



Shiksha Sopan

An Initiative of IIT Community for social upliftment

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Newsletter February 2026

Dear Readers,

Namaste! The February 2026 newsletter highlights the activities from January 2026 across all centers. Each center celebrated Republic Day, and there were preparation classes for JAM, the First Sunday Club for teachers, academic activities at SASK and Pravah Baal Akhabar, as well as various events at SAEC, including a farewell for IITK students. Additionally, BEC activities and the Sopan library were thriving. Please find the center-wise reports outlined below.

Republic Day Celebration

Republic Day was observed with immense enthusiasm across all Shiksha Sopan centers. This occasion served as a valuable opportunity to foster a sense of patriotism and national pride among the children.

Activities included flag hoisting, patriotic songs, speeches, and cultural programs. These activities encouraged students to engage actively and share their thoughts. The celebrations played a crucial role in helping children grasp the true meaning and significance of a republic, along with the principles of democracy. Furthermore, it inspired them to become responsible and informed citizens of the nation.

Celebration at Sopan Ashram

All the employees at Sopan Ashram came together to commemorate the occasion, proudly raising the national flag. The Shiksha Sopan song, "Desh Hame Deta Hai Sab Kuch," was sung in unison, rekindling the spirit and dedication in everyone to keep striving for the nation.



The national anthem was sung, and sweets were shared with everyone in attendance. The presence of Pravah Khandekar at this event enhanced the excitement and happiness of the celebration.

Republic Day Celebration at SASK

On this special occasion, the student adorned the entire venue with the vibrant colors of the Indian tricolor. The Chief Guest, Pravah Khandekar, raised the National Flag and honored the Tiranga with a salute. With pride, all the students joined together to sing the National Anthem, "Jana Gana Mana." Following this, IIT Professor Neeraj Chawake, along with Pravah Khandekar Ji, Atul Ji, and Vijay Ji, placed garlands on the portrait of Bharat Mata. PhD students from IITK, part of the Maharashtra Mandal Team, along with Shruti Madam, Seema Verma Ji, Sunita Ji, and Vinay Mishra Ji, offered flowers to the portrait of Bharat Mata.

Students from SASK showcased patriotic songs that enchanted everyone in attendance. The guests also shared insights about the significance of the Constitution and its regulations. Avantika, a student from the center, served as the anchor for the entire program. To conclude the event, Seema Verma ji delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all the esteemed guests.



Celebration at BEC and Library

All the students at the BEC center received a lesson on the Constitution from Pushpendra ji. On this special day, each student painted the tricolor, showcasing their love for the nation. Additionally, Kshma ji distributed biscuits to all the students.



At Sopan Library, students and everyone gathered exchanged warm greetings while creating good luck bands in the shape of the tricolor. This delightful activity brought happiness to all involved. They sang patriotic songs and danced joyfully to commemorate the occasion. The program wrapped up with a heartfelt performance of "Vande Mataram."

2nd examination of Dr. V N Kulkarni

Shiksha Sopan's VNK Examination Program is an impactful initiative being carried out in schools located within a 7 km radius of Sopan Ashram. The inaugural examination of this program took place in December. Following the examination, Shiksha Sopan hosted a special "Copy Checking Celebration," where the answer sheets were meticulously reviewed with enthusiasm. Based on the results, 100 students were selected and invited to participate in a re-examination, with these children also receiving awards in recognition of their hard work and achievements.



Special Guests

Shri Upendra Mishra, Manager of Katyayan School, honored the event as the Chief Guest. Dr. H.C. Verma inspired the children with his uplifting words and encouraged them to join the upcoming science fair. Dr. Chetna Mishra, Principal of Opportunity School, was also present at the event.



First Sunday Club (FSC)

The First Sunday Club (FSC) is a monthly initiative at Sopan Ashram where science teachers gather for discussions and learning. The specific date is determined based on the availability of Dr. H. C. Verma Sir, whose presence adds significant value to the sessions. This month, the club meeting took place on January 18th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



During the session, teachers engaged in numerous thought-provoking questions and had insightful discussions with Verma Sir about various facets of science and pedagogy.

As the club unites individuals deeply connected with science, it also highlights the significance of scientific thinking in everyday life, especially regarding environmental stewardship. Taking a proactive step toward a more sustainable environment, Sopan Ashram introduced the use of steel glasses for serving tea at the meeting. Participants enjoyed their tea in these glasses and took the initiative to wash them afterward. This effort aims to eliminate the use of plastic and thermocol cups at Sopan Ashram and underscores FSC's dedication to fostering environmentally responsible practices.

Basic computer course for local youths

In the modern world, it is crucial for individuals to be proficient in computer operation, particularly for managing various daily tasks. With this goal in mind, Shiksha Sopan has launched a **Basic Computer Course** designed to help people acquire valuable digital skills. The program primarily targets youth who have completed their 12th standard and aspire to cultivate practical skills for their future endeavors.



