

**AGENDA and speeches during the inauguration of Bajaj Center
At NARI on 12 April 2011**

AGENDA

Time	Activity
11-11:20 am	Madhur Bajaj and Sanjay Kirloskar arrive at helipad on Cummins premises, Phaltan. Dr. Rajvanshi to bring them to the Institute.
11:30 a.m.	Ribbon cutting and plaque opening by Shri. Madhur Bajaj in the presence of Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar and Shri Zia Quraishi
11:35 a.m.	Visit to small exhibition of NARI activities in office/library of the Center
11:50 a.m.	Tree planting in the courtyard by Shri. Madhur Bajaj, Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar, Shri Zia Quraishi and Shri Dinesh Castellino
12:00 noon	Inauguration of solar pump on the roof top by Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar
12:10 p.m.	<p>Inauguration ceremony</p> <p>On dais: Dr. Nandini Nimbkar, Dr. Anil K Rajvanshi, Mr. Madhur Bajaj, Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar, Mr. Zia Quraishi, Mr. Pradeep Bhargava,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome of guests by Dr. N. Nimbkar, President NARI 5 minutes - Introduction of the guests by Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi 5 minutes - Philosophy and genesis of Center, Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi 10 minutes - Short remarks by Shri. Zia Quraishi 5 minutes - Short remarks by Shri Pradeep Bhargava 5 minutes - Remarks by Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar 10 minutes - Speech by Shri. Madhur Bajaj 15 minutes - Vote of thanks by Dr. Anil K Rajvanshi 5 minutes <p style="text-align: right;">----- Total 60 minutes =====</p>
1:10 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Lunch

Dr. Nandini Nimbkar's speech.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am very happy to welcome Shri. Madhur Bajaj who has just inaugurated our building as also Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar, Shri. Zia Quraishi, Shri. Pradeep Bhargava and Shri. Dinesh Castellino - and all of you in the audience on this happy occasion.



Before I thank all the institutions and individuals who gave donations specifically for erecting the Bajaj Centre for Sustainable Development (BCSD), I wish to thank my father Mr. Bon Nimbkar whose vision and hard work were responsible in the mid-1960s for the genesis of the Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). For the first 10-15 years of NARI he donated from his personal wealth to make the strong base on which all of us could later on build.

Nimbkar Seeds Pvt. Ltd. – a company started by him - has given the biggest chunk of funds to make this 10-year old dream cherished by Dr. Rajvanshi come true and of course my father was instrumental in getting those funds for us. Therefore, we will always be indebted to him.

We are grateful to all other donors who showed faith in what Dr. Rajvanshi envisioned this centre would do, and hope that their support will continue not only in monetary terms, but in terms of their knowledge and wisdom. These last two years to build the centre have been quite hectic for everybody at NARI and especially for Dr. Rajvanshi. However, we are also aware that the real work starts now and we strive to make this centre a success with help from all of you.

I would like to also thank Shri. Madhur Bajaj who has been a well-wisher of our efforts since last 10 years and got us the initial grants through the different trusts of Bajaj group so that the work on the centre could be started. This was followed by more grants from them when required.

When work started in Surawdi of the Cummins Megasite we were visited by a large delegation of officials under the leadership of Mr. Dinesh Castellino nearly 3 years ago. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Rajvanshi to the Cummins Diesel India Foundation regarding the BCSD and they immediately sanctioned the money. Similarly the Housing Development Finance Corporation readily agreed to our request for donation.

Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar also visited us last year and not only donated a solar photovoltaic pump but assigned the technical staff to help in the installation and to make it work after a few initial hiccups. Similarly Shri. Atul Kirloskar also visited us and was kind enough to donate a diesel genset.

I am very happy that representatives of all these generous donors – NSPL, Bajaj Group, Cummins and Kirloskar Brothers are able to be with us today and once again I welcome them. Unfortunately, none of the individual donors – Shri. Pawan Kumar, Shri. K. Subramanya and Shri. P. C. Verma could come today as also representatives of HDFC and Kirloskar Engines were unable to be present. However they all have sent their best wishes to this program and future work at the centre.

With this I once again thank and welcome everybody for coming today despite the heat, health problems and poor road conditions.

Now I request Dr. Anil Rajvanshi to introduce our chief guests and say a few words about the philosophy and genesis of the centre.

