was conducted. This year, the program ensured that the FY mentees were allotted the TY mentors studying under the same subject combinations, with the aim to provide better insights into inter-disciplinary

approaches to Sociology and Anthropology. The program involved Third Year students providing feedback and guidance with assignments and sharing of additional readings and references.

#### Industrial Visit to Jaipur:

Third Year students of the Sociology of Work and Management along with two senior faculty members, undertook an industrial visit to Jaipur from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> November with the primary aim to gain a comprehensive insight of the labour patterns and workings of various industries. The sites visited were: Saras Dairy, Dainik Bhaskar and the Salimkagzi Paper Unit. Additionally,

sight-seeing at the Amer Fort, the Hawa Mahal and the Jal Mahal was also undertaken with much delight.

#### Play: Karl Marx in Kalbadevi:

The play 'Karl Marx in Kalbadevi' was staged at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. The monologue enacted by Satchit Puranik and produced by Ideas Unlimited provided the students with an insight into Marx's life and the manifestation of his theories in contemporary society.

#### Movie Screenings: A Clockwork Orange:

The Academy of Sociology and Anthropology in collaboration with



The Xavier's Film and Literature Society screened Stanley Kubrick's movie 'A Clockwork Orange' based on the novella by Anthony Burgess. The screening was followed by a discussion on the themes of Surveillance and Existentialism.

#### **'Tu Hai Mera Sunday':**

The Academy organized the screening of 'Tu Hai Mera Sunday' followed by an interactive session with the director of the movie, Mr. Milind Dhaimade. The movie was an enlightening experience as it revolved around the themes of inhabitation of spaces by different people, gated communities, and leisure, critical themes relevant to Culture Studies and Urban Anthropology.

#### **Discussion on Resistance Music: Rap:**

This event revolved around the Hip-Hop and Rap scene in India especially in Mumbai drawing parallels to Bronx and Harlem, analysing lyrics by various artists such as DIVINE, Kendrick Lamar, and Childish Gambino.

#### **Career Fair:**

A three-day long career fair was organized for students from all academic years. It was garnered by the presence of professionals from various fields having a background in either Sociology or Anthropology who addressed the students about their respective professions.

#### **Blog: 'Deconstructing Realities':**

Deconstructing Realities is the official blog of the Department. Started by a team of students aiming to increase the accessibility of written works by current humanities students and by the alumni, the blog attempts to promote a greater appreciation for academic research and writing while developing critical and analytical skills.

URL: [www.deconstructingrealities.wordpress.com](http://www.deconstructingrealities.wordpress.com)

#### **Department Seminar:**

The annual feature for academic engagement, which is the Department seminar, was organized at Premanjali Counselling Services, Nala Sopara from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together students studying across different academic years under various other disciplines to promote discussions and explore the theme of '*Elements: Nature's gift and its Socio-political appropriations*'.

#### **Honours Program / Quest for Excellence Programme (QEP):**

The Honours Program, which facilitates learning beyond the classroom, under the guidance of Dr. Pranoti Chirmuley, organized a lecture series on 'Youth and Sub-Culture' conducted by Ms. Gayatri Sapru and 'Environment' conducted by Sunetro Ghosal.

#### **Guest Lectures:**

Guest lectures by Ms. Ketaki Hate and Ms. Kavitha Iyer were organised on the themes of research methodology and farmer's suicides respectively.

#### **Discipline-centric SIP**

The SIP project for the department was coordinated by Ms. Radhika Rani. A walk was organised during the night hours on 3rd March 2018 to facilitate the students to observe how various groups of people negotiate urban spaces and the law. The students were led by Mr. Brijesh Arya from Pehchan Foundation, a partner organization in the SIP department.

The localities covered during this walk included Mumbai Central, Kamathipura, Bhendi Bazar and Charni Road. The walk began from College at around 8pm and went on till 1am on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. There were meetings with groups of homeless citizens in different areas where they narrated their experiences of gaining employment, lack of a shelter, maintaining the security of life and belongings and everyday struggles. Some such citizens were found to be

pavement dwellers for a long time with state-issued identity cards that give them access to subsidized rations.

The students freely interacted with these groups of people heard their narratives and asked questions about their lives and livelihoods. Over the years, the cultural landscape of Mumbai has changed considerably and after hours are often considered to be unsafe for the 'gentry' to be out. Our intention behind organizing this night-walk was to make students step out of their comfort zones and privileged bubbles and to see in real time the playing out of 'class' - a concept that's much more layered and complicated than what it seems on the paper in the classroom.

#### **Faculty activities through the year**

**Dr. Sam Taraporevala** served as a resource person for the refresher course for law teachers on developmental perspectives of IP law (Refresher course series -III) - copyright - A social justice perspective organized by Inter University Centre for Intellectual Property Rights studies (IUCIPRS) (CUSAT) in Cochin. He served as a panellist on the discussion about the positive impact of technology accessibility for persons with disability on International Disability Day organized by Wipro, Bangalore. He was invited by Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC) Chamber of Commerce and Industry to serve as a panel member addressing the theme 'Employability' on the subject "Dependence to Independence - Making Maharashtra Disabled Friendly". He was also invited to give a talk on how to effectively manage and generate positive outcomes from a resource centre (The XRCVC Experience) at the Power Breakfast with Leaders and Visionaries organized by Enable India in Bangalore. He was also invited by various organizations to conduct sensitization and awareness workshops-Technology Awareness Workshop: Reading without seeing (A socio-technical perspective) for the university / college professors of the Mumbai University as part of their UGC supported refresher course in education, Workshop for the employees of DOW chemicals at their corporate office in Vikhroli at Godrej

IT park on the theme of diversity and social inclusion in the workplace. Sensitization workshop with the team of different bankers on accessibility within the banking sector, with specific reference to technology and its social relevance at the IBA head office, and a workshop focusing on diversity and social inclusion in the workplace for the employees of Capgemini at their corporate office in Airoli.

Dr. Taraporevala was further invited as a guest speaker by JJ School of Art as part of their Inclusion lecture series to speak on the topic, 'The ABC of Accessibility'. He also partnered with IDIA (idialaw.com) to put together a workshop on "Creating inclusive spaces: empowerment through equality" for their conference for lawyers. He presented a paper on "The Travails of Education and Skill Development" at the Maharashtra State Level Seminar on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. He also gave a talk at HCAP on An Inclusive Mindset- a Prerequisite for Effective Leadership in St. Xavier's College. The talk was the part of Harvard College in Asia Program on the theme 'Redefining Leadership: Initiative and Influence in the Modern World'. Dr. Taraporevala was also invited to be part of the doctoral advisory committee (DAC) by TISS for a PhD student.

**Ms. Madhuri Raijada** served as a resource person in the college for a Seminar for young teachers addressing the topic 'Teaching at St. Xavier's'. She organized an Industrial visit to Jaipur from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November with 45 TYBA students of the Sociology of Work and Management course. She was also a panellist for 'Pathways to Creating Culturally Congruent Classrooms' and spoke about 'Methods and Strategies to employ' at a national seminar organized by the K J Somaiya Comprehensive College of Education, Training and Research. She has also been included by Mithibai College of Arts, Science and Commerce on their

Board of Studies for Sociology.

**Dr. Pranoti Chirmuley** conducted a 'Privilege Walk' along with Ms. Ankita Gujar for the SYBA Classical Theories class. She also wrote a paper titled 'Assurance of Insurance: The Socio Politics of Money and Health' for the issue of Explore 2017.

**Ms. Radhika Rani** was a moderator for students' group discussion conducted as a part of the programme "Yeh India Ka Time Hai" which was held to celebrate 70 years of India's Independence. She participated in an Orientation Course at JNU, New Delhi. She handled the additional responsibility of being the co-ordinator of BVoc (Tourism) till September 2017 and was confirmed as a permanent faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in December 2017.

**Ms. Ankita Gujar** conducted a 'Privilege Walk' for her Special Course and the second year Classical Theories class. She also conducted pedagogical activities on 'Liminal Spaces' and 'My Cocaine Museum' for her Third year Anthropology Class

**Ms. Madhuri Raijada's Farewell:** Our dear colleague Ms. Madhuri Raijada retired formally in December 2017. Being the thoughtful person, she is, she readily volunteered to continue to teach for the rest of the academic year to ensure that her students and the department had a smooth transition.

She served the college with great enthusiasm for 26 Years. A farewell was organized by the department for her on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the Seminar room with visits from her colleagues, friends and former students and with words of thanks and gratitude for her presence during their time in college and a poignant sharing of experiences.

The Department owes her a debt of gratitude. Her students will fondly remember her and her fun-filled lectures and anecdotes. We wish her all the very best in her retirement.

#### **In Memoriam:**

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology lost two former faculty members this year.

#### **Memorial Meet for Dr. Edward Rodrigues:**

Dr. Edward Rodrigues, affectionately known by all as Eddie, passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. His untimely demise has left a void in the academic fraternity. He was an integral part of the department from 1987 to 2009. He was an intense and passionate teacher, very well read and highly respected amongst his students. He motivated his students to have a rigorous work ethic and engage in research and develop intensive reading habits and to be analytical and critical. He was also an active member of the college staff council.

The department held a memorial on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 to honour his contribution to the department and the college. His passing is a huge loss to the academic and student community.

#### **Fr. Emil D'Cruz, SJ:**

Fr. Emil D'Cruz SJ, former Principal of the college and a Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, passed away on the morning of April 10, 2018.

He was a part of the department from 1976 to 1997 where he also served as the Head of Department before becoming Principal of the college. He loved interacting with students on field trips and exchanging stories with them. He was known as a warm gentle person who was very approachable and helpful. He would always patiently guide anyone who ever asked him for help and was an excellent guide and counsellor to all, students and faculty alike.

#### **Dr. Sam Taraporevala**

Head, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

# STATISTICS

The academic year 2017-18 was filled with enriching events, workshops and lectures. It was also a year of many milestones. We were extremely proud to witness Ms. Annapurna, a member of our own Department, being appointed as the Vice-Principal (Arts) of the college.

Additionally, our Lab-Assistant Mr. Kishor Arbune completed his MA from the University of Mumbai.

This year many of our staff members, in spite of a hectic academic schedule extended themselves to contribute to various avenues of academic activity:

Ms. Myrtle Fernandes delivered a lecture on the Scope of Statistics to standard 12 students at St. Mary's College, Shirva, Karnataka.

Ms. Pooja Ochaney delivered a lecture on 'Testing of hypothesis' at M.D. College, Parel.

Ms. Ayesha Dias took a session on 'Scales of Measurement' for the SYBA students of the Psychology Department of our college.

Ms. Annapurna presented a paper on 'Estimation of the Parameters of a Trivariate Geometric Distribution and its Marginals subject to some conditions' at the National Conference for Women in Statistics and Analytics – 2018, at Pune University.

Mr. Sajju George conducted a few sessions on 'Testing of hypothesis using EXCEL' for students of Wilson College, Mumbai.

Ms. Myrtle, Ms. Ayesha and Ms. Piyali attended a one day State level seminar on 'Data Science- Applications & Opportunities' at Ruia College, Matunga.

We are especially grateful to two of our ex-students - Mr. Rohit Bhattacharjee, for giving our TYBA students an in-depth course on 'R-programming' and Ms. Deepika Patil, for taking a session on 'Applications of Time Series' for our TYBSc students.

Our 'Data Science' certificate course conducted by FinStat Academy continued to bridge the gap between

theoretical concepts and practical applications.

The student body of this year's Statistics Department – 'The Stats Society' was led by Chairperson Mr. Tejas Mehta (TYBSc) and the Vice-Chairperson & Treasurer Mr. Ayush Tripathi (TYBSc). The duo's boundless energy and enthusiasm coupled with their ability to envision interesting programmes made 'The Stats Society' a vivacious hub. The Department in conjunction with the 'Stats Society' was able to plan and execute many interesting programmes throughout the year.

The celebrations commenced with 'National Statistics Day' on 29<sup>th</sup> June that is commemorated as the birth anniversary of the great statistician, P. C. Mahalanobis. On this occasion Ms. Abigail Mukherjee, Manager at the Center of Excellence, Analytics Units, Kotak Mahindra delivered a talk on 'Use of Analytics in the Banking Sector'. A few Statistic related games were organized in the canteen foyer and attractive charts conveying interesting facts were displayed, to spread awareness about this subject to students of non-Statistics background.

In the same week the SYBA and SYBSc organized '**Ice-Breaker**', a bonding session for the incoming first year batches.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, Mr. V. Deshpande, Director, Sankhya Analytical Research Pvt.Ltd, addressed our TYBSc and TYBA students on '**Statistics in Business and Research, Scopes and Challenges**'

The Stats Society also conducted its inaugural '**Alumni Guidance Session**' where ex-students of the Department spoke about their journey after graduation. A diverse group of ex-students, including both those who worked immediately after graduation as well as those who proceeded for further studies, were chosen for the same.

This year, a new initiative '**ScanIt**' was launched by the Stats Society to keep a digital record of all the notes, exam papers and practical sheets used in this academic year.

This proved to be a rousing success among the students.

A guest lecture by Dr. Tapan Khopkar on '**Practicing Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**' was organized especially for FYBSc students in the month of September.

The flagship festival of the Statistics Department **XStatic (Off the Charts)** was successfully organized on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November, by the ever enthusiastic Stats Society and their team of volunteers, with the unstinted support of the staff. A total of eight events were held and over 200 students across the city participated in it making it a spectacular event. The highlight of this festival was a special 'Treasure Hunt' organized especially for our Auxiliary staff, who are the backbone of our college.

Under the guidance of Ms. Myrtle Fernandes and Ms. Ayesha Dias, the '**Annual Statistics Seminar**' was organized at St. Xavier's Villa, Khandala for the TYBSc and TYBA students. The students presented their projects and also held thought-provoking discussions on SIP – its scope for improvement, Aadhar and Privacy issues and the necessity of network connection in today's age. The students enjoyed bonding with their peers and returned enriched by the academic discussions.

A special initiative was taken by our highly motivated Stats Society and a session on '**Pathways for the Future**' was held for the FY & SYBSc students. The present TYBSc students shared the pros and cons of various career choices, their experience on how to plan and prepare for common entrance tests and college exams. They also spoke about placements, how to prepare for and face interviews and even how to make a choice when selecting companies to apply to.

Many of the TY students offered their assistance to aspiring juniors.

The feedback about this session was very rewarding and encouraging.

**'Down Memory Lane'** was an



interactive session between the teachers and the TYBSc students which had many poignant moments. The students and teachers were given a platform to share their experiences with each other over the last three years.

Hats off to the editorial team headed by Ms. Ananya Roy (TYBA Eco-Stats) for the release of the annual magazine of the Department, **'The Plot.'** The articles and creativity was greatly appreciated by all. Ananya was also instrumental in initiating the Statistics Blog, **'StatisQuo'** this year to ensure that the Department has an online footprint. It has almost 4300 views till date.

In addition, the Statistics Department now has a very active Facebook page named 'The Xavier's Stats Society' which is used for the publicity of all activities conducted by the Department.

Kudos to Ms. Pooja Ochaney and Ms. Piyali Unnikrishnan over the success of the four-day workshop on **'Applied Statistics in Biological Sciences using R software'**, organized for teachers and post-graduate students at the end of September, under the DBT Star grant.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, the Statistics Department in conjunction with the Departments of Botany and Zoology organized the One-day interdisciplinary seminar **'Confluence'18, with the theme 'Statistics for Biologists'.** This programme was also sponsored by the DBT Star Scheme.

The sessions were enlightening and beneficial to participants from all three streams.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January, Ms. Myrtle and Ayesha accompanied the FYBSc students for an **academic visit** to the International Institute of Population Studies at Deonar, Mumbai.

Overall it was an informative and memorable experience for the students.

A session titled **'Rendezvous with an Actuary'** was held and Mr. Nick Foster, the Programme Director of the BSc Mathematics & Actuarial Science at the University of Leicester interacted with our FYBSc students in early February.

Ms. Myrtle Fernandes organized a DBT Star sponsored workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February for our TYBSc students on: **'Sampling Techniques – Large Scale Sample Surveys of NSSO'**

Mr. Ashok Toprani, Deputy Director General, NSSO (FOD) and Ms. Bhagyshree Sathe, Deputy Director, NSSO conducted the sessions.

Both our resource persons had addressed the students earlier this academic year explaining to them the relevance and functioning of the NSSO. They also guided the students on how to join the NSSO. The students were highly appreciative of the depth of knowledge and the vast experience of the resource persons.

Ms. Hemal Thakker, Co founder –

FinStat Academy, conducted a session to introduce our FYBSc & TYBSc students to CAT Modelling.

The department displayed great team spirit and I wish to thank my colleagues for their solidarity towards the smooth working of the department. May I thank Ms. Pooja Ochaney for handling all the PR activities of the Department; Ms. Ayesha Dias for being the Staff In-Charge of the Stats Society and assisting me in the documentation work of the Department; Ms. Annapurna and Ms. Piyali for overlooking the articles published and the release of the Department magazine; Mr. Saju for accepting to be the Department Co-ordinator of DQAC and also the Staff In-Charge of the finances of the Department; Ms. Piyali for continuing to be the Department Co-ordinator for QEP and for taking charge of the Accounts of the DBT Star grant. Special thanks to Ms. Vaidehi for her contribution in helping out in lectures and all the activities of the Department.

Indeed this year was full of activities, lots of hard work and co-ordination. It was a fulfilling experience because of our dedicated staff and an enthusiastic Stats Society.

Looking forward to marshalling the Department to even greater heights in the years ahead.

**Myrtle Fernandes**

Head, Department of Statistics

## VOCATIONAL STUDIES: TOURISM AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

### **'TecNomad':**

With the students' initiative, the first BVoc department festival was organized, titled 'TecNomad'. The idea was initially presented by Shreyash Yende and a team of students from the second year BVoc class. It was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. It was a blend of tourism and software events. On the first day, a series of lectures was conducted by scholars in the Travel and Software industry.

1. Cruise Tourism: An introductory session on cruise tourism and its scope in India and abroad. Smeeta

Gulvady (BCD Travel and Head of School of Excellence – Travel Institution)

2. MICE tourism and its future prospects- Pritesh Prabhu (BCD Travels and specialists in MICE)
3. Tourism then and now – Navaz Karanjia (Faculty at Kesari, Garware, Thomas Cook and St. Xavier's College)
4. Ethical Hacking- Lionel Faleiro (Cybersecurity Analyst at Network Intelligence Pvt. Ltd. and also a faculty at KC College)

**Exhibition:** displaying the various project models made by the students explaining the importance of career role and job opportunities in the field of Travel & Tourism and Software related industries.

### **Events:**

- ◇ Cultural (Fashion) Show: Theme based Costume show – each team was allotted a continent and they were supposed to dress up displaying the cultural element of that particular continent. It was an inter-collegiate competition. It was judged based on the concept

note, set up, music, costume and team co-ordination pertaining to the theme. HR college team bagged the first prize and St. Xavier's team were runners up. Judges include Jaspreet Kaur (Model and Mrs. India 2017), Cean Alphonso (Makeup Artist) and Balnit Kaur (Travel & Tourism Faculty with Kesari, Garware, Thomas Cook and St. Xavier's college).

