



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 | Issue 6
February 2026

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 Feels Like Hogwarts

Welcome, young witches and wizards, to Platform 9¾ of Somaiya, where the journey into wizardry and last-minute miracles begins. The towers may not scrape the clouds like Hogwarts, yet step onto this campus and you can almost feel the enchantment in the air. For every Potterhead, it feels less like a college and more like a story unfolding in real time.

In the Aurobindo Building, parchments are replaced by presentations, yet the magic is the same. Ideas swirl like charms in motion, arguments are sharpened like well practised spells, and knowledge glows brighter with every discussion.

Across campus, placement discussions and interviews begin to dominate conversations. Resumes are revised, mock interviews are scheduled, and confidence is built one attempt at a time.

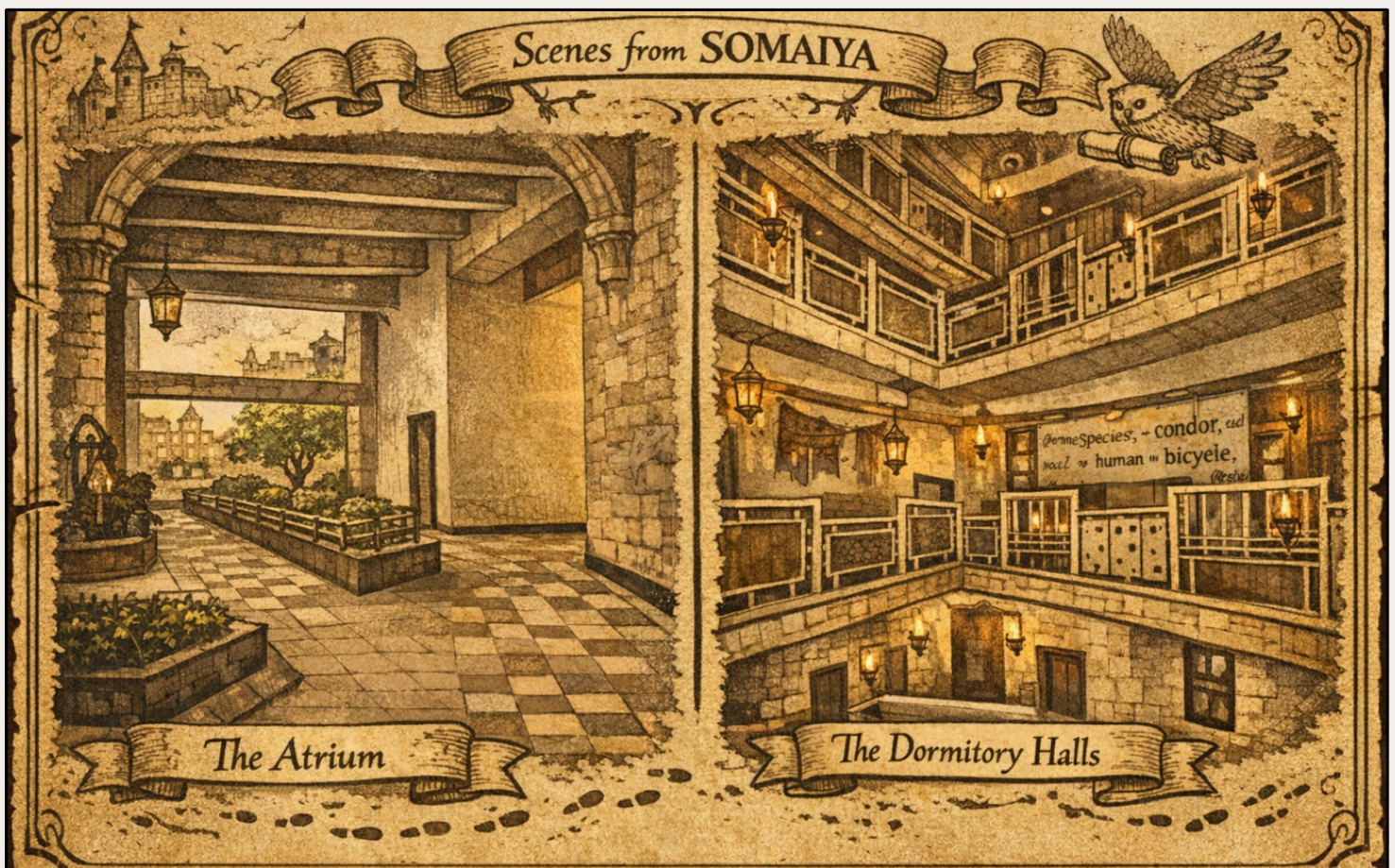
Beyond it, the Bhaskaracharya Building hums like a chamber of potions and transfiguration. Equations are brewed with care, circuits flicker to life, and code runs like invisible enchantments stitched into the air.

