

# THE SYDENHAMITE

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- **Disney:** Disney hit a century, feeling old yet?
- **Garba:** Did you dance the garba night away?
- **Metaverse:** Reality is just an option, the metaverse is your playground!
- **Sydenham Reunites** Get a sneak peek into the meeting room!



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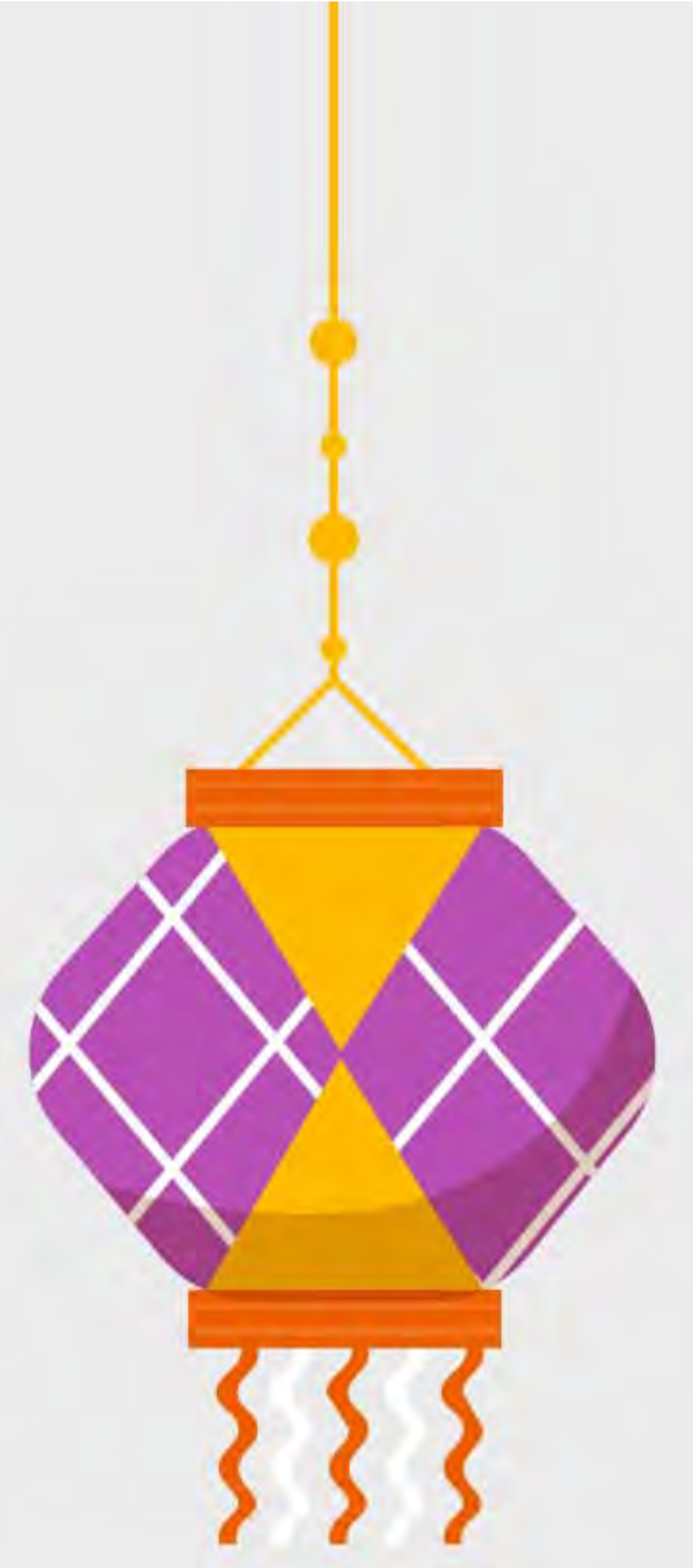


SydAlumniCell





# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



## DEAR SYDENHAMITE COMMUNITY,

As the vibrant hues of Diwali illuminate our surroundings, we at The Sydenhamite extend our warmest wishes for a joyous and prosperous festival of lights. This month, our magazine embraces the enchanting spirit of Disney, transporting you to a world where dreams and magic intertwine.

As you turn the pages, let the Disney-inspired color theme ignite your imagination and fill your heart with the warmth of childhood memories. Diwali, a celebration of light and triumph over darkness, resonates deeply with the Disney ethos of hope, resilience, and the power of dreams.

May this Diwali be a time of togetherness, laughter, and the creation of unforgettable memories, just like those we cherish from the enchanting world of Disney.

Happy Diwali from The Sydenhamite team!





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

**03 Disney** embark on a journey through the enchanting world of Disney, where dreams come true and imagination knows no

Page

**05 Anamorphic Billboards and CGI ads:** In a world saturated with visual stimuli, advertisers are constantly seeking new and innovative ways to capture the attention of consumers. Anamorphic billboards and CGI ads are two cutting-edge techniques that are transforming the landscape of outdoor advertising.

Page

**07 AI series:** Delve into the intricacies of AI, from its historical roots to its cutting-edge advancements, and discover how it's shaping our lives and redefining the future of human interaction with technology.

Crisp columns

Page

**09 Aviation History Month:** aviation's rich heritage is a testament to human ingenuity and the boundless pursuit of flight. Let us take flight and explore the extraordinary stories that shaped the skies above.

Page

**11 Metaverse** embark on a journey to the frontiers of technology as we explore the concept of the metaverse, a captivating convergence of virtual and physical worlds.

Page

**13 Gig Economy:** The gig economy, characterized by short-term, project-based work, has revolutionized the way we work. While it offers flexibility and independence, it also presents challenges such as income instability and limited benefits.

Crisp columns

Page

**15 Raas Garba:** The vibrant colors, the infectious beats of the dhol, and the swirling of dandiya sticks in the air – Sydenham College's Garba Night is an event that epitomizes the spirit of Navratri.

Page

**16 Sydenham Reunites** The Sydenham meeting provided a platform for society leaders to envision and plan a year of engaging and enriching activities that cater to the wide-ranging interests of Sydenham College's student body.

Page

**17 Rotaract club installation ceremony:** Join us as we chronicle the momentous occasion of the club's installation ceremony, where ideals and aspirations intertwine to shape a brighter future for the community.

Sydenham scoops

Page

**18 Jaggy Shivdasani :** A seasoned bridge player with an illustrious career, Shivdasani has been bridging the gap between generations, inspiring young minds to take up the sport.

Page

**19 Sanjiv Saran Mehra:** our alumni who's been the head of India's top sports event management appointed as the president of the Bombay Gymkhana.

Page

**20 Ashok Vaswani :** our dear alumni takes the legacy forward by being appointed as the new MD of kotak mahindra bank. This will be the first time in its 20-odd years of operations that the Bank will be helmed by an outsider

Grad Glories

Page

**21 Student Corner**



# Crisp columns

## Disney

### The fairytale land marks a century

~ Hrishita Kapadia

Oh, Walt Disney, your vision grand,  
a world of joy, at your command,  
In every frame, your magic's touch,  
Disney's legacy, we love so much.

Disney is a household name known for its family-friendly entertainment. The company's mission is to "entertain, inform, and inspire people around the world through the power of storytelling." Disney's stories are often filled with themes of hope, courage, and perseverance, making them relatable to people of all ages.

