



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol1 | Issue2
October 2025

VOICES



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VOICES

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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 SOMAIYA'S CANTEENS TOOK OVER INSTAGRAM

Somaiya's canteens have always been the heart of campus life-where lectures end and gossip begins. But lately, something unexpected has happened. Our canteens have gone Instagram-famous. Scroll through Instagram and you'll find a cinematic universe of canteen reels, complete with trending sounds and slow-mos. Our canteen meals now look straight out of a Netflix episode.

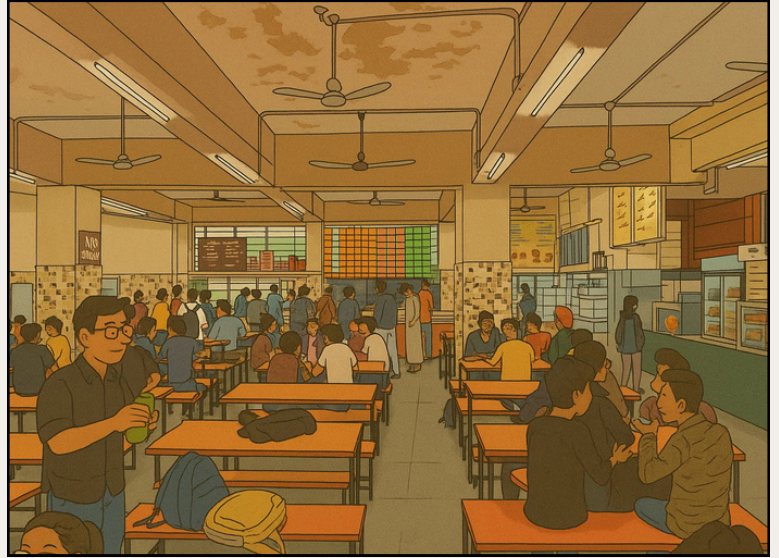
For Somaiyans, Somaiya's food map has five landmarks:

The Engineering Canteen, always buzzing with activity, is packed and plates are clinking.

The Management Canteen, slightly calmer-ideal for "study breaks" which are actually just "dosa breaks".

Maggi House, the campus favourite, is home to caffeine addictions, Maggi cravings and impromptu guitar jams.

Dalchini is the student's go-to for quick bites and baked goods. It's perfect for casual chats with friends.

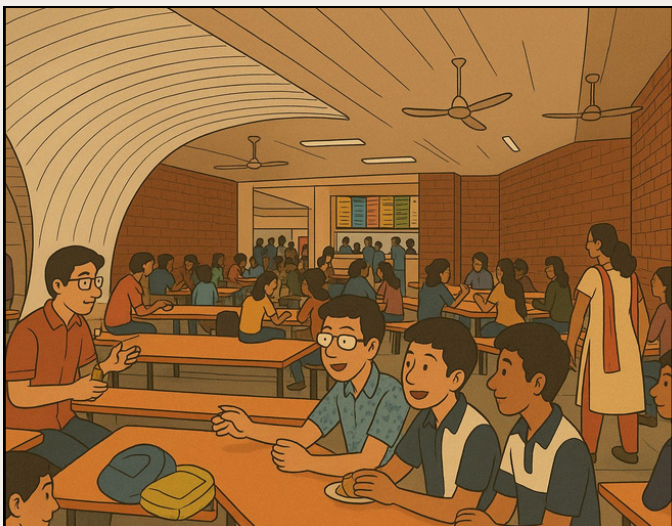


Aurobindo Canteen, quieter and tucked away, is known for its friendly staff and laid-back crowd. The Engineering Canteen takes the cake in another video titled "Best College Canteen Ft. Somaiya", showing plates of fried rice and frankies so photogenic that they could get advertisement deals. Behind the camera, it's total chaos-friends yelling as one person balances a phone over steaming food for that perfect shot. It's chaotic and fun-the kind of behind-the-scenes energy that makes college life feel alive. The canteens feel livelier and new dishes even get more attention when they trend online.

