



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 | Issue 8
April 2026



-
- ✉ voices@somaiya.edu
 - 📷 [@somaiyavoices](https://www.instagram.com/somaiyavoices)
 - 📺 [somaiyavoices](https://www.youtube.com/somaiyavoices)

VOICES

✉ voices@somaiya.edu

📷 @somaiyavoices

▶ somaiyavoices

ABOUT SOMAIYA VOICES

Voices, the official student media body of Somaiya, is more than just a platform; it is a reflection of who we are as a community.

Every laughter-filled fest, every achievement big or small and every story that often goes unnoticed is something Voices strives to ensure is heard, remembered, and celebrated.



At its heart, Voices is about people. It is about students who dream big, teachers who inspire, and moments that bring us all closer together. Through newsletters, social media and creative storytelling, we aim to capture not just events, but the emotions, the energy and the spirit that make Somaiya feel like home. Our team of writers, designers and creators pours passion into every piece of work because for us, it is not just content, it is connection.

Each story we share is a reminder that Somaiya is not just an institution; it is a living, breathing family with countless voices waiting to be heard.

MEET OUR LEADER – Dr URMI THAKKAR

At the heart of Somaiya Vidyavihar vibrant student community stands - Dr Urmi Thakkar, a passionate microbiologist, dedicated leader, and the guiding light behind VOICES.

Since 2011, she has been instrumental in uplifting education across Somaiya's rural schools. Today, as the **Dean of Student Welfare and Head of Campus Administration**, she supports and oversees hostel operations and the welfare of more than 35,000 students.

Her philosophy is simple yet powerful; learning should go beyond books. Through her vision and compassion, she continues to shape a campus that is inclusive, responsive, and empowering, where every student feels heard, valued, and inspired to grow.



WHEN CAMPUS TURNED INTO A MINECRAFT WORLD

Somaiya Vidyavihar has always been more than just a university campus. Its pathways, academic buildings, open spaces, canteens, libraries, and hostels create a familiar rhythm of movement, conversation, collaboration, and everyday student life. In Minecraft, this world is recreated with playful campus-inspired details that connect real spaces with in-game roles. The Aurobindo building becomes a hub for traders, reflecting its identity as a space for commerce students, while Bhaskaracharya stands as the engineering building, representing creativity, building, and problem-solving. At the sports academy, iron golems bring in the strength and discipline associated with judo students. Gargi Plaza becomes the town hall, a central meeting point where everyone gathers and interacts.

Beyond the main spaces, the campus feels lively and familiar. Students move through recreated areas that reflect its energy, community, and imagination in a Minecraft-inspired way

one area to another, making the campus feel less digital and more lived in. Lecture halls and common areas are no longer just places to pass through, but spaces of creativity where students rebuild familiar structures or redesign them with their own ideas, blending reality with imagination. New additions and modifications appear over time, turning the campus into a collaborative project shaped by its users. The library stands complete and calm, often appreciated more for its presence than its purpose, while hostels remain active with movement, collaboration, and late night conversations that never quite end.

Even in a world made entirely of blocks, Somaiya does not lose what defines it. It continues to be shaped by its people, their routines, and the shared moments that make the experience feel real and distinctly their own. In many ways, the Minecraft version becomes more than just a recreation, it becomes an extension of campus life itself.



