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7.1.9: CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS

❖ 2019-2020

- International Conference on 'The Politics of Environment in Asia: People, Policies and Development'
- Annual Goolam Vahanvati Lecture Series
- Annual Inter-collegiate Youth Parliament
- 'Voice to Values' Workshop

❖ 2018-2019

- National Seminar on 'Article 35 A- Conflict of Identities & Violation of Fundamental Rights'

❖ 2017-2018

- 'Right to Life' Awareness Campaign
- 'Saumvedana' - Thalassaemia awareness
- 'Values of Life' Seminar by Commerce section

❖ 2016-2017

- XPSA Political Awareness Campaign - 'Know Your Rights'
- Youth Parliament
- Rights of Acid Attack Survivors
- 'Values of Life' Seminar by Commerce section



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❖ **2015-2016**

- National Seminar on Political Thinkers: State and Power
- Field Visit to Latur
- Youth Parliament
- 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar

❖ **Special Courses**

- Voice to Values (First year students)
- Human Rights (Second year students)



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2019 - 2020



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International Conference on 'The Politics of Environment in Asia: People, Policies and Development'

On 29th January 2020, a RUSA-Sponsored National Conference was organised by XPSA on *The Politics of Environment in Asia: People, Policies and Development*, with Keynote Speech by Ambassador. Ashok Sajjanhar. The sessions included experts like Prof. Narottam Gaan, (HOD- Political Science & Human Rights, Amarantak Central University), Capt. Alok Bansal (Director- India Foundation), Commodore. Srikant Kesnur, Prof. Dhruv Sen Singh (Dept of Geology, Lucknow University), Mr. C. R. Neelakandan, (former politician, Activist, Kerala), Dr. Anish Andheria, (Wildlife Photographer and Conservationist), Shri Dhan Singh Rana, (Ex Gram Pradhan, Sarpanch and Activist, Uttarakhand), Smt. Shakuntala Devi (Community Representative from Indo Tibetan Border Region, Uttarakhand) and Dr. Pratiba Naitthani. The conference gave the students a 360 degree understanding of the significance of the environment and different facets of environment.



Ambassador Sajjanhar delivering Keynote speech- 2019-20



Mr Anish Andheria



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Commodore Srikant Kesnur



Staff with Speakers- 2019-20



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Ms Shakuntala Devi from Indo-Tibetan border region, Uttarakhand- 2019-20

Annual Goolam Vahanvati Lecture Series

The event was conducted in the month of September, with the overarching theme *Human and Nature - Is Gandhi Relevant Today?* Prof. Aparna Phadke and Mr. Nishant Bangera were invited to elaborate upon the Mahatma's focus on the environment, and its prevalence - or lack thereof - in today's times. Prof. Phadke chronicled the intimate arc we share with our surroundings through a few basic tenets, and provided perspective on the importance attributed to nature by Mahatma Gandhi. Mr. Bangera enlightened the audience about the struggles undertaken by indigenous communities to preserve their land in the face of adversity, and encouraged the students to abide by the core values of simplistic living as propounded by Gandhiji.

Annual Inter-Collegiate Youth Parliament

A two-day affair open to Undergraduate Students across the city and the country, witnessed fiery participation and detailed discussions. The agenda for this year's Youth Parliament were *Switching to 50% Renewable Energy by 2050* and *Implementing Carbon Tax*; this somewhat unexplored arc did not deter the participants from preparing thoroughly for the Event, and putting forth concrete suggestions that could well go on to become policies in the future



