

Narubhahu Limaye Smriti-Aryabhushan award for Thorat

Mandar Tannu.DNA



Mohan Dhariya (right) presenting the award to Bhausaheb Thorat on Saturday

DNA Correspondent

Freedom fighter and prominent cooperative movement leader Bhausaheb Thorat has demanded the state government to check the mushrooming of private cooperative sugar factories.

"The mushrooming of private cooperative sugar factories is a threat to the sector. These private sugar factories are backed by capitalists. The state government must check the growth of such cooperatives," Thorat said.

The founder of Vanrai Mohan Dharia gave away the awards.

Thorat recalled the 100 year old journey of cooperative movement in the state.

He said, "I am walking down the memory lanes as I receive the award given in the name of my friend Narubhahu Limaye.

Accepting the award the resident editor of Loksatta said, "He was my inspiration and today I feel proud that I was given this award. It's an honour to me."

Rayat Shikshan Sanstha president Raosaheb Shinde spoke of the contribution made by Thorat in the cooperative field.

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE Global honour for Phaltan's ETHANOL LANTERN-STOVE

Swedish crown princess Victoria presents award to Anil Rajvanshi in Stockholm

Priyanka Naithani

The development of a low-grade ethanol lantern which provides high-quality light and clean fuel for cooking has earned its Phaltan-based inventor Anil Rajvanshi the prestigious Globe Sustainability Research Award 2009.

This award was presented to Rajvanshi by crown princess Victoria of Sweden at a ceremony held at the Winter Garden of the Grand Hotel in Stockholm on June 3.

The Globe Sustainability Research Award, presented for the third time, is to discover and encourage researchers and research institutes in sustainability research.

The jury for the award was chaired by Mohan Munasinghe, the Nobel Peace prize winner in 2007 and vice chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Jury members were former member of the Egyptian Parliament and professor of political science at the American University in Cairo Mona Makram-Ebeld, UN Global Compact, senior advisor working extensively in China and throughout Asia

Fred Dubee and head of CSR services at Hallvarsson & Hallvarsson, Sweden Tommy Borglund. The award was judged on its originality, practicality, and contributions to humanity through economic gains, social development and environmental protection.

According to the organisers, the Nari project was on development of low-grade ethanol lantern which provides high-quality light and clean fuel for cooking.

"This was the outstanding example of sustainability research, based on these criteria,"

December 26, 2008



ria," Munasinghe said at the awards' presentation ceremony. Rajvanshi, in his address, said that Nari was delighted to receive the prestigious international award as it recognises and confirms the institute's philosophy that high-tech solutions based on local resources can be developed by a rural organisation and are appropriate to solve the basic problems of rural areas.



Nari director Anil Rajvanshi receiving the award from crown princess Victoria of Sweden at a ceremony in the Winter Garden of Grand Hotel in Stockholm on Wednesday.

According to the award-instituting committee, it highlights innovative and visionary initiatives within sustainability research. It com-

prised a four-member expert jury. Their motto is to highlight innovative and visionary innovators, scientists, cities and companies. The

Globe Award jury is chaired by Lars-olle Larsson, partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sweden.

Unique lamp

Researchers at the Phaltan-based Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (Nari) have developed a unique low-concentration ethanol stove that can also produce power equivalent to a 100 watt bulb.

Running on 50% ethanol-water mixture, the output of the stove is quite similar to that of kerosene and LPG stoves and has an easy flame control.

"The 50% ethanol-water mixture is less flammable than pure ethanol, making it safe to handle and hence ideal for house-hold cooking purpose. Moreover, it is easy to distil and can be produced in a one-step distillation process (even using solar energy as the driving force)," Rajvanshi said.

Earlier, the ethanol lamps developed at Nari have been ex-ported to the US and Europe. The same lanterns are multi-fuel and can even run on diesel and kerosene.

SWEET SMELL OF ACHIEVEMENT



Recognition: Vanrai Foundation president Padma Vibhushan Mohan Dharia (right) felicitated Krushna Patil for her success in scaling the Mount Everest. Vaibhav Nimbalkar one of the Indian Administrative Services '09 exam toppers was also felicitated at a programme organised by the foundation on the occasion of World Environment Day on Friday - Rajesh Rao.DNA

Khadki Cantt Board members threaten stir over water problem

They meet municipal commissioner Mahesh Zagade to discuss

Avinash Rajput

A team of six members of the Khadki Cantonment Board (KCB), led by vice-president Manish Anand met municipal commissioner Mahesh Zagade on Friday to discuss the long pending problem of inadequate water supply in Khadki.

The members urged the commissioner to ensure adequate water supply to the cantonment area besides constructing an overhead water reservoir.

KCB members also threatened to go on an indefinite hunger strike if the issue is not solved by June-end. "We met the commissioner, but it is still not clear when the water issue in Khadki will be resolved," Anand said, adding that although the Holkar water project was envisaged to address the water shortage in the canton-



ment area, the situation has not changed.

KCB members Sunil Jadhav, Anjum Maniyar, Sanjay Hiwale, Suresh Kamble and Kamlesh Chaskar were also present. The members, however, claimed that the commissioner has given an assurance to look into the issue.