The Walt Disney Company is an American multinational entertainment and media conglomerate headquartered in Burbank, California. It is composed of five business segments: Disney Media & Entertainment Distribution, Disney Parks, Experiences and Products, Disney Studio Entertainment, ESPN, and Disney International. The company was founded on October 16, 1923, by brothers Walt Disney and Roy O. Disney as a cartoon studio and named Walt Disney Productions.



The story of Disney began in 1923 when brothers Walt and Roy Disney founded the Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio in Hollywood, California. Driven by a passion for animation, Walt created a character that would become an icon – Mickey Mouse. With his signature white gloves and cheerful grin, Mickey Mouse quickly captured the hearts of audiences worldwide. In the decades that followed, Disney expanded its empire, venturing into live-action films, theme parks, and television programming. Walt Disney's vision of bringing joy and wonder to audiences of all ages continued to drive the company's growth.

Landmark achievements included the opening of Disneyland in 1955, the creation of iconic television shows like "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color," and the production of beloved films like "Mary Poppins," "The Lion King," and "Toy Story." Disney's reach extended far beyond entertainment, inspiring generations of artists, filmmakers, and dreamers.



As Disney entered the 21st century, it faced a rapidly changing media landscape and evolving consumer preferences. The company responded with strategic acquisitions, expanding its portfolio to include Pixar, Marvel Studios, and Lucasfilm. These acquisitions brought a wealth of new characters, stories, and franchises into the Disney fold, further strengthening the company's position as a global leader in entertainment.



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Disney has also been recognized for its contributions to the arts and sciences, with numerous awards and honors. These include:

• **26 Academy Awards**    • **59 Academy Award nominations**    • **15 Grammy Awards**    • **22 Emmy Awards**

In addition, Disney has also made significant contributions to society through its philanthropic efforts. The Disney Foundation has donated billions of dollars to support a variety of causes, including education, healthcare, and the arts.

## Disney's 100 years

During this centennial celebration of 100 years, Disney will have special activations, tie-ins, and moments that will highlight what has made this company so special to so many over the last 100 years. Then there's the highly anticipated *Once Upon a Studio*, a special short film that assembles some of Disney's most iconic characters—everyone from Mickey to Moana—to take a group photo in honor of the company's 100th. *Once Upon a Studio* made its broadcast debut on Sunday, October 15, as part of ABC's *The Wonderful World of Disney*.



## Did you know?

Disney is a major employer. The company has over 200,000 employees worldwide. It is one of the largest employers in the entertainment industry, and it is also a major economic force in its home state of California. Walt Disney was a train enthusiast. He had a miniature railroad in his backyard, and he even designed a full-size locomotive for Disneyland. His love of trains is reflected in many of his films, such as *The Great Locomotive Chase* and *Steamboat Willie*.

Let's dive into the key elements that have contributed to Disney's remarkable longevity and prominence:

- 1. Emotional Connection and Storytelling:** Disney has mastered the art of storytelling, weaving narratives that resonate deeply with audiences of all ages. Their characters, whether it's the beloved Mickey Mouse or the more recent additions like Elsa from *Frozen*, become ingrained in our memories and emotions.
- 2. Multi-Channel Presence and Cross-Promotion:** Disney's reach extends far beyond traditional movie theaters and television screens. They have successfully expanded their presence across various channels, including streaming services, theme parks, and consumer products.
- 3. Strategic Partnerships and Acquisitions:** Disney has a knack for identifying and acquiring companies that complement their core strengths. Their acquisition of Pixar Animation Studios brought forth critically acclaimed films like *Toy Story* and *Finding Nemo*, while Marvel Studios has revitalized the superhero genre with blockbusters like *Iron Man* and *Avengers*. These strategic partnerships have expanded Disney's portfolio and broadened their appeal to diverse audiences.
- 4. Pricing Strategies and Value-Based Pricing:** Disney's pricing strategies are carefully crafted to maximize profit while maintaining perceived value. They employ market-oriented pricing for products like movies, aligning with industry standards, while using value-based pricing for products like memorabilia and theme park experiences, ensuring that customers feel they are receiving a worthwhile experience. The Walt Disney Company is a remarkable company that has brought joy and entertainment to millions of people around the world. Disney has grown into a global empire that continues to innovate and inspire. Their ability to connect with audiences on an emotional level, adapt to changing trends, and maintain a consistent brand identity has solidified their position as a leader in the entertainment industry. As they continue to explore new avenues and embrace emerging technologies, Disney is poised to captivate audiences for generations to come.



# Anamorphic Billboards & CGI ads

Behind the Illusions! ~ Kimaya Patange

**Anamorphic Billboards;** at first glance, it sounds futuristic-revolutionary even, and why, it is just that! Anamorphic Billboards are the mix of optical illusions and phantasms, which lead to the perfect type of outdoor advertisement that creates 3D dimensional effects. This fantastic type of advertisement revolves around the idea of the billboards appearing distorted or stretched when viewed from a vantage point but reveal their intended image when viewed from a specific angle.



Anamorphism isn't just a new and upcoming concept, it's been there since the times of the Renaissance, and a famous example would be from the remarkable artist; Leonardo da Vinci. 'Leonardo's Eye' is the earliest known example of an anamorphosis, this painting was a composition that can only be viewed with a special mirror that restores the deformed image.



