

K.J.SOMAIYA COLLEGE OF ARTS & COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS) MUMBAI -77

CULTURAL FORUM Annual Report 2020-21

The Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts & Commerce (Autonomous) is a medium for the students to traverse their fields of interest and showcase their work and serves as a platform for them to take up new opportunities and practise new skills. The forum, responsible for conducting and managing various events throughout the year, allows the students to gain experience of working and coordinating with diverse groups of people. The forum is a big family which follows a hierarchy consisting of the Cores, the HoDs and the Juniors with an extremely motivating and supporting Teacher's Committee as well. This year, the student committee consisted of 17 cores, 35 HoDs and 98 juniors, a team of 150 people, directed by the Cultural Coordinator Mrs. Meera Venkatesh.

The following is an account of the events and achievements of the year 2020-21:

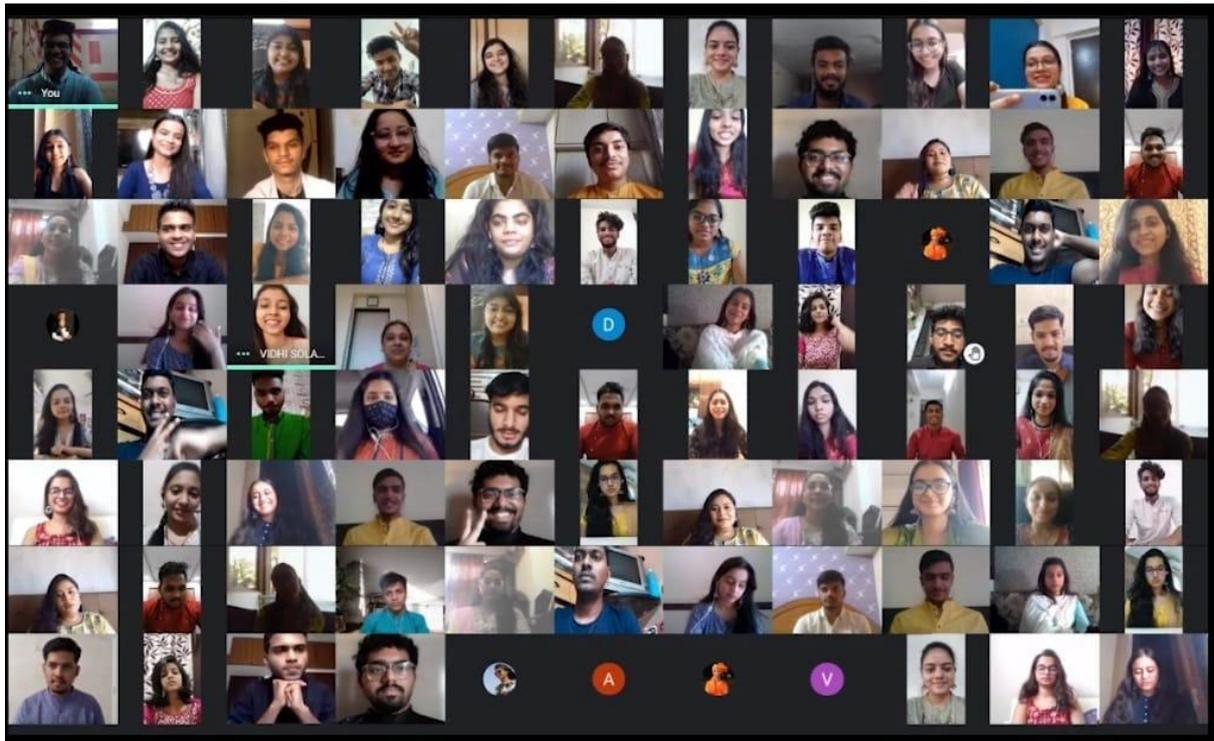
COLLEGE ACTIVITIES:

1) First Official Interaction

On the 5th of December 2020, the Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya college of Arts & Commerce (Autonomous) held its first official online 'Interaction Ceremony' for the academic year 2020-21. The event was attended by the members of the Cultural Forum. Several teachers and ex-cores from the committee graced the event with their presence.

