



## DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL PUNE

### THE FIRST LIGHT OF THE SELF-LEARNING LEADERSHIP CAMP – 2023

**KAMSHET: 8th – 12th October 2023**

*“You can never appreciate the scent of a flower by another's description.*

*Some things are left to experience. Journey of self.”*

*– Truth Devour*

At the break of dawn, the Grade XI students of DPS Pune were zealously prepared for the remarkable five-day self-learning camp at Kamshet and Bhillar. They assembled at the school quadrangle at the first flush of morning, where a sumptuous breakfast was served to them. Later, the Head of the Institution and a few teachers bid good bye to all the students as they boarded the buses with great expectation. The journey to Kamshet was short and pleasant. The students entertained themselves with music and dance during the journey.

On arrival at the adventure destination, the students were briefed elaborately by the Campus Chief about the rules and expectations. The students were given the liberty to form four energetic and zestful groups. These students' groups gave themselves novel group names like: Mario, Teen Titans, Rizzly Bears and Gol Gappes.

The introductory session was followed by a few ice - breaking activities of games, laughter, and various interactive events for the 67 students, they were also interrogated about the learning objectives of the camp. The students described

their high standard expectancy and anticipation that can be provided for their lifetime lessons and 'aha' moments. Post this session the students were allocated their respective homes for the next five days in tents and the dormitories.

The agenda for the day was meticulously scheduled and explained post-lunch followed by one of the four 'WOW activities' which is Wonderful Outside World. The WOW activities include rope activities (*Burma bridge, zip-lining and rope ladder climbing*), rafting, trekking and wall activities (*wall climbing and rappelling*). Excited post completing a WOW activity, the students in the evening enjoyed a little "Free Time" which they were given to freshen up. A while later, they enjoyed their 'Cool Time' activities after having a bowl of soup. Dinner was lavish and extravagant and then the students bid goodnight - 'Lights Out Time'. Not wanting the 5-day period to end already the students retired to sweet slumber. Indeed, every opportunity in the outdoors is an experience to remember.





## GLIMPSES OF THE CAMP AT KAMSHET











Dear Parents,  
The next intimation would be through sms to inform you about the Departure from **Kamshet** on Thursday.



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*Sitting to-day in the sunshine, that touched me with fingers of love,  
I thought of the manifold blessings, God scatters on earth, from above.*

#### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"In the heart of nature, students find themselves, their purpose, and a sense of belonging that can last a lifetime." Leadership camps are organized events or programs designed to develop and enhance the leadership skills and qualities of individuals.

First and foremost, leadership camps are crucial because they provide our students with an environment that fosters the development of essential life skills. During these camps, our students learn to communicate effectively, work as part of a team, solve problems, and make important decisions under pressure. These are skills that are not only invaluable in leadership roles but are also critical in every facet of life.

Moreover, leadership camps instill self-confidence and self-awareness in our students. The challenges and activities they face during these camps push them out of their

comfort zones, helping them realize their potential. They learn to trust their abilities and, in turn, become more confident leaders both inside and outside the classroom.

In conclusion, the importance of a leadership camp cannot be overstated. It is an investment in our students' future, one that will equip them with the tools and mindset to lead, to excel, and to make a positive impact on the world.

#### AN EXCERPT FROM DAY 1

At the break of dawn on 8th October 2023, the Grade XI students of DPS Pune were zealously prepared for the remarkable five-day self-learning camp at Kamshet and Bhillar. They assembled at the school quadrangle at the first flush of morning, where a sumptuous breakfast was served to them. Later, the Head of the Institution and a few teachers bid good bye to all the students as they boarded the buses with great

expectation. The journey to Kamshet was short and pleasant. The students entertained themselves with music and dance during the journey.

On arrival at the adventure destination, the students were briefed elaborately by the Campus Chief about the rules and expectations. The students were given the liberty to form four groups. These students' groups gave themselves novel group names like: Mario, Teen Titans, Rizzly Bears and Gol Gappes.

The introductory session was followed by a few ice - breaking activities. Post this session the students were allocated tents and the dormitories. Lunch was followed by one of the four 'WOW activities' which is Wonderful Outside World. The WOW activities include rope activities (*Burma bridge, zip-lining and rope ladder climbing*), rafting, trekking and wall activities (*wall climbing and rappelling*).





### CHOTA HAZARI

Each day began with enthusiastic pupils gathering at 6 a.m. sharp for the exercise known as "Chota Hazari." A lifetime's worth of memories were made during this early physical activity session, which included exercises to the tunes *like bajra, lambi dadi wale baba, and gasolina*. The purpose of these engaging and entertaining activities was to get the students to start on a positive note. The pupils discovered that it is possible to work out your entire body in a pleasant and energizing way without any special equipment.

