

Empowering Sitaras, Enriching Lives

Mentoring. Learning. Transforming.



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Key highlights



18

Years of community impact



362

Sitaras supported in 2025-26



8,145

Mentoring hours logged



100%

Class 10 and 12 pass rates

Empowering Sitaras,
Enriching Lives

Mentoring. Learning. Transforming.

Change often begins quietly. It starts with a curious question from a child discovering a new idea; in a holistic learning environment where every child is seen and heard; in the steady presence of mentors who walk alongside them; and in those moments of discovery that slowly reshape how a child sees themselves and the world. These shifts may appear small, but they have the power to transform the course of a life.

At Abhyudaya, we believe that every child is a Sitara: a star with immense potential waiting to be realised. However, for many children from underserved communities, access to opportunities remains limited, preventing them from fully unlocking their capabilities. We are committed to bridging that gap by creating enabling environments where children can learn, grow and thrive.

Through education, mentorship and holistic development programmes, we strive to equip children with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to pursue their aspirations. Our approach extends beyond academic learning to foster resilience, self-worth, critical thinking and life skills that empower children to navigate an evolving world.

At Abhyudaya, we believe in the power of education to be a catalyst for change. When children are empowered to recognise their potential and envision a brighter future, the impact extends beyond the individual, strengthening families, uplifting communities and contributing to a more inclusive and prosperous society.



Marking milestones: Growth, recognition, and reach

FY 2025-26 was a landmark year for Abhyudaya, marked by national recognition, expanded outreach, and continued investment in enriching the learning and mentoring experience of every Sitara. The milestones achieved during the year reflect over 18 years of sustained effort, community partnerships, and commitment to empowering underserved students through education and mentorship.



SPIJMR Abhyudaya



National recognition

Abhyudaya was honoured with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Higher Education Excellence Award 2025 in the 'Institutional Social Responsibility (Private)' category. Presented at FICCI's Higher Education Summit, the award recognised the programme's sustained contribution to inclusive education and social impact. It stands as a testament to the resilience of every Sitara, the dedication of mentors, and SPIJMR's long-standing commitment to creating meaningful educational opportunities.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Higher Education Excellence Award 2025



Recognition for thought leadership

Abhyudaya was featured in *The Long Bet*, a compendium published by the Central Square Foundation (CSF) that showcases nine impactful initiatives supporting high-potential students from underserved communities. The publication was launched at CSF's 'High Potential Students Nurturance Convening' in New Delhi. It highlighted Abhyudaya's unique mentorship model and its lasting impact. At the event, author and public intellectual Gurcharan Das recognised the programme for nurturing student potential while fostering empathy and social responsibility among SPIJMR student mentors.

Featured in *The Long Bet* for its impactful mentorship model and role in nurturing potential, empathy and social responsibility

Dean's message

Cultivating leaders who give back



Today, Abhyudaya supports more than 1,000 Sitaras each year, works alongside 23 specialist enrichment partners, and operates with zero administrative overhead, so that every rupee given reaches a child rather than a process.

Dear friends of Abhyudaya,

Management education is often evaluated by the careers it launches. At SPJIMR, we believe it must also be measured by the consciousness it builds.

Abhyudaya is where that belief becomes practice.

The Abhyudaya initiative seeks to provide pathways for upward mobility for children who may otherwise be unable to aspire to or access such opportunities.

Every first-year PGDM participant who steps into a Sitara's home, meets their family, and commits to a year of sustained mentorship is doing something that no classroom can fully replicate. They are learning to listen before they lead. They are developing the kind of empathy that makes a manager humane, and the kind of humility that makes a leader trustworthy. The Sitaras they walk alongside are not beneficiaries of this exchange. They are teachers in the fullest sense.

This past year reinforced that belief. The 362 mentors who logged over 8,145 hours across 3,240 home visits did not simply fulfil a programme requirement. Many will carry those experiences into every organisation they enter, into the decisions they make, the teams they build, and the communities they serve. That is the long return on this investment, and it compounds quietly, year after year.

For SPJIMR, Abhyudaya is both a responsibility and a reference point. It grounds our academic work in social reality. It asks our students to remain accountable to a world beyond our campus. It also reminds us that the most enduring measure of an institution is not its rankings, but its relevance to the communities it draws from and returns to.



The recognition Abhyudaya received this year from FICCI reflects not an arrival but a milestone along a much longer journey. One that began in 2008 with 44 students and a conviction that access and mentorship, applied consistently and with care, can fundamentally alter a life's trajectory.

More than 1,000 Sitaras later, that conviction has only deepened.

There is however, another story behind these numbers, and it is one we owe our donors and partners directly.

Nearly two decades ago, Abhyudaya began with very little besides conviction. Today, it supports more than 1,000 Sitaras each year, works alongside 23 specialist enrichment partners, and operates with zero administrative overhead, so that every rupee given reaches a child rather than a process. That model has held because people outside SPJIMR chose to sustain it alongside us.

Goodwill got us here. It will not get us through the next 20 years on its own.

As Abhyudaya grows in depth and reach across Mumbai's K-West ward, it needs the kind of support that goodwill alone cannot provide: multi-year commitments that allow us to plan a Sitara's journey in full rather than one year at a time, and structural funding that can strengthen a promising model into an institutional one.

Our aspiration is not simply to reach more Sitaras, but to deepen the support we provide through sustained mentoring, specialised enrichment, career guidance, health and wellness initiatives, and

opportunities that help every Sitara realise their potential. Achieving that ambition requires long-term partnerships with individuals and organisations who believe, as we do, that investing in young people creates lasting social change.

This is not a request we make lightly. It is the honest answer to the question every donor is right to ask: What happens to my contribution, and what happens without it?

My gratitude goes to the Abhyudaya team, whose dedication sustains this work every single day. To our student mentors, who bring energy, sincerity, and genuine investment to every home visit. And to our partners, donors, and supporters, whose continued support enables this work to grow in depth and impact. We do not take your faith in us for granted.

Abhyudaya does not sit at the edge of what SPJIMR does. It sits at the centre of what SPJIMR stands for. It is our hope that you will continue to be part of this journey.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to nurturing leaders who combine competence with compassion, and who recognise that their greatest contribution lies not only in the organisations they lead but also in the communities they help build.

We invite you to join us in shaping that future.

VARUN NAGARAJ

Dean, SPJIMR

Director's message

Growing together...



At Abhyudaya, growth is a shared journey. A community of over 4,046 mentors has helped transform lives, while strengthening their own leadership and empathy even as Sitaras build confidence and aspirations.

Dear friends of Abhyudaya,

Abhyudaya, meaning sunrise, symbolises the emergence of potential, opportunity and hope. It reflects the journey of every Sitara (Star) who dares to dream beyond their circumstances and every mentor who walks alongside them, fostering confidence, aspiration and growth.