These reels go beyond showing food. They capture the true spirit of college-fun, friendship and flavour. For newcomers scrolling before admissions, these clips double as unofficial campus tours. They learn the essentials like dodging the 1 PM lunch rush or not underestimating the cold coffee at Maggi House.

Every bite and laugh captured on video tells a bigger story: college isn't just about grades, it's about memories shared over vadapav and cold coffee. So the next time you're at the canteen, don't be surprised if your plate ends up on someone's reel.

At Somaiya, **food doesn't just fill stomachs-it fills feeds too.**



INCVERSE 1.0, 4th & 5th October



Incuverse 1.0 powered by RIIDL HACK, brought together student innovators for a 24-hour sprint of creativity, collaboration and problem-solving on October 4th and 5th. Designed to go beyond a typical hackathon, the event challenged participants to address real-world problem statements and transform ideas into viable solutions. Teams from different areas spent just one lively day digging into technology, design and planning. They built prototypes and put together voice pitches, all with help from industry professionals.

The leading teams were the participants in the Grand Finale, where the innovations were presented and winners got opportunities for incubation at RIIDL to turn the concepts into actual ventures. Incuverse 1.0 demonstrated the potential for student innovation and backed up the RIIDL HACK goal of turning hackathons into real starting points for lasting changes.

RAAS GARBA, 6th October

The evening of October 6th was a vibrant and unforgettable celebration of music, laughter, and joy as the students of Somaiya Vidyavihar University came together to embrace the true spirit of Navratri through a mesmerizing Raas Garba Night. The atmosphere was alive with rhythm, color, and enthusiasm as the event featured an amazing live performance by the talented singer Ms Jahnvi Shrimankar, whose soulful voice added magic to the night. The celebration was filled with boundless energy, excitement, and cultural flair, with participants showcasing their skills and graceful moves on the dance floor. From the dazzling best-dressed male and female of the evening, who captivated everyone with their traditional attire, to the crowd's favourite best dancer, whose talent and spirit stole the show, every moment reflected joy and togetherness. The night beautifully radiated the festive charm, unity, and cultural richness that define this beloved tradition, leaving everyone with cherished memories and a renewed sense of community.



YOUTH FESTIVAL, 7th & 8th October

The dynamic Somaiya Youth Festival 2025, brilliantly executed by the Students Welfare Committee of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, rocked the campus on October 7th and 8th. The event was a massive platform, spotlighting the diverse talents from across all Somaiya institutes in major categories like music, dance, theatre, literature and fine arts.

Following two days of intense competition and collaboration, the closing ceremony celebrated the winners: KJ Somaiya School of Engineering proudly clinched the coveted Overall Champions title once again. A huge, heartfelt thank you goes to the Student Welfare Committee for their hard work, and especially to the Vice Chancellor and the Dean of Student Welfare, Dr Urmi Thakkar Ma'am, for their dedicated guidance. It was truly the best kind of gathering—a celebration "Where Talents Meet Celebration."



Durgotsav 2025 – Fort Model Making Celebration, 9th to 15th October

The Students' Forum of KJ Somaiya Polytechnic College celebrated "Durgotsav 2025" from 9th-15th October, a fort model-making event celebrating the era of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as part of the Maharashtra Government's statewide initiative. Students from all streams created innovative, eco-friendly models of famous forts like Raigad, Rajgad and Sinhagad, exuding creativity, teamwork and pride in Maratha heritage. Led by the faculty coordinators and supported by Principal Mrs. Padmajabhanu Bandaru, the event combined cultural appreciation with technical learning. The initiative was highly appreciated, whereby Vice-Chairperson Shri D.G. Shinde received an Appreciation Certificate from the Government of Maharashtra regarding the institute's participation making it an unforgettable experience for all.