The event was hosted by Sister Nudrat Zia Khan, who commenced the event with a welcome note to all the students and teachers present, along with a brief description of the college and the Cultural Forum. As the tradition of our college goes, the college prayer was sung by Sister Sakshi Gaikwad, followed by a mesmerizing singing performance by Sister Vidhi Jain and a graceful dance performance by Sister Ritika Suvarna. After the performances, the Cultural coordinator of the Cultural Forum, Mrs. Meera Venkatesh expressed her gratitude for being a part of this committee and gave a warm welcome to the fresh faces of the Cultural Forum. Followed by this, she announced the names of the Joint Secretary and General Secretary for the year 2020-21. Brother Mangesh Giri and Sister Shreya Gangal were appointed as the General Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively. The vice principal, Dr Satyawan Hanegave congratulated the newly appointed General Secretary and Joint Secretary and shared a few kind words for the Cultural Forum. The Joint Secretary and the General Secretary shared their experience being a part of the committee and their gratitude for being chosen for the honorary posts.

Even though the event was conducted online, the participants were vibrant, enthusiastic and full of energy! The interactive session was hence concluded with a vote of thanks by Sister Vishakha Dayal and the National Anthem.



First Official Interaction of our Cultural Forum.

2) Teacher's Day

On 5th September 2020, the Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) organized a fun online event for their professors on the occasion of Teacher's Day. The event commenced with a soothing prayer song by Sister Shreya Gangal and set-in motion with Ganesh Vandana, a beautiful dance, presented by Sister Sakshi Gaikwad.

The event moved forward with interactive games where the teachers had an amazing time. Along with all the fun events, a beautiful poetry was presented by Sister Nudrat Zia Khan and a powerful monologue by Brother Parva Vaidya. At the end of the event, the students of the Cultural Forum presented a video as a token of appreciation for their teachers where they thanked them for all that the teachers have done for them.

Though the event was conducted online, the feelings of enthusiasm and happiness were not a bit less! The teachers along with the students had a great time even when miles apart.

3) The Red Dot Challenge:

On the 3rd of June, 2020, the Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) along with the teachers and students, participated in the 'Red Dot Challenge' initiated by UNICEF India for the awareness regarding menstrual health in the Indian society.

Just before the International Menstrual Hygiene Day, celebrated May 28th, UNICEF India launched a unique campaign - The Red Dot Challenge. According to the UNICEF, globally, '2.3 billion people lack basic sanitation services and in Least Developed Countries only 27 per cent of the population has the facility of washing hands with water and soap at home. 'Managing periods at home is a major challenge for women and adolescent girls who lack these basic facilities at home. About half of the

schools in low-income countries lack adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, which is crucial for girls and female teachers to manage their period. These inadequate facilities can affect girls' experience at school, causing them to miss school during their period.

To raise awareness on these issues and encourage good hygiene habits, UNICEF India encouraged social media users to post a picture of a red dot on their palm and express their thoughts about menstruation to end the shaming and stigma associated with it.

The students and teachers of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous), together, put up their selfies with a red dot on their palm and collaborated in an IGTV posted on the official page of Hooper Fest. The IGTV focused on the challenge with a self-written poem by a student member of Culture Forum for making people aware of the struggles and the importance of menstrual hygiene and health.

4) COVID-19 Awareness:

On 22nd April, 2020, the Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) encouraged and motivated people in these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic through an inspiring video. It was posted on the Hooper Fest's official social medias including Facebook and Instagram wherein they related the current stalemate of lives with an evergreen sport that is 'Lagori'.

The video went underway, as they highlighted the fact that just like how an entire team works in perfect co-ordination to build back the pedestal of stones; likewise, must we support each other in order to build back our great nation. Moving on, some of the members paid tribute to certain unsung heroes to whom everyone owes their gratitude like the cleaners, pharmacists to day and night workers like policemen and politicians.