Over the past year, 362 Sitaras participated in daily after-school programmes spanning academics, digital literacy, Design Thinking, sports and life skills. Our mentors dedicated over 8,145 hours of engagement, including 3,240 home visits, reinforcing the strong support system that lies at the heart of the Abhyudaya model.

We are proud that every Sitara who appeared for the Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations successfully passed, while Abhyudaya's contribution to inclusive education received national recognition.

What began in 2008 with a vision to address educational and socio-economic disparities in Mumbai's K-West ward has evolved into a vibrant ecosystem of mentorship, learning and social impact. Today, Abhyudaya has positively influenced the lives of more than 1,000 Sitaras, demonstrating the transformative power of access, guidance and opportunity.



During the year, we continued to strengthen our impact through innovative initiatives. Design Thinking programmes expanded to 20 schools beyond our core Sitara cohort, while Sashakt supported its first cohort of aspiring Sitara entrepreneurs.

At the same time, our continued focus on holistic development enabled Sitaras to build academic capabilities alongside critical life skills, confidence and resilience.

Equally significant is Abhyudaya's role in shaping socially conscious leaders. Through year-long mentorship, PGDM participants engage meaningfully with the realities faced by underserved communities, developing empathy, responsibility and a deeper understanding of inclusive development. These relationships create lasting value for both mentors and Sitaras, fostering growth that extends far beyond the classroom.

The achievements highlighted in this report represent important milestones, but they are only part of a much larger journey. As we look ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that every Sitara is supported, empowered and equipped to realise their full potential.

What began with 44 students in 2008 has become a community of over 1,000 Sitaras, each one proof that access and mentorship can rewrite a story.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our mentors, team members, Sitara families, alumni, partners and supporters. Your trust, commitment and collaboration continue to make this journey possible. Together, we are not only shaping individual futures but also contributing to a more equitable and inclusive society.

With gratitude and purpose,

ARATI NAGARAJ
Director, Abhyudaya

Building spaces where students thrive

Abhyudaya is a social initiative of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR), reflecting the institute's vision of building socially conscious future leaders. Since our inception in 2008, we have worked to bridge educational and opportunity gaps for students from underserved communities in Mumbai's K-West ward.



Each year, Abhyudaya serves over 350 students, fondly known as Sitaras (Stars), through a structured after-school enrichment and mentorship programme designed to unlock their potential and broaden their horizons. The programme combines academic support with holistic development, offering learning opportunities across communication, sports, arts, socio-emotional learning, Design Thinking, digital literacy and coding.

Recognising that education extends beyond academic achievement, we focus on nurturing curiosity, critical thinking, creativity and self-confidence. Through a safe and supportive environment, students are encouraged to explore new possibilities, build meaningful relationships and develop the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly dynamic world.

Abhyudaya also engages closely with families, schools and communities to create lasting impact beyond the classroom. During FY 2025-26, the programme expanded its focus on family engagement through financial literacy initiatives that empowered households with knowledge on budgeting, savings and long-term financial planning.

Driven by the dedication of SPJIMR's first-year PGDM participants, who serve as mentors throughout the year, Abhyudaya continues to foster a culture of learning, empathy and shared growth, empowering every Sitara to envision and shape a brighter future.

50
Partner schools in K-West



1,016
Total Sitaras since 2008



57%
Female Sitaras



480
Sitara alumni
Batches 1-9



The Abhyudaya model

Sustaining an ecosystem of support

Our approach at Abhyudaya is grounded in the belief that every child's growth is enabled by a strong support ecosystem. The programme places each Sitara at the centre of four interconnected pillars — Family, School, Community and Abhyudaya — each playing a vital role in shaping their educational journey and personal development.

These pillars work together to provide consistent guidance, encouragement and opportunities, creating an environment where students can learn, grow and realise their full potential. Abhyudaya strengthens these connections, bridges gaps and fosters collaboration among stakeholders, ensuring that every Sitara receives the support needed to thrive with confidence and purpose.



Vision

We aim to empower underserved children and their communities through a holistic approach that nurtures academic growth, life skills, and aspirations.



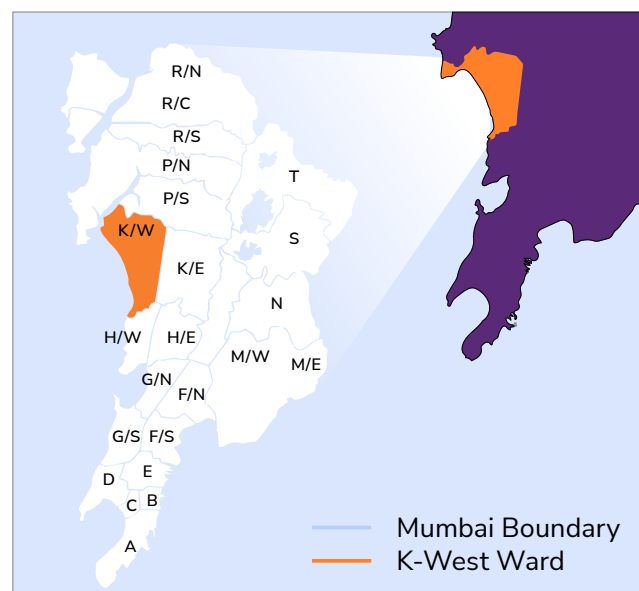
Mission

Our mission is deeply local: to build inclusive, supportive environments where every child is seen, heard, and encouraged to dream beyond their current circumstances. Our work creates a ripple effect: transformed lives become agents of positive change across families and neighbourhoods, driving equity and lasting societal impact.

Why K-West ward

Choosing K-West: Where presence drives change

Abhyudaya's work is deeply rooted in Mumbai's K-West ward, a geography chosen with purpose and commitment. With a population of nearly 7,00,000 residents, approximately 55% of whom belong to low-income households, the ward faces significant educational and socio-economic challenges. One of the most pressing concerns is the 17% dropout rate at the secondary education level, a critical stage at which continued support, mentorship, and access to opportunities can significantly shape a student's future.



Abhyudaya currently partners with nearly 50 government schools, which include municipal, aided, and unaided, that serve students from low socio-economic backgrounds. Of these 50, the ward's 34 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) schools cater to students up to Class 8; secondary pathways remain limited, heightening vulnerability at key academic transitions.

We believe that meaningful and sustainable impact comes from long-term commitment. By maintaining a consistent presence within a defined geography,

Abhyudaya builds trusted relationships with students, families, schools and communities, creating an ecosystem that supports educational continuity, personal growth and upward mobility.

Through sustained mentorship, experiential learning and community engagement, we seek to ensure that every Sitara receives the guidance, encouragement and opportunities needed to realise their full potential.

Why K-West?

