

Foundation Day Function of Pune University

10 February 2019

Dr. Anil K Rajvanshi, Director of NARI was invited to be the chief guest at the 70th Foundation Day function of Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).

[Video of speech and felicitation](#). The transcript of speech is given on page 2.

Dr. Rajvanshi also gave the Jeevansadhna Gaurav Puruskar to icons of India and Maharashtra. They were computer scientist Vijay Bhatkar, tribal activist Thamatai Pawar, Brahmakumari chief administrator Janaki Dadi, Gokuldas Shah and Marathi writer D.M. Mirasdar.

Photos



AKR being felicitated by Pune VC



AKR giving his chief guest speech



Dr. Vijay Bhatkar being given the Jeevansadhna Puruskar



View of the audience

Nation Building, *Junoon* and Happiness

[Anil K. Rajvanshi](#)

[Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute \(NARI\)](#)

Phaltan, Maharashtra

Foundation Day lecture at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU),

10 February 2019

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. Nitin Karmalkar; Hon'ble pro vice chancellor Dr. Umarani; Registrar Dr. Prafulla Pawar; Guarav Puruskar awardees on the dais, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. A very Good Morning and Happy Vasant Panchami. May the blessings of Goddess Saraswati be on all of you.

I am delighted and honored to be invited as the chief guest of the 70th Foundation Day function and deliver the foundation day address at the prestigious Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU). I must thank Dr. Nitin Karmalkar, Vice Chancellor and his team for inviting me. I must also thank him and feel very honored that he gave me an opportunity to give the Gaurav Puruskars to the icons of India and Maharashtra.

I have an indirect relationship with SPPU. All the members of my wife's family got their education in Pune University. They were all associated with Fergusson College (previously under Bombay University). Thus from Maharshi Karve (my wife's great grandfather), Irawati Karve, Gauri Deshpande, Jai Nimbkar (my mother-in-law), Nandini Nimbkar (my wife), all the way to my daughters Noorie and Madhura were educated in colleges affiliated to Pune University.

When I asked Dr. Prafulla Pawar the Registrar about what I should talk about, he told me to give an inspirational lecture and so I have decided to address the young audience assembled here on the theme of nation building and in doing so how it can bring happiness to all of us.

Why nation building?

All life forms want a comfortable and happy life. In case of human beings it is a sum of two things, personal happiness and better environment.

Personal happiness can be obtained in a variety of ways. Basically one becomes happy when one is contented or at peace with oneself. We will talk about this later on. After a person is happy and contented he can make the environment better.

Creating environmental happiness is what I call nation building. It is the enabling environment which makes you feel happy to live in, to work in and just be a part of it. The environmental happiness also gives us a sense of belonging, makes us feel proud of our surroundings and gives us a sense of ownership. If we create a happy environment for our work and living then we will make our country a great place to live in. Each one of us should therefore work towards improving our immediate environment so that it becomes nice and cheerful. Then we will be genuinely proud to be a part of it. For environmental happiness and nation building we need excellent young people like you. You are the future of this country and so have a great responsibility on your shoulders.

Let me ask you a question. If I have the power to grant you a wish of green card to go abroad say to USA, Canada or Australia, how many of you would like to go?

Why do you want to go to a foreign country where you will be treated as 2nd class citizens; would be away from your family, tradition, language, etc.? It

is because there is a perception among Indians that the environment, both for working and living, in some of these countries is better than in India.

Wouldn't it be great if all of us worked together to create a better environment here itself in India, so that we do not have to go and live in any other country? That is what I call as nation building and you as youngsters who are the future of this country can help in achieving this goal.

For you to help in nation building, I feel, there are two important things required:

- (a) Firstly have *junoos* or passion to do something worthwhile.
- (b) Secondly develop ethics of work and be an honest and good citizen.

Junoos

I will give you an example of *junoos* from my own life. I went to the best missionary school in Lucknow and then went to IIT Kanpur in 1967 for B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering. My Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) rank was 29 and IIT Kanpur in 1967 was the best Institute in India. From IITK I went to USA where I got my Ph.D. under one of the pioneers of solar energy. I also taught there for 2.5 years and then in a fit of madness came back to Phaltan in rural Maharashtra in 1981. I left a very lucrative career in the U.S. to come and work in rural India.

