



# St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)

*Magazine 2022 - 2023*

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EDUCATIONWORLD RANKS  
**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MUMBAI**

**NO. 1**  
**PRIVATE**  
**AUTONOMOUS**  
**COLLEGE**  
2023



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## Editorial

As another year of academic cadence goes by, we reflect upon the milestones that we have been able to achieve in the last year and also set new goals to 'discover new skies'. The theme chosen for the annual college magazine was *Reconnecting and Recollecting*, to understand the significance of human interactions in a fast-paced world where communication was re-defining itself at every juncture. Moreover, it was exhilarating to revive human interaction on campus, which had become a virtual reality in the last few years.

The seminal stages of language acquisition begins as early as the prenatal stage when the fetus begins to identify patterns of sound and speech, especially that of the parents. Eventually, it progresses to receptive language and thereafter to expressive language whereby semiotics plays an important role. The close understanding of particular systems of language comprising the coding and decoding of signs and systems is a universal tool for communication. Typically, the role of the caregiver along with their engagement with the environment is crucial in the development of linguistic systems. Gradually it enables us to become receptive and perceptive— both very important life skills that may not be common among post-millennial generations. In a globalised world as we got lured by technological and economic advancements, interpersonal communication took a backseat. Alternate avenues like Metaverse were created for providing a platform for social (or virtual?) interactions. To argue for these developments, it has surely reduced the barriers of time and space with respect to communication. But at the same time what one must interrogate is the effectiveness of the process as it creates dangerous possibilities of the nuanced identity which may be "an imitation of an imitation" as Aristotle would have perhaps observed!

Are we then missing out on an intrinsic aspect of development? Are we restricting ourselves from exploring new vistas of opportunity? Or is the worldwide interaction, albeit virtual, actually bridging the gap and facilitating sharing of information? As paradoxical as it may seem, any progress is marked by challenges that human beings must learn to navigate through. Re/ connecting seems to be in jeopardy as an obvious outcome of the progress of society. As Ayn Rand observes in *The Fountainhead* (1943): "Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from men."

A rather interesting byproduct of technology has been the reduction in the time-space continuum which is ardently enabling and promoting the need to re-connect with our past; to re-visit cherished memories and to create narratives in the present. Or do we call them 'reels' as per Insta-jargon?! So we come to the other signifier in the theme: *Re-collecting*. Once again one relies on the kernel of language as the primary tool through which we would articulate our thoughts, feelings, and ideas, thereby facilitating meaningful interactions. Memory plays a vital role in shaping our identity, as it allows us to process past experiences, both good and bad, influencing our present and future actions. This interplay between language, memory, and communication thus brings us to the cusp of an interesting 'tragedy' where individuals become "patients etherized upon a table"-- as in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" – waiting to be resuscitated from the temporary numbness of fragmentation and trauma of trying to establish a sense of belongingness with the problematised space that presently inhabit. It leads one to observe how the Wordsworthian paradigm has transitioned with time where one needs to constantly debate on "emotions recollected in tranquility" and "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" as being un-poetic processes. We then re-write the meaning of 'poetry' as being laced with subjectivity and fluidity of experiences which validates the trend of 'collective memory' and coping mechanisms devised by individuals, cultures and generations to be able to continue with their lives. The essence of existence then becomes defined by matrices created when beams of human experiences refract through the prism of life- thus making each of them unique and subjective.

I wish to conclude with the narrative of Lightning McQueen from Pixar's *Cars*. In the era of *Need for Speed*, the rookie racing car's primary motive is to succeed. On his way to an important race, he crashes into Radiator Springs where he is responsible for a lot of destruction to human life and property. As a penalty, he is sentenced to community service, through which he introspects into life and realises that it is about the journey and not about the finishing line. May we carefully curate the moments of being which make our lives meaningful.

Dr. Prasita Mukherjee  
Editor-in-Chief

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# From the Rector - Embracing Change



*Change has become an integral part of our human experience. The past fifty years have witnessed rapid and exponential change like never before. Entering the portals of Xavier's as a student for the very first time entails embracing a world of change. This world is a world of great promise of personal and inter-personal growth, but it can also be quite daunting for some. However, the more we are ready to embrace wholesome and productive change, the easier it is for us to grow as persons, institutions and as a society.*

*At the institutional level, the College is preparing to embrace a few major changes. One is at the national level—the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The second is at the local level—the conferment of an “Empowered Autonomous” status by the Mumbai University. A third imminent one is the transition to University status.*

*Beginning in June 2023, the College is adventurously embarking upon the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020. The NEP is heavily student-centric, offering cross-disciplinary minors, a multitude of value and skill-based electives in various disciplines, the opportunity to change institutions mid-way through degrees, the chance to take courses and earn credits from other institutions, etc. An “academic bank of credits” (ABC) enables a smooth transition from one institution to another over a reasonable time frame. Adjusting to all of these possibilities may seem a Herculean task for institutions at the onset, but it is hoped that all of these efforts eventually bear fruit, in terms of empowering the largest population of youth in the world with relevant value and skill-sets, and thereby enhancing levels of formative education and employability.*

*We have been recently endowed with the distinction of being an “Empowered Autonomous College”. Future students will now have the College crest embossed on their graduation certificates, along with the crest of the Mumbai University, which will add to the brand value of their degrees. Besides this, we are invited to co-create courses with other similarly Empowered Autonomous Colleges.*

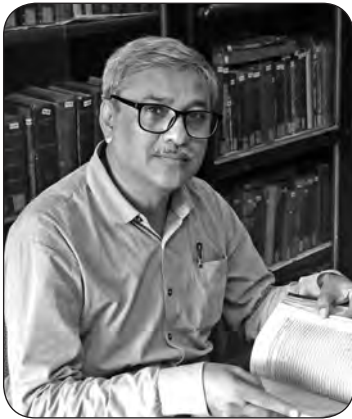
*A third change which is being contemplated is the move towards University status. Becoming a University is a natural progression from being an Autonomous College, and now an Empowered Autonomous College. This will entail greater academic, administrative and financial autonomy, and will facilitate greater innovation in educational offerings and wider international collaboration.*

*Jesuit educational institutions across the globe constitute one of the largest international networks of schools, colleges and universities. It is hoped that the NEP and our Empowered Autonomous Status will enable us to connect with this humungous network, so that our students will benefit from future inter-institutional educational ventures. We have enhanced this drive towards internationalization, forming productive linkages with Jesuit and other institutions nationally and globally. Our new Global Leadership Program (one STEM-based leadership and ethics-oriented Semester in Xavier's and the rest in partner institutions across the globe for Management and IT post-graduate degrees) is one example of many such programmes we will soon be co-creating with international institutions.*

*In a world of rapid change, it is not surprising that many of the jobs of the future have not as yet been conceptualized. As a consequence, much of the content our students grapple with in their classrooms may likely not be very relevant or applicable in the years ahead. However, the moral, emotional, interpersonal, spiritual and civic wisdom and skills they pick up along the way will always stand them in good stead. One of these wisdom-learnings is the openness and courage to embrace change.*

**Fr. Keith D'Souza, S.J.**  
Rector

# From the Principal's Desk



## *Reconnecting and Recollecting: A Journey of Resilience and Growth*

*Dear Xavierites,*

*As I sit down to pen this article for our annual college magazine, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and pride as it will be an apt reflection of the extraordinary journey we have undertaken together. Our college community has endured challenges, adapted to change, and emerged stronger, demonstrating remarkable resilience during these unprecedented times. In keeping with the theme of the magazine 'Reconnecting and Recollecting', I am reminded of the famous line of Robert Frost "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by." The pandemic had indeed presented us with two paths - one of fear and uncertainty, and the other of hope and determination. I am immensely proud that we chose the path of courage and perseverance, ensuring the continuity of our academic pursuits even in the face of adversity. As we reconnected in person, we realized the true value of interpersonal interactions, the joy of shared learning, and the significance of our academic, especially college community.*

*As I recall the days of the pandemic which compelled us to transition to fully remote and digital operations— in order to ensure that the continuum of learning is never compromised— we clearly experienced a void that was created as a consequence. The vibrant atmosphere of our campus, the camaraderie among friends, and the personal touch of our educators, students and colleagues had become a distant reality. Now, as we reunite in-person, we do so with renewed enthusiasm and a deeper appreciation for the value of human connections. The buzz of conversation in the corridors, the laughter during breaktime, and the eager faces in our classrooms signify the rebirth of our college spirit.*

*In the year 2022-23, The EducationWorld magazine ranked the college as number one in the category of private autonomous college in India. We have achieved this rank consistently for the fourth year in a row. In the NIRF Ranking, the college was placed in 101-150 slot.*

*During the academic year 2022-23, the college reopened on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023. After the Holy Eucharist service in the morning, the lectures for SY and TY began on 14 June. The International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21 June 2022. Due to Covid lockdown, the graduation ceremony which gave a miss in the previous year, was organized on 25 June 2022. To follow the COVID protocol, this ceremony was restricted to only the subject / courses/ programme toppers. Shri Vikas Chandra Rastogi, the Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Maharashtra addressed the new graduates on the occasion.*

*As a part of Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav and "HAR GHR ME TIRANGA", the Indian Tricolor was prominently displayed on the main college building and in the quadrangle. Our faculty enthusiastically celebrated the same by putting the tricolor at their respective home.*

*In its 43<sup>rd</sup> year, Malhar had an incredible response from audiences and participants alike, thus marking a new beginning for the festival. Apparently, Malhar was the first students' festival after two years of lockdown and received an overwhelming young crowd in college. Malhar 2022, the annual inter-collegiate festival of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. The theme was Malhar Aurora: Transcending Horizons. St. Xavier's team won the runners up trophy jointly with Atlas Skill Tech University and also bagged the LA & FA trophies.*

The SIP is an integral aspect of education in St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai. The academic year 2022-2023 was special as the SIP Department had placed 852 SY students from all streams, in 136 NGOs across India to offer their services through the online mode. Again, the SIP Department had organised for 497 FYBA, FYBA (MCJ) & FYBAF student volunteers to physically co-partner with 119 NGOs from across Mumbai and its satellite urban spaces.

Xavier's Alumni Association was revamped and reactivated by the management with the help of some enthusiastic alumni. @Home, which used to be the traditional programme in pre-covid time, was organized to reconnect the batches of 2019-20, 2020-2021 and 2021-22, who missed most of their college life due to COVID episode. Alumni from the batches enthusiastically responded to our call and turned up in large numbers to meet their friends and revive their fond memories of yesteryears. The Alumni dinner organized on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 was a grand success, where around 300 plus alumni joined to cherish the fellowship of their peers over dinner. 40 retired teachers were felicitated on this occasion. In the area of our student-alumni interactions, one of our alumnus Former Col Mohinder Pal Singh, spoke on careers in defense.

The Marathi Vangmaya Mandal (MaVaMa) started its centenary celebrations on Independence day. In January 2023, the Marathi Book Exhibition that was held to commemorate 'Marathi Bhasha Samvardhan Pandhravada' by the college Library. Marathi Vangmaya Mandal began its 100<sup>th</sup> Years Celebration with Aamod where Pakhian 2023 was released. The Panel Discussion on the theme – NAL was organized. The college hosted a Marathi Musical play "Madhurav", a tribute to the language - which depicts the evolution, history and richness of Marathi bhasha - presented by Ms. Madhura Velankar and her team on the occasion of Marathi Rajbhasha Din.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, The Feast of St. Francis Xavier was celebrated as our College Day. The day was also celebrated as the Student Council Day & Traditional Day. St. Xavier's Research Journal - Xplore was released by His Lordship Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes.

Under Autonomy, we initiated another new academic programme in the commerce section. The BCom in Accounts and Finance started in this academic year. In the Junior College, we started the Commerce section and a first batch of 60 students with Information Technology. DIRS initiated a new online Diploma Course in "Applied Ethics" and online Diploma on "Inter-Religious Traditions".

In the field of G20 Summit, St. Xavier's contributed through its XRVC which had organised a Policy Consultation on Education and Disability in collaboration with Rising Flame and Mariwala Health Initiative as a part of the C20 Disability, Equity and Justice Working Group at the college in a hybrid mode. The event was attended by Dr. Nipun Vinayak, IAS, State Project Director, Government of Maharashtra, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan as a Guest of Honour and the Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde made a presentation about Inclusive Education at St. Xavier College as one of the two "udaaharan" presentations. The outcome of these consultations and deliberations will be a robust policy brief incorporating recommendations to guide the commitments of the G20 leaders.

With the encouragement from the management, we have been slowly advancing into the research area. In the year 2022-23, the Caius Research Laboratory has received a grant of Rs. 34 Lakhs from Lady Bamford Foundation for a project on the development of protocols to estimate indigotin content in commercially available natural indigo and to assess extent of adulteration with synthetic indigo. Caius lab also received Harmony Organics Pvt LTD grant amount of Rs. 2,12,400/-. Our Interdisciplinary project grant - Builder - from Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India, continued this year too. Our FYSPC students won the state level First place in Avishkar, in the category of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Languages, in the 15<sup>th</sup> Maharashtra State Inter

University Research Convention held at SPPU, Pune from 13-15 Jan 2023. We also received the remaining 1.25 Crore grant from RUSA. In all, 43 research papers were published in various national and international journal by our Faculty. Two National and four international conferences were organized by our departments. In the month of April 2023, The Economics Department conducted its Summer School on the theme 'DATA MANAGEMENT IN SOCIAL SCIENCES'. The Caius Research Laboratory organized a summer workshop during vacation, on Analytical Techniques in Research (Advanced Level) as part of Honours Certificate Program 22-23 for students of SY and TYBSC. Our newly started BAF section initiated a fortnightly NEWS LETTER – The Currency of Change and published total 13 issues of the first volume.

In Sports, which is an area which needs improvement, our Senior college Girls were Runners Up at the Mumbai University Inter College Table Tennis Tournament and Winners at the Mumbai University Inter College Chess Tournament. Our Senior College Girls Volleyball Team, won the Mumbai University Intercollegiate Volleyball Tournament. Sagar Rane, MSc Part 1 – Physics student won the Silver medal in Mallakhamb for Maharashtra at 36<sup>th</sup> National Games held at Gujarat. He also won three medals at the All India Inter-University Mallakhamb Championship 2022-23.

The Annual Sports Day for the academic year 2022-2023 was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at the University Ground at Marine Lines.

The College magazine continued to receive the Late Prof. M. V. Chandgadkar Trophy for the Best College Magazine (2021-2022). This was awarded to us on 28.01.2023 at Podar College from Podar Ratna Mr. Sudhir Valia, Non-executive Director Sun Pharma.

To commemorate National Science Day, the Statistics Department and the Stats Society of the college held a lecture on 'Indian Statistical System and Sample Survey' for the BSc (Statistics) students. The Caius Research Laboratory had organised a 2-Open Day of the Central Instrumentation Facility as part of the National Science Day Celebration, so as to kindle the spirit of research in students. A number of students visited Caius lab during these 2-open day programme. The PG Department of Biotechnology conducted an experiential learning session for High School students from BMC schools through the facilitation of the NGO 'Sparsh'. The Department of Life Science & Biochemistry organized an Interactive Session on "Women's Health – Cancer Screening and Awareness. International Women's day was celebrated by organizing a Talk on "Healthy lifestyle" by Ms. Shambavi Kamat followed by the Dance workshop by Ms. Kevinnda Krishnan, dance trainer.

International programmes: As a part of Collaboration with Emlyon Business School, France - Makers Lab (Fabrication Lab) was Inaugurated Mr. Jean-Marc Sere-Charlet, Consul General of France in Mumbai at St Xavier's High School – Centenary Building. 2022-23 saw the return of the foreign exchange students post the pandemic. Students from IESEG school of Management, France and Comillas, Spain studied on our campus. The inhouse students spent a year at IESEG School of Management, France, Notre Dame University, USA. Three of our students attended the Berkeley Summer Session in May 2023. The Harvard College in Asia Programme was revived and eight of our students travelled to Harvard University in January 2023 to attend the Leadership Conference. The Spring Conference of the Harvard College in Asia Programme was held in St. Xavier's in March 2023. The field visit of the online course In Conversation with Globalization was held in February 2023. In connection with the same, students from the University of Stuttgart, Germany, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, University of Bergamo, Italy and St. Xavier's College participated in the course. The Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) was held between the Departments of English at St. Xavier's College and Creighton University, USA. Two foreign dignitaries namely the Former French Prime Minister and current Mayor of Le Havre Mr. Edouard Phillipe accompanied by the French Ambassador, French



Consul and their delegation were hosted by St. Xavier's College. The Former Prime Minister interacted with the students. Mr. Thomas Führmann, Mayor for Economy, Stuttgart and his delegation visited St. Xavier's. They visited the XRCVC, the Heras Museum and had an interaction on NEP with the Principal and Vice-Principal of Academics.

Towards the end of the year, however, we were faced with a new challenge: the implementation of the National Education Policy which was to herald a new era of transformation to our educational landscape. With its emphasis on holistic and multidisciplinary education, the NEP aligns perfectly with our vision at St. Xavier's College. As we embark upon the journey to integrate these reforms into our curriculum, we embrace the opportunity to showcase our academic versatility on a glocal platform. Our commitment to nurturing critical thinking, fostering creativity, and promoting inclusivity is more robust than ever before. The NEP's focus on experiential learning and skill development has encouraged us to broaden our horizons and introduce innovative teaching methodologies. By staying at the forefront of educational advancements, we aim to empower our students to be future leaders and responsible citizens of the world. I must appreciate and applaud the work done by our faculty, HODs and NEP Cell, lead by the NEP nodal officer – Dr. Karuna Gokarn, who together with the support from our management successfully put St Xavier's on the NEP road map.

As we move forward, let us remain united in our pursuit of excellence. The challenges we faced together have strengthened the bond within our college community. As we navigate through our journey, let our experiences serve as a constant reminder of our shared humanity and the power of empathy and compassion. In the spirit of reconnecting and recollecting, let us cherish every moment spent together on this campus. From engaging in profound discussions in our classrooms, participating in vibrant extracurricular activities, reaching out to the less privileged sections of society to simply savoring and strengthening the bond of friendship, each is a moment of being in our lives.

As I conclude, I am filled with hope for the future. Let us continue to inspire and support one another as we cruise through uncharted waters ahead. Together, we shall rise above any challenges that come our way, for we are Xavierites, and our spirit is indomitable. In the words of William Wordsworth:

*My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The Child is father of the Man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.*

*In unity and progress,*

**Dr. Rajendra Shinde**  
Principal

University of Mumbai



**University of Mumbai**  
*Best Principal Award*

This is to certify that

**Dr. Rajendra Shinde**  
St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

has been awarded the  
**Best Principal Award**  
for Urban Area  
for the Academic Year 2022-23

**Prin. (Dr.) Ajay Bhamare**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Mumbai

**Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Kulkarni**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Mumbai

Vidyanagari, Mumbai  
September 5, 2023



# IQAC

St. Xavier's College is committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares students for the ever-changing demands of the world and is a great place for students who are interested in research and lifelong learning.

The theme of the College for 2022-23 is 'learn, unlearn and relearn' which is particularly relevant in today's rapidly evolving job market. Students must be able to adapt to new technologies, and skill sets and find creative solutions to challenges posed by the pandemic.

The IQAC meetings were held in a hybrid mode on the Zoom platform for the four meetings in the academic year held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Important decisions such as passing the AQAR 2021-22, seed money policy and the NEP credit framework for implementation were the focus points of IQAC 2022-23.

The challenging task for the IQAC and the National Education Policy (NEP) Cell of the college was to prepare for the implementation of NEP in 2023-24 and stay ahead of the curve. The preparation began in the even semester with multiple deliberations by the NEP core committee, HODs, and all faculty. All faculty cooperated and the BOS of 25 departments was completed successfully in the stipulated time (1&1/2 months). Further, the Academic Council approved all courses offered by the departments of Arts, Commerce, and Science with the credit framework that was designed. Amendments were also made as per the 20th of April 2023 Government Resolution (GR) by the 31st of May 2023, showing the college's commitment to timely compliance and implementation.

## New Academic Programmes

New programmes, approved by the Academic Council in the earlier academic year began in 2022-23.

1. Bachelors in accounting and finance
2. Statistics Applied component 6<sup>th</sup> Semester.
3. Masters in economics
4. Certificate Course on IPR

## Capability Building for Teaching, Non-teaching Staff and Students: Workshops/ Webinar/Seminar

Title of the professional development program organized for teaching staff	Title of the administrative training program organized for non-teaching staff	Title of the program organized for students	No. of participants	Dates (DD/MM/YYYY)
	Functional Grammar for Spoken English-Basic		15	01/06/2022
	Functional Grammar for Spoken English-Intermediate		15	02/06/2022
	Functional Grammar for Spoken English-Advanced		15	03/06/2022
	Functional Grammar for Spoken English Proficiency		15	06/06/2022
Gender Sensitization workshop				29/06/2022
Teacher 3.0			49	06/07/2022
Implementation of NEP 2020			122	09/07/2022
	Spoken Office Vocabulary-Elementary		15	12/09/2022
	Spoken Office Vocabulary-Intermediate		15	13/09/2022
	Spoken Office Vocabulary-Advanced		15	14/09/2022
	Spoken Office Vocabulary-Proficiency		15	16/09/2022
Academic Leadership in Higher Education: Leading Self to Lead Others - Cultivating Personal and Interpersonal Effectiveness			42	16/09/2022
	Pranayama and meditation sessions for the general well-being of office staff		15	30/09/2022
	Making of Google Forms: Training for Office Staff		20	18/10/2022
IQAC, SXCM & the Center for Excellence in E-Content Development of IDOL, MU - A one-day introductory workshop on creating MOOCs			52	12/11/2022
NEP Implementation Talk by Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni for HODs			25	03/12/2022
		Iyengar yoga workshop students	30	16 to 20/01/2023
		Yoga for Students with disabilities	30	22-02-2023
		Science Day celebrations by science departments	Average 100	28-02-2023

Faculty took advantage of online capability-building programmes organized by other Institutes/Colleges.

Sr. No.	Capability building	No. of teachers
1	Refresher course	02
2	Short-term FDP (6-15 days)	08
3	Certificate course - Online	01

### Research:

No. of Faculty who completed Ph.D. = 03

No. of students who completed Ph.D. = 02

No. of Students registered for Ph.D. = 04

### Course/Programme wise distribution of pass percentage:

S. No.	Title of the Programme	Total No. of Students Appeared	Distinction %	1st Class %	2nd Class %	Pass Class %
1	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	327	56.9	34.6	8.3	0.3
2	Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)	213	39	37.1	23.9	0
3	Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.)	43	20.9	25.6	51.2	2.3
4	Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS)	60	56.7	35	8.3	0
5	Bachelor of Mass Media (BMM)	64	71.9	28.1	0	0
6	Bachelor of Information Tech. (B.Sc. IT)	57	33.3	56.1	10.5	0
9	M.Sc. Botany	16	43.8	43.8	12.5	0
10	M.Sc. Geology	13	15.4	46.2	38.5	0
11	M.Sc. Life Science	16	56.2	31.2	12.5	0
12	M.Sc. Microbiology	16	25	37.5	31.2	6.2
13	M.Sc. Biotechnology	26	50	34.6	15.4	0
14	M.A. Ancient Indian Culture (A.I.C.)	24	25	58.3	12.5	4.2
15	M.A. Public Policy	40	37.5	50	12.5	0
16	M.A. Psychology LIFESPAN COUNSELLING	31	45.2	41.9	12.9	0
17	M. S c . P h y s i c (ASTROPHYSICS)	12	16.7	83.3	0	0

### Activities/Initiatives/Updates

#### AQAR Related:

- The AQAR 2021-22 was submitted successfully.

#### Extension of Autonomy:

- The college applied for the extension of Autonomy to UGC.

#### Faculty promotions under the Career advancement scheme:

The following faculty members were promoted from Assistant Professor

#### • Stage 2 to 3

- Dr. Vijaya Lobo, Botany
- Dr. Pralhad Rege, Chemistry

#### • Stage 3 to 4 (Associate Professor)

- Jotiram Gaikwad, Commerce
- Kamaji Bokare, Commerce
- Ashok Bingi, Mathematics

The following faculty members were promoted from Associate Professor

#### • Stage 4 to 5 (Professor)

- Dr. Priya Sundarajan, Life Science & Biochemistry
- Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, Geology
- Dr. Arvind Dhond, Commerce

#### Seed money:

- Seed money proposals were presented by 6 departments. The departments of Mathematics, Geology/AIC, Microbiology, Zoology & Life Science received the seed money amount of Rs. One lakh each. The progress of the research work will be reviewed after 6 months. The initiative taken by the Management for the disbursement of the seed money was well appreciated.

#### Teaching plans:

- Teaching plans were submitted by the Departments for both the odd and even semesters.

#### Feedback and Survey:

Online teaching questionnaire:

- An online teaching questionnaire was administered (odd and even semesters) for UG and PG students. As a follow-up, the analysis was shared with individual teachers to help them understand their strengths and weaknesses.
- Sit-ins for new teachers were done by the Vice Principals and Department HODs. The strong and weak points were discussed with the faculty individually.

Faculty feedback questionnaire:

- A questionnaire of 36+12= 48 questions was prepared and administered to the teachers regarding their work life.

#### Honours Certificate Programme:

- A total of 696 UG students across all disciplines registered for the Honours Certificate Programme. The Honours certificate will be awarded to 77 TY students who have successfully completed the co-curricular activity. In addition,

individual credit cards for all Honours activities will be given to the students.

#### **DBT Grants:**

- Statistics used the DBT Star Status - recurring grant to conduct seminars and workshops.
- DBT-Builder for PG departments - recurring was used to purchase consumables which were used for the Builder projects.

#### **National Education Policy Implementation:**

- The NEP Core Committee meetings were held every Friday in the even semester to decide upon a suitable credit framework for the college, as per the guidelines received from the MU and Maharashtra steering committee. The NEP will be implemented from the academic year 2023-24.
- NEP was explained to parents during the Parent Teacher

Meetings of junior as well as senior college.

- Based on the NEP credit framework designed for SXCM, BOS meetings were held in all departments of Arts, Commerce, and Science. The Academic Council approved all UG courses that were presented. The Steering Committee of Maharashtra issued a GR on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, so accordingly amendments were made.

**Dr. Ms. Karuna Gokarn**  
IQAC Director, VP Academics

*Memories are bullets. Some whiz by and only spook you. Others tear you open and leave you in pieces.*

*– Richard Kadrey*

*What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments but what is woven into the lives of others.*

*– Pericles*

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2022 - 2023

Book or book chapter published in 2022-23			
Department	Title of the paper	Name of the author	Book/Book chapter details
Botany	Functional Components and Biological activities of <i>Kaempferia galanga</i> L. (Chandramoolika)	Chachad, D. P., & Mondal, M.	In <i>Phytochemistry and pharmacology of medicinal plants</i> (First edition). Apple Academic Press.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Omics Technologies in Crop Development	Abraham, K., & Sundarrajan, P.	In A. Sahu, D. Bisen, N. Mahawar, & A. K (Eds.), <i>Agriculture Science: Research and Review Volume: Vol. X</i> (1st ed., pp. 118–135). Bhumi Publishing.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	An Overview of Tools for Genome Editing: ZFNs, Mega Nucleases, and Talens	Bhagtaney, L., & Sundarrajan, P.	In D. Pandita & Pandita Anu (Eds.), <i>CRISPR/Cas-mediated genome editing in plants</i> (First edition, pp. 37–64). Apple Academic Press.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Applications of Multi-omics Approaches for Food and Nutritional Security.	Pandohee, J., Basu, R., Dasgupta, S., Sundarrajan, P., Shaikh, N., Patel, N., & Noor, A.	In C. S. Prakash, S. Fiaz, M. A. Nadeem, F. S. Baloch, & A. Qayyum (Eds.), <i>Sustainable Agriculture in the Era of the OMICs Revolution</i> (pp. 103–118). Springer International Publishing.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Preventive Roles of Phytochemicals from <i>Ficus carica</i> in Diabetes and Its Secondary Complications.	Paramanya, A., Patel, N., Kumar, D., Kamal, F. Z., Yiğit, B. M., Sundarrajan, P., Balyan, P., Khan, J., & Ali, A.	In M. F. Ramadan (Ed.), <i>Fig (Ficus carica): Production, Processing, and Properties</i> (pp. 539–559). Springer International Publishing.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Biotechnologically Engineered Transgenic Medicinal Plants: Exploration of Antidiabetic Properties.	Sundarrajan, P., & Bhagtaney, L.	In D. Pandita, A. Pandita, & C. Bhanu (Eds.), <i>Antidiabetic potential of plants in the era of omics</i> (First edition, pp. 279–324). Apple Academic Press.
Chemistry	Biogenic synthesis of quantum dots.	Gupta, M., Yadav, I., & Jain, A.	In Ameta R., Bhatt J.P., Ameta S.C., <i>Quantum Dots</i> (pp. 93–114).
Chemistry	Research and Development in Pharmaceutical Science Volume 5	Varma, A. K., M, S., Pratibha, & Rege, P.	Bhumi Publishing
Microbiology	Repurposing Siderophores as Antitubercular Agents.	Gokarn, K., & Pal, R. B.	In Dr. E. Magiorkinis, <i>Emerging Trends in Disease and Health Research Vol. 9</i> (pp. 92–108). Book Publisher International (a part of SCIENCEDOMAIN International).

**Journal articles published in 2022-23**

Department	Title of the paper	Name of the author	Journal details
Blatter Herbarium and Botany	On the occurrence of <i>Ipomoea rumicifolia</i> Choisy (Convolvulaceae) in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.	Kale, P. V., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Journal of Global Biosciences</i> , 11(11), 9517–9527.
Blatter Herbarium and Botany	Lectotypification of <i>Impatiens kleiniformis</i> Sedgw. (Balsaminaceae) and <i>Habenaria multicaudata</i> Sedgw. (Orchidaceae)- The two endemic plant species described by L. J. Sedwick from Southern-Western Indian peninsula.	Kale, P. V., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Journal of Global Biosciences</i> , 12(3), 9735–9746.
Blatter Herbarium and Botany	Lectotypification of <i>Cyathocline manilaliana</i> (Asteraceae) and its extended distribution to Daund taluka, Maharashtra, India.	Kale, P. V., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Journal of Indian Botanical Science</i> , 103(1), 56–61.
Blatter Herbarium and Botany	On the occurrence of <i>Ipomoea vagans</i> Baker (Convolvulaceae) and distribution of <i>Ipomoea rumicifolia</i> Choisy (Convolvulaceae) in India with nomenclatural notes.	Kale, P. V., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Journal of Global Biosciences</i> , 12(2), 9595–9636.
Botany	Aromatherapy of <i>Santalum album</i> Linn. And its antiviral activity.	Das, S., & Khan, S.	<i>Journal of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Sciences</i> , 44(1–2), 12–20.
Botany	Lectotypification of <i>Andropogon hackelii</i> (Poaceae: Andropogoneae) and its correct identification in India.	Landge, S. N., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Phytotaxa</i> , 564(2), 273–276.
Botany	Lectotypification of <i>Chloris bournei</i> (Poaceae: Chloridoideae) and its distribution in India.	Landge, S. N., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Phytotaxa</i> , 554(3), 293–296.
Botany	Lectotypification of <i>Chloris montana</i> (Poaceae: Chloridoideae) and taxonomic notes on a few species from India.	Landge, S. N., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Phytotaxa</i> , 550(3), 243–252.
Botany	Pharmacognostical analysis of seeds of <i>Carica papaya</i> Linn. And <i>Momordica charantia</i> Linn.	Mondal, M., & Chanchad, D.	<i>Journal of Indian Botanical Society</i> , 102(2), 171–176.
Botany	On the taxonomic identity of <i>Capillipedium mistryi</i> A. P. Tiwari & Landge (Poaceae: Andropogoneae) and synonymisation of <i>C. yashwantraoi</i> Tarbej & Potdar as its new heterotypic synonym.	Nawaz Landge, S., Tiwari, A. P., & Shinde, R. D.	<i>Nordic Journal of Botany</i> , 2023(6), e03986.

Botany	Engaging Academic Institutions in Biodiversity Mapping and conservation: A case study of University of Mumbai.	Phadke, A., Shah, N., Jejurikar, S., Singh, R., Dalvi, T., Pradhan, Y., Anavkar, A., Sardar, S., Kumbhar, U., Jaiswal, R., Mishra, K., Mhatre, S., Patkar, P., Tiwari, N., Iyer, S., Choudhari, C., Tiwari, A., Singh, K., Pednekar, S., Gawai N., Majumdar, S.	<i>Sambhasan</i> , 3(2), 84–102.
Botany	Influence of Arbuscular Mycorrhiza in Imparting Drought Resistance to Rice ( <i>Oryza sativa</i> L.).	Santosh, A., & Lobo, V.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 1–14.
Botany	A Brief Account of The Genus <i>Cordia</i> (Boraginaceae) in Maharashtra.	Shinde, R. D., & Gupte, N.	<i>Annals of Plant Sciences</i> , 11(10), 5455–5464.
Botany	The Systematic Position of Some Species of Boraginaceae Family as Inferred Using Rbcl Barcode Marker of Chloroplast Genome.	Shinde, R. D., & Gupte, N.	<i>Annals of Plant Sciences</i> , 12(04).
Botany	<i>Oropetium almeidanum</i> (Poaceae: Chloridoideae): a new species from The Thar Desert, Rajasthan, India.	Shinde, R. D., Landge, S. N., Kulloli, R. N., & Chorghe, A. R.	<i>Phytotaxa</i> , 579(4).
Botany	Medicinally important plants from Borginaceae of Maharashtra.	Shinde, R., & Gupte, N.	<i>Journal of Global Biosciences</i> , 11(8), 9403–9431.
Botany	Notes on extended distributions of two critically endangered <i>Ceropegia</i> species (Apocynaceae).	Singh, R., Shinde, R., & Sawant, M.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 31–35.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Characterization of lipase from lipase-producing bacteria and its application in the reduction of triglyceride content in milk sample.	Bodhak, D., and Sundarrajan, P.	<i>Research Journal of Biotechnology</i> , 17(11), 118–126.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Extraction of antioxidants from potato peels and incorporation into value-added products.	Haque, M. M. M., Ibrahim, G., & Sundarrajan, P.	<i>Annals of Phytomedicine: An International Journal</i> , 11(1), 389-395.
Caius, Life science and Biochemistry	Characterization of Protease from Protease Producing Microorganisms and its application in Food Industry.	Kambali, R., Ibrahim, G., & Sundarrajan, P.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 80–88.
Chemistry	Development of high-performing novel heterogenous fenton-like catalysts for the abatement of organic pollutants.	Jain, A., & Ameta, C.	<i>Journal of the Chilean Chemical Society</i> , 67(4), 5692–5701.



Chemistry	Standardization of solvent extraction of tannins and evaluation of antimicrobial activity of <i>Moringa oleifera</i> leaves.	Kadge, S., Rege, P., Risbud, G., Palekar, S., & Jain, D.	<i>International journal of research and analytical reviews</i> , 10(1), 305-312.
Commerce and Accounts	The role of Fintech in financial inclusion.	Purohit, P. S.	<i>Electronic International Interdisciplinary Research Journal</i> , XII(I (a)), 50-56.
Commerce and Accounts	The Impact of Block Chain Technology on Traditional Financial Markets.	Purohit, P. S.	<i>Utkal Historical Research Journal</i> , 36(1), 193-198.
Geology	Western Ghats Laterite: An Architecturally and Culturally Iconic Stone from India with Special Reference to Goa.	Kaur, P., Saini, J., Sharma, U., Duraiswami, R., Mathew, B. P., Sreejith, C., & Kaur, G.	<i>Geoheritage</i> , 15(1), 38.
Geology	Iolite: A Directional Colour Changing Gemstone from Karur, Tamil Nadu.	Vaz, N., & Henriques, P.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 89.
Microbiology	Nanopore-based metagenomic analysis of the impact of nanoparticles on soil microbial communities.	Chavan, S., Sarangdhar, V., & Vigneshwaran, N.	<i>Heliyon</i> , 8(6), e09693.
Microbiology	Comparative sequence analysis of PE5 proteins in <i>Mycobacterium</i> species – A computational study.	Gokarn, K., Nair, A., Gurram, B., & D'Souza, N.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 50-63.
Microbiology	Repurposing Over-the-Counter Drugs and an Iron-Chelator as Antibacterial Agents.	Gokarn K., Jadhav P, Sagar R., Palkar P., & Odapalli S.	<i>Biosciences Biotechnology Research Asia</i> , 19(4), 1051-1063.
Microbiology	Evaluation of Antioxidant Potential and UV Protective Properties of Four Bacterial Pigments.	Koshti, R., Jagtap, A., Noronha, D., Patkar, S., Nazareth, J., Paulose, R., Chakraborty, A., & Chakraborty, P.	<i>Microbiology and Biotechnology Letters</i> , 50(3), 375-386.
Microbiology	CRISPR-Cas System: A Tool to Eliminate Drug-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria.	Kundar, R., & Gokarn, K.	<i>Pharmaceuticals (Basel, Switzerland)</i> , 15(12), 1498.
Microbiology	Effect of mutations on the structure of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> KatG protein and interactions with Isoniazid - An in-silico study.	Falcao B., Dsouza N., Gokarn K.	<i>Research Journal of Biotechnology</i> , 17(9), 66-73.
Physics	Comparative study of a MOSFET Current Mirror and a Cascade current Mirror using simulation.	Cardoz, E., Yadav, A., & Singh, P.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 15-20.
Statistics	The univariate geometric distribution in the presence of outliers and estimators of its parameter.	Shankarnarayanan, A.	<i>Xplore The Xavier's Research Journal Science</i> , 13(1), 36-39.

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP 2021 - 2022

Sr.No	SR		Name of the Scholarship	Name of 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	Bhat Niyati
2	A	2	the Printer, Lukhansi Nappo, Edwin and Edith Noronha and Munshi Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.J.C. Science	Ghogari Mohammed Arsalan
3	A	3	the Mrs. Amba C. P. Wadia Scholarship for a deserving Parsi boy highest at the FYJC examination.	Kalwachwala Farzan
4	A	4	the Pragji Purshottam Bhatia and Vurdhman Jetsey Scholarship for a Hindu student with the highest average in FYJC (Arts or Science).	Deore Juhi
		<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)	Miranda Reuben Ronald
6	B	2	the Prof. Abbas, Ardeshir Dhunjishaw Lalkakaand Maneckjee Framjee Hormusjee Sethna Scholarship for highest aggregate at the HSC examination and continuing with FYBA.	Aguiar Karen Ashton
7	B	3	the P. A. Hormasjee Wadia Scholarship to a Parsi lady student for highest in French at the HSC examination.	Umrigier Yoishtaa Zarir
8	B	4	the MeenalDinkar Rao Mugve Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the H.S.C. examination.	Patankar Shyam Vishwas
9	B	6	the Fr.Sacasa's, Nadkarny-Kothare, Prof. R.N. Bhagwat Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the H.S.C. examination.	Patankar Shyam Vishwas
10	B	8	the Parimal K. Shroff Prize for highest marks in Political Science at the HSC examination.	Sayali Suhas Gawas Austin Lobo
11	B	9	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.	Austin Lobo
12	B	10	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	Umrigier Yoishtaa Zarir
13	B	11	The Late Anirudha Jayprakash Bhogle Scholarship for a deserving student with the highest marks in Biology at the HSC examination.	Rahate Purva Prakash
14	B	12	the Neena Nigam Memorial Scholarship for higher learning	Siddhesh Utekar (VC) (TYBA)
15	B	13	Joel Boaz D'souza Memorial Scholarship for deserving student of FY	Kalyani Borra
		14	Joel Boaz D'souza Memorial Scholarship for deserving student of SY	Afzal Rahman Shaikh
		15	Joel Boaz D'souza Memorial Scholarship for deserving student of TY	Arfat Ahmed Shaikh (TYBSc contd from SyBSc PCM)
16		16	W. P. Ochaney And Mrs. Meera & V. N. Bhatia Scholarship (if no needy student is there from these subjects it can be given to any FYBA/FYBSc student). Deserving F.Y.B.Sc student of Statistics	Lin Mariya Thomas
		17	FYBA student of Sociology - Economics	Asmi Sonar
17		18	"Hari Subramanian Scholarship for Academic Achievement in Science" for an economically deserving undergraduate woman student who scored the highest marks in the 12 <sup>th</sup> standard in Physics and has joined St. Xavier's senior college in the Science stream and wishes to major in Physics. Note: If such a candidate is not found, the scholarship may be given to any other economically deserving undergraduate woman student in the Science stream.	Aasfa Kaifi Patel (FYBSc PCM)
		<b>C</b>	<b>POST FYBA/FYBSc</b>	
18	C	1	the Jehangir Bomanji, Tullakchand Maneckchand Vijbhukhandas Atmaram Mehta and the Caius Scholarship for highest aggregate at the FYBA Examination	Aashni Dsousa Rebello
19	C	2	the Prof. C. D. Pinto, and Fr. Hamilton Scholarship for the highest in English Literature at the FYBA examination.	Khushee Kadam
20	C	3	the Hindi Sahitya Mandal Scholarship for highest in Hindi (Ancillary) at the FYBA examination.	Merlin Darryl Cheruvathoor Gunjan Singhvi
21	C	5	MeenalDinkar Rao Mugve Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the FYBSc examination and continuing with Chemistry in SYBSc.	Riya Bahl
22	C	6	the Fr. Sierp, Prof. S. K. Chhapgar for highest in Chemistry at the FYBSc examination and continuing with Chemistry in SYBSc.	Riya Bahl
23	C	7	the College Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.B.Sc. - IT examination	Aarushi Voodev Parida
24	C	8	the College Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.B.M.M. examination	Charumann Satyapriya Dube
25	C	9	the College Scholarship for highest at the F.Y.B.M.S. examination	Tanamay Banka

Sr.No	SR		Name of the Scholarship	Name of Awardee
26	C	10	the Burjor Kaikobad Doctor, Khan Bahadur Hormusji Kharshedji Bhabha, and Dinshaw Shavakshaw Adenwalla Scholarship for a Parsi student highest in FYBA/FYBSc examination.	Randeria Mehernaz Eric
27	C	11	the Dr. Lewis Gomes and the Parsi Association, D. K. Kamdin and R. C. Chanrai Scholarship for a deserving student in SYBSc/SYBA	Violet D'souza (SYBA)
28	C	12	Fredie A Mehta Scholarship for highest in Economics at the FYBA examination.	Aaria Parag Pandey
29	C	13	the A.V. Krishnamurti Scholarship for highest in Physics at FYBSc examination and continuing with Physics	Rianna Sunil Jamdar
30	C	14	the Dattatraya and Meera Mugve Scholarship for the highest aggregate at the FYBSc examination	Aneesha Sreekanth
		<b>D</b>	<b>POST SYBA/SYBSc</b>	
31	D	1	the Sir Currimbhoy Ebrahim, Jamsetji Ardeshir Wadia and Joseph Manuel D'Souza Scholarship for highest at the SYBA examination.	Keya Sagar Daruwala
32	D	2	the Dr. Shashishekhar Naithani Scholarship for highest in SYBA Hindi (Ancillary).	Adhila Thirumalai
33	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).	Amaan Ahsan Baksh
34	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	Nadkarni Sakshi Amit
35	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.	Mehta Abhay Siddharth
36	D	6	the Late Prof. Anthony Monteiro Scholarship for highest in SYBSc Chemistry and continuing with Chemistry in TYBSc.	Diya Bose
37	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.	Sayyed Adeeba Afshin Wasim Ahmed
38	D	8	the Shreevrat Goenka Scholarship for a student of SYBSc highest in Life Science and continuing in TYBSc	Anirudh Sharma
39	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	Prachit Rohit Phanse
40	D	10	the Prof. Dara M. Munshi and M. Krishnan Memorial Scholarship for highest in Zoology at SYBSc and continuing with Zoology in TYBSc.	Khushi Chhibber
41	D	11	the College Scholarship for highest at the S.Y.B.M.S examination	Aakarsh Nair
42	D	12	the College Scholarship for highest at the S.Y.B.M.M examination	Zara Ann Dias
43	D	13	the College Scholarship for highest at the S.Y.B.Sc - IT examination.	Elisha Cherian
44	D	14	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.	Melron Dsouza (SYBSc)
45	D	15	Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for highest in Economics at FY & SYBA and continuing with Economics at TYBA (6 papers)	Anuj Khare
		<b>E</b>	<b>POST TYBA/BSc</b>	
46	E	1	the Mr. Hadi C. Tyabjee, J. J. & G. J. Lalwani and Hilloo Scholarship for highest aggregate at the TYBA examinations.	Farishta Malcolm Anjirbag
47	E	2	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for girl student highest in AIC at the TYBA examinations.	Mrinalini Pankaj Sampat
48	E	3	The Shodhan Prasad Dave Memorial Prize for highest in Economics (3 Unit) at the TYBA examinations.	Riddhi Agarwal
49	E	4	the Dewan R. N. Saigal Scholarship for the best Economics Honours Programme student.	Ann Merine Thomas
50	E	5	the Carmelita and Charles Nazareth Scholarship for highest in English at the TYBA examinations.	Farishta Malcolm Anjirbag
51	E	6	The Dr. Mohamed Bazlur Rehman Scholarship for Catholic student highest in English (6 papers) at the TYBA examinations and pursuing post-graduation studies	Rhea Elizabeth Pothen
52	E	7	the Fr. Edward D'Cruz Political Science Scholarship for highest aggregate in entire Political Science (8 papers) at the TYBA examinations.	Akanksha Dharmesh Mishra
53	E	8	the Parimal K. Shroff Prize for highest marks in Political Science at the TYBA examinations	Akanksha Dharmesh Mishra
54	E	9	the Late Mrs. Kaushalya Sethi Scholarship for highest in Psychology (Major) at the TYBA examinations.	Manvi Siddharth Mehta
55	E	10	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for Catholic girl student highest at the TYBA examinations.	Joseph Samantha Shammy
56		11	the "Lakshmi Kasi Scholarship for Academic Achievement in Arts/Humanities" for a student with physical (or other) disability, who scored the highest marks in the Third Year in the Arts/Humanities stream. Note: If such a candidate is not found, the scholarship may be given to a student with physical (or other) disability in any other stream.	Naagaraj Irapanna Sutar (VC) (TYBA CGPA 7.50)

Sr.No	SR	Name of the Scholarship	Name of Awardee	
	12*	the "Lakshmi Kasi Scholarship for Academic Achievement in Science" for a student with physical disability, who scored the highest marks in the Third Year in the Science stream. (Note: Amount given separately as an exception for this year) *This scholarship is only for this year	Yagnit Vadhel (VC) (TYBSc-Chem)	
57		The "Aarti Shyamsunder Scholarship for Effort and Cumulative Improvement in Academic Performance" for a third-year Psychology (full) major student, who has shown the most improvement in CGPA, determined by tracing CGPA from the end of the first semester to CGPA at the end of the sixth semester.	Adiyel Bethia Fernandes	
58	E	11	the Mr. Hadi C. Tyabjee and the Pragji Purshottam Bhatia Scholarship for highest at the TYBSc examinations.	Tanish Vipin Botadkar
59	E	12	the D. L. Modi Scholarship for highest in Chemistry at the TYBSc examinations.	Parth Bhavsar
60	E	13	Dr. M. P. Sujayakumari and the Department of Life Sciences Scholarship for highest in TYBSc (3 units) Life Science.	Tanish Vipin Botadkar
61	E	14	the Department of Life Sciences Scholarship for highest in TYBSc (6 units) Life Science	Diya Devesh Jhaveri
62	E	15	the Minoo H. Matbar, Burjor Kaikobad Doctor Memorial, and Sarabhai Dipchand Shah Scholarship for highest in Mathematics at the TYBSc examinations.	Shenelle Pereira
63	E	16	the Prof. Joseph Selwyn Dias, Malcolm Pereira and Prof. Sam J. Khambatta Scholarship for highest in Physics at the TYBSc examinations.	Atharva S Naik
64	E	17	Mukul Singhal Scholarship for the highest aggregate at the TYBSc examinations in Physics	Atharva S Naik
65	E	18	Late M V Bhagwat scholarship for outstanding student of TYBSc in Physics	Roshni Sahoo
66	E	19	the Almeidas' Botany Scholarship for highest in Botany at the TYBSc examinations.	Palash Prashant Sukhdeve
67	E	20	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for a girl student highest in Statistics at the TYBSc examinations	InshaDurwesh
68	E	21	Dr. Edgar DaSilva Memorial prize for the highest in Microbiology at the T.Y.B.Sc. examination	Ragini Khanna
69	E	22	Dr. Edgar DaSilva Memorial prize for the highest aggregate at the T.Y.B.A. examination	Farishta Malcolm Anjirbag
70	E	23	the Prof. J. V. Bhat Memorial Scholarship for second highest in Microbiology at the TYBSc examinations	Isha Sandeep Maloo
71	E	24	the Joan Dias Memorial Prize for Catholic girl student highest at the TYBSc examinations.	Gloria Francis Singh
72	E	25	the College Scholarship for Ranking First in B.M.S.	Mirza Fareez
73	E	26	the Late Mr. Abdul Hameed Ansari Scholarship for Ranking First in T.Y.B.M.M. (Advertising)	Natasha Dedhia
74	E	27	the Late Mr. Abdul Hameed Ansari Scholarship for Ranking First in T.Y.B.M.M. (Journalism)	Ira Ghosh
75	E	28	the Khan Bahadur Hormasji Kharshedji Bhabha and Rev. Fr. Heras, S. J. Scholarship for highest in History at TYBA examinations and continuing with MA in History.	Srushti Vilas More
76	E	29	the Sociology Academy Scholarship for highest in Sociology at the TYBA examinations excellence in other activities of College and continuing with Post Graduation	Simran Ajay Parashar
77	E	30	the Dr. N. A. Irani Memorial Scholarship for best aggregate in Botany at the BSc and continuing with MSc. in Plant Taxonomy	Sandra Cyriac
78	E	31	the Late Noshirwan H. Sethna Geology Scholarship for highest in Geology at the BSc examinations and continuing with Geology.	Megh Mandar Kanvinde
79	E	32	the Sheila M. Joseph Memorial Fund Scholarship for highest in Zoology at the BSc and continuing with MSc in Zoology.	Shameen Siddiqui
80	E	33	the Sir Dinshaw M. Petit Post Graduate Scholarship and the Ardeshir Hormasjee Wadia Fund for Parsi student continuing with post graduation studies.	Farishta Malcolm Anjirbag
81	E	34	the Prof. Saroj Hazari Scholarship for highest marks in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century English Literature at the TYBA examinations.	Anupriya Anurag Asthana
82	E	35	Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for best aggregate in Economics of the BA exams and continuing with post-graduation studies in Economics.	Dhanisha Raj
83	E	36	the Dr. R. K. Hazari Memorial Prize for second highest marks in Economics at the BA examinations.	Nisha Uday Gokhale
84	E	37	Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for deserving student with best aggregate in Economics of the BA examination and continuing with post-graduation studies in Economics.	Shagnik Chakravarty
87	E	38	the College scholarship for Ranking First in B.Sc. (IT).	Vandan Rogheliya
88	E	39	Mrs. Kalpana Hansraj Chaudhuri Scholarship for deserving girl student continuing post graduate in Life-Science	Chrissie Rose Promod
89	E	40	Mukul Singhal Scholarship for highest aggregate at the BSc examinations	Tanish Vipin Botadkar
90	E	41	the Late Prof. Cavas J. Shroff Scholarship for highest marks in Statistics at the BSc examinations.	Insha Durwesh
91	E	42	the Ms. Bakhtawar Sam Sethna Scholarship for female student securing highest in Geology at the BSc examinations	Namishka Mendonca

Sr.No	SR		Name of the Scholarship	Name of Awardee
92	E	43	Ayan Dixit Memorial Award for best creative literary pursuit	Mehak Singh (TYBSc)
93	E	44	Ayan Dixit Memorial Award for second best creative literary pursuit	Krishna Sawant (TYBA)
		F	<b>SENIOR MA &amp; MSc</b>	
94	F	1	the Dr. Ratan Nadirshaw Sureshwala and Dr. Dayanand Dattatraya Yellur Scholarship for highest in Geology at MSc Part I.	Yashodhara Ganguly
95	F	2	the Dr. Ratan Nadirshaw Sureshwala and Dr. Dayanand Dattatraya Yellur Scholarship for highest in Geology at MSc Part II.	Shalini Saikia
96	F	3	the College scholarship for highest in Biotechnology at the M.Sc. Examination	Nidhi Sehgal
97	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	Shriwastav Abhranta Sunil
98	F	5	the Dr. Yvonne Mae Freitas Scholarship for highest in Microbiology at the M.Sc. Part I Examination	Ingrid Fonseca
99	F	6	the Dr. Yvonne Mae Freitas Scholarship for highest in Microbiology at the M.Sc. Examination	Alister Danny Adrian Dsouza
100	F	6	the Dr. Yvonne Mae Freitas Scholarship for second highest in Microbiology at the M.Sc. Examination	Maitri Khemka
101	F	8	the Shreevrat Goenka Scholarship for a meritorious post-graduate student of Life Science	Atharva Yatin Naik
102	F	9	the Anjane John Scholarship for deserving student pursuing the master's programme in Biotechnology	Riya Rawool
103	F	10	Dr. M.A. Eswaran Scholarship for a deserving student of M.Sc. Life Science	Sheba Sonar
		11		Neha Kahar
104	F	12	Gracie Borges Prize in Botany for the best dissertation in MSc Part II	Shreya Das
		13		Kajal Uniyal
		G	<b>GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP</b>	
105	G	1	Prof. Edward Mendonca and Ashok Kamte Memorial Award for the Student of the Year	NA
106	G	2	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the F.Y.B.A. examination.	NA
107	G	3	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the F.Y.B.Sc. examination.	
108	G	5	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the S.Y.B.A. examination.	
109	G	6	the Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for the best academic performance at the S.Y.B.Sc. examination.	
110	G	7	Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for the most promising student of the Xavier's Resource Centre for Visually Challenged (XRCVC)	Yagnit Vadhel
104	G	8	the St. Xavier's College Association Golden Jubilee Scholarship for excellence in academics, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.	Malaika Petula Dmello (TYBSc - Life Sc)
105	G	9	the St.Xavier's College Association Fr. Balaguer Scholarship for a Senior College student who is outstanding in social work.	Aakanksha Jairaj (TYBA)
106	G	10	the Fr. M.M. Balaguer, S.J. Scholarship for hardworking Senior College Catholic student.	
107	G	11	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.	Ritu Chand (TYBSc Stats)
108	G	13	the Felon Bossuet Godinho Hindi Paritoshik and the Kamla Hindi Paritoshik	Ajay Kharb (SYBA)
109	G	14	the Prof. Khalil Dehdashti Memorial Persian Scholarship for highest in Islamic Culture Studies.	
111	G	15	the Hostelite Welfare and Shastri Scholarship for a deserving hostelite.	NA
112	G	16	the Hostelite Welfare and Shastri Scholarship for a Meritorious hostelite.	NA
113	G	17	the Vinod Mehra Scholarship for the best cultural talent.	Eeshwaree Kataria
114	G	18	the Late Gurcharan Kaur, Amrik Singh, Surender Jeet Singh &Varalakshimi P. Singh Scholarship for a deserving student.	Manish Tyagi (TYBSc Chem)
115	G	19	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
116	G	20	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
117	G	21	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
118	G	22	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
119	G	23	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
120	G	24	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
121	G	25	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
122	G	26	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
123	G	27	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	

Sr.No	SR		Name of the Scholarship	Name of Awardee
124	G	32	S.N. Iyer Q.C. & Dr. Irene Charity Trust Scholarship for a deserving student.	
125	G	33	the Gurudas Bailur Scholarship for a deserving student.	Kunal Malkani (SYBSc BCZ)
126	G	34	Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Frida Britto (TYBSc BOT) Larissa Coelho (TYBSc BOT)
127	G	35	Mrs. Livie Viegas Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Melron Dsouza (TYBSc)
128	G	36	Mrs. Livie Viegas Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Violet D'souza, (SYBA)
129	G	37	Mrs. Livie Viegas Scholarship for a deserving Catholic Student.	Janis Vaz (SYBA Eng/Eco)
130	G	38	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for an outstanding student of the college.	NA
131	G	39	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for the most helpful student of the college	NA
132	G	40	the Prema Arya Memorial Scholarship to a deserving student of Microbiology	Priyanka Sheet (TYBSc)
		41		Irene Bage (SYBSc)
133	G	42	Sheila & Ben Jacob Memorial Arts Prize for a deserving girl student.	Janice Fernandes
134	G	43	Chandrakant Gupta Scholarship for a deserving girl student	Frida Britto (TYBSc Bot)
135	G	44	O. A. Mathen Memorial Scholarship for a deserving girl student	Larissa Coelho (TYBSc BOT)
136	G	45	Vibha & Bhalchandra Dave Trust Fund Scholarship for a deserving post graduate student of Microbiology	Ann Maria Philip (MSc part 1)
		46		Akshata Desai (MSc part 2)
		47		
137		48	the Dr. Yvonne Mae Freitas Scholarship for a deserving student of Microbiology	Jinisha Suvarna (SYBSc) (Micro Chem)
138	G	49	Late. Smt Kaushalya Nayar and Late Shri. Kahan Chand Nayar Scholarship for a deserving girl student	Molly Dsouza (BIOTECH)
		50		Sona George (202455) (SYBSc LSC-chemBOT)
		51		Sandhyarani Naik (TYBSC Chem)
				Ashly Parayil Varghese (SYBScLSc)
139	G	52	the Late Prof. Cavas J. Shroff Scholarship for a deserving girl student pursuing B.Sc	Ritika Vaibhav Datkhile
140	G	53	the Late Mr. Manu Vasudeva and Mrs. Prabha Vasudeva "Nishtha" Scholarship for a deserving girl student in B.A.	Lora Dsouza (SYBA)
141	G	54	the Late Mr. Manu Vasudeva and Mrs. Prabha Vasudeva "Nishtha" Scholarship for a deserving girl student in B.Sc	Anamika K (SYBSc)
142	G	55	the Late Mr. Manu Vasudeva and Mrs. Prabha Vasudeva "Nishtha" Scholarship for a deserving girl student.	Faiza Farooque Ansari (SYBSc Micro-Chem)
		56		Shreya Khot (BIOTECH)
		57		Meghana Vitthal Patil (SYBSC Stats)
		<b>H</b>	<b>SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	
143	H	1	the Valerian F.X. Pais Scholarship for excelling in academics and representing College in various sports events.	NA
144	H	2	the Late John C. Pinto Scholarship for an outstanding sportsman (preferably in Hockey / Football).	Kelley John (MA I (PSY))
145	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.	Melody Menezes FYBMS
146	H	4	the Mrs. Meherbai Dorabji Hilloo Desai, Joseph Manuel and Prof. Godfrey D'Souza Scholarship for the best male athlete.	NA
147	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.	Pereira Florian TYBA
148	H	6	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for excellence in Basket Ball	Suzanne Pinto FYBMS
149	H	7	the Ashok Kamte Memorial Scholarship for Best female athlete.	NA
150	H	8	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for a student who has distinguished himself in an individual sport.	Siya Hingorany FYBA
151	H	9	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for excellence in Academics and representing college in various sports events (Senior College)	NA
152	H	10	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for outstanding sportsman in Hockey (Junior College)	NA
153	H	11	the Ashok Kamte Memorial scholarship for outstanding sportsman in Football (Junior College)	NA

# RESULTS

## UNDER-GRADUATE STUDENT TOPPERS ON THE BASIS OF CGPA

CLASS	NAME OF STUDENT	CGPA
TYBA	Dey Anushka Shankar	10.00
	Nadkarni Sakshi Amit	9.98
	Jahnavi Jaipuriyar	9.97
	Ghosalkar Janhavi Sanjay	9.97
	Chaina Jasmine Rohinton	9.96
	Bakhsh Amaan Ahsan	9.95
	Shah Tisha Shripal	9.95
	Chheda Dishita Hiren	9.94
	Rashmi Ijari	9.93
	Bhatt Gayatri Nitin	9.93
	Keya Sagar Daruwala	9.93
	Sathe Maitreyee Pravin	9.92
	Shambhavi Himanshu Kumar	9.9
	Gupta Deeti Tarun	9.9
	Diya Lilani	9.9
TYBSc	Dhanjal Bhoris Bitto	9.95
	Adidev Ajithkumar	9.92
	Juhi Fatima Shaikh	9.92
	Sathaye Arjun Robin	9.91
	Diya Bose	9.9
	Warrier Anjali Madhusudan	9.9

# GRADUATION CEREMONY 2023

The Graduation Ceremony of 2023 was celebrated with verve and aplomb because it marked the return to pre-COVID times. Rising from the ashes of a pandemic, our graduating batch of 2023 glowed with zest and zeal in the Fr. Palacios Hall.

## **The Pattern of Praxis**

The three-day event was condensed into two days with three sessions: Session 1 on 30th June 2023, and Sessions 2 and 3 on 1st July 2023. For each session the academic procession comprising the Chief Guest for the session, members of the Academic Board constituted by our Rector, Dr. Fr. Keith D'Souza, our Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Vice Principal for Academics, Dr. Karuna Gokarn, Vice-Principal of Science, Mr. Marazban Kotwal, Vice Principal of Arts, Dr. Annapurna Shankarnarayanan and the Controller of Examinations Ms. Saima Khan followed the student procession. The singing of the College Anthem propelled the ceremony. The following were the Chief Guests for each session, sequentially: Shri. Khalid Hamid Ansari, Chairman of the Mid-Day Group of publications, and an illustrious alumnus of St. Xavier's College; Dr. Nipun Vinayak, IAS, State Project Director, RUSA, Maharashtra; Mr. Ashish Bhasin, a globally recognized media veteran and another illustrious alumnus of the college. Dr. Shinde delivered the welcome address. One of the Vice-Principals thereafter introduced the Chief Guest who gave the Commencement speech. This was immediately followed by the award ceremony. For each session, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, Ms. Lydia Fernandes and Ms. Ruchi Brahmachari respectively. The graduation ceremony concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

## **The First Among Many**

This year's ceremony featured the introduction of the Xavier's Pledge and the Valedictory Epistle. The idea of the Pledge was proposed by Dr. Bobby Mathew. Subsequently, Dr. Rashmi Lee George was commissioned to write the Pledge and the Valedictory Epistle. Dr. Manasi Kanuga and team mooted the idea of handing over scrolls on the stage instead of the marksheets. The latter could be collected from the registration desk. The scroll was designed by Andrew De Sousa, faculty from the Department of French in the Junior College. The Pledge and the valedictory epistle were printed on the scrolls. The Pledge was read out jointly by the faculty and the students at the end of the ceremony. Dr. Rashmi Lee George, Dr. Maya Murudeshwar and Ms. Ruby Pavri led the reading of the Pledge for each session respectively. Further, a Photobooth and a Xavier souvenir stall were set up in the canteen foyer area, adding to the celebratory spirit.

## **An Intertextual Endeavour**

The wheels of several departments churned to drive this monumental event seamlessly. The Academic Board, Organizing committee, General office, Treasure's office, Administrative staff, Knowledge centre, Technical support team, and the incredible team of 70 faculty and 60 student volunteers, worked collaboratively to ensure the smooth flow of the entire ceremony. The Graduation Ceremony 2023 will be cherished because it demonstrated the power of rejuvenation and renaissance.

**Dr. Bobby P. Mathew**

Convenor, Graduation Ceremony-2023





# COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES (CIP) FROM THE NEW NORMAL TO THE NEW DIFFERENT

## Council for International Programs (CIP) – From the New Normal to the New Different

The Council of International Programs welcomed 2022-23 with aplomb. The incoming students and the return of foreign partners to our campus was a sign that the pandemic had lost its sting. The following report gives an insight into the activities of the CIP in 2022-23:

**Outgoing students:** Ms. Tahiti Sengupta (TYBA) and Ms. Sana Bansal (SYBA MCJ) were selected to study at IESEG School of Management, France for two semesters and Shelly Dwivedi (SYBA) went to Notre Dame, USA for two semesters.

For 2023-24, the following students have been selected for the exchange programmes:

Name of the Student	Class	Foreign University
Mr. Samarth Khanduri	TYBA	IESEG School of Management, France
Ms. Sakshi Agrawal	TYBMS	
Mr. Aameya Kulkarni	TYBA	Sciences Po, France
Ms. Rishika Singh	TYBA	
Ms. Sera Pinto	TYBA MCJ	
Ms. Sakshi Bajori	TYBA	Creighton University, USA
Mr. Aditya Borah	TYBA MCJ	Comillas, Spain
Ms. Rachel Jacob	TYBA	Comillas Spain

**Berkeley Summer School:** Dylan Patil (SYBSc), Shaheen Shikalgar (TYBA), Renee Philip (SYBMS) attended the Berkeley Summer Session at University of California, Berkeley for five weeks from May 2023.

**Incoming students:** Four students from IESEG School of Management, France spent one semester at St. Xavier's. Two students from Comillas, Spain spent two semesters at St. Xavier's.

**Harvard College in Asia Program (HCAP):** Starting Small, Thinking Big: Change Starting from our Local Community was the theme of HCAP in 2022-23. The HCAP team from St. Xavier's consisted of the following students: Ms. Anoushka Rakhiram (SYBA), Ms. Prachiti Navlakhe (SYBA), Ms. Aashini Rebello (SYBA), Ms. Aditi Agrawal (SYBCOM), Mr. Kanv Gupta (SYBMS), Mr. Kush Gandhi (SYBSc), Ms. Mahek Garg (SYBCOM), Ms. Deana Grisel Saldanha (SYMJC). They attended the Winter chapter of the Leadership conference held from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 in Harvard College, Boston. Further, they organised the Spring chapter of the Leadership conference from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**In Conversation with Globalization:** The collaboration between the Department of American Literature and Culture at the University of Stuttgart and the Department of English at St. Xavier's College has resulted in the online course called *In Conversation with Globalization*. It commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and ended on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The week-long Project Week of the Online course was

held from 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to 18<sup>th</sup> February including Sunday and the public holiday. Five of our English Literature students (Minal Porwal (FYBA), Anoushka Rakhiram (SYBA), Divyadarshini Ramanathan (SYBA), Amruta Doke (SYBA), Deeti Gupta (TYBA)) participated in the course. The students received certificates upon completion of the programme. The faculty representatives of the partnering Universities were the following: Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp, University of Stuttgart, Germany, Angelo Jephtha, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Dr. Dorothee Heller, University of Bergamo and Dr. Rashmi Lee George, Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

**The Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)** was conducted between the Departments of English at Creighton University, USA and St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. 26 students were part of this course from St. Xavier's. COIL began on 19<sup>th</sup> August and ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The participants were awarded a certificate.

### Foreign Dignitaries' Visit:

On 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2023, Thomas Führmann, Mayor for Economy, Stuttgart and his delegation visited St. Xavier's College. The visit was part of the Stuttgart Meets Mumbai festival celebrating a fifty-five-year-old sister-city partnership and the online course *In Conversation with Globalization*.

The former Prime Minister of France and the current Mayor of Le Havre Mr. Edouard Phillipe interacted with the college students and faculty as well as other allied French institutions on the theme title 'Search for Balance in an Imbalanced World'. The Former PM was accompanied by the French Ambassador Emmanuel Lenain as well as the French Consul General Jean-Marc Sere Charlet for Mumbai. This program was coordinated by the Council for International Programs and the Department of French. Ms. Alpana Palkhiwale was the Master of Ceremony and Dr. Pratiba Naitthani was the moderator of the Question and Answer session.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** The MoUs with the University of Sydney, Australia and Notre Dame University, USA were renewed. We signed an MoU with the University of Javierana.

I am grateful to the Management, the Treasurer's office, the Faculty, the Examination Centre and the CIP committee for their support and co-operation. Mr. Anand Alphanso deserves a special mention for helping the operation of the CIP. Further, my best wishes are with Dr. Prasita Mukherjee who will be the Director of the CIP from June 2023 onwards.

**Dr. Rashmi Lee George**  
Director, CIP

# COVER STORY





SeedBasket.In is one of India leading e-commerce market place to buy online vegetable seeds, fruit seeds, grow bags and other home/terrace gardening products. They provide Non-Hybrid(open pollinated)/desi vegetable seeds for your kitchen garden. Healthy eating and therefore living is their primary concern and thus they do not have a minimum order quantity/amount- a single seed will also be delivered across with minimal shipping charges.

### **Why This Cereal Is Making Waves Around the World:**

Millets, known in common parlance as '*bajra*' or '*raagi*', are soon set to witness a massive resurgence of interest. The year 2023 has been designated by the United Nation's 'Food and Agriculture Organisation' as the 'International Year of Millets'. Thus, what was, for a long time, a staple source of nutrition for people across the Indian subcontinent, may soon become a household consumption for people across the globe. The recognition comes in due time; after the quinoa grain was similarly celebrated as a 'superfood' in 2013, millets are the next new 'super' diet, accorded by the UN.

Interestingly, this also invites the varying benefits of millets today. One may wonder why, despite India's stature as a largely 'agricultural' nation, millet crops have been sidelined and perhaps even overlooked. This can be explained by the emphasis placed on growing 'greener' crops like wheat and rice post the Independence.

