

Issue:1, Year:16, February 2012



AWARD INDIA



In this issue

TRAINING STORIES
CREATING
COMMITTED CITIZENS
ONE AWARD MODEL



Greetings!

We're very excited to usher the **Golden Jubilee Year** of The Award Programme in India. For the last **50 years**, The International Award Programme has been '**Creating Committed Citizens**' from all spheres of life in our multi-faceted diverse country.

The **Golden Jubilee** will be celebrated in **April** with an **Annual Gold Presentation Ceremony** followed by a **Gala Dinner** and we're delighted to have The British Council-Delhi host us. The Second **Solar Gold Project**, in collaboration with Ecosphere, from 9th to 25th June will allow Gold participants and Holders to fittingly work together on a conservation project with long-term impact.

To get involved in the events for the Golden Jubilee, please email us at ai@iayp.in with the subject line "Golden Jubilee".

This issue of the Award India magazine aims to showcase the many ways young people become committed to themselves and to their communities by participating in The Award Programme. The 'Jeevan Banao' project undertaken by Araeyus Vakil showcases that young people today are enthusiastic about making a difference. The articles from Operating Units-Cambridge International School in Phagwara and GD Goenka World School-Gurgaon reflect similar transformative experiences the Award brings to young people through the Service and Skills sections.

The article by David Swallow - a Gold Holder from the UK - about his exchange programme in 2008, beautifully reiterates how young people have 'experiences of a lifetime' through The Award and also gives an international perspective on the new centralised Award structure in India, the Gold Award Holders' Society of India and the need for an efficient Communications strategy.

'Partnerships and The Award' - a regular section in our magazine, features the progress in the partnership with the Australian Sports Outreach Programme (ASOP), India and IAYP India's foray into the sport for development through an Adventure plus Training Camp for identified Community Sport Volunteers from the ASOP Partners who are now participating in the Gold Level.

The Award Programme is an organization that relies on Adult Volunteers to 'Promote, Provide and Preserve' a high quality Award Programme to young people. Training of Award Leaders is essential and the reports from the two National Level Training Workshops held in The Doon School and The Assam Valley School highlight the 'fun' in store for enthusiastic adult volunteers. The training for trainers (T4T) series highlights how a Training Panel will assist National Award Authorities in ensuring Programme quality in the country.

The India 'Special Projects' transforms lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special abilities. The comments of Kalyani Chakravarty - Award Leader from Manav Vikas School, a Special Project, highlight the positive enthusiasm in Adult Mentors !

To conclude, it is an honor to introduce Rajarshi Banerjee - Gold Holder and India Representative - as the Honorary Editor of the Award India Magazine.

Sharing these inspiring stories would not be possible without the constant support and the selfless hard work from Award Volunteers, Award Leaders, Award Holders, Award Participants and Friends of the Award. A very special thank-you to Shell Companies in India for supporting The Award India Magazine for 18 consecutive years! We hope you enjoy reading this issue and we certainly look forward to your feedback at ai@iayp.in

Nivedita Samanta

Nivedita Samanta
Communications Manager

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Award India is published by Mr. Sandeep Dutt for The International Award for Young People, India.

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Front Cover Photographs : (i) Rafting at the HRR Camp during NTW – 1.
(ii) T4T Group at Sri Lanka

This Newsletter is sponsored by The Shell Group of Companies, India.
Printed by: The English Book Depot, Dehradun



Next Issue :
The Upcoming Issue of Award India will be a **Special Golden Jubilee Issue** in April, 2012.

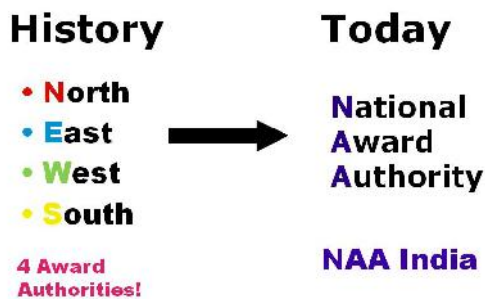
One Award Model Licensing

The Award Programme Foundation (APF), a Registered Charitable Trust is licensed to run The International Award for Young People (IAYP) in India by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (IAA) based in London. The APF empowers the National Award Authority (NAA) as the **only** licensing body in India, and has a national office at New Delhi.

school/college has one from an erstwhile zone, they must provide the NAA with a copy for record with details of registration date, expiration date, etc. The NAA will issue new Licenses, if you do not wish to get a License, your Participants can still do the Award Programme, and in that case you need to submit the forms to the NAA office.

The NAA office has issued Licenses to over 80 partners and operators in India, thank you for the support to build the One Award Model in India.

One Award model



All Schools, Colleges, Award Units and Operators in India must have a valid License to operate the International Award Programme. Please check your records and ensure that you have a renewed License to operate The Award Programme (IAYP). The NAA (National Award Authority) is committed to assisting you and ensuring that young people in India get the best possible support and participate in The Award Programme. We recommend you renew your Operators License with the national office, so that we can provide training and development support and help you participate in other activities of IAYP. Kindly send us a copy of your existing/expired/valid License.