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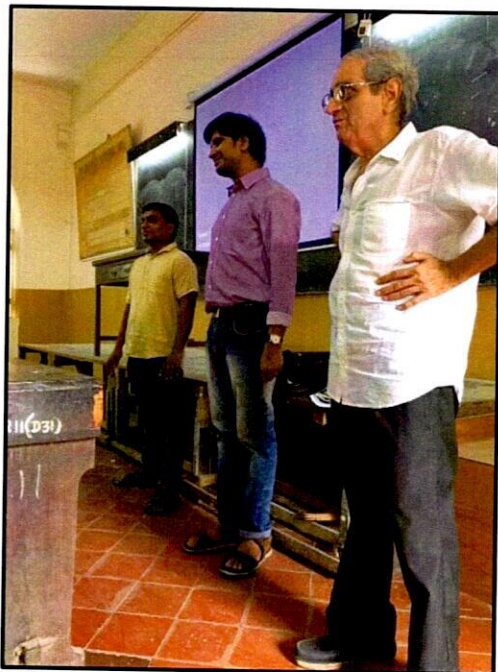
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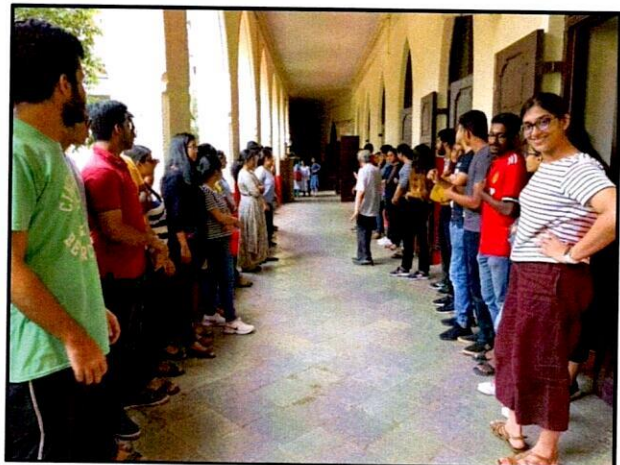
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'Voice to Values' Workshop

On June 18, 2019, the Dept of Statistics held a workshop on 'Voice to Values' conducted by Mr Aspi Shroff, Retired Physics teacher, New Era High School, Panchgani. It was aimed at reflecting on the true potential and inner capacities of the students. Out of the many engaging activities conducted, the one he emphasised the most on was a meditation, that precisely consisted of three steps, 'believing in our hearts that each one of us is capable', of focussing our mind towards a broader vision and wisdom', i.e. having a world encompassing vision, and thirdly, having a sense of gratitude for the blessings we have in life. The idea of believing in one's capacity was wisely conducted when students were given not more than a piece of paper and asked to pass their entire body through it. In the beginning it seemed impossible with no trick associated with it, and the students were soon shown the actual method of making use of a piece of paper to pass through. Inspiring stories were discussed, and they were also acquainted with two inspirational visually challenged people, who played some mind games with them. The idea of perception and true friendship was discussed and they finally gave into drama which made them express themselves better among their fellow mates and come out of their shells.



Resource Person: Mr Shroff



Mr Shroff facilitating an activity for students



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2018 - 2019



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National Seminar on “*Article 35A- Conflict of Identities & Violation of Fundamental Rights*”

The Xavier's Political Science Association held a National Seminar on 15th November. The National Seminar titled “Article 35 A- Conflict of Identities & Violation of Fundamental Rights” perfectly fits our theme for XPSA activities this year- "The Idea of Identity". It was an interactive session with experts on the subject and the victims of Article 35 A — The speakers were - Adv. R. K. Raizada, (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Additional Advocate General, Uttarakhand), Adv. Rajeev Pandey, (Advocate, Supreme Court and Bombay High Court), Mr. Garu Bhati and Ms. Radhika Gill, (representing the Valmiki community & petitioner in Supreme Court), Mr. Labba Ram Gandhi and Mr. Sukhdev Singh, (represented the West Pakistan Refugees). Very little information is available in the public domain about the issues of the victims of 35 A. This seminar was an eye opener to the crisis at hand and the reality of the hardships faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, their longing to belong reached the students in the audience.



