



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

Newsletter April 2008

March is the month of Examinations. All board examinations and final year school examinations take place in the month of March-April. The activities at the centers were mainly focussed on studies though several other work were done by Shiksha Sopan.

March is also the month of Holi, Baisakhi and New year days in several Indian Time Measurement Systems. March is also the month in which Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans was born who created Vivekanand out of Narendra. In the month of March only Shaheed Bhagat Singh became Shaheed. Shiksha Sopan pays great respect to all those who worked selflessly for the Society and the Nation.

New Executive Committee of Shiksha Sopan formed

The present Executive Committee has completed its 3-year term and a new EC was formed by the Members present in Kanpur. Mr Ranjan Upadhyay who has been associated with Shiksha Sopan from the day of its inception and has been the Treasurer in both the previous ECs, is our new President. Prof H C Verma of Physics Dept IITK continues to be the Secretary in the new EC and Dr Sameer Khandekar of Mechanical Engg, our President in the outgoing EC, will take up the responsibility of being treasurer.



Our new President Mr
Ranjan Kumar Upadhyay

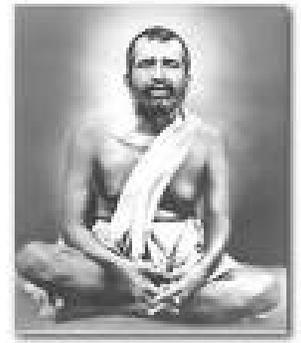
Another IITK senior faculty members, Prof Kunal Ghosh of Aerospace Engg and Prof J P Gupta of Chemical Engg; two of the IITK students, Mr Manoj Maharana and Mr Rohit Katyar, and two local youths Mr Amit kumar Bajpai and Mr Madan Baijapurkar, are among the members.

The meeting also decided to nominate Dr A. Bandyopadhyay of Bio Sc Bio Engg, Ms Rita Singh, a social researcher and Mr Chandrashekhar Sharma a chemical Engg PhD student as Permanent Invitees to the Executive Committee.

The meeting admired the efforts of the outgoing EC under which Shiksha Sopan was able to reach a large number of children who needed support and guidance. Presently Shiksha Sopan caters the educational needs of about 300 families in different villages.

Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans Remembered

Together with the education, inculcating human values from the childhood is very important for the development of personality useful to oneself and the society. 9th March is the Jayantee day of Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans who has set high standards of a devoted lifestyle. It is very inspiring to know about the life and work of such legendary personalities. On different days in this month Shiksha Sopan volunteers told short stories related to Swamiji to the children at the Evening centers. They were encouraged to read more from the books available at Shiksha Sopan Library.



Holi Celebration

Because of the examinations, Holi celebrations were at low key. Still children assembled in the evening and put Gulal on each others faces. A message of working together with intimate social relations was given.



Salute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh is one name which scintillates the young minds to work selflessly and without fear for the benefit of society. After exploding Bombs in the assembly and making the British government listen to the Nation's concerns through his speech, he offered his own arrest and expectedly, the government gave him death penalty. Scared of huge public resistance he was hanged a day earlier than the scheduled execution day of March 24.



At all the four centers and the school, children were told about the work of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and his martyrdom. Shiksha Sopan workers narrated how he could inspire the whole nation against the British government and his concern about the justice to all sections of the society. At some centers children themselves read about Bhagat Singh from the books provided to them and made brief speeches.

At each center after learning about his great life, children lit candles in his memory and conceived his image with closed eyes for a minute.

Pratibha Posha Yojana Junior (PPYJ)

The four children of PPYJ have completed one year in the school. Their final examinations of class 6 at Jugal Devi Saraswati Vidya mandir are over and the results are declared. Eshan has secured 3rd position in his section of 40 students with 77% marks and Naresh is at 8th position with 65% marks. The two girl children Poonam and Manaviya scored 61% and 55% marks respectively and were at 15th and 30th positions.



PPYJ recipient Manaviya (Pink frock) with family. His father and mother are construction labourers.

Pratibha Poshan Yojana

12 students are chosen from the 19 PPY (class 9) children for the Summer Camp. The Camp will be organized from 24th May to 28th June at IIT Kanpur. In these 5 weeks they will be given a strong foundation in Mathematics, Science and English at class 10 level. Apart from teaching, a number of excursion and exposure programmes, regular games are being planned. A number of IITK students staying in Summer have offered their time for teaching these children.

There are 6 boys and 6 girls in these 12 though selection criteria was purely on performance and no distinction was made between boys and girls. Four of them are from the village Kesath in Buxar, 3 from the village Rura, and 5 from different villages of Kanpur Dehat district.

The fifth study material has been prepared and is ready to be sent.

We have sponsors for 9 of these 12 and are still looking for three more sponsors (Rs 12,000 per year for four years).

Evening Centers

In the month of March, children were busy in preparing for their school examinations at all centers. Several groups of children were formed according to their classes and specific instructors were assigned for each group. Apart from studies they were involved in some physical activity as this is necessary to keep the minds active.



Number of Donors increased in 2007-08

The financial year 2007-08 is closed and Shiksha Sopan has been able to get significant increase in the number of donors. The total number of donors in the year 2006-07 was 34 which included 17 faculty members of IITK, 6 IITK Alumni and 11 Students and others. The total number in 2007-08 increased to 66 including 23 faculty members, 17 Alumni and 26 others. Indeed with many fold expansion of activities in the current year we need to expand our Donors list much more.

Website has new look now

Our Web master Mr Piyush Jain, a PhD student of Computer Science and Engg, has given the website (www.shiksha-sopan.org) a new look. All the old Newsletters and description of various activities are now put up on the site. Please visit the site and make suggestions to make it more useful.

Shiksha Sopan children assisting in Science activities in DRPG project

An initiative to provide constructive evening Activities for children of Opportunity School, Campus School and Kislaya Nursery School has been taken by the Dean of Planning and Resource Generation. Facilities are made available for Sports, Dance, Music, Art, Language, and Science. Two of our children from SAC center of Shiksha Sopan, Rohit and Deepak of class 11, are assisting as Co-Instructors in the Science Activity. The main Instructor Ms Vinita Agrawal has all appreciation for their performance.

Other Informations

Web site : For more details please visit www.shiksha-sopan.org

How to donate : The cheques/draft for donations should be made in the name of "Shiksha Sopan" payable at Kanpur. Doners may kindly give their personal details such as name, postal address, email address, so that the receipt, updates etc. may be sent. One can also make online transfer to Shiksha Sopan account in State Bank of India, IITK branch in the Account 10426002488 in the name "Shiksha Sopan". The swift code of the bank is SBININBB499.

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