I came back because of *junoos* to use my knowledge to do something useful for rural India and also because of my arrogance that I will change India. India is an ancient civilization. It did not change but in the process changed me. Staying and working in rural India has been a humbling experience and has given me a different perspective in life which is more spiritual and not focused on money. We live a simple and satisfying life and this is what I tell youngsters that it is possible to live such a life in much less money than one may think.

I was offered Green Card and fast track U.S. citizenship in the U.S. Because of my *junoon* and arrogance I refused both of them. I have written about these experiences in my [autobiographical book](#) (1970s America – An Indian student's journey) a copy of which I have given to your library.

In 1981 there were hardly any facilities in Phaltan but because of *junoon* we did some interesting work. You can read about this interesting experiment in another book; Romance of Innovation – A human interest story of doing R&D in rural setting. I have also given this book to your library and the full book is also available free on our website (<http://nariphaltan.org/roi.pdf>).

Just to give you an example of how backward Phaltan was; to make a phone call to anywhere I would sometimes hop on the bus and come to Pune to make those calls. One way journey from Phaltan to Pune in those days took about 4 hours. But it was *junoon* to do something that made me bear the hardships. In fact when you have *junoon* you forget time, hardships and pinpricks and to carry out your aim becomes the whole purpose of your focus and life. Cultivate *junoon* or passion and that is the surest way to achieve something wonderful which will help you in nation building.

Our work, though small, has touched the lives of a large number of people. You can visit our [website](#) to see what we do and what its impact has been. We have pioneered various technologies which have spawned a large number of such efforts not only in India but worldwide. For example we were the [principal author of the national biomass energy policy](#) and pioneered the development of [electric rickshaw](#). In fact in 2002 we donated 5 electric cycle rickshaws to Pune University for their use in the campus. These were the first e-rickshaws anywhere and helped start the e-rickshaw movement in India. Similarly our work in agriculture has helped a large number of farmers.

Also all our work has been focused on solving the local problems surrounding us and helping the rural poor. That is what I call

environmental improvement. Thus producing better cotton, safflower and sweet sorghum varieties for local farmers has been one of our [important achievements in agriculture](#). Similarly developing biomass-based gasifiers to produce energy from sugarcane leaves which are burnt in the fields was also a major achievement. We also developed high-tech 'lanstoves' for rural areas which won us the [Energy Globe Award in Stockholm, Sweden](#). Tesla Motors was one of the other awardee!

And recently with very high technology of gene transfer we have developed twinning Deccani sheep. This has resulted in increasing the income of shepherds all over the country. For all these developments we have won [major national and international awards](#) that you can read about on our website.

More than developing and pioneering technologies one of the great contributions of our Institute has been to show that very [good R&D for rural areas can be done in very little money](#). This was possible because of our insistence on doing good work and not being greedy.

We are always looking for bright students who are hungry for knowledge and want to do social good and help society. We will be delighted if some of you join us to help our cause.

However to do society work and have *junoona* you have to develop a powerful brain. That can only happen when you develop the habit of focusing and concentrating on work at hand. Today with too much dependence on cell phones and social media it becomes very difficult to focus on anything. We are becoming more like animals that react to events. If the reply to an SMS does not come back in seconds we get very agitated and are like fish out of water.

Humans are endowed with a big brain with the ability to think, reflect and ponder. By being continuously connected to social media we are losing these

qualities. Thus I would like to suggest that for one day a week you should stop using your mobiles, internet etc. and instead reflect, read and talk with your family or friends face to face and you will benefit from these activities.

Development of powerful brain ignites the desire in a person to do something meaningful with his life and is the genesis of *junoon*. Junoon is a combination of focus, concentration and will power. When you bring all these three things together to bear upon a mission and finally accomplish the goal then it gives you a great satisfaction.

At young age your mind is very active and hence you should be bubbling with ideas. Best ideas are the maximum ideas. The more ideas you have the higher is the chance of producing a great idea. A powerful brain will also help you to become secure and happy and when you feel happy the problems of the world become less formidable.