But today, its 'revival' is also linked to the changing needs of the populace. Long known as a hardy, sustainable crop, it's now gaining currency as an effective and steadfast means of nutrition. Because problems like malnutrition still persist heavily, millets are seen as a quick alternative to other grains. Apart from that, it can also serve as a dietary equivalent for people preferring different varieties of cereals. Obviously, millets are garnering a huge following even without the necessary 'push' by the Indian government.

The other, more immediate benefit of it is its sustainability. Many parts of the country receive exceedingly scanty rainfall, which makes it difficult to grow other cereal crops for long durations. But this is where the millet comes in handy. Since it's an arid crop, it can sustain even in such dry weather, proving to be a timely alternative. But that's not all -it also does not require high doses of fertilizers, which are the prerequisite for other important 'grains'. Clearly, millets are well-suited to the Indian agricultural scene.

Perhaps this is another reason why the government has introduced them in this year's budget, setting off a spate of investments that can reinforce their value. Naturally, this has implications beyond the social and culinary sphere, and it is now showing up in various state-sponsored as well as privately-funded programmes. In public canteens, in schools in the form of mid-day meals, and even as alternatives for traditional recipes, millets are making a hard-earned comeback. In Pune and Bengaluru, even breweries have begun distilling their beer from millets.

This points to a picture of a rapidly spreading new trend, whose implications may yet stretch far. Leading the charge on so many fronts, millets could just about upturn the dietary equation in our country. Certainly, their importance is being registered in so diverse a span of fields, from the economy and the population graph to the dining-table and people's preferences. And the UN's recognition of this changing picture forecasts many hopeful possibilities, and in light of such a scenario, this nascent 'development' must be nurtured.

- **When and how did you conceive of the idea of creating this venture?**

My wife, Chandana Gade and I, Naveen Gade started 'Seedbasket' after realising the amount of poison we were consuming with the excessive use of pesticides and chemicals used to grow vegetables. We knew that we didn't want the poison to trickle down to the next generations.

We had our first kid in 2014. We wanted to raise her by feeding her rice and organic green leafy vegetables. But while living in the city, we were not sure whether the vegetables available in the market were really organic or not. We undoubtedly couldn't get organic vegetables all the time.

We then decided to grow vegetables on our balcony. But then the problem arose to get the right seeds and other gardening products. We visited numerous local and online markets, only to find a lack of a proper dedicated market for desi (indigenous) seeds for gardeners. We then got our "light-bulb moment". Chandana thought of taking this paucity as an opportunity. Surely, there are many like us who want to grow food on their balconies and terraces. So why not provide an online platform for indigenous seeds and other gardening products?

We then spent six months researching the market and sourcing of the seeds. With an initial investment of 1 lakh from our savings, we started 'Seedbasket Online Home Gardening Store' in mid-2016.

- **Where are your offices based now??**

In Hyderabad

- **What about your digital presence?**

Here's a link to our socials -

<http://www.seedbasket.in>

<https://www.youtube.com/seedbasket>

<https://www.facebook.com/seedbasket>

<https://www.instagram.com/seedbasket/>

- **What were the major influences for creating this venture?**

Necessity is the mother of invention. So for us, the priority being our kids and our necessity of providing them with healthy and organic food just like many other parents was the root of this venture. Also, the lack of a dedicated online market for those desi seeds was the immediate trigger which initiated the motive in us to start the venture.

- **Could you please take us through the journey of its inception to the present?**

We started seedbasket in the mid-2016.

In the first month we received just two orders. Nevertheless, we were never disappointed with the poor response. We learnt a lot from our mistakes and

improved our marketing skills as well as addressed the customer complaints.

Now, we are considered one of India's leading e-commerce marketplaces for home gardening products with above 500 products (available on Amazon, Flipkart, etc.) and more than 1000 orders per month with an annual turnover of 50 lakhs.

During the covid-19 lockdown, people had much more time on their hands. An increasing awareness on health and safety grew. Many turned back to their villages and started exploring gardening and farming. This in turn was a major boost for us as it quite organically helped us to widen our reach and grow our business.

We are also vendors for many NGOs, providing home gardening seed kits. We also export seeds to other countries for Indians living abroad who want to grow Indian vegetables.

- **What were the roadblocks that you faced and how did you overcome them?**

One of the major challenges we faced was with customers having a lack of knowledge on gardening. Gardening needs a lot of patience, interest, dedication and consistency.

During the initial days, due to the lack of basic knowledge on gardening, the public used to have trouble growing vegetables. They often complained about the quality of our seeds and gardening products. To address these issues, we came up with an instruction manual with instructions concerning matters such as seed-to-harvest plant care, water management, giving nutrients to the plants from kitchen waste and pest control.

- **What kind of people are involved with Seedbasket? (A description of their profiles and role at Seedbasket)**

Chandana Gade: Founder/Director

Naveen Gade: Co-Founder, Marketing

Sai Tarun : SEO and Digital marketing

Saidulu: Operations head

Khadarbee: Customer support

Employees for day-to-day activities and operations

- **What are the operational steps that you follow for a smooth and systematic functioning?**

A major step we follow is ensuring a proper quality check of our products. If any customers complain about the quality of our products we immediately replace or refund the full amount to the customers. We believe in customer satisfaction and that they not only invest money but also time on any product they buy. We respect their time and money and instruct our team to process the orders with no errors and maintain the best quality.

- **How did you source your funding?**  
We are a bootstrapped venture, having initially started Seedbasket with 1 lakh from our savings.
- **How does the balance sheet look like now?**  
We have an annual turnover of 50 lakhs, with more than 35,000 customers.
- **Where do you project Seedbasket in 2033 with respect to its growth and financial aspect?**  
We want to be one of the major sources of heirloom seeds in India and the world.
- **Who are your customers now and whom do you consider as a prospective target customer base in the near future?**  
We started Seedbasket keeping the urban people in mind and encouraging them to grow vegetables in their balconies and terraces. We also realised that when I was kid in my village our parents never used to buy vegetables from the market. Instead, they used to grow seasonal vegetables in the backyard, sufficient for our family. With technological and internet advances increasing its reach all across India, we want to reach every village in India and provide them with native (desi) seeds to encourage them to grow their own vegetables.
- **To what extent do you think science and technology are (A) important and (B) a hindrance to future development?**  
Science and technology are absolutely necessary for sustainable development and steady economic growth. Both offer immense opportunities for innovation, development, and improved well-being. As always, science and technology are two sided coins. They can also have negative impacts, especially vis-à-vis the environment. It is important to develop technologies that minimize environmental harm, promote circular economy principles, and ensure responsible resource management.
- **Seedbasket is playing a significant role in sustainability. Are there any other avenues that you plan to explore? If so, please share some insight.**  
Before COVID hit us, we had started a venture called MyFarmPick ([www.myfarmpick.com](http://www.myfarmpick.com)) - which works on a subscription model to deliver organic vegetables in the gated communities of urban cities (within Hyderabad). However, due to COVID we were forced to stop it and could not continue. We would like to resume it again in the near future.
- **Ventures like Seedbasket have a tremendous impact on society, the environment and the youth. What would be your message for each one of them?**  
We always believe in – “Eat what you grow and live organic ”. The best gift we can give to our children and the future generations is investing in their health. We should also be preserving nature so that we have something to pass to the next generation in a healthy condition for them to blossom in.
- **What are your views about India and Sustainable development?**  
Sustainable agriculture plays a very important role in India’s economy and supports quite a large chunk of the population. The Indian government should balance economical growth and the livelihood of people with environmental care. We should aim to increase agricultural productivity while minimizing the impact it has on the environment.  
  
Encouraging Indian farmers towards organic farming will not only help them economically by minimising the use of pesticides and chemicals but it also helps to promote biodiversity and reduce levels of agricultural pollution.

# FARE FORWARD



## JYOTI SINGH



**Dr. (Ms.) Jyoti Singh** retired on superannuation on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022, after serving in St. Xavier's College for 27 years in the Department of Physics.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for her long and dedicated service to the Department of Physics and to the college. Along with her

competence in teaching Physics, she has served the College as the Head of the Physics Department, Co-ordinator of B.Sc. (IT) and Co-ordinator of B.Voc. (Software Development). She was a key administrator and very active in introducing new courses like the MSc (Physics) in the Department of Physics.

She had constantly worked to improve the teaching learning processes of the Department as the teacher and lab-incharge of various classes.

She has contributed to the College as an active member of various Committees like Custodian, Examination, Infotech, IQAC, Placement, Research, Science Festival Staff Committee, TAQ and

Unfair Means. It was such involvement by her that helped the College in sustaining the various activities on campus thereby adding quality to the education.

On behalf of the Physics department staff and students, I place my gratitude for her commitment and significant contribution to the Department of Physics, St. Xavier's College. Our good wishes to her for a happy and productive life after formal retirement.

**Dr. Rajesh Singh**  
Head, Department of Physics

## NANDITA MANGALORE



**1. If you had to describe your 32 years of service at St. Xavier's in three words, what would they be?**

A. Steep Learning Curve!

**2. According to you in the time you've spent in college, has there been any sort of evolution you've observed?**

A. Yeah, there have been changes, lots of changes, and some of them are simply age related - you grow, you change, right?

I was a student here and then I came in as a teacher, so I've seen both sides. I think that college was more liberal then. There was space

for each person to explore - to understand what you were, what you wanted, what you needed.... you could learn at your own pace, you could just be. Now I don't really think the students have this luxury. The kids are under a lot of pressure almost like they are on this conveyor belt, just running very hard to stay in one place, that's what I see.

**3. Did you always know and want to teach?**

A. Oh yes, of course. I always knew I was going to teach. The question was not what I would do, that I knew - the question was what I would teach, never whether I would teach.

**4. Could you take us through your thought process when you were deciding on your career path?**

A. When I was young, like all other children, I too spent a lot of time playing. My indoor game was teacher-teacher. During summer vacations in Chennai (where

I schooled) it was very hot at midday and all our parents would not let us play outside till around 4pm. We had to play indoors. So if I wasn't reading, I would round up the kids in the colony to play 'school', and be the class teacher. Of course, they would not want to play this game every day. So when nobody wanted to play, I was okay with that - I would take this wooden foot ruler and make one of the windows my board. As we had mosaic tiles on our floor, each tile was a student to me. And I was pretty content pretending that I had a class! I don't think there was anything, ever, other than teaching in my head.

**5. Have you always had an inclination towards biochemistry and the life sciences?**

A. No. No. I wanted to do biophysics, not biochemistry. But when I was graduating there was no degree in biophysics, so I settled for biochemistry.



6. ...then what about post your graduation, did anything motivate you then?

A. I prefer chemistry and biochemistry to pure biology. I kind of figured that out along the way. So my choices kept leaning towards the less biological and more chemical ones. I took up biochemistry for my PG and PhD, because, with the background that I had then, these were my options.....and my only motivation was – interest!!

7. Your students certainly adore you for the innovative and interesting teaching mechanisms you employ in your lectures. Why do you feel it's necessary to have such a methodology when it comes to the profession?

A. I'll take the student outpouring with a huge dollop of exaggeration. Regarding the teaching, I think I teach the way I learn. I don't have a very good memory and needed ways to remember even as a student. So I would cook up mnemonics, I would use stories, etc. to remember. Then when I became a teacher I realised there might be others like me who can't remember well. So I tried to make it easier for them to learn by sharing these little tricks that I used to use as a student or thought of as a teacher.

8. (If there is) which has been your most favourite memory you made in college?

A. There isn't one memory! There are a zillion of them...like images, on this blank canvas: images of freedom, of growth and of friendships. There are lots of things - Malhar was new then, so the novelty of the fests. As a teacher I remember our department's Khandala trips.... ohhh there are lovely memories from those annual 'pilgrimages'. As a student, I was in the Zoology department and we had these long field trips. One year we went to Goa. I remember that was one heck of a trip! We had one student

who got bitten by a snake when we had gone for a walk. Then we decided to go paddling in a boat on what looked like a big lake. Well, the boat overturned and we were all in the lake! One of my friends couldn't swim and started screaming while the rest of us were laughing. She was yelling for help...so finally between gasps of laughter, we told her to stand up. The water was just till her knees! So yeah, we had some good times!

9. What are a few skills or values that you think are essential for someone aspiring to enter the teaching profession?

A. You need to walk your talk. You have to be able to listen and read between the lines, figure out what the students are saying and what do they actually mean. You should be non-judgemental. In addition, you need to be curious about your subject and well read. You have to be committed at all stages. In my opinion, the students learn as much from the way you conduct yourself as what you talk in class. You have to be the real deal.

10. Can you recall a particularly memorable or adorable moment you had with your students?

A. One of the things I remember was that, in the earlier batches, they were always trying to figure out what my age was. It was this million dollar question in the class - 'how old is she?' So they would try different ways to trap me into revealing my year of birth.... it was almost like an ongoing game. So, one batch went an extra mile. They went through the college magazines of all the earlier years, found the year I had graduated (as the college magazine used to publish the photographs of all the students who had got a first class). They then unearthed a copy of the magazine from Dr. Hoshang of the Chemistry department, wrapped it up beautifully and ceremoniously presented it to me on my birthday with a card that talked about my age! It was hilarious!

11. As interesting as it is, research also comes with a lot of monotonous work. What is that one thing you would advise aspiring researchers how to cope with the stress that comes with it?

A. In research there are no shortcuts. It's a choice you make. If you choose to engage in research, then you have to accept that since there are only 24 hours in a day, you will have to sacrifice time from something else, some other activity, in order to make space for the research. In Bombay most teachers and students spend at least 2-3 hours in travel every day. So, what to sacrifice in order to do their research - that is something each one of them has to decide.

An alternative is developing a research culture through the curriculum, thus introducing students to research (which though new to them may not be cutting edge) and simultaneously providing an opportunity for faculty to engage in basic research. The co-curricular Honour's programme also allows for such forays into research. In addition, very many teachers are writing grant proposals to fund their research and there has been a push from the Centre via several UG/PG grants to fund research in colleges. So, even if you're not a full time researcher, you can have some basic engagement with it. Research keeps the mind engaged in the subject and retains curiosity and freshness in the teacher and the learner. So it should be a practice all teachers adopt.

12. You were a Xavierite too. Why did you choose to come back and teach here?

A. What else could I do? I wanted to teach, I needed to give back. I took so much from this college. This was a chance to give back. And if I wanted to teach at an undergraduate level, I don't think at that time I could've found a college better than Xavier's. I love

Xavier's, I really do. My mum was a Xavierite too.

**13. We learnt that 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' is one of your most loved books. What are your favourite lines from the book and why?**

A. There is this one line where the boy is looking at his reflection in the water. And he says "Isn't it odd we can only see the outside, but almost everything happens on the inside." I love that!

**14. What are the strengths of the Life Science Department?**

A. Professionally, our strengths lie in our versatility. Life Science is very broad. It involves very many distinct fields of biology. When I say versatility, I mean that we have people not only from different fields who are coming together but also individuals who are capable of teaching multiple fields.

Personally, there is a lot of camaraderie amongst those 'up there'. It means each one knows that the rest of them have your back. That if you are down or there is a problem, they will step in. You know that. That is powerful. Also, there is a lot of laughter, loud, uninhibited laughter.

**15. Do you have any special message to your colleagues in the department, what would you like to tell them?**

A. I would like to thank them because even though I have retired they still make me feel like a part of that family. For instance, the department faculty recently went out for lunch and they called up and asked, 'Why don't you join us? That's a nice feeling. As long as I am, I will continue to watch out for them, in whatever way I

can, and they will me, I know that.

**16. What were your most memorable experiences when you were in administrative positions as Vice Principal and as IQAC Coordinator?**

A. We became autonomous in 2010 and I was VP from 2007 to 2013. I served first as the VP for Science and then as the VP for Academics. So, I was there through the whole of it - from our approach to autonomy, to when it was finally implemented. In 2012 I actually wanted to get out of Vice-Principalship as I had accepted the headship of the Life Science department, but I was told to just "Wait, hold on. Don't leave till the first autonomous batch graduates." So I had to wait till the first TY batch was done. Then I was allowed to get out. I do not enjoy administrative work and so I tried to escape.

**17. As an administrator (VP and IQAC Coordinator), what challenges do you foresee for St. Xavier's College in these changing times?**

A. Documentation and Funding. It is unfortunate that documentation is the basis on which we are being judged. I really, really fear that we might kill initiative and spontaneity because of this need to document everything. We were free-floaters. We never documented anything but we did a lot. But now, Paperwork! What you claim to have done, needs to be proved to be accepted, otherwise your grade goes down which is so unfortunate. Also, raising funds to pay for the new staff in the aided programmes. There isn't much help from the government and it is a huge challenge for the college

management .... to cope with the additional expense as each of the older staff leave.... The management has to garner funds to pay for the new staff.

Yeah, so these are our twin nightmares, documentation and funding.

**18. What are your plans for your retirement?**

Arrey, I don't have a plan, I'm in free fall! Yeah, I might write a little, travel a little, but I don't want to be in a box anymore. I want to just go with the flow. I also want to find a way to use what I have learned over the years, to help individuals or institutions in whatever way I can. I have started asking around and if I find a place that could use my skills, I will dive in.

**19. To end with, do you have a quote (doesn't have to be a favourite) which you would like to share to Xavierites, those who are and who are yet to become?**

A. It's not a quote. It's just something I believe in. And part of it is taken from THE book, which says, "Home isn't always a place, is it?" That's what the book says.

I'll take it a little further and say, "*Home isn't always a place, it could be a chosen way of life. It could be a joyous memories. It could be a comfortable thought. It could be a tradition. Anything, anything that one can visit repeatedly, to ground oneself in times of turbulence, that is home...*"

Use these years in Xavier's to find your 'HOME'.

**Jeremy Varghese**  
FYBA  
**Aditi Yadav**  
TYBSc

## AYESHA DIAS



**Ayesha Dias** has been teaching in the department of Statistics of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, since 1989. Her long tenure of 34 years in the department has impacted and molded many young minds.

She has always been the first teacher for any science Statistics graduate student.

Students carried on the discipline she inculcated in the first year for the rest of their lives. In spite of being a strict teacher, students flocked to her because of her unconditional love and affection towards them. Most students preferred to talk out their personal problems to the teacher whom affectionately called Ayesha Mam.

Ayesha was very systematic and organized in every work that came her way. The notes that she dictated were self-explanatory. She explained every concept with utmost care and precision. She took time to give special attention to students who were not so quick to grasp the concepts.

She has dedicatedly worked in many committees in the college. For the department she was the person to go to for any clarification, information or documented records. She was always ready to give a helping hand to all in need. She lived a very simple and pious life.

Her absence has definitely left a void in the department. I wish her all the best as she enters a new phase in life called retired life. May God Almighty give her the best that she requires each day.

**Saju George**  
Head, Department of Statistics

## SANJAY N. SHINDE



### An Ode to a great teacher

This ode is written to celebrate 30 years of academic excellence of a teacher who was devoted to our college - **Sanjay N. Shinde**. He started teaching Physics in our junior college in the year 1992 and he was one of the trio that built the Physics Group, a group that was started to popularize Physics and to go beyond the syllabus. His prowess in the field of Electronics was most sought after for the exhibition that marked the 125 year celebrations of our college, where he set up several projects. In the year 1997 a division in the arts stream was created to teach

Mathematics. Sanjay took charge of this division with missionary zeal and within a span of two years, this Arts division started producing Top Rankers in the H.S.C. exam. When asked how he could teach both Physics and Mathematics – two difficult subjects – with such ease, his reply was “There is a lot of common ground between Physics and Mathematics”. He was also the first teacher to teach Information Technology when the subject was introduced in the junior college.

Sanjay has served under six Principals and he endeared himself to each one due to his excellent administrative skills. He was the Chief Conductor of H.S.C. exams 25 times. He was a long serving member of the time table committee, college exam committee, Discipline committee, Malhar committee besides being chief Moderator and paper setter for Mathematics in the commerce stream.

Despite being blessed with intelligence beyond ordinary, he remains a simple, rooted in work, friendly with everyone, a model friend and model co-worker. His temperament is cool, unflappable and he has never refused help to anyone who asked for it. His greatest strength has been his excellent rapport with students and he always enjoyed being with them. Derivatives and Vectors in Mathematics and Electricity in Physics were his favorite topics and every Diwali vacation he would take time to engage extra lectures in Mathematics.

His immense contribution to St. Xavier's College would make him an icon of St. Xavier's but to him this Ode and Prayer of St. Francis, which I have borrowed is what he truly lives by..

*“I shall pass through this world just once. Any good, that I can do, let me do it now”*

**Savio D'Souza**  
Vice Principal, Junior College

## शांताराम लक्ष्मण ताम्हणकर



वरवर कठोर आणि करारी दिसणारी काही माणसे, आतुन मात्र अतिशय शांत आणि प्रेमळ असतात. असेच काहीसे होते आमचे प्रयोगशाळा परिचर, श्री. शांताराम लक्ष्मण ताम्हणकर. श्री. शांताराम यांचा जन्म १७ जून १९६२ रोजी रत्नागिरी जिल्ह्यातील पाली या गावी झाला. वयाच्या सोळाव्या

वर्षी ते कामानिमित्त मुंबईला आले. १९७८ साली आपल्या वडिलांच्या जागी ते महाविद्यालयामधील जनरल विभागात कामासाठी रुजू झाले. त्यांच्या चांगल्या कामाची दखल घेत, ब्रदर पेरेरा यांनी त्यांना प्रशासक विभागात घेतले. अनेक वर्षे तिथे काम केल्यानंतर त्यांना रसायन शास्त्र विभागात बढती देण्यात आली. मुळात अत्यंत शांत स्वाभावाचे शांताराम हे शिस्तप्रिय आणि कर्तव्यदक्ष आहेत. कामावर ते नेहमी वेळेवर हजर असत. बरेच वर्षे त्यांनी वस्तीगृहासाठी वर्तमान पत्रे पुरवण्याचे काम केले. कर्मचारी संघ

सोसायटीच्या ब्रदर जेकब फंडासाठी त्यांनी लक्षणीय काम केले. फ्रेंच कट दाढीमध्ये अमोल पालेकर सारख्या दिसणाऱ्या श्री. शांताराम यांना मौजमजा करायला सुद्धा तेवढंच आवडत असे. शांताराम गेली ४४ वर्षे तुम्ही महाविद्यालयासाठी खूप काम केले, आता निवृत्तिनंतर मिळालेला वेळ आनंदाने घालवा, तुमच्या सेवा-निवृत्त आयुष्यासाठी हार्दिक शुभेच्छा.

**मारझबान कोतवाल**  
रसायनशास्त्र विभाग, प्रमुख  
शब्दांकन : सोनाली पराडकर  
प्रभारी ग्रंथपाल

## देवचंद गुरव



वनस्पति विभागात प्रवेश करताच हसऱ्या चेहऱ्याने आपली मदत करण्यास तयार असणारे श्री. देवचंद कृष्णा गुरव ९ एप्रिल १९८२ रोजी त्यांचे वडील श्री.

कृष्णा सोनू गुरव यांच्या जागी जनरल विभागात शिपाई या पदावर आपल्या महाविद्यालयात भरती झाले. शिक्षण आणि कामातील प्रामाणिकपणा यामुळे १९९६ साली, त्यांची प्रयोगशाळा परिचर म्हणून पदोन्नती झाली आणि ते रसायन शास्त्र विभागात रुजू झाले. थोड्याच दिवसात त्यांची जीवन विज्ञान विभागात बदली झाली. २०१९ साली त्यांची नियुक्ति वनस्पतीशास्त्र विभागात झाली. सेवानिवृत्ती

पर्यंत त्यांनी वनस्पती शास्त्र पदव्युत्तर विभागासाठी काम केलं. नेमून दिलेले काम वेळेत पूर्ण करणारे देवचंद सर्वांशी मिळून मिसळून वागत. निर्व्यसनी देवचंद कामावर नेहमी वेळेत हजर असत.

देवचंद, तुम्ही ३२ वर्षे महाविद्यालयाची सेवा केली, या पुढील वाटचालीसाठी आणि उत्तम आरोग्यासाठी आमच्याकडून हार्दिक शुभेच्छा.

**प्रा. आलोक गुडे**  
वनस्पति विभाग



*Lest We  
Forget...*

## FR. JOHN MISQUITTA S.J. (1929-2023)



.....“But for the present let us glory in our heritage and in the joy and fellowship which is ours. So, on with our tasks – for God’s greater glory and the greatness of our dear land and people” .....

A quote from one of Rev. Fr. John Misquitta’s reports in the college magazine as Principal of St. Xavier’s College. This was the belief that Fr. Misquitta lived with during his stay in St. Xavier’s College in his capacity as Principal for two terms – 1969 to 1973 and 1984 to 1989 – as well as a teaching faculty member of the department of Chemistry. *Magis*, the fundamental value of a Jesuit – to do more and better for the greater glory of God is what Fr. Misquitta practised in every sphere.

In his tenures as Principal, Fr. Misquitta, a trendsetter and a pathfinder, introduced, planned and executed a number of initiatives for the students and faculty without hesitation. The list of these initiatives is exhaustive, a few significant ones are worth listing here to validate the brilliance of his administrative skills. The Teaching Assessment Questionnaire – TAQ, which would later be adopted by several other institutes was a bold venture where students were given a chance to assess their teachers! At the same time, Fr. Misquitta promoted a number of seminars for the development of teachers, encouraged and formed a Staff Council - a platform which faculty could avail of as a liaison between the management and faculty for professional betterment. He had the foresight to revamp and start several new courses to broaden education in Xavier’s and even created departments like Statistics, Urdu, Persian and Islamic Culture, to name a few. For the students, the largest stakeholders

of the college, Fr. Misquitta worked with a holistic approach, by improving infrastructure, offering opportunities like the COSIP (College Science Improvement Programme) and PROSSIT (Programme for Social Sciences Improved Teaching) and not to forget the Honours programme to train our students with skills that are beyond the classroom! The DIRS – Department of Interreligious studies, a beautiful concept to promote harmony was initiated by Fr. Misquitta and has been ably handled by the Directors assigned to this venture. Today, it offers courses both virtually and offline to students as well as anyone interested in this domain.

With a vision of ‘inclusive education’, in 1988, he introduced the Night Commerce College along with Rev. Valero Aleu S.J. This section of college was aimed at working and underprivileged students and blossomed and grew with time. Alumni, the stakeholders that benefit from the education they have received in Xavier’s were not left behind by Fr. John – the seeds for the XDP (Xavier’s Development Programme) were sowed in his tenure. Fr. Misquitta encouraged several alumni gatherings, and there are records of the memorable nostalgic events that have been organized with his guidance. Fr. Misquitta was very conscious of physical fitness, personally had a routine of jogging and enthused students and faculty in the same – a couple of noteworthy mentions are the AMC – Adventurers and Mountaineers Club and Walkathons. Both brought students and faculty together with a joyful spirit!

As a member of the department of Chemistry, Fr. Misquitta was open to teaching any course offered by the department without hesitation, which he did extremely well, proving his expertise as a teacher. His students fondly remember the strategies he used in the classroom to engage them in the classroom activity by questioning in a unique manner and catching the students off guard! He gifted the department with two beautiful posters which he got back from one of his

visits to Belgium which still adorn the department walls.

A few more quotes from his reports: “I cannot help feeling a sense of satisfaction that St. Xavier’s College has honestly attempted to provide an education that is: integral, need-based, contributive towards national development and helpful towards national integration.....” words that were prophetic and stand till today of the vision and mission that St. Xavier’s College has had and will continue to have as an integral part of the ethos. What was started as daring initiatives have now grown to be in sync with the needs and demands of modern higher education.

On a personal note, I feel that during both tenures as Principal, Fr. Misquitta has blessed and enthused me with his personality. My admission to St. Xavier’s College in 1971 in the F.Y.Sc. for the B.Sc. degree was formalized by being interviewed by him. His beaming smile put me, an introvert at that time, completely at ease and made me look forward to studying in this great institution. During his second tenure as Principal, he helped me in my career as faculty, by encouraging a transition from a Junior College faculty to a Senior College one. The comfort that I felt in talking to Father helped me build up my confidence. The adventurous spirit that Fr. Misquitta had, be it for academic or non-academic purposes, inspired me to search for avenues that could be changed, reflect on a possible direction and build up courage to try new ventures.

“...I hope and pray that St. Xavier’s can always boast of its staff and students and of its service to society, particularly to those who are underprivileged” ....a profound one; which is the prayer and hope that Rev. Fr. John Misquitta S.J. had for us – THE XAVIERITE!

**Dr. Gulshan Shaikh**

Ex-Vice Principal (Academics)  
Retired Associate Professor,  
Department of Chemistry

## A TRIBUTE TO THE AMUL MAESTRO



One of St. Xavier's brightest alumni, advertising legend Sylvester Da Cunha passed away at 92 on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Da Cunha was the creator of the world's longest-running advertisement, dairy brand Amul's *Utterly Butterly Delicious* campaign, launched in 1966 and which continues to feature in national dailies. The brand became a household name with Da Cunha's iconic cartoon, the Amul girl—a mischievous child with a predilection for Amul Butter, always featured on posters with witty puns on the latest national and international news.

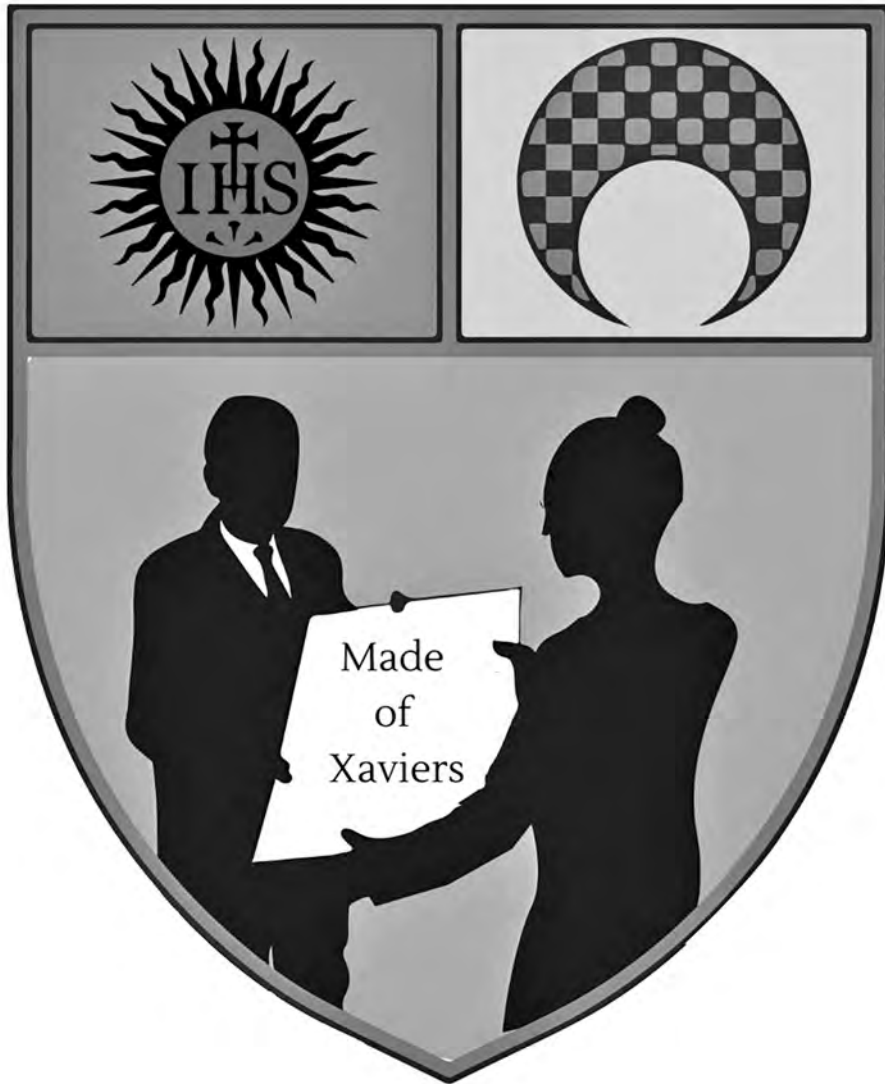
Although Da Cunha finished a B.A in Economics at Xavier's, an enduring interest in creative expression led him to Princeton University for a postgraduate degree in Mass Communication. Da Cunha's work was poised at the confluence of art and socio-political commentary. In an era that preceded the age of social media and meme-culture, no trending topic or personality escaped Da Cunha's incisive yet delightfully humorous gaze—from global and local controversies to erstwhile prime ministers, Bollywood and sports stars.

A founding member of the Theatre Group of Bombay, Da Cunha was also a frontrunner in English language theatre in the city, writing, directing and acting in plays, including an adaptation of Vijay Tendulkar's *Kamala*. Much like his advertisements, Da Cunha's writing combined his unique outlook towards everyday life with his characteristic satire.

Aside from the tributes of Da Cunha's several protégés across decades of the advertising industry, in a detailed social media tribute, Da Cunha's son Rahul remembered his father as a warm and sensitive mentor figure. In his final moments with his family, Da Cunha had told Rahul to "always keep it witty", in advertisements or in life. Dear Sylvester Da Cunha, we sincerely hope that you rest in peace, and that, like the billboards, newspapers and lives that were witness to your fabulous oeuvre, your wit enlivens the new world you have travelled to.



Sylvester Dacunha: The Amul'timate  
Creative genius





# KHALID ANSARI



Rector Fr. Keith D'Souza, Principal Rajendra Shinde, Dr. Annarpurna, distinguished faculty members, graduating students, families, and friends.

Good afternoon:

I'm deeply humbled and honoured as I stand before you on the memorable occasion of this Convocation Day: the day when our young graduates embark upon the next exciting phase of their lives!

Casting my mind's eye back to my own graduation ceremonies in the last 'millennium' in our country and abroad, I still feel a surge of exhilaration.

I confess to having goosebumps in this magnificent setting at this moment.

And along with you, I'm now experiencing an adrenalin rush, as I recall the palpable buzz along with my own feeling of glorious anticipation of what lay ahead after this. It was truly a kind of symbolic cutting of the umbilical cord with our revered St. Xavier's on Graduation Day.

They were truly definitive years - which shaped the different paths my classmates' and my lives have taken - and for which we all are deeply indebted to our alma mater.

Graduations are unique milestones in our lives.

At my own country - in India and abroad, at a time when graduation gowns and mortar-boards (graduate caps with tassels, which kept falling off, were the norm) the favourite quip was: "The tassel is worth the hassle".

As you well know, graduations are the payoff for long hours of dedicated study and hard work -of blood, toil, tears and sweat - to borrow an expression from Winston Churchill.

Never forget, you are privileged to be a finished product of one of the most respected Colleges in our country and abroad.

The professional and technical expertise you have acquired here are invaluable portals to successful careers in your chosen fields.

As a privileged, burnished product of this esteemed institution, you now owe it to yourself, your family and, in fact, to society at large, to exploit your full potential and make yours a purposeful, enjoyable journey ahead in the service of your fellow human beings.

The career you have embarked upon imposes upon you tremendous and extra-ordinary professional responsibilities towards your society and country, apart from and way beyond those of being a mere bread-earner for your family.

The time has come for those of you aspiring to be professionals to ask yourselves with hand on heart: Are you up to the challenge?

At the University of Southern California's Commencement, the legendary Elon Musk was given only five minutes to offer students some words of advice, for which he refined his thoughts into five maxims he thought were important for anyone striving for success.

He said: 1. Work hard 2. Build A Great Team 3. Focus Solely on Your Business 4. Don't Follow Trends and 5. Take Risks.

At Stanford University in the US, where I received a Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications, at a Ceremony reminiscent of this one today, Musk the pioneering business magnate, entrepreneur and Space X founder said: "You've got to find what you love. Think big and dream even bigger".

He continued: "You guys are the magicians of the 21st century. Don't let anything hold you back. Imagination is the limit: go out there and create some magic".

Friends: In the years ahead, you will hopefully assume leadership roles and

go on to shape the destiny of our country.

In the words of our very own Ratan Tata: "Don't forget - the likes of Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Google, Facebook all came from ideas - and some started in garages."

A product of the new digital age's cutting-edge technology and modern entrepreneurship, the qualities of self-belief, vision, and courage have always been Ratan Tata's leitmotif. He is on record as saying repeatedly "Never say this job can't be done, or this target achieved ... your job is to get it done".

Similarly, to also to give back to society (particularly the needy) what you get from it. In fact, this is the mantra of his business empire, as we know.

Remember this: by opting for the profession you have chosen, you are now wearing enormously large-sized shoes that call for idealism, for a huge capacity for sacrifice, for integrity, commitment, hard work, and sincerity of purpose.

Whereas congratulations are certainly in order on this occasion, dear fellow-Xavierites, remember: "This Is Only the Beginning".

Destiny is only what you make of it. In the words of William Shakespeare, "The Fault, Dear Brutus, Is Not In Our Stars."

By all means, celebrate your well-deserved Graduation recalling fond memories from your past and dreaming exciting visions of your future. Go out into the World with confidence to do well but, more importantly, DO GOOD with HUMILITY.

Take pride in how far you have come but have faith in how far you can go.

Let your dreams be your wings to carry you into the future, as you remember that discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.

By virtue of being influencers and, in this digital age, having access to large numbers of our fellow human beings,

you have special responsibilities to be unfailingly truthful and courageous at all times.

In the words of Ratan Tata: "This responsibility has become all the more onerous in these especially sensitive times, one we cannot take lightly if we are to be true to ourselves and to our calling.

If – and only IF - you are blessed in extraordinary measure with zeal, courage, passion, josh, jazbah and have within you the fire to bring about change and reform in society – the way ahead for you is limitless.

If not, jump off the bandwagon without delay! If you do not, you will be disloyal to your calling and unfaithful to your true worth.

Take my word for it: as a mediocrity without ambition and, more importantly without a social conscience you will probably earn a liveable wage but will miss the thrill of being able to help your fellow human beings!

In the words of the Frank Sinatra song: "Fly me to the moon and let me play among the stars ... let me see what spring is like on Jupiter and Mars"!

Being a mediocrity after graduating from this illustrious institution will be a real shame – for you will be letting nobody down except yourselves, most of all!

Remember: As a bright, gifted, young graduate of this prestigious institution, you have only ONE way to go, and that is UP - to the top.

And remember: 'Possunt Quia Posse Videntur (they CAN who believe they can') in the words of the Latin motto as famously adapted by Henry Ford.

Early in life we were taught the cardinal lesson: "If at first you don't succeed – try, try again".

When my children were at school, I framed outside their bedroom door, Edward Bulwer-Lytton's memorable words "In the lexicon of youth, which Fate reserves for a bright manhood, there is no such word as fail".

Without claiming undeserved credit for myself, I would like to believe Bulwer-Lytton's words may have

been of some inspirational value to them, as evidenced by their scholastic reports.

Failure is only temporary and can be converted into a steppingstone to spectacular (not just ORDINARY) success.

A glass is never half empty: It is always half FULL. Failures are part of life: they happen to everybody in different measure at different times.

The greatest, the most successful human beings have tasted defeat and failures at some time. But they had the courage, the resilience, the gumption, the nous – to stand up and fight back.

My advice to you today is "Dream BIG, aim for the sky, chase rainbows".

Aim for the seemingly impossible, the unimaginable, the undoable.

Never underestimate yourself: You are privileged.

In the words of Paulo Coelho, the Nobel Prize-winning laureate, there are indefinable forces all around you – all rooted in truth, courage, good thoughts, good words and good deeds-waiting to be tapped to help you.

Don't hesitate to call upon them.

I have always believed that authors and journalists should be read and not seen or heard. I hate making bhaashans, imparting gyaan (wisdom), making meaningless – and, even more – listening to them!

I fear I'm heading that way in my address today.

So will not inflict one upon you anymore. However, some truths I dwelt upon in my last Convocation address here last year bear repetition only because they stand the test of time

My wife Zeyna - my trusted guide and lodestar - insists that some mention of my lunacy-driven career in journalism may be of some value to you, my dear friends, by providing some inspiration to you on this occasion.

I say this not to blow my own trumpet. God has been exceedingly kind to me, and I do not need to do it but what I'm about to say is for YOUR good and I do sincerely hope you will pay heed to me:

My dear departed father started life as an orphan in Mumbai's poverty-stricken Madanpura and went on to become the legendary freedom-fighter editor and publisher of the renowned Inquilab Urdu daily newspaper. It is today in its 87th year of uninterrupted publication.

As for me: Call it insane optimism, blind faith, misguided self-belief, lunacy, sheer good luck or whatever you wish to:

I ventured into the turbulent, shark-infested world of magazine publishing on a wing and a prayer – in 1969 - with Sportsweek magazine, which frontally took on the established redoubtable Sport and Pastime sports magazine, published from erstwhile Madras.

I had virtually no roof – business or residential - over my head, no human or financial resource - nothing else, only a dedicated team of experienced journalists, with misplaced and ill-conceived, but blind, faith in me.

We worked out of a ramshackle office-cum-printing press, which was really a small, congested shed tucked away in an industrial complex in low-lying, flood-prone Tardeo during the monsoons.

In all modesty, Sportsweek went on to become and remained the leading sports magazine of Asia for two decades years until its closure in 1989, for lack of sufficient advertising support and as you know, advertising is the name of the game.

In another David and Goliath analogy followed Mid-Day, my afternoon newspaper in our metropolis, Mumbai, that already had not one, but two, extremely well-established dailies from powerful and well-established, all-India newspaper conglomerates for whom financial and supportive resources were the least problem.

Despite lack of conventional financial and human resource – no proper roof over my head, no financial and human resource, admin, marketing

and editorial staff, newsprint stock or production capacity etc worth the name for any fledging metropolitan newspaper to succeed, I took the idiotic decision to launch "Mid-Day".

Going down Memory Lane back to the day on June 27, 1979 when the late Ron Hendricks, Behram Contractor (the legendary 'Busybee'), a wet-behind-her ears-Malvika Sanghvi and a small total staff of about 25 made our way early morning to our flooded work-place in knee deep water to launch the new kid on the block.

The small newsprint stock stacked on the approach lane was drenched, the antiquated second-hand machine refused to play ball, the camera and offset plate-making departments were flooded as we sat behind our typewriters (yes, those were the days!) miserably soaked under our umbrellas praying for the rains to relent, machines to start and newspaper vendors to appear.

It was truly a baptism of fire: Our bright new arrival, the apple of our eyes was seemingly still born, the title Mid-Day mocking at us as afternoon morphed into evening.

In another asinine act of foolish proportions, I had decided to take over as president of the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town that same evening at 8 pm at the Taj Mahal hotel.

Good friend and my president of the All-India Council of Sport (AICS), the late S.H.F.J Field Marshal had very kindly agreed to preside over the function with the Governor of Maharashtra, the late Air Marshal Idris Latif and his gracious lady Bilquis Latif chief guests and the late illustrious Nani Palkhiwala and 'Jackie' Fateh Singh Gaekwad, erstwhile Maharaja of Baroda, among the distinguished guests.

I had left my office-cum-press premises at around 5 pm with instructions that the first copies be sent to me in a sealed envelope to the hotel's Ballroom, the venue of the function.

Seven pm turned to 8 and 9 – with no copy of Mid-Day in sight.

Finally at 9:15, the envelope arrived. I took a nervous look at the copy and seeing it was neither all-black nor all-white, made bold to hand it to Field Marshal seated next to me, with the comment, "Sir, here's my baby Mid-Day".

Looking at his watch he replied mock-officiously "Call it bloody Mid-Day".

And thereby hangs a tale.

It was a classic case of foolish hope triumphing over harsh reality.

In time, Mid-Day broke all verifiable circulation records and has gone down as a case study in the annals of Indian newspaper publishing, even though I say it myself.

I repeat, I say all this NOT to pat myself on the back – but hopefully to inspire YOU.

I must mention as an aside that we were blessed abundantly by the One Above in the form of a strike at one of the competitors' offices and a fire at the other just before launch of Mid-Day.

My senior staff and I, believing in a level playing field and fair competition, decided we would NOT take advantage of the competitors' misfortunes.

We decided we would not lay the foundations of Mid-Day on the ashes of our competitors and postponed its launch by a week.

In time, an edition of Mid-Day was started in New Delhi, Sunday Mid-Day in Bengaluru, Inquilab in New Delhi, Sportsweek in Hindi in Mumbai and Gujarati Mid-Day in Mumbai.

Meanwhile, I was asked by the Ministry of Sport in New Delhi to publish *Asiad Chronicle*, the official publication of the 1971 Asian Games in New Delhi under the watch of Rajiv Gandhi and Giani Zail Singh, who went on to become the President of India.

To this day – the *Inquilab Urdu Daily*, even after 87, and *Mid-Day* after 43 years, continue to inform, entertain and enlighten their loyal readership in two languages, albeit under new ownership.

I have been blessed with two sons (and a daughter). Both my sons fortunately decided, as you all, it will interest you to know: to hitch their wagons to the stars in the same profession as some of you have done – namely journalism and mass communication.

They have been successful – even though I say it as their parent, in

their own rights - not only in print journalism and commercial printing in India and the U.S., but also in radio broadcasting (*Radio One – 94.3*), which was started by them as a joint venture with BBC Radio, London with stations in seven Indian cities.

Lest I be misunderstood, I mention ALL this with great reluctance, only as real-life examples in the hope that they will inspire you - - AS WELL - to even greater spectacular successes in your chosen profession.

On a personal note: through sheer accident of birth and by dint of having chosen the profession some of you have chosen journalism and communications as my specialisation, I have been able to start and run newspapers and magazines in India, the US, the Middle East (Dubai) and at and for the United Nations in New York and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

In all humility I have had the honour to represent my country at that august but ineffectual body – the United Nations, accompany dignitaries (that is Indian presidents and prime ministers) on state visits abroad, cover cricket Test matches all over the world, nine Olympics, and Commonwealth and Asian Games, going back to the Munich Olympics in 1972.

By virtue of my profession, I have travelled the world on work and been honoured with the Padma Shri.

I have survived the vicissitudes of newspaper and magazine publishing – up to my ripe old age of 85 – to be able to share my wonderful journey with you today - in what is essentially "A Wonderful World" (the title of my Memoir) or "Jab uperwala meherbaan to gadha pehelwaan, (when the One Above smiles benignly, the donkey thinks he's a wrestler).

Irrespective of what you choose to do hereafter, I end in the fervent hope and belief that my personally exciting – and idiotic! - professional journey will ignite at least a miniscule spark in a small corner of your wondrous brain and lead you to spectacular success.

Hearty congratulations and best wishes again - may you bring pride and joy to yourselves, your families and our nation at large.

# IQBAL BHALLA



**1. Your childhood was spent amongst scientists and researchers, at the NCBS campus in Bangalore. How would you characterise this as having influenced your life and career?**

**A.** Enormously! Dinner time conversations between my parents were about research papers. On campus, there were talks on every subject imaginable that I could just stroll into. My childish interest in insects was given the space to mature into a genuine curiosity for them. I remember attending a talk by Bert Holldobler on the social behaviour of ants that was so captivating that it led me to spend my summers studying the social behaviour of termites with Dr. Sanjay Sane. My interest in super-organisms (insects like social bees, ants, and termites, where most individuals can't reproduce) was so strong that I came very close to focussing my PhD on ant behaviour.

**2. Your passion for biology had already cemented by the time you came to Xavier's in 2013. What led you to this college? Was it the academic approach of Xavier's that attracted you?**

**A.** I think it was a combination of the college and the city that drew me to Xavier's. I was quite sure that I wanted to study Zoology, a department that Xavier's was known for, and I was also quite certain that I wanted to get as far away from Bangalore and my parents as I could. Bombay fit the bill.

**3. Apart from its rigorous academics, Xavier's is also**

**known for its emphasis on co-curricular activities. How did you navigate between the two, given your predilection towards research?**

**A.** Looking back, it feels like I did more co-curricular activities than coursework. I worked on making a couple of movies directed by a friend of mine, Dhruv Tripathi. I studied judo, I wrote fiction and fantasy. It's a miracle I got any studying done – and to be honest, I wasn't a stellar student in every subject. Despite fantastic teachers, my grades in biochemistry were abysmal. Zoology on the other hand was much easier, in part because most animal behaviour classes I didn't really need to study for. To me, it was just one engaging story after the other. I can still remember the first class taught by Dr. Conrad, about the behavioural evolution of a pride of lions that had adapted to hunt elephants instead of smaller herbivores.

**4. In your 2015 book Boots, you call yourself an 'oddball' at school. How was your position at Xavier's? Also, being an outstation student, how did that impact your experience?**

**A.** I can't believe you found that book. To be honest I'm a bit embarrassed about it now. Xavier's was a huge change from school because I was suddenly in a class full of people who were also interested in things that crawled and slithered. I came to Bombay thinking I knew a lot about snakes and the like, but on my very first day was quickly put in my place by some classmates who corrected me on the identification of the specimens in the Zoology lab.

It's funny that you use the phrase 'outstation student', because my closest friends at Xaviers were all outstation students, and we called ourselves OSAX (outstation students at Xaviers). Once you have a group like that, life becomes much easier.

**5. You published your book, Boots, at a very young age! Was writing another major interest of yours, or did you develop it as a side hobby?**

**A.** Yes, I've been writing quite consistently since I was in school. Boots is the only book out there, but given the chance I'd retract it and publish other works of mine. Writing is my creative outlet. I can't play music, draw, paint, dance, or any of the myriad other forms of art. But I can write. Badly, as a rule, adequately on a good day, and well on special occasions. I find my ability to work on science does suffer when I haven't exercised the creative muscle.

**6. What motivated you to continue your research studies in England? Was the research climate more favourable there?**

**A.** By the end of my B.Sc, it was quite clear that I would need to learn statistics and programming if I wanted to continue in my field. I chose Imperial College for my M.Sc because they offered an ecology course with stats and R. My PhD was decided by the scholarship I won, which would only fund a course at Oxford. There I found an incredible supervisor and decided to study bats.

**7. Your doctoral thesis focused on the efficacy of bats as pesticides in rice fields. This is a very sustainable approach to farming. How practical do you think it is? Can such approaches be implemented in India?**

**A.** Yes and no. Yes bats are incredibly effective pest control agents. They can roost in high densities, many species can hunt a range of pests, and they can travel long distances to foraging sites. That being said, bats can be highly sensitive to habitat disturbances, and have extremely slow life histories. So while bats have an

enormous potential to control pest numbers, I wouldn't consider creating biological pest control regimes centered purely around bats. Their reproductive rate is simply too slow to have a significant effect on a timeline that matters (within a decade). Habitat restoration will help in general, and bats will benefit from it, but other natural enemies, like birds and arthropods, will make a larger difference to pest numbers quicker. In short, increasing the value of bats as pest control agents in the short-medium term will be very difficult, but protecting what we already have is of vital importance.

**8. You recently started working at NatureBound. What is your job about, and in what way do you make use of your research skills to facilitate your work there?**

A. I started NatureBound along with two co founders with the idea that as the value of biodiversity is becoming clear to 'industry' as a whole, finding effective, cheap, and scalable ways to monitor

biodiversity was going to be a huge challenge, but one that, if solved, would enable farmers to access new sources of income. Many companies and labs are innovating on tools to monitor biodiversity. I felt there was a need to bring these tools together in a way that made logistical and economic sense, which is what we initially set out to do.

**9. Finally, your educational journey has been remarkable! What mental/moral factors would you say have helped you throughout?**

A. That's a tough one. One of the things I learned a bit late in life was to ask for help. There is simply too much out there for any one person to know, too many skills that are useful in any field. Asking for help never hurts. That being said, most of my PhD I did with very little supervision, which meant that I had to figure it out myself. In retrospect, that was a huge boon, because I learnt by doing, by building from first principles,

by failing. It took longer this way, but I left with a deeper well of knowledge than if someone had shown me the way.

**10. What would be that one life lesson/ takeaway from your years at Xavier's that you may wish to share with students?**

A. As counter-intuitive as it may sound, I think there is great value in being irreverent. That's not something we usually learn in school, but college is the right place to begin questioning widely held beliefs and established methods of study.

The seemingly stupid 'why?' questions are incredibly important, especially in a field like biology at a time of such rapid global change. This is particularly true when you think of all the new tools and techniques being developed that, with some creativity, can be used to study biological systems.

Thank you for your time.

*Trust the wait. Embrace the uncertainty. Enjoy the beauty of becoming. When nothing is certain anything is possible.*

*— Mandy Hale*

# ANSHUMAN JHA



1. **From an economics student in St Xavier's to a stint in theater, how would you describe the transition to acting in films?**

A. I have always wanted to be an actor since I was a 5 year old in Allahabad. But I was a good student and my mother had a condition that if I wanted to pursue acting, I had to get into either St. Stephens in Delhi or St. Xavier's College on merit. I knew I had to crack Xavier's as I wanted to shift to Mumbai & start doing theater here. Not many people know, but I did my diploma acting course with Barry John in Delhi while I was still a teenager(16-17) because I wanted to learn from the master before I shifted. I also acted in his production "It's all about money, honey" before moving here. So it was always going to be acting. I did nearly 5 professional play productions while I was still in college at Xavier's & assisted on over 50 ad film's on the side. And the college, the faculty & Ft.Frazer have been instrumental in allowing me the freedom to pursue my passion. I also never scored less than a first class. So I loved studying economics and I love St. Xavier's College but the college itself was my transition ground. And the economics degree has come in handy as I run my production company now.

2. **The film industry can be very competitive and fast paced, how has this journey affected you and what are some of your most memorable moments?**

A. I love films, the industry and yes it is ruthless, it is competitive

but nothing worth doing is ever easy in life. I come from a place of education & training, so that has kept me grounded & I have charted my own journey. And will continue to. I believe & focus on controlling the controllables. Yes, it can be lonely at times but you feel the love and support at other times. So there is a balance in extremes. My most memorable moment is the appreciation I got for my debut film "Love, Sex Aur Dhokha-LSD", the 'Best Actor' award I won in New York for my recent film 'Lakadbaggha' & my days as an Assistant Director to Subhash Ghai on the film 'Black&White' - I learnt a lot about editing, music & production from him, and just being around Anil Kapoor & Shefali Shah on that film set as a 20 year old.

3. **In your breakthrough performance in "Love, Sex Aur Dhokha", you played the character - Rahul Kumar who is an aspiring film director. Can you tell us about the process of preparing for this role and how you approached portraying a character who experiences a wide range of emotions throughout the film?**

A. I had told my friend while stepping out of PVR in 2008 after watching 'Oye Lucky, Lucky Oye' that I wish to make my debut with Dibakar Bannerjee. So it was a dream come true. I auditioned for it. Got the confirmation for the part on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2009. It was followed by intensive workshops with Atul Mongia (The casting director) & Dibakar. The character was an ode, in a way, to SRK's 'Rahul' over the years but in a real world space. I had been an assistant Director so the filmmaker bit came naturally. But my death scene, especially because of the way DB shot it, will stay with me forever. I am grateful to Dibakar & the entire LSD team for their support & encouragement. I had trained

myself for this moment so was ready to fire.

4. **You have acted in many genres like drama, comedy, and action, what genre are you looking to perform in and what interests you?**

A. Currently I am really enjoying the action genre because we are exploring how to do raw, real action with the Lakadbaggha - animal lover vigilante universe. I was in New York last month again to start the process for Lakadbaggha part 2. I am getting to train hard, learn Krav-Maga & push my body because all of it needs to look & feel real. But I do want to do an out & out Rom-Com soon.

5. **Do you have any particular approach or style when it comes to getting into a character's headspace? Like your role in the successful movie "Lakadbaggha"?**

A. "Lakadbaggha" was an exception to my usual approach which is creating a character inside-out. But because this film was so physical & required so much training I went outside-in. Instinct takes over for me after that. The script is my Bible & I read it hundreds of times. I end up remembering everyone's lines - I guess it's because of my training on stage & how my gurus have taught me. And then I create or pick a track (music piece) for every character I play. And that gets me into the mood everyday on set irrespective of what is happening in the real world & my life.

6. **Speaking of "Lakadbaggha", how did you feel when you won the award for best actor in HBO's South Asian International Film Festival? What were some of the challenges you faced during the filming process?**

A. Fighting this 'Action-Hero' prototype we have created in our

minds was the biggest challenge. I believe being ordinary is a superpower & we wanted to show a real, ordinary guy can be a superhero and lethal. Ofcourse learning the martial arts form (krav-maga) was a BIG challenge but again had brilliant teachers - Tsahi Shemesh in New York (he has trained the Avengers cast previously) & Vicky Arora in India. And then getting physically strong because that was the only way I could sustain & do all my stunts without injury. And I am grateful to Prashant Sawant for his guidance & training in getting me in shape. The love 'Lakadbagha' & Arjun (my character) is getting, including the awards that I win are a reminder to keep the intent honest and the work ethic alive. We as actors owe it to our audiences to deliver nothing but our best.

**7. When we review your movie choices they have been impactful and poignant, is that a particular choice you make while taking up films?**

A. I like to do movies that I would like to watch which takes me out of my comfort zone as an actor. Comfort is the enemy. I enjoy working hard, it's my favorite pastime. I would also like to do more mainstream films but I haven't really been offered many from the film makers I admire as yet. Zoya Akhtar & Sriram Raghavan are some filmmakers I would love to collaborate with as an actor before my time ends.

**8. Keeping with our theme of reconnection and recollection, what are some of your most memorable moments in St. Xaviers and what impact has that had on your acting career?**

A. The food in the canteen especially the masala pav. Anna's tea in the

hostel mess. I had restarted the Theatre club in my first year, I hope it still is functioning - my batchmate Uday (who is now in Seattle with Amazon) & I had done an intense two man show. Ithaka theater fest in the woods - I had performed Girish Karnad's 'Fire & The Rain' there - it's one of my most memorable alternate theater venues. And ofcourse Malhar & Janfest - so many memories. I had hosted JanFest in 2005-06 & just to be in the presence of those artists & to hear them create magic in the quad - I get goosebumps even now. Ofcourse, the professors without whom we aren't much - Asha ma'am is someone who really showed warmth & love. And I am grateful to all the professors for life.

**9. You have worked in a host of experimental and non-experimental plays with directors like Quasar Padamsee, Joy Fernandes and Jaimini Pathak. You also assisted Subhash Ghai for a period of three years, can you tell us more about that experience?**

A. I acted in all those plays you mention while I was at Xavier's & it really helped me understand the importance of practice & process. Theatre has been my riyaz as an actor. And I truly believe there are no shortcuts to doing good work. Those plays with those greats, while I was still in my teens, gave me a solid foundation. I still keep going back to Q, Jai for feedback. I feel blessed to have them as my seniors, my guides, my teachers & as my friends.

With Mr. Ghai it was so special. He gave me so much freedom & taught me so much with regards to writing, music, editing & the craft of acting. Because remember

he is an FTII grad in acting & has a lot of insight on the art of performing. Yes, he is a showman & a successful maker but he knows a lot about actors. With him I got to experience 6am writing sessions, 12 hour edit sessions, non stop planning, music sessions with Sonu Nigam, Sukhvinder Singh, Rahaman - it was the biggest blessing as a cinema lover & student. And I truly feel blessed to have had the opportunity to serve & learn at Mukta Arts. I am still a brilliant assistant director.

**10. What advice would you give to young aspiring actors in today's day and age of increasing ott platforms?**

A. All art forms need Riyaz/practice - musicians do riyaz, dancers do riyaz, singers do riyaz & similarly Actors need Riyaz. Of course there is a certain amount of natural talent that one is either blessed with or isn't. But reading, training, educating yourself - which includes watching & observing - is critical to being a long term successful actor. And do NOT worry about Instagram or social media. Remember - a good actor has a higher chance of becoming an influencer tomorrow. An influencer may not necessarily be a good actor. Also, as artists we all have limited time - I know I will die one day but my films will stay beyond me. Can't say the same about reels, right? So focus on creating high concept memorable experiences for the audiences & enjoy the process of creation. Don't worry about the numbers and likes. And stay flexible - physically, mentally & intellectually.



Creative  
Musings



# LOLITA FASHION - A CLOTHING REVOLUTION

## What is Lolita fashion?

One of the most famous fashion trends of the Japan street styles includes quirky, pastel coloured, dazzling clothes which brought about a cuteness revolution in the Western world. It was also famously known as Doll fashion. Unlike its stereotyped 'dress code' there is also a goth subculture to it and like other cultures its history runs deeper than only cuteness. It's worth noting the similarity of 'Lolita' with the novel of the same name written by Vladimir Nabokov. Although initially there does seem to be much resemblance with the plot of the book (attraction of a middle aged man to his step daughter) and this fashion trend, but the style had a different motive altogether which we will dive into later. The meaning of the word 'lolita' in English being 'precariously seductive' while in Japan having different cultural relevance will be delved in this article while also exploring the history, culture transition and its gender relevance with societal expectations today.

Sweet lolita confidently walking the streets of Harajuku, Tokyo

## Tracing the History

Lolita fashion first emerged on Tokyo streets in the 1970s and got its official

name in the 1990s but its foundations were laid far back. The style was inspired by Victorian, Edwardian and Roco clothing. The dollhouse style which was developed by Milk wasn't formerly considered to be Lolita fashion. The Milk label, found on albums of Japanese pop music in the early 80s helped popularise this style. Then in the 90s visual kei bands emerged whose visuals included dresses, gothic fits, feminine makeup which was the reason as well as the result of Lolita fashion. Before this, kawaii kraze (crazy cute in Japanese) trends such as teddy bears, curly



handwriting, 'girly' consumer goods like Hello Kitty merchandise, helped set the base for this style, it is important to note Lolita fashion was born as a radical style to the normative gender stereotypes of Japanese women. Before this culture women wore plain clothes as expressing oneself through clothes was not really an option. Women felt trapped

in societal roles just like in the clothes they were expected to wear. Hence, a new revolution of rebellion through clothes took place.

## Embracing the Inner Child

The Japanese society had a rigid system of social institutions wherein the women felt oppressed. A group of

youth tired from social expectations, commercialization, fashion stereotypes centred on body and to reject male gaze, found solace in laces and drills. As a way of escaping from being trapped in a box by the traditional robes, women embraced frocks and laces. Lolita fashion is a call of remembrance to their forgotten childhood, a childhood uncorrupted by adulthood. Although the style mainly focused on relieving women from their negative emotions some exception to the culture is found in goth lolita style where the clothing is inspired by the dark aesthetics. The question is, did they really get to escape? With changing cultures, a huge chunk of media was affected and a transition in portrayal of women in pop culture was seen. Even today anime portrays female characters in a lucid way which puts them in a box. Western country's take on this style is everything the women of Japan were trying to escape from. It's interesting how society perceives women whenever they try to bring about a change.

Even after being a style which welcomes women throughout an age group, the style is often criticized to exhibit and glorify pedophilia. The ideals might have been to uplift women but the way some people interpret this fashion denies it the title of feminist movement. In spite of all the differences, the fashion has given women a safe place to be themselves. In a male dominated society Lolita fashion is surely an anchor which women cling to.

**Mohsina Sakriwala**  
FYBA

# INDIAN WOMEN AND SPORTS

We hear the word sports and our mind is flooded with names like Virat Kohli, M.S Dhoni, Rohit Sharma and many more. While men are excelling in this area, women are making us equally proud. The problem is, they face many more challenges. The moment a girl decides to enter into sports, the world

goes against her. Even while living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century it's difficult for people to wrap their minds around the fact that sports is a gender neutral activity.

There are various women who have gone through many obstacles but came

out with flying colours. Women, not only represented our nation at the national and international levels but now represent their respective games too as we link their games to them.

Remember those sixes by Yuvraj Singh? But how many people know that

Mithali Raj is the highest run scorer in international women's cricket (do we have a term like international men's cricket?)? She is known for her splendid batting skills and her leadership qualities. Mary Kom, also known as MAGNIFICENT MARY, is the only woman globally to have won a medal in all the seven world championships. She now devotedly trains more girls to do the same for the nation. Off late, globally ranked number one in archery, Deepa Kumari won a gold in the world cup. The 2016 Olympics was ruled by women where the first Indian woman to win a medal in wrestling, Sakshi Malik put up a tough fight and didn't give up till the end. P.V. Sindhu, the only Indian woman to win a silver in olympics, inspires many others to pursue their dreams. These are just a few to name among so many others.

Before beginning to write this article, I thought about numerous ways of how to go about it because I didn't want to start it by how the society has linked men with sports and it's in their domain and actualise that fact when I realised it's made a truth, and the media plays a major role in continuing that same age old patriarchal belief. The media is obsessed with feeding us news which is all about men's talents and skills while objectifying women by how even after being in the 'masculine' domain they have got their sense of style, their 'femininity' isn't dead yet. Many of them had also been sexualised for the clothes they wear in many articles and interviews. The interview questions don't seem to hide the discontent and the inherent sexism of the interviewer's mind. Sania Mirza had received such hate filled comments especially after her marriage, something like "She is winning the trophy to take it to her father-in-law" or during unnecessary cricket discussions. Other times, women's names are linked with a man's, for example for Geeta and Babita Phogat it was their father. Asking questions like 'who will you choose between your career and family' or 'do you plan on getting settled' are few from the many questions directed towards female players. This misrepresentation of sportswomen by

the media not only makes us question its authenticity but also takes a toll on the mental health of these women.

Our country is known for its diversity. But while we are blessed with various cultures and traditions, the differences then give birth to the casteist outlook of our society. The dalits, bahunas are considered as the low caste in the societal pyramid and have been oppressed for it since centuries. Sports Women struggle for being in the 'men' dominated sector, so for the ones who are already marginalised by the society the struggle becomes even more rigid. While there are women who fought all those obstructions and shined brightly, like Dutee Chand who is breaking her own records and going on to become the 'SportsWoman of 2019' by Vogue India and Hima Das who blew up our minds with her flying athletic skills and reserved her name in one of the best athletes of our country; there are also names like Helen Thulasi who also goes by the name 'Lady Mohammed Ali of India', who was manipulated and harassed psychologically and emotionally just for being born in a caste which is socially constructed and something that no one has a control on. A lot of times she was wrongly judged during several of her matches thus, being disqualified. Other times she was asked for sexual favours or monetary bribes to climb ahead on the career ladder. She had to do various small jobs to fend for herself and her family as her sports career couldn't really take off.

Not many schools in India readily support their students for sports, neither in a proper coaching way nor monetarily. Amongst them, the quota for girl's sports education is even lesser. This reminds me of the scene from the movie Dangal where the sports officer offers a sweet box in the name of funds for women's sports. Hence it becomes even more important to support girls in sports and help them secure a future for themselves by trying our best to not let them go through any sort of societal or financial obstacles.

**Mohsina Sakriwala**  
FYBA

## ILLUSION OF OPTIMISM

A lot has changed,  
Too many things faded  
Carrying it reluctantly,  
Slow poison, optimistically.

Words unsaid,  
Feelings buried,  
Judgements concluded,  
Truth shaded.

Behavior, gone awry,  
Fake smile to carry  
Memories relived,  
To be, believed.

Pretension with precision,  
Acts of acceptance,  
Need based trust,  
No emotional thrust.

Smile is priceless,  
But, at whose cost,  
Relentless efforts,  
Despite, everything lost.

Recognize in one moment  
Derecognize in another,  
Opportune based relationship,  
Unconditional surrender.

Existence in question,  
Deeply carved scar,  
Readily available,  
Near or far.

No reciprocation,  
But expectations high,  
Is it trusted,  
Or merely deny.

No blame,  
Underprivileged relationship,  
After all these years,  
I am not equip.

Just flow in the flow,  
Either like a log or a leaf,  
You know it's illusion,  
love is a deceitful belief.

**Dr. Avkash Jadhav**  
Head, Associate Professor  
Department of History

# BLOODLESS RELIGION

My birth natural,  
But identity religious  
Family cultural  
Myths fictitious  
Violence by thy name,  
When color of blood same  
Mosque, temple or church  
Humanity at loss, endless search  
Celestial bodies, we worship  
But racial, religious differences we keep,  
God did not create religion,  
Now rituals have their own legion  
My almighty superior than yours,  
Heaven and hell, secures  
Children of mother  
Divided by father  
I survive over, your kill  
Commanded by religious will  
Love, acceptance and compassion  
Diluted by religious division  
Monotheistic practice is the best,  
We are mankind, forget the rest.  
Can I breathe free and fearless,  
Humanity my religion unbounded and colorless

**Dr. Avkash Jadhav**  
Head, Associate Professor  
Department of History

## THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER WAY

Why must we wait for our luck to shine?  
When only we can erase our own crimes  
A ladder of hope waits for us to climb  
It's always there even at the worst of times  
Why do we think of ending our story?  
When we still have our entire life to rise with glory  
Why do we let our fears push us down?  
When all we have to do is get back up and pick our crown  
Whenever you feel you have lost your way,  
Remember, there is always another day  
Yes, time keeps going by  
So buckle up and tie up your own tie  
Everyday, remind yourself  
Your life cannot be ruined because of anyone else  
The people who scarred you aren't worth your tears  
So why let them become one of your fears?  
Life is not an exam we need to pass  
It's a game we chose to win  
Your marks don't prove your class  
Thinking different from others isn't a sin  
Why must we hide behind a mask?  
We are doing it wrong, that's not the task  
The challenge is to stay true to yourself  
That speaks plenty more than any trophy sitting there on  
your shelf  
Why live our lives in fear and sadness  
Instead we must lead our lives with faith and happiness  
Whenever you feel you have lost your way,  
Remember there is always another day

**Srushti Chavan**  
FYBA

# TIMELESS TIME

Time, time, time  
Will you ever be mine?  
You disappear and reappear  
You bring a smile, you shed a tear

Your moments come like fireflies  
They are fleeting and then it dies.  
You come and go, breathe and grow  
When that happens we will never know.

