



# Shiksha Sopan

*An organization of IIT Community for social upliftment*

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

## News Letter February 2008

The month of January is always special to Shiksha Sopan. It was on 12th January, Swami Vivekanand's Jayanti, that Shiksha Sopan was formally launched in the year 2001. Shiksha Sopan is inspired by Swamiji's great concern about the underprivileged section of the society and his vision to serve the economically weaker as a step to achieve salvation. Shiksha Sopan celebrates the weak containing 12th January as its Annual function. Apart from the Annual function there were other events in January 2008 month a short description of all these activities follows.

### The new year 2008

The Shiksha Sopan team at Ratanpur decided to celebrate the new year day by giving its Evening Center a new systematic look. They arranged a small function on 1<sup>st</sup> January where Prof Kunal Ghosh of Aerospace Engg, Prof H C Verma of Physics and Mrs Deepa Danayak of Physics were the Guests. Children presented various songs and all promised to themselves to be a good well behaved and socially conscious person.



Welcome 2008 at Ratanpur Center

### Annual Function

The Annual Function was a week long set of activities. It consisted of (a) Craft for class 1-5 on 6<sup>th</sup> January, (b) Quiz on 9<sup>th</sup> January, (c) Mehndi on 10<sup>th</sup> January, (d) Rangoli on 11<sup>th</sup> January, (e) Social Awareness Rally on 12<sup>th</sup> January and (f) Cultural Program and closing Ceremony on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Each of these programmes was a big hit. Children participated with full enthusiasm and all visitors appreciated their talent. Most of the management task was also done by the children themselves.

The programme was inaugurated on January 6 by Dr Satyajit Banerjee of Dept of Physics by lighting the lamp. It was followed by Craft Making by children. Children used cardboards, thermocols, Papers etc to give shape to their imagination and creativity. Ms Rita Sangal looked into each craft very keenly and praised the creativity of children.



Making meaningful structures

Mr Ashish Bhateja conducted the quiz. Children had prepared well for the quiz and in the process learned a lot. It had a lot of visual rounds which the children enjoyed a lot.

The Mehndi, Rangoli were enjoyed all the children and visitors. A number of children put up beautiful designs of Mehndi matching any professional. In Rangoli they put up original themes and came out with very attractive patterns.

About 300 children of Barasirohi marched past different roads and lanes shouting slogans like "Pan Masala Khaoge, Bimari me Par Jaoge". They were carrying placards with socially important messages written on them. Portraits of Swami Vivekanad, Godess Saraswati, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose were part of the Rally.

The final ceremony was celebrated in the form of a 2 hour Cultural programme staged by Shiksha Sopan Children. They showed their talent in dance, music, drama and other aspects of cultural life. The whole programme was anchored by Nazir from Barasirohi village itself.

A new item that was done in this function was Science Experiments Show by children at the level of general villager audience. A book exhibition in the name "Pitara" was put up at the venue by Jan Chetana Kala Manch. About 1200 strong audience including large number of women and children enjoyed the whole function.



Pramod of Barasirohi keeping scores in the quiz



Ashish Bhateja, M Tech. conducting the quiz



Children enjoying Mendi writing



A beautiful Mehndi pattern



Children making Rabgoli



Social Awareness Rally



On the Stage



Encouragement by Guests

Dr Kunal Ghosh, Dr Sammer Khandekar and Dr Groll were the Guests.

## Republic Day

The Evening Learning Center at SAC celebrated the republic day on 26th January. Children presented songs, poetry reading, story telling etc all related to National Spirits and freedom struggle. In an interactive mode, knowledge about our constitution and republic system was given to children. A number of IITK students interacted with children to inspire them to devote in studies as well as to commit themselves for Nation building.



Children at SAC center celebrating republic day

## Presentation at G B Pantnagar Ag. University

Vivekanand Swadhyay Mandal at G B Pantnagar Agr Univ organized a symposium called "Manthan" inviting various NGOs working for social causes. A total of 9 such NGOs participated and Shiksha Sopan was one of them. Mr Ashish Bhateja and Mr Amit Bajpai represented Shiksha Sopan. The work being done by Shiksha Sopan was well appreciated by all the participants. It was a nice experience to learn what others are doing and share the strengths.



Ashish Bhateja addressing the Manthan meet at Pantnagar

## Children's Science Training Programme is showing Impact

Shiksha Sopan together with some other groups had organized Children's Science Training Programme and Bal Vigyan Mela in October-November 2007. It has generated quite a visible impact in Science education around the Campus. Several schools are contacting us to help them in running Experiment-based Science Education. In this series Mr Amit Bajpai and Mr Hanuman Prasad Gupta of Shiksha Sopan conducted a 2 hours Science show at Sardar Patel Junior high School in Panaki. Children and teachers learned interesting facts through these experiments.

## Pratibha Poshan Yojana

3rd part of the Study Material and question sets were sent to the 19 recipients of Pratibha Poshan Yojana (class 9). These students are selected from the rural areas of four districts, Kanpur, Kanpur Dehat, Unnao and Buxar. All are very sincere in their studies and have responded to our earlier sets well. The Study materials were mainly made by IITK students and consist of Science, Maths, English, Hindi and Social Science. Children have also returned their answers to the Question sets of the 2nd part. All the 19 children with their parents are called for a face-to-face meeting on 24th February where their progress will be monitored and proper advises will be given.

The four children Naresh, Eshant, Manaviya and Poonam selected under Junior Pratibha Poshan Yojana scholarships (class 6) are doing very well in their class. One Shiksha Sopan Instructor is exclusively taking care of their after-school needs.

## In the coming month

Shiksha Sopan will be putting up an exhibition "Physics from Everyday Materials" in Techriti 2008, the IITK Annual Technical Festival. About 25 experiments will be put up using the commonly available materials.

We will be going to Champavat district to conduct one-hour Science show for children on the Science day 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Shiksha Sopan is helping them to set up a Science Resource Center which will cater to a cluster of eight schools in hilly areas.

The 19 children with their parents will be visiting us on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

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## Upcoming Events

Feb 14-15, Shiksha Sopan will put up an Exhibition in Techriti 2008, the Annual Technical Festival of IITK.

Feb 24, Meet with Pratibha Poshan Yojana Scholarship recipients

Feb 28, Science Show at Dist Champavat, Uttarakhand

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## What they said

I was deeply impressed by the joy, devotion, and also, at least in many cases about the professionalism with which the children and youths celebrated their programme. I believe that these activities organized by IIT-K staff and students are a very helpful means to guide these young people, give them a wide ranging education, which probably most of them will never have without this organization.

I would also like to express my respect for these voluntary activities of the IIT-K community and the hope that their work will prosper and grow in future.

*-Prof Manfred Groll, Visiting Faculty, Dept of ME, IITK, Prof at Univ Stuttgart, Germany*

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## Other Informations

**Web site** : For more details please visit [www.shiksha-sopan.org](http://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. Please write to us for details if you wish to utilize this mode.

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