→ Beyond Fear: Rethinking Nuclear Science → 2 April 2026



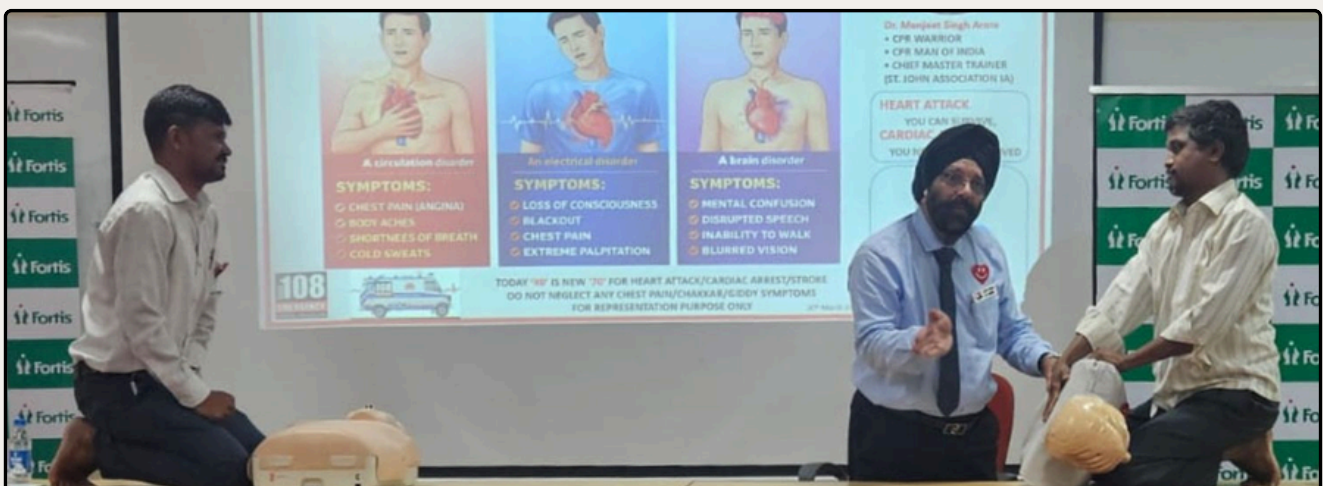
As part of National Science Day, K J Somaiya Institute of Technology hosted an insightful session that explored nuclear science beyond its usual perceptions, offering students a more balanced and informed perspective on a subject often associated with fear and complexity. Led by Mr Srinivas Laxman, veteran space journalist, and Ms Ruchira Sawant, science communicator, the discussion moved beyond politics and conventional

narratives to examine nuclear science through the lenses of ethics, policy, sustainability, and national vision. Students gained a deeper understanding of India's No First Use policy, nuclear strategy, and the concept of deterrence, while also exploring how nuclear capabilities are linked to long term stability and responsible governance. The session further highlighted the role of nuclear energy in addressing growing energy demands, positioning it as a key contributor to a sustainable and self reliant future. By connecting complex scientific ideas with real world applications, historical context, and India's scientific legacy, the session encouraged students to think critically, question assumptions, and view science not just as theory, but as a powerful force shaping progress, responsibility, and the future.

Life-Saving in Action: BLS & CPR Training Session ←

→ 15 April 2026

K J Somaiya College of Science and Commerce organised a Basic Life Support (BLS) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training session for non teaching staff, bringing essential life saving skills to those who support the institution's daily functioning. The session saw active participation from 39 staff members, including lab assistants, attendants, clerical teams, and library staff, highlighting the importance of preparedness across all roles. Conducted by Dr Manjeet Singh Arora, Senior Consultant and National Trainer at Fortis Hospital, Mulund, the session focused on recognising medical emergencies such as heart attacks, strokes, and cardiac arrest, and understanding the immediate steps required before professional help arrives. Through a hands-on approach using CPR mannequins, participants practised chest compressions, rescue techniques, and managing choking cases, turning theoretical knowledge into practical confidence. Initiated on the suggestion of Shri Samir Somaiya, the session reinforced a crucial message that timely action can save lives, and with the right training, anyone can respond effectively in critical moments, making the campus a safer and more prepared environment.



