



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 | Issue 3
November 2025

VOICES



-
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VOICES

✉ voices@somaiya.edu

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▶ 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

03
Vol 1 | Issue 3
November 2025

Kala Umang 2025



Kala Umang 2025

Greetings from Somaiya Kala Vidya!

Join us in celebrating our artisan designers at Somaiya Kala Vidya's Convocation and Fashion Show - KALA UMANG 25

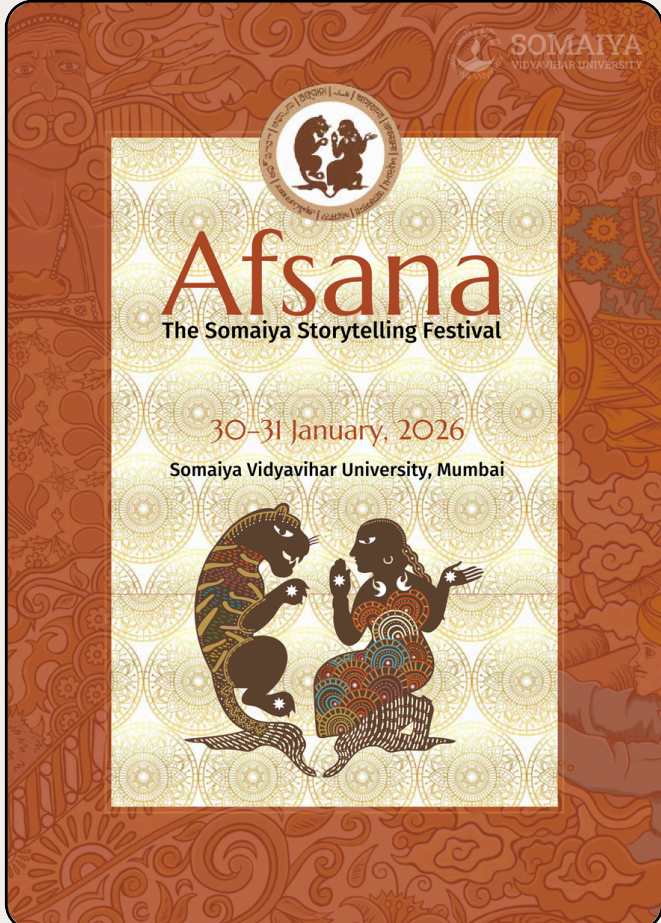
13th December 2025
Convocation: 3PM
Fashion Show: 6PM



Somaiya Kala Vidya, LS No. 44, near Ravechi Nagar, Meghpar Kumbhardi, Anjar, Kachchh, Gujarat

follow us on instagram: @somaiya_kala_vidya @somaiya_kala_vidya_bagalkote
www.somaiya-kalavidya.org | write to us at kalavidya@somaiya.edu | contact us at +91-8238835677

Afsana



Afsana
The Somaiya Storytelling Festival

30-31 January, 2026
Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai

Somaiya All Alumni Meet 2026



SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR



SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



SOMAIYA SCHOOLS



SOMAIYA AYURVIHAR



Somaiya TRUST

Calling all Somaiya Alumni for

Somaiya All Alumni Meet 2026

*An unforgettable evening of Memories, Reconnections
Felicitations and Performances*

January 10, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Gargi Plaza, Somaiya Vidyavihar



