

THE SYDENHAMITE

THE BULLETIN OF SYDENHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

Welcome to the December Edition of The Sydenhamite. As morning light ascends, may your heart be full of delight. This edition is filled with anticipation, hope, love and gratitude.

From the art of noticing big and small things to intricate architecture shaping our culture but that's not all, talks about our mumbai local, stock market and so much more will provide us useful insight.

Emphasizing on the holly jolly month, we are brimming with the holiday spirit and we hope it's as contagious as we believe when we highlight the presence of Christmas and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Happy Reading:)




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TIS' THE SEASON

~ Kaifi Khan

HO! HO! HO!

North Pole is swamped again, which means its that time of the year and we all know what that means, Cue Jingle Bells.

December is a very hectic month, almost age-transcending. The parents are busy with shopping, decorating, meal preps, organizing and so much more.

There's this thing about Christmas which is so apparent, maybe its the cool breeze which starts blowing as soon as December starts or its when Netflix is again filled with our Holiday Favourites.

Everyone is brimming with the Holiday spirit and everything seems merry and jolly. The ambience is illuminated with lights and the table is loaded with savoury meals as well as desserts and pies. Let's remember to be grateful this season, as we hang our stockings also be hopeful as we anticipate for the gift which we dream of. As we subtly mention the presents we want, let's not forget to mention the love we have for each other, not just our parents but our friends, relatives, teachers, our inspirations and so many more.

Let's step into the next year with a new version of ourselves, make new resolutions, conquer the goals which we left behind and not forget to bundle the abundant blessings, love, joy, hope, happiness to take with us in the new year.

FOREVER YOUNG

"Forever young, I want to be forever young. Do you really want to live forever? Forever, and ever?" ~Alphaville

The wish to stay young forever, to never grow old, is such a blissful dream. Never worrying about the aches in our body, the stress accumulated from growing old, the responsibilities gained from adulthood, the responsibility of caring for your family, watching your own children grow, the tension of their future. Wouldn't living young forever help it all? Not a wrinkle on your face, not an ache in your back, not a pop in your knee, no tiredness after walking up the stairs, wouldn't that be amazing?...but at the same time, wouldn't life be boring?

~ Bridget D'souza

Living forever is, of course, a scam. Do you really think you could enjoy living forever? Your life partner, growing old while you remain at the peak of your health, not looking a day older, your kids looking older than you, while you are stuck. Growing old with your partner, watching the wrinkles come on you as well as your love, somehow still feeling satisfied and happy with the life you've lived so far, that is what life is worth living for.



The desire to live young forever is present in everyone, even those that are young. The fear of growing old is something that is extremely common. Not being able to do what you want with the limited time you have, that is a fearful thought. But for me, that is life. The fear creates a thrill, it directly or indirectly motivates you, to live, to do what scares you, to take a step, even if it's one at a time, even if it takes a while, but the feeling of never being able to do it, or the feeling like you've missed out because of it, it outweighs the fear.

That was about the concept of living young forever. Let's talk about the new trend of wanting to 'look' young even in old age.

Due to social media, young kids are being influenced to use skincare products, to "preserve" their young skin. These products are not made with kids in mind, hence why the products cause an opposite effect on kids, making them look older than they are. Kids also grow more reckless, not wanting to fall behind on these trends and spend excessive amounts of their parents' money on it.

