

# THE SYDENHAMITE

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One of the purest and deeply inspirational relationships is that of a teacher and a student. We all have that one favorite teacher who is our superhero as a child and later becomes our inspiration and a personality that we look up to and respect for our lifetime !

There is something magical in this bond that whenever we recall our school and college memories we cherish the lessons learned from our teachers and recall the values they taught. Our teachers are the ones who transform our lives with the knowledge they

impart and help us in becoming better individuals and thus responsible global citizens.

Teacher's Day in India is celebrated on 5th September every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the

First Vice President of India, the Second President of India and an educationist at heart.

On this day we honor our teachers for their contributions in shaping our lives. They are the ones who motivate young minds and provide direction to their dreams. They are truly the makers of a better world.

*To conclude, Aristotle once said, "Those who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those art of living well."*





On the 15th of August 2020,  
Sydenham College of Commerce and  
Economics organized a,

## VIRTUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

celebration. The event was premiered  
live on YouTube. It was an initiative  
taken by the **Sydenham Alumni Cell**  
in collaboration with the **NSS unit of**  
**Sydenham.**

The Chief Guest for the event was **Mr. Ajit Lalvani**, the current head of the Alumni Association and the MD, CEO of Sun Star Graphics Limited. The Program was graced by notable personalities and prominent alumni like **Mr. Dilip Piramal**, **Mr. Rajiv Podar**, **Pandit Snehal Muzoomdar**, and many more.

It was a tribute to the farmers, army, and entrepreneurs of our country. Our farmers sweat hard in the scorching sun, our army fights on the forefront to protect our motherland and our entrepreneurs play their part in developing the economy and boosting the 'Make in India' initiative. Thus, the students took this as an opportunity to express their gratitude to the builders of a developing India.

The theme for the event was  
**NEW AGE PATRIOTISM**  
with the tagline,

**JAI JAWAN JAI KISAN**  
**JAI SAMARTHYVAAN**

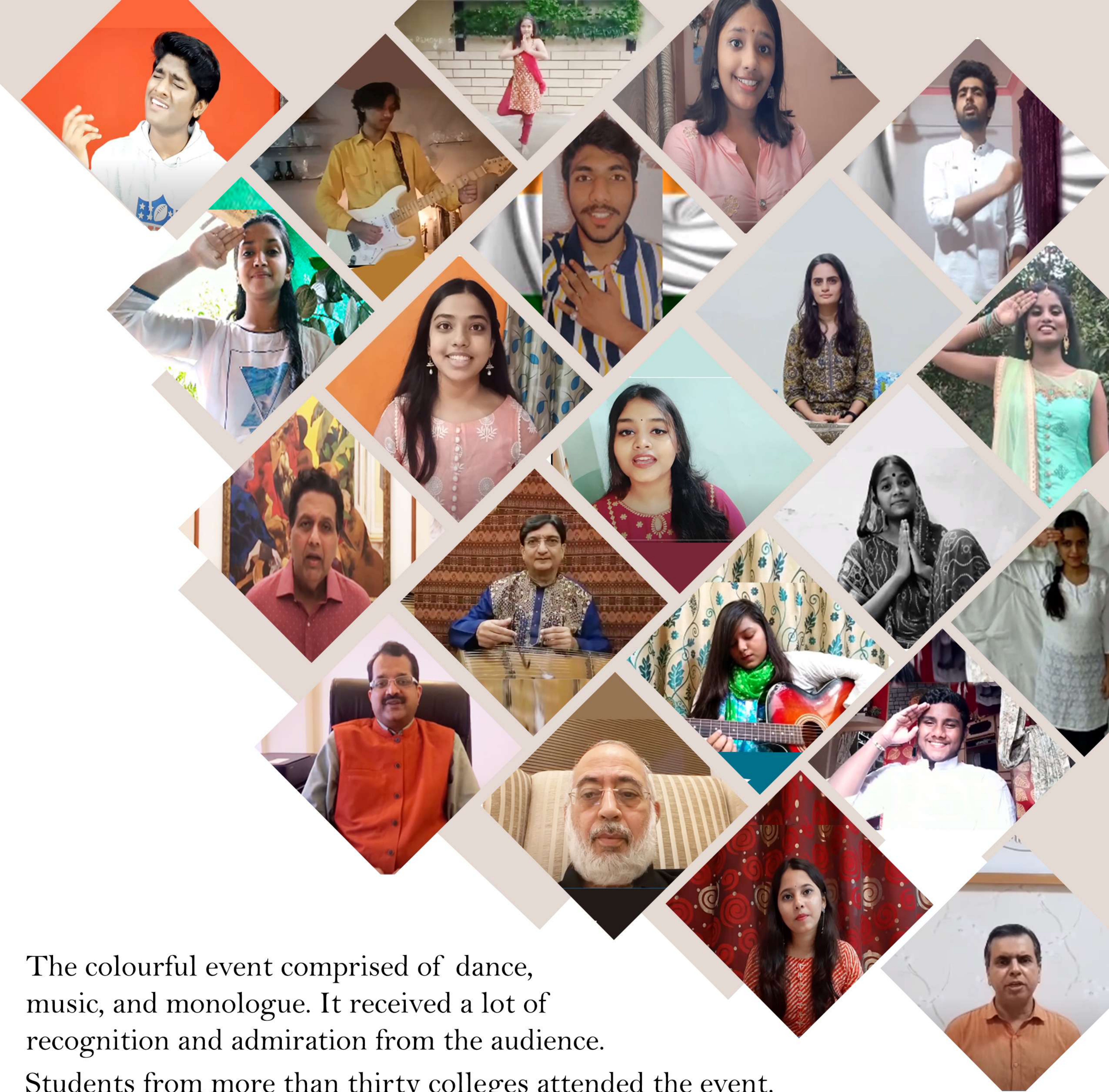
Also, on Independence Day, the Alumni Cell released its first newsletter,

**THE SYDENHAMITE**

a merger of several articles on various topics including Independence Day, University News, Outstanding Performances, COVID times,

Alumni Reunion after 50 years, and many more. The newsletter is an initiative to connect the Alumni and the students and build a strong network of Sydenhamites globally.