Introduction of guests by Anil K Rajvanshi

All our guests are very well known names and need no introduction. Yet the occasion demands so and hence here is their short introduction.

MR. MADHUR BAJAJ



Shri. Madhur Bajaj is the grandson of Shri Jamnalal Bajaj (the adopted son of Mahatma Gandhi). He is the Vice Chairman of Bajaj Auto Limited – a leader in the motorized 2 and 3 wheeler sector. He is also the Chairman of Maharashtra Scooters Limited, besides being Director of Bajaj Electricals Limited, Bajaj Auto Finance Limited and several other companies of the Bajaj Group.

I have known Madhur Bhai since 2001 when he and other trustees in their wisdom gave me the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for application of Science and Technology for rural areas. Since then Madhur Bhai has been a very dear friend of mine, a well wisher of our Institute and a source of inspiration.

Mr. Madhur Bajaj is an alumnus of Doon School, Dehra Dun. After obtaining his B.Com Degree from Sydenham College, Bombay, in 1973, he did his MBA at one of the top Business Schools in the world the International Institute of Management Development (IMD), Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1979.

He is the Past President of SIAM, the apex association of Indian automobile manufacturers as also the Past President of Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), the apex Industries Association of Pune. While he has been CII's Western Region Chairman, he is the current National Council Member of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Besides all these accolades he is also a very decent human being and to my mind the real heir of Shri. Jarnalal Bajaj's legacy of social entrepreneurship.

MR. SANJAY KIRLOSKAR



Sanjay Kirloskar is the Chairman and MD of Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. one of the world's leading manufacturers of Pumps. He is a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago (in fact the original IIT !)

I have known Sanjay since 1985 when we met in a flight to Delhi. Since then we have kept up with each other now and then. Last year I had gone to see him and invite him to see our center which was under construction. He immediately agreed to come and visit it and suggested that we should have a PV pump for the center and he also seduced his elder brother Atul Kirloskar in donating a DG set to us!

Sanjay Kirloskar is a fourth-generation entrepreneur heading an engineering conglomerate, best known for diesel engines, pumps and valves. The main Kirloskar Group, which is also active in the power, construction and mining industry, is based in Pune, and is the joint venture partner of Toyota Corporation in India.

Sanjay Kirloskar's great-grandfather Laxmanrao founded the Kirloskar group in 1888 and, among its early innovations, were the manufacture of India's first iron plough and the creation of the country's second industrial township, Kirloskarvadi. It was under the leadership of Sanjay's grandfather, SL Kirloskar, that the company became one of India's biggest industrial houses.

Sanjay's grandfather S.L. Kirloskar and Nandini's grandfather Vishnu Nimbkar were very close friends and Vishnu Nimbkar was on the board of all Kirloskar companies.

The Kirloskar Group now has manufacturing facilities on four continents, 10 overseas offices and exports to more than 70 countries.

Though the Kirloskar group is in almost all aspects of engineering but I still feel that they have soft corner for farmers of this country and hence am sure that Sanjay will appreciate and help us in the center's activities.

MR. ZIA QURAISHI

Mr. Zia Quraishi is Chairman and Managing Director of Nimbkar Seeds Pvt. Ltd. in Phaltan. He is a B.E. in Electrical Engineering from College of Engineering, Pune and did his MBA from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore and has been running Nimbkar Seeds since early 1980s.

His company gave a generous donation to the centre which made it possible for us to construct it.

MR. PRADEEP BHARGAVA

He did his BE in Electronics and Communication from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and his MBA from Indian Institute of Management, Ahemadabad.



Pradeep Bhargava has been working as Managing Director of Cummins Generator Technologies India Ltd. since 2003. He is also the trustee of Cummins Foundation. He and his colleague Shri Dinesh Castellino (Vice-President of Cummins

and Foundation Trustee) were very helpful by giving donations to the center.

A veteran in the Industry, Pradeep has held responsible positions in both Private and Public Sector organizations. Thus he has been associated with Indian Space Research Organization, Atomic Energy Commission, Electronics Commission, Bharat Heavy Electrical India (BHEL) and Kalyani Group.

