

Shiksha

Sanskar

Swavalamban

# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

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**Newsletter June 2014**



The month of May represents the peak of burning heat at Kanpur. This year also, it offered unbearable heat with temperature soaring to about 44°C most of the time. Sopan Anapcharik Shikshan Kendra and Evening centers were closed most of the time in this month. However, the team of Sopan had ample work to do. Most hectic and heroic was organization of National Workshop of Utsahi Physics Teachers -2014 at IIT Kanpur.

## **National Workshop of Utsahi Physics Teachers, (NWUPT-2014)**

A six-day workshop on Physics teaching at schoollevel (23<sup>rd</sup> May- 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014) to train school teachers to use innovative experiments and style in their teaching was organized at IIT Kanpur. Entire academic and management task was performed by Shiksha Sopan. The workshop was inaugurated in the Outreach building of IIT Kanpur. Prof. Ravindra Dhar, Scientist, NASI-Allahabad and Prof. Avinash Singh, Head of Department, Physics, IIT Kanpur were the Chief Guests.



The Lamp of Knowledge was lighted by Prof. Ravindra Dhar, Prof. Avinash Singh, Dr. Santosh Kumar, NASI-Allahabad, Mr. Ashish Bhateja, Research Scholar, IITK, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma and Prof H C Verma, the coordinator NWUPT -14. Prof H C Verma introduced the concept of this project and laid down the background of the workshop. Mr. Ashish Bhateja, Member, Shiksha Sopan, IIT Kanpur gave the brief introduction of Shiksha Sopan and their activities in the inaugural programme of the workshop.

Prof. Ravindra Dhar told about the activities of NASI in Science enrichment in INDIA. Prof Avinash Singh welcomed the participants on behalf of Department of Physics and inspired them to work for improving Science education at grassroot level. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma also gave a brief introduction of Anveshika and told about the activities. Prof H C Verma gave the vote of thanks.

Shiksha Sopan Science Cell was working for about a month on developing new experiments and activities for the workshop. A total of 22 short experiments were designed which can be used during the classroom teaching. Eight activities were designed where measurement skills were involved. The most interesting were 4 long projects where the teachers were supposed to investigate on their own on the suggested topics. Sopan team designed assembled and tested all these experiments before finalizing for the workshop.

Shiksha Sopan treasurer Amit Bajpai Ji and Joint Secretary Anurag Pandey Ji gave a ppt presentation on Shiksha Sopan activities to the participants. All of them greatly appreciated the selfless work being done by the Shiksha Sopan volunteers for the betterment of the economically weaker section of the society.

A cultural program of 2 hours was put up by Shiksha Sopan children and volunteers from all centers especially for NWUPT participants. Tini tots from Shiksha Sopan Anaupcharik Shikshan Kendra performed dance "Chanda Chmake Cham Cham " which was so nice to watch. Sopan evening centers children from SAC center and also from Barasirohi center also put up their eye catching performances.



One after other, many NWUPT participants showed their gratitude towards Shiksha Sopan in general and Dr H C Verma in particular. They expressed their deep appreciation of the commitment with which the Sopan workers were managing all aspects of the workshop. Mr Arvind Pathak presented donation for Shiksha Sopan collected from all participants to Dr H C Verma.

Mr Amit Kumar Bajpai with Mr Anurag Pandey looked after the overall management of the workshop. The science cell members Mr Ranjit Kumar, Mr Deepak Mishra, Mr Vimal and Mr Atul took care of the academic activities. The whole workshop was video shot by Mr Vipin Sharma.

### **Special Lecture by Dr H C Verma**

Dr H C Verma delivered a special lecture on "Magnet ka Pole Khol" to the Sopan Students of class 11 and 12. Backed up by several experimental Demos, he described a bar magnet as a bound current distribution and showed that there are no differences between north and south pole.



The attraction or repulsion between the so called poles were understood in terms of forces between parallel and anti parallel current. All this was very new to the students but they got the real picture of the mechanism through which a permanent magnet behaves.

### **Visit to Sopan Laboratory**

On a short notice 70 children and elders from all kinds of background visited Shiksha Sopan Science Lab. Shiksha Sopan science team members Mr Ranjit Kumar, Mr Deepak Mishra, Mr Vimal and Mr Atul showed them several magical experiments and all got deeply involved in these. Mrs Anjali Kulkarni, Dr H C Verma, Mr Anurag Pandey were also present there.



### **Shiksha Sopan Anaupcharik Shikshan Kendra**

#### ***Result Distribution***

Final results distribution and Parents meeting were organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014 (Friday) at Sopan Vidyalaya premises. Ms. Seema Verma talked with parents about their children's performance in classes. She emphasized that it is a teamwork where parents and teachers work in coordination to make the learning environment for children. The final results of the children were distributed by her. The School is now closed for summer vacation

### **Sopan Library**

Shushri Shashikala Joshi Smriti Sopan Pustkalaya organized prize distribution program of Greeting Card competition on 07<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 (Wednesday) at community center type-1. The Greeting Card Competition was organized on 05<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 (Saturday) at Sopan Library at different levels. The theme of this competition was "NAV SAMVATSAR 2071 MANGALMAY HO".



Ms Preeti from altzolo.com was chief guest of this program. Shiksha Sopan science team members also showed some magical experiments and puzzles in this program. A number of students with their parents and some teachers were present there. Mr Amit Kumar Bajpai and Mr Anurag Pandey were also present there.