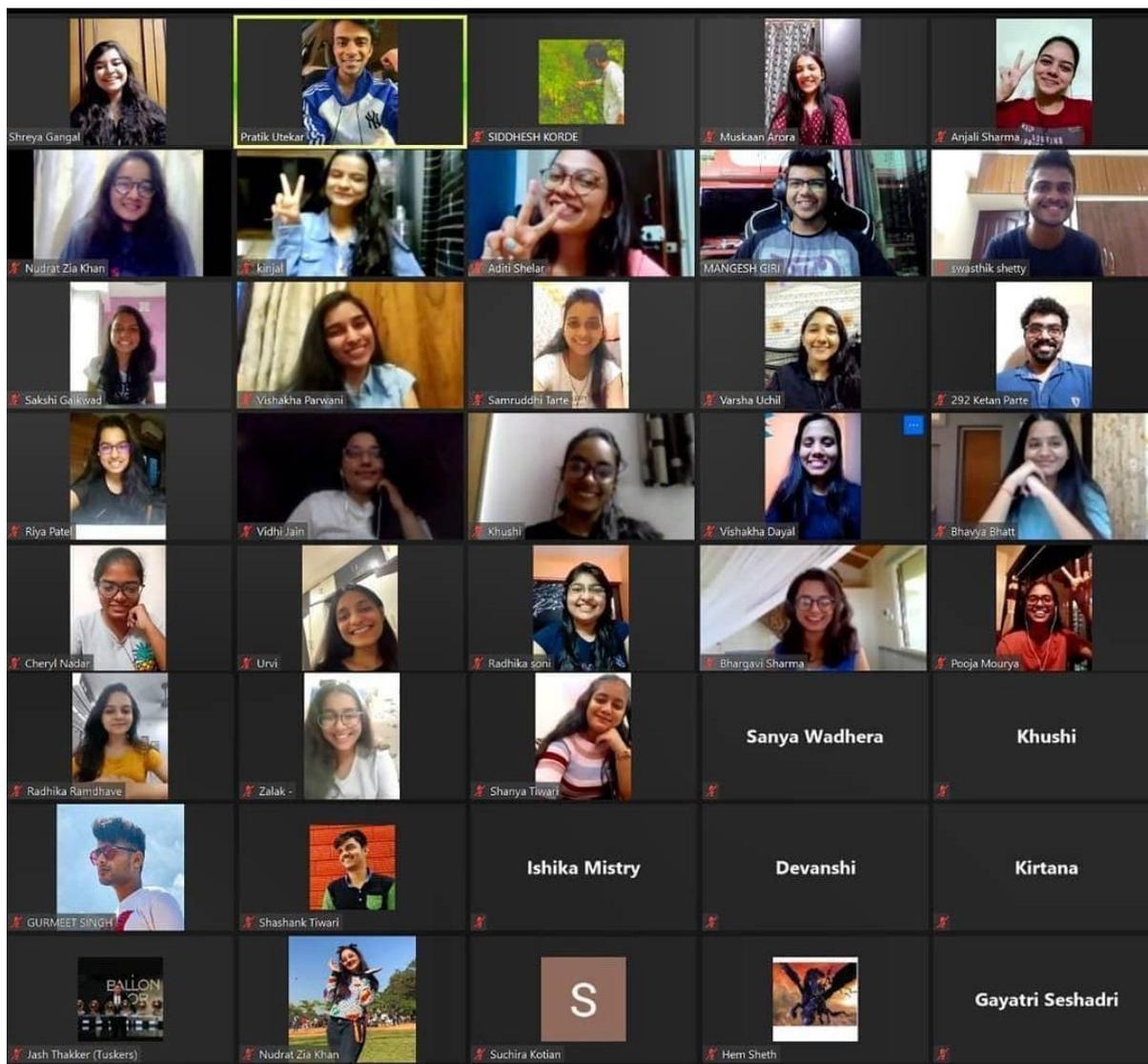
The video reached its climax as in a concluding message the eminent lead figure of Somaiya Vidyavihar Trust, Mr. Samir Somaiya reached out to the viewers by generating a Ketto link, fundraiser portal to contribute anything possible to his humanitarian efforts towards making the Somaiya hospital, a COVID-19 relief haven.

5) Guest Interactions:

The Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) organised various Instagram live sessions with Mr. Priyal Dhuri, Mr. Saurabh Ghadge, Mr. Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh, Miss Tanya Gupta, Miss Sushmita Singh and Miss Neha Kulkarni; all of whom are famous influencers on various social media platforms.

Few of the most anticipated interactions were with Mr. Pratik Utekar, who is a well-known dancer/choreographer, and Mr. Ricky Pond, an international video content creator.

Though the sessions were held online, they were very interactive and informative. The very talented and yet humble speakers shared insights about their journey and also gave the viewers some basic tips about creating content on social media. In all they were a great learning experience for all the students who joined in.



Interaction with special guest Mr. Prateek Utekar.

6) Library Committee event:

On the 3rd February 2021, The Library Committee, in association with IQAC of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous), held a webinar on "Finding Scholarly Literature: Open Access Resources and NLIST". It was a very well oriented session with the very well versed Miss Veena Thakare (Librarian, Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College).

