



**St. Xavier's College, Mumbai**  
(EMPOWERED AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE)

in association with  
**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS  
OF THE TREES**  
ORGANIZES

**9<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL SEMINAR ON**

**PLANT SCIENCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW:  
INTEGRATING RESEARCH, CONSERVATION AND ACTION**



**Wednesday,  
4th February 2026**  
**Venue:**  
**College Hall.**



**Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh**  
Adjunct Professor, Institute of Chemical  
Technology (ICT)

**Dr. Usha Mukundan**  
Director, HVPS Ramniranjan  
Jhunjhunwala College



**Dr. Gurudas Nulkar**  
Director,  
Centre for Sustainable Development



**Mr. Bhaskar Paul,**  
Principal Consultant  
ERM



**Mr. Aniket Gavas**  
Business Head  
ECS Pvt. Ltd.

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## About the College

St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, founded in 1869 by the Society of Jesus, has recently completed its 156 years of excellence in education. It was awarded academic autonomy by the University of Mumbai in 2010. The college mission stands on its vision of 'Provocans Ad Volandum' which means 'Challenging to fly'. It envisions the college as a centre for professional innovation, personal integration, social inclusion, and academic excellence. The college endeavors to create an environment that generates a love for learning, a habit of critical thinking, and the ability for accurate expression.

## Blatter Herbarium

It is an internationally recognized herbarium for taxonomic studies and allied branches in botany. The plant collections made by Dr. Fr. Ethelbert Blatter S.J., his associates, and students in the early 20th century laid the foundation for one of the best herbaria in Western India. It has a large plant collection of plant specimens and a library to facilitate the study of plant systematics. The Herbarium has received a grant to digitize the plant database from the Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

## The National Society of the Friends of the Trees

The National Society of the Friends of the Trees was founded in 1957. The activities of the Society include the plantation, protection, and conservation of trees. It organizes public lectures, sapling distribution, and tree plantation programs in association with educational institutions, housing societies, corporates, and government agencies. Annual events include flower, fruit and vegetable exhibition, workshops, conferences, seminars, webinars and nature drawing competitions for school children. One of the key activities is the publication of 'Vanashobha', a journal devoted to environmental conservation. Regular nature trails for nature-loving citizens are also conducted throughout the year.

### Contact Details of the NSFOT:

email: friendsoftrees16@gmail.com

Phone: 022-49794817, 022-22024843

[www.fot.org.in](http://www.fot.org.in)

## About the Seminar

This seminar brings together researchers, educators, conservationists, and students to explore the pivotal role of plant sciences in addressing contemporary environmental challenges. Emphasizing the integration of fundamental research with conservation strategies and on-ground action, the seminar highlights innovative approaches in plant biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, climate change mitigation, and sustainable resource management.

Through expert lectures, case studies, and interactive discussions, participants will gain insights into how plant-based research can inform policy, strengthen conservation efforts, and promote sustainable development. The seminar aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, encourage young researchers, and translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions for building a resilient and sustainable future.

## Patrons

- Dr. Pheroza J. Godrej, President Emeritus, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
- Prof. (Dr.) A.D. Sawant, President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
- Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Former Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai.

## Organizing committee

### Convenor

- Dr. Rajdeo Singh, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

### Rapporteur

- Dr. Sashirekha Suresh Kumar, Former Head, Dept. of Botany, Mithibai College, Mumbai.

### Members (*National Society of the Friends of the Trees*)

- Mr. Tushar P. Desai, Vice President, NSFOT.
- Dr. Neeta Dalvi Shinde, Hon. Treasurer, NSFOT.

### Members (*Dept. of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai*)

- Mr. Alok Gude, Head, Dept. of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Vijaya Lobo, Assistant Professor.
- Dr. Saif Khan, Assistant Professor.
- Dr. Manoshree Mondal, Assistant Professor.
- Dr. Sumita Kalekar, Assistant Professor.
- Ms. Varsha Giri, Assistant Professor.
- Mr. Praveen Kale, Assistant Curator, Blatter Herbarium.
- Ms. Zoofishan Kazi, Research Scholar.
- Mr. Shahid Landge, Research Scholar.

# Program Schedule

Timings	Talks
<b>9:00 am to 9:30 am</b>	<b>Registration and breakfast</b>
<b>9:30 am to 10:00 am</b>	<b>Inauguration-</b> <b>Prof. (Dr.) Karuna Gokarn</b> , Principal, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. <b>Dr. Pheroza J. Godrej</b> , President Emeritus, National Society of the Friends of the Trees. <b>Prof. (Dr.) A. D. Sawant</b> , President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
<b>10:00 am to 11:00 am</b>	<b>Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Deshmukh</b> , Adjunct Professor, Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) <b>Topic:</b> Mangrove Genetic Resources: Conserving Nature's Coastal Libraries for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods.
<b>11:00 am to 12:00 pm</b>	<b>Dr. Usha Mukundan</b> , Director HVPS Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College. <b>Topic:</b> Plant Sciences for a sustainable tomorrow: Integrating research, conservation and action.
<b>12:00 pm to 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Dr. Gurudas Nulkar</b> , Professor & Director, Centre for Sustainable Development, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics. <b>Topic:</b> Intersection of Ecology and Economy

## Lunch Break

<b>2:00 pm to 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Mr. Bhaskar Paul</b> , Principal Consultant – ERM <b>Topic:</b> Plant-based Materials Innovation in Sustainable Textiles.
<b>3:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Mr. Aniket Gavas</b> , Business Head, Environmental Compliance Services Pvt. Ltd. <b>Topic:</b> Evolving Sustainability and Circularity Landscape in India: Drivers, Policies, and Pathways to Impact.
<b>4:00 pm to 4:15 pm</b>	<b>Rapporteur's Report-</b> <b>Dr. Sashirekha Suresh Kumar</b> , Former Head, Dept. of Botany, Mithibai College.
<b>4:15 pm to 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>