1 High population density Over 7,00,000 residents, with 55% living in low-income housing. 7,00,000+ Residents	2 Educational disparities Dropout rates of 17% among secondary school students. 55% Population from low-income households
3 Socio-economic challenges High levels of poverty, malnutrition, and lack of financial services. 17% Secondary school dropout rate	4 Gender inequality Early marriages and limited career opportunities for girls. ~50 Partner schools across the ward

Measuring our reach and impact

1,016
 Total Sitaras

380
 Class 7-12 Sitaras

156
 Degree-college going Sitaras

480
 Sitara alumni

60%
 Employed across sectors

20%
 Pursuing PG/specialised programmes

10%
 Entrepreneurs

10%
 Exited the programme

Our journey

Tracing our journey: From 44 Sitaras to 1,000+

From supporting 44 Sitaras in 2008 to empowering over 1,000 students in 2025, Abhyudaya's journey has been defined by continuous growth, innovation, and impact. Each milestone reflects its enduring commitment to expanding educational opportunities, strengthening communities, and transforming young lives.



2016

New Abhyudaya Centre inaugurated



2018

UNGCNI Innovative Practices Award; Abhyudaya's model recognised internationally



2020

COVID welfare programme launched; Abhyudaya adapts to support Sitara families through the pandemic



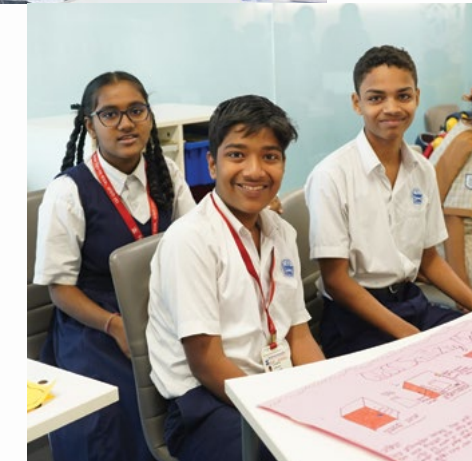
2025

Sitara count crosses 1,000; weekday classes launched across all cohorts; FICCI Higher Education Excellence Award received



2024

Three alumni Sitaras employed at SPIJMR; Abhyudaya Centre renovated to cater to a five-day after school enrichment programme



2023

Design Thinking course introduced



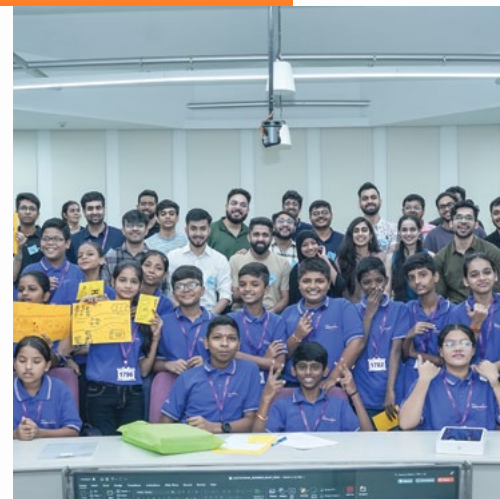
2008

44 Sitaras enrolled in our founding year



2017

393 Sitaras and 123 pre-Sitaras supported; career and livelihood programmes launched



Learning, community, and connection



Launching Batch 18 MAY 2025

Abhyudaya welcomed Batch 18 through our annual Summer Camp, with 362 Sitaras from Classes 7-13 joining the programme. The camp introduced students to Abhyudaya's experiential learning approach through academic sessions, career guidance, life-skills workshops, industry interactions, sports, theatre, Design Thinking, and project-based activities. For senior Sitaras, it also provided exposure to workplace readiness through sessions on communication, resume building, Google Workspace, and Canva.

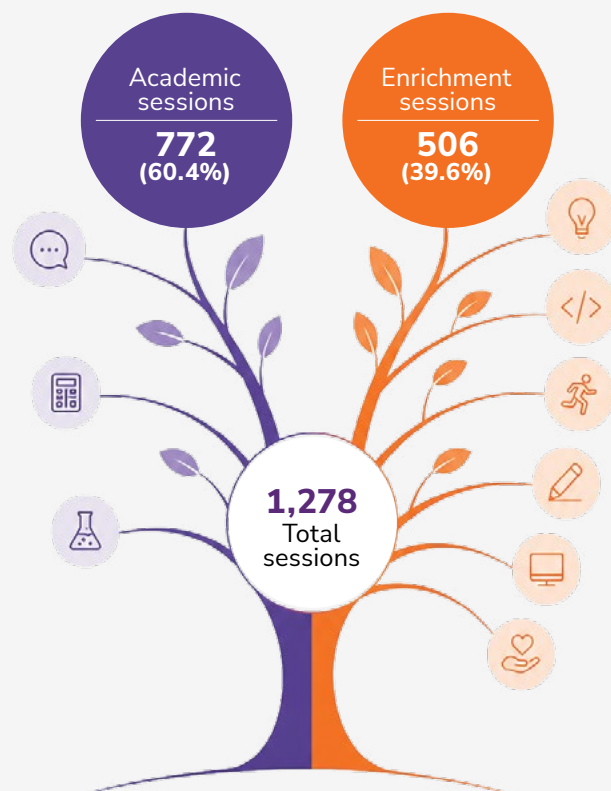
The Summer Camp is Abhyudaya's first statement of the year: learning is active, experiential, and joyful



Building the academic year JULY 2025

Weekly classes commenced across all cohorts, combining academic excellence with holistic development. During the year, 1,278 learning sessions were conducted, including 772 academic sessions (60.4%) in English, Mathematics, and Science, and 506 enrichment sessions (39.6%) covering Design Thinking, coding, sports, creative writing, digital literacy, and socio-emotional learning. The balanced curriculum ensured strong academic foundations while nurturing creativity, confidence, and life skills.

Within academic subjects: English accounted for 263 sessions, Mathematics for 256 sessions, and Science for 253 sessions. The near-equal distribution across disciplines reflects a conscious effort to ensure balanced learning and well-rounded skill development. Alongside academics, significant emphasis was placed on co-curricular engagements to nurture creativity, confidence, life skills, and exposure to diverse learning experiences.



Hosting Hasantaran AUGUST 2025

Abhyudaya hosted Hasantaran, our annual mentor transition ceremony, where senior mentors formally handed over their Sitaras to the incoming batch of first-year mentors. The event celebrated relationships built through the year and marked the beginning of new mentoring journeys through performances, reflections, and shared experiences, reinforcing the programme's strong sense of community. Hasantaran does not mark an ending; it marks the moment when a relationship evolves into a community—passed forward, year after year.



Creating spaces for growth NOVEMBER 2025

The annual Winter Camp provided Sitaras with opportunities to learn beyond the classroom through sports, coding, Design Thinking, digital skills, and creative workshops focused on self-expression and socio-emotional development. During the same period, Abhyudaya organised our annual Medical Camp in collaboration with Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital, Lions Club of Versova, and Rotary Club of Mumbai Iconic, enabling comprehensive health check-ups and promoting preventive healthcare among Sitaras.



