

THE SYDENHAMITE

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THE PROTAGONIST OF PEACE

‘My Life is my message’- Mahatma Gandhi



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, commonly known as Mahatma Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India. Gandhiji is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of non-violent protest to achieve political and social progress.

Gandhiji's birthday, 2nd October is commemorated in India as Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday, and worldwide as the International Day of Nonviolence. Gandhi is considered the Father of the Nation in India and was commonly called Bapu.

Gandhiji's life and teachings have inspired many liberationists of the 20th Century, including Dr. Martin Luther King in the United States, Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko in South Africa, and Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar.

Gandhiji's definition of peace was not without struggle. He led brilliantly in the fight against apartheid in white-ruled South Africa.

Consequently, on his return back home in 1915, Gandhiji took on the mantle as a social reformer with a campaign against untouchability

and other social vices. Later he extended this yardstick to the political sphere and in the long run spread his message of love, peace, and mutual adjustment across the world



Today, as the world faces a plethora of conflicts, we see that Gandhiji's emphasis on universal brotherhood and peaceful co-existence has all-time relevance. His teachings are the most upheld principles of patriotism and ways to end various global conflicts.

Kali



The Mother Goddess

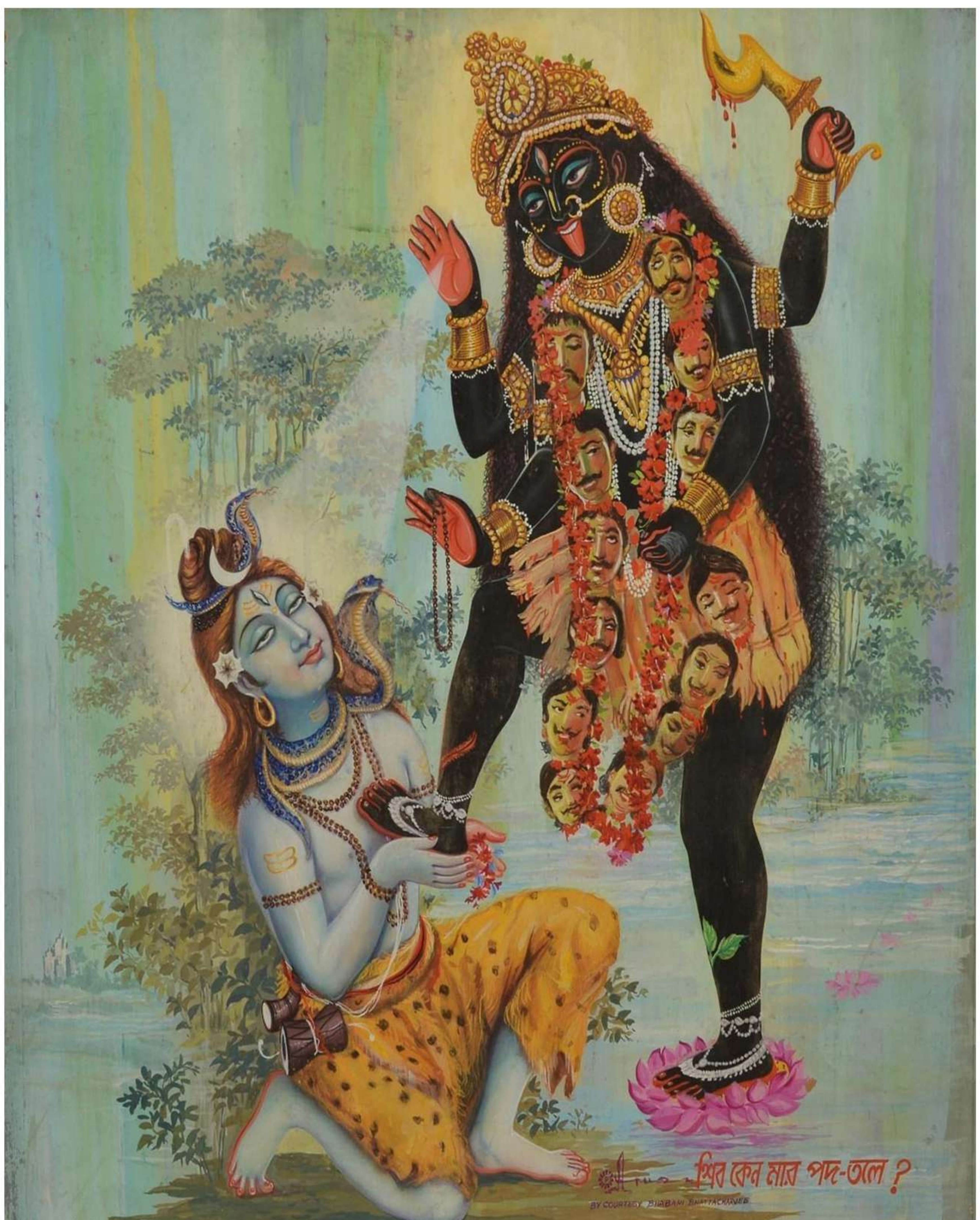
The love between the Divine Mother and her human children is a unique relationship. Kali, the Dark Mother is one such deity with whom devotees have a very loving and intimate bond, in spite of her fearful appearance. In this relationship, the worshipper becomes a child and Kali assumes the form of the ever-caring mother.