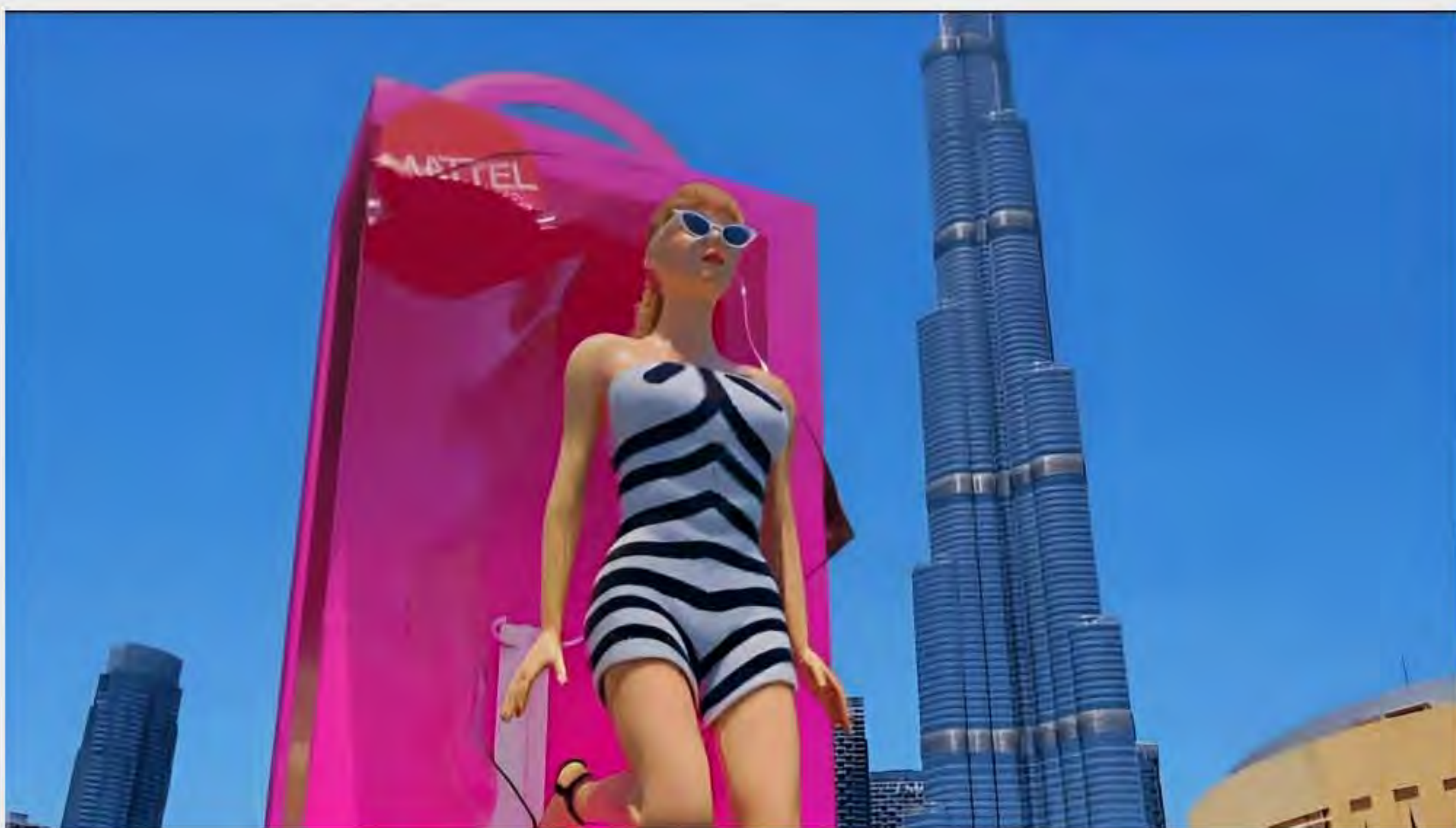
CGI Ads: short for Computer-Generated Imagery, the face of modern advertisement, is a tool for marketers to produce visually striking, immersive, and memorable campaigns. CGI Ads include a plethora of images and animations that can be used, for example lifelike product renderings to mesmerizing environments. CGI allows advertisers to create visually stunning and highly realistic images and animations using powerful software and hardware.

Heads are turned and eyes are locked, for this optical trickery immediately captures the attention of passersby, leaving them in awe of the creative approach taken by advertisers. These billboards perform their magic by the clever manipulations of perspectives, and cause a stir as people stop and stare, increasing the visibility of the brand.

One such example is an anamorphic billboard for Amazon to promote a fantasy series called, 'The Wheel of Time'. This went beyond the trailers and online ads and offered something unique and eye-catching—something that would drive a lot more buzz. It's a horrifying and terrifying illusion, and if one were to see this in real life, they would just stand there watching it all day!



This technology has altered the way that brands are promoting and communicating all the way! CGI allows advertisers to tap into the boundless world of imagination, creating scenarios and visuals that are impossible to capture with traditional photography or videography. This type of marketing is instrumental in increasing the social media reach of said brands, since, this concept isn't what one can see in real life—it exists only in the videos posted by the brands.



The most popular example of a CGI Ad would be the OG Barbie wearing her iconic white-black swimsuit and stepping out of a pink box. A quick scan of the background shows her in front of Dubai's iconic skyscraper, Burj Khalifa, as well! While the Barbie movie craze was taking the world by storm, this CGI Ad helped rake up likes, comments and shares; not letting the hype around the movie die.

As technology continues to advance, we can only expect more exciting and innovative advertising experiences to emerge such as these strategies, continuing to captivate and delight people around the world.



# AI & Oreo:

## When words fail you, AI is here to help!

~ Kimaya Patange

With AI taking over the world, it has also touched the unthinkable: Food! To be more specific, the most beloved cookie and the personal favourite of millions, Oreo!

With a dashing new campaign by the brand called, 'Say it with Oreo', Oreo has partnered with the beloved Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar and state of the art AI.



Now, one might ask, what could AI possibly do with a food brand? To answer this, we must dive into the past of Oreo. Oreo has always tried to build stronger connections in families and in culture, through its 'Stay Playful' platform, and this new campaign takes it one more step further, with Voice Cloning AI and ChatGPT, this brand has turned this absolute idea into reality, which lets people express what they want to at times they can't.

Partnering with renowned actor and wordsmith Farhan Akhtar has been a brilliant act on Oreo's part, Farhan Akhtar, known for his wordplay and wit, was a natural choice for the campaign. This campaign leverages generative AI to generate playful answers which then goes to a voice cloning AI engine which plays back this answer in Akhtar's voice. It's a tool for users to find playful ways to express themselves when they find themselves in awkward or weird life situations, with personalized messages!

From kids to adults, everyone can use this tool to cut through the seriousness and tap into their playful side with the help of tech. The brand has released limited-edition boxes of Oreos that have the alphabet's letters embossed on them. Additionally, each pack has a QR code that, when scanned, takes the customer to the [www.sayitwithoreo.in](http://www.sayitwithoreo.in) microsite, where users can converse with the AI and get fun and playful answers crafted by Farhan Akhtar i.e., the AI!





Oreo, one of the world’s most famous cookie brand, if not THE most famous cookie brand, is always coming up with new and fun crusades to attract more customers and keeping themselves prevalent in the market as the face of the cookie industry. And so, this strategy of, ‘Say it with Oreo’, reaches a wide audience and resonates with all types of people. This being perhaps the first of its kind and one of the biggest AI led campaigns of recent times, has made unlimited fully personalized messaging at scale a possibility!

Here is an example of the use of this fun and brilliant technology in an ad by Oreo India;

The ad starts with Farhan typing on the ‘Say it with Oreo’ microsite; ‘How do I tell my dad to stop telling dad jokes?’, continuing with the AI in Farhan Akhtar’s voice replying: ‘Theres jokes and there’s dad jokes. The difference? One makes us go hahaha... and yours makes us go, nah nah nah!’.



This demonstrates yet another way that technology and AI, when combined with the appropriate media mix, can greatly improve the ability to interact with customers on a large scale.



# Soaring Through time

## History of aviation

~ Tania Tupe

From the humble beginnings of hot air balloons and gliders to the modern day marvels of commercial airlines and supersonic jets the field of aviation has come a long way. On the occasion of Aviation History month, which is celebrated every November, we are going to take a moment to truly understand and reflect on the marvelous progress aviation sector has made and travel back in time to know the inception of such incredible innovation.