- ◇ Continental Drift: A Travel Quiz competition. It was an inter-collegiate competition. Six teams participated with a total of three levels to win. St. Xavier's College team bagged the first prize.
- ◇ Game of codes- Showcasing talent of software (Adobe) and languages to resolve coding challenges.
- ◇ FIFA- Football game battle using technology like PS4.

#### **BVOC (TOURISM) LECTURE SERIES:**

The BVoc. (Tourism) department organized a series of interactions with various professionals from the tourism industry. It was intended to expose the students to a range of career options and encourage them to envision creative possibilities of engaging with this vibrant field. The speakers ranged from bureaucrats to entrepreneurs.

Vinod Sridhar, a social entrepreneur and the founder of "Journeys with Meaning", spoke to students about tourism's impact on nature and means of promoting environmentally sustainable travel.

The Chairman of MTDC, Vijay Waghmare and his chief secretary, Chandrashekhar Jaishwal had a vibrant interaction with students regarding the scope of tourist activities in Maharashtra and new projects initiated by the government.

Aloke Bajpai, the founder and CEO of popular adventure-based travel company 'Explorers', spoke to students about the various aspects of starting a business and creating a niche for it.

Pritesh Prabhu (BCD Travel), who has a vast experience in numerous verticals of the hospitality sector, had a very

engaging session with the students regarding careers in travel and tourism.

In keeping with our annual theme of "Inclusion", there was a session with Debolin Sen, the head of Enable Travels, a subsidiary of Cox and Kings. He was accompanied by rights' activists Virali Modi and Rustom Irani, who discussed their experiences of difficulties faced while accessing public spaces and the desire to travel far and wide. Mr. Sen spoke about the various special facilities provided by their organisation to help differently-abled travellers enjoy the specially-curated itineraries.

Mahendran Sankaran, the regional head of Swiss Education Group, spoke to students regarding current global trends in travel and tourism.

Santosh Menon, the founder and CEO of Brandmela, a company that provides an umbrella of services related to event management and travel, illustrated through a range of experiences, the creative ways of catering to the varied needs of clients, especially when touring abroad.

Professor Graham Miller (Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Surrey, UK) spoke to students regarding contemporary global trends in academic research promoting sustainable tourism.

Mayuresh Bhadsavle, a journalist had a very engaging session with students on the history of Mumbai and its relationship with the nature of tourists that visit it.

#### **• BVOC (TOURISM) EVENTS:**

As a part of their final assessment for the course on Event Management, the students of third year BVT organised a trek to Sudhagad fort in Pali, Maharashtra.

In our continuous efforts to equip students with skills, a two-day training workshop on Central Reservation System was organised at the Garware Institute of Career Education and Development, University of Mumbai for the students of third year BVT.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January, a one day certificate

course on Cruise tourism in collaboration with BCD travels and School of Excellence was held in the college Seminar Room. The lecture was conducted by Smeeta Gulvade of BCD travels and head of the School of Excellence. The lecture was about the growing scope in Cruise tourism, its challenges and new government policies.

#### **BVOC (TOURISM) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:**

Students of third year Tourism went for an internship programme of 6-8 weeks in the month of March and April. It was an initiative taken by the department in consultation with the BOS to have mandatory internship as part of the course work to encourage them to search for internships of their interest, explore the field better and in a way that helps increase their job opportunity. Of the 37 registered students 33 students, successfully completed their internship in companies like Veena World, Countryside, Trailblazer, Avalon Travel and so on. These travel companies seemed keen on taking the students for a full-time post rather than mere internship. Around 10 students got full-time posts.

#### **BVOC (SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT) PROJECTS DEVELOPED & INTERNSHIPS BY STUDENTS :**

One of the BVoc. Software Development students, Rushabh Picha, fascinated by the app "M-Indicator" (which provides complete information about the city of Mumbai), created something similar for Nashik, as he belongs to Nashik. He launched it on the play store and has received a great response. It has now crossed more than 1400 successful downloads. Encouraged by the response to the Nashik Explorer app, he developed an app for the city of Ahmedabad named Ahmedabad Explorer.

Links for the apps:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nashik.myNashik.dreams&hl=en\\_IN](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nashik.myNashik.dreams&hl=en_IN)

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rushabh.nasikapp.ahmedabadexplorer&hl=en\\_US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rushabh.nasikapp.ahmedabadexplorer&hl=en_US)



To help Xavier's students maintain a proper record of their attendance, Rushabh also developed an app named Safe Bunking and launched it on the play store. Along with this feature the app also possesses the feature of saving important notes or any important instruction.

Link for the app:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rushabh.nasikapp.safebunking&hl=en\\_IN](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rushabh.nasikapp.safebunking&hl=en_IN)

Michael Diyora made ERP software for inventory management.

Raymond Renee made two games using PlayCanvas which is a web based framework used for building games.

Blanche Fernandes did her internship for Xavier's Development Programme(XDP) for nearly a span of 6 months from which 2 months was full time. She helped with the database, alumni engagement, handling the CRM, digital marketing on Instagram and Facebook (@alumnixaviers) and graphics for those pages too.

Aman Khandewal implemented a

website for the inter-religious studies department.

Edrion Ashirvadham completed an internship at ASSET summer program as the post of a Resident Coach for 1 month.

Shikha Chauhan interned at Vijay Gas Industry (summer 2018).

Abhishek Rai did an E-Commerce Internship Program with Wooplr in February 2018

Meryl Sequeria experienced one year in a real estate company as a guest relationship manager.

Mrunmayee Nirantarhas did an internship in a company named iConnect Info Solutions Private Limited where she worked on Grails framework, Angular 5, Ionic 3 and ReactJs.

Sheldon Quinny did his internship as a "Resident Coach".

Alicia Mascarenhas did an internship via Frapp as a social media influencer.

#### • STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

The students of Bvoc Tourism and Software bagged first prize at the Ruia College Travel and Tourism Festival. The individual events like First place in Fashion show won by Edrion and Meryl (second year Software), Paint It, won by Shikha (second year Software) and Quiz Hunt, won by Shyam, Akhilesh and Calvin (second year Tourism and Software) was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017.

A student from third year Tourism,

Mohak Kaisar, was selected and participated in Harvard Project for Asian & International Relation (HPAIR). It was a conference on Environment and Sustainability held from 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. He initiated a panel talk on The Ecological Footprint created by Tourism Industry Across Globe. Also part of the discussion on "ConnectED-Skills over Secondary Education in South-East Asia."

Edrion Ashirvadham second year (SD) formed the first ever AICUF band for the college and composed nearly 12 songs related to the college and society including the College theme Inclusion (2017) and Innovation through community gains (2018).

Noah Sebastian second year (SD) was a co-pioneer in launching the BSc. IT Departmental Magazine called Bitmap and also being instrumental in creating a website xcite.com (Xavier's Confluence of Information Technology and Education).

Jason Patel second year(SD) was part of a committee that took an initiative to plant Casuarina trees on the Dahanu beach to prevent soil erosion, won tier four champions cup (SEA region) in the e-sport game - DotA 2 and assisted in website design for the salon Fleur De Lis.

Rushabh Picha third year (SD) has a job at Energos Technologies.

Vidhant Chettri third year (SD) is pursuing a Masters Degree.

**Dr. Jyoti Singh and Ms. Siddhi Bhatgara**

Co-ordinators, SD and Tourism BVoc

## ZOOLOGY

The Department of Zoology had a vibrant year of programmes alongside teaching and learning. The 201 students registered in the department : FY-68, SY-37, TY-24+30

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- 8 students attended a shark identification workshop by an alumni, Mr. Evan Nazareth, on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

- 12 students worked with an NGO- 'Welfare of Stray Dogs' at Mahalakshmi and learnt to take care of stray dogs.
- About 10 students worked with NGO 'Ek Prithvi' and explained environmental science in a Municipal school.
- 5 students of the department took several bird watching trips

to Bhandup and Karnala bird sanctuaries to identify and record sighting of birds in Mumbai and Karnala in the month of February.

### STAFF ACTIVITIES

#### Dr. Sujata Deshpande

- delivered a lecture on Astrobiology at the Extra Mural studies department of the University of Mumbai on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and

at SIES College on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018,

- took lectures on biostatistics for M.Sc. Microbiology in September-October 2017 at Ramnarain Ruia College, Matunga,
- attended refresher course from October 23, 2017 to November 11, 2017,
- attended a Bioinformatics workshop arranged by K.C. college in collaboration with NIRRH on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- **Mr. Conrad Cabral** was a member of the organizing committee of the International Conference on Religion from 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> February 2018. He was also a Member of faculty debate team for ECC debate society.
- **Dr. Madhuri Hambarde** was the coordinator for an additional credit course on "Science communication skills",
- was Faculty in-charge of the Xavier's Zoology Association,
- was a Judge for the poster presentation by Masters students in zoology and biotechnology, as part of World science day celebration on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at K. J. Somaiya College of Science and Commerce.

The department members, namely, **Dr. Smita Krishnan, Dr. Pushpa Sinkar, Mr Conrad Cabral and Dr. Sujata Deshpande** were actively involved in the organization of DBT sponsored Seminar on "Statistics for Biologist". Confluence '18 on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 jointly organized by Botany, Statistics and Zoology departments.

**Dr. Sujata Deshpande, Mr. Conrad Cabral, Dr. Pushpa Sinkar, and Dr. Smita Krishnan** were members of the organizing committee of **Friends of the Trees** sponsored seminar entitled "SGNP: A Living Treasure Amidst Concrete Jungle & Sustainable Urban Forest Management" on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

#### Department publications

- **Chakraborty et al (2018)**

-Evolution of reproductive dominance in animal societies- lessons from a social wasp: proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy (online publication 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018). (Dr. Sujata Deshpande is one of the authors of the paper).

#### College committees

**Dr. Smita Krishnan** was the Convenor of the Unfair Means Committee and was also on the custodian committee. **Mr. Conrad Cabral** was on the ERP committee. **Dr. Pushpa Sinkar** was the Convenor of the TAQ committee. She was the QEP coordinator for the department. She was also a member of the Women's Development Cell. **Dr. Madhuri Hambarde** was the Convenor of the Staff Placement Committee. She was a member of the Institutional Bio-safety committee and the member secretary of the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee. She is also an elected staff representative on the Management board of St Xavier's college. **Dr. Sujata Deshpande** was the Convenor of the End Semester Examination committee.

#### Departmental trips

1. Entomological trip to Baif, Uralikanchan and Bee keeping institute at Panchgani was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 for TYBSc students.
2. Zoological trip to Gir, Verawal, Somnath and Jamnagar, Gujarat was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 for SYBSc students.
3. Zoological trip to "Vishnu Baug": an educational theme park maintained by Dr Solanki at Badlapur was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017 for FYBSc students.

#### Guest Lectures

- Dr. Ghaskadbi S. gave a lecture on "Regeneration in Hydra" along with demonstration of the technique.
- Pallavi G. delivered a talk on 'A whistle among growls' on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017
- Dr. Merwyn Fernandes, Coordinator (Program) Traffic, gave a talk on 'Trade in endangered

species' on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

- Mayuresh Gaggal gave a talk on data analysis of Sharks for SY and TY students on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

#### QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

Department of Zoology conducted the following activities for the "Quest for Excellence Programme" in the academic year 2017 - 18. Dr. Pushpa Sinkar was the coordinator. 6 students qualified to receive the Honours Program Certificate at the 2017-18 Graduation.

#### 1. BASIC ASTROBIOLOGY: IS THERE LIFE ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE ?

The course was conducted by Dr. Sujata Deshpande. 20 students registered for the course. The following topics were covered in the course: Origin of the Universe, Origin of the solar system, The Solar system, Origin of Earth, Origin of life on Earth, Evolution of life, Habitable zones in the solar system and Universe, Detection of exo-planets. Sky observation programme was conducted after monsoon season to Neral in collaboration with the Khagol Mandal.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION TO BEES: (BEES stands for Behavioural, Ecological and Evolutionary Sciences)

The course involving lectures and project work was conducted by Dr. Sujata Deshpande. 15 students enrolled for this program. This was an interactive course, where a small part was covered through lectures, and students were introduced to the basics of measuring animal behaviour and relating behaviour to ecology and evolution.

#### 3. FORENSIC SCIENCE HONOURS PROGRAM

Ms. Alethea Vaz conducted this lecture cum practical course on "Introduction to Wildlife Forensic". 22 students from FY,

SY and TYBSc students registered and successfully completed the program.

During this introductory program, students learnt basic crime scene investigation protocols and specific analytical techniques for Wildlife Crime Investigation. The learnings of the students were enforced through the investigation of a 'Mock Wildlife Crime Scene'. Students processed

the crime scene, evaluated the available evidence, analyzed the items and reconstructed a case file of results obtained from the investigation. Dr. Smita Krishnan, Ms. Riva Pocha and Ms. Samyukta contributed their expertise towards this program.

#### 4. ORNITHOLOGY AND HERPETOLOGY

This inter-disciplinary course on

ornithology and herpetology was conducted by Dr. Leon Pereira.

Students learnt about the Taxonomy, Classification and Biology of reptiles (Snakes) and birds through lectures and field trips. A field trip was conducted to the Khandala Villa to study the snakes and birds around the area.

**Dr. Smita Krishnan**  
Head, Department of Zoology



'Each human being, however small or weak, has something to bring to humanity'

- Jean Vanier





**Photo Credit:** Sukhnidh Kaur (SYBA)

# RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS

## BLATTER HERBARIUM

The Blatter Herbarium places on record its irreparable loss in the form of **Dr. Marselin R. Almeida, the erstwhile curator of the Blatter and a dedicated botanist. His worthwhile contribution to the field of taxonomy, his efforts towards research in the Blatter Herbarium and his role as a perceptive botanist will continue to live in our minds.**

During the academic year 2017-18, with the help of Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) grants, the Herbarium acquired a customized scanner-cum-digitizer and began the herculean task of digitizing the entire herbarium. So far 800 types of specimens have been scanned and stored in the soft copy form. In addition, 1165 specimens from general collections have been scanned and soft copies are saved. Soon, these images will be uploaded on the server and will be made available to the world for reference and research. The work is voluminous and tedious and has to be done with utmost care without damaging the irreplaceable historical specimens. With the help of computers purchased under SRTT grant, we are also computerizing the entire Herbarium data base. From July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018, two herbarium assistants, Ms. Jyoti Desai and Ms. Janhavi Jadhav, have made entries for 94000 specimens (BLAT0001 to BLAT94000).

During the year, a large numbers of school students, botany students from other colleges and universities and NGOs (e.g. 'Muktangan') involved in teacher training have visited the

Herbarium to learn about its functions and utility as well as for research work; officials from the Botanical survey of India as well as research scholars and botanists from across the world visit the Herbarium every year.

During the year, 72 specimens were authenticated, 57 specimens were authenticated and certified, 280 students belonging to 6 colleges visited Blatter, 16 Research scholars across the country visited the herbarium for reference, and 15 sketches of plants were authenticated, generating Rs. 42,470/- as consultancy fees.

In addition, Blatter Herbarium also signed an agreement with the Center for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), Mumbai on 01.02.2018 for a field-study project to determine the carbon sequestration potential of existing tree plantations across India, in collaboration with Blatter Herbarium. A project of Rs. 2,85,000/- was initiated.

Herbarium staff - Ms. Jyoti Desai and Ms. Janhavi Jadhav along with specially appointed research assistants - Mr. Chintan Bhatt, Ms. Kiran Thuma, Ms. Varada Chachad conducted field trips to Bangalore, Gurgaon, Bhiwandi, Pune, Navi Mumbai and completed the CERE geo-tagging project successfully; some final year MSc students also participated in these field trips to gain first-hand experience of geo-tagging.

Blatter Herbarium staff and M.Sc. students of the department participated in the Annual Flower, Fruit and

Vegetable show at Ruparel College, organized by The National Society of the Friends of Trees. The team displayed some very rare and old botanical literature and a few botanical samples.

Disinfecting the existing specimens, replacing old folders with new ones, attending to visitors and authentication of plant specimens is the routine work of the Herbarium staff.

### Publication:

### Research papers:

**Rajendra D. Shinde** & Rajdeo Singh (2017) Lectotypification of *Senecio belgaumensis* and *S. gibsonii* (Asteraceae) in *Rheedeia*, 27 (2): 99-102. ISSN: 0971-2313 <https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.2017.27.2.18>

Rajdeo Singh & **Rajendra D. Shinde**, (2017) Lectotypification of *Doronicum hewrense* Dalzell & *Vicoa cernua* Dalzell (Asteraceae) in *Journal of Indian Bot. Soc.*, 96 (3&4): 302-304. ISSN: 0019-4468, e-ISSN:2455-7218.

**Rajendra D. Shinde** (2017) Aarey Milk Colony Mumbai as Forest Territory - A Status Report in *Xplore- The Xavier's Research Journal* 8 (3): 80-95. ISSN: 2249-1878

### Books:

**Rajendra D. Shinde** (2018) Floral Diversity of Nandur Madhameshwar Wildlife Sanctuary - A Pictorial Guide. Nashik Wildlife Division, Nashik.

**Dr. Rajendra Shinde**  
Director, Blatter Herbarium.

'When everyone is included, everyone wins'

- Jesse Jackson



## CAIUS RESEARCH LABORATORY

### Industry- Academia Collaboration – Industry Projects carried out in the Caius Research Laboratory

The tenure of the industry collaborative

project with Harmony organics PVT. Ltd on “Cloning of Santalene Synthase gene in yeast” was completed in December 2017. One of the main objectives, namely, cloning and

expression of the gene in *E. coli* was achieved. Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar was the principal investigator and Ms. Archana Rasure, was the project assistant.

### Faculty/ Students working in Caius Research Laboratory and ongoing projects

Name	Department	PhD/ Project	Title of Project	Funding
Ms. Miriam Stewart	Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology,	PhD	Studies on the Feasibility of Electron Beam Irradiation to Improve the Microbiological Safety of Minimally Processed Foods	-
Ms. Sangeetha Chavan	Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology	PhD	Effects of silver, zinc oxide and titania nanoparticles on nitrogen fixing, phosphate solubilizing and biofilm forming bacteria found in soil ecosystem	-
Ms. Karuna Gokarn	Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology	Viva held on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Extraction of siderophores from <i>Mycobacterium smegmatis</i> and their evaluation as novel therapeutic agents.	-
Dr. Priya Sundarrajan	Associate Professor, Department of Life Science and Biochemistry	Project	Isolation and screening for novel ethanol producers from various sources and their characterization	UGC – Minor Grant Amount sanctioned: Rs.4,80,000/- Grant Released of 3,00,000/- 2017 - 2019
Ms. Sangeeta Shetty	Assistant Professor, Department of Life Science and Biochemistry	PhD	Isolation of novel cellulases from extremophiles and other sources	-
Ms. Neha Gupte	PhD Student, Department of Botany. Guide: Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Associate Professor, Department of Botany	PhD	Phylogenetic analysis of Boraginaceae of Noth – West Maharashtra	-
Ms. Archana Rasure	Caius Research Laboratory PI: Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar	Project Assistant	Improvement of Santalene Synthase Activity	Harmony Organics Pvt Ltd, Pune. Rs. 3,85,000/- Project tenure completed Dec 2017
Ms. Ankita Arolkar	Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science. Guide: Dr. Priya Sundarrajan	MSc Project	Screening and isolation of Pectinase producers from various sources and their application in food processing industry	-
Ms. Sonali Singh	Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science. Guide: Dr. Priya Sundarrajan	MSc Project	Effect of various plant extracts on Biofilm producers and their application in food processing industry	-

### PhD Viva Voce:

Ms. Karuna Gokarn, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology

successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled “**Extraction of siderophores from *Mycobacterium smegmatis* and their evaluation as novel therapeutic**

**agents”** on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and was granted the doctoral degree by the Mumbai University.