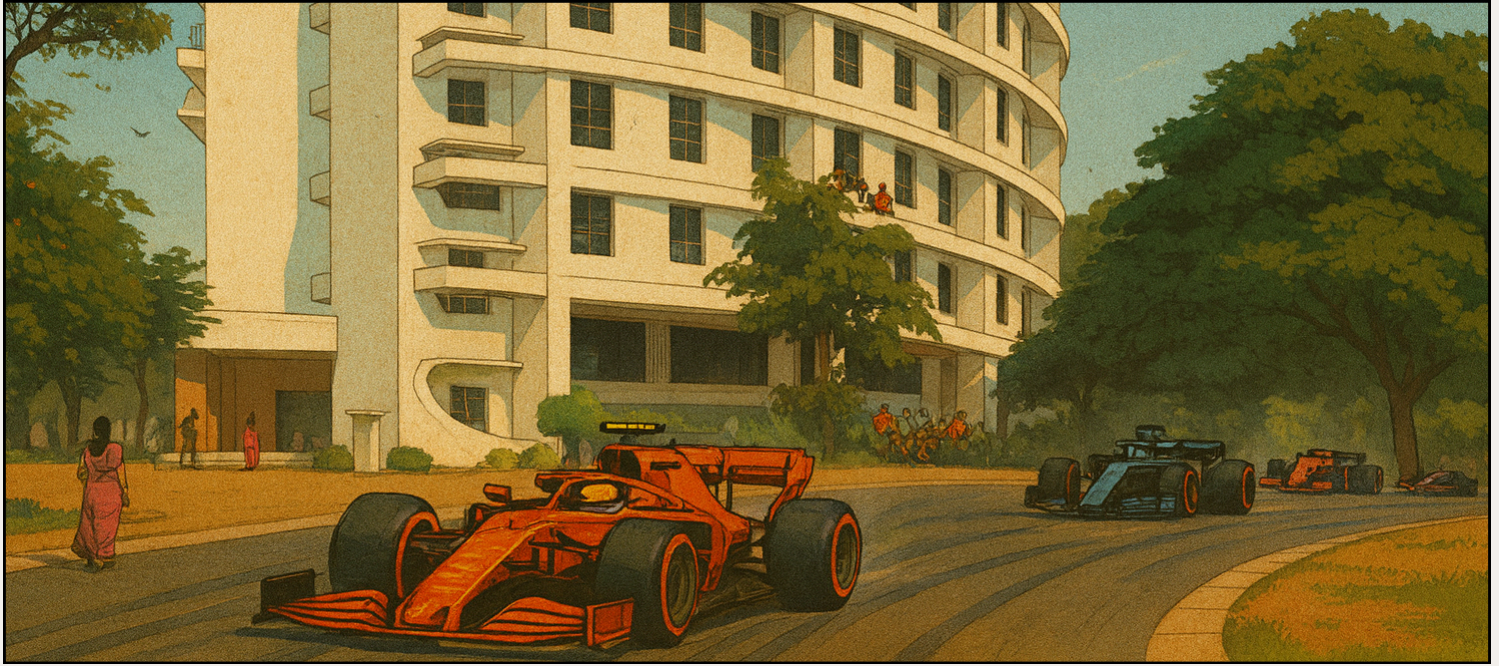
Star performer
Legendary Singer
USHA UTHUP



Register Today



WHAT IF SOMAIYA CAMPUS TURNED INTO AN F1 RACE TRACK?



Somaiya's campus has always been full of energy, with morning rushes, chai-fuelled afternoons, and late-night assignment sprints. But imagine for a moment that this everyday energy turned into something mechanical. A fun question has been going around the campus lately: *What if Somaiya transformed into a Formula 1 race track?*

The Engineering side becomes the centre of the circuit. The long stretch between **Bhaskaracharya** and **Aryabhata** buildings turns into the "Engineering Straight", a zone where racers pick up full speed before entering the sharp "KRC Bend" near the Knowledge Resource Centre. A calm walkway suddenly becomes the most challenging turn on the track.

Next comes the **Tagore Amphitheatre**, which instantly turns into the loudest viewing corner. Students fill the steps like a grandstand, cheering, pretending to wave flags, and shouting playful commentary as racers zoom past.

The **Aurobindo** Building, where Mass Media students study, becomes the broadcast

headquarters. Cameras, commentary, highlights, and dramatic replays turn the imaginary race into a full media production created right on campus.

The **Chanakya Building** adds strategy to the race. Management students take charge of pit timings, race planning, fuel calculations, and team coordination, turning the event into a perfect blend of business thinking and racetrack excitement.

Of course, racers need pit stops. **Maggi House** becomes the Pit Lane Café, serving quick bowls of Maggi and cold coffee to refuel between laps. Nearby, **Kaachi House** becomes the team relaxation hut, where students gather to discuss race tactics and share laughs about close calls.

