

ALUMNI Speak



Rasika Deshpande

**Deputy Editor | Entertainment
Journalist | Marketing Lead**

Rasika Deshpande is currently the Deputy Editor at the leading entertainment news agency IANS – Indo-Asian News Service. She has previously worked at a managerial level with prominent media platforms such as The Times of India and Pinkvilla. In addition to her editorial role, she also heads Marketing at Saffron Magicwork Productions, the production house behind notable films like Dabangg 3 and Veere Di Wedding.

A passionate practitioner of Indian classical arts, Rasika has been trained in Kathak, Rabindra Nritya, and Semi-Classical dance for over 25 years. She has proudly represented India on international platforms, including performing on the UNESCO stage, showcasing India's cultural heritage to global audiences.

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Aditya Kumar (Batch 2016)

**Business Strategy & Operations /
Founder's Associate**

Aditya Kumar graduated from S M Shetty High School in 2016 and went on to pursue his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from BITS Pilani, completing it in 2023. After preparing for JEE and securing admission into engineering, he began his career at a consulting firm, where he built strong skills in business strategy and operations.

He later joined a fintech startup as a Founder's Associate, contributing to growth, strategic planning, and execution across key verticals. Passionate about the consulting ecosystem, Aditya enjoys working at the intersection of technology, finance, and innovation, constantly seeking new challenges and learning opportunities.

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Kushal Gupta (Batch 2016)

**Entrepreneur | EV Battery
Manufacturing | Rifle Shooting State
Gold Medallist**

Kushal Gupta, an alumnus of S M Shetty High School, is an entrepreneur with a strong passion for technology, manufacturing, and sustainability. He leads SPG LiFe, a Mumbai-based company that has emerged as a prominent name in EV battery manufacturing. Kushal joined the company's Board at the age of 24, shortly after graduating from Babson University, marking a remarkable early milestone in his career.

A state gold medallist In rifle shooting, Kushal credits the inclusive and encouraging environment at S.M. Shetty for nurturing his curiosity, confidence, and leadership qualities. He believes the school's focus on holistic development and real-world learning built the foundation for the way he learns, leads, and grows today.

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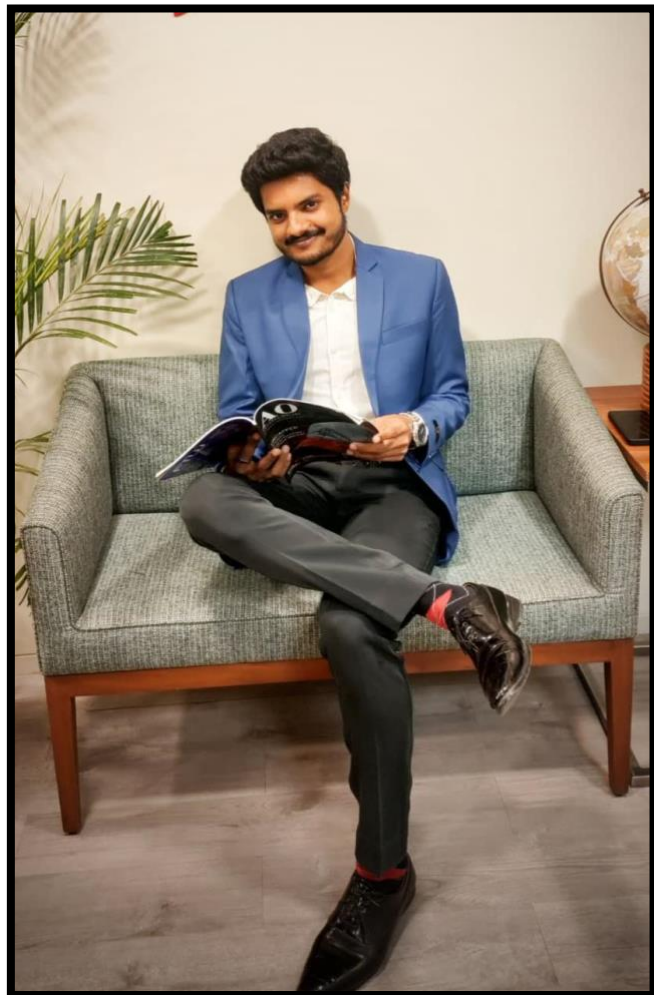
Aakanksha Apte

