

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ST. JOHN'S OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION**
DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE
(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)



**ST. JOHN'S
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ASSOCIATION**



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TEAM 2025-26





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A SEASON OF TOGETHERNESS

As I sit down to pen this note for our e-magazine, I find myself reflecting with immense gratitude on the past four months. They have been nothing short of joyful—energising not just for me personally but for our entire Executive Team. What began as a calendar of ideas soon transformed into a season of meaningful action, camaraderie and collective purpose. At SJOB, we often speak of bonds that last a lifetime; over these months, we have lived that promise in the truest sense.

Our journey in this term so far was marked by a series of diverse yet deeply connected initiatives Teachers' Day, the TSD Rally, the Racquet Tournament, the Flood Relief Drive, Diwali sweets distribution and our Golf event. Each of these, in its own way, reflected the spirit of SJOB: celebrating our mentors, fostering camaraderie through sport and adventure, standing together in times of need and sharing joy during moments of festivity. Together, these events strengthened our bonds and reinforced the values of service, fellowship and pride that define our association.

None of this would have been possible without the relentless efforts of our Executive Team. Their dedication, late

nights, attention to detail and unwavering commitment turned plans into memorable experiences. Working alongside such a passionate group has been an absolute privilege and a personal joy.

I would also like to place on record my sincere gratitude to the School Fraternity and Management for their constant encouragement and support. Their openness, guidance and belief in our initiatives have been instrumental in our success. SJOB's strength lies in this seamless partnership between alumni and institution and I am deeply thankful for it.

As we look ahead, the excitement continues to build. I warmly look forward to welcoming each one of you at the SJOB Winterball on Christmas Eve—an evening that promises celebration, nostalgia & togetherness as we close the year on a high note.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. The past four months have reinforced one simple truth: when we come together, we create moments that matter.

With warm regards,
Kunal Sekhri (Batch of 2001)
President, SJOB



FROM THE FOUNDER PRESIDENT SJOB



LET SJOB SOAR HIGHER

In the four and a half decades of its existence, SJOB has been hugely successful in bringing the old boys of St. John's together, promoting camaraderie, helping the School at every opportunity and in benefitting the community by holding regular blood donation camps. Each successive President & his devoted team have improved upon their predecessors, taken our Alumni Association to greater heights.

Like the Soaring Eagle, SJOB must also spread its wings - from Chandigarh to the whole country and overseas. Our members have made a mark in every corner of the globe. We should share the 'SPIRIT OF SJOB' with old boys all over the world. It exists within them. They should share it with others and make our planet a better place to live in, in accordance with our school motto - ~~'For God'~~ 'Pro - Deo et Patria' - 'For God and Country'.

Long live SJOB - Long live St. John's High School.
Mamohan Lal Saxena
(MAC)
Batch of 1964.
Founding President



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK



SJOPA – Of Legacy and Love

Each SJOPA year promises two things – one that it's going to be full of surprises and not like the previous years and second it promises to be extremely similar in its nature, fervor and spirit. In the past 44 years of this beautiful organization's existence, it has grown in numbers, in purpose and in Pride for its old boys.

Every excited and enthusiastic member who joins to contribute and be a part of this journey helps us grow in ways we could never think of, year after year.

This year has been no exception. The love received—and the love shared—bit by bit in every event, every meeting and every discussion never ceases to amaze us all.

Long live SJOPA! Long live this Pride and Passion! Long live this Brotherhood and Long live the Love we share for our alma mater.

With warm regards,
Gurnoor Sangha (Batch of 1993)
Vice President, SJOPA

MUSINGS OF AN OLD BOY

As a Johnian who walked out of the gates of St. John's High School, Chandigarh in 1983, it felt like stepping into a world full of possibilities, with time as a companion - silently weaving together memories, achievements, and experiences. Decades have passed, yet the essence of those school years remains remarkably intact. The morning assemblies beneath the gentle glow of beautiful skies, the measured discipline of classrooms, the firm yet caring presence of our teachers, and the easy camaraderie of friendships forged in youth - all return with enduring clarity. At the time, we were merely students, unaware that those formative days were shaping not just our education, but our character. St John's gave us far more than lessons from textbooks; it gave us values - integrity, self-belief, compassion, and quiet resilience, that have stood the test of life's many seasons.

