

PRAGATI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Progress Through Education



FOREWORD

by Mr. Tej Arora - Trustee

Pragati Annual Day 2017 is the culmination of all the hard work by the mentors, scholars, teachers and parents through the year. It is the event of events in the Pragati universe – a time to get together as a family to smile and laugh together, recognize achievements, share talents, and reinforce the mission of Pragati. It's a grand celebration. You can think of it as our Christmas, our Diwali and our Eid.



We had an eventful 2017, another feather in the cap of Pragati's 15 year history during which over 600 Pragati scholars have graduated. The rest of this newsletter will be a kaleidoscope of various activities through 2017. If there was a short phrase to set a theme for 2017 – it would be "Purpose, Focus, Enthusiasm, and Fun".

The year started off with an annual field trip to the lush and sprawling campus of IIM. Two happy bus-fuls of 75 Pragati scholars & Mentors, ushered by 10 volunteers of Vikasana (the social impact club of IIM Bangalore) through learning talks, campus tour, games, food and fun. Everyone enjoyed it so much that the day-long event seemed too short. Every year, a few scholars graduate out of the Pragati scholarship fold, and make room to welcome a few new ones. We welcomed 27 new scholars on the annual selection day in July out of 93 students that appeared for a test & interview process. Once the new faces were on board, it was time to break the ice and mingle. We have another annual event for just that. In August, we had a picnic trip to the Nehru Planetarium and National Military Memorial Park across the street. About a 100 scholars & mentors were dazzled by a spectacular cosmic show at the beautiful planetarium and later strolled across for a picnic lunch & games at the memorial park. Surmising that the planetarium show stoked everyone's interest in astronomy, in just a few weeks a talk on ISRO's space missions was organized. We were fortunate to have a few distinguished staff from ISRO make an audio visual presentation about India's space technology & missions, that had the audience spellbound. We hope the talk kindled some out of the world dreams and aspirations!

The year was topped off with two wonderful events. We were delighted to witness the weddings of two of our dear mentors – Divya in October, and Mahesh in November. We wish them all the happiness ahead.

Finally, one unforgettable fact – we are fortunate to have generous patrons and well-wishers who are the bedrock of Pragati's progress each year. As always, we are deeply grateful to them.

Hope you enjoy the journey this newsletter will take you through.

Selections 2017-Growing Pragati Family

It was again that phase of Pragati where we meet many bright students with inspired hopes and dreams.

Confidence among them was evident and so was their innocence. However, the tension among the parents was high as though it was the test of their lives. But, it was just one of the many important tests. They were still not aware of the impact it could have on them, their future and the overall effect on their friends and family all along. Maybe, it was the test of their lives!!

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Students concentrating during the written test



Mentors are trying to understand the student's financial and academic needs

Admins of Modern Public School were kind enough to let us conduct the test at their school. All the mentors assembled at 8:00 AM. It was as much a test for the mentors as for the students. Mentors had to give their best to understand the student's financial need, academic performance and passion in academics and other phases of life to select deserving students.

Our selection is a two-step process, Academic test followed by a personal interview with the shortlisted students along with the parents. It was not just the test for financial scholarship but also an entry into a world where they are encouraged to accept the greatness within them, little by little.



A visit to the IIM-Bengaluru



An entertaining-educational session for the Pragati students conducted by IIM-B students

It is always a fun day when we visit the IIMB campus as the fun starts from the moment the Pragati scholars are picked up from many locations and ends only when they are dropped back.

Many were in awe of the beautiful campus and not to forget, the mind-opening discussions they had with the IIM students. Where some were guided on how to better achieve their career goals, others were made aware of the many career options they could choose from based on their passion and go on to be successful in the field they loved.

After a sumptuous lunch at the canteen, it was time for some more fun – The trending Mannequin challenge. It sure was a challenge to hold all the crazy poses till the camera passed by.



Planetarium - the stars waiting to be explored



Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium

We had booked the entire hall of the Bengaluru Planetarium on a Sunday with the sole purpose of educating (and entertaining at the same time) the Pragati scholars. What we did not expect is the energy they brought with them. It is safe to say that the show expanded the curious minds of our students.

They were amazed at the way it was presented and were absorbing all the facts which were infinitely evolving their curiosity.