**Digital Marketing & Customer
Experience – Pharmaceutical
Industry**

Aakanksha Apte works in the pharmaceutical industry, where she blends creativity and purpose through digital marketing and customer experience initiatives. With a background in biomedical science, she brings together scientific understanding and empathy in every project she undertakes.

Aakanksha credits S M Shetty School for the values, encouragement, and confidence that shaped her journey. She proudly carries those lessons with her each day grateful to be part of a legacy that continues to inspire who she is and how she works.

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Shubham Sanghrajka (Batch 2016–2017)

Senior Manager – Strategy & Operations | Entrepreneur

Shubham Sanghrajka is currently the Senior Manager – Strategy and Operations at StylGROUP, where he leads strategic initiatives, drives operational efficiency, and supports business growth across multiple verticals. Previously, he was part of the Founder’s Office at Praxis Global Alliance, contributing to high-impact strategic projects across industries such as financial services, technology, and consumer goods.

An entrepreneur at heart, Shubham founded MyCoach, a wellness startup focused on personalized fitness experiences. He holds a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from NMIMS and has represented Maharashtra at the national level in football.

Beyond work, Shubham is passionate about trekking and has successfully summited over 28 peaks across India.

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Aditi Prakash (Batch 2018)

Business Consultant | Economics & Statistics Graduate

Aditi is a proud alumna of the 2018 batch. She completed her double major in Economics and Statistics from St. Xavier's College. She began her professional journey with PwC in 2023 and is currently working with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where she contributes to business consulting engagements for leading organizations.

She credits S M Shetty School for nurturing a strong foundation of discipline, confidence, and curiosity qualities that continue to guide her academic and professional journey.

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Arnika Sakpal (Batch 2020–2021)

**Anchor | Dancer | Model |
Theatre Performer**

I am a proud alumna of SM Shetty High School and Junior College, batch 2020–2021.

I was honoured to be crowned “Maharashtra Times Shrovan Queen Mumbai 2024,” one of the state’s most prestigious beauty pageants celebrating talent, intelligence, and poise a milestone that continues to inspire my artistic journey.

My career as an anchor, dancer, model, and theatre performer has been shaped by the strong foundation laid during my school years. With the guidance and encouragement of my teachers, I have anchored and danced at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, performed at NMACC and NCPA, and showcased my theatre skills in Bhopal. I am also completing my Visharad in Kathak and Bharatnatyam, further enriching my artistic expression and discipline.

I continue to pursue acting and modelling professionally and remain deeply grateful to my alma mater for nurturing my growth and inspiring me to achieve with confidence and grace.

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Mehul Nor (Batch 2017–18)
Entrepreneur | Importer |
Professional Hairstylist

Mehul Nor is an entrepreneur in the wholesale and import business of fashion imitation jewellery, supplying across India and internationally. Alongside his business journey, Mehul is also a certified professional hairstylist from Lakmé, achieving a remarkable milestone at a young age.

At just 16 years old, he became the youngest hairstylist in India to receive an A-grade certification from Lakmé, a testament to his skill, dedication, and passion.

From building a business to mastering a creative craft, Mehul continues to grow as a multi-talented professional, driven by ambition and continuous learning.

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**Dr. Neelkamal
Ganesh Battu
(Batch 2013)**

**Dentist | Forensic
Odontologist**

It has been a decade since I left school, yet it still feels like yesterday. Our teachers would often say, “One day, you’ll be so occupied with life that you won’t have time to look back.” Little did I know how true that would be.

The concepts and values taught at SM Shetty became the foundation of my academic journey, helping me excel in competitive exams and navigate higher education with confidence. When your roots are strong, you can reach great heights—and that is exactly what my school gave me. The humility, discipline, and values instilled by my teachers continue to guide every decision I make.

