



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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News Letter December 2008

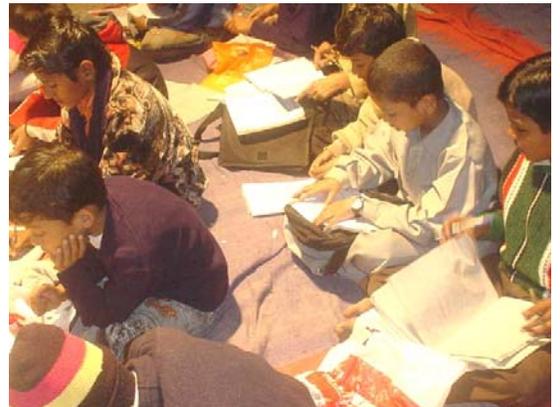
November 2008 saw the great achievements of Indian Scientists in placing Chandrayan-I in Lunar orbit with the greatest precision and absolutely no hiccups. India is the only nation who could successfully transfer its spacecraft to lunar orbit in the first attempt. Hats off to ISRO and other organizations for this flawless high tech operation.

November 2008 also saw the worst terrorist act against India. Terrorists supposedly came all through Karachi to Mumbai using the sea route and shocked the entire nation by capturing Taj and other hotels. Politicians and news channels will argue over whether it was a security lapse, or it was a result of soft laws against terrorism, or it was a part of global terrorism and inevitable etc. But the nation as a whole has to be aware and concerned towards the danger of terrorism. Be it a village or a small kasba, every Indian must be alert and ready to resist any such thing at local level. Shiksha Sopan deeply mourns over the death of innocent people including the security personals in this attack.

The Evening Centers and Sopan Vidyalaya continued to serve the children as usual but Gahan Adhyayan Kendra was little mismanaged. Pratibha Poshan Yojana is going well. Science Cell was busy in preparing Science kits and conducting orientation programmes. The Sanskar Cell conducted few programmes in this month.

From the Centers

The Evening Centers at Barasirohi, Ratanpur and SAC continued their regular activities. The involvement of IITK students was little less as they had their End-Sem Examinations. The center coordinators Seema Ji and Pramod Ji at Barasirohi, Pawan Ji and Dhyanchand Ji at SAC and Dinesh Ji and Gaurav Ji at Ratanpur managed the centers quite well. All of them have grown up with Shiksha Sopan and are now taking up the responsibilities to pass their learning to their juniors.



Children studying at SAC evening center

Gahan Adhyayan Kendra(GAK)

Gahan Adhyayan Kendra is still facing difficulties. In this center one needs a regular set of instructors and a center coordinator. With two of our senior workers Rajesh Shukla and Hanuman leaving GAK as they got regular employment, and IITK students having their own Exams, we were short of manpower. At present, senior Shiksha Sopan workers, Amit Bajpai (Asst Secretary), Chandrashekhar Sharma (EC member) and H C Verma (Secretary) are assisting in teaching there.



Mr Bhadauriya teaching English in class 10 at GAK

We conducted an interview for teachers at GAK in early November. A total of 22 persons applied and were interviewed. Some of them were short listed and were asked to give demo classes at GAK. Only one person Ms Sangeeta could show her competence in teaching and was requested to join. Most likely she will be joining from December 1. She will be teaching Biology at class 9 and 10 and will also act as the center coordinator. A token honorarium of Rs 1500 per month has been offered to her. Sangeeta also happens to be our old Shiksha Sopan student few years ago.

Science Cell Activities

Deepak Agnihotri and Ritosh have made a complete 100-experiment kit classified in three levels, Lower, Middle and High. In this month the Science cell concentrated in preparing a one-page write up for each experiment. Ms Deepa Danayak, Project fellow, Vigyan Prasar, contributed significantly in this work. They have completed the write ups for 60 experiments and the remaining write ups will be completed soon. Vigyan Prasar will be requested later to publish this write up in book form.

Prof H D Bist, former Professor at IIT Kanpur and coordinator of the NGO SAVIDYA has requested Shiksha Sopan for one set of these experiments for starting a Science center in some region in Uttarakhand. We have started working on this.

Another activity in the month of November was a Science Show at Bhulpur village in Itawa district. An NRI Prof Ram Chaudhary hails from this village and has established Kisan Inter College there. The village is in quite interior region and the population is economically weak. With nominal fee of Rs 95 per month at Inter level, Rs 75 at high school level and Rs 25 at Middle school level, the institution is doing a great service to the local community.

Shiksha Sopan team, H C Verma, Amit Bajpai, Depak Agnihotri and Ritosh, went there on 20th November with two boxes of Science experiments. About 25 Science teachers from nearby schools and colleges were called to attend the Science Show.

The first session was combined for the 300 plus students of Kisan Inter College, the visitors and the teachers. After inauguration, Prof H C Verma gave a lecture on the Moon and the Chandrayan-I mission.



Children in the long school Varanda listening about the Moon



Prof Ram Chaudhary helping Prof H C Verma during lecture on Chandrayan-I

People in this remote area were spell bound by seeing the photographs of the Moon's surface sent by Chandrayan-I. The general information about the faces and phases was also something very new for them.

In the second session, Shri Amit Bajpai and Ritosh Ji conducted Science experiments show for the children and Prof H C Verma and Deepak Ji conducted Science session for the teachers. While the first one was more in the entertainment mode, in the teachers' session the emphasis was on using science experiments in classroom teaching. Though these things were quite new for the teachers in this remote area, some of them were quite enthusiastic in incorporating demo experiments in their teaching.



A child enjoying balancing a plastic piece on his finger



Dr Verma giving Sopan literature to Dr Chaudhary



A teacher learning concepts of torque from an experiment

Bal Sammelan

A get-together programme was organized on 16th November for all children of Shiksha Sopan (class 6 and above) from different centers. Such programmes give the children of different villages a chance to interact with each other and experience a larger vision of the society. The children assembled at 9 am in the morning at Student Activity Center in IITK. The first session was playing games involving physical exercises. The number of children was 100 plus and were divided in three groups. Shiksha Sopan senior workers planned for the games and acted as game instructors to make them play. The groups were divided in such a way that each group had children from all the villages.

This session was not only most enjoyable and exciting for the children playing, it was also a treat to watch them running, shouting and doing their best to score points. All this in the most disciplined manner, competition but not rivalry, to achieve the best but not to feel disappointed on failing.



After the game session, children assembled in the Yoga room and several of them narrated their experiences at Shiksha Sopan centers. The center coordinators told the gathering about the working of their respective centers. Dr Madhav of Chemistry Dept, Dr Kunal Ghosh of Aerospace and Dr H C Verma of Physics addressed them. The programme being close to the Children's day, our first Prime Minister Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru was remembered on the occasion. Dr H C Verma gave them an interactive session on the Moon and Chandrayan mission before the Samosa break.

The children had brought their lunch. A movie show was arranged for them in the SAC itself and in the interval of this show they were again divided in groups of 8-10 for lunch. Once again the groups were randomly formed and all members of a group had a chance to make new friends by sharing their lunch. The programme ended at 4 PM.

Chhath celebration

Chhath is one of the most important festival celebrated in Bihar, eastern UP and many other parts of India. Shiksha Sopan actively participated in the stage show organized by some IITK students on 8th November. Amit Bajpai anchored the show and Shiksha Sopan children performed several items on the stage.

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. Donors 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".

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