You fly and fly and fly  
You escape our hands when we pry.  
You fashion a sense of order and place  
You diverge and converge to make us chase

Your infinite power and magic  
Your comedic timing is so tragic.  
You govern our lives and dominate  
You take all our bits and pieces and conflate

Your omniscience is omnipresent,  
Your omnipotence makes a dent  
Your value to us is indescribable,  
Your role in life immeasurable  
You fulfil our need  
You manifest our deed  
You are my guide and enemy,  
You are my drain and energy  
To find your meaning we will persist,  
To see if you really do exist.  
Oh! Time, time, time,  
Will you ever and forever just be mine?

**Jeremy Varghese**  
FYBA

# WHEN IT RAINS...

When the Rains Come,  
Euphoric is what I become  
For finally we are alleviated  
From the scorch the sun created  
The drops of nectar falling from the sky  
Fall upon me, saying "Hi"  
When the Rains Dance,  
A picture of elegance and romance  
The showers join in a waltz  
With the wind and the breeze, it exalts  
The cascading drops twirl and swirl  
Until a whole new land of green lush unfurls  
When the Rains Sing,  
A melody of pats and pats it brings  
To soothe our ears with its dazzling drips  
And to spring a song upon our lips  
It's that time of the year  
When nature's true sounds we hear  
When the Rains Scare,  
As the temperamental thunder fills the air  
And lurid lightning makes hair stand on end  
While we are mightier than it all we pretend  
But inside we quiver to the beat of the chaos  
While the grisly gale makes us toss  
When the Rains Hug,  
It's a cosy cool sheet giving a snug  
The petrichor envelops us as we repose  
The elixir of the first rains the wind blows  
To make us feel loved, cared for & protected  
As the gentle zephyr of the rain puts us to bed  
When the Rains Go,  
It would be time to welcome the snow  
No more puddles or showers  
As despair and gloom empowers  
But I know I'll be elated once again  
When the rains rain

**Jeremy Varghese**  
FYBA

# I FEEL PRETTY

The lights revealed my face. I stood there in the centre of a massive stage with my trembling palms clenching the microphone that stood proudly in front of me. The crowd cheered with enthusiasm as they waved their hands up in the air, almost knocking each other over. All of them glared at me with Beatle-like, curious eyes and radiant smiles that followed beneath. They were all desperately expecting me to sing, sing my very own song on my very first concert.

For a moment, I ideally stood there, dumbfounded, as I reminisced my troubled past and was swept into a flashback. I remembered being a 14 year old girl wearing a neat school uniform with untied shoe laces and immense fear in her eyes. I tapped my feet rapidly and bit the bottom of my lips as I attempted to hide my teeming anxiety. My classmates stared right at me, hoping I would be able to utter atleast a single word. My well versed presentation lit up behind me but I had nothing to explain. In fact, nothing to say as it seemed as though my tongue had been tied up into an unbearable tight knot.

After quite a few moments, I finally managed to deliver my first line. To my disappointment one of my classmates pointed and laughed at me. He didn't even give me a chance to prove what I really had in me. "Why?" It was due to the stamp that was metaphorically engraved on my forehead and it said, "shy". I have always despised that word. I could have sworn that I had changed and was no longer the shy girl I was as a primary kid but it was of no use. At that age, I thought that the word would follow me to my grave. It always crawled back into me as soon as I saw the same bunch of people who shamelessly teased me for it.

I was way too embarrassed to go on with my presentation and so I dashed out of the classroom as I hopelessly tried to prevent my tears of regret from rolling down my cheeks. At that point, I had had enough. Well sure it was a devastating experience but it had somehow actually taught me a lesson that I cherish. I should be grateful for the people who once teased me since they led me to a new world of excitement and confidence.

During the next few months, I completely uplifted myself. I managed to stand up for myself, made new, unforgettable bonds and memories with my classmates, started working harder for the things I desired and most importantly, I FELT PRETTY.

Before I used to look in the mirror and see a girl who stood absolutely no chance of being the person she dreams of being. Now here I am, looking at myself in the concert screens that surrounded me, feeling confident.

We are all beautiful. The only difference is the way we look at ourselves. Before, I used to look at myself with disgrace and regret and now I see myself as a stone from underground emerging as a diamond.

What was I waiting for? All of these beautiful people in the audience are here for me and my voice so I must show them my inner self. I instantly pulled the mike out of its stand and once again, I felt confident. I felt pretty.

**Srushti Chavan**  
FYBA

*Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things.*

— Cicero

*I think it is all a matter of love; the more you love a memory the stronger and stranger it becomes.*

— Vladimir Nabokov

# LES MOTS FRANÇAIS

## TIMBRES, CARTES POSTALES ET MOI

*Je garde toutes mes lettres, mes cartes postales et mes notes de remerciement. Je les garderai pour toujours!* - Jane Levi

Aujourd'hui, après le vingtième siècle, notre monde est plus mondialisé et bien changé. On trouve des portables et des appareils électroniques trop diversifiés. C'est comme un grand géant digital qui frappe tout le monde. Les appareils électroniques sont bien appréciés par toutes les générations. Cependant, la vie est surtout hâtée et usée par la meilleure technologie. Nous nous sentons parfois un peu effrayés par le grand espace donné à la technologie dans la vie quotidienne pour devenir des utilisateurs de technologie et pour être bien connectés avec nos amis, notre famille, nos amoureux etc. Toutefois, nous préférons ces moyens parce que nous croyons que ce sont les moyens les moins chers et les plus rapides par rapport aux jours où Mahatma Gandhi et Léo Tolstoï écrivaient des lettres et des cartes postales.

Le monde des cartes postales existe. Je ne plaisante pas mais en réalité, je vous explique la magie que j'ai vécue. Autrefois, j'étais très seul après avoir commencé à utiliser un fauteuil roulant; je me suis retrouvé perdu de jour en jour. En même temps, j'ai trouvé une collection de timbres qui appartenait à mes parents. Ils ont ramassé plein de timbres de nombreux pays pendant leur enfance. Mes parents m'ont dit que ramasser des timbres et écrire des cartes postales comptent beaucoup, bien que le monde ne les apprécie pas aujourd'hui. Mais, pour la première fois, je n'ai rien compris. Je l'ai demandé à mes professeurs, mais ils ont refusé de me le faire apprendre. Alors, ma mère a noté que j'ai dû découvrir moi-même la joie de m'amuser avec des timbres, des cartes postales, et de la diversité philatélique.

Donc un jour, j'ai commencé à compter des timbres dans des carnets

de timbres. Étonnamment, la moitié des timbres venait de l'Allemagne. Le jour suivant, j'ai visité le bureau de poste à Panvel. Le maître de poste m'a demandé si une exposition philatélique m'intéressait? Je lui ai répondu «oui» et pour l'hebdomadaire suivant, j'ai préparé ma contribution pour cette exposition. Le thème était «L'Histoire Allemande à travers des timbres». Dans ce procès, j'avais de la chance de communiquer avec le patrimoine mondial. J'ai appris tous les détails de perspective allemande comme les guerres mondiales, le roi Wilhelm, et même les trois systèmes postales jusqu'au 1990. Avec des changements politiques, les timbres reflétaient les étapes politiques. C'est vrai quand on dit que les timbres sont des représentatifs nationaux qui racontent des histoires au-delà de la compréhension des majorités. Avec mon expérience de l'exposition philatélique, je me suis habitué aux détails les plus petits, à tel point que mes lunettes ont changé plusieurs fois. Heureusement, j'ai développé la patience d'étudier seulement un timbre pendant une heure. De plus, j'ai écrit une histoire philatélique et politique. Je me suis beaucoup amusé mais cela a coûté cher. Je n'étais pas sûr si je gagnerais une médaille. Mais, comme une surprise, j'ai gagné la médaille de bronze et j'ai préparé pour une exposition au niveau national à Nashik au Maharashtra en 2016. Je me suis beaucoup amélioré mais jusqu'à maintenant, je n'ai rien gagné. Mon cœur est tombé très profond, dans la mer Arabe. L'exagération est totalement vraie.

J'y ai visité tous les stands et j'ai découvert un stand qui s'appelait «le Post-Crossing» (une organisation créée par Paulo Magalhães, un portugais, en juillet 2005). Et à partir de ce moment-là, ma vie a totalement changé d'une manière positive. Je me demandais qu'est-ce que cette organisation. Ils m'ont expliqué que c'était un service gratuit où on pouvait échanger des cartes

postales aux étrangers. Mais, je m'étais encore perdu et confondu; comment parler aux personnes étranges qui ont seulement des profils et leurs goûts- quels types de cartes postales ils aimeraient recevoir? Les premiers six mois, je n'ai reçu aucune carte postale pendant que j'en avais envoyé cinq. Attristé, je suis allé chercher ma boîte aux lettres à la maison. Il y avait une enveloppe de Russie. L'expéditeur a envoyé beaucoup de cartes postales, de la monnaie, ainsi qu'un message très long qui parlait de sa ville et de sa nation. Il m'a également donné l'envie de faire manger les plats russes. Je souris beaucoup quand je me rappelle de ce courriel. Dans ma tirelire, il y a ses pièces de monnaie et des souvenirs philatéliques. Pendant une année, nous avons échangé des lettres comme Mahatma Gandhi et Leo Tolstoï l'ont fait. J'ai appris l'art de gagner le cœur des autres et aussi de me faire facilement des amis.

Il y avait également deux autres cartes postales exceptionnelles. L'un était de Hong Kong et l'autre du Biélorussie. Celle de Hong Kong avait un message intime qui m'a beaucoup touché; cette personne a exprimé ses sentiments sur le sujet de diversité là-bas et la vie dure qu'elle avait vécue. De plus, elle avait mis un timbre de papillon et près de l'adresse, il y avait un dessin de son chien et le nom de son quartier. Je lui ai écrit un long message et elle l'a aimé. Ainsi, j'ai appris une chose à propos de Hong Kong: ils font des cartes postales créatives. Cette carte avait aussi une image du Parc de Hong Kong qui était faite de plastique. Par son utilisation des matériaux non réutilisables, nous devons apprendre à faire confiance à la pratique de la réduction des déchets. Il y a moins de gens maintenant qui continuent à écrire des cartes postales, ceux qui restent, ils ressentent de la joie dans cette pratique. Cette joie dure longtemps, cela vous motivera de penser, de réfléchir, et vous ne saurez jamais quand vous recevrez une carte postale.

Je voudrais également vous dire deux choses. La carte postale de Biélorussie a été envoyée par une fille qui avait le même prénom que ma sœur Katya. J'étais choqué par cela. J'ai cherché ce nom sur Internet et j'ai découvert une douzaine d'aspects partagés par l'Inde et l'Europe.

Finalement, écrire des cartes postales m'a motivé à savoir ce que les étrangers pensent de l'Inde. J'ai reçu une myriade de réactions. Quelques gens nous ont associés aux acteurs, à l'industrie de cinéma, ou simplement à une grande population et aux stéréotypes farcis de

controverse. Exceptionnellement, les Israéliens, les Français, les Allemands et les Brésiliens ont réagi en disant – «Monsieur, vous avez beaucoup de diversité, une longue histoire des sages, et l'Inde cache beaucoup de talents scientifiques ainsi qu'une Constitution très unique. »

Alors, je pense qu'il y a un aspect de magie qu'on expérimente avec des timbres et des cartes postales. Quelqu'un peut dire que je suis ennuyeux, mais je suis content avec mes amis de correspondance. En réalité, je suis confortable d'écrire aux gens qui

me rencontrent fréquemment à travers les cartes postales. Pour conclure, l'année dernière, j'avais envoyé des cartes postales aux dix personnes et ils étaient vraiment heureux qu'un garçon continue encore cette pratique. En mots simples, des cartes postales m'ont donné des amis, m'ont fait oublier mes problèmes, et m'ont donné beaucoup de connaissances que j'applique beaucoup en étudiant à l'université.

**Ramprasad Mahurkar**  
SYBA

## LE POINT POUR RESTER

Il lui a demandé:

A quoi bon rester si un jour je sais que tu veux t'en aller

Elle répondit:

Mais ne partira-t-elle pas, la lumière du soleil dans la canopée de la forêt

Puis, dans les feuilles vertes, la tristesse pleurera

Le chant des oiseaux évanescents

Sera le silence désolé naissant

Il sera avec les fleurs tombantes

Et avec ta naïveté dupée

Tu te rendras compte que la vie ne soit pas une boucle

C'est une route menant à la mort ultime

Il rit et dit :

Tu es idiot

Tu n'as aucune idée

Périr c'est pragmatique

Périr c'est vrai

Mais le périr c'est la mort par la céleste force incontrôlée

La destruction faite par nous-mêmes à nous est un suicide inconsolé

Comme le firmament bleu, redeviendra

La rosée sur les feuilles, il y aura

Des fleurs immaculées, qui deviendront

Sublimes et par la tristesse adieu va être dit

Laissez-moi donner la neige

À la poussière qui s'est accumulée dans ton cœur

Parce que la vérité est le présent

Le mythe est ailleurs

**Tanaya Avalaskar**  
SYBA

# L'ÉTÉ SE POSE AU REBORD

L'été se pose au rebord de la fenêtre,  
Des oiseaux chantant et gazouillant, des trilles légers, des eaux qui courent et des baignades près de l'étang...  
Elle est assise, observant au loin:  
Les feuilles dansent selon leurs caprices,  
De la musique, de l'air, des rires empreints de chaleur,  
Elle est assise, attendant—  
Et lorsque l'été cède la place aux pluies,  
Je la retrouve à nouveau.

Douce et lourde, douce et calme,  
Le ciel offre un spectacle éthéré;  
Des pluies chuchotant et des terres mauresques, du silence et des histoires maternelles entre les mains...  
Elle est assise, souriant au loin:  
Les mélodies d'un monde renouvelé,  
D'émeraudes, de saphirs, d'opales, de diamants...  
Et lorsque la mousson s'estompe en teintes,  
Je sens sa présence se répandre.

Ombragée dans les ombres mourantes,  
Légère et rapide, un souffle, une mèche;  
La chaleur maternelle et les contes anciens, les jeux paternels et les coutumes culturelles...  
Elle observe d'un œil attentif:  
Le paysage qui s'efface en bleu,  
Le vieux, le perdu, l'oublié, le conçu...  
Et lorsque l'automne se fond dans les mélodies,  
Je la vois debout dans le salon.

Froide et joyeuse, frissonnante et merveilleuse,  
L'hiver se balance sur cet air joyeux;  
Un Noël blanc et un baiser amoureux caché, des étreintes chaleureuses et un bonheur saisonnier...

Je me tiens là, regardant autour de la pièce:  
La joie et le bonheur de la nuit,  
Les rires, les récits, les souvenirs, les souvenirs...  
Et lorsque le monde tourne vers le printemps,  
Je me surprends à l'appeler à nouveau.

Le printemps éclot lumineux sur le rebord de la fenêtre;  
Des rivières qui coulent et des ruisseaux qui chantent, des oiseaux qui chantent et des rêves chuchotés;  
Elle est assise, observant au loin:  
Les arbres qui jouent avec les vents...  
Avec de la musique, de l'air, avec vie et grandeur,  
Elle est assise, attendant—  
Et lorsque les fleurs se réchauffent au soleil,  
Elle me sourit, comme je le faisais quand j'étais enfant.

Freya Jalnawala  
SYBA



# SOUHAIT DE RÊVE.

J'ai rêvé du lycée Saint Xavier,  
Ici quand je suis arrivée  
J'ai eu l'impression que mon rêve s'était réalisé  
Et avec Saint Xavier, j'ai choisi le français.  
Mais dans l'examen, le français m'a durement touché,  
j'ai échoué et j'en ai eu peur.  
Avec beaucoup de travail et de constance, j'ai travaillé.  
Et aujourd'hui j'écris ce poème en français.

**Queenie Almeida**  
SYBA

## QUE PENSENT LES FEUILLES TOMBÉES?

Un arbre n'est pas la vie  
Un arbre, c'est la terre  
Et toutes les feuilles sont les humaines

Le printemps, elles poussent  
L'automne, elles tombent  
Et tout le sol c'est la mort

La Terre a l'espace fini  
Pour l'un à grandir un autre doit tomber  
Et de quoi les feuilles tombées peut-être pensent

C'est simple  
Elles ne le font pas

**Vineet Bhawe**  
SYBA

## NOTRE TERRE EST NOTRE RESPONSABILITÉ

Notre terre est très belle et magnifique.  
Il y a des plages bleues, les montagnes,  
les rivières et les arbres. Tous ces  
éléments sont très importants pour  
nous mais aujourd'hui, la situation n'est  
pas bonne. La raison?? C'est nous.

Je ne comprends pas ce qui se passe!  
Notre planète est en danger est c'est  
notre responsabilité de la protéger.  
Autrefois, la terre était verte, l'air était  
pur et aucun problème n'existait pas,  
mais aujourd'hui on coupe les arbres,  
on exploite les ressources naturelles,  
on gaspille de l'eau et bien sûr, on

utilise les sacs en plastique. Personne  
ne pense à propos de la génération  
à venir.

La pollution, l'échauffement global,  
le déboisement sont quelques effets  
négatifs de nos actions vis à vis de  
l'environnement. Donc, c'est important  
d'agir maintenant. Il faut planter  
les arbres, on peut aussi utiliser le  
transport en commun, il faut utiliser  
les sacs en jute ou en coton. On doit  
dire 'NON'aux sacs en plastique.

Il faut suivre les trois R - réduire,  
réutiliser et recycler. On produit aussi

des déchets de toutes sortes. Donc, on  
peut séparer les déchets pour les mettre  
dans les poubelles différentes. On peut  
partager les photos de la nature et sa  
beauté, et on peut publier des blogs  
sur ce sujet sur les réseaux sociaux.  
Cela va encourager et motiver les  
autres d'agir ensemble. L'avenir de  
notre terre est en nos mains. Enfin,  
c'est vrai que «Sauver la terre, c'est  
sauver notre vie »!!!

**Asmi Sunil Ghandat**  
FYBA

# LE MONDE DE BAGUETTES

Les français sont fiers de leur riche culture et de leur gastronomie. Il y a beaucoup de vins célèbres, de fromages et de pains connus de la France. Le mot 'baguette' vient du mot Latin 'baculum' qui est la racine du mot italien 'baccheto' qui signifie un bâton. Les pains longs existaient il y a un siècle, avant d'être appelés 'baguettes' pour la première fois en 1920. La tradition de faire cuire ce pain est un symbole de la culture française. En France, visiter la boulangerie tôt le matin pour acheter la baguette en attendant dans une queue avec les autres Français, c'est une expérience mémorable.

L'origine exacte de la baguette n'est pas connue mais il y a de nombreuses théories. Pendant les guerres napoléoniennes, les soldats ont trouvé que ce n'était pas pratique de prendre des pains ronds et c'est pourquoi les baguettes ont été invitées car c'étaient beaucoup plus faciles de les emporter et de les manger. Selon une autre théorie, la baguette a été inventée dans la ville de Vienne et a été exportée en France au dix-neuvième siècle. Quelques gens pensent qu'en 1920, une loi a été adoptée qui empêchait les boulangers de commencer leur travail avant 4 heures du matin. De ce fait, il est devenu difficile de cuire du pain en peu de temps et donc des boulangers préféraient des pains plus longs qui nécessitaient moins de temps de cuisson. On pense également que la création du métro a été à l'origine de l'invention des baguettes. À cette époque, les ouvriers portaient des couteaux pour couper les pains ronds et volumineux pour le déjeuner, ce qui a entraîné des combats de couteaux. Donc les ingénieurs ont demandé aux boulangers de faire cuire les pains plus longs qui étaient faciles de trancher sans couteau. En conséquence, la baguette est née. Ce sont des théories différentes bien connues de la naissance de baguette.

Être boulanger est considéré comme une vocation en France

où les boulangers et les pâtisseries maîtrisent cet art depuis des années. Pour honorer ces artisans, plusieurs concours sont organisés au niveau municipal et régional. Le concours le plus prestigieux est 'Grand Prix de la Baguette de Tradition Française de la Ville de Paris'. Le concours est jugé par un jury qui comprend des chefs pâtisseries, des boulangers et des anciens gagnants de ce concours. Ces juges font



un test de dégustation à l'aveugle et inspectent les baguettes. L'évaluation se fait sur la base de l'odeur, du goût, de la texture, de la cuisson et de l'apparence. Les boulangers doivent suivre certaines règles comme faire une baguette d'environ 55-70 cm qui a dix-huit grammes de sel par kilo de farine. Le gagnant obtient non seulement le prix monétaire et la reconnaissance, mais a également le privilège de livrer des baguettes pendant un an à la résidence du Président de la France. Cette année Tharshan Selvarajah, un immigrant du Sri Lanka a remporté la trentième édition de la meilleure baguette de Paris où 175 candidats avaient participé.

Statistiquement 98% des Français mangent du pain tous les jours. On trouve des gens qui achètent du pain de 7h du matin jusqu'à 9h du soir. Les baguettes sont presque comme un accessoire qu'on tient sous le bras. On les mange avec de la confiture ou du beurre en tartines au petit déjeuner et on les mange avec un peu de chocolat pour le goûter. Les baguettes font partie

du déjeuner au forme de sandwich ou sont consommées avec du fromage après le dîner. Les touristes recherchent les meilleures boulangeries lorsqu'ils visitent la France. Pour acheter des baguettes, plusieurs vidéos sont disponibles sur l'internet pour savoir comment commander une baguette ou comment et où obtenir les meilleures baguettes. Généralement la meilleure doit avoir une belle croûte dorée qui fait un bruit de craquement et une texture molle à l'intérieur. En moyenne, une demi-baguette est mangée par une personne, ce qui signifie que 30 millions de baguettes sont consommées chaque jour en France par une population de 60 millions. Il est intéressant de noter que la consommation de pain a diminué au cours des années. C'est à cause de l'augmentation des prix, la baisse en consommation des produits avec le gluten et l'évolution des habitudes

alimentaires, ce qui signifie que les Français ne consomment qu'environ 120-250 g de pain par jour.

On a adopté certaines lois pour protéger les baguettes traditionnelles faites par des artisans contre celles qui sont moins chères et qui se trouvent dans les supermarchés. En conséquence, une baguette traditionnelle ne devrait être composée que de quatre ingrédients qui sont la farine de blé, l'eau, la levure et le sel. Elle ne doit être ni congelée ni fabriquée à partir d'additifs ou de conservateurs. La baguette doit être faite à la main et doit être fabriquée là où elle est vendue.

Les Français préfèrent toujours les baguettes fraîchement cuites des boulangeries. En 2022, la baguette a été inscrite sur la liste du patrimoine culturel de l'UNESCO. Pas étonnant qu'il soit traité comme un trésor national de la France!

**Chinmayee Mondkar**  
FYBA

# LE FANTÔME DE L'OPÉRA

*Je suis fait entièrement avec de la mort. Je vais mourir d'amour* - Gaston Leroux, *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra*.

*Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* est une symphonie envoûtante d'amour et d'obsession, où la beauté et les ténèbres se rencontrent et où la puissance de la musique transcende les limites de la vie et de la mort. Le roman a été écrit par l'auteur français Gaston Leroux et a été adapté en différentes versions cinématographiques et scéniques depuis sa première publication. *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* a été initialement publié en feuilleton dans *Le Gaulois* (un journal français) du 23 septembre 1909 au 8 janvier 1910. Puis, il est sorti en forme de livre à la fin du mois de mars 1910. Il continue de rester une œuvre littéraire qui captive les lecteurs depuis plus d'un siècle.

L'histoire se déroule dans le cadre de l'Opéra de Paris à la fin du XIX siècle, où Leroux tisse une histoire qui mêle des faits historiques et des événements réels. L'Opéra est basé sur le véritable Opéra Garnier à Paris, qui possède des tunnels souterrains et un lac qui est le repaire du fantôme dans le roman. L'accident du lustre dans le roman est également inspiré d'une véritable tragédie qui s'est passée au Palais Garnier. De nombreuses légendes ont prétendu qu'il y avait effectivement un fantôme là-bas. La vérité derrière ces mystères est incertaine, mais il est clair comment ces histoires ont inspiré ce livre de Leroux.

*Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* est raconté par un historien/journaliste qui dévoile le mystère du Fantôme de l'Opéra à l'aide d'articles de journaux, de récits de témoins ainsi que d'entretiens. Il

présente une pléthore de personnages, chacun ayant ses propres théories sur le mystérieux Fantôme. Le style d'écriture de Leroux est plein d'images vivantes de la grandeur de l'Opéra et du sinistre repaire souterrain du Fantôme. Vous êtes transporté dans le temps et vous parcourez les couloirs de l'Opéra pendant que le mystère se dévoile. Ce livre dépeint également une image de Paris et de la société parisienne. Les éléments gothiques et d'horreur ajoutent une ambiance inquiétante à l'histoire qui vous donne des frissons. Cela s'entremêle parfaitement avec le mystère du roman qui vous tiendra parfois en haleine alors que vous essayez de démêler le mystère. Pendant que l'histoire se concentre sur le Fantôme de l'Opéra, elle va au-delà d'une simple histoire d'horreur et explore aussi les thèmes du bien et du mal, des limites de l'amour, de l'injustice du monde et des intrications du cœur humain. L'une des forces les plus significatives du roman est l'exploration du pouvoir de la musique. Leroux tisse avec expertise des mélodies et des paroles dans le récit, mettant en valeur l'impact profond que la musique peut avoir sur les individus ainsi que sur la société. Les mélodies envoûtantes composées par le Fantôme servent d'un moyen d'expression émotionnelle, entraînant les lecteurs dans un monde où la musique devient une bouée de sauvetage. Les personnages sont complexes et bien écrits, ce qui ajoute à la profondeur de l'histoire.

*Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* est un mélange parfait de musique, de gothique, d'horreur et d'amour, ce qui en rend une histoire émotionnelle bien en

avance de son temps. C'est un classique éternel qui nous fait comprendre un peu mieux le monde. Cela nous force de regarder le monde non seulement en noir et blanc, mais d'avancer et de regarder le gris. C'est là que nous pouvons vraiment nous trouver. Au fur que vous embarquez dans ce voyage de l'Opéra, vous serez ensorcelés par son charme et son cadre captivant, et à la fin, vous vous demanderez qui est réellement le fantôme. Cela vous donnera beaucoup à réfléchir; c'est pourquoi ce roman classique est à lire absolument pour toute personne à la recherche d'un récit qui les transporterait dans un monde de passion, d'intrigue et de pouvoir de l'esprit humain.



Aarya Mirjankar  
SYBA

# “LE PRIX DE LA CONFESSION : QUAND LES SENTIMENTS BRISENT LES LIENS DE L'AMITIÉ”

Il était une fois, dans les couloirs animés d'un campus universitaire florissant, deux âmes nommées Miguel et Fiona. Leurs destins s'entrelaçaient, tissant une amitié profonde et sincère. Miguel, un jeune homme au charme irrésistible, était légèrement intimidé en présence des femmes. Mais avec Fiona, il se sentait à l'aise, malgré une pulsion d'amour qui grandissait en lui. Fiona, quant à elle, était une jeune femme talentueuse en musique et en danse, avec une joie de vivre qui illuminait les espaces où elle se trouvait.

Au commencement, Miguel et Fiona étaient deux simples camarades de classe, échangeant des salutations polies et des conversations occasionnelles. Mais à mesure que le temps passait, une amitié solide s'épanouissait entre eux. Ils se découvraient mutuellement, partageant des rires, des intérêts communs et une complicité grandissante.

Leur amitié était marquée par des moments de taquinerie et de jeu. Fiona aimait plaisanter avec Miguel et lui fourrer de la nourriture dans la bouche pendant les pauses-déjeuner, provoquant ainsi des éclats de rire contagieux. Miguel, de son côté, se délectait de cette complicité et cherchait de nouvelles façons de l'amuser. Il offrait souvent son dos à Fiona pour qu'elle y grimpe, créant des scènes espiègles qui égayaient leur quotidien.

Parmi leurs nombreux intérêts partagés, la Formule 1 tenait une place spéciale dans le cœur de Fiona. Elle adorait les courses endiablées et l'excitation palpable des circuits. Miguel, soucieux de renforcer leur amitié et de partager cette passion, s'efforçait d'en apprendre davantage. Il s'est familiarisé avec les pilotes, les équipes et les stratégies de

course, tout en demandant à Fiona des éclaircissements sur les termes techniques et les enjeux des compétitions. Leur complicité a grandi à mesure qu'ils discutaient passionnément des courses, organisant même leurs propres compétitions avec des voitures miniatures.

Cependant, derrière cette amitié complice, les sentiments amoureux de Miguel grandissaient chaque jour. Chaque fois que Fiona lui souriait ou partageait un moment de proximité, son cœur s'emballait, lui rappelant qu'il était tombé éperdument amoureux d'elle. Mais la peur du rejet lui pesait, et il gardait ses sentiments cachés, se contentant de savourer leur amitié précieuse.

Le dernier semestre s'en approchait rapidement, portant avec lui le spectre de la séparation. Fiona allait bientôt terminer ses études et quitter l'université, laissant Miguel derrière elle. Cette réalité renforçait l'urgence de ses sentiments. Un soir, alors que le ciel était parsemé d'étoiles, Miguel rassembla tout son courage et décida de s'avouer à Fiona.

Les mots sortirent de sa bouche avec émotion, exprimant l'amour qu'il ressentait pour elle depuis si longtemps. Il lui dit combien elle lui était spéciale, comment chaque moment passé ensemble était précieux à ses yeux, et combien il souhaitait que leur amitié se transforme en quelque chose de plus profond.

Fiona, prise de court, resta silencieuse pendant un instant. Son cœur se serra, car elle savait déjà ce qu'il allait lui dire. Elle avait compris depuis longtemps les sentiments de Miguel à son égard, mais elle avait gardé le secret, espérant que le temps apporterait des réponses claires. Mais maintenant, elle se retrouvait face à la réalité inévitable.

Avec une tristesse dans les yeux, Fiona répondit doucement à Miguel. Elle lui dit combien elle appréciait leur amitié, mais elle ne partageait pas ses sentiments amoureux. C'était également une révélation difficile pour elle, car elle chérissait leur amitié et craignait de la perdre. Leur monde sembla s'effondrer dans ce moment de vérité. Miguel était dévasté, son cœur brisé par le rejet de celui qu'il aimait. Il ne comprenait pas comment une amitié si profonde n'avait pas pu se transformer en amour réciproque. Fiona, de son côté, pleurait en silence, sachant qu'elle venait de causer une immense douleur à quelqu'un qu'elle tenait tant proche du cœur.

Après cette confession et ce rejet, leur amitié devint tendue et fragile. La tristesse et la gêne s'immisçaient dans chaque interaction. Les taquineries espiègles furent remplacées par des silences inconfortables. La complicité et l'harmonie qu'ils avaient autrefois semblaient évaporées.

Ils se retrouvèrent à éviter les moments seuls ensemble, cherchant à échapper à la douleur de la réalité. Leur amitié, autrefois leur refuge dans les moments difficiles, se transforma en une source de chagrin et de confusion.

Le temps passa, et leurs chemins se séparèrent. Miguel et Fiona se retrouvèrent à mener des vies séparées, chacun portant le fardeau de leur amitié perdue. Leurs souvenirs se mélangeaient à la tristesse de ce qui aurait pu être. Pourtant, dans l'ombre du chagrin, les moments de joie et de complicité demeuraient des souvenirs précieux. Vont-ils jamais recommencer à s'aimer? Qu'en pensez-vous?

**Merric Pereira**  
SYBA

# LES PASSE-TEMPS, C'EST LA VIE

Il était une fois un garçon qui s'appelait Sam. Pendant son enfance, il était créatif, insouciant et intelligent. En vieillissant, il a commencé à s'inquiéter de plus en plus de l'avenir, du travail, de son salaire, du prochain salaire etc. Il a commencé à gravir les échelons de son entreprise et son salaire a augmenté d'année en année. Mais, il ne pouvait pas trouver de temps pour sa famille ou pour lui-même. Il s'inquiétait toujours de son travail et sa prochaine promotion. Il continua ainsi jusqu'à sa retraite. Au cours de ses derniers jours, il s'est beaucoup ennuyé de sa vie car il n'avait ni emploi ni travail à faire. Il était rempli de regrets à propos de toutes les choses qu'il aurait pu faire dans sa vie mais qu'il n'a pas pu faire.

Est-ce que ce type de vie semble attrayant? Est-ce que c'est une vie bien vécue? Sam et bien d'autres personnes comme Sam sont-ils réellement contents de leur vie?

Gagner de l'argent est certainement important dans la vie et pour mener la vie vous avez besoin de l'argent. Mais l'argent est-il vraiment la vie? De

nombreux gens pensent que lorsqu'ils atteignent une certaine somme d'argent sur leur salaire, «ils ont réussi dans leur vie». Ou peut-être réussir dans la vie cela veut dire; faire ce que l'on vraiment aime à faire? Simplement gravir les échelons de l'entreprise et gagner de l'argent, n'est pas le vrai sens de la vie. C'est peut-être une partie essentielle de la vie. J'avais lu une fois une citation qui disait : *La vie n'est pas ce que vous devez faire, mais la vie est ce que vous faites entre ce que vous devez faire.*

La vie inclut l'amour, la passion, les loisirs, la famille, les bons amis, etc. qui ne peuvent pas être achetés par l'argent. Parfois, nous nous soucions tellement de gagner de l'argent et de réussir dans la vie que nous oublions d'en profiter de ce moment-ci. Nous avons tendance à nous inquiéter tellement de l'avenir que nous oublions de vivre dans le présent. On oublie de profiter de petites choses dans la vie. Les petites choses que nous aimions quand nous étions enfants; les activités pour lesquelles, même si nous n'avons pas les compétences parfaites, nous les apprécions toujours au maximum.

De petites activités dans notre vie quotidienne en tant qu'enfants comme dessiner, peindre, pratiquer n'importe quel sport etc. ont été en quelque sorte oubliés lorsque nous sommes devenus adultes et nous avons commencé à courir la foire d'empoigne. En tant qu'enfants, nous nous moquions de ne pas être assez bons dans ces «passe-temps»; nous aimions simplement y participer. Cependant, cette nature insouciance a été mise en cage quand nous sommes devenus des adultes.

Nous devons apprendre à profiter de petites choses de la vie et à vivre dans le présent avant qu'il disparaisse. Avant que nos soucis rongent notre présent et ses petits moments de joie, il faut prendre du recul, s'apprécier du chemin parcouru et profiter de ce moment ainsi que profiter de ces loisirs car ce sont eux qui font vivre la vie digne d'être vécue. Ces activités sont celles qui nous rendent heureux et agréables. Ainsi, pour moi, la vie consiste à profiter de ces petits moments de bonheur du présent plutôt que de se soucier de grandes choses du futur.

Priyal Sanghavi  
TYBA

## JOURS DE PLUIE

Sous la pluie battante, un délice douillet,  
Une tasse de thé chaud, pour réchauffer la nuit.  
Alors que les gouttelettes tombent, un spectacle apaisant,  
Mon âme trouve la paix, sous cette douce pluie.

Les gouttes de pluie, elles dansent, sur le verre,  
Une symphonie de la nature, un doux spectacle.  
Dans cette harmonie, mon cœur se sent calme,  
Un beau rappel de paix.

Alors laisse la pluie tomber, laisse le tonnerre sonner,  
Car dans cette tasse de thé, la tranquillité se trouve.

Michelle Furtado  
SYBA

## UN NOUVEAU DÉPART

La transition de l'école au collège est extrêmement difficile pour de nombreux étudiants. J'ai la chance de faire partie de Saint Xavier depuis l'onzième classe, et bien que cela ait rendu mon parcours un peu plus facile, il présente toujours ses défis. Il sera très difficile de se faire de nouveaux amis, d'entretenir d'anciennes amitiés, de participer à des activités parascolaires et de trouver le temps pour les études.

Mais je suis convaincue que tout cela me rendra plus fort.

Je me rappelle encore la première fois que je suis allée à l'université et a été hypnotisée. Je ne pouvais pas croire que j'ai réalisé ce rêve d'étudier à Saint Xavier. À ce moment-là, j'ai su que je devais en profiter au maximum. JC (Collège Junior) c'était la plus belle partie de ma vie, et je sais que ces années seraient encore mieux. Il y

avait tant de choses que je voulais faire, je souhaitais participer à toutes les activités, mais malheureusement ce n'était pas possible.

Pour résumer, je suis très excitée pour les trois prochaines années et tous les souvenirs que je vais rassembler. Saint Xavier c'est un beau moyen de vivre et j'attends le vivre pleinement.

**Nainika Nandankar**  
FYBA

## LA FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

La Fête de la Musique, également connue en anglais sous le nom de Music Day, est une célébration annuelle de la musique qui a lieu le 21 juin. C'est une journée symbolique qui marque le début des beaux jours et un tempo qui incite à faire la fête jusqu'à l'aube. C'est aussi la fête la plus célèbre en France.

Lors de cette journée, les citoyens sont invités à jouer de la musique à l'extérieur dans leurs quartiers ou dans les espaces publics et les parcs. De nombreux concerts gratuits sont organisés, rendant tous les genres musicaux accessibles au public. Les

musiciens amateurs et professionnels sont encouragés à se produire dans les rues, sous le slogan 'Faites de la musique' qui est le homophone de la Fête de la musique.

En octobre 1981, Maurice Fleuret le directeur de la musique et de la danse au ministère français de la culture découvrait, dans une étude sur les habitudes culturelles des Français, que cinq millions de personnes, un jeune sur deux, jouaient d'un instrument de musique, il commença rêver d'un moyen de faire sortir les gens dans la rue. Cette fête a eu lieu pour la

première fois en 1982 à Paris sous le nom de Fête de la Musique.

Dès ce moment, le festival est devenu un phénomène international, célébré le même jour dans plus de 700 villes de 120 pays, dont l'Inde, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, la Grèce, la Russie, l'Australie, le Pérou, le Brésil, l'Équateur, le Mexique, le Canada, les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni et le Japon. Les espaces publics regorgent de musique live et d'opportunités de création de musique participative.

**Raina Raphael**  
FYBA

# APPRÉCIATION DU LIVRE «DANS LA MAISON» PAR PHILIP LE ROY

Étant un gagnant du Grand Prix de littérature policière, Philip Le Roy est l'auteur de thrillers remarquables comme *Le dernier Testament*, *La porte du Messie* et *S.I.X.* Également scénariste, il écrit des web-séries, incluant *The Way*, *Studio+*. N'oubliez pas ses fictions radiophoniques diffusées sur France Culture. Ceux qui n'ont pas encore lu le roman intitulé «Dans La Maison» écrit par Philip Le Roy, je vous prie de le lire.

Le samedi soir, huit lycéens d'une section Arts Appliqués s'appelant «Les Huit» fêtent une soirée dans une maison de campagne isolée. Mais cette fois, l'un d'eux propose d'organiser une soirée frissons pour rigoler, le week-end dans la villa de ses parents. Le but du jeu: s'ils ont peur, ils boiront. Mais cette soirée de plaisanter pour se faire peur se devient celle d'agonie. L'ambiance devient épaisse. Lorsqu'un orage éclate, le groupe se retrouve coupé du monde. De plus, l'amplificateur cellulaire ne fonctionne plus. Étant isolé et en ayant peur, couplé aux rumeurs des phénomènes surnaturels de ce lieu, l'intrigue se course en donnant un vrai coup de peur: des bruits étranges qui dérangent la paix dans la maison, un jet mystérieux des pierres, la disparition des adolescents un par un.....En bref, la soirée bascule dans un huis clos d'horreur.

Les Huit sont Camille, Marie, Léa, Mathilde, Quentin, Maxime, Mehdi et Julien. Camille, belle, riche, cultivée et bien habillée représente les gens ayant un bel avenir. Marie est trop intelligente plongée dans les films et les livres classiques, s'habillant à la mode ancienne. Elle représente la génération précédente. Puis, Léa représente les hypersensibles étant pleine de doutes mais d'audace quand même. Faisant la sculpture, elle a un sens rare du toucher. Elle est en couple avec Quentin. Mathilde est la plus délurée, portant des fringues vintage gothiques avec des tatouages et des cheveux argentines. Elle est bavarde, extravertie et sans tabou ni limite

buvant et fumant. Quentin est blindé de thunes étant descendant des architectes réputés. Il s'habille à la mode casuel. Ayant sa chaîne YouTube sur laquelle, il s'essaie à l'art contemporain comique. Ce sont les gens du monde influents et favorisés. Maxime ne prend rien au sérieux. Il aime l'art, jouer la guitare, la bouffe et le poker. Il représente les gens voulant vivre de ce jeu sans soucis de rentabilité, ceux qui veulent une vie facile. Mehdi, le gosse, étant draguer et gouailleur représente les joueurs mais aussi les immigrés musulmans. En dehors les filles, il se passionne pour les jeux vidéo. Julien, le huitième, est un dessinateur talentueux. Il préfère les garçons, un fait qu'il n'pas caché pour contrarier les homophobes.

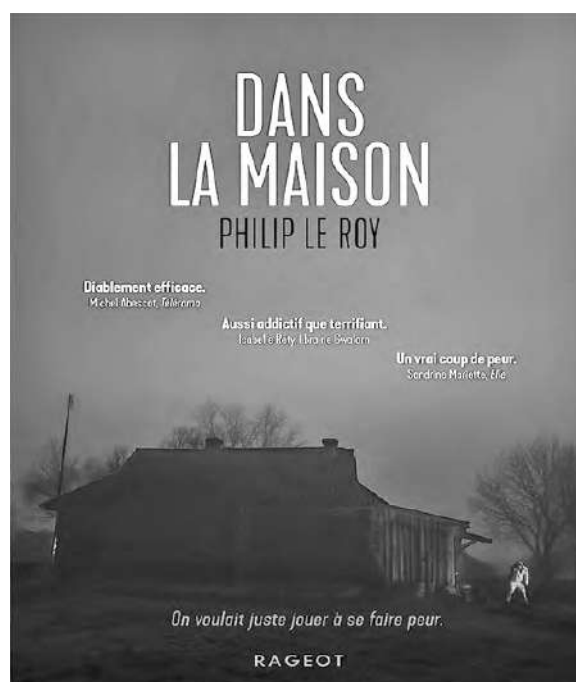
L'auteur réussit à développer la personnalité des huit personnages principaux en nous donnant à chaque personnage un profil. Petit à petit, il révèle leurs personnalités cachées en les faisant se plaisanter. De temps en temps, il dévoile quelques aspects personnels des Huit les faisant se développer mais au même temps nous fait douter si les tous sont innocents ou pas.

Ce qui est aussi intrigant, c'est le lieu choisi par l'auteur : la région du Col de Vence, un lieu 12 kilomètres loin de Nice, ayant une histoire paranormale. Des phénomènes surnaturels inexplicables s'y déroulent dont certains sont des observations d'OVNIs (Objet Volant Non Identifié), des bruits étranges comme un moteur marchant et un lumineux triangle se révélant tous dans le ciel, des inexplicables jets de pierres, des véhicules tombant en panne, des appareils rendus presque inutiles, etc. De plus, il y a une théorie de l'existence des extraterrestres à cause de ces phénomènes

paranormaux. L'auteur en racontant l'histoire fait une référence à un livre intitulé «Les Mystères du Col de Vence», qui contient de nombreux témoignages des victimes survenant de ces choses étranges qui reste toujours inexplicables depuis des longues années.

Au début de l'histoire, la maison devient une scène de crime : il y avait un renversement de meubles, du bris de verre, une traînée de sel, des traces de sang, l'impact de chevrotine parmi les autres, au cours de laquelle les huit adolescents n'étaient pas présents. Philip Le Roy réussit à attirer l'attention des lecteurs en leur faisant se demander si ce qui s'est passé, c'est la vérité ou ce n'est qu'une grande fabrication des «Huit» pour se faire peur.

Je vous attire à la richesse de langue dont Philip Le Roy se sert. Il rend le roman très descriptif. Il utilise de belles expressions et citations. Les étudiants de la langue peuvent y profiter. Il utilise un trop de vocabulaire qui n'est pas toujours facile à comprendre, mais qui est quand même bien apprécié. La structure variée utilisée par lui ne le permet pas d'être un romancier monotone.. Je vous en laisse quelques exemples : Balancer un coup de



ped, mettre en veilleuse, le contrôle d'alcoolémie et le test salivaire, l'idée se formulant clairement dans la tête, se redresser en crachant et en toussant, déclencher un cri doublé d'une grimace, se larder de légers coups de couteau, l'amplificateur de réseau téléphonique, coincer contre l'évier, des esprits malveillants et bienveillants, tomber sur une boîte vocale, faire tourner la tête des gens, un ruissellement de boue, commissaire-priseur et commissaire d'expo.

Ce sont de certains critères qui définissent une prédisposition psychopathique dont je suis fasciné avec le vocabulaire employé : «Sentiment de supériorité, problèmes comportementaux, impulsivité, incapacité à maîtriser les émotions mais tendance à se ressaisir rapidement pour contrôler la situation»

Une citation de Kurt Cobain (chanteur américain actuellement mort) est aussi citée dans le roman qui nous bien résonne : «Ils se moquent de moi parce que je suis différent. Je me moque d'eux parce qu'ils sont tous différents.»

Le titre «Dans La Maison» est convenable parce que tous les incidents de la soirée frissons se passent dans cette maison. Il y a aussi de graves secrets centrés autour de cette maison qui ont de sérieuses conséquences à la progression de l'histoire en s'y dévoilant un peu partout. La maison qui est associée avec la sécurité et l'aise est actuellement un outil de malaise, de peur et d'incertitude. Cela peut être vous donne l'envie de lire ce chef-d'œuvre de suspense.

Pour conclure, «Dans la Maison» est un roman qui vous donne des frissons. «Les Huit » ne sont que de simples adolescents en quête de frissons qui vont leur faire la pire soirée de leur vie. Des secrets sombres les entourent. Ils ne sont pas seuls dans la maison, y ayant un élément effrayant. Ce qui m'a fait apprécier ce roman ce sont les références cinématographiques et musicales que l'auteur a mentionné partout dans le livre. On est confronté à de vrais adolescents et c'est ce qui rend l'histoire si réaliste. En tout cas, une chose est sûre : ne faites confiance à PERSONNE!

**Joel Serrao**  
SYBA

## VISITE DU PREMIER MINISTRE À L'UNIVERSITÉ

L'ancien Premier Ministre français et maire du Havre Édouard Philippe a effectué une visite officielle en Inde, en particulier dans les villes de Delhi et Mumbai, du 14 au 17 mars 2023. Son objectif était d'engager une réflexion sur la dynamisation des relations économiques bilatérales.

Édouard Philippe est considéré comme un leader politique national en France. Actuellement, il est maire du Havre qui est la plus grande ville portuaire commerciale de France et la cinquième d'Europe du Nord. Il est également l'auteur de romans (L'Heure de vérité, Dans l'ombre) et d'essais sur

la gouvernance (Impressions et lignes claires). M. Philippe a été Premier ministre d'avril 2017 à juillet 2020. Au cours de son mandat, il a supervisé l'approfondissement d'un partenariat stratégique entre l'Inde et la France. La stratégie indopacifique s'est également produite au cours de cette période.

Lors de sa première visite officielle en Inde, M. Edouard Philippe a cherché à faire quelques observations perspicaces sur l'histoire et la culture indiennes. Pour renforcer les liens inter personnels, il a eu la gentillesse de visiter deux grandes institutions académiques du pays: St Xavier's

College, Mumbai et St Stephen's College, Delhi. À Saint-Xavier, il a prononcé une conférence perspicace sur le thème «La quête de l'équilibre dans un monde déséquilibré».

Il a partagé ses convictions optimistes selon lesquelles malgré les défis qui seront rencontrés, l'Inde et la France peuvent développer avec succès les liens étroits indopacifiques.

**Lizandra Delgado**  
TYBA  
**Queenie Almeida & Udyati Shah**  
SYBA



# LE FRANÇAIS ET MOI

« Pour chaque langue que l'on parle, on vit une nouvelle vie. Celui qui ne connaît qu'une seule langue ne vit qu'une seule fois »

Avant trois ans, il ne m'aurait pas été possible de lire cette citation. Pourtant, je suis là! Cette citation reste toujours près de mon cœur parce que la langue française m'a aidé dans plusieurs domaines. Je considère les langues et le fait de les parler comme la magie. Nous, les êtres humains, sommes chanceux. On a ce cadeau de s'exprimer avec les mots. Donc pourquoi ne pas parler plusieurs langues!

La langue française et moi, nous sommes inséparables. Dans mon enfance et même aujourd'hui mes parents m'encourageaient toujours à développer les loisirs variés et c'est pourquoi j'étais occupé tout le temps. J'avais envie d'apprendre une langue étrangère pendant mon enfance mais je n'étais pas sûre laquelle. Quand j'ai pris les cours d'allemand, c'était facile pour moi de décider que le français serait un bon choix pour moi.

Mon voyage d'apprentissage commençait pendant les vacances d'été. J'ai commencé à apprendre la langue française avec mon frère quand on était dans le septième. Auparavant, on a pris les cours privés et notre professeur enseignait dans mon école.

Donc c'était elle qui développait mon intérêt dans la langue. Et puis quand j'ai fini mon brevet, j'ai décidé de continuer avec les cours. C'était en 2020, l'année de la pandémie que je me suis inscrite aux cours de niveau A1. Puisque tout le monde était dans le confinement, je n'avais pas d'option mais assister au cours en ligne.

Je me souviens de mes premiers cours. Je n'avais aucune idée de ce qui s'est passé parce que c'était interdit de parler en anglais. Mes professeurs étaient géniales et leur style d'enseigner, ingénieux! Petit à petit, j'avais commencé à comprendre. Grâce à la pandémie, j'avais beaucoup de temps pour améliorer mes loisirs et j'en ai bien profité. Vers la fin de 2021, j'en avais fini avec le niveau B2. A ce moment-là, j'avais appris la langue pour presque deux ans. C'était une vraie aventure pour moi et le plaisir qui l'accompagnait était incroyable.

Quand j'ai déménagé à Mumbai, j'avais le plaisir de rencontrer avec les français dans mon université et même dans les rues. Un jour, j'étais dans un magasin de la glace et par accident je me suis fait un ami français. Et bien sûr ce voyage ne termine pas ici, cela va continuer toute ma vie.

L'apprentissage est un processus interminable et il me semble qu'il

ne faut pas arrêter. Pour moi, ce n'est pas juste une langue, c'est une émotion. Cette langue m'a aidé dans le développement de l'esprit critique. Être une multilingue n'est pas une affaire facile ; c'est dur. Selon moi, l'apprentissage d'une langue aide à enrichir la personnalité de soi. Les idées et les pensées évoluent. Il est possible de se connecter profondément avec soi-même. Et comme Flora Lewis a dit que

« Étudier une autre langue consiste non seulement à apprendre d'autres mots pour désigner les mêmes choses, mais aussi à apprendre une autre façon de penser à ces choses »

La langue étrangère ouvre les portes du monde et de nombreuses opportunités. Même si l'anglais est considéré comme la langue officielle, cela ne dit pas qu'il y a peu d'importance des autres langues. La communauté des francophones se multiplie.

Enfin, pour mes camarades francophones, je vous souhaite un bon voyage et n'oubliez pas de vous amuser!

**Eshita Sonawane**  
SYBA

## Réponses Quizz :

1. Lumière.
2. La Marseillaise
3. Président Charles de Gaulle
4. la Bretagne
5. Edith Piaf
6. a magic wand
7. French Toast
8. Chanel
9. Notre Dame de Paris
10. Ratatouille
11. Cinq
12. Le Petit Prince
13. Corse
14. Bugatti
15. Mont-Blanc

## Réponses Mots Croisés

### Horizontalement

2. Bordeaux
3. Alpine
10. Tintin
12. Château de Versailles
13. Hermès
14. Amélie
16. Pot-au-feu

### Verticalement

1. Champs Élysées
4. Pastis
5. Victor Hugo
6. Saint Tropez
7. Juillet
8. Claude Monet
9. Kylian Mbappé
11. Cannes
15. Louvre

## LE VOYAGE, LA VIE

À l'esprit, une destination insolite,  
On se lance sur les voyages quotidiens,  
On ne pense qu'à un passé précieux,  
En entrant dans le train.

Les moments qu'on était jeune,  
Aux petites oreilles, une comptine chantée,  
Les sucreries à portée de nos mains,  
Avec les copains, on riait.

Comme les oiselets qui s'envolent,  
Il a fallu voir dehors, quitter le cocon,  
Tout souci et toute entrave disparaissent,  
Par un gentil mot, une belle chanson.

Nous avons tous une jolie tapisserie,  
Longue, vive, riche en couleur,  
De fils de souvenirs qui demeurent gravés,  
À tout instant, une fontaine de bonheur.

Nous venons de nous mettre en route,  
De la gare, le train vient de sortir,  
Il nous reste tant de souvenirs à créer,  
Il y en a beaucoup plus encore à fournir.

**Andrew DeSousa**

Department of French, Junior College

## LES SOUVENIRS

La vie nous offre beaucoup de souvenirs.  
Quelques souvenirs sont beaux et extatiques,  
Ils nous donnent beaucoup de bonheur  
Et laissent un sourire joyeux sur notre visage.  
Quelquefois quand je vis dans le présent,  
Je pense au futur-  
Je pense aux souvenirs, ça me fait sourire!  
Mais quelquefois, les souvenirs sont tristes,  
Et ils apportent les larmes aux yeux,  
Ils nous rappellent la raison derrière notre cœur brisé.  
Tous souvenirs ne sont pas tristes  
Et tous souvenirs ne sont extatiques!  
Quelques nous font sourire  
Et quelques nous font pleurer!  
Mais, ils sont toujours proches de notre cœur  
Tout comme le parfum est proche d'une fleur...

**Latika Shetty**

SYJC Arts

## SE RECONNECTER ET REMÉMORER

### Notre Groupe de l'année 2022

La date a été fixée- le 19 mai 2024. Actuellement, c'était le même jour quand leur examen s'était terminé il y a 25 ans. La réunion qui a été reportée chaque fois, a finalement eu lieu.

Dès qu'il est entré dans la salle de classe, toute la tension a disparu et tous les souvenirs ont refait surface. Il n'a plus aperçu ni directeur, ni commerçant, ni homme d'affaires dans la pièce; il a seulement vu le premier de la classe, le clown de la classe, l'enfant tranquille qui avait rarement socialisé et l'athlète populaire.

Il a reçu les embrassades les plus chaleureuses de tout le monde, les embrassades dont il ne savait pas qu'il avait tant de besoin, mais il a réalisé tellement elles lui avaient manqué.

Avec un verre de vin, il s'est assis et a réfléchi à cette époque dorée -

Il s'est souvenu comment ils avaient fait des farces à leurs professeurs et leur a donné des surnoms ridicules, comment ils avaient supplié leur professeur d'informatique de les emmener au laboratoire, comment ils ont trouvé une excuse élaborée pour justifier leur devoir incomplet, comment ils ont lu

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid" et "Geronimo Stilton" dans la bibliothèque de leur école, comment ils ont joué "Subway Surfers" et "Temple Run" et ils ont regardé "Doraemon" et "Chota Bheem" pendant qu'ils grandissaient.

En repensant à son passé, ce n'était pas seulement son soi adulte qui parlait, mais aussi son soi qui avait 15 ans qui avait repris vie.

**Ananya Patankar**

SYJC Arts

# SOUVENIRS D'ÉTÉ

C'est encore cette période de l'année, où jours s'allongent, la température monte, l'ambiance de loisirs et de détente est différente du reste de l'année, c'est l'été. Mais tout ceci dont je réfléchis, ce sont les souvenirs des étés passés.

Avant que toute notre vie ne devienne les vacances d'été pendant des années de pandémie, je rêve des étés de mon enfance.

Le premier souvenir que j'ai des étés est de me réveiller tard et de me sentir heureuse et libre de faire tout ce que je voulais, pas d'école, pas d'obligations, juste du plaisir, de l'amusement et des jeux. L'excitation d'une nouvelle journée et des choses que je ferais et tout ce que j'explorerais.

Mes étés impliquaient de m'exciter pour les moussons et la nouvelle année scolaire et les nouvelles possibilités, un nouveau départ. Initiée assez tôt aux livres, j'ai adoré m'évader dans ces belles histoires où tout était positif et jovial, la joie d'être des enfants. Assise dans le bureau du dentiste pendant qu'on me prêtait des livres à lire, des exemplaires que je chéris encore aujourd'hui. J'adorais faire du vélo et je partais seule tôt le matin,

une petite fille et son vélo à travers le quartier, à travers les parcs seule, mais accompagnée de petites merveilles de la vie.

La lecture et l'aventure, mes deux choses préférées. J'ai d'abord grimpé à un arbre dans Le Parc National et depuis lors, j'attendais les étés pour regarder chaque arbre que je pouvais grimper et avec un livre dans ma poche, j'atteignais la branche supérieure et m'asseyais et lisais, je communiquais avec les personnages dans les livres. J'escaladais les murs à la recherche d'aventures et faisais de petites quêtes créatives. J'aimais ma propre compagnie pendant les étés.

Je me suis fait des amis à la garderie, que je chéris encore aujourd'hui, ces souvenirs sont parmi les meilleurs de tous les temps. Après des matinées seules, les après-midis étaient passés avec eux à partager des histoires et des aventures, à s'amuser et à jouer à des jeux ensemble et à rire, à être simplement des enfants. Hélas, où tout cela s'est disparu?

Les soirées, maman et moi, nous jouions nos chansons préférées à la

maison - danser, chanter et rire. Ma grand-mère émerveillée de recréer et de vivre ses souvenirs, me racontait des histoires de son enfance, des jours des décennies passées,

Maintenant, je m'assieds et je me demande, comment tout cela a-t-il disparu si vite? Quand est-ce que nous avons grandi et que toutes ces choses ont cessé de durer? C'était l'âge d'or, aujourd'hui nous sommes perdus dans un royaume où rien n'est réel, où nous sommes attachés à nos appareils mais détachés du monde autour de nous. Alors qu'il ne reste que quelques saisons d'été avant que la vie ne frappe à notre porte, les jours d'été sont-ils si loin que je ne pourrai plus jamais les atteindre?

Je sens qu'ils sont encore à portée de main, il ne me reste plus qu'à faire le premier pas. On a besoin d'un compagnon. Vous aussi vous vous en souvenez: les étés de votre enfance? Faisons ce premier pas ensemble.

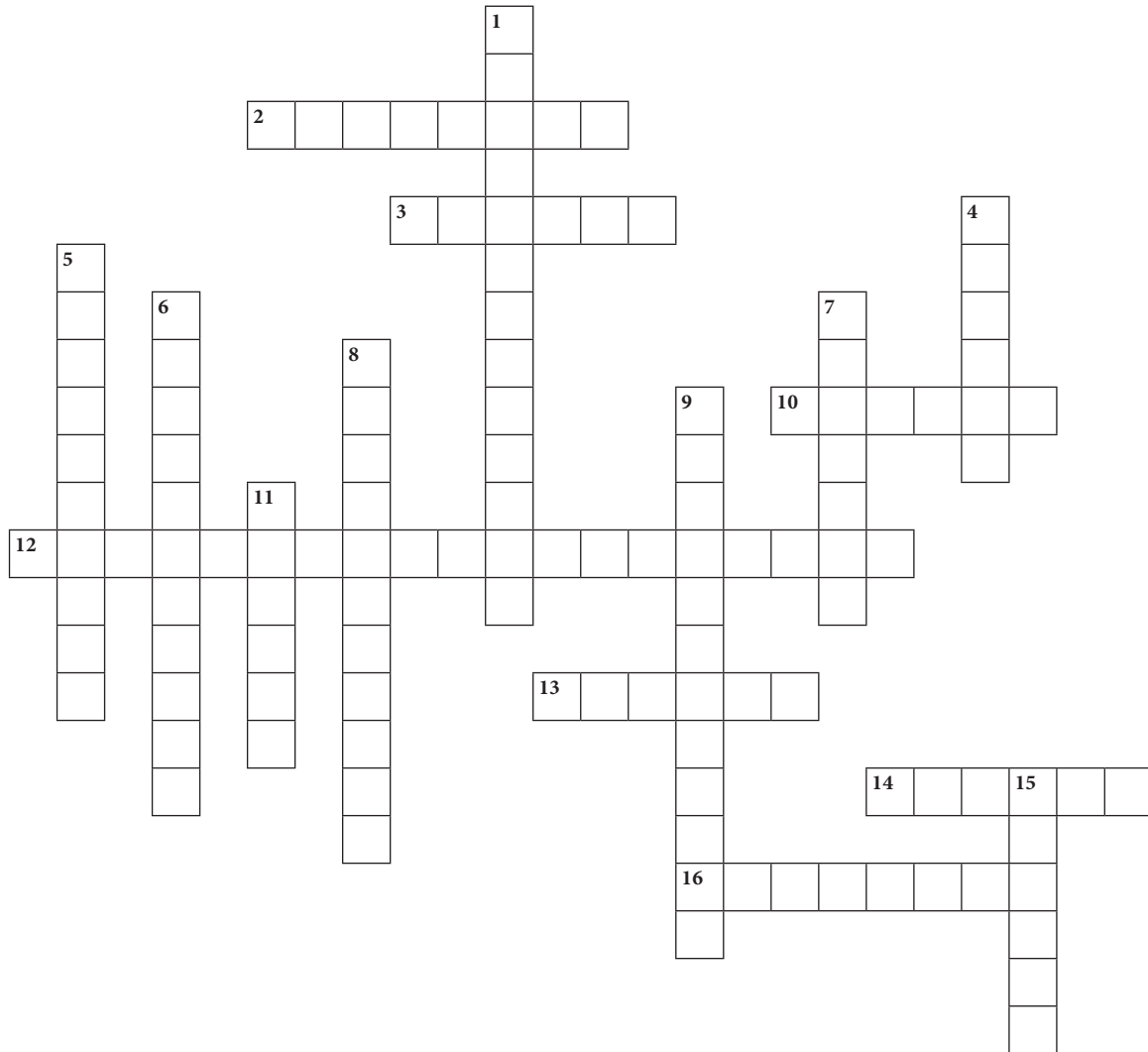
**Maisha Kotyan**  
SYJC Arts

## QUIZZ

1. Paris est connu comme la ville -----
2. L'hymne national français -----
3. C'est une citation de -----  
«Comment pouvez-vous gouverner un pays qui compte deux cent quarante-six variétés de fromages?»
4. Les crêpes sont associées à quelle région française?
5. Qui a chanté "La Vie en Rose"?
6. Qu'est-ce qu'une "Baguette magique" en anglais?
7. Qu'est-ce qu'un "Pain Perdu" en anglais?
8. Quelle maison de couture française connue vend le parfum "N°5"?
9. Quel film célèbre de Disney avait le personnage 'le Bossu'?
10. Quel plat célèbre français est également un titre d'un film de Disney?
11. Combien de régions y-a-t-il en France d'outre-mer?
12. Quel livre français est le plus traduit?
13. Napoléon Bonaparte est né sur l'île de -----
14. Quelle célèbre marque d'automobile française a un modèle appelé "Chiron"?
15. Quel est le plus haut sommet de France?

**Queenie Almeida & Udyati Shah**  
SYBA

# MOTS CROISÉS



## Horizontalement

2. La région de vins la plus célèbre de la France (8)
3. Une équipe française de Formule (6)
10. Une bande dessinée très célèbre (6)
12. La résidence de Marie-Antoinette, la reine de la France (7, 2,10)
13. Le nom de cette marque d'une maison de mode française vient d'un dieu grec de messagers et de commerce (6)
14. Le plus célèbre film d'Audrey Tatou basé sur la vie d'une jeune serveuse (6)
16. Un plat connu de la France (3,2,3)

## Verticalement

1. Complétez les paroles: Au soleil sous la pluie, à midi ou à minuit il y a tout ce que vous voulez aux -----(6,7)
4. Une boisson connue du sud de la France (6)
5. Un écrivain romantique qui a écrit Les Misérables (6,4)
6. Une des destinations de vacances les plus célèbres de la Côte d'Azur connue pour les vedettes et pour ses plages(5,6)
7. La fête nationale de la France est célébrée en quel mois (7)
8. Un peintre impressionniste qui a peint des Nymphéas (6,5)
9. Le footballeur le plus rapide qui joue pour le Paris Saint-Germain. (6,6)
11. Un lieu prestigieux connu du festival international de films(6)
15. Un des plus grands musées du monde en France (6)

Freya Jalnawala & Khushi Agarwal  
SYBA

## सिसकी

भीगी सी एक सिसकी से आज मुलाकात हुई,  
उसकी अपनी आँहों की बात हुई।  
एक शाख में लिपटी हुई वह याद,  
सूखे पत्तों की वो आखरी नमी।  
एक नए विश्वास की दास्तां।  
उन तमन्नाओं के फूलों ने भी अपनी मायूसी जताई,  
इंसानी फितरत पर हुई थी उनको रुसवाई  
एक कोने से तभी उस काली बूँद ने आवाज़ लगाई,  
बोली मेरे प्यार की तुम मिसाल देना मैं भी चली आई ।  
एक रूहानी मंजर के आगोश सा लग रहा था वहाँ  
सब गैर थे, पर जज़्बातों की सादगी से मैं जुड़ा था वहाँ।  
कौन कहता है, आसमान से जमीं जुदा है,  
वो बारिश की बूँदें वो सूरज की तपिश,  
ये उनकी बेपनाह मुहब्बत की ही तो गवाह है,  
रिश्ते कभी नाकाम नहीं होते, बस जज़्बात फीके पड़ जाते हैं।  
हो अगर हुनर-ए-इश्क, तो हालात भी सजदा कर जाते हैं।

डॉ. अवकाश जाधव  
इतिहास विभाग प्रमुख

## सजदा

भीगी सी इक सीसकी से मुलाकात हुई,  
उसकी अपनी आँहों की बात हुई,  
एक शाख में लिपटी हुई वो याद,  
सूखे पत्तों की वह आखरी नमी,  
एक नए विश्वास की वह चाह,  
इन सब की जुबाने दास्तान हुई,  
उन तमन्नाओं के फूलों ने भी अपनी मायूसी जताई,  
इन्सानी फितरत पर हुई थी उनको रूस्वाई,  
एक कोने से तभी उस काली बूँद ने आवाज़ लगाई,  
बोली मेरे प्यार की तुम मिसाल देना,  
मैं काजल हूँ, उस खारे पानी के साथ मैं भी चली आई,  
एक रूहानी मंजर के आगोश सा लग रहा था वहाँ,  
सब गैर थे, पर जज़्बातों की सादगी से जुदा थे यहाँ,  
कौन कहता है आसमान से जमीन जुदा है,  
वह बारिश की बूँदें, सूरज की तपिश,  
सरसराती बादलों की हवा,  
ये उनकी बेपनाह मुहब्बत की ही तो गवाह है,  
रिश्ते कभी नाकाम नहीं होते,  
बस जज़्बात फीके पड़ जाते हैं,  
हो गर हुनर-ए-इश्क तो हालात भी सजदा कर जाते हैं।

डॉ. अवकाश जाधव  
इतिहास विभाग प्रमुख

## अपमान

**परिचय :** महाभारत के युद्ध के पीछे कई कारण थे, लेकिन इन सारे कारणों से परे एक ऐसी घटना हुई, जिसने इस महान धर्मयुद्ध की चिंगारी को और भड़काया; और वह घटना थी, द्रुपदसुता कुमारी चापी पांचाली द्रौपदी का वस्त्रहरण...

मौन रही वो राजसभा,  
मौन रहे महारथी सारे,  
आंखों के समक्ष दुराचार देखा,  
फिर भी खड़े थे चुप्पी साधे!  
गांधार राज के पासे मायावी,  
जिससे खेल को छल बनाया;  
मस्तिष्क उनके थे कपटी,  
उससे द्युत का प्रपंच रचाया।  
धन, राज्य, सम्मान हारा,  
हारा अपने भाइयों को,  
धर्मराज जो थे कहलाते,  
मान हारकर खड़े हैं वो।  
आखिर धर्म भी लुप्त हुआ,  
जब दाँव पर लगाया द्रौपदी को;  
पाँच पुरुषों का रक्षण जिसे,  
लज्जित हुई परिणीता वो।  
दुःशासन का दुस्साहस इतना  
केशों से खींच सभा में लाए,  
दुर्योधन की दुष्टता इतनी  
पंचवल्गुभा को दासी बुलाए।  
महामहिम की कैसी प्रतिज्ञा?  
गुरुद्रोण को प्रतिबंध किसका?  
पुत्री समान थी यदि यज्ञसेनी,  
फिर क्यों न रोक पाए दुर्व्यवहार ऐसा?

