

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER | DEC 2022

# PRAGATI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Progress through Education...



2002-2022

CELEBRATING  
20TH YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY

## OUR VISION

We at Pragati believe that a proper education and a decent life are the birthrights of every child in a civilized society. And it is everyone's duty to see that every child gets them.

## OUR MISSION

Financial and non-financial support to students from economically weak backgrounds to enable them to receive education commensurate with their potential-and become self dependent.



**Even during pandemic,  
the significant work of  
financial assistance,  
mentoring, and  
development programs  
for the scholars  
continued unabated. The  
Gati of Pragati did not  
let up.**

# The Journey Continues

## FOREWORD BY TEJ ARORA

After a covid-induced hiatus of 2 years, we resume the cherished tradition of Pragati Family celebration under one roof. The much awaited Pragati Annual day brings together the mentors, scholars, trustees, parents, and well-wishers. We take a break. We enjoy the great company. We showcase special talents. We recognize hard work and accomplishments. We enjoy a snack together :)

Another key activity that we could resume this year in Aug 2022 was the event for the selection of new scholars. We are thrilled to have added 35 scholars to the family. Mind you, it was just the physical meetings together that were deferred due to covid. The Gati of Pragati did not let up.

In this new era, a laptop or a phone is an indispensable tool for learners. Over the last 2 years, we worked with E&Y and repurposed 50 laptops to get them into the hands of scholars. To them, these laptops were invaluable in completing courses and assignments which were predominantly online.

Computers and Technology are more and more ever-present in our daily lives. To help scholars get ahead, the “Women In Computer Sciences (WICS)” team at the University of Washington conducted a online workshop on the basics of computer studies, in Oct 2021. One of our mentors – Madhuri – a student at the university, facilitated this fruitful session.

One of the most enjoyable and wondrous experiences ever was the industrial tour of Ajax Engineering – a company founded by Mr Vijay – our Managing Trustee. No matter which subject one feels close to, this trip had something to learn for everyone. Ajax was a wonderful demonstration of application of science, engineering, finance, marketing, sales and operations to create a company that is among India’s most admired construction brands! We saw training labs, marvelous tools, assembly of complex machines, demos of cool machines, audio-visual presentation in a space-age theater, and more. Last but not the least, we cannot forget the sumptuous meals in very aesthetic surroundings. We are thankful to the Ajax staff who showed up on their holiday to make this tour not only possible, but a memorable one.

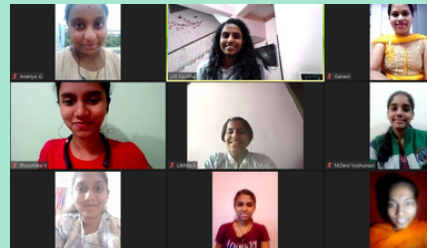
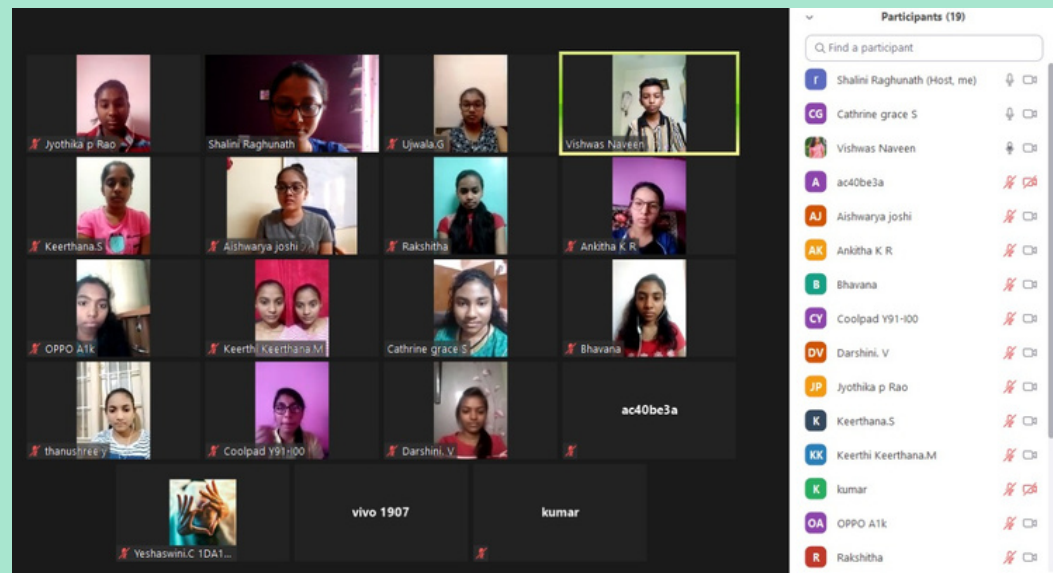
There’s much more to talk about, but I must not keep you from the rest of the exciting newsletter that has been prepared with love and care by our wonderful mentors.

