

THE SYDENHAMITE

THE BULLETIN OF SYDENHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH

live your

best life

be bold

be happy



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Warm Greetings,

Welcome to the January Edition of The Sydenhamite. Sakura, the Japanese word for cherry blossoms, symbolizes new beginnings and hope. It reminds us of the beauty of life, even in its fleeting moments. Just like these delicate blooms, we hope the first month of this new year unfolds with beauty and joy, leaving you with cherished memories to carry in your heart.

Inspired by the essence of Sakura, this edition brings you a thoughtfully curated blend of articles to uplift and enlighten. From exploring the dynamics of the articles, each piece is designed to resonate with the beauty of new beginnings and its potential.

We hope this edition brings you the same sense of joy and wonder that cherry blossoms inspire.

Happy reading!

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~Bridget D'Souza

As the year 2024 has ended, the new year 2025 has begun. A new page to the storybook called "Life".

As the year has ended, I would like you all to just sit and think about what happened in the past year. I'll help you by asking a few questions. You can think about them and answer in your own time. What was the happiest day you had in the last year? What was the thing that made you break down? Did you leave it behind in the past year or is a part of it still with you? What is the thing that you are most proud of that you achieved last year? Did you meet a person who you are comfortable with? Who was the person that made your year better? What was most of your year like? Mostly happy, sad, numb, average, exciting? How was your year overall from a rate of 1 to 10?

Everyone's year was different and will be different, but I can assure you, there will always be days that were bad, but know that those were just a few days. Don't judge your life for a few days.

You've got more coming your way. Remember to always be in the moment and not dwell on the past. Your life is a book, the year is simply a page. Your entire year is written on one single page. It shows how, even though it feels like you've had a long year, if it's written down, only the most memorable ones are noted down. So, in the future, if you reread the book, you will recognize the words immediately.

The world is your story and what you do determines your chapters. Be careful yet free in what you do. Everyone's books are different, some thick and some thin, but the number of pages doesn't matter. All that matters is the content of what is written in it.

NEW YEAR

Your story is what describes you and as the new year has begun, do what describes you the best. Don't try to chase what is the most popular or a cool dream, but follow your own.

As 2024 comes to an end, 2025 should either be the year when you continue being the best version of you or start being the best version of yourself. The year 2025 should be an unforgettable year for you, not only this year but each and every year you go through. The years should never dull your spirit.

The past pages are just to be thought about, not dwelled upon. The future pages are to be excited about, not predicted about. What you should do is read your current page and enjoy the story that is being written out by you.

PHONDEMIC

~Praneet Kodkani



After strenuous efforts, we finally have a vaccine for the coronavirus. But what about the virus which is spreading many folds faster than any virus the world has ever seen? This virus does not have any name as such, but I would like to call this virus as phonoravirus. This virus is spread through digital screens, especially through phones. Hence the name. This virus has caused a phondemic (pandemic) all over the world. The scariest thing about this virus is that most people won't even know that they have been infected. Hence, the world doesn't know it is surviving a phondemic.

Far and wide, looking at your loved one's faces the first thing in the morning is being replaced by a phone's screen; chess and ludo games between friends have almost been replaced by mobile apps of the aforementioned games with no need to even meet to play; heated political debates and tittle-tattles of the uncles in trains are being withered off due the phonoravirus. Unsaid stories aren't finding ears and fewer laughs are being heard by neighbors during family gatherings. Newspapers, magazines and books are being replaced by its digital versions such as PDFs. There's a high probability that you are reading even this magazine on your phone.

The smallest virus in the world is “adenovirus”. But the list needs to be updated because phoronavirus can’t be seen even under a microscope. No sanitizer or soap will work against this virus, no masks and gloves would prevent you from getting contaminated, neither steam nor gargling would help you with this virus, and and and no medication would help you get rid of this virus completely. So, the question arises how do you save yourself from getting contaminated by this virus? The answer is easier said than done, that is to stay away from phones, laptops and televisions. Whether you have been affected by this virus or want to prevent yourself from getting affected, you have to do the same thing. That is, to ensure that you use these devices, and not these devices use you. The next time you find yourself empty scrolling, ask yourself what are you looking for, the answer could be as simple as, you are bored or looking for some specific product or waiting for someone’s reply. Say to yourself your motive behind opening your phone. Once you clearly define your motive in your mind, it becomes easy for you to stop mindless scrolling.