Kali is the fearful and ferocious form of the Mother Goddess. She assumed the form of a powerful goddess and became popular with the composition of the *Devi Mahatmya*, a text of the 5th - 6th century AD. Here she is depicted as having born from the brow of Goddess Durga during one of her battles with the evil forces. As the legend goes, in the battle, Kali was so much involved in the killing spree that she got carried away and began destroying everything in sight. To stop her, Lord Shiva threw himself under her feet. Shocked at this sight, Kali stuck out her tongue in astonishment and put an end to her homicidal rampage. Hence, the common image of Kali shows her in her *mêlée* mood, standing with one foot on Shiva's chest, with her enormous tongue stuck out.

Kali is represented with perhaps the fiercest features amongst all the world's deities. She has four arms, with a sword in one hand and the head of a demon in another. The other two hands bless her worshippers, and say, "fear not"! She has two dead heads for her earrings, a string of skulls

as a necklace, and a girdle made of human hands as her clothing. Her tongue protrudes from her mouth, her eyes are red, and her face and breasts are sullied with blood. She stands with one foot on the thigh, and another on the chest of her husband, Shiva.

Kali's fierce form is strewn with awesome symbols. Her black complexion symbolizes her all-embracing and transcendental nature. Says the *Mahanirvana Tantra*: "Just as all colors disappear in black, so all names and forms disappear in her". Her nudity is primeval, fundamental, and transparent like Nature — the earth, sea, and sky. Kali is free from the illusory covering, for she is beyond all *maya* or "false consciousness". Kali's garland of fifty human heads that stands for the fifty letters of the Sanskrit alphabet, symbolizes infinite knowledge.



Her girdle of severed human hands signifies work and liberation from the cycle of karma. Her white teeth show her inner purity, and her red rolling tongue indicates her omnivorous nature, “her indiscriminate enjoyment of all the world’s ‘flavors’.” Her sword is the destroyer of false consciousness and the eight bonds that bind us.

Her three eyes represent past, present, and future, — the three modes of time — an attribute that lies in the very name Kali (‘Kala’ in Sanskrit means Time). Kali is so called because she devours Kala (Time) and then resumes her own dark formlessness.



Kali’s proximity to cremation grounds, where the five elements or “*Pancha Mahabhuta*” come together and all worldly attachments are absolved, again point to the cycle of birth and death. The reclined Shiva lying prostrate under the feet of Kali suggests that without the power of Kali (Shakti), Shiva is inert.

Kali is, thus, worshipped as the Divine Mother. Imagine you are a two-year-old, playing in the court yard in your village home. Your frail mother is cutting vegetables for lunch. Suddenly, a huge bull charges at you. Your Mother will never, for even a moment, hesitate to pick up her small kitchen knife and attack the bull, endangering her child’s life. The timid and beautiful mother then becomes terrible to look at. Her strength increases four times. She loses control in her fury, and will attack any bystanders who she might imagine will harm her baby. That is when Shiva comes in. She steps on him and simmers down. This is Yin and Yang. Shiva is symbol of strength, while Kali is Energy or Spirit.

But there is another version. We are in awe – and, paradoxically, also fear, of the vagrancies of Mother Nature. Hindus are, predominantly, animists. All their male deities are armed and the females represent some form of art. It is all symbolic. Blood is synonymous with child -birth. Life. Hence, the very best of cattle, food grain, fruits or even first born off-spring were sacrificed to overcome natural calamities, as appeasement to Mother Nature. Their blood was spread over the fields to ensure a good harvest. Images of figurines, similar to that of Kali, were found in Mesopotamia and even in the Indus valley civilization excavations, from 7000 years ago. The first male outsider to visit the village a year before the sowing season, would become consort of the tribal priestess. He would be pampered in every which way. He could have his pick of any woman, including the priestess. He lived like a King ... until the time for planting, he would then be ceremoniously killed and his blood sprinkled all over the fields. It may be that Kali was a tribal priestess. The row of skulls, necklace of arms belonged to her past companions... and the one at her feet the latest one!