### **Sopan Music Classes**

After prelim practice of SA RE GA MA Pa..... and the song "Hamko Man Ki Shakti Dena, Man vijay Karen", Mr Devanand Pathak, Mr Bharat Bhushan Deshmukh and Mr Madan Vaijapurkar screened the children for regular music classes based on the aptitude shown by the children. They are doing their classes at Opportunity School IIT Kanpur every Monday from 05:00 pm to 06:00pm.



The first music class started on 05<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 (Monday) at Opportunity School premises. Dr H C Verma, Mr Amit Kumar Bajpai and Mr Anurag Pandey lighted the lamp in front of Maa saraswati. In the first class Mr Devanand Pathak and Mr Bharat Bhushan Deshmukh gave them practice for pitch and rhythm. Mr Madan Vaijapurkar and some other Sopan volunteer were also present there.

### **A Story by Dr Kunal Ghosh (Ex Professor, IITK, Ex Sopan EC member)**

#### ***From Maharashtra to Majuli in Assam: Story of a Teacher Couple***

Majuli is the largest river island in the world. It is so large that there are many villages scattered on its landscape. It is located in the middle of river Brahmaputra in Jorhat district of Assam. The island is green and as beautiful as a painted picture. There are coconut and betel nut palms, tall bamboo groves and a variety of orchid flowers all around. In addition to its scenic beauty, Majuli is also known as an ancient cultural center; Assam's famous Vaishnava Satra is located here. Islanders fondly remember a teacher, who came from a place called Chandwad, thousands of miles away in Maharashtra, and started a school on the island.



***Dr Kunal Ghosh***

Ravindranath Devendranath Savdekar alias Ravi, called 'Ravi Sir' by the Majuli people, is the only son of Devendranath Savdekar who is also a teacher. Ravindranath was inspired by the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and participated in Vivekananda Bharat Parikramaa. He was trained to be an 'Aacharya' at Vivekananda Kendra at Kanyakumari.

Then he took up an assignment to be a teacher at Doyang in Nagaland. His mother was worried to let her only son go to a disturbed area so far away; but Ravi assured her that he would be safe and return home from time to time.

He served as a teacher at Doyang school for two years. Then there was a proposal to start a new school at Majuli and he was to be its Principal. He caught a ferry from Nimat Ghat of Jorhat town which took him across the Brahmaputra and landed him at Kamalabari village on Majuli in the evening. The school began in a rented house with 2 teachers and 53 students. He at once started learning the language of the local people, Assamese. There are many words of Sanskrit origin common between Assamese and Marathi. This helped Ravi Sir much and he soon learned enough to get by. He used to take a round of the village every day, talked to the people and earned their confidence.

His next task was to construct a building for the school and he took a plot of land at the outskirts of the village. The land was a swamp, full of bamboo groves and shrubs. The land needed to be drained and cleared. Ravi Sir formed an organization called "Majuli Hitaishi Bandhu" (Friends of Majuli) involving the villagers and with their help the land was made ready for construction. He ferried in 15 truckload of boulders from Jorhat and engaged Hitaishi Bandhus to break them. Then cement was brought in and construction started. Several months later the building was ready and the school was shifted there.

In 2004 Ravi married Poorva, a girl from Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. She too came to Majuli and became a teacher alongside her husband. She too had to learn a new language and settle down in a beautiful but dangerous place. The danger always came from the mighty river. In the rainy season the river is in spate and Majuli loses all contact with the outer world and the 15 odd villages on the island lose land connection with each other. And the rainy season is long in Assam. Small boats are the only means of maintaining contact between islands. In 2008 the river had risen so much that many villages got nearly submerged.

Such are the perils of life on Majuli island. The teacher couple braved nature's fury and separation from near and dear ones, parents and relatives, for many years. About two years ago Ravi and Poorva left their beloved Majuli as he was transferred as Principal to Vivekananda Kendra school, Dibrugarh. He says with a smile, "Had I served in Maharashtra I would have become a good teacher but then we could not do what we are doing here to bring these people in to the mainstream of Indian life and culture". Ravi and Poorva fondly recall their Majuli days and the islanders. The Majuli folks, whenever they see an outsider, ask "How is Ravi Sir and Poorva Didi ? "

The teacher couple is doing, in a smaller version of limited scope, something akin to what Indian sages did over centuries and millennia. The sages, Hindu and Buddhist, broadcast spirituality and culture far and wide. They took their message to Afghanistan and Central Asia to the West, Korea Mongolia and Japan to the North, and Vietnam Indonesia and Philippines to the East. In the Philippines the present parliament building has four statues, and one of them is of Manu, the ancient law-giver of India. India is united, not by the Mogul or the British empires, but by Indian sages who travelled far and wide around the country to knit people together into one spiritual whole, sages like Agastya, Buddha, Mahaveera, Shankara, Ramanuja, Chaitanya, Nanak, Gobind, Dayananda and Vivekananda.

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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:** *Shiksha Sopan*

(a) You can pay through credit/debit card by going to [www.godparents.in](http://www.godparents.in), clicking "support a child" from the left top panel, selecting Shiksha Sopan from the "caretaking NGO" list at the bottom left of the page and then selecting a child from the list. Click on "Be my Godparent" below the photograph.

(b) You can write cheques/draft for donations in the name of "Shiksha Sopan" payable at Kanpur and send to the address given below.

(c) Online transfer can be made in State Bank of India, IITKanpur branch. Account No. **10426002488** , Account name "Shiksha Sopan", IFSC code **SBIN0001161**

(d). People in US can use the link <http://indolink.com/iitk/> to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards.

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