Faculty, Students and Speakers



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Adv Raizada, Mr Gharu Bhati, Ms Radhika Gill



Radhika Gill- J&K



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2017 - 2018



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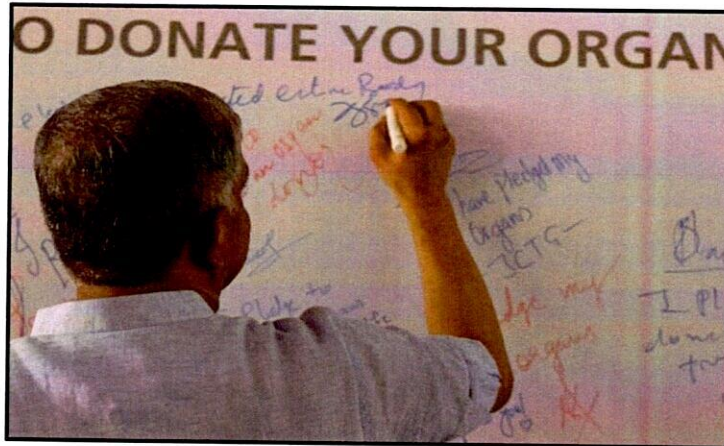
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'Right to Life' Awareness Campaign

In September, the Department of Political Science held the second annual Awareness Campaign, choosing First Aid as the topic, since the subject for the year was 'Right to Life'. First Aid is a primary step to save the life of an individual. A group of volunteers went to the Civil Defence Centre for two days and received basic training in First Aid. The Centre also sent its trainers to the college on the day of the event to help and supervise the students to perform First Aid. The event was held in the hall, with stalls on different possible situations in which one would be required to provide first aid, as well as the solutions to these. The stalls even had games, demonstrations, which were interactive, this helped to achieve the goal of getting the audience interested and involved, to learn in a fun way. Along with Fortis Hospital, talks were organised throughout the day on basic CPR training. Fortis Hospital also held an organ donation drive, creating awareness about the need for organ donation. A number of students pledged their organs. Our Principal Dr. Agnelo Menezes himself was a great inspiration, as he has donated his entire body.



Principal Agnelo Menezes



The Nurse from Fortis Hospital demonstrating CPR technique 2017-18



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Saumvedana

The Political Science department organised *Saumvedana* – The Fundraiser on 11th February 2018. This year the Fundraiser was held to help The Wishing Factory, a NGO which works with and for the patients of Thalassaemia and fulfils the wishes of children with thalassaemia. The Wishing Factory is founded by one of our own students Parth Thakur. The fundraiser showcased two prominent artists, Kanchan Daniel and the Beards, an indie band, and percussion maestro and composer Mr. Taufiq Qureshi and his band Surya. It was a moment of pride for us to witness Taufiq and his son Shikharnaad, both alumni of the college, perform on the same stage.



Dr Pratibaa Naitthani welcomes Taufiq Qureshi



Fundraiser for Children suffering from Thalassaemia- 2018- Concert by
Taufiq Qureshi & his son Shikharnad (both alumni of St. Xavier's College)
with their band Surya.



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'Values of Life' Seminar by Commerce Section

The Commerce Section conducted their Annual Khandala Seminar on December 9th and 10th 2017, the primary purpose of which was Value formation sessions for students. The theme of the seminar was 'Values of Life'. The objective of the seminar was to provide learning opportunities to the students beyond the curriculum.



Session in progress at the Khandala Seminar



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2016 - 2017



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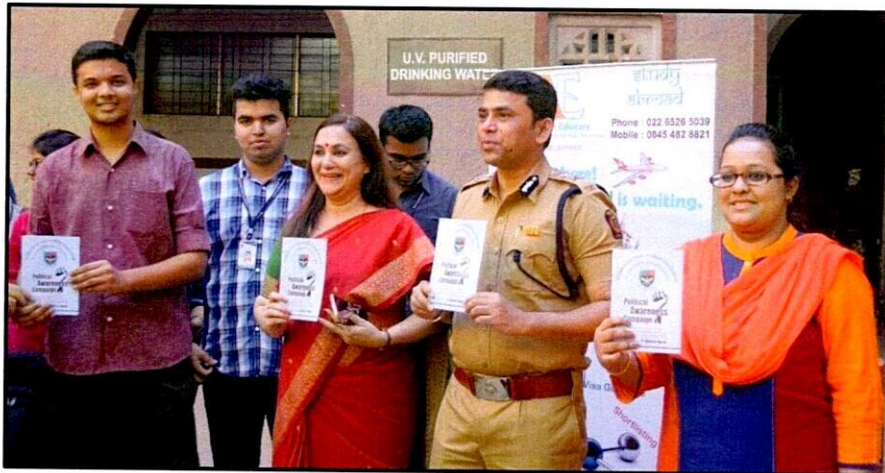
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XPSA Political Awareness Campaign - 'Know Your Rights'