This note would be incomplete without thanking the teachers who shaped my journey. Whatever I have achieved in life, I owe to my alma mater.

ALUMNI Speak



**Kimiksha Singh (Batch
2020-21)**

**Martial Artist | Psychology
Student | Kickboxing
Coach**

A Martial Artist and psychology student whose journey began at SM Shetty High School in Grade 7. The school nurtured my confidence, discipline, and belief in myself.

I have represented SM Shetty at multiple levels, winning:

2 Gold medals at the International Karate Championship, Dubai (2018)

1 Gold & 1 Silver at the WAKO International Kickboxing Championship (2019)

Bronze medal at the State Level DSO Championship

Currently, I am pursuing psychology and continue to stay connected with my alma mater as a kickboxing coach. My students have represented the school at DSO for two consecutive years, bringing home medals—making me incredibly proud.

Discipline, dedication, and the support of my school and mentors have shaped my journey.

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Smruti Tawde (Batch of 2018–19)

Current Position: Relationship Manager

Organization: Godrej Properties Limited

I am currently working as a Relationship Manager at Godrej Properties Limited, where I have been contributing for the past two years. In my role, I manage a portfolio of premium clients in the post-sales phase, ensuring seamless customer experience and satisfaction. My key responsibilities include maintaining strong client relationships, overseeing collection processes, and driving customer delight through enhanced Net Promoter Score (NPS) outcomes.

My journey has been a blend of learning, growth, and meaningful interactions, and I am grateful for the strong foundation my institution has given me.

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Mahi Singhvi (Batch 2024–2025)

Actor | Dancer | Model

**Currently studying in Grade 11 at
Mithibai College of Arts (2025–26)**

I am an Actor, Dancer, and Model, actively working in the entertainment industry. I have been a part of various dance shows and have performed supporting and cameo roles in television serials. I am continuously exploring new opportunities and attending auditions to expand my experience in the field.

Balancing academics and passion, I am currently pursuing my 11th standard at Mithibai College of Arts, while working towards building a strong career in acting and performing arts.

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Sanket Battu (Batch 2016)

Sports Scientist | Strength & Conditioning Specialist

I have completed my Bachelor in Legal Sciences, LL.B, along with a Bachelor's degree in Sports and Exercise Science. Driven by my passion for human performance and athletic development, I have also earned professional certifications including NSCA-CSCS and ASCA Level 1 Strength & Conditioning.

I am currently in the final semester of my M.Sc. in Sports and Exercise Science and working as a Sports Scientist at the Centre for Sports Medicine, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. In my role, I design and monitor high-performance training as well as return-to-play rehabilitation programs for professional athletes across multiple sports disciplines.

My journey reflects a blend of academic rigor, passion for sports, and commitment to helping athletes perform at their highest potential.

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Harshita Nagesh Dhongdi (Batch 2021–2022)

Model | Actor

I am a proud alumna of Bunts Sangha's S M Shetty High School (Batch 2021–22). I am currently pursuing a professional career in modelling and acting. The confidence, discipline, and values I carry into my work today were firmly built during my time at school.

I am sincerely grateful to all my teachers and mentors for their constant guidance and encouragement. Their belief in me continues to inspire both my personal growth and professional journey. It is always an honour to stay connected with the institution that helped shape who I am today.

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Akshat Jain (Batch 2020–2021)

**Actor | Content Creator |
Performer**

I am Akshat Jain, an Actor, Content Creator, and Performer who has been passionate about the stage since the 6th grade. Over the years, I have explored diverse platforms—stage, digital media, and film—to express my creativity and storytelling.