But I have always held that for those who believe, no explanation is required. And, for those who do not, no explanation will suffice!

- Amit Kumar Bhowmik
(Sydenham Alumni 1970)



Alumni Talks: Bridge between the Students and the Alumni

This event was organized by Sydenham Alumni Cell to form a link that connects the students with the Alumni while creating a platform for interaction. We connect to our past students to learn from their vast experience and extensive knowledge.

Learning can no longer be divided into a place and time to acquire knowledge, and to give exposure to the students, the cell organized an online live session on YouTube on 20th September.

The Speaker was Mr. Dilip Piramal, Chairman of VIP Industries, one of the leading industrialists and business tycoons in our country, our notable alumnus from batch 1970.

Alumni Talks is the voice of students. It is the voice of change. This event was organized by Sydenham Alumni Cell to form a link that connects the students with the Alumni while creating a platform for interaction. We connect to our past students to learn from their vast experience and extensive knowledge.

A very engaging communicator, Mr. Dilip talked about the importance of values like honesty and truthfulness in our lives. He also advised the students to read a lot and be updated regarding the statistics & current affairs of the nation. His take on motivation was to seek it within instead of looking for it around. When asked about his interests, he talked passionately about his love for music. Mr. Dilip has vast respect for society and culture and strongly believes in always giving something in return.

Few questions asked by the students –

Q) What are your thoughts on the value system in India?

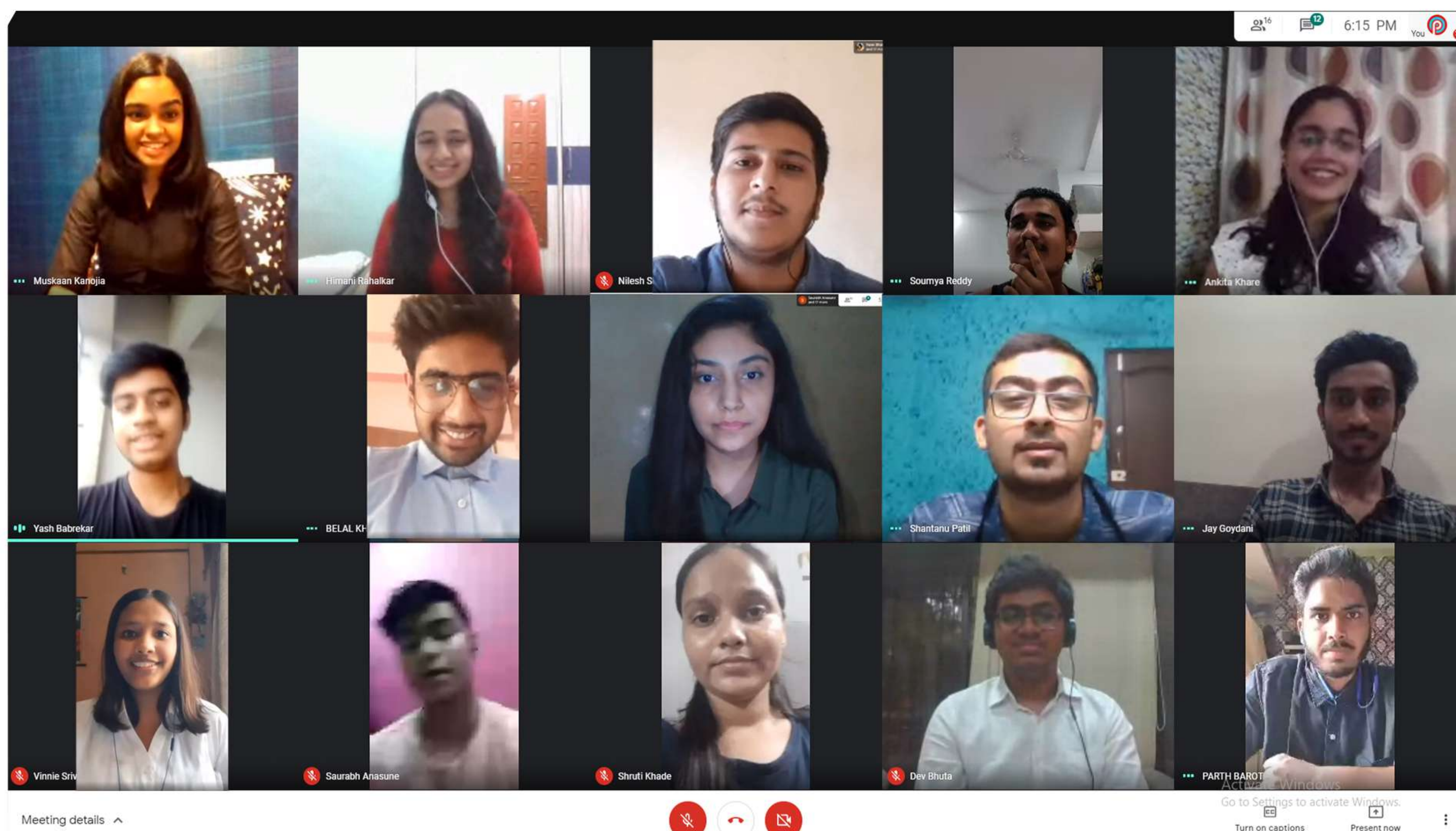
DP – Indian value system comprises of “PUNYA” and “PAAP”. What you do is what you reap. It teaches us to always be compassionate and respect others. However, our weakness is the lack of honesty in people. It leads to distrust in the society.