Happiness is a state of mind. You start feeling happy when you become internally secure. Deep thought or *Sanyam* helps in creating internal calmness and security. *Sanyam* has been defined by Sage Patanjali in his *Yoga Sutras* as a combination of concentration, contemplation and *Samadhi*. When all three are brought to bear on any subject its complete knowledge results. This is almost like *junoon*! All great discoveries of the world have come from great thinkers and scientists who used *Sanyam* on their chosen field of work.

You are all young. At this age the brain is at its peak. Thus it continuously seeks information inputs to process them and without a focus keeps on jumping from one thought to another. This results in attention deficit disorder (ADD) that we often observe in youngsters. However if you learn through *Sanyam* or *Yoga* to focus on a single thought for a long time then this ability can be used in making the brain very powerful. Focus on anything that interests you. This will improve your concentration and can be used in gaining knowledge.

Also be positive in your approach. Rise above the negative things and make them irrelevant. This is how nature works. It evolves by branching out and only that branch, which interacts properly with the environment, survives and evolves. The other branch which does not, withers away. Thus nature never suppresses the other branch – it makes it irrelevant. Hence never try to bring others down. Rise up above them and you will benefit by this strategy. This is a higher mode of development where the whole system is upgraded and lifted up. Learn to follow nature in everything, especially in design. Natural systems have evolved through millions of years and hence have great design templates to copy and emulate. Thus the mantra of design should be biomimicry or follow the nature.

Ethical behavior

And now I will talk about ethical behavior.

Interacting with a large number of students all over India I find that ethics, honesty and truthfulness are very much lacking in their behavior. Any time after my talk in various IITs and IIMs when I ask them to help our NGO and do some work for social enterprise their first reaction is how much package they will get. What work will they do etc., is never in their vision field or something that they want to discuss. The whole focus is on money and its accumulation. Maybe it is a problem of society but you youngsters and your teachers who are present here should contemplate on this subject and see how we can change it.

Yet I feel it is not the students' fault. They are smart and want to do something meaningful in their lives. It is the fault of the broken education system, poor role models and society's pressures to make money at any cost, that make them behave like that.

We get quite a [good number of interns from all over the world](#). I have always found that when you expect a lot from smart students they deliver. When the teachers and peers don't expect anything from these students the focus

of the students then wavers and acquiring money becomes the only attraction.

Also the whole education system is mostly focused on passing exams. Passing exams is the biggest cause of anxiety for students at all times. When there is too much emphasis on rote learning and passing objective-type tests then the elements of cheating, corruption and general thievery creep in. This mentality is then carried over in other aspects of life.

But more than simply learning some subjects and passing exams, what is not taught either in schools or in colleges is the ethics of work and how to become a good human being and a good citizen. Once the qualities of a good human being and ethics of work are inculcated, one can do work in any environment and learn new things.

All organizations cherish honest and ethical employees. You may not know very much about the work of the organization that you will be part of but by being ethical you will have a desire to learn and that is something that every organization wants. The education system theoretically should prepare a student for taking up challenges – an important part of ethics of work. But it does not do so and what the students learn is simply how to pass exams by answering questions given in the question papers which are as removed from reality as possible.

To be a good human being and have ethics of work (both are related to each other) should be taught right from school onwards. In every course there should be a short section on ethics of work. If all course work and books have examples of ethics of work of great people then slowly but surely it will start soaking up in the brain of impressionable youngsters.

It is also possible that what the students learn in schools is unlearned during their interaction with family members and surroundings. Yet we must persist in our endeavor to teach them ethics and good behavior. This is a

long learning process and will take time to infiltrate into the society but is necessary to carry out since these youngsters are the future of our country.

In many institutes and organizations (both government and private) I have seen many examples of scientists and engineers who try to “Screw” the system and quite a few also brag about how they hoodwinked their superiors and hardly did any work. Besides not doing work the biggest tragedy is when they fudge or falsify experimental data. They seem to have no qualms in doing it because they have only been trained to pass exams by hook or crook.

I think one of the ways in which this passing of exams mentality can be changed is that in all the school and college curricula more focus should be put on carrying out practical activities in various courses and fields and much less on passing exams. Open book exams, many more marks for project activities, etc., will help in this process. The experiment of [Atal Tinkering Labs](#), which has been inspired by [Maker Movement of USA](#), is also a step in the right direction.

