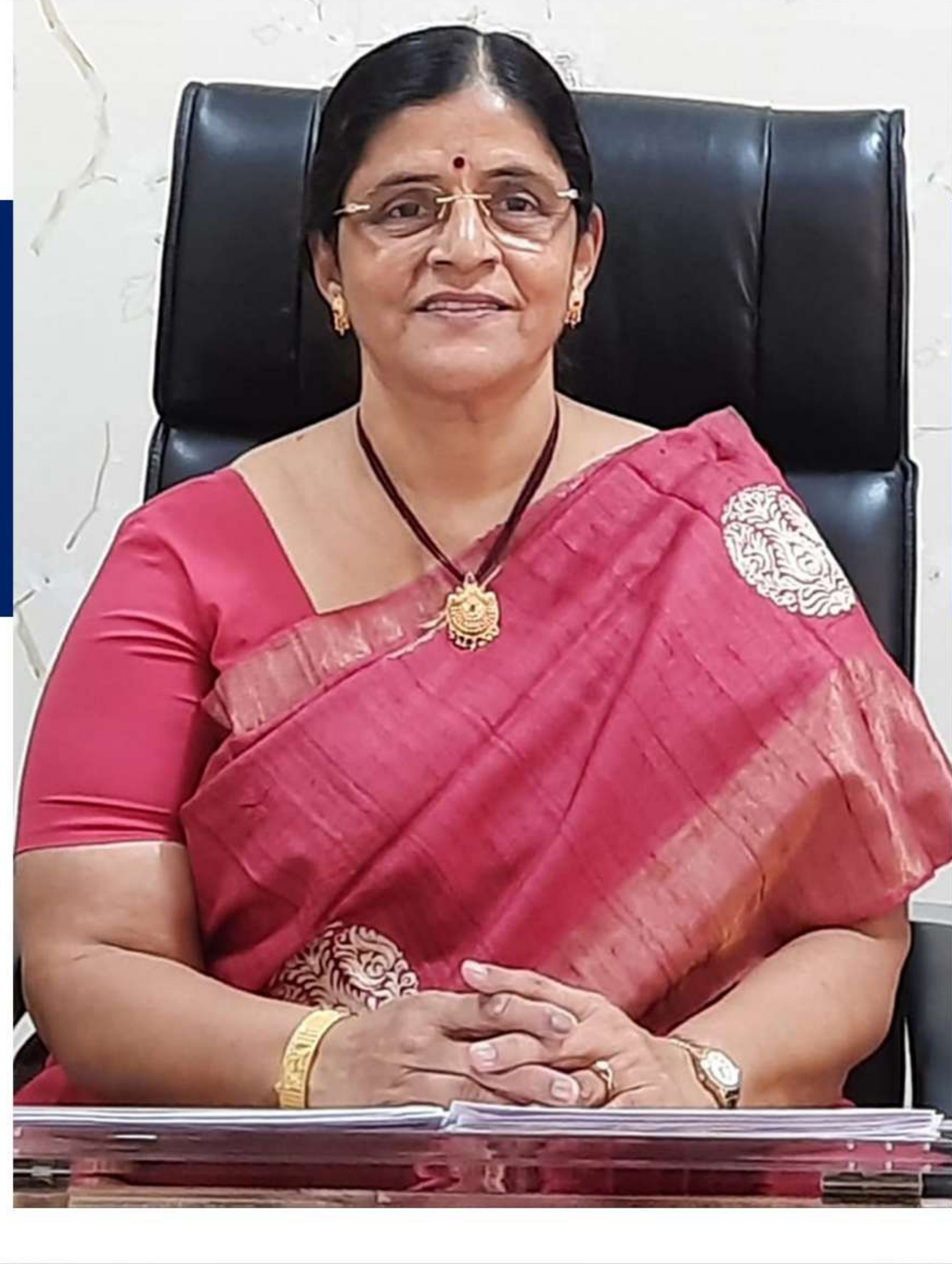


# THE SYDENHAMITE

THE BULLETIN OF SYDENHAM COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY/WWW.SYDENHAM.AC.IN  
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## COMING BACK TO SYDENHAM COLLEGE !