Within the Polytechnic Building, magic takes solid form. Blueprints transform into working creations, tools clang like ancient instruments, and steady hands turn imagination into reality.

At the heart of it all stands the Tagore Amphitheatre, our own Great Hall beneath the open sky. Festivals blaze brighter than floating candles and applause rises like a triumphant spell. The Govinda Canteen, Maggie House, and the Engineering Canteen feel like cosy corners of the Three Broomsticks, where strategies before examinations are whispered like secret incantations. Even the Somaiya Store resembles a tiny Diagon Alley, equipping students for the quests ahead.

Here, every student is a character in their own legend. Examinations roar like dragons. Internships open doors like hidden passages. Placements test courage worthy of any house. Yet through each challenge, confidence strengthens, friendships deepen, and purpose reveals itself.

At Somaiya, the magic is not written in books. It walks the corridors, sits in lectures, and lives within every student brave enough to believe in it.



Dautyam Model United Nations → 12th and 13th January

The Dautyam Club organised the Dautyam Model United Nations at Aurobindo Seminar Hall, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, with participation from around 30 students across disciplines. Centred on the theme “Guns, Bases, and Bargains: Rethinking Security in the Horn of Africa,” the conference simulated a DISEC committee to deliberate on arms proliferation, foreign military bases and shifting geopolitical dynamics. Delegates engaged in moderated and unmoderated caucuses, drafted working papers and negotiated resolutions, strengthening their skills in diplomacy, research, public speaking and consensus-building while fostering global awareness and analytical reasoning.



→ Somaiya Youth Parliament 2026 → 2nd February 2026



Somaiya Youth Parliament 2026, organised by the Somaiya Debating Society at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, was held at the Somaiya Vidyavihar, featuring simulations of the All India Political Party Meet and the Inter State Council. The conference centred on deliberations surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, fostering informed debate and policy analysis. Abhishek Banerjee, represented by Pragya Shaw, and Uddhav Thackeray, represented by Aaryan Jamsandekar, secured Best Delegate in their respective committees, alongside several High Commendations, Special Mentions, and Verbal Mentions across both councils.



Annual Event - Mera Gaon, Mera Desh → 2nd February 2026

The Annual Cultural Event Mera Gaon, Mera Desh was organised by Somaiya Vidya Mandir Pre Primary School, Bhopal, at the Amphitheatre, celebrating India's diverse heritage and traditions. The programme aimed to deepen children's connection with village life, cultural roots, and national identity through a thematic presentation highlighting unity in diversity. Students showcased vibrant performances representing different states, including folk dances of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bengal, and Assam. The event concluded with a collective pledge promoting cleanliness, water conservation, environmental protection, and respect for elders. The celebration fostered cultural awareness, confidence, and community participation while strengthening the school's commitment to holistic development.



NAKSHATR 2026 → 4th to 6th February 2026



NAKSHATR 2026, the annual fest of K J Somaiya Polytechnic, brought three vibrant days of celebration, creativity, and camaraderie to the campus. Organised by the Students' Forum and supported by dedicated volunteers, the fest commenced with Traditional Day and a ceremonial inauguration that set a cultural tone. Day two combined Jersey and Mismatched themes, culminating in an energetic live performance by Sidsingslive. The final day featured a campus wide treasure hunt, departmental dance performances, and an electrifying DJ eve. The event reflected enthusiastic participation, seamless coordination, and the strong spirit of student leadership.