एक स्त्री का वस्त्रहरण!  
कैसी यह कुमति है?  
कुलवधू जिसे कहते हो,  
उसी की ऐसी दुर्गति है?  
लांछित हुई है राजसभा  
उन अधर्मियों के कर्मों से,  
महारथी जो थे कहलाते,  
खड़े हैं शीश झुकाकर के।  
हार गए पांडव मुझे,  
गोविंद, मैं आपकी शरणार्थी आज...  
असहाय होकर सखा को पुकारा,  
हे मधुसूदन, बचाओ मेरी लाज!  
सखी की पुकार थी, कैसे न आते?  
वस्त्र अपार लिए अवतारे मुरारी!  
दिव्य प्रकाश जो चमक उठा,  
अंतहीन वे लाए साड़ी!  
एक अंश कपड़े का ऋण  
सहस्र गज वस्त्रों से चुकाया,  
महिमा उनकी अनंत थी,  
पांचाली को पापियों से बचाया।

कुंजल दवे,  
बी.ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## सपना

जो रहीं पीढ़ियां कर्जों में, वो क्या ही सपने देखेंगी  
इच्छाओं को धरकर चूल्हों पर ऊपर रोटी सकेंगी  
ये ठाठ-बाठ रजवाड़ों के ही होते हैं, सच्चाई है  
क्यूँ एक गरीब झोली में बस आंसू और अच्छाई है?  
पैसों से मिलती खुशी यहां, पैसों से सब कुछ चलता है  
माटी के सिक्कों को गिनकर बस एक गरीब ही पलता है  
दुविधा कोई भी हो लेकिन भूखा गरीब ही मरता है  
और जिसका पेट भरा होता, वह जाति-धर्म पर लड़ता है  
दिनभर वो खून जलाकर ही दो वक्त का राशन लाते हैं  
ये मूफ्तखोर फिर भी कहते कि नेता देश चलाते हैं  
तुम रौंद चले जब पौधे को तो कैसे पेड़ बड़ा होगा?  
घर-घर में गरीबी बैठी हो, तो कैसे देश खड़ा होगा?

कु. मानसी तिवारी,  
बी.ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## खुद से खुद को प्रेरणा

रास्ते में अंधकार हो, चल रहा तूफान हो  
दिल में डर का पहाड़ हो  
तू खुद से खुद को प्रेरणा दे, तू खुद-ब-खुद आगे बढ़ता जा  
चारों ओर दीवार हो, बेचैनी और अस्वस्थता महसूस हो  
साँसें धीमी हो भयंकर,  
जब तक साँसे चले, तू चलता जा।  
इस संसार में तेरा कोई नहीं सत्य का मार्ग सूना-सूना है,  
यह बात तू मन में बिठा ले और आगे चलता जा  
चाहे चार-पाँच तेरे खिलाफ हो या चाहे संपूर्ण संसार तेरे खिलाफ हो।  
जब ईश्वर तेरे साथ है, तू चलता जा, तू चलता जा।  
यहाँ तेरी मदद के लिए कोई नहीं।  
तू खुद से खुद का संबंध रख।  
तू खुद से खुद की सहायता कर ।  
तू खुद से खुद को प्रेरणा दे।  
तू खुद ब खुद चलता जा।  
यहाँ एक ही मददगार है।  
इस नर्क को तू स्वयं स्वर्ग बना ।  
तू आँधियों और तूफानों को चुटकी में सुलझा सकता है  
तू भवसागर पार कर सकता है।  
हर दिन कुछ नया सीखकर,  
दिल में आशा सजाकर/समेटकर/लपेटकर  
मुसीबत का पहाड़ हो,  
बड़े धैर्य से तू मुसीबत के पहाड़ को मिटाए जा।  
तू खुद से खुद को प्रेरणा दे।  
तू खुद ब खुद आगे बढ़ता जा।

- रंने रूबन  
बी.ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## माँ है, तो जहान है

अपने रक्त(खून) से,  
अपने वक्त से,  
सींचा उसने पल-पल मुझको,  
उसकी बस एक नज़र से मिल गया,  
निःस्वार्थ प्यार का आँचल मुझको;  
वो जब भी देखती,  
माना मेरी नज़र है उतारती,  
खुशी के आँसू छिपाते-छिपाते,  
अक्सर मुझको है निहारती,  
पर उसे लगता है छिप जाती है वो मेरी नज़रों से,  
जो झपकते हुए भी बस उसी को है पुकारती;  
वो कौन है?  
शब्दों से कभी बयान ना कर पाऊँगी,  
वो क्या है?  
शायद एक दिन उस जैसा बनकर ही,  
सब बयान कर जाऊँगी;  
शायद वो एक पाक-सा(शुद्ध), खूबसूरत एहसास है,  
या मेरी ज़िन्दगी को ज़िंदा करने वाली,  
हवा में घुली हुई एक लंबी, गहरी साँस है?  
शब्द भले ही छोटा हो,  
पर उसका मतलब बड़ा ही गहरा है,  
जो सिर्फ़ भरोसे और प्यार से ही किनारे तक पहुँचा दे,  
वो ही माँ नाम का लहरा (लहर) है;  
वो मेरी ख़ामोशी को भी सुन लेती है,  
वो मेरे लिए बड़ी-से-बड़ी खुशी को चुन लेती है,  
वो अपने मन की आँखों से मेरी आँखें पढ़ लेती है,  
और वो मेरे लिए चुनौती के चट्टान भी चढ़ लेती है;  
पर उसके लिए मैं क्या कर पायी हूँ?  
क्या उसके हर एक आँसू का कर्ज़ चुका पायी हूँ?  
क्या अपने आप को भूलकर,  
कभी उसे सँवारा है मैंने?  
या सिर्फ़ अपनी खुदगर्ज़ी (selfishness) के लिए ही,  
उसे हमेशा पुकारा है मैंने?  
बस दर्द में ही,  
उसकी आगोश क्यों आयी मुझे याद?

बहाए आँसू सिर्फ़ तब क्यों,  
जब भी हो उससे कोई फ़रियाद (शिकायत)?  
वो तो मेरे गम और खुशी,  
दोनों में आँसू बहाती है,  
और फ़रियादों में भी छिपी मेरी मुरादों (इच्छाओं) को  
पूरा करना चाहती है;  
जानती हूँ कचोटता है उसका दिल,  
जब उसका ही अंश उसे नकारता है,  
पर ये भी जानती हूँ कि,  
मुस्कुराता है उसका दिल,  
जब-जब वही अंश उसे माँ कहकर पुकारता है;  
चाहे दूर रहूँ या रहूँ पास,  
मैं ख़ैरियत रहूँ होती उसकी बस यही आस;  
ए रूहकार!  
इसलिए अपनी दुआओं में कभी उसे भी शामिल कर ले,  
उसकी भी चाहतों को कभी-कभार कामिल (पूरा) कर ले;  
क्योंकि वो तो बस तेरा प्यार ही चाहती है,  
और लालची हो जाए अगर,  
तो बस तुझसे थोड़ा और लाड़ और दुलार ही तो चाहती  
है;  
याद रख हमेशा कि वही तेरी सच्ची यार है,  
और तू मान या ना मान, पर वही तेरा पहला प्यार है;  
दोस्ती, प्यार, खुशी,  
उसने ज़िन्दगी का हर मायना सिखाया,  
और एक मुस्कान के साथ हमेशा,  
उसने अपना हर रिश्ता निभाया;  
पर जो रिश्ता उसने सबसे बखूबी निभाया,  
उससे ही आज मेरी ये जान है,  
उसकी ही हर सीख से मिली मुझे,  
आज मेरी ये पहचान है;  
माँ की गोद में अपना सिर रखने जैसा सुख,  
बताओ आखिर कहाँ है?  
अपनी जान से ज्यादा संभालकर रखो उसे,  
क्योंकि माँ है, तो जहान है,  
हाँ, माँ है, तो जहान है.....!

वैष्णवी बोरुलकर  
बी.ए. प्रथम वर्ष



## पलों में खोना...

दो अवसरों पर हम खो जाते हैं, इस दुनिया से। एक जब सोचने और करने के लिए कुछ नहीं होता और दूसरा जब सोचने और करने की अधिकता है। यह सब साधारण है, परंतु जब अनुभूति के आनंद में पल रुक जाते हैं, ऐसे अनुपम अवसर कभी - कभार आते हैं। दुनिया की नज़रों से खोना अच्छा लगता है और खुद की नज़रों से ज़िंदगी जीना चाहती हूँ। पर कभी इतना खो जाती हूँ कि वापस रास्ता पकड़ने में किसी का हाथ पकड़ना पड़ता है। पैरों को जमीन पर रखकर आसमान की तरफ उड़ना है, क्योंकि वापस इसी धरती पर पांव रखना है, तो पैर नीचे और आंख ऊपर होनी चाहिए।

दो साल गुजर गए आसमान में, तब दुनिया मास्क के अंदर मुंह छिपा रही थी। आज़ादी एक आसान शब्द नहीं है। चारों ओर सोना - चांदी और मूल्यवान वस्तुओं से भरा हुआ एक कमरे में बंद हो, तो उससे क्या खुशी मिल सकती है? इसी तरह, मनुष्य के अंदर बहुत क्षमता है, पर वह बाहर नहीं आ सकता तो, वह भी एक तरह की परतंत्रता है। चाहतों की सीमाएं नहीं होना आज़ादी है। अगर देशों के दरवाज़े खुले नहीं होते तो, बीमारियां इतनी ज्यादा नहीं फैलती और देशों के बीच इतना संबंध

होने की वजह से, खतरों के समय एक दूसरे की मदद कर सकते हैं। एक रास्ता बंद होने पर दूसरा खुल जाता है। ऐसे ही बीमारी की वैश्विक संकट में लोगों की नौकरी चली गई, तो कुछ ऑनलाइन की नौकरियां बढ़ी हैं। तब मनुष्य के जीवन में भी, बाहर जाने की सीमाओं के कारण ऑनलाइन की सीमाएं बढ़ गईं। ऐसे खोलना, बंद करना जैसे - सांस अंदर लेना और सांस छोड़ना। कोविड काल के बिजनेस के बारे में नहीं बोल रही हूँ, कुछ लेते हैं तो कुछ खोते भी हैं। खोकर बिना लेना चोरी होता है। ऑनलाइन बैठकर पढ़े बिना मार्क्स हासिल किया गया है, तो चोरी है। मगर चोरी कर लिखें जाने पर मिलती है संतुष्टि। इसी तरह मेरे दिल के मनोरंजन की भी चोरी हो गई थी। वाकई मैं वक्त नहीं होने पर ही वक्त की जरूरत पड़ती है। दिन - रात होकर उठने पर कोई अपना वक्त चाहता ही नहीं तो?

वक्त को देकर, पलों में खोकर, कुछ मिलता है, तो थोड़ी - सी संतुष्टि। देने के बिना लेने से क्या मिलता है? आखिर देने के लिए मेरे पास वक्त ही तो है। इच्छा थी कि कुछ इससे करूं। कुछ किए बिना वक्त में खोने से अच्छा तो कुछ करके, उस पलों में,

फिर उसकी यादों में खोना है। जरूरत चीजों को मूल्य देती है। अगर हमारे वक्त की जरूरत किसी को नहीं है, तो मानो वक्त की मूल्य कम है। जिन लोगों को वक्त की कीमत है, वह एक संपन्न व्यक्ति है। आदमी, राष्ट्र, सब गरीब हैं, जब वह अपने वक्त की पहचान नहीं कर पाते। इसका मतलब, पैसों की तरह वक्त को देखना नहीं, पर पैसों से ज्यादा वक्त को महत्व देना चाहिए, क्योंकि वक्त कुछ भी बदल सकता है।

दो साल घर पर थी, तो वक्त मैंने खुद को और मेरे परिवार को दिया है। सबसे आरामदायक स्थिति, बचपन में वापस ले जाने जैसा, घर और रिश्तों के भीतर के सूक्ष्म अंशों को देखने का मौका मिला। मैं कभी ज्यादा बात नहीं करती थी। मेरे लिए हमेशा से मेरा घर एक ऐसा सुरक्षित क्षेत्र रहा है, जहां मैं स्वतंत्र रूप से अपने विचार व्यक्त कर पाती हूँ। परिवार दुनिया की सूक्ष्म इकाई है। वहां भी राय और तर्क होंगे, लेकिन हम एक दूसरे के साथ कैसा व्यवहार करते हैं, यह बाहर की दुनिया में भी परिलक्षित होता है। हमारे मूल्य और दुनिया को देखने का तरीका मुख्यतः परिवार से आता है।

- केथलीन शेन्थल जोसी  
बी.ए. प्रथम वर्ष

## नाळ

नाळ म्हणजे माती, आणि तिच्यांत जन्म घेतलेल्यांचं नातं  
नाळ म्हणजे असंख्य ओव्यांचं रसग्रहण करणारं जातं  
नाळ म्हणजे भरजरी पैठणी, नाळ म्हणजे रत्नजडित नथ  
नाळ म्हणजे पेशवाईचं कर्तृत्व, आणि महाराजांचं स्वराज्याचं मनोरथ ॥

नाळ म्हणजे टिळक, चाफेकर, आंबेडकर, ज्यांनी स्वतंत्रता संग्राम लढवला  
नाळ म्हणजे जस्टिस रानडे, फुले, शाहू महाराज ज्यांनी सुधारित समाज संकल्पिला  
नाळ म्हणजे केसरी, प्रभाकर, ज्ञानप्रकाश, जे छापखान्यातून झाले अर्पण  
मुक्त भारताच्या स्वप्नाचे ते होते समाजाप्रती दर्पण ॥

नाळ म्हणजे दासबोध, संतवाणी: अढळ, अजरामर, निर्विवाद  
नाळ म्हणजे आई जगदंबेने अख्खा महाराष्ट्राला दिलेला आशीर्वाद  
नाळ जोडलीये विठ्ठल-रखुमाईशी, जोडलीये कोल्हापूर अंबाबाईशी  
नाळ जोडलीये तुळजा भवानीशी, जोडलीये जेजुरीच्या खंडोबाशी ॥

नाळ म्हणजे वाकाटक, चालुक्य, शिलाहार, सातवाहनांचा इतिहास  
आणि नाळ म्हणजे रोज पकडायला धावतो, त्या लोकल ट्रेनचा ही पास  
नाळ म्हणजे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज आणि नाळ म्हणजे ताज  
नाळ म्हणजे या भूमीचा तारणहार, त्या अरबी समुद्राची गाज ॥

नाळ म्हणजे पुरणपोळी, नाळ म्हणजे मिसळपाव  
नाळ म्हणजे झुणका भाकर आणि त्यावर मिरचीच्या ठेच्याचा घाव  
नाळ म्हणजे मसालेभात, मोदक, त्यावर साजूक तुपाची पळी  
नाळ म्हणजे मिरगुंड आणि ताकानंतर गालावर उमटलेली तृप्त जीवाची खळी॥

नाळ म्हणजे पुणेरी पाट्या, मुंबईच्या क्रिकेटवरल्या गप्पा  
नाळ म्हणजे नागपुरी हिंदी आणि सर्वांचाच लाडका बाप्पा  
नाळ म्हणजे पु. ल. देशपांड्यांचं कथाकथन, नाळ म्हणजे गीत रामायणाची नवलाई  
नाळ म्हणजे ग. दि. मा. कुसुमाग्रज आणि बालकवींच्या ओळी॥

नाळ म्हणजे राजा हरिश्चंद्र, नाळ म्हणजे हाऊसफुलचे फलक  
नाळ म्हणजे प्रभाकर पणशीकर, आणि स्तब्ध करणाऱ्या तो मी नव्हेच ची झलक  
नाळ म्हणजे विष्णुदास भावे, बालगंधर्व, मास्टर दीनानाथ मंगेशकर  
स्त्री पार्ट करत, रंगभूमी जगत त्यांनी अजरामर केले स्वर ॥

नाळ म्हणजे नटसम्राटचा स्वगत, काळजात घुसणाऱ्या दारव्हेकरांच्या कट्यारीचा चाली  
नाळ म्हणजे झपाटलेला तात्या विंचू आणि लक्ष्या-मामांची बनवाबनवी  
नाळ म्हणजे मंगेशकरांनी अजरामर गीतं, मी नथुराम गोडसे बोलतोय च्या सादरीकरणाची शक्ती  
नाळ म्हणजे 'अलबत्या गलबत्या'ची हवीहवीशी जादू आणि बेबंदशाहीच्या संभाजी मागची घाणेकरांच्या भक्ती ॥

नाळ जोडलीये महाराष्ट्राशी, नाळ जोडलीये ह्या भारतवर्षाशी  
कालच्या घटनांतून शिकून आज, उभारतोय गुढी प्रज्वलित उद्या  
कितीही संकट बेतली, कितीही स्वाऱ्या चालून आल्या तरी एकाच अढळ असेल सत्य  
'यावतचंद्रदिवाकरौ' नांदेल हि भूमी: अनादी, अनंत, आणि अवध्य ॥

यशोधन देवधर  
द्वितीय वर्ष कला

## पाऊस.....

संततधार पाऊस  
ओलाचिंब वारा  
गच्च भरून आलेलं आभाळ  
आणि भिजत असलेला निवारा....  
पाऊस जणू पितोय घराची खिडकी  
आणि घट्ट मिटलेल्या काचांवर वाफांची आर्द्र नक्षी  
थेंबांचे लगडले मोती  
झेलीत उभा हा सावळा पक्षी  
मृगाच्या वेदीवर थेंबांची सर  
मग काव्य उतरते मनात झरझर  
तृषार्त धरती वरसता मेघ  
रिते रिते होई आभाळ आणि सचैल न्हाऊन  
निघाला मनाचा गाभारा

प्रा. अपर्णा कुलकर्णी  
अर्थशास्त्र विभाग

## घरकुल माझे

माझे घर  
जणू इंद्राची अमरावती शोभिवंत  
गोकुळ जिथे स्वर्गाचा आनंद  
नाही कुठली चिंता, नाही खंत.  
घराच्या या भिंतीत  
राहते माया, आपुलकीची सर  
माझ्या घराची भाकर सर्वांवर वरचढ.  
घर वृंदावनात या  
राहते माझी माय, माझा पिता.  
पोटाशी घेऊन प्रेमाने  
गिरवतात संस्कारांचा कित्ता.  
नमन माझे तयांना  
ज्यांच्या पायी उभे हे घर  
मी ज्यांच्या मुळे- माझी माणसं माझं घर  
उदया कुठे, माझी वाट,  
वेगळे माझे भार  
घर माझे तिथेच उभे कठोर-खंबीर.  
ज्या घराने मला दिले एवढे सगळे  
ते घर माझे जगावेगळे, ते घर माझे जगावेगळे.  
या माझ्या वास्तूला मी जोडते कर  
घराची ऊब नाही जगाच्या पाठीवर  
असेच नेहमी हृदयात कोरून राही.  
माझ्या घराचा उंबर, माझ्या घरकुलाचे उंबर

गौरी गावडे  
प्रथम वर्ष

## स्वप्न

स्वप्नं माझी मोठी इतकी की झोपेत ना पुरली  
सारी स्वप्ने माझी, वास्तवात उतरली  
राणीच्या बागेत पुन्हा गेलो, भेटलो आटपाट नगराच्या राजाला  
समुद्रकिनारी स्तब्ध बसलो, ऐकत कोसळत्या लाटांच्या गाजेला.  
रुळांवर धावणारी आगगाडी, तिचा ड्रायव्हर पून्हा मी बनलो.  
भुर्रर उडून जाणाऱ्या पक्ष्याकडे मी एकटक बघत बसलो.  
फळीवरच्या डब्यातनं हळूच लाडू काढून खाल्ला.  
गोट्या, लगोरी, विटी-दांडू यात उनाड जीव मी गुंतवला.  
शाळेला सुट्टी मिळावी म्हणून भोलानाथाला साकडं घातलं.  
शिकरण-पोळीचं, चटणी-भाकरीचं, मी नवरसभरीत सुख अनुभवलं.  
गजराचा आवाज ऐकून मात्र खडबडून मला जाग आली,  
स्वप्ननगरीत आयुष्य जगल्यावर, कामाकडे वळायची इच्छाच मेली.  
धडपडण्याचं, खरचटण्याचं, मन-मोकळेपणाचं, ते वय कुठेतरी निघून गेलं.  
अभ्यास, नोकरी, जबाबदाऱ्यांमध्ये ते निष्पाप मन कधीतरी विरून गेलं.  
आपल्याच डोळ्यांसमोर बालपणाचं ते कोमल फूल केव्हातरी खुडलं गेलं  
आपण पुढे पाहण्यात एवढे गुंतून गेलो  
आपण पुढे पाहण्यात एवढे गुंतून गेलो, की मागे पाहायचंच राहून गेलं.

यशोधन देवधर  
द्वितीय वर्ष कला

## शो मस्ट गो ऑन

नवीन वर्षाला सुरुवात झाली, नवे संकल्प प्रत्यक्षात उतरवणार तोच कोरोना महामारीने संपूर्ण जगात थैमान घातले. बघता बघता सुरू झाले लॉकडाउन! लॉकडाउन! लॉकडाउन!!! सुरुवातीचा काळ फार आनंद झाला कारण अचानक मिळालेली सुट्टी.पण ही सुट्टी नेहमी सारखी नव्हती अन भविष्यातही अशी सुट्टी कधी नसावी. हळूहळू सर्व बचत संपली. काम नाही पण पोटोबा मात्र मनसोक्त परिणाम वाढलेलं वजन न त्याचे परिणाम. आधी शाळा नाही, परीक्षा नाही म्हणून खुश

असणारी मुले पण आता बाहेर कधी जायचं? असे विचारू लागली पण उत्तर एकच होते आता नाही कारण आता लॉकडाउन आहे. त्यातच नवीन शिक्षण पद्धत आली ऑनलाइन शिक्षण हळूहळू ऑनलाइन हा परवली चा शब्द झाला. हे ऑनलाइन जीवन छोट्या पासून वृद्धा पर्यन्त सर्वांनी स्विकारले. लॉकडाउन थोडा शिथिल झाला असता मी एकदा ट्रेन ने प्रवास करत होतो. खिडकी जवळ बसलो असता माझा डोळा लागला. झोपेत माला जोराने शिक आली.

आणि माझ्या आजूबाजू ची सर्व लोक दूर पळाली. असे मजेशीर काही किरसे या काळात झाले.

आता सर्व जीवन पुन्हा पूर्वपदावर येत आहे. पण काही जणांचे मात्र जीवन बदललं आहे. काही सहप्रवाशी कोरोना मुले काळाच्या पड्यामगे गेले, काहीच्या नोकऱ्या गेल्या. पण काही झाले तरी आपण मात्र चालत राहायचे. कारण शो मस्ट गो ऑन.....

रोशन डिसोजा  
हेराज इंस्टीट्यूट

# CHRONICLES



# ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

From virtual learning once again the department of AIHCA was back in full swing from the academic year 2022-2023. The enthusiastic responses could be seen through workshops in Pottery known as Hurry Potter and Modi script in the first half of the odd semester. In collaboration with the Museum society of Mumbai and CSMVS the department organised its eco-friendly Ganesha workshop for students. This academic year, field trips were organised to Lothal, Modhera and Patan for research. Site seminar was held at Ajanta caves by Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare and by Dr. Shreekanth Jadhav. Field trips were organised to Elephanta and Mahakali caves in collaboration with the ASI (Mumbai circle). A special trip was organised for science students in collaboration with the Chemistry department of St. Xavier's college. Local trips to Kanheri, Elephanta and CSMVS were conducted by Dr. Jason Johns for understanding conservation.

The World Heritage week festival was celebrated by the department of AIHCA in collaboration with ASI, BLHS & Museum society of Mumbai with a site seminar at Elephanta where Dr. Anita gave a lecture on "Elephanta caves an architectural marvel". The District Collector Mahendra Kalyankar was invited as a chief guest. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the department also hosted an exhibition in the woods on Conservation in the Mumbai Circle with sessions on understanding fake artefacts which students could handle.

This Exhibition on "Heritage Sites in India and those under ASI Mumbai Circle" was inaugurated by Dr. Pheroza J. Godrej. A Lecture titled "Conservation of Heritage in the Mumbai Circle, ASI" by Dr. Rajendra Yadav, Superintendent Archaeologist, ASI (Mumbai Circle.)

Another Parallel Exhibition on St. Petersburg and Mumbai was organised in collaboration with the Russian Cultural House from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Virtual Lecture on Ghosts in Mesopotamia was organized in collaboration with MSM by Assyriologist Dr. Irvin Finkel from

England. Dr. Amol Divkar released his book on Early stage back drops and paintings and delivered a lecture in MMR. The book release was done by the Principal Dr. Shinde and by Dr. Pheroza J. Godrej.

Two workshops as a part of the honors programme "Mytho is lit" was conducted by Dr. Jason Johns in February 2023.

While the department conducted activities individually, the staff also contributed by getting laurels to the department which added more feathers in the cap.

The Dr. Radha Kumar presented research papers which were published in reputed journals.

1. Title of the Paper - "NAVA BRAHMA TEMPLES AND NATARAJA REPRESENTATIONS SOME DEDUCTIONS." THAKUR VIJYAM : SPECTRUM OF HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES. ISBN NO 978-93-574-119-6
2. Title of the Paper- "UNIVERSAL TEACHINGS OF THE BUDDHA ENVELOPED IN PRACTICAL TECHNIQUES - GLEANINGS FROM THE SUTTAS" KALYANA MITRA VOLUME-V11 RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY. ISBN 978-93-5704-861-3
3. She was granted a Project at Discovery of India (NEHRU CENTRE) in the capacity of Academic and Content Expert to revamp the galleries in Ancient India.
4. She was invited by the *Sociology department* to conduct a session for the honors programme 'sociology and Art' & delivered a lecture on "KALA, KULA AND KATHA" exploring the role of Devadasis in art and society.
5. Was invited by the Gender Equity cell at R.J college to deliver an Inaugural talk on "Indian Art, aesthetics and Mythology. Concept of Gender Equity."

6. Was invited to present a paper and deliver a lecture at the Dance Dialogues session collaboration with NCPA Mumbai. Topic: "Courtesans in Buddhist Literary sources."
7. Was invited to deliver a lecture for the international conference at SAPP - St Andrews College. The topic *Ganikas and their Impact on the Social systems of Ancient India.*
8. Has been invited by SAPP St Andrews College to conduct a Summer Programme A certificate course on the *INTRODUCTION TO SANSKRIT PLAYS.*
9. She worked as Faculty Advisor for the Department of Inter religious Studies.
10. Resource person for the Sramana tradition for the ONLINE HONOURS COURSE in the Sramana tradition by the DIRS= Department of Inter-Religious studies. Conducted lectures in Buddhist teachings, Ethics and philosophy.
11. Was invited to conduct a Music appreciation workshop for the *INDIAN MUSIC GROUP- St Xavier's COLLEGE.*
12. Was invited by the *Department of Psychology* for a lecture on the topic "Emotional Expression Through Dance an Indian perspective."
13. Delivered a lecture for the students from the *Emylon Business school* on the *Essence of Indian Culture and the Impact on Business.*
  1. Conducted a proactive dance and music session for ladies recuperating from Breast cancer at the Vasantha Memorial center. Title: "I am precious."
  2. Continued to be a Subject expert for the on line YouTube channel Yeh Hai India.

Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare was selected as a member of the expert advisory committee for antiquities and Custom branch.

She was invited as a guest speaker on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 by Parle Janaseva samiti to deliver a lecture on Konkantil katalshilpe at Sathaye college.

She presented a paper on External manifestations in Indian art at the International conference organised by the DIRS.

She was invited as a guest speaker at Elephanta caves on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 as a part of the International Heritage day by the ASI to deliver a lecture on art and sculptures of Elephanta. An intercollegiate quiz competition organised by the ASI for students was won by the Students of AIHCA.

Yashodhan Deodhar, VIVAAN Modi, Aarya Yadavand Harshita Manohar from F.Y.B.A grabbed the trophy by ranking first.

The newly appointed U.S. ambassador Eric Garcetti for India on his first visit visited St. Xavier's college with U.S Consul General Mike Hankey to understand the Indian history and culture. She also accompanied Ajay Rao, the regional managing director of DFC, U.S. consulate to Kanheri caves.

Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare was felicitated by the Malad Devasthan trust for her service in education, service for society and for promotion and encouragement of hobbies in culture.



**Dr. Anita with U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti in Heras Institute.**



**Dr. Jason Johns with students at Kanheri Caves.**

**Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare**  
Head, Department of Ancient Indian  
History, Culture and Archeology

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

*“Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” - Martin Luther King Jr.*

The academic year 2022-23 was a year of transforming traditions to help learners adapt to the 'unlearn and relearn' paradigm and embrace the post pandemic higher education reforms.

### Entrance Examination:

The MSc Biotechnology programme, traditionally eligible for BSc Biotechnology graduates, was opened to all streams of Biological Sciences, through an all-India entrance examination in the month of July 2022.

### Change of Guard:

The department places on record its gratitude towards Dr. Karuna Gokarn, Associate Professor, Vice Principal (Academics) and our former Head of Department, who relentlessly lead us during the toughest pandemic years

and nurtured the department for 5 years (2017-2022) into a leading academic and research space training students in cutting edge technologies. Passing on the baton to Dr. Shiney Peter since June 2022, she continues to be the strong pillar of support in all our endeavours.

### Post-Graduate Diploma in Bioinformatics

From June 2022 onwards, Ms. Norine Dsouza took charge as the coordinator of the programme. The programme was executed in a hybrid manner from July 2022- May 2023. Along with in-house subject experts, lectures and practical sessions conducted by various subject matter experts from institutions like ACTREC, Bombay College of Pharmacy and Bioinformatics led Industry were the highlights of this course. Twenty-eight students completed the programme with flying colours. Two students of the PG Diploma programme presented their project work at the *international conference on Recent Advances in*

*Science, Technology, Humanities and Management*, held in February 2023 at V G Vaze College, Mumbai.

### Honours Programme 2022-23

**Title: *Exploring Computational and Invitro tools for understanding cancer biology***

To introduce the concepts in Animal Cell Culture and Bioinformatics in Undergraduate Education, the Department offered a 2 credit honours course on ***Exploring Computational and Invitro tools for understanding cancer biology***. Module-based sessions on Techniques in Animal Cell Culture, applications of Computational and Bioinformatics tools in Biological Science, in the form of lectures, hands in Lab sessions and online demonstrations were conducted from October 2022 to April 2023. Sixteen students from the undergraduate programme (SYBSC and TYBSC) in Biological Sciences actively participated in the course and completed it with good grades.

## Department Activities:

'The Biotech Association-Palindrome', a student led organisation in the department, organised a number of activities this year to stimulate the young minds to find answers for the upcoming challenges in the world of Biotechnology. The activities were ideated and organised under the able leadership of Dr. Punita Jain. All students from MSc Part I and II enthusiastically participated and enhanced their knowledge base.

## Seminars

1. Alumni Interaction on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022- "From Trash to Cash: the promises of anaerobic digestion for a renewable future" by Kris Silveira (Alumnus 2016-18, Early-stage researcher University of Galway, Ireland)
2. Interactive Session on "Journey from a Researcher to an Entrepreneur" with Dr. Tanay Bhatt, Postdoctoral Researcher, In STEM, Bangalore, Co-Founder- KoshKey, on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
3. "Antarchakshu" - An eye opener workshop on understanding the possibilities in disabilities was conducted in collaboration with XRCVC on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Mr. Krishna Warriar was the resource person for the same.
4. Extension Activity:
  - Science Day 2023- Celebrating National Science Day (NSD) on 28<sup>th</sup> February '23, the Post graduate Department of Biotechnology at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, conducted an experiential learning session for High School students from BMC schools through the facilitation of 'Sparsh', an NGO. The main objective of NSD'23 was to bring awareness among young, ignited minds from BMC schools about advancement in science and to encourage them to pursue their careers in science and Technology. Inspired by the theme, Global Science for Global wellbeing the MSc-Part 1 students

presented "Transforming Genomes for Green transitions": a solution driven approach showcasing various techniques for a brighter and greener future. The visiting students were sensitized to the challenges and potential Biotechnological interventions available to solve food scarcity. The BMC school students performed supervised experiments with the MSc students and assimilated observations through microscopes, qualitative tests, and Bioinformatics tools to understand the core biological concept.

## Palindrome Magazine:

In its 12<sup>th</sup> year of publication, the goal of this year's Palindrome Magazine theme, "The Balanced Duality of Biotechnology," was to address the pertinent ethical, political, and social concerns related to recent advancements in biotechnology. This edition is aimed at invoking social conscience in the minds of young researchers and to foster the growth of a deeper perceptive eye to be able to read science beyond the surface. A manifestation of well-coordinated efforts, right from deciding the theme, authoring articles, compilation of research projects, editing and designing by the students of MSc-II, Palindrome magazine was released by Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Principal and Dr. Karuna Gokarn, Head, PGDBT on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

## Research Activities:

### DBT-BUILDER Project:

**Workshop:** Under the aegis of DBT BUILDER Grant, a Hands-on Workshop on 'Probing Biology: The Data Way': Biological Data Structuring & Exploring Visualization was conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Ms. Norine Dsouza was the resource person and 16 MSc Biological Science Students participated in this one-day experiential workshop and got insights into the relevance techniques of utilizing the available biological data in research.

## Research Communication under DBT-BUILDER Project

- Oral Presentations at International Conference on Recent Advances in Science, Technology, Humanities and Management, February 2023
  - ◆ "Developing a data model for cancer research in line with national healthcare policies" - *Shivank Sivadasan, Norine Dsouza and Shiney Peter*
  - ◆ Deciphering the role of ApoD missense mutation on structure and function- A computational approach- *Nandini Khona, Norine Dsouza*
  - ◆ Analysis of impact of point mutations in BAI2 at GPS motif using computational tools- *Miloni Shah, Norine Dsouza*
- Posters presented at "International Conference on Millets-2023." A transdisciplinary approach to its resurgence and sustainability": (Jan 30-31, 2023)
  - ◆ "Identification of antiproliferative BAMPs from *Eleusine coracana* against solid tumors: An *In-silico* Approach" - *Lawanya Rao, Norine Dsouza and Shiney Peter*
  - ◆ "Identification of potential *Setaria italica* phytochemicals in Cancer Therapeutics: An *In-silico* approach." - *Asawari Joshi, Norine Dsouza and Shiney Peter*
- Oral Presentation at the International Conference on "Innovations in Chemical, Biological, and Pharmaceutical Sciences." 18-19<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- "Identification of potential key biomarker genes of TNBC and its role in breast cancer and other diseases by using bioinformatic analysis" - *Jessica Jeejan, Norine Dsouza*



- Poster Presentation at International conference of Drug Discovery, BITS-Pilani, Goa- 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Impact of Missense Mutations on Poly (ADP-ribosyl) polymerase 1 - Talazoparib interaction- *Jessica Jeejan, Norine Dsouza*

### Paper-Poster Presentations:

- Research Scholars Meet 2022 on Post Pandemic Advances in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, DYPatil SBTBI, Navi Mumbai (November 10-11, 2022)
  - ◆ Sequence, structure, and functional analysis of cyclotides from *Clitoria ternatea* using *In-silico* tools - *Lawanya Rao, Nidhi Sehgal, Norine Dsouza*
  - ◆ “Understanding the role of ALK gene in solid tumors using metadata analysis tool” - *Asawari Joshi, Shiney Peter*
  - ◆ Impact of Missense Mutations in the NBD-1 of CFTR on the phosphorylation dependent gating mechanism of the ion channel- *Hridhya Jacob, Norine Dsouza*
- International conference of Drug Discovery, BITS Pilani- Goa- 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> November 2022
  - ◆ Impact of Nipah viral G protein missense mutations on structural stability and receptor interaction - *Norine Dsouza*
  - ◆ Impact of point mutations on structural stability of Kunitz Beta amyloid precursor protease inhibitor domain: A molecular Dynamic approach. - *Premie Fernandes, Norine Dsouza*
- International Conference on “Innovations in Chemical, Biological, and Pharmaceutical Sciences.” 18-19<sup>th</sup> November 2022, organized by the Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, GLA University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India

- ◆ “Prediction Hendra viral miRNA, gene targets and functional analysis using computational approach” - *Norine Dsouza, won the first prize.*
- Symposium on Exhilarating Biology, C-DAC, Pune on February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

- ◆ Impact of Missense Mutations in the NBD-1 of CFTR on the phosphorylation dependent gating mechanism of the ion channel - *Hridhya Jacob, Norine Dsouza*

### Student Research Projects:

- In the third semester, MSc-II students completed group projects (in the department) on various aspects of Biotechnology guided by the faculty. Listed below are a few project topics:

### Under the guidance of Ms. Norine D’Souza

- Impact of missense mutations on structure and function of PTOV1 - An *In-silico* approach
- Physicochemical, structural, and mutational analysis of TRPV1 in Lung cancer
- Identification of potential key biomarker genes of TNBC and BCSC and their role in breast cancer by using bioinformatic analysis
- Effect of Missense Point Mutations on the Structural Stability and Functional Activity of Palladin
- *In silico* analysis of the effect of mutations in  $\beta$ -catenin associated with Hepatocellular Carcinoma and their impact on interaction with  $\beta$ -TrCP

### Under the guidance of Dr. Shiney Peter

- Study of cytotoxic effect of Anthocyanin from *Hibiscus rosa sinensis* calyses
- Antiproliferative effect of *Brassica oleracea* seed extract on MDA-

MB-231, MCF7 and A549 cell lines

- *In-vitro* Cytotoxicity study of *Capsicum frutescens* Extract on cancer cell lines.
- *In vitro* Cytotoxic Effect of Piperine Isolated from *Piper nigrum* fruits on Different Cancer Cell Lines

### Under the guidance of Dr. Punita Jain

- Comparative study of green tea, black tea, and lemon grass to determine their antimicrobial and antioxidant properties and their role in plant growth.
- Isolation and Characterization of Plastic Degrading Bacteria from Water Sample Collected from Girgaon Chowpatty.
- Isolation, characterization & evaluation of natural rubber (Latex) degrading bacteria.
- Extraction, characterisation, and antimicrobial activity of exopolysaccharides from *Bacillus spp.* produced in different media: a comparative study.

**Semester 4:** All Semester IV students completed their dissertation project of a period of 5 months at various national research institutes viz, IIT Bombay, ACTREC, CIFE, NIRRH, UM-DAE-CEBS, ICGEB-Delhi, ICGEB-Delhi, IGIB-Delhi, among others.

### Student participation in webinars/workshops/conferences:

Students participated in a number of webinars and workshops to keep themselves abreast with the emerging trends in the field. A few of them are enlisted here:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress of Radiation Research (ACRR) organised by BARC from 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- National Research Scholars Meet organised by ACTREC, Navi Mumbai on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

- Seminar on Role of genetics in modern biology: Why Mendel still matters, organised by Indian Women Scientists Association (IWSA), Navi Mumbai, on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Seminar on Bioengineered Lymphoid Organoids for Untangling Immunity in Infectious Diseases at ICGEB, Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Genaces 2023 - BIOFLIX- Biotech Fest at Jaihind College, Won the Best College Trophy
- Microbes and beyond conducted by Department of Microbiology, St. Xavier's College on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Biowaves 2023, organised by Department of Lifesciences, St. Xavier's College on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023
- One-month International Workshop Online – Bioinformatics Datascience with R and MySQL from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### Faculty Activities:

#### FDP:

- All faculty members completed the One Month online International

Workshop on-Cancer Genomics & Bioinformatics, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 2023 conducted by Decode Life, Haryana from 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023-7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

- Ms. Norine D'Souza and Dr. Shiney Peter completed an online 15 days internship on "*In silico* vaccine designing" through Bioendeavour Research Lab from 15<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.
- Dr. Punita Jain completed the Lady Tata Memorial Trust Online Teachers Training Workshop on "Genome Editing" conducted by the Department of Biosciences, Union Christian College, Aluva on 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### Extension Activity

Resource Person for the Refresher Course in Biosciences on the theme "Trends in Use of Technology in Biosciences" organised by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, University of Mumbai at Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College from September 12<sup>th</sup> -September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- Ms. Norine Dsouza - 'Integrating computational methods and tools in analysing biological data.'
- Dr. Shiney Peter - 'Cell Culture - Trends in Biomedical Research.'

#### Conference/Symposium/Seminar

- Ms. Norine Dsouza attended and presented a paper at the International Conference on "Innovations in Chemical, Biological, and Pharmaceutical Sciences." in organized by the Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, GLA University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India, on 18-19<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- Ms. Norine Dsouza attended and presented a paper at the international conference of Drug Discovery conducted by Schrodinger and BITS Pilani Goa on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Dr. Shiney Peter and Dr. Punita Jain attended the Summit on Next Generation Therapeutics, sub themes being Drug discovery and Delivery and Regenerative Medicine, held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at Wadhvani Research Centre for Bioengineering (WRCB), IIT Bombay.

Dr. Punita Jain attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress of Radiation Research at BARC, Mumbai on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Compiled by  
**Department of Biotechnology**

## BOTANY

### DBT-Builder Project

The St Xavier's College was granted DBT- Builder project titled 'DBT-Builder St Xavier's College (Autonomous) Interdisciplinary Life Science Program for Advanced Research and Education', under which the Department of Botany is working on the project 'Phytochemical screening of Endangered plants in Western Ghats of Maharashtra'. The objective of the study was to survey the endangered plants, their ethnobotanical significance and to check their phytoconstituents. The work began with an extensive literature review to find and survey the plants, followed by identification and collection. Screening of the plants

for phytochemicals and further studies are going on. Two Scientific Assistants - Ms. Jidnyasa Tare and Ms. Zoofishan Kazi were appointed for the project. Three interns Ms. Simran Singh, Ms. Maitraye Pan and Mr. Ishan Shah were recently assigned for the project who are working on various tasks. Currently, the interns are working individually on a plant and its antibacterial, antioxidant property and flavonoid profiling by TLC/HPTLC methods.

### Annual National Seminar

On February 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 the Department of Botany in collaboration with The National Society of The Friends of the Trees (NSFOT) organized a National

Seminar on 'Botanical Gardens: Challenges and Responsibilities'. The event began with an address by Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai, Prof. Dr. A. D. Sawant, President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees. This was followed by the commencement of the sessions, Keynote address by Dr. S. R. Yadav, Professor Emeritus, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, on Topic: Lead Botanic Garden at Shivaji University Kolhapur- a case study. Dr. C. R. Babu Professor Emeritus Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems (CEMDE) and Former Pro-Vice

Chancellor, Delhi University was the second speaker who spoke on 'Ex-situ conservation of living plants beyond Botanic Gardens.' The next speaker Dr. M. Sabu, CSIR-Emeritus Scientist, Malabar Botanical Garden & Institute of Plant Sciences, gave a talk on 'Ginger and Banana Conservation.' This was followed by a talk on 'Botanical Gardens of the World: Past, Present and Future' by Dr. Chandrakant B. Salunkhe Principal, Krishna Mahavidyalaya, Rethare Bk, Shivnagar, Taluka-Karad, Dist-Satara. The last talk was by Ms. Hutokshi Rustomfram & Ms. Shubhada Nikharge Trustee, Save Rani Bagh Botanical Garden Foundation on the topic 'Rani Bagh, Mumbai's Heritage Botanical Garden - a City Jewel and its Survival Saga'.

During the seminar the students of SYB.Sc successfully held an exhibition-cum-sale of herbal beauty and wellness products made by them using commonly available medicinal plants. Their efforts and creativity were widely appreciated by all members of the staff and seminar participants.

At the end of the seminar, an MoU was signed between St. Xavier's College and National Society of the Friends of the Trees, for collaborative activities and sharing of resources.

### Workshop on Plant Nomenclature

Three Day workshop on Plant nomenclature was held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in which resource person Dr. Kanchi N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclatural Registrar at the Harvard University Herbaria, USA, gave very important insights on plant nomenclature. Some researchers also could discuss with the speaker and get their research problems solved.

### Guest Lectures

Two guest lectures were held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023, by Dr. Jovita Yesilyurt, Senior Curator in Charge at Natural History Museum, London, and Dr. Ranee Om Prakash, Senior Curator- Flowering Plants, Natural History Museum, London, UK. The speakers spoke on plant taxonomy, ferns, conservation, ethnobotany and herbarium.

### Workshop on Herbal Cosmetics

Two day workshop on 'Herbal Cosmetics' organized by the Department of Botany in collaboration with E-Cell of the college, was held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The resource person Dr. Kavita Kamat, and her team gave hands-on training to 18 students in the workshop who not only learned but also prepared Turmeric Vetiver Soap, Kesar Chandan Soap, Lip Balm, Ylang Ylang Cream Cleanser, and Face Wash.

### Achievements of Students

- Ms. Aqsa Mazgoankar (MSc Batch of 2022) qualified the GATE examination with AIR 3761 in Life Sciences.

### Internships

- Anas Popatiya from MSc-I completed internship on the tree census project of Badlapur Municipal council during April and May month of 2023. He enumerated approximately 2819 trees in the field.
- Ms. Diksha Chaure studying in MSc-I did her internship from April till June 2023 at MIT World Peace University, Kothrud, Pune. She is working in the 'School of Biosciences and Technology', on extraction, identification, purification of two different proteins from plant *Clitoria ternatea* and also its antifungal and antibacterial activity.
- Mr. Gautam Venugopal, a student from MSc-I, carried out his internship during the months of May and June 2023 with Colgate-Palmolive, India at Colgate Research Centre, Powai, Mumbai. His work included going through relevant SOPs and research for benefits of non-aqueous oleoresins and aqueous natural extracts used in oral care.

### RUSA Grant

Under RUSA 2.0 Grant scheme of Government of Maharashtra, the remaining amount of Six and half lakh rupees was utilized for purchasing a

set of micropipettes, two rotary flask shakers, two printers, NAS box with storage hard discs, herbarium sheet scanner plus software, and a smart book scanner.

### Botanical Field Visits

- The field visit of TYBSc, MSc-I and -II botany classes was taken to Khandala from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 by Dr. Rajdeo Singh, Dr. Manoshree Mondal and field collector Mr. Uddhav Patole.
- Another botanical field excursion of postgraduate students was taken to Pachmarhi from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023, by Dr. Rajdeo Singh, Dr. Vijaya Lobo and Mr. Uddhav Patole.
- In addition to the above field trips, Dr. Rajdeo Singh took many short one day local botanical field visits of UG and PG students to Matheran, Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan, Mumbai Port Trust Garden, and college garden. He also helped the post graduate students during the field visits to get the plants identified, show the location of rare plants, and collect plant material for their MSc project work.

### Training and recognition received by faculty:

#### Dr. Rajendra D. Shinde (Principal)

- The Association of Plant Taxonomy, India awarded Dr. H. Santapau medal to Dr. Rajendra D. Shinde at an event organized by the Botanical Survey of India from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Dehradun. The award is given to an eminent scientist who has contributed over a long period of time to the taxonomy of higher plants. Dr. Shinde got this recognition for his extensive work for research in the field of plant taxonomy resulting in important research papers, for his guidance to research students, solving taxonomic problems, and carrying out digitization of plant specimens at Blatter Herbarium.
- Dr. Rajendra D. Shinde received S. K. Mahajan Award

for Popularization of Scientific Pursuit 2022 – CUBE (TIFR & HBCSE Initiative) in the month of September 2022.

- Dr. Rajendra Shinde delivered a keynote address 'Role of Autonomous Colleges in the Implementation of NEP' at G. S. College of Commerce and Economics, Nagpur, in a NAAC sponsored one day national seminar on 'NEP-Challenges and Opportunities for HEIs', held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- He was also appointed as an External Member of the Research Recognition Committee for the subject of Botany in the Faculty of Science and Technology of the Savitribai Phule Pune University for the period of two years, w.e.f. September 2022.
- He was invited as a resource person for the Refresher Course in Biosciences organised by Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College on the theme 'Trends in Use of Technology in Biosciences', where he delivered a lecture on Digital Herbarium, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- Dr. Rajendra Shinde along with Dr. Karuna Gokarn, along with Principal and Vice-Principal of R. Ruia college, Mumbai were the organizers for poster session: Metamorphosis, that was held in a State Level Conference 'Accreditation: The Way Ahead' held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022, and jointly organized by University of Mumbai and RUSA at Kalina Campus. About 45 colleges and all autonomous colleges from Mumbai presented posters about their 'Best Practices aligned with NEP'.
- He conducted a session on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 on the topic 'Nurturing a Student Centric Campus', at a Short Term Course on 'Academic Administration' organized by UGC-HRDC, University of Mumbai and KC College.
- He also made a presentation on 'Inclusive Education at St. Xavier's

College' at an XRCVC organized event held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 on topic 'Policy Consultation on Education and Disability' organized in collaboration with Rising Flame and Mariwala Health Initiative as a part of the C20 Disability, Equity and Justice Working Group at the college in a hybrid mode.

#### **Dr. Vijaya Lobo**

- Dr. Vijaya Lobo continued as a BOS member to Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara for the academic year 2020-2023.
- She completed the Refresher course in 'Women Studies and Women Empowerment' in Kerala University from 4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- Dr. Vijaya Lobo and Dr. Rajdeo Singh visited Tata Chemicals Innovation Centre, Mulshi, Pune on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and gave feedback on Value and importance on Biodiversity.
- She delivered a lecture to students of 10<sup>th</sup> Std from the Mukhtangan Education Trust on 'Innovation in Science' on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

#### **Dr. Rajdeo Singh**

- Dr. Rajdeo Singh successfully completed a refresher course in 'Advance Research Methodology' from Teaching Learning Center, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- He conducted the Biodiversity Audit at Bombay college of Pharmacy, Mumbai on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- He also identified Trees on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- He visited Devgad College along with MSc-II students Ms. Anuska Agarwal, Ms. Aqsa Majgaonkar, Mr. Harshwardhan Gupta and Ms. Aditi Muskan under Faculty and students exchange programme from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

#### **Mr. Saif Khan**

- Mr. Saif Khan successfully completed RUSA sponsored two credit course on 'Research and Publication Ethics' (CPE-RPE)", approved by the University of Mumbai, from 25<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 at Chikitsak Samuha's Patkar-Varde College Goregaon (W), Mumbai.
- He also completed coursework in Research Methodology and Research ethics, organized by Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala college of Arts, Science and Commerce affiliated to University of Mumbai from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### **Dr. Manoshree Mondal**

- Dr. Manoshree Mondal successfully defended her thesis in an open viva held by University of Mumbai and was awarded Doctoral degree (Ph.D.) for her project titled 'Standardization and development of a Herbal Male Contraceptive: An Innovative Approach' on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- She also presented a research paper titled 'Larvicidal efficacy of essential oil obtained from *Callistemon citrinus* leaves and chemical characterization using GC- MS analysis' at XLV All India Botanical Conference of the Indian Botanical Society held at Department of Botany, University of Lucknow on October 14-16, 2022.
- She successfully completed a four week faculty induction / orientation program from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, organized by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi in collaboration with Army Institute of Education, Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Education, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching.

#### **PhD Students**

- Dr. Sachin Kuvar, student of Dr. Rajendra Shinde received his PhD award notification on

16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 from Mumbai University.

- Ms. Neha Gupte submitted her synopsis in the month of November 2022, and her thesis in April 2023 to Mumbai University.
- The students who have started or are continuing their PhD under Dr. Rajendra Shinde are Mr. Praveen Kale, Ms. Shaily R. Sebastian, Ms. Neha Gupte, Mr. Bandu Konde, Mr. Saif Khan, Ms. Snehal Unde, Mr. Shahid Nawaz Landge, and Mr. Alok Gude.
- One more student Ms. Janvi Mane is working under Dr. Satnam Singh Sohal who is also a PhD guide from Botany Department.
- Dr. Vijaya Lobo also received her PhD guide recognition in June 2023 from Mumbai University.
- One more student Mr. Anil Rajbhar is also doing his PhD under our retired head of Botany Department Prof. Dr. Mrs. Ujwala Bapat.
- The regular RAC meetings for PhD proposals' presentation, and six month progress report presentations, topic approvals, registration of PhD candidates at University and other official formalities were carried out smoothly during the year.

#### **Webinars conducted by the Xavier's Association of Botany (XAB)**

- The core team members of XAB were Ms. Anushka Agarwal (President), Mr. Anas Popatiya (Vice-President), Mr. Harshwardhan Gupta (Head of Finance and Marketing), Ms. Nandini Iyer (Head of Events), Ms. Tanya Vyas (Head of Creatives), Ms. Dania Khan (Head of PR), and Mr. Aaron Sequeira (Editor). In addition to these, there were many student volunteers from undergraduate science classes.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, XAB organized an event called

'Let's In-TREE-duce Ourselves.' It was aimed at bringing the students together and providing them with an opportunity to interact with each other in a fun and engaging way.

- On Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, in collaboration with the MUSE foundation, a clean-up drive was organised at Yeoor Forest, Dist. Thane. The event was aimed at promoting environmental awareness and conserving the biodiversity of the region. Over 100 students volunteered for the drive, and we were able to collect over 500 kgs of waste. The students actively participated in the drive and expressed their appreciation for the association's efforts in organizing such an event.
- In collaboration with the Bonsai Study Group of the Indo-Japanese Association, a Bonsai Demonstration Workshop was organised on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The event was conducted by Dr. Sujata Bhatt and Ms. Poonam Saxena and 120 students. The workshop was aimed at educating the students about the art of bonsai and its significance in promoting environmental awareness.
- In collaboration with Seasonwatch, a Treewalk was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The event was aimed at promoting environmental awareness and biodiversity conservation among the students. The Treewalk was conducted by Sayee Girdhari, and over 80 students participated in the event.
- One of the highlights of the year was the Netflix & Chill movie screening on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 and 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The event was organized to provide students with an opportunity to unwind and relax after a long and busy semester. The movie screenings were held in the college auditorium, and a total of 120 students attended the event.
- On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the

organized a workshop on the preparation of herbarium sheets. The event saw the participation of 130 students who learned about the Blatter Herbarium from Praveen Kale, the Assistant Curator of BLAT. The workshop provided an opportunity for students to understand the process of preparing herbarium sheets and the importance of preserving plant specimens.

- On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, the Xavier's Association of Botany conducted a nature postcard-making workshop. The workshop was conducted by Edwin Fernandes, a nature sketch artist, and saw the participation of 100 students. The event was designed to promote the beauty of nature through art, and students were encouraged to create postcards that showcased different plants and trees.
- A talk on the conservation of Ethnomedicinal Botany on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 was conducted by Fr. Dr. Lancelot D'Cruz, the Principal of St. Xavier's College Ahmedabad. The event was organized to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the knowledge of traditional medicinal plants used by various communities. Fr. Dr. Lancelot D'Cruz shared his extensive knowledge and experience in the field, providing insights into the methods used for conserving plant species and how they can be used for the benefit of humanity.



*Devgad Visit under MoU.*

**Mr. Alok Gude**  
Professor In-charge Head,  
Department of Botany

# CHEMISTRY

The department of Chemistry had a remarkable academic year 2022-23, with many achievements and activities that showcased the excellence and enthusiasm of our faculty and students. Here are some of the highlights of the year:

## Research and Publications:

The department published and presented several research papers in reputed journals and conferences, showcasing the quality and diversity of our research.

- “*Simultaneous Spectrophotometric Determination Of Norfloxacin And Metronidazole From Pharmaceutical Dosage Form By Absorbance Ratio Method*” by Dr. Pralhad Rege, Kyle Meyers and Neha Kapadia published in World Journal Of Pharmacy And Pharmaceutical Sciences
- “*Insolvent Standardization Of Mucuna Pruriens Leaf Extracts For Content Of Tannins And Evaluation Of Potency Against K. Pneumoniae*” by Dr. Pralhad Rege, Gauri Risbud, Sayali Kadge Sachin Palekar and Deepika Jain published in World Journal Of Pharmacy And Pharmaceutical Sciences
- “*Standardization Of Solvent For Extraction Of Tannins And Evaluation Of Antimicrobial Activity Of Moringa Oleifera Leaves*” by Sayali Kadge, Dr. Pralhad Rege, Gauri Risbud, Sachin Pal'ekar & Deepika Jain published in International Journal Of Research And Analytical Reviews
- “*Study Of Inhibited Microbial Growth By Schiff Base Coordinated Rhodium, Aurum And Platinum Metal Complexes*” by Ms. Manik Rathod, Dr. Vijaykumar Chavan and Vikas Yadav in International Journal in current science.
- “*Thermal Stability And Comparative Studies Of Antimicrobial Activities Exhibited By Rhodium, Aurum And*

*Platinum Metal Complexes*” paper was presented by Ms. Manik Rathod at an international conference (ICRASTHM-2023), Vaze College.

Dr. Abhilasha Jain published a chapter in a book under the banner of Elsevier publications titled “*Biogenic synthesis of quantum dots*”.

Mr. Himanshu Gupta submitted his thesis titled “*Kinetic studies of oxidation of industrially important alcohol*” on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Ms. Manik Rathod successfully defended her Ph.D Viva of her research titled as “*Thermal, Magnetic, X-Ray and biological properties of Rh(III), Pt(II) and Au(III) metal complexes*” on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Dr. Pralhad Rege guided a Research project titled “*Stability Indicating Spectrophotometric Methods for Simultaneous Determination of Antibacterial Agents from Pharmaceutical Dosage Formulation*” which was presented by Mr. Sarkar Sayantan in Medicine and Pharmacy Category and UG Level at 17<sup>th</sup> Aavishkar: Inter-Collegiate/Institute/Department Research Convention (Zonal Round) organized by the University of Mumbai at Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science.

Dr. Niraj Bahuguni guided a Research Project titled “*Volumetric estimation of Fe (III) with disodium salt of EDTA using various indicators*” which was presented by Ms. Nawale Shravani in Pure Sciences Category (UG Level) at the 17<sup>th</sup> Aavishkar: Inter-Collegiate / Institute / Department Research Convention organized by the University of Mumbai at Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College.

## Xavier's Association of Chemistry (XAC):

The academic year 2022-23 was undoubtedly a special year for Xavier's Association of Chemistry (XAC), as it was the first time after an interval of two years that all the regular activities were organised on the campus of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. It was

led by a team which had no prior experience in organising or managing offline events but that did not stop them from organising activities with high benchmark 'Alchemia' - the annual intercollegiate fest of XAC was organised creatively with a notable participation from various colleges.

## CHEM CRUISE - Lectures By Eminent Scientists:

The department through XAC organized several lectures by eminent scientists from various fields of chemistry, who shared their insights and experiences with our students and faculty. Some of the notable speakers were:

- Dr. Arnab Dutta from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 delivered a talk on “*Recent Development in Molecular Catalyst-driven Small Molecule Activation*”.
- Prof. Prasenjit Ghosh from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 delivered a talk on “*Designing Novel Metallopharmaceuticals for Chemotherapeutic Applications*”. Prof. Ghosh started his talk by listing the grave dangers that cancer possesses to society and how it has been increasing steadily over the decades.
- Ms. Bonobithi Biswas, an alumnus of St. Xavier's College and former Chairperson of XAC on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 delivered a talk on “*Conservation: A Rendezvous of Art, Science and History*” Bonobithi talked about the chemistry involved in the preservation and restoration of artwork detailing the interaction between the paint, the canvas and the frame.
- Prof. Vivek Polshettiwar from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai delivered a talk on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 on “*Role of Fundamental Science to develop self-reliant Carbon Dioxide utilization technology using solar energy and green hydrogen*”.

- Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai and Homi Bhabha Centre of Science Education, Mumbai, spoke about 5 most important chemical reactions which he believed shaped the world as we know it today.
- Dr. Sanghamitra Chatterjee from Institute of Chemical Technology delivered a lecture on “*Theranostic Application of Carbon Nanomaterials Modified Sensors: A promising future*”.
- Dr. Amber Jain from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay delivered a talk on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 on “*Visualizing Chemical Reactions on Computers*”. Dr. Jain talked about how chemical reactions can be converted into various physical parameters and be associated with a unique code written on specialized software to stimulate reactions.

### Elemental:

ELEMENTAL, the departmental magazine of the Department of Chemistry celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the launch of the 2023 issue of the magazine. The theme for the magazine “Fiat Lux” was derived from a biblical Latin phrase which translates to “let there be light” and it is a befitting theme for a magazine that seeks to illuminate its readers with insights into the world of chemical sciences and allied fields.

The issue conceptualised and edited by the editorial team of Xavier’s Association of Chemistry (XAC) led by a TY Chemistry Student, Mr. Sayantan Sarkar, who served as the editor-in-chief features articles on a wide range of topics from the latest research in spectroscopy and crystallography to the recent advances in catalysis and molecular biochemistry. There are also brief accounts of the chem cruise guest lectures by eminent scientists along with glimpses into the most awaited departmental fest, Alchemia 2023.

It is a celebration of the power of science to illuminate our understanding of the world around

us and within us. The 2023 issue of the ELEMENTAL brings to light the universality of chemical sciences and the innumerable ways in which advances in the sciences shall shape how we imagine our lives in the future.

### Khandala Seminar:

The department conducted a seminar at St. Xavier’s Villa at Khandala from 25<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The seminar involved multiple sessions in chemistry as well as personality development, time management and leadership for the participating students. Mr. Marazban Kotwal and Ms. Maria Gomes served as resource persons for conducting the seminar.

### Industrial Visits:

The department arranged industrial visits for the students to expose them to the practical aspects of chemistry and its applications in various sectors. Some of the industries visited were:

- In Katraj dairy our students learned about the procurement, testing, transportation, processing and pasteurization of milk.
- In Mapro strawberry factory, our students observed quality testing of quality of Mapro products like jams, squash and syrups.
- In Gold Cheese Factory, our students witnessed the collection, preservation, formulation and quality control of milk and milk products.

These visits gave our students a glimpse of the real-world challenges and opportunities in chemistry. Dr. Pralhad Rege and Mr. Himanshu Gupta were instrumental in organising the industrial visits.

### Project under RUSA and New Research Centre for Rural and Agricultural Studies:

Department of Chemistry carried out a RUSA project titled ‘Estimation and Removal of common pesticides used in Maharashtra through Novel Methods’ in collaboration with New Agriculture Research Centre, St. Xavier’s College. The project headed by Dr. Ashma

Aggarwal, Director of the Nadkarny Sacasa Research Laboratory was carried out in different phases. As a part of the study, different teams consisting of department faculty and students interacted with farmers from different regions of Maharashtra to get an understanding of compulsive usage of pesticides and the repercussions on the crop as well as soil in case of non-usage. The aim of the project was to make farmers aware of the harmful effects of pesticide remnants in the farm produce causing severe health damage and find methods to remove those pesticide residues from the produce before human consumption.

### Honours’ Programme:

Honours’ Programme was conducted by several faculty members under the leadership and guidance of the Physical Sciences hub coordinator Dr. Abhilasha Jain. The activities included a wide range of variety from instrumentation chemistry (Dr. Pralhad Rege) to Dye Synthesis (Dr. Manik Rathod and Ms. Maria Gomes) to Chemsketch (Dr. Niraj Bahuguni). Dr. Abhilasha Jain also coordinated a joint online certificate course in collaboration with Bajaj College, Wardha, on Industrial Waste-Water Treatment. The focus of the Honours programme and the certificate course was to provide multifaceted skills to the students who had an appetite to learn beyond the boundaries of the curriculum.

The Department of Chemistry has always contributed to the management and day to day functioning of the College. Ms. Saima Khan was appointed as the Deputy Controller of the Examinations at the beginning of the academic year 2022-23.

In a nutshell, the chemistry department had a fruitful and fulfilling academic year 2022-23, with many achievements and activities that reflected our passion and commitment for chemistry. We are proud of our faculty and students for their excellence and enthusiasm, and we look forward to continuing our journey of discovery and innovation in chemistry.

**Mr. Marzban Kotwal**  
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 Details:

The professor in charge of the Commerce Arts Section, Dr. Suvaiba Pirani, has more than 13 years of teaching experience. She holds M.Com., NET, Ph.D. in Business Administration and Policy.

This academic year, Ms. Kamalika Ray has also joined our teaching staff. She holds her M.Com., MH-SET, EPG(DA), PGDM(Finance), Certified TRP, and currently she is also pursuing her Ph.D. from K. J. Somaiya College.

### Faculty Research:

This year Dr. Suvaiba Pirani presented and published an online research paper 'E-Commerce Pre- and Post-Covid with respect to Consumer Behaviour' published in Education and Society, Vol 47, Issue 02, No. 17, April – June 2023. UGC CARE approved, Group 1, Peer reviewed, Bilingual, Multi- disciplinary Refereed Journal.

### Student's Co-curriculum Activity:

The department had organized the **Honours Programme**. A 5-day workshop named 'Sustainable Development Goals' was conducted by Ms. Malan Zardi, Assistant Professor, Rizvi College of Arts Science and Commerce, for the SYBA students of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai; from 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. The workshop was conducted on the online platform, Zoom. A total of 20 students had registered for the program, who were assessed after each session, based on heuristic assignments. The 10-hour session was divided into 2 hours of lecture for five consecutive days.

The aim of the workshop was to inculcate the basic skill sets that

would convert them from Hardworking individuals to smart-working individuals.

### Social Involvement Programme:

10 students from F.Y. B. A. volunteered in 'Buddy System', where the commerce experienced students taught Bookkeeping and Accountancy- basic rules, journals, and ledger to the F.Y. B.A. Non-Commerce Students

### About Commercium:

The Commerce Society of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai conducted a number of various events and activities last year.

Commercium: The Commerce Society of St. Xavier's College had a fruitful year, successfully organizing four key events that aimed to enhance financial knowledge and explore emerging trends in the business world. These events were attended by many enthusiastic participants and received positive feedback from all stakeholders.

The first event was a webinar conducted in the month of August. In collaboration with technology enthusiasts, Commercium ventured into the cutting-edge concept of India's First Metaverse, under the direction of its founder, *Mr. Navin Manaswi*. This event aimed to explore the potential of the metaverse in transforming various industries and shaping the future of business. The second event, "Financial Modelling using Excel with JP Morgan Analyst *Ms. Saachi Sethi*," witnessed an overwhelming response with over 400 registrations. Ms. Sethi shared her expertise on financial modeling techniques using Excel. The event attracted more than 100 attendees who actively participated and learned invaluable skills.

Addressing the challenges of an impending global recession and its impact on the Indian economy, the society organized a speaker session titled "Resource and Finance Restructuring." The session featured

the Chief Financial Officer of Mahindra and Mahindra, *Mr. Bharat Moossaddee*, who shared his insights and expertise. The event proved to be highly informative, allowing participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of finance in the business world. To conclude the year, bestselling author *Mr. Rishi Piparaiya* held a session on "Financial Freedom". He provided valuable insights into personal finance management. Mr. Piparaiya's expertise and engaging presentation style captivated the audience, enabling them to develop a better understanding of financial independence.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the core committee members and the guidance of the esteemed professor in-charge, *Dr. Suvaiba Pirani*. The Core Committee included: *Pratham Sharma* (TYBA) as Chairperson, *Nitika Khemani* (TYBA), *Keya Daruwala* (TYBA) and *Gauri Mhaslekar* (SYBA) as Vicechairpersons and *Sulakshana Thoda* (SYBA) as the Project Lead.

After reflecting on the achievements of the past year, Commercium is looking forward to another promising year. With the continued support and enthusiasm of its members, the aim remains to organize even more impactful events and create valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth in the field of commerce for the student body of the college.

We are extremely proud to carry out the department work efficiently and effectively to reach an enhanced level. We also congratulate the students who have actively participated in team Commercium this year. We, the department members, are looking forward to the coming year eagerly.

**Dr. Suvaiba Pirani**  
Assistant Professor In-charge,  
Department of Commerce  
(Arts Section)



# COMMERCE (B.COM)

The Academic Year started in June 2022, with a commerce staff meeting.

## **New faculty:**

Young, dynamic, and knowledgeable professional staff members, Mr. Pratik Purohit, Mr. Lloyd Serrao and Mr. Vinayak Thool have joined the Commerce Section as Assistant Professors in B.Com. (Accounting & Finance) Department. They would also engage a few lectures of B.Com. Ms. Monica Rex, who has served the Commerce Section for over two years, has resigned from the post of an ad-hoc Assistant Professor on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. Our department acknowledges the contribution of Ms. Monica during pre and post Corona pandemic time.

## **Academic Proceedings:**

The academic year 2022-23 started with the celebration of St. Ignatius Feast cum cultural programme on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022. The theme of this programme was *Bollywood Live*. As a part of the celebration, meritorious students were felicitated for their academic achievements.

Orientation for the newly admitted F.Y.B.Com. students was conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Teachers' Day was celebrated after the end of Second CIA on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, with an elocution competition wherein students expressed their views on the Teacher's Day and theme topics of elocution opted by them.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, about 45 students from S.Y./T.Y.B.Com. visited BSE Limited and attended an orientation about the functioning of Bombay Stock Exchange, the oldest stock exchange of India in specific and Indian capital market in general.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, about 85 students of S.Y./T.Y.B.Com participated in a workshop organised by National Stock Exchange (NSE), at its head quarter based at BKC and attended an orientation by trained resources of NSE, about operational functionality of stock exchange including its role and

significance in the Indian Financial market.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, a day prior to the eve of Constitutional Day, Advocate Shakeel Hussain, our ex-law professor has oriented all commerce students, about ethos and solid foundation of Indian Constitution with few classic cases, followed by Q&A session.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022, Advocate Shailesh Khadare, Practising lawyer, had engaged a session on Indian Constitution, especially dealing with legislative and executive powers enshrined in our Constitution, functional and administrative aspect of the Indian Constitution. Around 80 S.Y. B.Com students attended the same.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, a special guest lecture was engaged by Dr. Sarika Lohana, a freelancer and financial advisor cum certified SEBI trainer, who spoke about Mutual Funds and shared tips on financial awareness with the learners. Student from of SY and TY attended the same.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, a workshop on 'Design Thinking' was conducted by CA Rahul Sharma of HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd, specially curated for TY's. Around 65 TY students were benefited from this workshop.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, Mr. Ramesh Mishra, of SPJIMR, spoke with students of SY and TY on New Age Management Career.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 the college had invited its notable alumni namely, CMA Akshay Shetty, working with Aditya Birla as Sr. Research Analyst, CA Uday Putran, working with HDFC Bank and Dhananjay Rudra, the Vice President Innovative Product and Operation Professional at JP Morgan. They spoke about current industry trends and advised youngsters on brushing up soft skills to attain desired destiny by investing present time in most productive future-oriented avenues. They also shared their experiences and memories associated with the college and commerce section.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, a special session on Capital Market was conducted by Dr. Navin Punjabi of HR College of Commerce.

