SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

VOICES



voices@somaiya.edu
@somaiyavoices
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.



KAUN-VERSA-TION

03
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

THE CAMPUS WE FALL IN LOVE EVERY MONSOON

When the monsoon arrives on Somaiya campus, everything feels a little different. The familiar buildings stand brighter against the grey skies, the pathways turn lush green, and the walk from Chanakya to Aurobindo becomes one of the most peaceful parts of the day. The cool breeze, the scent of wet earth, and the gentle sound of rain between lectures make even the busiest schedules feel a little lighter. For a few moments, the campus becomes a place where students slow down, take a deep breath, and simply enjoy being present.

Rainy days also bring their own little traditions. A steaming bowl of Maggi at Maggie House, a hot bread pakoda from the Engineering Canteen, or simply catching up with friends at Gargi Plaza while waiting for the rain to ease somehow feels more special during this season. Umbrellas are shared without a second thought, chai breaks stretch a little longer, and every unexpected shower turns into another story to laugh about. These are the moments where conversations last longer, laughter comes easier, and memories are made without anyone planning them.

Adding to the charm are the friendly campus dogs, who have become a familiar part of student life. Whether they are curled up beneath a sheltered walkway, strolling along the pathways, or greeting students with a wag of the tail, they bring a sense of warmth and comfort to everyday campus life. Surrounded by greenery, fresh air, and peaceful open spaces, the campus becomes more than just a place for lectures. It becomes a place where friendships grow, routines turn into memories, and every rainy day reminds us why campus feels like a second home.



EVENT RECAP

Greening the Somaiya Campus on World Environment Day → 5 June 2026





Celebrating World Environment Day, Somaiya Vidyavihar University turned its commitment to sustainability into action with a campus-wide Tree Plantation Drive led by the Department of Student Welfare and the NSS unit. The initiative brought together faculty, staff, and enthusiastic NSS and NCC volunteers, who planted Tamhan (Lagerstroemia speciosa) saplings across the campus to strengthen its green cover. Beginning with a ceremonial plantation by the university leadership, the drive encouraged students to actively contribute towards biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship. More than just planting trees, the initiative reinforced the importance of collective action in creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable campus for the entire Somaiya community.

Finding Balance on International Yoga Day → 21 June 2026

Bringing together students, faculty and staff, the Department of Yoga and Meditation at K J Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, in collaboration with the Student Welfare Committee, celebrated International Yoga Day with a morning dedicated to holistic well-being. Participants explored the Common Yoga Protocol through guided asanas, pranayama and meditation, discovering the importance of mindfulness in everyday life. An inspiring session by Prof Ashish Pandey from IIT Bombay connected traditional yogic wisdom with modern perspectives on self-awareness and emotional well-being, encouraging the Somaiya community to embrace yoga as a lifelong practice for a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.





EVENT RECAP

05
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

Know Your India (KYI) → 13–15 June 2026

Celebrating the richness and diversity of India's cultural heritage, the Know Your India programme brought together young participants at Somaiya Vidyavihar University for a three-day immersive learning experience that blended history, tradition, art and culture through hands-on exploration.

Designed to move beyond conventional classroom learning, the programme encouraged participants to engage directly with India's civilizational legacy through interactive workshops, storytelling sessions and experiential activities that transformed learning into discovery.



Beginning with the traditional Deepa Prajna lamp-lighting ceremony, the programme set the tone for a meaningful exploration of India's past and present.

Participants embarked on an interactive Harappan Civilization Treasure Hunt, transforming the campus into an archaeological adventure where teamwork and curiosity led them through the fascinating world of one of history's earliest urban civilizations.



Guided by renowned archaeologist and historian Dr. Kurush Dalal, participants experienced history firsthand by crafting terracotta toys and Harappan seals while exploring the evolution of Indian culinary traditions through engaging discussions and hands-on food preparation.

These sessions highlighted how archaeology, trade and everyday practices have shaped India's cultural identity across millennia.

The journey continued through India's vibrant storytelling traditions.

Participants explored animation as a modern storytelling medium before witnessing the timeless art of Kalamsootri string puppetry and leather shadow puppetry, inspired by the Mahabharata.
They later stepped behind the stage themselves, performing with traditional puppets and experiencing the creativity, skill and cultural significance of these living art forms.