Also the students should be exposed to successful examples in any field. Thus the colleges should encourage and fund students to visit the successful projects and meet icons in any field. In fact colleges should arrange lectures from such people regularly in their campus. When students are exposed to good and positive things and examples of innovative work they can be inspired to do great work.

So the most important thing that youngsters should be taught in schools, colleges and universities is ethics of work and how to become good human beings. This will reduce greed, help them have a better perspective in life and can ultimately help in making India a great and happy nation.

Ethical behavior also teaches you to be a responsible human being. I will give you two examples of such a behavior.

One is from my own life. In 1981 I had resigned from my faculty position in University of Florida since I wanted to come back to India. I was an important member of a multimillion dollar project run by USAID at the University and the university authorities did not want to leave me and gave me all sorts of incentives and lollipops to stay in US like green card, fast track citizenship, etc. I refused all of them.

It would have been very easy for me to just finish the 15 days' notice period, collect my dues and leave the services of the university. However I thought a noble thing to do was to find my replacement. So I placed a suitable advertisement in the newspapers/journals; interviewed the prospective candidates and selected a good candidate. Nobody had expected me to do so but I thought it was a responsible thing to do.

The other example was from a Japanese company (I have now forgotten its name). The workers wanted the pay raise but the management was not paying any attention to their demands. So the workers union devised a strategy by which they came one hour early every day and left one hour late. In one month they increased the production of the company considerably thereby showing the management that if they took care of the employees the company will benefit. The management immediately raised their pay.

In India in such a situation there would have been agitation, strikes, work stoppage etc. which would have resulted in everybody losing out.

Both the above examples show that by ethical working and showing responsibility the whole system lifts up and everybody benefits. If each one of us follows such examples in our life then it will help in nation building.

Thus with two qualities – having *junoona* and ethical conduct you can conquer the world and improve your environment and make it very attractive to live in. Whether you work in any organization or have your own

startup you will do well if you imbibe these two qualities. They will serve you well in any field you choose and will give you a sense of fulfillment.

Also accept that whatever we are today is because of the country and the society. We were born here and live here. Hence we should give something back to the society. Gratitude is the essence of being human. I believe that the whole purpose of our existence is to increase personal and societal infrastructure. Personal infrastructure includes our health, happiness and general well-being. By improving our personal “infrastructure” we become better human beings and it helps in our emotional growth and evolution. By giving back to the society and improving the lives at the bottom of the pyramid so that its “infrastructure” increases we help in nation building. Both these activities when carried out simultaneously can give us a great joy and satisfaction.

Most of us work towards fulfilling our basic needs. But once they are satisfied, all of us long for some meaningful existence. Even the very rich are looking for some meaningful actions and purpose in their life. Happiness cannot be obtained by money alone. It only comes when there is some meaning and purpose to life. That meaning, I feel comes from helping other less fortunate people and by giving something back to the society.

I will now finish my lecture by telling you a story from our ancient *Puranas*.

It is a typical Indian story of a sage and his disciples. The sage asks his disciples, “When does the night end”? And the disciples say, “At dawn of course”. The sage says, “I know that. But when does the night end and the dawn begin”?

The first disciple, who is from the tropical south of India replies: “When the first glimmer of light across the sky reveals the fronds of the coconut trees swaying in the breeze, that is when the night ends and the dawn begins”. The sage says “no”.

So the second disciple, who is from the cold north, ventures : “When the first streaks of sunshine make the snow gleam white on the mountaintops of the Himalayas, that is when the night ends and the dawn begins”.

The sage says, “No, my sons, when two travelers from opposite ends of our land meet and embrace each other as brothers, and when they realize they sleep under the same sky, see the same stars and dream the same dreams – that is when the night ends and the dawn begins”.

So when privileged youngsters like you help the bottom of the pyramid realize their dreams then it will be the dawn of new and happy India. That will be true nation building.

Thank you.