We hope you enjoy your time together with us, and continue to cheer us as we continue this fulfilling journey.





**Facing the pandemic, it's not what happened that matters, it is how we respond.**



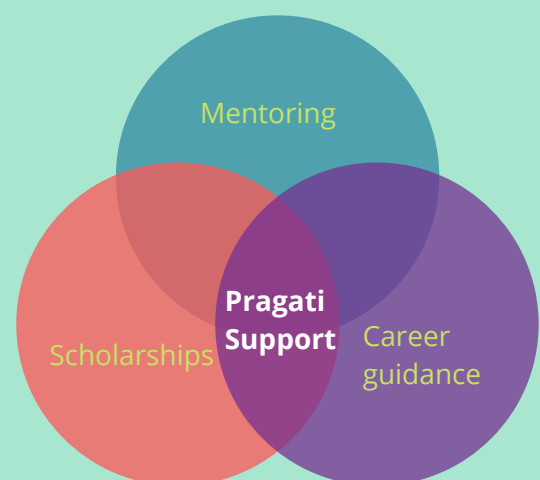
## 2020 – Virtual Meetups

Mentors provided inputs and guidance to our Pragati bright minds – students to stay positive, during this new normal.

Virtual meetups are surely a new shift!

As someone once said, “the show must go on”. Even this pandemic and lockdown situation did not stop our mentors’ meetups with their students. Every mentor interacted with their students regularly over virtual meetings to stay connected.

Students shared their thoughts about how they are adapting to online classes, virtual classroom setups, and challenges. Mentors and students brainstormed and discussed how they can align and make the best use of online classes and focus on studies overcoming challenges as much as possible.



# 2021 – Laptop Distribution

We as Pragati have achieved many milestones and one key milestone was to distribute the Laptops in collaboration with E&Y company to our Pragati students.

We distributed nearly 50 laptops and devices to our students in need during 2020 and 2021.

This support helped our students take up their online classes, assignments, and learning comfortably.



Pragati thanks E&Y for the support that made a huge impact on our students' learning.







## 2021 – Workshop – Computer Science & Technologies

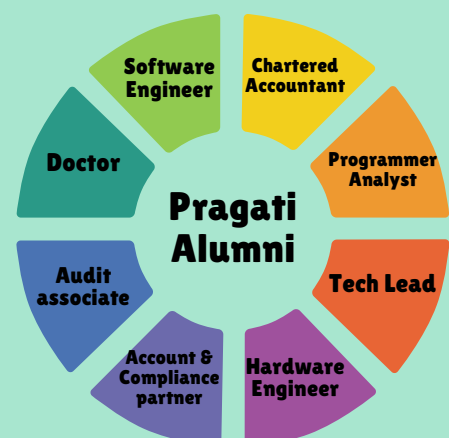
Below topics were covered in this workshop.

- Introduction to Computer Science
- Brief about trending programming languages
- Leetcode + BinarySearch
- Trends in Computer Science: Data Science and research, cloud computing
- Pathways to Master's + GRE
- Statement Of Purpose + Personal Projects + Github Demo + LinkedIn

One of our Pragati's ex-scholar and a volunteer - Madhuri Sharma - who is currently pursuing her MS in the University of Washington facilitated a workshop on computer science, its technologies, and career-related topics for our Pragati students who are interested in computers and pursuing computer subjects academically.

This workshop helped and motivated our students to understand and learn computer technologies.

The workshop was conducted by a team comprising of Heather Finch, Elisabeth Jewett, Maham Rashid, Bhagyashree Aras - all from the Women in Computing Sciences(WiCS) division in University of Washington.