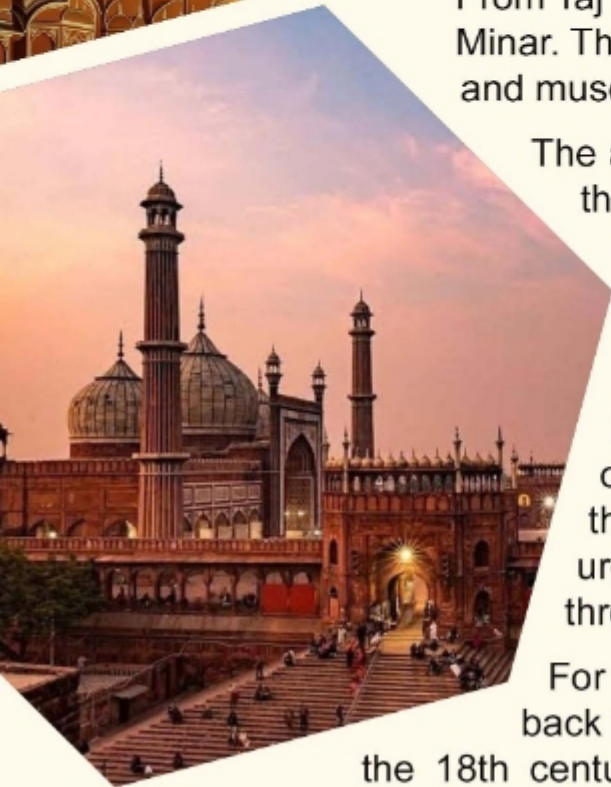
Moving on to the age group of young adults, the kids tend to follow this group as the young adults reign over the skincare social media, they tend to purchase skincare products in bulk, just for "clout", wasting products and following passing trends. One day there could be a particular skincare trend, but the next day it could be another skincare which is trending. Young adults, having their own money, tend to overconsume these products, simply because they can.

The oldest age group is not freed from this trend as well. There is a small group which uses skincare, but the majority of the group uses plastic surgery as a way to look young. Plastic surgery is extremely useful for repairing damaged or missing tissue and skin. It has started to trend due to also being able to improve the physical appearance of the body. There is a small percentage of the surgery going wrong due to certain complications, and it is irreversible, which risks a person's natural beauty.

Of course, not all follow the trend, nor am I bashing the people who do, everyone has their own opinions and their own view. In my opinion, aging is natural, the marks and blemishes that appear naturally as well as from past mistakes help you know you've grown from them.

Living forever is simply a dream, but the people who have awakened from that dream are motivated to live their life the way they want to, knowing the limited time that they have. But in the end, how you want to live your own life is in your very own hands.





Unparalleled Architecture of **ANCIENT INDIA**

~ Kaifi Khan

From Taj Mahal to Jama Masjid and From Hawa Mahal to Qutub Minar. This is not all, India is filled with countless temples, caves and museums which will leave you awestruck.

The architectural heritage of ancient India is a testament to the creativity and skill of Indian architects. These architectures were built in the early 1600s. To even think that they have withstood all these years, when they were not constructed by professional engineers but common workers is astounding and continue to inspire people around the world. Sanchi Stupa is the oldest building in India. It has been standing tall since the Indus Valley civilization in the country. This really urges us to think how much has these structures been through.

For Example, Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, dates back to the 8th century and the present structure was built in the 18th century by Travancore Maharaja Marthanda Varma. The temple was initially made of wood but later it was constructed with granite. Both the temple and the entire city are often eulogised as being made of gold and the temple as heaven.

But this is not all, Kerala is filled with countless temples having histories which seems something out of a book or a movie but it's not, all this actually happened and is part of our culture.

“Mundeshwari Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and Shakti of Kaimur Bihar, is considered one of the oldest functional Hindu temples in India. The temple, built of stone, is on an octagonal plan which is rare. A ray of sunlight falls on the idol of Mundeshwari or Durga on certain days of the year. This phenomenon is considered as a miracle by many devotees and visitors who flock to witness it.

Shah Jahan built Taj Mahal in order to perpetuate the memory of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Jama Masjid was one of the last monuments built under Shah Jahan. After its completion, it served as the royal mosque of the emperors until the end of the Mughal period.

Indian architects have produced some of the most stunning and innovative structures in the world. These structures are not only beautiful, but they are also important cultural and historical artifacts. They tell the story of India's rich and diverse past, and they continue to be a source of pride for the Indian people.

