

GROW MORE TREES



ESTD. 1957

# St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

(An autonomous institution under University of Mumbai)



In association with the

**"National Society of the  
Friends of the Trees"**

Organises a National Seminar on

## ENVIRONMENT IN COVID-19 TIMES

22nd February, Monday  
9:00 AM onwards

For Registration visit:

<https://forms.gle/BXRPbS3JVA2Vnvyk6>



**Dr. Arun Pandey**

Vice Chancellor, Mansarovar Global  
University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



**Dr. A.D. Sawant**

Professor of Chemistry and  
Former Vice Chancellor,  
University of Rajasthan



**Dr. Bindu Raghavan**

Wildlife Institute,  
Dehradun, Uttarakhand



**Dr. Ritesh K.  
Choudhary**

Agharkar Research  
Institute,  
Pune, Maharashtra



**Dr. Raymond Ruhaak**

Post-doctorate researcher, Centre of  
World Environmental History,  
University of Sussex, UK



**Dr. Vinita Damodaran**

Director, Centre for World  
Environmental History,  
University of Sussex, Brighton

## About the College

St. Xavier's College Mumbai founded in 1869 by the Society of Jesus, has recently completed its 150 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 which generates a love of learning, habit of critical thinking, and the ability for accurate expression.

## Blatter Herbarium

The plant collections from India and abroad made by Fr. Ethelbert Blatter, S.J., his associates and students, from the beginning of 20th century laid the foundation for one of the best herbarium of its time in Western India. It provides facilities for the study of Plant Systematics and has a well-stocked library on systematic botany. The Herbarium has received the Sir Ratan Tata Trust Grant to upgrade and to digitize the plant database.

## 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 public lectures, exhibitions, sapling distribution and tree plantation programs through educational institutions, housing societies, corporate and government agencies. Annual events include vegetable, fruit and flower shows, nature drawing competitions for school children and a seminar. 'Vanashobha' the journal of the society is an annual publication devoted to environment conservation. Regular nature outings are conducted for its members throughout the year.

## About the seminar

The rapid spread of Covid-19 world wide in the past year caused a dramatic and unprecedented decrease in human activities worldwide. This reduced interaction of humankind with nature during the pandemic proved to be a blessing for the ecosystem, both its abiotic and the biotic components. Reports from all over the world show that since the beginning of the pandemic air and water quality improved and wildlife blossomed. In India, a hub of pollution, positive environmental effects were reported from all over the country.

This seminar will discuss on the basis of evidence, the effect of the pandemic, and the lockdowns imposed to curtail it, on the environment and its ecosystems.

## Patrons:

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

## Organizing committee:

### Convenor:

- Dr. Vijaya Lobo, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.

### Coordinators:

- Dr. Parvish Pandya, Director- Science & Conservation, Sanctuary Nature Foundation; Former Associate Professor in Zoology, Bhavan's College, Andheri.
- Dr. Sashirekha Suresh Kumar, Former Head, Dept. of Botany, Mithibai College, Mumbai.

## Members:

- Dr. Ashok Kothari, President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
- Dr. Saraswathy Unnithan, Vice-President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
- Dr. Arun Sawant, Vice-President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
- Shri. Bharat Chovatia, Hon. Treasurer, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.
- Dr. Smita Krishnan, Head, Dept of Zoology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Mr. Kevin D'Cruz, Dept. of Botany, and Director, Xaviers Knowledge Centre, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Madhuri P. Hambarde, Dept. of Zoology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Pushpa U. Sinkar, Dept of Zoology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Mr. Alok Gude, In- Charge Head, Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Mr. Conrad Cabral, Dept of Zoology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Sujata Deshpande, Dept of Zoology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Rajdeo Singh, Dept of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Mr. Saif Khan, Dept of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Mr. Praveen Kale, Assistant Curator, Blatter Herbarium.

## Schedule of the seminar

Timings	Addressers/Talks
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	<p><b>Inauguration</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Rajendra Shinde</b>, Principal, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai  <b>Dr. Pheroza J. Godrej</b>, President Emeritus, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.  <b>Dr. Ashok Kothari</b>, President, National Society of the Friends of the Trees.</p>
9:45 AM- 10:45 AM	<p><b>Keynote address:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Arun K. Pandey</b>  Vice Chancellor, Mansoravar Global University</p> <p><b>Topic: Impact of COVID-19 on Environment.</b></p>
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	<p><b>Dr. Bindu Raghavan</b>  Professional Fellow, Wildlife Institute Dehradun.</p> <p><b>Topic: COVID-19 and Biodiversity.</b></p>
11:45 PM - 12:45 PM	<p><b>Dr. Arun D. Sawant</b>  Professor of chemistry and former vice chancellor, University of Rajasthan.</p> <p><b>Topic: Impact of Covid-19 and Post Pandemic Challenges of Environmental Management</b></p>
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<p><b>Dr. Ritesh Choudhary.</b>  Scientist 'D', Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.</p> <p><b>Topic: Phytodiversity research and conservation in India against the backdrop of COVID-19 crisis.</b></p>
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<p><b>Prof. Vinita Damodaran</b>  Professor of South Asian History Director, Centre for World Environmental History ODA GCRF lead Sussex university Chair BAME Attainment gap group, University of Sussex, Brighton.</p> <p><b>Dr. Raymond Ruhaak</b>  Postdoctoral researcher, Centre of World Environmental History, University of Sussex, UK.</p> <p><b>Topic: Raising the risk for Covid; Environment, Climate and past zoonotic pandemics in Medieval Europe and colonial South Asia</b></p>
	<p><b>Vote of Thanks.</b></p>