

# Purkal Youth Development Society

Your Purkal Journal

July 2023



***"Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons" - Malala Yousufzai***



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## Career Spectra 2023

*"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do" — John Wooden*



Children of Classes XI and XII gave a shout of joy when they were asked to organise a 'Career Spectra Festival', all by themselves. The event that demonstrated the twists and traits of selecting a career was formally declared open by the Chief Guest, Mr Sanjiv Bathla, Director PYDS, on the 8th of July.

Senior students thronged the kiosks dedicated to - Competitive Exams, Cross Career Connect, Financial Markets, Scholarships, Skill Development and Vocational Courses, eagerly sifting through the trove of information available.

There was a formal discussion on "Apart from degrees, do skills play a role?" on stage, followed by a skit that elaborated on the pros and cons of studying overseas. Suddenly all heads turned towards a burst of commotion when the 'PYDS Stock Exchange' opened, giving spectators a glimpse of the working of the historic 'Bombay Stock Exchange'.

For increasing footfall and managing crowds, activities were organised for the visitors. Full marks to the Organisers for designing, managing and fulfilling the purpose of the event smoothly, in the limited space of our school auditorium. We are wondering if any of our students are now contemplating '*Event Management*' as a career option!

# The 'On To Life' Session

*"Success does not come to you, you've got to go to it" - Marva Collins*



Through its 'On To Life' program, PYDS enables its passing out beneficiaries to pursue higher education after class XII. The Society provides all round support to all deserving students by providing career counselling, support in identification and applying to Universities, securing admissions and scholarships, as well as any residual help to ensure smooth onboarding. An 'On To Life' session was conducted for the 32 students of batch 2023 being supported financially by the Program.

After a warm, encouraging welcome by our Vice Principal Ms Diana Luji, Alumni Executive, Mrs Neha Choudhry, made a presentation explaining - scholarship guidelines and writing progress reports. Students were encouraged to submit their progress reports regularly and maintain good results, and be in constant touch with PYDS. The purpose being to ensure their emotional and academic wellbeing over their University tenures.

Before closing proceedings, our Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth, gave students some practical tips on college life and wished them good luck for their journey ahead.

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## Thank You SAATHIYA

*"The test of a vocation is the love of the drudgery it involves" - Logan Pearsal Smith*





India's first Skill Development Summit for Sustainable Livelihood in Hospitality Industry was held on the 26th of July, at Aloft Bangalore, by SAATHIYA, a not for profit organisation engaged in helping underprivileged youth build their career.

Aptly named SANCAALP (Social Action Network for Career Assistance and Livelihood Partnerships), the main objective was to bring its stakeholders together, provide better support to non-traditional hires so the investment in finding, counselling, training and integrating them in the workforce, becomes productive and sustainable.

PYDS was recognized as '**The Supporter**' and our Secretary, Mr. Anoop Seth, received the honour on behalf of the Society. The recognition marked the care taken by PYDS in working closely with its students in counselling and preparing them for the experience at SAATHIYA.

Addressing the audience, Mr Seth spoke about the need to provide maximum employability to the youth and transforming their lives through short, focused, intense programs for better results of the kind being run so effectively by SAATHIYA. He elaborated that the focus should be on helping our youth build careers, not just landing jobs and commended the organisation for their engaged involvement in each and every student.

Six of our students who joined SAATHIYA in April this year are currently undergoing training at premium hotels in Bangalore and Dehradun. They are working across functions and gaining invaluable skills from their experiences. We are confident that great careers in the hospitality industry await all of them.

## MUN at The OASIS

*“One world undivided. One world without fear and corruption. One world ruled by Truth and Justice”- Suzy Kassem*



The *Oberoi School of Integrated Studies* (OASIS) hosted its annual Model United Nations (MUN) on the 28th and 29th of July. Instead of confining itself to sending a small group of regular speakers, this time PYDS decided to send eleven students to represent four committees - The United Nations General Assembly, The World Health Organisation, United Nations Security Council and International Press Corps.

Most of our students were participating in the MUN for the first time. Confident and poised, the speakers were well prepared with their Position papers and their presentations were commendable.

Shakshi Negi, received special mention for representing Afghanistan at

UNGA and Ayushi Dialani was honoured as one of the sponsors of her committee.