With the advantage of years comes perspective, and with perspective, gratitude. Our journeys since then have taken us down varied paths across professions, responsibilities, and geographies, but the moment two Johnians meet, time collapses and a shared language emerges. That is the quiet strength of our alma mater and of SJOPA which preserves continuity, reconnects generations, and reminds us of the roots that anchor us. In giving back through sharing memories, mentorship, or simply presence we honor an institution that shaped who we are. No matter how far life takes us, the Johnian spirit endures, steady and unmistakable. Once a Johnian, always a Johnian - bound by shared beginnings, sustained by lifelong bonds, and united by a legacy that continues to inspire long after our school days have passed.

Nagendra Singh (Batch of 1983)
Past President, SJOPA



FROM THE SECRETARYS' DESK



Serving as the Secretary of SJOB A is a personal privilege - made even more special as I complete 25 years since passing out from St. John's High School. This milestone year has inspired reflection, gratitude and a sense of responsibility towards our Alma Mater.

SJOB A has played a transformative role in my journey, fostering lifelong friendships and awakening a deeper sense of service. It stands as a reminder that even while we move on from school, the Johnian spirit endures.

The current SJOB A team is driven by a clear purpose: to connect every Johnian with this enduring brotherhood. Through sports, reunion and shared experiences, we continue to bridge generations and keep our legacy alive. As we move forward, our resolve is to strengthen these bonds, honour our shared heritage and shape a stronger future for SJOB A.

Warm regards,
Siddharth Gupta (Batch of 2000)
Secretary (Admin)



Dear Esteemed Members of the SJOB A Family, It is with immense gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility that I address you as the Secretary of SJOB A, for this ongoing tenure. Our alma mater has given us more than just an education - it has gifted us with lifelong friendships, values that guide us, and memories that continue to shape who we are today. To serve an association rooted in such legacy is truly an honor. As I began this tenure, my hope was to build a more connected, engaged, and inclusive alumni community, as I envision SJOB A as a platform which not only celebrates nostalgia but also creates meaningful opportunities - be it through mentorship, professional collaboration, social initiatives, or simply stronger bonds across batches and geographies.

In the coming months, we aim to enhance alumni engagement through well-curated events, transparent communication, and initiatives that allow every member to feel involved and valued. Your ideas, participation, and support will be central to shaping these efforts. SJOB A is not run by a committee alone, it is powered by every alumnus who believes in the power of giving back.

I look forward to working closely with each one of you, learning from your experiences, and collectively taking SJOB A to greater heights. Together, let us honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a future that the next generation of alumni will be proud of.

Warm regards,
Anuj Bansal (Batch of 2017)
Secretary (Events)

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A SYMPHONY OF GRATITUDE

TEACHERS' DAY 2025



Every year, SJOPA's calendar opens with an event that is closest to our hearts. There's a special magic in the air every September as SJOPA gathers to celebrate Teachers' Day - a tradition that grows richer with every passing year. The 2025 edition was a dazzling tapestry of **joy, laughter, and deep admiration**, set against the **stunning and tastefully curated décor at Novotel Hotel, Chandigarh**, creating an ambiance that perfectly complemented the spirit of the occasion.

The celebration was graced by the presence of the **school principal, revered brothers, dedicated teachers, the SJOPA president, and the executive team**, whose participation added warmth and significance to the occasion. The day

sparkled with a whirlwind of **cheerful activities and spirited games**. Teachers and alumni alike dove into rounds of antakshari, tambola, and a medley of creative, lighthearted competitions that had everyone grinning from ear to ear. The ballroom echoed with music, playful banter, and the infectious energy of a community united in gratitude.