National Symposium on Rare Earth Elements and Strategic Minerals → 6th and 7th February 2026

The Departments of Chemistry and Geology of K J Somaiya College of Science & Commerce organised a two day National Symposium on Rare Earth Elements and Strategic Minerals, convening scientists, industry leaders, policy experts, and researchers to examine exploration, processing, and sustainable utilisation of critical mineral resources. Through eleven technical sessions, discussions spanned geological potential, processing innovations, policy frameworks, and advanced applications across renewable energy, electronics, and defence sectors. With over 100 delegates and active student participation, the symposium strengthened interdisciplinary dialogue and reaffirmed the College's commitment to research driven, nationally relevant education aligned with India's mineral security and technological self reliance goals.



Datathon 2026 → 7th and 8th February 2026

Datathon 2026, the flagship 24 hour national level hackathon organised by DataZen, the official Data Science Council of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, brought together aspiring data enthusiasts from across India. The event recorded more than 1600 registrations, with over 200 students actively participating throughout the hackathon. Focused on the domains of Generative AI and Core Machine Learning, participants worked with real world datasets to develop innovative data driven solutions within a limited time frame. Students collaborated in teams to perform data preprocessing, exploratory data analysis and machine learning modelling while generating meaningful insights. Mentors provided guidance throughout the event, helping participants refine their approaches. The hackathon concluded with final presentations before a panel of judges, with a prize pool worth ₹2,00,000+, encouraging innovation, collaboration and practical learning.



Inter ITI Cricket Tournament 2026 Celebrates Talent, Teamwork, and Sportsmanship → 17th February 2026

The Inter ITI Cricket Tournament 2026, organised by the Association of Non Government ITI Maharashtra, brought together private ITI students from across the state in a spirited celebration of teamwork and sportsmanship. Hosted by K J Somaiya Private Industrial Training Institute at the Somaiya Cricket Ground, Sion, the tournament featured eight competitive teams. Bombay Technical School Engg. ITI emerged as Winners, while Ahmed Abdulla Gariba Pvt. ITI secured the Runner Up position. With strong participation from students, principals, heads of departments, instructors, and staff, and live streaming on YouTube, the event reflected unity, discipline, and the institute's commitment to holistic development beyond academics.



→ Thanksgiving Ceremony → 20th February 2026

A Thanksgiving Ceremony was organised by Somaiya Vidya Mandir Pre Primary School, Bhopal, at the Amphitheatre to honour the school's support staff for their invaluable contribution to daily operations and student welfare. The appreciation programme provided an opportunity for students and teachers to acknowledge their dedication, hard work, and commitment. Students expressed heartfelt gratitude through messages and gestures of appreciation, creating an atmosphere of warmth and respect. The event strengthened bonds within the school community and reinforced the importance of gratitude, cooperation, and mutual respect in nurturing a positive and inclusive environment.



The Free Trade Illusion: Agriculture Behind the Curtain → 20th February 2026

The Department of International Studies in association with the Somaiya Dautyam Club organised a public lecture at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, delivered by Prof Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries. The session critically examined the political and economic realities of global agricultural trade, highlighting how developed economies continue to protect domestic sectors through subsidies, regulatory standards, and non tariff measures despite advocating liberalisation. Through comparative analysis, the discussion encouraged participants to question the narrative of free trade and to understand international trade agreements within the broader framework of global power dynamics and economic inequality.