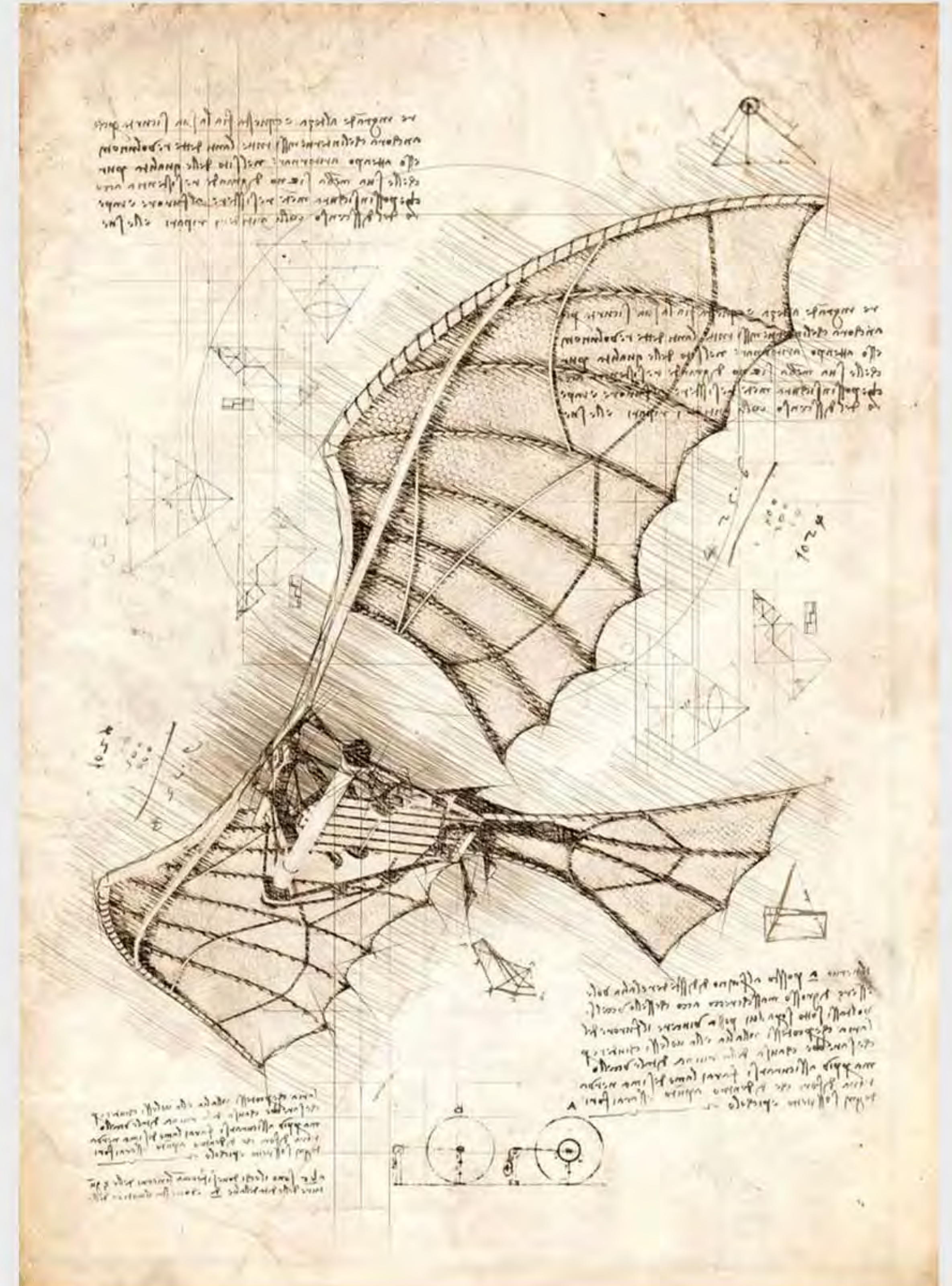
### THE AGE OF INVENTION:

The history of aviation can be traced back to the 15th century when a renowned visionary man Leonardo da Vinci sketched designs of flying machines. His fascination by flight led him to study the aerodynamics of a bird. His designs were never built, but they served as a foundation for development of powered flights in the 20th century.

**In the 18th century**, the Montgolfier brothers developed a hot air balloon. However it was not until the early 20th century that flights came into existence. In 1903, the famously known Wright brothers made the first successful flight in an aircraft. Although it was heavier it stayed airborne for 20th seconds and covered 120 feet from ground.

### THE GOLDEN AGE OF AVIATION:

Many advances were initiated in the aircraft construction and design. The time of world war I and world war II also referred to as Golden Age of aviation where new technologies like retractable landing gear and variable pitch propeller made aircraft faster, efficient and more reliable.



It is deemed as a major turning point in the history of aviation. The revolutionary technologies like jet engine and the radar were developed during the war. After the war, the commercial aviation industry grew rapidly. In the year 1952, the de Havilland Comet became the first jetliner to enter commercial service. And in 1958 the Boeing 707 entered service as the first long-range jetliner.

### SPACE AGE:

Aviation has continued to advance in the decades since space age. New technologies, such as fly-by-wire and composite materials have made aircraft lighter, stronger, and more fuel efficient. The space age marked its inception with the launch of Sputnik, the first artificial satellite.



## AVIATIONS IMPACT ON SOCIETY:

The sector of Aviation has a profound impact on society. It has made travel quicker and convenient and fueled the process of trade and commerce. It has played a vital role in military. Aircrafts were used for everything from reconnaissance an bombing of troops and transportation. It has led to the globalization of the economy and made it possible for businesses to reach new markets. Aircrafts and helicopters used for disaster relief. It can be used to evacuate people and distribute supplies.



In conclusion, aviation is a dynamic and an ever evolving field. It has helped create a globalized and interdependent world. Aviation month possess as an opportunity to be grateful to the invention of such technology and the people who have made it possible, from the early pioneers to aerospace engineers and pilots of today.



# Welcome to the Metaverse:

## Where the real and unreal meet..

~ Priyanshu Verma

The metaverse is a term that has been gaining a lot of attention in recent years. It is often described as a next-generation version of the internet, one that is more immersive, interactive, and social. But what exactly is the metaverse, and why is it important?

The metaverse is a shared virtual world that is created by the convergence of different technologies, including virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and extended reality (XR). It is a place where people can interact with each other and with digital objects in a way that is more realistic and immersive than what is possible with traditional online experiences. The metaverse has the potential to revolutionize the way we work, learn, and play. It can create new opportunities for businesses, educators, and consumers alike.



### How the metaverse works

The metaverse is created by the convergence of a number of different technologies, including VR, AR, and XR. VR headsets allow users to fully immerse themselves in a virtual world, while AR overlays digital information onto the real world. XR is a term that encompasses both VR and AR. Users interact with the metaverse through a variety of devices, such as VR headsets, AR glasses, and controllers. Some metaverse platforms also allow users to interact with the metaverse using traditional 2D devices, such as computers and smartphones.

The metaverse offers a wide range of different experiences, including gaming, social networking, and education. For example, users can play VR games, attend virtual concerts, or take virtual classes. Users can also create their own virtual spaces and experiences, such as virtual homes, businesses, and classrooms.

### The current state of the metaverse

The metaverse is still in its early stages of development, but there are a number of different metaverse platforms that are currently available. Some of the most popular metaverse platforms include Decentraland, The Sandbox, and Roblox. A number of major companies and organizations are also investing in the metaverse. For example, Meta has invested heavily in VR technology and is developing its own metaverse platform. Microsoft is also developing its own metaverse platform for Windows. The metaverse is expected to be a major part of the future of technology and the internet.





There are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed before the metaverse can reach its full potential. One challenge is the issue of interoperability. Currently, different metaverse platforms are not interoperable, meaning that users cannot move seamlessly between them. Another challenge is the issue of scalability. As the metaverse grows in popularity, it will need to be able to handle a large number of users and interactions. Despite these challenges, the metaverse is a rapidly growing area of technology with the potential to revolutionize the way we live, work, and play.