This imaginative scenario reflects something real about Somaiya. The excitement, the creativity, the teamwork, and the ability to turn simple spaces into something extraordinary. Even a normal day on campus feels like a race filled with energy and possibility.

At Somaiya, a simple "what if" can easily become a campus-wide spark of fun and imagination.

Commemoration of 150 Years of “Vande Mataram”

On 7th November, Somaiya Vidyavihar commemorated the 150th anniversary of “Vande Mataram” with a dignified and uplifting ceremony at the campus Flag Post, bringing together students, faculty members, NCC cadets and institutional leaders in a collective tribute to the national song that has inspired generations. The programme commenced with a reverent invocation, setting a reflective tone for the morning, followed by a heartfelt rendition of Vande Mataram performed by students from the Maya Somaiya School of Music and Performing Arts, Somaiya Junior College of Education, Somaiya School of Science and Commerce and other institutions across the campus. Their performance beautifully conveyed the emotional depth, cultural significance and patriotic spirit of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s celebrated composition, written in 1875 and later featured in his novel Anandamath. Organised under the initiative of Dr Urmi Thakkar, the ceremony reflected a strong sense of unity across the campus community, with Heads of Institutions, Deans, faculty, security personnel and students gathering to mark the occasion. The collective singing of Vande Mataram created a profoundly resonant atmosphere, reminding attendees of the ideals, sacrifices and steadfast courage that shaped India’s freedom movement. Reflections shared during the event emphasised the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage and nurturing a spirit of national solidarity amongst younger generations. The ceremony concluded with spirited chants of “Vande Mataram” and “Jai Hind,” followed by high tea, leaving attendees with a renewed sense of pride and connection to India’s rich historical legacy.



Somaiya Alumni USA Reunion Series - 31st October to 3rd November 2025

The Somaiya Alumni USA Reunion Series brought together alumni across Michigan, Southern California and the Bay Area for a week of reconnecting and community engagement. Shri Samir Somaiya shared updates on the university's growth, including academic developments, sustainability initiatives and new centres in arts and healthcare. A highlight of the series was the Southern California meet hosted at the robotics facility of alumnus Brual Shah. Alumni across all three cities expressed strong enthusiasm to mentor, collaborate and stay involved, reaffirming the deep sense of connection within the Somaiya community.



INTERACTIVE TALKS, 6th November



Somaiya Vidyavihar University hosted Interactive Talks in collaboration with Literature Live! The LitFest and the Somaiya Storytelling Society. Helene Flood spoke about using writing as a means of healing, while Zingonia Zingone shared insights from her poetry workshops in a Roman prison. The session concluded with an interactive discussion, leaving attendees inspired by the power of words and creative expression.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION, 14th November

Somaiya Vidyavihar University marked Children's Day with an engaging programme organised by the Student Welfare Committee. The event featured fun activities, interactive games, and a lively dance performance, creating a cheerful atmosphere on campus.

A session on Safe and Unsafe Touch was also conducted to promote awareness and safety among young learners. KJSIM students assisted in managing the activities and ensuring smooth coordination.



JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS, 15th November



K J Somaiya Polytechnic observed JanJatiya Gaurav Diwas with a documentary screening on the life of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, highlighting his leadership in the "Ulgulan" movement and his fight for tribal rights. The Principal, HODs, and the Students' Forum addressed the gathering, reflecting on his legacy and values. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks and served as a meaningful tribute to the national hero.

SEMINAR ON HAMSTRING TRAINING & REHAB DEVICE, 17th November

K J Somaiya College of Physiotherapy conducted a seminar on hamstring muscle function and rehab device development, organised under the Placement and Career Guidance Cell in association with Vision International. Speakers from Leeds Beckett University and Vision International introduced students to current research, sports science opportunities, and study options abroad. Final-year batches participated actively, gaining useful insights into future academic and career pathways.