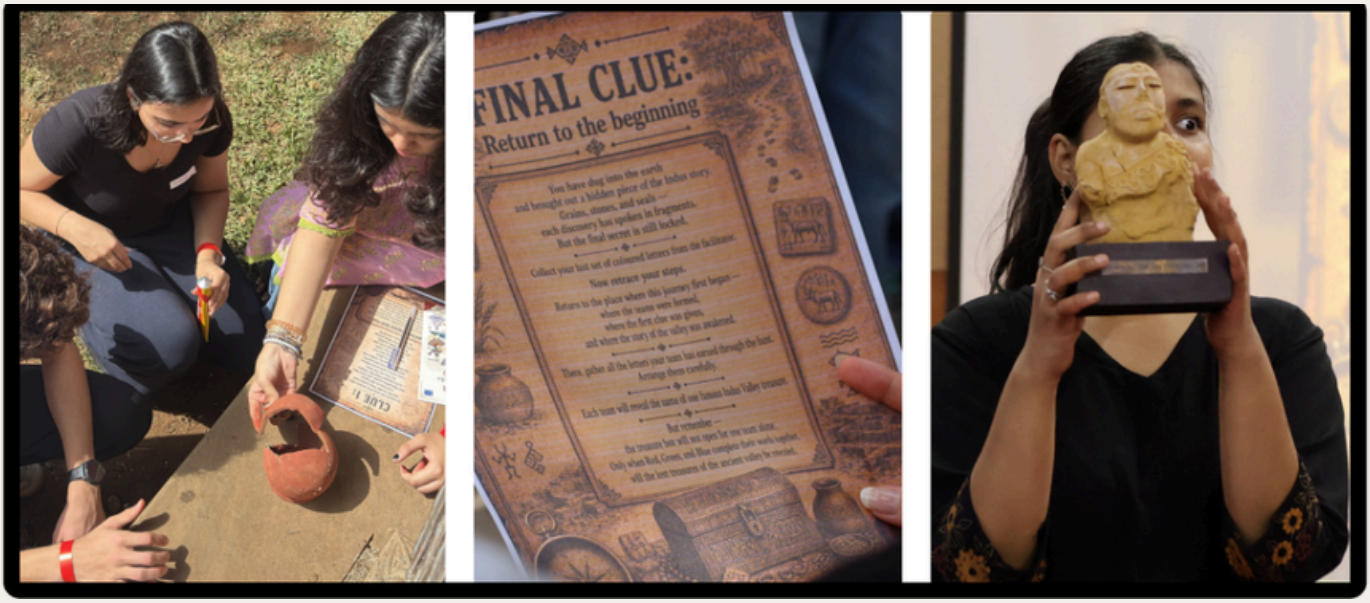
EVENT RECAP

Complementing these cultural experiences were sessions on mindfulness and yoga that introduced participants to India's holistic knowledge systems, encouraging reflection, balance and well-being.
The final day brought together language, history and collaboration as participants decoded the ancient Brahmi script, explored traditional indoor games and shared heartfelt reflections that celebrated the friendships formed throughout the programme.





By bringing together archaeology, history, literature, food, performing arts and wellness, Know Your India created an inspiring platform where learning became an experience rather than a lesson.
The programme concluded with participants carrying home not only a deeper appreciation for India's cultural heritage but also meaningful connections, lasting memories and a renewed curiosity to continue exploring the country's timeless traditions.



As the programme drew to a close, participants departed with more than memories, they carried a deeper appreciation for India's cultural heritage, stronger friendships, and a renewed curiosity to continue exploring the traditions that have shaped the nation's identity.

Know Your India served as a meaningful reminder that the most impactful learning happens when history is experienced, culture is celebrated, and knowledge is brought to life.

EVENT RECAP

07
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

2026 FISU World University Championship Meetings





Somaiya Vidyavihar University is set to make history as it hosts the 2026 FISU World University Championship Squash from 3rd to 9th August 2026 at the Somaiya Sports Academy, Mumbai. Bringing together university athletes from over 15 countries, the championship marks a significant milestone for both the University and Indian university sport, celebrating excellence, international collaboration, and the spirit of competition.