The architectural heritage of ancient India is a valuable resource that should be preserved for future generations. These structures are not only important for their historical and cultural significance, but they are also important for their aesthetic value. They are a reminder of the creativity and skill of Indian architects, and they continue to inspire people around the world.





Are You Smarter Than the **MARKET?**

~Pranav Dhabale

We've all felt like we had a secret edge, a special insight into the market. But the truth is, most of us are a bit too confident in our investing skills. This overconfidence can lead to some costly mistakes.

Are you overtrading?

One common mistake is overtrading. We get excited and think we can time the market perfectly, buying low and selling high. But the reality is, even the most experienced investors struggle to do that consistently. In fact, studies have shown that most investors actually underperform the market by trying to time it.



Overtrading can lead to a number of problems, including:

Higher transaction costs: Every time you buy or sell a stock, you have to pay a commission. The more you trade, the higher your costs will be.

Increased taxes: Capital gains taxes can eat into your profits, especially if you're trading frequently.

Emotional decision-making: When you're trading frequently, it's easy to let your emotions get the best of you. You may sell a stock too soon because you're afraid of a market downturn, or you may buy a stock too late because you're afraid of missing out.

Reduced long-term returns: By focusing on short-term gains, you may miss out on the long-term growth potential of your investments.



How can you overcome overconfidence as an investor?

To be a successful investor, you need to be realistic about your abilities. Here are a few tips to help you overcome overconfidence:

Know Your Limits: Understand your investment knowledge and experience.

Diversify Your Investments: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Spread your money across different assets.

Stay Calm: Avoid making impulsive decisions based on fear or greed.

Learn Continuously: Keep learning about investing to improve your skills.

Seek Professional Advice: Consider consulting with a financial advisor.



By following these tips, you can make smarter investment decisions and increase your chances of achieving your financial goals. Remember, investing is a long-term game. Stay patient, stay disciplined, and don't let overconfidence derail your plans.



China Plus One Policy

~ Pranav Dhabale

The global supply chain landscape is undergoing a seismic shift. For years, China has been the world's manufacturing powerhouse, attracting businesses with its low-cost labor and efficient production capabilities. However, recent events have forced companies to reconsider their reliance on a single source.

Why the Shift?

A perfect storm of factors is driving this change. Rising labor costs in China, coupled with escalating geopolitical tensions, have made businesses wary of over-dependence on a single nation. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities inherent in concentrated supply chains. As global shutdowns disrupted production and logistics, companies realized the urgent need to diversify.

India: A Rising Star

Among the countries vying for a piece of the pie, India has emerged as a strong contender. With its vast pool of skilled labor, government-backed initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and a growing infrastructure, India offers a compelling proposition for businesses looking to diversify.

However, India isn't without its challenges. Infrastructure gaps and complex regulations can still hinder smooth operations. Additionally, countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh are also making significant strides in attracting foreign investment.

India: A Road Ahead

The China Plus One strategy is not just a trend; it's a necessity. Businesses that fail to adapt risk facing supply chain disruptions, increased costs, and reputational damage. By diversifying their manufacturing bases, companies can mitigate risks, improve resilience, and position themselves for long-term success.

As you consider your business's next steps, ask yourself:

- Are you adequately diversified?
- Have you identified potential alternative suppliers and manufacturing locations?
- Do you have a robust risk management plan in place?

By proactively addressing these questions, you can navigate the evolving global landscape and ensure the sustainability of your supply chain.

The future of global manufacturing is undoubtedly multi-sourced. Are you ready to embrace the China Plus One strategy?

STATIONS TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP

~Hemanshu Jadhao



I recently watched a Tamil movie named *Meiyazhagan* about how a cycle, once left by a boy who was leaving the town, changes the life of an entire family who could not afford the bus tickets to the nearby city. Watching this movie introduced me to a fresh perspective of looking at the things we usually tend to give zero thought to or are ungrateful towards just because we get lost in the regularness of life. One can find facts and numbers and big pieces of information on the logistics and significance of the Mumbai locals, but that won't include the stories being lived on these trains and countless lives being shaped and dreams given birth to. One can only understand so far without experiencing something firsthand, be it the joys or the struggles. Only if the policymakers and civil servants experienced the journey that almost the entirety of the city's population takes on every day would we have exponential improvements in the quality and convenience of the local commute.