"We have been taking their word on this issue for last three years. Citizens are facing a water problem in spite of the completion of Holkar water works," Manish said.

Buck-passing delays work

Khadki area has just one Elevated Storage Reservoir, which has been declared unsafe. The 30-year-old reservoir is close to the open vegetable market, and is on the verge of a collapse. The tank, with a storage capacity of 22.5 lakh litres, was constructed in 1977 by the then public health engineering department, now the Maharashtra Jeevan Vikas Pradhikaran. This ESR supplies water to the residents in the main bazaar area.

The onus of demolishing the tank led to a war of words between KCB and PMC in 2007 when the development engineer of the PMC's water supply works declared the structure unsafe.

The dept recommended its demolition after a report from the structural engineer. The PMC, in a letter, had said that the ESR was in a dangerous condition and had to be flattened and reconstructed. The same letter asked the KCB to temporarily shift the shopping units around the compound of the existing ESR for the demolition and asked the KCB to make available 2,000 square metres of land at a suitable nearby location. The KCB, however, has said that PMC collects water tax and charges, and should take the responsibility for water shortage.

The civic body, on the other hand, has said that the tank falls under KCB area and the board should demolish it.

Coaching class scripts a success story for the blind

Many toppers owe their achievement to the centre

Bhagyashree Kulthe & Manasi Saraf-Joshi

Nivant Anndh Mukh Vikasalya, a non-governmental organisation located at Tingrenagar, has a major share in the success of visually challenged students who appeared for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination in the city.

Rahul Bhalerao from Ferguson College, who topped the Pune division in the blind category scoring 79.5% marks in the arts stream, was a student of this centre. The NGO has been working for visually challenged students for the past 13 years. The organisation provides students material to study and prepares them for the exams with tuition classes. Those from the backward classes have particularly benefited from the free service.

Founder head Meera Badve has a teaching back-



The visually challenged students celebrating their success at the centre. (Inset) Bhalerao from Ferguson College, who topped the Pune division in the blind category.

ground. She set up the organisation to provide learning aid to the students. She learnt Braille and began teaching them.

"I started with a few students, but the number increased later. Now, we have students from standard X to post-graduates. There are special teachers for subjects like computers," she told DNA.

Rahul Bhalerao, Swapnil Wagh, Pallavi Chive and Ramesh Bangad are among the 18 students of the institute who passed with flying colours this year. "I have learnt a lot from these stu-

The NGO, founded by Meera Badve, has been working for the visually challenged students for the past 13 years

dents," said Badve, adding that the hard work that they put in is remarkable. She said Pallavi Chive (Ferguson College) scored 75%, Ramesh Bangar (Ferguson College) secured 71% and Jyoti Patebahadur (St

Mira's College) got 65% marks. Dynaneshwar Gaikwad, a visually-challenged orphan, scored 66% marks. Badve said Swapnil Wagh, a student of Ferguson College, who scored 67% marks is the captain of the national cricket team for the blind. "They are children with a strong will. Bangad's father is a labourer. Despite limited financial and other resources, he has managed to achieve success. Another student Pallavi Chive has had a surgery for brain tumour; but she did not let this hinder her studies," she said.

Saroj Tole's passion gets her to the book fair every year

Her Braille books is not a financially viable stall

Anuradha Mane Wadhvani

At the Pune Book Fair 2009, most visitors come and read the books on display. But there is one stall where visitors come to 'feel' the literary delights on offer: The book stall of Braille books - Fulora Publications - has on display over 80 books, all in Braille.

62-year-old Saroj Tole, has been setting up a stall at the Pune Book fair since the last seven years. The need for more literature in Braille keeps getting her back to the book fair. The response to the books is usually not very encouraging, but Tole still makes it a point to set up her stall at the book fair.

"The primary reason is never money. It is surprising that people still do not know that books are available in Braille. I have so many visitors who do not know about Braille. Once the awareness spreads, orders will come," said Tole.

She started Fulora Publications with

Vilas Avachat.DNA



Saroj Tole displaying one of the Braille books at the fair

the aim of providing books for the visually challenged and also to teach Braille to as many people as possible. "All the books displayed at the stall here are not for sale. These are samples. I show the samples to visitors and make copies once I get the order. I do not charge money to the visually challenged. There are some donors who fund this activity," she said.

Tole has displayed books on varied topics meant for varied age groups. On the one hand she has books on spiritu-

ality such as Tatiche Abhang and Gurucharitra and on the other hand she has short stories meant for children.

There are also books for adolescent girls. She also has on display a Diwali Ank done entirely in Braille. "I am now working on the Diwali Ank for 2009," she said.

Tole makes it a point to include the same text in Devnagiri script for the parents, friends and teachers of the visually impaired people, who read the book in Braille. "In case the blind do not understand anything, their sighted friends or relatives can explain it," said Tole.

Going a step further, Tole also has illustrated books for the partially sighted children. The book has large-sized illustrations. "These books turn out to be very expensive, as one illustrated page rounds up to nearly Rs15. The demand for these books is not much," she says. Tole now hopes to publish more books with the help of a new printer that has just been donated to her by Sudhakar Walambe and Rajiv and Swati Khammakar from the US. The printer will now help her print Braille books in the city itself.