Preparations for the championship began with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Somaiya Vidyavihar University and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), formally commencing the journey towards hosting one of the world's most prestigious university squash events. This was followed by an official venue inspection led by Mr Paulo Sivieri, Manager at the International University Sports Federation (FISU), Mr Cyrus Poncha, Secretary General of the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), and other dignitaries, who reviewed the University's sporting infrastructure, athlete facilities, accommodation and operational readiness.

Adding to the excitement, Om Semwal, Nirupama Dubey and Suraj Chand from Somaiya Vidyavihar University earned their place in Team India after being selected at the World University Squash Championship Selection Trials 2026 held at FLAME University, Pune. The trio previously represented India at the 2024 FISU World University Championship Squash in Johannesburg, South Africa, contributing to Team India's bronze medal-winning campaign while also securing an individual bronze medal.

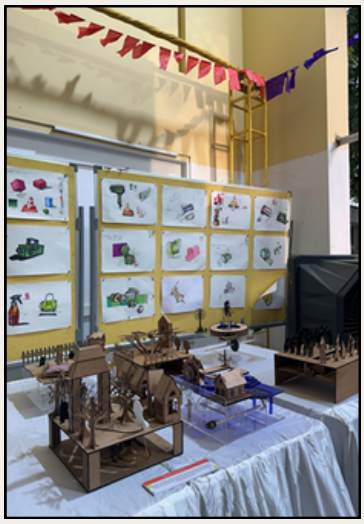
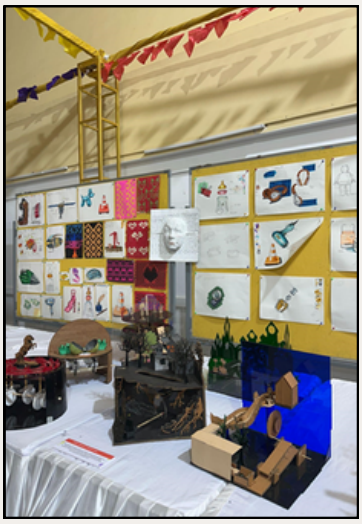
As the countdown to August begins, Somaiya Vidyavihar University looks forward to welcoming the global university squash community and showcasing India's hospitality, Mumbai's vibrant sporting culture, and the University's commitment to excellence. More than a championship, the event will celebrate friendship, cultural exchange, and the unifying power of university sport.





EVENT RECAP

Studio Eve 2026 (Somaiya School of Design)


Studio Eve marked the successful culmination of the academic year for the Somaiya School of Design, bringing together the creative work of students across all batches in an inspiring end-of-year showcase. Held at the Somaiya Vidyavihar University campus, the exhibition welcomed students, faculty, parents, alumni, and members of the Somaiya leadership to celebrate the creativity, innovation, and growth of the design cohort.

The exhibition provided a dynamic platform for students to present their physical and digital portfolios while fostering meaningful interactions with the academic community. Instead of formal stage presentations, the event encouraged one-on-one conversations, allowing visitors to gain insights into the methodology, thought process, and execution behind each project.

The showcase reflected the progressive skill development of students across academic years. First-year students displayed their exploration of foundational craftsmanship through paper-mache, pottery, photography, videography, woodcraft, handmade typography, posters, sketches, game designs, and physical form studies. In contrast, second- and third-year students presented advanced digital artwork, promotional campaigns, merchandise designs, storybook cover illustrations, and internship projects completed with notable brands such as Savannah.

A major highlight of the exhibition was Navrachna, the student-led sustainability club dedicated to circular design. The club showcased innovative products created by upcycling scrap fabrics into functional accessories such as bags, pouches, keychains, and other everyday items, demonstrating practical and eco-friendly approaches to textile waste.

By celebrating creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning, Studio Eve highlighted the artistic excellence nurtured within the Somaiya School of Design and stood as a proud milestone for the entire Somaiya community.