Showcasing value-based education NOVEMBER 2025

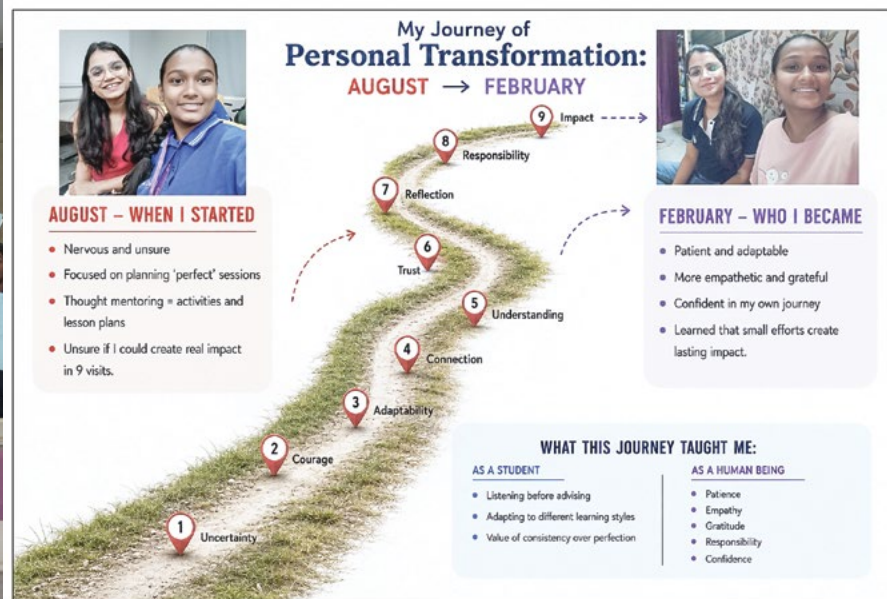
Abhyudaya welcomed a delegation from AACSB International, led by President and CEO Lily Bi, along with senior leadership, to showcase our mentorship-driven model. The delegation interacted with mentors, Sitaras, and their families, gaining first-hand insights into Abhyudaya's community-centred approach. The visit reaffirmed the programme's role as a living example of SPIJMR's vision of values-based, socially conscious management education.



The mentoring ecosystem

Deepening mentorship across 8,145 hours

Mentorship remains integral to the Abhyudaya programme. Every Sitara is paired with a first-year PGDM participant from SPJIMR, fostering a year-long relationship built on trust, guidance, and encouragement. During 2025-26, 362 mentors contributed approximately 8,145 mentoring hours through 3,240 home visits, averaging nine visits per Sitara. Two campus visits, including engagement activities and the annual Sports Day, further strengthened these mentor-mentee relationships while familiarising Sitaras with the higher education environment, extending the programme's reach through deep community engagement.



Abhyudaya expanded its community outreach by contributing over 2,500 hours across student engagement, community initiatives, and institutional collaborations. In partnership with Apnalaya, the programme delivered regular sessions on digital literacy, citizenship awareness, education, and documentation support. Additionally, the Design Thinking initiative reached 16 neighbouring schools, delivering structured workshops that extended Abhyudaya's experiential learning philosophy beyond the Sitara community.

Delivering a holistic curriculum

Abhyudaya continued its specially designed curriculum for Sitaras from Class 7 to 10, inspired by school syllabi but built with greater rigour, application-based learning, and co-curricular depth. Engagements included sports and fitness, social-emotional learning, music therapy, coding, Design Thinking, library sessions, and personality development, ensuring that no Sitara's development is limited to academic performance alone.



