

In this newsletter...

- Hastantaran 2025: Jashn-e-Sitara
- Design Thinking in our community schools
- Reflections by PGDM ADMAP Committee
 - From mentoring to event management: A journey of growth
 - Lessons beyond the classroom
- Chamakta Sitara

Hastantaran 2025: *Jashn-e-Sitara*

Hastantaran, meaning “handing over,” marks the beginning of SPJIMR PGDM participants' year-long mentorship journey. On August 11, 2025, the auditorium was filled with 362 mentors who took over responsibility from their seniors and connected with 362 Sitaras.



This year's Hastantaran theme, 'Jashn-e-Sitara', came alive in the first meeting between mentors and Sitaras—a day filled with heartfelt moments, ice-breaking games, and the sharing of dreams and aspirations. The event set the stage for a year of learning, growth, and lasting bonds.

Speaking on the occasion, Arati Nagaraj, Director, Abhyudaya SPJIMR said, “Sapne sabke hote hain.... bas mauka chahiye.” (Everyone has dreams; they just need an opportunity.)

[Read More](#)

Design Thinking in our community schools

In collaboration with Curiosity Gym, Abhyudaya is conducting a Design Thinking programme in 20 K-West ward schools. Around 30 students from each school are being trained in the Design Thinking process to identify real-world challenges and build rapid prototypes for a showcase.

The students showcased creativity and problem-solving through innovative prototypes such as a Heavy Bag solution, Smart Bench, Ocean and Beach Cleaning Robot, Flood Control Dam model, Road Cleaning Robot, and AI-enabled Smart Glasses for the visually impaired.

The program highlights how empathy, creativity, and technology can come together to design impactful solutions for society and the environment.



Reflections by PGDM ADMAP Committee

The Assessment and Development of Managerial and Administrative Potential (ADMAP) is a unique immersive experience pioneered by SPJIMR. It enables participants to develop their administrative capabilities and management skills experientially. This two-credit course instils in the participant the core principles of self-learning and self-management through the prism of doing, observing, reflecting, and recording.

Abhyudaya has 16 students dedicated to this each year. We will be highlighting their reflections each month.

From mentoring to event management: A journey of growth

Rutuja Ghaisas, PGDM 2024-26

“Abhyudaya was one of the key aspects that stood out to me about SPJIMR while applying, and fortunately, I had the opportunity to be part of this committee. The journey was filled with many memories. I enjoyed mentoring and helping others with their studies, and this is exactly what I was able to do here through the non-classroom learning (NCL) activity. My Sitara Priyanka Gaikwad, was very kind and sweet. We bonded quickly, and she showed great resilience in facing challenges, always carrying her lovely smile.

As a member of the ADMAP committee, it was equally rewarding to work with



such a lively team. We had a great time planning and conducting the three major events: 'Hastantaran', 'Walk in the Shoes' of mentors, and 'Green Games'. These experiences were not always easy, but they taught me a great deal about teamwork, event management, and overcoming challenges.

