



Building trust across the world's divides

Initiatives of Change

AP Newsletter - March 2016

"Peace comes from within.

Do not seek it without."

- Buddha



Asia Plateau Newsletter

Editorial

An increasing number of Govt. agencies, state and central departments are inviting Asia Plateau and lofC to conduct courses on ethics for their cadre. An lofC group was in Hyderabad at the National Police Academy (SVP NPA), named after Sardar Patel, March 7 to 11 arranged by Shri Umesh Sharraf IAS, Deputy Director of the academy, who had earlier attended an Ethics programmes for IAS officers at AP. The 22 AIS officers drawn from all over the country were so impacted that many of them invited lofC teams to their respective institutions.

Powergrid Corporation of India (PCI) sent 21 top-level officers were another Govt. group who came for a similar programme at AP this month.

The Maharashtra Govt. too are in the lead for such programmes at AP. The Stamps and Registration Dept. have been sending their officers here for over a year. The month of March saw their final batch of 50 at the centre.

Besides the above mentioned programs, the month of March saw a program for children of Campion School as well as individual outreach programs by the IFL team and the APIP team.

*“You are the pioneers in the Indian Service and the future of this service will depend much upon the foundation and traditions that will be lain down by you, by your character and abilities and by your spirit of service” “You should regard it as a privilege to belong to the Service, covenants which you have signed and uphold throughout your service it’s dignity, integrity and incorruptibility” - **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel***

Programs in and out of Asia Plateau

The Powergrid Corporation of India is responsible for the transmission of electrical power across the country. 21 senior officers holding positions of power for this corporation took on the journey of introspection with the guidance of their inner voice during quite time. Various sessions were led by faculty like Mr. Sudhir Gogate, Mr. Duttagupta, Mr. Neville Gandhi, and Mrs. Jayashree Rao along with Course Director Mr. Kiran Gandhi; where spirited discussions on ethics, values, self-change, relationships and change in society took place. The key insight within the group was how one needs to carry out the practice of these learnings in their work and thereby came some strong pronouncements from the team towards the end of the program.

In similar spirit, the parallel program for Officers of Registrations and Stamps Dept. saw a shift in the thinking of common government officials from simply doing a mundane duty to taking a Road Less Travelled. Mayur Shah the Course Director spoke about finding and following a passion that makes our lives extraordinary and gives back to society by virtue of good governance and service.

While these officers are the present authority, the future of the Country's governance lies in the hands children who will take on the reigns and also the values they find in society today. 50

school children from Champion School attended a program facilitated by Rhea D'Souza, Siddharth Singh and Archana Rao. Their journey began with self-assessment through the 'Train of Life' exercise, moved on to exploring the absolute standards of purity, honesty, unselfishness and love, onwards to understanding importance of environment and the hand wash program at Grampari and finally arriving at how learn to appreciate others and taking some individual initiatives for change.



"Elders' Outreach!"

The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNAP), named after the late Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India (1947 - 1950) who was the man responsible for creation of the All India Services and for establishing a training institution for IPS officers. An invitation came to AP to take over two of the already scheduled three-day programme on ethics for AIS officers drawn from around the country because, as the deputy

director put it, 'your programme is practical'. On the first day, experts on the legal and administrative aspects would address the participants.

With young people on outreach elsewhere or otherwise occupied, the team consisted of our elders –Ravi Rao, Kiran Gandhi, Amit Mukherjee and Dilip Patel! The Sprawling campus on the outskirts of Hyderabad is well maintained with superlative facilities suitable for every kind of programme for any level. Our team was well received and well looked after. We were mandated to deliver sessions on subjects ranging from, "... the normative framework on ethics and accountability" to "values fundamental to policing in India". The very formal, fixed seating arrangement in the beautiful and well-equipped venue, A.P. Conference Hall was a little daunting at first. We let Dilip break the ice with balloons and so on. He got them to shed their formal shell to relax and receive our inputs both from head and from heart; and it worked! At the end of the programme, several said they wanted IofC teams to go to their states/departments so others too can get the experience! The first of the invitations has come from the IPS officer from Nagaland. This is being worked upon by Amit Mukherjee and our teams in the region. The Director of SVPNPA, Dr. Aditi Bahuguna spoke of seeing, as a school girl, a touring MRA show of 1966 in Hyderabad. Interestingly she even recalled words of a song from it!

Interns Outreach

It was certainly a very eventful month for the Asia Plateau Volunteer/Internship Program. We started the month with the visit from Campion school, where the interns were heavily involved in the program. Sunny started off as the weekly leader, among the topics the interns engaged in during his leadership week were how music is used as a tool for social change as well as a discussion on our favourite books. We also shared some time with the Khatri and Shah families. Eunsoo led us in an exercise of walking in each others shoes an exercise in empathy. We also had our first quiet day, where we looked at the things that are blocking us from true and authentic change, where we have wronged oth-

ers, how to put it right, as well as the broken relationships we have and how we can mend them.

The second half of the month was pretty exciting, giving the interns the chance to go out and share what they have gained during their journey with loFC. The team was split into two with one group visiting Jamshedpur and the other went to Bangalore, Salem and Coimbatore. Both teams had varied experiences, what has come up for both teams though was the value of sharing personal stories, the generosity and kindness of each host and how this journey has affected each interns view of the practice of loFC



lfl goes to Hyderabad

Our visit to Hyderabad, a first for many of us was a time to follow up and reconnect with people who were already introduced to the idea of IOFC. We have seen following up and reconnecting g with people has been an important aspect of lfl.

In 2013, Shri K.N. Kumar IAS, the then Principal Secretary and head of Fisheries, Meghalaya had asked lofC to do a program for the staff in all the verticals in this department. Now as Chief Executive of the NFDB (National Fisheries Development Board), with its headquarters in Hyderabad , he asked us to do a program for the staff of his office. At the same time, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan IAS, one of the initiators of SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty), asked us to do a follow-up program for the officers who had been to Asia Plateau in 2012 and 2013.

For the latter half of the month, we were hosted by a very dear friend; Prof Laxmi B, Director, Centre for Human Development at the Administrative Staff College of India. In the 2 weeks that we were there. We had interactions with nearly 10 varied groups of people; SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty), SHG's (Self-help groups), (NFDB) National Fisheries Development Board, Backward Classes Welfare Department, NIRD (National Institute of Rural Development), Village Level Women Entrepreneurs and a meeting with the lofC friends of Hyderabad.

Some of the thoughts shared by participants.

"I am not able to root out my ego completely; it's not good for my profession."

"I am a spendthrift, and I get angry on my mother and wife and use hurting words, I need to see from their point of view as well."

"My job is about serving people, but I should not limit myself in that capacity only."

"I want perfection from others from work and home and I get angry when I don't get it. I am always wanting appreciation from others."

After Asma Shah expressed her concern about the unity of Kashmir with the rest of India, not just in terms of the physical unity of a piece of land with the remaining part of the country, but the unity of hearts, the participants at NIRD reciprocated with the same spirit of care and concern.

'Convey our message of love and brotherhood to Kashmiris', said a participant to her.

Plans are already in place to return to Hyderabad in the later part of June.

"One little person, giving all of her time to peace, makes news. Many people, giving some of their time, can make history."



Upcoming Programs:

Lead for Change - Program for young professionals and youth in the age group of 18 to 35

Dates : 1st to 5th May

To know more [click here](#)

To register [click here](#)

Effective Living and Leadership for Families

Good opportunity for you to join as a Family and take part in the Family Program.

Dates : 12th to 15th May

To know more [click here](#)

To register [click here](#)

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