### TREKKING

The pupils climbed a nearby hill by themselves. The location of checkpoints along the route was explained to them. Around 150 meters above the campsite, they reached a breath-taking view of the inlets. The seven principles of Leave No Trace (LNT), which are to be respected at all times, were explained to the students. Planning, preparing, moving forward, walking on sturdy ground, correctly disposing of garbage, keeping campfires to a minimum, not taking anything, respecting wildlife, and ultimately, respecting every guest were all included. A head count and brief instructions were given before four LODs (Leader of the Day) were assigned. Pupils learned directives like red light (Wait for the dispersed cluster to re-group), green light (Good to go), fall back, and watch-out (Warning the pupils about a stone or branch in the road) to make communication easier.

The instructors praised the outstanding teamwork and togetherness.

### HIGH ROPE COURSE

The Burma Bridge and ziplining on the high ropes course were two of the most exhilarating activities Kamshet had to offer. The pupils had to complete tasks with perseverance, focus, and courage, therefore they were both activities that gave them both a significant adrenaline boost. The Burma Bridge and Ziplining were both situated at a height that gave the pupils an adrenaline rush, energizing them. It takes a lot of bravery and mental fortitude to cross the bridge.

Ziplining activity empowered the students to overcome their fears and embrace a novel experience, all within the supportive company of their friends who provided unwavering encouragement. The rope course activity concluded with the climbing of a rope ladder. This engaging experience enabled the students to venture into the realm of adventure and savour the wonders of life.

### RIVER RAFTING

The river rafting experience was one of the most interesting activity available in Kamshet. The campsite includes a large pristine lake which provided the location for river rafting. The students were taught how to build a raft from limited resources, as well as how to operate it. Before testing the self-made raft in the lake, they were given a safety briefing and were taught about the use of safety equipment to prevent the students from drowning. The materials used were bamboo rods, thick rope and empty plastic cans which provided the buoyant force to keep



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the raft afloat. Navigating the raft and keeping it afloat required concerted team effort and constant communication. Some rafts managed to complete the entire journey whereas others fell apart. After rafting, the students spent time swimming in the lake and enjoying the exquisite sceneries of Kamshet.

To conclude, the river rafting experience taught the students essential skills of teamwork, resilience and keeping calm in stressful situations. The students learnt the survival skills required to build and navigate a raft using limited resources available in nature.

### **RAPPELLING AND WALL CLIMBING**

In the exhilarating world of rock climbing, students received comprehensive instruction on the importance of proper posture and technique to excel in this challenging activity. With the safety of all participants in mind, every student was securely harnessed, and rigorous safety procedures were diligently observed. The sense of accomplishment and the adrenaline rush that accompanied this experience were absolutely unforgettable. Following the wall climbing adventure, the students eagerly delved into another thrilling activity known as rappelling, which entailed descending the rock wall with precision. The "L" posture, where knees remained unbent, was a crucial element in ensuring a smooth descent.

### **LEARNING INITIATIVES (L.I. ACTIVITIES)**

In the evenings, the students gathered for a refreshing session of light snacks and tea, where new groups were organized for a physically

demanding and competitive **Learning Initiatives (LI) activities**. These sessions encompassed a variety of engaging challenges designed to stimulate the students' minds and encourage teamwork. Some of the activities included a memory game, where participants tested their recall abilities, "follow your friend," a team-building exercise to enhance communication and coordination, and a general knowledge test to spark intellectual curiosity. The most anticipated part of the day for many students was the helter-skelter games. These dynamic games involved dividing all the students into groups of 6, each comprising 11 students. The assortment of games included favourites like "catch the stick," "ostrich egg," "bottle battle," "ball in the glass," "reverse strategy," and "coin toss." These games not only infused the atmosphere with a competitive spirit but also fostered teamwork and cooperation among the participants.

### **EVENING ENGAGEMENT**

After a the evening break for tea and snacks, the fun always continued with additional recreational games such as dodgeball, a high-energy, action-packed contest that required agility and strategy. Volleyball provided an opportunity for students to compete in a friendly, yet spirited manner, and frisbee allowed them to engage in an outdoor, skill-focused pastime. These post-break activities not only promoted physical fitness but also provided a well-rounded, enjoyable experience for all participants.



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Engaging in self-reflective activities was a profound learning experience. Throughout these activities, students delved deep into the realms of communication and leadership, uncovered valuable insights into the importance of effective communication. Moreover, these activities shed light on the essential values of anger management, teaching us how to handle our emotions and conflicts constructively.

During their journey, the students were introduced to a unique practice known as the "cool time." This special period allocated them a generous twenty minutes to engage in introspective self-reflection. What made this experience even more captivating was the added dimension of star gazing, all while maintaining complete silence. This "cool time" was a remarkable chance to tune in to our inner selves, surrounded by the awe-inspiring beauty of the

cosmos, allowing us to find solace and serenity in the stillness of the night.

### CAMP FIRE

One of the highlights was the eagerly awaited talent show. While the camp staff initiated this event, the responsibility of hosting, organizing, and performing was handed over to the students, aligning with the leadership theme of the camp. The performances ranged from solo songs to dances, stand-up comedy acts, and a dazzling opening group dance. It was a celebration of talent and a showcase of the diverse skills and abilities within the group. As the day wound down, students gathered around an enchanting bonfire, reminiscing about the extraordinary experiences of the past four days. It was a fitting conclusion to a journey filled with adventure, learning, and the forging of lasting bonds.