It is one of the happiest moments in my career when I came back to Sydenham College on 9th October 2020.

Sydenham College is the prestigious institute imparting commerce education at International level. It has been always a dream of many to be the Principal of Sydenham College. My dream came true on 28th August 2008, when I joined Sydenham College as Principal. It is a golden day in my life.

During my tenure of six years at Sydenham College, many developments at academic level and also in infrastructure were made. New courses were introduced, Conferences and Seminars were organised. A noteworthy addition to the infrastructure made during this period was renovation of our auditorium. Now it is a state of the art auditorium named after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, our distinguished and revered faculty.

The most delightful moment during my tenure was the celebration of Centenary year of the foundation of this prestigious institute in 2013. We could organise successfully academic conferences, marathon, cultural events in which students and faculty participated wholeheartedly. The most memorable event of the celebration was Alumni Meet where the oldest alumnus was 94 years old.

Now I have some plans for the development of the college to take it to further heights.

I am happy that alumni association has also geared up for the new developments. Shri. Ajit Lalvani and Shri. Shyam Kotakji are enthusiastic about college developments. They have many development plans in their mind. I have noticed strong bonding between alumni and the current students of the college, which will definitely help for the progress of this institute.

I assure that myself and my teaching and office colleagues will extend full cooperation and support all the activities, so as to achieve greater heights.

Best wishes !

- Dr. Madhuri Kagalkar, Principal  
Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics, Mumbai