The colourful event comprised of dance, music, and monologue. It received a lot of recognition and admiration from the audience.

Students from more than thirty colleges attended the event. With more than 1.5 k views in just an hour of being premiered, it was an outstanding effort taken by the students.

The alumni and the professors were all praises for this magnificent program. The event also received due media coverage and was broadcasted on TV 9. All in all, the event was a huge success and a great way to celebrate Independence Day amidst lockdown!





There's something magical about this festival.  
It transforms the ordinary into the  
extraordinary, darkness into light  
and agony into ecstasy.  
Lord Ganesha brings along with him  
unparalleled energy, happiness, and joy.  
Here's wishing you and your family a very

**HAPPY**  
*Ganesh*  
CHATURTHI

The bonding between a brother and a sister is simply unique and is beyond description in words and is given importance in every part of the world. However, when it comes to India, the relationship becomes all the more important as there is a festival called "Raksha Bandhan" dedicated for the sibling love.

Rakshabandhan is a popular Hindu festival that is celebrated across the Indian subcontinent and among people who are influenced by the Indian culture.

On this day, sisters of all ages tie an amulet or rakhi, around the wrists of their brothers and put dots of vermillion paste on their foreheads and praying for their long life. Sisters receive a gift in return, and a promise from their brothers that they will protect them throughout their life.

The expression "Raksha Bandhan," in Sanskrit literally means "**the bond of protection, obligation, or care,**" Rakhi also symbolizes protection against evil during the coming year.

Raksha Bandhan holds a special place in everyone's heart and it is celebrated with abundant zeal and enthusiasm.

**HAPPY**  
*Raksha Bandhan*



A very blissful Onam to you.  
May, the bright colours and soothing  
fragrance of the Pookolam  
and lights of the Vilakku,  
fill your life with happiness and joy.