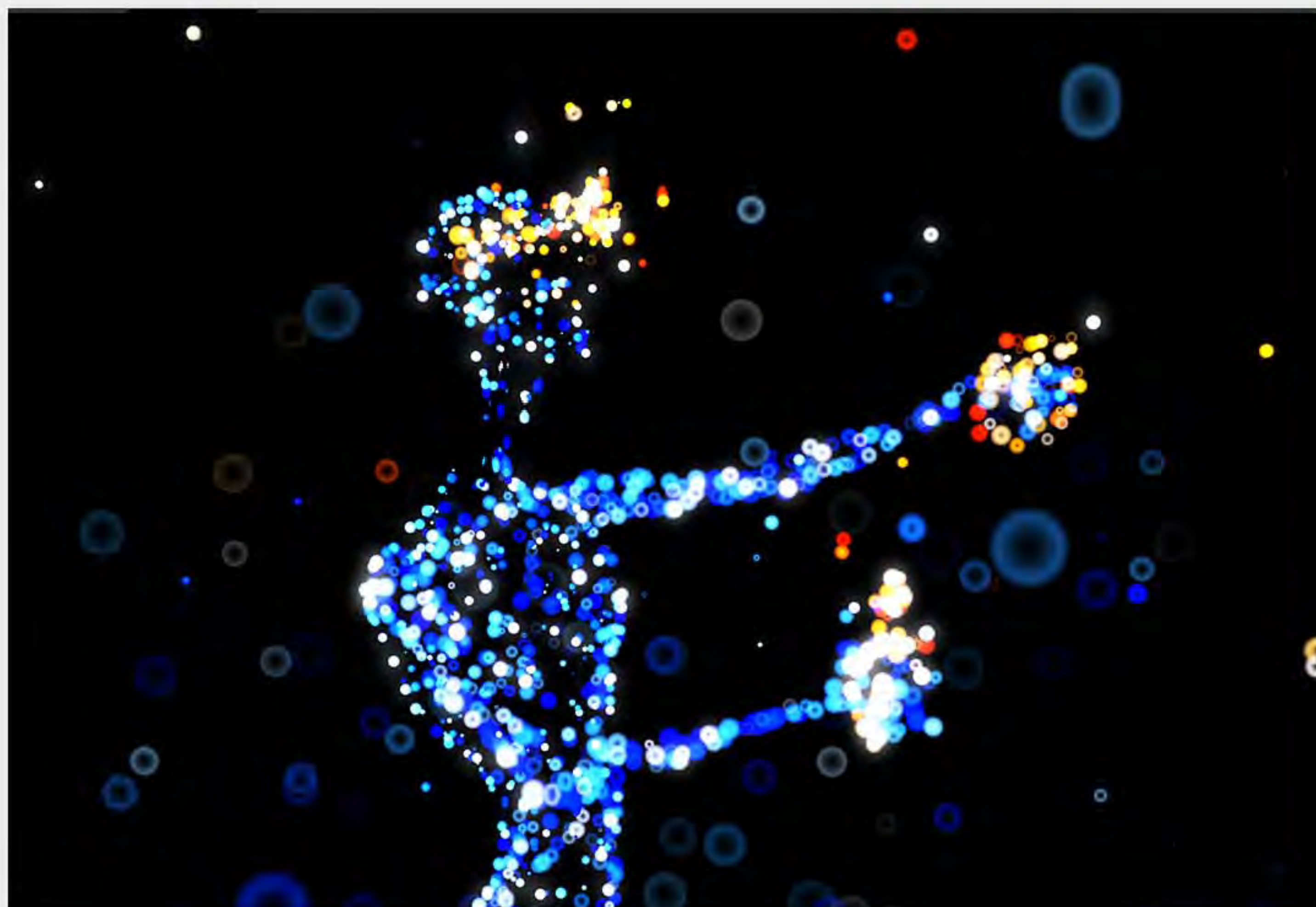
## The future of the metaverse

The future of the metaverse is full of possibilities. It is expected to have a major impact on a wide range of industries, including:

**Work:** The metaverse could create new virtual workplaces where employees can collaborate from anywhere in the world. It could also be used to create immersive training simulations.

**Education:** The metaverse could be used to create immersive educational experiences that allow students to learn in new and engaging ways. For example, students could take virtual field trips to historical sites or learn about science concepts through interactive simulations.

**Entertainment:** The metaverse could be used to create new forms of entertainment, such as virtual concerts, sporting events, and theme parks.



The metaverse is also expected to have a significant impact on society as a whole. It could help to create a more connected and inclusive world. It could also help to promote new forms of creativity and expression.

However, there are also some potential risks associated with the future of the metaverse. For example, the metaverse could be used to spread misinformation and propaganda. It could also be used to exploit users or create new forms of social inequality. It is important to be aware of these potential risks and to develop safeguards to protect users.

The metaverse is a nascent, rapidly developing technology with the potential to revolutionize our lives. It's important to understand what it is, how it works, and the potential benefits and risks it poses. We're still in the early days of the metaverse, but it's clear that it has the power to change the world. We must be involved in its development and steer it towards a positive future.



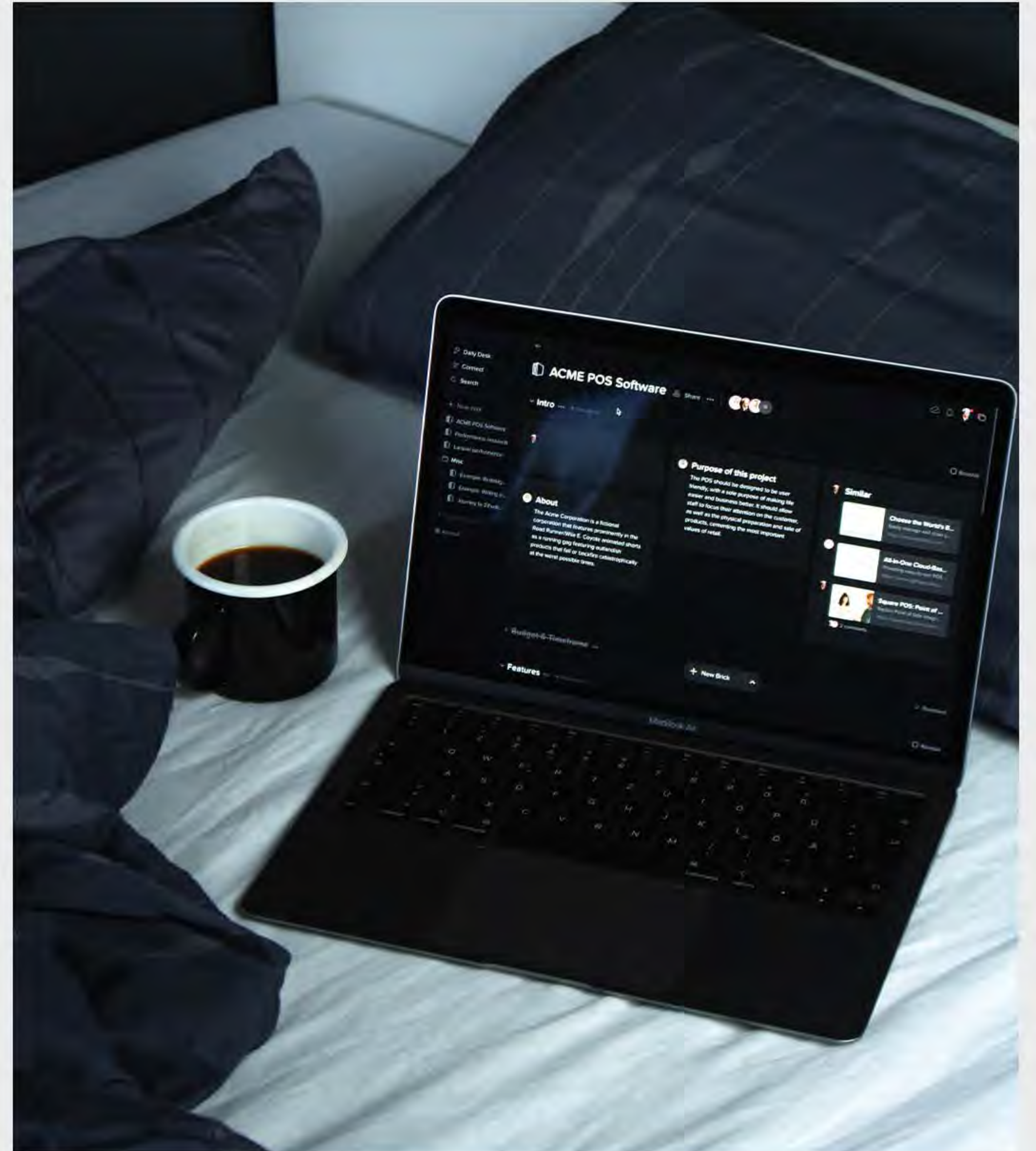
# The Gig Economy:

## Opportunities and Challenges for Sydenhamites

~ Suyash Save

The gig economy is a term that refers to the growing trend of independent workers who offer their services on a short-term or project-based basis, often through online platforms or apps. The gig economy includes freelancers, contractors, consultants, self-employed professionals, and on-demand workers who provide services such as ride-hailing, food delivery, home maintenance, graphic design, and more.

The gig economy has been expanding rapidly in recent years, driven by technological innovations, changing consumer preferences, and shifting labour market conditions. According to a report by NITI Aayog, 77 lakh workers were engaged in the gig economy in India in 2020- 21 representing 2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5% of the total workforce. The report also projects that the gig workforce is expected to expand to 2.35 crore workers by 2029- 30, forming 6.7% of the non agricultural workforce or 4.1% of the total livelihood.



**But what does the gig economy mean for Sydenhamites? As a community of creative and entrepreneurial individuals, Sydenhamites may find many opportunities and benefits in the gig economy. For example:**

- The gig economy can offer more flexibility and autonomy for Sydenhamites who want to pursue their passions hobbies, or personal projects while earning income from their skills and talents.

- The gig economy can enable more learning and development for Sydenhamites who seek to expand their knowledge and skills, or who want to keep up with the latest trends and

- The gig economy can provide more variety and diversity for Sydenhamites who enjoy working on different types of projects and tasks, or who want to explore new fields and industries.

- The gig economy can facilitate more networking and collaboration for Sydenhamites who value social interactions and connections, or who want to access new markets and customers.

**However, the gig economy also poses some challenges and risks for Sydenhamites. For instance:**

- The gig economy can entail more uncertainty and instability for Sydenhamites who rely on a steady and predictable income, or who need to cover their expenses and obligations.

- The gig economy can expose more vulnerability and insecurity for Sydenhamites who lack adequate protection and support, such as health insurance, retirement savings, legal rights, or social benefits.

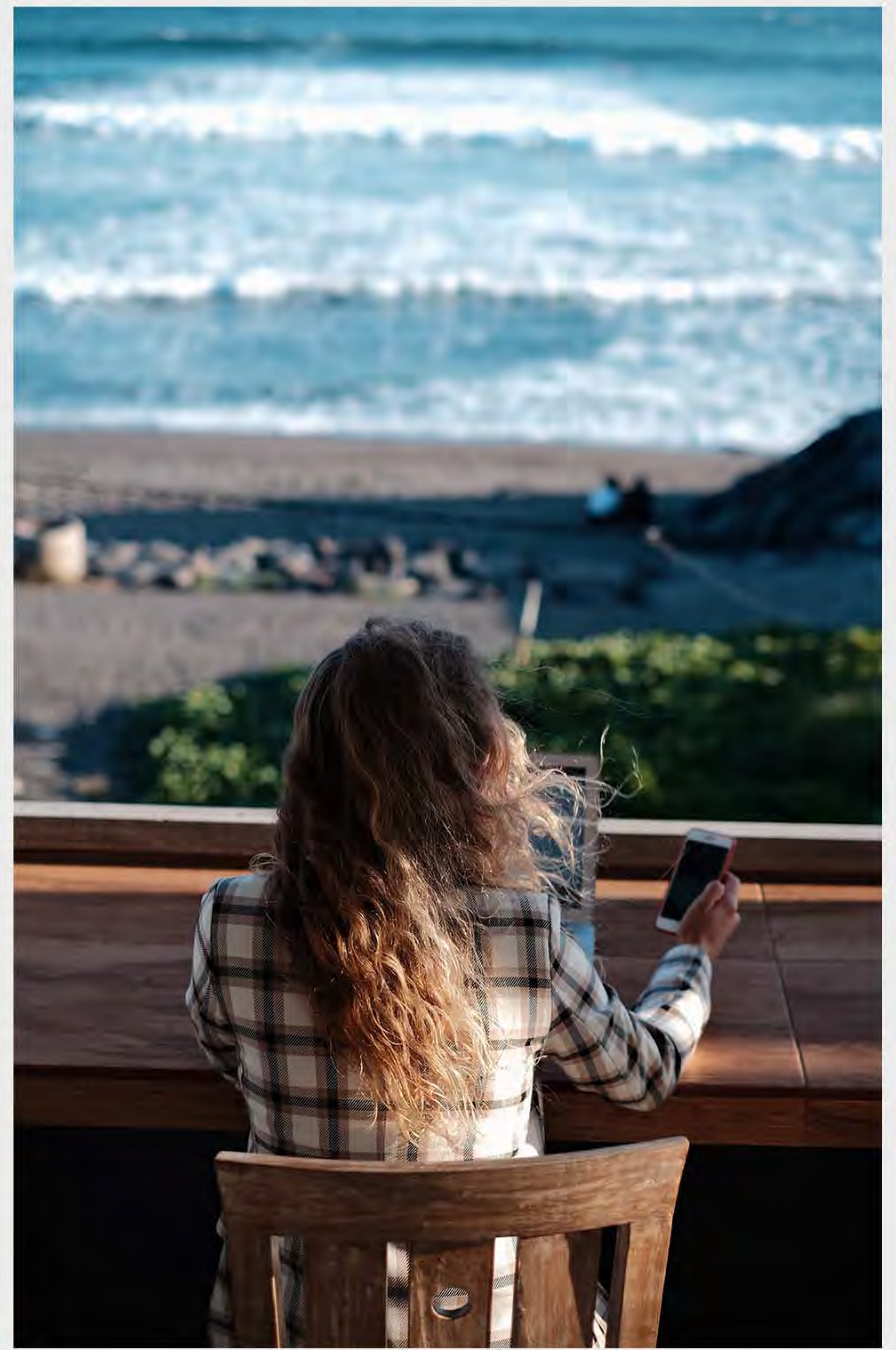
- The gig economy can create more competition and pressure for Sydenhamites who have to stand out from the crowd and deliver high-quality work, or who have to deal with demanding

- The gig economy can demand more self-management and discipline for Sydenhamites who have to balance their work and life commitments, or who have to cope with stress and isolation.