## Class IX visit to FRI

*"The only source of learning is experience"- Albert Einstein*



To align experiential learning with the chapter "Forest Society and Colonialism", students of class IX and two teachers visited the *Forest Research Institute (FRI)*, Dehradun. Established in 1906, it is a valuable source of scientific information. Its 5 museums dedicated to Entomology, NWFP (Non-wood Forest Products), Pathology, Silviculture and Timber are great attraction for tourists. Our students visited all its five museums.

The history of British engagement with forests has been documented vividly in 3D models of the forest areas and plants, which drew special interest from all of our students. An exhibit displaying (labelled) 'annual rings' of the cross-section of a 809 year old Deodar tree, too was a subject of keen intrigue for them.



This visit gave our students a deep insight of the role played by the British in developing forestry in the Indian subcontinent. They could now better corroborate their lesson with practical understanding, thus reinforcing the significance of experiential learning.

## **A Glimpse into Banking**

*“Financial problems are not fixed with money but with education”- John W Rogers Jr*



To bridge the gap between theory and the real-world, 22 students of class XI and XII, studying Accounts, visited the State Bank of India (SBI) Johri branch, Dehradun.

They first, quietly observed the humdrum of activities between customers and bank officers. Later, with permission from the Branch Manager, they visited cabins and spoke to the officers in charge to understand various protocols and procedures followed by the bank.

The Branch Manager made time to address them, familiarising them with his role and responsibilities as head of the Branch. He patiently answered all queries put forth by students and wished them good luck.

Back at school, students collated all information and within a few days gave presentations to the Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth, who asked them questions and encouraged them to rev up on their financial education.

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## Basketball matches

*"Victory is in the quality of competition not in the final score"- Mike Marshall*

### Inter-School Basketball Competition at DPS



Deeply in love with basketball, PYDS girls and boys teams participated in the 2 day, under 18 School Basketball Championship organised by Delhi Public School, Dehradun on 20-21 July. Amongst 14 competing teams, our Girls Team made it to the semi finals and from 19 competing boys teams,



the Boys Team reached the quarter finals. We are proud of our young basketball players.

### Friendly Basketball Match with KV ITBP Dehradun



With a view to promote healthy sportsmanship among students, a friendly Under-18 boys basketball matches were organised at our campus with Kendriya Vidyalaya ITBP Dehradun. The boys team visited us on the 30th of July and the girls team followed the next week.

Through the matches that were filled with camaraderie and excitement, students made new friends and were able to assess their own sporting skills. Before leaving, the visiting teams accepted our request to have breakfast with our students. Thank you Kendriya Vidyalaya for the wonderful time together.

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## Tree Plantation at Thano

*Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree long ago - Warren Buffet*



The students of PYDS were invited by Mrs Shefali Ray, a core member of *Punaha Aranya*, for a plantation drive, to commemorate the 'Harela' festival. Mrs Ray, is an experienced educator, writer and patron of PYDS. The event was collectively organised by Punaha Aranya; The Citizens' Group, Dehradun; Alumni of Mother's International School, New Delhi and University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, in partnership with the Forest Department of Dehradun.

Team PYDS provided multiple levels of support to this initiative by i) getting tree guards made, ii) designing and printing the invitation, posters, banners and iii) transporting all of these to the planting site. 56 students and 5 teachers from PYDS enthusiastically planted a total of 120 saplings at Thano Range, Dehradun. The Forest Department provided the saplings free of cost and helped in the digging of pits and installation of the tree guards.

After the plantation activity, students were taken to the Forest Rest House where they participated in activities like a quiz and a story building activity using picture cue cards. The quiz, thematically based on nature and its conservation, was conducted by Mrs Puneet Singh. They also chanted slogans and short couplets in support of environmental conservation. The



winners received prizes and PYDS staff members received gifts in appreciation of their participation.

## Spic Macay Gotipua Dance Performance

*"Cultures grow on the vine of tradition" - Jonah Goldberg*



On July 14th, a troupe of dancers and musicians from SPIC MACAY visited us and staged Gotipua dances. Gotipua is a unique traditional song and dance form of Odisha, performed by young male dancers, who dress up as females to praise Lord Jagannath. They dance to scintillating musical compositions of Odissi poets.

Dressed in traditional costumes, jewellery and makeup, accentuated by ankle bells, the boys looked like graceful female dancers. They began their performance with a devotional dance offering to God and the Guru, followed by fluid group dances that comprised Bandha Nrutya, a presentation of acrobatic poses of Radha Krishna, Nataraj, Mayur and so on that kept the audience spellbound for almost an hour.