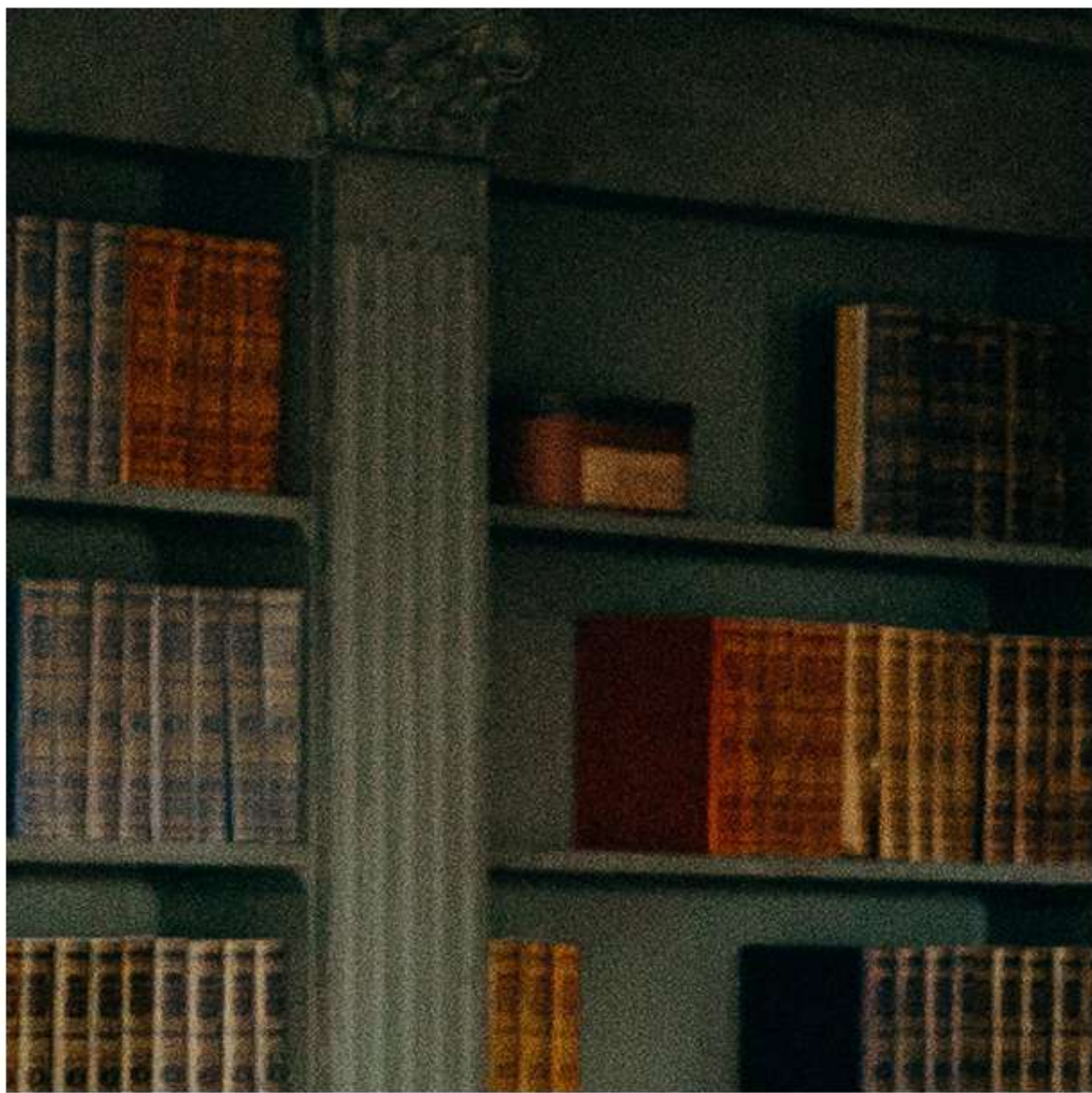


Photo by cottonbro from Pexels

# carol evenings & Christmas

*Hey, jingle bells,  
jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh*

It's that time of the year...  
Christmas... a festival which  
brings with itself the joy to  
sing carols!

Christmas is celebrated all  
around the world on the 25th of  
December with gaiety and  
traditional fervour. It celebrates  
the nativity or the birth of Jesus  
Christ, who gave the world  
indescribable gifts of his  
teachings, healing, forgiveness,  
and promise of - fear not.



Christmas can be connected to a plethora of things. Be it the sparkling merchandise and impressive displays in the markets or the homemade traditional plum cake or the Christmas Tree or Santa.

(I recall how in the weeks preceding December 25, parents start reminding us that Santa won't pay us a visit or bring us any gifts unless we become obedient and send him a Christmas wish list.)

Not just this, on this joyous occasion, special services are held in the churches; people burst crackers, sing carols, exchange greetings, and distribute cakes.

In today's time, the festival of Christmas has surpassed the religious boundaries and has become a symbol of the holistic culture. It is a festival for everyone, spreading light and warmth in the cold and dark winters. It is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future.



**A Merry Christmas  
in advance.  
Let the  
magic begin !**





# D

## own memory lane

I joined this college in June 1953 for the first year commerce class and left the college in 1960 after getting M.Com Degree.

The admission process in those days was very stringent. Admission forms were given only to those who have secured more than 60% marks in S.S.C. Board Exam. Out of 900 forms given, only 450 students were admitted after personal interviews. There were only three divisions of 150 students each.

Some periods were conducted in the building of J.J.school of arts, next to V.T. Railway Station and some classes were held in Sukhadwala Building, near Excelsior Cinema in Fort. We were required to commute between these two places every day till 1955 when the college was shifted to the new building at Churchgate in 1955.

The professors were all men of repute in the field of commerce and economics. During my stay in the college, we were having Mr. Muranjan, Mr. Dhongade and Mr. K T Merchant as principals.

After getting my M.Com Degree, I worked as a professor in commerce, accountancy and economics for four years in colleges affiliated to Pune and Shivaji University.