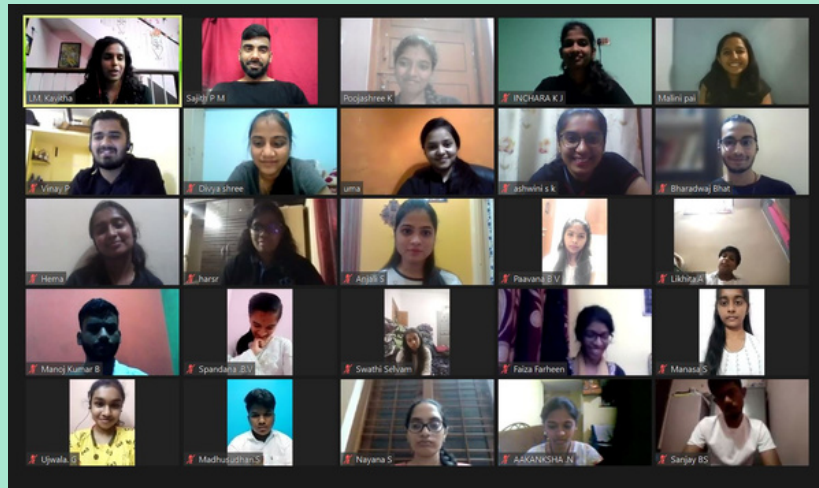
# 2021 – Open-up Event

Pragati has always strived to focus on students' educational growth as well as personal growth. Neither the pandemic nor the lockdown stopped Pragati from engaging the Scholars in fun filled and educative events.

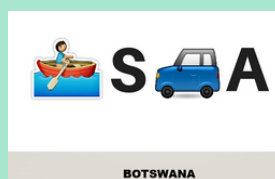
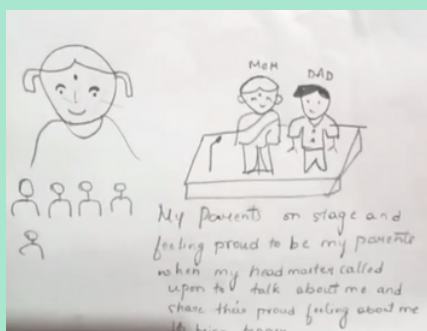
'Open Up' was one such finest event which was held online and yet remains to be most memorable. The purpose of the event was to ensure that the students come up with their creative thoughts and to trigger their hidden talents.

Scholars were invited via zoom meeting, and the event was initiated by an invocation song followed by a series of fun filled activities, it had two stages - main room activities and breakout room activities.

Students were instructed to join different breakout rooms which were handled by respective mentors and volunteers.



All the Scholars participated enthusiastically. Final main room activity was further broken into three events – It's time to rhyme, Connections and Brain teaser. These events turned out to be fun-filled with students participating actively and coming up with creative answers. The evening ended with announcement of the winners and most importantly with positive feedbacks from the students which filled the hearts of mentors and volunteers with satisfaction and encouragement to organize such events in the future as well.



PUZZLES & ACTIVITIES

**Just can't thank you enough for such a wonderful experience,  
Didn't think that it would be filled with so much fun,  
Looking forward for more events and meeting everyone in person,  
Thank you so much again,  
Proud to be a part of Pragati**

**– Maanya, 10th std, MSS**







## 2022 – Selections

Pragati has always been and always will be open to students with a drive to do better, who are full of potential but are hindered by their financial capability.

Every year, Pragati invites students at high school and above from different schools and colleges of Bangalore to take part in the selections to become a Pragati scholar. Deciding if they have what it takes to become Pragati scholar is determined by a carefully designed written test put together by Pragati mentors and volunteers, considering their learnings from academics and general knowledge.

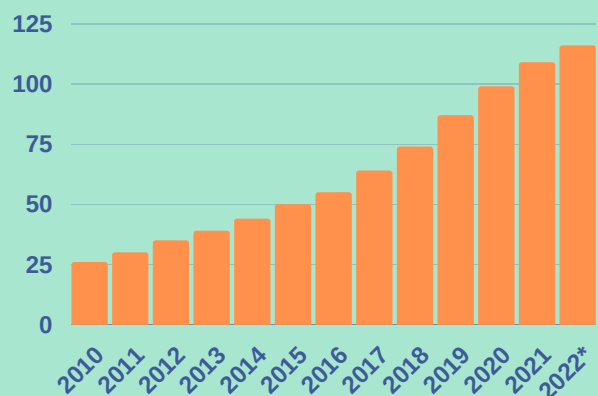
Those students who make it past the written test are then interviewed along with their parents/guardians, by an unbiased Pragati panel of mentors and its founders to understand and assess all the aspects of the student.