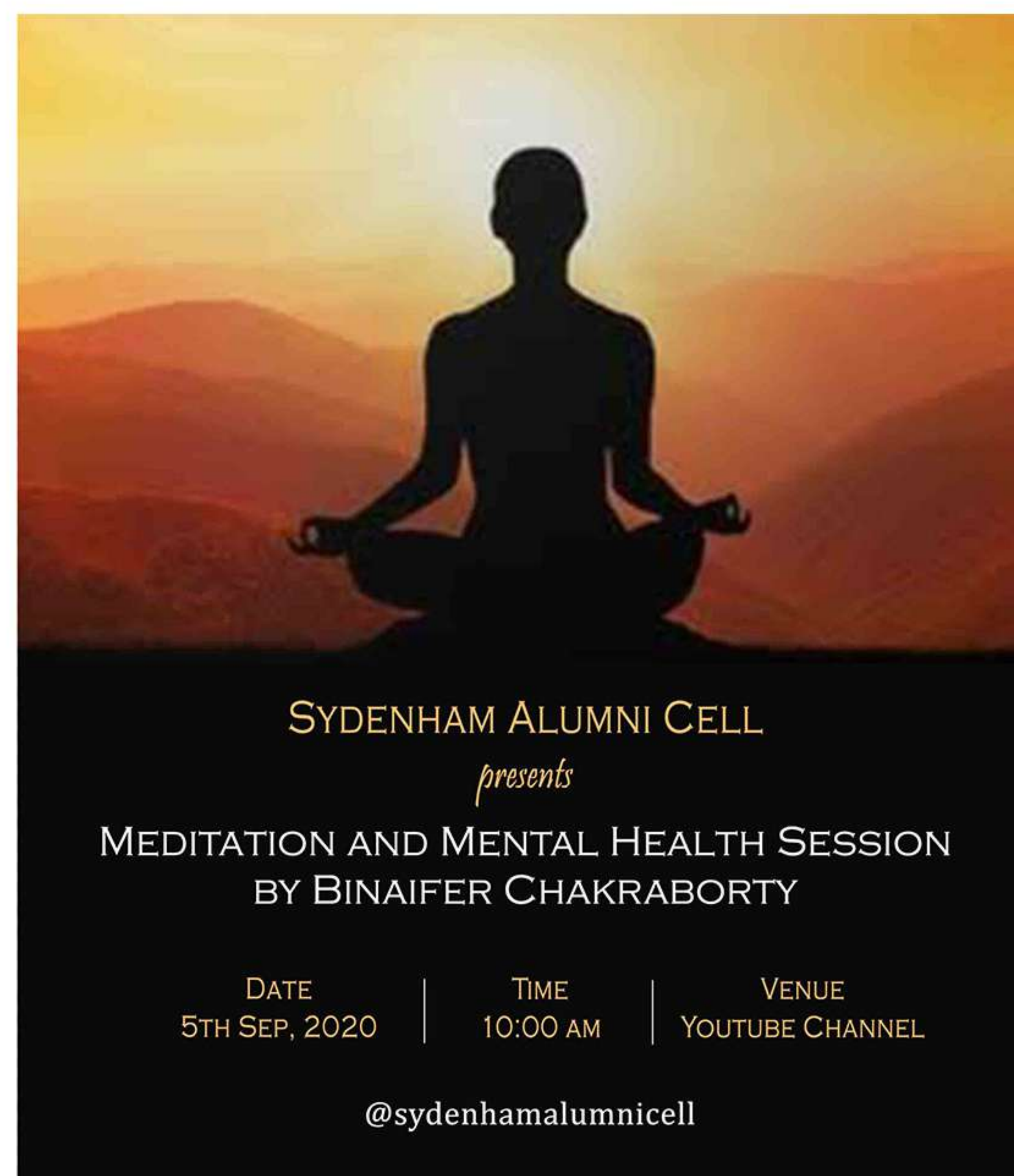




## QUIET THE MIND WITH MEDITATION AND THE SOUL WILL SPEAK



BINAIFER  
CHAKRABORTY

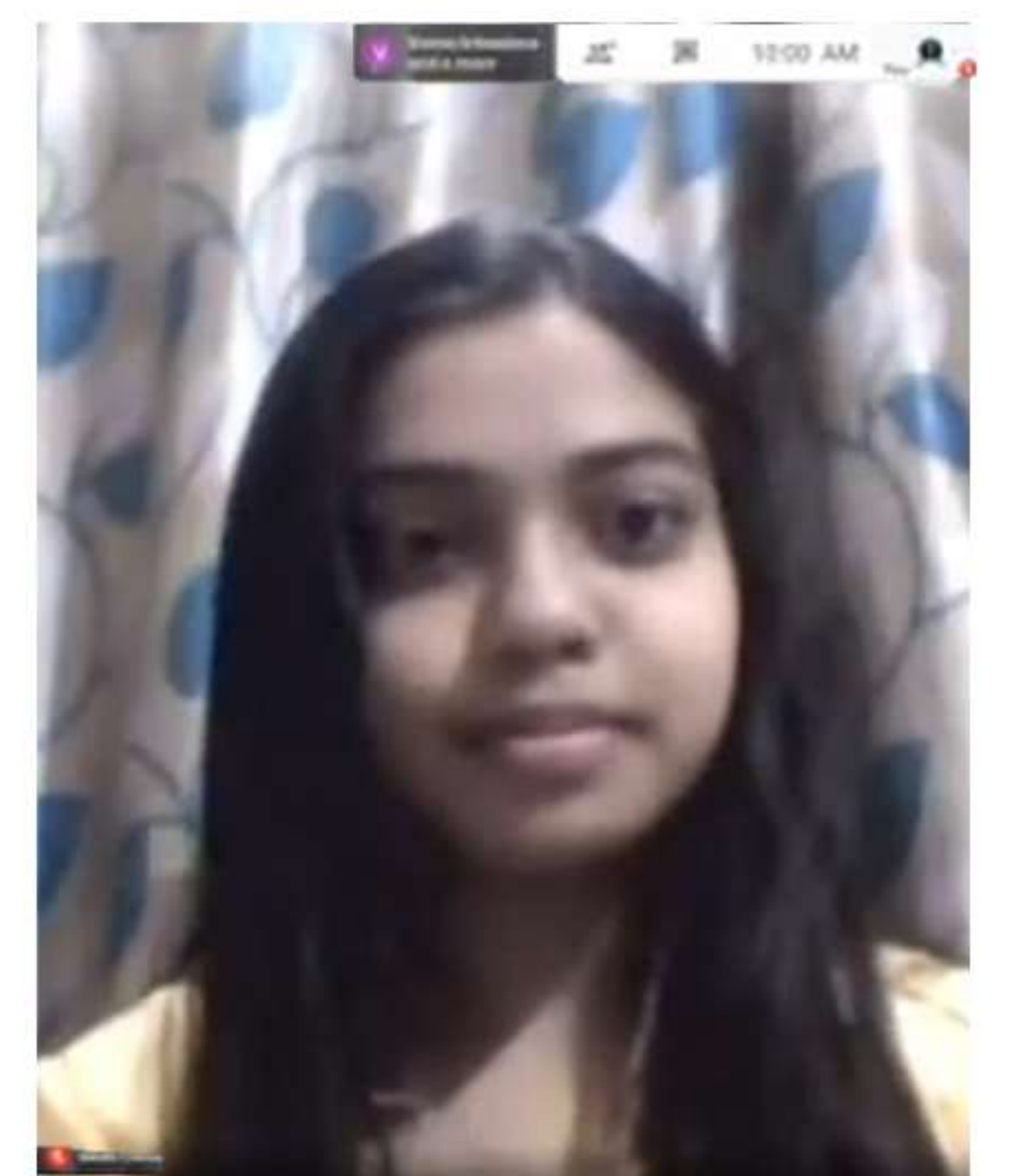


Even though mental illness is common and can affect anyone, there is still a great stigma attached. This stigma creates reluctance and shame in seeking help. The acceptance and understanding of mental illnesses has come a far way from where it used to be, but improvements can, and should still be made.

To lend a helping hand for all those people who are going through any kind of emotional discomfort, Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics took a small initiative by conducting a **live YouTube session on Mental Health & Meditation.**

A renowned personality, Binaifer Chakraborty who is a Reiki Master, Candle & EFT Healer was the chief speaker for this event. She enlightened the viewers with her knowledge and experience.

From answering various questions to conducting a live Meditation program, she accomplished the mission towards the emotional well-being of other people. Making a small difference in someone's life, was the sole purpose of this event which was rightly fulfilled.



Mental illness should not be something to be ashamed about or thought of differently. When mental illness is treated equally to other illnesses, more people will have the courage to get help and better their lives.





Hindi divas is celebrated on 14th of September to mark the adoption of the Hindi language, written in Devanagari script. On the 50th birthday of Beohar Rajendra Simha on the 14th of September 1949, the efforts came to



fruition following the adoption of Hindi as an official language of India. Around the world there are 150 countries in which people speaking Hindi exist. Hindi, which belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European languages, comprises literary Hindi and two groups of related dialects.

The western dialects are Khari Boli, Bangaru (Haryani), Braj (Braj Bhasa), Kanauji, and Bundeli; the eastern dialects are Awadhi (Avadhi), Bagheli, and Chhattisgarhi. Hindi is the essence of Indian Culture. Every year on Hindi Divas, President of India presents the Rajbhasha awards to people for their contribution towards the language, at a ceremony in Delhi.



*‘Rotaract’s strength lies in the sincerity of purpose of its members who are in to bring about a change’*

The Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics has formed its first Rotaract Club. The club is formed under the **Rotary Club of Bombay** as its parent body. This club is an initiative taken by the students to engage in community service and bring about a change in society through their actions.



## ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

The club is started with 62 enthusiastic participants keen to participate in several social activities and projects. The faculty in-charge is **Mrs. Jasmine Mehta**. The President of the Rotaract club for the year 2020-21 is **Mr. Yash Babrekar**. The Vice-President is **Ms. Muskaan Kanojia** and the club Secretary is **Ms. Sakshi Chavan**.