→ The Somaiya School Annual Day Celebrations → 21st February 2026



The Somaiya School celebrated its Annual Day 2026 at the Fine Arts Auditorium, with over 1,080 students participating across all sections. Grade 1 to 5 presented The Right Note, highlighting the power of music as positive energy that influences our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Grade 6 to 9 showcased Divine Engineering, an inspiring theme celebrating the marvel of the human body and promoting mindful, happy, and healthy living. The Pre-Primary section presented Beyond the Shelves, a heartwarming exploration of relationships through the imaginative world of toys, emphasizing the irreplaceable value of family and human connection in today's technology-driven world. The celebrations beautifully reflected talent, creativity, and strong values, making the event a grand success.

7th EDITION OF SOMAIYA WOMEN'S CRICKET TOSS 2026

The 7th Edition of Somaiya Women's Cricket TOSS 2026 was successfully organised on 3rd and 4th February 2026 at the Cricket Nets, Somaiya Sports Academy. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation and remarkable sportsmanship, highlighting the university's strong commitment to promoting women's sports.

A total of 15 teams comprising 135 participants competed in the event, making it a vibrant and competitive tournament. After a series of exciting matches, K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce emerged as the champions. At the same time, Somaiya Sports Academy secured the runners-up position and The Somaiya School finished third. Individual performances added great value to the tournament. Darshita Shah of KJSAC was awarded Player of the Match (Final) for scoring 25 runs off 13 balls. Mona Chauhan from SSA received the Best Batswoman award for scoring 61 runs, while Reema Khan from TSS was declared Best Bowler for taking 6 wickets with an economy rate of 3.4. Samidha Bhosle from KJSAC earned the Best Fielder award with 6 catches. The Player of the Tournament title was awarded to Nensi Patel of SSA for her all-round contribution of 5 runs, 5 wickets, 2 catches, and 1 run out, securing 9.20 valuable points. The event was graced by Dr Urmi Thakkar, Dean of Student Welfare and Head of Campus Administration, Jyothi Malhotra, Principal of The Somaiya School and Aazaz Khan, Director of Somaiya Sports Academy, whose encouragement greatly motivated the participants. The tournament concluded on a memorable note, reflecting the institution's dedication to fitness, participation, and excellence in women's cricket.



SOMAIYA PICKLEBALL TOSS '26

The inaugural Somaiya Pickleball TOSS '26 was held on 16th and 17th February 2026 at the Lawn Tennis Court at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai. Organised by the Somaiya Sports Academy, the two-day, house-based tournament brought together around 60 participants and featured an impressive 107 matches.

Recognised as one of the fastest-growing sports worldwide, pickleball blends elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. The competition was conducted under the prestigious Somaiya House Cup, comprising five houses-Gir Lions, Hemis Snow Leopards, Kanha Tigers, Kaziranga Rhinos and Periyar Elephants-reflecting India's rich wildlife heritage.

Events were held across Men's Singles (Above 45 and Below 45), Men's Doubles, Women's Singles (Below 45), Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles categories. The tournament showcased commendable performances across divisions, with Special Awards presented to Edulakanti Omkar Narayan (Most Promising Player-Male) and Yamini Shah (Most Promising Player-Female).

The event was graced by Professor Ajay Kapoor, Vice-Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Dr Durga Rani Sinha, Director of Alumni Relations, Dr Urmi Thakkar, Dean of Student Welfare and Head of Campus Administration, and Mr Aazaz Khan, Director of Somaiya Sports Academy. With participation exceeding 60 players, including over 48 men and 18 women, Pickleball TOSS '26 was a resounding success, strengthening inter-house camaraderie and promoting a culture of fitness and community engagement. The tournament has set a promising benchmark for future editions.



Making SVU Proud at AIU Inter University Youth Festival – Yuvotsava 2026 → 9th and 13th February 2026

Somaiya Vidyavihar University marked a historic milestone with its first participation at the 39th AIU Inter University South West Zone Youth Festival, Yuvotsava 2026, hosted by JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research. Competing alongside 34 universities and over 1600 participants, SVU was represented by a dynamic contingent of 36 students who participated in 17 events across Music, Theatre, Dance, Fine Arts, and Literary categories.