Pradeep has been actively participating in Industry Forums, Education Institutions (has long association with Symbiosis Institution) as well as various platforms of Civic Society. His primary focus has been to integrate the experience and knowledge of Industry into cause which benefit both the Society and the Environment. He is presently the Deputy Chairman of Western Region Council of CII for the year 2011-12. He is well known for Conceiving, Steering and implementing the now famous "**Pune Model**" by virtue of which the city of Pune has been able to mitigate Load Shedding for the last 5 years.

ANIL K RAJVANSHI'S SPEECH.



After this brief introduction of the honored guests, I would like to tell you about this center.

As told by Nandini the construction of this center has been made possible by very generous donations from Nimbkar Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Bajaj Foundations, Cummins Foundation, Kirloskar Group and other donors. I am extremely grateful to all of them for making it possible.

We have named this as [Bajaj Centre](#) because it was Madhur Bhai who gave the initial impetus and the funds for this centre.

I will now briefly tell you about the structure of this building and then talk about the philosophy of this centre.

Since this is a Centre for sustainable development it has unique sustainable features. I was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram design and had dreamt of having our Sustainable Centre similar to it with open design and running verandah connecting the building. Two young American architects Megan Cook and Ross Karsen who came all the way from New Orleans, Louisiana gave a concrete shape to this dream. They worked for 1½ months as unpaid interns in our Institute and designed the centre. Their labor of love and handiwork in the form of a model is displayed in the office next door.

This centre which is a residential research and training facility can accommodate 20 participants and two faculty members. The hot water in the residential part is provided by solar thermal collectors with a back up of wood water boiler so that the whole system runs on renewable energy. All the rain water falling on the roof top is harvested in the tank at the end of the courtyard and charges the deep bore well. A solar photovoltaic pumping system generously donated by Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar pumps this water into the overhead tank.

There is no air conditioning in the building. However the building is cooled by roof top evaporative cooling. Thus gunny sacs spread on the roof are watered

by the solar pump which cools the roof and the fans bring the cool air down. As you can see it is quite warm outside but is comfortable inside.

There is natural ventilation and most parts of the building have natural light which lowers the lighting bill. All the kitchen waste goes to the composting pit which together with agriculture residues provides fertilizer to the NARI farms. The waste water from the facility after passing through the septic tank goes into the nearby fields for irrigation. Thus most of the things are recycled.

Nevertheless all these sustainable features can be further enhanced if we produce economically our own electricity for the centre using agricultural residues. We have not been successful in doing so and hope that in future it maybe possible.

Besides these sustainable features the center building is also user friendly for physically challenged persons.

Why this centre and what will it do?

Long ago we realized that corporate world can play a major role in rural development. We felt that with their resources, reach and technological expertise the corporate world can help in improving the lives of rural population. I have been speaking about this issue for the last 10-11 years. In fact my first speech on this was during the Bajaj Award function in 2001 when I said that NGO and corporate world partnership will help in rural development.

This research and training center therefore is an outcome of this belief.

As we all know even 63 years after independence around 60% of our rural population lives in primitive conditions. They have no or nearly non-existent electricity for lighting and cook on primitive biomass stoves which is injurious

to their health. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 3 lakh deaths/year take place in India because of this rural household pollution. Government of India somehow has not been able to create systems which will improve their quality of life. Ultimately the goods and services at affordable prices are what makes life better and which I believe can be provided by companies and corporate world. However for that to happen 3 things are needed.

- (1) The corporate world needs to be sensitized to the plight of rural poor. This will help them provide better solutions to the problems.
- (2) Rural goods and services need to be developed specifically for rural population, using the local resources and understanding of local environmental factors. This will make the rural development economical, environmentally sound and sustainable.
- (3) The corporate world should reduce the profit margins for rural goods and services. This will make these goods available at reasonable price and will be a true CSR activity. This is what the guru of management C. K. Prahlad talked about in bottom of pyramid approach to development.

We hope this centre will play its role in taking up these challenges and in sensitizing the corporate world engineers and managers on how high technology can be used for providing basic amenities like cooking, lighting, clean water for rural households and very efficient machinery for agricultural purposes. We believe that very efficient conversion of the dilute resources like biomass, sun, wind etc. available in rural areas into useful end-products will help in creating wealth in these areas and at the same time improve the quality of life of rural population.

Some efforts by Indian corporate sector have already taken up this challenge. For example Tata's Swachh water filter which costs about Rs.