Cultural Forum Inauguration – SSBAS, 10th October

With the inauguration of the Cultural Forum of Somaiya School of Basic and Applied Sciences (SSBAS) on October 10, 2025, the new cultural year got off to a great start. The program started with the ribbon-cutting and lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by speeches from Dr. Jacinta George and Prof Neetin Desai, who spoke on the importance of cultural engagement in the students' growth. The Chief Guest, Mrs Savita Moghe, inspired the gathering on the importance of performing arts at the education level. The inaugural function comprised a graceful Dance Vandana, some engaging activities, and pulsating performances of dances, speeches and a band show. The program ended with a vote of thanks, celebrating creativity, unity and enthusiasm for the year ahead.



PORTFOLIO PALOOZA, 12th October A DAY OF DESIGN, STORYTELLING & INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

The Somaiya School of Design, in collaboration with Designare, India's fastest-growing design community, hosted Portfolio Palooza on 12th October 2025, a full-day event aimed at helping design students elevate their portfolios. Industry leaders Nikalank Jain (Vodafone Idea), Shefali Desai (BASE 501), Sachin Pardeshi (HDFC Bank), and Vannsh Agrawal (Designare) shared key insights on storytelling, recruiter expectations and portfolio presentation.

The day featured hands-on sessions, peer reviews and expert feedback, enabling students to refine their work and strengthen their creative narratives. Participants left inspired, with sharper portfolios and a clearer sense of direction.



Data Trek 2025, 13th to 19th October



DataZen, the Data Science Council of KJ Somaiya School of Engineering, successfully conducted “Data Trek”, a 7-day online Data Science learning program held from 13th to 19th October 2025. It sought to introduce students to important concepts and practical applications of Data Science through interactive sessions and hands-on exercises. With over 200 student participants across SVU, the program ranged from basics such as Python programming, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Scikit-Learn and Web Scraping. The essence of this course lay in the Capstone Project on Stock Price Prediction, where students could integrate all previous knowledge into a real-world model. Daily quizzes, live Q&A sessions and social media engagement ensured that the learning was interactive.

Diwali Workshop, 14th October

On the occasion of Diwali, students of Somaiya Vidyavihar University came together to celebrate the festival of lights by expressing their creativity through the workshops that were conducted on the 14th of October 2025. The workshops featured a range of creative activities, including Diya making with Wheel Pottery, Toran making and Rangoli designing, all guided by talented art educators- Mr Pankaj Patil from The Somaiya School and Ms Smita Jani from Sakarben Junior College of Education. The handcrafted masterpieces were showcased for sale, with all proceeds going to the Gully Classes Foundation NGO, an impactful initiative by Team Enactus SSC.



Gaatha Deepotsav Ki, 17th October

Following the occasion of Vaasu Baras, the Somaiya Storytelling Society organized “Gaatha Deepotsav Ki” on the 17th of October, 2025. The evening was illuminated by different tales inspired by Diwali which were narrated by students from various streams. The narrators touched upon Ramayana and also narrated the reason behind bursting crackers for celebrating the festival of lights. A lively round of “Pass the Story” added charm to the evening.



Celebrating Somaiya's remarkable achievements and recognitions that continue to inspire our community.

Shri Samir Somaiya Honoured with the Order of Dostyk (Friendship)

Shri Samir Somaiya, Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, has been awarded the esteemed "Order of Dostyk (Friendship), 2nd Class Excellency" by H. E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the President of Kazakhstan, marking him as the first Indian recipient of this honor. He represented India at the 'Eighth Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions' in Kazakhstan, where he shared a Hindu perspective on the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future." Drawing from the Atharva Veda and Yoga Vasishta, Dr Somaiya emphasized the principles of peace, unity, and care for Mother Earth, which are integral to both our spiritual heritage and Somaiya's mission to promote global harmony and interfaith dialogue.



Farewell Tribute to Prof V N Rajasekharan Pillai

Somaiya Vidyavihar University bid a warm farewell to Prof V N Rajasekharan Pillai, with tributes paid to his vision and transformative leadership as Vice-Chancellor. All through his tenure, Prof Pillai guided students, empowered faculty and shaped the academic and cultural spirit of Somaiya Vidyavihar University through his deep wisdom, real compassion and true excellence. The tribute featured reflections from colleagues, students and friends with memories of his mentorship and impact, celebrating a legacy defined not just by achievements but by the lives he touched.