Some worthy things you can do instead of empty scrolling: Going for a walk, helping your parents with something, finding a hobby, reading something, exercising, meditating, and many more things. Just focus on doing what’s beneficial for you.

Unlike pandemics, there’s no medicine or vaccine which works for all. For phondemic, you’ll have to make your own vaccine for yourself.



MBA: SMART MOVE OR TOO EXPENSIVE?

~ Pranav Dhabale

People often think an MBA (Master of Business Administration) is the best way to boost their career. But in India in 2025, things are changing. Is an MBA still worth it, or is it too much of a risk? Let's look at the facts.

An MBA is still attractive to people who want to climb the career ladder, learn more about business, or change their career path. But its value depends on what you want to achieve, the job market, and other ways to learn.

Why an MBA is Still Appealing

An MBA can teach you important skills like managing people, leading teams, and thinking strategically. These skills are important for high-level jobs. MBA programs are also starting to teach about new topics like technology, being environmentally and socially responsible, and using data. Another big plus is the chance to network and meet people who can help your career. And for some people, having an MBA from a top school gives them an edge.

The Big Problem: The Cost

But here's the catch: MBAs are expensive. The best programs in India can cost a lot of money. This makes you wonder if you'll get your money back. Many people who graduate, especially from less famous schools, have trouble earning enough to make the MBA worth it. This brings up an important point about how much the degree is actually worth.

Too Many MBAs?

There are a lot of MBA graduates in India, which means the degree isn't as special as it used to be. Also, not all MBA programs are the same. Some schools don't teach skills that employers actually need. Because there are so many MBAs, it's harder to get a high-paying job, even if you went to a good school. Where you went to school often matters more than what you learned, which can leave graduates with a lot of debt and not enough job opportunities.



Other Options Are Getting More Popular

Some people think MBA programs focus too much on theory and not enough on real-world skills. Employers are starting to value experience and specific skills more than degrees. This has led to more people taking online courses, getting certificates, or doing other types of training in areas like data science or project management. These options are usually cheaper and more focused.

The World of Work is Changing

The business world is changing quickly. Companies want people who are creative, can solve problems, and can adapt to new situations. An MBA might not always prepare you for this type of work. Startups and tech companies often prefer people with practical skills and a drive to learn, not just a business degree.

SO, SHOULD YOU GET AN MBA?

Whether or not you should get an MBA depends on you. It depends on where you are in your career, how much money you have, how much risk you're willing to take, and which schools you're considering. An MBA might be better if you have some work experience. It's also important to choose a well-known school that helps its graduates find jobs. Finally, think about other ways to learn and see if they can help you reach your goals for less money.

An MBA isn't the only way to succeed anymore. It's a big decision that costs a lot of money and time. Before you decide, think carefully about what you want and what's happening in the job market. Don't just get an MBA because you think it's the only way to get ahead. There might be better and cheaper ways to achieve your dreams.

Search to find

MOTIVATION

A New Year has dawned upon us. With the new year comes your New Year's resolution. Sure, maybe you have a resolution. But do you have the motivation to actually go through with it?

Many people struggle with finding the motivation to do even the simplest task, even I'm no different. I'm sure you know many people who don't even go through with their goals, finding comfort knowing you are not alone. But won't you feel even better if you do go through with it?

How about starting with something small and increasing the difficulty each year? Like deciding to draw every day, even on days when one loses complete motivation, simply drawing something very small, even a smiley face, is good enough. This year, my resolution is to talk more. Something so easy is something I struggle a lot with, and I make sure I try to talk to people every day. Something so simple makes me feel more accomplished, which is a feeling that makes me proud of myself.

In turn, as I go on making my tasks increasingly difficult, I would be chasing the sense of accomplishment I felt. The adrenaline of feeling accomplished is something that will never diminish. Having a sense of accomplishment also comes hand in hand with feeling responsible.

Everyone has a different technique to feel motivated. Some like to start their day early, so that they feel like they have more time. Some like to exercise so that they get more energy. Motivation is a great tool to achieve many things.