Therefore, Sydenhamites need to be aware of the pros and cons of the gig economy, and make informed decisions about their participation and engagement. To succeed in the gig economy, Sydenhamites need to:

- Assess their strengths and weaknesses, interests and goals, values and preferences, and determine whether the gig economy suits their personality and lifestyle.
- Build their personal brand and reputation, showcase their portfolio and testimonials, market their services and products, and attract and retain their clients.
- Enhance their skills and competencies, update their knowledge and credentials, invest in their education and training, and adapt to the changing needs and expectations of the market.
- Expand their network and community, connect with other Sydenhamites and professionals, join online platforms and groups, and leverage referrals and recommendations.
- Protect their rights and interests, negotiate fair terms and conditions, seek legal advice and assistance, and access available resources and support.



The gig economy is not a one-size-fits-all solution for everyone. It is a dynamic and diverse phenomenon that offers both opportunities and challenges for Sydenhamites. By being proactive and prepared, Sydenhamites can make the most of the gig economy while minimizing its potential pitfalls.



# Sydenham scoops

## Raas garba

~ Hrishita Kapadia

### Garba Night at Sydenham

The Hindi Sahitya Mandal of Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics organized a colourful, festive Garba Night on October 21st, 2023. The event was held at the college's main cafeteria and was a smashing success.

The area was lit up with lively lights and decorations, making it vibrant and a soothing environment for the people gracing the event. It was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp and then began with slow tunes of Gujarati music to fast forward traditional garba steps.



As Sydenhamites twirled and whirled, the air was alive with the infectious laughter and their colorful outfits swirling around them. Students from all courses including BMS, BAF, BBI mingled and waltzed together. Amazingly, even those students who wouldn't usually take part also danced their hearts out at this extra vaganza of an event! The energetic performances of the Garba groups, their synchronized movements and infectious energy, further fueled the excitement.



Bonds were strengthened and new companions were made by the shared experience of this vibrant celebration. The best 3 performers were felicitated with trophies as a memento and to everyone's surprise the place was filled sooner than ever! The participation was quite unexpected and everything was organised and planned effectively. The Garba night was more than just a dance; it was a celebration of the community of Sydenham College.



# Sydenham Reunites

~ Kimaya Patange

Sydenham Alumni Cell hosted a crucial gathering, uniting diverse society leaders with Sydenham Alumni Association. The meeting witnessed the presence of our esteemed alumni from SydAlumni Association – Mr. Ajit Lalvani (Head of the SydAlumni Association), Mr. Hosi Charna, Mr. Shyam Kotak, Mrs. Amita Parekh, Mr. Gautam Puri, Mr. Dinesh Kocher, Mr. Amol Tope, Mrs. Nini Kothari, Mr. Rajeev Ruia and Professor B N Lad. The meeting saw participation from an impressive array of societies, each with its own unique offerings and contributions to the community and our college. The societies in attendance included Marathi Wangmay Mandal, Hindi Sahitya Mandal, NSS, Rotaract Club, BBI Society, Public Speaking and Debating Society, Dramatic Society, BMS Society, Music Society, Sports and Gymkhana Club and English Literary Club. These groups play a vital role in shaping the diverse cultural landscape of our institution.

The main notion of the meeting was regarding the long-awaited intercollegiate fest – The Rainbow Lane. The fest represents our college's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, uniting students to showcase their talents and initiatives. As preparations gain momentum, it promises to be a celebration of unity in diversity, fostering innovation and camaraderie among the college community.



One notable suggestion was to involve alumni in upcoming events. The association emphasized that engaging alumni not only benefits the current students but also holds the potential to bring former students back to their alma mater. This could foster a stronger sense of community and support for the institution. The association provided valuable feedback and recommendations for enhancing the proposed initiatives. Their support for the ideas presented was encouraging, and they encouraged the society representatives to prepare a comprehensive structure for the next meet-up.

In summary, The Rainbow Lane is a platform for diverse talents to shine and collaborate, a celebration that unites our college community in an unforgettable cultural experience. This reimagined festival will leave a lasting impact on our college's cultural landscape.



# Celestial Beginnings:

## Rotaract Club of Sydenham College 4th Installation Ceremony

~ Suyash Save

Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics is always buzzing with activity. Each day brings forth a variety of events, formal and informal alike. However, among the formal gatherings, none quite matches the significance of a Rotaract club's installation ceremony. One such event took place on the 7th of October 2023, the 4th Installation ceremony of Rotaract Club and the first physical installation ceremony after being first chartered in the year 2020, following the onset of Co-vid period.

Adhering to the customary procedures the ceremony began with the arrival of the dignitaries on the dais, of course with their introduction and thanking them for their presence with a tulsi plant instead of flowers promoting the value of trees and plants.

The dignitaries included, Rotarian Tahera Mandviwala, the chief guest from the Sponsor Rotary Club of Bombay, and the guest of Honour Dr. Shriniwas Dhure, the principal of Sydenham College and Zonal Rotaract Representative Rotaractor Rahil Jain, along with the President of Rotaract club of Sydenham college Rtr. Sneha Acharya and Secretary Rtr. Sakshi Waykar. Besides the dignitaries the dais was decorated with the club's banner and logo, reflecting the club's identity and vision. The ceremony was also attended by students, faculty members and distinguished guests namely Rtn. Hosi Charna a Sydenham College Alumni and ZRR Rtr. Ronit Rohra, who witnessed the official induction of the new board members and the unveiling of the club's theme for the year.



Following the collaring of Rtr. Sneha Acharya by Rtr. Smit Kanekar, the Sergeant at Arms, it symbolised her official induction as the President of the club for the year 2023-24. Rtr. Sneha Acharya delivered her acceptance speech, thanking her predecessors and mentors for their guidance and support, and outlining her plans and aspirations for the club in the coming year. This led to the most awaited moment of the ceremony, which was the revelation of the club's theme for the year, which is "Celestia", along with the tagline "beyond the horizon". The theme signifies the club's ambition to reach new heights and explore new possibilities in its service projects and activities. Rtr. Sneha Acharya also shared some of the club's upcoming initiative.

With the ambitions laid out, the incoming board members and committee heads were then introduced along with the members to the audience, representing the club's diverse and dynamic leadership team. The dignitaries presented them with appointment letters and badges, and they pledged to uphold the club's values and objectives in their respective roles. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Vice President Rtr. Dhvani Goswami, followed by a group photograph of all the dignitaries, board members and club members. The formal event ended with First secretariat report by presented by Rtr. Suyash Save followed by the Official adjournment by the President Rtr. Sneha Acharya. However, this was not the end, it opened the stage for an exhilarating dance performance by the club members, showcasing their enthusiasm and spirit for the club. The ceremony was a memorable occasion that marked a new beginning for the Rotaract Club of Sydenham College, a "Celestial Beginning".