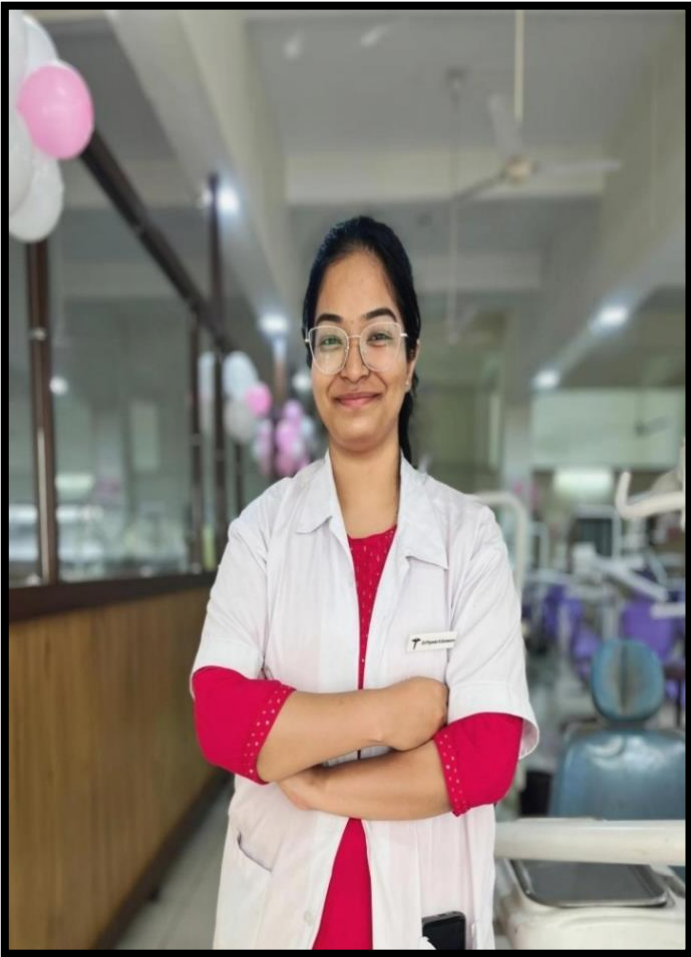
Creator of the YouTube channel “Akshatainment” with 100K+ lifetime views

Active digital presence: Instagram – @akshatainment

I am currently in my Final Year of Journalism at Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (SCMC), Pune, where I continue to refine my craft and explore new performance avenues.

My journey has been shaped by constant learning, passion, and the encouragement of those who believed in me. I look forward to creating work that entertains, inspires, and leaves a lasting impact

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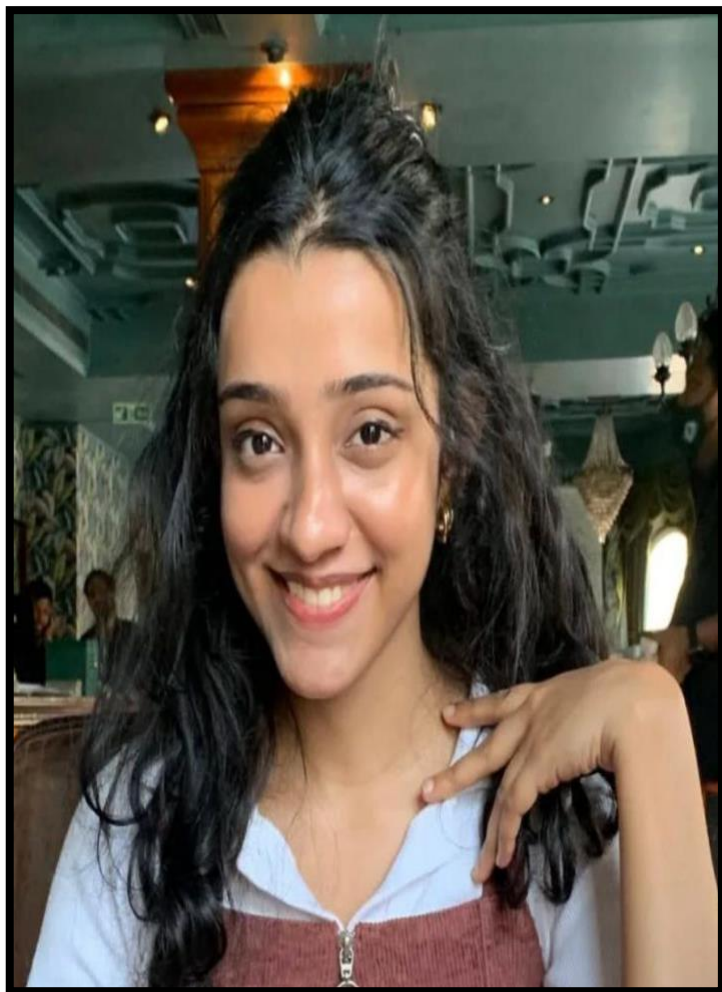