### Extension Activity:

1. A tour of the instruments and introduction to Biosafety was carried out for the MSc part II students of Botany and Life Science. The use and safety measures to be followed while working with various instruments in the CIF was explained and an introduction to biosafety was carried out. This activity would help the students in their project work and it helped many students to choose their project topic and plan their experiments.
2. As a part of the professional development activity, a workshop on insights into scientific research was carried out on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for 22 BMC school teachers associated with the NGO Mukangan. An insight into scientific research, use of different types of equipments and microscopy was demonstrated to the school teachers and was much appreciated by them. Dr. Priya Sundarajan and Ms. Sangeetha Shetty were the resource persons.
3. A demonstration of GC for MSc Microbiology students was conducted by Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
4. Tour of the CIF was organized for MSc Part I food and nutrition students of Nirmala Niketan college on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The students were briefed on various research techniques and explained the various instruments in the CIF.

### 4. Internships and Project training for students:

The following students underwent internships in the laboratory:

1. Ms. Tejaswini Dewasthale, 2<sup>nd</sup> year B. Pharm student from VES college of Pharmacy, Chembur, - between 7<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 under the guidance of Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar and Dr. Priya Sundarajan. She worked on the project of "Screening for antimicrobial activity of plant extracts".

2. Ms. Shraddha Wadhare worked on: "Zinc toxicity on glial and neuronal cell lines" under the guidance of Dr. Bhaskar Saha, Department of Life Science and Biochemistry, between 15<sup>th</sup> June - 15<sup>th</sup> August.

### Multidisciplinary approach:

The instruments in the CIF are being used not only by all biology departments but also by students and faculty from Physics, Chemistry and Geology. The lab and the instruments being used for UG and PG practical, research projects, Honour's program, industry projects and doctoral studies by faculty and students from the various science departments namely, Botany, Biotechnology, Life Science, and Microbiology are carrying out research leading to their doctoral degrees.

### QEP Program:

A QEP Program was conducted by the laboratory on "Analytical Techniques in Research" between 26<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. Nine students from FYBSc and SYBSc participated in the program. Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar and Dr. Priya Sundarajan were the resource persons.

### Summer Workshop:

A summer workshop on "Protein crystallization and Gene Cloning Techniques" was conducted between 5<sup>th</sup> April - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Six students participated in the workshop of which one student was from MS University, Baroda, one from Ruia College and four from SY and TYBSc St. Xavier's College. The students were given hands on training in molecular biology techniques and were well received. The certificates for the workshop were distributed by Dr. Menezes, Principal of the college.

### SIP Activity:

An awareness Camp was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2018 in collaboration with The Verushka Foundation, an NGO founded by Ms. Tatyana Dias an alumnus of the college, working for differently abled children, the Desai Foundation for Change, and the Department of Life Science and

Biochemistry. The camp titled '**Know Better, Do Better**' was kept open to members of the public and parents of disabled children, to raise awareness about the facts and misconceptions about various developmental disabilities. An exhibition on the same was put up by FYBSc Life Science students as part of their Department SIP activity. Various NGOs and clinicians had also put up their stalls at the camp and displayed products made by the differently abled children. The commissioner for Disabilities, Mr. Nitin Patil was a special invitee for the camp and appreciated the efforts of the students and the College.

### Conference Organized:

A One-Day National Conference entitled '**Developmental Disabilities and You**' was organized in collaboration with The Verushka Foundation, an NGO working for differently abled children founded by Ms. Tatyana Dias, the Desai Foundation for Change, and the Department of Life Science and Biochemistry on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2018. Dr. Keki Turel, a well-known neurosurgeon was the keynote speaker. The event brought together children and adults suffering from autism, their families, caregivers, counselors, doctors, research scientists, students, teachers and the layperson on one platform to share insights on the subject and benefit from it. The conference was well attended and received by all participants.

### Invited Lectures:

1. Dr. Amit Gandhi, MD (Oncosurgery), Consultant cancer surgeon, Cansure Center was invited to deliver a lecture on cancer awareness to students of our college on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. The title of his talk was "Know Cancer to No Cancer".
2. A public lecture was organized in **Collaboration with Indian Women Scientists' Association** supported by DAE -BRNS. **Dr. Arvind Lali**, from DBT - ICT center, who is a national and International Expert in the field of Bioenergy was invited. He gave a talk titled "Renewable Carbon

Engineering: Role of Chemical and Biological Sciences". About 60 students and faculty from various science Departments from our college as well as from a Pharmacy College attended the talk.

#### Conferences attended:

Dr. Priya Sundarrajan presented a poster entitled "Development of versatile shuttle vectors for genetic manipulations in *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*" at the 5<sup>th</sup> South Asia Biosafety conference held at Bangalore on 11 – 13 September 2017.

Dr. Karuna Gokarn was an invited speaker at the International Conference on Clinical and Pharmaceutical Microbiology held on October 18 - 20, 2017 in Rome, Italy. She presented her paper entitled "Preliminary evaluation of anti-tuberculosis potential of siderophores against drug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by mycobacteria growth indicator tube-drug sensitivity test"

#### Papers Published:

Gokarn K and Pal RB (2018). Activity of siderophores against drug-resistant Gram-positive and Gram-

negative bacteria, *Infection and Drug Resistance*, 11: 61—75, Dove Medical Press, Albany, New Zealand, Auckland, Impact Factor: 3.779.

#### The Institutional Biosafety Committee:

As per Government of India regulations, organizations handling genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and recombinant DNA materials for research or production should constitute an IBSC with the DBT approval. In the regulatory framework, IBSC is one of the statutory bodies which operates directly from the premises of the institution and is responsible for proper implementation of biosafety rules, regulations and guidelines. The college IBSC, constituted in 2003, approved by DBT, Govt. of India, convenes regular meetings to monitor the GMO and recombinant DNA activities of the various on-going research projects. Two meetings of the committee were held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. One new research proposal was reviewed and one was granted. The minutes of the meeting and form CI were forwarded to RCGM, DBT, New Delhi.

#### Central Instrumentation Facility

The fully air-conditioned state of the art Central Instrumentation Facility of the laboratory currently houses equipment that the college had obtained through the DST – FIST grant of the Govt. Of India, and two instruments obtained from the UGC grant. The Equipment includes the Gel Documentation system, two UV-Visible spectrophotometers, Thermal cycler, CO<sub>2</sub> incubator, Ultrasonicator, Lyophilizer, BOD incubator, Electroporator, Gas chromatography, HPTLC applicator, two-dimensional gel electrophoresis system, Laminar air flow, Biosafety cabinet Class AII, Orion pH meter, Eppendorf cold centrifuge and microcentrifuge, Olympus bright field, pulse field and polarising microscope and -80° Deep freezer. An ELISA reader and a fluorescent attachment obtained through the Lady Tata workshop grant is also housed in the CIF. A fully functional Animal Tissue Culture facility is available, where research using animal cell lines is being carried out.

**Dr. Priya Sundarrajan,**

Director,

Caius Research Laboratory and CIF

## DEPARTMENT OF INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES (DIRS)

### 1. INCLUSIVE MINDSET (6 June 2017)

The annual college theme is "Enhancing Inclusion on Campus". An Opening Prayer Service on "Inclusive Mindset" was organized by AICUF and DIRS on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 where participants sang and danced to the music video "Grateful." The Rector of our college, Fr. Tony J. D'Souza, facilitated the session with insightful stories. Three students shared personal experiences of inclusion and discrimination. Shahul Bhujbal, partially visually challenged felt excluded at school but later found acceptance. Namrata Soreng, a female tribal from Orissa, spoke about the relevance of the reservation system. Lawrence Noronha, a member of the LGBT community, felt more accepted at Xavier's than elsewhere. Prayers for developing inclusion followed. The Service concluded with a song composed by Jahnvi Pandya.

### 2. UNDERSTANDING ISLAM (20 – 29 June)

'Being a Muslim is more than going to a Masjid', 'Allah needs our attention, not our attendance', 'A sinner's tear is more precious to Allah than a righteous man's arrogance.' Islam advocates justice, love, compassion and inclusion. Jannat lies not only in Mecca but throughout the universe. Humanity, brotherhood, peace, compassion towards the environment, human rights were the topics presented by Mr. Irfan.

We visited the Turbhe-Mosque, where Muslims and Dalits, excluded by society, live united.

#### Dialogue in the Chapel

One of the classes was held in the college chapel. Here is Irfan's testimony

I was overwhelmed to conduct a

session in the College Chapel. I shared an incident from the Prophet's life. A Christian delegation visited the Prophet inside the Mosque. Later, they asked for leave of the Prophet to go out for prayers. The Prophet requested the delegation to pray within the Mosque according to their (Christian) tradition and asked them, "Why is this not God's abode where you should pray?"

I talked on developing inclusive traditions within all religions. Mosques and other places of worship should become inclusive centers which at present they are not! We read Quranic verses on gender justice. Patriarchal social traditions and customs take Muslims away from the message of God. Discussing gender justice was no different from preaching Christ's word.

### 3. FOUNDER'S DAY: EGO TO ECO (31 July 2017)



The DIRS and AICUF collaborated to organize the College Day Mass on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017. The theme chosen was EGO to ECO which is also AICUF's theme for the academic year 2017-18. The main celebrant Fr. Joel Noronha shared personal experiences of engagement with tribals in Nashik and offered insights on moving from EGO to ECO. A brief memorial service was held in honor of the late Fr. Noel Sheth SJ, who assisted at the DIRS and Heras. He embodied the Jesuit motto MAGIS integrating academic excellence, social relevance and humility. Also, to invoke the spirit of Xavier's, Fr. Roy Pereira led the Roots and Wings anthem.

#### 4. JOY OF SELF DISCOVERY

The Joy of Self Discovery QEP course was held from 1-7 August 2017. There were holistic spiritual exercises involving body, mind, heart and spirit. This helped us to explore the outer universe as well as the one within. We visited Asha Daan and interacted with the senior male inmates who have been rescued from the highways and byways. Connecting with such an estranged group opened up unforeseen and unexpected corners of our soul.

#### 5. COSMIC HUG (26-28 August)

We participated in the QEP course called 'Cosmic Hug' co-facilitated by Ms Neesha Noronha and Fr. Prashant Olalekar at Salesian Youth Animation Centre, Dahanu from 26-28 August 2017. Nature walks, conversation with plants, sky let us get in touch with each other and the cosmos. The cry of the earth and the poor stimulates us to express gratitude in solidarity with them. Students picked a task for each week of the month of September and completed it with commitment.

#### 6. ART OF PEACE

An initiative by the DIRS wherein we experienced Peace for Ten Minutes in the midst of college hustle-bustle. The brief meditation sessions put us in touch with our body wisdom. It was a unique way of connecting to our own self. Soothing music and simple instructions made the session very lively.

The sessions were conducted weekly from September to January. We look

forward to more such weekly Peaceful sessions to master the Art of Peace.

#### 7. PLAYOG

This was a one hour playful activity session post a tiring day. Through simple movements of body one could feel at ease. PLAYOG like Yoga integrates, body, mind, heart and spirit. But unlike Yoga, which has a series of disciplined exercises, Playog, follows body wisdom which can be very unstructured and improvised.

#### 8. MY DREAM AS A XAVERITE (9 Sept) - Samanvaya Second Anniversary

Samanvaya was established in 2015 as a platform for networking and collaboration between organizations working for communal harmony. On 9 September 2017, Samanvaya celebrated its second anniversary by organizing a discussion in collaboration with DIRS on 'My Dream as a Xavierite' at St. Xavier's college. This was part of the Jagruti programme for FYJC students. The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, a scientist, theologian and writer, and her daughter Gayatri, an educator and former Xavierite.

Students were shown short clips from *The World Before Her* written and directed by Nisha Pahuja. The clips documented the contradictory dreams of two girls: one aspiring to win the Miss India title and the other -- a member of the Durga Vahini -- dreaming of devoting her life to the preservation and propagation of the traditional ideals of the Hindu faith. Students shared what they identified with in the girls' stories.

An important takeaway for the students was that one need not have fixed goals. Instead, one must explore one's interests and choices. Gayatri concluded the session by quoting Shakespeare, "This above all: to thine own self be true."

#### 9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE (21 September)

Building Bridges of Peace

The URI (United Religions Initiative), AICUF, DIRS, SSL, Heras, XIC collaborated for the first time to organise the International Day of Peace programme on 21 September. After an evocative mime 'The Unsocial

Truth' by the AICUF, the chief guest, Sameera Khan, courageous writer and journalist explained the role of media for peace. The XIC presented an interactive experimental skit 'Web of Conflict Resolution'.

The main highlight was a Silent Peace March throughout the campus to express solidarity with those who are being silenced. The white dress code was an eloquent voice for peace to counter violence.

#### 10. COLLEGE DAY: SOLO-DARITY to SOLIDARITY (3 DECEMBER)

The theme for the St. Francis Xavier feast on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 was 'Solo-darity to Solidarity'. We began at 10 am in the College Hall with a brief prayer service highlighting the rise of violence and peace initiatives from the local to the global. A unique peace procession on the campus was led by the principal Dr. Angelo Menezes, followed by staff and students representing the various college departments. Fr. Learoy Rodrigues SJ, the main celebrant for the Mass, provided insights on St. Francis Xavier and Jesuit spirituality evoking the shift from solo-darity to a spirit of solidarity. The Xavier's anthem: Roots and Wings was an appropriate finale. The Mass was followed by a brief Alumni Meet to discuss the initial plans for the 150th anniversary celebration of St. Xavier's College. The AICUF and DIRS collaborated with the ECC (Extracurricular Committee) for the first time to set a valuable new tradition.

#### 11. COSMIC CRIB (3 DECEMBER) YOU ARE A STAR

1. The big multicoloured star is 'YOU', a major recipient and contributor to the cosmos. We seek the Divine everywhere except within ourselves.
2. The star also relates to the one of the Christmas Tree.
3. It symbolizes the humble star of our solar system that ignites itself to light the way for others.
4. The Cosmic Crib features various problems coming from our narrow focus on nation, culture and humanity. They reflect the core message of all religions and the universe that we are all

interconnected, called to foster unity in diversity.

Black, normally considered evil and impure, is the colour that provides the background for the others to stand out. This reflects that good stands out in contrast to evil. To put into practice Reuse, Reduce, recycle we used discarded CDs to decorate the crib.

## **12. JAGRUTI 1: SLUMROOM EDUCATION (7/8/13 DECEMBER)**

As part of the Jagruti Values Education programme, 3 groups of FYJC students went on exposure visits to the slums of Kherwadi, Bandra on Dec. 7 and 13, and Gowlabandh, Reay Rd. on Dec. 8.

We interacted with the victims of triple talaq, their counsellors, a couple of researchers at the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan at Bandra and young girls at Reay Rd. The students were pleasantly surprised that the slumroom could be more educative, enlightening and enriching than the classroom.

## **13. AMU SCREENING: MY MISSION IS JUSTICE (15 DECEMBER)**

On 15 December 2017, Samanvaya collaborated with the Lokraj Sanghatan (LRS) who organized a screening of the film AMU (2005) at St. Xavier's college.

The director of this award-winning film, Ms Shonali Bose present on this occasion. Amu explores the suppressed history of the genocidal attacks on Sikhs in Delhi in 1984 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards.

The story borrows greatly from Shonali's experience of the riots when she was a fresher at Miranda House. She had volunteered at the refugee camps and was able to interact with survivors and hear their stories at first hand. She skilfully interweaves the personal and the political to present a fascinating narrative.

After the screening, Shonali led a stimulating discussion during which Sanjeevani and Ashok Jain of LRS confirmed that there is no real disharmony among religious groups. The 'powers that be' are usually behind the state funded riots and terrorism.

When asked why she accepted the

challenge of facing so much opposition from those bent on covering up the horrifying riots, Ms Bose replied, "My mission is justice."

## **14. JAGRUTI 2: HOLISTIC TREAT (12-14 Jan 2018)**

First Year Junior College students went to the Auxilium Youth Animation Centre, Dahanu for the Holistic Treat: Joy of Self-Discovery as part of the Jagruti programme. The incredible bonding with the poor during the slum visit held in December 2017 as well as the deep bonding with their companions during this unique retreat provided a taste of the interconnected divine in all things. Sessions were animated by Ms Neesha Noronha, who was assisted by Ms Venita Pereira and Prashant S. Hope on the path to self-discovery was evoked. Taking a Stand, Nature Walk,

Prayer on the Beach for those local students who lost their lives when their boat capsized, River of Life, Creativity and Courage to follow one's dreams, were some of the topics that the participants thoroughly vibrated with.

Harmony and serenity was created through art, song, movement and meditation. The star gazing meditation helped students to establish a cosmic connection with the stars. The personal interviews gave students valuable spiritual guidance. All in all, it was a small step in the creative process of developing an attractive Ignatian retreat for students of all faiths. The animators felt spiritually enriched as much as the participants.

**A Striking Testimony:** This wasn't a generic picnic, but rather something we truly enjoyed from our hearts. We found beauty in ourselves and in others. We broke down, got up and pretty magical things happened in between. We all became a better and clearer version of ourselves. We're not just human, but universes with many galaxies, stars, planets and comets and etc filled with life. I felt thousand times better than I did before.

## **MANOR EXPOSURE TRIP (12-14 Jan. 2018)**

The trip to the Jesuit Mission at Manor was animated by Fr. William D'Britto who was ably assisted by Fr. Caesar Faroz and Sr. Sophia. The students adapted admirably to the humble

facilities. Students were touched by the hospitality of the villagers, playful interactions with the boarders and exposure visits to the local markers. Nature meditations were conducted. Animators helped students reflect on their experiences and begin the process of self-discovery. Students were shocked to hear that some of the land they travelled from originally belonged to tribal farmers who have not yet received proper compensation. Fr. James Mascarenhas, challenged students to work for the poor and downtrodden. was very enlightening and inspiring.

**Another Striking Testimony:** The exchange with the boarding girls was the most precious part of the camp. Together we danced, sang, played together, laughed, ran, clicked snaps and teased each other. It was here that my real inner self came out strongly. It was difficult to leave the girls and return home.

## **15. AT HOME WITH PEACE (30 Jan 2018)**

On 30 January 2018, Mahatma Gandhi's 70<sup>th</sup> death anniversary, Fr. Prashant Olalekar was invited by the Interfaith Committee of the Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science. In his presentation titled "At Home with Peace", he asked students to share their idea of home. The most common response was 'a place of safety'. Building a safe home for humans and all creation is the challenge we are faced with.