~Bridget D'Souza

It is extremely easy to lose motivation, while gaining it back is extremely hard. Whenever one loses motivation, listen to music, it is a dopamine hit that a person gets when they listen to energizing music. It motivates a person to continue with their goal, making it a bit more entertaining now.

One should always celebrate their wins, no matter how small they are. Whenever reaching a milestone or completing a task, celebrating wins helps boost motivations. It also builds self-confidence, knowing one can achieve the goals set.

Another way of finding motivation is splitting your goals into sub-goals. Splitting into sub-goals makes it easy to look down at what you've accomplished and get motivated to complete more.

To get motivated, you need to have discipline and obedience to what you do. Even when feeling low, you need to do what is needed. If people stop when they lose motivation, the work will never get completed. If a person only works when they get motivated, they would never be consistent.

Planning ahead would also help, as you have a clear vision of what you want to do. You would naturally get motivated to do it, when the burden is decreased, by planning ahead of time.

Motivation is something easy to lose, and hard to gain. It is a force that helps us achieve our dreams. As we navigate through life, it is important to stay consistent and never lose our goal. This is the way to stay motivated.



THE ULTIMATE LEGACY OF **RAJ KAPOOR** ~ Abhishek Karankale

The ultimate legacy of Raj Kapoor, the man who introduced pop culture to India, a man whose passion changed Indian cinema. A man who fearlessly experimented in the spectrum of cinema is none other than the icon, the legend Raj Kapoor.

It is so obvious that Raj Kapoor was destined to become the greatest showman of all time as he was born in the house of Prithviraj Kapoor, who himself was a great artist. But in this age, why are we talking about him? All because, on 14th December 2024, it was his 100th anniversary.

But why talk about Raj Kapoor? What's so special about him? Many mouths have many answers, but the most important thing that made him special is his passion, persistence, and willingness to contribute to Indian cinema.

There are many nuances often discussed by his co-workers and the people who were with him, which depict his consistency towards passion. One of them was, "He used to lock the studio and also didn't have clocks in the studio. By doing this, he wanted himself and his colleagues to be focused, irrespective of time."

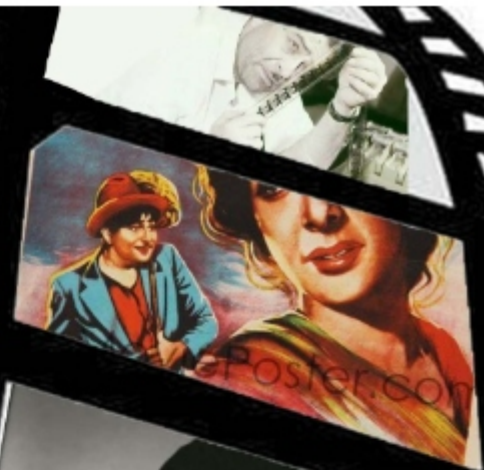
He was as nationalist as passionate he was towards the country. Despite his peers, who were giving hits on hits by catering to the masses, Raj Kapoor chose subjects like nationalism, social reforms, and provided hope for a better nation, as India was suffering from social and economic atrocities during the post-40s era. His filmography also shaped India as a soft power, even when the word "soft power" was not in existence.



During the 70s-80s, the era of hero-driven films, he made films like 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram,' 'Prem Rog,' and 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili,' talking about issues like patriarchy and the defamation of women.

He was the one who brought experimentalism to the mainstream Bollywood or the pre-Friday films. It was a sure-shot that this attitude towards filmmaking was not quite a money-spinner, yet his passion and love for film made him do it. At times, such realistic or esoteric films are not enjoyed by many people, so many of his films failed. For example, 'Mera Naam Joker,' one of his most loved projects, didn't work well in India but became a blockbuster in Russia. Even now in India, that movie is considered a cult movie of Indian cinema. And that's how India got its first international hit.

In my opinion, Raj Kapoor's legacy deserves to be celebrated by all, as he not only shaped Indian cinema but also preserved its true essence. His relentless passion for the craft, his courage to experiment, and his commitment to addressing societal issues through film have left an indelible mark on the industry. His influence continues to inspire filmmakers and cinephiles alike, making him an eternal icon of Indian cinema.