Every moment was crafted to make our teachers feel cherished - from the lively group games that brought out everyone's playful side, to the spontaneous dance sessions and melodious sing-alongs that filled the room with warmth & camaraderie. The celebration reached its sweet crescendo with a **delightful cake cutting**, followed by a **gala lunch** and **thoughtful**





exquisite hampers for all the educators. What made this day truly unforgettable was the genuine sense of togetherness and the outpouring of admiration for the mentors who have shaped countless lives. Teachers' Day 2025 wasn't just an event - it was a radiant celebration of inspiration, kindness, and the enduring bonds that tie the SJOB A family together. Here's to the teachers - **our guiding stars, our pillars of wisdom, and the heart of every Johnian's journey.** May the laughter, memories, and

gratitude of this day linger on, lighting the way for many more years to come.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors Mr. Navpreet Singh Aujla, Silver Fern Education Consultants, Chitkara University, Indo Global Group of Colleges, Piccadilly Square, AU Small Finance Bank, Re'equil & Meena Bazaar.

Saahil Harjai (Batch of 2001)
Joint Secretary, SJOB A





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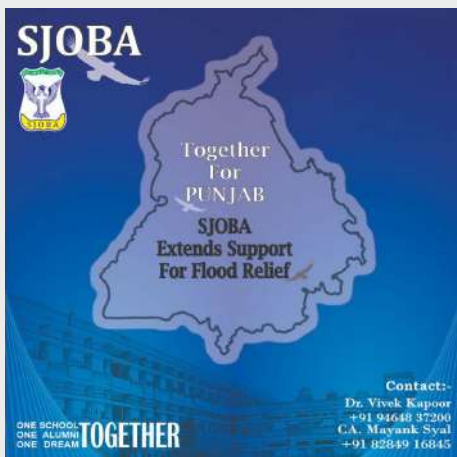
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SJOBA FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE

STANDING TOGETHER IN TIMES OF NEED



In response to the **devastating Punjab floods** that struck several districts just a few months ago, **SJOBA launched a heartfelt relief mission in collaboration with Team Udham NGO and the Red Cross**. The efforts focused on the hardest-hit border areas of Hoshiarpur, Fazilka, Jalalabad, Ferozepur, and others.

Through the **collective generosity of the SJOBA community**, financial assistance was provided along with substantial donations of groceries, essential items, and water purifiers with dispensers. Volunteers worked tirelessly on the ground to ensure aid reached families in remote and severely affected villages. Relief kits included food grains, hygiene products, and daily necessities, helping hundreds of families rebuild their lives.

This drive was not just about material support - it was a demonstration of **solidarity, empathy, and the enduring Johnian spirit of service**. SJOBA's efforts



were recognized by local partners and beneficiaries alike, reinforcing the association's commitment to **giving back to society in times of crisis**. The success of this relief mission stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a **community comes together for a greater cause**.

Dr Vivek Kapoor (Batch 1994)

Vice President, SJOBA

CA Mayank Syal (Batch 2018)

Treasurer, SJOBA





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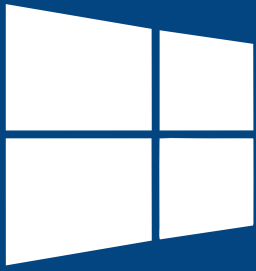


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SJOBA TSD RALLY 2025

A JOURNEY BEYOND ROADS



In the echoing halls of our alma mater, we often reminisce about the journeys that shaped us. While some paths are forged within the four walls of a classroom, others reveal their magic much later, on the expansive roads of adulthood. The **SJOBA TSD Rally 2025**, held from the 12th to the 14th of September, was one such journey - a masterclass in adventure, friendship, & a perfectly calibrated dose of organised chaos.

An FMSCI-sanctioned event sponsored by Robins Machines, the SJOB TSD Rally 2025 saw 32 teams from across the nation converge on the starting line. The entry list carried a special weight this year, featuring teams from our own fraternity, our respected Principal, and Reverend Brothers, each adding a unique chapter to the SJOB legacy.

Spanning nearly 400 kilometres from

St. John's to Gaj Resort, Garhshankar, Punjab, the route challenged the mettle of every participant. Marked by demanding gravel roads, broken tarmac, and rugged terrain, it was a true test of endurance and skill. In the realm of a Time-Speed-Distance (TSD) rally, speed took a backseat as consistency, coordination, and precise judgement held the key to success.