He discussed the peace work of Gandhi, Malala and Harsh Mander's Karwan-e- Mohabbat. In a clip of the communal riots shown to the students, Gandhi helped a Hindu make peace with himself and his 'Muslim enemy' by advising him to do practice forgiveness. Malala Yousafzai forgave the Taliban who had shot her and spoke out for education of girls. The journey of the Karwan-e-Mohabbat was a pilgrimage made to seek the forgiveness of the families of the victims of lynchings, and to ensure that they get justice. Uniting forgiveness, justice, peace, the personal and the political, Prashant proceeded to discuss the preambles of the Indian Constitution and the Earth Charter. He invited the students to stretch their idea of home to include not only their family

and nation, but the whole of Mother Earth. Based on the youtube “Bol” Prashant encouraged them to speak up for peace in the home and beyond.

The session culminated with a silent Peace March to Azad Maidan.

#### **16. InterSEXtions: Speaking the Unspeakable (9 Feb 2018)**

InterSEXtions was facilitated beautifully by Ms Hazel Lobo on 9th February from 2 to 4 pm at the Heras Institute. It allowed one to feel and express one's sexuality. We let our thoughts be acknowledged and promised to bear testimony to what our fellow students had to put forth. It was a learning to accept other's views. This exercise helped us realize how diverse and colourful Sexuality is.

Number 8 was symbolic of Sexuality, portraying its extensiveness and the way it intersects with myriads of aspects. Religion is one major intersection of Sexuality. We ideated on the allowing and disallowing messages that various religions offer. Sexuality and Media's intersection was another perspective we embraced. Body movements, and song helped us relax and listen to our mind, body and heart. We expressed our dynamic thoughts in the form of a drawing. The session ended with everyone holding their personalized paintings and emitting bright gleam. It was indeed remarkable of DIRS to host such an unconventional, yet urgently needed, session wherein each person felt at ease to speak the 'Unspeakable'.

17. Ash Wednesday (14 Feb 2018)

The four Ash Wednesday Masses in English, at 8:50, 9:40, 10:30, 11:20 and the Marathi Mass at 1 pm were very well attended. The meaningful Masses, were given a new orientation, highlighting the theme of love in the universe on Valentine's Day. This helped to widen the horizon of the students to view love as an interconnecting force within our bodies, with other humans, all species, galaxies and the whole universe.

#### **18. SUNRISE/SUNSET: PERSPECTIVE of the POOR (28 Feb 2018)**

On 28 Feb 2002 at the time of the Godhra riots that shook Gujarat and the nation (see <http://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/2/13160/February-28-2002-Ahmedabad-That-Year-This-Day-When-Jafri-Made-a-100-Calls-for-Help>) Ehsan Jafri, former Congress MP, made more than 100 calls to the powers-that-be to rescue the Muslim women and children sheltered in his home from the wrath of the mob. They eventually not only dismembered and burnt his body but also raped, slaughtered and burnt more than 60 women and children.

On the same day, 16 years later namely 28 Feb 2018, a few compassionate students of St. Xavier's College visited the Muslim ghetto in Behrampada slum, Bandra. In the aftermath of the Godhra riots, this slum became a Muslim ghetto as members of other communities moved elsewhere.

The open sewage clogged with waste ran through the heart of the slum, contrasting Bandra Kurla complex just overhead.

Dancing, laughing and sharing stories

of struggle fostered a shift in the stifling atmosphere and helped us connect with this community. Interacting with the empowered women of the Akhil Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan offered hope amidst despair.

On 28<sup>th</sup> Feb morning, the ecological calendar in the DIRS office had this inspiring quote:

*“Climb up on some hill at sunrise. Everybody needs perspective once in a while, and you'll find it there.”* That evening around sunset in some areas of the slum where the sun doesn't reach at all, we found an alternative perspective. This called to mind the tune “Sunrise Sunset” from the movie Fiddler on the Roof. We wondered how we could learn the art of balancing academic excellence with the perspective of the poor. The image of the undaunted fiddler in the film dancing on the roof, desperately trying to preserve tradition while being overwhelmed by sweeping changes, is a sign of challenge and hope.

A question was raised about circulating mails regarding the Ehsan Jafri case indicating the apparent futility of reminding people of a tragedy that no one responded to. However, that day some of us felt called to visit the Muslim ghetto in the slums. We hope to develop deeper ties with the Mahila Andolan NGO. Who knows what will emerge from these seeds of hope? The Zen proverb: ‘The seed never sees the flower’ leaves us undeterred in our efforts to sow seeds of peace and reconciliation among people of all faiths.

**Fr. Prashant Olalekar SJ**  
Director, DIRS

## **HERAS INSTITUTE REPORT**

### **HERAS MEMORIAL LECTURES**

The Heras Memorial Lecture took place on November 28, 2017, Tuesday. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Lakshmi Subramanian (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta) on the theme “Piracy in India's Western Littoral: Reality and Representation”. The lecture engaged an attentive and knowledgeable audience giving rise to a challenging question and answer session. The lecture will be

published in the journal of the Heras Institute, *Indica* (Vol. 55). Thereafter, two books were released by Prof. Lakshmi. The first book, authored by late Dr. Teresa Albuquerque “*The Portuguese Impress: Glimpses of the Portuguese Possessions of Goa, Bombay and Bassein*” was presented by Dr. (Fr.) J. Velinkar, Ex-Principal, Gonsala Garcia College, Vasa. The second book, written by Dr. Mangala Purandare, “*Sanjhi*”, under the aegis of the Tata

Heras Fellowship was presented by Dr. Purnima Dave, former Head, Department of Philosophy, Sathaye College, Mumbai

### **HISTORIANS' WORKSHOP**

The Heras Institute was privileged to have Prof. Kanchana Mahadevan (Professor and Former Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai) conduct the 39<sup>th</sup> **Historians' Workshop** in July-August 2017. The theme, “Hermeneutics and History:

Beyond Texts”, had postgraduates, M. Phil., Ph. D. and several research scholars from St. Xavier’s College, University of Mumbai and the SNDT University in attendance. They were delighted to receive valuable guidelines for interpreting data. As a sequel, the participants had to write a book review, or an article review that was presented and discussed at a special session after a fortnight. It was indeed a very effective and rewarding workshop for the 52 participants.

#### **ART HISTORY WORKSHOP**

Dr. Manjiri Thakoor (Former Deputy Curator, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai) guided 36 eager students from St. Xavier’s College, Wilson College, Jaihind College and Sophia College into understanding the intricacies of Western Art. The workshop was held from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and the students found it to be a valuable and exceptional experience. By popular demand another workshop on Indian Art History was conducted from 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018. 40 students enrolled for this programme. They expressed a desire for more of such courses.

#### **HERAS RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSE**

Methodology in writing history for undergraduates was held in the Heras Institute. Spread over three months, students from St. Xavier’s College, Sophia College, Sathaye College, G. N. Khalsa College, Jaihind College, K. J. Somaiya College and Jhunjhunwala College were provided with a methodology in writing history by using the artifacts of the Heras Museum. It was an enriching experience for them.

#### **WORKSHOP ON HERITAGE CONSERVATION**

A Workshop on the Conservation and Preservation of Material Culture was conducted in the Heras Conservation Laboratory from December – January 2017-18. 14 students participated.

#### **CERTIFICATE COURSE IN MODI SCRIPT**

This course was conducted by Dr. Sonali Pednekar, Head of Department (History), V. G. Vaze College, Mumbai, in January 2018.

#### **CERTIFICATE COURSE IN SIDDHAM SCRIPT**

This course was conducted by Mr. Jayant Silva, an expert in Siddham script, in January 2018.

#### **UGC SPONSORED DIPLOMA COURSE ON CONSERVING THE HERITAGE OF INDIA**

After a successful run of a short-term Workshop on Conservation and Preservation, a University Grants Commission (UGC) sponsored one year part-time Diploma Course was initiated in January 2018. 21 students enrolled for the course.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF THE BOMBAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (BLHS)**

The members of BLHS were invited for a visit to the Free Mason’s Lodge of the Bombay Branch on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Our very enthusiastic members were delighted to probe and unveil the secrecy of the organization. We learned about their phenomenal contribution to the development of Bombay.

The BLHS Annual Seminar was held at St. Xavier’s College on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017 on the theme, “Conserving and Preserving Architectural Monuments of Bombay”. Mr. Vikas Dilaware, Dr. Kirtida Unwalla and Ms. Neera Adarkar gave excellent presentations on the theme. The BLHS Annual General Body Meeting was held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 2.00p.m in St. Xavier’s College. The lecture, “Red Ink” was delivered by Mr. Gurbir Singh of the Press Club. It was followed by the AGM. On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Dr. Shekhar Krishnan, led the group to Nakhoda Talao and Mandvi. It was indeed a walk of many discoveries.

The visit to the Acworth Leprosy Hospital by the members of the BLHS on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, gave an insight to the spirit of compassion and magnanimity of the citizens of Bombay. The Report of the visit and an article on it features in the journal of the BLHS, *The Explorer*.

Furthermore, Commander Narayan, former Curator of the Maritime History Society, and a member of the BLHS, led our members on a visit to the Bombay Castle on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 and the Bombay Dockyard on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Commander Narayan’s

encyclopedic information of the Indian Navy mesmerized the two groups.

#### **STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Joan Dias presented a paper, “Ranade’s philosophical thought and its Impact on the Social Reform Movement in Maharashtra” at the 17<sup>th</sup> National Triennial Conference of the Church History Association of India held in Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Further, she was invited to chair a session at an International Seminar on “St. Thomas Christians through the Ages: A Historiographical Approach” from 30<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, in Kottayam, Kerala.

Ms. Shilpa Chheda was invited to give a talk on the “Role of Ethics in Life” at the Department of Commerce, Bal Bharati College of Arts, Mumbai. She participated in a three day national workshop on “Temple Architecture and Iconography in Shapatis perspective”, organized by the Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. She also presented a paper on, “The Gestures and Postures in Buddhist Iconography”, at a three day national workshop on Vipassana Meditation – Self Knowledge through Self Observation (20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018). She participated in the All India Museum Association’s Annual Seminar on the theme “New Approaches for Conservation and Security Measures in Indian Museums”, at National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow. She conducted a session on Manuscriptology and the Brahmi Script at the Department of History, Birla College, Kalyan on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Chanakya International Institute for Leadership Studies, University of Mumbai, invited her to present a paper at the National Conference on Research Trends on the theme, “Research in Art History” (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 2018). Further, she published a paper on “Gandhara Art: A New Dimension in Indian Art” in the journal – *Philosophical Traditions of the World* – Vol. 1, 2017-18, (pp. 182-194) published by the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai.

**Dr. Joan Dias**  
Director, Heras



**Photo Credit:** Synara D'Souza (FYBA)

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# ASSOCIATIONS



# ALL INDIA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FEDERATION (AICUF)

The AICUF Trinity and Steering Committee were formed on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The Trinity comprised the following: President: Vidya Venkatesh; Secretary: Ayesha Mendonca; Treasurer: Pranita Kakade

The Steering Committee consisted of the following members:- Human Rights Commission Coordinator: Srishti Vishwakarma; Women's Commission Coordinator: Rosemary Thomas; Prayer Coordinator: Samantha Vaz; Cultural Coordinator: Merlin Johns; Publicity Coordinator: Nidhi Vartak; Editors: Verena Vaz & Edrion Ashirvadam.

## Interfaith Prayer Services

Interfaith Prayer Services were organised in collaboration with the DIRS on the first day of college for the first year students of Senior College and on the first day of Junior College. The theme was Inclusion, which was also the college theme for the year.

## The Dark Matters- 14<sup>th</sup> July

AICUF organised its first session of the year, 'The Dark Matters', a film screening followed by a review on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017. The film was an audio story written and directed by a few college students, who are visually challenged. It provided Xavierites the experience of understanding a story using one's auditory senses, it also provided the story creators (Jayesh Panchal, Sanjay Gupta and their team), a platform to display their talent. A 17 minute-story was presented while the audience was blindfolded, following which they reported their experience. The creators of the story then had a Q&A session with the audience. The event was attended by over a 100 students.

## College Day- 31<sup>st</sup> July

The theme of the College Day Mass for the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola on 31<sup>st</sup> July was EGO to ECO which was also the AICUF theme for the academic year 2017-18. Rev. Fr. Joel Noronha SJ was the preacher for the day. He shared

inspiring insights on moving from EGO to ECO based on his experiences of working with tribals in rural areas. The service was organised in collaboration with the DIRS.

## Performance by IGNAITE- 31<sup>st</sup> July

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, post the college day function, AICUF put up a band performance led by Edrion Ashirvadam. The band performed an original composition on the theme 'Ego to Eco', written by Edrion. Their band name 'IGNAITE' seeks to include the spirit of being an AICUFer and a Xavierite.

## Tribal Dance Workshop- 8<sup>th</sup> September

The Tribal Dance Workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 was co-facilitated by Naomi Monteiro, Assumpta Fernandes and Namrata Soreng. The workshop aimed to provide AICUFers the opportunity to understand the rich cultural heritage of Indian tribes. The workshop began with an introduction on various art forms and how art enables communication across generations. Further, Ms Monteiro and Ms Fernandes taught the group a few steps of different forms of tribal dance of the North East of India. Namrata Soreng shared information about the tribe she belonged to and the various issues that plague her hometown. The workshop had over fifty attendees.

## World Peace Day- 21<sup>st</sup> September

For the first time this year AICUF collaborated with various groups (DIRS, SSL, XIC) to celebrate World Peace Day. AICUF presented a mime on Media and Peace. It focused on the killing of the journalist Gauri Lankesh, along with other issues such as Blue Whale and porn addiction among adolescents. The acting skills of inexperienced students were polished in the company of experienced guides. Despite various difficulties, a great performance was put up.

## Feast of St. Francis Xavier- 3<sup>rd</sup> December

The feast of St. Xavier was celebrated

by the college on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 10am onwards in the College Hall. 'Solo-darity to Solidarity' was the theme for the day. Rev. Fr. Learoy SJ, the main celebrant, provided attendees valuable insights on St. Francis Xavier and Jesuit spirituality. He inspired us to move from individualistic solo-darity and partake in the collective spirit of Solidarity. Before the Mass, a peace procession was led by the principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes, followed by staff and students representing different college departments.

## Ash Wednesday- 14<sup>th</sup> February

Since it coincided with Valentine's Day, the theme of the day was **Kindling the Fire of Love**. There were four Masses held: at 9.40 am, 10.30 am, 11.20 am and 1 pm. They were organised in collaboration with the DIRS. The positive ecological thrust was evident in the unique quote: *You are star dust and to star dust you shall return*. This was well-received by most of the participants.

## AICUF Day- 16<sup>th</sup> February

This day began with an activity called 'Taking a Stand'. The participants were given a number of situations and they had to take a stand. They had to explain why they chose what they did. A discussion followed on the different perspectives that the participants held. A creative Mass followed, where everyone reflected and shared on what they had learnt through AICUF. The Mass had active participation by non-Catholics as well. The day ended with awarding the AICUFer of the Year.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

### Outreach to Salam Balak Trust - 16<sup>th</sup> September

16 AICUFers visited Salam Balak Trust, Charni Road. This trust provides all round development to underprivileged students. Each student at the organisation interacted with a volunteer. We helped them to clear their doubts and explained some basic concepts. At the end we had a reflection on this experience.

## **Outreach to Our Lady of Piety Home - 17<sup>th</sup> February**

As a part of AICUF Day, AICUFers visited Our Lady of Piety Home and engaged with the adults there. They played the guitar and sang along with them. AICUFers conversed with them to understand their lives better. The visit deeply impacted the students. The in-charge at the Home was delighted to have students visiting them. The outreach visit ended with a short reflection session.

## **Outreach to Snehasadan - 13<sup>th</sup> January**

The AICUF unit of St. Andrews College, as a part of Ujali, organised an outreach visit to Snehasadan at Jogeshwari. AICUFers met 20 girls aging from 4-18 years, who were very sweet and talented. The session began with an ice breaker, followed by basics of self-defence techniques and the importance of presence of mind. The group taught the girls to make paper bags and paper pouches, while discussing environmental problems. The day ended with everyone dancing their heart outs and bidding goodbye with warm embraces.

## **STATE EVENTS**

### **Ujali**

The theme chosen for Ujali 2017 was 'Unfolding Feminism'. People refrain from talking about feminism merely because of the controversies it evokes. Hence, AICUF took up this opportunity to talk about Feminism and clear basic misunderstandings.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Nov '17, Ujali day 1**

Ujali 2017 began on November 13 with a Film screening titled *Glimpses of Shades of Womanhood*. This was followed by a group discussion on Woman and Equality. The main speaker for the event was Mr. Simar Singh.

The screened videos each showed different "shades" of a woman. They depicted the lives of a devadasi women, a girl who later won the title of Miss India, and of a girl whose father wants her to face difficulties with fire, not tears.

A group discussion with Mr. Simar was held. Various issues faced by

women from different walks of life was discussed. The event ended with a striking poem written by Mr. Singh.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Nov '17, Ujali day 2:**

Starting with the talk by Fr. Roy Pereira, psychological and physiological aspects of self-defence cleared the idea that self-defence requires only physical strength. The session concluded with a lovely song performed by Fr. Roy.

This was followed by the obstacle race. The idea was for the boys to realize the problems girls face in their day to day life and vice versa, and also to get the boys speaking about their problems. The boys who participated gave positive feedback. The entire event of day 2 concluded with a reflection session.

### **16<sup>th</sup> Nov '17, Ujali day 3:**

The musical play named 'Mask' started off the session on the third day with a bang. This performance was put together in a theatrical manner which won the hearts of both Xavierites and Andrewians present. The play was about the life of a girl who grows from conforming to the societal norms to thinking critically and taking her own life decisions. It was written by Ms. Saniya Pathare and directed by Mr. Alex Berrhto.

The debate on feminism was thrilling to watch as points were strategically articulated. It also saw good participation from the AICUFers.

The song which wound up the event was truly musical in its composition. Written and composed by Edrion Ashirvadam, it threw light on the true essence of Ujali. With this, the three days of Ujali for the month of November came to an end.

### **Y.E.S. Camp**

AICUF Maharashtra organised its annual **Youth Encounter Session (Y.E.S.)** Camp from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 at Jawhar Taluka in Palghar District, Maharashtra. The camp was held in coordination with Hinduja Foundation and Learning Links Foundation (LLF). Ms. Niharika Gupta, ex-AICUFer and intern with Hinduja coordinated with the organisation and AICUF for the camp. The group stayed at BAIF MITRA

centre at Jawhar, and visited three villages- Chambarshet, Pimpalshet and Kundacha Pada.

The first and the last day included activities for the campers at the BAIF centre, while Day 2, 3, and 4 included visits to the villages. The people visited belonged to the Warli and Konkana tribes. This was not only an exposure camp for AICUFers but also a platform for developing leadership qualities and bonding.

### **Day 1:**

The group had an introductory bonding session in Marathi, providing the insight and the experience of interacting in the language. This was followed by a game which highlighted leadership. A session by Hinduja and LLF was then held to introduce the group to the work these organisations engage in at Jawhar and elsewhere. The LLF team also spoke about the child protection policy and protocol to be followed during the time spent with students of the school. The group of AICUFers was then divided into three sub groups and were allotted to one village each, along with a resource person of the LLF team.

