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## Pre-Sitaras step into the spotlight

On June 29, 2025, the auditorium was filled with 62 eager parents and excited children, ready to begin their journey with Abhyudaya as pre-Sitaras in class 6. The orientation session introduced families to the programme's vision, values, and structure, while setting clear expectations for the year ahead. It laid the foundation for trust and alignment, emphasising the shared commitment required from both children and parents for meaningful participation and growth.

The first Sunday session on July 13, 2025, saw 58 students in attendance, marking the official start of pre-Sitaras learning. The day focused on creating a warm and inclusive environment through ice-breaking and group activities.

Academic sessions introduced the following subjects:

- Abacus – building number sense and mental math techniques
- English – introducing reading comprehension and communication
- Science – encouraging observation, inquiry, and curiosity through simple discussions

Ground rules on punctuality, neatness, and respectful behaviour were shared.

The “Touch Me Not” policy was also introduced, emphasising personal space, body safety, and respectful boundaries.



## Children of SPJIMR staff join as pre-Sitaras

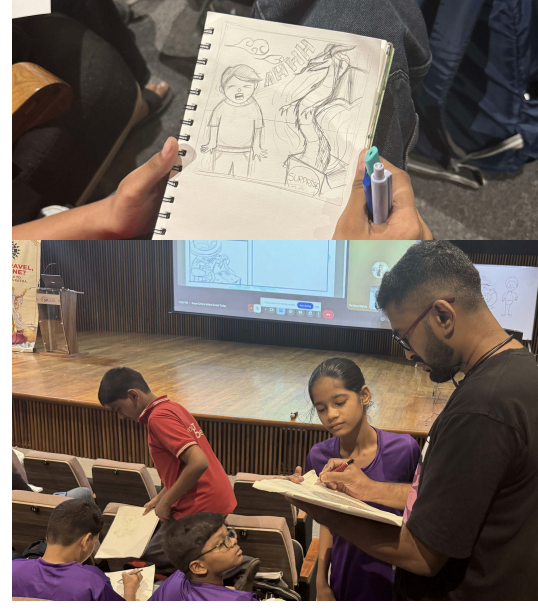
**Pre-Sitara: Kunal**

School: St. Catherine's High School  
Parent: Tina (mother) works at the SPJIMR mess

**Pre-Sitara: Jignesh**

School: Versova Welfare Association High School and Junior College  
Parent: Nitin (father) assists with audio-visual support in SPJIMR classrooms

## Celebrating 58 years of Amar Chitra Katha



Abhyudaya Sitaras celebrated stories that spark imagination and shape young minds with Amar Chitra Katha. Sitaras and the SPJIMR family experienced a vibrant masterclass by the illustrator Vineet Nair, where iconic comic book characters came alive on stage—bringing history, culture, and values to life in the most interactive way.

Amar Chitra Katha donated a selection of books to the Abhyudaya library. These timeless tales will open up new worlds for our children—fuelling their love for reading and deepening their connection to India's rich narrative traditions.

## 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.

## Cherishing mentorship and moments

**Saakshi Agrawal**, PGDM 2024–26

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I would describe my experience as part of the Abhyudaya committee as nothing short of enriching and amazing. I recall the first time I read about Abhyudaya on SPJIMR's website—a part of me knew I wanted to be associated with it and make an impact in whatever way I could. Being selected for the Abhyudaya ADMAP committee reinforced that belief. Under the guidance of Arati ma'am and Dipali ma'am, we conducted 'Hastantaran' as well as two campus visits. Organising these events and brainstorming ideas with the other team are memories I will cherish for life.

My Sitara, Pinky, has been so amazing to interact with; she is intelligent and has a spark of curiosity. The home visits were a humbling experience and made me



reflect on the many things and people we often take for granted. Each visit was filled with valuable learnings and reflections. I am thankful to Arati ma'am for mandating a diary submission, as these diaries now contain lessons I will carry for the rest of my life. Overall, it has been a fulfilling journey working with Arati ma'am, Abhyudaya, and the ADMAP committee members. I am truly grateful!”

## Lessons in purposeful engagement and team synergy

**Raevant Gupta**, PGDM 2024-26

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“My journey with the Abhyudaya committee has been incredible! I found a team that functioned smoothly, as everyone naturally gravitated towards areas aligned with their interests when organising events. We worked in an open, collaborative environment, often switching roles.

I learned:

- How to drive purposeful engagement between mentors and Sitaras through activities.
- How to contribute thoughtfully rather than dominating discussions.
- How to prepare for chaos, ensuring everything is ready well ahead of event days.
- How to balance committee responsibilities with mentoring my Sitara.



## Chamakta Sitara

## Healing with heart, serving with compassion

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“Abhyudaya acts as a bridge between dreams and reality. They not only provide academic support but also offer emotional, financial, and social guidance.”



**Chandni R. Prasad**

Chandni comes from a humble background—her father drives an auto rickshaw, her mother is a homemaker, and she has four siblings. She moved from a government school in Andheri to a private, English medium school for her class 10 (SSC), with support from Abhyudaya, including coaching classes.

As a student, Chandni's life was a golden period of learning, freedom, and self-discovery. However, behind the cheerful faces and campus fun, she faced struggles that shaped her journey. The transition from school to college brought both opportunities and challenges, and adjusting to this new phase was often overwhelming. Balancing studies with part-time jobs to support herself took a toll on her emotional and mental health. Her mentors were a source of guidance and strength during these times.

She pursued science, and with excellent scores, secured admission to Bhavan's College. Chandni went

on to earn a BSc in Nursing and is now a registered nurse at Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital & Research Centre for the past three years, where she is responsible for providing patient care, monitoring recovery, and assisting in medical procedures.

“Being a nurse is both rewarding and challenging. We deal with life-and-death situations, which can be mentally draining. Balancing personal life with a demanding schedule is also a challenge. Despite these struggles, I continue to serve with compassion and strength, making a real difference in people's lives every day.”

Chandni is now preparing for exams to work overseas—continuing her journey of impact and growth.

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](mailto:abhyudaya@spjimr.org) or visit our website [www.spjimr.org](http://www.spjimr.org)

