

In this newsletter...

- Honouring a visionary Principal
- SPJIMR's 'own' joins the Sitara family
- Why mentorship holds the key to India's future leaders
- Reflections by PGDM ADMAP Committee
 - An enriching journey of teamwork, leadership, and impact
 - Hands-on leadership and empathy in action
- Chamakta Sitara

Honouring a visionary Principal

An inspiring educator and visionary leader, Ananya Pandya has dedicated over 23 years to shaping young minds and transforming Shree Ram Welfare Society's High School in Andheri. A passionate lifelong learner and prospective Ph.D. scholar in social-emotional-ethical learning, she blends innovation, holistic development, and strong values in education.

Her leadership has earned the school multiple state and district awards, modern infrastructure, and pioneering student well-being programmes. Honoured with the State Level 'Best Teacher Award' by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, she continues to champion character building and quality education for all.



On her retirement, Abhyudaya Sitaras from Shree Ram Welfare felicitated her. In this interview, Mrs. Pandya shared her collaboration with Abhyudaya and her vision for schools.

[Watch video](#)

SPJIMR's 'own' joins the Sitara family

Gauri Vijay Sawant, daughter of SPJIMR security guard Vijay Sawant, became a Sitara this year. Gauri is in class 7 at Gyan Sikshan Bhavan, Shri I.J. Patel High School, a Marathi-medium and semi-English school. As a pre-Sitara, Gauri was among the top performers in her class and achieved 100% attendance for the year. At Hasantaran 2025, she received her first mentor, Harsh Karandikar, and both look forward to beginning this journey together.

Gauri's father recently joined École Mondiale Group World School as a security guard,



while her mother works as a domestic worker. Abhyudaya looks forward to growing together with Gauri and her family.

Why mentorship holds the key to India's future leaders

Arati Nagaraj, Director of Abhyudaya at SPJIMR, shares her perspective on why mentorship is vital for shaping India's future leaders. She notes that mentorship goes beyond offering advice — it builds resilience, nurtures confidence, and instils values that prepare individuals to lead with empathy and purpose.

[Read more](#)

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.

An enriching journey of teamwork, leadership, and impact

Sugata Mondal, PGDM 2024-26

“Since joining the Abhyudaya committee in July 2024, the experience has been immensely enriching and transformative. Working alongside a talented and dedicated team has been both inspiring and rewarding.

Collaborating closely with the Abhyudaya office, we worked tirelessly to organise every event on the Abhyudaya calendar with enthusiasm and precision. This journey has taught me valuable lessons in teamwork, effective collaboration, and leadership — particularly when managing and coordinating large groups. These



challenges and milestones have contributed significantly to my personal and professional growth, and along the way, I have made lasting friendships and memories.”

Hands-on leadership and empathy in action

Chamala Vaishnavi Jayashankar
PGDM 2024-26

“Being part of the Abhyudaya committee has been an immensely rewarding experience. I was grateful for the chance to make a difference in our Sitara's lives and learn alongside them. Each activity was a meaningful exchange of ideas, fostering mutual growth. Arati ma'am's supportive guidance allowed us to take the lead in organising events, providing hands-on experience in logistics and administration. This opportunity strengthened my skills and deepened my understanding of empathy and collaboration. I cherished the joy of contributing to this cause and the invaluable lessons it has offered me.”



Chamakta Sitara

Breaking barriers:
From Sitara to
global engineer!

“

As a child, I knew one thing clearly — education was the only way to change our condition.”

Tejaswini Tanaji Pawar

Tejaswini started her journey as a Sitaras when she was in class 7. A girl with low confidence, weak English skills, and unsure about her future, mentorship and Sunday classes helped her to overcome these challenges. Along the way, she also discovered a passion for drawing.

“Each activity pushed me to think differently, develop new skills, and believe in myself. At Abhyudaya, we were lovingly called ‘Sitaras’ — stars. This name carried a deep meaning: that we were meant to shine bright in this competitive world and stand strong, no matter the challenges.”

Tejaswini was the only child of parents who worked hard to make ends meet. Her father washed cars and mother worked as a domestic helper, together earning just ₹4,000 a month. No one in her family had completed graduation.

Abhyudaya supported her financially with fees and books, ensuring that her education never stopped. The team guided her at every stage until she completed her engineering degree.

“The journey was far from easy. When I was in college, my father had an accident, and my mother could not work. At the same time, my college

refused our request for partial payment of fees, and without a scholarship, continuing my 3rd year of engineering felt impossible. But with faith, perseverance, and support, I overcame those challenges and went on to complete my engineering with a CGPA of 9.3, becoming the first graduate in my family.”

Today, Tejaswini works at Capgemini as an Automation Engineer, and has fulfilled her father's dream of owning a home in Mumbai. From a chawl in Andheri, the family now lives in their own flat in Malad.

Her role involves managing an Australian project, giving her the opportunity to interact with people from across the globe. It has not only strengthened her technical skills but also provided exposure to international work, culture, and collaboration. Looking ahead, she aspires to grow further in the IT field and eventually reach a director-level position.

“My journey is still unfolding, but with dedication and continuous learning, I aim to build a successful career while making my family proud and creating a life filled with growth and purpose.”

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