All the young Rotarians are thrilled with the formation of the club and are coming with new ideas about the various activities that can be conducted. They are dedicated to finding innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges while developing their leadership skills and making friends around the world!



Ashish Vaid is the Chairman and Managing Director of Ashish Estates & Properties Pvt Ltd. Ashish Vaid was also the President of the Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC Chamber of Commerce Industry) for the year

2019-2020 with the theme 'Innovate, Motivate, Consolidate'. Mr.Vaid is a BCom, LLB and ACA degree holder. He has an experience of over 32 years in real estate development, and heads the Real Estate Division which has executed all the Projects by the Group. He has been involved with the Ashish Group-Great Homes since 1986. Ashish Vaid is a Rotarian and the Past President of Rotary Club of Bombay.



EVERSMILING

President of  
Rotary Club and IMC

Ashish Vaid

When Brother Ajit called this morning and asked will you write on your Sydenham days , my immediate response was why not !

I joined Sydenham in 1982 in Std 11. We were the first batch to have Junior College in the 10+2+3 system. On one of our first few days in college we were trying to adjust the most outdated fanspeed with its even more outdated regulator in our classroom when a caretaker 'bai' thought we were busy dismantling the electrical gadgets of the college and reported us to the Principal Mr Mutalik. After parading us to his chamber, we promptly received letters from the Principal at home saying....



*Your son/ward was found tampering with the electrical fittings of the institution he pleaded innocence but corroborating evidence was found. We 5 friends still joke about this absurd event.*



The best days were in the 11th and 12th grades. We spent hours in the canteen over numerous 'chais', coffees, and the most awesome Shetty's dosas and onion cheese uttapams. They still make my mouth water just thinking of them.

We had lots of sports events and participated in all the inter collegiate tournaments and also lots of extra curricular activities like 'The Performing Arts Society' of which I was a part.

Everyone in Sydenham was disciplined and at his impressive best to win over the attention of all the pretty maidens. I remember in our time a new law was passed that if anyone was caught copying they would be sent to jail and so the new slogan was

*"DON'T COPY  
ELSE WE WILL BE  
CHAKI PISSAOING  
IN JAIL".*

The beauty of college was that it was barely for 4 hours a day, so I was able to learn the ropes of business at Dad's office and also pursue my CA studies side-by-side. In a way there was a lot of freedom for the serious ones to enhance learning outside the classroom.

All in all Sydenham was a great experience of education, fun and extra-curricular activities.

Those were the happy care-free days of long walks at Marine Drive experiencing the spray of the waves, endless dosas and filter coffee at Satkar, watching all the latest

*I am fortunate to have  
made some of my  
dearest friends in  
Sydenham, and also  
my wife Gopi,  
from whom I got  
all my college notes,  
and fell in love too!*

movies whispering sweet things, sending roses to an instant connect!

pretty gals on rose days, laughing joking and back slapping all the while in the company of dear friends. For us it was even better as we got to interact with 5 batches, and living in Mumbai everyday we bump into someone from Campion School or Sydenham and it provides

*I hope with the new education policy they can revive the glory of Sydenham as the Premier Commerce College in Mumbai. Thank you to the team of ex-Sydenhamites working hard in this endeavour for our Alma-mater, we are all with you!*

*- Ashish Vaid  
Sydenham 1982-1987*





## SUPREME COURT LAWYER WITH AN INTERESTING LIFE

*Amit Kumar Bhowmik* is our Alumni from the batch 1970. He graduated from Sydenham college with Business Management as his special subject and then obtained LL.B. degree from The University of Bombay and started practising law in his hometown Bombay.

Amit Bhowmik practised largely on the Criminal Appellate side in high courts, including in Bombay, Delhi and Chandigarh. He appears also as Counsel in the Supreme Court. Even though his forte lies in criminal law, he has appeared in many high-profile civil and matrimonial cases. Mr. Bhowmik is based now in Pune but handles cases all over the country as he is a senior counsel.





# A CAREER IN LAW

- AMIT KUMAR BHOWMIK



I confess that I have led a highly disordered – but eventful- life. My youth was full of escapades galore ... which I do not want you to emulate (even it was all very gratifying, and I have danced to my own beat ..... even now. No regrets!). I was an indifferent student and took several drops to wander though off on some (mis)adventure or other; to fight for incoherent causes and, generally, to try and harness the wind so-to-say ! To be honest, Commerce was not my forte. I had preferred Arts. Hence, I was also a disinterested and an apathetic student.

Once I finally graduated from Sydenham with Business Management as my special subject, I opted for Law. After I received my Law Degree, I brain-stormed with my close friend, Dhun Canteenwalla, for guidance. Dhun, who has since passed way, was already a leading lawyer, practicing on the criminal side. He was tops in Detention matters. While, initially, I assisted him in a few of his cases, Dhun advised me not to be an under-study of any senior advocate or Solicitor, including himself, for “nothing grows under a banyan tree !” It was better that I strike it out on my own.

I admit that it was a bit tough going at first, but this legal field is very challenging --and fulfilling. The scope is vast. One can opt for any number of choices. Apart from Criminal and Civil law, there are a host of avenues and branches you can select to focus on. With a Commerce background, one can specialize on Income Tax or Insolvency laws, for instance; a very paying line of work, especially in these times

*For, as Benjamin Franklin had rightly noted,  
“Nothing is more certain  
in this world than  
Death and Taxes !”*

Cyber, Patents, Family laws are running favorites. There is enormous scope, both, academically and also fiscally, in a practice in the Family Courts. In the last two decades, in particular, I find that there has been a steep rise in marital disputes. I, however, recommend that, at least, initially, one must not remain confined to a box, but touch both criminal and civil laws; the permutations and combinations thereof. A lawyer never retires. Also, you can practice law at any age. While a lot of jokes are made on the legal profession, we have the last laugh. Because, quite literally, from birth to death you need us !

After Graduation, the best, decision, perhaps, would be to bag a Post-Graduate Degree in Law. Let it be an extra bullet in your gun, if need be.