→ Immerse Art Workshops for Grade 8 Students → 21 & 22 April 2026



The Somaiya School, in collaboration with Somaiya Vidyavihar University, successfully hosted the Immerse Art Workshops for Grade 8 students, bringing together over 120 participants from Somaiya campuses across India including Sameerwadi, Sakarwadi, and Kopargaon. The workshops featured 11 artist fellows and 3 curator fellows, offering students exposure to diverse contemporary art practices from across India. Designed as an interactive and experiential learning initiative, students were grouped into mixed batches to encourage collaboration and cultural exchange. The sessions combined

hands-on artistic exploration with curator led discussions, enabling students to engage directly with practicing artists and understand evolving creative perspectives. As part of the extended learning experience, gallery visits have also been proposed, further enriching student exposure beyond the classroom. The workshops proved to be a highly engaging platform that nurtured creativity, encouraged dialogue, and strengthened inter school collaboration.

Nurturing Nature: Earth Day Celebration at The Somaiya School → 22 April 2026

The Somaiya School celebrated Earth Day with vibrant participation from over 1300 students from Nursery to Grade 12 on the Somaiya Vidyavihar campus, specifically at Founder's Garden and the School Auditorium. The day featured thoughtfully designed activities for each section, encouraging awareness and action towards environmental sustainability. Pre-Primary students expressed their love for nature through creative Thank You cards and a joyful tree-hugging activity, while the Primary section conducted a special assembly with performances and reflections on protecting the Earth. The Secondary section presented an engaging assembly with role plays, speeches, and thought-provoking segments on sustainable living. Together, the celebration created a meaningful blend of creativity, awareness, and responsibility, inspiring students to actively contribute towards a greener and healthier planet.



→ A Day with Books Celebrating World Book Day at The Somaiya School → 23 April 2026



The Somaiya School celebrated World Book Day with enthusiastic participation from over 1300 students from Nursery to Grade 12, creating a vibrant and engaging reading environment across classrooms. The highlight of the day was D.E.A.R. Time (Drop Everything and Read) and Story Time sessions, where students paused their daily routine to immerse themselves in books, encouraging focus,

imagination, and a deeper connection with reading. Classrooms were thoughtfully transformed into warm and inviting reading spaces, fostering shared experiences between students and teachers. Follow up activities further enabled students to reflect on and creatively express their understanding of the stories they explored. Overall, the celebration served as a meaningful reminder of the joy of reading, inspiring students to develop a lifelong appreciation for books and literature.

Somaiya Judo Excellence Centre Inauguration → 29th April 2026 ←

The Somaiya Sports Academy inaugurated the Somaiya Judo Excellence Centre at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, marking a significant step towards strengthening structured judo development in India. The centre aims to bridge grassroots training with advanced performance by combining quality coaching with an academic framework that supports athletes in both sport and education. Through this integrated approach, it seeks to develop well-rounded athletes and create a strong foundation



for long-term growth in the sport. An MoU with Maharashtra Judo Association further reinforces pathways for aspiring judoka to progress to national and international levels, while the presence of key members from the sporting and academic community reflected a shared commitment to building a sustainable and progressive ecosystem for judo and nurturing future champions.

Rhapsody Shines Across Stages and Screens

The official drama team of KJSSE, Rhapsody, marked April 2026 with an impressive series of performances and screenings across prestigious platforms, showcasing their creative excellence and storytelling. The team participated in EngiFest 2026 at Delhi Technological University, the Mumbai Student Film Festival, and a special screening at Chaubara Studios, Veda Factory, reflecting their presence across both national and city level cultural spaces.

Their efforts led to notable achievements. At EngiFest 2026, their short film *VIBGYOR* won the Best Story award. At the Mumbai

Student Film Festival, their film *Not Out* received the Best Screenplay award and secured the position of second runner up. The special screening of *Not Out* at Chaubara Studios further highlighted the strength of their creative work and collaboration.

The Mumbai Student Film Festival jury included industry professionals Mr Shashie Vermaa and Mr Atharva Patil, who offered valuable insights on the screenings. The EngiFest award ceremony was attended by Harshit Panda, Society President, and Neeraj Rathee, Faculty Advisor. These achievements reflect Rhapsody's dedication, discipline, and growing impact in student theatre and filmmaking.