### **Day 2:**

This was the first day of the visit, while it was Day 4 of Winter camp for the children. The group engaged in an icebreaker activity with the children and then taught them elements of a street play. The purpose of having a street play was explained to them, as a medium of expression for their rights and justice. The younger children had activities such as craft with newspapers and paper plates. The AICUF group kept the children engaged in activities like songs, outdoor games and dance. A session on anti-superstition was held in each of the schools. A reflection session revealed that each of the schools had a different experience due to the composition of the team as well as the students they dealt with in the school. A common takeaway was that one must be more open and welcoming in their thoughts and make efforts to bridge the language barrier. Based on suggestions from the LLF team, the group prepared more for the next day.

### Day 3:

The day included puppet making and a street play performance. A number of games were played with the children. AICUFers explored the village and understood the lifestyle of the people. During reflection, the group expressed that they had been able to bond well with the children and felt a sense of purpose while engaging them in activities. At the end of the day, the group had a session where they reflected on the relations they had developed with fellow campers.

### Day 4:

This was the last day of visit to the villages. The groups engaged in telegames and also presented puppet stories and street plays to other children

from the school and staff members.

A session on first-aid was held, where AICUFers explained the needed procedure when hurt, and when bitten by a snake. The children shared what they had learnt in the duration of the camp. Group members were surprised to learn the kind of impact they had created on their young minds. The children were felicitated for their performance and achievement in the camp.

The group later visited Sunset Point and ended the day with camp fire, which intended to enhance group cohesiveness.

### Day 5:

The day began with a nature trail led by

Br. Jijo. It was refreshing to be amidst greenery. Later in the day, Alban Dickqrose, the National Full Timer shared the history of AICUF and took a session on Sustainable Development Goals. The camp ended with each person writing one positive aspect about every other group member.

The camp sensitized AICUFers to the issues that plague the society in the form of migration and unavailability of basic facilities. It facilitated the understanding of how one can contribute in uplifting people. This camp also demonstrated characteristics of self-discovery through various activities and interactions.

**Ayesha Mendonca**  
Secretary, AICUF

## FORENSIC SCIENCE

In the academic year 2017-18, the Diploma in Forensic Science and Criminal Law course had 30 fresh enrollments for the program, many of whom were students, professionals from the fields of Law, Commerce, Management, Psychology and the IT industry.

In addition to the department faculty, this year the students were exposed to lectures by practicing professionals in the fields of Cyber Crime Investigation (Mr. Sachin Dedhia - Founder of Skynet Secure, Mumbai), Law - Mr. Ashish Chavan (Advocate) and Statistics - Dr. Manasi Kanuga (Department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry, St. Xavier's College).

The students, over the course of the program, were exposed to different areas of forensic practice relevant in this day and age. Equipped with their basic knowledge in the field, and practical exposure, they researched and prepared extensive Crime Scene Reports in the form of 'Mock Charge-Sheets' which were then presented before professionals in the field, in the form of a 'Moot Court'. This experience gave the students an overview, with practical experience, of the process of the Indian justice delivery system from 'crime scene to courtroom'.

Ms. Riva Pocha attended the 24<sup>th</sup> All India Forensic Science Conference from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 conducted at Raksha Shakti University, Ahmedabad, which was based on the theme '*Harnessing New Vistas in Academics and Forensic Science*'. Ms. Riva Pocha was also part of the American Academy of Forensic Science's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, conducted from February 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Seattle, Washington. Attendance at both these conferences helped Ms. Pocha gain a global perspective in the field of forensics and thus, helped in generating new ideas to strengthen our program for the future batches.

In August 2017, Ms. Alethea Vaz and Ms. Havovi Hyderabadwalla, on behalf of the department, conducted a competitive two-day workshop during Malhar 2017. The 80 intercollegiate participants were taught the basics of crime scene investigation and the skills required to be a good investigator on the first day of the workshop. The learnings were provided to the participants through

hands-on teaching techniques. They then solved a Mock Crime Scene on the second day using forensic analytical techniques taught during the initial component of the workshop. In January 2018, Ms. Riva Pocha and Ms. Alethea Vaz also conducted a Forensic Workshop for Palindrome, the annual departmental festival organized by the M.Sc students of the Department of Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College. The workshop was attended by students from all over Mumbai and the session



was tremendously successful in spreading awareness about forensics. It gave the participants an opportunity to get a feel of various analyses done in a forensic lab.

From August 2017 to February 2018, Ms. Riva Pocha and Ms. Alethea Vaz conducted a one credit Wildlife Forensics Honours Program for the Department of Zoology, wherein the students were taught the basics of crime scene processing and exposed to the collection, packaging and analysis

of various evidences found at a wildlife crime scene.

From November 2017 to March 2018, Ms. Riva Pocha, Ms. Sejal Gupta and Ms. Alethea Vaz conducted a series of forensic lectures for the M.Sc Applied Medical Sciences program conducted by the Life Sciences Department of the college.

The 3-month Online Certificate Program in Forensic Science started by Dr. Pushpa Sinkar, Ms. Riva Pocha,

Ms. Sejal Gupta and Ms. Alethea Vaz has successfully completed 2 batches and graduated 13 students since its inception in January 2017. There is a new batch being currently run with 5 students, enrolled from across the country. The primary objective of the program is to make quality forensic education easily accessible by facilitating distance learning for students in all parts of India.

**Dr. Pushpa Sinkar**  
Co-ordinator

## हिंदी साहित्य, संगीत एवं नाट्य अकादमी : गतिविधियाँ

हिंदी साहित्य, संगीत एवं नाट्य-अकादमी द्वारा महाविद्यालय में दि. ५/१२/२०१७ से ७/१२/२०१७ तक 'अंतर्स' कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इसके अंतर्गत इस वर्ष प्रतिकूल मौसम के कारण Literary event का आयोजन नहीं हो पाया। अगले दिन दि. ६/१२/२०१७ को ४ नाटकों का मंचन किया गया।

१) नाटक - 'दिल तो बच्चा है जी'

डायरेक्टर - साक्षी सिंह

एक्टर - दलविन, गहना, केविन, पल्लवी, प्रतीक, गीतांजलि, एलेक्जेंडर, हीरल, अनुष्का

२) नाटक - 'इन्कलाब ज़िंदाबाद'

डायरेक्टर - अविता / एविता, मेरी मार्क,

संजना जेम्स

एक्टर - मालविका, पुण्यकृत, अमन, विधांत, मरिया, आदित्य, जोयल, समरप्रीत, सायना, केसंग, रोशन

३) नाटक - 'सही जवाब'

डायरेक्टर - जुबिया शेख

एक्टर - प्रांजलि, सांची, कैसैंग, नेत्रा, अनिकेत, सौमिक

४) नाटक - 'साईलेंट जोन'

डायरेक्टर - श्रीराज जाधव, प्रतीक मोटे

एक्टर - नम्रता संघवी, अभिषेक सिंह, श्रीराज जाधव, प्रतीक मोरे

विद्यार्थियों द्वारा तीसरे दिन बॉलीवुड ऑर्केस्ट्रा का आयोजन किया गया। इस प्रस्तुति ने छात्र - छात्राओं को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया। कुछ विद्यार्थियों ने पाश्चात्य वाद्य यंत्र बजाकर दर्शकों- श्रोताओं को हॉल में झूमने पर मजबूर कर दिया।

इस प्रकार हमारे कॉलेज के विद्यार्थी बी. ए. प्रथम वर्ष में स्वयंसेवक, बी. ए. द्वितीय वर्ष में एक्टर तथा बी. ए. तृतीय वर्ष तक पहुँचते-पहुँचते नाटक के डायरेक्टर बन जाते हैं। इस प्रक्रिया में 'हिंदी साहित्य, संगीत एवं नाट्य अकादमी' विद्यार्थियों के रूपांतरण TRANSFORMATION में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही है।

## INDIAN MUSIC GROUP

The IMG organizes a series of monthly concerts through the course of the academic year. In the previous year, we tried out newer avenues and tried to experiment and innovate, keeping in mind our constant goal: to keep the love for Indian Classical Music alive.

**Aaroh: (14<sup>th</sup> July 2017)**

Our first concert of the year, 'Aaroh' took place on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This concert aims at giving a stage to artists and performers of the student community. Organized within a span of barely 7 days, Aaroh 2017 delved into classical dance by hosting 3 of our most graceful student performers – **Shagun Peerbhai** of TYBA (Kathak), **Nidhi Dongre**, of SYBA (Bharatnatyam) and **Prutha Pandharkame**, of SYBA (Odissi).

A performance like none other, these young artistes left the audience speechless! A unique ensemble followed this segment with **Rahul Gajjal**, of TYBA on the Harmonium, **Prashanti Ganesh**, of TYBA on the Saraswati Veena, **Yashashree Uchil**, of FYBA on the Mandolin, **Mrunmay Chavan**, of SYJC on the Tabla and **Aditi Amonkar**, of TYBA rendering Hindustani Vocals.

Much appreciated and loved by the audience, the first concert of the IMG proved to be a great start to a musical year!

**Malhar ke Prakaar: (9<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**

The Indian Music Group's yearly monsoon concert is a respite from

the sweltering heat of the Mumbai summer! This year, we had the pleasure of hosting the melodious vocalist **Smt. Gauri Pathare Ji**, who weaved nuances of the Jaipur, Gwalior and Kirana Gharana into her rendition. To give our listeners a much longed for experience, we were honored to host **Pandit Atulkumar Upadhye Ji**, who through his Violin recital gave us a spellbinding experience!

Not only did our artists' recitals of the various 'prakaars' of Raag Malhar beckon rain clouds but also thunderous rounds of applause from the audience.

**Viraasat: (11<sup>th</sup> November 2017)**

A much-awaited concert, 'Viraasat' is the IMG's 'young artist festival'. This stage

has seen the likes of several prominent, successful artists in their nascent years, such as Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, Ustad Zakir Hussain and many others! This year, the concert hosted 2 student Kathak performers, **Gargi Datar**, of SYBMM and **Parmeshwari Bhumkar**, of TYBMM. Vocal renditions by **Deepika Bhide – Bhagwat Ji** explored the nuances of the young artist's Jaipur Atrali Gharana learning. The concert reached a crescendo with one of the most energetic performances the IMG stage has witnessed, the duo **S. Akash** on Flute and **Ishaan Ghosh** on the Tabla! Disciples of the legends Pt. Ronu Majumdar and Pt. Nayan Ghosh respectively, these budding maestros left us applauding, with 'Kya baat hai's resounding in the College Hall.

#### **Music Appreciation Course: (8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> December)**

As part of the Xavier's Honors Program, now called the 'Quest for Excellence Program', the IMG organized a 2-day workshop delving into two vastly different fields of music. Day 1 was conducted by the exponent of the Chandra Veena, **Dr. S Balachander** and the Dhrupad Vocalist, **Dr. Aparna Shastri**. They not only traced for us, the history of several musical instruments but also shared with us the lesser known facts about an instrument christened after him – the Chandra Veena. The second day of the workshop was a completely novel experience, with **Mr. Anurag Dhoundeyal** talking about the mystic history of Sufism, and the evolution of Sufi music through the centuries. Keeping its promise intact, the IMG offered our young students a unique interactive musical experience!

#### **IMG Exhibition & Social Involvement Program: (9<sup>th</sup> December)**

Laughter and curious smiles filled the Xavier's Foyer air, as about 50 children strut their way to stare, to listen, and to try their hand at Indian Musical Instruments at the IMG Exhibition. Organized in two parts, the IMG's SIP event invited children from 2 NGOs and gave them a teaching like none other. A live music demonstration by the students of Xavier's of about 25 instruments ranging from percussions, to string, to wind instruments kept the children engaged and intrigued. This was followed by a brief workshop conducted by **Mr. Anurag Dhoundeyal** from 'The Looking Glass' where the children hummed their own tunes and learnt some basics about music. Apart from enriching lessons, the day breezed past in games and fun activities such as face painting, musical chairs and a tasty meal!

#### **Birthday Concert: (12<sup>th</sup> January 2018)**

Marking the entry of the Indian Music Group into its 45<sup>th</sup> year, the Birthday Concert was also one in remembrance of a musical legend we lost, Gaanasaraswati Kishori Tai Amonkar. **Vidushi Padma Talwalkar**, a student of the Late Kishori Tai offered a humble tribute to the legendary vocalist. Following this beautiful vocal rendition was a performance by the Sarangi marvel, **Ustad Sabir Khan**. There was also a small segment of 'jugalbandi' between Ustad Sabir Khan on the Sarangi and Shri Salman Khan on the Sitar. This concert also marked the revelation of the Janfest 2018 line-up and commencement of the pass sales for the same.

#### **Janfest: (25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018)**

One of the most awaited musical celebrations of the city, Janfest 2018 was curated keeping in mind some of the

most soulful performers of the music industry, bringing to the stage one of the most versatile and diverse artist line-ups the IMG stage has ever hosted.

The First Session witnessed the enthralling vocal recital by **Shri Jayteerth Mevundi Ji**, followed by a session like no other – 'Dharohar' – a performance that captured the essence of Classical Music across 3 generations with the Violin virtuoso **Dr. N Rajam**, her daughter **Dr. Sangeeta Shankar**, and her grand-daughters **Ragini** and **Nandini Shankar**.

As the sun rose on the Republic Day of India, **Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan** filled the winter morning air with his captivating Sitar recital.

As we began the last session of Janfest 2018, **Pandit Satish Vyas** on the Santoor and **Pandit Rupak Kulkarni** on the Flute performed a 'Jugalbandi' resonating within the First Quadrangle of Xavier's like never before. Synonymous with the Saraswati Veena, our second artist for the session was **Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh**, one of the most acclaimed Carnatic musicians of contemporary times. The Grand Finale, graced by the legendary vocalist duo **Pandit Rajan Sajan Misra**, renowned exponents of the Jugalbandi style of singing, and flag bearers of the 300-year-old traditions of the Banaras Gharana gave a befitting end to this beautiful 2-day music festival.

Janfest 2018 thus made its mark in the musical history of this city, as one of the most versatile concerts we have witnessed.

**Dr. Bhaskar Saha**  
Faculty-in-charge

## **मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळ**

मराठी पाऊल पडले पुढे - प्रवास २०१७-१८

सालाबाद प्रमाणे यावर्षीदेखील संत झेवियर्स महाविद्यालयाच्या मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळाने २०१७-१८ हे वर्ष दिमाखात साजरे केले. पाश्चिमात्य संस्कृतीचा पगडा असणाऱ्या महाविद्यालयामध्ये मराठी संस्कृती, परंपरा यांची जोपासना करण्याचे

काम मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळ समर्थपणे करत आहे. मुख्य सचिव औंकार अगुरेड्डी उपसचिव प्रचिती म्हात्रे. उपसचिव व्यवस्थापन अथर्व निकम, मुख्य समन्वयक अनिकेत गावास व अद्वैत जोशी, खजिनदार शांभवी मोरे यांच्या नेतृत्वाखाली मंडळाने प्रशंसनीय प्रगती केली असे म्हणण्यास हरकत नाही. १४ वर्षांपासून जतन कार्याची ही

ज्योत तेवत ठेवण्याचे कार्य मंडळाच्या कार्यकारिणी पासून सर्वच सदस्यांनी पार पाडले आहे. यावेळी आयोजित केलेल्या विविध महोत्सव, कार्यशाळा, स्पर्धा, चर्चासत्रे यांनी भरगच्च अशा या वर्षाचा प्रवास कथन करताना आम्हाला फार आनंद होत आहे.



या धडाकेबाज वर्षाची सुरुवात झाली नभ उतरू आलं या प्रारंभी (Inaugural) पावसाळी कार्यक्रमाने. कार्यक्रमाचे प्रमुख पाहुणे मुंबई विद्यापीठाच्या लोककला विभागाचे प्रमुख डॉ. गणेश चंदनशिवे यांच्या हस्ते दीप प्रज्वलन झाले. १५ जुलै २०१७ रोजी सादर झालेल्या या कार्यक्रमाची थीम पाऊस असल्याने त्यावर आधारित विविध नाट्य-नृत्य-साहित्य-संगीत सादरीकरणांचा आस्वाद प्रेक्षकांनी घेतला. नृत्य विभागप्रमुख यशश्री नायकारे हिच्या नेतृत्वाखाली यंदा प्रथमच छायानृत्य या संकल्पनेतून पावसाची गरज व अतिवृष्टीमुळे होणारी हानी अत्यंत सुंदरपणे सादर करण्यात आली. अशा प्रकारे मंडळाच्या आणखी एका अविस्मरणीय वर्षाचा श्रीगणेशा झाला.

सप्टेंबर चा महिना होता विविध कार्यशाळांचा. कला विभागप्रमुख दर्शना देटके हिने क्रोशे वर्कशॉप, नाट्य विभागप्रमुख श्रीराज जाधव याने नाट्य कार्यशाळा तसेच छायाचित्रण विभागप्रमुख शार्दूल भोगले याने क्लिक मुंबई ही छायाचित्र स्पर्धा, साहित्य विभागप्रमुख कश्मिरा सावंत हिने "हे काय म्हणाले" ही संवादलेखन स्पर्धा व संगीत विभागप्रमुख कनकांगी भाभे हिने सुर संगीनी हे संगीत विभागाचे Jam Session या महिन्यात उत्तमरीत्या पार पडले.

१३ नोव्हेंबर २०१७ रोजी सुप्रसिद्ध लेखक पु. ल. देशपांडे यांच्या व्यक्ति आणि वल्ली या पुस्तकावर आधारित संकल्पनेचे तेजोमय या मंडळाच्या दिवाळी अंकाचे प्रकाशन पार पडले. (संपादिका मृण्मयी पाथरे) कार्यक्रमाचे उद्घाटन मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष डॉ. राजेंद्र शिंदे आणि प्राध्यापक शामला बोधने, फादर टेरेन्स कोट्टोस यांच्या हस्ते झाले. तेजोमय मध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांच्या स्वलिखित कथा, लेख, कविता यांचा समावेश केला गेला. यावेळी मंडळाच्या सदस्यांनी अकथ्य या गौरवित एकांकीकेचे सादरीकरण केले. सोबत बक्षिस पात्र ठरलेल्या विद्यार्थ्यांचा गौरव करण्यात आला.

डिसेंबर महिन्याचे आकर्षण होते मराठी पाऊल पडते पुढे : एक बौद्धिक पर्वणी (MP3) हे चर्चासत्र. ८ डिसेंबर २०१७ रोजी महाविद्यालयाच्या मुख्य सभागृहात हा कार्यक्रम आयोजित करण्यात आला होता. त्याकरिता रवींद्र शिसवे (आय. पी. एस. अधिकारी), गौरी सावंत (सामाजिक कार्यकर्त्या), डॉ. बाळ फोंडके (वैज्ञानिक - लेखक), अनुराग वरळीकर (अभिनेता - दिग्दर्शक) यांनी विद्यार्थ्यांशी मोकळ्या गप्पा मारल्या. आपापल्या क्षेत्रात कार्य करणाऱ्या या उत्तम व प्रतिभावंत व्यक्तिमुळे यथार्थपणे (MP3) ही एक बौद्धिक पर्वणी ठरली.