Project Exhibition Programme, 20th & 21st November



K J Somaiya Private Industrial Training Institute hosted its 12th Technical Project Exhibition, where over 200 students from various trades showcased 38 practical and innovative projects. The event, inaugurated by Shri Sudish Sukumaran and later visited by Shri Samir Somaiya, drew more than 550 visitors over two days. Standout projects included the Kulfi Maker Machine, Shoe Polish Machine and Automatic Water Controlling System for Water Cooler, recognised for their creativity and usefulness. The exhibition highlighted strong technical skills and the growing industry readiness of the students.

AI-Driven Healthcare Conference, 21st November

K J Somaiya College of Nursing, with the Faculty and Staff Development Centre, SVU, hosted a national conference on Bridging Technology and Human Expertise. The event featured inaugural addresses followed by three key talks on AI in research, digital teaching, and data analytics and blockchain. A panel discussion explored opportunities and risks in AI-driven healthcare, and students and faculty secured awards in paper and poster presentations. With 312 participants, the conference reinforced the importance of combining technology with human-centred care.



K J Somaiya Polytechnic Students Excel at Case Study Competition

On October 9th, six Diploma in Mechanical Engineering students from K J Somaiya Polytechnic participated in the Case Study Presentation Competition organised by the Quality Circle Forum of India. Three teams presented AI-focused engineering case studies and secured two Silver Trophies and one Bronze Trophy. Guided by Dr Jagdish R. Jadhav, the students' achievement reflects the institute's focus on innovation and industry-ready skills.



LEAF 3.0 – 13th to 15th November 2025

K J Somaiya Junior College of Science and Commerce secured nine prizes at the LEAF 3.0 Literary Festival organised by IIT Campus School & Junior College, Powai. Both participants in Elocution emerged as winners, while the college achieved Second Prize in Poetry Recitation. In the Creative Writing (Open Category), all three students from the college won prizes, competing alongside IIT students, teachers, and professors.

K J Somaiya Junior College of Science and Commerce also earned First Prize in Mono Acting, along with Consolation Prizes in Short Film Making and Still Photography.



Life of an International Student at Sandipani Hostel.

I'm Odjargal Ariunbayar, aka Jacky, from Mongolia. Now that I'm in my second year, everything feels way smoother compared to my first year. Honestly, the first year was rough. I had to get used to the environment, the food, and the weather. Even now, some international students are still struggling with the food and the new environment. It is difficult to see that they still haven't fully adjusted, but I hope they will adapt soon. For me, the weather was the hardest part. I grew up in below-zero temperatures, so jumping to over 30°C felt impossible at first. But now I've finally adjusted, and it's much easier. From Monday to Saturday, I have classes from 7 am to 12 pm, which means my afternoons are free. I don't like to waste that time just scrolling on my phone, so I use it to work on myself: swimming, playing basketball, reading, or going out to explore around Mumbai. On Sundays, I mostly focus on recovering my body and mind to avoid burnout and fatigue. During holidays like Diwali, the Hostel Management organises certain events. At this time, most students go home, while a few who stay back prefer to spend time together. Last Diwali, my friends and I lit fireworks near Gate 2, which was really exciting and enjoyable. The hostel staff usually does their work on time, which is something I really appreciate. But honestly, living in the hostel has been a good experience. It saves me a lot of time and lets me enjoy my studies here in India. For the past few weeks, I've been dying to watch the Physical:Asia show on Netflix. I recommend you guys to watch it after a long and tiring week.



International Men's Day Celebration - Maitreyi Hostel and Sandipani Hostel

International Men's Day was celebrated at Maitreyi Hostel and Sandipani Hostel with warmth and appreciation, as students felicitated the hostel staff for their hard work and dedication. The event offered a meaningful moment to recognise those who support the daily functioning of the hostels, often quietly and without expectation. Heartfelt gestures and expressions of gratitude strengthened the sense of community, reflecting the kindness and inclusive spirit that define hostel life on campus.