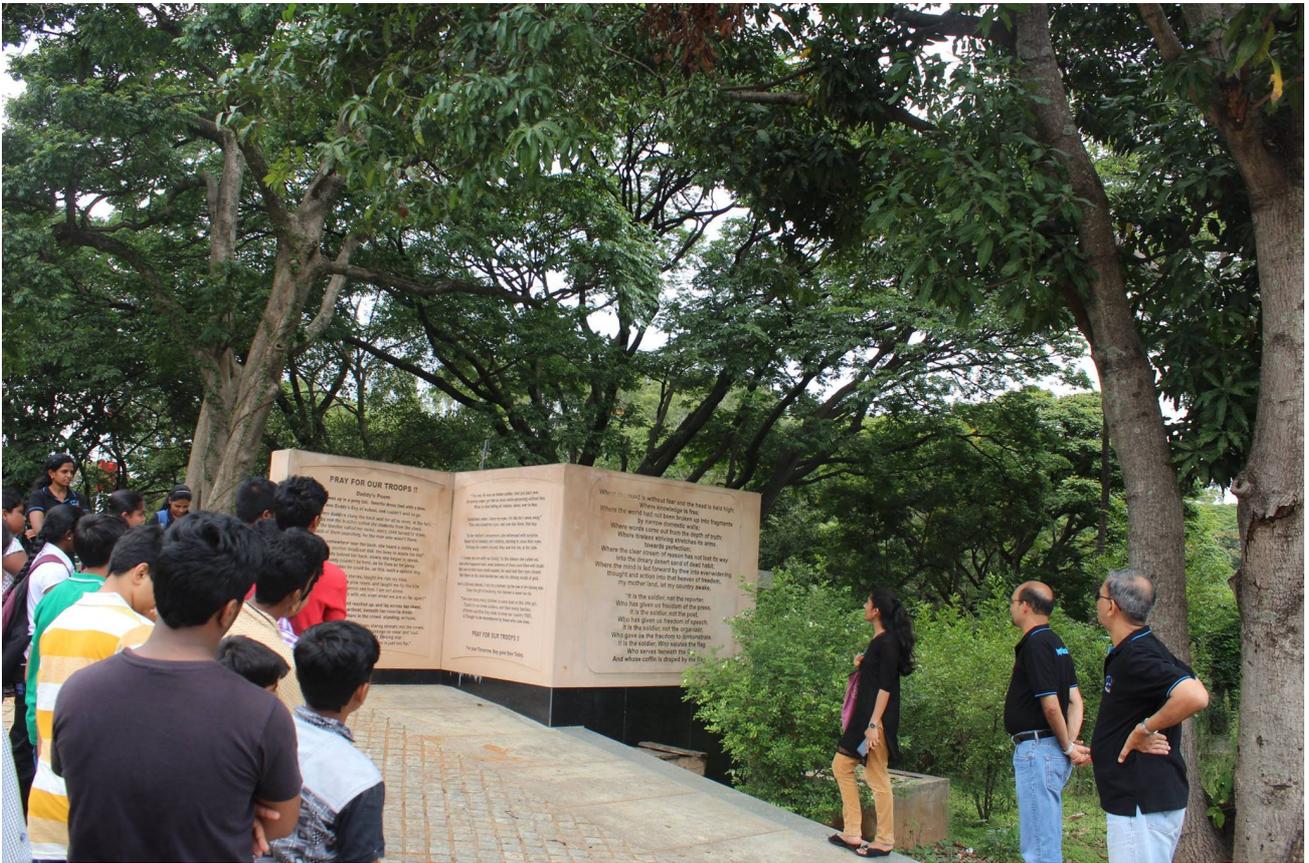
There were stars on the dome and definitely our own stars beneath it!



The curious case of Pragati students

As soon as the show was over, the students went into an overdrive. They found many scientific models to experiment with, which was on display at the same campus. Questions started pouring in about the various aspects of those experiments and at some point mentors had to recall all that they had learnt when in school (read google on mobiles) to answer them.

The Patriotism Within



National Military Memorial

It was time to pay respect to our soldiers for their valor, bravery and keeping us safe.

One of the goals which Pragati wants to drive deep into the student's mindset is the contribution done by all those Scientists, Army and the people from various sectors that are making an impact on this world in their unique way and how education could be the key which brings in the much-needed awareness.

After that, it was time for some yummy lunch and more play. The students and mentors were happy and childish during the games to the point of laughter and maybe in a weird way, that is when they bonded more as friends rather as just mentor-mentee.

It was time to disperse that evening but not before they clicked countless selfies and made some amazing friends from different schools.

ISRO Talk - To Infinity and Beyond



A session on satellites by ISRO scientists

The responses from the planetarium visit was an overwhelming curiosity. What if someone could just lessen their thirst for knowledge? What if?

Three Scientists from ISRO came to the rescue of Pragati Foundation.

They presented facts and ideologies on various aspects of the Universe and Satellites, the part about the cost-efficiency of the Indian missions was a real eye-opener for everyone present there

It concluded with a Question & Answer session.

Again, to no one's surprise, the students bombarded the scientists with their inquisitive questions.

We hope this talk started a countdown for great space missions for some in the audience.

Pragati Annual Day- 2016



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The day started in a rush for the mentors as they arranged for the event. As the students and parents started coming, the atmosphere was brimming with energy.

All were inspired by our chief guest – Mr. Rev Samuel, Principal of Divyashanti School who gave a wonderful talk on the importance of education in one's life and the discipline to maintain it.

It was followed by a magic show and some really good dance and song performances by our talented students.

Stand-up Comedy by Anaga was another highlight of this event. She made the whole hall burst out into laughter. The show ended on a positive note with mentors getting updated about the student's activities and students making friends over snacks.