PRE-HOONER ACTIVITIES

1) Sur Malhar:

The Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous), in collaboration with Sur Chaitanya Kala Kendra organized 'Sur Malhar', an online singing competition, giving life to the words, "The clock may stop but the talents won't."

Taking place from 3rd July 2020 to 9th July 2020, 'Sur Malhar' witnessed participation in the spades as almost 30 participants came forward to bring to the limelight, their melodious voices. They were graciously appreciated and judged by Miss Raavigini Deoley and Mr. Gandhar Deshpande, who are nightingales of the music world in their own right. The competition had cash prizes of Rs.1000 and Rs. 500 for the 1st and 2nd winner respectively. The audience also had an opportunity to be part of declaring the victors, as the audience poll played a part in the judging, as well.

The competition came to an astounding climax as Sister Astha Lohar stood above the others, bagging the first prize, followed by the runner-up, Brother Rahul Sarodi. Courtesy of this singing event, participants got a stage to show their talent amidst this pandemic crisis.

2) Artist Assemble:

The Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) organised 'Artist Assemble', an online art competition event, which began on the 18th of June and went on till the 24th of June. The judge of the event was Miss Poulami who is a well known digital content creator with over 19k Instagram followers. The competition showcased the talents of numerous participants of all ages and backgrounds who participated with all they had, gaining a fierce range of participation, even though it was an online event, the competitive spirit could be well felt. The participants put forward their art works like their sketches, painting, and even aesthetic paintings which they all put their heart and souls into. With as much as 70 participants, our judge, Miss Poulami, had a tough decision to make. On the 26th of June, the top 15 along with the winners of the event were announced. The top 15 entries were selected on the basis of likes and comments, but the winners were selected on the basis of sheer talent and were declared by our esteemed judge. The competition concluded with the ultimate triumph of brother Aniket Pawar, winning Rs 1000, followed by runner up brother Shubham Patil, who won Rs 500. Moreover, the work of the participants was so stupendous that the organisers deemed it worthy to upload the top 10 artistic works, based on audience poll, on their official Instagram handle.

3) Taal Malhar:

On the 16th of July, 2020, the Cultural Forum of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) with 'Sur Chaitanya Kala Kendra' organised an online Tabla competition, 'Taal Malhar'. The competition was judged by two well-known Tabla musicians, Mr. Shantanu Mayee and Mr. Yashwant Vaishnav. The event received a good response with almost 20 participants playing melodious tunes. Among all, Brother Pavam Sidam secured 1st position with the prize money Rs. 1000 and Brother Rushikesh Parab as the runner-up with Rs. 500. With successful completion, the winners were also given shout-out on social media by the official Hooper Instagram handle.

4) Nityavishkaar:

On the 1st of September, 2020, the Cultural Forum of KJ Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) with 'Sur Chaitanya Kala Kendra' organised an online Solo Dance competition, 'Nityavishkaar'. The event considered a wide range of dance forms, including Classical/Semi-classical dance and Western dance, for the participants to choose from as their preference. With two esteemed judges Guru Priti Vora, Nari Ratna recipient, and Miss Latika Shriyan, the all-time dancer and choreographer; the competition received over almost 50 participants. Despite the heavy competition, sister Ritika Suvarna won the first prize of Rs. 1000 in Classical/Semi-classical category and sister Riya Chavan also secured 1st prize of Rs. 1000 in Western category.

5) Dropdown:

Every year Hooner is inaugurated with its splendid drop down. This year, the members of the Cultural Forum- the cores, the HoDs and the juniors, made the drop down possible, despite the hurdles faced. They gathered to continue the tradition of the college with Ganesha Aarti leading up to the most awaited moment, the 'Hooner Drop Down'. The drop down was indeed a success and had many fun and interactive games along with it. The juniors and HoDs had a fun Q&A session planned for the cores, making their last drop down a memorable one.



Hooner 2021 dropdown.

HOONER

1) CL Meet:

On 5th of February 2021, the Cultural Forum organized the CL meet where various contingent leaders represented their colleges to participate in our annual fest 'Hooner'. All the college's CLs were allotted their contingent code through a fair lottery system. With successful allotment, almost 25 CLs received their codes. Next up, the HoDs of each department went on to explain every single event to the leaders. A separate window for doubt session was also hosted simultaneously. As the meet progressed, the organizers also hosted some online games and quizzes for the CLs so they could lighten up. With the concluding remarks by our Joint Secretary and General Secretary, the meet ended on a peaceful note.