**A career in law,  
as I see it,  
is exciting,  
challenging,  
agreeable and also  
monetarily rewarding.**

I am, ofcourse, biased ! But, mind you, the Law is a jealous mistress. You must be prepared to burnmid-night oil. There are no short cuts. Also, a lot of reading must be done to be able not only to understand the nuances of the legal propositions for your client but, even more, of the opposition, and also to catch up on the latest case laws and judgments, which can be used as a sword to attack or as a shield to defend, as the occasion warrants. It is also not necessary to be litigator. That is, to appear and argue in the Courts. Many advocates who I know, have a thriving “chamber practice”. They are largely practicing on the Civil side, though. Drawing up Sale Deeds, Powers of Attorney, Family Arrangements, Memorandum of Agreements, Wills and a huge range of such (very lucrative) activities.

Knowledge is perpetual. Prophet Mohammed had aptly ordained: *“Acquire knowledge. It enables its possessor to distinguish between right and wrong; it lights the way to Heaven. It is our friend in the desert; our society in solitude; our companion when friendless. It guides us to happiness; sustains us in misery. It is an ornament among friends and an armor against enemies.”*

For me, practice on the Criminal side is far more exhilarating, although I have had my fair share of matrimonial cases and a few Civil ones too. In Criminal law practice, usually, each case is different and must be studied from all angles. There is no cut- and-paste, as may be possible in Civil matters.

I do not wish to embark upon a sermon or lecture – of which, I am certain, you will have had almost more than you can bear in your Class-rooms - but I have to contend that the legal profession alone can offer you optimum opportunity to return a part of the debt that we all owe to the public order, by championing the cause of some poor wretch stretched out on the rack of social injustice for want of proper and committed legal representation. All the wealth and status that one acquires are superficial; molecules of dust, if it is devoid of compassion, for as the Buddha said: *That which begins must also end !*

Or, to cite Swami Vivekananda:

*“As long as millions live in hunger and in ignorance, I hold every man a traitor, who having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them !”*



To be able to bring comfort and a glimmer of hope to battered women, abused children; or a small measure of self- respect and dignity to deprived and destitute persons; forced to run sordidly painful and humiliating gauntlets of the Courts, is no trivial matter. It is also very satisfying.

**BUT THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES  
BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP. CHOOSE LAW  
AS A CAREER -- AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE !**





## CEO of KPMG Middle East for 35 years

*Vijay Malhotra*

is Chairman at VAMM Group SFO DMCC and Retired Chairman & CEO at KPMG, UAE & Oman. For more than three decades, Vijay Malhotra Sir has played a pivotal role in developing the UAE's culture of corporate governance.

After leaving India to study in the UK, the young accountant secured a position with KPMG's Iran affiliate in 1976. Not long after though, he had to fly to London due to National issues. Determined to have another crack at the Middle East, Mr. Malhotra soon found himself back in the region, taking up a position again at KPMG in the trading hub of Dubai. Mr. Vijay Malhotra is Chairman at VAMM Group SFO DMCC and Retired Chairman & CEO at KPMG, UAE & Oman. For more than three decades, Vijay Malhotra Sir has played a pivotal role in developing the UAE's culture of corporate governance. After leaving India to study in the UK, the young accountant secured a position with KPMG's Iran affiliate in 1976. Not long after though, he had to fly to London due to National issues. Determined to have another crack at the Middle East, Mr. Malhotra soon found himself back in the region, taking up a position again at KPMG in the trading hub of Dubai.



# OUR COMMITTEE'S



## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. Ajit Lalvani, Co Chair: Mr. Gautam Puri  
Student Representatives: Mr. Mayuresh Machakar, Mr. Dev Bhuta , Ms. Anuja Mathur ,  
Mr. Tanvish Jain and Ms. Saniya Khairdi

The aim of the Infrastructure Development Committee is looking forward to developing the college facilities. The key areas include classrooms, staff rooms, canteen, gymkhana, sports field, gym equipment, washrooms, and many more.

A detailed report has been made on the various situations after consulting the present students. The solutions for the same are being gauged.

## CULTURAL, SPORTS AND WELLNESS ACTIVITY

Chairman: Mr. Shyam Kotak  
Student Representatives : Mr. Saswat Tiwari, Ms. Ankita Khare ,  
Mr. Saurabh Anasune , Ms. Muskaan Kanojia and Ms. Saniya Khairdi



The cultural and sports committee is focused on extracurricular activities in the college and works towards their enhancement for the students. As per the previous meetings conducted, the students have prepared reports on the different sports and cultural activities, competitions conducted in the college and have suggested improvements for the same.



## STAFF AND ADMIN COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. Ashok Shah  
Student Representatives: Mr. Saurabh Anasune , Mr. Nilesh Sharma,  
Ms. Anuja Mathur , Ms. Sakshi Chavan and Mr. Vedvyas Gujar

The Staff and Admin committee is working towards the improvisation of the administration of the college and the proposed Alumni Association. As per the previous meetings held, the students have submitted a report listing all the possible improvements that can be done.





## NEW COURSES AND FRESH FACULTY

Chairman: Mr. Khurshed Pastakia

Student Representatives: Ms. Medha Kumari, Ms. Vinnie Srivastava , Ms. Ankita Khare , Ms. Sakshi Chavan , Ms. Freya Shaikh , Mr. Akshay Thorat and Mr. Tanvish Jain

New courses and the faculty department strives to work for improving the structure of the existing courses available in the college and, at the same time, they are working towards the introduction of new courses. According to the previous meetings conducted the committee is analysing different courses that can be implemented. It is also looking for solutions to improve the existing courses.

## BRAND BUILDING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Chairman: Mr. Nehal Desai, Mr. Satish Sinnarkar

Student Representatives: Ms. Palak Bhatt , Ms. Himani Rahalkar , Ms. Muskaan Kanojia , Mr. Saswat Tiwari and Ms. Divya Maniar



This committee is working to make the brand of Sydenham better and creating a strong network of Alumni and students of the college using social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. Currently, this committee is focusing on the upcoming events.



## FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. Ajit Lalvani and Mr. Abbas Arsiwalla

Student Representatives: Mr. Venkatesh Dusane and Mr. Vedvyas Gujar, Ms. Ankita Khare , Mr. Shouzub Reza , Mr. Jignyen Patel and Mr. Nilesh Sharma

FundRaising Committee is focused on bringing in sponsors and funding the events which will be conducted in the college. In the previous meetings, there were discussions on the proposal for the funding department and a list was made which included all the potential sponsor companies.





## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. Hosi Charna, Co Chair: Mr. Snehal Muzoomdar  
Student Representatives: Ms. Freya Shaikh and Mr. Parth Barot , Ms. Hiral Chaplot,  
Ms. Isha Bari, Ms. Shruti Khade , Ms. Ketki Kalekar and Ms. Sakshi Chavan

This committee is responsible for planning and executing all events of the Alumni Association with the help of the Student body of Alumni Association (Alumni Cell).

In the previous meeting, members discussed the event planned on the 5TH of September along with a discussion about the flexibility of the platform on which it will be featured.

## FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE



Chairman: Mr. Ashok Pradhan, Co chair: Mr. Ajit Lalvani,  
Student Representatives: Ms. Sakshi Chavan and Mr. Saswat Tiwari

The finance and compliance department examines whether all the legal and statutory compliance requirements are fulfilled for the smooth functioning of all the committees. It is also focused on complying with the legal proceedings for the formation of a company.

The previous meeting involved discussions on all documentation requirements to be fulfilled.

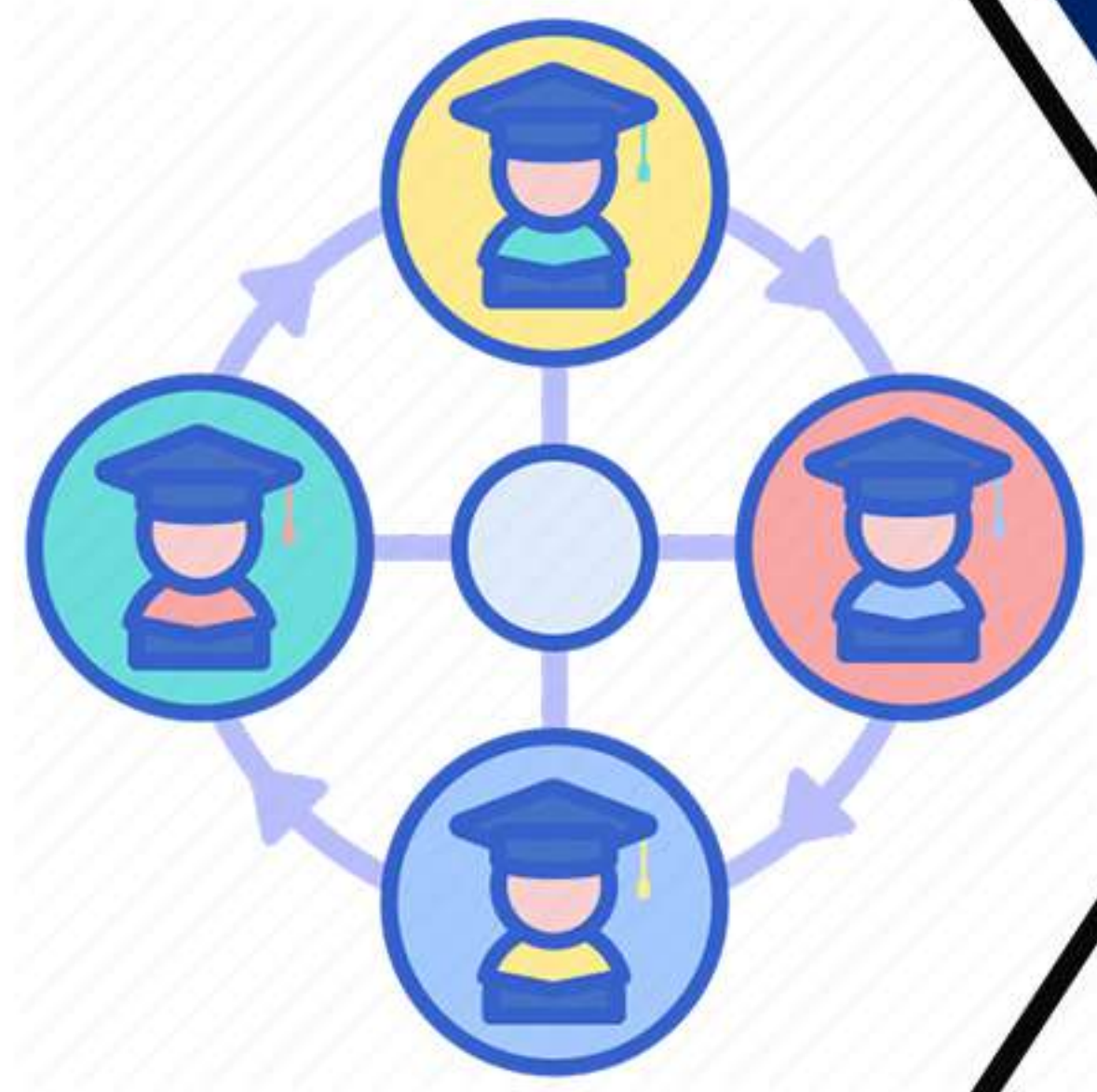


## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mrs. Amita Parekh , Co Chair: Mrs. Nini Kothari  
Student Representatives: Ms. Vinnie Srivastava, Ms. Muskaan Kanojia ,  
Ms. Ankita Khare , Ms. Isha Bari , Ms. Hiral Chaplot , Mr. Parth Barot and Mr. Venkatesh Dusane

This committee is driven to improve the facilities available to women in the college. It is also working towards initiating activities for the betterment of girls in the college at the same time providing them with opportunities. As per the previous meeting that was conducted a letter was drafted emphasizing improvement of the infrastructure and hygiene facilities for women.