The XPSA (Xavier's Political Science Association), for the first time introduced the Political Awareness Campaign which aimed at providing basic information on the government and rights to the students of the college. This Campaign spread over two days, with a total of 10 topics, each day having 5 different topics. These different topics were titled as Know Your Rights, Government Schemes, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Voting Rights, Local Government, State Government, Union Government, What do I do? (Women's rights) and Freedom of Speech and Expression. A police station stall was set up, this police station was set for the students to somewhat experience the procedures to file a FIR, to know their rights in a police station and also the duties of the police. The campaign was inaugurated by the Inspector General, (Protection of Rights) Mr. Qaiser Khalid, who also released the booklet printed with basic information on the rights of the citizens and the important contacts of various public bodies.



Dr. Pratiba Naitthnai and Ms Shazia Shaikh with
Inspector General of Police Qaiser Khalid

Youth Parliament

The flagship event organised by the XPSA is the Youth Parliament, one of the biggest events of the department, the Youth Parliament is a platform through which students learn the functioning of parliament as members of the parliament. This event has many colleges from Mumbai participating. This year, over the span of two days, there have been two topics on agenda; on the first day the agenda was- The Necessity of Bullet trains and on the second day it was- Implementation of Social Security Schemes. Through these agendas and procedures, the students learnt and experienced the legislative functioning of the parliament.



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Rights of Acid Attack Survivors

Social Involvement Programme -Rights of Acid Attack Survivors – 2017– Sounds of the Sufis by Anuraag Dhoundeyal- an alumnus of St. Xavier's College. The Political Science Department as Social Involvement Programme assisted The Reconstructive Surgery Foundation in organizing a fundraiser for the acid attack survivors, on the 29th of January 2017. The event was a theatre and songs performance called Sounds of the Sufis- Messages from the Mystics, based on a blend of Bhakti & Sufi poets like Meera, Lalded, Amir Khusro, Kabeer, the leads singer was Anuraag Dhoundeyal, an alumnus of Xavier's, and his team of the Looking Glass company. A positive initiative unlike any other, this activity was aimed at bringing awareness about the plight of the victims of acid attack. This is the first time such an initiative has taken place within campus and is also the landmark event of this year. It was the relentless hard work of the staff and students which made it a successful event.



Welcoming the Guest



Anurag Dhoundeyal



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'Values of Life' Seminar by Commerce Section

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A session in progress at Khandala



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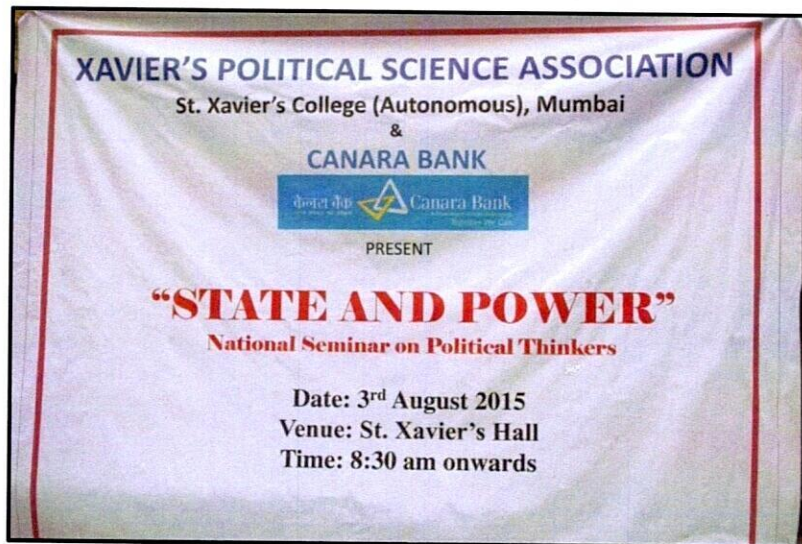
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National Seminar on Political Thinkers: 'State and Power'