A Seminar was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January at Khandala. TY students attended this 2-day academic-skill development, team building, and orientation session at the College Villa in Khandala.

## **Extra Co-curricular activities:**

St. Francis Xavier's Feast was celebrated with a cultural programme on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The theme of the programme was Indian Tradition: Unity in Diversity.

Christmas was celebrated in the college hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 with a cultural programme, which started with carol singing and was followed by the cultural programme, where in students from both B. Com and BAF had participated. Dr. Jotiram Gaikwad organised this programme with support from student team.

SUC day was celebrated on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with several interclass competitions. Dr. Arvind Dhond had scheduled more than 25 competitions to showcase hidden talent of the students.

A parent- teacher meeting was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Parents and guardians had fruitful interactions with the teaching staff.

## **Student Achievements:**

Kavya Bagroaida from FY.B.Com., had participated in the Republic Day Parade - 2023 at New Delhi as a NCC Cadet at Kartavya Path. Kavya also won the Six Bars Trophy and a Silver medal in All India NCC Horse Show held at Republic Day Camp - 2023 in New Delhi apart from being selected as NCC Flag bearer at the NCC-Prime Minister's Rally, 2023 in New Delhi. We are proud of this achievement.

## **Following students have passed their CA - Intermediate Exam**

Ms. Mahek Garg (S.Y.Com.) Ms. Divya Dharaviya (T.Y.B.Com.)

### **Following students have passed their CA - Foundation Exam**

Ms. Muskan Sharma, Ms. Riya Kasat, Mr. Shubham Yadav, Ms. Sakshi Singh, Ms. Divya Jain, Ms. Ekta Dongre, Ms. Sakshi Thakur and Mr. Vaibhav Sharma.

### **Following students have passed their CS - Foundation / CSSET Exam**

Ms. Nikeeta Hasitkar, Ms. Khushi Crystal and Ms. Vanshika Jain

### **Following students have passed their CMA - Foundation Exam**

Mr. Devesh Agrawal

### **Following students represented College at the University of Mumbai**

Mr. Kunal Ramchandani (T.Y.B.Com) - Inter-collegiate Football Tournament

Ms. Manisha Honrao (S.Y.B.Com) - Inter Collegiate Yoga Tournament

Mr. Cyrus Joseph (S.Y.B.Com.) - Won 2 Gold Medals in Swimming Mumbai Regional Division.

### **Harvard College in Asia Program:**

Ms. Aditi Agrawal and Ms. Mehak Garg, from S.Y.B.Com had attended

7-days conference at the Harvard Campus in the US from 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 to 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2023. Both had shared their rich experiences at Harvard with a batch of FYs to facilitate them and understand available opportunities at SY.

### **Faculty Promotion:**

Dr. Sanjay Parab, has been promoted as 'Associate Professor' from the post of Assistant Professor in March 2022. Dr. Kamaji Bokare and Dr. Jotiram Gaikwad, have been promoted as Associate Professors in September 2022. Dr. Arvind Dhond has been elevated as a 'Professor' from Associate Professor in March 2023.

### **Staff Publications**

Prof. Pratik Purohit, has written a reference book, 'Bridge Course in Accounting', 'Financial Accounting (Elements of Financial Accounting) FYBCAF Semester I', 'Financial Accounting - II FYBAF Semester II', and 'Financial Management - I FYBAF Semester II', published by Sheth Publication, Mumbai.

Dr. Jotiram Gaikwad has written a text book 'Business Communication, Communication skills in English for F.Y.B.Com. published by Sheth Publication, Mumbai.

Prof. Vinayak Thool, has written a text book 'Cost Accountancy' for T.Y.B.Com., published by Sheth Publication, Mumbai.

### **Other Details**

Dr. Sanjay Parab delivered sessions on contemporary issues in Finance and Management on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 at North Bengal University, Siliguri (WB) to the students pursuing MBA.

Dr. Jotiram Gaikwad has been appointed as a Board of Studies-member under subject expert category - for Mass Communication on the Board of Studies of the Chetna College, Bandra.

### **Trends - Magazine of Commerce Section**

*Trends -2023* was released on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023, by Dr. (Fr.) Keith D'Souza. Dr. Kamaji Bokare and other staff members had led this long outstanding task with active participation of Ms. Aditi Agrawal - Student-in-charge, along with editorial team consisting of Ms. Dipra Khanna, Ms. Mahek Garg and Ms. Naomi Kuruvilla.

**Dr. Sanjay Parab**  
Vice-Principal - Commerce

## **B.COM (ACCOUNTING & FINANCE) - BAF**

This is the first year of B.Com (Accounting and Finance) at St. Xavier's College. The admission for first batch of 60 students of BAF programme was purely based on merit and as per Mumbai University guidelines.

The academic year started 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 with specially curated orientation cum soft skill, team building development session at Khandala at the College Villa on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2022, about 55 students from FY-BAF visited BSE Limited. On 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, Ms. Mansi Gupta, Associate at SPJIMR, spoke with students on emerging trends in FinTech. On 21<sup>st</sup>

December, 2022, 60 FYBAF Students visited RBI's Monetary Museum at Mumbai. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 50 students of FYBAF participated in a workshop organised by National Stock Exchange (NSE), at its head quarter based at BKC. From 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 54 students from FYBAF visited Dalal Plastics Private Limited, a company engaged in plastic injection molding operations, as part of industrial visit to understand manufacturing process, inventory management, safety and security in factory setup. On 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, Ms. Rupa Mehta, Founder Corporate Edge, conducted a workshop on soft skill and interpersonal skills. On 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023, 51 students of FYBAF

attended Virtual streaming of Budget 2023. On 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 50 FYBAF students visited the Union Bank of India, Mahapalika Branch, where they were given insights into the various fundamentals of Banking. On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, the Income Tax Department had conducted an outreach program for FYs on the importance of taxation, its role in the economy and the various provisions of the Income Tax Act. The program was conducted by Dr. Raviraj Khogare (IRS and Dy Commissioner of Income Tax; Circle 7(1)(1), Mumbai) and Dr. Pratap Narayan Sharma (IRS and Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, 7(1), Mumbai).

## Student Achievements

Mr. Vivan David, Mr. Tejas Arora, Mr. Srikrish Santosh, Mr. Ravindra Jadeja, Ms. Tamanna Jain, Mr. Harshit Vaishya and Mr. Pratamesh Darne cleared their CA foundation exam. Ms. Bhuvi Chaturvedi represented our College at the University of Mumbai in the Inter-collegiate Table Tennis Tournament

## BAF Newsletter

Mr. Srikrish Santosh, the Chief Editor with Prof. Pratik Purohit, started the publication of fortnightly BAF-Newsletter 'Currency of Change, covering corporate, economic, and international happenings. This year BAF has released in all 13 issues of Newsletter until the end of May, 2023.

## Summer Internship

13 students have opted for summer internship in medium to large size enterprises in the field of accounting, finance, audit, management reporting to get acquainted with practical exposure of business and management thereof.

**Dr. Sanjay Parab**  
Vice-Principal - Commerce

# ECONOMICS

**Investor Awareness Program on Commodity Derivative Market** in collaboration with the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022. The program was conducted by Mr. Niraj Shukla, Ms. Pooja Singh and Mr. Shrikant and attended by around 50 participants students.

**Scientific Calculator Workshop:** on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The scientific calculator workshop was conducted by Aameya Kulkarni. The workshop was attended by 32 students.

**Excel Workshop:** conducted by Mr. Mayur More from the St. Xavier's College Statistics Department. This workshop was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 from 3 pm to 5 pm on Zoom. The workshop was attended by over 80 students.

**Guest Lecture on "Trade and Development: Views from the Global South":** by Mr. J. P. Singh on Trade and Development: Views from the Global South on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The program was attended by around 100 participants. The session was interactive and well-received by the audience.

**Annual Lalit Doshi Memorial Debate:** The debate was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January. A total of eight teams participated. The judges were Ms. Prachi Ganu, Director AceValue and

Professor at MDAE, and Ms. Charu Bhurat, Assistant Professor at SVKM's NMIMS SAMSOE. Maitreyee Arwari and Soumitree Debroy stood in first position.

**Annual Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture:** The Annual Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The chief guest, Dr. Rupa Rege Nitsure graced us with her presence. It was a very informative talk by Dr. Rupa Rege Nitsure, Chief Economist, Larsen and Toubro Financial Services, on the topic, "Challenges before the Indian Economy amid Global Economic Turbulence".

**Annual Economics Seminar: Department of Economics,** conducted the Annual Economics Seminar'23 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2023. After two years of the pandemic, the seminar was held once again at the beautiful St. Xavier's Villa, Khandala this year. The overlying theme for the Economics Seminar 2021 was Delta. The best-scored paper from the Annual Economics Seminar, qualified for the Arthniti, the Annual Economics Journal of the Department of Economics.

**Arthniti:** The Arthniti is the official research journal of the Economics Department. This year's edition was based on the inclusive theme of 'Strategies'. The editorial team

for this consisted of 5 editors and received around 55 abstracts, out of which we shortlisted 11 papers that explored this theme diversely. The foreword for our journal was written by the accomplished Dr. Pulapre Balakrishnan, a reputed economist, and professor. The journal was finally launched offline in January, during the Annual Lalit Doshi Memorial lecture.

**Economics Declassified:** With a team of 21 individuals, Economics Declassified reached 48,000 readers across the world this year. The team was divided into Writers, Illustrators, and the core editorial team. The Declassified team released about 40 articles and write-ups, along with several illustrations and graphics to make the reading experience comprehensive.

**Econundrum:** The annual flagship festival of the Economics Department, Econundrum resumed after a two-year break on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. A total of six contingents registered and participated in the festival's various events, which drew a large audience. The event ended with the prize distribution ceremony on 31<sup>st</sup> January in which all the winners were felicitated. The Overall winners were K C College.

**Dr. Aditi Sawant**  
Head, Department of Economics

# ENGLISH

## An English (Renaissance) 2022-23

The academic year 2022-23 can be likened to a renaissance. Harking back at the offline past, both the students and the faculty revived the traditional classroom teaching and learning.

The following were the programs that were held during the year:

### In Conversation with Thinkers:

On 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 Dr. Elwin John, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sophia College, Mumbai delivered an insightful lecture on *Introduction to Medical Humanities*.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 Col. Ajay Singh spoke to the students on his newly published novel titled *Through Orphaned Eyes* – The story of Partition and beyond.

In the highlight of the academic year, on 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, the Department of English hosted Prof. Homi Bhabha, the world-renowned Postcolonial theorist for a session called 'In Conversation with Prof. Homi Bhabha'. He is the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, Departments of English and American Literature and Comparative Literature, Harvard University and Honorary Senior Fellow at Christ Church College, Oxford University. Students and faculty from 6 institutions, namely, the University of Mumbai, SNDT Women's University, Wilson College, Sophia College, Elphinstone College (Homi Bhabha State University) and National College attended the session alongwith Xavierites. There were 108 participants.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 Professor Dibyesh Anand, Head of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Westminster delivered a thought-provoking lecture entitled *Queering the Self, Decolonising Communities*.

### International Collaborations:

*In Conversation with Globalization: From New Normal to New Different* started on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and closed on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023. This course

was initiated between the Departments of American Literature and Culture, University of Stuttgart and English, St. Xavier's College. This was the fifteenth year of the collaboration. The other partners are Stellenbosch University, South Africa and University of Bergamo, Italy. The course was held in the hybrid mode for the first time.

The Project Week of the Online course 'In Conversation with Globalisation' was held from 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to 18<sup>th</sup> February including Sunday and the public holiday. The week-long project week is the practicum component. As part of the field trip, on 12<sup>th</sup> of February (Sunday) Dr. Andre Baptista conducted a guided tour of Kothachiwadi based on the theme of the course The New Normal: The New Different.

On 13<sup>th</sup> February, Ms. Amrita Shenoy, Department of English delivered a lecture titled 'Mediations in the Post-pandemic world'.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February, Tushar Gandhi the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi had an interaction with the students and faculty. In preparation for this conversation with Mr. Gandhi, the group visited Mani Bhavan.

On 15<sup>th</sup> February, Ms. Ankita Gujar, Department of Sociology and Anthropology gave a lecture on Globalisation and the Arts. Visits to museums, Elephanta Island, City Tours, group dinners and graded presentations were the additional highlights. The students were awarded certificates at the end of the course. The faculty representatives of the partnering Universities were the following: Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp, University of Stuttgart, Germany, Angelo Jephtha, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Dr. Dorothee Heller, University of Bergamo and Dr. Rashmi Lee George, Department of English, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

In a run-up to the project week, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2023, Thomas Führmann, Mayor for Economy, Stuttgart and his delegation visited St. Xavier's College as part of the

'Stuttgart Meets Mumbai' festival celebrating a fifty-five-year-old sister-city partnership. This was also in support of the online course *In Conversation with Globalisation*. The following was the program for the delegation: a visit to the XRCVC for an orientation conducted by Susheel Pandit, Keshav Nadar, Dr. Kasturi and coordinated by Ms. Ankita Gujar and Dr. Sam Taraporevala, a talk on the NEP by Dr. Karuna Gokarn, an informative session on St. Xavier's by Principal Dr. Rajendra D. Shinde, and a guided tour to the Heras led by Dr. Jason Johns. Following the tour, Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp, Jonathan Leutwyler, Dr. Rashmi Lee George and Deeti Gupta (TYBA English) presented on the Online Course at the "Stuttgart meets Mumbai Festival", Bandra and participated in a panel discussion on the topic, 'The New Normal, the New Different'.

Five of our English Literature students (Minal Porwal (FYBA), Anoushka Rakhiram (SYBA), Divyadarshini Ramanathan (SYBA), Amruta Doke (SYBA), Deeti Gupta (TYBA)) participated in the course. The following were the International participants in the course: Germany: Sumay Aktepe, Lilian Carolin Fahrner, Sophie Stilz, Mengyuan Qu, Dimitrios Pitiakoudis, Chiara Dedecke, Enes Muric, Antonia Kühnle; South Africa: Taryn Alexander, Theané Le Grange, Refiloe Rampasha; Italy: Margherita Marchesi, Erica Nale, Roberta Lo Giudice.

*Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)*: The Departments of English at Creighton University, USA and St. Xavier's College collaborated to run COIL. Based on Ignatian values COIL provided students the opportunity for cross-cultural learning and exchange moored in discussions on social justice. The COIL project was run as an asynchronous course from 19<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> September with small group discussions and larger Zoom lab/office hours on the assigned dates.

**Co-curricular activities:** The Ithaka Journal titled *Somewhere Over the*

*Rainbow* was published in March 2023. The Chief Editors Mr. Dewansh Chauhan (TYBA, English) and Ms. Sakshi Nadkarni (TYBA, English) deserve a special mention because of their flawless co-ordination and meticulous research skills.

*Ithaka*, the Drama festival of the Department initiated by Dr. Eunice D'Souza was revived after its closure during the pandemic. The following were the plays that were staged in

the Fr. Palacios College Hall at St. Xavier's College:

Name of the Play	Directed by
<i>The Corpse Bride</i>	Gauri Sawant, Kyra Sparrow, Soumitra Lovalekar
<i>The Hoax</i>	Jae Khandekar, Shivani Joshi
<i>The Story of an Hour</i>	Harsh Mate, Marcelino Fernandez
<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Rhea Rodrigues

The Ayan Dixit Memorial Poetry Competition was run successfully. I thank my colleagues Dr. Prasita Mukherjee, Ms. Amrita Shenoy and the Management for their kind support and cooperation.

**Dr. Rashmi Lee George**  
Head, Department of English

## FRENCH

After two years past the pandemic situation and online lectures, the Department of French, in the academic year 2022-23, started with its offline series of events.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the Consul General of France in Mumbai, M. Jean Marc Séré Charlet interacted with our students and spoke on the topic 'Foreign Policy of France; objectives, challenges and opportunities.' The talk was extremely interesting and it was followed by an enriching question-answer session.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, Ms. Aayushi Nagpal from Campus France education, science and cultural cooperation service of the Embassy of France in India, held a session with students from different departments

and explained how Campus France facilitates academic and scientific exchanges between Indian and French higher education institutions, enables student mobility and promotes the French language and artistic and cultural partnerships.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Francois Henri Désérable, French author and a former professional ice hockey player visited the department. His first book, *Tu montreras ma tête au peuple*, released in April 2013 has won multiple literary awards. His novel *Mon maître et mon vainqueur*, published in 2021, has won the Grand Prix du roman de l'Académie française.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023, an interaction was organised jointly by the Department of French and Council for International

Programs with the Former Prime Minister of France and the current Mayor of Le Havre, M. Edouard Phillipe on the theme of 'Search for Balance in an Imbalanced World'. He was accompanied by the Ambassador of France to India M. Emmanuel Lenain and the Consul General of France in Mumbai M. Jean Marc Séré Charlet.

Ms. Alpana Palkhiwale attended a one-week teachers training programme organised by Institut Francais en Inde (IFI) in Jaipur in the month of November 2022,

**Ms. Alpana Palkhiwale**  
Professor In-charge,  
Department of French

## GEOLOGY

"Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice." These memorable words were penned by author, historian, and philosopher Will Durant in the January 1946 issue of the Ladies Home Journal. They highlight the fact that we are at the mercy of Gaia, and if she decides she's had enough of us, there won't be much we can do. However, until then, our department will continue its focus on capacity building efforts to produce graduates and postgraduates specializing in the field of geology.

### Expansion of Facilities:

Keeping the subject requirements in mind, the department was granted a new space made available by the Jesuit management of the college in collaboration with St. Xavier's High School adjacent to the college campus. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, the postgraduate extension centre of the department of Geology was inaugurated by Fr. Thomas Reddy S.J., Minister of St. Xavier's High School Community. This centre houses a mineral and rock museum, containing

specimens of rare minerals and rocks donated by Mr. Brian D'costa and Mr. Abdul Afeez. This museum space was air-conditioned by the largesse from Gumpro Drilling Fluids Pvt. Ltd. A rock thin section preparation setup equipped with a state of the art rock thin section preparation machine, research grade petrological microscope was acquired through the RUSA 2.0 grant. This centre has also been equipped with e-Podium for integrated IT based instructions and teaching, which has been funded by RUSA 2.0. The

centre also houses a sedimentology lab, and classroom and laboratory space for postgraduate students of geology. Two petrological microscopes from Lieca, for consultancy and post graduate research were acquired through the funds generated by the consultancy projects done by Dr. Ashwin Pundalik, Dr. Shweta Patil and Mr. John Dsouza.

#### Workshops/Talks/Seminars:

The Department of Geology, in collaboration with Prof. Soumyajit Mukherjee (Professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences, IIT Bombay), organized a 5-day workshop on Structural Geology for TYBSc and MSc students. Prof. Soumyajit Mukherjee served as the resource person, and Dr. Ashwin Pundalik was a co-resource person. The workshop was conducted from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, with 62 students from TYBSc and MSc participating.

#### Other workshops and seminars conducted by the department include:

- Workshop on competitive exam preparation, strategy, and tips, with a special focus on IIT-JAM Geology, by Anagana Mazumdar and Anthony Rozario on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- Seminar on “Innovations in Machine Learning: A Geologist’s Perspective” by Mr. Russel Menezes, CEO of RediXplore, Australia, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 14:30 hrs.
- R. N. Sukheswala Memorial lecture titled “The Temperature and Composition of the Core of the Earth” by Dr. Surendra K. Saxena, Emeritus Professor, Centre for the Study of Matter at Extreme Conditions, College of Engineering and Computing, Florida International University, Miami, U.S.A, on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 14:40 hrs.

- TERRA lecture on “In Search of an End-Cretaceous Ocean Acidification Event” by Janhvi Punekar on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 14:45 hrs.

#### Student Achievements:

##### Joint Admission Test for Master of Science (JAM) conducted by the IITs:

- Eight TYBSc students cleared the JAM entrance examination.
  - ◆ Anagana Mazumdar: AIR 15
  - ◆ Anthony Rozario: AIR 16
  - ◆ Joshua Godinho: AIR 259
  - ◆ Gauravi Patil: AIR 269
  - ◆ Allan Thomas: AIR 345
  - ◆ Vedha Bhasin: AIR 377
  - ◆ Sadhika Shetty: AIR 432
  - ◆ ShravaniMestry: AIR 473

##### Participation in National Conference:

- Aashay Nair (MSc II) and Palak Shah (MSc I) participated in the National Conference of Association of Petroleum Geologists - GEO INDIA 2022, held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

##### Internships:

- Anagana Mazumdar (TYBSc): IISER-Bangalore
- Anthony Rozario (TYBSc): NPTEL
- Allan Thomas (TYBSc): Fugro India
- Sara Jayde (MSc I): Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology
- Aashay Nair (MSc II): Elena Geo-Systems
- Yashodhara Ganguly (MSc II): Coal India, National Training Workshop at IITM

#### Awards/Competitions won by students:

- Anagana Mazumdar (TYBSc): First position in ‘Quizquake’ quiz competition organized by Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi; first position in poster-making competition in ‘Rokonyx’ organized by KJ Somaiya University.
- Aashay Nair (MSc II): First position in regional debate competition organized by the Association of Petroleum Geologists, Mumbai Chapter.
- Palak Shah (MSc I): First position in regional debate competition organized by the Association of Petroleum Geologists, Mumbai Chapter.

#### Ebook:

- Sah, A., & Pundalik, A. (2023). “Handbook of Damages for Reference in Art Conservation: Stone Sculptures and Objects.” Tata Trust art conservation initiative, 28p.

#### Book Chapter:

- Pundalik, A., & Samant, H. (2023). “Ratan Nadirshaw Sukheswala: Carbonatite Man of India.” In P. M. Tripathi, N. K. Sharma, V. Paramanik, & V. P. Singh (Eds.), “Descendants of Kanad: Life Sketches of Some Indian Scientists.” Indira Gandhi National Tribal University and Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur, New Delhi. ISBN 978-81-962465-1-8 (H/B), pp. 138-149.

#### Popular Articles:

- Dr. Ashwin Pundalik is writing a bi-weekly column ‘युद्धकथा’ in दैनिक पुण्यनगरी on medieval warfare and strategies from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The column will continue till December 2023 and will have 25 articles.

- Dr. Ashwin Pundalik wrote an article on the history of Sambhaji Maharaj 'समस्तसामंतशिरोवतंसः' in मौज दिवाळी अंक २०२३.

### **Conferences, Workshops, Trainings Attended and Presentations delivered:**

- Dr. Ashwin Pundalik attended the National conference on "Current Understanding From The Indian Sedimentary Basins And The Road Ahead" and the 38<sup>th</sup> convention of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists, University of Delhi, New Delhi, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Continued...
- Dr. Ashwin Pundalik presented a paper titled "Lithofacies Association and Provenance of Late Pleistocene Bauras Formation, Central Narmada Basin, Madhya Pradesh."
- Dr. Bobby P Mathew attended and presented a paper on "Best Practices of Some of the Top Catholic Colleges in India" at the 24<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, "Journeying with the Synodal Spirit through Networking and Academic Collaborations - Together in Communication, Participation, and Mission," held at St. Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre from October 22-23, 2022.
- Dr. Shweta Patil attended a 3-day training course on basic geotechnical laboratory testing organized by S & R Geotechniques Pvt. Ltd, Navi Mumbai, from 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Dr. Bobby P Mathew and Mr. John D'Souza completed a blended offline + online course on the "Startup Incubation Training Program" organized jointly by Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy, Pune, and

Research Innovation Incubation Design Laboratory, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai, from 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

- Dr. Bobby P Mathew participated in a 40-hour online faculty development program on "Modern Techniques and Tools in Water Resource Management." The program was sponsored by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) GoI and organized by E&ICT Academy, NIT Warangal, and NIT Andhra Pradesh during 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

### **Guest Lectures (delivered):**

- Dr. Ashwin Pundalik delivered a talk on "Research Ethics, Metrics, and CAS" as a resource person in the National Conference on Academia and Contemporary Research: Roots and Routes, held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Sophia College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Ashwin delivered a lecture on 'महाराष्ट्रातील गड-किल्ल्यांचे भूशास्त्र' in a course on Forts and Archeology, organized by सिंधुजन अकादमी and Mahatma Phule College, Pimpri, Pune, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- Dr. Bobby Mathew delivered a public lecture on "Water and Warfare - Lifeblood of Forts to Weaponization in Modern Times" on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022 from 12 noon to 1.30 pm in K J Somaiya College of Science and Commerce, Vidyavihar East, Mumbai.

### **Research Grant for Faculty:**

The Research Development Cell of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, sanctioned seed money of Rs. 100,000 (one lakh) for a project on 'Geoheritage sites and their geological, historical, and archeological significance and tourism potential: A summary of the sites along the coast of Maharashtra, India.'

### **Consultancy:**

- Petrographic analysis of rocks from various infrastructure projects was conducted for the Indian Material Research Centre, Mumbai.
- Assessment of stone sculptures from the collection of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay, Mumbai, was completed under ConservArte: CSMVS Art Conservation Project. The assessment of 500 sculptures was carried out from February to May 2023.

### **Fieldwork:**

- Geological fieldwork was conducted in Uttan, Gorai, and Manori, Maharashtra, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 for FYBSc students. Field Instructors: Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, Dr. Ashwin Pundalik, and Mr. John D'Souza
- Geological fieldwork took place in the Gokak and Badami areas of Karnataka from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for SYBSc students. Field Instructors: Dr. Bobby Mathew, Dr. Shweta Patil and Mr. John Dsouza.
- Geological mapping camp was held in and around Malvan, Maharashtra for TYBSc students from 13<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Field Instructors: Dr. Ashwin Pundalik and Dr. Hrishikesh Samant.
- Geological mapping camp in Tertiary rocks in Kachchh, Gujarat, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022 for MSc I students. Field Instructors: Dr. Shweta Patil and Dr. Hrishikesh Samant.

**Ms. Rhea Fernandes**  
Faculty, Department of Geology

## हिंदी विभाग

### शैक्षणिक गतिविधियाँ:

- डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय ने जून माह में एक शोध प्रपत्र 'दलित विमर्श के संदर्भ में' ओम प्रकाश वाल्मीकि जी की कविता 'लेखा-जोखा का अनुशीलन', 'बोहल शोध मंजुषा' नामक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अन्तरानुशासनीय शोध पत्रिका (ISSN २३९५-७११५) में प्रकाशित किया।
- डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय ने दिनांक २९/६/२२ से सांस्कृतिक विनिमय कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत 'फ्रांस' तथा 'स्पेन' के विद्यार्थियों की हिंदी कक्षा प्रारंभ की।
- हिंदी ऑनर्स प्रोग्राम के अंतर्गत 'भारतीय स्वतंत्रता आन्दोलन' विषय पर दिनांक २१/८/२३ को डॉ. उषा ठक्कर तथा श्री योगेश कामदार ने विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया। दिनांक ११/१२/२२ को डॉ. कृष्णा गायकवाड तथा प्राध्यापक अरुण सिंह ने विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया। प्राध्यापक अरुण सिंह ने विद्यार्थियों के लिखित कार्य का मूल्यांकन भी किया।
- दिनांक १५/८/२२ को डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय तथा डॉ. सुलभा कोरे, सहायक महाप्रबंधक (राजभाषा यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ इंडिया, मुंबई) के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में XRCVC (Xavier's Research Centre For Visually Challenged) के विद्यार्थियों की समावेशी शिक्षा हेतु सोलह 'पेनड्राईव' उपहार स्वरूप भेंट किए गए।

### सह शैक्षणिक गतिविधियाँ:

- दिनांक ६/९/२२ को डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय को Montfort Jr.

College Of Arts & Commerce द्वारा 'हिंदी में रोजगार के अवसर' शीर्षक पर आयोजित कार्यशाला में प्रमुख अतिथि के रूप में विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया।

- दिनांक १४/९/२२ को डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय को B M Ruia Girl's College, Gamdevi द्वारा 'श्रीमती सावित्रीदेवी विश्वनाथ चमड़िया अन्तर्माहाविद्यालय वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता' के अवसर पर 'निर्णायक पद' हेतु आमंत्रित किया गया।
- दिनांक १५/१२/२२ को बी.ए प्रथम वर्ष की छात्राओं कु. अनुष्का भोसले एवं कु. नम्या शुक्ला ने मुंबई विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा आयोजित 'आविष्कार' नामक प्रतियोगिता के अंतर्गत 'भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों के साहित्यिक योगदान' पर एक चार्ट प्रस्तुत करते हुए हमारे महाविद्यालय का प्रतिनिधित्व किया।

### सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम:

- दिनांक २७/६/२२ को हिंदी साहित्य, संगीत एवं नाट्य अकादमी द्वारा 'अंतस'- २०२२ की पूर्व तैयारी पर एक Orientation Programme आयोजित किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में वर्ष २०२० बैच की पूर्वछात्रा सुश्री मोनाली गुप्ता ने हमारे विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया।
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय सांस्कृतिक विनिमय कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत दिनांक १४/१०/२२ को हिंदी विभाग की कु. वैष्णवी बोरुलकर, कु. कुंजल दवे, कु. प्रांजलि बड़े, कु. बोनोज्योत्सना घटक, कु. जूलिया मेरी मैथ्यू ने फ्रांस तथा स्पेन से

आए विद्यार्थियों के लिए शास्त्रीय संगीत का आकर्षक कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किया।

- साहित्य, संगीत एवं नाट्य अकादमी द्वारा दिनांक २८,२९,३० नवंबर, २०२२ को तीन दिन का वार्षिकोत्सव 'अंतस २०२२' आयोजित किया गया।

### (नाट्य)

नाट्य विभाग द्वारा मुख्य रूप से चार नाटक प्रस्तुत किये गए-

- १) **क से क्रान्ति:** यह नाटक 'अंतस' के नाट्य विभाग और जेवियर महाविद्यालय के नाट्य विभाग 'फितूर' के छात्रों द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से प्रस्तुत किया गया। इस नाटक द्वारा शहीद-ए-आज़म भगत सिंह के जीवन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, देश की आज़ादी में उनके द्वारा दिए गए सर्वोच्च बलिदान का वर्णन किया गया।
- २) **माटी के मोल:** यह नाटक हमें रंग मंच के कलाकारों के दैनिक जीवन से जुड़े हुए संघर्षों के बारे में बताता है। इस नाटक द्वारा मंच के कलाकारों के जीवन में आने वाली परेशानियों का सजीव चित्रण किया गया है।
- ३) **पर्यायवाची:** यह एक पारिवारिक व्यंग्य नाटक था। इस नाटक में मध्यम वर्गीय परिवारों में ज़मीन-जायदात को लेकर होने वाले विवाद, और पारिवारिक नोक-झोंक को व्यंग्यात्मक रूप से दर्शाया गया।
- ४) **प्यारेलाल:** इस नाटक का प्रमुख पात्र एक डाकिया है जिसके चरित्र के माध्यम से गाँवों और छोटे



शहरों से माया नगरी मुंबई जैसे महानगरों की ओर रोजी-रोटी की तलाश में आने वाले नवयुवकों के जीवन संघर्ष, छोटी-छोटी खुशियों और छोटी-छोटी उपलब्धियों को बड़े स्वाभाविक और व्यंग्यात्मक लहजे में दर्शाया गया है।

### (संगीत)

अंतस के अंतिम दिन संगीत विभाग के गायकों ने अपने सुरों से ऐसा समा बाँधा कि सारे श्रोतागण झूम उठे। इस वर्ष अंतस की मुख्य प्रस्तुति 'बॉलीवुड ऑर्केस्ट्रा' थी। इस वर्ष का मुख्य आकर्षण अजय खर्ब, वेदांत सावंत, वैष्णवी बोरुलकर, कुंजल दवे, प्रांजली बड़े, आदि विद्यार्थियों के द्वारा प्रस्तुत किए गए गीत थे।

### रोजगारपरक अतिथि व्याख्यान:

- दिनांक २०/१/२३ को हिंदी विभाग तथा PCGT के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा संचालित सिविल सेवा परीक्षा की पूर्व तैयारी' शीर्षक पर एक अतिथि व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में श्री वी.पी राजा, आई.ए.एस (सेवा निवृत्त) ने सभी विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया।
- दिनांक २०/१/२३ को हिंदी विभाग द्वारा 'अमेरिकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास वित्त निगम: नवीकरणीय उर्जा, कृषि और महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण सहित भारतीय विकास के लिए वित्तीयन और निवेश' शीर्षक पर

एक अतिथि व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में श्री अजय राव (क्षेत्रीय प्रबंध निदेशक-अमेरिकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास वित्त निगम, दक्षिण एशिया) ने सभी विद्यार्थियों का मार्गदर्शन किया।

### विशेष उपलब्धियाँ

#### (Special Achievements)

- दिनांक १८/०२/२२ को अजय खर्ब बी.ए. (द्वितीय वर्ष) ने महाराष्ट्र राज्य हिंदी साहित्य अकादमी, मुंबई एवं संत जेवियर महाविद्यालय (स्वायत्त), मुंबई द्वारा आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव के उपलक्ष्य में आयोजित अंतर्महाविद्यालयीन स्वरचित कविता पाठ प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- दिनांक २४/०२/२२ को अजय खर्ब बी.ए. (द्वितीय वर्ष) ने एस.आई. ई.एस महाविद्यालय द्वारा आयोजित अंतर्महाविद्यालयीन कविता पाठ प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- दिनांक ३/२/२३ को अजय खर्ब बी.ए. (द्वितीय वर्ष) ने मारवाड़ी सम्मेलन, मुंबई द्वारा संचालित बी.एम रुइया महिला महाविद्यालय द्वारा आयोजित श्री रामप्रसाद पोद्दार अंतर्महाविद्यालय भजन प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया।
- दिनांक १४/९/२२ को हिंदी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद

उपाध्याय को मुंबई प्रांतीय राष्ट्रभाषा प्रचार सभा द्वारा 'हिंदी सेवी सम्मान' से नवाज़ा गया।

- दिनांक १५/१०/२२ को डॉ.भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय को पासवान-ए-अदब, थाने एवं केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'श्रेष्ठ हिंदी शिक्षक' सम्मान प्रदान किया गया।
- दिनांक २३/०३/२३ को महाराष्ट्र राज्य हिंदी साहित्य अकादमी द्वारा डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय को उनकी जीवनी परक पुस्तक 'सीखता हूँ मैं अपने विद्यार्थियों से' के लिए प्रतिष्ठित काका कालेलकर पुरस्कार प्रदान किया गया। इस पुरस्कार के अंतर्गत उन्हें श्रीफल, शॉल,स्वर्ण पदक/ सम्मान चिह्न, सम्मान पत्र के साथ रूपये पैंतीस हजार मात्र प्रदान किए गए।
- दिनांक ३०/४/२३ को अखिल भारतीय साहित्य परिषद्, कल्याण तथा पूर्व छात्र संगठन बिड़ला कॉलेज, कल्याण के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय को महाराष्ट्र राज्य हिंदी साहित्य अकादमी द्वारा प्रतिष्ठित काका कालेलकर पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किए जाने के उपलक्ष्य में सम्मानपत्र, शॉल, श्रीफल एवं पुष्पगुच्छ से सम्मानित किया गया।

डॉ. भगवती प्रसाद उपाध्याय  
हिंदी-विभाग

# HISTORY

## Faculty report:

### i. Arun Singh.

1. Participated as a resource person in an Honors program organized by the Department of Hindi, St. Xavier's College on 1/12/22. The topic of the lecture was "Indian National Freedom Movement".
2. Participated as a resource person in AICUF Tribal Commission talk on 14/12/2022. The Topic of the lecture was "The Evolution of tribal laws and Impact of displacement on tribal people".
3. Participated as a resource person in a lecture organized by Department of History L.S Raheja College on 08/03/2023. The Topic of the lecture was "Contemporary History of India".

### ii. Dr. Avkash Jadhav.

1. Was invited as the VC Nominee (Subject Expert) for Bachelor of Mass Media to screen and evaluate a faculty member of K.P. Hinduja College of Commerce, Mumbai, for promotion from Assistant Professor – Stage 1 to Assistant Professor – Stage 2, as part of the Career Advancement Scheme, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

2. Was invited to participate in the one-day workshop on The Indian Culture Portal: Using Digital Resources for Learning and Research, conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay under the aegis of the National Virtual Library of India (NVLII), a project funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
3. Was invited as a Resource Person for the National Workshop on Strategies for Academic Excellence, conducted by the IQAC and NAAC Coordination Committee of Government Narmada College, Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
4. Was invited as the Keynote Speaker for the National Seminar on 'Social Change and Development', organized by the Department of Sociology, Government Narmada College, Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Delivered the Keynote Address on Redesigning Social Change in 21<sup>st</sup> century India.
5. Was invited as a Resource Person on Buddhism for

HWPL India World Alliance of Religions' Peace Office, organized by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

6. Was invited as a Subject Expert by the Censor Board of India to examine the film, Har Har Mahadev on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
7. Was invited as a Subject Expert by the Censor Board of India to examine the film, Ponniiyan Selvan – I on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
8. Was invited as the Valedictory Speaker for the National Seminar on the 'Role of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Nation Building', organized by the Department of History and IQAC of S.S.L.N. Government Panchvalley College, Parasia, Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with KAASH Foundation, Mumbai and sponsored by the Higher Education Department of Madhya Pradesh, on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Delivered the Valedictory Address on Rephrasing the economic policy of Ambedkar.

**Dr. Avkash Jadhav**  
Head, Department of History



From Left to Right - Rector, Fr. Keith D'souza, VP (Arts) Dr. Annapurna S, Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Chief Guest, Ms. Zeyna Ansari and Shri. Khalid Hamid Ansari, Chairman of the Mid-Day Group of publications, June 30, 2023.



From Left to Right - Rector, Fr. Keith Dsouza, Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Dr. Nipun Vinayak, IAS, State Project Director, RUSA, Maharashtra, at the Science Graduation Ceremony on July 1, 2023.



From Left to Right - VP Academics, Dr. Karuna Gokarn, Rector, Fr. Keith D'souza, Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Chief Guest Mr. Ashish Bhasin, a globally recognized media veteran, Graduation Ceremony on July 1 2023.



Dr. A.D. Sawant, NSFOT, Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, and Mr. Tushar Desai, Vice President, NSFOT at the National Seminar conducted by the Department of Botany in Collaboration with (NSFOT), February 4, 2023.



Consul General of France in Mumbai, M. Jean Marc Séré Charlet interacted with Students and Spoke on 'Foreign Policy of France; Objectives, Challenges and Opportunities, June 20, 2023.



Mr. Edouard Philippe at the centre, Prime Minister of France 2017-2020 and current mayor of the city, Le'havre along with other delegates.



Keynote Speaker - Wilson Benzwada Activist and Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, at Malhar 2022.



Classical Ensemble 'Surya'-led by Ustad Taufiq Qureshi, at the annual flagship event of the Indian Music Group - Janfest 2023.



Pandit Anand Bhate performed at Janfest 2023, the annual flagship event of the Indian Music Group.



Students performing street play in the first quadrangle at Malhar 2022.



Students performing at Ithaka 2023, the annual flagship English theatre event.



Student Performers at the Nrutyangan Workshop organized by the Indian Performing Arts Team, ECC, January 24, 2023.



Dr. Rupa Rege Nitsure Chief Economist, Larsen and Toubro Financial Services, at the Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture, January 31, 2023.



Ramprasad Mahurkar, with his Philately. He has been exhibiting with butterflies as his theme since he was 12 years old. The latest is - Vermeil at Jakarta 2022 World Stamp Championship (4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2022) under the patronage of Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) for his exhibit titled - 'A Dialogue with the Flying Jewels'.



Aashfisi D'Mello, alumnus, department of Mass Media, batch Of 2013, won the Oscar Academy Award for Best Film Editing - 'Everything Everywhere All At Once.'



Students Engaged in Physical Activity at the Rural Camp organized by SSL.



SSL Volunteers at Primary Schools during Project Paint Activity.



The Annual Blood Drive organized by SSL in February 2023.



Annual Sports Day was celebrated at the Mumbai University ground on November 30, 2022.



The SXC, women's volleyball team won the inter-collegiate volleyball tournament, at Mumbai University, City Zone 1 conducted on October 14, 2022.



At the Centre, Dr. Paritosh Pandya, Adjunct Professor, CSE, IIT Bombay, Former Professor and Dean, STCS, TIFR, faculty members and students at the workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning conducted by the Department of Information Technology, September 7, 2022.



Students of the Sociology Department at Katraj Dairy During their Industrial Visit along with Faculty Members.



Student Participant in the Laboratory Experiment as Part of the Forensic Science Diploma Course.



Postgraduate Student of Diploma in Counselling Psychology Receiving Convocation with Fr. Rector Dr. Keith D'souza and Faculty, Dr. Noellene Fialho.



Thomas Führmann, Mayor for Economy, Stuttgart, (foreground) with Dr. Wolfgang Holtkamp, University of Stuttgart, Germany at the HERAS Museum.



Dr. Dibyesh Anand from the University of Westminster with students.



**Yoga Day**  
21<sup>st</sup> June, 2022



**College Day**  
1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022



**Amrit Mahotsav**  
15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022



**The Farewell**  
11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Glimpses of important events organized by the ECC during the academic year June 2022 - May 2023.

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The year 2022-23 was marked with a moment of pride as two top achievements were recorded by the Department of Information Technology with respect to placements. Two of the Final year BScIT students got the **highest package** through campus placements. The same feat was repeated by a Postgraduate student in MSc.BDA. The latter marked the successful completion of the Third batch of MSc.BDA, a program in collaboration with our Industry Partner, TCS. A new addition to the staff was welcomed, **Dr. Jojan Mathai**, an alumnus and an academician. Dr. Jojan Mathai, was conferred with his PhD degree from JJTU during the ongoing academic year.

Throughout the year, workshops and seminars were conducted for all the students of the Department. Some of them have been highlighted in the report.

## Seminar on AI-ML in Music

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, the Information Technology Dept. held a talk on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in music along with the felicitation of Dr. Jyoti Singh, on the event of her retirement and as a former head of Department for IT (2008-2016). She will always be known for her profound contributions in raising the bar of the department and taking it to new levels by helping the department transition into autonomy in the year 2011. The expert speaker who discussed the applications of AI and machine learning and how varied they are was Dr. Paritosh Pandya, a renowned computer scientist, IIT Bombay. The employment of artificial intelligence in classical Indian music in a peculiar and novel application, was showcased to the FYBScIT audience. He continued to enthrall the audience with numerous demonstrations of how AI can visualise and animate music by altering the pace, tone, and pitch of the music. 'Can we use digital computerization technology to make Indian Classical Music', was a question that Dr. Pandya left the students as food for thought. He also gave numerous examples of how cutting-edge algorithms can identify "raags" and accurately anticipate the type

of raag using a programme called "Kansen." He acknowledged that this was an unusual use of AI.

## Mobile Accessibility Workshop

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, a special workshop was organized by the **Information Technology Department** as part of the Mobile Application Development course for the students of **SYBSc.IT**, in the newly inaugurated Fr. Bonnet computer Laboratory at St. Xavier's College. **Mr. Sushil Pandit**, the speaker from XRCVC, highlighted the importance of accessibility in applications, particularly for differently abled people. He introduced assistive technologies like screen readers, magnifiers, and alternate keyboards. The session included testing for accessibility, demonstrating how to use screen readers in Android systems, voice over in iOS systems, and NVDA in laptops and computers. The TalkBack feature was a key takeaway. The session was engaging and thought-provoking, with 36 students attending and learning valuable insights.

## Life Skills Workshop - No fire Cooking

On 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, a special session was organized by the IT department to enhance students' survival skills: cooking. The Session was conducted by **Ms. Lydia Fernandes**, faculty of Information Technology department, where she along with two First year students, **Krishna Agrawal** and **Isha Agrawal**, demonstrated recipes of 4 types of sandwiches which can be prepared using no fire and electricity.

The session was presented in an enthusiastic way. Students from FYIT and SYIT attended the session and also tried their hands at making the different sandwiches. The session was also streamed live on the projector which displayed the recipe as it progressed on the table. A total of 28 students attended the session. The students found it easy to prepare these sandwiches to carry as part of their meals for short breaks instead of eating out all the time. The session was also well technically coordinated by Mr. Aaron Johns.

## Workshop on Real World Applications of React Native

On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023, a Workshop organized by the Information Technology Dept., was conducted on the Real World Applications of React Native by **Mr. Anmol Mahatpurkar**, an alumnus of St.Xaviers College, Mumbai. He is currently working as a software engineer with Airbase Inc. The workshop introduced react native, a framework built on HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, and its applications in the industry. It showcased the skills needed for UI/UX development and demonstrated a Netflix clone, Nextflix. The workshop covered essential technical concepts like components, properties, and State, and demonstrated the use of OnPress and Model View Controller. The workshop concluded with a Q&A session on upcoming coding languages, career opportunities, and using modern tools like Chat GPT for efficient workflow.

## Student Achievements through projects

Ms. Fernandes Rochelle, Ms.Kriti Jain, and Ms. Khushi Jain, students of TYBScIT representing, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai, guided by Ms. Lydia Fernandes, their faculty in charge, had participated and presented a Research Project titled WOMANIYA: OVULATION FERTILITY AND MENSTRUAL CYCLES TRACKER in Engineering and Technology Category and UG Level at 17<sup>th</sup> Aavishkar: Inter-Collegiate/Institute/Department Research Convention (Zonal Round) organized by the University of Mumbai at Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science, Marine Lines, Mumbai on December 15, 2022 for Mumbai I zone. Although they did not qualify for the next round, the feedback and exposure they received contributed to their learning.

## Faculty Skill Development

**Ms. Lydia Fernandes** attended a session titled: An Overview of Computer Vision, on 03 March 2023.

She also attended a session titled: Building a Web Application using Flask, on 09 March 2023.

### Faculty as a Resource Person

**Mr. Aaron Johns** was a resource person for a Short Term Training Programme on Next Generation Cloud Computing Tools & Technologies at the **Electronics and Telecommunication Department of Xavier Institute of Engineering, Mahim, Mumbai**. It was scheduled from the 11<sup>th</sup> of July to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. He gave them insights on Cloud Computing, Virtualization, Content Delivery Network, Private Clouds, Analytic services, Containers and Kubernetes.

He also conducted a skilled based **workshop on Linux Networking** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 and a skilled based workshop on Linux Servers on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 at the **Electronics and Telecommunication Department of Xavier Institute of Engineering, Mahim, Mumbai** for the third year engineering students.

**Mr. Aaron Johns** organized a musical session titled “**Music Through the Ages**”, for the BSc. IT students of St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2023. The session also witnessed some live performances by some of the students from the IT department.

### Honors Course

St Xavier’s College Autonomous, Mumbai conducts an Honors Programme to help students achieve new heights of success by learning from different fields of academics to support this initiative the IT dept conducted two prominent courses namely “**Internet of Things**” and “**MS Excel Essentials**” and “**Essential Programming Skills**”. Internet of Things course was conducted by **Ms. Vimala Rani**, an engineer and a former academician, this course helped the students understand what exactly is IoT and how the network facilitates in our day to day lives. At the end of this programme the students were asked to make a model that demonstrated their learning and the freedom to make a live or a virtual model. The second course was “MS Excel Essential” by **Mr. Ashish**

**Deora**, an alumnus and an industry expert. This course presented the idea of how we can efficiently use Excel to make tasks that we might encounter both professionally and personally. At the end of the programme the students were given the assignment. The third course conducted was “Essential Programming Skills” by **Mr. Subhash Kumar**, coordinator for the Honors program. It helped students understand the basics of programming skills that are applicable in any language. At the end of the programme the students were given the assignment to either solve a certain number of questions given by the instructor, or build an application and submit it to the course instructor.

Some sessions were exclusively organized for the PG students of MSc. BDA, which are listed below:

**C Programming Workshop** (20<sup>th</sup> August '22 – 24<sup>th</sup> September '22):

**Mr. Kushal Sen** from Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt Ltd conducted a C Programming workshop for M.Sc(BDA) Part-I students. The workshop lasted for 10 hours. The topics covered included an introduction to algorithms, C Programming Language, datatypes and looping structures, function declaration and definition, introduction to GitHub and its usage, code debugging using GDB, structures in C, and pointers in C. The workshop was designed to be interactive and hands-on, aimed at helping students understand the basics of C Language and Programming concepts through examples.

**NLP Workshop** (May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023):

**Mr. Debjyoti Paul**, a Data Scientist from Amazon Ads, served as the resource person for an NLP Workshop. The workshop spanned three weeks and was primarily intended for M.Sc(BDA) Part-I students.

**Logical Reasoning Workshop** (June 15, 2022, to July 15, 2022):

**Mr. Shailesh R Goregaokar** conducted a 12-hour session on Logical Reasoning for M.Sc(Part-II) students.

### TCS Sessions:

As a course partner of the M.Sc(BDA) program, TCS conducted the following online sessions for M.Sc(BDA) students:

Expert Session on **Cloud and Visual Analytics** - Jan 17, by Mr. Prabhudatta Praharaja from TCS.

TCS Expert Lecture Session on '**Azure Data Factory and Azure Synapse Analytics**' - Jan 18, 2023, by Mr. Amit Saxena.

**Python Training** for Students (May 19, 2023, to June 9, 2023):

TCS conducted a Python session for M.Sc(BDA) Part-I students. The training consisted of four sessions, each lasting 1.5 hours, with Mr. Chetan Adhikari from TCS as the resource person.

### Internship and Placement of M.Sc(BDA):

All 33 students of M.Sc(BDA) part-2 have secured industry internships. The companies that hired the students include TCS, IDFC First Bank, Capgemini, Quantiphi, PWC, Mahindra Finance, PivotRoots, Godrej Capital, Go digital, Ashland, Hansa cequity, IMCD India Pvt Ltd, Impactsure, DKSH India, and more. The highest internship stipend offered was Rs 40,000/- per month.

In terms of placements, the companies that hired M.Sc(BDA) students were TCS, IDFC First Bank, PWC, Hansa cequity, Godrej Capital and Go digital. The highest package offered during the academic year 2022-23 was 20.5 LPA.

### Placement of B.Sc(IT):

The companies that hired B.Sc(IT) students include Quantiphi, Deloitte, De Shaw, Accenture, J.P. Morgan, ICICI Bank, and Sturgeon. The highest package offered during the academic year 2022-23 was 21.5 LPA. **It's worth noting that the highest and second-highest placement packages on the campus during this academic year were from the Information Technology department.**

**Mr. Roy Thomas**  
Head, Department of Information  
and Technology



# LIBRARY

The Library Committee for the academic year 2022-23 was headed by Dr. Pranoti Chirmuley.

Bharat Hejmadi, who joined the library in 2005 as a library attendant was later promoted as clerk, and was transferred to the General Office on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Bharat enthusiastically helped with the NAAC and RUSA audits for the Library Staff. We are grateful to Bharat for his contribution to the library.

Several SWAYAM and Library Orientations were held to educate students about the online courses as well as the library resources. In commemoration of the 'Marathi Bhasha Samvardhan Pandharwada' a 12-day exhibition of Marathi books was held in the Reference Library from 16-27 January 2023. This event was inaugurated by Prof. Sonali Rode, Joint Director, Mumbai Region.

In April 2022, a part of the Lending Library was converted into Fr. Bonnet Computer Lab. Books from the given-up section of the library were initially stored in the gallery of the college hall and later shifted to the Heras Research room for sorting based on their physical condition and usage. Those that were in use were returned to the library, while the others were discarded. The abandoned books, about 3000 kgs in weight, were sold to Sun Start Upcycling Private Limited for recycling. With this money thus received, Ms. Shilpa Chedda purchased plants, mud, and manure for the front garden of the college.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 25 students from Vidyalankar School of Information and Technology, Vadala, Mumbai, visited the library as part of the Inter Library Cooperation. Apart from exploring the Management and Media sections of the library, they also browsed through the N-List.

The display and sale of the uncatalogued books, held in Fr. Palacio Hall, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, drew a large crowd of staff and students. The proceeds from the sale were deposited with the Treasurer's Office.

## Staff Activities and Achievements

Ms. Sonali Paradkar served as an observer at the Pune centre for on-line entrance exam of self-finance courses on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.

Jay Thorat attended the 4-day offline session on 'Functional Grammar for Spoken English' conducted by the Language Lab from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

Jay Thorat attended a 'Pranayama and Meditation for Health and well-being' session for the non-teaching and teaching staff. This session was arranged by the Yoga Committee in collaboration with IQAC at Fell Gymkhana (30<sup>th</sup> September 2022).

Julio Pereira, as a member of the College Karmachari Cricket Team, participated in the Intercollegiate Cricket Tournament organised by Vaze College (28<sup>th</sup> February 2023).

Jay Thorat and Adinath Raut attended a workshop conducted by Fr. Gordon Daniel JS on 'Team Building.' This workshop was organized by Dept. of Microbiology and Dept. of Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (11<sup>th</sup> March 2023).

Adinath Raut, at the College Sports, secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 400-meter Walking Race.

Sonali Paradkar presented a paper, entitled 'Digital Preservation of Library Documents with Special Reference to St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, Library' during an international conference held at Guru Nanak Khalsa College (21<sup>st</sup> January 2023).

Sonali Paradkar was invited by Sociology Department of the College as a guest lecturer. She spoke on how to arrange library with help of Dewey-Decimal System.

Sonali Paradkar along with Ms. Shivali Mayekar (of the General Office) and two S.Y.B.A. students visited Swarargaon for data collection for the New Research Center for Agriculture of the College on 20 and 21 August 2022.

Ms. Aishwarya Zeple joined as Library attendant from 1 March 2023.

The library printed the ID-cum Library RFID Library cards for the College students.

Back volumes of the mathematics journals were moved to the Mathematics Department.

To gain empty space in the library, some accessioned and deteriorated back volumes of some journals were discarded.

All the rare books from the Lending Library were shifted to the Rare Books Cubicle to keep them together.

To popularize the Library, Lifetime membership was offered to the alumni.

Existing CCTV Cameras were replaced with new advance cameras.

## Library Acquisitions:

Number of Books Purchased (Senior College)	364
Number of Books Purchased (Junior College)	86
E-Books Purchased	NIL
Number of Journals {National (47) and International (07)} and Magazines (05) Subscribed	59
Number of Gift Journals	45
Number of Back Volume bound	195
Number of Gifted Books	85

## Library Statistics:

Number of books issued from Lending Library	Arts 1220	Science 714
Number of Books issued from Reference Library	Arts 77	Science 519
Number of books referred in the Honours Room	Arts 693	Science 807
Total Number of CD/DVD issued from Multimedia Library.	02	
Inter Library Loan Letter	NIL	
Total Number of CD/DVD issued from Lending Library	NIL	

**Ms. Sonali Paradkar**  
I/C Librarian

# LIFE SCIENCE AND BIOCHEMISTRY

The year 2022 – 2023 infused new vigor in the department. With labs and lecture rooms occupied to its full capacity, the Department of Life Science and Biochemistry found itself back to business.

We bid adieu to our senior-most colleague, Dr. Nandita Mangalore, who superannuated on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, 2022, after completing a long innings of 33 years. She has been a strong support and a mentor to many in our college. She has also steered our college through many important events and turbulences. We wish Nandita healthy and happy times ahead.

We also are happy to have Dr. Sangeeta Shetty joining us after her temporary break.

The following are the highlights of various activities of the department

## Appointments in the Department:

Ms. Jennice Philip and Ms. Sadaf Zakariya were appointed on ad-hoc basis from June 2022 whereas Ms. Pooja Gupta was appointed from the month of November 2022. Dr. Snehal Martin was continued for her third year in the department on ad-hoc basis.

Ms. Nikita Gawde was appointed on probation in the department as Lab Attendant.

## Promotion to Professor:

**Dr. Priya Sundarrajan** successfully qualified the CAS interview for the rank of Professor. A formal confirmation from the Joint Director's Office is awaited. We are very proud of Dr. Priya Sundarrajan, for achieving the first Professor's position in our department.

## Departmental Activities:

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2022:** "Financial Literacy" seminar organized by Dr. Maya Murdeshwar for the non-teaching staff of the college in association with the IQAC. Pritesh Arte was the resource person for this seminar.

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2022:** CPR-COLS (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation – Compression Only Life Support), organized by Dr. Priya Sundarrajan and Dr. Radhika Tendulkar, for SYBSc and TYBSc students, in collaboration with the Saifee Hospital, led by Dr. Dhansura and her enthusiastic team.

**18<sup>th</sup> August 2022:** The annual FYBSc Orientation program was organized by the SYBSc and TYBSc students, under the guidance of Dr. Nandita Mangalore and Dr. Binoj Kutty.

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2023:** Our flagship event, the one-day annual symposium, "**Biowaves 2023 – Life Beyond Earth**". The experts discussed various aspects of astrobiology and the origin of life on Earth. Dr. Binoj Kutty was the convenor and Dr. Manasi Kanuga was the co-convenor for this event.

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2023:** The Department of Life Science and Biochemistry in association with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), organized the Global Women's Breakfast meet in the MMR. The theme for this meet was 'A Roadmap to Environmental Sustainability'. **Dr. Rashneh Pardiwala**, Founder & Director, Centre for Environmental Research & Education (CERE), Mumbai, delivered the lecture. This lecture was coordinated by Dr. Binoj Kutty and Dr. Manasi Kanuga.

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2023:** An exhibition-cum-evaluation was held of all the models that were made for Environmental Science. Dr. Manasi Kanuga and Ms. Pooja Gupta had organized this event.

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** The National Science Day (observed on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February), and the International Women's Day (observed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March) was celebrated by organizing a public lecture titled, 'Women's Health – Cancer Screening and Awareness'. **Dr. Anushree Patil** and **Dr. Deepti Tandon** of the National Institute of Research in Reproductive and Child Health (NIRRCH) had an interactive session with the women

staff members on the campus. This event was coordinated by Dr. Radhika Tendulkar.

Farewell was organized for our TYBSc and MSc 2 students on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 respectively. Dr. Binoj Kutty and Dr. Bhaskar Saha coordinated these events.

We continued our UG student-run **Journal Club** through the year, under the guidance of Dr. Priya Sundarrajan and Dr. Snehal Martin.

The Board of Studies meetings were conducted for this academic year on the **29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.**

## Field Trips:

1<sup>st</sup> February 2023: MSc 2 students and Dr. Priya Sundarrajan visited the Cytogenetics and Molecular Biology lab at ACTREC.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2023: 6 units TYBSc students and Dr. Manasi Kanuga visited the NCPRE and Biomass gasification lab at IIT Bombay.

25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023: SYBSc and TYBSc students and a majority of the department staff members visited the St. Xavier's College villa. Students enjoyed sessions on creative writing, team building and mutual bonding.

## Guest Lectures:

7<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Society of Radiation Research Public Lecture on Innovations in Radiation Oncology for Cancer Treatment by **Dr. J P Agarwal**, Head, Department of Radiation Oncology, Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, Mumbai, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Dr. Anushree Patil** and **Dr. Deepti Tandon**, National Institute of Research in Reproductive and Child Health (NIRRCH) spoke to the students of the non-science faculty, on the topic, '**Contraceptive methods and Causes of Infertility**' as a part of the course on Nutrition and Reproductive Health on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023. This lecture was organized by Dr. Manasi Kanuga.

**Dr. Parmee Gala**, Operations Head – Hospital Business – Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacy, Tata 1mg, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, delivered a lecture on ‘**Strategies in Cancer Therapy**’ to MSc Part 2 students on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2023. This lecture was coordinated by Dr. Priya Sundarrajan.

### **Alumni Interactions and Career Guidance:**

A regular feature of the department continued with our alumni contributing positively to the academic environment of our department.

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2022:** Ms. Radhika Zaveri and Ms. Simran Nahata, Co-Founders of Truly Health spoke on Bio-entrepreneurship. This talk was organized by Dr. Binoj Kutty.

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2022:** Ms. Pashmin D interacted with TY ES students about careers in Environmental Science. This talk was organized by Dr. Maya Murdeshwar.

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** **Dr. Rupin Dhamankar**, genetic counsellor, USA, interacted with MSc Part 2 students about Cancer genetics and higher education required to pursue a career as a Genetic Counsellor. This talk was organized by Dr. Priya Sundarrajan and Dr. Maya Murdeshwar.

**27<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** - **Dr. Ashesh Dhawale**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Neuroscience (CNS), IISc – Bangalore, delivered a lecture on “Uncovering the neural circuits that generate skilled movements” and interacted with students about the MSc and PhD admission process at IISc, Bangalore. This talk was organized by Dr. Maya Murdeshwar.

### **Collaborations with other institutions:**

Dr. Priya Sundarrajan and Dr. Maya Murdeshwar were associated with the Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science for MSc project guidance and teaching their courses.

Dr. Bhaskar Saha was associated with the Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (University of Mumbai), for their academic courses.

### **Inter-Departmental Collaborations:**

**Dr. Maya Murdeshwar** collaborated with Dr. Alok Gude, Associate Professor, Dept. of Botany to conduct the Honours programme ‘QR Coding of campus flora’.

### **Research Activities of the Staff:**

The Department members are currently involved as a team in the DBT-Builder grant.

### **Book Chapter**

1. **Jose Aneeta and Das Seema.** (2022) **Chapter title:** Lead-induced oxidative stress on developing chick embryo and its recovery using green tea as an antioxidant. **Book title:** Environmental Pollution: Causes, Effects, Status and Remedies. ISBN: 978-81-954270-3-1.

### **Seminars and Conferences attended:**

- **Dr. Priya Sundarrajan, Dr. Maya Murdeshwar, Dr. Binoj Kutty, and Dr. Snehal Martin** participated in ‘Virtual Labs’, a workshop connected to the Ministry of Education, at IIT Bombay.
- **Dr. Priya Sundarrajan, Dr. Binoj Kutty and Dr. Bhaskar Saha** attended IQAC, SXCM in collaboration with the Center for Excellence in E-Content Development of IDOL, University of Mumbai organized a one-day introductory workshop on creating MOOCs, on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- **Dr. Prashant Ratnaparkhi, Dr. Priya Sundarrajan, Dr. Maya Murdeshwar** attended the TNQ Distinguished Lecture in Life Sciences by Prof Ron Vale at TIFR, Mumbai on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- **All staff members attended all the workshops organized by the college.**

### **Invitation as a Resource Person**

**Dr. Priya Sundarrajan** was invited as a resource person for the following:

- ‘Enzyme Biotechnology: Trends and Applications’ on Refresher Course in Biosciences on the theme ‘Trends in Use of Technology in Biosciences’, organised by Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College on 20<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2022.
- Online Research Methodology course organised by the IQAC and Research Cell of Patkar-Varde College on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct.2022. The title of the talk was Research Ethics and Impact of Research for Pre-PhD students and faculty.

**Dr. Bhaskar Saha** was invited for a lecture on “Neuroplasticity: The Basis of Learning from Early Life to the Adulthood” at Dr. Pillai Global Academy, Navi Mumbai, on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023. The lecture was organized by the Indian Women Scientists' Association (IWSA) and Supported by Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS)-DAE.

### **Achievements of Students:**

Department Toppers: -

BSc 6U **Diya Jhaveri** (UID: 192287)

BSc 3U **Tanish Botadkar** (UID: 192132)

MSc **Atharva Naik** (UID: 208515)

### **Scholarships:**

**Mr. Tanish Botadkar** received the Mukul Singhal Scholarship and The Mr. Hadi C Tyabjee and the Pragji Purshottam Bhatia Scholarship for highest at the TYBSc examination. He also received the Dr. M. P. Sujayakumari and the Department of Life Sciences Scholarship for highest in TYBSc (3 units) Life Science.

**Ms. Diya Jhaveri** received The Department of Life Sciences Scholarship for highest in TYBSc (6 units) Life Science.

**Mr. Anirudh Sharma** received the Shreevrat Goenka Scholarship for a student of SYBSc highest in Life Science and continuing in TYBSc.

**Ms. Gloria Singh** received The Joan Dias Memorial Prize for Catholic girl student highest at the TYBSc examination.

**Ms. Malaika D'Mello** received The St. Xavier's College Association Golden Jubilee Scholarship for excellence in academics, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

**Ms. Riya Bahl** received the Meenal Dinkar Rao Mugve Scholarship and the The Fr Dierp, Prof S K Chhappargar for highest in Chemistry at the FYBSc examination and continuing with Chemistry in SYBSc.

**Mr. Atharva Naik** received the Shreevrat Goenka Scholarship for a meritorious postgraduate student of Life Science.

**Ms. Sheba Sonar** and **Ms. Neha Kahar** were awarded the Dr. M. A. Eswaran Scholarship for a deserving student pursuing the Master's programme in Life Science.

#### **Student Internships:**

**Ms. Malaika D'Mello, Ms. Aarushi Chitkara, Ms. Aditi Yadav** and **Ms. Avantika Kamat** completed their internships.

#### **International Exchange Program:**

**Dylan Patil** (SY, UID: 212541) was selected for the Berkeley Summer School at University of California, Berkeley, USA.

#### **Participation in the 16<sup>th</sup> Avishkar Research Convention:**

13 Undergraduate and 4 Postgraduate students participated in the **16<sup>th</sup> Avishkar Research Convention**, conducted by the University of Mumbai.

#### **Skill-based Training**

5 MSc 2 students participated in the **HPTLC training Workshop conducted by Anchrom**. This was organized jointly by the Department of Botany and the Caius Interdisciplinary lab, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

#### **Achievement in Sports:**

**Ms. Shachi Jukar** (FYBSc) won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Mumbai University Senior college girls inter-college badminton tournament (Mumbai city zone 1) on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Sep.2022 at University Sports Pavilion, Mumbai.

**Ms. Livia Rebello** (TY 6U, UID: 202519) was awarded:

- Gold Medal 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the all Palghar District Cadet, Juniors and Seniors Kick boxing Selection Championship 2022-2023 held at M. G. Parulekar School, Vasai (W) on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in the Point Fight event in -45 kg category, 19-40 girls.
- Gold medal (1<sup>st</sup> rank) in All Maharashtra Seniors and Masters Kick boxing Selection Championship 2022-2023 held at Bandhan Lawns, Ahmednagar on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Point Fight event in-45 kg category, 19-40 female.
- 9<sup>th</sup> rank in WAKO India Seniors and Masters Kick boxing Championship 2022-2023 held at Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai from 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 in the Point Fight event in - 45 kg category, female.

#### **National Level Entrance Exams:**

**Niteeka Chandel** (MSc 2021) - Qualified NET (LS) in October

2022 with a rank of 52. (NET: - Application no- 221610111592, Roll no-MR1603330157, June 2022 cycle). She also qualified the GATE exam in March 2023.

#### **Social outreach Activities: -**

57 students registered for the SIP activity 'Creation of Education-Related Material for Middle and High School Students' out of which 50 completed the activity successfully. The task involved creating simple videos of science experiments as teaching resources for topics in the Science syllabus. The Department collaborated with the NGO Mukhtangan to identify science topics from secondary school curriculum (Grade 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>). Dr. Priya Sundarrajan and Dr. Radhika Tendulkar were SIP coordinators for the year.

#### **Awards in Academics:**

**Ms. Mubasshira ul Haque**, PhD Life Sciences student, guided by Dr. Priya Sundarrajan, won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for Research paper presentation on 'Utilization of Potato Peels as a Source of Natural Antioxidant and Incorporation into Value Added Products'. The Indian Dietetic Association, Mumbai Chapter Award for Excellence in Research in Foods, Nutrition and Dietetics.

#### **Proud moment for the Department**

**Dr. Rashneh Pardiwala**, Founder CERE, and our distinguished alumna was awarded the **ZONTA Woman of the Year award 2023** for her contribution to environment sustainability and mitigation.

**Dr. Prashant Ratnaparkhi**  
Head, Department of Life Science  
and Biochemistry

# MANAGEMENT STUDIES - BMS

The prime focus during the year was to bridge the industry-academia gap by inviting experts and alumni from the industry so that the students could interact with them and get an exposure to the practical challenges faced by companies. They were also encouraged to take up industry-based projects as a part of their assessment.

## Sessions with Industry Experts

- An interactive session with our alumnus Ms. Radhika Shetty (Associate Researcher at Ammachi labs) The session focussed on **STEB (Situation, Thought, Emotion, Behaviour)** and the students were made aware about the study that was conducted as a part of a larger research project designed to assess the efficacy of the Group Trial-Based Cognitive Training (G-TBCT) program which aimed to prevent anxiety disorders and depression in adolescents.
- A two-day workshop session organised for the TYBMS student on IPR & Business. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Shreya Gupta. She is a Data Protection and Corporate Lawyer, Vice President Compliance and Operations at WebEngage. The students were briefed on how to protect their creative idea. Details of patents, geographical indication and copyrights were also highlighted in this session on **IPR and Business**.
- A workshop on **Entrepreneurial Feasibility Study** conducted by Mr. Dinesh Israni, Co-Founder of Naman Angel Investors.
- A session conducted by our alumnus Ms. Khushi gave the students an insight into the **preparation** needed to get a good score in **UPSC examinations**.
- A workshop was conducted by the professors from The Tufts University and O.P. Jindal Global University on **Geopolitics/International Law** and Educational Opportunities for the students.