362
PGDM student mentors



3,240
Home visits completed



9
Home visits conducted by each mentor



8,145
Total mentoring hours



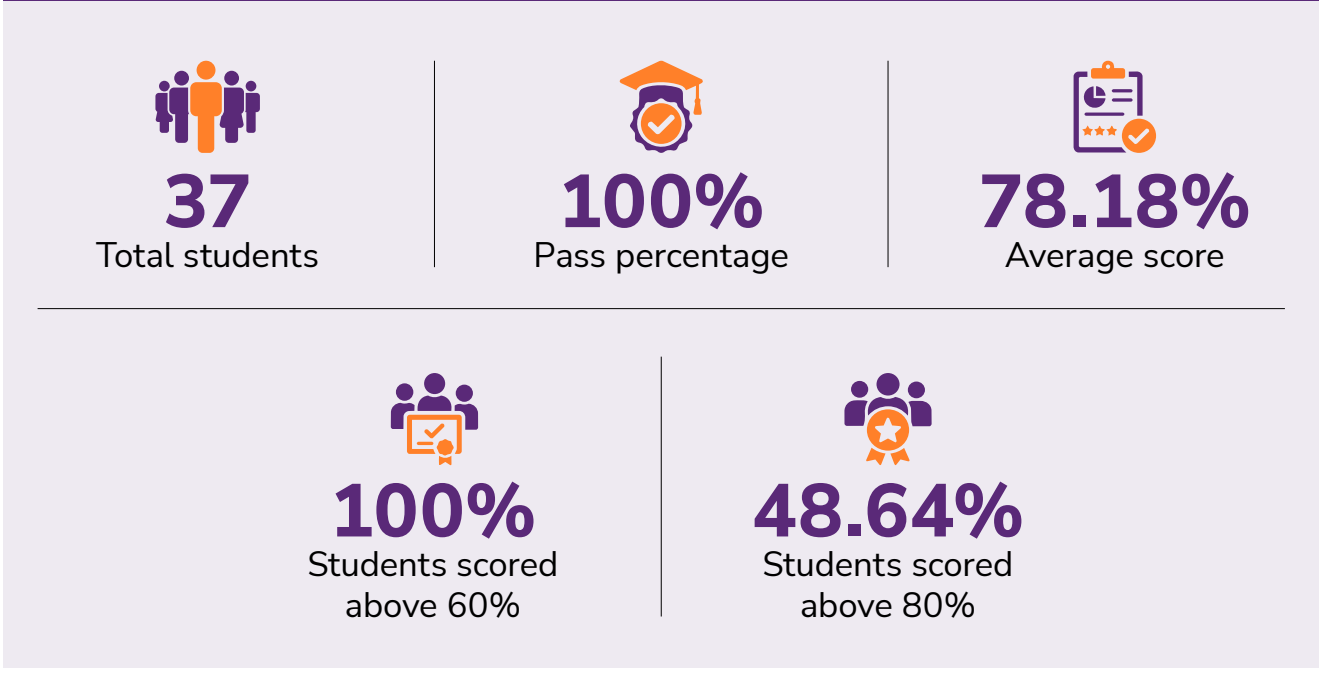
Academic milestones

Achieving 100%: Academic results 2025-26

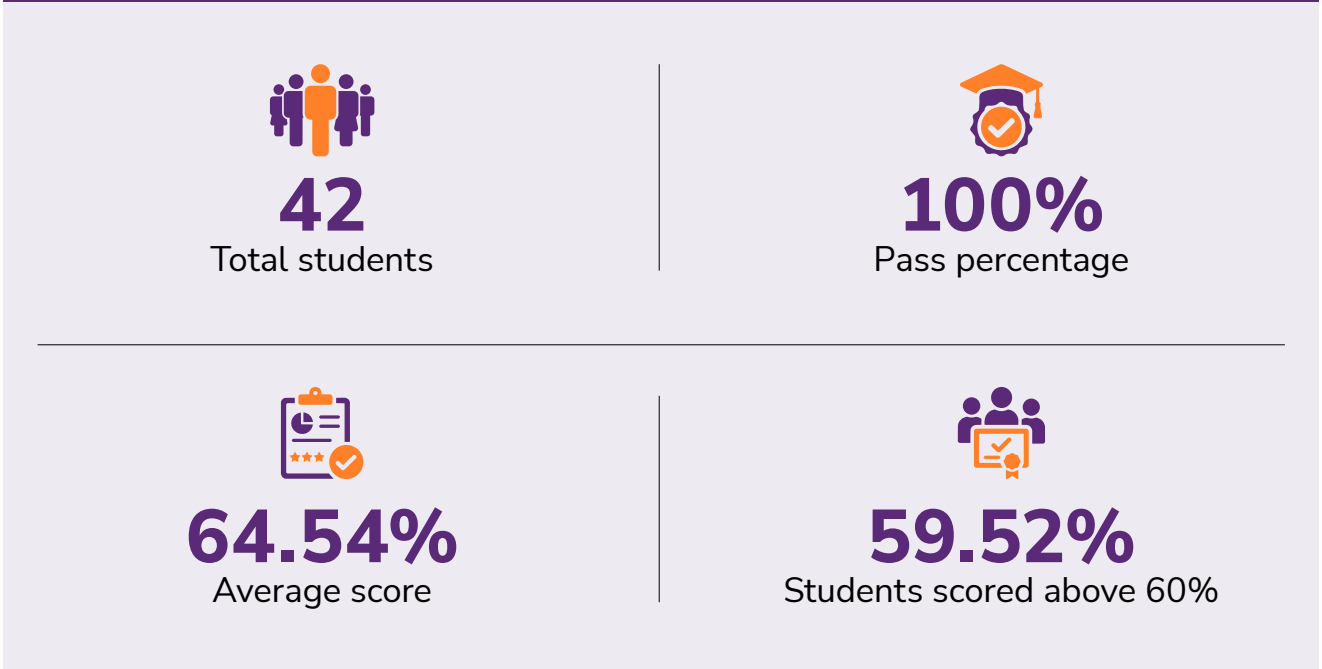
In 2025-26, 100% of Abhyudaya students who appeared for the Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations successfully passed. This achievement reflects the impact of sustained academic support, personalised mentorship, and holistic learning. It demonstrates how consistent guidance and an enabling environment empower students from underserved communities to realise their full potential.



Class 10 results snapshot



Class 12 results snapshot



Meet our *'Sitaras'*: Stories that speak for themselves

While numbers reflect the scale of Abhyudaya's impact, the real measure of success lies in the lives we transform. The programme nurtures enduring mentor-mentee relationships built on trust, guidance and shared growth. The stories that follow from 2025-26 illustrate how sustained mentorship, access to opportunities, and holistic support continue to shape brighter futures for Sitaras and enrich the journeys of their mentors.



Abhyudaya did not just shape Swati's career journey; it helped her discover her confidence, aspirations, and potential.



Finding her voice

Swati Mahadev Pakhare joined Abhyudaya's Batch 2 in 2010 as a quiet, introverted child. Growing up in a modest household, she found in Abhyudaya a supportive ecosystem that nurtured her potential through mentorship, academic support and co-curricular opportunities. The programme helped her build confidence, acquire computer skills unavailable at her municipal school, pursue classical music, and successfully transition from a regional-medium background through dedicated English language support. Mentorship played a transformative role in shaping Swati's aspirations and self-belief,

helping her explore career opportunities and identify role models who inspired her journey. After completing her engineering degree, she began her professional journey at Accenture. Although financial constraints initially delayed her dream of pursuing higher education, she remained determined. Last year, she fulfilled that dream by completing her MBA, and today she has embarked on the next chapter of her career with Capgemini. Swati's story reflects how sustained mentorship, resilience and opportunity can transform quiet potential into professional success.

Sameer didn't just earn a seat at SPIT. He moved the horizon for every Sitara who had watched the campus from outside.



Cracking JEE: Sameer's journey to SPIT

One of the proudest achievements this year for Abhyudaya was Sameer Sayyed's admission to Sardar Patel Institute of Technology (SPIT). A Sitara from Batch 11, he secured 95.92 percentile in JEE Main 2024 and 98.92 percentile in MHT-CET after two determined attempts at the Joint Entrance Examination. Throughout his preparation journey, Sameer made extensive use of the SPJIMR library as a dedicated study space. His admission to SPIT

is a significant milestone for the Abhyudaya community. As the first Sitara to join the institute, located on the same Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan campus where Abhyudaya operates, his achievement has become a powerful source of inspiration for future Sitaras, demonstrating how sustained mentorship, perseverance, and opportunity can translate aspirations into reality.

For Nafisa, Abhyudaya became the bridge between early challenges and a career dedicated to healing and service.



Building confidence beyond the classroom

When Nafisa Dhanani joined Abhyudaya's Batch 4 in 2011, she was an Urdu-medium student who faced challenges with English, a skill that was critical to the academic and professional aspirations she hoped to achieve. Through consistent academic mentoring, English language support, and participation in activities such as chess, drawing, yoga, and camps, Nafisa gradually built confidence while discovering strengths that extended far beyond the classroom. For Nafisa, Abhyudaya provided much more than academic assistance. It offered a nurturing environment that

helped her develop communication skills, self-belief, and the resilience required to pursue a demanding career in healthcare. Today, she has completed her Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) and is further strengthening her clinical expertise through a part-time internship at Asher Homoeopathic Clinic. Nafisa's journey demonstrates how sustained mentorship, holistic development, and a supportive ecosystem can empower young people to overcome early barriers and transform their aspirations into meaningful professional achievements.

Seeing Isam after 10 years, Prof. Biswas described being “flooded with emotions”. The mentorship that shaped both of them had outlasted any programme timeline.