A glimpse into the vibrant hostel life at Somaiya where every corner celebrates togetherness, creativity and comfort.

Sanitary Product Distribution Drive

The Sanitary Product Distribution Drive was organized in KJSIM for female hospitality and support staff by the Student Council X Melange in collaboration with the Hostel Administration on 11th October. The campaign, led by Sarisha Palli and supported by Dr Urmi Thakkar, Dean of Student Welfare at SVU, along with Mrs Subhadra Nair, Hostel Warden, was designed to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene while introducing comfort-fit sanitary wear as a convenient and effective alternative to traditional pads. In all, 51 women benefited from this drive, which included the hospitality and security staff. The participants received sanitary products and an explanation on the usage and comfort advantages of the product. The event reflected the ongoing commitment of the Council and Hostel Administration to empower women with more sustainable and comfortable options, contributing to a healthier and more informed campus community.



Diwali Celebration at Sandipani Hostel

The spirit of Diwali illuminated Sandipani Hostel on October 22, 2025, with a heartfelt celebration featuring a traditional Laxmi Ganesh Puja, followed by lively games of Housie and Antakshari. The event was honored by the presence of Warden Mrs Subhadra Nair, Rector Dr Ajay Gangrade and Prof Sunita Gangrade, who helped create a warm, festive atmosphere for the students residing on campus. A special thank you goes to Dr rmi Thakkar, Dean of Student Welfare, for conceptualizing the celebration, which brought an infectious sense of joy, togetherness and festive cheer to the hostel. The evening was a perfect blend of community spirit and festive warmth.





Abhiyantriki, the grand technical festival of KJSSE, was launched with the vision of fostering technical awareness and innovation among students, drawing participants from a wide range of educational backgrounds, particularly from engineering and technology institutes. The 2025 edition, held on October 14th and 15th, was a spectacular success, with a total of 333 in-house and 281 outside registrations. The festival featured 20 events and competitions, offering a platform for students to showcase their talent and engage with industry professionals.

Day 1 kicked off with a grand inauguration ceremony, followed by a series of engaging Tech, Auto, Startup, and Internship Expos. Students had the opportunity to explore the latest trends in these fields and network with experts. A standout moment was the arrival of the Indian Army's 15th Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Regiment and the Indian Air Force, who captivated the audience with sessions on defense technology and service. The day also featured exciting competitions such as RC Race, Lift Off, Emfinity, Artemis, Crackathon, Technical Paper Presentation, and the Tech Quiz. The gaming zone, powered by KRAFTON India Esports, created a thrilling atmosphere with BGMI and RC Cricket tournaments.



Day 2 maintained the momentum with high energy events like Technovate, IDEATE (in collaboration with TRACKK), Rush, Pixel Wars, MUN and Tech Hunt, testing participant's creativity, innovation and teamwork. A special highlight was the Cyber Crime session held in the Auditorium, which addressed the rising importance of cybersecurity and provided valuable insights on the evolving digital threats. In addition to these, the Tech Shield events Tech Hunt, Technovate, Tech Quiz, IDEATE and Paper Presentation culminated in Team EXCP being crowned the Tech Shield 2025 champions. Engaging speaker sessions, along with a range of informal fun events, added to the day's excitement.

The festival concluded with a vibrant closing ceremony, celebrating the creativity, talent and teamwork of all the participants. The 2025 edition of Abhiyantriki was a truly remarkable event, filled with innovation and energy, leaving everyone eagerly anticipating what next year's festival will bring.