2) Hooner Fest:

K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous) held its annual cultural fest – 'Hooner' on the 11th, 12th and the 13th of February 2021. The 27th Hooner fest was conducted remarkably on various online platforms. The theme for this year was 'Elysium', a place where everyone finds their happiness and their peace, with the thought of everyone finding their happy place. An inauguration ceremony marking the beginning of the fest was held on the first day, that is, the 11th of February.

Our I/C Principal Dr. Veena Sanekar and Cultural Forum Co-ordinator Mrs. Meera Venkatesh shared a few wise words of encouragement. A Ganapati Aarti was also held on the beginning and end of all three days of the fest to keep the fervour and zest of the students high. Each department – Literary Arts, Fine Arts, Gaming, IT/Photography, Performing Arts and Informals came through with a vast and interesting variety of events even amidst the challenging circumstances.

The Literary Arts Department hosted a group of interesting events across the three days of the fest which were quite a tasteful mixture of this year's theme, Elysium and their specialty – languages. It included a number of varied events based on poetry, writing and oration. 'WordOut', a writing event, was judged by the very talented writers – Miss Vishakha Jadhav and Miss Madhura Kulkarni. 'Poet's Odyssey' was a spoken word poetry event judged by the very talented and encouraging Miss Divya Unny. There were also other events such as 'Bibliomania', 'Greetrivia' - a Greek mythology and literature-based quiz. We also saw the department ending this year's fest with a real adventure – 'A Quest to Elysium', the literary treasure hunt which was an ode to Greek mythology.

The Performing Arts Department had sensational events for this year's online fest. The department organized fascinating events which brought up such melodious and amazing performers. From the singing event 'Velocity Stage' which was judged by Mr Ashu Shukla, to the Mono Act event 'Nautanki', there was much inspiration that could be drawn from each participant as they poured out all their talents. The dancing event 'Beatniks', judged by Miss Eeishika Biswas, was the finest event of this year and the 'Rhythmix Instrumental', a little battle event, left us mesmerized and created a positive aura that lasted throughout the day. Last but not the least, the most thrilling event of Hooner fest i.e., 'Mr and Miss Hooner' which was judged by none other than Sushmita Singh, Miss Teen World' 2019, a great number of participants participated with great potential and enthusiasm.

The Administration and Public Relations department of the Cultural Forum collaborated to form the Informals Department and hosted a series of exciting events this year. Even though all the events were held on digital platforms, the enthusiasm among the participants was no less. Right from Yoga in 'Unite & Sync' to comedy in 'Aap Kahein aur Hum Hasein' and Story-telling in 'Spin a yarn', the participants had a variety of entertainment on their plate. For Bollywood enthusiasts, the Informals department conducted an event called 'Arey Deewano Mujhe Pehchano' which was a major success. Another of their most successful events was 'Paradise Lost' - a Treasure hunt event where various teams competed against each other in search of a treasure. Overall, the events were handled and executed quite smoothly, resulting in a grand success even on virtual ground

The IT/Photography department aced through the festival; their events really brought in the picture-perfect success to the Hooner fest. On the three days of Hooner festival the Photography department hosted events like 'Transitivity' (Transition Video), 'PhotoHunt' which was an indoor hunt- a perfect event and combination of brains and talent. 'Productography' again made the participants capture beauty in the smallest things making it surreal which was judged by Mr. Kunal Borikar. Events like 'Jalwa' (Fashion Photography), 'Light It Up' (Lightroom App Event) had all the editors give out their best. 'Zoom In' judged by Mr. Aakash Patil, 'Flash Your Phone' which was judged by Mr. Avinash, the event truly exhibited the talent the participants nurtured. 'That's the Spirit' (Logo Designing) gave a flawless ending to the events of the department.

The Gaming department kept the participants on their feet throughout all the events. Not only did the events involve sensations of the gaming world, they also had real life challenges in store. 'Inside Edge' was the perfect blend of knowledge and judgement by combining a quiz and an auction. 'One team one goal' and 'Call of Duty' had everyone hooked to their screens and at the edge of their

seats, quite literally! They were no less than a rollercoaster ride thanks to the deadly combination of football and shooting. The last event was a call to everyone out there to get off their couch, after all it was the 'Survival of the fittest'. This event was judged by Mitushi Ajmera, the epitome of fitness and a master of Pilates. It was exhilarating seeing the participants struggle and achieve their new personal best. Events were conducted flawlessly and to say the least, everyone had a great time.