Staying connected across a decade

During a visit to SPJIMR for a guest lecture, alumnus Prof. Debajyoti Biswas requested an opportunity to reconnect with his former Sitara, Isamuddin Shaikh from Batch 6 after nearly a decade. The reunion was a deeply emotional moment, reflecting on the journey of a young student who had grown into a confident young adult.

Prof. Biswas shared that mentoring Isam was one of the defining experiences of his early professional journey.

More than a mentor-mentee relationship, it evolved into a lasting bond built on trust, care, and mutual respect.

The reunion underscored the enduring impact of Abhyudaya's mentorship model, demonstrating how meaningful relationships continue to shape and inspire both mentors and Sitaras long after the formal programme concludes.

No coaching class. No shortcuts. Just Farman, his laptop, and the unflinching belief that the CA credential was within reach.



Earning the CA

Farman Ansari from Batch 6 became the first Sitara to qualify as a Chartered Accountant (CA), marking a significant milestone for the Abhyudaya community. Relying primarily on self-study, online resources, and YouTube lectures, he achieved this feat through exceptional determination and discipline, without formal coaching.

Throughout his journey, the Abhyudaya Centre and SPJIMR provided a supportive environment,

offering internet access, study facilities, and interview preparation support. Farman went on to secure an articleship with PwC and now works with a reputed CA firm in Mumbai.

His achievement exemplifies how perseverance, coupled with access to the right opportunities and sustained mentorship, can help transform aspirations into professional success.

Expanding pathways beyond the classroom

Abhyudaya has evolved from a student-support initiative into a comprehensive ecosystem that nurtures learning, leadership, and opportunity. Through mentorship, experiential learning, career guidance, and community engagement, it equips Sitaras with the skills and confidence to thrive beyond the classroom. The Abhyudaya Centre remains a vibrant hub where alumni return for guidance, mentorship, and to celebrate milestones.

The following sections highlight key initiatives across schools, communities, and enterprise development.

Reaching 20 schools with Design Thinking

In partnership with Curiosity Gym, Abhyudaya expanded its Design Thinking programme to nearly 20 schools across Mumbai's K-West ward, introducing experiential, student-centred learning to government and low-resource schools. Each participating school completed eight structured sessions, enabling students to apply the Design Thinking process to address real-world challenges such as waste management, infrastructure, and environmental issues. The programme strengthened critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills while fostering confidence and a sense of agency among students.

Abhyudaya also convened its annual Principals' Meeting, bringing together nearly 50 school leaders, educators, and partner organisations representing over 60 schools. The event reinforced collaborative partnerships and showcased innovative student solutions, with 40 students from 10 partner schools presenting their Design Thinking prototypes and receiving valuable feedback from educators and industry experts.

~20
Schools reached through Design Thinking



8
Sessions per school



40
Student prototypes presented



60+
Innovative solutions presented



Building a culture of reading

To strengthen our learning ecosystem, two members of the Abhyudaya team undertook an exposure visit to Bookworm, Goa, to explore child-centred library practices that foster a lifelong love for reading. The visit provided valuable insights into creating engaging reading spaces that encourage curiosity, reflection, and student ownership.

The learnings have since been integrated into the programme through dedicated quiet reading sessions and Book Talks—student-led discussions that build reading comprehension, critical thinking, and confidence in self-expression. Inspired by the visit, reflective writing and creative activities have also been introduced, enabling Sitaras to observe, document, and share their perspectives. These initiatives reinforce Abhyudaya's commitment to making reading an integral part of every student's learning journey.



Leading change in Nehru Nagar

Abhyudaya continued its community engagement in Nehru Nagar, Vile Parle West, empowering young people to drive meaningful change within their communities. Youth volunteers led Aadhaar registration drives, partnered with the BMC to improve sanitation services, and supported families with school admissions and documentation. SPJIMR student volunteers complemented these efforts through regular digital literacy sessions for children and financial literacy workshops for Sitara families, strengthening digital inclusion and financial awareness within the community.



Launching Sashakt: From education to enterprise

In collaboration with SPJIMR's Centre for Family Business & Entrepreneurship (CFBE), Abhyudaya launched Sashakt, a structured entrepreneurship development programme for Sitara alumni and their siblings. The four-month pilot programme supported seven participants through hands-on mentoring and practical learning in finance, marketing, operations, leadership, and business development. By extending support beyond education into entrepreneurship, Sashakt enables participants to build sustainable livelihoods and emerge as creators of opportunities within their communities.

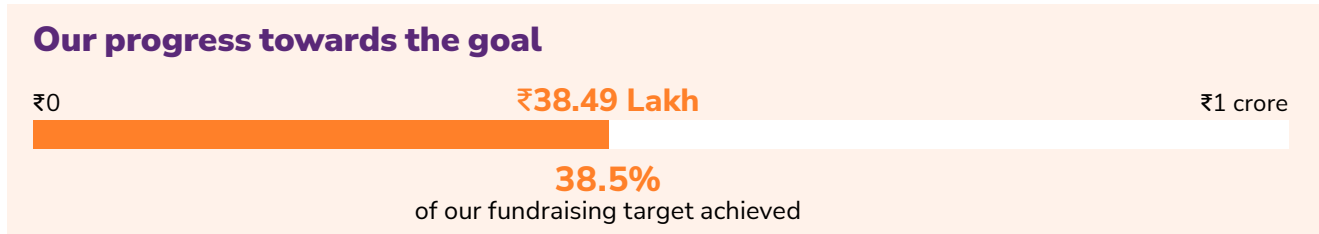
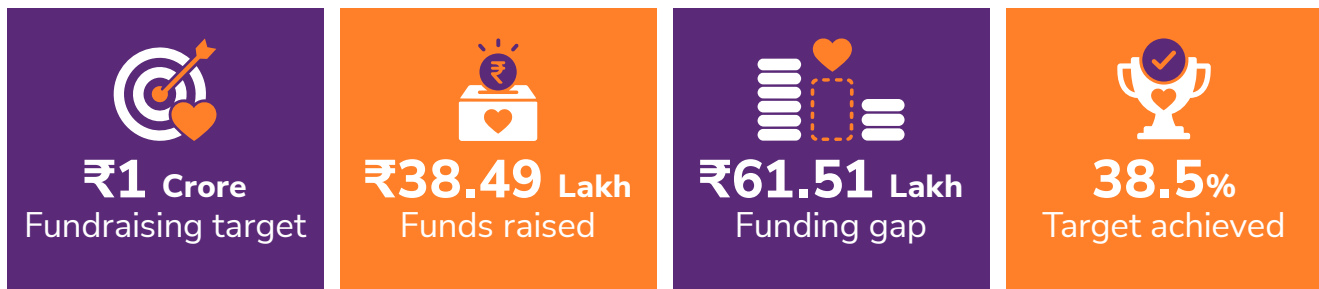


Funding our vision

Every contribution to Abhyudaya is a direct investment in a Sitara’s journey. In 2025-26, Abhyudaya distributed ₹36 lakh in Abhyudaya Grants, ₹10,000 per student, to support educational continuity and essential academic needs. An additional ₹9.15 lakh in external scholarship support was extended to high-performing and high-need students through partner programmes.