Vande Mataram Celebration



Technical Project Exhibition Programme



Children's Day Celebration



Interactive Talks by Ms Helene Flood



Pockets Of Joy On The Campus



JAN JATIYA GAURAV DIWAS



AI-Driven Healthcare Conference



Somaiya Alumni USA Reunion Series

4th Edition of the Somaiya Badminton TOSS 2025

The 4th edition of the Somaiya Badminton TOSS 2025 concluded on an exciting note. The tournament witnessed spirited performances from all five Somaiya Houses: Periyar Elephants, Hemis Snow Leopards, Kaziranga Rhinos, Kanha Tigers, and Gir Lions.

The tournament featured intense matches across categories such as Men's Singles (Below 45), Men's Singles (Above 45), Women's Singles (Below 45), Women's Singles (Above 45), Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

After a series of thrilling rallies and close contests, the Periyar Elephants secured the top spot in the Somaiya House Cup standings, leading with 515 points. The Hemis Snow Leopards secured second place with 407 points, and Kaziranga Rhinos followed in third with 286 points. The Kanha Tigers and Gir Lions also put on strong performances, finishing with 112 and 111 points, respectively.

A heartfelt congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The competition is heating up, and we can't wait to see what the next event brings.



The Inter Somaiya House Cup (Schools) 2025



The Inter Somaiya House Cup (Schools) 2025 concluded with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship, bringing together young athletes from 8 schools across different Somaiya campuses. The tournament was curated to celebrate and nurture emerging sporting talent while strengthening inter-school collaboration within the Somaiya community.

This vibrant competition was conducted for the Under-16 Boys and Girls categories, where students competed across three major sporting disciplines: Badminton (Team Event), Table Tennis (Team Event) and Athletics (Individual Events).

A total of 177 students participated in this year's edition. The tournament saw enthusiastic participation from six schools: Shri Sharda English Medium School (Kopargaon), Somaiya Vidya Mandir (Laxmiwadi), Somaiya Vidya Mandir (Sakarwadi), Nareshwadi Learning Centre, S K Somaiya Vinay Mandir Gujarati Medium School, and The Somaiya School.

The Gir Lions clinched the Overall Championship with 1015 points, followed by the Kanha Tigers with 965 points and the Hemis Snow Leopards close behind with 955 points.

The tournament successfully encouraged healthy competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship among all participants. This event also provided a good platform to identify young talent who can be trained for higher-level competitions in the future. It supports our goal of providing more opportunities to student-athletes and establishing a strong foundation for future inter-school and inter-institutional sports events under the Somaiya banner.

Somaiya Butterfly Garden : A 5,000 sq. ft. Living Habitat of Learning and Biodiversity

What began as a simple idea to bring students closer to nature has now grown into one of the most vibrant ecological treasures on campus. Somaiya's Butterfly Garden has blossomed into a thriving natural habitat that now supports more than 20 species of butterflies, each adding movement, colour, and quiet beauty to the space. Over time, this carefully nurtured garden has transformed into a living laboratory where students, teachers, and visitors can witness the complete life cycle of butterflies up close. From spotting tiny eggs delicately placed under leaves to watching caterpillars munch and grow, observing the stillness of a pupa, and finally experiencing the magical moment a butterfly takes its first flight, the garden offers a rare, hands-on connection to nature. Filled with a diverse selection of host plants and nectar-rich flowers, it provides everything butterflies need to feed, rest, and reproduce, allowing them to flourish naturally. More than just a conservation effort, the garden serves as a serene retreat within the bustling campus, inspiring curiosity, nurturing environmental awareness, and reminding everyone of the delicate balance that sustains life. It stands today as a space where learning becomes experiential, and nature becomes a teacher in the most gentle and captivating way.



Union for Animals: From Campus Initiative to National Media



The Union for Animals, a student-led committee at Somaiya Vidyavihar, has received national attention after being highlighted in The Free Press Journal during the wider discussion surrounding the recent Supreme Court directive on stray dogs. What began as a campus-based welfare initiative has now become a recognised example of humane, structured, and community-driven animal care.