# Grad Glories

## Jaggy Shivdasani: A Bridge Legend

~ Priyanshu Verma

Jaggy Shivdasani is a living legend in the world of bridge. He has won numerous national and international titles, and his recent silver medal at the Asian Games is just one more feather in his cap. Shivdasani is also a proud alumnus of Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, where he graduated with a degree in commerce in 1978.

Shivdasani's journey to the top of the bridge world began at a young age. He learned to play bridge from his father, and he quickly showed a natural aptitude for the game. By the time he was in his teens, he was already one of the best bridge players in India.



In recent years, Shivdasani has achieved great success on the international bridge stage. In 2018, he became the oldest player to win a medal at the World Bridge Championships. And in 2023, he won a silver medal at the Asian Games. Shivdasani's success is an inspiration to all bridge players, and it is also a testament to the quality education that he received at Sydenham College. We take immense pride in Jaggy Shivdasani's connection to Sydenham College, where he embodies the spirit of a true champion and serves as an exemplary role model for all students.

In 1983, Shivdasani made his international debut at the World Bridge Championships. He has since competed in numerous international tournaments, and he has won medals at all levels. In 2018, he became the oldest player to win a medal at the World Bridge Championships. Beyond his prowess in bridge, he is a splendid ambassador for the game, fervently committed to nurturing and mentoring new players, while also zealously promoting bridge to a wider audience.





# Sanjiv Saran Mehra:

## A Leader for the Bombay Gymkhana Club

~ Priyanshu Verma

Sanjiv Saran Mehra has been elected as the new President of the Bombay Gymkhana Club, a well-deserved recognition for his longstanding commitment to the club and its members. Mehra has been a member of the Bombay Gymkhana Club for over 30 years. Furthermore, he proudly holds a degree in commerce from Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, having graduated in 1983.

Throughout his tenure, Mehra has held various leadership roles, including a position on the board of directors. Mehra has outlined an array of exciting plans for the Bombay Gymkhana Club. His top priorities include enhancing the club's facilities and amenities, broadening the membership base to make it more inclusive, and emphasizing the club's cultural and social activities. Beyond mere sports and socializing, he envisions the club as a hub for cultural and intellectual enrichment.



President Preeti Mehta wishes Rtn. Sanjiv Saran Mehra for his birthday

As an esteemed alumnus of Sydenham College, Sanjiv Saran Mehra serves as a genuine inspiration and role model for all students. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to him for his election as the President of the Bombay Gymkhana Club and are confident in his capacity to be a stellar leader for the club and its members. We wish him the very best in his new role.



# Ashok Vaswani

## New CEO of KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

~ Tania Tupe

Kotak Mahindra Bank announced that Mr. Ashok Vaswani will succeed founder Uday Kotak as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD). An esteemed alumnus from Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, he has honored this institution by his achievements in his endeavors.

Ashok Vaswani took up major roles in his career and achieved his first milestone by cracking 2 of the toughest exams of highly aspired courses namely Chartered Accountancy (CA) and Company Secretaries (CS). He completed his Bachelor of Commerce and Economics from Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics.

He has held the position of CEO in many companies and organization. He worked as a CEO of Citigroup of Asia Pacific, Barclays Bank (UK) and Global Consumer, private, corporate and payment business. He is serving as a member of Group Executive Committee and Citigroup global operating and management committee.



He also served as Former Director and member of the Audit and Technology Committee for Barclays Africa Group Ltd. As of currently, he is serving as a president of Pagaya Technologies Ltd. A US- ISRAELI AI FINTECH and is a member of London Stock Exchange Group, the SP JAIN institute of Global Management.

Other than holding a spectacular career portfolio, Mr. Vaswani is a part of various philanthropic organizations including PRATHAM and LEND-A-HAND

Mr Ashok Vaswani will succeed Mr. Uday Kotak likely from January 1, 2024 for a period of three years. With an extensive career portfolio and years of experience Mr Ashok will skillfully handle this new position bestowed upon him.



# STUDENT CORNER

## An Unforgettable Night of Twists and Turns

It was a crisp Mumbai evening when a group of eight friends, four boys, and four girls, decided to embark on a night out like no other. They gathered at Churchgate, the heart of the city, filled with excitement and anticipation, ready to create memories that would last a lifetime. Little did they know that this night would be filled with unexpected twists and turns.

Their plan was simple: hit a popular club and dance the night away. They left Churchgate at 9 pm, optimism in their hearts, and the city's vibrant energy pulsing around them. However, as they reached the club, their enthusiasm was met with disappointment. The venue was overflowing, and the bouncers were not allowing anyone else in. Undeterred, they decided to wait it out, believing their patience would eventually pay off.

One and a half hours passed, with no sign of getting inside the club. Their hopes waned, and they decided to leave in search of an alternative adventure. They rushed to a local train station, only to witness the last train departing right before their eyes. It was a moment of sheer frustration, but the group refused to give up.

Hailing a taxi, they sped towards Santacruz, hoping for a better experience at another club. However, when they arrived, they were met with another roadblock – the club's strict age policy. It allowed entry only for those above 25, and all eight friends were below the threshold.

Determined to salvage the night, they embarked on a spontaneous quest. They walked nearly 2 kilometers to an unknown beach, guided by the faint sound of crashing waves and the city lights in the distance. The beach, cloaked in darkness, seemed like the perfect spot for an adventurous escape.

As the clock struck 3 am, their late-night escapade was interrupted by an unexpected encounter with the law. Police officers approached, urging them to vacate the beach. The situation escalated quickly, and the friends found themselves in a surreal chase, racing away from the beach under the cover of the night.

Desperate to get back to safety, they flagged down an auto-rickshaw, which took them to the nearest train station. They had no choice but to wait for the first train back to their hostels, reflecting on the whirlwind of events that had unfolded.

Throughout the night, one constant source of joy was watching airplanes flying overhead. The dark, starry sky was occasionally pierced by the graceful movement of aircraft, a reminder of the world beyond their chaotic adventure.

This night out was far from what they had planned, but it became an adventure they would never forget. It was a night filled with disappointment, laughter, unexpected encounters, and a deep appreciation for the unpredictable nature of life in the bustling city of Mumbai.

As the sun began to rise, the friends boarded the first train back to their hostels, weary but content with the memories they had created. This night had been a rollercoaster of emotions, a testament to the unpredictable beauty of urban life, and a story they would recount for years to come.

Life may not always go as we planned. Sometimes unpredictable turns might make it more fun.

Expect the Unexpected!

~ Anonymous (BMS)



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**College Principal:** Dr. Shrinivas Dhure

**Head of Alumni Association:** Mr. Ajit Lalvani

**Strategy Advisor:** Mr. Mohammed Virani

**Sydenham Alumni Cell Prof In-charge:** Smt. Vijaya Yeole

**Sydenham Alumni Cell Core Team:** Jaai Mahajan (Chairperson), Rohan Ingole (Vice-Chairperson), Asmi Jejurkar (Coordinator), Vibhuti Kanwar (Student Representative)

**"The Sydenhamite" Editor:** Hrishita Kapadia



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