Grace in Motion Inter-School Classical Dance Competition at NCPA Mumbai

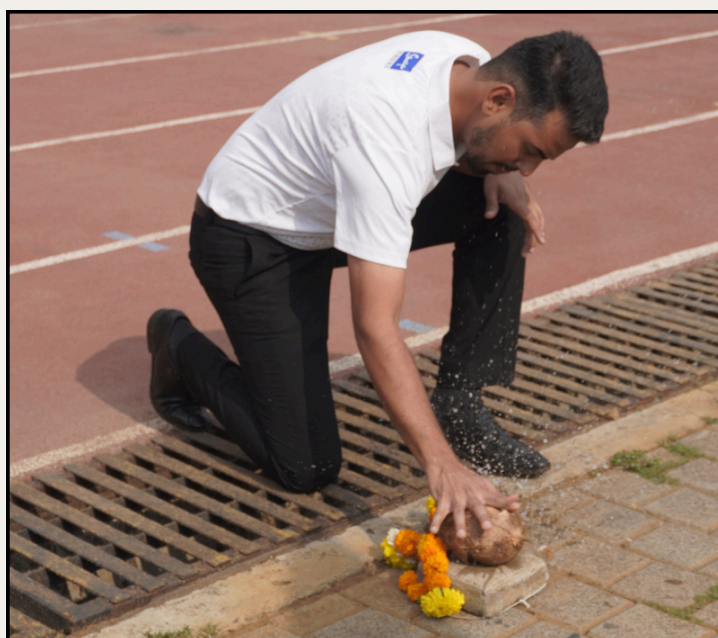
Students of The Somaiya School participated in the Inter-School Classical Dance Competition held at the prestigious National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai, marking the first edition of this esteemed platform. With participation from schools across Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, the event celebrated the richness of Indian classical dance. Representing the school, 8 students from Grades 8 to 12 delivered captivating performances in the Bharatanatyam category, impressing judges with their grace, coordination, and expressive storytelling. The school achieved outstanding success, securing 1st Prize in the Senior Duet Category and 2nd Prize in the Junior Group Category. These achievements reflect the students' dedication, discipline, and passion for classical dance, bringing pride to the school while reinforcing the importance of nurturing and celebrating Indian classical arts among young learners.



SOMAIYA HOUSE CUP '26



The Somaiya House Cup 2026 (2nd Edition), held from 6th to 10th April 2026 at the Eklavya Sports Complex, brought together the true spirit of competition and community. With over 1000 participants, the five-day event celebrated teamwork, resilience and sporting excellence across institutions, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm and healthy competition. **The Gir Lions emerged as Overall Champions (2685 pts.)**, followed by Hemis Snow Leopards (2243 pts.) and Periyar Elephants (2034 pts.), with Kanha Tigers and Kaziranga Rhinos completing the standings. The competition highlighted not just performance, but also discipline, consistency and unity among participants. A key strength of the Somaiya House System is its focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and community. This vision, led by Shri Samir Somaiya, reflects Somaiya's commitment to holistic development beyond academics. The event also honoured All India Inter University Tournament 2024–25 medallists and their coaches, recognising their achievements and dedication. Graced by Shri Samir Somaiya, Dr Urmi Thakkar and Mr Aazaz Khan, the House Cup continues to grow as a platform that not only promotes competitive spirit but also strengthens the fabric of the Somaiya community through shared experiences and excellence.



FROM SOMAIYA TO THE WORLD: THE SQUARE OFF STORY

Innovation at Somaiya is not just an idea, it is something that takes shape and reaches the world. A compelling example of this is Square Off, a startup incubated at riidl that transformed a simple student concept into a globally recognised product.

Square Off is the world's first telerobotic chessboard, designed to connect players across the globe on a physical board. Powered by artificial intelligence, robotics, and smart sensors, the board can move pieces on its own, creating a seamless and immersive playing experience. What began as a prototype by engineering students gradually evolved into a refined product, showcased at global platforms such as CES Las Vegas and appreciated by audiences worldwide.