Formed by students of K J Somaiya Institute of Management, the Union for Animals oversees the wellbeing of more than fifty community dogs living across the 65-acre Somaiya Vidyavihar campus. The team manages daily feeding, vaccination schedules, medical assistance, and ongoing monitoring to ensure each dog receives consistent and responsible care.

The FPJ feature acknowledged the initiative as a model of peaceful human-animal coexistence, especially at a time when the national debate has centred on removing stray dogs from public spaces. The article also reflected on how Somaiya's campus community students, faculty, security personnel, and housekeeping staff has collectively fostered a safe and compassionate environment for these animals.

The Union for Animals continues to exemplify how empathy, organisation, and student leadership can create meaningful change. Its recognition in national media reinforces the impact of the initiative and the values that guide the Somaiya community.

Moonlit Dreams

Moonlit nights and starry skies,
A canvas painted with surprise.
Night sky filled with many dark clouds,
Never spoke of Dreams so loud.

But in the silence, hearts reveal,
Secrets whispered, dreams set free to feel.
The mind tensed, longing for goals,
Sleepless efforts for the fulfillment of the soul.

Through midnight hours, passions take flight,
And in the stillness, dreams ignite.
With the birth of dawn, the dreams take shape;
Just as an ordinary man dons a superman cape.

As morning sunlight paints the day,
The ordinary becomes extraordinary way
Just as the sun rises with hope,
Let our dreams be our rope.

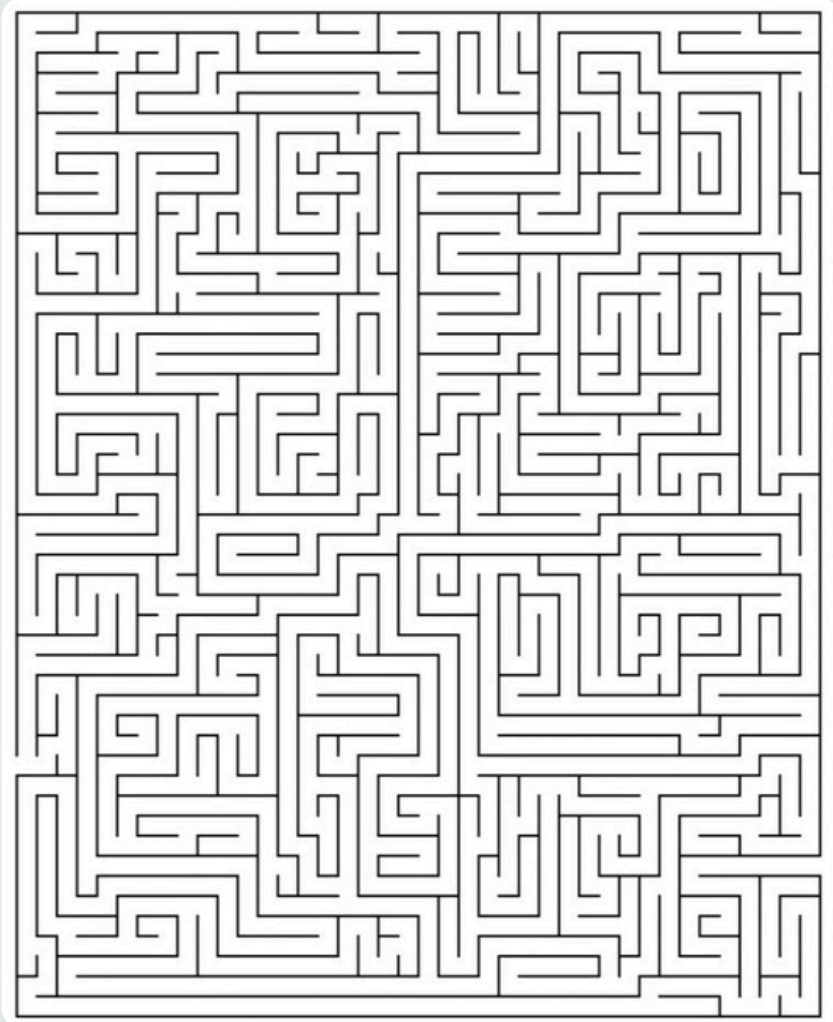
- By Pramitee Patil
KJ Somaiya Arts and Commerce



- By Harsh Gajghat
FYBCA

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

Maze Puzzle



RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Every participant must begin from the left side.
- The puzzle is complete only when you reach the right side.
- You may move up, down, left, or right only.
- Diagonal movements are not allowed.
- Movement must be continuous—no skipping or jumping across walls.