1000/-, or Godrej's low cost mini cool refrigerator are some of the new developments in this direction. Nevertheless more needs to be done.

There is already a world wide movement now where the corporates are helping in the social sector. I believe Gates Foundation is at the forefront of this movement and is quite active in India in the field of health, agriculture and now in energy.

Similarly is the X-prize foundation which has trustees who are whoswho of inventors, corporate world and Hollywood. They include Larry Page (Google founder), Craig Venter (of DNA fame), Ray Kurzweil (one of the most prolific inventors and recently was given the Technology Medal by President Obama), Ratan Tata, James Cameron (Producer of Film Avtar), Dean Kammen (Creator of Segway) etc. etc. They give prizes in the range of 10-20 million dollars for game-changing and transformative technologies. Their motto is innovation through competition. In the past they have given \$ 10 million prize for a spacecraft designed and built by private sector which took a person outside the earth's atmosphere and brought him back safely. This led to the setting up of Virgin Atlantic Company.

Now they want to create a similar prize in Social Sector. Since all the major companies of the world are running to India or China, this prize will be headquartered in Delhi. Last month I was part of an 11 member international group which brain-stormed in Delhi on how the prize should be structured. Our work on lanstove and energy from agricultural residues was taken up as some of the new ideas for prizes. We hope to engage some of these key technological innovators in the center's teaching and discussions. Similarly it will be the endeavor of the centre to engage the engineers and designers employed in companies regarding rural problems so that suitable solutions can be found.

Specifically this centre will conduct short courses, seminars and workshops for managers, engineers, student interns and others interested in rural

developments. These will be conducted by NARI staff together with the resource persons from outside. Not only will we talk about the considerable innovations that NARI has done for rural areas but we will also introduce high tech solutions developed anywhere in the world.

Besides the technology focused instructions it will also be an endeavor of the center to teach the principles of holistic living. Because by becoming sustainable in personal life the future corporate leaders can produce sustainable solutions for rural areas.

Finally it is a sobering thought to consider that numbers and time are on the side of rural population. The recent events in the Middle East and the spread of Maoist movement in the country have shown that population which has information available through mass media like TV or cell phones etc. but no means of improving their lives can create very unstable conditions which are not conducive to the growth of the country.

It is therefore in the interest of corporate world to engage these marginalized people because it is possible that India Inc will not progress or even survive without these 60% of rural poor and marginalized people being brought into mainstream development. That can only happen when goods and services to improve their quality of life are provided at reasonable cost. It will be this center's endeavor to debate and discuss possible solutions to this aspect.

I also hope the captains of major industries present here and who have long tradition of corporate social responsibility will help us achieve our goals.

I will end this talk by telling you a story, a tale from our ancient scriptures, the *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 that 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”.

I feel that when Corporate world and NGOs work together for lighting up the lives of rural population through technology and resources, then it will bring in the dawn of a new and prosperous India. That is what we propose to do in this centre.

Thank you,

Shri. Pradeep Bhargava and Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar spoke extempore and hence the gist of their speeches is given :

Speech of Mr. Pradeep Bhargava

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity Nandini. You know it is getting closer to the lunch time. Generally they serve appetizers, so that you enjoy the main food. But appetizers are not required when the main dish is very good, you know it actually spoils the main dish. I think Anil and Nandini, you didn't need all these appetizers like us giving speeches. The main dish is Mr. Madhur Bajaj who is going to talk about things that these preambles and small little short remarks by people like me are totally redundant. But anyway you will enjoy the main course when Mr. Madhur Bajaj comes.

Now I just want to talk about few points. Two or three actually. First of all, what Anil set the agenda that NGO and corporates need to work together. These days we keep on discussing governments especially what is happening at Jantar Mantar and stuff like that. So here is a point, I want to make, is that for the engagement of civic society, NGO's, industry we must assume and presume that *sarkar ka isme koi yogdan nahi hona chaiye*. We don't need sarkars. Sarkar is not even required as a *bhatji*. I think we need to work together. And this is important thing because I think it's important for each one of us to work on it.