जानेवारी महिना येताच चाहूल लागली ती मंडळाच्या बहुप्रतिक्षित वार्षिक महोत्सव आमोदची. यंदाच्या आमोदचे वैशिष्ट्य असे की इतर वेळेस तीन दिवस चालणारा हा महोत्सव यंदा चार दिवस रंगला. महोत्सवाची तयारी आधीपासूनच नाट्य, नृत्य, साहित्य, कला, संगीत विभागांमध्ये तसेच इतर व्यवस्थापन विभागांत आरंभली होती. त्यापूर्वीच्या आठवड्यात संगीत विभागाने वर्षा भावे यांची कार्यशाळा आयोजित केली. गणेश आचवल यांनी संभाषण कौशल्याधारित कार्यशाळा घेतली. साहित्य विभागाने कील्ले बांधणी वर एक कार्यशाळा आयोजित केली. या कार्यशाळांना विद्यार्थ्यांनी भरभरून प्रतिसाद दिला.

१५ जानेवारीला आमोदचा उद्घाटन सोहळा व मंडळाचा वार्षिक अंक पखरण याचे प्रकाशन झाले. या वर्षाच्या पखरणचे म्हणजे मराठी भाषेत आजी-माजी विद्यार्थ्यांसह शिक्षक आणि शिक्षकेतर कर्मचारी तसंच अमराठी विद्यार्थ्यांनी सळसळत्या उत्साहाने लेख, कविता आदी लिहून शोभा वाढवली आहे. त्याचे प्रकाशन मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष व इतर उपस्थित मान्यवरांच्या हस्ते झाले. अभंग रिपोस्ट या वृंदाने आपली उपस्थिती दर्शवत आपल्या हटके शैलीने प्रेक्षकांना मंत्रमुग्ध करून टाकले. विविध सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमांनी संत झेवियर्स महाविद्यालयाचे वातावरण आमोदमय करून

टाकले व वार्षिक महोत्सवाची दिमाखात सुरुवात झाली. मार्केटिंग विभागप्रमुख डिलायक रॉड्रिक्स, लॉजिस्टिक्स विभागप्रमुख जेम्स गोन्सालविस, जनसंपर्क विभागप्रमुख सानिका गोरुले, ईश्वरी खातू व राहूल वर्मा, डिजीटल विभागप्रमुख जेसन कुटिन्हो, सी. एल. जय मॅडोन्सा यांचा यात सिंहाचा वाटा आहे.

१६, १७ व १८ रोजी आमोदच्या अंतर्गत विविध आंतरमहाविद्यालयीन स्पर्धांचे आयोजन करण्यात आले. नाट्य, कला, साहित्य, नृत्य व संगीत अशा विभागांतर्गत स्पर्धा घेण्यात आल्या. त्यातील दोन प्रमुख स्पर्धा, अर्थात "ब. न. पुरंदरे वक्तृत्व स्पर्धा" "महाराष्ट्राची लोकधारा" व त्याच बरोबर इतर सर्वच स्पर्धांना उदंड प्रतिसाद मिळाला. यात गणेश आचवल व डॉ. प्रगती ठाकूर परीक्षक म्हणून लाभले. १८ जानेवारी रोजी आमोदची सांगता बक्षीस वितरण समारंभाने झाली. आमोद करिता इतर गोष्टी बाजूला ठेवून सर्व सदस्यांनी व्यवस्थापनाचे काम चोखपणे बजावले आणि त्याची परिणती होती आमोदचे यश.

२७ फेब्रुवारी रोजी मराठी भाषा दिवस मोठ्या जोशात साजरा करण्यात आला. मराठी संस्कृती विषयी प्रदर्शन देखील भरवण्यात आले.

मराठी संस्कृतीचा वारसा जपणारे मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळ हे खरोखरच एक कुटुंब बनले आहे. येथे प्रत्येकातल्या कलागुणांना वाव मिळतो आणि आपले वेगळेपण सिद्ध करण्याची संधी मिळते. प्रत्येक कार्यक्रमाच्या आयोजनासाठी केलेली मेहनत आणि सोबत आलेले अनुभव यांचा ठेवा घेऊन पुन्हा एकदा पुढील वर्षासाठी मंडळी त्याच जोमाने तयारीला लागते यात दुमत नाही. थोडक्यात २०१७-१८ हे वर्ष मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळासाठी एक नंबर होते.

**कश्मिरा सावंत**  
द्वितीय वर्ष, कला

## PLACEMENT CELL

The activities of the Placement Cell started in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August 2017. The Principal and the Convenor of the Placement Cell addressed the final year students in the College Hall highlighting the functioning of the Cell in general. The students were also briefed about the various roles that are offered by the different kinds of companies that come on campus.

A total of **404** students registered with the Placement Cell, out of which **127** are placed in various companies/ organizations. The highest salary package was Rs 13 Lakhs per annum.

### Registration composition: stream wise:

B.A.	-	117
B.Sc.	-	47

B.Com	-	Nil
B.M.M.	-	28
B.M.S.	-	50
B.Sc. (IT)	-	67
B.Voc (Tourism)	-	28
B.Voc (Software)	-	12
P.G.	-	28
PG Dip. Data Science	-	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>404</b>

**No. of placements: Streamwise**

BA	-	41
BMS	-	25
B.Sc.	-	14
B.Sc. (IT)	-	31
BMM	-	10
B.Voc. (Tourism)	-	8
B.Voc. (Software)	-	4
PG	-	6
<b>Total:</b>		<b>139</b>

During the academic year 2017-2018, the following Recruiters held their Pre-Placement Talk and/or hiring process either on Campus or at their Office premises:

*Aasaan jobs, Accenture, Aon Hewitt, Arete Advisors, Aufklaren Event Management, Avalon Consulting, Bain Capability Centre, Blue Star Ltd., Bottomline Media, Breathing Room, Cactus Communications, Camp K12, Capital First, Charoen Pokphand Group, Citibank, Countryside Adventure Holidays Pvt. Ltd., Crimson Interactive, Cyber Tech System & Software Ltd. Dalberg, Deloitte Consulting India Ltd. – (Hyderabad), Deloitte Shared Services – (Mumbai), Directi, EasyDiner, Educational Initiatives, Endurance International Group, Ernst & Young, Future Generali India Insurance Ltd., Gandhi Fellowship Program, Gender Lab., Great Place to Work, Half Tick Information Services Pvt. Ltd., Hunt Partners, In-Country, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd., Interactive Avenues, Isprava, Jet Airways, Kapso Business Services, Leaders Quest, Lodestar UM, Lynk, Mahindra Holiday Resort India Ltd., Media.net, MGH Logistics, Mobileware, Morgan Stanley, MMR Research Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd., Netscribes, Next Education, Nielsen, Oberoi Group, p3 Architectural Solutions, Patel Engineering Ltd., Prodigitz Media Pvt. Ltd., PwC, PwC – Acturial Services, Quantiphi, Samagra, SBI Youth Fellowship, SutraHR Services Pvt. Ltd., Syntellect 2018, Talerang, Teach for India Fellowship, The Blueberry*

*Trails, The Practice, The Red Pen, Think Thankers Innovations Solutions, Times Internet, Trailblazers Adventure Travel Pvt. Ltd., UpGrads, Vibrant Holiday Destination, Vito India Advisors, Zee TV, Zeus Learning, Zilingo.*

The job profiles were largely in the field of Consultancy, Risk advisory, Media and Management. Most of the consultancy profiles were open to the students of BMS, Arts and Science streams. Companies that are operating in the field of Social work and Social Entrepreneurship also visited the campus.

In tune with the theme for the year, the main aim of the Placement cell was to be inclusive in its approach in placing the students of not only different streams but different capabilities and interests as well. We will be consolidating our efforts in the next academic year as well.

**The placement cell has a team of both the faculty and the students who work together with the Placement Convenor and the Placement Officer.**

**Faculty members on the Placement Cell**

Ms. Lydia Fernandes, Dr. Leena Joshi, Dr. Vijaya Lobo, Ms. Sangeeta Shetty, Ms. Nandini Naik and Dr. Suvaiba Pirani.

**Our sincere regards and gratitude to the faculty members for their valuable inputs and time.**

I would like to thank our Placement Officer **Mr. Dominic C. Fernandes**, who has worked tirelessly to coordinate with the companies and the students from start to finish with respect to all Placement related activities. Our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to him.

**Our Student Team has been of tremendous support and they have helped the cell in ensuring that the**

**on campus process of recruiting is conducted in a smooth and systematic manner. I would like to thank each and every member of the student team without whose help; the whole process would not have been as organised as it has been during the placement season.**

**Student members:**

Ms. Yashi Gandhi (BA), Ms. Elaine Noronha (BA), Harsh Gandhi (BA), Ms. Megha Mariam (BMS), Ms. Merlin E. George (BMS), Ms. Kavya Ralhan (BMM), Mr. Navjeevan Mani (BMM), Mr. Shreyash Anand B.Sc. (IT), Mr. Hanan Mandal (B.Sc.), Mr. Aalap Kulkarni (B.Voc. – Tourism), Mr. Robin Saji (MPP), Mr. Akshay Kharbanda (MPP), Mr. Naythan D'Cunha (M.Sc.) Mr. Shashikant Kantela SYB.Sc. (IT).

The cell had also conducted a session that focused on both Resume writing and case-study solving techniques. This was for the students who had registered with the placement cell.

The placements in the academic year have been very impressive as we have had some of the top companies recruiting our students and it is worth a mention that our placements have been comparable with some of the best colleges in the country. It is noteworthy that our students have also been placed in a few firms that are based overseas especially the South East Asian Countries.

A track on the progression of the students who have been placed earlier has been very positive as most of them are in top managerial positions and have also completed their Post Graduate studies.

We will continue our efforts and hope to raise the bar even higher in the next academic year.

**Ms. Soni George Tharakan**  
Convenor – Placement Cell.

## WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CELL

This academic year, the Women's Development Cell started with a meeting to acquaint new members to the activities and role of this cell in an academic institution. The number of meetings in each semester was decided. There was a common consensus that meetings would be held on a need-basis only. They were provided information of how complaints were addressed. The first year students started college later than the rest of the college so it was difficult to organize any activity or program, as teachers were unwilling to give their classes. The team then decided to schedule the activities during the second semester. It was also decided that one staff member takes responsibility for each activity in terms of planning, organizing and execution and help would be provided by the team. Staff members adhered to this new change, volunteered for each activity and successfully carried out the task.

We started with a self-defence workshop by Mr. Elroy Vaz who is an alumnus of the college and a fitness trainer. In keeping with the theme of Inclusion, the unique feature of this year's workshop was that we had students who were visually challenged from among the group of 45 who had registered. The resource person found it both challenging and interesting. It was for the first time he was working with differently-abled people in a group. It proved to be a fruitful learning experience. This activity was

taken care of by the Social Involvement department (SIP) in college. Ms. Roshan and Ms. Jennipher, with the help of the team, took the initiative and handled everything well.

The next activity was organized by Ms. Pushpa and Mr. Saju, on Cyber Safety Awareness for the entire first year batch in their respective special course lectures. The resource person was Mr. Sachin Dehia, an ethical hacker and an expert in this field. The response was overwhelming, and enthusiastic. The students requested that one more session be incorporated.

This year, Gender Sensitization was conducted for the staff by Dr. Fr. Keith Vaz SJ. A two-hour session dealing with queries and situations that staff needed to be apprised of, met with a mixed response from the faculty. There was found a reason to rework the strategy and pattern for organizing this for the staff. They requested to be acquainted with the college policy of dealing with complaints and for information on precautions to be taken as teaching faculty in dealing with students, which will be taken this year. The programme for students was conducted by Ms. Ruby Pavri, Head, Department of Psychology, who volunteered to conduct and engage the students in each of their classes. This again was an eye opener for many first year students who were sensitised to various issues pertaining to gender.

Ms. Akshara, with others, helped organize a talk on Alcoholism

Awareness followed by insights into addiction and the path of recovery by AA volunteers. They have been coming for over 10 years now and have never failed to make an impact. Their simple style has always been appealing despite the fact that the current generation is more interested in audio-visual media.

Mr. Saju and the convener were sent for a day's workshop held by Nagindas College in collaboration with Maharashtra Women's Commission, on dealing with complaints of sexual harassment. The Internal Complaints Committee, originally known as the ICC, is renamed the Internal Committee (IC). They shared a Kit inclusive of audio-visual material and an APP of how to teach and acquaint people with the procedure for enquiry and complaints.

The committee managed to complete the goals and plans designed for the first years, despite a setback in the first semester. Complaints received have been dealt with successfully by the IC. The WDC has been allotted a special room now. We thank the Principal for his generosity.

We look forward to engaging in more fruitful exchanges by involving NGOs working in the area of women's empowerment and hope to help realize the theme for the new academic year – Innovation with community gain.

**Ms. Linda Dhakul**  
(Convenor, WDC)

## ZOOLOGY ASSOCIATION

**The activities of the association for the year were as follows:**

### **Walk of Life: Planet Earth Edition -**

The first event of the XZA was the walk of life, that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in the Zoology Lab. A select few specimens of the zoology department were displayed. This year's theme for the walk of life was 'Niches and Ecosystems'. Each table in the lab represented a niche and displayed specimens of organisms belonging to that particular

niche. The niches that were on display included grasslands, deserts, forests, urban wildlife, marshes and marine niches. Two volunteers were assigned to each niche. The scheduled opening time was 10.30 am but was delayed due to certain discrepancies. The visitors first registered themselves (for ECC hours) and then proceeded to attend the event. After going through all the niches on display they signed out and exited the lab. Visitors included college students, staff members, and students

from Mahatma Gandhi Vidhyalaya. The doors were finally shut at 5:30 pm with a heartening 577 visitors.

### **Jambulmaal Trail in SGNP - 10.09.17**

Members of the XZA along with Devat, a guide from the Nature Information Centre trekked up to Jambulmaal, the highest point in Mumbai on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. Everyone assembled at the gate at 8:00 am. Vans were hired to take them to the base of the trail. They arrived at the base at around

8:30 am and it took roughly four hours to reach the top. Along the way they came across various species of spiders, dragonflies, birds, etc. They began their descent at 1:00 pm and were back at the base by 3:00 pm.

#### **Pet Health – 15.11.17**

Dr. Shivani Tandel, a renowned 'exotic animals' veterinarian' presented a lecture to the members of the association about the nuances and intricacies of pet care and the career paths available to budding animal behaviourists.

#### **Sustainable Fish Eating**

Dr. Ketki Jog, a marine biologist working with 'Know Your Fish' provided great insight to fish eaters with information regarding the statistics and periodicity of fish breeding and valuable information for sustainable sea food consumption.



#### **Welfare for Stray Dogs**

The XZA accompanied by Dr. Smita Krishnan visited the kennel at Mahalaxmi as part of Christmas celebrations. Students and professors



alike generously donated money with which supplies like biscuits, scrubbers, soaps and rice was purchased for the dogs. Upon our arrival, WSD representatives briefed us about the organization and followed it by a tour of the kennel. Students were then divided into two groups. One group took the dogs for a walk and aided their exercise routines while the other gave the dogs a bath.

#### **Talk by Nayan Khonalkar – September 2017**

Nayan Khanolkar, recipient of the BBC NHM wildlife photographers award for the year 2016, under the urban wildlife category, gave an inspiring talk. The audience was fascinated as Nayan highlighted his journey from

hobby bird photography to grueling unpredictable and expensive big cat conservation Mr. Khanolkar shared the struggles and triumphs of shooting the Indian leopard by setting own camera traps and working with villagers.

#### **Tetrapak recycling**

The association tied up with 'Reusing, Reducing, and Recycling' (RUR), a NGO to recycle Tetrapaks in order to make St. Xavier's a zero waste campus that promotes sustainable living for all.

#### **Publication**

XZA published its yearly magazine "IMPRINT" with the theme "A symphony of species."

"Urging people to be inclusive is not an attack. It is progress."

– DaShanne Stokes

# SPORTS

## Senior College

Our Senior College teams participated in the following tournaments organized by University of Mumbai.

The results were as follows:

SPORT	WOMEN	MEN
FOOTBALL	2nd Runners-up	Participated
BASKETBALL	2nd Runners-up	Fourth
HANDBALL	2nd Runners-up	
HOCKEY	Fourth	Fifth
VOLLEYBALL	Fifth	Participated
TABLE TENNIS	2nd Runners-up	Participated
BADMINTON	Eight	Eight
CHESS	Participated	Participated

## Individual Achievements

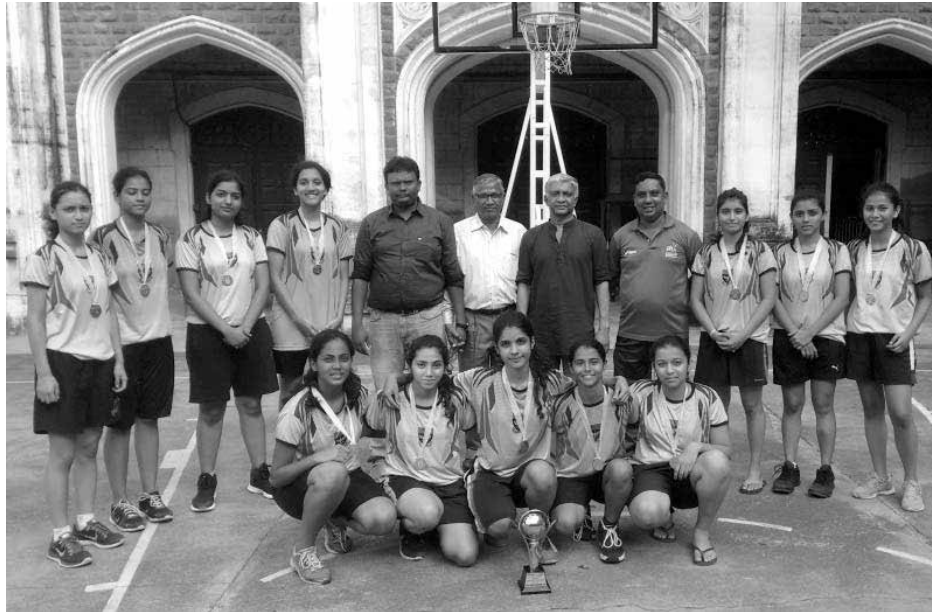
The following students participated at Mumbai University level.