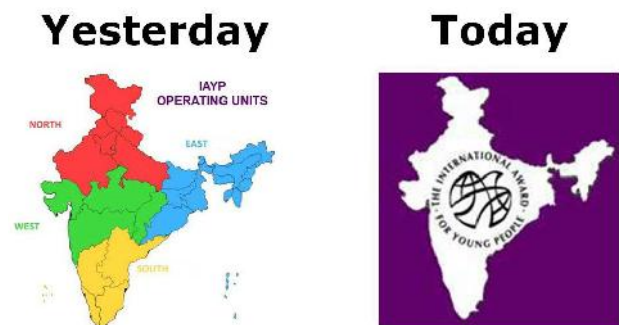
YES Centre License:

The new NAA Operators' License enables the Licensed Award Units to not only operate The Award Programme in their own schools but also in the community and the society the schools exist in. This updated license is now referred to as the YES Centre License, and is issued to a Society, Trust or Registered body keen to operate the Award Programme in their area of operations.

A YES Centre develops and delivers the Award to young Indians by offering the Programme to the community beyond the four walls of the institution. YES Centres partner directly with the National Award Authority (NAA), collaborate directly to provide training to extend a High Quality Award Programme to be available to all young people in India and help to deliver the Award to participants and schools without a License, thus ensuring the Award to be the "Programme of Choice" for the youth.

The APF mandates that all Award Units and licensed Operators use the Common Award Participation Form only. Each form has a unique number and is tracked by us. The Forms are supplied free and are to be filled and submitted to the national office for the Database Registry. No one will now produce, print or distribute Award supplies, the National Award Authority (NAA) will be the exclusive supplier.

One platform



Status of Units registered with the erstwhile zones:

Every Unit has to have a Valid License; if the

For more information please refer to : www.iayp.in or contact Prgramme Manager : bivujit@dofe.in



Special Projects Workshop

by Kalyani Chakraborty, Award Leader

Manav Vikas School

The Special Project Workshop was held in Dehradun in November, 2011 and I had the privilege to be a part of it. It was an exhilarating experience altogether. The three day workshop convened on the 26th and ended on the 28th of November. I would take this opportunity to thank IAYP India for inviting me to the workshop.

Those who attended the workshop had the opportunity to enrich themselves with practical work and discussions regarding the four sections of the Award Programme and the Residential Project. Discussions were also held on how one should lead a quality life and appreciate its beauty. That one should love mankind as God resides within every man.

Another agenda of the workshop was to discuss how to develop and improve the lifestyles of the children belonging to the marginal section of the society. These children should be provided with opportunities so that they can cultivate themselves into respectable and complete individuals.

We resided at the guest house of Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) and the hospitality they extended to us was memorable. Purkal has its own school whose discipline and environment is perfect for a Special Project. They are doing a great job and contributing quite effectively to the society on the whole.

Above all our National Director, Mr. Sandeep Dutt constantly motivated us with his inspirational words. His words – “Dream it and build it” - are pertinent to every individual and should be applied in every walk of life to achieve success. This workshop will always occupy a special place in my heart.



When I was in my teens a line from Mr. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee struck a chord within me. The line was, “What should be done with this life?” Working as an Award Leader has helped me realise my own potentials, and this unique programme keeps me feeling young and excited about growth all the time!

Gold Participants' Workshop

a Training Workshop conducted for the Gold Participants of ASOP
(Australian Sports Outreach Programme)

A four-day ASOP (Australian Sports Outreach Program) Gold Participants training workshop was organized at Tikkling Camp, Gurgaon. 25 participants from Magic Bus, NAZ Foundation, and Rashtriya Life Saving Society attended. The objective of the workshop was to train these Gold participants and to acquaint them with the Award Philosophy.

Day one was dedicated to orientation of the Gold Award participants, acclimatization with the beautiful surrounding, ice-breaking session and camp craft. A session on First Aid by Ujjwal of RLSS was the big highlight for the day. Participants also pitched their tents themselves and were taught camp craft. Bivujit Mukhoty, Programme Manager, IAYP and a team from ICNL helped set up the camp.

On the 27th of December the Award Journey and Award Philosophy sessions were conducted by Ms Raina Krishnatrey and Ms Pratibha K Singh. The morning session began by brain storming and asking participants about the Award programme. Through various activities, stories, chart activities, fun games all the sessions were conducted. All four sections of the Award Programme were explained thoroughly by providing appropriate examples and giving relevant details. Participants gave their feedback regarding the language use, as some of them were not very comfortable with the English language. The trainers kept the feedback in mind and tried to use English and Hindi in proper proportion so as to make every participant comfortable and Award Journey understandable. Participants showed their enthusiasm not only in listening to the trainers but also in the tasks assigned to them.

Some of the participants made very creative record entries which impressed the Trainers.

The sessions

of day two would have been impossible without the support of Volunteers from Ansal Institute of Technology: Nivedita Parashar, Sonal Muskeen, Avi and Aviral who came all the way to enjoy and learn more about the Award Programme conducted by NAA (IAYP).