What makes this journey remarkable is not just the technology, but the vision behind it. The founders aimed to bring people back to real world interaction, allowing them to experience chess beyond screens while still staying digitally connected. With features such as multiple difficulty levels, global matchmaking, automated gameplay, and continuous software updates, Square

Off highlights how innovation can enhance even the most traditional forms of engagement.



“

Founded in 2015, Square Off is a smart robotic chess board where users can play with anyone, anywhere, on an actual board that physically moves the pieces & helps users learn the game as they go.

With an app connecting 50 million players worldwide via Chess.com and Lichess, Square Off sold over 25,000 sets by 2020, mostly online.

Featured by



Riidl has played a significant role in nurturing such ideas by providing the right ecosystem, mentorship, and early stage support. From helping validate concepts to enabling product development, it acts as a launchpad for student entrepreneurs. Square Off stands as a strong testament to how Somaiya continues to foster creativity, entrepreneurship, and impactful innovation that extends far beyond the campus.

REDUCE, REFUSE, RECYCLE IN ACTION

At Somaiya Vidyavihar University, sustainability is not just an initiative but a way of life woven into everyday campus practices. Guided by the principles of Reduce, Refuse, and Recycle, the University consistently works towards building a cleaner, greener, and more responsible environment for its community.



Sustainability at Somaiya is reflected in the everyday choices that shape campus life, from classrooms to canteens and common spaces. Efforts to reduce waste are clearly visible in academic processes, where digital submissions and activity-based learning have significantly minimised paper usage. The campus also takes a firm stand to refuse single-use plastics, with canteens replacing items such as plastic straws, cups, and containers with more sustainable alternatives like paper cups and aluminium-based packaging.

A strong emphasis is placed on recycling through an organised and centralised waste management system. Scrap materials including paper, plastic, metal, and e-waste are systematically collected and handed over to authorised recycling vendors. With dedicated e-waste bins and formal tie-ups with recycling organisations, the University ensures responsible disposal while encouraging students and staff to actively participate in waste segregation.

Complementing these initiatives, Somaiya's thoughtfully planned open spaces, landscaped areas, and green surroundings enhance both environmental sustainability and campus experience. These spaces not only add to the aesthetic appeal of the campus but also provide a refreshing and functional environment for learning, interaction, and community engagement



GOVINDA CANTEN OR ENGINEERING CANTEN THE CAMPUS DEBATE

At Somaiya, this is not even a debate anymore it is a full daily ritual that begins the moment lectures end and WhatsApp groups start blowing up with one simple question where are we going today