The Cultural Rally emerged as a proud moment for the University, as students presented a graceful Ganesh Vandana followed by a vibrant Ganpati procession accompanied by traditional Lezhim beats. The performance reflected Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage and demonstrated impressive coordination, discipline, and artistic authenticity. SVU recorded remarkable achievements at the festival. Rajyog Dhuri secured First Prize in Light Vocal Solo, Arijit Saikia earned Second Prize in Western Vocal Solo, and the School of Music won Third Prize in Group Song. Several participants secured fourth positions across Classical Instrumental Solo, Classical Dance, Hindi Debate, Hindi Elocution, and Quiz. The University was honoured with the prestigious Second Runner Up Award in Overall Music Events and qualified in three events for the National Round scheduled in Chennai. Guided by the Dean Student Welfare, Dr Urmi Thakkar, and supported by University leadership and dedicated team managers, SVU's debut at the AIU cultural platform reflected teamwork, cultural pride, and a strong foundation for continued excellence on the national stage.



Gold at IndiaSkills Regional Competition → 15th to 18th February 2026

Viraj Ravani, a TYCO student of K J Somaiya Polytechnic, secured the Gold Medal in Mobile Applications Development at the regional stage of the IndiaSkills Competition organised by WorldSkills India and National Skill Development Corporation in Gandhinagar. Competing across modules in designing, programming, testing, and implementation, he demonstrated strong technical expertise and problem solving skills. Having progressed from cluster and state levels, his achievement reflects dedication, perseverance, and institutional support, as he now advances to the national stage, bringing pride to the institute and inspiring fellow students.



Rhapsody Triumphs at Pearl '26 → 20th to 23rd February 2026

Team Rhapsody, the official drama team of K J Somaiya School of Engineering, delivered outstanding performances at Pearl '26, the annual cultural fest of Birla Institute of Technology and Science Hyderabad. Competing in three national level events, the team secured First Place in Natyashastra (Stage Play), Second Position in Nukkad Natak (Street Play), and Third Position in Natsamrat (Monoacting), with Ryan Kannannaikal earning the individual honour. Their achievements reflect strong coordination, artistic excellence, and a commendable presence on the national stage.



K J Somaiya Polytechnic Excels at IEDSSA Sports Event

Students of K J Somaiya Polytechnic showcased outstanding sporting excellence at the IEDSSA Sports Event, delivering impressive performances at both Zonal and State levels. At the Zonal level, the institute secured a Gold Medal in Weightlifting (69 kg category), while the Boys Cricket Team, Boys Kabaddi Team, Girls Kabaddi Team, Girls Badminton Team, and Boys Basketball Team emerged as Champions in their respective events. Continuing this success at the State level, the Girls Badminton Team secured First Place, and the Outdoor Games Secretary earned a Gold Medal in the 69 kg Weightlifting category with the Highest Lift of the entire event. These achievements reflect disciplined preparation, strong team spirit, and the institute's commitment to nurturing sporting talent alongside academic excellence



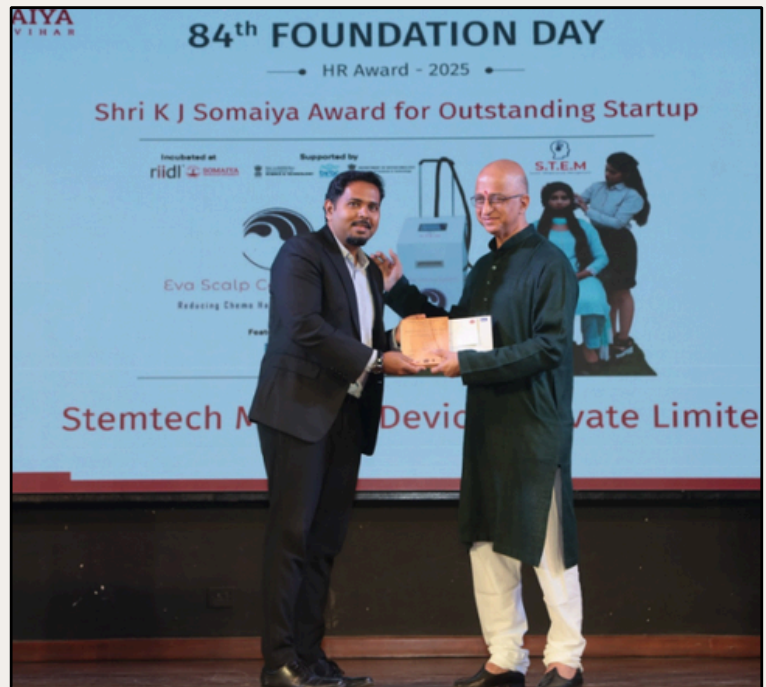
From riidl to Shark Tank: EVA Scalp Cooling System