On the third day the participants with the trainers and volunteers were taken to the Aravalli Hills for

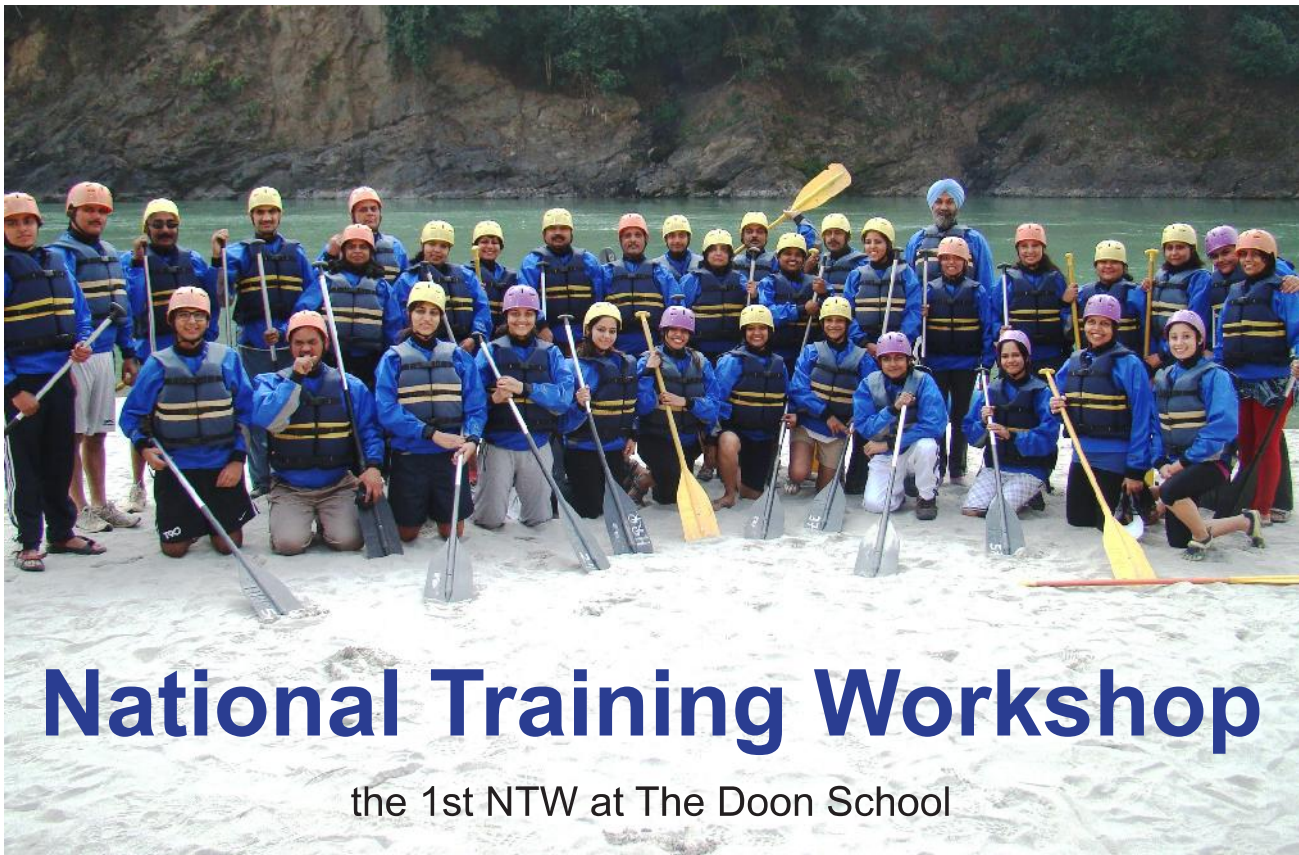


the river crossing activity with the help of ropes and equipments. This was again great fun and enriching experience.

The main aim of the ASOP Project is to use sport for development and provide sustainable livelihoods to Community Sport Volunteers (CSVs). The Award Programme Foundation and their Skills partner B-able are developing a curriculum to help the CSVs learn skills for life and provide vocational training. To develop the programme Sumiran & Sugandh of B-able conducted a half-day workshop, to showcase the Skills opportunity and work out ways to offer skills training to the Gold Award participants.

The Workshop was the first of its kind and it builds the delivery of the Award Programme in partner organisations, and help the adult Volunteers understand the needs of young people and cater accordingly.





National Training Workshop

the 1st NTW at The Doon School

The first National Award Leaders' Training Workshop organised by the NAA India Team facilitated training for 36 Award Leaders from 25 Operating Units across India. Spread over three days (16th to 18th December, 2011), the Workshop involved intensive and participatory Leaders' Training sessions at The Doon School, Dehradun campus. The faculty included Skand Bali, Manu Mehrotra, Parul Vij, Sandeep Dutt, Rajarshi Banerjee, Devanjali Dutt, Pratibha Singh and Nivedita Samanta.

While the first 2 days involved activity and workshop modules on Operational and Licensing Principles, the third day was an 'icing on the cake'-as described by Raina Krishnatray from DPS Greater Noida- with attendees going on an overnight white water rafting and camping trip with Adventure Partner-Himalayan River Runners Ganga Camp in Rishikesh.

Discussions and sharing of how the Award actually Equips for Life went on before the "Why Not You" campaign, the YES Centres, and the Partnerships model were presented and explained in detail. Also, special emphasis was laid on the Governance and Legal Structure, the set up of the NAA Office in 2010 and how things have changed since. The Licensing Guidelines set by the IAA, the Mission Statement of IAYP, India and the Fundamental Principles were also highlighted categorically with special emphasis on the One Award Model. The Framework, philosophy, structure and how the Award functions was conveyed.