[HOME](#)

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News clippings of function are given below

पुणे, ता. १० : शिक्षण घेण्यासाठी वेळ आणि साधनही नव्हतं. मग काय पिठावर, धुळीवर, जमिनीत मातीवर; तर कधी फुटक्या पाटीवर अक्षर गिरवीत शिक्षण घेतलं... आदिवासी क्षेत्रातील कार्यकर्त्या ठमाताई पवार आपला अनुभव सांगत होत्या. "वनवासी आश्रमात भाकरी बनविण्याचे काम करत होते. शिक्षणाअभावी आणि अंधश्रद्धेमुळे भरकटेल्या समाजाला मुख्य प्रवाहात आणण्यासाठी प्रयत्न करणाऱ्या आश्रमातील कार्यकर्त्यांसमवेत नकळत कधी जोडले गेले, ते कळालेच नाही," त्यांच्या या अनुभव कथनाला उपस्थितांनी दाद दिली. फारसे शिकलेली नसतानाही सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठाचे 'जीवनसाधना' पुरस्काराने गौरव केल्याबद्दल ठमाताई यांनी कृतज्ञता व्यक्त केली.



सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ : विद्यापीठातर्फे गोकूळदास शहा, ठमाताई पवार, द. मा. मिरासदार, डॉ. विजय भटकर यांना डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी यांच्या हस्ते 'जीवनसाधना गौरव पुरस्कार' प्रदान करण्यात आला. (डावीकडे) डॉ. नितीन करमळकर.

» सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ वर्धापन दिन

सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठाच्या ७० व्या वर्धापनदिनिमित्त आयोजित कार्यक्रमात ठमाताई पवार यांच्यासह ज्येष्ठ संगणकतज्ज्ञ डॉ. विजय भटकर, ज्येष्ठ साहित्यिक द. मा. मिरासदार, व्यावसायिक गोकूळदास शहा यांना 'जीवनसाधना गौरव पुरस्कार'ने सन्मानित करण्यात आले. फलटण

येथील निंबकर कृषी संशोधन संस्थेचे संचालक डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून उपस्थित होते. कुलगुरू डॉ. नितीन करमळकर, प्र-कुलगुरू डॉ. एन. एस. उमराणी, कुलसचिव डॉ. प्रफुल्ल पवार आदी उपस्थित होते. आध्यात्मिक गुरू दादी जानकी यांचाही 'जीवनसाधना'ने सन्मान करण्यात

येणार होता. मात्र, त्या उपस्थित राहू न शकल्याने विद्यापीठातर्फे त्यांच्या निवासस्थानी जाऊन हा पुरस्कार दिला जाणार आहे. डॉ. भटकर आणि मिरासदार यांनी विद्यापीठाच्या जुन्या आठवणींना उजाळा दिला. कार्यक्रमाच्या उत्तरार्धात विद्यापीठातर्फे देण्यात येणारे विविध पुरस्कार आणि

“ विनोद ही जीवनाकडे पाहण्याची प्रवृत्ती आहे. विनोद दुःख नाहीसे करत नाही, ते विसरायचे सामर्थ्य त्यात आहे. - द. मा. मिरासदार, ज्येष्ठ साहित्यिक

पारितोषिकांचे वितरण करण्यात आले. राज्यस्तरीय आविष्कार पुरस्कार

“ मोबाईल आणि सोशल मीडियावर सर्वच जण अवलंबून असल्याने बुद्धीची गुणवत्ता गमाविण्याची शक्यता निर्माण झाली आहे. शाळा, महाविद्यालयांमध्ये परीक्षेत पास होण्यासाठी शिकविले जाते, परंतु नैतिकता, माणुसकी आणि चांगला नागरिक बनण्याचे धडे कोणत्याही शिक्षण संस्थेत दिले जात नाहीत. - डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी, संचालक, निंबकर कृषी संशोधन संस्था

विजेते मोहिता अग्रवाल, अंकिता सन्मानित करण्यात आले. आनंद भट आणि कविता मुरुगकर यांना देशमुख यांनी सूत्रसंचालन केले.

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Pune varsity celebrates its 70th Foundation Day

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Speaking as the Chief Guest, Rajwanshi said, “I studied in the best colleges and universities in the country and abroad and had a great job in the US, but I left it all to come to Phaltan to change India.”

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PUNE: Enthusiasm among youth and inculcation of ethics in work only will help in nation building, said Dr Anil Rajwanshi, Director, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Phaltan.