Against a target of ₹1 crore, Abhyudaya raised ₹38.49 lakh — achieving 38.5% of its annual fundraising goal. The remaining ₹61.5 lakh gap represents real programme needs: expanded scholarship support, deeper Design Thinking reach, stronger transition pathways, and the infrastructure required to ensure every Sitara has a supported journey beyond Class 12.

We are grateful for every contribution made, and committed to earning continued trust through transparency and measurable impact.



Where did the funding come from		(% of total)
	Individual contributions	68.3%
	Foundations	15.6%
	Foreign contributions	8.7%
	Alumni contributions	6.5%
	Others	0.9%



A community that believes in every Sitara

More than two-thirds of the funds raised came from individual donors, reflecting a growing community of people who believe in our mission.

Direct student support



₹36 Lakh
Abhyudaya grants distributed

₹10,000 provided to every active Sitara to support educational continuity and essential academic needs.



₹9.15 Lakh
External scholarships

Mobilised through our scholarship partners

Scholarship partnership breakdown

		(% of total)
	Kotak Education Foundation	58.5%
	Atmasantosh	36.2%
	Guiding Light Foundation	3.1%
	Udayan Shalini	2.2%
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Building futures. Together.

Every contribution, every partnership and every mentoring relationship brings us closer to a future where every Sitara has the confidence, skills and opportunities to thrive.



Our team

Driving Abhyudaya forward

Behind Abhyudaya's impact is a dedicated team that drives every aspect of the programme, from curriculum development and community engagement to partnerships, operations, monitoring, and finance. Working closely with families, schools, and communities, the team designs enriching learning experiences, supports over 360 PGDM mentors each year, and ensures every Sitara receives consistent academic, personal, and socio-emotional guidance throughout their journey.



ARATI NAGARAJ
Director

Provides strategic leadership and long-term vision for Abhyudaya, guiding programme development, institutional partnerships, fundraising, and ecosystem-building initiatives. Oversees the expansion of Abhyudaya's impact across education, mentorship, community engagement, and youth development.



AJAY ZENDE
Community Liaison

Builds and sustains relationships with schools, families, local communities, and grassroots stakeholders. Facilitates community engagement initiatives and strengthens trust-based connections within the K-West ward.



ALKA MHATRE
Finance and
Alumni Relations

Oversees financial management, budgeting, scholarship administration, and donor coordination. Also leads alumni engagement efforts, strengthening long-term relationships with Sitara alumni and supporters.



BHUSHAN VYAS
Enrichment Teacher

Designs and facilitates enrichment sessions focused on holistic learning, creativity, critical thinking, and student engagement beyond academics.



DIPALI JOSHI
Project and
Course Manager

Coordinates programme implementation, academic planning, and course delivery across grades and initiatives. Ensures smooth execution of learning interventions, camps, workshops, and student engagement activities.



ESHA JHARKHARIA
Monitoring, Evaluation
and, Learning

Leads programme documentation, impact assessment, and learning systems. Supports data-driven reflection and evaluation to strengthen programme quality, organisational learning, and long-term impact measurement.



RANJANA MEHTA
Curriculum Designer
and Teacher Trainer

Designs student-centred curricula and learning frameworks aligned with Abhyudaya's philosophy of experiential and holistic education. Also, mentors and trains teachers and volunteers to strengthen classroom engagement and pedagogy.



RAVI NARNOLIA
Operations
and Partnerships

Oversees operational systems, logistics, institutional coordination, and partnership management. Supports the smooth functioning of programmes while strengthening collaborations with external organisations and stakeholders.



SHENAZ RAMJI
Pre-Sitara and
Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinates the pre-Sitara programme and manages volunteer engagement across activities and interventions. Supports mentor onboarding, training, and sustained volunteer participation within the Abhyudaya ecosystem.



SNEHAL REDKAR
Enrichment Teacher
and Logistics

Facilitates enrichment activities while coordinating programme logistics and operational support for camps, workshops, and student engagement initiatives. Ensures smooth execution of activities across programmes and events.



Looking ahead

Shaping 2026-27: Priorities and commitments

Abhyudaya enters 2026-27 with clear priorities grounded in what we have learned this year. The focus ahead is on deepening student ownership, widening experiential learning, building structured career transitions, and extending community partnerships in a way that creates lasting impact beyond the programme's direct reach.



Building a Sitara-led learning community

In 2026-27, Abhyudaya will strengthen its peer-learning ecosystem by creating structured opportunities for senior Sitaras to mentor younger students, facilitate learning sessions, and take on leadership roles. By fostering student ownership and peer-led learning, the programme aims to build confidence, leadership, and a strong sense of community, making Sitaras active contributors to the learning journey.



Deepening experiential and project-based learning

Abhyudaya will further enhance experiential and project-based learning through expanded Design Thinking initiatives, exposure visits, innovation projects, workshops, and collaborative activities. These initiatives will create engaging learning environments that nurture creativity, critical thinking, adaptability, and problem-solving skills, preparing students for future academic and professional challenges.



Creating structured career and transition support

To help Sitaras navigate key educational and career transitions, Abhyudaya will introduce more structured career guidance and transition support. The programme will provide awareness on academic pathways, scholarships, competitive examinations, vocational opportunities, internships, and emerging careers. Through mentorship, alumni engagement, and professional interactions, Abhyudaya will empower every Sitara to make informed decisions and confidently pursue their aspirations.



Expanding our footprint across K-West

Following successful implementation in 10 schools in FY 2025-26, Abhyudaya will expand Design Thinking to more than 20 schools within the K-West. The expansion will be structured and phased to ensure consistency, quality, and long-term sustainability. It will be accompanied by continued investment in educator capacity and school partnerships.



Scaling design thinking to 20+ schools

Building on the successful implementation of its Design Thinking programme, Abhyudaya plans to expand our reach to more than 20 schools across the K-West ward in 2026-27. The phased expansion will focus on maintaining programme quality while strengthening educator capabilities and long-term school partnerships.



Formalising partnerships with BMC schools

Abhyudaya will deepen its engagement with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) schools to integrate Design Thinking and experiential learning into the public education ecosystem. These collaborations aim to institutionalise innovative teaching practices and extend the programme's impact to a larger student community.



Strengthening community-based youth engagement

Building on the success of its initiatives in Nehru Nagar, Abhyudaya will strengthen year-round, youth-led community programmes in partnership with local organisations while exploring opportunities to replicate similar interventions in neighbouring communities.