EVENT RECAP

09
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

Akshargyan Trust Supports Young Learners - 23rd June







Students of the Pre-Primary and Primary Sections at Somaiya Vinay Mandir received educational kits, shoes, and socks from Akshargyan Trust. The educational kits, containing essential learning materials, aim to support students in their academic journey, while the footwear initiative promotes their comfort, confidence, and overall well-being. The thoughtful gesture brought smiles to the children's faces and encouraged them to continue their education with enthusiasm. The school extends its heartfelt gratitude to Akshargyan Trust for its generosity and continued commitment to empowering young learners through education.

iDEA 2.0 Hackathon - 30th june

The offline round of iDEA 2.0, organised in association with Union Bank of India at K J Somaiya School of Engineering, brought together 40 shortlisted teams for an intense 24-hour-plus hackathon. Participants worked tirelessly to develop innovative solutions, showcasing their technical expertise, creativity, and teamwork through multiple evaluation rounds.

On the final day, teams presented their projects to executives from Union Bank of India, highlighting the practicality and impact of their ideas. Following the evaluations, the Top 10 teams were announced in alphabetical order. These finalists will now compete in the concluding round, where they will once again pitch their ideas before the winners are announced during the valedictory session.

The hackathon provided a valuable platform for students to tackle real-world challenges, foster innovation, and demonstrate their problem-solving abilities, making iDEA 2.0 a memorable celebration of technology and collaboration.





UPCOMING EVENT



THE STUDENT CORNER

11
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

A SEMESTER OF CREATIVITY AT SSD

Every semester at the Somaiya School of Design (SSD) brings new opportunities to explore, experiment and create. Learning here extends far beyond the classroom. Whether we're working with clay, discovering the stories hidden in typography or capturing the perfect frame through a camera lens, every experience encourages us to think differently and see the world through a designer's perspective.

Our Ceramics studio has been one of the most rewarding spaces to learn. From understanding different clay bodies and firing techniques to crafting mugs, bowls and trays, we've discovered that great design is built on patience, precision and persistence. One of our favourite experiences has been collecting fallen leaves from around the Somaiya campus and pressing them into clay, allowing nature itself to become part of our creations.

In Typography and Layout, we've learnt that every letter has a story. A visit to Colaba transformed everyday signboards and storefronts into lessons in visual communication, helping us appreciate how typography reflects culture, history and identity in the spaces around us.

Our Photography and Videography sessions have encouraged us to slow down and observe the details many people overlook. From applying techniques such as the rule of thirds, leading lines and framing to developing mood boards and planning professional brand shoots, we've learnt that every photograph has the power to communicate an idea and evoke emotion.

What makes SSD truly special is that every project invites us to question, experiment and grow. More than learning the principles of design, we're learning to observe with curiosity, embrace mistakes and find inspiration in everyday moments. It's this journey of continuous discovery that makes every semester at SSD both meaningful and unforgettable.

By Dhruvi Patel,
Student, Somaiya School of Design















GROWING THROUGH NATURE AT MADHUBAN, BHOPAL

There's a saying that the best learning happens outside the classroom, and after spending seven unforgettable days at Madhuban Eco Retreat in Bhopal, I couldn't agree more. As part of our semester basket course, we stepped away from lectures and into an experience that blended adventure, nature, culture and self-discovery. Staying in tents was a completely new experience for many of us.

Away from the distractions of everyday life, we learnt to appreciate the simplicity of nature, whether it was waking up to the sounds of birds, sharing conversations under the open sky or simply slowing down to enjoy our surroundings. Every day brought new opportunities to explore, learn and grow.

Our nature treks introduced us to the incredible biodiversity around us, while visits to Van Vihar National Park and the Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre deepened our understanding of wildlife conservation and the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems.

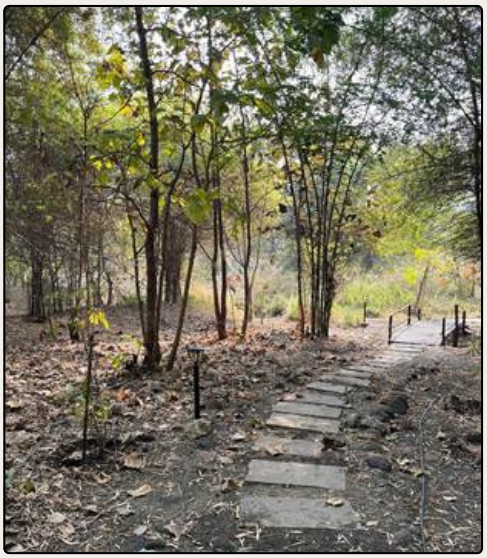
Exploring the Tribal Museum offered a fascinating insight into the rich traditions, art and lifestyles of the tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh, reminding us of the deep connection between culture and nature. Looking back, this journey gave us much more than academic knowledge. It strengthened friendships, encouraged teamwork, built resilience and reminded me that the most meaningful lessons are often found far beyond the classroom. Sometimes, all it takes is stepping into nature to discover a new perspective on the world and on ourselves.