He was speaking at the 70th Foundation Day of the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) on Sunday.

Veteran humourist and writer DM Mirasdar, renowned scientist Dr Vijay Bhatkar, tribal activist Thamatai Pawar, and veteran in the field of education Gokuldas Shaha were felicitated with Jeevansadhana Gaurav Puraskar (Lifetime Achievement Award) on the occasion. The fifth recipient of the award, spiritual head of Brahma Kumaris, was not present.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Rajwanshi said, “I studied in the best colleges and universities in the country and abroad and had a great job in the US, but I left it all to come to Phaltan to change

India. My enthusiasm and self-confidence were responsible for this. While I could not change the country, it did bring about a huge change in me.”

Talking about work ethics, he said, “When I resigned from my job in the US, I could have easily left after serving my 15-days notice period. Instead, I waited until I could find another suitable candidate for the post. These small things also give you satisfaction. If the Indian youth take care of these, they will create a great nation.”

One of the awardees, Mirasdar, said, “There are two paths that a person can take to deal with the pain and sorrows that are an inevitable part of life. One is spiritual and the other is humour. Humour does not drive away the pain, but helps us forget it.”

Hailing the Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, Pawar said that it’s because of these ashrams that an illiterate woman like her could become an activist.

“If the educated people from the cities come to the tribal areas, they can help us develop,” she added.

Meritorious professors at SPPU and affiliated colleges, and students were also felicitated on the occasion. The Department of Defence and Strategic Studies was felicitated as the best educational department at SPPU.

The Marathwada Mitramandal College of Engineering, Karvenagar, and Dr DY Patil Institute of Management and Research, Pimpri, were amongst the four colleges that were awarded as the best colleges.

Tags

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SPPU celebrates 70th foundation day

PUNE: The 70th Foundation day celebrations of the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) saw award presentations to prominent people from various fields. This event was presided by Anil Rajwanshi, director, Nimbkar Agriculture Research Institute (NARI), Phaltan, who gave the 'Jeevasadhna Gaurav Award' to Vijay Bhatkar, scientist, DM Mirasdar, humorist writer, and Thamatai Pawar, activist.

"The youth's passion and ethics in the workplace will lead to the creation of the nation," said Rajwanshi in his speech. Rajwanshi gave an example on pas-

sion and morality where he mentioned that I studied in Lucknow and then in the United States of America and followed my passion. However, I came back to India and changed myself to work towards a better life for me and others around me".

Vice-chancellor Nitin Karmalkar, vice-chancellor NS Umraani, registra, Praful Pawar, other professors and students were present for this programme.

Thamatai Pawar who won the award said that due to Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, an uneducated tribal woman like her could become a social worker.



■ Anil Rajwanshi (left) and Nitin Karmalkar at the foundation day of SPPU on Sunday, February 10.

SANKET WANKHADE/HT PHOTO

Hindustan Times (Pune edition)

Maharashtra Times

पुणे

pune.mtonline.in



सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठाच्या ७० व्या वर्धापनदिनी डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी यांच्या हस्ते द. मा. मिरासदार, डॉ. विजय भटकर, ठमाताई पवार आणि गोकुळदास शहा यांना रविवारी विद्यापीठाचा 'जीवनसाधना गौरव पुरस्कार' प्रदान करण्यात आला. या वेळी कुलगुरू डॉ. नितीन करमळकर, उपकुलगुरू डॉ. एन. एस. उमराणी उपस्थित होते.

कामाच्या वेडातूनच 'राष्ट्रनिर्माण'

जीवनसाधना गौरव पुरस्कारवितरणप्रसंगी डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी यांची भावना

म. टा. प्रतिनिधी, पुणे

'उच्चशिक्षित विद्यार्थी पैशांच्या मागे धावतात, ही त्यांची चूक नाही. तर, कालबाह्य शिक्षण पद्धती, कमकुवत आदर्श आणि समाजाची ही चूक आहे,' असे परखड मत फलटणच्या निंबकर कृषी संशोधन संस्थेचे (नारी) संचालक डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी यांनी व्यक्त केले. युवकांमध्ये कामाप्रती असलेले वेड आणि नैतिकता याच गोष्टी राष्ट्रनिर्माण करू शकतील,' असेही ते म्हणाले. सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठाच्या ७० व्या वर्धापनदिनी ते प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून बोलत होते.