Further, for 3 years I worked in a Private Machine Tool factory as GM. for about three years. Thereafter I joined Maharashtra state road transport Corpn. as years of service (MSRTC) divisional account

## The list of eminent professors was very long, with a few as below:

1. Prof. N S Pradhan, for Banking and Salesmanship and Publicity.
2. Prof. G G Gadgil for Monetary Economics.
3. Prof. G B Kulkarni, Prof. Abhyankar, Prof. Ghatalia for Economics.
4. Prof. U V Desai for Mercantile Law.
5. Prof. M D Limaye for Modern Economic Development.
6. Prof. Paranjape for Economic Development of Foreign Countries.
7. Prof. Khot and Prof. Parasnis for English.
8. Prof. Kabraji for Accountancy.
9. Prof. P S Rege for Statistics and Scientific Method.

officer and after twenty-seventherein, I retired as Manager, Finance.

While in service of MSRTC, I did my Ph.D. in University of Poona in Dec. 1979, in the faculty of commerce, transport management after a gap of 19 years of my M.COM. degree. I also got an opportunity for working as finance head in Sikkim nationalized transport, Gangtok and the B.E.S.T undertaking, Mumbai, on deputation..

After retirement, I worked as a consultant in the field of roads, road transport, transport management, IRCTC etc. for another twenty years and now at the age of 84 years, I am relaxing in Pune, moving in down memory lane. I did attend the 75th and 100th anniversary of the college in 1988 and 2013.

– Dr. Sharad D. Kulkarni, Pune  
(Class of 1960)



# CAREER roads after Graduation



Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai is known for its quality of education and professional ethics for decades. The College offers a range of programs in the field of Commerce at the Under-Graduate level such as Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Management Studies & Bachelor of Banking & Insurance.

Sydenham graduates have an impeccable track record of achieving excellent placements every year, with top companies visiting the campus to recruit our students. (Wipro, ICICI Prudential, The Oberoi Group, Aditya Birla Capital, Media.net, Savage and Palmer, etc)

Our rigorous curriculum is designed to train our students to acquire talent in multiple disciplines and their choices of careers also reflect the same. Our students find careers in various sectors including banking, and financial services, FMCG, technology, media, research, sales and marketing, legal practice, business contracts, etc.

There are many job profiles available after completion of a Bachelor's degree. One can work as a Financial Risk Manager, Business Analyst, Data Analyst, Operational Analyst, Digital Marketer, etc. One can also apply for various government jobs. Some students go for higher professional studies like chartered accountancy, actuarial science, law, etc while some also go for creative fields like music, dramatics, acting schools, etc.

Our College provides hands-on experience in the chosen areas of interest and helps the students to apply theories and concepts learned in the classroom in real-life situations. It helps mould students into effective managers.





# Then

# & Now...

**I can still remember vividly that rainy, June morning in 1974 when I walked into the Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics, feeling completely lost !**

After having opted for Science in school and getting admission into science colleges of my choice (not to mention skipping First year), I got emotionally blackmailed by my mother to opt for Commerce and do the 4-year drill! Considering all my school mates were in Science or Arts colleges, I was left to fend for myself in this strange environment. But it helped to know that I was entering the best Commerce college in India, and I must admit it was an early life lesson in adapting to newer environments and embracing change

For me, like for many young students, college is probably the most defining time of your life. The overarching belief of 'having come of age' and the friends and memories I hoped to make kept me on a real high! And I am very happy that some of the friends I made on Day 1 are still very close to me. I soon came to realize that everyone is looking out for friendship and the Canteen was the place to cement those friendships over the famous samosas and tea. The long corridor on the ground floor became our favourite hang-out between & after lectures and no one seemed to be in a hurry to get home. But a very dear friend who had a visual disability and was with me almost daily till her parents fetched her in the evenings from my home taught me how much we get from giving and at that time I could not imagine how this would change my future course completely. I would spend time reading to her topics that were taught that day in class. So while it was a revision for her, I too benefitted hugely. And it made me feel that you can't help another without helping yourself in the process too.