Guest Speaker, Ms Manju Singhania from the Latika Roy Foundation for the Differently Abled

gave a background to the School and spoke on how the Award Programme actually helps students in the Institution. Case Studies of The Doon School and Hopetown School gave an idea about the expectations, criteria and benefits for a YES Centre.

The last day was Camping Day with the Himalayan River Runners, Adventure Partners of IAYP, India at the Ganga Camp in Rishikesh. The Group left Dehradun at 8 am to arrive at the Camp and was briefed by Mr Yosuf Zaheer, Camp Chief of HRR, before the allotment of tents. After lunch, a rafting experience ensured that the Fun element wasn't left out.

"It was an excellent workshop which was very informative and motivating."

-Jorawar Singh and Manju Malik (Cambridge International School, Phagwara)

"It was a well-organized programme and highly beneficial, especially with regard to the nature of the IAYP, India fully subscribing to the international standards set by the IAA."

- Mr. Ajith P. Jacob, Good Shepherd International School-Ooty

National Training Workshop

the 2nd NTW at The Assam Valley School

The 2nd National Award Leaders' Training Workshop organised (for 30 Award Leaders) by the NAA was held at The Assam Valley School from 20th to 23rd January, 2012.

The Promote, Provide and Preserve approach was emphasized on and the YES Franchise Model was presented and discussed along with Licensing & Partnership structures. Many Award Leaders

shared their experiences of how the Award is helping Create Committed Citizens of the world. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the Phulbari Tea Factory.

The AVS Case-study presented by Ms Ranjana Rai showcased how the Teachers/Participants engaged in active Volunteering to further the growth of the Award.

Mr Deepak Sahney from Kripa Foundation



made a presentation about what Kripa does (De-addiction Programmes with a humane approach) and how it fits into the Award Programme.

Mark Ashby, from Adventure Partner Raleigh International, presented their Model of Development (with a wonderful video) focusing on three major aspects : Challenge, Service, Diversity, to produce active global citizens.

Mr Joydeep Ghosal and Ms Devjani Ghosal from Adventure Partner, Juniper Wings was introduced. presented how they have been conducting Adventure Programmes for Award Participants and how the Award Guidelines are always followed.

The Team left for a safari at the Kaziranga National Park on the last day, and enjoyed witnessing the wild flora and fauna.

The Skill & Its Impact

stories from G D Goenka World School, Gurgaon

Ask a student what Skill they would like to learn and you'll get an assortment of answers. But how many of them go on to pursue their passion? But it's remarkable how the Skill aspect of the Award Programme has been a blessing to the youngsters. Required to pursue a task for a fixed period, Awardees often think of pursuing their passion much seriously.

Ashita Patwa joined the Award Programme in 2011 and her vacation was utilized most constructively and in the most tasty manner. She wrote her own cook book a result of long sweaty, messy hours in the kitchen and hopes that people enjoy making the dishes as she enjoyed writing. Ashita can definitely testify to the positive effect of the Skill Section. She often says that if it wasn't for her Award Leader, Mrs. Vijayshree's support, she wouldn't have found the drive to start writing the book. The most important

thing is that she herself is happy with her progress and her passion has developed to an extent that she wants to start a chain of multicuisine restaurants after her higher studies.

Aditya Khanna and Paurush Bali, on the other hand, have no interest in cooking, perhaps predictably, but they pursue what they enjoy most , music. They have definitely shown tremendous dedication and passion to Music. Both of them states that fact that they began to enjoy music so much that they lose track of time and performs much more than the minimum stipulated time for the Skill Section of the Award and spends most of the day with the guitar and the drums.

It's amazing to see how activities begin as a requirement for a Badge or the Global Bird, but evolve into a passion - one that is sure to find its way into a person's hobby list or even a career.

Creating Committed Citizens

The Award Programme has been Creating Committed Citizens around the World; let's hear the story of the community service initiative ***Araeyus Vakil*** undertook :

W.B. Yeats had rightly said - "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." - and I couldn't have agreed more.

As the IAYP student secretary of my school, social service always has been a central part of my life. In August, 2010 I created and led a project in rural Maharashtra, which allowed students from my school to actively participate in changing the lives of the rural community – a community which I felt had been neglected for too long.

Hiking through remote parts of India gave me an insight into the lives of people who were less fortunate; people who I felt had been abandoned and neglected. Khandas is such a village in an isolated mountainous district of Maharashtra. Practically cut-off from the transport grid and helathcare facilities, and with only one electric line with major load shedding, it has little connection to the outside world. The population lives off subsistence farming, and the only solid structure is the school which is nothing more than unpaved ground, four crumbling walls and a semi-collapsed ceiling.

After 65 years of Independence, these villagers still lived without electricity or transport, left out from the otherwise 'far reaching' effects of globalization.

'Jeevan Banao' combats not just educational evils but also transforms village communities, almost always plagued with some social evil – be it the 3000 year old caste system or the 21st century power politics – by education and awareness, and provides them with something far more important - Hope.

The students, driven as they were, didn't have the means to study, as they worked for 14 hours on the fields returning home to no electricity and limited fuel for lighting. Solar lanterns were the only viable option for them. We conducted career workshops and distributed Solar Lanterns to the students. With 3 students securing a distinction and the overall percentage increasing by nearly 10%, we

understood the implications and have decided to set up a structure by which future volunteers could carry the work forward.