The second important point which I think Anil made. Industry when it engages with NGOs etc. is doing nobody an *Upkar*. *Kisi pay ehsan nahi kar rahe*. If we are doing an *ehsan*, we are doing to ourselves. We are helping ourselves. There is *swarth* in it. There is a whole set of advantage that comes to us. Industry is a part of civic society. And where is industry different. When I was working on the power model for Pune people said *Aapto industry hai. Aap kyun kar rahe hain samaj ke liye*. I said main *samaj nahin hoon kya?* When there is no load shedding in the city of Poona my child when he or she studies needs light. When my parents need to go to hospital and they want the thing to work with and there is no electricity. So I am a part of society, so how am I different. That industry is an integral part of the society, needs to be understood. Sometimes *sir kya hota hai, Industry or industrialist confusion aa jata hai*, Industry is not industrialist. The whole industry is each one of us. Madhur ji is a civic society member so is my friend Sanjay. So we are no different from a society to be able to say, industry *koi alag cheej hai*. Its not. It is in certainly our self interest to do this.

The third point which I think, Anil talked about, and I think it's important, is rise of maoism in the country. Unless we do something to bring in some amount of harmony, some amount of connections, some amount of common upliftment it is going to be a problem for us. So I think industry should need to recognize. And thanks Anil, people like you who are our conscience

keepers, you are like light tower reminding us of these things. Because we in industry or we in corporate world tend to get lost. We go on the wrong streets, the street we call Dalal street, *uspe chale jate hain. Hum samajhte hain zindagi ki ek hi sadak hai* called Dalal street. But we need to be reminded that there are other things in life which are equally important. And what we miss sometimes, we value life in terms of the market capitalization and share holders value. The fulfillment, the joy, the engagement that the civic society brings is completely different. And this is what I think all of us in the industry do it and we are really grateful to people like Anil and Nandini who have given us an opportunity and a platform, to be able to do things.

And finally I would like to say is that writing the cheque is the easiest part. We want engagement with NGOs like Anil's and Nandini's. More important is there are people in Sanjay's organization and every other organization the thing where we can engage ourselves, that is corporate responsibility. Corporate responsibility is not a treasury function, where you write cheque and say I have done 2% of my profit. Money is important but more than that is for us to be engaged with your cause.

I wish all the best for this center.

Thank you so much.

Speech of Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar

Madhur and other dignitaries on the dais, and all my friends. Really I would like to thank Anil and Nandini for inviting me back. Because I was here with them last year, it's about a year ago, as his dream of the center was taking shape. And he had come to see me in my office in Pune. He was so excited and telling me about all the things that he wanted to do here. And so I said one of these days when I go to Kirloskarwadi, I will drop in. And we fixed a date, and the only convenient time was around lunch time, so I enjoyed their

hospitality at home as well. And had a wonderful time seeing this centre taking shape.

As Anil mentioned, he and I met on a flight. He was going to Delhi probably to do some work and I was going to Delhi probably for some license because that's how Government of India was in those days, back in 1985. And we didn't keep very much in touch with each other after that. But I kept reading about his exploits on and off as he would appear in the news and for the right reasons unlike some of us. So I am really happy to be here again. Because it is inspirational to seeing things like this and looking at the background of these two people, both distinguished alumni from University of Florida. I also had the opportunity of reading one of his books where he talks about his days as a student in America. To come here and see what he is doing in the way back of beyond (that some us city dwellers would say) is very inspiring.

And for me it really touched the cord because my family was helped by the Raja of Aundh, way back about 100 years ago. And when my great grandfather Laxman Rao Kirloskar got thrown out of the city of Belgaum and had nowhere else to go, the Raja of Aundh offered him space in his kingdom. And the only place he could go to was the only railway station in the kingdom which today is called Kirloskarwadi. Kirloskarwadi is a small rural town and about 40 km from any big town. By big town I mean probably a town the size of Phaltan. So its way in the middle of no where also. But what it has done and given to my family is really fantastic.

Most of the people are local, and they were really the ones responsible for making the group. Every single product, you see from the Kirloskar group was first made in that factory in rural India. And therefore you know there is really no difference between urban and rural dwellers as far as intelligence is concerned. In Kirloskarwadi our people are making pumps for the fast breeder reactors, which makes Kirloskar Brothers one of three companies in the world to make such pumps for a nuclear reactor. So there is absolutely

no disadvantage being in rural India which is why, even now two of our new factories are going to be in rural India. Mr. Sapre (one of the Directors of Kirloskar Brothers) who is here, he is setting up two factories. One is about 50 km outside from Ahemadabad. The other one is somewhere in Coimbatore district. So, you know we have full faith in rural India and we know that what we do over there is really helpful for our society.