In the distant future, we might see the locals being replaced by Metro or some even better alternative. The college-going kid may pick up a high-paying job to be able to afford private transport but Until then, this 'Lifeline' will keep going and adding to the glorious story of the city of dreams, one station at a time.

अहंCar ~ Hemanshu Jadhao

"When a black Creta flashes the dipper, Then it's not just a light; it's Yamraj's buffalo winking at you before you die".

You can see how Creta drivers have defamed themselves. But they are not alone. I have seen Thar owners on the internet ripping off the traffic rules. Somewhere, a Thar owner has jammed the road. You can see for Thar owners, off-roading means nothing but driving over the dividers. Not just Thar; even Scorpio has a bad fame for performing some messy stunts. And sometimes, Fortuner owners are seen driving recklessly on the roads. Now these are about the videos on the internet. But this doesn't prove that every reckless driver is an SUV owner. Isn't it? Anyone can do this. Then why do they blame only these cars? Well, to this point there is no data, nor did they conduct a study in India. But this can be understood by some international studies.

An automotive magazine in the UK made a study and reported that a person's personality traits influence his car-buying decision. And everyone's inherent need affects his car options. Like, in 2011, the Honda Accord was the most stolen car. This means it was very popular amongst the thieves. And the reason behind it is that it's one of the best-selling sedans in the world, and there was a huge demand for the parts. And if thieves steal a car with parts in high demand, then they can make more profits. Apart from this, in a report by the US, the older generation prefers to buy hybrid cars because the older generation is interested in saving money. In another study, it has been said that the color of the car also depicts the personality of a person.

Like, people buying white and black cars are status seekers. And if we connect this with the Indian context, you must have noticed that politicians own big SUVs that are white in color. And when a common guy buys a big SUV, then he buys it in black color so he could look powerful. That's why the black Thar, black Fortuner, and black Scorpio are famous in India.