Engineering students will say this without thinking twice

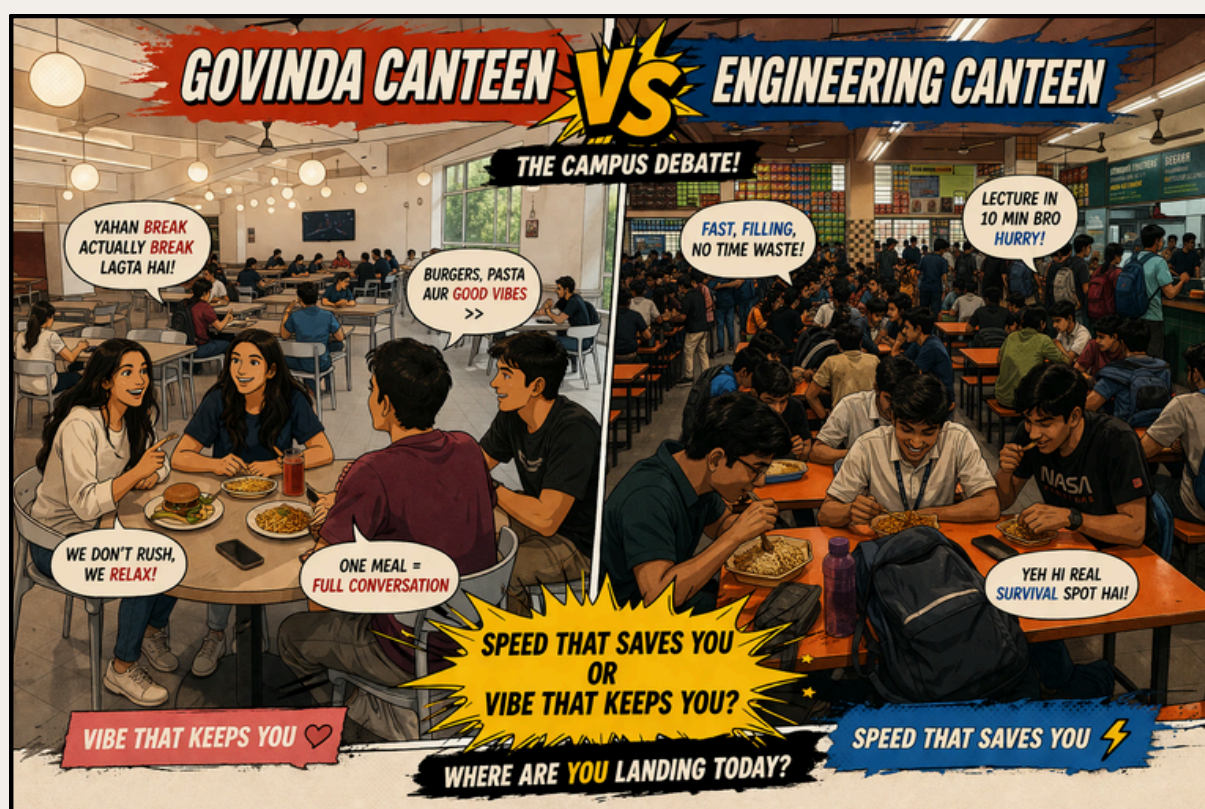
Engineering Canteen clears everything it is fast it is filling and it shows up exactly when you need it the most you walk in tired half asleep running on barely any energy and within minutes you have a plate in front of you that actually feels worth it the Chinese dishes like Triple Schezwan Rice and frankies are the default comfort because they are heavy quick and reliable and that is all that matters when you are dealing with back to back lectures endless practicals and submissions stacked one after another nobody has the time or patience to wait around or overthink food choices you just want something that comes fast tastes good and keeps you going for the rest of the day and the Engineering Canteen gets that perfectly