We were glad to see students coming in for selections in large numbers this year.

The selections went smoothly, reflecting the efforts put in by everyone in Pragati team, both prior and on the day of the event along with an effortless cooperation by students and parents gathered.

At the end of the day, we had 35 new Pragati Scholars joining the family, who will now be a part of all the events and programs Pragati organizes for their holistic growth.

**Cumulative scholarship amount disbursed (in lakhs)**







## 2022 – AJAX Tour

16th October 2022 will be the one of the most memorable days for pragati scholars, mentors and volunteers with the industrial visit to the legendary concreting equipment player “AJAX”. Established in the year 1992 for manufacturing self-loading concrete mixer, it is today the global leader in this product.

The enthusiasm, passion, and dedication with which the co-ordinators explained about the manufacturing process was very inspiring and impressive. We got to see the working model of the self-loading concrete mixer and other machines like concrete pumps, transit mixers, pavers and dumpers. Also witnessing how the manufacturing and assembly of equipment happens closely brought the curious child inside everyone to ask questions and wanting to know more about it in detail.

The trip turned out to be a magical experience with a lot of interactions. Learning about the industry and the products from the experts was truly a feast to all the curious minds.

The day ended with the satisfaction that we created beautiful memories, made new friends, had fun and also gained incredible knowledge of things that we see around us every day but know very little about.

Indeed, AJAX gives complete justice to their tag “Makes Concrete Sense”.







## Scholar Speak

WRITTEN BY RESHMA R, 3RD YEAR BCOM,  
KLE COLLEGE

I am sharing my experience on how my studies and routine was during the unexpected pandemic situation. COVID is a deadly pandemic situation where we lost a lot of beloved ones and it proved our life is uncertain. It showed what is life, what is the value of family, what is the value of good health. Together we learnt a very good lesson to take care of our health with a lot of responsibility.

When it came to college life and studies, I was quite exhausted with online classes and honestly did not enjoy it. Adaption was difficult here for sure as concepts understanding in online classes were not easy. Offline classes were more understanding and comfortable for me.

Pragati mentors' regular virtual meetups gave me an idea on how to use online classes at best. However, my preference would always be offline classes so that I can learn well and meet my friends and teachers.

However, during the holidays or when we did not have classes, I did not want to waste my time so I joined a part time job to support my family and I learnt a lot of handicrafts and cooking too.

I used to help my mom every day in household chores and kept myself disciplined. I wanted to be efficient.

I attended a lot of online competitions and won certificates. And I used to attend online seminars at the college level soon after college opened. Mainly I learnt and worked on improving my soft skills as I was introvert and working part time with few companies and online communications has helped me move towards being extrovert.

I took part in NSS activities as a volunteer in giving awareness regarding pandemic situations to the general public. I also participated in a vaccination drive in college as a volunteer. It was really a hard time, but I utilized it well by uplifting myself in various fields.

I thank wholeheartedly PRAGATI and team for supporting me throughout my studies and also during this pandemic with constant guidance.





## Mentor Speak

WRITTEN BY KAVITHA L M

Three years ago, 2020 begun the Pragati way by our well planned and executed visit to IIM-Bengaluru with all our 90+ students.

Glad we could fit that in before the least expected and unimaginable pandemic hit the whole world.

And just the like the entire world, Team Pragati also adapted and found ways to stay connected, to continue with Pragati's activities and, to not let the virus curb our spirit.

Through numerous 1-1 audio and conf calls for mentor-student interaction and the many video calls on zoom with the bigger team, virtual meetups were a hit and brought together all mentors and volunteers from different parts of the world who couldn't be part of Pragati events that usually happened in Bengaluru.

A needed initiative was taken by the team with E&Y's support to identify and help the students who were in dire need of laptop for their remote education.

A bulk of Pragati scholars benefited from this and are continuing to use the laptops distributed for their academics.

To add to this, a workshop was also conducted to introduce our scholars to the enormous opportunities that lies in the world of Computer Science engineering.

We ensured to also not break our tradition and had a virtual annual day which was thoroughly enjoyed by scholars and parents alike.

Awards also reached the high achievers of the batch as we continued to recognize our scholars.

To top it all off, we had a super fun, all online event, conducted entirely by our volunteers to all the students. It was highly engaging and entertaining which was made obvious by the praises and feedback that poured in from all the attendees!