Echos of India Across the Globe

~ Hemanshu Jadhao

I think the year 2024 might just be the major stepping stone in India's path towards reclaiming her glory. And what better time to look over these monumental feats of our people then when we're celebrating 75 years to being a republic nation.

Lets talk about the major events that made waves across the globe and put India on a centre stage of the World.

1) India's T20 World Cup victory at Barbados

The biggest moment in Indian cricket history after the ODI world cup victory of 2011, India brought home the cup after 17 years with the last victory being in 2007. Led by Rohit Sharma, India became the first team to win the T20 World Cup undefeated, securing victories in all their matches, including a tied game against Canada. Batting first, India posted a competitive total, highlighted by Virat Kohli's masterful 76 runs off 59 balls, earning him the Player of the Match award. South Africa, despite a strong start, faltered in the final overs, with Suryakumar Yadav's extraordinary boundary catch playing a pivotal role in India's triumph. This victory ended India's 17-year wait for a T20 World Cup title, marking a historic moment in Indian cricket. The match also saw the retirement of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja from T20 internationals, adding emotional significance to the win.



2) Anant Ambani's Wedding

Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani, married Radhika Merchant in a lavish ceremony in Mumbai from July 12 to 14, 2024. The festivities began with a traditional Hindu wedding at the Jio World Convention Centre, followed by a grand reception at the family's residence, Antilia. The event was attended by numerous celebrities and dignitaries, including Kim Kardashian, Priyanka Chopra, and former British Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Boris Johnson. The wedding showcased India's rich cultural heritage through traditional rituals such as the sangeet, haldi, and mehendi ceremonies. The opulent celebration, estimated to cost around \$600 million, included performances by international artists like Rihanna, Justin Bieber, and Katy Perry. The event's grandeur drew global attention, highlighting the Ambani family's prominence and influence. While the wedding was a testament to India's tradition of grand matrimonial celebrations, it also sparked discussions about wealth disparity in the country. Nonetheless, the union of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant was celebrated as a significant social event, blending cultural opulence with modern extravagance.



3) 'Big Dawgs' trend globally

Sooraj Cherukat professionally known as Hanumankind is a rapper from Kerala. Initially working in investment banking, Hanumankind eventually shifted his focus entirely to music, releasing his debut EP, "Kalari," in 2019. His single "Big Dawgs," released in July 2024, achieved significant success, debuting at number 57 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and amassing over 400 million streams on Spotify. It went viral over platforms like Instagram with more than 2 million reels made using the song. And it wasn't just limited to India, Big Dawgs made it to Billboard's September chartbreaker. Very recently, he collaborated with A\$AP Rocky, one of the biggest American rappers. The accompanying music video, featuring daring "well of death" stunts, was shot in his hometown district of Malappuram and directed by Bijoy Shetty. This track not only showcased his unique blend of Indian roots and global musical influences but also solidified his status as a leading figure in the international hip-hop community.



4) Gukesh Becomes World Champion

In December 2024, 18-year-old Indian chess prodigy D. Gukesh made history by becoming the youngest-ever undisputed World Chess Champion. He achieved this remarkable feat by defeating reigning champion Ding Liren of China in a closely contested match held in Singapore. The championship concluded dramatically when Ding, under intense pressure, blundered in the final classical game, allowing Gukesh to clinch the title with a 7.5–6.5 score. Gukesh's victory is a significant milestone for Indian chess, as he becomes only the second Indian to hold the world champion title, following in the footsteps of his mentor, Viswanathan Anand. His journey to the pinnacle of chess has been marked by numerous achievements, including becoming the second-youngest grandmaster in history at the age of 12. The young champion's success has been celebrated worldwide, with accolades pouring in from various quarters. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Gukesh's talent and determination, highlighting his victory as a testament to the potential of India's youth.



Is "One Nation, One Election" India's Next Big Reform? ~ Pranav Dhabale

One Nation, One Election: Simplifying Democracy or Complicating It?