### CONCLUSION

The 5-day INME Camp organized for students at Bhillar and Kamshet concluded on Friday, the 12th of October 2023. It encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones. Some of the outdoor sport activities challenged both the physical and mental aspects of a student's character, promoting resilience and determination. Some activities offered opportunities for students to take on leadership roles, fostering management skills that can be valuable in their future endeavors. Participation in certain challenging activities taught practical survival skills. Students learned how to manage their rooms and their lives, instilling a sense of independence and self-learning. Encouraging respect for nature and an understanding of the environment is important for fostering environmental consciousness and responsibility. These experiences will be cherished by the students in the years to come.

***"Nature has been for me, for as long as I remember, a source of solace, inspiration, adventure, and delight; a home, a teacher, a companion."***

***- Lorraine Anderson -***





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THE BEST THING ABOUT MEMORIES, IS MAKING THEM

- GROUP CLICKS AND MORE -







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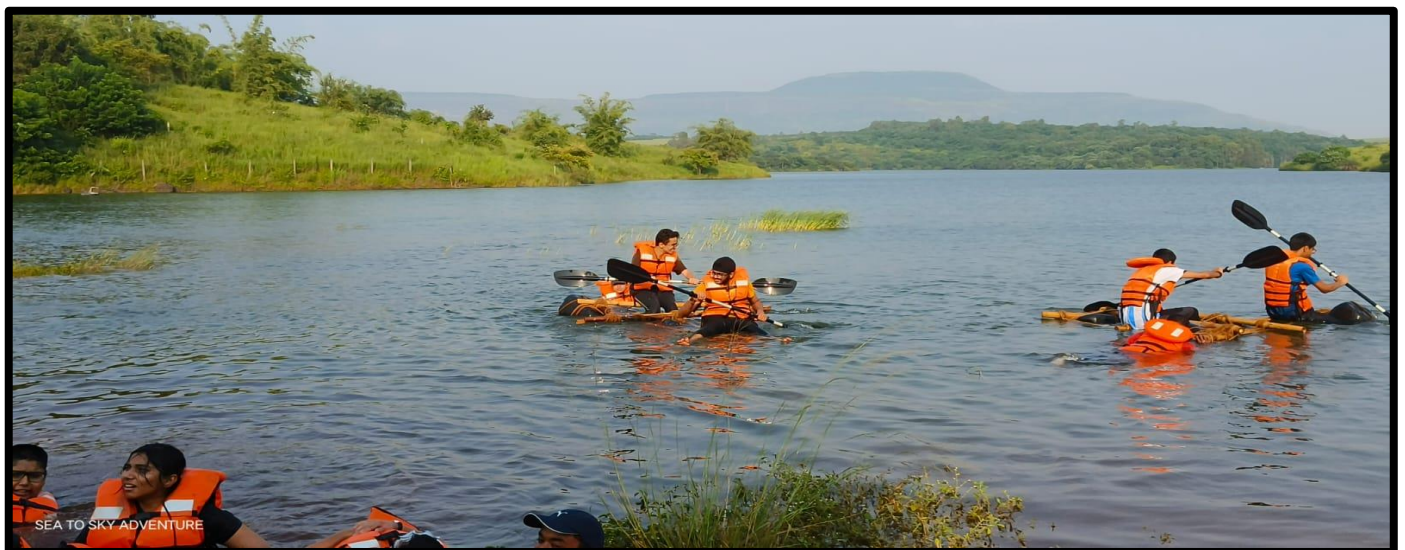
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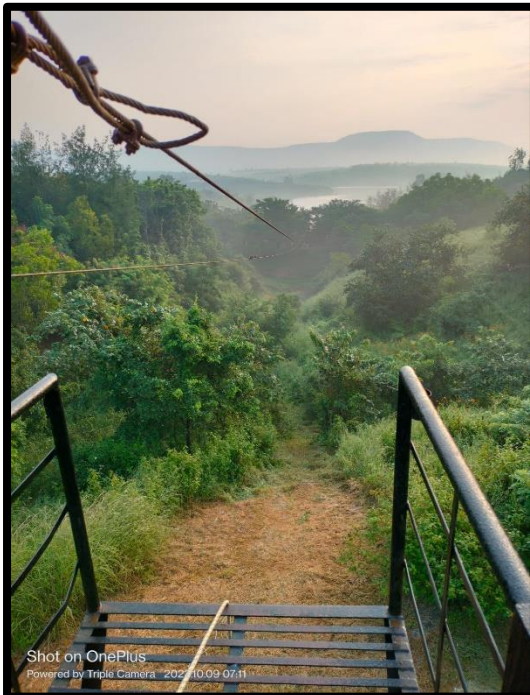
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"School camps:  
where memories  
are made,  
friendships are  
forged, and the  
great outdoors  
becomes the  
greatest  
classroom."