That brought us to 2022, and we loved meeting our scholars in person again to catch up right where we left off from our previous zoom call :)





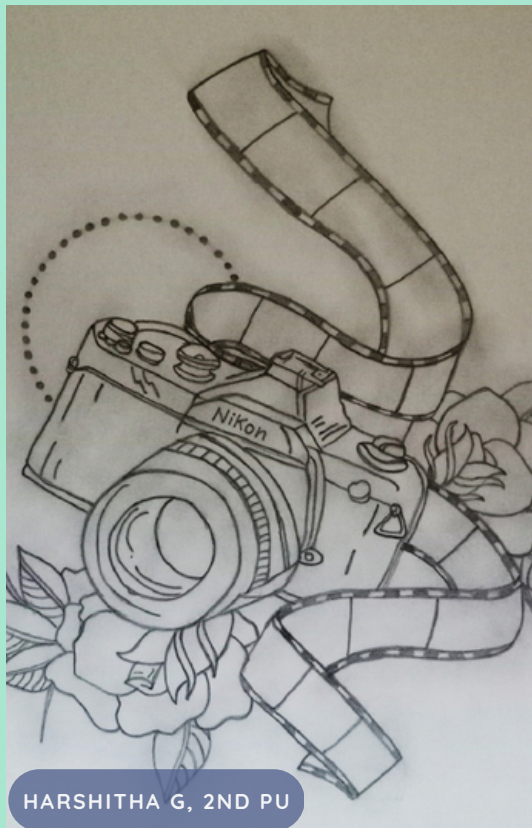
# Art Wall



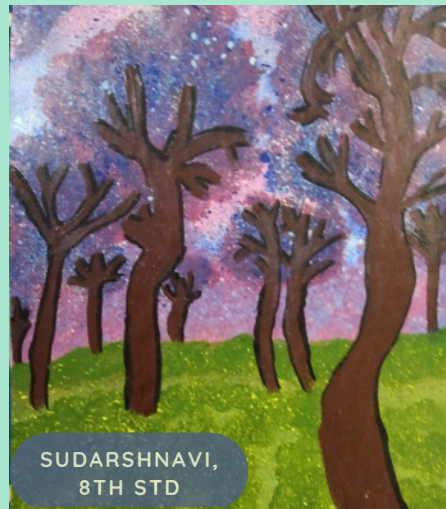
FAIZA FARHEEN,  
3RD YR BCA



FAIZA FARHEEN,  
3RD YR BCA



HARSHITHA G, 2ND PU



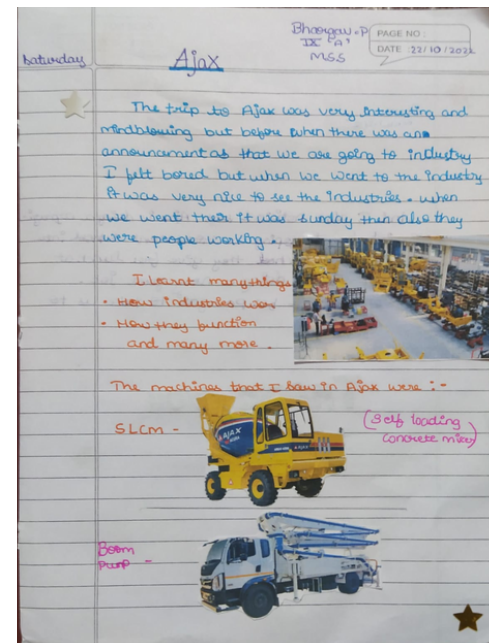
SUDARSHNAVI,  
8TH STD



KAVYA G, 9TH  
STD



SNEHA BK, 9TH  
STD



First of all, I would say thank you to Pragati Institution because the educational trip which was organised on 16/10/22 [Sunday] was absolutely useful. All of us enjoyed a lot. It was really helpful for the students to know each & every minute development, handwork in preparing concrete which is an important factor for building houses, roads, everything. The Ajax company workers explained us so patiently and cleared all our doubts. And also this trip was helpful for me especially in order to involve myself and engage with new people. I got new friends and also I overcame my fearness of public speaking. Thank you so much Pragati institution for this opportunity. Hoping for many more educational trips like this in the future.

- Rakshitika S.R.  
10<sup>th</sup> Std.  
Mahila Seva Samaja







## Join Hands With Us



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