The village was also initially split apart due to 2 rival political parties. So, while making study groups sharing Solar Lanterns, we consciously decided to mix these 'rivals' together. Despite initial problems, they began to cooperate; and when the Youth made friends, their families were united. They not only learnt to laugh and enjoy together after almost six years but also began cooperating on issues of water sharing

and cooperative agriculture. The project ended up transforming the otherwise rigid and extremely hostile caste based and social hierarchy and political divide.

We also arranged for and conducted Career Counseling **W o r k s h o p s** delivering career advice and guidance to the majority of the students who didn't have any idea about what they wanted to do in life. This gave them an opportunity of vocational training after high school, helping them choose

and undertake careers once thought unachievable.

There's still a long way to go; books and solar lanterns are just the take off. This year I've raised funds to rebuild the school building, provide solar powered water pumps, street lighting and smokeless 'chulhas' to the village. We are also expanding to a nearby industrial town, Khapoli, which faces similar challenges to a larger scale. This October, by giving it an official structure and getting it recognized by my school, I've ensured that the project carries on for years to come with the support of an even greater number of students.

'Jeevan Banao' has transformed not only the lives of the villagers, but ultimately my own. It is the Challenge we face, and the effort we make to help others overcome them, that's important. In trying to reach out to others, I have learnt a lot about myself.



- a sketch by Award Participant, **Arifur Rehman** from Tyndale Biscoe School, Srinagar



My First Trek

by Priyanka Ghosh, Award Leader, The Heritage School

On the 16th of December 2011 we from The Heritage School, Kolkata set forth on a trek, as a part of the Award Programme, to a small hamlet in the Himalayas. We were 2 teachers accompanying 25 children and 3 trekking instructors from Juniper Wings (Adventure Partner of IAYP, India). All of us were thrilled and looking forward with anticipation to this expedition.

We boarded the Darjeeling Mail on the 16th and reached NJP on the 17th, from where we set forth for our destination to Maneybhanjang, which was a 4 hour drive from Siliguri. I was a bit apprehensive about the weather farther north. On our way we stopped at Mirik, a picturesque quiet place. The fog made it more appealing and exquisite. Soon started our journey which would criss-cross the terrains of India and Nepal.

We reached Maneybhanjang and were greeted to a delicious lunch. Here I got the feel of the chill and the peaceful lifestyle. We went for a short acclimatization trek which was just a forerunner to the trek the next day. The roads were rocky punctuated by a few shops. What a wonderful experience and a different way of looking at life.

Our trek started early morning to Tumling. Here I got to know for the first time, what trekking is. The rocky, steep road made me gasping for breath and the short-cut roads which saved on time consumed a lot more energy. We were happy to reach Chitre, our stop for refreshments. Our next halt was a place called Lamey Dhura, that had a secret beauty of its own, with the rhododendrons, the pine trees, the deep valley and the high mountains beckoning us. We soon reached the beautiful land of clouds, Meghma. After some rest, we left for our final destination Tumling.

The trek was fun and sporty. The thought that we were so near to Tumling helped us walk and to our utmost joy, we reached. I dragged my leg and reached Shikher Lodge at Tumling. We had indeed completed the first phase of the trek. The evening was spent by the fire before dinner and sleep.

Next day we were treated to Tibetan bread for breakfast and we set off for our view of the majestic Kanchenjunga. I was elated to witness the range from such a close distance. We enjoyed each moment and preserved the view in the memory card of my heart. The Sleeping Buddha posture of the Kanchenjunga was exquisite and elevated the mind to a surreal level.

Back near our lodge, it was warm, cozy and bright as the sun had already risen by then. The following day our trek was to Tonglu and back. We also learnt tent-pitching. We had breakfast at Nepal, tea in India and again lunch at Nepal; political barriers meant nothing to geography and people.

Next day our trek was to Jowbari and on the way we caught a glimpse of Mt. Everest which was breathtaking. We made our way through the Singalila forest reserve and saw various plant species. We were enriched with the experience, coming so close to the serene Himalayas. The morning sunrise in the Kanchenjunga and the first flush of snow made us forget the tiny hardships. The students spent the afternoon learning survival tactics, and we thoroughly enjoyed the much awaited Camp Fire in the evening.

This fascinating experience came to a close with the trek back to Maneybhanjang. On the way as we crossed Ghum, Sonada, Darjeeling and Kurseong, all I could feel was an overwhelming gratitude to the Award Programme which enriches not only the Awardees, but also us, Award Leaders.

The Sushunia Camp

an experience of Awardees from MCKV School

We, a team of 8 students and 1 teacher from M.C. Kejriwal Vidhyapeeth went to Sushunia hills in Bankura District to complete the Adventurous Journey for the Silver and Bronze Levels. Institute of Climbers and Nature Lovers (Special Projects Partner of IAYP, India) organized the expedition from 26th to 29th September, 2011. We participated in many challenging activities such as Trekking, Surveying nearby villages, Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Tent Pitching, Self Cooking and also enjoyed a Cultural Programme during Camp Fire and other activities on the last day.