Long before the first engine roared to life, another kind of rally was already underway. Behind the scenes, the "Old Boys" mobilised. What began as a logistical operation soon became a collaboration across years and experiences. Meetings weren't just about roadbooks, checkpoints, and permits; they carried the warmth of shared stories and the ease of working together.

In coordinating every detail, from the intricate navigational loops to the safety





protocols, we rediscovered the profound joy of collaboration. Responsibilities were shared, & ordinary planning sessions became meaningful moments of reconnection, proving that the bond of our fraternity remains unbroken by time.

While the winners rejoiced in their results and final rankings, for the Old Boys the true reward lay elsewhere. It was found in the camaraderie among brothers, the easy banter after long days, and the satisfaction of simply being together. As the engines cooled at Gaj Resort, the atmosphere felt less like a competitive finish line and more like a gathering of friends, pausing to

appreciate what had been achieved collectively.

The 2025 Rally reaffirmed the values that bind us: precision over impulse, teamwork over individual acclaim, and perseverance guided by a common purpose. Long after the dust has settled and the engines have been switched off, the spirit of the journey remains - a reminder that when we move forward together, no road is too rugged to navigate.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors Robins, Vamcy Merla, Tangent Motorsports, HD Wire, Evo, Gaj Resort, Fortis, Coca Cola KBPL & Verka

SJOBA RALLY CONCLUDES

Mayank-Chirag, Sachin-Chandrasekhar, Madhur-Inder emerge victorious

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MAYANK CHOPRA and Chirag Thakur emerged as the winners in the overall category as well as pro class category in the 21st edition SJOBA TSD format rally, which concluded at a private resort in Hoshiarpur. The two-day rally, organised by St John's Old Boys Association, was flagged off on Saturday from the St John's High School, Sector 26 in Chandigarh. The winning duo was awarded with a cash prize of Rs 75,000. Sachin Mandhwani and



Mayank Chopra and Chirag Thakur with their trophies

Chandrasekhar claimed the second spot while the third spot in the overall category was claimed by the duo of Rajiv Sarkar and Aditya Anthony. In the amateur class, the pair of Anirudh Goyal and Sukriti Chotani claimed the top spot while the pair of Puneet Nangli and Ramanpreet Nangli finished second. The third spot was claimed by Annapurna Alley and Purna Kumar Tamang. In the novice class category, Madhur Khudia and Inder Deep emerged as the winner while the duo of Abhikshit Sharma and Ujjwal Sharma claimed the second spot. The third spot was claimed by Manu Nakra and Tanvi Nakra.

Rohindeep Singh (Class of 2005) Executive Member





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SJOBA SHRI RAM PRAKASH MEMORIAL ANNUAL RACQUET TOURNAMENT



The SJOBA Shri Ram Prakash Memorial Annual Racquet Tournament 2025 was successfully organized at St. John's High School, Sector 26, Chandigarh, celebrating the spirit of competitive sports and camaraderie among Johnians. Traditionally known for its badminton and table tennis events, this year's tournament marked a significant milestone with the introduction of squash, adding a fresh dimension to the sporting calendar.

The badminton and table tennis matches were held at the school auditorium, while the inaugural squash tournament took place at the school's squash court. Badminton featured Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles categories, with six teams competing in Men's Doubles and five teams in Mixed Doubles. Several participants showcased exceptional athleticism by competing across multiple sports and disciplines, reflecting remarkable

resilience, endurance, and passion for sport.

Both table tennis and squash witnessed participation from 10 male players each. The addition of squash brought renewed enthusiasm and excitement, not only among the players but also among the spectators who gathered in large numbers to witness the high-energy matches.

In badminton, the Mixed Doubles title was clinched by Sonakshi Verma and Bhavesh Malik, while the Men's Doubles category saw an unexpected and thrilling upset, with Kevin Wong and Gaurav Verma emerging as champions.