At the conclusion the artists formed a pyramid, waving the Indian flag from the pinnacle, to a standing ovation by students and staff. The diligence and devotion of the performers towards the art was highly appreciated and we wholeheartedly thanked the performers for visiting us.

## 'Women in Leadership' workshop

*"In the future there will be no female leaders. There will be just leaders" - Sheryl Sandberg*





A two day workshop, 'Women in Leadership', was organised by BML Munjal University, Kapriwas, Haryana. The agenda was to aid women in the education sector embrace leadership roles and promote gender equality. PYDS Vice Principal, Ms Diana Luiji and Academic Coordinator (Primary Wing), Mrs Anamikaa Shrivastava were invited to attend the workshop.

Teachers, counsellors and heads of educational institutions from schools across India attended the workshop. Topics like, '*Challenges faced by working women, at home and ways to cope with them*' were discussed on the first day. There was a workshop on '*Digital disasters*' and '*The effective and easy use of technology*', on the next day. Through the workshop, the attendees were prompted to introspect their roles as leaders in their domains.

Our team was applauded, when they spoke about PYDS and its mission of creating strong role models to initiate socio-economic change in backward communities. Before taking leave, team PYDS thanked the

organisers and summed up the outcome as, '*Leadership is not about position, but about the skills you have*'.

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## **‘Unraveling Einstein’ at The Doon School, Dehradun**

*“The theatre is a spiritual and social X-ray of its time” - Stella Adler*



The Doon School, Dehradun was host to the solo act, *Unraveling Einstein*, staged by Mr. Naseeruddin Shah. On 29th of July, ten hostel students and two teachers from our school attended the event. They related their experience as, “For 75 minutes, we sat transfixed watching the remarkable portrayal of Einstein by Mr Shah. The plot depicted the German physicist in a new light and took us on a journey through time, where he talked about his life, family, friends and his regret for being wrongly associated with the making of the Atom Bomb. The performance was entertaining and thought provoking, as it revealed the tussle between Einstein the scientist and Einstein the practical human being. Watching Mr. Shah, the legendary actor up close and real, will be a memory we will cherish forever.”

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**We are proud of...**  
**Manisha Thakur - PYDS Batch 2017**



*'In the promise of the sunlight and stillness of the night, peace be still as the chrysalis forms'*

Filled with memories of her little self packing to join a new school, Manisha shares her journey of transformation...

*"My family belongs to a small village, Kimadi, situated on the outskirts of Dehradun. It includes my parents and three siblings.*

*My education began at a local government school, as my family was facing extreme financial hardship. My father, who was the sole breadwinner, struggled to find work on a daily basis. Good education was a distant dream, till the magical day when Swamy Sir visited our village. He introduced a program, 'Bus Them To Purkal', to provide transport and education for young girls of underprivileged backgrounds. I was selected to study at PYDS, where I received excellent education for free, which proved to be the turning point in my life.*

*Looking back, I wonder how different life would have been without PYDS, where I received good education and grew holistically. In school we were taught classical dance, music, yoga, sports, art and much more. We participated in inter-school competitions against the best schools of Dehradun. We were taken for excursions outside Uttarakhand and we*



*visited many cities of our country. All of this shaped me into a confident, informed and compassionate human being.*

*After I completed class XII, PYDS supported me to pursue a Bachelors degree in Physiotherapy, from Swami Rama Himalayan University, Jolly Grant, Dehradun. After completing my degree in 2021, I interned at the Himalayan Hospital, where I learnt how to handle patients, making assessments and technical aspects of various treatments. Currently, I am working as a professional physiotherapist at SK Memorial Hospital in Garhi Cantt, Dehradun. It has been almost a year since I joined and am delighted to say that I enjoy every part of my job. In future, I plan to do a masters in physiotherapy and hope to start my own Physical Rehabilitation Center.*

*I support my parents financially and give them healthcare and financial advice to improve the quality of their life. I want to help and guide children who want to study physiotherapy or anything related to the healthcare sector.*

*I am eternally grateful to PYDS Learning Academy, especially Swamy Sir, my teachers and donors for making me dream big and guiding me to achieve it. I wish to take forward the legacy of Swamy Sir and PYDS and contribute to the welfare of society, in gratitude for what I have received."*

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*Before closing we want to thank you all for sharing with us a slice of sunshine, which means so much to us. Keep your sunny side up till we meet again!*





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