The Fine Arts department conducted several remarkable events for the fest and had a talented bunch of people performing. The creative events organized by the department included 'Think in Pixels' which was a graphic art designing competition judged by Mr. Shatanik Nayak who is a learned freelance designer, 'Soul's Food' which was a Mehendi making competition judged by Mrs. Mamta Tendulkar ma'am from the Fine Arts department and 'Ringlet Treasures' which was a mandala making competition judged by Miss Ankita Shah who is a gifted artist. There were a few events that were solely dedicated to painting. The events comprised 'Mask On!' which was a mask painting competition, an essential for the world we live in today, judged by Miss Avani Gadhia who is self-employed in Avani Gadhia Art as an art instructor, 'Paint Saint' which was a face painting competition judged by Mr. Mayuresh Mule from the teacher's committee and 'Painter's Paradise' which was a classic painting competition judged by Mr. Vishvajeet Chauhan whose name is taken amongst some of the new age artists.

This year, Hooner aced through it all with amazing sponsors. Our major sponsors were Landmark Official, Bank of India and Central Bank of India.



In all, 20 colleges participated in Hooper '21. They included K J Somaiya Junior College of Arts & Commerce, K J Somaiya College of Science and Commerce, S K Somaiya Degree College of Arts & Commerce, SIES College (Nerul Campus), NMIMS College (Juhu), B K Birla College of Arts, Science & Commerce (Kalyan), Valia College of Arts, Commerce & Science (Andheri), Guru Nanak Khalsa College of Arts, Science & Commerce (Matunga), DY Patil College, KBP College, M D Paul College, Mulund College of Commerce (Mulund), MSG SGKM College (Ghatkopar), St. Paul Institute (Bandra), Thakur College (Kandivali), Don Bosco College, D.G. Ruparel College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Matunga West), Burhani College (Mazagaon), Maharani College and The SIA College Of Higher Education (Dombivli).

Being one of its kind, this year's online Hooper '21 was a huge success. The newly brewed ideas, the hard work and the dedication of the involved students and teachers brought together an amazing fest.

INTER-COLLEGE PARTICIPATION

The college participated in many inter college fests in the academic year 2019-20. The list is as follows:

Name of the fest	Host College	CLs	ACLs
Kshitij	Mithibai	Shashank Tiwari	Hritik Bhute
Nandi	HR	Hemanth Thiyagarajan	Gurmeet Singh Sahota
Visions	SIES	Gayatri Seshadri	Parva Vaidya
Kiran	KC	Sayam Jain	Vishakha Dayal
Taarangan	Thakur	Shraddha Gunjal	Aditya Pradhan
Enigma	Podar	Aditi Shelar	Vishakha Parwani Sumit Somaiya
Bombay Business Conclave	NMIMS	Varad Chandrana	Jash Thakker
Finanza	Mithibai	Sripad Totala	Abhay Dubey
Dimensions	Kelkar	Vidhi Agrawal	Radhika Ramdhare
Utkarsh	S K Somaiya	Alefiyah Ranijiwala	Viraj Maiseri
Udyojak	D G Ruparel	Omkar Bandivdekar	-
Gandharva	Bedekar	Gurmeet Singh Sahota	Sarika Tiwari
Kani	Jai Hind	Neil Gracias	Shreya Shriyan
Olé	Wilson	Ketan Parte	Smit Visariya
Youth Fest	Mumbai University	Arzoo Uchil	Sakshi Gaikwad Lakshit Furia

Due to a wonderful performance by the contingent as a whole, our college has been awarded the honours listed below:

Fest Name	Prizes
Enigma	First Contingent Best CL
Visions	Best Contingent
Dimensions	First runner-up
Bombay Business Conclave	Third Best College



Enigma: First Contingent trophy



Visions: Best Contingent Leader trophy.



Our I/C Principal Dr. Veena Sanekar, Vice Principal Dr. Satyawan Hanegave and Cultural Forum Coordinator Mrs. Meera Vankatesh. With the Winner and Runner Up trophies along with our mega sponsor Landmark Official merchandise.