

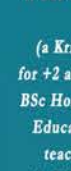


# Purkal Journal As 2021 Begins..

As we start this new decade's journey, through the first month of 2021, it is interesting to think about the most priceless commodity – TIME. It celebrates our existence and encourage us to reflect on our past, constructively utilize our present and meaningfully plan the future.



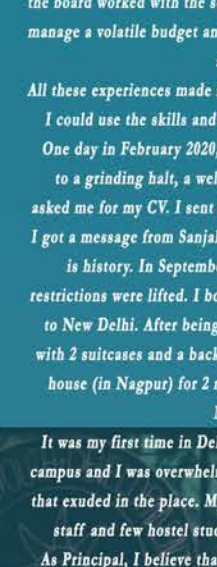
Time is a great teacher. We need to draw lessons from all the happenings around us to evolve!



## Keep Growing

Welcoming Mrs. Arati Nagaraj!

Consistent with our philosophy of attracting committed, high-quality talent to support the long-term growth of our Society, we are happy to welcome Mrs. Arati Nagaraj our Acting Principal and Dean of STEM into our family. In her own words....



*"Destiny. That's how I made my way to PYDS. I grew up in Bombay (yes, that's what it was called when I was growing up), went to Rishi Valley School (a Krishnamurti Foundation School) for +2 and returned to Bombay for my BSc Home Science in Early Childhood Education. I pursued my Montessori teacher certification and a Masters in Education Media and Technology in Boston, USA. It was the early years of education technology and the world wide web was just being discovered! I moved into designing technology products to supplement textbooks where I learned about pedagogy, instructional design and content management. My family and I moved from the east coast (Boston) to the west coast (Silicon Valley) of the US. I joined Apple in their retail training department where I got to design training for the store managers and employees, worldwide. It was the most exciting time to learn new things - global presence, training adults and being attentive to every detail. I went on to do employee training at Facebook, Google and Uber - learning about the technology business and the tools used to enhance productivity.*

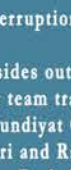
*After experiencing the technology rat race, I found myself drawn back to education and I joined an NGO - Silicon Valley Education Foundation - where I worked with underserved schools in Silicon Valley to integrate technology into their teaching and learning. This was a rewarding and enriching experience where I learned how to do more with less.*

*I served as a Trustee of the Saratoga Union School District Board from 2010-2020 and was Board President for 2 years. During this time the board worked with the school staff to implement a new curriculum, manage a volatile budget and keep student well-being and achievement at the forefront.*

*All these experiences made me ponder - what's next? I wanted to ensure I could use the skills and knowledge to make an impact every day. One day in February 2020, just before COVID-19 brought the world to a grinding halt, a well-wisher of PYDS and a personal friend asked me for my CV. I sent it and conveniently forgot. Out of the blue, I got a message from Sanjala Ma'am. We spoke for 2 hours and the rest is history. In September 2020, I booked a window where travel restrictions were lifted. I booked myself on a flight from San Francisco to New Delhi. After being in the US for 30 years, I landed in Delhi with 2 suitcases and a backpack. I worked remotely from my parents' house (in Nagpur) for 2 months and arrived in Dehradun on 22nd November, 2020.*

*It was my first time in Dehradun. The next day I came to the PYDS campus and I was overwhelmed by the warmth, beauty and enthusiasm that exuded in the place. My first task was to get to know the teachers, staff and few hostel students. I truly believe this was my destiny. As Principal, I believe that everyone has potential. I want to ensure that each person on the campus is supported, continues to grow and learn every single day and together, we spread joy and positivity to ensure our well-being. Thank you all for welcoming me to this beautiful family and place that I now call my home. I am grateful for this destiny."*

Arati Nagaraj  
Acting Principal and Dean of STEM



## Give Your Best Today

### Navjeevan #Cohort3

Under our Navjeevan Program, children from remote, upper reaches of Uttarakhand (Tehri, Pauri, Uttarkashi and Pithoragarh districts) who have had very little exposure to formal education are admitted, accommodated in our hostels and provided with rapid conceptual learning so as to mainstream them into regular classes within 12-18 months.

With full adherence to COVID-19 norms and not compromising on the safety of students, we conducted the admission process for Navjeevan #Cohort3 as per the timeline below:

January 2020	Identification of remote villages from upper reaches of our State
March 2020	Meeting with village heads for maximum participation of students in the admission process
April - Sep 2020	Interruption owing to COVID-19
October 2020	Besides outskirts of Purohita township, our team travelled to four villages - Gundiyat Gaon, Kandiyaal Gaon, Mori and Raun, which are 150-km from Purkal on the western border of the state, to initiate the assessment and selection process.