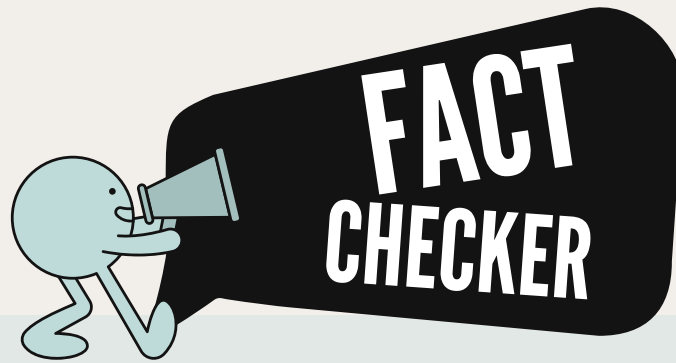
Cryptogram

NCO JMF SJHJDWF CP PJM TCMF IYJE NCO IYQEV.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Each letter stands for a different letter. The same cipher letter always means the same plaintext letter.
- No letter stands for itself.
- Spaces and punctuation stay the same.
- Use short words and repeating patterns to guess letters (e.g., one-letter words, repeated words).

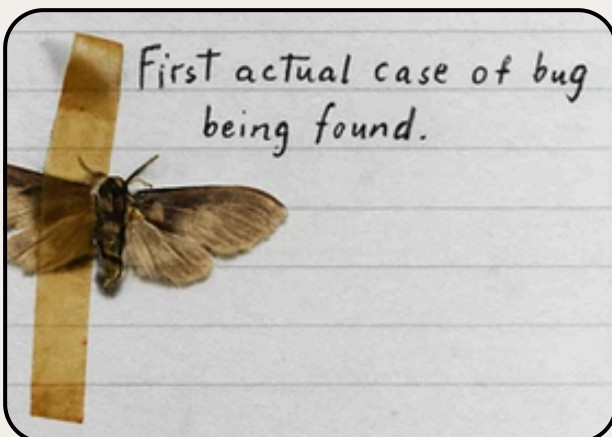




“Your weekly dose of curiosity”

TREES OUTNUMBER STARS IN THE MILKY WAY

EARTH HAS AN ESTIMATED 3 TRILLION TREES. THE MILKY WAY, BY COMPARISON, IS ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN 100-400 BILLION STARS, MEANING OUR PLANET ACTUALLY HAS MORE TREES THAN OUR GALAXY HAS STARS.



THE FIRST COMPUTER BUG WAS AN ACTUAL BUG

IN 1947, ENGINEERS WORKING ON THE HARVARD MARK II COMPUTER FOUND A MOTH STUCK INSIDE A RELAY, CAUSING AN ERROR. THEY TAPED IT INTO THE LOGBOOK WITH THE NOTE “FIRST ACTUAL CASE OF BUG BEING FOUND.”

THE DOT OVER THE ‘I’ HAS A NAME: THE TITTLE

THE TERM COMES FROM LATIN AND ORIGINALLY MEANT A SMALL STROKE OR MARK. TITLING BECAME IMPORTANT IN MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS TO DISTINGUISH LETTERS IN DENSE HANDWRITING.

THE SHORTEST WAR LASTED JUST 38 MINUTES

THE ANGLO-ZANZIBAR WAR IN 1896 BEGAN AT 9:02 A.M. AND ENDED AT 9:40 A.M. AFTER BRITISH FORCES BOMBARDED THE PALACE, FORCING AN IMMEDIATE SURRENDER

Team Voices

Know the brains behind Voices!

18
Vol 1 | Issue 3
November 2025

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