Sydenham College had some of the finest professors... Variava & Marchante ( as he pronounced his name!) for law, Kazi & Hemadi for English, and the likes of Bansi Mehta & Ghatalia for accounting kept us in the classrooms more than expected. Vibrant co-curricular activities gave students amazing opportunities to unleash their hidden skills. But undergrad was more about having fun and being with friends. It was only when I joined the post graduate management program at Sydenham that I could see myself getting serious and planning my future. I had been influenced by some good teachers in my student life and while doing my post grad (classes were from 1pm-8pm) I was offered a short teaching assignment in New Era School for their Class 12 as the Accounts teacher had some sudden medical issue. And if there are some topics I am still proficient in it is only because I was so nervous that I prepared thoroughly before my class. And that is when I decided that at some point in the future I would go into teaching!

## **Marriage, a stint at corporate life and two lovely children later I decided that some introspection was required.**

I had opted for Finance but what I really enjoyed was developing youth potential. And so I went back to teaching, thanks to a chance meeting with Dr. Indu Shahani, a professor at Sydenham during my time in college but later the Dean at another college. And during my 11 years teaching at the BMS program and finding ways to bring out the shine in students, I discovered the magic of Social Work. In fact all students who participated in our social initiatives showed remarkable multi-tasking abilities and were the preferred choice of recruiters. I had flashbacks of how good I felt as a student reading to my friend everyday and during exam time and was convinced that if we had to develop youth to become “good” managers & business leaders, we must make them good humans first. And Social Service was the path to this transformation.

## **What resulted was my moving out of full time teaching to set up a non-profit, Chirag Rural Development Foundation that provides solar solutions to rural Indians who live in darkness post sunset.**

And engaging urban youth in this project is an important feature. This turned out to be a unique adventure involving student power, corporate muscle, hard core rural work and the alchemy which spread light and transformed lives – in parts of Bharat that needed to catch up with fast-developing India. Our formula for these neglected villages include solar home & street lights, safe drinking water, solar water lifting for agriculture, solar micro-grids for village industry, power for engaged learning in rural schools and a greener India on the one hand, and a more sensitized, fulfilled and purpose-driven group of youth and corporates on the other. We have Project Chirag Chapters in schools & colleges and youth ambassadors across the globe where it is a win-win for all. And alongside I continue to pursue my first love, teaching, as a visiting faculty at B-schools in the city. Because I feel strongly about how some teachers had shaped me, I believe teachers have a very significant, lifelong impact on their students - our role as educators is to guide students through spirit of social service, fire them in the crucible of hard work, mould them into the process of continuous learning, to emerge through this process of Alchemy as Human Resources as good as gold.

– **Pratibha [Malkani] Pai**  
Founder Director  
Chirag Rural Development Foundation  
Mumbai  
(Class of 1978)





A Virtual Cancer Awareness Initiative was taken by the Rotaract Club of Sydenham College on the 7th of November 2020. This campaign was an effort by the Rotaractors to spread awareness about cancer, its symptoms, and treatment. The session was well appreciated by everyone who watched it and thanked the Club for organizing an informative session. It also crossed over 800 views on YouTube within a day.

## Aim of the Campaign:

Cancer is one of the most deadly diseases in today's time. As per the records of 2019, 18 million new cases are reported annually. Cancer is the second cause of death globally, accounting for an estimated 9.6 million deaths or one in six deaths worldwide whereas in India it is estimated that 1 in 9 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime. The club took this opportunity and fulfilled its duty towards society by creating awareness and breaking myths about cancer.

## Live Hair Donation by a 5-year-old:

The session started with a live hair donation by a very young and generous child Arhaam Ikram who stays in Dubai. Arhaam's parents had witnessed the pain of cancer patients when they lose their hair and thus took the decision to do their bit of helping a patient. This young boy had maintained his hair from the age of one. He was motivated by his parents to believe in 'Sharing is Caring'. The donated hair will be sent to the NGO, Hair for Hope, wherein the hair will be used to make wigs for cancer patients.