- **Understanding Self and Possibilities** by Mr. Aspi Shroff. The interactive session highlighted the importance of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

## Sessions conducted as a part of the Department Management Festival Sphyrus 2022-2023

**Business Conference : 2nd February 2023**

**Name of the session:** Tech-Ademia

**Speaker:** Mr. Satyen Jadeja (Technology Leader, IBM)

Key Focus: Artificial Intelligence, Block chain Technology, Cryptocurrency

### Entrepreneurs on the Panel:

Mr. Pradeep Krishnakumar (Co-founder, Zouk)

Ms. Shraddha Bhansali (Co-founder, EVO Foods)

Mr. Akshay Gurnani (Co-founder, Schbang)

Mr. Arman Sood (Co-founder, Sleepy Owl Coffee)

Mr. Vedang Patel (Co-founder, The Souled Store)

### Moderator:

Mr. Rohan Menezes (Ex-Xavierite, VP Product Development, Datamatics)

Key Focus: Entrepreneurship/ Journey of an Entrepreneur

## Session 3 (Individual Speaker Session - G-20 India: An Insight into India's Economic and Financial Ecosystem)



**Mr. R Subramanian (Executive Director, RBI)**

**Key Focus:** G-20 India: An Insight into India's Economic and Financial Ecosystem

**Speaker:** Mr. R Subramanian (Executive Director, RBI)

## Session 4 (Interview Session -The 3 M's to Entrepreneurship: Mind, Money and Mentorship.

**Key Focus** The 3 M's to Entrepreneurship: Mind, Money and Mentorship.

### Speakers:

1) Mr. Dipesh Mohile (Managing Partner, IIA Ventures)

2) Mr. Ateet Sanghavi (Partner, Purple Ventures)

## SOCIAL OUTREACH

The effort to reach out to the society has always been a prime focus for the faculty and students of the department. Some of the initiatives are given below.

### • Collaboration with Humara Foundation

25 young and talented minds interacted with the resource team and came up with interesting business ideas and innovative plans to start their own venture.

**Celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.**

- The students went to Holy Cross High School in Lower Parel and worked with Robinhood Army to celebrate Independence Day with underprivileged kids. They distributed food and other supplies (water bottles, tiffin boxes and books). The funds were collected through voluntary fundraising within the class.

- On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the students

of the department performed a flash mob on patriotic songs at the Sunday Streets (Marine Drive).

The final year students also compiled a short documentary on the theme “*What freedom means to me*”

- A rangoli was also made to celebrate Independence Day.

### Republic Day Celebrations :

The final year students of BMS put up an exhibition to showcase the significance of 26<sup>th</sup> January, Republic Day. The exhibition showcased the story behind the origin of the remarkable event. It also covered the amendments made in the constitution over the years.

(Exhibits in College)

- **Clean up drive at Girgaon Chowpatty**

A beach clean-up drive was organized at the Girgaon Chowpatty by the final year students of BMS.

### Students’ Achievements (Co-curricular & Extra-Curricular Activities)

The Department takes great pride in recognizing the outstanding achievements of our students in various events and competitions. These students have not only brought glory to themselves but have also represented our college with utmost dedication and excellence. Here are some of the remarkable achievements of our students:

1. Diya Iype – SYBMS:
  - Secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up position in the Management Maestro event organized by IMS Learning at St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai.
2. Moksha Maniar – SYBMS:
  - Event: Zephyrus – Secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> overall position.
  - Event: Talaash – Secured the 4<sup>th</sup> overall position.

- Event: Joule 9.0 – Secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> overall position.
3. Aarushi Kaushik – SYBMS:
    - Winner (First position) in the Jinglebandhi event at Nakshatra fest, organized by N.L Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research, Mumbai City.
  4. Renee Philip – SYBMS:
    - Intercollege: Kaleidoscope (Sophia College) Acapella singing event: Secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
    - Intercollege: Umang (NM College) Duet singing: Secured the 1<sup>st</sup> place.
    - Completed Grade 8 Singing from Trinity College of London in Western Classical with distinction.
  5. Anwin Raphael – SYBMS:
    - Secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in football at the Mumbai City district level, representing South Mumbai.
  6. Taniya Sajan – SYBMS:
    - Basketball Inter-College Tournament (Mumbai City District): Winner (First position).
  7. Samriddhi Gupta – SYBMS:
    - Accenture Horizon Strategy Connect – Business Stimulation Quiz: Secured the second position.
  8. A S Ashwin – SYBMS:
    - Zephyrus competition: Pitch, deck, and go – Secured the second position.
  9. Anoushka Mathur – FYBMS:
    - Envision: A start up and consultancy competition by E-Cell St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai: First runner-up.

These accomplishments showcase the immense talent and dedication of our students. We congratulate them for their achievements and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

### Honours Programme

The Honours course for AY 2022-23 was on physical and mental well-being

The course was named “*Mastering the wealth of health*”. Twelve students across the departments registered for the course. Ms. Sonali Das (BMS Alumnus) conducted the programme in the last week of January and the first week of February 2023. The course focussed on teaching the students the various breathing techniques to control the mind. This will help them immensely especially in a corporate set up.

### Final Year Placements

20 students of TYBMS were placed in leading companies through the initiatives of the college placement cell. ZS Associates, Bain Capability Network, Marico Industries, ICICI Bank, Deloitte India, Nation with Namu, Groyyo Private Limited, and J P Morgan are some of the companies where the students have been placed.

We believe that teachers and students are all learners at different levels and so we are constantly exploring new ways to create an enriching experience for the students. We are indeed proud that our alumni are not only placed at senior positions in companies in India and abroad, but many of them have started their own venture and are creating employment opportunities for the youth of the country.

**Ms. Soni George Tharakan**  
Head, Department of  
Management Studies

# MASS MEDIA - (BMM)

**T**he Mass Media department fosters student engagement through critical and analytical activities, continually enriching the academic spirit as we approach the conclusion of this extraordinary academic year.

## **KHALID & ZEYNA ANSARI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEDIA STUDENTS**

Esteemed alumnus Padma Shri Khalid Abdul Hamid Ansari and his wife Zeyna Ansari, established a 25 lakh fee-scholarship to encourage and support students to pursue Journalism and a meaningful media career. These scholarships were awarded to students post a rigorous scrutiny, interview rounds. This generous support has given the much needed encouragement to media students to use the power of media craft to create an informed society.

## **OSCAR AWARD WINNER**

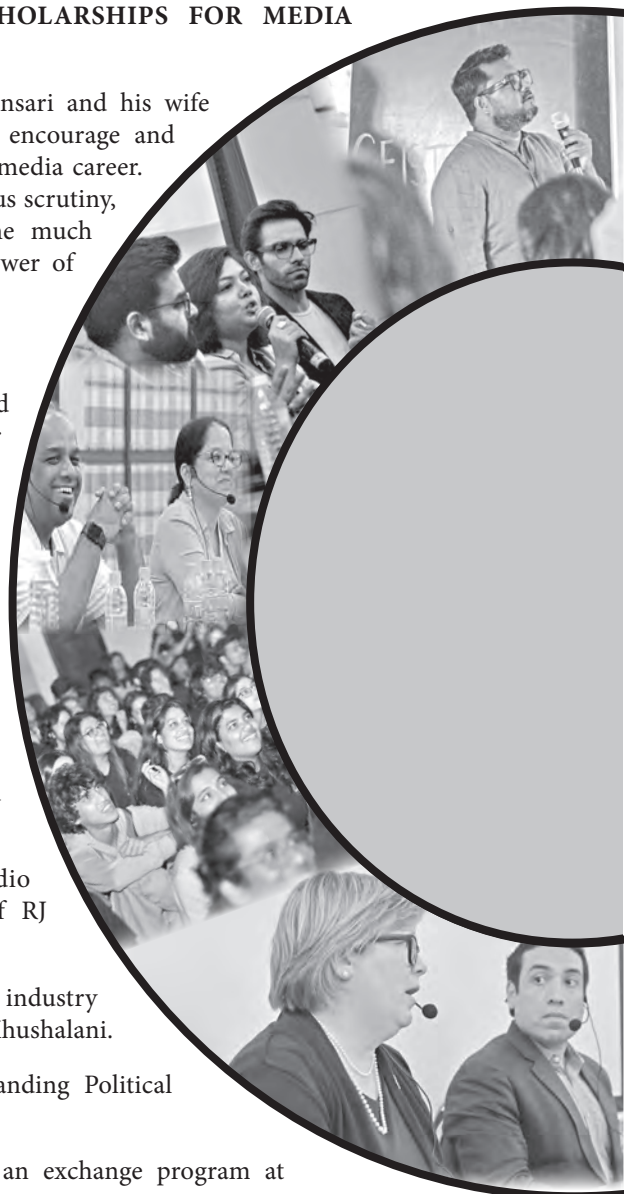
An alumnus of the batch of 2013, Ashish DeMello, now based in Los Angeles received accolades as an Assistant Editor for the Oscar-winning Best Picture 2023, "Everything, Everywhere, all at Once".

## **JUNE 2022**

### **Workshops and interactives**

An exciting series of interactives to foster all round development of students were curated and conducted. The session "Optimizing Strategies for Survival" on managing stress and disruptions in this AI driven era was conducted by Fr. Terrence Quadros, for the second and third-year students on June 22, 2022.

- FY students created content and produced audio podcasts and radio shows under the guidance of RJ Fali Singara.
- SY students' short film projects were evaluated by industry professionals, Mr. Shantanu Anam & Mr. Manish Khushalani.
- Dr. Kasturi Ratan Verma conducted the "Understanding Political Systems" course.
- Sana Bansal, a BA-MCJ student, was selected for an exchange program at IESEG School, Paris.



- TY students pitched their Entrepreneurship Projects to industry experts Keenan Fernandes, Neeva Phatrphekar, Saurabh Kanwar, & Dinesh Israni.

## JULY 2022

The Investigative Journalist and RTI activist Mr. Anil Galgali conducted the annual workshop on “RTI as a tool for informed Journalism” for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for the TY students. Mr. Galgali, is a freelance journalist since 1994 and the Editor of Agnishila, a monthly Hindi magazine.

## AUGUST 2022

### Honors Program

Devdutt Trivedi, a writer associated with Scroll and Film Critics Circle of India conducted a course on Film Studies, focusing on classical film theory and philosophy.

Jasreen Mayal Khanna, a celebrated author and freelance journalist with Condé Nast Traveler, conducted the Fiction Writing course, exposing students to different genres of literature.

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Journalists Natalie Mayroth and Catherine Davison, along with Chaitanya Marpakwar, senior correspondent at Times group, held an interactive with TY students on “Reporting from the Margins”. Catherine Davison, a journalist from the UK, contributing to BBC, The Guardian, and The Telegraph. Natalie Mayroth is a journalist from Germany.

## DECEMBER 2022

Beena Kamlani, a Pushcart prize-winning fiction writer, discussed the role of an editor, drawing on her three-decade-long experience as a Penguin Random House editor, working with authors like Terry McMillan & Kim Edwards.

Dr. Divya Kannan, an Assistant Professor at the Department of History & Archaeology, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR, conducted a session titled “Understanding Research Methods

& Archives,” imparting valuable knowledge on various research methodologies.

## JANUARY-APRIL 2023

A four-month Certificate Course in Digital Communication & Analysis in collaboration with the Khalid & Zeyna Ansari foundation was organized. This course was led by Ms. Sonia Thomas, a freelance digital content creation expert and formerly with Buzzfeed along with Ms. Gloria Mathews, a freelance consultant and formerly with Google.

A “Fact and Fiction” two workshop was conducted by Shabnam Minwalla. Formerly with Times of India and a celebrated children’s book author, she covered a wide range of writing, from fiction to nonfiction.

## INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Annual Lecture Series for the fourth consecutive year commenced with the Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media (IINJM), Bengaluru was held. Tanay Sukumar, data editor at The Mint, elucidated the concept of data journalism through visual examples, providing valuable insights to our students.

### Zeitgeist 2023 Hiraeth: Find Your Home at El Dorado

January – February 2023

Zeitgeist, the annual student-led media conference, lived up to its name by embodying the essence of the time and global cultural trends that shape the world.

The main event, a panel discussion, centered around Social Media Marketing. The session featured social media personalities, Ms. Sherry Shroff and Ms. Kareema Barry, who shared their insights on brand promotion, content creation, and marketing strategy.

An enriching UI/UX workshop on “Essentials of thriving in the Design World” was conducted by Amolendu H, the founder of Onyx.

The conference highlight was a thought-provoking panel discussion

on “Foreign Policy and soft power” featuring Ms. Molly L. Stephenson, Director of the Press and Public Diplomacy Office, Bureau of South and Central Asia Affairs, and Mr. Greg Pardo, spokesperson/Information Officer, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General - Mumbai, India. The dynamic interaction with the participants left a lasting impression.

The panel discussion “Understanding Media Consumers in the current context” was moderated by the department Alumni and consumer researcher, Ipsita Bandyopadhyay. The panelists included Mr. Josy Paul, chairperson of BBDO, India, Mr. Charles Assisi, a veteran journalist, entrepreneur and writing coach, and Ms. Tanuja Chandra, an award-winning writer and director.

Student competitions on communication design and short film making were judged by creative duo Keegan Crasto, Advertising Photographer and Gautmik, independent film producer.

## RURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

The “Rural Immersion Program” with Shikshaytaan Middle School, Arasavanangadu, Tamil Nadu, commenced post the three-year break caused by the pandemic. The program, took place from February 3 to February 8, 2023, welcomed 14 school students from Tamil Nadu and Vapi, providing them with an enriching educational experience. Field visits, workshops, and exposure to city life were all part of this immersive exchange program.

## ALUMNI INTERACTIVES FOR NETWORKING

As part of our Alumni Interaction sessions, the students had the opportunity to engage with Abhijit Kacchap, the Creative Head at Mirchi Radio. Mr. Abhijit shared valuable insights on the essential skill sets required for the audio industry in the current context.

Rising Mirchi Star, Princy Parikh spoke about her experiences with social media and personal branding.

Nefartari Joshi, a young entrepreneur, discussed PR strategies, and Saanvi



shared her experience on media campaigns and brand execution.

## IN FOND REMEMBRANCE OF BHAVYA

A prayer meeting in the college chapel was held for Bhavya Sharma. Our alumni - batch of 2013. A constant supporter of the department activities, an intelligent, dynamic and warm person, Bhavya's memories were honored by her family, friends, batch mates and colleagues. She is deeply missed and fondly remembered.

## DEPARTMENT PLACEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23.

This year the department in collaboration with XIC initiated the placement for the TY students. Every student who registered for a placement received more than one offer. Some of the top placements are listed below.

- ICICI Direct (Digital Marketing) - Radha Khut, Sheldon D'souza, Alice Augustine
- Havas Media Group (Creative) - Catherine Jayakumar, Anagha Unnikrishnan, Akshay Anand
- Tata International Limited (Corporate Communication) - Ameer Caprihan, Shristi Murli
- Kinnect - (Influencer Marketing) - Serena Mann, Steffy Emmanuel, Poorva Gahalot, Tamanna Agarwal
- Godrej Chemicals (Human Resources) - Beverly Nazareth
- Indian Hotels Company Limited - Taj Mumbai (Marketing) - Navya Khetawat
- Publicis Groupe/LK Saatchi & Saatchi (Copywriting) - Catherine Jayakumar
- Only Much Louder (Brand Solutions) - Tavishi Parmar
- Pinkvilla (Marketing) - Shreya Jalan
- Nykaa - (Marketing) - Mahika Shrivastava
- Vogue (Digital ) - Shanaya Kumar
- Newslaundry (Content) - Shreya Shaji
- Times Of India/ET (Reporter)- Yash Mishra
- Reuters (Correspondent) - Zaheer Kachwala

**Ms. Perrie Subramaniam**  
Head, Department of Mass Media

## MATHEMATICS

This academic year, being offline after almost two years of covid-19 and online education has been a tough and challenging year. In an effort to get things back on track, the Mathematics Association of Xavier's (MAX) did fantastic job planning fun events, games, webinars, and guest lectures throughout the year. I highly appreciate the efforts taken by the entire MAX team to organise the annual mathematics fest "Mathematika" and make it a great success.

Some of the highlight events of the year include the celebration of National Mathematics Day. The department of Mathematics organised a Mathematics exhibition on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2022, to mark the birth anniversary of Indian Mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan. I am proud of all the students who participated in the exhibition and congratulate them for their remarkable achievements. We also organised guest lectures conducted by Prof. (Dr.) Mangala Gurjar, Former Head, Department of Mathematics, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, on Continued Fractions; by Dr. Anuradha Garge, Department of Mathematics, University of Mumbai,

on Sylvester Gallai Theorem; and a talk on Careers in Mathematics by Dr. Vivek Patkar.

At the end of the academic year MAX team, launched the annual math magazine

"The Proof 2022-23". The Proof 2022-23 is an exclusive collection of articles by students from all three years of mathematics as well as students from other departments. I take this opportunity to thank the entire Editorial Team of MAX for their diligent efforts to publish the magazine and all the writers for their contribution to the magazine. I also thank the Creatives Team to design such a beautiful and appealing magazine for the academic year 2022-23.

All MAX activities were coordinated by the Head of the department Mrs. Meenal Kolkar.

Prof. Kolkar was invited to judge the power point presentation competition held by Mathematics department of Patkar college, Goregaon (Mumbai). She continued to be part of BOS of Mathematics of Sathaye College,

Vileparle (Mumbai). Prof. Kolkar was nominated By VC of Mumbai university as subject expert for the selection committee interview for CAS Promotion of the candidate from Vivekanand College, Chembur (Mumbai).

Prof. Ashok Bingi got promoted to associate professor on 18 November 2022. He presented a research paper entitled "An element  $\phi$ -prime to another element in lattice modules" in an international conference on computational mathematics-2023 (hybrid mode), organised by Sadguru Gadage Maharaj College, Karad, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023. Also, he attended two day National workshop on "Numerical methods using Scilab" in hybrid mode, organised by N.B. Navale Sinhgad College of Engineering, Solapur, held during 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. He presented a research paper entitled "An element  $\phi$ -primary to another element in lattice modules" in a national conference on abstract, applied and computational mathematics-2023 (hybrid mode), organised by N.B. Navale Sinhgad College of Engineering, Solapur, held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023. He has been allotted

e-content development work of Unit-II and Unit-III of the Course on Numerical Analysis, Semester-2 under M.Sc. (Mathematics) through online mode programmes (CDOE), Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Prof. Ashok got seed money grant of Rs. one lakh, sanctioned by the research and development cell of St. Xavier's college, Mumbai for one year (January 2023-December 2023) to conduct research project on "Generalization of an element  $\delta$ -primary to another element in lattice modules". He worked as a committee member of Scholarship Committee and CIA Exam Committee. Also worked as a convenor of Staff Placement Committee.

He is nominated by Hon. VC, University of Mumbai as an expert on

BOS in Mathematics, for 3 years from May 2022, in Nya. Tatyasaheb Athalye arts, Ved. S.R. Sapre Commerce & Vid. Dadasaheb Pitre Science College (Autonomous), Devrukh, Ratnagiri. The first BOS meeting was online and was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023. He was invited to set end sem exam question papers for FYBSc / SYBSc odd sem and even sem courses in Mathematics, Changu Kana Thakur Arts, Commerce and Science College, New Panvel. Also, was invited to moderate end semester exam papers.

Prof. Aditya Garg and Prof. Mandar Bhosale attended a two day's national webinar on 'Transforming Higher Educational Institutions' Aligning with National Education Policy Organized by R.J. College, Ghatkopar (Mumbai).

Ms. Mansi Mahajan, ex-student of our college worked as a replacement of Prof. Simi Cyriac who was on Maternity leave in the even semester. Ms. Mansi will join PHD Programme in US in the next academic year. Our best wishes to her.

Prof. Simi Cyriac was blessed with a baby boy on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

I am grateful to the Department of Mathematics and the Mathematics Association of Xavier's for their support and enthusiasm in organising all the events and making this year memorable.

**Dr. Meenal Kolkar**  
Head, Department of Mathematics

## MICROBIOLOGY

Wine and cheese get better with age and so does the Department of Microbiology!!

The highlight of the academic year 2022-23 was the international conference 'Microbes and Beyond' held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 as we celebrated the completion of 90 years since the inception of the department. The entire teaching staff along with Dr. Vivien Amonkar, Miriam Stewart, Dr. Sailaja Chandrapati and Dr. Shamlan Reshamwala, were a part of the conference organizing committee. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. K. B. Sainis, an immunologist and a Bhatnagar awardee. Dr. Deepesh Nagarajan (Computational Biologist, faculty Ramaiah University, Bangalore), Dr. Ritwick Sawarkar (Dept of Genetics, Medical Research Council (MRC), Univ. of Cambridge, UK) both alumni of the department and Dr. Sarika Mehra (IIT, Bombay) delivered talks on their research work. These were followed by an inspiring talk by Dr. Sailaja Chadrapati (Senior Technical Leader and Director of Intellectual Property Strategy, Neogen Corporation, USA) on her career path. This served as a primer for the panel discussion 'Careers

after Microbiology' held in the afternoon session. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Sailaja Chandrapati and the panelists were alumni of the department - Dr. Shashi Shekhar Kumar, President, International Business at Cachet Pharma (Alkem Group), Viveka Roychowdhury, Editor, Express Pharma and Express Healthcare, Indian Express, Dr. Bosco Henriques, Director, Biodye India Pvt Ltd, Harsha Kavale, Associate Director, Microbiology, Cipla, India, Dr. Tushar Vaidya, Chief Scientist, CCMB, Hyderabad, India. All the panelists provided valuable insights and shared their work experiences.

"Microfête" - the alumni dinner was held on the same day. The repast helped our former students reconnect and bond while also planning the journey towards the centenary celebration. A special edition of our department magazine, The Michronicle, commemorating 90 years with the theme 'Genesis' was released. The magazine this year attempted to encompass the brief history of the department and celebrate the achievements of our students over the years. It gave a platform to the present students to express their scientific views and opinions.

We are grateful to our alumni and well-wishers of the department for sponsoring the conference/dinner and also for donating funds towards the upgradation of laboratory facilities.

The Department also initiated a "Lecture Series" highlighting current trends in Microbiology research and will continue the practice through the years leading to our centenary celebrations. We couldn't have asked for a better start to the lecture series - a lecture delivered by Dr. Vincent Racaniello, a stalwart in virology from the University of Columbia on 'Virus Spillover'. Introduction to protein design by Preetham Venkatesh from the prestigious Baker Lab was our second lecture. Both talks received rapt attention and interaction from student attendees.

Besides the lecture series, students also got a chance to interact with alumni. Dr. Saraswathy Nochur, (1980), described the intricacies of 'Regulatory affairs in Pharma'; Dr. Fakhrudin Palida (1977) and Dr. Foster Gonsalves (1999), spoke about their entrepreneurial experiences. We value what our alumni have to offer and we are grateful for the support they have always extended.

Throughout the year, we also had numerous other activities along with our 90-years celebration.

We had a few new staff members this year – in the first semester Dr. Deepesh Nagarajan and Kaushik Inamdar and in the next semester Alister Dsouza and Pranita Shinde. Priya Karnik filled in as a substitute teacher for Dr. Pampi Chakraborty, who was on leave.

The annual exhibition by the SY students to welcome the FYs was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022. and it was called “Microbition”. The SY students used charts, models and live specimens to introduce concepts in Microbiology to the freshers. This annual exercise allows peer learning and at the same time bonding between the freshers and their seniors.

The International Microorganism Day was celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Students of the department conducted various activities in the college foyer. The activities organized included nail art, face painting, petri art and mystery game – all with a microbiology twist. The event received an overwhelming response from attendees.

The annual Khandala seminar in February 2023 saw both UGs and PGs participating in various activities. MSc part 2 students presented the work that they carried out at research institutes over four months. The teaching faculty conducted sessions on Time management - Dr. Aparna Shetye, Dr. Pampi Chakraborty and Kaushik Inamdar; Presentation skills - Dr. Sangeeta Chavan; Competitive exams after BSc and MSc - Alister Dsouza, Priya Karnik, Pranita Shinde, Kaushik Inamdar and NEP 2020 - Dr. Karuna Gokarn. A key feature of the Khandala seminar has always been the feedback from students on the different practices of the department. This year too detailed feedback was given by the students and some of the suggestions were incorporated immediately. An online session on Scientific writing as a career by alumna Gillian D’Souza, Media and Communications Officer at European Geosciences Union, Munich, was appreciated by the students. No Khandala seminar is complete without a session of pure relaxation and enjoyment where students let their hair

down and get a chance to showcase their talents. Besides dance and singing there was a beautiful ukulele performance and Kaushik Inamdar, a new faculty in the department, gave an intense and moving rendition of a part from the iconic Marathi play “Natsamrat”. Additionally, students organized a treasure hunt and tug of war.

All the students of MSc part 2 were placed at prestigious institutions for their external projects where they worked for four months beginning from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. A few undergraduate students of the department (from SY and TY) gained experience over the summer break by pursuing observer ship and internship opportunities at various laboratories.

Three different Honours courses were conducted by the department. Dr. Pampi Chakraborty offered hands-on training to students in ‘Animal tissue culture’. Dr. Deepesh Nagarajan applied his considerable expertise to teach ‘Python programming and its applications in bioinformatics’. The third course was an online lecture series in biostatistics by Ms. Snighdha Pain.

Fr. Gordon Daniells conducted a ‘Conflict management workshop’ on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for our PG students which they found to be very helpful.

Our department has been involved in the DBT-Builder project since March 2021. The project is based on ‘transforming barren and uncultivable land with plant growth promoting microbes and nano-agrotechnology into productive fields.’ We continued our work on this project through the year.

A workshop on ‘basics of operating a bioreactor’ was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 under the aegis of DBT-Builder Grant. The resource person was Dr. Absishek Mule, Senior in-field Application Specialist from Eppendorf India Limited. Twenty-three post-graduate microbiology students and research trainees participated in this workshop.

As usual, the wholehearted assistance and cooperation from our non-

teaching faculty, Mr. Sanjay Karambele, Mr. Agnelo Fargose, Mr. Sanjay Geliye and Mr. Atish Shirke contributed to the success of all our activities this year.

The department is all set to move forward onto bigger and better things as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> year.

## Publications

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Gokarn, K., & Pal, R. B. Repurposing Siderophores as Antitubercular Agents. *Emerging Trends in Disease and Health Research Vol. 9*, 92–108 (2022). Book Chapter, BP International Publishers.

Kundar, R., Gokarn, K. CRISPR-Cas System: A Tool to Eliminate Drug-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria. *Pharmaceuticals* 2022, 15, 1498. <https://doi.org/10.3390/Ph15121498>

Dsouza N., Gokarn K., Anagha Nair, Bhavna Gurram. Comparative sequence analysis of PE5 proteins in *Mycobacterium* species – A computational study. *Xplore – Xavier’s Research Journal*

Gokarn K, Jadhav P, Sagar R, Pankar P, Odapalli S. Repurposing Over-the-Counter Drugs and an Iron-Chelator as Antibacterial Agents. *Biosci Biotech Res Asia* 2022;19(4)

Chavan S, Sarangdhar V, Vigneshwaran N. Nanopore-based metagenomic analysis of the impact of nanoparticles on soil microbial communities. *Heliyon*. 2022 Jun 9;8(6):e09693. doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2022.e09693

Evaluation of Antioxidant Potential and UV Protective Properties of Four Bacterial Pigments. Koshti R, Jagtap A, Noronha D, Patkar S, Nazareth J, Paulose R, Chakraborty A, Chakraborty P. (2022) *Microbiol. Biotechnol. Lett* 50: 375- 386. <https://doi.org/10.48022/mbl.2205.05010>

**Ms. Miriam Stewart**  
Head, Department of Microbiology

# PHYSICS

For the academic year 2022-23 Physics Department indulged in a number of activities. Some of these activities are presented here.

## News that kept us in news

- a. **Dr. Jyoti Singh** retired at superannuation after a long service on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. She was a key administrator and very active in introducing new arenas like the MSc course. We wish her all the best for her retired life.
- b. **Sanjay Shinde**, a member of the department's Junior college staff retired at superannuation after a long service on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. He was a very important figure in Junior college teaching and administration. He was also a Board moderator for many years.
- c. **Sagar Rane**, MSc Part 2 student of Physics Department won silver medal in team events and Gold medal in individual event (Mallkhamb) in **Khelo India University Games, Lucknow, 2022**. Earlier he had won a silver medal in **36<sup>th</sup> National Games 2022**, in Gujrat. Congratulations to Sagar.
- d. **Samaksh Dubey**, an alumnus of department 2018 batch, graduated from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, as a Leftinent. All congratulations to him.
- e. **Opening of Bonnet computer lab** in honour of Fr Jose-Vicente Bonet Marti. He was a Jesuit who studied Physics at the University of St. Louis (USA) and from 1955 he dedicated himself to teaching it at the Department of Physics, St. Xavier's College Bombay. College dedicated a large computer lab to Fr Bonet on the first floor next to the reference library. It was inaugurated on Sep 14, 2022.
- f. **Smrithi and Mariyam, MSc students** won first and second prize respectively in a Regional Competition on Essay Writing in Physics 2023 organised by the Mumbai chapter of IAPT.

- g. **Gayatri Pujari and Rohit Nair, FYBSc Students** won the first prize in an intercollegiate fest "Gyan Manthan" organised by Royal College.

## Department activities

- a. **Physics exhibition Jigyasa 2022** : Our annual Physics exhibition has been organised on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 in the SXC college hall. This year's Physics exhibition theme was "PANORAMA – An Interdisciplinary view of Physics". Around 160 students from SYBSc, TYBSc and MSc classes presented their exhibits in groups of four. Dr. Rohan Jadhav was the Convener of the event while it was co-convended by Dr. Priyanka Sett.
- b. **Morbe Seminar** : Department held an overnight retreat cum seminar in Morbe (near Panvel) on New Education Policy 2020. Most of the department staff attended the seminar and found it very useful to understand the nuances of NEP 2022 (Higher education). They also discussed the other issues of the department.
- c. **Student Research Seminar PROBE 2023** : This event was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. Students of TYBSc and MSc participated in it. Eleven groups of students made oral presentations while 27 groups presented posters. They were examined by external judges. Dr. Ajay Yadav was convener of the event while Dr. Katherine Rawlins was the co-convener.



- d. **The National Science Day Celebration** Department celebrated National Science

Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. It was organised in the form of a quiz by 10 volunteer students from SYBSc, TYBSc & MSc in the Physics lab. Around 50 students and 12 staff members participated in the quiz on Dr. CV Raman and his works.

- e. **The Khandala Star gazing workshop** : Dr. Manojendu Choudhury and Dr. Katherine Rawlins conducted a night sky observation in Khandala on 17 February 2023 for MSc students. Total 33 MSc students attended the event.

## Invited lectures

- a. A guest lecture was organised by Dr. Leena Joshi for SYBSc Physics students on the topic "**Holography- Basic introduction and applications**" on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2022. The resource person for the talk was **Mr. Nitin Dubey from The Electro Optics Lab, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel**.
- b. Another guest lecture organised by Rajesh Singh to the Department was noted Vedant teacher **Acharya Prashant** to speak to its staff and students on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Event was attended by more than 100 participants. Recordings of this event are available on Prashant Advait Foundations YouTube channel.

## Activities of individual Department Members

- a. Dr. Leena Joshi conducted a workshop titled "Tracker software for Physics experiments" for the students and faculty members of, Department of Physics, Ratnam College, Bhandup on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- b. Dr. Leena Joshi in collaboration with IAPT worked on the following assignments.
  - i. She participated in 22<sup>nd</sup> Asian Physics Olympiad from May

23 - 31, 2022 as an Observer held at Graphic Era Hill University, Dehradun, India, in online mode.

- ii. She was the resource person in a one day workshop on "App based experiments in Physics" in V.G. Vaze college of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mulund on the topic "Physics experiments with Tracker Software". It was organised by IAPT, Mumbai in collaboration with V.G. Vaze College of Arts, Science and Commerce College, Mulund on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- c. Dr. Leena Joshi in collaboration with HBCSE, Mumbai worked on the following assignments.
  - i. She worked as a member of the selection Committee for the selection of students for NIUS (Physics) 2022 and NIUS (Astronomy) 2022, which is a program run by HBCSE for undergraduate students from April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to May 12, 2022.
  - ii. She worked as a resource person for NIUS-19 organised by Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) from December 29, 2022 to January 4, 2023. She worked as a resource person for a laboratory course which was based on the "Experimental Problem Solving" approach
  - iii. She along with Dr. Amruta Sadhu worked as resource persons for orientation cum selection camp (21<sup>st</sup> April

to 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023) for the students representing India for the International Olympiad.

- d. Dr. Radhekrishna Dubey visited IBMEC-22 conference organised by Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi During November 16-19, 2022. There he presented a poster on his research paper.
- e. Dr. Rohan Jadhav visited a Horn Antenna workshop organised by TLC, IUCAA, Pune during 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. He received hands-on training for working on horn antennas.



- f. On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Navneet mishra assembled the Telescope and conducted a sky observation session for everyone in the college
- g. Dr. Katherine Rawlins conducted two sessions for the MSc Physics students to learn and practice individually handling the telescope on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- h. Navneet Mishra attended "Frontiers in Physics" in Fergusson College Pune on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

- i. Dr. Manojendu Chaudhury was nominated as a member of the paper setters board for the Indian National Astronomy Olympiad 2023, and was part of the Resource Generation Camp (RGC) held in HBCSE, on Sunday, 20 November.
- j. Dr. Manojendu was also a resource person for the Astronomy Olympiad Teacher Exposure Camp in HBCSE, and delivered a lecture on Optics on Monday, 21 November, afternoon.
- k. Dr. Rajesh Singh visited ISC Board practical examination on 16 January 2023 at SS HighSchool, Thane.
- l. Dr. Radhekrishna Dubey & Dr. Ajay Yadav visited Jai Hind College as external examiner duty for TYBSc Practical Examination on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 respectively.
- m. Dr. Katherine Rawlins, attended the 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of India, which was held at IIT Indore between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023. She presented a talk on 2<sup>nd</sup> March titled 'Investigating the OH-H<sub>2</sub> relation in diffuse Galactic clouds'.

Thus the Department of Physics had a very fruitful year of 2022-23 when a lot of new activities were introduced in the department and its members showed extraordinary energy, enthusiasm and creativity.

**Mr. Rajesh Singh**  
Head, Department of Physics

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

In the academic year 2022-23, the department had a new appointment of staff- Ms. Sukhada Gole joined as Dr. Shazia Sheikh decided to resign. After a gap of almost two and a half years, the department started the new academic year with usual zest and enthusiasm. Along with all the department activities the staff was able to publish papers and attend seminars.

Dr. Pratiba Naitthani released her book, "Dynamism in Indo- US Relations", co-authored with Dr. D. V. Rangaraj in October 2022. Another book edited by Dr. Naitthani, "The Geo Political Challenges for India", consisting of eight chapters was released in December 2022, the foreword of the book is written by Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar. Dr. Naitthani and Dr. Shazia Sheikh have written one chapter each in this book. Ms. Sukhada Gole was appointed as a course writer for preparing self-learning material in the course 'Rural Governance in India' for the Master of Arts in Political Science in the Institute of Distance and Open Learning of the University of Mumbai. She contributed a chapter on "PRIs: Central processing Units of Democracy".

As the department believes in organising events which engage the students meaningfully and give them something to take back home, we focused on organising varied activities. Considering India completing 75 years of independence, the Xavier's Political Science Association- XPSA chose the theme for the year 2022-23 as 'India after 75 years of independence'. The events organized throughout this year tried to highlight the achievements of India and imbibe in students a sense of pride.

The first event the Parimal K. Shroff National Essay Writing Competition on July 16, 2022. The topic for the essay competition was 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: An Era of Freedom and Progress.'

In proud memory of Kargil Vijay Divas, XPSA organized a fine arts competition titled, 'Artistic expression of Kargil Vijay Diwas' on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

which was an opportunity to express their gratitude to the martyred soldiers of the Kargil war. The competition was judged by our own art experts, Prof Rajesh Singh, Head - Department of Physics and Prof Himanshu Gupta, Dept of Chemistry. We are thankful to both the professors.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August, the staff and TYBA students from the department celebrated Raksha Bandhan in the most unique way by tying Rakhis to the protectors in college - our security guards.

The staff and TYBA students gave effect to the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. It was to represent national integrity and to instil a feeling of patriotism in our youth.

To celebrate 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Independence Day, XPSA organised 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Independence through my lens' - A photography competition. The competition was judged by Prof Rajesh Singh and Mr. Kamakhya Narayan Singh, Director and documentary maker.

On 21<sup>st</sup> October the staff and students of the department went to visit the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Pune. The students from TYBA, SYBA and FYBA performed for the soldiers living at the centre and in reciprocation some of the soldiers, with paraplegia and quadriplegia, sang songs and recited power-packed inspiring poems for the staff and students. It was a heart-warming and overwhelming experience for all.

The Fundraiser is one of those events that XPSA organizes every year to raise funds for a social cause. This year the Fundraiser '22 was organized on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Our tagline was: "Let's do our bit", which proved to be a guiding light over the course of the event. This year the association raised funds for the soldiers wounded in action. XPSA was honored to organize this year's Fundraiser in collaboration with the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, located in Khadki, Pune, which provides aftercare and rehabilitation

of soldiers, who suffer spinal injuries resulting in neck down paralysis- Quadriplegia or waist down paralysis - Paraplegia. There were several pre-events organized by XPSA to sensitize the students on campus about the need to donate to this humble cause. The events included a flash mob through various patriotic dances, music, and drama coupled with a bake sale counter to attract more audience. The fundraiser was organized through a musical evening- "From the deserts of Rajasthan to the Arabian sea", wherein celebrated artists from Rajasthan and Mumbai were invited. Ms. Yashaswini Dayama, Mr. Kasam Khan, Mr. Mannan Shah, Mr. Zahir Khan, and Mr. Anuraag Dhoundeyal through their soulful singing complemented by the enthralling band mesmerized the audience and filled the ambiance with positivity, and joy! The Fundraiser was graced by Lt. General Harminder Singh Kahlon, GOC, Maharashtra, Goa & Gujarat and Mrs. Harkiran Kahlon along with senior army officials. For the first time we had a galaxy of Senior Army Officers in our college hall attending an event. XPSA is grateful to the PRC for giving us an opportunity to host such eminent personalities on campus.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022, XPSA organized a guest lecture on the eve of Constitution Day. Advocate Tanveer Nizam, a Litigation Lawyer practicing at the Bombay High Court was the guest speaker. Adv. Nizam enlightened the students about the importance of constitutional provisions and how effectively one can utilize them to get justice.

To conduct primary research for their dissertation the students of TYBA Political Science under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Naitthani visited the villages (Lata, Tolma, and Reni) of Chamoli District, Uttarakhand. They saw various social, cultural and religious practices followed by the villagers. Apart from academics, the students also got the opportunity to view the natural beauty of the region. It was a wholesome, and enriching experience, both academically and otherwise.

Due to the efforts of Dr. Naitthani the Third Year students were honored to get an opportunity to observe the first official side event of the Development Working Group under India's Presidency of the G20-2023, titled "Data for Development: Role of G20 in advancing the 2030 Agenda". The event was hosted by India's G20 Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Observer Research Foundation, Office of the Secretary-General's Tech Envoy, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The event covered various facets of the forum and the responsibilities India shall take up for achieving its goal of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.'

On the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, XPSA organized a talk by Former Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar on the topic 'Indo-US relationship: An indispensable partnership'. The talk was followed by a book release function of 'The Geopolitical Challenges faced by India'. The book encapsulates views of various eminent scholars and has been edited by the HOD- Political Science Dr. Pratiba Naitthani. The occasion was also graced by Dr. V. Rangaraj.

The students of TYBA Political Science visited Jammu-Kashmir from 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. The purpose of the visit was to study and investigate primarily the cases of internal displacement of the Kashmiri Pandits and the POJK displaced persons by visiting the houses and interacting with the victims of atrocities.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023, XPSA organized a beginner's workshop for civil services in collaboration with Shubhra Ranjan Institute. The guest speaker is the most notable name in the civil service training circuit- Ms. Shubhra Ranjan.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 2023 the Annual Intercollegiate National Youth Parliament organized by XPSA was yet another feather on the cap of successful events, over 50 participants from various colleges across Mumbai attended the event. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Uday Shiroorkar, former Assistant Commissioner of BMC, well-known for coming up with the Sewage Master Plan 1999-2030 for Mumbai and pioneering paper Ganesh Murtis instead of the ones made of POP. The youth Parliament was chaired by Mr. Ishaan Chitnis.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the Third Year BA students from the department along with their professors visited Manibhavan, the historical place that housed Mahatma Gandhi whenever he visited Mumbai during the freedom struggle, now a museum and library.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the TYBA students and Staff of the Political Science dept witnessed the "Marathi Bana" show, Conceived, Directed, and Produced by Mr. Ashok Hande at Ravindra Natya Mandir. As a staunch upholder of "Learning beyond the four walls of the classroom", the students for their Political Process in Maharashtra paper witnessed this one-of-a-kind show.

Continuing with its field visit dimension, XPSA on 10 March 2023 the Political Science department was

honored to visit the Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai. The students got a real-time experience of viewing the members of Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad discussing various matters of public importance.

The annual magazine of department - 'Samvad' was released this year with the theme of 'India- 75 years of Independence: A Reflection' consisting of research papers and research articles written by students from different streams. Samvad also published interviews of two eminent personalities, Mr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director, Director General of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) in Mumbai, and Air Commodore Nitin Sathe is an Indian Air Force (IAF) veteran.

The Department is thankful to Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Principal of St. Xavier's college for encouraging us to organize such events for the overall development of the students on campus. Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my XPSA committee, Ayesha Mujawar the Chairperson, (TYBA), Vivaan Modi and Ahaan Vaidya (FYBA), Namita Devadiga, Ashna Shetty and Janhvi Deshpande (SYBA) and Krishi Shah, Madhushree Hambarde, Saloni Sankpal, and Bianca Chettiar (TYBA). My special thanks to Ms. Sukhada Gole, who was quick to get adjusted to the demanding environment of the college and this department as well.

**Dr. Pratiba Naitthani**  
Head, Department of Political Science

# PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology Department at St. Xavier's College has been a hub of activity this year, offering students a plethora of opportunities to explore the fascinating world of human behaviour and mental processes. With the help of the Head of Department Ms. Ruby Pavri, teachers Ms. Linda Dhakul and Ms. Sanyukta Golaya, the teaching assistant Ateka Tambawala and the PG faculty with Dr. Danielle Pereira, Ms. Ruchi Brahmachari, TA Pratik Shetty and Ms. Devika Mehta-Kadam and her Expressive Arts Therapy team in this gazette, we will take a closer look at the exciting happenings that have taken place in the department over the past academic year.

## Rallying the Troops: Training sessions for the TYs

The Psychology Department kicked off the year with special training sessions in report writing, APA citations, inferential statistics, and research methodology. The aim of these sessions was to help the TY class better understand the requirements for maintaining a journal for their Practicals class. They also fostered camaraderie in a team-building session by Ms. Maitree Vora.

## Beyond the Classroom: Experiential Workshops for Interdisciplinary Groups

The Psychology Department offered 14 weekend workshops to students seeking experiential learning beyond the curriculum (or an honours credit!). The workshops, spanning two days, included activities, discussions, and an application-based task to be completed after the workshop.



Introductory Workshop on Animal-Assisted Therapy

Workshop Resource Persons	Themes
Priya Baid	Life Skills in Action: Relationships and Habits
Shama Shah	REBT (odd sem)
Maurelle D'sa	Sport Psychology
Jehanzeb Baldiwala	Introduction to Narrative Practices
Sailee Biwalkar	Thinking Aloud : (How) Do we craft our narratives?
Janvi Thakkar	Introductory Workshop on Animal-Assisted Therapy
Krupa Nishar	Forensic Psychology Detection of Deception (odd sem)
Mrunmayee Pathare	Into the Unknown: Managing Anxiety in Uncertainty
Priya Baid	Life Skills in Action: Thoughts and Actions
Shama Shah	REBT (even sem)
Krupa Nishar	Forensic Psychology: Detection of Deception (even sem)
Toru Jhaveri	The Psychology of Story and the Self
Arman Dalal	Conflict Resolution Life Skills
Shreya Makhija	Communication Microskills for effective relationships

## BREAKING NEWS!

### Defining the Different: Annual Seminar Conducted at Khandala

St. Xavier's Villa in Khandala was abuzz with activity as the annual seminar kicked off from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. The theme for this year was 'Defining the Different' and 21 Psychology students presented their papers on a myriad of topics related to sports psychology, music therapy, serial killers, AI, neurodiversity, conspiracy theories and so much more! The 100+ students attending experienced a balance of academia and fun; with ice-breaker sessions, campfires, and presentations.

### Learning from the Pros: Guest Speakers Galore

Guest Speakers	Topic
Vidita Save	Report Writing for TYs
Vidita Save	Review of Literature
Comila Shahani Denning and Rohini D'Souza	I/O Psychology: A Sneak Peak
Ayesha Dias	How to make a questionnaire
Alcoholics Anonymous	Consequences of Alcohol Consumption

Guest Speakers	Topic
Ranu Sarin	Park Safe Drive Safe
Kishu Daswani	The Insanity Defense
Aileen Marques	POSH (sexual harassment)
Aloke Bajpai	Outdoor Experiences for Organizational Development
Kristina Rao	Journey of Psy-Socio Major
Shreya Makhija	How to write and present a seminar paper
Shreya Makhija	Group Work- An Experiential Workshop
Shama Shah	Training for the Counselling Psychology Workshop Project
Ruchi Brahmachari	Crisis Counselling
Karthika Anthony	Business Psychology
Pratik Shetty	Starting Up A Counselling Practice
Dr. Ulka Mayur	Cast off all shame
Dr. Radha Kumar	Emotional Expression through Dance

### Taking 'The Next Step': Career Guidance Symposiums Empower Students to find their Happily 'Ever After'

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Psychology students from SY and TY attended 'The Next Step', a career guidance symposium wherein 15 speakers from varying backgrounds in Psychology shared their experiences and expertise. A big shout out goes to our alumni who made the time to come in and share their insights and inspire our current students.

Resource	Topic
Neha Shah	Career pathways for working with the Special Needs Population.
Devika Kadam	Expressive Arts Therapy + Diploma in ExAT (St Xavier's College, Mumbai)
Shweta Ravi	"Un-fit" - Exploring Quirky Careers
Krupa Nishar	Coding the Criminals: Forensic Psychology
Toru Jhaveri	Advertising: Method and Madness
Danielle Pereira	MA Psychology: Lifespan Counselling (St. Xavier's College, Mumbai)
Gayatri Oke	Cognitive Psychology (IIT, Gandhinagar)
Shreya Makhija	MA through SNDDT



Resource	Topic
Arya Prasad	MA in Applied Psychology (Clinical and Counseling Practice) at TISS
Ateka Tambawala	Taking a gap year
Madhura Phansikar	Kinesiology & Community Health. Ohio State Univ. (Postdoc Research area: Exercise Psychology/ Behavioral Medicine)
Gouri Bhuyan	Applied Psychology I/O from MU (and working with professional theatre)
Janvi Thakkar	Animal Assisted Therapy
Karthika Anthony	Business Psychology
Maherra Desai	Clinical Psychology (Clinical Research at Jaslok Hospital)

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2023, MA Psychology: Lifespan Counselling had their online career guidance symposium ‘*Ever After: Life Beyond the MA Psychology Degree*’, the resources of which were all alumni of the MA course.

Resource	Topic
Rujuta Chavan & Naina Uppal	From Theory To Practice: How does it feel to apply everything you have learned to the outside world?
Ketaki Vengsarkar & Sneha Chatterjee	Therapy With The Tots: What is different about psychotherapy with children?
Tanya Chowdhury & Srishti Agarwal	Empathizing With Employees: What is it like to be on the counseling team of a company?
Vahishta Kapadia & Mrunmayee Pathare	Carving Out Your Own Niche: What is it like to start out on your own?
Sriparna Gogoi & Kinjal Bhansali	Psychology In Business: How does psychology fit in when your clients are corporations
Atulya Kharbanda	Researching For A Living: What if your job was finding answers to questions?
Sanyukta Golaya & Radhika Shanbhag	From Student To Teacher: How does it feel to be on the other side of the classroom?
Saumya Singh & Tanya Antony	Going On Growing: What is it like to choose to invest in further education?

## TRENDING!

**Uncommon Sense: The New Issue of the Psychology Department Magazine Takes Readers on a Journey into the ‘*Psychology of Illusions*’**

SY Psychology students formed the core team that worked toward publishing the ‘Uncommon Sense’ magazine, the theme of which was ‘*Psychology of Illusions*’ for the academic year 2022-23. The magazine featured 28 articles written by students from all three years of BA.

## Community Spirit: Extension Work

As part of their Social Involvement Program, 35 FYBA students participated in the initiative involving mentoring and befriending an outstation student, to help them adjust to the college environment and city life. Additionally, FY students volunteered in ‘Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham’, an event by Prafula that deals with the mental well-being of children from various schools in Mumbai. Ms. Linda Dhakul supervised their work and the students reported feedback.

## Going Overseas: Research Presentations at RIT Dubai

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Ms. Sanyukta Golaya, and 3 students from the MA Psychology: Lifespan Counselling Program (Vedika Khanna, Divya Devis and Tanvi Sukhtankar) attended the Global Behavioural Health Symposium held at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai campus. They presented their research pertaining to the work done by them in collaboration with the RIT New York Campus and the SEAL homeless shelter, where they provided therapy to the residents. The presentations included work done on adapting the PHQ-9, GAD and PCL-5 tools to fit the requirements of the Indian homeless population, the development of a one session integrated SFBT and MET therapy plan, the adaptation of the Interpersonal Effectiveness Module from DBT for the Indian population, and an overview of the work done at the shelter since December 2021, including progress made by patients. Sanjana Dewaji, (another MA psychology student who had worked alongside on the project over the past two years) was unable to attend the symposium, but her work was presented at the conference, as well.

## Growing even more Popular and Creative: A peek into Expressive Arts!

In the year 2022-23, the fourth batch of the Expressive Arts Therapy PG diploma program graduates will be stepping into the world! To make up for the fact that the previous three batches did not get to attend a graduation ceremony on the college campus, this May, there was an in-person, heartwarming, community gathering graduation ceremony for all.

The program also organized two professional development workshops:

Savneet Talwar: Coming home: An art therapy perspective into partition trauma.

Sarita Ganesh: Using Clay for Therapy in Restorative Justice Prison Programs.

The cross-cultural study done with Beit Berl College, Israel was also presented at the Conference organized by European Consortium of Creative Arts Therapy in Education this September with Ms. Devika Mehta Kadam and Ms. Oihika Chakrabarti representing the College.

## New and Exciting Possibilities: NEP Implementation

Amidst the winds of change a huge thank you goes out to all those on the psychology team who have helped brainstorm for the new courses and... speaking of ‘new’, we wish all the best to Ms. Ruchi Brahmachari in her new role as Course Coordinator for the MA. Ruchi takes over this mantle from Dr. Danielle Pereira (who played a vital role in the conceptualizing and running of the MA Psychology: Lifespan Counselling course since its inception).

As Charlie Mackesy said “One of our greatest freedoms is how we react to things”, the Psychology Department is excited about the restructuring of courses, credits and multidisciplinary and skill-based offerings under the National Education Policy. Look out for details in the next gazette!

**Ms. Ruby Pavri**  
Head, Department of Psychology

## PUBLIC POLICY

The program was envisioned based on the need of the hour to provide multi-disciplinary skills to understand, analyze and evaluate the ever-expanding role of government in the economy, polity, and society. The program aims to create trained public policy analysts to solve real world problems affecting the lives of large groups of citizens. It has been a constant endeavor of the department to get experts from academics, government, and NGOs.

### Student enrichment programs conducted by the department in the academic year 2022-23 are:

1. 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022: A Graduation Ceremony was organized for students who passed out in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Collector Suburban, Ms. Nidhi Chaudhary, a department alumnus, was the Guest of Honor and she inspired the gathered students with a steering talk.
2. 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022: As a part of the ORF Spark series, Mr. Nandan Unikrishnan interacted with students on the Ukraine crisis.
3. 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023: A session was organized on 'Blockchain for Good: Technology to create a more inclusive economy'. The speakers were Anil Kakani, India Country Head for the Algorand Foundation (Algo Bharat) and Dr. Nikhil Varma, Technical Head at Algo Bharat.
4. 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023: Avni Agarwal, an alumna working with WRI lectured students on the Mumbai Climate Action Plan being implemented by the BMC in collaboration with WRI.
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023: An interactive session was held with Rina Agarwala, Professor of Sociology at John's Hopkins University on her new book, 'The Migration-Development Regime: How Class Shapes Indian Emigration'.
6. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023: The department's flagship conference Niti Samvaad was held on the theme 'Urban Sustainability in India: Rethinking Protocols, Politics and Practices'. The panelists were Amita Bhide, Chair Professor, Jal Jeevan Mission, School of Habitat Studies, TISS Mumbai, Marina Joseph, Programme Coordinator at Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) India and Chandrashekhar Prabhu, a leading architect and expert in urban planning, administration, and redevelopment.

### Students' Achievements:

1. Glenna D'Souza and Sharol Shibu presented a paper at the Conference entitled 'Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Challenges and Opportunities' which was organized by Mithibai College, Mumbai. Their paper was titled 'Electric Buses and the Path Towards Sustainable Public Transportation: A Comparative Model from Santiago, Chile for Mumbai, India'.
2. Drishti Maan (2021-23) has been accepted by Cambridge

University for an M.Phil. program in Development Studies.

3. Sneha Shaji (2021-23) has secured admission to the MSc. program in International Development & Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics.
4. Yogesh Damodare (2021-23) has secured admission to the MSc. program in Environmental Economics & Climate Change at the London School of Economics.
5. Sherina Poyyail, an MPP I student has been awarded the Gupta Klisky India Institute Summer 2023 Student Travel Grant for the Social Insecurity Project to be conducted by Professor Rina Agarwal of the Johns Hopkins University, USA.

We look forward to expanding our horizons in the new academic year 2023-24.



**Dr. Nandini Naik**  
Faculty,  
Department of Public Policy

## SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (Autonomous) conducted multiple events and activities in this academic year. In June 2022, we hosted the screening of *(Un)Homely City*, a documentary resulting from a project

titled 'Interrogating Unsafety' which explored the impact of the pandemic on houseless communities in Mumbai. It was a collaborative project with researchers from TISS (Mumbai), University College London and the NGO *Pehchaan*.

One of the events running throughout the year was 'Ways Forward,' an interactive lecture series with professionals from various fields who are applying the principles of Sociology and Anthropology in diverse ways in their professional

lives. The first of these lectures was with Pranav Kuttai, who spoke to the students about the importance of the soft skills learnt in a Sociology and Anthropology course, and the possibilities of engaging with theories from these disciplines in multiple other arenas. The second session of 'Ways Forward' was conducted by Meghana AT, where she spoke about her education in authorial theatre, and the challenges and opportunities in choosing a career that is often defined as 'unconventional'. She also discussed the role of activism in her work, and how she uses theatre as a medium of spreading awareness about the causes that matter to her, thereby infusing her passion with her profession.

The next event was an online Instagram event based on the theme of 'Bollywood and Masculinity', held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022. This was a series of posts that engaged with the portrayal of masculinity on the big screen, and the construction of the 'masculine ideal' through media as an agent of socialisation. Posts were shared about the different tropes employed in Bollywood to portray the 'Hindi film hero', followed by a discussion on how artists and creators could use a mass medium like Bollywood to undefine a rigid notion of masculinity, and create characters that portray men with nuance and complexity.

On 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, an ethnographic walk was conducted in the college campus to orient the newly arrived FY (first year) students to the college, as well as to the discipline of Anthropology. This walk was led by Ms. Ankita Gujar and she introduced the participants to the ethnographic gaze that focuses on reflexive observation, rather than judgement or stereotyping. Participants were encouraged to walk around the college with other student volunteers, and observe and absorb the sights, smells, sounds, and other sensory and non-sensory information from the places and spaces they visited. The volunteers took the participants around the classrooms in college, the college canteen, the foyer, the administrative section, the library as well as the woods. Professor Ankita later debriefed the participants by speaking to them about how they

could reflect on the experiences they had throughout the walk.

An Honours Certificate Programme was offered by the Department over August and September, 2022. This was a series of 8 lectures under the programme titled 'Sociology and Art'. It consisted of immersive lectures by professionals from various artistic backgrounds, speaking about their art through a Sociological and Anthropological perspective, thereby embedding the art and the artist within the socio-political context. The first session was conducted by Meghana AT, a theatre artist who works primarily as an actor, writer, director, trainer, and producer. She spoke to the students about authorial theatre and the possibilities of using theatre as a medium of pedagogy and critical engagement.

Ms. Ankita Gujar conducted the second session. She spoke about street art and the politics of power behind the visibility and invisibility of certain kinds of art in various contexts. Additionally, she also introduced the ideas of art as labour, and art as a tool for messaging, and concluded with a discussion on the contribution of art in creating and sustaining identities, through all the political and affective connotations attached to it.

The third session was conducted by Sefi George, who is an illustrator and visual artist. This session allowed for an experiential understanding of visual art as a medium for communication. With a focus on illustrations in children's books, Sefi spoke about the importance of representation, inclusion, and diversity in visual content that children consume.

The fourth session was titled 'Kala, Katha, and Kula' and was conducted by Dr. Radha Kumar from the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. She focused on the role of ancient sculptures and classical dance as tools for placemaking in ancient India, and contextualised them in the contemporary context.

Dr. Anita Rane Kothare from the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, at St.

Xavier's College, Mumbai conducted the fifth session on the tangible and intangible heritage of Bombay, and the role of cuisines, tourism, oral histories, and local cultures in creating and sustaining the city.

The sixth session was conducted by Garvi Dhar, who is an independent ethnographer and strategic consultant, working with brands, NGOs, and CSR organisations. She spoke about the role of semiotics in art, and the construction of art and culture as a symbiotic process. She further emphasised on collage as a form of resistance art, where the artist can create new meanings through the deconstruction and reconstruction of existing artworks.

Avanti Patel, a playback singer Hindustani Classical and semi-classical vocalist conducted the seventh session. She spoke about the role of *tawaifs* in building the rich body of knowledge of Hindustani Classical Music, and the subsequent erasure of their contribution in the post-independence period, through the nationalist movement, and the connotations of purity/pollution attached to music. She further discussed the ways in which contemporary artists could acknowledge the contribution of the *tawaifs* through their art, and create space for questioning the power hierarchies inherent in what comes to be defined as 'classical'.

The eighth, and final session of this series was conducted by Ms. Arpit Gill. She took up the theme of Bollywood music, and deconstructed it using the Durkheimian approach. Further, she spoke about the role of lyrics and music within a mass medium like Bollywood, and the layers of subliminal messaging inherent in popular music, trying to appeal to a diverse audience.

In January 2023, an Industrial Visit was organised for the TY (third year) students of our department. The students, along with 2 professors visited the city of Pune, and explored the sites of Shaniwar Wada, Tribal Research and Training Institute, National War Museum and the Katraj Dairy. The students of FY Anthropology held an exhibition in the Woods as a part of their CIA2 on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

Our Annual Seminar was held at Premanjali Counselling Centre, Nalasopara, on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2023. This year's theme was 'Inequality: Transitioning from Rights, Resources, to Equity'. The seminar began with the panel discussion led by a student panel of seven members, where they discussed the broad areas of the theme, and the critical issues in the academic discourse surrounding inequality. On the next day, students presented research papers analysing inequality in the contexts of caste, gender, housing, socioeconomic status, politics, resistance, etc. Each presentation was followed by a question-answer session, where the audience participated in, and enhanced the scope of the discussions on the given theme. The seminar concluded with the closing session by the panel, and feedback from the professors as well as the audience.

In February 2023, we organised interactive sessions between our ex-students and the TY students about the application procedure for higher education in India and abroad. Our final event was an interactive session on academic writing conducted by Ms. Ankita Gujar.

### Faculty Profile

Pranoti Chirmuley is the convenor for the TEDx St. Xaviers, Mumbai committee and the Library Committee. She attended a session for the revision of the University syllabus at St. Andrews College Bandra in June, 2022. In December 2022, she presented a paper titled *Deconstructing Nationalism: The rebirth of the nation within* at the Interdisciplinary National Conference on "Contemporary Issues and Concerns in Globalization, Nationalism and Geo-Politics" jointly Organized by IQAC, Sathaye College (Autonomous) in collaboration with ICSSR, Western Regional Centre. In January 2023, she presented a paper titled, *Are we 're-innovating' the wheel? SDG goal 4* at SVKM's Mithibai College at the National Conference 'Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities' organised in collaboration with ICSSR and RUSA. She also completed the (Asiatic Society) Mumbai Research Centre's

Grant in January 2023 titled: *Public Spaces and posters: Re-engaging with space, symbolism and the rules of the city*. She attended a two-day national seminar in February at the Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College (Mumbai) on *Transforming Higher Educational Institutions: Aligning with National Education Policy (NEP)*. She presented a paper titled *New Dependence on Insta: Revisiting Frank's Dependency Theory* at an international conference hosted by St Xavier's College (Mumbai) and the Department of Inter Religious Studies in February. In April 2023, she presented a paper titled *'Earn it or Leave it'* at the National Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming: The Road Ahead - organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Loreto College (Kolkata) sponsored by the ICSSR.

Ankita Gujar conducted a talk on 'Rain and Privilege' with the Student Inclusion Cell in August 2022. She was appointed as the Faculty-in-Charge of the Student Inclusion Cell in October 2022. She was nominated by the Principal for, and completed a 5-day Faculty Development Programme on 'Inclusion in Education' conducted by the MSFDA, Pune in August 2022. She conducted a guest lecture titled "Street Art and Expression in Urban India during the Pandemic" for the department's in-house Honour's course. She was a facilitator for workshops (Antarchakshu) at Purple Fest, the first all-India festival for persons with disabilities organised by the Government of Goa in January 2023. She gave a talk on 'Digitization and Performance Art' as a part of the Department of English's collaborative course with the University of Stuttgart in January 2023. She also was a part of the two-member team conducting the 2-day Industrial Visit to Pune for third year students in January 2023. She was a part of the organising committee for the DIRS for an international conference titled "Being Interconnected" being held in February 2023. She also attended a session organised by St. Andrew's College and the University of Mumbai on the restructuring of the University's syllabus. She was a panelist for a conversation on the theme of 'ChatGPT - Blessed Bot or Damned Dot Com' as an emerging space in Artificial

Intelligence and Media Studies at Sophia College's Media Brew Festival in March 2023.

Radhika Rani led a group discussion on "Being Apolitical" organised by The Theory Club in July 2022. She attended a conference on *Navigating The National Education Policy: Curriculum, Courses and Credits* organised by Sophia College College (Mumbai) in February, 2023. She was a part of the two-member team organising the 2-day Industrial Visit to Pune for third year students in January 2023. She also conducted an interactive session with students of Mukhtangan Trust on Research in Humanities.

Sahana Sen was invited as a speaker for a session as a part of a National Webinar on Gender Sensitization organized by Government Degree College, Mangalkote, West Bengal in June 2022. She attended a conference on *Navigating The National Education Policy: Curriculum, Courses and Credits* organized by the IQAC Cell of the Sophia College (Mumbai) in February, 2023.

Arpit Gill, was part of the Gender Cell and Placement Cell in College in the last semester. She resigned from the department in December 2022.

Anupama Ramakrishnan, joined the department on 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. She is an alumnus of the college and has a background in research and publishing.



**CIA 2 Exhibition by FY Anthropology students in the Woods**

**Arpit Gill and Radhika Rani**  
Faculty, Department of  
Sociology and Anthropology

# STATISTICS

The academic year 2022-23 has been full of activities for the students and staff of the department, apart from the regular lectures and practical sessions. I thank all the department members for the hard work and their sincere efforts during the academic year. The department had one new staff member, Omkar Thakur. We wish him the best for his future career in the department. I wish to acknowledge the hard work and sincere efforts by Ayesha Dias who served the department for the last 33 years. Wish her a blessed and relaxed retired life.

The department organized a three day programme to commemorate National Statistics Day under the aegis of DBT Star (Scheme). On 29/06/22 an interactive session named “Powerful Statistician” was conducted by Ms. Geeta Zankar (Consultant, Karvy Insights Ltd). On 30/06/22 we had a programme called “Stat Attack” - A data story telling competition judged by Dr. Neeta Jain (Assistant Professor - Thakur College of Science and Commerce, Mumbai and Ms. Suvechcha Sengupta (Assistant Professor - K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management, Mumbai). On 02/07/22 there was an interdepartmental debate - BA Statistics students pitted against BMS students. Judges were Dr. Agnelo Menezes (Retd. Principal - St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai) and Dr. Pallavi Chavan (Economist).

Prof. Piyali the Department coordinator for DBT and Honours Programme organised several activities as listed below throughout the year:

Event Name	Duration	Description	Staff/Students involved
Market Research Program	Throughout the semester	Under the Honors program the Statistics department conducted a Market Research Program. The resource persons were Jiggar Rambhia, Associate Director, Neilsons IQ and Tushar Paharia, Associate Director, Consumer Insight, Firmenich Aromatics Pvt Ltd.	FYBA & FYBSc Students Staff In charge: Ms. Piyali Unnikrishnan
Quantitative and Logical Preparations for Entrance Exams and Interviews	27/11/22 and 4/12/22	Under the Honors Program the Statistics department had organized two days weekend workshop “Quantitative and Logical Preparations for Entrance Exams and Interviews”. The resource person was Shailesh Goregaokar, Visiting Faculty at St Xavier’s College and Adjunct faculty of Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics.	SYBA and SYBSc Staff In charge: Ms. Piyali Unnikrishnan
National Science day	25/2/2023	Statistics department arranged a lecture titled “Indian statistical system and Sample survey” for the BSc students of Statistics. The resource person was Supriya Roy, Deputy Director, General and Regional Head, in field operation division, National Sample Survey office. The lecture was followed by a session of career guidance on career prospect in Indian Statistical service by Supriya Roy. The program was organized by Stats Society.	Staff In charge: Ms. Piyali Unnikrishnan
Basic Course on SPSS	6 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Statistics department organized a summer workshop on SPSS software for FYBSc students. The resource person was Mayur More.	Staff In charge: Dr. Annapurna S.
Basic Excel course	Throughout the semester	Under the DBT Star status, the Statistics department conducted a Basic Excel course. The resource persons were Mr. Omkar Thakur and Mr. Mayur More faculty of department of Statistics.	FYBA & FYBSc Students Staff In charge: Mr. Mayur More (FYBSc) & Dr. Annapurna S (FYBA)
Course on Python	Throughout the semester	Under the DBT Star status, the Statistics department conducted a course on Python. The resource persons were Mr. Rohit Battacharyajee (for TYBA) and Mr. Debjyoti Paul and Saurav (for TYBSc).	Staff In charge: Ms. Piyali Unnikrishnan

## Teachers Activity for the year.

Event Name	Duration	Description
International Yoga Day	21/06/2022	Prof. Piyali organised a yoga session for the staff and students of our college.
Subject expert for CAS.	13/07/2022	Ms. Ayesha Dias went as a Subject Expert, Selection Committee for CAS - Sr. Scale & Selection Grade, Ruia College.
Visit	15/09/2022 and 16/09/2022	Mr. Mayur More visited University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore on 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 to contribute to the Farmers Education Program & Research Collaboration conducted by New Research Centre for Agricultural & Rural Studies of St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai.
Seminar attended	15/10/2022	Mr. Mayur More has participated in the One-day Seminar, “Recent Developments in Statistics” organized by Department of Statistics and alumni association, University of Mumbai, on the occasion of the platinum jubilee year of the department.
Workshop	18/10/2022	Department staff members Dr. Annapurna S & Mr. Mangesh Kutekar organized and conducted a one-day workshop for non-teaching staff of the college on “Creating a google form”.
		All the Department members assisted in the exam work of autonomous colleges and the University of Mumbai as paper setters and/or examiners and / or moderators as per the appointment they received.

Event Name	Duration	Description
Paper presentation	21/02/2023	Mr. Mayur More, Mr. Mangesh Kutekar & Mr. Omkar Thakur presented a paper on "Perspective of Degree college students in Mumbai towards Religious & Cultural Activities" at the International Conference on the theme 'Being Interconnected' hosted by the Department of Inter-Religious Studies at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
Guest Lecture	28/04/2023	Mr. Mayur More delivered a lecture for the MA Psychology students of SNTD Ghatkopar titled "Software packages for Statistical analysis"
Summer workshop	10/4/2023 and 11/4/2023	Dr. Annapurna S., Mayur More and Mangesh Kutekar were resource persons for a workshop on "Data management in social sciences" conducted by the Economics department of St. Xavier's College.
Visit	25/4/2023 to 28/4/2023	Mr. Mayur More visited some villages collecting agricultural information conducted by New Research Centre for Agricultural & Rural Studies of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. It was assisted by CARD NGO working for agricultural research and PDKV, Akola.