To raise awareness about the course, the entire Shiksha Sopan team collaborated by placing posters in nearby villages and sharing information through word-of-mouth, ensuring the message reached as many people as possible. Currently, Sopan Ashram is equipped with **10 computer systems**, allowing for the formation of a **batch of 20 learners** for the course.

Special efforts were made to engage those who were genuinely eager to acquire computer skills. This included individuals working in the IIT mess who wanted to get acquainted with computers, some youth who had dropped out of school, and several women who stepped outside their homes with a desire to learn something new. Consequently, a diverse and motivated group of learners came together for the course.

The first class commenced on January 27, 2026, and is being conducted by Mr. Uday Kumar, who teaches with immense enthusiasm and dedication. The learners have also displayed great interest and excitement, making the onset of this initiative very promising for everyone involved.

Shiksha Sopan Anupcharik Shikshan Kendra(SASK)

Swami Vivekanand Jayanti

On January 12, 2026, Swami Vivekananda Jayanti was celebrated with immense enthusiasm. During this event, Seema Ji shared information with the students about the Foundation Day of Shiksha Sopan.

Sunita Ji and Seema Ji adorned the portrait of Swami Vivekananda with garlands. All the students presented flowers to his picture and made a pledge to follow the path he illuminated. Shiv Arya from Class 8 shared the biography of Swami Vivekananda with everyone. Rani from Class 6 discussed Swami Ji's historic address at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, where he represented India and conveyed the message of universal brotherhood.



Lohri and Makar Sankranti Celebration

The festivals of Lohri and Makar Sankranti were joyfully celebrated on January 13th, filled with enthusiasm. During this festive occasion, Seema Verma shared with the students that Lohri is one of the key celebrations in Punjab and North India. It takes place on the eve of Makar Sankranti and is mainly linked to the harvest season, marking the welcoming of a new crop.

She also shared that Makar Sankranti is a significant Hindu festival celebrated annually on January 14th or 15th. This day marks the Sun's transition from the zodiac sign Sagittarius (Dhanu) to Capricorn (Makar), ushering in an auspicious time. Peanuts, gajak, and murmura were handed out to all the students. Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating both Lohri and Makar Sankranti together.



Academic Activity

In January, a variety of academic activities were organized for the students.

Mathematics: In mathematics, students in Classes 4 and 5 learned how to find the prime factorization of numbers. They also differentiated between larger and smaller fractions, and were introduced to even and odd numbers, as well as mixed fractions. Meanwhile, students in Classes 6, 7, and 8 explored perpendicular and parallel lines through real-world examples. They discovered how to use letters to represent numbers and grasped the distinction between variables and constants.

Science: Students were encouraged to observe human-made objects and examine their effects on society. By exploring examples from their surroundings, they learned about the advantages of microorganisms in human life, the diseases they can cause, prevention methods, and the significance of vaccination. Additionally, the students participated in a brief field visit to enhance their understanding of various soil types.

Social Studies: Sunita Ji detailed the diverse climatic conditions of India, explaining the seasons in order along with their unique characteristics. In History, students learned about the prominent rulers of the Gupta era and their notable accomplishments.



Visit by Maharashtra Mandal Team

On January 16th, a team from Maharashtra Mandal visited the SASK Center. The team consisted of PhD students from IITK. During their visit, they distributed pants to all the students, along with pens, pencils, and chocolates. They took the time to interact with the students, inquiring about their experiences and encouraging them to study diligently and with commitment.

Prof. Gopal Ashok Gupta from the Design Department praised the students for their hard work and assured them of his ongoing support and guidance in the future.

Basant Panchami

On January 23rd, the festival of Vasant Panchami was joyfully celebrated at SASK with great devotion. On this auspicious day, students and teachers united to perform Saraswati Puja. Sunita Ji and Seema Verma Ji presented garlands and flowers to Goddess Saraswati. Additionally, Amit K. Bajpai Ji and his wife, Shikha Ji, contributed by offering flowers in honor of the occasion.



The student adorned the campus with vibrant yellow balloons and arrived at the center dressed in yellow attire, embodying the festival's spirit. During the puja, yellow fruits and sweets were presented to the Goddess. Rani from Class 6 offered a heartfelt prayer to Goddess Saraswati. Following the puja, the fruits and sweets were shared among all the students as prasada. Once the celebration concluded, the students returned to their studies, resuming their usual routines.

Pravah Baal Akhbaar

This edition of Pravah Baal Akhbaar was crafted by Rani from Class 6. In celebration of Swami Vivekananda's Jayanti on January 12th, Avantika from Class 7 shared an engaging biography. Additionally, Sanchi from Class 5 beautifully illustrated the festivals of Lohri on January 13th and Makar Sankranti.

Rimjhim and Mansi from Class 7 celebrated Vasant Panchami and Subhas Chandra Bose's Jayanti, respectively, with a heartfelt poem and tribute. Sanchi from Class 6 showcased her talent with a drawing for Republic Day. The January edition of *Pravah Baal Akhbaar* highlighted the students' creativity, patriotism, and enthusiasm.