## Our Guest Speakers :



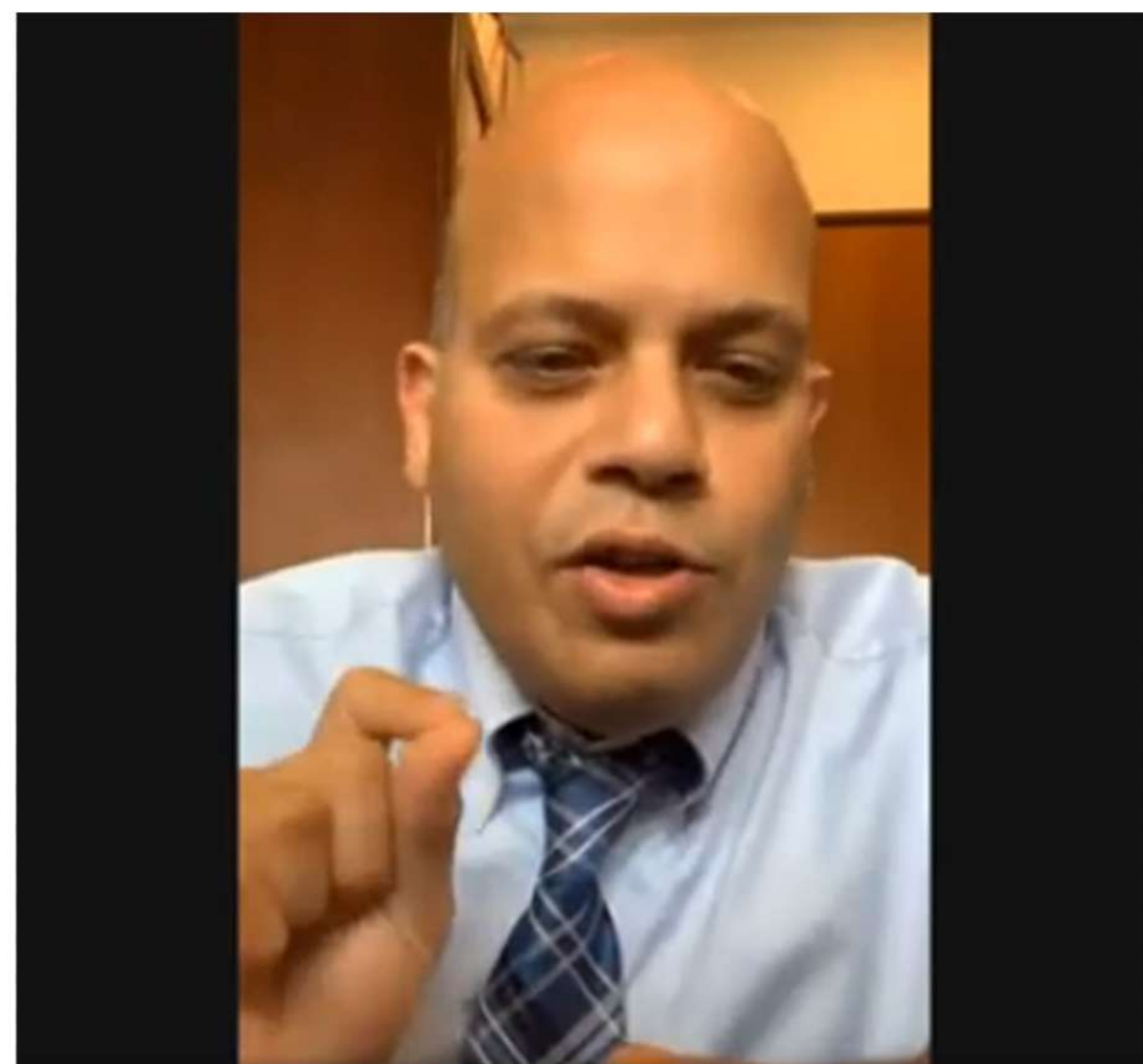
The session was graced by Dr. Ian Pinto one of the top oncologists of Mumbai. He is an oncologist and a blood specialist. He has trained and worked in the US for the last 15 years at centers like Memorial Sloan Kettering cancer center, New York University, State University New York, and Columbia. He has published and presented both nationally and internationally. Currently, he is a consultant medical oncologist and hematologist in Mumbai at Breach Candy Hospital, H.N. Reliance Foundation hospital, Jaslok hospital, and St. Elizabeth hospital. He is also the chairperson of the Rotary Cancer Aid Committee for the Rotary Club of Bombay.