120 students from 10 villages appeared in the first level of assessment. Of these, 75 students met the initial admission criteria. After further assessment of this group, a group of 16 students was selected for admission. These children are in the age group of 9-12 years and 13 are girls. We are happy to advise that despite mobility and proximity restrictions imposed on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to conduct the entire entrance assessment process in an effective and efficient manner and the new batch has begun its education. We are hopeful that these children will grow up into competent and successful individuals and become change agents for their disadvantaged families and distant communities, thereby fulfilling the long term mission of PYDS.



## Always Aim Higher

### CBSE - Category A+

We are delighted to share that the Central Board of Secondary Education has recognized our School for achieving outstanding results of All India Secondary School Examination in Category - A+ (>90% Pass Percentage) in the last three consecutive years, i.e., 2018, 2019 and 2020.

### International Award for Young People (IAYP)

IAYP is an integral part of our curriculum since 2010. It is an exciting self-development programme for students above 14 years of age, equipping them with life skills through physical activity, skill, voluntary service and adventure. We congratulate our students Anuj Joshi, Astha Rana, Rupali Chaudhary, Shalini Sharma and Vaishali Jakhmola who completed all the three levels and attained GOLD Award. All of them are pursuing their higher education now. 158 students are currently enrolled in IAYP at various levels making us hopeful that we will continue to see such favourable results in the future as well.



## Upskill for Future

### Teacher Development Workshop



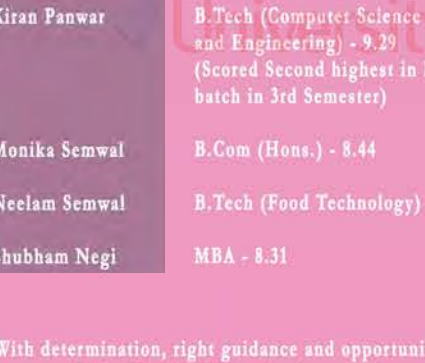
### Student Development Workshop

Mrs. Shefali Ray, an English Language Teaching consultant, children's writer and Patron of the Society hosted a webinar on the topic, 'Understanding What We Read'. It was a great learning experience for our teachers and students.



## Stay Healthy

### Health and Hygiene - By Max Life Insurance (MLI)



On 11th November, volunteers of Max Life Insurance (MLI) conducted a virtual session on Health and Hygiene for students of Classes IX, X and XI. The session provided insights into the importance of a healthy life and hygiene with regards to COVID-19 and was well received.

### Mental Hygiene - By Mantavya



A 45-day workshop on mental health was organized for students of Class VII by Mantavya, an organization that helps an individual to build better resilience for coping with life's challenges. In this workshop, they focused on four aspects of self-awareness; Mental, Physical, Sexual and Social health.

Students used this opportunity to share their experiences and talked about their concerns and challenges in these areas. They were also encouraged to drop their inhibitions and communicate more freely with each other.



## Look Around to Help

### COVID-19 Relief Work



Twenty students' families were assisted with relief kits in the fifth phase of COVID-19 relief work held in December. The relief kits along with health and hygiene items also included thermals (innerwear) for our students to help them cope with the extremely cold winter season. Since beginning this initiative in April, we have distributed 219 relief kits. Now that the families have gradually resumed their vocations, the list of monthly beneficiaries has come down from 60 to 20.



## Preserve Tomorrow



We have received an in-kind donation of 500 reusable cloth pads for our girls from Max Financial Services. As the first step, these are being distributed to staff members and senior students to create awareness and confidence among the users before distribution.

We would like to laud this wonderful initiative, which is aimed at substituting the use of environmentally hazardous sanitary napkins and tampons.



## Celebrate Together, Spread Love

### Christmas Celebration

A Christmas Celebration was held in compliance with the hygiene and safety protocols on our campus on 24th December.



The students staying on campus conceptualized and organized an entire medley of events - hosting of a play, carol singing, cake baking and Christmas tree decoration.

Mr. Amitava Mukherjee (Former MD, Lazards) had joined us on this occasion. Our donors who are our Secret Santas provided warm jackets, thermals, woollen caps to all of our hostel students.



## Focus on the Good

### Post 12th Achievements

Please join us in congratulating our students of batch 2018-2019 in Shoolini University, Solan for their continuing good performance.

Names of students and their GPA (out of a maximum of 10) are as below:

Ajeet Pundir	B.Com (Hons.) - 8.11
Durgesh Upadhyay	B.Tech (Mechanical) - 9.72
Elin Kerketta	B.Sc. (Hospitality and Hotel Administration) - 9.05 (Topped all 3 semesters)
Kajal Arya	B.Tech (Biotechnology) - 8.79
Kiran Panwar	B.Tech (Computer Science and Engineering) - 9.29 (Scored Second highest in her batch in 3rd Semester)
Monika Semwal	B.Com (Hons.) - 8.44
Neelam Semwal	B.Tech (Food Technology) - 7.52
Shubham Negi	MBA - 8.31

With determination, right guidance and opportunities to excel, the Shoolini University is providing our students a great platform to succeed.



Your feedback has helped us improve a lot, we always look forward to it.