By Aiza Mistry
SY BSc Psychology











SPORTIFY

13
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

KICKING OFF EXCELLENCE AT SOMAIYA FOOTBALL TOSS 2026





The fifth edition of **Somaiya Football TOSS 2026** transformed the Somaiya Sports Academy into a hub of energy, determination and sporting excellence as teams from across the university competed for the coveted title. Across two action-packed days, players showcased exceptional teamwork, resilience and skill, making every match a thrilling contest. **Hemis Snow** Leopards emerged as deserving champions, while **Kanha Tigers** claimed the runners-up position and **Kaziranga Rhinos** secured third place. Outstanding individual performances were recognised with **Chandrashekhar Gouda** finishing as Top Goal Scorer, **Pratik Goregaonkar** receiving the Best Goalkeeper award, **Rohit Kadam** being named Best Defender, **Harshil Somaiya** earning Player of the Tournament honours and **Arif Ashraf Mir** taking home the Player of the Match award in the final. Graced by **Mr Shirzad Bhathena,** Match Commissioner of AFC and AIFF, the tournament celebrated not only competitive football but also the spirit of teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship that defines the Somaiya community.







GREEN SOMAIYA

14
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

THE HIDDEN HEROES OF A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

When we think of a green campus, tree-lined pathways and vibrant gardens are often the first things that come to mind. Yet, some of Somaiya Vidyavihar University's most impactful sustainability efforts happen quietly behind the scenes.

Through initiatives such as **rainwater harvesting, waste segregation, composting** and a dedicated **Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP),** the university continues to reduce its environmental footprint while promoting responsible resource management. These systems work together to ensure that sustainability is woven into the everyday functioning of the campus, creating a healthier environment for the entire Somaiya community.

One such initiative is the **Effluent Treatment Plant,** located near the hostel, which treats wastewater generated from kitchens, laboratories and other campus facilities before it is safely managed. Alongside this, biodegradable waste is converted into nutrient-rich compost, recyclable materials are carefully segregated, and rainwater harvesting helps conserve one of our most valuable natural resources.

While these efforts may not always be visible, they form the foundation of a truly sustainable campus, proving that every responsible action, no matter how small, contributes to building a greener and more resilient.



Beauty of Life

Life, oh so mesmerizing and thrilling ride,
As vast as the ocean, yet harsh like its tide.
Some days grow cold, some nights run wild,
This is the beauty of life, my dear child,
Sighed a gentle voice from the midnight sky.

Beauty lies in everything your laughter and your cries,
Embedded in art, in truth, and hidden in lies.
The quiet shade of black is beautiful,
And so is radiant white.
The tranquil darkness is beautiful,
And so is the morning light.

There lies beauty in chaos,
In all imperfections and mess.
In the clear reflections of a mirror,
And all of the world, more or less.

So never think your life's not beautiful,
For every chapter can be wonderful.
You have a purpose to fulfill,
And I know you surely will.

-Ananya Upadhyay,
SY BA Economics,
KJSAC

SOMAIYA CAMPUS WORD SEARCH

Somaiya Vidyavihar

Find the words. Celebrate the Somaiya spirit!



S	O	M	A	I	Y	A	X	L	E	C	T	U	R	E
T	H	A	C	K	A	T	H	O	N	M	O	N	S	O
E	X	A	M	C	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	Q	O	O
C	A	M	P	U	S	P	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	N
H	G	D	R	T	U	A	U	R	O	B	I	N	D	O
X	H	J	K	L	C	A	N	T	E	E	N	P	P	M
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	A	S	D	F	G
Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S
C	H	A	N	A	K	Y	A	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	Z	X	C	V	B	N
P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	Q	A	S	D	F	G
M	O	N	S	O	O	N	H	J	K	L	P	O	I	U

WORDS TO FIND

- SOMAIYA
- CAMPUS
- LIBRARY
- CANTEEN
- MONSOON
- HACKATHON
- LECTURE
- EXAM
- FRIENDS
- CHANAKYA
- AUROBINDO
- TECHXAURA

BONUS CHALLENGE

Guess the Place!