Mrs. Mathew spoke about her experiences as a cancer survivor and the Noble work of an NGO. She spoke about the ups and downs she faced and also specified the importance of a 'Chemo buddy'. She presented a PowerPoint on breast cancer awareness how to identify it and emphasized how early detection can lead to killing cancer before it kills us. She also broke various myths about Cancer.

The second speaker for the event was Mrs. Premi Mathew, the founder of Hair for Hope, India and Protect your MOM campaign and a stage two cancer survivor. Mrs. Mathew is a Finalist of Emirates Woman Award 2011 and the Winner of the Dwani Award, UAE. Hair for Hope is an initiative to encourage hair donation and conversion into wigs for economically challenged cancer patients to give them the courage to fight the disease. Hair for Hope, India has inspired over 9000 hair donations and made hair donation a movement in India. Protect your MOM campaign is a breast cancer awareness campaign based on Facebook and has involved over 100,000 students from some of the best schools and colleges in UAE and India. Mrs. Mathew was chosen as one of the top 100 women achievers in India.

## Insights by our speakers :



Dr. Ian Pinto spoke about Cancer and its types. He also shared with us how he motivates his patients. He told us about the demographic of Cancer patients across the world. Sir explained the importance of early detection and specified mammography and its types.



# CHALLENGES are OPPORTUNITIES



2020 is the year that brought the entire global economy to a standstill and introduced everyone to the virtual culture. It put us all in situations that were unexpected and even beyond our imagination. This year was difficult for everyone as it led to hardships for many sections of society. This phase left several jobless and many homeless; it shut down many businesses and delayed several careers.

But the way every cloud has a silver lining, anything that happens or any situation that we come across does have a positive side and that is something we need to look at. This year taught us to be prepared for unexpected times; it helped us learn a lesson that we should not take everything that we have for granted. It helped us to be grateful for what we have and appreciate the small gifts of life. This situation explained to us the importance of good health and strong immunity. We also got time to try out different things like learning a new form of art, recollecting old memories, and practicing our long lost hobbies. We all got quality time to spend with our families and our loved ones. Indeed Challenges do present us with Opportunities.

In our fast-moving lives, before the lockdown, we did not find time for ourselves and were long waiting for a good break to sit down and relax. This phase of lockdown provided us with a plethora of opportunities through the digital medium to hone our skills, improve ourselves, work on our weaknesses, and thus become a better version of ourselves.

It provided us with a golden opportunity of utilizing the time at hand and preparing ourselves to face the uncertain future. Though this year has been a roller coaster ride in itself, it has served to be a blessing in disguise for many.

## As we are all looking forward to

# 2021

a year filled with expectations of peace, positivity, and progress, we all have our hearts filled with learnings that 2020 has provided. These lessons learned will help us face the challenges destiny will present and convert them into opportunities for us.

New Year is the time of celebration; it's the time to make new resolutions, to start afresh. And as we step into the next year and mark new beginnings, we have our hearts filled with hope that this New Year will be the one filled with joy, happiness, and success.