राजवंशी यांच्या हस्ते ज्येष्ठ शास्त्रज्ञ डॉ. विजय भटकर, ज्येष्ठ साहित्यिक द. मा. मिरासदार, आदिवासींसाठी कार्य करणाऱ्या सामाजिक कार्यकर्त्या ठमाताई

पवार, शैक्षणिक क्षेत्रात कार्यरत असलेले गोकुळदास शहा यांना विद्यापीठाचा 'जीवनसाधना गौरव पुरस्कार' प्रदान करण्यात आला. आध्यात्मिक गुरू राजयोगिनी दादी जानकी यांनादेखील जीवनसाधना पुरस्कार जाहीर झाला होता. परंतु, त्या उपस्थित राहू शकल्या नाहीत. या कार्यक्रमाला कुलगुरू डॉ. नितीन करमळकर, उपकुलगुरू डॉ. एन. एस. उमराणी, कुलसचिव डॉ. प्रफुल्ल पवार उपस्थित होते.

डॉ. राजवंशी यांनी स्वतःचे उदाहरण दिले. ते म्हणाले, 'मी आयआयटीतून पदवी घेतली. पुढे अमेरिकेत पीएचडी केली. तिथेच अध्यापनदेखील केले. माझे तिथे उत्तम करियर होते. ते सोडून भारत बदलण्याच्या इच्छेने फलटणला आलो. त्यामागे माझा 'जुनून' आणि 'अहं' कारणीभूत होता. तो आवश्यकही

माझ्यासारख्या एका अशिक्षित महिलेला मिळालेला हा पुरस्कार मी विसरू शकणार नाही. दोन मुले झाल्यानंतर माझ्या हातात पुस्तक आले. आयुष्यात कधी समाजकार्य करीन, असे ठरवले नव्हते. वनवासी कल्याण आश्रमातील परिवाराचे सदस्य झाले आणि समाजकार्याची प्रेरणा मिळाली. आज वनवासी आश्रमाचे काम देशभरात सुरू आहे. समाज एकत्र आला, तर चांगला देश घडू शकेल.

- ठमाताई पवार, सामाजिक कार्यकर्त्या

होता. भारतात आल्यावर मी देश बदलू शकलो नाही; पण स्वतःला निश्चित बदलले. अमेरिकेतील नोकरी सोडून निघालो तेव्हा केवळ १५ दिवसांचा नोटीस काळ संपवून निघून येऊ शकलो असतो. मात्र, माझ्या जागी दुसऱ्या योग्य व्यक्तीची निवड करून मगच बाहेर पडलो. अशा गोष्टी स्वतःला आनंद

देणाऱ्या असतात. भारतीय युवकांनी या पद्धतीने कार्य केले तर राष्ट्रनिर्मिती निश्चित होईल.'

डॉ. करमळकर यांनी विद्यापीठाची वेगळी ओळख निर्माण करण्यासाठी प्रयत्नशील असल्याचे सांगितले. डॉ. भटकर म्हणाले, 'मी पुणे विद्यापीठामुळेच घडलो. याच आवारात

आम्ही 'परम'चे आव्हान स्वीकारले आणि पूर्ण केले. यापुढेदेखील जलद महासंगणक तयार करण्यासाठी काम करायचे आहे. मिरासदार म्हणाले, 'प्रत्येक माणसाला जीवनात दुःखे असतात. ती दूर करण्यासाठी 'आध्यात्म' हा एक आणि विनोद हा दुसरा मार्ग आहे. विनोद आपली दुःखे दूर करू शकला नाही, तरी ती विसरण्यास मदत करतो.' शहा म्हणाले, 'आमच्या काळाच्या तुलनेत आता जग स्पर्धात्मक झाले आहे. अशा स्थितीत विद्यार्थ्यांनी जुने आणि नवे या दोघांमधील चांगल्या गोष्टी घ्याव्यात.' या वेळी गुणवंत शिक्षक, कर्मचारी, अधिकारी, विद्यार्थी तसेच, विविध क्षेत्रात प्राविण्य मिळवलेल्या व्यक्तींनादेखील विविध पुरस्कार प्रदान करण्यात आले. आनंद देशमुख यांनी सूत्रसंचालन केले.

