



# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

**Newsletter March 2010**

February 2010 had a mixed focus on academics and other activities. Closer to Examination months (March for Board and April for School tests) studies at the centers were taken up more seriously. Shiksha Sopan's participation in the Open house of IITK on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year and Holi added to the festive mood. A workshop on Optical Fibers and another on greeting card making were both educative and fun.

## Optical Fiber Workshop

A special workshop was organized for Shiksha Sopan children of class 10-12 on Optical Fibers on February 6. They have a brief mention of this topic in their book under Total Internal Reflection. Dr Suneel Khijwania, Assoc. Professor of Physics, IIT Guwahati brought a spool of optical fiber and necessary kit to practically demonstrate the fiber and discuss how it is used in communication. Children were very interactive during the four hour workshop and asked many questions. Dr Khijwania was very happy to teach them even technical things like cladding characteristics, requisites for low loss transmission etc., via the fibers in hand.



Later in the evening Dr Khijwania gave a general lecture using powerpoint slides for school students. Class 9-10 students from Gahan Adhyayan Kendra attended the lecture. Though this lecture was mostly in English, our children could understand it and expressed their happiness on knowing so many new things.

## Open House IITK

Under Golden Jubilee year, IITK celebrated Open house on 8<sup>th</sup> February. All departments put up their stalls and special arrangements were made for lab visits. Shiksha Sopan also put up its pandal in the SAC ground decorated by six posters of 3ft by 4 ft size describing Shiksha Sopan activities. Exhibition of Artificial jewelries, Shiksha Sopan bags and Science games were centers of attraction. Thousands of school students with their teachers visited the stalls and appreciated our work.

A separate pandal was put up for Science Experiments. About 20 experiments were placed and Shiksha Sopan Science team members Deepak Agnihotri, Deepak Mishra and Ranjeet Kumar explained these to groups of students from different schools pouring throughout the day. Students were encouraged to do things with their hands and come out with the explanations. It was noticed that most of the students had a tendency to respond very quickly but also very superficially. Often our team had to explain them the complexity and simplicity both. The teachers were very excited to see how the concepts they struggle so hard to explained were demonstrated so simply using the experiments, by Sopan children mostly from villages.



A total of about 5000 persons from Kanpur visited different facilities of IITK. They were all presented with an environment friendly cotton bag as a souvenir from IIT Kanpur. All these bags were made by Shiksha Sopan workers at Sopan Swavalamban Kendra. The making of these bags was described in February Newsletter.



## Greeting Card Workshop

Making Greeting Cards is an art and is also a useful skill in view of its wide use in society. Our children had been making greeting cards by putting up nice drawings and good quotes on the front and the two inner pages. This time Ms Neha Vithani, M Tech student from Bio Science Bio Engineering Dept. gave a very good workshop and trained them in making a fancy greeting card where opening the card brings out layers of cut slits with a message. It



gives a very pleasing feeling for the person who receives this three dimensional card and opens it. Children learnt this skill to a very good level of perfection and made number of them for their friends and Sopan teachers.

## Holi celebration at SAC

Shri Navaratna Vajpai has formed "Basel Humlog" group where some PhD students/Post Docs have come forward to generate funds for helping individuals/groups where it is needed most. He hails from Kanpur and made it to visit Shiksha Sopan SAC center on 25<sup>th</sup> February. It was the last day before Holi closing of three days and children were celebrating it. About 40 children were doing variety of programmes. Mr Vajpai interacted with the children and put colours on faces of all the children individually. He narrated memory of his childhood when he used to study in a similar environment sitting on a Daree. He gave children the message that hard work and determination can take one to great heights. He presented prizes to the children who had 100% attendance in the month of February. From Shiksha Sopan he was given a memento, a scenery made by a Sopan children.



Later he made himself available for putting colour on, and all children enjoyed his offer. Masti with discipline and culture was the description of the programme. Mr Vajpai later gave a donation to Shiksha Sopan on behalf of "Basel Humlog".

The programme was very nicely conducted by Dhyanchand Ji and Anita Kamal Ji (the two center coordinators) and Ms Shefali, IITK graduate and very active Sopan Worker of her IIT days. Shefali expressed her joy of spending time with Sopan children several times during the programme.



## Gahan Adhyayan Kendra Closes for the session

With Examinations starting on 6<sup>th</sup> March, Gahan Adhyayan Kendra was declared closed for this session. On closing day, that was on 27<sup>th</sup> February, a small function was conducted. Dr J Ramkumar distributed some stationary to the children to encourage them. Dr V N Kulkarni was also present in the function and addressed the children.



Mr Chandrashekhar Sharma, senior Sopan executive and Dr H C Verma told the students about do's and don'ts during examination period. They emphasized that sound sleep, tension-free environment, proper diet etc are important. Mothers of the children were also present in the show and they also learnt what care parents should take during examination period.

Students along with their parents played colourful Holi with GAK teachers to mark the end of the session.

## Forthcoming Programmes

### PPY mini camp

All 19 children under Pratibha Poshan Yojana (senior) care called for one-day mini camp on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The IITK students' team making the Study materials will interact with the children face to face and will discuss their difficulties. They will be given books in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics to help in preparing for Engg competitions. Their progress will be monitored, counselling will be done and selection for next Summer camp will be done.

### GANIT ke Sath Ek Din

Shiksha Sopan in collaboration with NSS has planned to have a 5-hour Mathematics day for children of class 6-8 from the surrounding villages. A total of 5 rounds are being contemplated which will include a Maths quiz, lots of Field games involving Maths and individual logic puzzles etc. A load of prizes are being planned to encourage everyone. The idea is to create interest in mathematics so that children start enjoying it resulting in greater self study.

### Sopan Scholarship Test

Shiksha Sopan has decided to start an annual Scholarship Test class-5 children studying in villages surrounding the campus. Based on this, scholarships will be given for a period of one year. The details of the scholarship scheme is being worked out. The first Scholarship test is expected March last week or April first week.

### Paper Activity at Bhulpur

A two hour activity based on paper cutting and folding has been designed based on Mr Arvind Gupta's demonstration. First conduct of this will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Bhulpur Village in Itawa District.

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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. 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".

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