Imagine a country constantly in election mode. Rallies, campaigns, promises – it's a whirlwind of political activity. Now, imagine condensing all that into a single, synchronized event. That's the core idea behind "One Nation, One Election" in India. This proposal suggests holding elections for the Lok Sabha (the national parliament) and all state assemblies at the same time. But what exactly does this mean, and what are the potential upsides and downsides?

Currently, India's electoral calendar is a patchwork. Different states and the central government have varying terms, leading to near-constant election cycles. This can be costly, disruptive, and frankly, exhausting. "One Nation, One Election" aims to streamline this process.



The Potential Perks: A Financial and Trader's Perspective

One of the most compelling arguments for simultaneous elections is the potential for significant cost reduction. Think about it: every election requires massive resources – personnel, security, logistics, and of course, money. Conducting them all at once could translate to substantial savings for the exchequer. Now, from a trader's perspective, this means fewer market disruptions due to election uncertainty. Markets tend to react to political events, and frequent elections can create volatility. A synchronized system could offer more stability, allowing for more predictable investment strategies.

Beyond finances, there are also administrative benefits. Security forces and election officials are constantly deployed for election duties. A unified schedule would free them up for other crucial tasks. This also means less disruption to daily life. Businesses could operate without the constant distraction of campaigning, and citizens could focus on their lives without the constant barrage of political messaging. From a business and trading mindset, this translates to more productive time and fewer operational hiccups.

Policy continuity is another potential advantage. With fewer election cycles, governments could focus on long-term planning and implementation. Frequent elections can lead to short-term policies aimed at winning votes, often at the expense of long-term vision. A more stable political environment could encourage more consistent and effective governance.

The Challenges: Now if there are benefits there are challenges to it as well

Implementing "One Nation, One Election" is no small feat. The logistical hurdles are immense. Coordinating elections across a vast and diverse country like India requires meticulous planning and enormous resources. Think about the sheer scale: millions of voters, thousands of polling stations, and the need to ensure free and fair elections across the nation.

Another concern revolves around India's federal structure. Critics argue that simultaneous elections could overshadow regional issues. State elections are often fought on local concerns, and combining them with national elections could dilute the focus on these important matters. There's also the fear that a "wave" in national elections could sweep through state elections, potentially undermining the autonomy of state governments.

Finally, there's the issue of voter confusion. Some worry that voters might find it challenging to differentiate between national and state candidates when casting their votes simultaneously. This could lead to unintended outcomes and potentially weaken the democratic process.

The Road Ahead

Implementing "One Nation, One Election" would require significant constitutional amendments and, crucially, broad political consensus. Given the complexities and potential implications, it's a topic of intense debate among policymakers, political parties, and the public. Whether the potential benefits outweigh the challenges remains to be seen. But one thing is clear: the debate surrounding "One Nation, One Election" raises important questions about the efficiency, cost, and very nature of Indian democracy.



Not So Little Things

~Praneet Kodkani

Yes, giving flowers and chocolates to someone can be called love. But your mom saying that she doesn't like cakes that much when only one slice is left, is beyond love. Your dad carrying you to bed without waking you up when you used to fall asleep on the sofa in your childhood, was beyond love.

The act little to you, might not be that little to others, or vice versa. How cheerless would the world look like if people stop passing smiles upon finding something relatable or funny; if 3-4 strangers wouldn't stop by to help when you ask about an address to someone; if people stop holding doors for someone behind them; if car drivers won't slow down their cars upon seeing aged people or children crossing roads; if people stop offering water to delivery guys; if your friend doesn't bring extra tiffin for you when it's something you like. These are so basic gestures or you can say this is what makes us humans. These gestures are like salt, as they say, salt's presence is not felt, but its absence makes everything tasteless. These things act as a thread weaving your mundane life into a fulfilling one.

Sometimes we forget or just can't get an opportunity to thank people in our life. Whenever you get a moment to express your gratitude to anyone who made your day a little better, don't think twice, just do it.

GRAD GLORIES

GRAND ALUMNI REUNION

The SydAlumni Association was formed in the year 2020 by the Batch of 1970. The SydAlumni Association organises The Grand Sydenham Alumni Reunion which takes place once every year.

At the reunion prominent alumni personas were present such as Mr. Shyam Kotak, Mr. Shiamak Davar, Mr. Suresh Kotak, Mr. Rajiv Podar, Mr. Dilip Piramal, Ms. Sanjeevani Bhelande, Mr. Ajit Lalvani and many others.