And why do I say this because in all our major towns and cities today you see slums. And who are these people and where do they come from. They come to cities because there are no opportunities in their villages. The real way of eradicating urban poverty, would be to ensure that there are opportunities for our rural populous, because that is what is going to keep them in their towns and villages or in their villages. That's what is going to ensure that our culture stays the way we would like it to be. So it's very important that we ensure that people stay close to their roots, as we develop going forward.

I would like to wish the centre for sustainable development, all the success. Anil and Nandini with both of you here I am sure that's going to be very easy.

Thank you.

SPEECH OF SHRI MADHUR BAJAJ



The Rajvanshi's Anil, Nandini, Madhura, Shri. Zia Quraishi, Shri. Sanjay Kirloskar, Shri. Pradeep Bhargava, Dinesh, Jayant Sapre and friends.

1. I am extremely delighted to partake of your hallowed hospitality in the rural setting of Phaltan.

My primary mission is to felicitate an exemplar who shunned the comforts of a city life to live the rigours of a rural life.

I have always believed that we need to empower and urbanise the villages to prevent the inflow of populace from villages to cities and thereby increasing the slum dwellers and making the infrastructure burst at its seams. **What we need is a reverse trend that is migration from cities to the villages by urbanizing the villages.** I am talking about URBANISATION in a positive sense where the basic infrastructure facilities are made available like clean drinking water, electricity, sanitation, education, health and income generating opportunities. Therefore, I say **“Urbanise the villages or else it would lead to SLUMising of the cities!**

And this is what Dr. Rajvanshi is attempting through his concept of all inclusive growth.

2. I have known Dr. Rajvanshi since 2001 when our Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation gave him the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for application of Science and Technology for rural development.

These Bajaj Awards are the most prestigious awards in India for rural development and in the international arena they are given for promoting Gandhian values outside India. Personalities like Mr. Nelson Mandela and Rev. Desmond Tutu have received these awards in the past.

Currently, Dr. Rajvanshi, an active Member of the Selection Committee of the same award that he had received, i.e. APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, is responsible for short listing and selecting the future winners of this prestigious Jamnalal Bajaj Award.

3. Dr. Rajvanshi is unique among the rural development experts anywhere in the world who have insisted on use of “high” technologies for rural areas. He himself has pioneered many of these technologies (among many is the one on ethanol lantern for which he received the Globe Forum Award in Stockholm from Her Royal Highness HRH Crown Princess Victoria). His ideas on using, for rural areas, “high” technologies which are environmentally sound, are locally produced and provide high quality energy, are being followed by researchers and rural development practitioners all over the world.

4. Among other inventions, I would like to single out is the invention regarding rural transport. Dr. Rajvanshi and his team pioneered the development of electric cycle rickshaw as a sustainable and environmentally sound transport system for relatively short distances.

I inaugurated his rickshaw introduction program in Pune University where the idea was to introduce this environmentally sound transport system to an Indian university campus. And I almost lost my job, as I was felicitating a virtual competitor!!

Not only did Dr. Rajvanshi develop the technology but also the whole basis of how such simple transport system can be the last mile solution. His work has inspired large number of such efforts worldwide including the Government of India’s CSIR’s work on solar-powered cycle rickshaws.

Being a part of the Automobile Industry, as the Vice-Chairman of a leading 2 and 3 wheeler production and technology company, I can fathom the importance of this innovation in serving the cause of environmental improvement.

5. Besides his technological work, Dr. Rajvanshi is also an inspirational speaker. He has lectured all over the world trying to inspire young

students to work for rural development and in renewable energy field. To my mind this is a great example of how one can improve the environment, since it makes some of the elite students of IITs and IIMs consider rural development as one of their career choices.

Besides lecturing, he has been a prolific writer as his wide ranging articles have been covered by technical journals, media and books.

6. Dr. Rajvanshi has always been ahead of the times. There are many examples of this, such as his model for Energy self-sufficient Talukas which became the national policy; Use of ethanol for cooking and lighting and loose Biomass Gasifier.