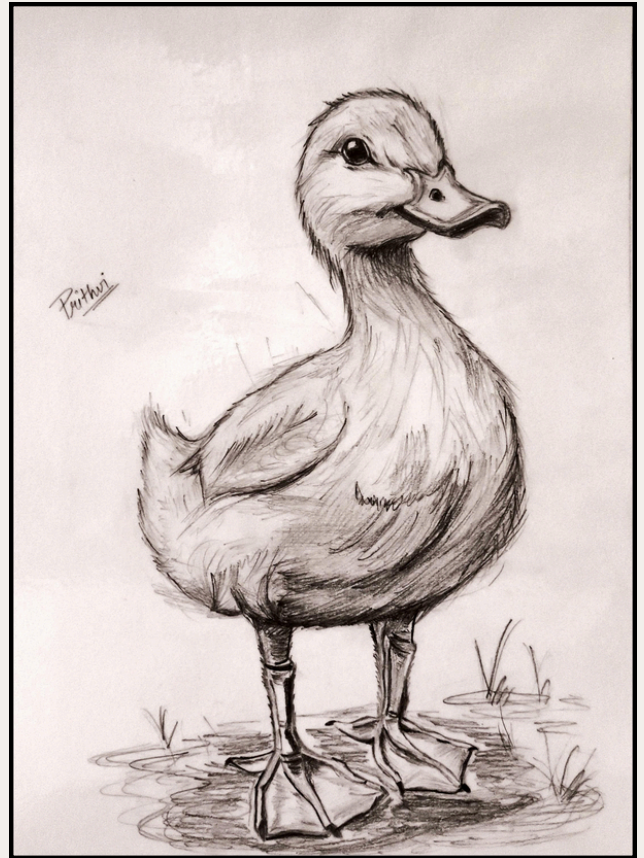
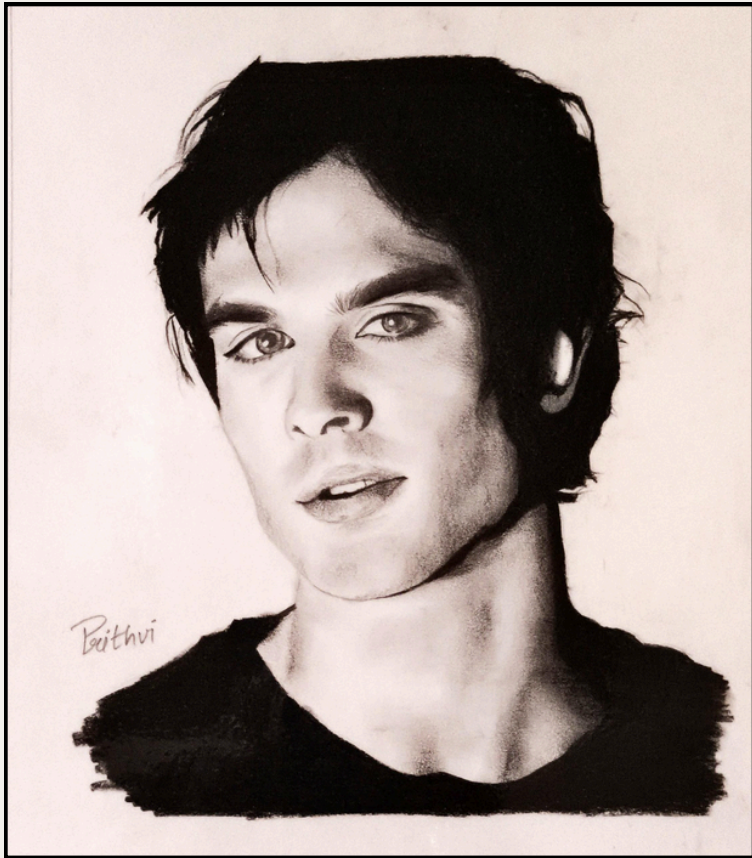
Management and MCA students will say this with full confidence

Govinda Canteen is where the break actually feels like a break you do not rush you do not stand around waiting to leave you actually sit down and take a pause burgers and pastas somehow taste better when you are not watching the time and the real reason people keep going back is not just the food it is the vibe the space where conversations stretch longer laughter gets louder and the stress of the day takes a back seat for a while it is where one quick meal easily turns into a full hangout and nobody is in a hurry to get up and leave because that extra time is exactly what makes the day feel lighter

One side treats lunch like a quick pit stop something you squeeze in just to survive the day the other treats it like a proper pause something you actually look forward to in the middle of everything

So what are you choosing the place that saves your time or the place that lets you forget about it for a while





~ Prithvi Kharje
SY, K J SOMAIYA POLYTECHNIC

Mail us your Doodles, Artistic Work or any other Creative Stuff to get featured in the monthly newsletter! voices@somaiya.edu

1. Riddle

I'm always crowded, never quiet,
Assignments wait, but you still try it.
Friends, food, and endless talk,
Where am I?

2. Logic Puzzle

You have a lecture at **9:00 AM**.
You reach campus at **8:50 AM**.
You say "I'll just sit for 5 minutes".
You enter class at **9:20 AM**.
What happened?

3. Brain Teaser

The more you have of me, the less
you focus.
Students always say they don't have
enough of me.
What am I?