The highlight of the tournament was the final of the inaugural squash event, which featured a gripping contest between two national-level squash players and fellow Johnians, Shivam Bansal and Inderjeet





Singh. After a gruelling and closely fought encounter, Inderjeet Singh emerged victorious, marking a memorable conclusion to the squash competition.

The Table Tennis Singles tournament witnessed an impressive performance by a fresher, Yuvraj Arora (Batch of 2025), who displayed composure and skill beyond his years to claim the championship title. As the matches concluded and the applause faded, the tournament left behind more than just winners and results. It rekindled memories of school days



spent on the same courts, friendships forged through sport, and the timeless Johnian spirit that continues to bind generations together—making the event not just a competition, but a heartfelt walk down memory lane.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr Ranjan Chawla for Sponsoring the event & Mirza ke Kebab for being our hospitality partners.

Akshit Sharma (Batch of 2018)
Joint Secretary, SJOBA



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ILLUMINATING HEARTS

SJOBA'S DIWALI GIFTING 2025



In the radiant spirit of Diwali - the festival of love, and giving, SJOBA continued its cherished tradition by hosting the Annual Diwali Gifting on **18th October 2025** at the School Auditorium. This heartfelt gathering, rooted in gratitude and unity, **brought the SJOBA family together to celebrate the unsung heroes of the school - the devoted support staff.**

The atmosphere sparkled with festive joy as alumni from across batches joined hands to express gratitude. **This year's celebration was sponsored by the Golden Jubilee Batch of 1975 and the Silver Jubilee Batch of 2000, who lovingly arranged a special buffet lunch, a box of**

sweets, and thoughtful tokens of appreciation - shagun, two blankets and bed sheets each, and a Skybag - for every member of the support staff. It was a gesture that spoke volumes about the respect and affection SJOBA holds for those who form the backbone of the institution.

As always, the event was graced by the presence of the school principal, SJOBA president, and members of the executive team. Their participation added warmth and significance, **reinforcing the enduring bond between the alumni and the institution.** The room was alive with heartfelt smiles, laughter, and the shared





spirit of Diwali, as alumni and staff bridged generations with stories and camaraderie. What stood out most was the genuine warmth in the room - the kind that only comes from sincere affection and a shared legacy. Diwali Gifting was more than just a distribution; it was a celebration of relationships, kindness, and community spirit.



We extend our **heartfelt gratitude to the batches of 1975 and 2000** for their unwavering support and generous contributions. Their thoughtfulness brought immense cheer and countless smiles, making the celebration truly unforgettable.

Navkiran Singh (Batch of 1993)
Vice President, SJOB A



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ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 2025

FUN, FITNESS, AND FOND MEMORIES



On 22nd November 2025, St. John's High School once again transformed into a vibrant arena of energy and excitement as it hosted its much-anticipated Annual Sports Day. The hallowed grounds of St. John's echoed with cheers, laughter, and the unmistakable spirit of camaraderie as the celebrations unfolded. This year's theme, **"Fun, Fitness, and Play,"** was not just a showcase of athletic prowess but a heartfelt tribute to the enduring bond between Johnians across generations.

The day commenced with the **unfurling of the School Flag, and the stirring School Anthem, setting a tone of pride and tradition.** The audience was then inspired by an uplifting address from the **Chief Guest**, who emphasized the importance of sportsmanship, unity, and holistic development in the lives of young Johnians. This was followed by a heartfelt note from the **School Principal**, who reflected on the school's legacy of excellence and the role of such events in nurturing well-rounded individuals. These words set the perfect stage for a day filled with spirited competition and collective celebration.

The field then came alive with a **vibrant display of student talent - enthusiastic sprints, thrilling relay races, and creative drill displays filled the morning with energy and color.** From the youngest participants in the Prep and KG races to the older students competing in relays and showcasing coordinated drills, **every event reflected the school's commitment to teamwork, fitness, and all-round development.**

The March Past, a vivid display of discipline and unity, was led by the **Golden Jubilee Batch of 1975 and the Silver Jubilee Batch of 2000**, their steps resonating with nostalgia and pride. For these alumni, it was a moment to relive cherished memories and reconnect with the roots that shaped their journey from boyhood to adulthood. Adding to the excitement were the special **100-meter sprint for the Silver Jubilee batch and 50-meter for Golden Jubilee batch**, a tradition that never fails to ignite enthusiasm. With chests swelled with pride and minds engulfed in reminiscence, the old boys raced down the track, cheered on by



students and fellow alumni alike - a symbolic gesture of continuity and legacy.