These ideas were promoted by Dr. Rajvanshi in 1980s and 1990s when he also developed the appropriate technologies for them. Now only in the 21st century have these environmentally sound technologies captured people's imagination showing what a visionary Dr. Rajvanshi has been.

7. Dr. Rajvanshi has also combined his ideas on nation-building with his spiritual outlook. He feels that a person's internal security ultimately leads to environmental security of mankind as it makes us less greedy for materials and resources.

He has also shown how one can have a decent, environmentally sound and sustainable lifestyle at much lower per capita energy consumption than that in the developed countries by his own example and practices.

Dr. Rajvanshi effectively combines spirituality with technology with the aim of giving a better world to future generations. Thus, there is an underlying intention of addressing Climate Change and human greed for a holistic and sustainable development.

In our country, Mahatma Gandhi talked about freedom. He gave us freedom from the British rule. However his higher sense of freedom was freedom from want, from poverty and from environmental degradation and ultimately from corruption. Dr. Rajvanshi, through his technological inventions, and the example of his personal life, is trying to do just that and is an example of India's new freedom fighters. I hope Anna Hazare and Anil should get together for the fight against corruption and for all inclusive growth in rural areas.

What is important to me is that he left a lucrative career in U.S. to Walk his Talk! So here is the unique individual and exemplar, who needs to be celebrated and his examples replicated. Please join me in applauding him!

8. I have been discussing with Dr. Rajvanshi about the many innovations lying cocooned in their respective villages, away from the gaze of the world.

Many of these items have the ability and merit to revolutionize the lives of village folk and slum dwellers in terms of comfort, cost and environment. So, I joined hands with the students of AMITY BUSINESS SCHOOL, Delhi, to uncover them and bring them to light via internet. The name of their website is "innovationsofindia.com". I have also brought with me a set of these innovations for those who want to have a look.

While the students were preparing the formats for the various innovations, they had the desire to visit the best and wanted to have the firsthand experience and who do you think they chose! NO PRIZES for guessing! Being impressed with the multiple innovations of Dr. Rajvanshi, the students visited Phaltan and were indeed impressed with what they saw. I recall Dr. Rajvanshi exhorting the students to spend some time in a village after their academics and before starting their careers.

9. NARI's recently started "BAJAJ CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" is meant for encouraging the reverse trend from cities to villages and Dr. Rajvanshi believes that the solution can only be found at the point and the location where problems exist and that is why the discussions, the debates, research and brainstorming has to be done in a Centre, engulfed by the village environment rather than an urban city – in PHALTAN rather than Pune or Mumbai. Care has been taken to keep the building green, solar power, rain water harvesting, the works.
10. **Anil, let's collaborate.** Sanjay and I will talk about the city life and its "ills", while you talk about the advantages of the village life such that the rural living becomes attractive and a better alternative to city life for our youth.
11. Dr. Rajvanshi is trying to find a global solution to the local problems of rural living. That is why experts from our country and overseas come to this Centre for finding solutions for a better and sustained quality of life.
12. **If 'greed' is in you DNA – forget about it!** You are not cut out for places like Phaltan. It has to be simple living and high thinking with a certain dose of spirituality for a desirable life in rural areas, which is embodied by Dr. Rajvanshi and his family members, especially his wife Nandini.
13. **IN CONCLUSION** I would like to emphasize why I feel INNOVATION is the name of the game in these times. It is a game changer, nay a game decider, as it takes you away from the 'run of the mill' and 'also ran' tag !

This is an era of champions, where one has to be a master of a few rather than jack of all trades!

14. In the Auto industry, without continuously coming up with innovative features and design, we would not be able to survive. Same could be said for other industries!

15. Dr. Mashelkar and others are championing the cause and culture of innovation. To succeed in any enterprise, you have to enhance productivity; you have to eschew old ways of doing things – change of production processes, movement of material, layout, infrastructure, the works !

Innovation in technology leading to the digital age made possible the revolutions in Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, as the dictatorial regimes would have pre-empted all channels of communication, but they could not block the electronic media. The revolutionaries have acknowledged this fact.

16. Let me end by conveying to you all that my family considers it a privilege to support Dr. Rajvanshi's efforts and look forward to his creating a revolution in rural India we call 'Bharat' !

Thank you.

[HOME](#)

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