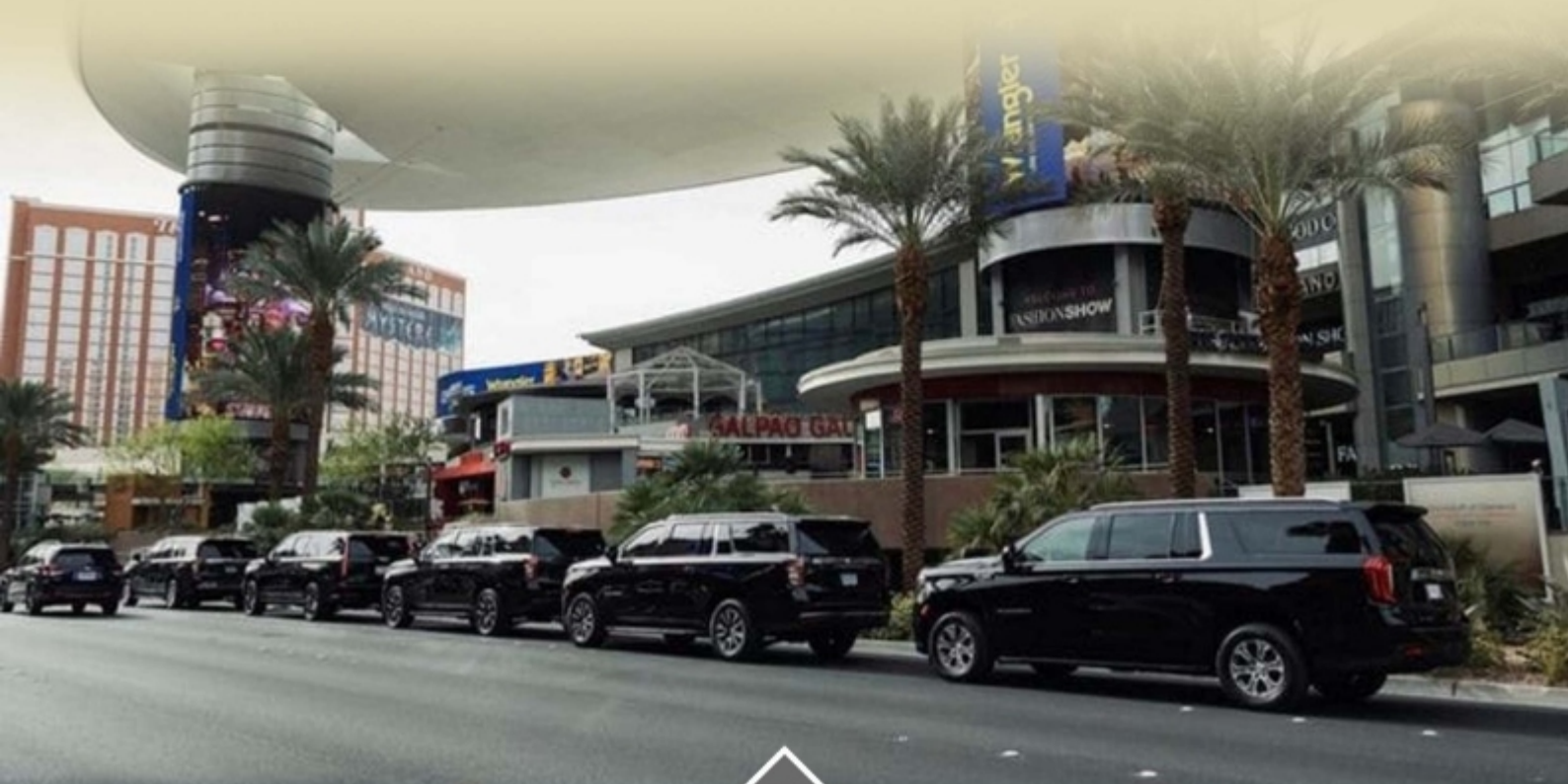


Besides, the University of Houston and Miami University made a study that a car buyer prioritizes his self-image while he selects a car which is, when a person drives a particular car, how do people react to him or how he sees himself? You must have heard people on the internet calling certain cars mafia cars. Like GMC trucks, or big black SUVs, are generally termed gangster cars. Or if I take a prime example, then the Mercedes G-Wagon is called a mafia car. Now this could be because the mafias love G-Wagons. But this doesn't prove that everyone Owning a G-Wagon is linked to the mafia. This is just a public perception towards the buyers.

Apart from these studies and facts, there has been a major study where the car buyers were categorized into five types: conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness to new experiences, and extraversion. This study was conducted on 448 participants, and every participant was given a questionnaire with 33 questions. The sole purpose of this study was to establish a link between the personality and the car-buying behavior. In this study, they tried to predict which car is bought by which group. And this study helped them understand that if we could find out how educated the person is, what their age is, and how much they earn, and which ethnicity he comes from, then it's pretty easy to understand which car he would like to buy. Which means a person's personality trait tells us which car he would buy, and a group holding a certain personality would prefer to buy one type of car.

Now if we understand this from the Indian perspective, then people who like to buy Scorpio in India, they try to show themselves as powerful and fearless. And the same thing goes with Thar and Fortuner owners. And unlike Fortuner, because of their price tag, Thar and Scorpio fall into the hands of guys who don't understand the rules and the driving ethics, i.e., those who are not conditioned in social and educational backgrounds. Look, you can find Fortuner drivers being reckless, but Fortuners are not too large in number. So, only educated people get to buy these, or businessmen or politicians. And most of them hire a chauffeur to drive them. Since it's someone else's car, a chauffeur doesn't like to go recklessly.