The festivities reached a crescendo with the **Tug of War between SJOB A alumni and current students**, a spirited contest that transcended generations. Strength, strategy, and laughter intertwined as the rope became a bridge between the past and the present, reinforcing the timeless Johnian spirit.

Beyond the competitive fervor, the event served as a vibrant reunion. Alumni exchanged stories, laughter echoed across the campus, and the collective

heartbeat of St. John's resonated in every interaction. **Sports Day 2025 was not merely an athletic meet - it was a living testament to the school's rich heritage, its unwavering values, and the enduring ties that bind Johnians together.**

As the sun set on this memorable day, one truth stood clear: **traditions may evolve, but the spirit of St. John's remains eternal - energizing the present and inspiring the future.**

Manu Jauhar (Batch of 1998)

Executive Member, SJOB A





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SJOBA GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025

IN FOND MEMORY OF OLD BOY SAHIL SHARMA

"A Gathering of Sport, Spirit, and Remembrance"



On a crisp winter morning, **the field teed off under clear winter skies** at the emerald stretch of the Chandigarh Golf Club for the much-anticipated **SJOBA Golf Tournament 2025**, held in fond remembrance of Old Boy **Sahil Sharma** on Saturday, December 13th. The 18-hole tournament brought together alumni spanning decades for a day shaped by competition, connection, and shared nostalgia.

This year, the event took a meaningful leap. In an initiative to encourage sporting culture



and nurture rising talent, **40 student golfers** aged 7 to 17 from six leading schools of Chandigarh were invited to participate. Their presence brought an energetic new rhythm to the fairways, aligning with SJOBA's commitment to expanding the horizons of youth sport and offering students an engaging taste of competitive golf in a friendly and encouraging environment.

A strong field of **104 golfers** competed across various categories for individual net and gross honours. Throughout the day, the course echoed with camaraderie as participants showcased both precision and sportsmanship. On-course challenges including **Straightest Drive, Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin** added flair to the competition, ensuring that every hole carried its own story.



After an engaging morning on the course, alumni gathered for an evening of cocktails and dinner, providing an opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and forge new friendships. The awards ceremony recognized outstanding performances, and participants left with not only memories of a great day but also some well-deserved prizes.

The prize distribution was held at the Chandigarh Golf Association (CGA), and was graced by Chief Guest Mr Diprava Lakra, IAS, Finance Secretary, Chandigarh. The other dignitaries present included Ravibir Singh, President, CGC and Ranjit Pachnanda, IPS (Retd.), President, CGA. Notably, this year the SJOB A Golf Tournament was held in association with the **GB Legends**, an organisation driven by a 'passion for excellence' and a strong commitment to promoting Golf as an Olympic sport.

Speaking at the event, **Mr. Kunal Sekhri, President SJOB A**, said: "This tournament is more than a sporting occasion; it is a celebration of shared heritage and collective pride. Honouring Sahil's memory through an event that unites Old Boys and inspires young golfers reflects the true ethos of SJOB A. We are grateful to our partners, participants, and the golfing fraternity for helping us elevate this annual tradition into a meaningful and memorable experience."

SJOB A expressed sincere gratitude to all participants, alumni, students, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to the tournament's success, while extending special thanks to **GB Legends** for adding strength and stature to the 2025 edition.

With another memorable chapter added to SJOB A's legacy of sport, fellowship, and community, we look forward to many more moments - both on the course and beyond.



We extend our sincere gratitude to our Title Sponsor GB Legends, and our valued supporters Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. | Chimmy's (Callaway) | Golf Wiz | Verka | Kandhari Beverages Pvt. Ltd. (Coca-Cola) | Diageo India

Salil Talwar (Batch of 2000)
Executive Member, SJOB A

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