At riidl, innovation is not only about launching startups or developing business ideas. It is also about asking a simple but powerful question: how can we use knowledge and technology to improve lives? The EVA Scalp Cooling System reflects this mindset, showing how ideas nurtured within the Somaiya ecosystem can create real impact beyond campus.

At riidl, innovation is not only about launching startups or developing business ideas. It is also about asking a simple but powerful question: how can we use knowledge and technology to improve lives? The EVA Scalp Cooling System reflects this mindset, showing how ideas nurtured within the Somaiya ecosystem can create real impact beyond campus. Recognizing its innovation and social impact, the **EVA startup received the Outstanding Startup Award at the Somaiya Foundation Day on 1st December 2025**, highlighting the significance of this breakthrough in healthcare innovation.

What makes this innovation especially meaningful is the intention behind it. It represents young innovators choosing to solve problems that matter. Supported by riidl's incubation ecosystem, the idea moved from concept to development with mentorship, guidance, and structured support. The focus was not just on building a product, but on building a solution that addresses a human concern with empathy.

EVA highlights how students and innovators within the Somaiya community are encouraged to think responsibly. It shows that entrepreneurship is not only about growth and profit, but also about purpose. By combining technology, research, and compassion, innovations like EVA demonstrate how the Somaiya ecosystem contributes to society in meaningful ways. In many ways, the EVA Scalp Cooling System stands as a reminder that when education, innovation, and empathy come together, they can create solutions that go far beyond the classroom. It reflects a belief that progress should not only advance industries, but also support individuals during their most challenging moments. The innovation later gained wider recognition and secured funding on Shark Tank India, further validating its impact and potential to reach more patients across the country.



Building a Cleaner Campus Through Better Waste Management

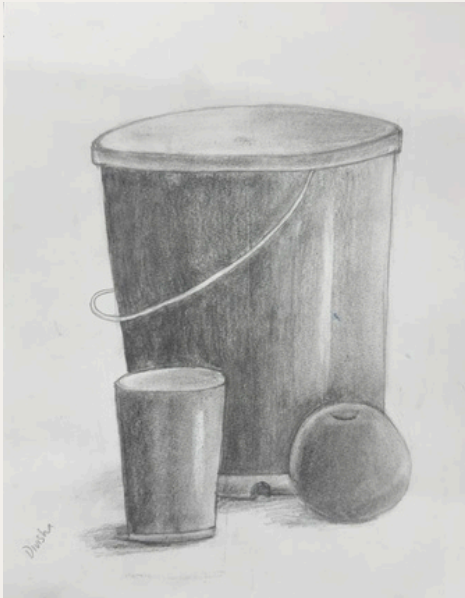
Waste management at Somaiya Vidyavihar University goes beyond basic collection and disposal, it plays a vital role in creating a sustainable campus environment. Inefficient waste practices can affect public health and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions such as methane. By encouraging proper segregation, recycling, and composting, the university can lower its environmental footprint and progress towards a cleaner and more sustainable campus ecosystem.

Fostride Private Limited, a technology-driven startup incubated at riidl, supports this vision by introducing smart and sustainable waste solutions on campus. Their AI-powered waste sorting machines automatically identify and categorise waste such as plastic, metal and organic materials. This improves segregation accuracy, increases recycling rates and reduces landfill waste, directly contributing to campus sustainability.