## ALUMNI AFFAIRS

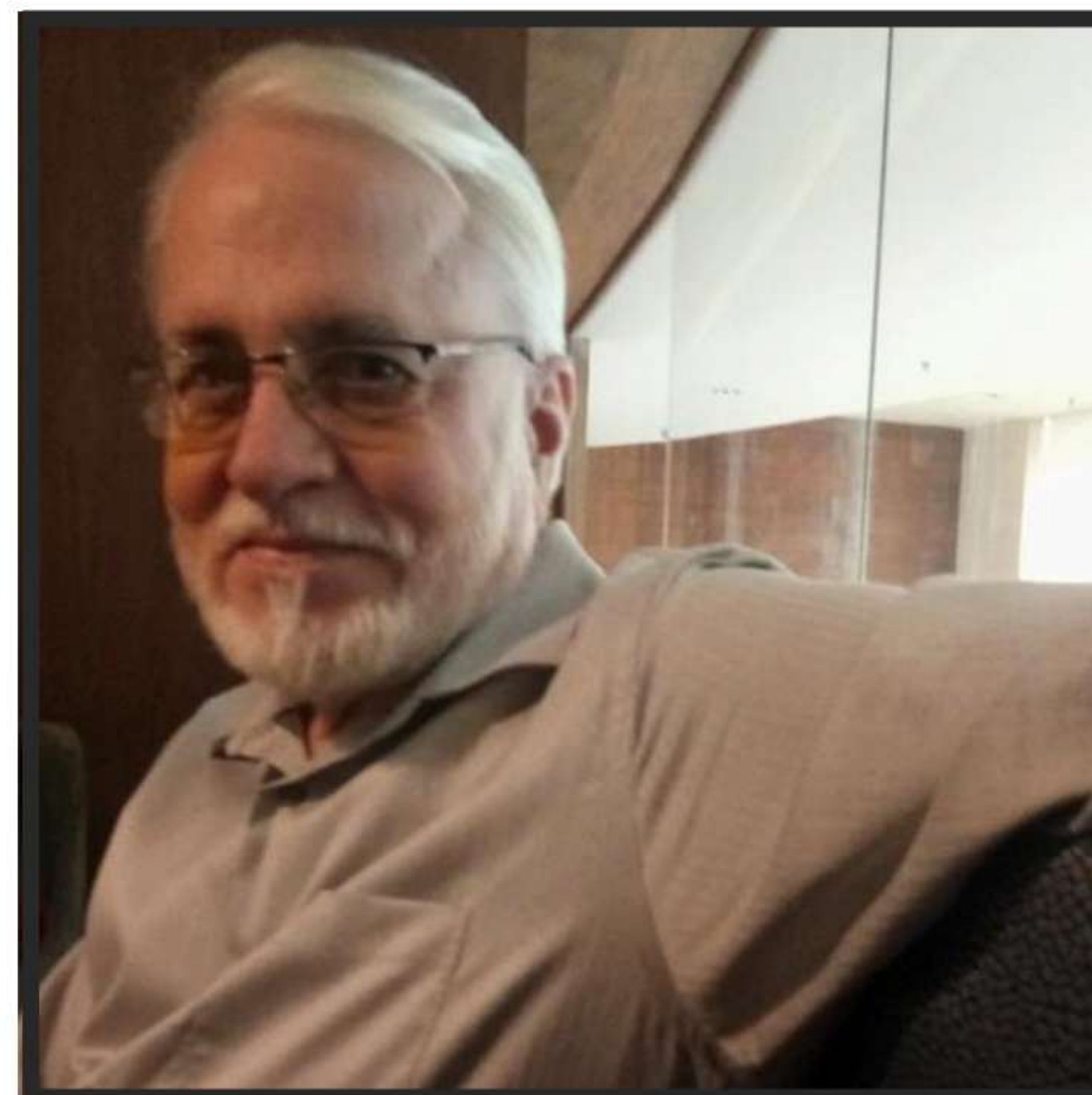
Chairman: Mr. Ajit Lalvani, Co chairman: Mr. Rajiv Podar  
Student Leads: Mr. Yash Babrekar, Ms. Ankita Khare

The committee is aimed to build a connection with the Alumni of the college and strengthen the network with them.