Q) What makes a business stand out?

DP – The value that the business creates. It is the quality of the product and it's value that makes a business stand out. There is no one X-factor or one mantra to success. One has to excel in diverse fields in order to survive in the competitive market.

Q) What mistakes should one avoid while expanding a business?

DP – One should never lose sight of the ground and the basics when the business is growing. Plan big but plan properly. There's a book by the very eminent Gopal Krishnan called “CRASH”. The book tells how CEO's get carried away due to their ego, causing their own downfall. Therefore, one should take one step at a time and stay down to earth.



The event was given due recognition by media houses and the viewers, as it enabled people to learn something beyond textbooks. The Program also consisted of Rapid-Fire round that added to the fun factor. Other than that, the audience was entitled to E Certificates signed by Mr. Dilip Piramal for attending this Leadership Training. With flooding positive feedbacks, the Cell looks forward to the upcoming sessions.



The Successful Contrarian of all times - Ms. Rupal Bhansali

Ms. Rupal Bhansali is the chief investment officer and portfolio manager of Ariel's international and global equity strategies. In this capacity, she oversees its global research effort and manages multi-billion-dollar portfolios. She has worked at leading firms such as Soros Fund Management, Oppenheimer Capital, and Mackay Shields.

In January 2019, Ms. Rupal Bhansali became the newest member of the prestigious Barron's Investment Roundtable, which showcases 10 of Wall Street's smartest investors. It is not surprising that Barron's named her a "Global Contrarian," Forbes called her a "Global Guru," and PBS' Consuelo Mack referred to her as an "unconventional thinker."

Success Mantra

Her mantra while investing is that a person should always figure out what are the returns of an investment. If one doesn't know what returns he will get, then there is no point in investing. She also explained the difference between investing and speculation, if one wins by chance then it is speculation and if a person wins with skills, moves all the odds in his favor, and makes money by choice then it is Investing. She added that value investing is not valuation investing and one should always know what is the stream of cash flow before investing money. Ms. Bhansali advises young students to research about the companies or businesses they wish to be a part of and to start interning before graduating so that while working they not only get a pay cheque but also a reality check of the corporate and business world.

Stock Stories During Childhood

In an interview, she spoke about her unusual childhood and how she never heard fairy tales but stock stories from her father, a stockbroker. Right from her childhood, she was determined to learn about money! She also shared how patience plays a vital role while investing and results as a smart move in the long term. She gave a relative example of how the value of flower seed is less than the value of a blossomed flower because the value of that flower is created over time by Patience.

Ms. Rupal Bhansali's Best Investment Idea

When Ms. Rupal was asked about her best investment idea, she answered, "Invest in relationships, find your people and live your life with them. Money and success will not give you a sense of fulfillment or belonging". She is the author of the book Non- Consensus Investing: Being right when everyone else is wrong. In this book, she shares how she became fascinated by equity markets in her youth and how that became her profession. She is a frequent guest on Bloomberg, CNBC, and Fox Business News. Her take on the current market situation is that one should develop contrary investing ideas while investing in the market. Ms. Rupal Bhansali also got an opportunity to meet Mr. Warren Buffett, the 'Oracle of Omaha'. While sharing her experience of meeting him she also shared the words he said to her, "I can see you can invest and think like me". These words encourage Ms. Bhansali to keep going even during tough times.