In addition to technology, Fostride conducts workshops, demonstrations and awareness campaigns within Somaiya to educate students about responsible waste practices and the importance of sustainability. These initiatives not only make the campus more environmentally responsible but also provide valuable learning opportunities for students interested in AI, robotics and environmental innovation.

Through these efforts, Somaiya campus becomes a living example of how technology and sustainability can work together to create meaningful impact.



- Divisha Vira
7-C, The Somaiya School



- Sanchit Sarawangi
4-B, The Somaiya School



- Demiraa Shah
5-B, The Somaiya School

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

5 Clues, 1 Answer

I was the first person to walk on the Moon
My famous quote includes “one small step”

I was part of Apollo 11

I worked for NASA

I walked on the Moon in 1969

Who am I? _____

I am the largest ocean on Earth
I touch Asia, Australia, North and South America

I contain the Mariana Trench

I cover more than 30% of Earth’s surface

I am deeper than any other ocean

What am I? _____

I was written by J.K. Rowling

I attend Hogwarts

My scar is lightning-shaped

I defeated Voldemort

My best friends are Ron and Hermione

Who am I? _____

I was founded by Jeff Bezos

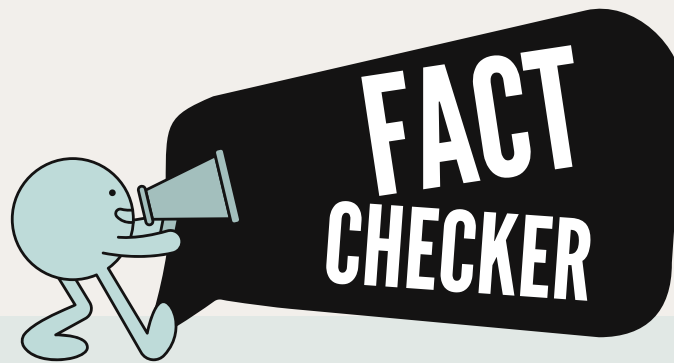
I began as an online bookstore

I dominate e-commerce

I created AWS

My logo has a smile-shaped arrow

What am I? _____



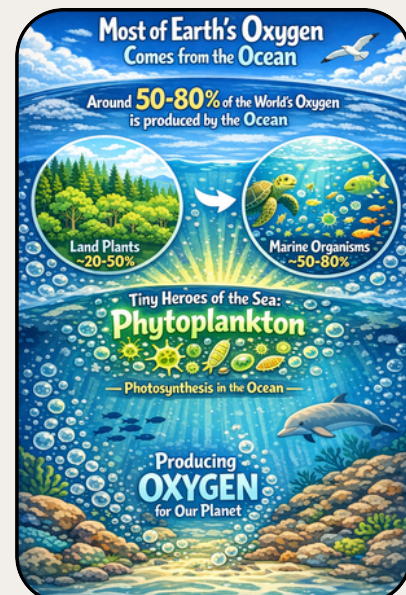
“Your monthly dose of curiosity”

THE GREAT PYRAMID WAS THE TALLEST STRUCTURE FOR 3,800 YEARS
THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA WAS COMPLETED AROUND 2560 BCE AND REMAINED THE TALLEST MAN-MADE STRUCTURE ON EARTH UNTIL 1311 CE.



GIRAFFES HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF NECK BONES AS HUMANS
EVEN THOUGH THEIR NECKS ARE EXTREMELY LONG, GIRAFFES HAVE SEVEN NECK VERTEBRAE THE SAME NUMBER AS HUMANS.

AROUND 50–80% OF THE WORLD'S OXYGEN IS PRODUCED BY MARINE ORGANISMS LIKE PHYTOPLANKTON NOT TREES. THESE MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS USE PHOTOSYNTHESIS JUST LIKE PLANTS ON LAND.



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Know the brains behind Voices!

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