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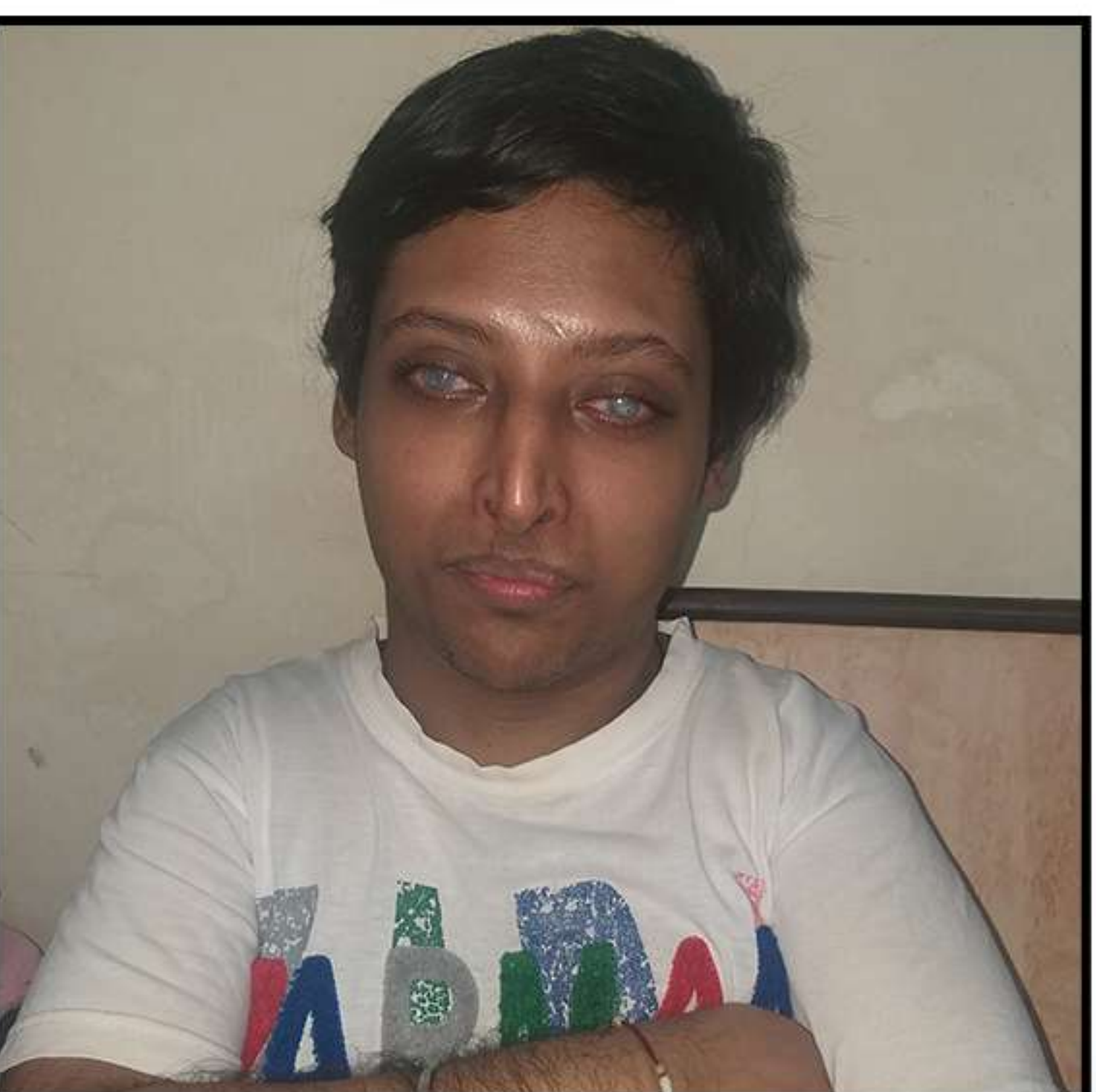
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