Now this Indian car market's obsession with getting as big a car as possible does harm to genuinely good designed and engineered cars. I agree that getting a big SUV has its practical advantages in our country where the road infrastructure is on par with big developed countries but this change in mindset of the Indian consumer and the insecurity has to go in order to bring more variety and interesting options to the car market.





MEN'S VULNERABILITY: The unspoken truth *~Sai Thorat*

It might raise some eyebrows to see 'Men and vulnerability' in the same sentence. In today's world, vulnerability is often seen as the act of opening up, showing love, sharing feelings, and building deep connections. But does this really happen to men? Not so often. In fact, many people still believe men aren't supposed to be vulnerable.

It might raise some eyebrows to see 'Men and vulnerability' in the same sentence. In today's world, vulnerability is often seen as the act of opening up, showing love, sharing feelings, and building deep connections. But does this really happen to men? Not so often. In fact, many people still believe men aren't supposed to be vulnerable.

From a very young age, boys are taught that life is a race and that showing feelings or emotions is a sign of weakness. If a man ever gets a compliment, he might not know how to react to respond. It's awkward. It's uncomfortable. But deep down, he loves it. That's the irony. Men, like everyone else, crave affirmation, but are often too stiff to accept it. It gets even trickier when one man opens up to another. Vulnerability between men? Now that's rare, but when it happens, it's oddly Beautiful and funny. Just imagine there are two male friends, and they have been friends for fifteen years, seeing each other grow and one of the friends moved out of the city, and they didn't meet or call each other for a couple of months, and suddenly, one friend at 3 am calls the other friends and starts

complimenting him its awkward call and suspicious at the same time, just listening to his two line of compliment he picks his car key and run to his city just thinking that his friend is going to suicide. And it's a very rare friendship when a guy does vulnerable things.



It's not just complimenting or expressing gratitude and love. It means vulnerability, talking about the unmasculinity stuff. They might discuss with their mother, sister or female friend, but not with another man. Sometimes men are more vulnerable to females than males. Men are always expected to be confident. But people don't understand that men do have feelings, and they still have a constant fear of being hurt or seen as a weak person. Men do want to cry sometimes, but people and their families have force and taught them from childhood that be brave it creates difficulty putting a word to a feeling or processing the feeling.



There is always a limitation for men to cry or how vulnerable they can be and the time and place. It's a golden ticket for them to cry. They cannot cry more often if they are judged or there is no person for them to ask if they are fine.

***“Jhote Hai Wo Log
Jo Kahte Hai Aadmi Ro Nahi Sakta
Aree Puchne Wala Chahiye Re”***



BIG THINGS, LITTLE THINGS

- Bridget D'souza

The world consists of many things, some big, some small. The big things fill up space and the little things fill up the gaps in between. Some tend to notice the big things first and later dive into the little things that matter, while some notice all the little things first and then create the big picture with them. Noticing is an art, an art in which you can find peace. Noticing a glance, a smile, something so small, yet when you notice them, your heart skips a beat at the small yet kind gestures. Like, when you are with your loved one, noticing their imperfections yet finding beauty in it, flaws that make them perfect. These little things makes you fall even harder for them.

Hanging out with your friends and noticing their smiles and laughters at silly jokes and awkward moments, it makes you happy knowing that they enjoy your company. Remembering and reminiscing all the moments we've roamed, the whispers in the deep of the night, on the phone or with each other. Noticing the blessing has been given to you, a friendship so strong, that you know and are confident that they will never leave you, and will be willing to face life with you. Your soul feels glad knowing the people you surround yourself with is someone you trust.



When you are traveling or simply taking a walk, but life isn't going well for you, and you look around and notice the joy in the faces of strangers, a mix of emotions arises in you, seeing the happiness that you seek for, is shining brightly in someone else's eyes. Yet, somehow, you don't feel any envy, just a pang in your heart and mind, and you do nothing, just giving a gentle smile at their bliss.

