



# Shiksha Sopan

*An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment*

Reg Office: 391, Nankari, IIT, Kanpur 208016

**Newsletter February 2010**

The month of January 2010 was extremely cold with mercury dipping to 1-2 deg C and sun not visible for continuous two weeks or even more. But Shiksha Sopan activities were intense with three major activities undertaken in this month, namely Annual function in the week containing Vivekanand Jayantee, Science workshops with Mr Arvind Gupta and Free Eye test Camp leading to cataract operations of 27 old persons.

## **Annual Function events**

12<sup>th</sup> January is observed worldwide as Youth day on the occasion of Swami Vivekanand's Birth anniversary. Shiksha Sopan celebrates it in the form of its Annual function which is spread over a week. This year, Sopan chose Environment as the central theme for all the events of the Annual function. To comply with the theme, a hut was made at the gate of the venue and all visitors had to pass through the hut. A number of Sopan workers worked whole night to erect the hut.



## **Competitions**

The inaugural event was at Sopan Vidyalaya on 10<sup>th</sup> January, with Mrs Aruna Sangal as the Chief Guest. About 150 children from Barasirohi had come to participate in the drawing competition. Though selection of topic for drawing was left to the imagination of children upto class 5, the elder ones were suggested to draw on the theme of Environment. Mrs Aruna Singh was quite happy in spending time with the children and interacting with them.

Next event on the same day was on Fancy dress Prelim round. From about 25 participants, 7 were selected for Stage show on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

A special event "Abhivyakti" was conducted exclusively for senior workers of Shiksha Sopan on 14<sup>th</sup> January. They were given a drawing sheet with a tree painted in the midst of a desert. They were supposed to write whatever thoughts occurred to them from this drawing. Shri Ashish Dixit's presentation was judged the best.

Sopan Swawalamban Kendra prepared KHICHADI to celebrate Makar Samkranti. After Abhivyakti all the Sopan workers moved there and with swawalamban kendra trainees and teachers enjoyed Sankranti.

## Rangoli

There was a beautiful Rangoli display. The children showed immense talent in using their imagination and making Rangoli with colours on environment theme. Mrs Guhapriya Gurunath of our Campus enjoyed looking at these works of art and had a tough time in deciding the winners for prizes.



## Social Awareness Rally

As part of our Annual event, we took out a Samajic Chetana Rally. Children had put in lots of efforts to prepare placards with eye catching slogans. About 500 children participated in the Rally which paraded through all the lanes and paths in Barasirohi village. In the middle, a Thela had the images of Bharat Mata and Swami Vivekanand to inspire the people. Full of enthusiasm, children were shouting slogans to end pollution, save water, keep the neighborhood clean and so on. Drive against Gutaka and liquor, education for girl child, were among the other hit slogans. After parading for about an hour and half, the rally terminated at Sopan Vidyalay. Here the children were told about the importance of environment and about the childhood of Swami Ji. Light refreshments were given before the children dispersed.



## General Quiz

A general knowledge quiz competition was organized on the occasion of Annual Function. A screening written test was given to all who had registered for the quiz. Based on this, 10 children were selected and 5 groups were formed. A nicely formatted quiz with lots of visual rounds was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb by Shri Chandrashekhar Ji. There were fast answer rounds and first to come up rounds and so on. The audience too enjoyed the quiz as they got a chance to reply and get chocolates when the participating groups failed to answer.

## Cultural Function

The concluding part of Annual Function Programme was on 17<sup>th</sup> January from 2.30 PM at Barasirohi. There was tremendous enthusiasm in the local villagers and they turned up in huge number. It was a 2.5 hours stage show anchored by Sopan children Shivam and Seema, both from class 10. It was a feat to witness the confidence with which these two children conducted the show before such a big audience.

The show had dances, songs, skits and fancy dress. Each of the programme was very well prepared and thoughtful. Children gave valuable knowledge to the villagers about Swine Flue through a very interesting short skit.

Mr Amitabh Thakur, an IPS Officer and also an IIT Kanpur alumnus, was the Chief Guest. In a very interesting manner he told the children and the villagers how hard work and determination can take them ahead. Professor A K Sharma clicked a few photographs and found one very appropriate for the cover page of his forthcoming book on sociology.



## Science experiment workshops with Shri Arvind Gupta

Dr Arvind Gupta is internationally known Science communicator. He has vast experience of interacting with children and bringing them face to face with science in the most interesting manner. He imparts the knowledge of science to the audience through the use of toys which he makes in no time in front of the audience.

Shiksha Sopan arranged an interaction session of children from class 6 -10 with Mr Gupta on 2<sup>nd</sup> January in L-7. About 300 children from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Campus school, Opportunity School, Jagriti and Shiksha Sopan attended the programme in spite of extreme cold and fog. Mr Gupta showed them how scientific toys can be made with small items and how science can be understood. Every one enjoyed the show.



In the evening Mr Gupta took a workshop with about 40 elder students and teachers and trained them in making a number of science games and equipments.

## Eye Test Camp

Ratanpur Evening Learning Center organized a Free Eye Test Camp. A team of doctors from Khairabad spent four hours at Ratanpur center and tested about 180 patients. Wide publicity was given to this event by printing information pamphlets and distributing them in all nearby villages, putting banners and posters and also making announcements using mobile audio amplifier.

A total of 27 patients, mostly old persons with not much family support, were identified for cataract operation. They were taken to the hospital and operated for cataract. All the services were provided absolutely free by the hospital.



**Smt Kalavati from Ratanpur who regained the sight after operation**

## News

Dr Sameer Khandekar, Treasurer, Shiksha Sopan has been awarded prestigious "Prof. K. N. Seetharamu Medal for Young Researcher" by the Indian Society for Heat and Mass Transfer in the international conference held in January 2010.

Dr H C Verma, Secretary, Shiksha Sopan was selected among the 50 top IITK Alumni, IITK@50 and was felicitated in the Annual convention of Alumni Association held in January 2010.

Mr Chandrashekhar Sharma, EC member of Shiksha Sopan, was awarded for Best Poster in the Golden Jubilee International Conference on Hydrogen Energy Storage under Energy Conclave, held on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

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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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