The reunion party ended on a cheerful note. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, shared laughter, and engaged in heartfelt conversations as they were the ones roaming the same hall we do now. As the evening wrapped up, goodbyes were exchanged, leaving a sense of gratitude and hopes for another gathering in the future.



STUDENT CORNER

Truth and Dare

LAUGHTER SURROUNDED THE BONFIRE
ALL WERE MEETING FOR THE LAST TIME
BEFORE THEY ENTERED THEIR UNIVERSITY LIFE
SONGS WERE BEING SUNG
GUITARS WERE BEING PLAYED
MILD CHITTER CHATTER WAS ALSO HEARD
AND THEN BEGAN
THE LEGENDARY GAME OF TRUTH AND DARE
EVERYONE CHEERED AS QUESTIONS WERE ASKED
BUT THEN IT WAS HER TURN TO ANSWER A TRUTH
'WHOM YOU GONNA MISS THE MOST AMONG US?' A FRIEND ASKED
THEY GIGGLED AS THEY ALREADY KNEW THE ANSWER
THE SHY GIRL, WHO HAD BEEN AVOIDING THE TEASING GAZES, THEN LOOKED
UP FROM BENEATH HER
LONG LASHES
ONLY TO FIND A PAIR OF EYES
DEEPLY STARING INTO HER SOUL
ALL THE UNSAID WAS SAID
ALL THE UNTOUCHED WAS TOUCHED
ALL THE LOVE WAS EXPRESSED
IN THAT MERE EYE CONTACT
SHE LOOKED AWAY IN A HURRY
TRYING HARD TO HIDE HER CRIMSON CHEEKS
THE BOY SMILED TO HIMSELF
WITNESSING THE EFFECT HIS GAZE HAD ON HER
MAYBE SHE TOO WAS GONNA BE THE ONLY THING ON SOMEONE'S MIND
MAYBE SHE TOO WAS GONNA BE MISSED BY SOMEONE
MAYBE
SHE TOO WAS GONNA REMAIN SOMEONE'S FOREVER
EVEN WHEN THEY WERE FAR AWAY

Parth Sanjivani - TYBCOM, DIV C

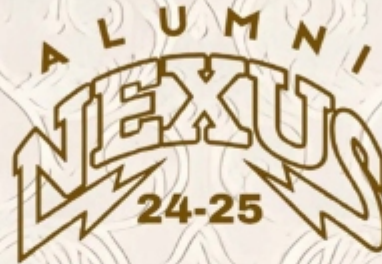


GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
SYDENHAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS
DR. HOMI BHABHA STATE UNIVERSITY
NAAC REACCREDITED GRADE 'A' with 3.42 CGPA
B-ROAD, CHURCHGATE, MUMBAI-400020



Sydenham Alumni Cell

Presents



प्रात्री कृपिया ध्यान दे

We cordially invite you to join us at **Alumni Nexus 2025**, the flagship event of Sydenham Alumni Cell, which is scheduled on 24th of January from 9:30AM to 6 PM. It's a day designed to help you reconnect with old friends, hear inspiring talks from our distinguished alumni, and take part in exciting intercollegiate competitions and discussions.

This gathering is more than just an event—it's an opportunity to relive cherished memories, share experiences, and strengthen the bonds that make our Sydenham community so special. We truly look forward to welcoming you back.

Friday

24

January

9:30am
Onwards

Sydenham College



THE SYDENHAMITE

Reach out to us at sydenhamalumni@gmail.com

College Principal: Dr. Shriniwas Dhure

President of Alumni association: Mr. Dilip Piramal

Head of Alumni Association: Mr. Ajit Lalvani

Strategy Advisor: Mr. Mohammed Virani

Sydenham Alumni Cell Prof In-charge: Prof. Rajendra Mali

Sydenham Alumni Cell Core Team: Tanaya Patil (Chairperson), Mayur Mane (Vice-Chairperson), Devansh Ruparel (Coordinator), Shreya Karwade (Student Representative), Priam Reynolds (Assistant Student Representative)

"The Sydenhamite" Editor: Kaifi Khan



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