4. Observation Puzzle

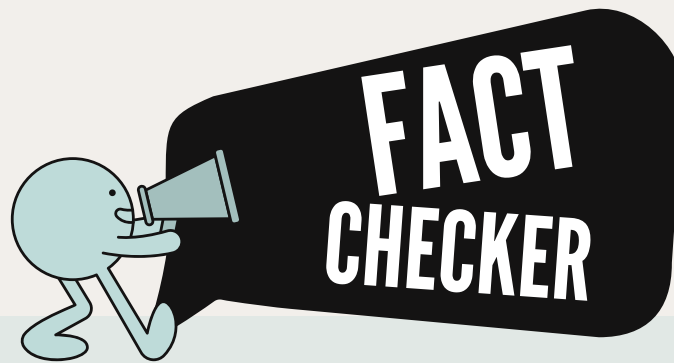
What is the one thing every student
says daily,
but rarely actually does on time?

5. Pattern Puzzle

8:00 → sleepy
10:00 → normal
12:00 → hungry
2:00 → tired
4:00 → ?

6. Tricky Question

If 5 friends go to the canteen and
each says "I'm not hungry",
why do they still order food?



“Your monthly dose of curiosity”

DID YOU KNOW?

- KANGAROOS CAN JUMP UP TO 8 METRES IN ONE LEAP.
- THEY CAN REACH SPEEDS OF 70 KM/H.
- KANGAROOS CAN'T WALK BACKWARDS, ONLY FORWARD.
- THEIR STRONG TAIL HELPS THEM BALANCE WHILE MOVING.

KANGAROOS CAN'T WALK BACKWARDS

Kangaroos are built for forward motion. Their strong legs and tail make moving ahead easy, but stepping backwards is nearly impossible.



DID YOU KNOW?



Dolphins are not fish.
They are mammals and breathe air.



They can live up to
40–50 years in the wild.



Dolphins sleep with one eye open!
They rest half their brain at a time.



DID YOU KNOW?

- DOLPHINS ARE MAMMALS, NOT FISH, THEY BREATHE AIR THROUGH A BLOWHOLE.
- THEY CAN SWIM UP TO 40 KM/H AND LEAP HIGH ABOVE THE WATER.
- DOLPHINS SLEEP WITH ONE HALF OF THEIR BRAIN AWAKE.
- EACH DOLPHIN HAS A UNIQUE WHISTLE, LIKE A NAME.
- THEY USE ECHOLOCATION TO FIND FOOD AND NAVIGATE UNDERWATER.

DID YOU KNOW?

- CROWS CAN USE TOOLS TO GET FOOD.
- THEY CAN RECOGNISE AND REMEMBER HUMAN FACES.
- CROWS DROP NUTS ON ROADS TO CRACK THEM OPEN.
- THEY HAVE BEEN SEEN WAITING FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO CHANGE.

Team Voices

Know the brains behind Voices!

16
Vol 1 | Issue 8
April 2026

CORE

Aaysha Khan - Chief
Priyansh Gupta - Co- Chief

CONTENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Shlok Chauhan - Head
Sweekriti Maheshwari - Content Sub Head
Aiza Mistry
Dhruvi Patel
Rutwa Nimkar - PR Sub Head
Prachi Mishra
Saachi Chuneekar

GRAPHICS

Ishika Jain - Head
Gunjan Israni
Khushi Brahmabhatt
Viplav Bhanarkar
Viraj Ravani

OPERATIONS TEAM

Nirek Ganguly - Head
Laxman Choudhary
Shravani Mohide

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Kaustubh Rewankar - Head
Afifa Waghu
Deven Patel
Krit Shah
Lakkshita Tiwari
Nitin Choudhary

SOCIAL MEDIA

Priyansh Gupta - Head
Megh Bame- Sub Head
Diksha More
Mahek Agnihotri
Meher Shah
Vaishnavi Dhotre
Vidisha Tayade

MENTORS

Dr Urmi Thakkar
Dean Student Welfare
Ms Priyanka Shetty
Asst.Manager Student Welfare
Ms Muskaan Thakur
Senior PR Executive