Tracking impact more effectively

In 2026-27, Abhyudaya will strengthen its impact assessment framework to better capture both quantitative outcomes and qualitative progress across areas such as learning, confidence, leadership, career readiness, and educational continuity. Enhanced monitoring and documentation will support continuous programme improvement while enabling the organisation to communicate its impact more effectively to students, families, partners, and supporters.



Together for change

Partnering for equity

Abhyudaya's work is strengthened by a network of partners who share our commitment to equitable education, youth development, and community empowerment. These collaborations expand student exposure, enabling vocational and experiential learning, provide targeted scholarships, and build the institutional capacity of the Abhyudaya team.



Supporting learning and curriculum delivery

These partners strengthen how Sitaras learn, enriching the curriculum, expanding creative exposure, and extending the Abhyudaya model into the wider K-West community.



Amar Chitra Katha

Conducts masterclasses in illustration and storytelling, while also contributing books to the Abhyudaya library.



Apnalaya

Collaborates on youth-led community initiatives focused on local development and social change.



Arpan

Provides training and counselling for Sitaras and parents on child safety and prevention of child sexual abuse.



Artscape

Conducts workshops using expressive arts therapy to support emotional well-being, self-exploration, and personal growth.



Bhavan's College

Students from Bhavan's College support Abhyudaya through classroom engagement and operational volunteering.



Creative Vision

Provides accessible Abacus and Vedic Mathematics education for students.



Avanti Fellows

Provides free test preparation, mentorship, and career guidance for high-school students aspiring to pursue Science and Technology education.



Curiosity Gym

Delivers Design Thinking and computer literacy programmes for Sitaras and neighbouring community schools.



OpenGrad

Provides mentoring and coaching support for competitive examinations such as JEE, NEET, CLAT, and CAT. Currently, 30 Sitaras are enrolled in the programme.



Sardar Patel Institute of Technology (SPIT)

Students from Sardar Patel Institute of Technology volunteer through classroom support and one-to-one academic tutoring.



TATA Engage

TCS's Literacy as a Service initiative leverages technology to build functional, digital, and financial literacy in native languages.



Building vocational skills and employment pathways

These partners provide vocational training, employability support, and skill development opportunities for Sitaras and siblings after Class 12 and graduation.



Magic Bus Foundation

Provides training in cloud computing and prepares students for AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner certification, along with access to employment opportunities. Two Sitaras have secured placements at Accenture and Uber Tech, while two others are currently enrolled.



Tata Strive

Offers skill-based training programmes in hospitality, electrical work, retail, and BFSI, along with placement support.



Tech Mahindra Foundation

Provides paramedical and allied healthcare training with hospital placement opportunities. Currently, six girls and two boys are enrolled in the B.Vocational programme and have been placed across different hospitals across Maharashtra.



Supporting health and well-being

These partners ensure Sitaras receive preventive and annual healthcare support as part of a holistic approach to student well-being.



Lions Club of Versova

Provides annual bloodwork screenings to identify deficiencies and determine blood groups.



Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital

Conducts annual health and wellness check-ups covering BMI, blood pressure, dental assessments, and doctor consultations.



Rotary Club of Mumbai Iconic

Provides annual eye check-ups and subsidised eyewear support.



Providing scholarship support

These partners extend financial and mentoring support to Sitaras beyond Class 10, reducing barriers to continued education.



Atmasantosh Foundation

Supports high-performing students through the Patang Scholars Programme, which includes scholarships, mentoring, workshops, and field exposure opportunities. Currently, 12 Sitaras are Patang Junior Scholars.



Kotak Education Foundation

Provides the Kotak Junior Scholarship to meritorious SSC students across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Currently, nine Sitaras are receiving support through the programme.



Guiding Light Foundation

Supports students in accessing prestigious scholarships through mentoring, guidance, and application support. Currently, three Sitaras are beneficiaries.



Buddy4Study

Provides access to government and non-government scholarship opportunities. Currently, two Sitaras are receiving scholarships through the platform.



Strengthening institutional capacity

These partners invest in Abhyudaya's own team and systems, helping the organisation learn, document, and improve.



Bookworm

Supports the development of Abhyudaya's library programme through structured mentoring and capacity-building initiatives. Currently, two team members are enrolled in the programme.



Central Square Foundation

Collaborates on knowledge-building, documentation, and identifying best practices emerging from the Abhyudaya model. CSF has supported the visual documentation of Abhyudaya's journey.

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Join the journey

Making a difference, together

Every Sitara's journey is shaped by a community of people who chose to show up with their time, resources, expertise, or simply belief. As Abhyudaya continues to grow, community participation and collaboration remain central to creating impact that lasts. Whether through financial support, mentorship, institutional partnerships, or a single professional opportunity extended to a Sitara, every contribution matters.

How can you contribute

Time

Volunteer your services, either online or offline.

Talent

Share your skills to broaden the horizon of our Sitaras.

Treasure

Donate to Abhyudaya. All donations in India are fully tax exempt under Section 80G(2)(iiiif) of the Income Tax Act. Overseas donations are covered under the FCRA registration.

Your support helps our Sitaras continue their education and inspires them to become role models for others. Every contribution to Abhyudaya directly benefits Sitaras, with no overhead costs. SPIJMR covers all administrative expenses, including office space, staff, facilities and technical infrastructure.

Every donation helps shape a Sitara's future. Your contribution supports nine categories of development delivered through 23 specialist enrichment partners.



College and career guidance, including competitive exam preparation



Skills training: programming, coding, and digital literacy



Vocational scholarships



Health and wellness: Nutrition support and free health check-ups



Design Thinking and innovation



Sports and physical development



Financial support and planning



Aptitude testing and academic mentoring

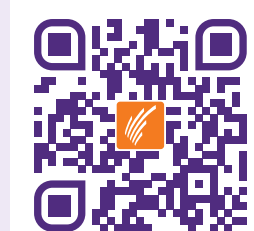


Emotional and social guidance

For donation queries, please write to:

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Director, Abhyudaya
arati.nagaraj@spjimr.org

Abhyudaya Office
abhyudaya@spjimr.org



Scan the QR code to donate



Join the journey

Looking back, moving *forward*

Abhyudaya is more than an educational programme: it is a community built on trust, mentorship, opportunity and shared purpose. Over the past year, the collective efforts of Sitaras, mentors, alumni, educators, volunteers, and partners have continued to expand access to quality education while empowering students to realise their aspirations.



What we are building



A governance-backed,
institutionally anchored
leadership programme



Multi-year continuity and
stability for every Sitara



Greater depth and reach
across K-West schools



Stronger enrichment
partnerships and
learning outcomes

Looking ahead to 2026-27, Abhyudaya will deepen experiential learning, strengthen peer-led mentorship, build structured career pathways, and expand partnerships across schools and communities in K-West.

Guided by the belief that talent is universal but opportunity is not, the programme remains committed to creating pathways that enable every Sitara to learn, grow, and thrive with confidence and dignity.



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