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Rajvanshi bats for passion, ethical behaviour

HT Correspondent

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PUNE: Anil K Rajvanshi, director, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute, Phaltan spoke about the importance of nurturing passion and sticking on to ethical behaviour while addressing students during the 70th foundation day of Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) on February 10. A line-up of activities and events were planned for both the students and the staff members to commemorate the landmark.

Rajvanshi said that passion and ethics in youth will lead to personal happiness and better environment, which could in turn lead to the creation of a better nation.

"Every one thrives for a comfortable and happy life. After a person is happy and contented, he can make the environment better. Creating environmental happiness is what I call nation building. Each one of us should therefore work towards improving our immediate environment so that it becomes cheerful," he said. Rajvanshi also spoke to students about being a honest and good citizen.

He shared his journey of life from completing BTech in Mechanical engineering in Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1967 to going abroad (US) to complete his PhD to returning back to Phaltan in rural Maharashtra in 1981.

Rajvanshi spoke about how passion can make one forget time, hardships and pinpricks and help one work towards the aim.

ONE DAY A WEEK 'OFFLINE'

Rajvanshi suggested that youngsters should stop using mobiles and internet for one day a week and instead reflect on varied topics, read and talk with friends and family.

snippets



■ Students presented the folk dances of different states at the annual day function of Ryan International School. HT PHOTO

GRADUATION AND ANNUAL DAY@RYAN

PUNE: Ryan International School celebrated its 5th Graduation and Annual Day on February 4, 2019 at the Yashwantrao Chavan Natyagruha. The theme for the graduation day was 'change the world' and for the theme for Annual Day, was 'one nation one heart'. At least 1,000 students enthralled the audience with their performances. The chief guest for the event was Snehal Pinto, director, Ryan Group of Institutions. The other dignitaries who graced the event include

Bintu Kisan Pawar, marketing manager, Scientific seedlings India Pvt Ltd; Abhay Vaidya, resident editor, Hindustan Times; Dr Sonali Talavlikar, homoeopathic physician and Vaibhav Dharamwar, programme leader, Cummins. The event not only showcased the skills of students but also displayed the achievements of the Ryan group. Vaidya in his address spoke about teaching children the importance of environment and insisting them to follow road safety norms.

MMCOE WINS BEST COLLEGE AWARD

PUNE: Marathawada Mitra mandal's college of engineering (MMCOE) Karvenagar has been awarded the 'best college (professional courses)' from the urban area, under the Quality Improvement programme of Savitribai Phule Pune University. The award

was presented on the occasion of the 70th Foundation Day celebrations of SPPU on February 10, 2019. The award, consisting of ₹1,50,000, a memento and a certificate, was presented by the Nitin Karmalkar vice-chancellor, SPPU.

Chote Scientist: vSolve 2019 problem solving competition inaugurated

PUNE: vSolve 2019 — a problem solving competition — organised by KPIT Technologies Limited and Jnana Prabodhini, an institution working in the fields of education, research, rural development among others, was inaugurated on February 13, 2019 at KPIT campus, Pune (Hinjewadi), in the presence of Ravi Pandit, chairman, KPIT Technologies Ltd. The competition is being held for the past four years. vSolve- a problem solving competition is held every year ahead of the National Science Day (February 28) that marks the completion of the annual calendar for 'Chhote Scientists', KPIT's flagship CSR initiative. Chhote Scientists has been at the forefront of KPIT's educational initiatives under the CSR umbrella. The initiative is an effort to bridge the learning gap in classroom and real-life application of Science and the influence is mushrooming into a larger picture. What began as an effort of impacting 800 children in at least 20 schools in Pune in the first year, is now seen reaching out to 177 schools in the current calendar year with 15,000 students being exposed to it, across 15 cities of India. On February 13, 200 selected students from 40 government schools across Pune, who were trained under the Chhote Scientists programme exhibited solutions that they developed by applying scientific principles under the guidance of KPIT volunteers.



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