Barasirohi Evening Center (BEC)

Winter Vacation: From January 1st to January 14th. Regular classes resumed at the center on January 16th. On January 22nd, Ajay Kamal ji visited the center and guided the students through some math problems.

Saraswati Puja: On January 23rd, Pushpendra ji shared insights about the worship of Goddess Saraswati. All the students participated in meditation, respectfully folding their hands in prayer.

On January 27th, VNK results were discussed with students, allowing them to ask questions about their papers. Priyanka, a visiting teacher, shared historical facts about states and their capitals.

Sopan Ashram Evening Center(SAEC)

Craft

This month, the students of Sopan Ashram Evening Center crafted six unique types of pen stands as part of an exciting new model-making project. Utilizing colorful paper and recycled cardboard boxes, they brought their beautiful and imaginative designs to life. The resulting pen stands are visually striking, showcasing the creativity and dedication of the students.



Farewell Program

On the evening of January 18th, a heartfelt farewell program took place at the Sopan Ashram to honor Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahu (PhD, IIT Kanpur), Ms. Ankita Kumari, Ms. Shweta, and Mr. Prakriti Azad. These four individuals have dedicated their valuable time to SAEC, and the event was organized to reminisce and celebrate their experiences. The program commenced with the inspiring song "Chandan Hai Is Desh Ki Maati." Mr. Vinay Mishra, the Center Coordinator, led the event. He presented a beautifully crafted video that highlighted various programs and sessions held at the Center from 2018 to 2025, evoking many cherished memories associated with these students.



Following this, Mr. Amit Kumar Bajpai spoke to the audience, commending the unwavering dedication of the volunteers teaching at Sopan. He highlighted that their hard work is the driving force behind the organization's continuous growth. Additionally, Prof. H.C. Verma offered his blessings to the students and shared his insights.

Vinay Mishra emphasized the founding goal of Shiksha Sopan to create a family atmosphere fostering belonging and community contribution. He acknowledged the successful realization of the Sopan Center's vision and honored four volunteers with certificates, photo frames, and student-crafted models as appreciation. He concluded the program with heartfelt gratitude.

Sopan Library

In addition to our regular library activities such as book studies, writing exercises, and debate discussions, several other events were organized this month, including:

- Bapat Mam is providing an explanation of the Upanishads. Everyone is finding it enjoyable. While this subject may seem challenging and dull, Madam presents it in straightforward language as an introduction.

- Raksha Ji and Bapat Ma'am visited this month for various discussions.
- For Basant Panchami, students and staff performed Saraswati Vandana, offered bhog, and adorned Maa Saraswati, while Bapat Ma'am educated students on the day's significance.



Upcoming Flagship event of Shiksha Sopan

Sopan Ashram is steadily gaining recognition as a lively center for scientific endeavors. The reputation of the Science Fair hosted at Sopan Ashram is spreading widely, attracting interest from teachers and students across various states who are eager to join this exceptional event.

In anticipation of the fair, the entire Shiksha Sopan team worked with immense dedication and enthusiasm. The Ashram's premises were thoroughly cleaned and painted, while rooftops and other areas were meticulously prepared to accommodate the science exhibits and activities. The collaborative efforts of the team have fostered a welcoming and inspiring atmosphere for the upcoming Science Fair.

अंधकार को क्यों धिक्कारें, अच्छा हैं एक दीप जलायें

Invitation अमर उजाला

शिक्षा सोपान | SGM - IAPT
सोपान ट्रस्ट | ANVESHIKA
के तत्वाधान में आयोजित

विज्ञान मेला

"SAMJHO"

(Science Ab Mere Jeevan me HO)

विज्ञान सोपान प्रत्येक वर्ष समाज कल्याण हेतु अति-भारि के कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन करता आ रहा है। इसी कड़ी में इस वर्ष 13 फरवरी 2026 (सुक्रवार) को विज्ञान से खुलने व उसको अपने से सम्बन्धित करके विज्ञान मेला में आपकी अमूल्य योगदान का हमें विशेष प्रस्ताव की वैज्ञानिक प्रतिनिधियों का परवर्तन किया जायेगा

दिनांक: 13 फरवरी 2026 (सुक्रवार)
समय: सुबह 10:30 बजे से शाम 4:30 बजे तक
स्थान: सोपान आश्रम, 12/1-3 नानकारी, आई.आई.टी., कानपुर

विज्ञान मेला में शामिल होने के लिए QR Code स्कैन कर रजिस्ट्रेशन

Web site : (a) For more details, please visit www.shiksha-sopan.org

(b) You can write cheque/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, IIT Kanpur branch. Account No. **10426002488**, Account name "Shiksha Sopan", IFSC code **SBIN0001161**

(d). People in US can use the link <http://www.iitk.ac.in/dora/donation/PayPal/> and Choose Shiksha Sopan Charitable Contribution to donate through IIT Kanpur foundation using credit cards. All donations are 100% tax deductible in the United States. IIT Kanpur Foundation (Tax ID: 94-3370645) is Tax Exempt under 501(c)(3) classification of IRS.

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