When you look up at the sky, it looks like a canvas that changes according to time, the clouds constantly changing to different shades of gray, how each time you take a minute to notice the sky, it never looks the same twice. The beauty of the ever-changing canvas touches your soul. Even taking a glance every day, makes you grateful for such a mystic nature.



When you stand near the window of your house, you can see the trees, the bushes, the flowers that bloom on the ground as they sway with the wind while a few of the petals float by in the wind, seeming like old memories. The birds chirping awakens you from your dreams, to not reminisce on old memories and instead live in the moment and notice the present.

Noticing all the little and big things in life makes you aware of life's fragility and strength. One can only find their voice when they notice the beauty in everything. Promising to cherish every choice they make, embracing life's imperfections, this is what makes noticing all things worth it. Feeling the beauty that shines through everything is the best thing about the art of noticing.

GRAD GLORIES

A Miraculous Escape from Tigers of Mr. Rajiv Punater

As recounted by Rajiv Punater, Batch of 1994

Ex-student Rajiv Punater and his partner Mahera, went to visit the Trinetra Ganesh Temple at Ranthambore Fort. As they were exiting, a stray tiger appeared on the path. Moments later, the tiger turned its focus toward Rajiv and Mahera. Reacting quickly, the duo jumped over a metal handrail into a small opening filled with dense bushes.

To their horror, the tiger followed. The tiger walked and stood just inches away from Rajiv's face locking eyes with him. A stone thrown by a guide or visitor from somewhere above, hit the metal handrail behind, distracted the tiger.

Mahera seized the moment to get up and run. But as Rajiv stood up, a second tiger struck him from behind. Rajiv was in shock and started screaming, waving his cap in the tigers face. The tiger briefly pursued him, causing deep injuries on the lower back, before joining the first tiger uphill.

This opportunity allowed them to escape downhill and reach safety. Four tigers had been seen in the vicinity, creating a high-risk situation. Despite prior reports of tiger activity in the fort for three days, the Ranthambore Forest authorities took no precautionary action. Rajiv expresses gratitude for this second chance at life "We are grateful to both God and the tigers for sparing us."





SYDENHAM SCOOPS

STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Student of the Year Award has been instituted by the SydAlumni Association. There will be one award given to the best student male and one award to a female. It will be the most prestigious award in Sydenham College. It will include a Rolling Trophy to the Winner along with a **Certificate and a Cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 each.**

Another set of awards will be given to the Student of the Year - Male and Student of the Year - Female to the best students in Junior college. The **cash prize in this category will be Rs 51,000.** The selection will be through a transparent process by a Jury which will be selected by the Principal, and professors and senior Alumni. The trophies will be awarded at the **Annual day of the College.**

The criteria for selection of the winners will be on administrative skills, academic achievements, character and discipline, participation in college activities, excellence in sports, societies, public speaking, dance and music etc.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored dress, stands at a crossroads of two stone-paved paths in a misty, forested area. The scene is dimly lit, with soft light filtering through the trees. Several butterflies are seen flying in the air. In the foreground, there are various flowers and a wooden cross-shaped signpost on the left path.

Students Corner

Life's but a stage,
And we, mere performers,
Lost in our roles.
If that's the truth, then why does life feel like parole?

Is free will but a fleeting illusion,
A mirage of choice in the haze of confusion?
For every path narrows down,
To This or That,
Here or There,
Back and Forth.

And so, I find myself caught,
Wandering crossroads I never sought,
Bound by the roads I cannot choose
A silent journey, to win or lose.

Submitted by : Suaad Shaikh FYBMS, Div B

We are pleased to announce the reunion of all
batches of Sydenham

The Grand Sydenham Reunion

Organised by:

SydAlumni

Senior Alums attending

Lavish Dinner Menu with Drinks

Exciting lucky draw prizes

Music and Dance

*Reunion Photographs with your
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Venue: Willingdon Club Lawns



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At 7PM

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