Amongst the 8 students there were 3 students Qualifying for the Silver Level i.e. Atul Jain, Shubham Agarwal, AmanJain. The remaining 5 students were Qualifying for the Bronze Level i.e. Vipul Goyal, Hemant Soni, Rahul Agarwal, Shubham Kr Gupta, Abhishek Agarwal.

The expert trainers Mr. Anal Chatterjee, Mr. Somnath Saha, Mr. Asim Nath, Mr. Partha Sengupta and a Gold Awardee Anwesha Ghosh rendered their full effort to make the expedition comfortable yet challenging for the young Awardees. Rock Climbing and Rappelling actually allowed Awardees to believe in themselves, learn teamwork and actually see a new light of the life. The expedition allowed us to feel the sense of togetherness with our peers and leaders, learn leadership, punctuality and physical hardship, open up and enjoy conversations about flora, fauna of the surrounding area.

On the first day when we reached the camp site and we all gathered at a place and an introductory session was held. Then we went for nearby village survey where we were told to gather some information from those villagers about their lifestyle. After having a wonderful inspection we were given information about the various knots with rope which were to be applied on the different

survival circumstances while mountaineering.

On the Second day early at 6, we were taken for a trek for Susunia Hills. The Hills consisted of a dense Jungle with a wildlife fauna. At a point on the Hills at a Rock of about 12feet high we were taught to do Rock Climbing. We continued our Trekking and when we reached a height of 2500ft above the sea level we were asked to do Rock Climbing as well as Rappelling on a rock of about 40ft high at that point of time we were at the top of Susunia hills.

After returning, we were asked for Self Cooking. We were divided into three groups and three different dishes were asked to cook by ourselves. Post lunch, a Topomap session was taken where the geographical location of the Susunia hills was demonstrated.

On the 3rd day we went to observe the Ashokan Edict which was located on the other part of the Susunia hills. After returning, we were given some rest. The Silver Award Participants were asked to do an activity named Jumming, which is very exciting as it is a technical climb with the help of ropes and equipments. Finally the laborious activities came to an end.

In the evening we enjoyed the Camp Fire ourselves which was another thrilling activity. Finally, early morning on the Fourth day we departed from our camp to the Chhtana Station from where we were to board a train to Howrah, our final destination. After a 5 hour journey we reached Howrah.

I think that the Adventure Journey section of the Award Programme is a very vital one. Apart from ensuring an all-round development, it exposes us to the practical world with basic amenities and helps us to look at our life and adapt to it in a different way.

We're really thankful to the IAYP, India and ICNL for organising such a thrilling expedition for us.



The Life Changing Award

A Community Service taken up by Award Participants of Cambridge International School, Phagwara

According to us - the students of CIS - the Award Programme is an amazing opportunity to transform from curious youngsters to confident, skilled, thriving and dedicated citizens. It is the inspiration that has motivated us to redirect our lives. We were brought up in easy and totally depended environments having little time to think of helping others. But, last summer our life changed.



they eat what they can afford but are content with it - an attitude we all must inculcate within ourselves.

IAYP gave us a chance to be a good citizen and fulfill our duties as human beings and give back to society. So we decided to adopt that slum area try in our own small ways to help them.

We often visit them and have started the project "Each one Teach one". We can't make them rich but can

We got an opportunity to visit a place where the laborers from Bangladesh reside. We came to know about the pattern of their village life, old structure of village society, rocketing prices of basic amenities, low wages, resulting into the increasing indebtedness that compelled them to leave their homeland.

Their small 'kachcha' houses don't have water taps and electricity. They use kerosene lanterns and firewood for preparing food. They work on roads, buildings, houses as daily wage laborers. Their only dream is to educate their children. We seldom realise their sufferings who don't have choices in life;

spend time with them, teach them and give them a healthy surrounding to enable them secure a foothold in life. We do awareness plays involving them as well for them to teach them the importance of hygiene. We are planning to teach them dance and music also so that it might help them in their future.

We believe that sense of community and responsibility for other is not confined to the classroom: indeed it is beyond self, beyond own ethnic groups. We had a glimpse of the REAL world and, are glad that we are in this secure shell of IAYP.

Residential Project

by the Gold Participants of Welham Girls School

Welham Girls' School has a very extensive and rigorous Award Programme. 20 Gold Level completions have occurred in the last 3 years.

Gold Award participants engage in exciting and innovative activities that range from learning traditional India dance forms, to learning digital media, exploring different art forms, foreign language, various sports, and also making their presence felt in the communities in Dehradun with their Service.

The 'Sulabh Sauchalay' project, with partnership with Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO), at Donkwala Village, Uttarakhand, is a recent Residential Project completed by the Gold Awardees at Welham last year. The HESCO-Welham partnership, operational for over 5 years has transformed lives of villagers and of the young Gold Award participants.

The school students and teachers undertook construction work from 21 September at the village. While Welham Girls provided the financial input for raw material and the labour to complete the project, HESCO empowered the girls with their technical input. Toilets were built with bathrooms - an essential hygiene empowerment tool. Identified beneficiaries say that through this initiative, Welhamites learn about the need for, and the importance of, sanitation in villages, and the local people are encouraged to work for better living conditions.

At the concluding ceremony, Dr Anil Joshi, the founder of HESCO, praised the work done by the students. He pointed out that the poor faced a range of difficulties in obtaining a better life. Hence one needed to use one's resources for the good of others and the Gold Participants of the Award Programme has done precisely that.