Scholarship News

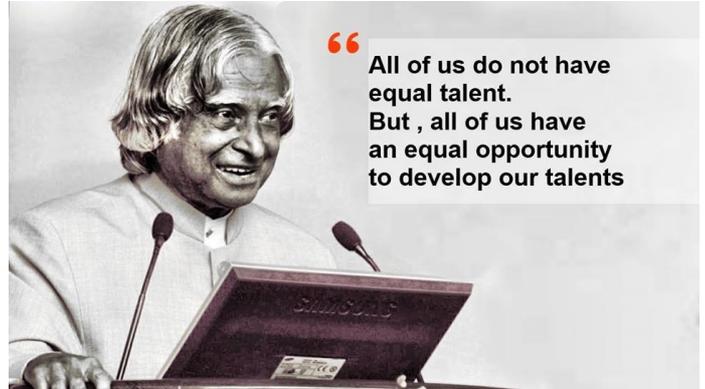
Scholarship statistics for the year 2017.

The selection process was done for over 93 students from 8th class - 1st Pre-University.

Out of 93 students, 36 were shortlisted for the interview process.

At last, 27 students were selected for Pragati Scholarship and a total of 70,000 INR was given as the first installment to these students.

There were also Pragati students whose scholarship had to be renewed. There were 85 renewals and a total of 3,33,000 INR was given as the first installment.



*Pragati- Progress through
education*

Mentorship News

Each of the 112 Pragati scholars is given individual attention by their respective mentor.

Mentoring includes 1-1 discussion, group activities and mentors are always available to lend a listening ear, support the young scholars and guide them in various aspects of their lives.

Students from the below schools have been constantly involved with Pragati scholarship and mentoring program. Management of each of these schools has played a crucial role in achieving this successful association by facilitating us, with student interactions at their campus and acting as a mediator in selecting deserving students.

Below are the schools in no particular order:

- Mahila Seva Samaja
- Deccan English School
- Modern Public English School
- Sandeepana Vidya Bhavan
- SVES English High School
- Sri Vani Girls High School

There is also a big chunk of scholars from various other schools and colleges of Bangalore.

Being a Pragati Scholar

A few words about my association with Pragati Foundation:

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of 'progress', in every society, in every family".

"Pragati" means progress. Progress brings prosperity, happiness and transformation in one's life and one such means of achieving progress is through education.

Education brings awareness, transformation and ultimately helps one to progress in life.

Pragati Foundation's conviction of helping students progressing in their lives is truly magnanimous.

My journey with Pragati started in the year 2010 where I first met the foundation's members near Coles Park for the interview.

I was the last person to get interviewed and to my luck, I did qualify for the scholarship. I really think that I am fortunate and blessed that I am a part of Pragati foundation and truly reminisce the journey so far.

We should not question what society has given to us rather we should contemplate what we have contributed to the welfare of the society and undoubtedly Pragati's contribution in this regard is appreciable.

The activities conducted by Pragati are- a visit to IIM-B career awareness programme, a visit to the museum and also have been a part of the annual day which has been really knowledgeable, enhancing and motivational.

I would like to thank all the members of Pragati foundation and my mentor Ms. Kavitha for their immense support and help. I am sure that I would be working on the other side of the Pragati Foundation a few years down the lane and be a part of this endeavor.



Scholars having fun

- Siddharth P
(Pragati Scholar-pursuing CA)

Being a Pragati Mentor



Pragati Team- All the mentors along with the trustees

I was one of the Pragati scholars a few years back, I did my engineering in a reputed college and I enjoy my work in my field. I felt it was high time to give back to the society in my own unique way and what better way than to go back to my roots.

When I joined Pragati as a volunteer, I thought I was helping the students in their academic future. Well, I did but seeing Pragati from a scholar point of view and seeing it from a mentor point of view is what changed my whole perspective on the impact Pragati had on a scholar's life.

The simple act of getting selected as a scholar is a confidence boost in itself, the financial support provided lessens the anxiety in the family for basic student needs, getting together with other like-minded students means raising the bar and making long endearing friendships, the mentoring provides the means of exploring the capabilities and aptitude of the student

When I was a scholar I did appreciate what Pragati did for me but I never for once thought about the impact it had on others in my life.

Yes, these might be small acts, they might even seem trivial for some people but when I look back I am definitely grateful for the way it had an impact on my life.

I have some wonderful friends whom I met through Pragati who have been with me for more than 10 years now. Yes, some of them are mentors too.

It is not just a thank you message to Pragati, it is a message to anyone reading this that a small act of kindness or an act towards social responsibility can trigger a butterfly effect of which you might never know unless you get to be a part where you are the giver.

Through this, I urge the Pragati scholars or anyone for that matter to be the giver in your own unique way and be the one who changes someone's life for better

- Vishal Gurung
(Pragati Mentor)

Thank You



Pragati Team 2007-A blast from the past

There are many people behind Pragati's smooth operation and it's success. Our Board of trustees includes Mr. Vijay, Mr. Tej Arora, Mr. Santosh and Mr. Surya Rao who have been the north star for Pragati.

We extend our special thanks to all the sponsors of Pragati which has enabled the organization to help many students in need.

We are grateful to all the mentors and volunteers all through the years who have extended their support both financially and by putting in their time and energy for Pragati activities.

Join hands with us - Below is Pragati's contact information::

 <http://www.pragati-edu.org>

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