1. Where silence speaks louder than words.
2. The place where lectures end and conversations begin.
3. Where ideas become projects and deadlines become reality.
4. The most beautiful walk during the monsoon between two iconic buildings.
5. The place where every semester begins with hope and ends with exams.

FUN FACT CORNER

Did you know?

If you found all 12 words in under **2 minutes**, your observation skills are sharper than most!

Challenge a friend and see who finishes first!



Mail us your answers at ***voices@somaiya.edu***

17
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

FACT CHECKER

"Your monthly dose of curiosity"

DID YOU KNOW?

- THERE ARE MORE POSSIBLE WAYS TO SHUFFLE A DECK OF CARDS THAN THERE ARE ATOMS ON EARTH.
- A STANDARD 52-CARD DECK CAN BE ARRANGED IN ABOUT 8 × 10^{67} DIFFERENT WAYS, FAR MORE THAN THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ATOMS ON EARTH.







DID YOU KNOW?

- RECYCLING ONE ALUMINUM CAN SAVES ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER A TV FOR SEVERAL HOURS.
- RECYCLING JUST ONE ALUMINUM CAN SAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER A TV FOR 2-3 HOURS. EVEN BETTER, ALUMINUM CAN BE RECYCLED AGAIN AND AGAIN WITHOUT LOSING ITS QUALITY, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS TO REUSE.

DID YOU KNOW?

- MOVIE TRAILERS WERE ORIGINALLY SHOWN AFTER FEATURE FILMS WHICH IS WHY IT IS CALLED "TRAILER."
- MOVIE TRAILERS WERE ORIGINALLY SHOWN AFTER THE MAIN FEATURE, BUT SINCE MANY PEOPLE LEFT AS SOON AS THE MOVIE ENDED, STUDIOS EVENTUALLY STARTED SHOWING THEM BEFORE THE FILM INSTEAD.

TURNING THE PAGE

18
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 2026

EVERY STORY HAS A BEGINNING, A MIDDLE, AND EVENTUALLY, A PAGE THAT MARKS A NEW CHAPTER.

As we conclude our tenure at **Team Voices**, we do so with immense gratitude and pride. What began as a student-led media initiative evolved into a vibrant platform that documented the **heartbeat of Somaiya**, its people, events, achievements, and unforgettable moments. Over the past academic year, we worked to strengthen Voices through structured workflows, collaborative storytelling, expanded campus outreach, and a renewed digital presence. Every newsletter published, every event covered, every reel edited, and every story shared reflected the dedication of a team that believed every voice deserved to be heard.

None of this would have been possible without the constant guidance of our mentors, the trust of **Dr Urmi Thakkar** Dean Student Welfare, the support of **every institute**, and the **enthusiasm** of **students** who allowed us to tell their **stories**. Your encouragement transformed our ideas into impact and our passion into purpose.
As one chapter closes, another begins.

Voices now welcomes a new **generation** of **creators, storytellers, photographers, designers, writers, and communicators** who will carry this legacy forward. With fresh perspectives and boundless enthusiasm, the incoming team will continue to preserve the spirit of **Somaiya** while embracing new ideas, new technologies, and new stories waiting to be told.

To every member who has been part of this journey, thank you for making Voices more than a media body. You made it a family, a learning experience, and a platform where creativity met purpose.
As we sign off, we leave with countless memories, lifelong friendships, and the confidence that Voices is in capable hands.
The story doesn't end here. It simply turns the page.



Team Voices

Know the brains behind Voices!

19
Vol 1 | Issue 10
June 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 Chunekar

GRAPHICS

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

OPERATIONS TEAM

Nirek Ganguly - Head
Laxman Choudhary
Shravani Mohide

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Kaustubh Rewankar - Head
Afifa Waghu
Deven Patel
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

Voices Link Tree