The Xavier's Political Science Association, in association with Canara bank organized "State and Power" a National seminar on Political thinkers. The seminar held on 3rd August 2015 received an enthusiastic participation of around 300 students from various respected institutions. The Seminar got some of the finest intellectuals in their respective fields to the doorstep of St. Xavier's College, Autonomous. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Usha Thakkar (President, Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Mumbai). The seminar was graced by a mixed palette of speakers. Prof. Rakesh Mishra (Head- Dept. of Political Science, Lucknow University) presented on Political Ideas of Hegel, Prof. Kannamma S. Raman (Dept. of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai) explored the Political Theory of John Rawls, Prof. Sunanda Shastri (Dept of Sanskrit, Gujarat University) on Kautilya's Arthashastra, Dr. Radha Kumar (Dept. of Ancient Indian Culture, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Exploring the Ethical foundation- A holistic view of Gautama Buddha and Dr. Pratiba Naitthani (Dept. of Political Science, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) presented on Dr Ram Manohar Lohia on Socialism and State. The theme, "State and Power", addressed the universal debate on the authority of the state, since its inception. The seminar, through its engaging speakers fulfilled its aim in tracing the past to see how the Indian and Western philosophers perceived state power, and connected these philosophies to the current political scenario. It appealed to the students across Political Science, Philosophy, History, Economics and Ancient Indian Culture.



The Banner announcing the even



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Prof Rakesh Mishra



Students attending National Seminar - 2015-16



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Principal and speakers of National Seminar on Political Thinkers

Field Visit to Drought affected Latur, Marathwada following the discussion with MLC Vidhyatai Chavan, Vidhan Sabha, Maharashtra

Following the discussion with MLC Vidhyatai Chavan at the Vidhan Sabha, 14 students along with the guidance of Head- Department of Political Science, Dr. Pratiba Naitthani visited the villages of Latur, Marathwada on 12-13th September 2015.

They were exposed to the ground realities of absolute exploitation and severe conditions of the farmers. By visiting various districts we understood the acute problems of water scarcity and the drought Marathwada is facing. Besides water scarcity, lack of employment and failure of government schemes and initiatives was vividly clear. To take further action we have decided to help raise funds for the building of Percolation Tanks which could be a scientific and efficient solution to water depletion. We also attempt to initiate setup of small-scale businesses and industries, to generate employment and independence in the landless labourers.



Prof Pratiba Naitthani with Asha Tai, students and farmers from Latur



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Youth Parliament


The Inter-College Youth Parliament was our flagship event, bigger than ever, as it saw the participation of over 10 colleges across Mumbai. It was held on 9 and 10 February 2016. It emulated the functioning of the Indian Parliament and gave the participants a unique chance to be able to empower themselves and present their views on pressing matters. The Agenda 'National Security: Terrorism and Cyber Security' allowed participants to be able to even present creative legislative solutions to matters of national importance like Terrorism. It saw the engaging participation of students across various faculties and was graced by Mr. Kishor Mandhyan (Former Political Advisor to the Secretary General of United Nations) as the speaker for the two days.



Mr Kishor Mandhyan as the Chair in Youth Parliament.



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125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Advocate Prakash Ambedkar

To commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B R Ambedkar, the Department of Political Science organized a talk in his memory. The talk was delivered by none other than his grandson, Advocate Prakash Ambedkar. This event was held on 25th February 2016, Mr. Ambedkar explored the political and sociological views of Dr. B R Ambedkar, followed by which he engaged the crowd in a discussion on the same.



Banner announcing the event



Dr Agnelo Menezes, Principal, Adv Prakash Ambedkar and
Dr Pratiba Naitthani



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❖ Special Courses

The college offers 'Special Courses' (SPC) at the first and second year of graduation across faculties that are compulsory for all students.

- 'Voice to Values' (First year students)


<https://www.xaviers.edu/main/images/syllabi/spc-sem1.pdf>

- 'Human Rights' (Second year students)

<https://xaviers.edu/main/images/syllabi/spc-sem3.pdf>



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