

CATALYST

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A beautiful reunion with SPJIMR Abhyudaya: A day of nostalgia and giving back

"What a refreshing and nostalgic experience it was to reconnect with my seniors, juniors, and our ever-supportive educators at the SPJIMR Abhyudaya reunion! The entire day was filled with joy, laughter, and an outpouring of love as we reminisced about our cherished memories. From dance performances to music and skits, it truly felt like reliving the golden moments once again.

What made this reunion even more special was the opportunity to learn and grow through the stories and actions of others. A heartfelt thanks to Arati Nagaraj ma'am for inspiring us with the simple yet powerful concept of donation. She helped us understand how something as simple as donating old books, clothes, and other useful items can make a significant impact on our community and beyond. I am proud to be part of this beautiful initiative and excited to contribute to this meaningful campaign. It's a small step for us but a giant leap in spreading kindness and helping those in need. ❤️

Let's all be a part of this change. Support the Abhyudaya donation drive and make a difference!"

LinkedIn post by **Anita Dhangar, Sitara alumni**



Abhyudaya Green Games 2025: Mentorship in motion

By: **Tanay Ranjan**, PGDM 2024-26



The 2025 edition of the Green Games, held on January 12, was a spectacle to behold, featuring 360 mentor-mentee pairs engaging in five thrilling events designed to test their physical and mental capabilities while forging unforgettable memories. For the Sitaras, the Green Games offer a golden opportunity to use the impressive infrastructure provided by SPJIMR and embark on a wonderful journey of overcoming challenges, showcasing talents, and fostering deeper connections with their mentors.

One of the most memorable activities for me was the hula-hoop challenge, where teams of 20 had to manoeuvre the hoop across a huddle without breaking contact. This activity, along with solving riddles in a spirited round of Bingo and dancing with our Sitaras—regardless of our two-left-feet moments—strengthened the bond between our Sitaras and us, their 'didis' and 'bhaiyas'.

I was amused to see that the Sitaras did not miss any opportunity to chuck balls at us during dodgeball or pull the rug from under their mentors during the tug-of-war games. The day was filled with laughter, teamwork, and camaraderie and was truly one to remember. I feel that the bonds formed here, nurtured through shared experiences and challenges make Green Games more than just an event; it's a chapter in the SPJIMR story that we will cherish forever.

Ultimately, the Green Games are a testament to the spirit of SPJIMR—a community where learning goes hand-in-hand with living, and every experience becomes a stepping stone to greater understanding and connection.

[Read Tanay's blog](#)

Parents' meet: Health, exams, and growth



A parents' meeting and a tuberculosis (TB) awareness session were held for Sitaras and their families to address rising TB cases. Led by a medical expert, the session emphasised recognising early

symptoms, prevention measures, and treatment options. Parents shared their concerns about the upcoming board exams and we discussed strategies to support the Sitaras at home during this

critical time. They were also informed about the upcoming summer camp and the importance of their children participating in this enriching experience.



Chamakta Sitara Weekend classes, lifelong impact

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Abhyudaya broadened my perspective and made me realise that life extends far beyond the walls of a classroom. Despite having to wake up early on Sundays, weekend classes with activities such as communication, science, painting, football, and music, made it worthwhile.

Ninad Waingankar

Ninad joined Abhyudaya in 2012 when he was in Year 7. At the time, he was excelling academically and enjoying school life.

One of the most impactful aspects of Abhyudaya was its mentoring program. Ninad's mentors provided him with invaluable insights into life and career choices. Many of them continue to inspire and support him even today.

"I was fortunate to receive an opportunity to attend the Global Youth Leadership Summit 2016 in the USA through Abhyudaya. This experience further shaped my journey, eventually leading me to get involved with Lions Clubs and later joined the Leo Club."

Ninad studied in a Marathi-medium school, and everything was going smoothly until he was unexpectedly transferred to a convent school, where the medium of instruction changed to semi-English/English.

"I remember being very upset about this decision, especially because I wasn't informed in advance. I missed my old school, my friends, and the familiar environment. However, thanks to Abhyudaya's weekend classes, I was able to adapt quickly. Many students struggle with the language barrier and find it difficult to grasp subjects when transitioning from

high school to junior college, especially in science streams. Looking back, I now realise that changing schools was an underrated yet life-changing decision—one that I was too young to fully understand at the time."

Ninad attributes his success in junior college and his ability to pursue engineering to being forced to change schools, which turned English into an asset.

He completed his Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Telecommunication and joined Infineon in 2022. After working for over two years in the semiconductor industry in Bengaluru, he decided to pursue a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering and IT from OVGU Magdeburg, Germany.

"I made this decision because I believe that having in-depth knowledge of the industry you work in is essential for long-term success. Pursuing a master's degree after gaining work experience has given me a clearer perspective on the field and its practical applications."

Ninad's goal is to successfully complete his master's degree while enhancing his skills and expertise in the embedded domain.

Aligned with the UN SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), SPJIMR's Abhyudaya is a community-based organisation that provides mentoring and holistic after-school education to bright, underprivileged children (Sitaras = Stars), from low-income neighbourhoods in Mumbai's K-West ward so that they become independent and the schools and community around them improve.

To donate to Abhyudaya, write to abhyudaya@spjmr.org or visit our website www.spjmr.org