PERFORMANCE IN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018	
MUMBAI UNIVERSITY INTER COLLEGIATE REPRESENTATION	
JUDO	Chaitali Mendon (TYBA) <b>52 kg (Placed 3rd)</b>
ATHLETICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>800 meters: Mascarenhas Chantelle – TYBA (<b>Placed 1st</b>)</li> <li>400 meters :Mascarenhas Chantelle – TYBA (<b>Placed 6th</b>)</li> <li>200 meters: Peters Denzil – SYBMS (<b>Placed 4th</b>)</li> <li>Discuss Throw: Vora Shruti- TYBA (<b>Placed 1st</b>)</li> <li>Shot Put: Vora Shruti- TYBA (<b>Placed 3rd</b>)</li> <li>4 x 400 meters relay: Mascarenhas Chantelle (TYBA), Mohandas Kavinaya (TYBA), John Kelly (FYBA), Dutta Chaoudhary Aleya (FYBSc) (<b>Placed 2nd</b>)</li> </ul>
ARCHERY	Nair Rhea (SYBA) Compound Round ( <b>Placed 2nd</b> )
TENNIS	Jai Memdonsa (TYBA) & Nikhil Thachil (SYBMS) <b>Placed 5th</b>

INTER UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION
<b>BASKETBALL:</b> Carina Menezes (SYBMS) <b>HANDBALL:</b> Mehta Sakshi (SYBA), Dhingra Aanya (SYBA), and Hatangadi Saili (FYBA). <b>VOLLEYBALL:</b> Kavinaya Mohandas (TYBA). <b>ARCHERY:</b> Nair Rhea (SYBA). <b>ATHLETICS:</b> Chantelle Mascarenhas (TYBA). <b>HOCKEY:</b> Kelley John (FYBA) and Lobo Lynette (FYBA)
OPEN STATE/ NATIONAL REPRESENTATION
<b>BASKETBALL (WOMEN) :</b> Carina Menezes (SYBMS) <b>VOLLEYBALL: (WOMEN)</b> Kavinaya Mohandas (TYBA). <b>ARCHERY:</b> Nair Rhea (SYBA). <b>ATHLETICS: (WOMEN)</b> Chantelle Mascarenhas (TYBA). (MEN) Peters Denzil (SYBMS). <b>TABLE TENNIS:</b> Sumer Misbah (SYBA)



**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE – WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**



**2ND RUNNERS-UP  
MUMBAI UNIVERSITY INTER-COLLEGE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

*Top row L-R –*

*Iadashisha Shanpru, Fernandes Simran, Yeldo Sharon, Carina Menezes, (Coach) Sayed Rasool, (University of Mumbai Director of Sports) Dr U.N. Kendre, (Principal, St Xaviers College) Dr A. Menezes, (Director of Sports, St Xaviers College) Dr T Pires, Anushka Hirwani, Shreya Bhavé Jana M Daphisa*

*Bottom row L-R –*

*D'souza Anisha, Kakade Pranita, Kylynn Bhathena, Uchil Mekhela, Gala Gatee*

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE – WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM**



**2ND RUNNERS-UP  
MUMBAI UNIVERSITY INTER-COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

*Top row L-R Deepakshi Singh, Stuti Agarwal, Ninoshka Silveira, Clantha Crasto, Coach – Jeffery Campus, Kim D'silva, Shweta Shiroadkar, Natasha Martis, Aleya Choudhury, Anoushka Fernandes, Caroline D'souza*

*Bottom row L-R – Asawari Jadhav, Shifa Zoya, Saania Shaikh, Natasha Masters, Chantelle Mascarenhas, Sakshi Mehta, Rachael Michael, Kelley John.*

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE – WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM**



**FOURTH  
MUMBAI UNIVERSITY INTER-COLLEGE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

*Top row L-R – Dyann D'souza, Rizpah Cardoza, Abigail Shinde, Raizel Fernandes, Kelley John, Rachael Michael, Shweta, Aanya Dhingra, Jessica Alphonso,*

*Bottom row L-R – Lynette Lobo, Neala D'silva, Marita D'Souza, Tiann D'souza, Mekhela Uchil, Sanchi Mehra.*

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE – WOMEN'S HANDBALL TEAM**



**2ND RUNNERS-UP  
MUMBAI UNIVERSITY INTER-COLLEGE HANDBALL TOURNAMENT**

*Top row L-R – Dr T Pires Director of Sports St Xaviers College, Okoth Mahek, Agrawal Stuti, Martis Natasha, Vartak Shivani, Thomas Rose, Coach Ajit Gomes*

*Bottom Row L-R Hatangadi Saili, Dhingra Aanya, Mehta Sakshi, Dutta Choudhury Aleya.*

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE –  
WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS TEAM**



**2ND RUNNERS-UP MUMBAI UNIVERSITY INTER-COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

*L-R – D'souza Anisha, Sumar Misbah, Shah Bhavi, Agarwal Aakansha*

**ANNUAL SPORTS DAY ROLLING TROPHIES**



**Senior College Men's Individual Championship:** Denzel Peters (SYBMS)  
**Senior College Women's Individual Championship :** Chantelle Mascarenhas (TYBA)  
**Senior College Inter-Faculty Rolling Trophy:** Bachelors in Arts with 95 Points  
 Shruti Vora (TYBA) Jayesh Sutar (FYBVOC) Dhruv Singh (MPP PART 2)

**ANNUAL SPORTS DAY - FINAL POINT TALLY 2018**

	ARTS	SCIENCE	COMMERCE
JUNIOR COLLEGE	96	89	—
SENIOR COLLEGE	95	45	44

**ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 2017-2018 - SENIOR COLLEGE FINAL RESULT**

EVENT SHOT PUT		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	SHRUTI VORA	TYBA	9.10 M
II	PRIYANKA DHAL	TYBSc	7.07 M
III	ANUSUYA GOGOI	SYBSC	6.85 M
EVENT SHOT PUT		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	DHRUV SINGH	MPP	10.77 M
II	ABHISHEK SHEKHAR	FYBCOM	10.24 M
III	JOSHUA KEVIN RAJAN	TYBSC	8.92 M
EVENT: DISCUS THROW		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	SHRUTI VORA	TYBA	29.37 M
II	YUGANTI TANDEL	FYBVOC TOU	15.8 M
III	SIMRAN FERNANDES	FYBA	14.15 M
EVENT: DISCUS THROW		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	JOSHUA KEVIN RAJAN	TYBSC	20.72 M
II	ANAND THOMAS	SYBSCIT	18.55 M
III	SANKALP SINGH	MPP	16.53 M
EVENT: JAVELIN THROW		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	DHRUV SINGH	MPP	33.20 M
II	PRATISH ZAWARE	SYBSCIT	27.70 M
III	JOSHUA KEVIN RAJAN	TYBSC	21.80 M
EVENT: LONG JUMP		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	CLARISSE RODRIGUES	TYBA	3.48 M
II	CHANTELLE MASCARENHAS	TYBA	3.34 M
III	CHAITALI MENDON	TYBA	3.29 M
EVENT: LONG JUMP		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	DENZIL PETERS	SYBMS	5.99 M
II	GIRISH SHETTY	TYBCOM	5.60 M
III	ABHISHEK SHEKHAR	FYBCOM	5.47 M
EVENT: HIGH JUMP		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	DISTANCE
I	ABHISHEK SHEKHAR	FYBCOM	1.50 M
II	VAIBHAV TANDEL	FYBA	1.45 M
III	AKSHAY MARATHE	SYBCOM	1.40 M
EVENT: 100 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	CHANTELLE MASCARENHAS	TYBA	14.04 S
II	CHAITALI MENDON	TYBA	15.36 S
III	CAROLINE D'SOUZA	FYBA	15.59 S

EVENT: 100 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	DENZIL PETERS	SYBMS	11.60 S
II	JAYESH SUTAR	FYBVOC	12.13 S
III	BRADLEY- MICHAEL RODRIGUES	TYBVOC	12.51 S
EVENT: 200 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	CHANTELLE MASCARENHAS	TYBA	29.01 S
II	CAROLINE D'SOUZA	FYBA	33.09 S
III	TIANN D'SOUZA	FYBA	34.06 S
EVENT: 200 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	DENZIL PETERS	SYBMS	23.45 S
II	JAYESH SUTAR	FYBVOC	24.85 S
III	BRADLEY- MICHAEL RODRIGUES	TYBVOC	25.85 S
EVENT: 400 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	CHANTELLE MASCARENHAS	TYBA	66.41 S
II	RACHAEL MICHAEL	SYBSc	80.15 S
III	TIANN D'SOUZA	FYBA	81.50 S
EVENT: 400 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	DENZIL PETERS	SYBMS	58.38 S
II	JAYESH SUTAR	FYBVOC	60.60 S
III	SHASHIKANTH POOJARY	FYBCOM	62.98 S
EVENT: 800 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	CHANTELLE MASCARENHAS	TYBA	2:46 S
II	RACHAEL MICHAEL	SYBSc	3:13 S
III	KELLEY JOHN	FYBA	3:15 S
EVENT: 800 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	ROHIT PAL	SYBSc IT	2:11 S
II	ABHISHEK SHEKHAR	FYBCOM	2:18 S
III	YASHRAJ WADE	FYBA	2:19 S
EVENT: 1500 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR GIRLS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	CHANTELLE MASCARENHAS	TYBA	5:57 S
II	RACHAEL MICHAEL	SYBSc	7:10 S
III	KELLEY JOHN	FYBA	7:12 S
EVENT: 1500 M RUN		GROUP: SENIOR BOYS	
POSITION	NAME	FACULTY	TIME
I	ROHIT PAL	SYBScIT	4:41 S
II	JAYESH SUTAR	FYBVoc	5:08 S
III	YASHRAJ WADE	FYBA	5:11 S



SPORT	SENIOR GIRLS	SENIOR BOYS
BADMINTON	George Reshell (SYBSc)	Shah Meet (TYBA)
CARROM	D'souza Anisha (FYBSc-IT)	Shah Arshad (MSc II)
CHESS	Reha Patel (FYBA)	Raut Abhilash (TYBMM)
BASKETBALL	FYBA	TYBA
RINK FOOTBALL	FYBA	SYBA
RINK HOCKEY		TYBA
VOLLEYBALL	SYBVOC	TYBVOC
THROWBALL	FYBA	
TABLE TENNIS	Sumar Misbah (SYBA)	Borthwick Brandon (TYBSc)

## SPORTS EXTRA

University of Mumbai in collaboration with S.T. Xavier's Autonomous organized the Women's Inter-College Basketball Tournament 2017-2018 League Rounds held on September 23th & 24th 2017.

The following are the results of the same:

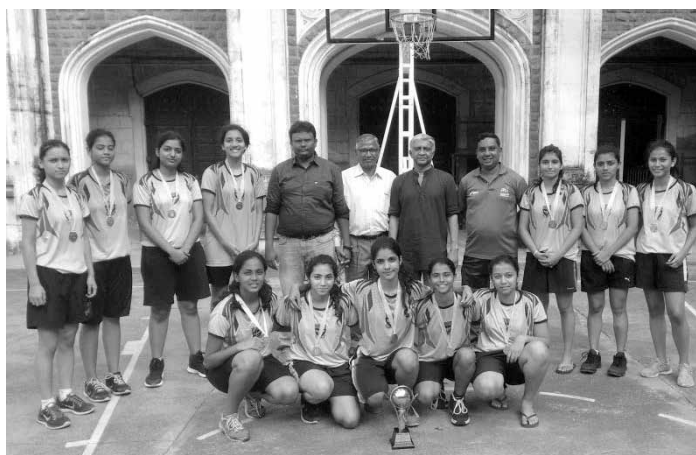
### WINNERS: MMK COLLEGE



### 1st RUNNERS-UP: R.A.PODAR



### 2ND RUNNERS-UP: S.T. XAVIER'S COLLEGE



# XRCVC

Academic year 2017-18 was a watershed year for St Xavier's College (autonomous), as it formally launched all the support services of its Enabling Committee right during the year.



At the forefront of this initiative was the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) ([www.xrcvc.org](http://www.xrcvc.org)), which, since 2003, has been actively espousing the cause of visual impairment, and this year expanded its scope to formally include students with other disabilities like autism, learning disabilities, orthopedic disabilities, and hearing and speech impairment, as well.

In the academic year 2017-18, the college had 110 students with disability on its rolls. The Enabling Committee, a staff-cum-student representative committee headed by the Principal, ensured that each of these students had an enriching curricular and extra-curricular experience at St Xavier's College (Autonomous). The Coordinator- , Students with Disability, who coordinates the working of this cell, works out of XRCVC and is the main resource person to process all student requests and needs.

In addition to meeting the requirements of students on campus, the XRCVC is also actively involved in promoting inclusion and access across the country through its range of advocacy and awareness programmes.

Along the way, these endeavors met with recognition. For its efforts to promote accessible publishing globally, the DAISY Forum of India (DFI), of which the XRCVC is an integral part, bagged the 2018 ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing in the Initiative category at the London Book Fair in 2018. This award, said the DFI president, was an acknowledgement of the collective effort and the joining of forces of the Government of India, industry and civil society to end the book famine for the economically, geographically, socially and linguistically diverse group of people in India who are print disabled.

Meanwhile, XRCVC's membership base expanded to 651 persons during the year. The centre was also able to touch—and hopefully transform—thousands of lives across the country through its advocacy work, particularly in the areas of education access, financial access, print access, and independent living (see section sub-titled 'Advocacy').

Like in the previous academic year, the centre's activities throughout the year were channelized through its restructured triad of work:

- Direct Support Services
- Advocacy
- Awareness

## Direct Support Services

Given below is a summary of the centre's activities in 2017-18 under each head.

The XRCVC offers a range of direct support and training services to persons with disabilities, caregivers, educators, and institutions.

1. **Volunteer Support:** Despite all the technology and advancements, human assistance cannot be eliminated completely. The XRCVC provides volunteer services for:
  - Reading
  - Converting material into accessible formats for people with visual impairment – through typing, scanning, editing, recording
  - Examination taking – scribe facilities
  - Teaching – for any subject

Depending on the member's needs and requirements, the XRCVC provides volunteers both for short- and long-term needs.

Ninety-seven volunteers and around six interns worked with the centre during the year, sourced from the Social Involvement Programme (SIP) and ECC programme of St Xavier's College (Autonomous). In addition, volunteers were enlisted for a short term on need basis for awareness programmes like Antarchakshu\* —The Eye Within.

## Technologies

The XRCVC houses an exhaustive list of assistive technologies (AT) that can be explored by visually challenged persons — as

also employers, government bodies and any other group that would like to know more about AT. Anyone is welcome to drop in at the XRCVC, preferably with prior appointment, to explore the full range of assistive technologies and their use.

Like every year, the centre procured a wide range of new technologies in 2017-18. Some of these include the newly-launched Refreshable Braille Displays Braille Me and Orbit Reader 20, Amazon Echo Devices, Daisy players, Talking Colour Recogniser, Talking Scientific Calculators, Talking Graphic Calculators, Talking Measuring Tape, Horizon A4 scanner, storage devices, Sony LED TV, Fire TV stick, desktop and laptop computers, plus a variety of software upgradations including Duxbury Braille translator, Tactile View Graphics Design, Chatty Infinity Mathematics OCR, and Abby fine Reader.

Our newly acquired Braille Embosser Index V5 Fanfold was set up and deployed in St Xavier's College (Autonomous) in June 2017. Simultaneously, the existing Braille was shifted to the XRCVC - Viviana Extension, our satellite centre in Thane, where braille facilities were launched on June 27 by Mr. Sunil Shroff and Ms. Rima Pradhan from Viviana Mall and Mr. Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO of the Retailers Association of India.

### Training

The XRCVC imparts training in Computers, the use of specific assistive devices, Braille, Orientation & Mobility, Maths & Science, English language, and Life skills through various training programmes. These are available for diverse learner groups – disabled persons, special educators, teacher trainers, and other stakeholders.

Training sessions during 2017-18 included customised workshops by various members of the XRCVC team including Calveena D'Sylva, Rebecca Carvalho, Vikas Dabholkar, Neha Trivedi, Sushil Pandit, Shizanne D'Mello, Keshavan Nadar, Krishna Warriar, and Elisha Lopez.

These training sessions were held at the XRCVC and the XRCVC-Viviana Extension as well as at other locations across Mumbai.

Throughout the year, the XRCVC's training services reached out to 919 persons. (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Training Services June 2017 – May 2018**

Direct Training	No of beneficiaries	Indirect (Stakeholder) Training	No of beneficiaries
Computer & Assistive Technology (AT)	233	Indirect Stakeholder Training	213
English	19		
Orientation and Mobility	3		
Activities of Daily Living	11		
Braille	-		
Life Skills	-		
Education Support (Including Mathematics & Science)	76		
Guidance Support	248		
Inclusion Cell	98		
Sports Club	18		
<b>Total</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>919</b>

### Personal and Career Guidance

Guidance was also provided, to members and their families, across disabilities to identify needs, interests and aptitudes as also to troubleshoot and cope with concerns.



*Braille facilities were introduced in XRCVC Viviana Extension in June 2017*



*A concept enrichment session for visually impaired students*



*Talha Ansari received the Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for 2017-18*

## Scholarships

The Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for the year was awarded to XRCVC member Talha Ansari, for being the most deserving visually impaired student graduating from St Xavier's College, Mumbai.

Recognizing the high costs for higher education and assistive technologies, the XRCVC provides scholarship and access to technology lending schemes for deserving students. New higher education avenues have been pursued by students with disability over the last decade. Along with new opportunities come new costs of higher education courses. Therefore, while assistive technologies and computers have provided immense aid to disabled students, one must acknowledge that these technologies which are often considered a luxury for those without disabilities, are a necessity for the disabled.

## Sports and Recreation

Oftentimes, recreation and sports get left out of discussions on lives of persons with disabilities. However, these are as integral a part of life for persons with disabilities as for the non-disabled.

Recognizing the value of sports and recreation, the XRCVC works on creating innovative opportunities and events. Between August 2017 and January 2018, the XRCVC Recreation Club conducted regular fitness and training sessions under the supervision of Dr Thomas Pires, Sports Director, St Xavier's College (autonomous).

## Reading Without Seeing

The XRCVC had launched an extremely effective national-level awareness programme in 2012 under the banner of 'Reading Without Seeing', which takes access technologies to blind and low-vision users across locations, and ignites in its audiences the curiosity and basic knowledge to begin their journey of accessing the printed word independently. The programme equips participants with the basic knowhow of a host of assistive technologies.

The programme gained added momentum this year with 13 workshops reaching out to 276 persons. These workshops were conducted by the XRCVC team comprising Sushil Pandit, Keshavan Nadar, Aniket Gupta, Vikas Dabholkar, Calveena D'Sylva, and Shizanne D'Mello.

**Table 2: Reading Without Seeing (RWS) Workshops (June 2017 – May 2018)**

No	Date	Organisation Name	Venue	Participants
1	09-Jul-17	Thane Members	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	32
2	16-Jul-17	Open Members	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	34
3	19-Aug-17	University / college professors	St. Xavier's College	26
4	11-Oct-17	NAB-IDBI Ambernath	Ambernath	25
5	16-Oct-17	Open Members	XRCVC	12
6	6-Jan-18	Ummeed Foundation	XRCVC	14
7	06-Jan-18	Ummeed Foundation – Mumbra	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	15
8	24-Feb-18	Maratha Mandir	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	15
9	14-Mar-18	Nirmala Niketan Students	XRCVC	10
10	17-Mar-18	TCS Maitree	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	12
11	11-Apr-18	NAB-IDBI (Ambernath)	XRCVC	27
12	17-May-18	NAB Short-term teenagers group	XRCVC	28
13	29-May-18	NAB- Para Professional & Functional Batch	XRCVC	26
				<b>276</b>

## Advocacy

XRCVC's advocacy initiatives work in four main areas to create accessible environments: Print Access, Financial Access, Education Access, and Independent Living.

### Print Access

The access to printed works for the visually challenged depends on its availability in accessible formats and the permissibility of the legal systems to convert material to accessible formats. The XRCVC has been working relentlessly to overcome these challenges.

During this period, the XRCVC produced 42 accessible books (totaling 8232 pages) in addition to 2465 Word pages of class notes. All accessible DAISY titles are uploaded onto a national accessible online library ([sugamyapustakalaya.in](http://sugamyapustakalaya.in)).

Some of the events that took place or were conducted under the Print Access initiative during the year are appended below.