SYDENHAM MAY BE ON 'B' ROAD BUT IT PRODUCED 'A' CLASS PRODUCTS

I joined Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics mid-stream, in the beginning of the 12th Standard of the 10 +2 + 3 system for my HSC. I was one of a handful who joined in the middle of the course and was therefore skeptical about being welcomed among my peers who would have already formed their friend circles in the 11th Standard.

I need not have worried and soon I was comfortably ensconced among many new friends. The one thing which immediately struck me was the degree of freedom we enjoyed as that compared to school and the huge class sizes, almost 3 times that of school. Learning was a completely new experience and I quickly adapted to the new style of self-dependency.

There were some very impressive teachers especially those conducting the tutorials. I learnt to make the most of those opportunities and was exposed to several modern and western facets of accounting principles in these sessions which were not even part of the curriculum. This was indeed very enjoyable and eye-opening. It widened my horizons immensely and made me think differently. My most loved subject being Accountancy and Financial Practice, the eminent professors encouraged my challenging various postulates and principles which they presented.



The exposure gained being a member of The Students' Union and the Poor Students Educational Relief Fund (PSERF) which I later came to head in my final year provided invaluable experience which has stood me in good stead till today. I helped draw up the accounts of the PSERF which were in disarray for the last few years and even completed their Income Tax assessments. One of my favorite teachers, Mrs. Ambika Sirkar was so thrilled with this that she actually tried making me a Trustee of PSERF, once I passed out, but government rules came in the way.

As Sydenham was the most coveted college, it attracted the best students. Hence the competition was always intense. I remember that we probably made up for more than 50% of the total First Classes awarded by the University of Bombay when the results were announced. The endless games of carrom in the Common Room, the numerous cups of tasteless tea served by Sunder and Shetty in the Canteen and the ultra-thin sandwiches made by the sandwich vendor across the college often broke the monotony of some of our classes.

In the end, the students, professors and the various societies of the college all made us and shaped us into men of steel, competitive yet humane, independent but considerate, and above all successful individuals.

For all of the above I will never forget the debt of my obligation to the great institution of Sydenham College.

**- Sandip Agarwalla
(Sydenham Alumni 1982)**

India's Top 100 Women in Finance – Salonee Sanghvi, CFA



Fourth-generation financial professional with 16 years of experience in the financial services industry. Domain expertise across equity markets and investment management.

The dearth of solid, reliable financial advice prompted her to realize her passion to spread financial literacy with transparency to every stratum of society. To bridge the gap and provide a customized roadmap she founded My Wealth Guide, an endeavour to make a difference to help people become financially independent and attain their goals.

COLLEGE DAYS

Ms. Salonee Sanghvi completed her Bachelors in Management Studies in 2004 and Masters in Commerce in 2006.

She belonged to the third batch of the BMS course at Sydenham College. She started a new society in college, called Managers of Tomorrow which helped students of BMS colleges across Mumbai to prepare for CAT exams, Personal Interviews, Group Discussions & Debates.

She was also actively involved in Career Fair and Simulations, the annual B-school fest by SIMSREE.

The leadership opportunities afforded by the college helped her navigate the corporate world and eventually branch out into entrepreneurship. The focus on practical application ensured the readiness to face the real world.

SOME ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS:

1. Network outside your organization and industry
2. Build your personal advisory board of people you'd want to be 10 years from today
3. Don't worry about work-life balance, focus on work-life harmony
4. Include your likes and hobbies in your work
5. Make a list of what you're good at, what you're not good at, and what you haven't experienced yet
6. What are the skills I need to get to the next level and how do I get there
7. Have big aspirations
8. Don't underrate yourself
9. Your career is your responsibility, don't make excuses.
10. Ask for opportunities

SOME FINANCIAL TIPS BY MS. SALONEE SANGHVI :

EDUCATION



- CFA Charter holder, CFA Institute
- Investment Advisor, NISM
- Mutual Fund Distributor, NISM
- Certificate Program on Capital Markets, BSE, Jamanlal Bajaj Institute of Management
- Investment Lab with the Masters, FLAME University

■ Maintain a Personal Record Book –

Keep track of the location of all your important documents (Financial, Insurance, Real Estate, Medical, Service Providers, Credit Cards, Usernames, and Passwords)