MEMORY SNAPSHOT



INCUVERSE 1.0



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



ABHIYANTRIKI 2025



DIWALI CELEBRATION,
SANDIPANI HOSTAL



DIWALI WORKSHOP



RAAS GARBA



GAATHA DEEPOSAV KI



DURGOTSAV



YOUTH FESTIVAL



CF INAUGURATION, SSBAS

The Somaiya Games Season 6, hosted by Somaiya Sports Academy, began in 2019 as a small inter-Somaiya sports fest with just six sports and has now evolved into an annual tradition, uniting students across Somaiya campuses

This year marked a significant milestone, featuring 13 sports, with Chess making its debut.



For the first time in Somaiya Games history, KJ Somaiya Junior College of Science and Commerce emerged as the Overall Champions with an impressive 4,033 points, followed by Somaiya Sports Academy (BSc Sports and Exercise Science) and SK Somaiya Vinay Mandir Junior College, who secured the second and third positions respectively.

The week-long tournament witnessed the highest participation yet in Somaiya Games with 2297 participants competing in thrilling matches, displaying immense talent, sportsmanship, and representing their institutions with pride and passion.

The Small Things We Forget

We call ourselves human,
but sometimes I wonder if we remember
what that means.

Not the bones, or the heartbeat
but the pause before we speak,
the quiet after someone breaks.

We rush.

Through streets, through screens,
through people who were only trying to be seen.
We say "take care" like punctuation,
but forget to wait for an answer.

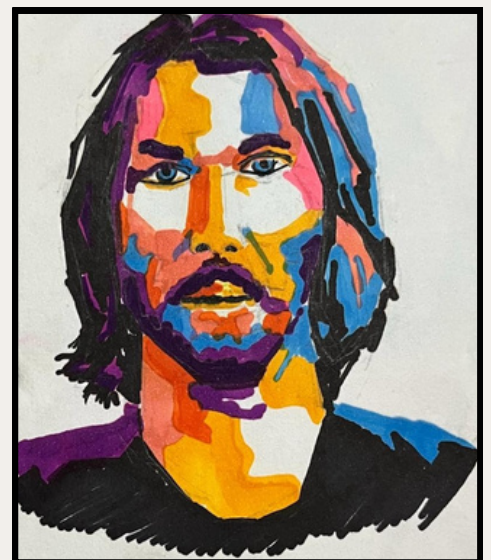
Yet still

someone leaves water for a stray dog,
someone smiles at the tired cashier,
someone forgives without a reason.
And I think, maybe that's it
maybe humanity isn't a grand idea,
just a collection of tiny mercies
that keeps us from turning to stone.

If there's hope,
it doesn't live in speeches or systems,
but in the way we reach out
when no one is watching.

And if that's all we have
I think it's enough.

- By Gunjan Israni
SYBCA

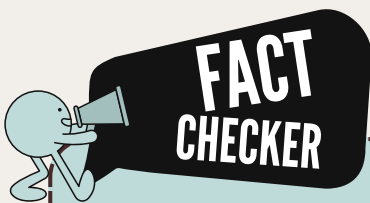


- By Manav Shirali
SYBCA

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	2						1	
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	5		9	6			8	
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INSTRUCTIONS

- **Fill the Grid:** Complete the 9×9 grid so that every row, column and 3×3 box contains all digits from 1 to 9.
- **Use Logic:** Each number can appear only once in every row, column and box no repetition allowed.
- **Start with Given Clues:** Use the pre-filled numbers as hints to logically deduce where the remaining numbers go.
- **Check Consistency:** Ensure all placements follow Sudoku rules if a number breaks the pattern, revise and try again.



WALT DISNEY CURRENTLY HOLDS THE MOST ACADEMY AWARDS. DISNEY WON 26 OSCARS OVER THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER AND WAS NOMINATED 59 TIMES.

IRONICALLY, THE FEAR OF LONG WORDS IS CALLED **HIPPOTOMONSTROSESQUIPPED ALIOPHOBIA**. THE 36-LETTER WORD WAS FIRST USED IN THE FIRST CENTURY BCE TO CRITICISE WRITERS WITH AN UNREASONABLE PENCHANT FOR LONG WORDS.

Team Voices

Know the brains behind Voices!

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