Dr. Priyanka Sonawane
(Batch 2016–17)
Dental Surgeon

I am a proud alumna of S M Shetty High School and Junior College. I have completed my Bachelor's in Dental Surgery (BDS) and am currently practising at a trust clinic, where I continue to refine my clinical expertise and contribute to improving patient care. Driven by a strong passion for dentistry and community service, I strive to make quality oral healthcare accessible while continuously enhancing my practical skills.

With a commitment to further learning and specialization, I aim to pursue my Master's in Dental Surgery (MDS) and advance into performing specialized dental procedures. I am deeply grateful to my school for instilling in me the values of perseverance, compassion, and dedication qualities that continue to shape both my professional journey and personal growth.

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Anushka Jha (Batch 2016–2017)

Senior Correspondent – afaqs!

If you ask any teacher from S.M. Shetty about me, they'll probably smile and say, "the chatterbox." I studied here from Grade 1 to 10, and while I wasn't the most conventional student, I was always the one volunteering for assemblies, competitions, and anything that involved a mic.

In Grade 10, during a career counselling session, media was suggested as a career path—and it just clicked. I loved talking, writing, and asking questions, and that passion led me to journalism.

Today, I work as a Senior Correspondent at afaqs!, a digital news portal covering marketing, advertising, media, and business. Every day feels like a bigger version of those school assignments—just with tighter deadlines.

I'm still growing, still learning, and getting closer to where I want to be. A big part of that confidence began at S.M. Shetty.

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**Sakshi Gaikwad (Batch
2016–2017)**

Art Director – FCB India

Even as a child, colours and shapes intrigued me more than numbers. School might have focused on academics, but it's where I first discovered the excitement of creating sketching, doodling, designing, and letting imagination take the lead. What began with diagrams and posters slowly grew into a passion for visual storytelling.

Today, I work as an Art Director at FCB India, one of the world's leading advertising agencies, where I bring ideas to life for brands like Mahindra. I create visuals that shape brand stories, spark conversations, and leave an impact. With imagination as my guide and AI as a creative partner, I continue chasing the same joy I felt as a kid turning ideas into visuals that connect and inspire.

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**Janhavi Chavan (Batch
2016–2017)**

**People & Culture Assistant
– Hilton Foods UK**

I'm Janhavi Chavan, currently working as a People and Culture Assistant at Hilton Foods UK. I completed my MSc in Organisational Psychology from the University of Manchester, where I was awarded a partial scholarship.

In my role, I support the full employee lifecycle for nearly 1,000 colleague from onboarding and development to engagement and wellbeing initiatives. It's a dynamic and rewarding environment, with constant opportunities to learn and contribute.

Transitioning from India to the UK has been a big change here, work-life balance and personal growth are truly valued. This journey has helped me become more adaptable, empathetic, and people-focused in my professional approach.

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Moeez Khan (Batch 2016–2017)

Mechanical Engineer | Marine & Offshore Design Experience

I've always been fascinated by science especially machines and math. Being a topper in both, everyone expected me to aim for IIT... and that expectation still hasn't left me! I completed my Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Rizvi College and worked at Vedam Design, a marine and offshore engineering solutions firm in Mumbai, where I turned my love for design and problem-solving into real-world engineering experience.

I am currently on a short sabbatical, preparing for higher studies and yes, still chasing the IIT dream. Some dreams (and jokes) never get old.