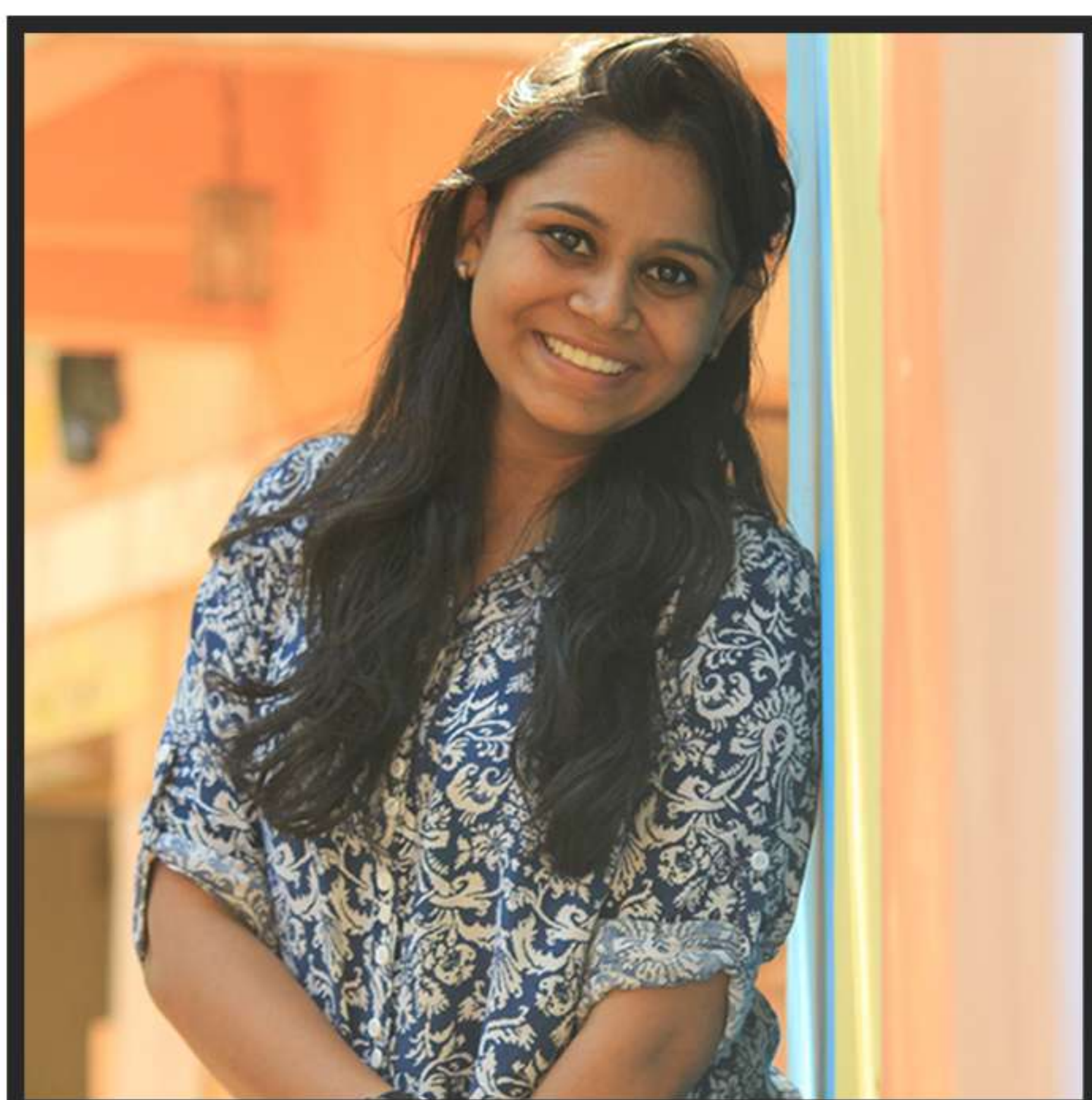
## New Committee Members



Mrs. Nini Kothari, Co-Chair  
Women's Empowerment



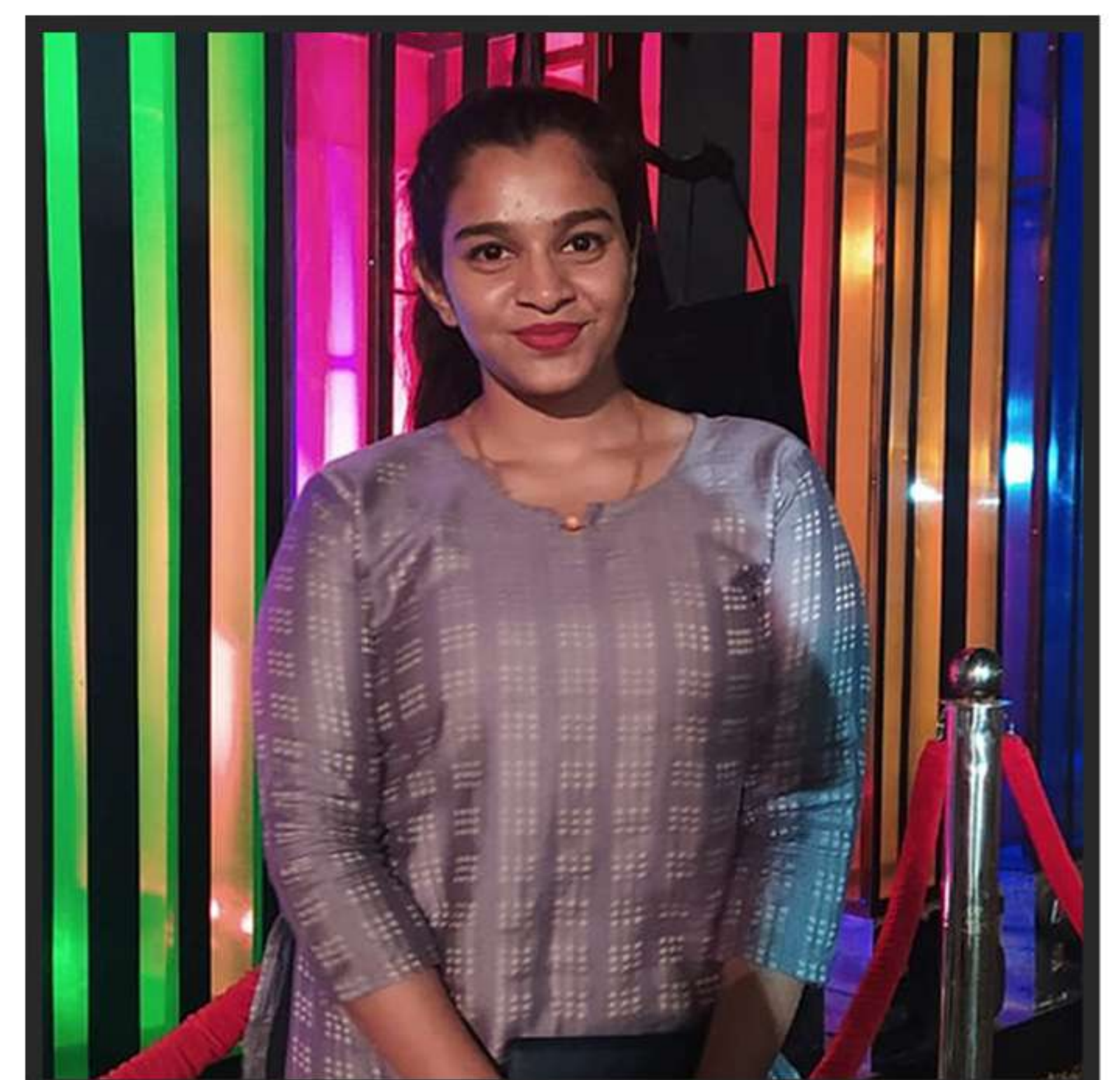
Mr. Vikram Shivdasani, Committee Member  
Infrastructure Development



Ms. Divya Maniar, Committee Member



Ms. Medha Kumari, Committee Member



Ms. Saileen Warang, Committee Member





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