Down Memory Lane

Gold Awardee, David Swallow, a participant of the Indo-Swinton Exchange Programme - 2008 tells about his Indian Adventure and how he feels about the Award

When I think back to my experiences of taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, without a doubt I can say that some of them have been the most memorable of my life. Furthermore the award gave me a chance to develop skills and interests, whilst also helping my local community. Personally I found my times doing expeditions, a great chance to meet and really get to know other awardees. After all, being led through the rain and cold requires a rather large amount of trust, and consequently friendships quickly form.

I was very fortunate to be asked to take part in an exchange programme with Indian Awardees, as part of my Gold Award. This is when I met Raj. For two weeks in the "British Summer" – which meant that it rained for the majority of the time, a group of Indian awardees came to stay with us and experience our culture. Amongst other activities, we visited local cities together, and took part in an expedition through the wind and fog, walking up the highest peak in England - Scafell Pyke - a mere hill compared to those we were going to see, when we went to India.

In October that year, we flew out to Kolkata, to meet what were no longer a group of Indian awardees; but now our friends. What followed can only be described as one of the most fantastic few weeks of my life.

We experienced the contrasts of: the energy of Kolkata and the calm of the Himalayas; the heat of the lowlands and the cold of the mountains; amongst others. Our trek took us to Sandakphu, the highest point in West Bengal, and surely one of the best places to view the Himalayan mountain range. Of course this trek was not easy, but the developing friendships and astounding beauty made it more than enjoyable. This trek culminated in seeing Mt. Everest in the distance, peaking out through wisps of cloud, which after all the effort was especially satisfying. For me, this trip was not just a trek to achieve my Gold Award Expedition; it was an opportunity to see the different cultures of the world, an opportunity to see past

any preconceptions that I had. Without a doubt I owe a lot to Raj for truly making this an experience to remember. Of course it would be easy for the culture shock to be detrimental to my enjoyment, however at every point I knew that he would help if necessary.

As I think back on my time in India now, there is one emotion clearly present, and that is desire; desire to see the incredible sights of India once more; desire to taste the tastes of India once more; and finally desire to see my friends in India once more.

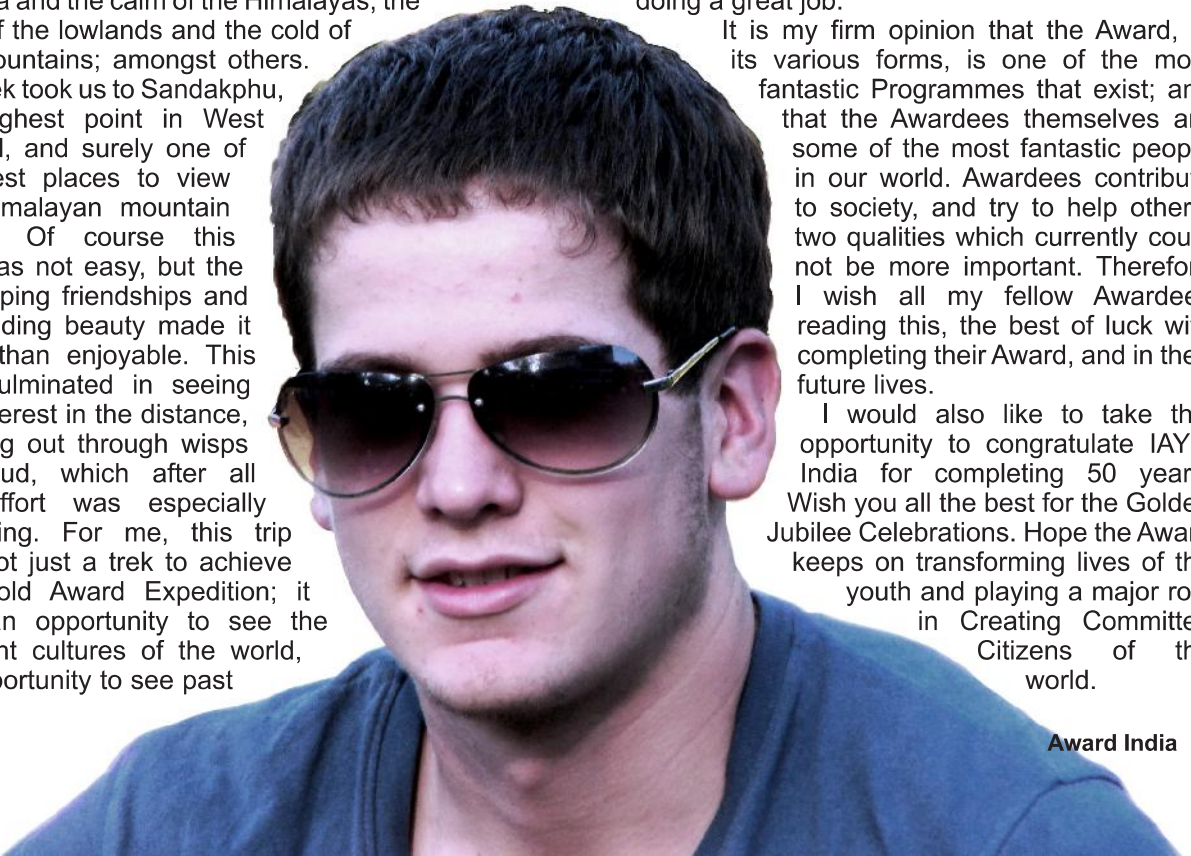
What I know of the Award in India, it sounds like a really positive step forward to be run as one central system, rather than separate bodies as it may bring everyone closer together and strengthen the importance of it.