Rion D'Silva and Sarthak Sawant of TY BSc Statistics participated in a National Level Project Report Presentation Competition (Online Mode) jointly Organised by Departments of Statistics of St. Ann's College for Women and of Patna Women's College on 09-02-2023. They secured the first prize among the 22 teams that participated from across India. The topic of presentation was 'A Statistical Analysis of the Big 6 of the Premier League' which was very much appreciated by the judges.

Mr. Nikhil Pandit secured 9<sup>th</sup> position in 13<sup>th</sup> Statistics Olympiad 2023 conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 by C.R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (AIMSCS), Hyderabad.

The report of the Department would be incomplete without thanking

- Dr. Annapurna, for her role as Staff-in charge of the Alumni Liaison.
- Ms. Ayesha, for being the Staff in-charge of the Stats Society (the student body of the Department), Student Internships and Documentation work (for NAAC, IQAC etc) of the department.
- Ms. Piyali for being the Department coordinator for DBT and Honours Programme.
- Mr. Mayur More, Mr. Mangesh Kutekar and Mr. Omkar Thakur for the technical assistance he extended enthusiastically for all the Department programmes.
- Mr. Kishor Arbune, our Lab Attendant, who carried out all his duties with sincerity and cheerfulness.
- The Stats Society, headed by Chairperson Mr. Rishabh Chakraborty (TYBSc), Vice Chairperson Science, Arjun Sathaye, vice chairperson Arts Mr. Andrew D'souza (TYBA Eco-Stats), Class representatives Debashree Kesharwala, Nitya Basal, Kush Gandhi, Ruchira Sen, Krishna Chettiar, Mridul Jain, Asmi Rambia, Vedika Bajpayee and Antara Zaveri. their dedicated team of class representatives for assisting the department wholeheartedly in all its activities.
- The student editorial team headed by Mr. Aryaman Verma (TYBSc Stats), for the work done to release this year's issue of our department magazine, 'The Plot'.
- Mr. Lakshya Dugar (TYBSc) the team of Statisquo, our department blog, who worked actively with their team.

**Mr. Saju V. George**  
Head, Department of Statistics

# ZOOLOGY

The Department of Zoology had 157 students in the academic year 2022-23, (F.Y.B.Sc : 65, S.Y.B.Sc. : 33 and T.Y.B.Sc. : 31 students and remaining for Applied Component - Entomology).

The Department has the “Xavier’s Zoology Association” and also conducts the Honours programme in Zoology.

Dr. Madhuri Hambarde has taken over as Head, Department of Zoology from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 and was member of Governing Body and women representative of College Development Cell. She was also a member of Institutional Bio Safety Committee and a member of Lab Safety Committee.

Dr. Pushpa Sinkar was a member of the Custodian and Xavier’s Environment Committee. She was also the Convenor of the TAQ Committee and In-charge of the Xavier’s Zoology Association. She is a permanent Co-ordinator of “Diploma Course in Forensic Science and Criminal Law” and “Online Certificate Course in Forensic Science”.

Dr. Sujata Deshpande was a member of the editorial board of Xplore - The Xavier’s Research Journal and Resonance - The Journal of Science Education. She was also a member of the admission committee, Graduation committee and Lab safety committee. She acted as a department coordinator for the Honours Programme.

Conrad Cabral was the convener of the ERP committee and a member of the Admission, NIRF and NAAC committees. He was invited as an examiner for the TYBSc exam at Jhunjhunwala College, Mumbai. He was also asked to be part of the NEP syllabus committee in Zoology at the University of Mumbai.

Mr. Conrad Cabral and Sheetal Zend accompanied the T.Y.B.Sc students for an excursion to Matheran on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Ms. Sheetal Zend published a research paper titled “Spider (Arachnida: Araneae) diversity at Godrej mangroves, Vikhroli, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.” in *ENTOMON*, 47(3), 305–312. <https://doi.org/10.33307/entomon.v47i3.765> 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The Department faculty, namely Mr. Conrad Cabral, Dr. Sujata Deshpande and Ms. Sheetal Zend went for a Zoology excursion from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to Trivandrum with the T.Y.B.Sc. students.

On 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, on an occasion of XIC Media Fest 2022 ‘Ikshana’, students from various states visited the Zoology department and the lab. Ms. Khushi Chibbar (T.Y.B.Sc student), and Ms. Nandini Iyar (S.Y.B.Sc. student) along with Ms. Sheetal Zend explained the specimens to the students. The visit was organized by Prof Niharika (XIC) and Dr. Madhuri Hambarde.

Dr. Madhuri, Dr. Pushpa, Dr. Sujata, Mr. Conrad and Ms. Sheetal accompanied the S.Y.B.Sc. students for an educational trip to Govardhan Cheese factory, Mancher on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, Dr. Pushpa, Mr. Conrad and Ms. Sheetal along with T.Y.B.Sc. Entomology students went to the Central Bee Research and Training Institute, and MIT Pune where they attended a lecture on “Career Guidance in Zoology”.

Dr. Pushpa attended a two day national webinar on “Transforming Higher Educational Institutions” aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) organised by R. Jhunjhunwala College, Ghatkopar on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

F.Y.B.Sc. students along with Dr. Sujata, Ms. Sheetal and Mr. Conrad went for a beach walk to Juhu on 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 organized by United Way Mumbai and a naturalist explorer NGO.

Dr. Sujata Deshpande published the following articles: 1. Deshpande, S. (2022) A Simple Idea to Understand Complexity. *Resonance* 27, 2033–2044. 2. Deshpande, S. (2022) Lewis Wolpert (19 October 1929–28 January 2021). *Resonance* 27, 2027–2031. 3. Deshpande, S., Deshpande, K. (2022) Life Under Water. *Resonance* 27, 1469. 4. Deshpande, S., Waghe, R. (2023) Life Under Water. *Resonance* 28, 347 (2023).

Dr. Sujata attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> NIUS-ALAP (National Initiative for Undergraduate Science – Advancing Laboratory Pedagogy) meeting at HBCSE from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Ms. Sheetal Zend attended the 6<sup>th</sup> SpiderMeet (Hands-on spider workshop) organized by SpiderIndia at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Prof. Surendra Ghaskadbi from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, India gave a lecture on “Stem Cells and Regeneration in Hydra” on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

A Meeting of the Board of Studies in Zoology was held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023. and was attended by Dr. Satish Sarfare, Dr. Saroj Ghaskadbi, Dr. V.S. Desai and Dr. Roshan D’Souza and all the faculty members of the Department.

3 students of TYBSc Zoology were awarded certificate of honours for the year 2022-23.



**Dr. Madhuri Hambarde**  
Head, Department of Zoology

# CAMPUS DYNAMISM





# ECC

With the reopening of the college campus after two long years of pandemic, 2022-2023 witnessed remarkable enthusiasm among students. From a count of just twenty in the beginning of the year, the student team of the Extra-Curricular Committee transformed into a strong team of four hundred and thirty by the end of their tenure. Apart from conducting more than 40 events in just one semester, the ECC has been involved in managing the biggest of college events with passion and purpose, thereby promoting the spirit of holistic development in every student of our college.

## Marquee Events:



From promoting student talent through various concerts, workshops and plays to organising and providing assistance in several events with dignitaries like Vidya Balan, Yashaswini Dayama, Shilpa Rao, Satish Ray, Pooja Dhingra and many more, the ECC has worked throughout the year.

In addition to the regular job of keeping a record of ECC points of all students, this year, our team initiated a number of practices which we wish, will continue to harness their full potential.

‘The Confluence’ served as the very first inter-society conference of our college to promote networking and collaborations. Here, along with furthering the understanding and implementation of ECC points, we promoted a significantly more collaborative environment which was subsequently realised very effectively by all committees. We also laid the foundation of the college-wide extra-curricular calendar to be shared amongst all the students so they could be informed of events across all committees.

We also initiated the ‘Road to the Trad Day’ concept giving everyone clothing prompts which were very well-received by all. One of our reels, recreating the Bollywood song “Kabhi Kabhi Aditi” was picked up by prime-time news

and featured in various newspapers. Furthermore, we released our college’s first poetry anthology - *Rara Avis*. Clearly, it was a great year for our sub-committees, in particular – Fitoor and the Xavier’s Film Society. Fitoor organized a number of workshops throughout the year, concluding with the widely successful – Jashn-e-Fitoor. Similarly, through its workshops, the XFS helped the students’ gain advanced exposure to the nuances of filmmaking. We also managed the Xavier’s contingent at several fests, winning many accolades along the way.

Be it Nrithyangan, the Christmas Fiesta, the LFL workshops, and so much more – this list has the potential to be truly endless, thanks to the sheer determination and dedication of the team. We have worked tirelessly to create a vibrant and inclusive campus culture, offering students a multitude of opportunities beyond the classroom. The success and impact of our events, initiatives, and collaborations speak volumes about the commitment of our team members. However, there is still potential to be tapped, and, with unwavering enthusiasm and a shared vision, we believe the Extra-Curricular Committee will continue to thrive and make a positive difference in the lives of our college community.



“Cheers beautiful people, this is where you get to make it right.”

Convenor - Dr. Ashma Aggarwal

Cultural Secretaries – Lakshya Dugar & Anushka Yadav

Coordinator of Administration – Ruth D’Souza

Coordinator of Learning for Life – Crystal Karkera

Coordinator of Public Relations – Rhea Soans

Coordinator of Western Performing Arts (Music) – Tamanna Aggarwal

Coordinator of Western Performing Arts (Dance) – Anvita Vinu

Coordinator of Indian Performing Arts (Music) – Akshata Sambyal

Coordinator of Indian Performing Arts (Dance) – Sargam Bahl

Coordinator of Fine Arts – Vedha Bhasin

Coordinator of Literary Arts – Dewansh Chauhan

Coordinator of Arjun. – Arjun Sathaye

Coordinator of Finance – Rishabh Chakraborty & Jayant Singh

Coordinator of Security & Logistics – Eashan Jairam

Coordinator of Technicals – Daniel Borges

Heads of Fitoor – Yash Mishra & Meghna Banjan

Heads of Xavier's Film Society – Thomas K. Alex

Compiled by: **Anushka Agarwal**  
Student Secretary

## LANGUAGE LAB

The Language Lab has been serving as a source of soft skills and language assistance for the past 16 years to the students of UG, PG and Junior college. The academic year 2022-23 began with the Lab utilizing funds received from the RUSA. It has established new language learning software and latest books on self-study and pedagogy, including assistive learning tools for students with disabilities. Computer hardware purchased through RUSA is compatible with the new language learning software, that comes with a five-level Grammar program focusing on LSRW, exam practice material and other languages. The 13 Voices in NVDA screen reader are available on 4 devices in the Language Lab along with a C-Pen Reader Pen, and an eBook Player-cum-recorder. Topics of Books purchased through the RUSA include texts on creative writing, language fluency techniques and latest pedagogical practices.

### Programmes through New Software

A batch of students from FY-BCom completed a 2-month Marathi to Elementary English course from January 2023 to March 2023. 21 students from SY-BSc joined a 4-hour course on intermediate writing skills and students with low vision began to improve reading speed through the scanning pen. With the post-lockdown situation, virtual remedial classes continued alongside physical ones in April 2023. Some of the topics included, Interview and Public Speaking Skills. When it came to online remedial coaching, referrals for students came from subject teachers in the Sciences, Commerce and Arts stream. In addition, a Public

Speaking workshop was conducted on Maharashtra Day, 2023 which concluded the academic year for language Lab.

### Workshops for Non-Teaching Staff

The Language Lab organized two series of workshops for the non-teaching staff of St. Xavier's College in June and September 2022. The aim of these workshops was to build a learning environment on campus which can be characterized by inclusiveness as one its most integral attributes. 15 participants across the General Office, Treasurer's Office, Office of Social Involvement Programme, the Library, and the Exams Control Room attended the sessions starting from rudimentary definitions in professional correspondence and the use of workplace vocabulary in conversation. The learnings through role plays went on to reinforce the usage of idioms and phrasal verbs in office discussions. The objective of the workshop, which was to establish a degree of comfort for engaging in day-to-day communication using the right words, was well achieved.

### Scientific Communication Skills

Three sessions comprising of presentation skills, summary writing and book review writing were conducted for the second-year students of Mathematics from September 2022 to November 2022. Sessions were organized in the Language Lab that enabled the instructor to use audio visual media as well as group activities for executing the session in different ways.

### Honors Programme

The Honours Programme through Language Lab was conducted from January 2023 to March 2023 on the theme '*Language in Science Journalism: Responsible Use of Language in Scientific Writing*'. This 15-hour course included individual assignments by participants on press release writing, column writing, science documentary review writing, lectures by the Language Lab coordinator on different types and the significance of journalistic writing and a participant group discussion on critical analysis of the role of science journalism. One transfer credit was given to the students on successful completion of the course. The objective was to create scientific awareness among the masses, the importance of which is pressing, now more than ever.

The instructor, Ms. Jyoti P. More completed a one year '*Training Course in Science Journalism*' conducted by the Indian Science Communication Society. She also attended a three-day 16<sup>th</sup> International Annual Conference '*Indian ELT – Imitative or Generative?*' conducted by ELTAI in December 2022 in Mumbai.

The Language Lab is looking forward to a wider range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities as we enter AY 2023-24. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde for his constant support. We also extend special thanks to all the Vice Principals and professors who motivate our students to walk in to the Language Lab for linguistic and soft skills consultation.

**Ms. Jyoti P. More**  
Faculty-in-Charge

# STUDENT INCLUSION CELL (SIC)

The goal of the SIC this year was to adapt to the transition from the online mode of functioning to the offline space, and to conduct events and projects in our capacity which would add to the diversity and inclusivity on campus.

The SIC Core Committee 2022-23 comprised of **24 members** divided into four departments - the **Events team** that managed all the activities and sessions including the SIC Honors Course (conducted by resource persons from the XRCVC – Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged) and the book club; the **Media and PR team** which managed the SIC’s Instagram page and on-campus PR activities; the **Accessibility Services team** which worked on student-led projects to make the campus more accessible; and the **Inclusive Education Services department** that worked in collaboration with XRCVC and managed the Writer’s Pool and help in coordination with the SIP volunteers and mentors.

The first event of the year was the **Pride Open-Mic conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, and helped the committee achieve the objective of giving queer students a platform, especially during Pride month, and also to establish the presence of SIC in college as the event was conducted in the College Foyer.

Following this, and to continue collaborating with other student committees, **‘Washed Out’** was conducted in collaboration with **Theory Club of St. Xavier’s College on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022** in the **Wellness Centre**. The event was a discussion on how the rains disproportionately affect different sections of society, and was facilitated by Professor Ankita Gujar of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of St. Xavier’s College. A small-scale and meaningful discussion in its nature of facilitating a discourse on the relationship between rain and privilege, and helped SIC engage with students in college interested in having this open dialogue.

On **14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**, there was an **orientation** which was organized for

students with disability, which gave the students a chance to get to know each other, and they were further oriented to the activities of the XRCVC and the SIC. This event was also where the talks for a future event conducted in the even semester of the year began, i.e. the idea for a sports event for students with disabilities.

The activities for the even semester started with the **Diversity Discourse**, the SIC Honors Program, conducted in collaboration with XRCVC, and Professor Krishna Warriar being the resource person. The Honors program offers 1 credit in the Interdisciplinary Hub and is conducted over the span of 5 days, which include 5 sessions on each day for 2 hours each. This year, again due to the popularity of the course and large number of registrations, 2 batches were conducted, **first from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022, and the second from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**, with 25 seats in each batch offered on a first-come first-serve basis.

On **10<sup>th</sup> December 2022**, Accessibility Services collaborated with the Events team and the Media and PR team to organize the **Digital Canteen Menu Launch**. The aim of this project was to make the canteen menu more accessible for visually challenged students and others who may have trouble accessing the menu through on-campus boards. The same was achieved by putting QR codes for the menu website around the college, and the website was made by a fellow student, who was also a part of the SIC last year, **Varun Kumar**. Varun was guided and supported in this endeavour by Sushil Pandit of the XRCVC.

On **15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**, in collaboration with the Literary Arts department of the Extra Curricular Committee of St. Xavier’s College, the event titled ‘Colloquies’ was conducted, which included discussions centered around books and movies.

On **16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**, a cricket match was organized for visually challenged students, and the event

was titled **‘Cricket ODI - Our day of Inclusion’**, and this was organized in collaboration with visually challenged students, who also managed to get sponsors for trophy and food for all the team members. The trophies and equipment were sourced through the collaborative efforts of Varun Kumar and the XRCVC.

The last event for the academic year 2022-23, **Braille Workshop**, was conducted on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, in collaboration with the Muskan Foundation**, and 2 ECC points were offered to the attendees as it was an interactive workshop. The aim was to familiarize students with Braille and the instruments which can be used to write Braille.

Throughout the year, the Events team also managed the book club - Turn the Page, and encouraged people to read books like A Room Called Earth by Madeline Ryan, Ghost by Jason Reynolds and many more.

Furthermore, throughout the year, Media and PR conducted various online campaigns and offline PR activities, aimed at increasing awareness. A **collaboration with Saksham Disability**, led to an online campaign centered around awareness on how to improve accessibility of social media posts. The various posts throughout the year were centered around topics like microaggressions, accidental accessibility, and queer representation which were disseminated through the SIC’s Instagram page.

The Inclusive Education Services department worked year-round to help extend the XRCVC’s service on the **Writer’s Pool Program**, which is a network organized to connect students with disabilities with prospective writers for their examinations, like the sit-down internal assessment tests and end semester examinations.

Throughout the year, the department, **in collaboration with XRCVC**, also managed **student volunteers, for the roles of readers, tutors, class buddies and accessible study material creators** for students with disabilities.

The goal of Student Inclusion Cell has always been to increase the extent of accessibility and inclusivity of diversity on campus, and there is room for more autonomous growth, creative ideation, and execution with collaborations with different organisations with caste, gender, secular inclusivity. While

established by and under the mission of the XRCVC, the SIC maintains itself as a relatively independent student body. The SIC team is immensely grateful to the contribution of the XRCVC in terms of guidance, support, training, and funding as needed for the scope and range of events conducted,

and objectives achieved owing to the strength of this collaboration.

**Rashmi Ijari**

Overall Lead - 2022-2023

**Ms. Ankita Gujar**

Faculty-in-charge - 2022-2023

## SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMME (SIP)

The SIP is an integral aspect of education in St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai. The academic year 2022-2023 was special as the SIP Department had placed 852 SY students from all streams, in 136 NGOs across India to offer their services through the online mode. Again, the SIP Department had organised for 497 FYBA, FYBA (MCJ) & FYBAF student volunteers to physically co-partner with 119 NGOs from across Mumbai and its satellite urban spaces. The SIP Department is grateful to all the NGOs which assisted it in giving the student volunteers a chance to serve those at the margins of society, which is the Jesuit mandate in this College.

Following is a brief category-wise description of the online and offline social service activities undertaken by student-volunteers with NGOs:

### DIFFERENTLY-ABLED :

**Online Mode :** 62 student-volunteers (i.e., 7.3% of those who completed the SIP commitment). Apart from the usual SIP activities, the student volunteers had initiated the following services:

- Helping NGOs with data entry and attendance record-keeping of Differently-Abled Students (D.A.S.).
- Conducting surveys to understand the challenges the D.A.S. face in their daily routine – even retrospectively during COVID-19 pandemic period.
- Informing D.A.S. (via telephonic conversations) about NGO facilities and of the physical activities like yoga, football and other sporting skills that they can avail of.

- Conducting online workshops on the art of making paper envelope, candles, beads, etc.

**Offline Mode :** 98 student-volunteers (i.e., 20% of those who completed the SIP commitment). Apart from the usual SIP activities, the student volunteers had initiated the following services:

- Analysing micro entrepreneurship and skill development programmes for D.A.S.
- Undertaking telephonic (need-based) surveys with D.A.S.
- Helping D.A.S. involved NGOs by being 'Shadow-Teachers', making educational flash cards, conducting various art and craft activities.
- Collecting donations in kind and cash for various D.A.S. involved NGOs.
- Conducting holistic vocational skill training for persons with disability through creative therapeutic and physical interventions.

### ELDERLY:

**Online Mode :** 33 (3.9%) student-volunteers. Student volunteers served by participating in the following usual SIP activities:

- Engaging with senior citizens who live in Homes for the Aged by conducting for them NGO prescribed mentally stimulating activities.
- Entertaining such senior citizens by holding recreational activities for them.

**Offline Mode :** 8 (2%) student-volunteers. Apart from the student volunteers serving through usual SIP activities, some of them, under NGO

supervision, participated as surveyors in a survey on abandoned elders living in the slums of Thane.

### EDUCATION:

**Online Mode :** 423 (49.6%) student-volunteers. Along with the usual SIP activities like tutoring children, preparing study materials dispensing information to client groups about the availability of apt jobs, the student volunteers also initiated the following services:

- Documenting the NGOs' students' projects.
- Conducting Trauma Awareness Sessions for underprivileged children (during pandemic) as well as career guidance workshops for underprivileged students who had appeared for Board Examinations.

**Offline Mode :** 355 (71%) student-volunteers. Along with the usual SIP activities like tutoring the NGOs' students academically, playing games with them and celebrating festivals, the student volunteers also initiated the following services:

- Organising book drives in various housing societies and then donating the books collected to NGOs.
- Preparing study modules and charts for the NGOs' students.
- Conducting Career Guidance workshops for underprivileged students who had appeared for Board Examinations.

### HEALTH:

**Online Mode :** 7 (0.8%) of the student-volunteers. Apart from the usual SIP activities like conducting health campaigns, assisting therapists

of Parkinson patients, recording case history of cancer patients, the student volunteers had initiated services like:

- Participating in the NGO's online exercise and laughter sessions conducted for individuals suffering from depression.
- Assisting patients with HIV tests and the required documentation.

**Offline Mode :** 14 (3%) of the student-volunteers. Apart from the usual SIP activities like conducting awareness sessions with some on health issues, visiting in-patients in hospitals and interacting with poor patients in Community Centres, the student volunteers had initiated services like:

- Coordinating with various hospitals, healthcare workers, medical shops for health sponsorships for needy patients.
- Organising hygiene and cleanliness awareness drives in slum communities.

**WOMEN:**

**Online Mode :** 41 (4.8%) student volunteers. Apart from SIP's usual activities of helping NGOs in documenting the case histories of their women client groups, the student volunteers had also served by:

- Conducting sessions on employment opportunities and on women issues like menstrual hygiene.
- Interviewing women from Latur to record their trials and tribulations.
- Writing reports (in story format) of those women who have successfully become women entrepreneurs.

**Offline Mode :** 11 (2%) student volunteers. Apart from the usual SIP activity of spreading awareness about rights of women, organising meetings with SHGs to plan intervention strategies that could alleviate their issues, the student volunteers had initiated the following services:

- Distributing pamphlets door-to-door, to make women aware about the various prevention mechanisms they can deploy against them being abused.
- Organising sports for the children of SHGs' members.

**SOCIAL AWARENESS:**

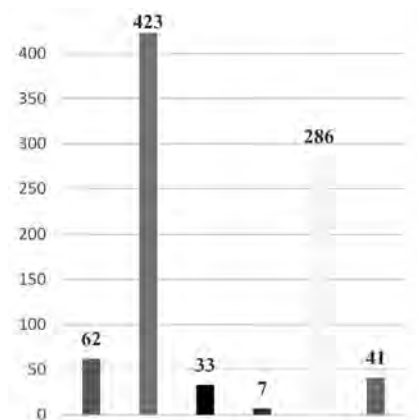
**Online Mode :** 286 (33.6%) student-volunteers. Apart from SIP's usual activities of creating virtual posters on social issues, **conducting** online workshops on health and hygiene and **soliciting** monetary assistance for NGOs, the student volunteers had served by:

- Actively participating in NGO organised online sessions on issues like mental health and grief management.
- Conducting research on different medical centres, hospitals, blood banks and nursing homes to check regarding their helpline services.

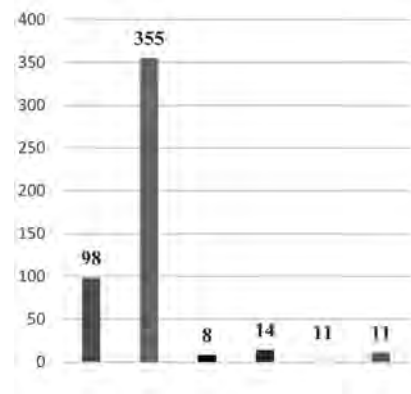
**Offline Mode :** 11 (2%) student-volunteers. Apart from the usual SIP activities of interacting with some of Mumbai's homeless citizens to understand their needs and struggles so that NGOs could curate appropriate interventions, the student volunteers also served by distributing nutritious food items to homeless citizens.

**Graphical Presentation of the NGO Categories in which Student Volunteers served**

**Number of SY Students (Online Mode)**



**Number of FY Students (Offline Mode)**



Differently-abled	Health	Elderly
Education	Social Awareness	Women

**Photographs of some of the SIP Activities in 2022-2023**

**OFFLINE MODE**

**Differently-abled**

Umed, Vasai



**Health**

Access Life, Chembur



**Dr. Agnelo Menezes**

Head, Social Involvement Program

## SOCIAL SERVICE LEAGUE (SSL)

After two years of online and hybrid college, we at the Social Service League were elated to be back on campus and resume all projects in their pre-pandemic manner. The SSL had six projects, and several internal and external collaborations throughout the year. The team, comprising 19 motivated individuals, worked passionately to uphold the SSL's "Where Goodwill meets Opportunity" motto. Some of our highlights included the return of team-building at Khandala, Project Care Kids Mela and Rural Camp after the pandemic, a record number of donations at the biannual Blood Drive, and our first collaboration with the Extra Curricular Committee and Child Rights & You (CRY). Team-building was conducted in August 2022 at the St. Xavier's Villa in Khandala and hosted 80 Xavierites. Here, the attendees engaged with a series of interactive sessions on team-building, conducted by Fr. Vivian and Fr. Gordon.

Another event, the Rural Camp, was conducted for the first time after 2019. Held in Mano, the camp

was attended by 42 students, 2 staff members and 7 ex-campers who engaged in manual labour for over ten days, including activities such as weeding and levelling fields, building a drainage canal and the like. Similarly, Project Care Kids conducted sessions with children from two NGOs throughout the year, with a mix of educational and fun topics. Furthermore, the PC Mela hosted children from three NGOs, who spent two days in college with volunteers, engaging in fun and interactive activities, including a field trip to the Nehru Science Centre. Student volunteers at the PC Mela successfully engaged the children in creative activities such as dance and Tie & Dye workshops.

The SSL's biannual Blood Drives received donations from more than 500 donors, which would aid Thalassemia patients and other recipients. The Blood Drive collaborated with two Blood Banks that ensured a smooth and safe blood donation process for all. The SSL's Project Paint and Workshops resumed offline sessions,

which brought together students for the common cause of social service. We had four Project Paints and four Workshops in the academic year. The collaboration with the ECC and the NGO 'CRY' was titled "It's a Girl Thing", where four eminent personalities came on campus for a Panel discussion. In addition, Project Outreach played a crucial role in publicising SSL activities and ensuring participation in the same.

The SSL therefore had an eventful and successful academic year with several memorable moments to look back to.



Compiled by **Ronit Shah**  
General Secretary, SSL

## WELLNESS CENTRE

The Wellness Centre aims at helping students respond to the college motto "challenging to fly" which means helping them to rise to a state of high physical, mental, and social well-being. Hence the Wellness Centre offered two kinds of service during 2022-23.

First, we offered **aptitude testing and career counselling** for students who need help in choosing their career path, and understanding how to develop their brain power. About 500 students of SXC and other places used this facility.

WelCen's other service was **psychological counselling** available for students with mental health problems like depression, anxiety attacks, etc. During the previous years and before Covid, one professionally trained counsellor handled such cases.

This past year, due to a marked rise in the number of students needing help, a second counsellor was made available.

The Wellness Centre also nurtures a variety of activities to showcase student talents through our student groups: **Student Support Group, The Theory Club, Humans of Xaviers, and Open Music Evenings.**

### **Student Support Group:**

This group organised college tours on the days of Orientation programmes for freshers to get to know the complex campus.

This year, because of a felt need, they organised a Mental Health Enhancement Session on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with Dr. Nirmala Almeida as facilitator.

Instagram handle: @studentsupportgroupxsc

### **The Theory Club**

The Theory Club was set up to make students feel the excitement of using ideas to change the world.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022: The Theory Club conducted an open discussion on "**Being Apolitical: Is it a myth?**" led by Professor Radhika Rani, of the department of Sociology and Anthropology.

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022: "**Abortion and Autonomy -- who decides?**" was the topic of an open discussion covering whether the state has the right to make abortion illegal, how much power we have over our lives, and whose decision is final.

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022: **Video Games as Art.** The event presented Video Games as a possible art form. This went on to a long group discussion on the video gaming industry.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022: **Washed Out.** This was a discussion, organised in collaboration with the Student Inclusion Cell, on how the rains disproportionately affect the rich the poor, and the disabled.



August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022: **The Ethics of Charity.** This event was the most popular event of the year with

over 100 participating. This was a discussion on understanding the motivation, morals and consequences of charity.

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022: **The Universe and Objectivity.**

The speaker of the event was Theory Club member, Neel Kolhe. He led the discussion on amazing concepts and viewpoints such as Objectivity, Determinism, Free Will, etc.

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 : **Wellness and Illness**

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022: **Not all Men**

This event was an open discussion centred around the background of the #metoo movement, where women protested and shared their experiences about rape, assault, etc. and the response to this hashtag was #notallmen.

**Humans of Xavier's**

HoX is a part of the Wellness Centre that is a platform to highlight the rich

diversity that characterises Xavier's and allows each one to share his or her or their unique story.

It uses an Instagram page to share these touching and inspiring tidbits of one's life, the way it happened for you at Xavier's. This is their third year and during that time they have had 292 stories posted by students and faculty.

Initially, it was only for the students of SXC, Mumbai. However, due to requests from students from other Jesuit institutions to include their stories, last year HoX was opened to students of all Jesuit institutions. It has reached over 1M people.

Instagram handle:  
@officialhumansofxaviers

Because of various reasons, **Open Music Evenings** did not have any events this year.

**Fr. Francis de Melo, S.J.**  
Head, Wellness Centre

*"Nature has given us all the pieces required to achieve exceptional wellness and health, but has left it to us to put these pieces together."*

– Diane McLaren

*"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."*

– Herman Melville



*RESEARCH*



# BLATTER HERBARIUM

During the academic year 2022-23, the blatter Herbarium was completely open to carry out all the activities in a normal way after two years of lockdown due to Covid-19. A total of 181 visitors from research and educational institutes came to Blatter Herbarium for various purposes. There were 19 visits to see the herbarium specimens and refer to the library of the herbarium.

Throughout the year, the work of weeding of old journals such as all the volumes and issues of Journal Bombay Natural History Society and reprints of the articles maintained in the box files at the library of Blatter Herbarium was carried out under the guidance of Mr. Alok Gude and with the help of students from the Department of Botany and College SIP students. All the reprints were scanned before weeding them out. Ms. Asta D'souza and Mr. Wilfred Aman Marki of SYBSc Botany worked during the summer vacation for scanning of books and reprints.

## College visits

There were 14 visits of undergraduate students from colleges affiliated to University of Mumbai, as a visit to herbarium is a part of Mumbai University Botany syllabus.

## Plant Specimen Authentication

The herbarium was visited by many researchers from colleges and pharmaceutical industry to get their plant specimens identified and authenticated. A total of 113 plant specimens were authenticated and 134 certificates issued to respective research students.

## NGO visit

Muktangan an NGO that works in educating the teachers from municipal schools and also carries outreach through collaborative learning and capacity building, also visited the herbarium along with 80 students from schools, so as to make these children aware of places of scientific importance.

## Rusa Grant

Under RUSA 2.0 scheme of Government of Maharashtra, about 4.5 lakh rupees were spent to upgrade the herbarium scanner and its software, and a smart book scanner and visualiser, along with Network Storage Box having 4 hard drives of 8 TB each were purchased and installed.



*Somaiya College Visit*

**Mr. Alok Gude**  
In-charge Head,  
Department of Botany

# CAIUS RESEARCH LABORATORY

## Students Working in the laboratory:

Two PhD students Ms. Mubasshira Shaikh and Mr. Saurabh Oswal work in the laboratory for research leading to PhD. Mr. Kaushik Inamdar, Faculty, Department of Microbiology also carries out his research work leading to PhD.

The following are project/ intern students: Ms. Lisa Sequeira (Harmony Organics Pvt. Ltd.), Ms. Nishi Sharma and Ms. Medeline Joseph (Lady Bamford Foundation), Ms. Sae Jishi and Mr. Varad Chavan (Internship students).

## Industry – Academia Research Projects

1. MoU was signed between Harmony Organics Pvt Ltd, Pune and St. Xavier's College, Mumbai for Fermentation Process Development to Produce Small Molecules used as Fragrances,

Flavours and Nutraceuticals. The duration of the project will be 12 months. The work will be initiated on 01 August 2022 in Caius Research Laboratory, St. Xavier's College, grant amount of Rs. 2,12,400/-. Ms. Lisa Sequeira was the project assistant appointed for carrying out the work.

2. MoU was signed between Lady Bamford Foundation, and St. Xavier's College, Mumbai for development of methods to determine the adulteration in Natural Indigo and Indian Madder, wef 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, for a grant amount of Rs. 39,40,000/-. Ms. Nishi Sharma and Ms. Medeline Joseph were the project students appointed to carry out the research work.

## Honours Certificate Program:

During the year 2022-23 three honors programs were conducted by Caius research Laboratory:

1. **Frontiers in Biology** - an interdisciplinary approach: One credit program conducted in an online mode which focused on the recent trends in research in the field of biology involving interdisciplinary approach. Dr. Vivek Narayan, Dr. Sharon D'Souza, Dr. Anand Krishnan, Dr. Leena Joshi, Dr. Priya Sundarajan and Mr. Kevin Abraham were the resource persons for the program. A total of six students participated in the program.
2. **An Honour's Program of two credits was conducted by the laboratory on "Analytical Techniques in Research (Basic Level)" between 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>**

**March 2023. A total of 11 students from FYBSc Life Science and Microbiology participated in the program. Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar and Dr. Priya Sundarrajan were the resource persons.**

3. A summer workshop on “Protein purification and Protein crystallization” was conducted between 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This was also a two-credit honors program. Three SYBSc, eight TYBSc and one MSc students of St. Xavier’s College participated in the workshop. The students were given hands on training in protein purification techniques and the workshop was well appreciated by them. **Dr. Vishwas Sarangdhar and Dr. Priya Sundarrajan were the resource persons.**

#### **Popular Lectures:**

The following popular lecture organized for the students and faculty of colleges in Mumbai:

A popular lecture was organized on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, in Collaboration with Indian Women Scientists' Association supported by DAE -BRNS. Dr. Sorab Dalal, Professor and Scientific Officer H, ACTREC, gave a talk on “The Role of Genetics in Modern Biology: Why Mendel still matters”. The talk was organized to commemorate 200 years of Mendel. The participants were faculty and students from different colleges of Mumbai, 55 of them attended the talk.

#### **Extension, Training and workshops conducted:**

1. A tour of CIF was conducted for the MSc I and II students of Botany, Biotechnology, Life Science and Microbiology between 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023. The students were shown and explained about the various instruments in CIF, which could be useful for practical and project work.
2. A hands-on workshop on “Cell culture techniques” was organized for the students of final year

B. Pharm from VES college of Pharmacy on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022. The 20 students accompanied by their faculty participated in the hands-on workshop.

3. A hands-on workshop on microbiology techniques was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 for 14 students of MSc 2 of Food Processing and Preservation, Nirmala Niketan. The students were highlighted on techniques such as preparation of media, plating techniques and staining techniques.
4. A demonstration of HPTLC was organized for MSc II students on 13/12/22.
5. A tour of the CIF was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 for the students of FYBSc Life Sciences, KC College, HSNL University. The purpose of the visit was to expose the students to advanced research methods in the field of science
6. A demonstration of Gas Chromatography was organized for the MSc II Biotechnology students on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.
7. As part of the National Science Day Celebration, an Open Day was organized by the lab on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. A total of 55 students from FYJC to MSc visited the lab and were exposed to advanced research methods and techniques.
8. A tour of CIF was conducted for 80 students and 10 staff members from Muktangan Education Trust on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The purpose of the visit was to expose the students to advanced research methods in the field of science and humanities.

#### **Oral Presentations in National and International Conference**

1. Priya Sundarrajan, Bee Microbiome: Insight into Host-Microbe Evolution and Bee Health. International Congress on Bee Sciences, Turkey, held online 16-17-18<sup>th</sup>, June 2022.

2. Priya Sundarrajan. Ketakee Dharmadhikari and Trisha Roy. Characterization of Bioethanol Producing Yeasts isolated from *Gracinia indica* (Kokum) and *Syzygium cumini* (Jamun). International Conference on Sustainability: Integrated and Scientific Approach (ICS 2022) conducted by University of Mumbai between 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

3. Mubasshira Mazharul Haque. Utilization Of Potato Peel Extract as a Source of Natural Antioxidant and Incorporation Into Value Added Products. Participated and won the third prize for oral presentation in the competition UTKARSH, held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, organised by Department of Food Nutrition and Dietetics, Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science and Indian Dietetic Association, Mumbai Chapter.

4. Saurabh Oswal. Targeting Polycomb group of proteins in neurodegenerative diseases with naturally occurring phytochemicals: an in-silico study for drug development. International conference on recent advances in science technology humanities and management, Vaze College, on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

5. Priya Sundarrajan and Nandini Kasarpalkar. In vitro Toxicity evaluation of cadmium and lithium using human peripheral leukocytes as a model system. Third International Congress on Biological and Health Sciences, Turkey, held online between 14-16 April 2023.

#### **Book Chapters:**

1. Priya Sundarrajan and Lekha Bhagtaney. Chapter 11, Biotechnologically engineered transgenic medicinal plants: Exploration of antidiabetic properties. pp 279 – 324. In Book titled: Antidiabetic potential of plants in the era of omics. Publishers – CRC press, Apple academic press, Editors: Deepu

Pandita, Anu Pandita and Chander Bhanu, ISBN ebook: 9781003282860, 2023.

2. Kevin Abraham and Priya Sundarrajan, Chapter 12 Omics Technologies in Crop Development pp 118 – 135, In Agriculture Science: Research and Reviews Volume X, Bhumi publishing, Maharashtra. ISBN: 978-93-91768-88-1, November 2022.
3. Pandohee, J. Ritee Basu, Sukanya Dasgupta, Priya Sundarrajan, Nusrat Shaikh, Nimisha Patel and Ayesha Noor (2023). pp-103-118. Applications of Multi-omics Approaches for Food and Nutritional Security. In: Prakash, C.S., Fiaz, S., Nadeem, M.A., Baloch, F.S., Qayyum, A. (eds) Sustainable Agriculture in the Era of the OMICs Revolution. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-15568-0\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-15568-0_5). (Published 01 January 2023), Online ISBN 978-3-031-15568-0.
4. Additiya Paramanya, Nimisha Patel, Dinesh Kumar, Kamal Fatima Zahra, Belkis Muca Yiğit, Priya Sundarrajan, Praina Balyan, Johra Khan and Ahmad Ali. Chapter 24: Preventive

Roles of Phytochemicals from *Ficus carica* in Diabetes and Its Secondary Complications. Fig (*Ficus carica*): Production, Processing, and Properties. Food Bioactive Ingredients, M. F. Ramadan (ed.). ISBN: 978-3-031-16492-7. Publisher Springer International Publishing AG, Switzerland. Feb 2023.

5. Lekha Bhagtaney and. Priya Sundarrajan. (2023) An Overview of Tools for Genome Editing: ZFNs, Mega Nucleases, and TALENs Chapter 2. pp37-64 In CRISPR/CAS-Mediated Genome Editing in Plants, Edited by Deepu Pandita and Anu Pandita First edition, Apple Academic Press Inc. CRC Press. (hardcover) | ISBN 9781774912133 (softcover) | ISBN 9781003331759 (ebook).

### Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF)

The full air-conditioned state of the art CIF 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 Shimadzu 1700 and 2700, Thermal cycler, CO2 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. Some instruments procured through the DBT- Builder Grant like HPTLC, Q PCR, Fluorescence microscope are also housed in the laboratory. A fully functional Animal Tissue Culture facility is available, where research using animal cell lines by faculty and students is being carried out.



**Demonstration on HPTLC – 13/12/22**

**Dr. Priya Sundarrajan**

Director,  
Caius Research Laboratory and CIF

# DEPARTMENT OF INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES (DIRS)

Under the guidance of Director **Dr. (Fr.) Keith D'Souza SJ** and Faculty Advisor **Dr. Radha Kumar**, the student team of the Department of Inter-Religious Studies held several academic public lectures and other events promoting the central theme of **DIRS 2022-23: *Being Interconnected***.

## Journal

DIRS released a Student Journal on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. The Journal was titled *Sangam*, focused on the theme *Ekam*. The journal aimed to cast aside differences and work towards harmony, in a world that is becoming increasingly polarized. The journal features themes of culture, civilization, science, psychology, heritage, history, and symbolism, among other topics.

## Podcast

DIRS started a new series of podcasts in the year 2023 called *The Jātaka Series*. Through this series we journey into the fascinating *Jātaka* tales which revolve around the previous births of Gautama Buddha. Along the way they conversed with several intriguing personalities, voyaging into their lives.



## Blogs

The writers of the DIRS student team continued the Blog Series “The Laughing Hippo”, with a new angle this year, revolving around the theme of “Being Interconnected”.

## Quieting the Overthinking Mind

“Quieting the Overthinking Mind” was a session organized by DIRS and

conducted by Fr. Francis de Melo. The objective was to allow students to indulge in meditation and take a break from the stress that surrounds them, be it academic, personal or otherwise. The Meditation series was conducted every week on Tuesday in the form of two sessions, one at 10.30am and the other at 11.20am. The sessions were conducted in the Heras Institute of the College.

## The Ambedkar Lecture 2022

The DIRS Ambedkar Lecture for this year was delivered by Prof. Vinay Lal, Professor of History and Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), under the moderation of Prof. Dr. Agnelo Menezes, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 2022. The Online Lecture titled, “The Architecture of Protest: The Constitution, Non-Violence and Activism”, had a total of 90 attendees, most of whom were students from the college.

## The DIRS Orientation 2022

The DIRS organized its orientation session on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 to get the students well versed with its functioning, events, programmes, courses, etc. A total of 144 students attended the event, along with one faculty member.

## World Peace Day

World Peace Day is celebrated every year on 21<sup>st</sup> September, to strengthen the idea of peace. This year the DIRS, in collaboration with The Debating Society, The Xavier's Environmental Committee (XEC) and The Western Performing Arts Extra Curricular Committee (WPA ECC) took the initiative to celebrate it in the form of SYMPHONY: *Shanti ka Swar* on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023. The event started with people penning their thoughts about peace and sticking it on the black board. The main event included different sessions: Leaf Painting, a Debate on Model Utopian Nations, The Film Forum and finally an Open Floor, all of which contributed to a peaceful vibe in college and among students.

## The Gandhi Lecture 2023

This Annual Gandhi Lecture organised by the DIRS was delivered by Prof. Usha Thakkar, President of Mani Bhavan, Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Mumbai on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Over 100 individuals registered for the online lecture, most of whom were College students and some Professors from across the country. The lecture titled “Gandhi in Bombay: Marching towards Freedom” featured themes from the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his times in Bombay.

## The Gift Culture Week

The GCW is an annual event conducted by DIRS. After two years of conducting it online, DIRS was back this year to conduct it in an offline setting. The GCW was held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, in the woods of St. Xavier's College. The objective was to enhance a sense of gratitude and enable people to give each other things that may help them connect with each other. The gifts ranged from items like books to things as simple as a walk in the park or along the Marine Drive. The whole week was filled with enthusiasm and helped people socialize. The person giving the gift had no idea who received it.



## Celebrating Inter-Connectedness

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, the Department of Inter-Religious Studies, in collaboration with the Xavier's Institute of Communications organized a performance presentation,

“Celebrating Interconnectedness”, for the Emlyon Business School Students from Paris, France. Based on the theme for DIRS in the year 2022-23, i.e. “Being Interconnected”, the presentation also aimed at exploring the interconnections among different spheres of human life, viz., politics, religion, social life, environment and economics. Different groups undertook the responsibility of researching on and presenting the above-mentioned topics with utmost detail and precision through songs, skits and even rhapsodic debates!

### The DIRS International Conference 2023

The DIRS organized an International Conference on the theme of “Being Interconnected” on February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The Conference featured prominent figures such as Senior Professor (Dr.) S. R. Bhatt, Dr. Ashley J Tellis, and Fr. (Dr.) Richard D’Souza, along with several esteemed guests. Attendees from diverse disciplines including psychology, philosophy, sciences, accounting/finance, and more, participated in the conference, creating a wide spectrum of attendees. The two-day event encompassed various sessions, including public lectures, round tables, and paper presentations by PhD students and faculty from across the country.



### The Ambedkar Lecture 2023

This session of the Annual Ambedkar Lecture organized by the DIRS was

delivered by Prof. Aakash Singh Rathore, under the moderation of Prof. Kanchana Mahadevan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023. A total of 128 people attended the Online Lecture, which included 64 students of St. Xavier’s College, two in-house faculty and 64 people (including students and Professors) outside of the College. The topic of the lecture was: “Becoming Babasaheb: Learning From Dr. Ambedkar’s Formative Years.”

### Online Diploma in Inter-Religious Traditions

This course was designed by Dr. Fr. Keith D’Souza, S. J., Director, Department of the Inter Religious Studies and Ms. Shilpa Chheda, Curator, Heras Institute, St. Xavier’s College. The course commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and ended on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. It had been divided into eight modules. There were various courses planned to attract people towards different disciplines. These were conducted by eminent professors, guest speakers and lecturers who provided their captivating insights on the following topics-

- First Module on the Phenomenon of Religion.
- Second Module on Vedic Tradition and Orthodox / Astika Philosophy.
- Next was a Module on the Sramana Traditions and Heterodox / Nastika Philosophy where sessions on Buddhism and Jainism and the Carvak traditions were held.
- It also involved an overview of the Bhakti tradition in India, followed by sessions on the Sikh Tradition.
- The fifth Module was on the Jewish and Christian tradition.
- There was a module on Zoroastrian and Bahai tradition followed by sessions on Islam.

- Module seven was on the Indigenous traditions.
- The last Module was on Inter-Religious Confluence (*Sangam*) that focused on a variety of topics.

Six students completed the entire Diploma and 32 students enrolled for various modules. The sessions were intended to be informative, and the process of teaching interactive. Assignments were based on personal reflection and critique concerning each topic.

### Online Diploma in Comparative Normal and Applied Ethics

This course was conceived and designed by Dr. Keith D’Souza, Director, DIRS & Dr. Conrad Pessu, Director, Xavier Institute of Management Studies. Ms. Shilpa Chheda [Heras Institute], is Coordinator of the course, assisted by the DIRS student team. The Diploma was done by seven students, 17 students enrolled for one or other of the various Modules. Scholars and experts took these lectures as a part of this course and spoke on a variety of topics catering to various interests. The content of the course was divided into four Modules:

Module 1: Philosophical and Religious Ethics

Module 2: Social and Cultural Ethics

Module 3: Ethics of Science and Bioethics

Module 4: Legal, Political and Economic Ethics

**Dr. Radha Kumar**  
Faculty Advisor, DIRS.

# HERAS

## HERAS MEMORIAL LECTURES

The 59<sup>th</sup> Series of the **HERAS MEMORIAL LECTURES – 2022** were delivered by veteran scholar Prof. Kumkum Roy (former Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University) on the theme, “Thinking Through Kinship - Revisiting the Jatakas” on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. via the on-line Zoom Platform. According to her, historicizing kinship relations is important for several interrelated reasons. Firstly, it allows us to move away from the understanding of kinship relations as natural, by unpacking their specific contents which are often culture and context specific. Second, kinship terminology often functions as a metaphor for other relationships, and is thus an important site for the production of meaning. Third, kinship relations are in themselves intersectional—the ‘same’ individual often has multiple kinship identities, and these, moreover, change over time and space. And fourth, in spite of this flexibility, kinship relations tend to be sharply gendered. In fact, gender identities are often constituted in terms of kinship.

The lecture was presided over by Dr. Naina Dayal (Department of History, St. Stephen’s College, Delhi University). Prof. Roy’s presentation was followed by a lively question-answer session in which both teachers and students participated. The Lecture was attended by 50 participants.

## CERTIFICATE COURSE ON ANCIENT INDIAN HERITAGE

On the occasion of *Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav*, the Heras Institute in collaboration with Department of History, Elphinstone College, Dr. Homi Bhabha State University, organized a Certificate Course on Ancient Indian Heritage from 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Ms. Shilpa Chheda, Curator, Heras Institute, discussed the following topics - Rock-cut and Structural Architecture, Hindu, Buddhist and Jain Iconography. The participants also visited Heras Institute Museum after the sessions. 60 students participated in the course.

## BOOK LAUNCH OF PROF. WILLIAM COELHO

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Prof. William Coelho, an ardent student Fr. Henry Heras and former Head, Department of History, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, his daughters (Ms. Serena D’Sa, Ms. Anita Pinto and Ms. Manetta Ingarfield) published a book made up of a collection of his articles – *Foundation and History of the Indian Constitution 1600-1793*. Dr. Joan Dias, the Director, Heras Institute, hosted this Book Launch on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Multi Media Room, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai. Many professors, students, well wishers and family members shared their thought on Prof. Coelho as a person, father and teacher. Ms. Anita Pinto revealed the content of the book. The Book will be indeed a valuable asset to the students of History and Political Science. The programme was attended by 50 participants.

## CONSERVATION OF INDO-CHRISTIAN PAINTINGS

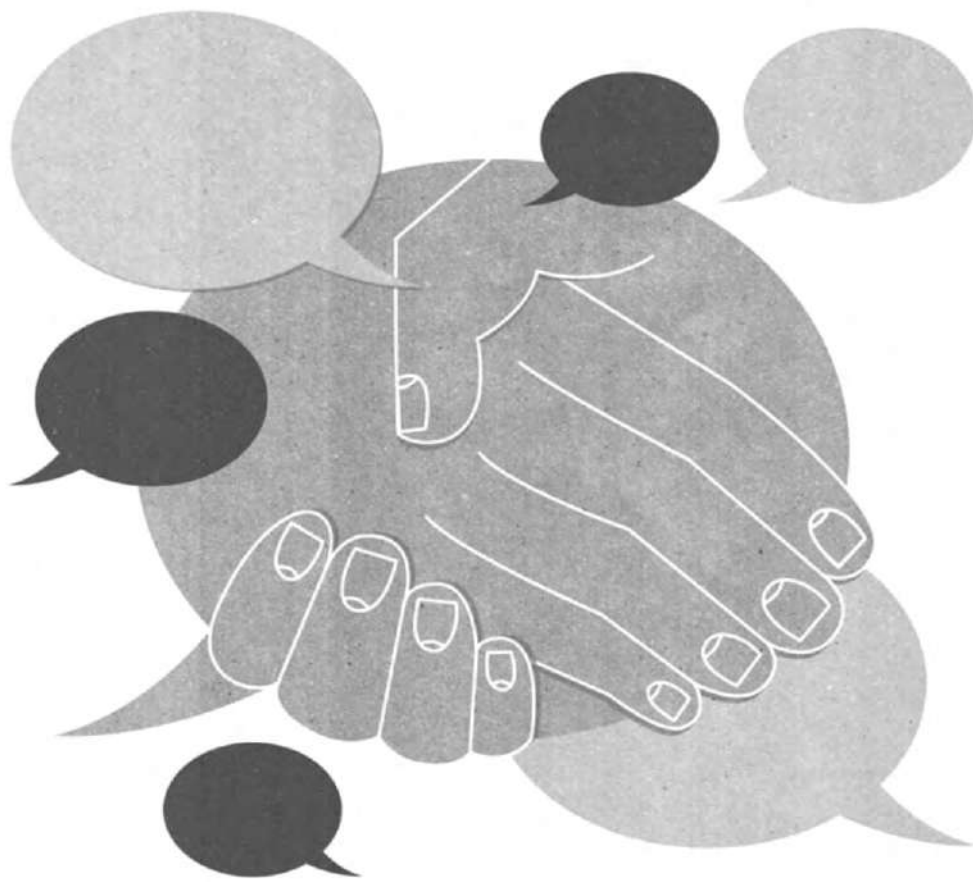
The Heras Institute was invited to work on the conservation and preservation of Indo-Christian Paintings, at Sanjeevan Ashram, Pune. It was done by Ms. Shilpa Chheda, Curator of the Institute.

## STAFF ACTIVITIES

The former Provincial of the Bombay Jesuit Province, has assigned the task of compiling the History of the Bombay Jesuit Province to Dr. Joan Dias, the Director of the Heras Institute. Mr. Shannon Mendonca, Librarian, has been involved in the process of collecting and compiling the data.

Ms. Shilpa Chheda, Curator, coordinated the courses on Inter-Religious Traditions and Comparative and Applied Ethics, organized by the Department of Inter-Religious Studies, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai. She was appointed visiting faculty for the paper on “Buddha and His Dhamma”, in M. A. in Ambedkar Studies, a course organized by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Research Centre, University of Mumbai. She represented Heras Institute at the meeting organized by Indian Historical Records Commission held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Ms. Shilpa Chhedda**  
Heras



**ASSOCIATIONS**

# ALL INDIA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY FEDERATION (AICUF)

After a long period of uncertainty, finally we saw offline college reopen for everyone this past year and as always, AICUF hosted the inaugural mass for everyone to attend. The college hall witnessed students from all faiths attend the mass with high hopes for the coming academic year. The reopening day mass celebrated the Holy Eucharist. There was hope and excitement in the air.

AICUF had a varied range of activities planned for the year. The Cultural department of AICUF began with its first event, the “Hatsumode”. This workshop about the rich Japanese culture was shown keen interest by the collegiates. Following this event, the Tribal Commission hosted a Tribal Mask Making workshop for all. It highlighted the history of mask making and the importance of it for the tribes of India. All the attendees made a mask based on the instructions provided.

The Social Outreach Committee of AICUF then hosted a Stationary Supplies Collection drive in the foyer. It was aimed for everyone to drop in stationeries that was not in use that would otherwise be useful for children who were in need of them.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, AICUF hosted the orientation to spread the word about AICUF’s goals and motives. A huge number of students attended the orientation where a brief of all the departments in AICUF was provided. This day we also organized the ‘Bollywood Day’ in college. It was a fun strategy to have everyone dress up as their favorite bollywood characters.

The Cultural Department and the Social Outreach committee of AICUF planned to visit the St. Anthony’s destitute home to spend some time with the children and get to know them. We organized a few games for them and had them interact with us.

In October, AICUF hosted the most awaited trip of the year, the YES Camp (Youth Encounter Sessions)! A trip to the Khandala Villa to learn about values, priorities and self reflection was indeed required for everyone. The group interacted and bonded with one another, making memories and engaging in meaningful conversations. Everyone surely took something to reminisce from the camp.



The new semester of college began with the Women’s Commission hosting a sanitary pad distribution drive. They collaborated with Khushiyan Foundation to distribute sanitary napkins to an NGO- the Rescue Foundation. They rescue women forced into prostitution and provide them a safe space to grow and heal. The drive was carried out with an interactive awareness session about periods and menstrual hygiene.

Cancer is not uncommon. It is dangerously affecting many. Hence, the Social Outreach committee of AICUF had hosted a Cancer Awareness talk for the students. Dr. Shweta Bansal was invited to speak about the early symptoms and stages of cancer.

To spread awareness and sensitize the public, the Women’s Commission had hosted an instagram live session with an NGO Inspiring Pink. The conversation included topics such as period poverty, menstrual irregularities and breast cancer.

AICUF had completed a 25 year long legacy in St. Xavier’s College in the year of 2022-23. It was a big moment for all. Hence, it was decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of AICUF. It was a happy reunion for all the ex-AICUFers and Xavierites who had worked hard to keep such an establishment running in college. Experiences were shared, memories were reminisced. The Editorial team of AICUF had also released the yearly newsletter- ‘The AICUFer’ with a purpose to have the ex-AICUFers updated with AICUF.

The Cultural Department took the time to say goodbye to the year 2022 with the journaling workshop. Around 50 students gathered in the woods and spent their time reflecting and getting their thoughts out.



The Women’s Commission went live with ‘Paint it Red’ on 12<sup>th</sup> December to have an enlightening discussion about gender justice and financial independence of women.

The Tribal Commission also hosted an engaging talk on the evolution of tribal laws and the impact of displacement on tribals. It received a huge turnout where the participants showed an interest in the tribal community and the issues related to them.

AICUF hosted a range of activities in December as it was Christmas! The Social Outreach department hosted a Christmas card making workshop where students made cards for the patients at Cama Hospital. A treasure hunt and a Christmas Carnival was held to celebrate this season of joy!

The new year of 2023 began with the cultural department hosting an expressive arts therapy workshop. It was an interactive and playful workshop where everyone engaged thoroughly and expressed themselves completely.

AICUF also had the opportunity to inspire children around the age of 14. The Project Balika is an organization which had students come to St. Xavier’s College for a tour. The purpose of this tour was to motivate the students to perform to the best of their abilities in their upcoming board exams, so that they could, too, dream of attending a college like St. Xavier’s.

The Tribal Commission and the Women’s Commission hosted their annual initiatives Ujali and Indigena, in collaboration with one another. A riveting panel was invited along with a cultural evening programme set up by the Tribal Commission- ‘Jashn-e-Aadi’. It was an enriching and inspiring evening, with a mix of celebrating women, art and tribal culture.

**Divyanshi Agarwal**  
President, AICUF, 2022-23



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP CELL AND SKILL HUB

The Entrepreneurship Cell and Skill Hub aim to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship among the students of the college. To spread the news on and off campus, for the last five years, we have been giving importance to the social media platform. This year our social media saw a sharp spike in growth. Our aim this year was to experiment with different types of content formats varying from - short-form stories to carousels and reels. Our story polls on various marketing strategies gained much traction, with people actively engaging with them. This gave over 500 impressions.

We saw an increased rate of engagement with reels. Content pieces, when related to specific upcoming festivals, also saw a high engagement rate, with 1.5k impressions. (Eg: We posted a content piece on how various companies globally have capitalised on Halloween) Instagram reels about

the marketing strategies of various companies gained a lot of traction, given the high quality of videography and narration in a story format. The reel on Maggi reached over 3000 accounts.

We have organised The speaker session with **Mr. Mikhil Inani**. It was very inspiring, engaging, and one that the students needed the most. With a plethora of experiences - both entrepreneurial and corporate, his insights shed light upon various paths one can take to become an entrepreneur. He spoke about his journey and how he believes true entrepreneurial spirit lies in spotting and solving problems. It is about having an actual vision for your company and working relentlessly towards it.

**EnVision 2022** was an intercollegiate event consisting of two rounds. The first round had ten teams bifurcated

into an auction and bidding session, followed by a qualifier of pitching for start-ups where each team had to bid on an industry.

The second round consisted of the qualifying five teams working on case and strategy solutions based on the start-up's other groups pitched in the first round.

The ideas presented by the participants during the first round are now in their ideation stage. The winning team is now curating a business model on their idea - Teja, which deals with affordable makeup services at home. This business idea aims to ascertain that make-up is accessible to everyone.

**Mr. Pritesh Arte**  
Convener of Entrepreneurship Cell  
and Skill Hub

# FORENSIC SCIENCE

The 2022 – 2023 Diploma in Forensic Science and Criminal Law program commenced in July 2022, and the program was facilitated using Zoom and Google Classroom. As always, we welcomed students from diverse backgrounds, eager to understand this multi-faceted field and apply it to their daily lives and careers.

The primary focus of the program is to build awareness about forensic science. This is achieved through experiential/ simulated learning in the form of practicals, workshops and seminars conducted by eminent experts from the law enforcement and scientific community.

- Cyber Crime Investigation – Mr. Sachin Dedhia (Founder, Skynet Secure - Mumbai)
- Law - Adv. Ansh Ranawat (High Court Advocate - Mumbai)

- Law – Adv. Smeet Contractor (High Court Advocate - Mumbai)
- Forensic Psychology – Ms. Havovi Hyderabadwalla (Clinical and Forensic Psychologist and Partner – Mind Mandala)
- Wildlife Forensics – Ms. C. Samyukta (Head of Wildlife Forensics, Wildlife Conservation Trust -Mumbai)

Equipped with theoretical knowledge coupled with virtual hands-on practice, the students researched and prepared extensive Case Study Reports in the form of 'Mock Charge-Sheets' which were then presented before professionals in the field in the form of a 'Moot Court'. The aim of this exercise presented students with an overview, of the process of the Indian justice delivery system from 'crime scene to courtroom'.

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 12 batches since its inception in January 2017. 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.

The graduation ceremony of all batches since 2019 was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022, with Dr. Balsing Rajput – DCP (Technology & Crime Prevention), as the esteemed Chief Guest. The students were celebrated for their outstanding academic performance and resilience, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Dr. Pushpa Sinkar**  
Co-ordinator  
Diploma in Forensic Science and  
Criminal Law & Online Certificate  
Program in Forensic Science

# GENDER CELL REPORT (GDC)

After much deliberation, the title of the Women's Developmental Cell was changed to the Gender Cell (GDC), from this year onwards. This was aimed at including all persons across the gender spectrum. Amongst the many activities of the cell conducted during this academic year, a new log for the GDC was also created. It was concerned, among other things, with reframing the cell's objectives at the start of the new academic year, 2022-23.

The next event was a special talk for the first-year classes by Dr. Clement, who discussed the importance of registering both students and staff members for stem cell donorship. This was organized by "Marrow Donor Registry India" (MDRI), which is a Tata-funded voluntary non-profit organization, registered under the Charity Commissioner of Greater

Mumbai. The MDRI endeavours to help cure patients suffering from blood cancer and other blood-related diseases. For patients suffering from highly critical illnesses, the only final hope for a cure is a stem cell/bone marrow transplant from healthy donors. The event was facilitated by Dr. S. Annapurna, the Vice Principal of Arts for all First-Year classes, across different streams (including self-financing courses too). The talk was scheduled in the Special Course lectures 'Giving voice to values'.

The third event of the year was an LGBTQIA sensitization talk for all the First-Year students, also including the commerce section. The session was well-received, and was facilitated by Ms. Candice Dsouza, a queer affirmative counselor and a psychologist.

The women's day program was a joint collaboration of both XIMR and XIC. There was a talk on 'Healthy Lifestyle' by Ms. Shambavi Kamat, Clinical Nutritionist & Dietician at Bombay Hospital. It was followed by a Dance workshop by Ms. Kevinda Krishnan, a dance trainer. Both the programs were attended by an all-female group comprising of the teaching staff, administrator, XIC, and XIMR junior and senior college. It was followed by tea and refreshments by XIC, and the presentation of a gift, managed by XIMR. The program was an overall success.

**Ms. Linda Dhakul**  
Convener

## INDIAN MUSIC GROUP

The Indian Music Group (IMG) of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai has been preserving and promoting the historical heritage of Indian classical music and bringing it to the widest possible audience of all age groups. The Indian Music Group organises several Indian Classical Music concerts throughout the year culminating towards the flagship concert of IMG, 'Janfest'.

### ***Malhar ke Prakhar: (13<sup>th</sup> August 2022)***

Raag *malhar* symbolizes the mood of rain. In this two-session concert, we began with a Sarangi recital by Harsh Narayan ji, accompanied by Tarun Lala ji on Tabla. In the second session, Dhanashree Pandit Rai ji enthralled the audience with *khayal* and *thumri*. She was accompanied by Pandit Kalinath Mishra ji on Tabla, Sandeep Mishra ji on Sarangi and Atul Phadke ji on Harmonium.

### ***Music appreciation course: (14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022)***

The music appreciation course is a part of the Honours credit course offered by the college which aims to give students

a concise idea about various aspects of Indian classical music and dance forms. This year we had two sessions dedicated to Classical instrumental and dance forms.

We began with "रसरगागक्रतु", which is about the history of sitar as an instrument and the basics of 'raag' through a lecture demonstration taken by Dr. Radha Kumar. In the second session, the students learnt about the different Indian classical dance forms through lecture demonstration followed by a workshop on *kathak* taken by Nrityalankar Amruta Salvi.

### ***Viraasat: (26<sup>th</sup> November, 2022)***



'Viraasat' is a concert curated to give the young budding classical musicians a

platform to showcase their talent. This year, young student artists like Nikhar Jain, Sumedha Shingade, Leen Pereira, Maithili Bapat and Isha Mayuresh Lagu mesmerized the audience with their performances followed by the flagship performance of the evening by Sri Partha Pratim Roy on Sitar and Sri Siddharth Padiyar on Tabla.

### ***Birthday concert: (22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022)***

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2022, Indian Music Group celebrated the beginning of its golden jubilee, by organising the Birthday concert. The IMG had the honour of having a unique jugalbandi of two eminent father-son duo Pt Milind Raikar and his son Sri Yadnesh Raikar on violin, who were accompanied by Pt. Mukundraj Deo and his son Sri Rohit Deo on Tabla.

### ***Janfest 2023: 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January***

After two years, the Indian Music Group organized its flagship concert Janfest on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. Stalwarts of Indian classical

music graced the event on both the days. On the first day we started with an instrumental ensemble by ‘Surya’ group led by Ustad Taufiq Qureshi, followed by a vocal performance by Pt Anand Bhate. The day ended with an enchanting santoor recital by Sri Rahul Sharma. On the second day, we witnessed an enthralling jugalbandi by Vidwan Kumaresh Rajagopalan

and Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh on Saraswati Veena. It was followed by a vocal recital by Smt Ankita Joshi. The event concluded with the mastery sitar performance by Ustad Shujaat Khan. The event was well appreciated by the audience. Besides, students also put-up exhibitions and souvenir stalls with merchandise made by them.

In addition, with organizing concerts, baithaks and honours course, IMG also organized a seminar on ‘Smoking cessation’ in collaboration with Rubicon Consumer Healthcare Pvt Ltd. as a part of its social awareness involvement initiative. Ms. Surabhi Sancheti, Co-founder of the company was the resource person.

**Dr. Bhaskar Saha**  
Convener

## LAB SAFETY COMMITTEE

The committee for the year 2022-2023 includes the following members:

**Dr. Rajendra Shinde**

Principal,  
St. Xavier’s College – Chairman

**Dr. Priya Sundarajan**

Director,  
Caius Research Laboratory, Convener

**Dr. Madhuri Hambarde**

Associate Professor,  
Department of Zoology

**Dr. Geeta Kotian**

Department of Chemistry

**Dr. Vijaya Lobo**

Department of Botany

**Ms. Norine D’Souza**

Department of Biotechnology

**Dr. Sujata Deshpande**

Department of Zoology

**Dr. Aparna Talekar**

Department of Microbiology

**Dr. Ashwin Pundalik**

Department of Geology

**Dr. Leena Joshi**

Department of Physics

- The first meeting of the committee for the AY 2022-23 was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. It was suggested that the Lab Safety committee look into conducting Laboratory Safety sessions for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Sessions were planned to be conducted for safety in Physics, Chemistry and Biology Laboratories.

- The second meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 - the committee members discussed conducting a session on CPR for non-teaching staff.
- The third meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the session for National Science Day to be organized by the committee. Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, VP Science agreed to deliver a talk on “Personal safety on field”.

**The lab safety committee organized the following activities on laboratory safety during the AY 2022-23.**

- A session on “Safety in Chemistry Laboratory” was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> of August and 24<sup>th</sup> of September for all FYBSc students during their practical turn. The resource person was Dr. Rahul Nabar, Chemical Engineering consultant, Mumbai, who explained about various hazardous chemicals and safe practices in chemistry laboratories and ways to prevent them. The lecture aimed at creating awareness about various safety related issues in the chemistry laboratory and first aid measures to be followed in case of accidents. All students of FYBSc (about 200) and faculty participated in the session.
- A session on “CPR- COLS (Compression Only Life Support) in association with Saifee Hospital.” was organized for non-teaching staff on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. The session was organized in collaboration with Dr. Dhansura

and team from Saifee Hospital. The session was attended by 44 administrative and non-teaching staff from college and a few staff from other colleges. The participants were explained about cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) guidelines of compression-only life support (COLS) for management of the victim with cardiopulmonary arrest in adults followed by hands on training to provide a stepwise algorithmic approach for optimal outcome of the victim outside the hospital by untrained laypersons.

- As part of the **National Science Day celebration** the committee organized a session on “Personal Safety in field” on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. The resource person was Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, Vice Principal, Science. Dr. Samant talked about the various safety measures to be followed during field work. He also showed and explained about different types of safety gadgets to be taken during field work. A total of 97 students (FY to MSc) and faculty participated in the session.

**The Institutional Biosafety Committee:**

- As per Govt. 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. One meeting of the committee were held on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2022. Two new proposals and eight proposals

submitted earlier were reviewed and the minutes of the meetings and form C1 were forwarded to RCGM, DBT, New Delhi.

**Dr. Priya Sundarrajan**  
Convenor, Lab safety and  
Biosafety Committee

## MALHAR

### Malhar Aurora: Transcending Horizons

Malhar 2022, our annual inter-collegiate festival was held on 28th and 29th August, 2022. This year's theme was Malhar Aurora: Transcending Horizons. Inspired by the Roman goddess of Dawn, Aurora signifies a new dawn - a new beginning with a fresh perspective. This year, Malhar made a comeback after 3 years, in person. The aim of the theme was to open avenues for students to not only reach their true potential, but also to go beyond it - transcend their own horizons.