■ Make a comprehensive 360 degrees plan based on your aspirations and financial circumstances instead of Ad-hoc investments based on random tips/ advice/news

■ Determine your goals and objectives before investment

PROFESSIONAL



Analyst, McKinsey India - Gained exposure to complex analytical frameworks and cutting-edge tools

Analyst, Rare Enterprises - 8 years managing the \$2bn proprietary portfolio (public and private) of Mr. Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, India's largest private investor. Involved in several in-depth value creation studies for several portfolio companies

Co-Founder, Arque Tech - Develop investment strategies using artificial intelligence

■ Teach kids about Money Management

■ Allocate your assets

BUILDING BLOCKS OF FINANCIAL PLANNING

1. PROTECT

Insurance (Life, Medical, House, etc)
Emergency Funds
Will/ Power of Attorney

2. ACCUMULATE

Financial Goals (House, Education, Business etc)
Retirement
Tax-savings

3. DISTRIBUTE

Heirs (Nominees, Trusts, Records, etc)
Charity
Business Succession Plan

PASSIONS



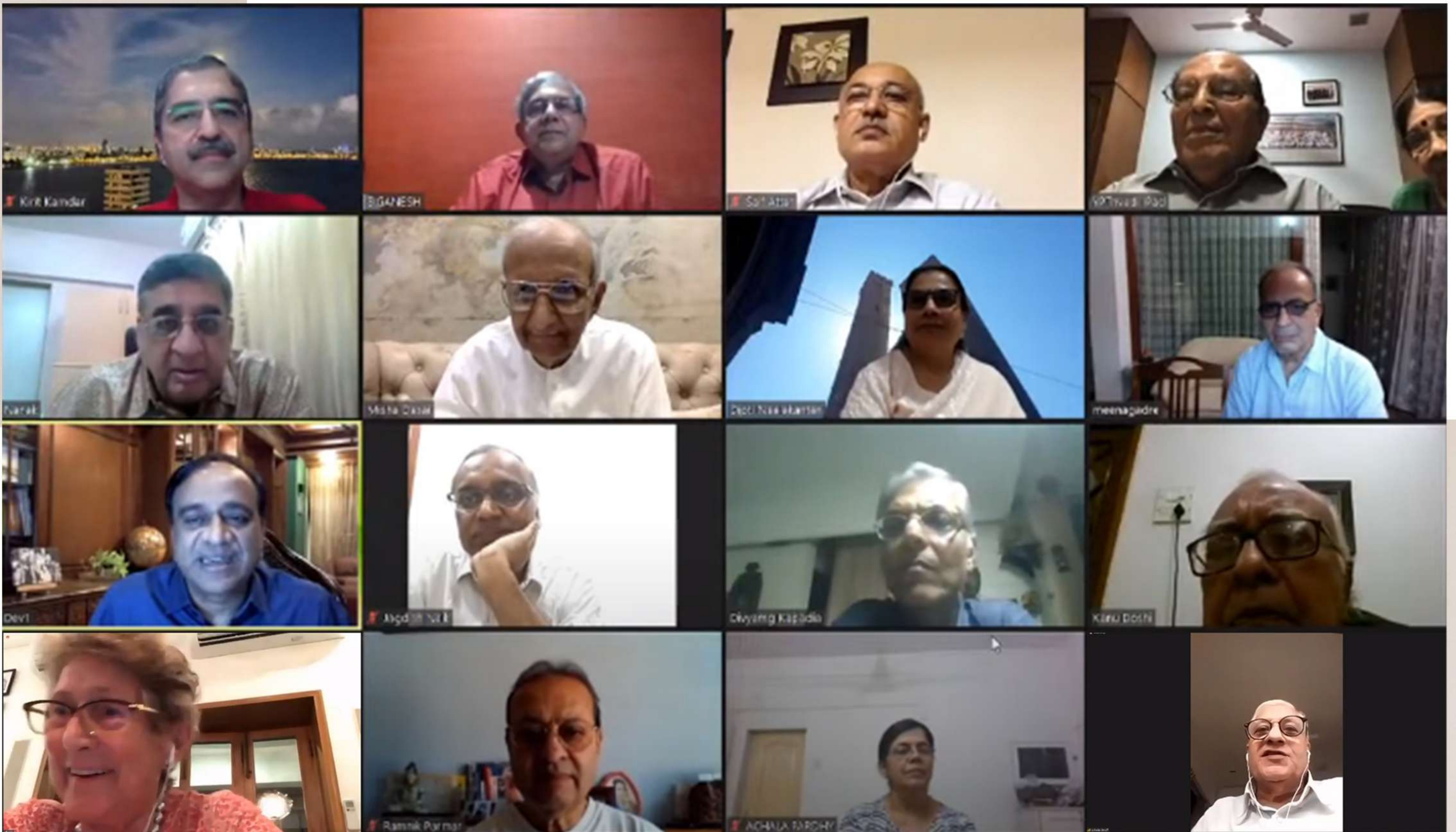
Books, Books, Books

Food & Travel Blogger, Foodalong
- Listed as Top Blogs in India by BlogAdda, Holidify, Thrillophilia, India Food Blogger