Besides, the Gold Award Holders' Society is a great way to further the Award. If Gold Awardees are able to keep in touch after they have completed it, this could lead to a "continuation" of the Award and what it represents in society in general.

The Communication strategies are awesome as we are the "blogging" generation. Facebook and blogs are one of the most relevant ways of communicating currently - doing the magazines as well is very important as personally I think to actually get a magazine/newsletter is so much better than just reading a computer screen. I must say, the Communications Department of Award India is doing a great job.

It is my firm opinion that the Award, in its various forms, is one of the most fantastic Programmes that exist; and that the Awardees themselves are some of the most fantastic people in our world. Awardees contribute to society, and try to help others: two qualities which currently could not be more important. Therefore I wish all my fellow Awardees reading this, the best of luck with completing their Award, and in their future lives.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate IAYP, India for completing 50 years. Wish you all the best for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Hope the Award keeps on transforming lives of the youth and playing a major role in Creating Committed Citizens of the world.



January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	April 2012
9th - Trustees meeting 21st, 22nd, 23rd National Training Workshop (NTW) @The Assam Valley School	6th, 7th, 8th- Youth Engaging Society (YES) Training 1 @ Award Training Centre (ATC) Dehradun 18th- National Council Meeting @Award Studio, New Delhi 26th, 27th, 28th YES Training 2 @ ATC Dehradun	6th, 7th, 8th- YES Training 3 @ ATC Dehradun 23rd, 24th, 25th Training for Trainers (T4T) Workshop National Training Panel (NTP) @ The Doon School, Dehra Dun 30th- Trustees Meeting HRR Rafting Camp for OAC participants	Golden Jubilee Celebrations @ The British Council, New Delhi Events on the day: - Gold Award Holders' Society Annual Meeting - Annual Gold Ceremony 2012 - Gala Dinner
May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	August 2012
4th, 5th, 6th- NTW-1 @Magic Bus Centre, Karjat, Maharashtra	Trustees Meeting 9th to 25th- 2nd Gold Solar Project Spiti 22nd, 23rd, 24th (tbc)- NTW-2 @The Daly College- Indore ASOP India annual review	12th CSR Summit @New Delhi (tbc) 13th, 14th, 15th- NAA Staff Team Conference, ATC	6th, 7th, 8th - YES Training 4 @ ATC Dehradun 26th, 27th, 28th - YES Training 5 @ ATC Dehradun
September 2012	October 2012	November 2012	December 2012
Trustees Meeting 6th, 7th, 8th - YES Training 5 @ ATC Dehradun 16th, 17th, 18th Role of Volunteer (ROV) Workshop @Award Studio, New Delhi 26th, 27th, 28th- YES Training 6 @ ATC Dehradun	18th, 19th, 20th - YES Conference @Bangalore	6th, 7th, 8th - YES Training 7 @ ATC Dehradun 12th to 16th- FORUM 2012 Malta 14th- Youth & Sports Exhibition @ British Council	16th, 17th, 18th NTW 3 @South India 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th ASOP Participants Camp Trustees meeting
January 2013	February 2013	March 2013	April 2013
21st, 22nd, 23rd- NTW 4 @ East India	6th, 7th, 8th - YES Training 1 @ ATC Dehradun 26th, 27th, 28th - YES Training 2 @ ATC Dehradun	Trustees meeting 6th, 7th, 8th - YES Training 1 @ ATC Dehradun	TBA

Honorary Editor's Note...

Dear Readers

This is really a thrilling year for the Award Family as The Award Programme in India turns 50, and the most eminent fact is that it has always been growing Young and remaining evergreen, touching and transforming the lives of the Youth and Creating Committed Citizens of the World.

It is also exciting to inform that India Team of Mr. Bivujit Mukhoty (NAA), Mrs. Ranjana Rai (Assam Valley School), Ms. Sonal Kapoor (Magic Bus) and Mr. Skand Bali (The Doon School) attended the T4T; organised by Asia Pacific Regional Team with NYAA Sri Lanka from the 7th to the 14th of December, 2011. The weeklong course allowed them to meet Award Trainers from across the Asia Pacific Region, be empowered through interactive Training sessions by Regional Programme Manager-Rob Oliphant and IAA Operations Head- Tim Smith. The sessions engaged them positively to get the best out of Award Leaders or potential Adult Mentors to 'Equip for Life' young people in their regions.

The T4T India will be conducted by Rob Oliphant from the IAA's Asia Pacific office, from 23 to 25 March 2012 at The Doon School in Dehradun, and the National Training Panel (NTP) will be in place. The honorary members of the NTP - experienced Award Leaders, Volunteers, Managers, and Gold Holders – will proceed to ensure quality training and delivery of the Award.

With the growth of the Award in India, which will naturally keep up with changing times, there's one aspect which will forever remain inviolate – the pledge of the Award Programme to Create Committed Citizens of the World.

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