With a workforce of approximately 800, spanning 20 different departments

- Malhar 2022 was led by Tarini Pujar (Chairperson), Kimberly Crasta (VCP Events), Aakarsh Nair (VCP Management) and Shaurya Nathan (VCP Networking).

The Malhar 2022 Conclave, held on 28th August, provided an impressive line-up of notable personalities such as Bezwada Wilson, Palki Sharma Upadhyay, Siddhartha Paul Tiwari, Dhruv Sehgal, Dr. Vidita Vaidya, Kamakshi and Vishala Khurana, and more. There was also a panel discussion on Queer inclusive employment - which saw Parmesh Shahani, Sonal Giani and Shubha Chacko in conversation with Angelique Jacquet. This was followed by a performance

session by the Tabla Guy (Nikhil Paralikar).

This year Malhar had 20+ events covering every field such as Literary Arts, Fine Arts, Sports, Performing Arts, Workshops, etc. with 20 colleges that participated. The winner of Malhar 2022 was K.C. College, Mumbai.

In its 43rd year, Malhar had an incredible response from audiences and participants alike. It was as grand as ever, and succeeded in pushing every individual to the best of their abilities - beyond their horizons.

**Tarini Pujar**  
TYBA, Chairperson



Clockwise from Top Left: Street Play at Malhar 2022; Puddles - the Malhar Mascot; Keynote Speaker Mr. Bezwada Wilson with Principal Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Keynote speaker Ms. Palki Sharma Upadhyay.

# मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळ

मराठी संस्कृतीचा प्रसार करण्याचा ध्यास संत झेवियर महाविद्यालयाच्या मराठी वाङ्मय मंडळाने १०० वर्षांच्या संपन्न इतिहासाद्वारे केला आहे. १९२३ साली स्थापन झालेल्या मंडळाने शतकमहोत्सवी वर्षी हजारहून अधिक कार्यकर्त्यांना सोबत घेऊन उत्साही व कलागुणसमृद्ध समुह स्थापित केला व वर्षभर पाच मुख्य व अनेक परिधीय कार्यक्रम राबवले.

## अन् शिवराय छत्रपती जाहले - शिवस्वराज्य दिन

दिनांक ६ जून २०२२ रोजी शिवस्वराज्य (शिवराज्याभिषेक) दिन साजरा करत, मंडळाने १००व्या वर्षाचा श्रीगणेशा केला. छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराज याचा ३४९वा राज्यभिषेक दिवस सोहळा मोठ्या जल्लोषाने पार पडला. शिवाजी महाराजांच्या असंख्य कर्तृत्वांमधून काही निवडक घटना उचलून, कला विभागाने त्यांची नेत्रदीपक चित्र काढून, साहित्य विभागाने त्यावर कविता रचून जणू दुग्धशर्करा योग्य साधला. नाट्य विभागाच्या, महाराजांच्या आयुष्यावर आधारित नाटकली, संगीत विभागाने त्याला 'हिरकणी' चित्रपटाच्या शिवराज्याभिषेक-गीताने उत्तम साथ दिली. त्यात नृत्य विभागाच्या उत्स्फूर्त सादरीकरणाने कार्यक्रमाला अधिकच रंगत आली. नव्या कार्यकारिणीने आयोजित केलेला हा पहिला कार्यक्रम होता.

## उद्घाटन सोहळा - युगांतर: काल, आज, उद्या

नवीन शैक्षणिक वर्षाची सुरुवात झाल्यावर, दिनांक १५ ऑगस्ट २०२२ रोजी मंडळाच्या १००व्या वर्षाचा "युगांतर: काल, आज, उद्या" हा उद्घाटन सोहळा आयोजिला गेला. सादर केलेल्या विविध कार्यक्रमांना, पर्यावरणवादी मल्हार कळंबे, प्रसिद्ध गायिका शमिका भिडे, ज्येष्ठ लेखक-दिग्दर्शक नागराज मंजुळे यासारख्या कलावंतांनी प्रतिभावान हजेरी लावली. "ऑफ-बीट"

या सदारांतर्गत 'द धारावी ड्रीम प्रोजेक्ट' सोबत हिप-हॉपचे प्रात्याक्षिक संयुक्त विद्यमाने सादर केले गेले. 'टिम्बकटू' या स्वलिखित, दिग्दर्शित व निर्मित नाटाकाने प्रेक्षकांची मन भारावून टाकली. दिवसभर चाललेल्या या कार्यक्रमाद्वारे मंडळाच्या शतकमहोत्सवी वर्षाची दिमाखात सुरुवात झाली.

## तेजोमय: आनंदोत्सव कलेचा

दिवाळी - विशेष कार्यक्रम, म्हणजेच आपला लाडका तेजोमय. या वर्षी, या कार्यक्रमांतर्गत मंडळाच्या कार्यकर्त्यांसाठी अनेक उपक्रम आणि शिबिरं राबवली गेली. अनेक माजी विद्यार्थ्यांनी, नाट्यलेखन, सूत्रसंचालन, कविता लेखन-प्रकाशन, अशी शिबिर यशस्वीरीत्या साकारली. तेजोमय चा शेवट, 'दिवाळी संध्या' या कार्यक्रमासोबत झाला, ज्यात मंडळाच्या अनेक गायकांनी श्रोत्यांचे कान तृप्त केले.

चित्रकलेत रुची असणाऱ्या विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी, अश्या चित्रकारांसाठी मंडळाचे स्वतंत्र "कलारंजन" हे पेज सुरु केले गेले. त्यावर कला व इतर विभागातले सदस्य आपली कलाकृती दाखवण्याच्या प्रतीक्षेत असतात.

## आमोद - शतकाच्या क्षितिजावर आणि पखरण - नाळ

१५, २१, २२ जानेवारी २०२३ रोजी, मंडळाद्वारे आयोजित आंतर महाविद्यालयीन महोत्सव, आमोदचे दहावे पर्व आयोजन मोठ्या दिमाखात पार पाडले. यांच बरोबर मंडळाचा वार्षिक अंक, पखरण याचे प्रकाशन झाले. सर्व कार्यक्रम विभाग, म्हणजेच, संगीत, नृत्य, नाट्य, साहित्य आणि कला यांनी हा तीन दिवसांचा महोत्सव आयोजित केला - काही नवीन व सर्जनशील स्पर्धा देखील यावेळी आयोजित करण्यात आल्या. यात पु. ल. कथाकथन स्पर्धा, लहानपण देगा

देवा (लहानपणीचे खेळ) इत्यादी स्पर्धांचा समावेश होता. त्याचसोबत गेली अनेक दशके परंपरागत आयोजित केली जाणारी ब. न. पुरंदरे वक्तृत्व स्पर्धाही या दरम्यान पार पडली.

२१ जानेवारी रोजी पाखरण या अंकाचे प्रकाशन महाविद्यालयाच्या चौकात, म्हणजेच 'क्वाड'मध्ये झाले. कार्यक्रमांची सुरुवात रुपाली व दिशा जोशी यांच्या कथक नृत्याविष्काराने झाली व यापुढे प्रथमेश वर्णे यांची एकांकी व कृष्णाई उलेकर यांच्या भारुड सादरीकरणाने हा सोहळा सांस्कृतिकदृष्ट्या उजळून निघाला. लोककला व शास्त्रीय कला यांचा अनोखा मेळ येथे पाहायला मिळाला! तत्पूर्वी अंकाचे प्रकाशन नील सालेकर, मंदार चांदवडकर, श्रीरंग गोडबोले, मधुरा वेलणकर या कलाकारांच्या हस्ते झाला. ते ही एका अर्थयुक्त चर्चासत्रानंतर.

२२ जानेवारीला सर्व कार्यक्रमांची अंतिम फेरी पार पडली, व संध्याकाळी समारोप व बक्षिस वितरण करण्यात आले. समारंभासाठी प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून सुप्रसिद्ध गायक-संगीतकार अजय-अतुल उपस्थित होते. तदनंतर झालेल्या पुरस्कार वितरण समारंभात रुईया महाविद्यालयाने सर्वोत्कृष्ट सैधाचा बहुमान पटकावला. अशा प्रकारे मंडळाने वर्ष २०२२-२३ चे कार्यक्रम आयोजित केले. आता हा सांस्कृतिक वारसा सदैव राहो व हेच आचंद्रसूर्य सदैव नांदो. ही सदिच्छा.

लाभले आम्हास भाग्य बोलतो मराठी, जाहलो खरेच धन्य ऐकतो मराठी ॥

- साक्षी नाडकर्णी (संपादिका)  
व यशोधन देवधर (साहित्य सदस्य)

# PLACEMENT CELL

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PLACEMENT CELL

- To offer Placement opportunities to the final year students across the different courses.
- To have an inclusive approach to the placement process which aims to offer equal opportunities to:
  - Students with special needs
  - Students from different UG courses such as Arts, Science, Commerce and the Self Financing Courses.
  - To ensure that the placement cell helps in placing students across diverse academic and non-academic areas of interest and capabilities.
  - To design a policy so that the placement opportunities are offered to a large number of students and this has been achieved by having a one job offer policy.
- The Placement Cell also assists the students (FY/SY) with internship opportunities
- To offer placement opportunities to PG students across Arts and Science
- To equip them with the much needed soft skills to face interviews.

The annual report of the Placement Cell for the Academic Year 2022-23 is given below.

### Faculty Placement Team:

Ms. Soni George Tharakan (Placement Convener & Head of Department of Management Studies)

Mr. Parag Thinghe (Placement Officer)

Faculty members: Prof Roy Thomas, Dr. Vijaya Lobo, Ms. Nandini Naik, Dr. Jason Johns,

Dr. Nikhila Bhatt, Ms. Ruchi Brahmachari, Dr. Aparna Kulkarni, Dr. Punita Jain.

### Student Coordinators:

- Nikita Fernandes – TYBMS
- Kean Concessio - TYBA
- Thomas Jolly – TYBMS
- Nikunj Singhal - TYBcom
- Smriti Ojha – MSC Big Data
- Manav Lopez – TYBA
- Ronit Jain – Msc Biotech
- Noel Pinto - TY BSc IT
- Suman Kumar - MPP
- Duenna Dsouza - MPP

### Number of Student Placed Stream wise

BA: 54

BSc: 22

BMS: 20

BSc IT: 16

BCom: 1

BMM: 2

MSc Big Data: 6

### Total No of Students Placed: 121

Bain Capability Network.	Marico Industries	Deloitte USI	Indusguru	Nation with Namu
Kearney	Dalberg	TopHire	Quantphi Analytics Solutions	ET Edge
Accenture	Groyyo Private Limited	J P Morgan	Media.net	Trinity
Salesforce	PWC	Ernst & Young	Deloitte India	D E Shaw
Sturgeon	J P Morgan	AON	Info Leap	ZS Associates
ICICI	IBS Intelligence	TATA AIG		

### (Campus Placement: List of companies in AY 2022- 2023)

### Salary Package:

Highest HUL: 21.5 Lakhs

Average Salary: 7.73 L

Lowest Salary: 2.4 L

It is worth a mention that even though the unprecedented conditions of the Covid -19 Pandemic has severely affected the job scenario, the Placement Cell has been successful in placing a large number of students over the past three years at high paying jobs in some of the top companies in the country. A slight dip in the number in the AY 2022-23 vis-à-vis AY 2021-22 is solely attributed to the fact that there had been a surge in recruitment in 2021-22 post the easing of the lockdown in mid-2021. We expect the numbers to



pick up again in the AY 2023-24 as the economic upswing and overall growth in the economy will push the demand for middle managerial posts.

In addition to the final year placements, the cell is also coordinating with companies to offer internship opportunities to the First and Second Year students across various streams and many students are placed at leading banks, FMCG companies and consulting firms for the summer internships. Finally it is indeed a matter of pride that across various educational surveys conducted over the years, our college has scored very well on final year placements.

**Ms. Soni George Tharakan**  
Placement Cell Convener

# SPORT

Our Senior College Students participated in various Team and Individual tournaments organized by University of Mumbai City Zone 1.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN TEAM GAMES

Our College Teams Results are as follows:

PERFORMANCE IN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023		
Sport	WOMEN	MEN
Football	Winners	Pre-Quarter Finals
Basketball	Winners	Quarter Finals
Hockey	Selection Trials	Selection Trials
Volleyball	Winners	Quarter Finals
Table Tennis	1 <sup>st</sup> Runners-up	D. N. P
Chess	Winners	Fourth
Carrom	Winners	Participated
Badminton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runners-up	Semi Final
Rugby	Selection Trials	D. N. P
Cricket	D. N. P	ROUND 1
Handball	Selection Trials	D. N. P

## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE - WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS TEAM

1<sup>st</sup> Runners-Up

Mumbai University (City-Zone I)

Inter-College Table Tennis Tournament 2022-2023



Senior College Girls :  
Runners up at the Mumbai University Inter College Table Tennis Tournament (Mumbai City Zone 1)

**From Left to Right:**

Jacin Mathew (SYBAMCJ)

Siya Hingorani (SYBA)

Bhuvi Chaturvedi (FYBAF)

Teresa Johnson (FYBA)

## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE - WOMEN'S CHESS TEAM

Winners

Mumbai University (City-Zone I)

Inter-College Chess Tournament 2022-2023



Senior College Girls  
Winners at the Mumbai University Inter College Chess Tournament (Mumbai City Zone 1)

**From Left to Right:**

Theertha Muralee (FYBCOM)

Joanne Pereira (FYBSC)

Nikita Fernandes (TYBMS)

Neelam Kukreja (TYBA)

Priyal Gupta (TYBAMCJ)

Deeti Gupta (TYBA)

## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE - WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Winners

Mumbai University (City-Zone I)

Inter-College Football Tournament 2022-2023



Senior College Girls

**Standing Front Row (Left to Right):** Isabel D'souza, Danyeshka D'cruz, Sansia Jain, Serene Benno, Deniese Pereira, Shanice Kannan, Alaina Fonseca.

**Standing Second Row (Left to Right) :** Kanak Tandon, Niyati Shah, Christabel Renny, Shambhavi Borkar, Leanne Joseph, Mercy, Keisha Fernandes.

Along with coach Anthony Fernandes and Dr. Thomas Pires Winners at the Mumbai University Inter College Football Tournament (Mumbai City Zone 1)

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE – WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM Winners**

**Mumbai University (City-Zone I)**

**Inter-College Basketball Tournament 2022-2023**



Senior College Girls

**Top (Left to Right):** Gayatri Ramakrishnan, Mrunmayi Barve, Gargi Pandey, Suzanne Pinto, Rhea Thomas, Taniya Sajan

**Bottom (Left to Right):** Shania Chougule, Joanne Rodrigues, Spriha Pawar, Saniya Jain, Radha Hardas, Anushka Singh

Along with coach Rasool Sayeed and Dr. Thomas Pires and Injured Student Manager Melody Menezes

Winners at the Mumbai University Inter College Basketball Tournament (Mumbai City Zone 1)

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE – WOMEN'S BADMINTON TEAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Runners-Up**

**Mumbai University (City- Zone I)**

**Inter-College Badminton Tournament 2022-2023**



Senior College Girls

Won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Mumbai University Inter College Badminton Tournament (Mumbai City Zone 1)

**From Left to Right :** Shachi Jukar (FYBSC), Archita Bhatia (FYBAMCJ), Aarushi Parida (SYBSCIT), Angela Lasrado (FYBMS)

**Achievements in Individual Games**

Our College Individual Results are as follows:

Performance In Individual Championships Academic Year 2022-2023	
<i>Mumbai University Inter Collegiate Representation</i>	
Athletics	Judah D'Souza (TYBA) - GOLD in Long Jump & Triple Jump
	Dominic D'Souza (TYBCom) - BRONZE IN 110M Hurdles
Carrom	Jose Lilly Rose (TYBSc) - GOLD
	Nadar Ria (MSc II BDA) - SILVER
Boxing	Joy Moses (TYBA) - GOLD in 71kg to 75kg
Malakhamb	Sagar Rane (MSc) - GOLD
Wrestling	Varun Mogaveera (SYBCom) - BRONZE in up to 70kgs
Yogasana	Manisha Honrao (SYBCom) - BRONZE
Aquatics	Cyrus Joseph (SYBCom) - GOLD in 50m & 100m Breaststroke
	Akaash Suraj (SYBA-MCJ) - BRONZE in 50m Backstroke
	Arya Kriplani (FYBA) - SILVER in 100m Backstroke, BRONZE in 50m Backstroke & 100m Individual Medley
	Keya Daruwala (TYBA) - BRONZE in 100m & 200m Breaststroke

**JOY MOSES (TYBA) - WINNER**

**Mumbai University (City- Zone I)**

**Inter-College Boxing Championship 2022-2023**

Senior College Boys

Joy Moses was the winner at the Mumbai University Inter College Boxing Tournament (Mumbai City Zone 1) in the 71-75 kgs weight category.

**INTER COLLEGE**

**Name : Cyrus Joseph**

**Class : SYBCOM**

**Sport : Swimming**

**Achievements :**

Gold medalist at the Inter College Swimming Championship, 2022 in the 50m, 100m and breaststroke category.



**Name : Akaash Suraj**

**Class : SYBAMCJ**

**Sport : Swimming**

Inter College Swimming Tournament, 2022-2023. Won the bronze medal in 50m Backstroke.





**Name : Manisha Honrao**  
**Class : SYBCOM**  
**Sport : Yogasana**  
 Bronze medalist at the Inter College Yogasana Tournament, 2022- 2023.



**Name : Dominic Dsouza**  
**Class : TYBCOM**  
**Sport : Athletics**  
 Inter College Athletics Tournament. Won the Bronze medal in 110m hurdles.



**Name: Judah Dsouza**  
**Class: TYBA**  
**Sport: Athletics**  
 Inter College Athletics Tournament. Winner in the Long jump and Triple Jump event.



**Name : Lilly Rose (R) Ria Nadar (L)**  
**Class : MSC-2, TYBSC**

**Sport : Carrom**

Lilly Rose won the Gold medal at the Inter College tournament.  
 Ria Nadar won the Silver medal at the Inter College tournament.



**Name : Varun Mogaveera**  
**Class : SYBCOM**  
**Sport : Wrestling**  
 Bronze medalist at the Inter College Wrestling tournament (70 kgs category), 2022-2023.

**Achievements At West Zone/ All India/Khelo India & Open Nationals In The Academic Year 2022-2023**

The following students participated at various Inter University/ State/ National level competitions:

<i>INTER UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION</i>
<b>Basketball (Women) :</b> Suzanne Pinto (SYBMS), Radha Hardas (TYBA), Anushka Singh (FYBCOM), Shanai Choughule (SYBA)
<b>Chess (Women) :</b> Nikita Fernandes (TYBMS)
<b>Hockey (Women) :</b> Kelly John (MA-II)
<b>Handball(Women) :</b> Rishika Singh (TYBA)
<b>Football (Women) :</b> Deniese Pereira (SYBA), Alaina Fonseca (SYBA), Isabel D'souza (FYBMS)
<b>Football (Men) :</b> Floyd Fernandes (TYBSC), Aakarsh Nair (TYBMS)
<b>Mallakhamb (MEN) :</b> Sagar Rane (MSc-I Astrophysics)
<b>Table Tennis (Women) :</b> Siya Hingorany (SYBA)
<b>Rugby (Women) :</b> Irenne Jacob (SYBA)
<b>Baseball (Women) :</b> Chinmayee Gupte

<i>OPEN STATE / NATIONAL REPRESENTATION</i>
<b>Rugby :</b> Rishika Singh (TYBA)
<b>Mallakhamb :</b> Sagar Rane (MSc-I Astrophysics)
<b>Table Tennis :</b> Siya Hingorany (SYBA)
<i>KHELO INDIA NATIONALS</i>
<b>Football (Women) :</b> Deniese Pereira (SYBA), Alaina Fonseca (SYBA), Isabel D'souza (FYBMS)
<b>Mallakhamb (Men) :</b> Sagar Rane (MSc-I Astrophysics)

**TEAM SPORTS INTER UNIVERSITY**

**Name : Sagar Rane**  
**Class : MSc-1 (Astrophysics)**  
**Sport : Mallakhamb**

**Achievements :**

All India Inter-University Mallakhamb Tournament Uttar Pradesh, 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Team Championship : Silver Medal  
 Individual Championship : Bronze Medal

Pole Mallakhamb Pyramid : Bronze Medal

36<sup>th</sup> National Games, gujarat (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

Team Championship Silver Medal  
 Maharashtra State Olympic Games, Jalgaon (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> January)

Team Championship : Silver Medal.



**Name : Chinmayee Gupta**  
**Class : FYBA**  
**Sport : Baseball**

**Achievements :**

All India Inter University Baseball Championship, held in Guwahati, Assam in February 2023.



**Name :** Irenne Jacob,  
**Class :** SYBA  
**Sport :** Rugby

**Achievements :**

All India Inter University Rugby Championship, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in December 2022.



**Name :** Isabel Dsouza (L), Deniese Pereira (M) Alaina Fonseca (R)

**Class :** SYBMS, SYBA, SYBA  
**Sport :** Football

Participated in the All India and West-Zonal Inter University, Football tournament, Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh, 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.



**Name (From Left to Right) :** Shania Choughule, Rhea Thomas, Suzanne Pinto, Radha Hardas, Anushka Singh.

**Sport : Basketball**

West-Zonal Inter University, Basketball tournament, held at Indore and Aurangabad, 2022-2023.



**Name :** Kelley John  
**Class :** MA  
**Sport :** Hockey

West Zone Inter-University Hockey Tournament 2022-23 Janardhan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed-to-be-University) 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.



**Name :** Aakarsh Nair (L) Floyd Fernandes (R)

**Class :** TYBMS, TYBSC  
**Sport :** Football

West Zone Inter-University Football Tournament held at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, 22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.

**Name :** Rishika Singh  
**Class :** TYBA  
**Sport :** Rugby, Handball

**Achievements :**

Represented Maharashtra at the Senior National Division 1 Rugby 15s Championship at Odisha, 29<sup>th</sup> January-4<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

West-Zonal Inter University, Handball tournament, Chandrapur Madhya Pradesh, 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022-2023.

**INDIVIDUAL SPORT INTER UNIVERSITY**



**Name :** Nikita Fernandes  
**Class :** TYBMS  
**Sport :** Chess

All India Inter-University Chess Championship, Manipal, 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

West-Zonal Inter University, Chess tournament, Bhopal, 2022-2023.

Team Championship : Bronze Medal.



**Name :** Siya Hingorani  
**Class :** SYBA  
**Sport :** Table Tennis

West Zone Inter University Table Tennis Championship, 2022.

**2022-2023 INTER CLASS TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

Sport	Senior Girls	Senior Boys
Rink Football	FYBA	TYBSc
Volleyball	TYBA	SYBSc
Throwball	TYBA	TYBA
Basketball	TYBA	TYBSc IT

**Thomas Pires**  
Sports Director

# XAVIER'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (XEC)

The XEC committee 2022-23 consisted of seven staff members – Dr. Sangeetha Chavan, Dr. Pushpa Sinkar, Dr. Rashmi Lee George, Dr. Maya Murdeshwar, Dr. Binoj Kutty, Dr. Rajdeo Singh, Ms. Ankita Gujar and eight students. The student team was headed by Ms. Chhavi Singh as Chairperson. With the college becoming fully functional in the offline mode in 2022, the XEC organized a series of interesting and interactive sessions throughout the year.

**(1) E-waste collection drive : 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

This was held in collaboration with the Dot Com Club of Jai Hind College, Mumbai. E-waste collection bins were placed in the college reception and the canteen foyer areas and a total of 29 kg of e-waste was collected and sent for recycling to e-Incarnation Recycling Pvt Ltd.

**(2) Paryavaranke Sanrakshak : 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

XEC conducted a seminar-cum-Warli art workshop in collaboration with the Aarey Conservation Group. The speakers of the seminar - Prakash Bhoir, Manisha Dhinde and Aakash Bhoir - were Adivasis residing in and around the Aarey region. They talked about their culture in Aarey, nature worship (Wagh Dev), Aarey forest and culture, development and loss of forest over the years, deep ties with nature and lastly Warli Art and evolution of art over the years. This was followed by Akash Bhoir's Warli Art workshop with the students.

**(3) Leaf painting competition : 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022**

This was held as a part of Department of Inter-religious

Studies' (DIRS) annual celebration of International Day of Peace. To integrate the theme of nature and sustainability XEC came up with the idea of painting one's world peace perspective on a leaf. MsAgnya Senghani and Mr. Jaideep Mehrotra, experts in the field of art and nature, were invited to judge the paintings. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students.

**(4) Recycled paper Tanzaku : 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022**

Under this initiative, members of XEC collected waste paper from all departments and fests in the college. They were cut into small strips of paper called Tanzaku. Students and staff wrote their desires and resolutions for the coming year 2023 on these strips of paper and hung them on trees in the college Woods. After the process, all the Tanzaku were collected and the waste paper collected from the fests was taken to recycling centers, thereby ensuring zero waste.

**(5) Waste Segregation Awareness Drive : December 2022 - January 2023**

With students entering college premises for the first time after 2.5 years of the Covid-19 pandemic, XEC felt the need to test student perception on waste segregation and educate them about waste segregation practices on campus. XEC volunteers went around campus speaking to students using innovative ways like showing visuals of the negative impacts of improper waste management to them. The overall response was positive about students knowing how waste is segregated.

Along with this, XEC conducted

a social experiment wherein used paper cups, chocolate wrappers were placed near the dustbins in the canteen, and student reactions were observed. It was disheartening to note that none of the students or staff members picked up the waste and threw it in the bins. The waste continued to remain outside the bins. This experiment highlighted apathy to bring in change and shoulder responsibilities even though students and staff possessed the knowledge of what needed to be done.

**(6) Webinar: "Lifestyle for Environment" : 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

In the backdrop of India hosting the G20 summit this year and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Energy Transition Work Group meeting (ETWG) in Mumai, XEC organized an online public lecture on 'Conservation of Energy Resources and Leading a Lifestyle for Environment'. The aim was to promote the 'Mission LiFE' initiative of the Government of India to encourage young citizens of the country to adopt and lead environmentally sustainable lifestyles. The lecture delivered by MsKopal Dixit, a senior researcher at the Centre for Environmental Research and Sustainability (CERE), Mumbai, gave insights into the conservation of energy resources, delving upon the negative effects of climate change and positive impacts of a circular economy. The lecture was followed by a Q&A interaction session. Participants were awarded certificates.

**Dr. Sangeeta Chavan**  
Convenor  
**Chhavi Singh**  
Student Lead

# XICP

## PG Diploma in Counselling Psychology

This year we commenced classes online on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2022 with the orientation. Regular classes started from Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We started the year with 28 students. They are graduating as a class of 27.

This year with the able support of our director Dr. (Fr.) Keith D'Souza, all faculty Fr. Abhay, Ms. Linda, Ms. Janki, Dr. Almeida, Ms. Irawati, Ms. Suchismita, Ms. Juhi, Ms. Shama and Dr. Fialho, lectured on campus and are so grateful that the entire course was completely offline and in person.

The students appreciated having various guest lecturers. The experts included, Ms. Tanuja Babare, Ms. Zill Botadkar, Dr. Willona Annunciation, Ms. Devika Mehta, Ms. Prachi Dokania, Mr. Krishna Warriar and Adv. Persis Sidhva. They lectured our students on a variety of topics including online counselling, crisis intervention, laws related to mental health, to art, dance and play therapy as well as pharmacotherapy.

In the first trimester the students built on their theoretical knowledge and practiced their counselling skills with their classmates, they had the usual submission of assignments as well.

This year the counselling practicum begun in September and carried

on throughout the second semester, students visited schools and NGOs, as well as took individual counselling cases both in person and online. The quality of most of the students' work was indeed commendable. They also conducted workshops on various topics ranging from self-esteem, body image, making friends and study skills. Their work and dedication were highly appreciated by the schools and NGO's they interned in. As part of the developmental module students volunteered enthusiastically in elderly homes, there was an exchange of wisdom and joy in the process.

In the third trimester, the students gave group presentations on various therapies. It was heartening to see them working together. They pooled their talents and it was indeed admirable. They presented on Music Therapy, Yoga Therapy, Animal Assisted Therapy, Neuro Linguistic Programming and Narrative Therapy. All the groups did us proud. The contents were well researched and innovatively presented.

In March and April, the module on Career was handled by Ms. Juhi and Ms. Shama, Both the lecturers and students worked hard to organize the Career Practicum in April. Students designed charts and brochures on various careers. They tested and counselled clients on their aptitude, interests, personality, and careers as

part of the practicum. Several clients, who were completely free of charge coming from the NGO Jeevan Dhara, were counselled by our students, they shared their appreciation for the career guidance they received and were ever so grateful to our students who have ignited the spark of hope in them. We were all impressed to see the overall growth and confidence in our students. Our academic year ended on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023.

This year we felt blessed to be able to have every class in person, on campus. Through rain or shine, the students and faculty remained determined to give their best and today we have 27 new professionals in the field of mental health ready to reach out and uplift the other and in the process make this world a better place.

## Certificate Course in Personal Counselling

Two batches successfully completed the Certificate Course in Personal Counselling. The August to October batch, which had 15 students was held online, of which 13 students successfully completed the course. The January to March batch, which had 23 students was held on campus of which 23 students successfully completed the course. Both courses received extremely positive feedback.

**Dr. Noellene Fialho**  
Coordinator, XICP

# XRCVC

As the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) prepares to enter its 20<sup>th</sup> year, we look back at the events of academic year 2022-23 with a sense of deep fulfilment.

Savit Sodani, a visually impaired ICSE student who we have been mentoring since he was in Class 2, scored a staggering 97.6 per cent in his Class 10 Board Exams. Savit is a student of Prime Academy (ICSE). The principal of the school, Rehana Kazi, was delighted to share, "XRCVC guides and supports us throughout the academic year. Not only help in academics, but also guidance on how to handle the visually challenged children emotionally, socially, in the classroom, outside the classroom and on the sports field. Training sessions for all the teachers are conducted, and new teachers are trained as they join." During the year we also produced a report titled 'Off To School VI Go' which documented XRCVC's Inclusive Education Project from 2014 to 2021, of which Savit was a key beneficiary. The report presented data obtained from a qualitative study carried out to determine the impact of each distinct intervention model, and the findings thereof. This report is likely to be of interest and use to mainstream teachers and schools, special educators, blindness organisations, parents and allies of school-aged blind students, inclusive education researchers, and indeed all educationists wanting to be inclusive in their practice.

## Major partnerships

The XRCVC was privileged to partner with the SBI Foundation, Centre of Excellence for PwDs (COE) from April 22 to March 23. The project Inclusion and Access: The 360 Degree Approach broke new ground and helped us achieve many a success. We were able to impact over 2600 beneficiaries through this initiative and also have many successes in the assistive technology research area.

Our partnership with the Dhun Pestonji Parakh Discretionary Trust (DPP) through Project X-Sight a

multi-dimensional holistic approach to promote inclusion for the Blind and Low Vision also yielded many successes. We were able to reach over 1900 persons.

These numbers do not reflect many other indirect beneficiaries whose lives would be touched through our ongoing work and advocacy initiatives.

## Purple Fest

In January, Purple Fest, a festival of inclusion held on an expansive scale in Goa, marking India's inaugural endeavour of its kind, invited XRCVC to assume a pivotal role in coordinating awareness and assistive technology events at the mega event.

At Purple Fest, we showcased a distinctive assortment of assistive technology aids and devices, encompassing both economical options and cutting-edge, sophisticated solutions. These remarkable technologies cater to individuals of diverse age groups and disabilities. Among the pioneering technologies presented, notable examples included a stair-climbing wheelchair designed to accommodate individuals with orthopaedic impairments, as well as the Tobii Dynavox eye-tracking system, empowering users to interface with computer systems and other devices through ocular movements, even extending to smart speakers.

Acknowledging XRCVC's contribution, Mr. Taha Haaziq, Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for PwDs, Goa, said, "As you are aware that the first of its kind Purple Fest Goa 2023 was a mega success. This would have not been possible without support and the collaboration with Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) St. Xavier's College, Mumbai for Antarchakshu and Assistive Technology in this field. This office would like to put on record our sincere gratitude to the entire team of XRCVC who worked closely to make this event a grand success. This Commission is planning to host Purple Fest 2024 on a much bigger scale and would like to have Xavier's Resource

Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) St. Xavier's College, Mumbai to have Antarchakshu and Assistive Technology Exhibition once again with new concepts and a workshop in regards to STEM Education as one of the pre-events to break our own benchmark which were set in Purple Fest 2023."

Our exhibition attracted over 500 participants, comprising civil servants, medical professionals, financial experts, specialised educators, and members of the general public, many of whom encountered such advanced technology for the first time. The prevailing sentiment among the majority of attendees was one of astonishment and wonderment, as they bore witness to the transformative potential of these technological innovations.



*Glimpses from XRCVC's awareness and assistive technology offerings at Purple Fest in Goa which was inaugurated by the chief minister of Goa, Mr. Pramod Sawant*

## Invitation from the Government of India

In a significant accomplishment this year, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in

the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, alongside the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), extended a prestigious invitation to XRCVC. The purpose was to conduct two training sessions as part of Capacity Building Programs for Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) officers and affiliates. These inputs focused on Creating Accessible Documents and on Accessible Social Media content.

These sessions were conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023, with active participation from 45 individuals. The Government displayed a commendable commitment to the training programme, recognising its significance, and the participants also expressed their appreciation for the hands-on approach we adopted during the training.

Notably, the higher authorities have issued instructions to the participants to actively implement their newly acquired knowledge. They were mandated to ensure that all social media content released by the government department and the RCI is made accessible within a month's time. This directive signifies a substantial stride towards promoting accessibility within the government sphere.

We are also happy to share that Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) the highest statutory body monitoring the standards of education for professionals in the disability space in the country invited Mr. Ketan Kothari, Managing Consultant – programs as an expert on a high-powered expert committee appointed for finalising the revision of syllabi in the Diploma in Education (visual impairment) and Diploma in Computer Education (visual impairment).

### Advocacy

XRCVC operates diligently to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, addressing both micro and macro aspects of their well-being. We maintain close collaborations with governmental entities, corporations, researchers, and educational institutions to drive empowerment and awareness initiatives on a broader scale. These efforts primarily focus

on facilitating accessible education, financial inclusion, print accessibility, and promoting independent living.

In addition, we extend direct and indirect support to individuals at the micro level.

Initially established as a centre dedicated to individuals with visual impairments, XRCVC has evolved into a non-profit organisation that operates as an integral part of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous). We have expanded our services to encompass students with autism, learning disabilities, hearing/speech impairments, and orthopaedic disabilities. This broader scope enables us to cater to a diverse range of disabilities and offer comprehensive support to a wider spectrum of individuals in need. In the academic year 2022-23, our advocacy endeavours covered a wide swathe of stakeholders and beneficiaries. Appended below are some of the initiatives:

- In September 2022, XRCVC's Executive Director, Dr. Sam Taraporevala was invited by UNESCO India to provide inputs in a group discussion on DEPwD's 'Vision 2047' for persons with disabilities in India. A document was subsequently prepared by the Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. During the year, he was also invited as a guest speaker by VM Ware to speak to its employees on disability challenges and solutions. Additionally, he made a presentation to the special committee on banking access for the visually challenged by the Delhi high court to focus on problems and solutions.
- In November 2022, XRCVC published a policy paper for upholding the rights of education and equality for persons with blindness and low vision to study and practice physiotherapy. Paper Title: Regulatory gaps in physiotherapy education and practice in India: A ground-level challenge. Available at the following link: <http://xrcvc.org/docs/Physiotherapy%20Policy%20Paper.pdf>

- During the same month we conducted an awareness workshop and assistive technology exhibition for the staff of Future Generali Insurance in Vikhroli. Subsequent to this, the company has offered internships / employment to three visually impaired persons.
- XRCVC's Ketan Kothari was invited to be a panelist for the panel discussion on 'Our Lives Our Identity' that was a part of the National Seminar organised by SNDT Women's University on the theme of 'Rights of the Differently Aabled' sponsored by the National Commission for Women in December.
- We also conducted meetings with BEST regarding accessible bus stops for people with low vision
- In February 2023, a cricket match was organised for students with visual impairment from the college, to restart the sports and leisure activities for students with disabilities.
- Besides, we helped one of our student members to design an accessible menu at St Xavier's College, and worked with Akasa Air to make their print offerings accessible.
- In February, Dr. Sam Taraporevala and Mr. Ketan Kothari of the XRCVC were nominated as members to the Civil 20 (C20) Working Group on Education and Digital Transformation. C20 India 2023 is an official engagement group under India's G20 Presidency. With India hosting the G20 Summit this year, the purpose of C20 is to function as a platform to bring forth civil society organisations' (CSOs) voices to the G20 leaders. Later in the year, XRCVC made a presentation about the XRCVC Inclusive Education model at a meeting organised by Maharashtra Dyslexia Association as a part of C20 India. In May, XRCVC organised a Policy Consultation on Education and Disability at

the college in a hybrid mode in collaboration with Rising Flame and Mariwala Health Initiative as a part of the C20 Disability, Equity and Justice Working Group. The XRCVC also participated at the International Conference of the Disability, Equity and Justice Working Group of the C20 under India's G20 Presidency.

Throughout the year, our training programmes, content creation endeavours, and various other activities remained robust. A notable initiative titled 'Training of Teachers in Inclusive Education' continued to be implemented in collaboration between St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai (XRCVC), and Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA). This groundbreaking programme has made significant strides, fostering inclusive education by equipping college professors with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Additionally, through our SHAMIL project, dedicated to advancing inclusive education and fortifying the inclusive education landscape in educational institutions across the nation, we solidified partnerships with key educational establishments, thereby strengthening our collective efforts in promoting inclusive practices.

Moreover, our ongoing partnership with Atma, a prominent NGO Accelerator renowned for providing strategic solutions to NGOs and social enterprises, continued to flourish. Together with Atma, we collaborated on the development of a comprehensive Child Safeguarding Policy. This initiative aimed to support the implementation of practical measures within organisations to ensure the safety of children and effectively identify and respond to potential child safeguarding issues and incidents.

Through these endeavours, we remain committed to advancing inclusive education, fostering collaboration with key stakeholders, and actively contributing to the betterment and protection of children within our society.

For timely updates and comprehensive information on our ongoing work, we encourage members and stakeholders to visit our official website ([www.xrcvc.org](http://www.xrcvc.org)), explore our inclusive education resource (<https://sites.google.com/xaviers.edu.in/xrcvc-inclusive-education/xrcvc>), and engage with us on our social media platforms. You can find us on Facebook as XRCVC—Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged, as well as on Twitter with our handle @XRCVC.

During the academic year 2022–2023, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) witnessed the enrolment of 114 students with disabilities across both the junior and senior college divisions.

The college's Enabling Committee, under the leadership of the principal and comprising representatives from the staff and student body, diligently oversaw and facilitated inclusion and accessibility requirements for these students. To address student requests and cater to their needs, the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities, from the XRCVC, serves as the primary resource and manages the committee's activities. XRCVC provided St. Xavier's College with the necessary resources and support to facilitate the seamless functioning of the Enabling Committee throughout the year. Additionally, we provided support to the Student Inclusion Cell (SIC) of the college; a separate report of the SIC's activities is available.

Beyond our campus, XRCVC remains actively engaged in promoting inclusion and access nationwide through a diverse range of training programmes, advocacy initiatives, and awareness campaigns. Our commitment to supporting the needs of students extends beyond campus boundaries, and we strive to create an inclusive environment where every individual can thrive.

### **Membership base**

During the academic year 2022–23, the membership base of XRCVC increased to 972 individuals. However, our commitment to making a positive impact extends well beyond our membership community. Through our advocacy

efforts, we strive to reach and positively influence the lives of thousands of individuals across the nation.

To fulfill our mission, we offer an extensive array of direct support and training services to individuals with disabilities, caregivers, educators, and institutions. Our direct support encompasses a wide range of services, including scanning, demonstrations, and training on the usage of assistive devices. We also provide career guidance, basic computer training, assistance with software applications, training on mobile phone usage, instruction on smart cane utilisation, Braille printing services, coordination with publishers to procure accessible book copies, as well as liaising with educational institutions, banks, and other financial entities.

By offering such comprehensive support and training, we aim to empower individuals with disabilities and equip them with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in various aspects of their lives. Our commitment extends to fostering accessibility and inclusivity in multiple spheres, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can lead fulfilling and independent lives.

Personal and career guidance services were provided to members and their families across various disabilities, assisting in identifying individual needs, interests, aptitudes, and addressing concerns.

### **Volunteer support**

Despite the rapid advancements in technology, it is important to acknowledge that human assistance continues to play a crucial role in supporting individuals with disabilities. At XRCVC, we recognise this necessity and offer volunteer services to cater to various needs. Our volunteer services encompass a wide range of roles, including:

- Reading assistance: Volunteers provide support by reading aloud for individuals with visual impairments or other print disabilities.

- **Class buddies:** Volunteers assist in taking notes during classroom lectures, ensuring that students with disabilities have access to comprehensive and accurate class materials.
- **Subject teaching:** Volunteers offer subject-specific instruction and guidance to individuals who require additional support in their academic pursuits.
- **Material conversion:** Our volunteers play a vital role in converting study materials into accessible formats, making them easier to read and comprehend for students with disabilities. This involves tasks such as scanning, typing, editing, recording, and embossing.
- **Scribes and prompters:** Volunteers are available to serve as scribes or prompters during examinations, providing necessary assistance to individuals who require support in completing written or oral assessments.
- **Other assistance:** XRCVC caters to specific individual requirements on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that any additional needs are addressed effectively.
- **Based on the unique needs and requirements of our members,** we provide volunteers for both short-term and long-term assignments. During the year, we were fortunate to have the support of approximately 110 dedicated volunteers.
- **By engaging volunteers,** we aim to foster a supportive and inclusive environment that empowers individuals with disabilities to achieve their full potential. These volunteers play an instrumental role in bridging the gap and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

### **Additions to our team**

We welcomed four members into our team this year: Ketan Kothari as Managing Consultant (Programmes), Disha Kapadia Chinchwadkar as Lead Consultant – Awareness, Dr. Kasturi Kulkarni as Senior Consultant –

Education and Manoj Rajodiya as Office Assistant. We would also like to record our deepest appreciation to Neha Trivedi, who left XRCVC this year after a highly productive and committed marathon stint of 16 years (from 2006 to 2022), to start her independent consultancy.

### **Assistive technologies**

The XRCVC houses an exhaustive list of assistive technologies (AT) that can be explored by persons with disabilities — 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, with prior appointment, to explore the full range of assistive technologies and their use. The centre purchased and upgraded its specialised software and hardware during the year. This included laptops, a braille, air-fryers, 7-inch HD video magnifiers, a Talking Cash Counting Machine and OCR licenses, besides upgrading of our desktops.

### **Focused work areas**

During the year, the XRCVC's activities were channelised through three main focus areas:

- Education & Learning (KG to PG)
- Accessibility Solutions and Inclusive Services
- Awareness

Given below is a summary of the activities in 2022-23 under each head.

### **Education & Learning (KG to PG)**

While the Right to Education has been established as a fundamental right in India, the realisation of this right for individuals with disabilities remains a significant challenge. In the past year, XRCVC has persistently worked towards promoting inclusive education practices and services at various educational levels, including schools, colleges, and higher education institutions. Numerous activities were undertaken during this period to advance our objectives, some of which are highlighted below:



*A class on activities of daily living for visually impaired persons being conducted at the XRCVC.*

Our ongoing efforts focused on students attending mainstream schools under our comprehensive educational program, the Inclusive Education Support Programme. As part of these services, XRCVC engaged with several schools, conducting class observations, discussing possibilities of formal collaborations or teacher-training workshops, and exploring avenues to make content more accessible. These activities also encompassed monitoring students' progress, adapting examination methods, and providing support to other students with disabilities within the school environment. Notable schools included Aarose International (Ulwe), Al-Mu'minah School (Musafirkhana, Crawford), Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, and Balvishva English Medium School (Dadawadi, Jalgaon).

XRCVC has commenced discussions with Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind and with the Victoria Memorial School for the Blind to establish and enhance STEM education for visually impaired students at their respective institutions.

Close collaborations were maintained with various educational institutions, including Sir P. T. Sarvajani College of Science (Surat), IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, and Kirori Mal College (Delhi), to support the establishment of inclusive educational services.

Efforts concerning the creation of accessible study materials and book content continued throughout the year, with the involvement of both staff members and dedicated volunteers.

XRCVC sustained partnerships with organisations such as Inclusive



Stem (I-Stem), Vision Empower, Inter University Alliance (IUA), and Andrews Vision Centre to further our shared objectives.

The centre made significant strides in the field of mathematics and science education, providing direct support services to students. We developed accessible electronic textbooks, Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs), and conducted conceptual training for these students. Furthermore, XRCVC expanded its Teaching-Learning-Aids (TLA) resource library for mathematics and science education, starting from Std 1 onwards.

We continued our work on producing Concept Teaching Manuals (CTMs) designed to assist teachers working with visually impaired students. These manuals offer practical guidance for special educators, parents, and classroom teachers, incorporating interactive teaching methods and the utilisation of Teaching-Learning Aids (TLAs) such as activities, real objects, 3D educational toys and models, and 2D tactile diagrams.

As mentioned earlier in this report, XRCVC actively participated in an exhibition showcasing 'Best Practices under the New Education Policy (NEP)' at St. Xavier's College during the One Day State Level Conference on 'Accreditation: The Way Ahead'. This event was organised by the University of Mumbai in association with RUSA, Maharashtra, under UGC-HRDC, targeting principals and management representatives of non-accredited colleges in the state of Maharashtra.

These initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to promoting inclusive education and providing comprehensive support to individuals with disabilities, enabling them to achieve their full potential.

## Scholarships

In the past decade, students with disabilities have sought out new opportunities in higher education. However, newer prospects come with newer expenses for college courses. Computers and assistive technology

have greatly aided impaired students. It must be kept in mind here that what is frequently seen as a luxury for people without disabilities is a necessity for people with disabilities.

The XRCVC recognises the high costs of higher education and assistive technologies and offers scholarships and IT Lending programmes for assistive technology to qualified students. Yagnit Vadhel, the topper among visually impaired graduates of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, received the Lions Club of East Bombay Scholarship for the year.

Two visually impaired senior college students —Rushikesh Kamble and Ajay Kharb — received education scholarships from the Help the Blind Foundation, thanks to the assistance of the XRCVC.

Under XRCVC's AT lending scheme, assistive technology devices like laptops, personal computers, handheld video magnifiers, Braille, Refreshable Braille Display, Scientific & Regular Calculator, Glasses were lent to 16 members during the year.

## Training

The XRCVC imparts training in Computers, the use of specific assistive devices, Braille, Orientation & Mobility, Activities of Daily Living, STEM on the computer, Assistive Technology (AT) for students with Specific Learning Disabilities and Hearing Impairment, Locomotor Disabilities, and through various programmes.

These are available for diverse learner groups — disabled persons, special educators, teacher trainers, web developers, content writers, corporate employees and other stakeholders.

The XRCVC was invited by State Bank of India Foundation, Centre of Excellence (CoE) to create awareness on various digital accessibility issues among bankers. It conducted workshops on creation of accessible documents for the staff of SBI and their partner banks and web accessibility for the SBI IT Team on the occasion of Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD). Senior members of the SBI Foundation were in attendance.

Online training sessions during 2022-23 included customised workshops by various members of the XRCVC team including Dr. Sam Taraporevala, Ketan Kothari, Vikas Dabholkar, Poonam Deokar, Shizanne D'mello, Dr. Kasturi Kulkarni, Sushil Pandit, Keshavan Nadar, Krishna Warriar, Disha Kapadia Chichwadkar and Calveena D'Sylva. They were ably assisted by Aniket Gupta, Manoj Rajodiya, and Christina Adakalathur.

Through the year, the XRCVC's training services reached out to a wide variety of participants, including some of our international members (see Table 1).

## Accessibility Initiatives

Throughout the year, XRCVC undertook a series of initiatives aimed at fostering an accessible environment for individuals with disabilities across the nation. Some noteworthy endeavours include:

Conducting rigorous testing of accessible games and applications like Hear2Read, FlyByEar, and Spacefelt. These evaluations focused on ensuring optimal usability and functionality for persons with disabilities.

Exploring the potential of utilising Bluetooth beacons and the internationally recognized labelling mechanism known as NaviLens for indoor navigation and labelling purposes. This investigation aimed to enhance accessibility and facilitate seamless navigation experiences for individuals with disabilities.

Organising Assistive Technology Exhibitions in prominent companies such as Tata Power and Hindustan Unilever Ltd. These exhibitions provided a platform to showcase a diverse range of assistive technologies and promote awareness about their potential benefits for individuals with disabilities.

Hosting a distinctive event where the developer of a versatile application named Audivision engaged directly with visually challenged users. This interactive session facilitated invaluable feedback from users, contributing to the ongoing improvement and refinement of the application.

**Table 1: Education and Learning (June 2022 – May 2023)**

Activity	Training and Workshops	Participants
1.a. Computer Training and Assistive Technology awareness workshops for Persons with Disabilities	78	898
1.b. Special Skills Trainings and other awareness workshops for Persons with Disabilities	20	219
1.c. Stakeholder Trainings (for teachers)	14	470
1.d. Accessible Content Creation (Persons trained)	13	228
1.e. Accessible Content Creation (No of Pages Created).	NA	NA
1.f. Guidance Support for Persons with Disabilities and Families	NA	163 (over 92 sessions)
1.g. Inclusive Education Support (For St. Xavier's College Students)	NA	114
1.h. Technology Lending Scheme	NA	16

These initiatives exemplify XRCVC's unwavering commitment to championing accessibility and striving for inclusive environments that empower individuals with disabilities to overcome barriers and participate fully in society.

### Accessibility Solutions and Inclusion Services

Alongside Education Access, the XRCVC's advocacy initiatives work in three main areas to create accessible environments — Print Access, Financial Access, and Independent Living.

#### Print Access

The accessibility of printed works for people with visual impairments depends on their availability in accessible formats and the legal framework's acceptance of material conversion to accessible formats. The XRCVC has been putting in great effort to battle these obstacles. During the academic year 2022-23, the XRCVC facilitated creation of the following Accessible Content and Tactile Diagrams:

- Number of E-pub books created in-house: 26 books totalling to 3235 pages.
- Number of books/pages created via Bookshare: 10 books totalling to 1897 pages.

- Number of Class Notes converted to an accessible format: 2431 pages/slides (including 250 technical/ math pages/slides)
- Only OCR provided: 1052 pages
- Easy to Read Content: 6 videos were summarised and 599 pages into 98 pages (including 250 technical/ math pages/slides).
- Number of Tactile Diagrams: 288 diagrams

Some of the other activities conducted under the Print Access initiative during the year are appended below.

The centre was also actively involved during the year in diverse Daisy Forum of India (DFI) print access activities focused on print-disabled persons. Accessible Book Production Standards training sessions were conducted regularly during the year by the XRCVC for numerous stakeholders. This year, the centre worked on compiling a 'Standards and Guidelines for Accessible E-Content Creation', with the objective of making accessible eBook production more efficient and standardizing its output for accessible Word, PDF and EPUB formats. These guidelines were launched in the technical meeting of the DAISY Forum of India and are uploaded to our website. A copy of the same is also available on the Bookshare website.

We are also delighted to share that we have had major success with a recent advocacy initiative with a publisher Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF). This will give equal access to JAIIB & CAIIB books required by visually impaired bank employees. JAIIB (Junior Associate of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance) and CAIIB (Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance) are examinations that are conducted by IIBF for its registered members. JAIIB covers basic knowledge of banking concepts, regulations and processes, while CAIIB involves advanced knowledge necessary for decision-making and practical application of banking processes. Qualifying these golden standard exams is incredibly helpful for career progression and provide incentives to the bankers. Many visually impaired bankers attempt these exams twice every year. These books were converted into accessible formats by us and have been uploaded on the accessible online library Sugamya Pustakalaya of the Daisy Forum of India.

### Technology and Accessibility

The XRCVC dedicates substantial efforts to educate both the general public and individuals with disabilities about assistive technology. Subsequent to the amendment of the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, we launched a highly successful nationwide awareness campaign titled 'Reading Without Seeing' in 2012. This comprehensive outreach programme aimed to make assistive technology available to individuals with low vision or blindness across the country, generating widespread interest and equipping participants with essential knowledge to embark on their independent journey of accessing printed materials. As a result of this initiative, attendees of the programme acquired a foundational understanding of diverse assistive technologies.

### Testing and Research

In addition, XRCVC tested various devices / software for accessibility during the year. Details about the work conducted this year in the areas of technology, accessibility, testing and research are available in Table 2.

**Table 2: Technology and Accessibility (June 2022 – May 2023)**

Activity	Details	Participants
2a. Assistive technology and Mainstream Technologies / Websites / Mobile Apps worked with for building accessibility	NA	NA
2b. Assistive technology Awareness workshops for General Audience	11	1269

### Financial Access

The ability to independently manage, operate, and carry out financial transactions is crucial for achieving a sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, blind and low vision individuals have historically faced obstacles due to the lack of effective guidelines and underutilization of technology in financial instruments, resulting in limited financial access. The XRCVC has been dedicated to changing this reality by working towards ensuring financial inclusivity for people with visual impairments. This year, advocating for change within the realm of financial services, XRCVC successfully persuaded HDFC Ltd to permit online loan foreclosure—a significant advancement that greatly benefits visually challenged users who previously encountered challenges in providing third-party cheques.

During the year, we also prepared a report ‘Banking on Accessibility: A case for accessible banking for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and presented it to Mr. M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and other top banking officials from a variety of banks, both in the private and public sector. This report was prepared after confabulations with several banking customers who were themselves disabled. In fact, consequent to the publication of this report, XRCVC was asked to make a presentation to the special committee on banking access for the visually challenged by the Delhi high court to focus on problems and solutions. In the same area of banking accessibility, some important recommendations were in made in

response to the draft national policy on persons with disabilities 2022 which was open for public comments by the Government of India.

Our executive director, Dr. Sam Taraporevala, was also interviewed by Radio Udaan – an exclusive online radio station for the visually impaired in India to discuss the above-mentioned report. (Sharing the link of the interview. YouTube link of Radio Udaan Badalta Dauron research report on Accessible Banking by XRCVC (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdLvBi5QsOA&t=141s>). The report was also discussed with like-minded organizations such as Mission Accessibility for joint advocacy. In the same area of banking, the centre organised a workshop where representatives from Banking Ombudsmen came and elaborated the process for accessing the grievance redressal mechanism through banking ombudsmen. This was an extremely important workshop as most clients are totally unaware of these matters. Such workshops help them in protecting their rights as bank customers.

Additionally, we have maintained a strong partnership with the State Bank of India’s Centre of Excellence (CoE), actively contributing to its various projects and programs. The CoE for Persons with Disabilities is a prominent initiative of the SBI Foundation, designed to serve as a centralised support centre for individuals with disabilities. Its primary objective is to empower persons with disabilities through skill enhancement, enabling them to make significant and measurable improvements in their cognitive, physical, social, and vocational functioning. Through our collaboration with the CoE, we aim to foster the development of individuals and facilitate their enjoyment of a more productive and fulfilling life.

### Awareness through Antarchakshu®

Raising awareness about the lives and abilities of visually impaired individuals, as well as those with other disabilities, is crucial in a world that often operates under norms created by and for people without disabilities. Recognising the significance of this aspect, the XRCVC has developed a flagship awareness programme titled

‘Antarchakshu® - The Eye Within.’ This programme offers an immersive journey that allows sighted individuals to gain profound insights into the experiences and challenges faced by people with visual impairments.

In the year 2018-19, we introduced an enhanced version of the programme known as Antarchakshu® 2.0. It was designed as a series of tailored and need-based sensitisation and awareness workshops, delivered in a marathon format to engage a larger number of participants at their respective locations.

During the year, Antarchakshu® 2.0 reached out to a diverse range of stakeholders, including college students, corporate professionals, working individuals, and the general public. By implementing Antarchakshu® 2.0, we aimed to create a deeper understanding and empathy among the participants towards the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals. These workshops provided a platform for meaningful interactions, fostering a greater appreciation for their skills, resilience, and unique perspectives. Through the year we conducted 68 Antarchakshu® 2.0 workshops, reaching out to 2205 participants.

### Antarchakshu® travels to village schools

“*Tai* (sister), how do you use a touchscreen phone?” asked an incredulous Asmita Thokade, a Std. 10 student of Jijamata Kanya Vidyalaya, Darwha, Maharashtra. Dhanashri, to whom the question had been addressed, switched on the talkback feature on her phone and demonstrated to Asmita and her classmates how visually impaired persons use touchscreen phones.

In January 2023, the Xavier’s Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) was invited by two rural schools near Amravati (Maharashtra) to conduct Antarchakshu® awareness and sensitisation workshops for their Std 10 and Std 12 students. These workshops were conducted with the support provided by the SBI Foundation.

While Antarchakshu® audiences in the past have been largely urban, this was a unique opportunity for the XRCVC to

showcase its flagship awareness event on the lives of persons with disabilities in a very different setting.

The resource persons for the workshops were Krishna Warriar and Dhanashri Gawande, and the sessions were conducted in a mix of Marathi and Hindi to suit the preference of the participants.

Dhanashri, who was born in Both village in Yavatmal district, struck an instant chord with the students of both schools – Jijamata Kanya Vidyalaya, Darwha and Swatantrya Veer Savarkar Vidyalaya, Bhulai.

In the initial part of each of the four workshops, the participants were blindfolded and made to experience a disability simulation, after which they were requested to open their blindfolds and share their experiences with each other and the resource persons.

Once the students overcame their initial hesitation, the sessions became extremely interactive, as the questions came thick and fast:

- Is there a cure for blindness?
- Do all blind people go through a similar experience?
- Does colour matter to a blind person?
- How do you travel independently?
- Do you dream?
- Do disabled persons have a sixth sense?
- What is your concept of beauty?

Dhanashri patiently answered each question, making sure that every myth or stereotype in the minds of the participants about the lives of persons of disabilities was dispelled. “I felt very good, especially during the interaction. Spreading awareness in rural areas is crucial as these students do not get any kind of exposure regarding disability,” she said.

“Before this workshop, I did not think seriously about disability and such people,” confessed Shradha Pardhi, a Std 12 student from Swatantra Veer Savarkar Vidyalaya, Bhulai. “I had a lot of negative thoughts about persons with disabilities. But now I know that they too can achieve their dreams if they believe in themselves. The session was a good and new learning experience.”

Ms. Mamta Narwade, the principal of Savarkar Vidyalaya, was delighted that her students got to participate in this unique event. “I felt very happy as I got an opportunity to organise these sessions for my students. I am sure it will be helpful for them for their future because sensitisation and awareness regarding marginalised classes is very important for students. I would like to thank the XRCVC team for conducting workshops in my school,” she said.

At which Dhanashri promptly pulled out her touchscreen phone and sent Ms. Narwade a WhatsApp emoji in reply!

### Awareness through Diversity Discourse

Diversity Discourse, a special course that XRCVC had created for the Xavier Institute of Communication (XIC) in 2018–19, continued its successful run for the fifth consecutive year. The goal was to raise participants' awareness of the various communities that society disregards both implicitly and overtly and to present a case for why it is imperative to include these communities in the mainstream of public discourse. The content was imparted mainly through 8 modules to 314 students. This course was also offered to students of St Xavier's College as part of the Honours Programme. Awareness events were conducted for a variety of target groups across the year (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Awareness and Sensitisation (June 2022 – May 2023)**

Activity	Workshops	Participants
3a. Antarchakshu® 2.0 Workshops	68	2205
3b. Diversity Discourse Course	8 modules	314
3c. Other Awareness Activities	8	353

### Acknowledgements

We have over this year organised and conducted 220 workshops and trainings, along with other interventions reaching out to 6,249 beneficiaries. This was made possible thanks to our dedicated team members who often times went beyond the call of duty to deliver on our commitments. Congratulations and a big thank you to them all. This achievement would

also not have been possible without the support we have received from diverse stakeholders, whose role we gratefully acknowledge.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the funders, partners, and sponsors who have played a pivotal role in shaping the XRCVC into what it is today. We would like to offer a special thanks to the SBI Foundation - Centre of Excellence for PwDs (CoE), Dhun Pestonji Parakh Discretionary Trust (DPP), and Mr. Burjor Antia, whose generous contributions from the estate of his late wife, Mrs. Roshen Burjor Antia, have been instrumental in our endeavours.

We also express our profound appreciation to the Dinamai Antia Charitable Trust, Mr. Vikram Utamsingh, Ms. Neha Trivedi, N M Wadia Charities, Reliance Foundation, Lila K Jagtiani Foundation, Sheth Developers and Realtors (Viviana Mall), Mr. Ankush Jain, Ms. Rashna T Doongaji, Sir JJ Foundation, Mendonsa Foundation, Lions Club of East Bombay, Vahbiz Pestonjamas, Ms. Persis Pestonjamas, Godrej Industries Ltd, Union Bank of India, and SBI Mutual Fund for their invaluable support.

We are immensely grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers, whose unwavering commitment enables an organisation like the XRCVC to make a profound impact on the lives of numerous individuals nationwide.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to St. Xavier's College for setting a remarkable example for educational institutions across the country, demonstrating how a place of learning can truly be inclusive for individuals with disabilities.

We extend our special thanks to the Jesuit Management, our rector Dr. (Fr.) Keith D'Souza, S.J., the Principal, Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Dr. (Fr.) Conrad Pessa S.J. and his team at the Treasurer's Office for their constant support and guidance, thanks also to the teams at the General Office, SIP department and the Student Inclusion Cell (SIC). Thank you one and all for being there for us and being instrumental in upholding the XRCVC's reputation as a centre of excellence throughout the nation.

**Dr. Sam Taraporewala**  
Executive Director, XRCVC

# XAVIER'S ZOOLOGY ASSOCIATION

The Xavier's Zoology Association (XZA) relaunched its annual project for the academic year 2022-23 offline, in July under the guidance of Dr. Pushpa Sinkar and all the faculty of the department. After two years of working online, the students were filled with fervour to carry forward the glorious legacy left behind by their successors and deliver yet another year of awareness, involvement and success. We received a large number of applications this year for various positions in the Association. The interest and response received from many students of the department was heartening, and the orientation marked the beginning of the induction process. Over the course of three months, we created a group of promising leaders, driven towards a common goal: **to inform, to involve and to inspire**. This year, we aimed at making our operations more inclusive, with fresher ideas for events and campaigns envisioned by the team members. It was indeed a successful year, and we are pleased to have shared it with our associates and allies.

The various Departments that functioned under the the Xavier's Zoology Association were PR and Marketing, Creatives and Souvenirs, Blog, and the Imprint (The Department Magazine). These departments were guided by a Head and a Sub-head under whom a number of student volunteers showed their talents and skills.

The year presented a big challenge for the heart of XZA, the Department of Events, to deliver as informative and organised events offline as were catered online. The members rose to the occasion and successfully hosted 10 events, offline and online. The flagship event, "Walk of Life" was crucial to the overall accomplishment of the department and it was organised splendidly. The biggest project in terms of resources and workforce was the Walk of Life, and it required a greater contribution from the artists as it was hosted offline this year. The theme and designs were created in collaboration with the Imprint team to provide a captivating experience to our audience. The zoology lab was utilised for the venue and organised according to the theme- The Ghats and the Sea: A Journey through Time. Backdrops for different geological eras were made and the different time periods were linked by the geographical area common to all of them- the Western Ghats of the Indian subcontinent.

The themes for each event were well thought of and executed as effectively, ensuring an ever increasing response from our audience as well as noteworthy, enlightening events that provided much needed attention to many unique and relevant subjects for the people participating, and those involved in hosting the same too. The scripting and logistics being the most resource intensive areas were

richly supplied with the workforce, and they were able to engage a bigger group of guests every event. The work of the members was commendable. Each member provided unmatched inputs and results and performed exceedingly well in each activity. The team not only met the target, but led the name far beyond and restored the ways and zeal of the association before the pandemic.

Our Blog - The XZA Chronicle remodelled its page layout to one that was better suited to this year's themes and procured a larger audience by the end of the session. Regular and relevant posts captured the attention of many readers and boosted our viewership significantly.

This year for the magazine IMPRINT we decided to work with the theme: machinery, a subject that provides an interesting blend with the biological realm. Imprint, along with the blog, contributed in refining the scripts of various events. The design team collaborated with the creatives and came up with their own ideas for XZA merchandise, which garnered significant recognition and profits during a Christmas themed campaign for our blog.

So the relaunching of the XZA in an offline mode after the pandemic was a great success and we look forward to more accomplishments in the future years.

**Dr. Madhuri Hambarde**  
Head, Department of Zoology

# YOGA

The Xavier's Yoga Committee was established during the academic year 2022–2023, with Prof. Piyali Unnikrishnan serving as its convener and Dr. Maya Murdeshwar and Ms. Vaishnavi Salvi as committee members.

The executive body was a six-person student committee made up of FY, SY, and TY pupils from the colleges of Arts, Science, and Commerce. The Committee was established with a mission to promote overall well-being, including mental and physical health, the holistic development of campus faculty and staff, and to raise awareness of the traditional yoga system among all. It accomplishes this by scheduling lectures and classes all through the year from qualified specialists in the fields of yoga, pranayama, meditation, mindfulness, and nutrition. Throughout this academic year, these yoga activities were conducted for students across the campus, including students with disabilities and foreign exchange students, for the teaching and non-teaching staff members. These sessions were conducted in English, Hindi and Marathi. A quick glimpse of the activities this year:

- **International Day of Yoga (IDY) - 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2022**

The event was well received with over 194 participants including students, faculty members and non-teaching staff. It began with the Principal's welcome address, the government prayer, a yoga awareness quiz, followed by the asana and pranayama sessions.

- **BKS Iyengar Yoga for staff and students**

Two workshops of 5-day each were conducted by an external resource person, Mr. Shreeraj Jadhav, a trained Iyengar Yoga teacher from the Ramamani Iyengar Yoga Institute, Pune. The first session was held from 5<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> August 2022 for students of the Arts and Management faculty and the second session was held between 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for Commerce and Science students.

- **Yoga Committee Logo Design Contest - 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

Over 54 entries were received for the Logo design contest. The winner was Ms. Beyonce Gonsalves, FYBA. Judged by a panel of faculty members from the college and the Yoga committee staff members, the contest was a huge success.

- **Yoga and Meditation for Teaching & Non-teaching Staff - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Considering the importance of stress management for the staff of the college, a session on Meditation and Pranayama was organized for both the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college.

- **Yoga for Well-being (Session for New Teachers) - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Featuring the significance of health and well-being, a session was held for the newly joined teaching staff members of the college.

- **Yoga for Foreign Exchange students from EMLYON, France**

Every Wednesday at 8:00 am during June 2023-October 2023, a session was organised for the foreign exchange students.

- **Inclusive Yoga for Special Needs (for Students with disabilities) - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

The Xavier's Yoga Committee ensured that students with disabilities (SWD) have equal access to yoga and pranayama for their mental, physical and emotional well-being to ensure holistic development. This is the first time such a planned yoga activity with certified trainers is being organized for students with disabilities. The sessions were conducted by three certified yoga instructors and six assistant teachers from The Yoga Institute, Santacruz, Mumbai. Students with disabilities who participated in this session included with low vision, visually challenged, hearing impaired, orthopaedic disabilities, intellectual and learning disabilities, cancer survivors, thalassemia patients and those with mental illness.

**Ms. Piyali Unnikrishnan**  
Convener, Xavier's Yoga Committee  
(2022-23)

# CONGRATULATIONS, BATCH OF 2022-23!

## Alade of Xavier's – Our Pledge

*As a Graduate 'Made of Xavier's', I hereby promise that:  
I will celebrate critical thinking, creativity and inclusion*

*in all areas of my life.*

*I will privilege empirical knowledge and a scientific  
temper within the framework of ethics.*

*I will promote innovation imbued with compassion and  
credibility.*

*I will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of  
gender, caste, colour, race, religion or nationality.*

*I will use my education to empower the vulnerable and the  
marginalized.*

*I will cherish the values of friendship, team spirit, faith,  
hope and love, imbibed from my alma mater.*

*I will fulfil my duty towards my fellow beings, my  
country and our shared planet.*



## A Valedictory Epistle

*Dear Freshly-Minted-Xavier's-Graduate,*

*May your Commencement as 'Made of Xavier's'*

*be an epic prelude to many successful milestones in your life.  
May your Calendarium glow with the radiance of towering  
touchstones of glory.*

*May your Call and your Efforts be governed by our  
inspirational motto 'Provocans ad Volandum.'*

*May your Collaborations and Camaraderie be suffused with  
the Xavierian essence of collective kindness to all.*

*May your Character and Personality exude the vibrant ethos  
as envisaged by our visionary, Jesuit founders.*

*May your Charisma and Dynamism proclaim to the world  
that you were chiselled and sculpted in St. Xavier's.*

*May You Come Home to St. Xavier's, Always!  
Godspeed and Au Revoir!*

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY SINCE 1869

*Join our vast alumni network. Contact us at [xdp@xaviers.edu](mailto:xdp@xaviers.edu) or [alumni@xaviers.edu](mailto:alumni@xaviers.edu)*