Theatre, It's Showtime

- Mumbai's first and sole theatre community featured in HT, Vogue, Mid- Day, Mumbai Mirror

Prof. S. V. Ghatalia (26 January 1920 - 10 September 2008) was a noted and successful Chartered Accountant and a pioneer of Management Consultancy services in India (1963). He was the Director of several companies and founded a charitable trust, & S. V. Ghatalia Foundation". He was also a Professor at the Sydenham College from 1952 to 1978 and head of the Department of Accountancy and the Department of Management. He was a member of the University Senate and Syndicate and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce in 1969-70. He presented the University Budget for several years.




In the loving memory of Prof. Ghatalia, a birth centenary was organized on the Sydenham Alumni Cell YouTube channel. The speakers included Mr. Ajit Sanghvi, Mr. Kirit Kamdar, Mr. Y P Trivedi, Mr. Bansibhai Mehta, Mr. Ashwinbhai Shroff, Mrs. Sandra Rajjubhai Shroff, Mr. S. Ganesh, Dr. Sangita Pakade, Mr. Nanak Ghatalia, and many more.

Mr. Ajit Sanghvi, an alumnus of Sydenham mentioned in his opening remarks that, Sydenham has 108 years of legacy as a premier institution in the country and has shining alumni. It also has a legacy of eminent Professors like Prof. Ghatalia, Prof. Bansi Mehta, Prof. Haribhakti, and Prof. N P Sarda among many more.

Mr. Y P Trivedi, an eminent Senior Counsel, and Mr. Bansi S. Mehta an eminent CA, who both had a long association with Prof. Ghatalia shared their memories. They also shared anecdotes of his impeccable integrity and high ethical practices. He was always immaculately dressed and a man of very high taste. Prof. Ghatalia would say “They are not my Brothers in Law but My Brothers in love”. Prof. Bansi Mehta fondly remembered Prof. Ghatalia and would call him ‘Kakubai’ , he said that Prof. Ghatalia practiced Professionalism and Finesse in his outward appearance but was soft at his heart. He was a true friend and a perfectionist.

Prof. Bansi also recalled an incident wherein he checked a Bookkeeping and accountancy paper of a first-year commerce student and there were no mistakes. Prof. Bansi approached Prof. Ghatalia, the head of the accountancy department and after 3 days Prof. Ghatalia replied that ‘it will be very unfair if you deduct even a single mark from this student’s paper, that Student was Mr. Dilip Piramal, today he is one of the leading industrialists of the country. Mr. S. Ganesh a senior counsel at Supreme Court shared his memories of student days with his firm. Mrs. Sandra Rajjubhai Shroff and Mr. Ashwin Shroff, both his clients, recollected his sound advice and expert guidance for the growth of their business in its early years.

Prof. Ghatalia was frank, sincere, very hardworking, and honest to the core. A legend in his profession and he has also written a Book on auditing.



Prof. S. V. Ghatalia Birth centenary

Prof. Ghatalia was a noted and successful Chartered Accountant and a pioneer of Management Consultancy services in India. He was the Director of several companies and founded a charitable trust "S. V. Ghatalia Foundation". He was a Professor at the Sydenham College from 1952 to 1978 and head of the Department of Accountancy and the Department of Management.

19th September, Saturday | **Time: 7:30 pm**

Venue : Sydenham alumni cell - YouTube channel

(26 January 1920 - 10 September 2008)

We honour our revered Prof. S. V. Ghatalia with gratitude and memories of our association with him.

TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE WITH ONLINE CLASSES



The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the entire economy to a standstill. A major impact of the lockdown can also be seen in the education sector. The Indian education system is essentially focused on the offline mode of teaching, that is, the traditional chalk and duster classes.

But the pandemic has brought about a transition in the mode of learning and shifted the approach towards virtual classes. In the year 2020, we can see a dramatic change in education, with a distinctive rise in E-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken on digital platforms.