Lessons beyond the classroom

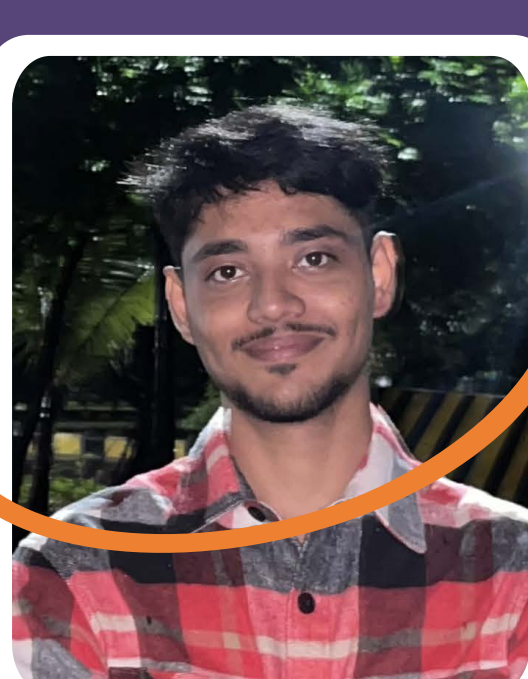
Soham Musib, PGDM 2024-26

“Right from the day the ADMAP committee results were announced, it was an entirely new experience for me. Our first major event was 'Hastantaran', and hosting it was one of my most significant learning experiences at SPJIMR. I felt blessed to work with my ADMAP team through the ups and downs of this journey—whether it was listening to the complaints of my fellow batchmates or hearing the positive feedback they shared about Abhyudaya.

However, the main highlight of this journey was witnessing and learning from our Sitaras—how hardworking and determined they were in pursuing their goals. Hearing about the challenges they faced in their daily lives and discussing how we could help mitigate them, along with planning events to make their visits to SPJIMR more enjoyable, was incredibly inspiring.



Lastly, I would like to thank Arati ma'am, Dipali ma'am, and all the Abhyudaya committee members for making this experience even more delightful.”



Chamakta Sitara

Knowledge. Confidence. Belief.

Nooruddin Kamruddin Shaikh



“These experiences reminded me that true growth lies not just in grades, but in exploring different dimensions of who you are.”

For Nooruddin, Abhyudaya gave him three priceless gifts — knowledge, confidence, and belief. Knowledge that sharpened his abilities, confidence that helped him to express himself, and belief that his dreams were valid and achievable.

“Today, I carry all of this forward with gratitude. I am not just someone they helped; I am a Sitara. And the light they helped me find within myself will continue to guide me throughout my life.”

Nooruddin entered Abhyudaya as a curious young student with big dreams but limited means. What he found here was not just financial assistance, but a nurturing environment that helped him grow in ways he had never imagined. Abhyudaya exposed him to opportunities he did not even know existed — from competitive exams such as NTSE, Homi Bhabha, and MSCIT, to specialised coaching that sharpened his academic foundation.

Through summer camps and weekend sessions, Nooruddin was introduced to a variety of activities — yoga that calmed his mind, chess that taught him strategy, calligraphy and Warli painting that sparked his creativity, and even origami and computer classes that enhanced his skills.

A turning point came when Nooruddin was introduced to Vedic Mathematics. Fascinated, he attended multiple workshops, eventually compiling different tricks and techniques into a book — which Abhyudaya supported him to write and publish!

“They called us Sitara — stars. And that name wasn't just symbolic; they truly saw the light in us and helped us shine.”

The personal mentorship he received each year was life-changing. Mentors did not just guide him aca-

demically; they visited his home, understood his struggles, and helped him find practical solutions.

“This personal care built resilience in me and taught me that no problem is too big when you have the right support system. I even remember all my mentors' names — Niles bhaiya, Akash bhaiya, and Mayank bhaiya.”

As the eldest child, Nooruddin often felt the weight of responsibility towards his younger siblings and parents. At home, the focus was on survival rather than long-term planning. He knew he wanted to achieve something meaningful — but the road ahead seemed uncertain and overwhelming.

“I remember my first HTML class at Abhyudaya. It was there that I discovered the world of computers. That class sparked a love for technology, a curiosity to learn more, and eventually led me to become a software engineer.”

Today, Nooruddin works as a Senior Software Developer at US Bank (through Wipro) as a full-stack developer. Alongside his professional career, he has also embarked on an entrepreneurial journey as a co-founder of a digital start-up focused on cybersecurity. Soon, he will launch a free, open internship portal accessible to students across domains — including data science, machine learning, cybersecurity, front-end and back-end development, and mobile app development. His vision is to create a platform where learning and opportunities are democratised, enabling students from any background to access quality exposure and skills to grow.

Looking ahead, he aspires to advance his career in the field of Artificial Intelligence, shaping the future of technology and humanity.

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 income 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@spjimr.org or visit our website www.spjimr.org