- XRCVC worked closely with Benetech, a global non-profit social entrepreneurial venture harnessing the power of technology for social benefit on many print access-related initiatives, and also followed up with vendors who could create accessible books. In June, a training programme on accessible publishing was organized at St Xavier's College. The training was conducted by senior officials from the Daisy Consortium and Benetech.
- Throughout the year, XRCVC provided support and feedback to many organizations which were conducting research on Refreshable Braille Display devices. These included Innovision, a startup from IIT Bombay which successfully launched its Refreshable Braille Display device named BrailleMe, IIT Delhi's Assistech, Orbit Research, Dot Incorporation - Korea, and a group of students from Don Bosco Institute of Technology.
- Dr Sam Taraporevala, Director, XRCVC attended a meeting convened by the Braille Council of India in Guwahati in March. He also attended a core group meeting for ADIP schemes in Guwahati.
- In August, the XRCVC team met with Jet Airways officials to offer suggestions on how they could make their Inflight Manuals and Mobile App accessible. They also had meetings with Hillary Johnson, an MIT student working on a Braille Labeler project, and Pratham, regarding making accessible books for their libraries.
- In September, Dr Taraporevala attended the Daisy Forum of India (DFI) board meeting and AGM at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He also participated in discussions on Viable, a platform which networks like-minded organizations working in the field, along with officials from Saksham, Enable India, Bookshare and Eyeway. Throughout the year he participated in con-calls for various committees of the DFI, including the publisher committee, higher education committee, and periodicals committee.
- Officials from the Rotary Club of Lake City (Thane) visited XRCVC-Viviana Extension to understand the working of the centre, since, they wish to set up a similar resource centre in Thane.
- Dr Taraporevala delivered a talk on 'The ABC of Accessibility' in February at the JJ School of Art.
- They also met with a team from Robotix.Edu on making their smart toys braille accessible.

### Testing and Research

The following software / devices were tested for accessibility during the year by / at XRCVC:

- New Kindle Amazon apps PC & Cloud Reader with NVDA
- AMIS, Easy Reader apps with NVDA
- Sugamya Pustakalaya website
- OCR apps like Cam Scanner, Adobe Scan, Text Fairy - Marathi, Hindi, English language for Android phones.
- Explore Libre office writer
- Android Nougat 7.0 on a Lenovo phone
- Normal Keyboard & Mouse in Android Phones with TalkBack
- Easy Reader App
- Android 7.0
- Voice input of Lenovo K6 Note
- Google Drive
- Tesseract OCR engine-based OCR software for Indian languages
- NVDA's OCR features
- Ideal OCR
- Smart Lens OCR app with Android 7.0 Lenovo K6 Note
- Redbus.in website by NVDA at various browsers and android apps.
- Gujarati Maths Epub files
- Android Gionee P5L Mobile



- YouTube page with latest NVDA
- IRCTC website
- Remote access add ons of NVDA
- Moto C
- Moto E4 plus
- Polaris & Office Suite Android apps
- Windows 10
- Vivo Y55
- Simply Reading App (Epub Reader) with 7.0 Android Lenovo K6 Note
- Kindle application and NVDA Help
- Surfing information pertaining to Android and other OS
- Surfing information pertaining to Wallet facilities of UPI (Paytm, Freecharge, Mobikwik, and other UPI apps (BHIM, Google Tez)
- Mozilla Firefox with NVDA
- Clear Reader
- Amazon Alexa and Google home devises
- UTS Basic App
- ITEL Keypad Phone with King Voice App
- Oppo A5 Model phone
- Redmi 5A phone
- Redmi Note 4 phone
- Redmi Y1 Lite
- Vivo Y21 (5.1.1 Lollypop) phone
- MS Office Word 2010 with NVDA 2017.3
- Google Lite app from website (Files Go, Youtube Go, Google Assistant)
- TacRead: Assistech
- Go android apps - Youtube Go, Files Go, Google Maps Go tested with 7.0 Android
- MP3 cutter and Audacity app
- Rediffmail Pro
- Accessible App Money Reader tested with Indian rupees and coins
- NVDA Dictation Bridge Addon
- Eye D App
- Shine Plus screen reader for android
- Samsung Default OCR apps
- Textfi accessible apps
- Smart Lens OCR
- Induction cooktop
- Refreshable Nemeth

During the year, XRCVC, with the support of Sightsavers, launched a new project, Project Access—Sightsavers-XRCVC initiative, which focuses on testing accessibility across devices, platforms, and companies. As part of this project, the XRCVC team held multiple meetings with Reliance officials to make the Reliance Jio offering accessible.

In December, Dr Taraporevala met with Mrunmayi Abrol from Amazon in Bangalore to discuss accessibility and other feature enhancements of the company's Echo devices.

### **Financial Access**

The ability to independently manage, operate and execute one's financial transactions is key to independent living. Lack of effective guidelines and lack of optimum use of technology in financial instruments had traditionally denied financial access to the blind and low vision persons. The XRCVC has been striving to change this reality. Some of the activities under the Financial Access initiative are appended below.

- In August, the XRCVC team participated in a meeting of the Indian Banks Association's Special Committee on Banking Access and has provided constant inputs through the year for improving inclusion within the banking system. Additionally, XRCVC assumed the responsibility to manage and administer the popular Accessible ATM website, [talkingatm.org](http://talkingatm.org), from its founders, Sai Bhagat and Prashant Naik. Throughout the year, XRCVC members physically checked many ATMs across the country for accessibility.
- In September, officials from the Bombay Stock Exchange visited XRCVC to plan out a course on mutual funds for visually impaired persons.

- XRCVC worked during the year with like-minded organizations to persuade the Reserve Bank of India to make the newly introduced currency notes accessible.

## Education Access

While Right to Education has become a fundamental right in India, this right is far from being actualised for persons with disabilities. During the year, the XRCVC continued its work towards inclusive education practices and services at school, college and higher education levels. In this connection, a plethora of activities were conducted during the year, which are as follows-

- The centre collaborated with like-minded stakeholders to start an initiative called Inclusive Stem (I-Stem) comprising a group of young persons from India who are blind or visually impaired and are pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. The group aims to be the leading self-advocacy group focused on changing the mind-set, the resource availability and opportunities for the blind and visually impaired to pursue STEM education and careers in India. Building on the previous work of XRCVC members and partner organisations in this area, the group works on different aspects of STEM access, including technical research to enhance maths and science access, outreach to encourage blind students to consider STEM careers, advocacy for more inclusive policies, initiatives to sensitise universities and companies, and development of accessible STEM content. On January 20 and 21, I-Stem organised its first event, a unique hackathon at IIIT Bangalore, in collaboration with EHRC, IIIT Bangalore, Vision Aid, and Vision Empower. The aim was to bust myths about blind programmers and start the process of making the tech industry in India accessible. The hackathon brought blind and visually impaired developers, industry professionals and sighted computer science students together to work on exciting and challenging projects for 24 hours. Not only did the participants learn technical skills from the hackathon, but also developed a better understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses.
- During the year, the XRCVC was also invited by IIT Kanpur to help their PWD Cell build better accessibility on campus for students with disabilities. A team from XRCVC visited IIT Kanpur in April and May and met with the Dean of Academics, members of the faculty, the Persons with Disabilities Cell, the Chief Medical Officer and students with disabilities on campus. The team also visited labs on the campus and provided inputs on how they could be made accessible. IIT Kanpur is keen to implement the Inclusion Model that has been set up locally by XRCVC at St Xavier's.
- The XRCVC, throughout the year, continued its ongoing pioneering work in the area of mathematics and science education. Students were provided direct support services. The XRCVC created accessible electronic textbooks, Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs), and provided conceptual training to these students. In addition, the centre has started creating a TLA resource library for mathematics and science education, starting Std 1 onwards.
- The XRCVC's Inclusive Education team comprising Neha Trivedi, Calveena D'Sylva, Rebecca Carvalho, and Shizanne D'Mello continued work on Concept Teaching Manuals (CTMs), which have been designed for use by teachers working with blind or low vision students. Special educators or parents working on a one-on-one basis, as well as, classroom teachers and tuition teachers in an inclusive classroom can incorporate the information and ideas from these manuals. These CTMs cover interactive ways to teach concepts to blind or low vision students including the use of Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs) in the form of activities, real objects, 3D educational toys and models, 2D tactile diagrams, etc.
- Ongoing work continued with students who are part of the XRCVC's comprehensive educational offering. During the year, the centre also regularly conducted training and sensitization sessions at Prime Academy, and other institutions like Beacon High School, St John's Universal ICSE School, and Besant Montessori School.
- Work pertaining to book content creation and accessible study material creation continued throughout the year. Both staff and volunteers are engaged in this work.
- Ongoing work on Geometry Tools Research for students with visual impairment continued during the year with field testing conducted in different parts of the country.
- Ongoing sessions with the Class 5, Class 8, Class 9, and Class 10 students of Victoria Memorial School for the Blind (VMSB) continued throughout the academic year 2017-18.
- In June, XRCVC made a presentation at the National Council of Educational Research (NCERT) on:
  - how Visual Concepts are accessed by the blind and low vision students
  - some pointers on things to consider when designing Tactile Diagrams
  - Guidelines for writing Alt Text

This engagement continued throughout the year through other programmes as well. For example, in November, Rebecca Carvalho attended an NCERT workshop with the Department of Education in Science and Mathematics (DESM), to create a manual for Upper Primary Science Experiments for Blind and Low Vision students. In the same month, she attended a workshop with the Department of Education of Groups with Special Needs (DEGSN) for a project on creating "Guidelines for including Blind and Low Vision students in Science Laboratory activities".

- In October, Calveena Desylva attended an RCI-approved Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) on 'Importance of Reading in Education', related to interventions and possible ways to assist / teach students with Dyslexia. This was followed by another workshop in January 2018 on the 'Importance of Writing' which was related to interventions & possible techniques to assist / teach students with Dysgraphia.
- In December, Neha Trivedi attended a meeting organized by Pratham to submit ideas to the state government on the Inclusive Education Charter.
- During the same month, the XRCVC team had a meeting with a team from a social organization, Antarang, to explore a pilot project at Govandi related to the need assessment of VI students amongst the community. They also had a meeting with Sol's Arc school to explore partnerships for a VI model within their rural and Inclusive Education Model.
- In January, XRCVC organized a Transition Planning Workshop for students with Autism, which was conducted by a subject expert, Dr Sushama Nagarkar.
- In the same month, Neha Trivedi followed up for accessibility standards in the GATE 2018 exams and researched DMER for Masters Entrance. XRCVC also actively advocated with CBSE NEET 2018 authorities to ensure examination provisions to students with blindness who intend to appear for the examination.
- In March, XRCVC facilitated an internship for a student with autism at Brandmela, an event management firm.
- The centre held discussions during the year with faculty members of the BSc- Department of Information Technology, St Xavier's College, to design and deliver a course on Accessibility for Second Year BSc-IT students.
- The centre's ongoing efforts have made physiotherapy graduate studies possible, and facilitated guidance and research for two low vision students keen to pursue Masters in Physiotherapy.

### **Independent Living**

Each of us, as we pass through our day, interact with a range of products, environments and services from transport services to kitchen appliances, and entertainment products. How accessible are these daily living services and products for the visually challenged? The XRCVC's Independent Living initiative questions and works towards rectifying these areas. Some of the activities covered under this initiative during the year are as follows:

- The centre conducted ongoing discussions with Assitech, IIT Delhi and Mumbai First about OnBoard, the accessible bus identification and announcement system that will help Visually Impaired persons board public transport buses.
- The centre continued ongoing research and development work on visual / auditory / tactile teaching-learning aids and other independent living aids. It worked on integrating diverse technologies which could create a composite system to read through fingers, see through eyes, or hear through ears. The research also has immense potential for the teaching-learning process as it can promote paired reading and can assist a non-Braille literate person to also function effectively.
- During the year, the XRCVC team met different travel companies like Enable Travel and BAT travels to discuss areas of mutual collaboration.
- They also held discussions with officials from Polyventure, a company which manufactures tactile tiles.
- Deliberations continued during the year with Abhyudaya, a social organization, on creating an accessible campus in IIT Bombay.
- In November, two students from XRCVC, Ganesh Phalke and Nikita Chatterjee, participated in the 4th NCPEDP – Accenture National Convention for Youth with Disabilities (NCYD) in Delhi.
- During the same month, XRCVC, the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, and the Argentine Consulate conducted Divya Drishti, an Aroma Painting workshop by acclaimed Argentine painter Pablo Ramirez Arnol.
- A team from the Lotus College of Optometry Juhu visited XRCVC in November to take user feedback on their new low vision device.
- In January, XRCVC organized a focused group brainstorming session for the organization UMOJA, which plans to launch an UMOJA card with benefits for persons with disability.
- The centre also prepared a detailed response to a consultation paper on Making ICT Accessible for PWDs and submitted the same to TRAI.

## Awareness

Creating awareness about the lives and capabilities of visually impaired persons and those with other disabilities, is one of the key areas, which will open doors for them in a world where the rules are made for and by persons without disabilities. The XRCVC has been working on a number of such initiatives through its mega awareness and sensitization event 'Antarchakshu' — 'The Eye Within'. Antarchakshu 2017 was conducted at St Xavier's College on September 18 and 19. The theme was expanded beyond visual impairment to include other conditions like autism, learning disabilities, etc. There were 1220 participants at the event (mainly staff and students of St Xavier's College). Some additional interactive workshops related to Antarchakshu like Braille, Treasure Hunt with a Twist, and a Photography workshop — 'The Blind Way' were also conducted across different venues inside the college campus, in which around 100 persons participated.

The other awareness activities conducted by XRCVC during the year are appended below:

- During the year, Krishna Warriar from XRCVC and Ketan Kothari from Sightsavers recorded a podcast on the print access movement for an online magazine called 'Torchlight'. The podcast and its transcript were used in the January 2018 edition of the magazine.
- In November, Dr Taraporevala was interviewed by Radio Udaan for a show focusing on disabled persons.
- In January, XRCVC trained 10 students from SIES College to demonstrate assistive technologies for an awareness program called Embrace the Differences, which was held in the college on January 19 and 20.
- Dr Taraporevala delivered a talk on 'An Inclusive mind-set- A Prerequisite for Effective Leadership' at St. Xavier's College. The talk was a part of Harvard College in Asia Program on the theme Redefining Leadership: Initiative and Influence in the Modern World.
- In February, Dr Taraporevala and Krishna Warriar made a presentation to the Academic Council of the Xavier's Institute of Communication; subsequently the XIC management decided to include a course on diversity for all XIC students from the coming academic year.
- Dr Taraporevala presented a paper on 'The Travails of Education and Skill Development' at the Maharashtra State Level Seminar on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 in March.

During the year different versions of 'Antarchakshu', including the sit-down version, were conducted at many places and for a variety of target groups, covering 2195 participants (see Table 3).

**Table 3: General Awareness workshops and events (June 2017 – May 2018)**

No	Date	Participant profile	Venue	No of Participants
1	02-June	Teachers	Children's Academy School, Mumbai	107
2	25-July	Media students	Sophia College, Mumbai	21
3	29-July	Media students	St Xavier's College (autonomous)	58
4	2-Aug	Malhar volunteers	St Xavier's College	55
5	10-August	Students	XIE	20
6	21-Aug	Students of Hillspring school	St Xavier's College	40
7	1-Sep	Students and faculty	St Stephen's College	14
8	8-Sep	Retailers	XRCVC-Viviana Extension	10
9	17-Sep	Antarchakshu volunteers	St Xavier's College	160
10	Sep 18, 19	Antarchakshu participants	St Xavier's College	1220
11	25-Sep	Fundraisers from Sightsavers	St Xavier's College	27
12	14 October	Media students	Xavier's Institute of Communication	20
13	November 6	Corporate	Dow India	29
14	Nov 16	Bankers	India Banks' Association	25
15	Nov 22	Students	Xavier's Institute of Communication	100
16	Nov 29	Corporate	Capgemini	12
17	December 11	Jesuit trainees	Xavier's Institute of Communication	22
18	Jan 11	International students	St Xavier's College	35

19	Jan 25	Mass media students	Wilson College	35
20	Feb 13	Students	CSRE Dept, IIT Bombay	30
21	Feb 24	Law students	IDIA, Bombay	35
22	Feb 25	Corporate	KARMYO's Good Graffiti Fest (Lonavla)	30
23	March 21	PhD students	IITB-Monash Research Academy	60
24	March 28	Sightsavers Fundraisers	St Xavier's College	30
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2195</b>

## Networking

- In June, Dr. Taraporevala gave a talk on a social justice perspective at Cochin University (Kerala) at a refresher course conducted by the university (CUSAT).
- He also met officials from SRF Foundation and provided inputs on their Inclusion Projects.
- In July, Dr Taraporevala met with Riddhi Shah from Parikrama and discussed potential areas for collaboration concerning independent living for elderly persons and who are visually impaired.
- Teachers from the ETC Centre of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation visited XRCVC-Viviana Extension to seek help on how they could set up a resource centre for visually impaired students.
- In December, Dr Taraporevala gave a talk on how to effectively manage and generate positive outcomes from resource centres (The XRCVC Experience) at a Power Breakfast with Leaders and Visionaries, alongwith 75 participants, at the "Consultative Networking Workshop for Digital Empowerment leading to Livelihood Generation of Persons with Vision Impairment", organized by Enable India in Bangalore.
- As a part of International Disability Day celebrations, he was invited, in the same month, by Wipro as one of the panel members for a discussion on the positive impact of technology accessibility for persons with disability.
- Dr Taraporevala also delivered a talk on 'Dependence to Independence – Making Maharashtra Disabled Friendly', which was on the theme of employability at the Indian Merchants Chamber's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai.
- In January, the XRCVC team met with Swati Tribedy and Tanvi Kalekar from Dow Chemicals to explore potential areas for collaboration.
- In the same month, they met with Nixon Joseph from the SBI Foundation to discuss the role of the SBI Centre of Excellence, R&D possibilities, and internship opportunities.



*Antarchakshu 2017 in St Xavier's College exposed participants to various types of disabilities*

## Conclusion

We would like to extend our gratitude to our funders, partners, and sponsors who have played a major role in making us what we are today. We would like to specially thank Great Eastern CSR Foundation, Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited, Sightsavers, Dhun Pestonji Parakh Discretionary Trust, Tech Mahindra Foundation, Godrej Industries Ltd, SBIMF Funds Management Pvt Ltd, Viviana Mall (Sheth Developers & Realtors India Limited), Executors of the Estate of the late Miss Piloo N Garda, BPCL, Tata Sons Ltd, Rameshchandra H Kumavat, Lions Club of East Bombay, Suryavanshi Ads & Promotions LLP for supporting our various projects.

A big thank you to our large pool of volunteers as well. Their commitment ensures that a small organisation like the XRCVC is able to make a significant contribution and touch the lives of countless people all over the country.

In conclusion, our deep appreciation goes out to St. Xavier's College—the management, staff members and students, for demonstrating to educational institutes all over the country how a centre of learning can be truly inclusive for persons with disabilities, particularly blind and low-vision persons. Special thanks to Dr Agnelo Menezes, the Principal, whose ongoing support and guidance has helped the XRCVC to continue as a centre of excellence of national repute.

**Dr. Sam Taraporevala**  
Director, XRCVC



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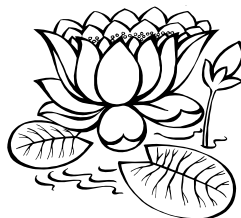
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