Technology has certainly come to the rescue of students across the country, as our smartphones or laptops have turned into a medium of gaining knowledge and thus reaching horizons. Usage of online applications such as Zoom, Google meet, and Microsoft Teams, etc. for learning has become the new normal!

Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics also entered into the virtual culture and has taken a step forward by initiating online lectures. This will ensure that learning does not stop and the students can attend lectures sitting at home. This surely is a great step taken as students can learn from the comfort of their sofas and not miss any concept!



Mr. Yash Babrekar, Chairperson

SYDENHAM ALUMNI CELL



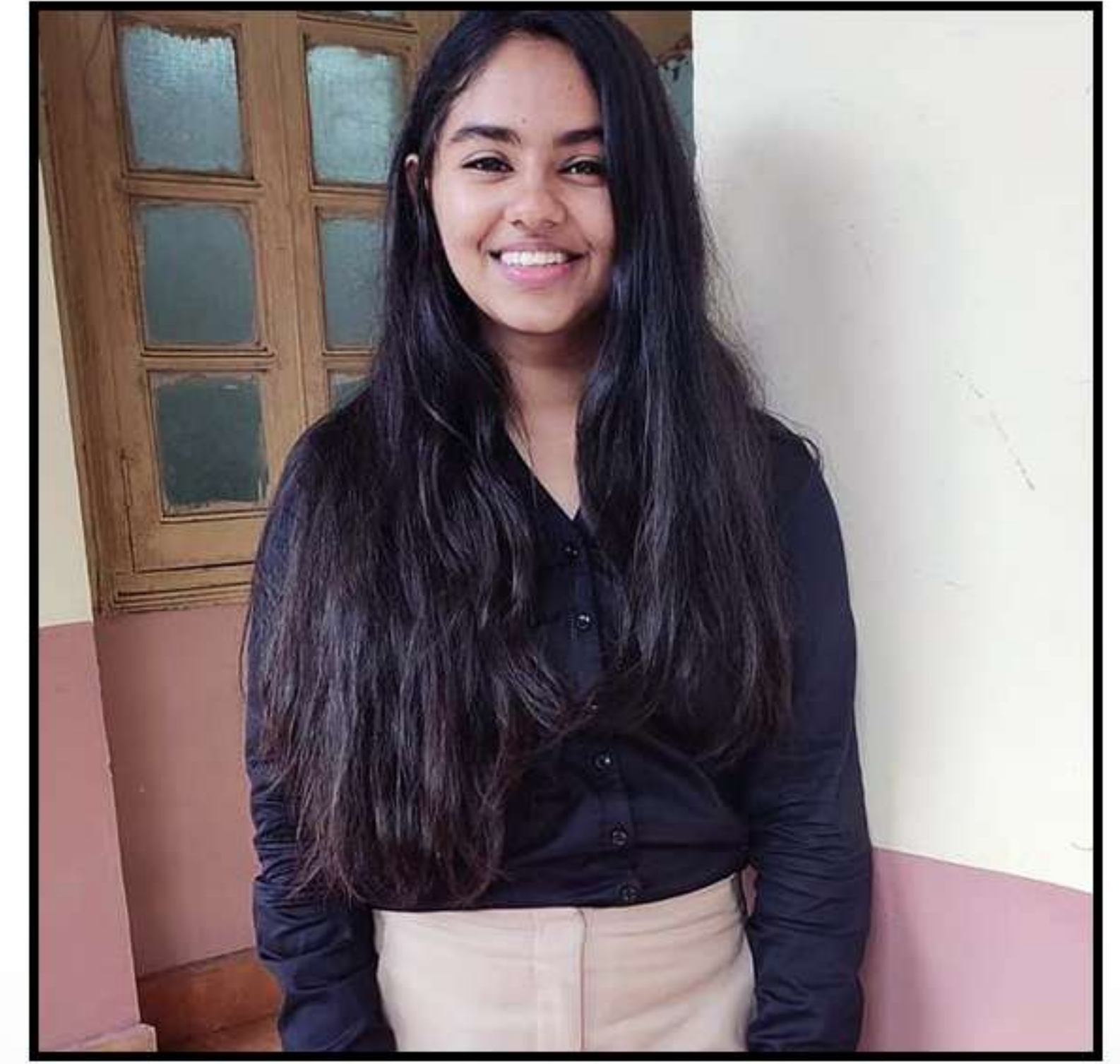
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Ms. Sakshi Chavan
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Ms. Vinnie Srivastava
Leadership Team Member

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