

Padma Shri to Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi

On 21st March 2022, President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind gave the Padma Shri Award to [Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi](#) in a glittering ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. My wife Nandini and our daughter Madhura attended the ceremony. The ceremony was broadcast by all TV channels. A small [YouTube video on the award is here](#). After the award ceremony Home Minister Shri Amit Shah hosted a lavish dinner in Ashoka Hotel for all the awardees.



All the awardees with the President and the Prime Minister. Anil K Rajvanshi is standing in first row 5th from left.

A very pleasant interaction with the Prime Minister after the awards ceremony.



Nandini, AKR and our daughter Madhura in front of President's seat in Durbar Hall.



In front of Wall of Fame - Autographed photo session during the dinner hosted by the Home Minister Shri Amit Shah (21st March 2022)

Padma Shri



DR. ANIL KUMAR RAJVANSHI

Dr. Anil Kumar Rajvanshi is the Director of Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Phaltan, Maharashtra. Dr. Rajvanshi's rural development work for the last three decades has spanned a whole spectrum of areas affecting the lives of rural population viz. renewable energy-based cooking and lighting; power generation from agricultural residues; renewable fuel production from agriculture; electric cycle rickshaws; water purification and effluent treatment through the use of renewable energy.

2. Born on 1st September, 1950 and raised in Lucknow, Dr. Rajvanshi went to the United States in 1975 to pursue higher studies at the University of Florida following his bachelor and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from I.I.T. Kanpur. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1979, he taught at the University of Florida for two and half years and then he came back to India in 1981 to apply his training for developing rural India.

3. Dr. Rajvanshi is a grassroot scientists and under his leadership NARI has many first to its credit. NARI is the principal author (1996) of national policy on energy self-sufficient Taluka which was managed by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE). He developed a unique program of improving cooking and lighting technology for rural areas which led him to pioneer the concept of rural restaurants in 2012. This probably led to the setting up of Amma's kitchen in Tamil Nadu and Shiva Bhojan in Maharashtra. In early 1990s, his group at NARI set up the world's largest program on production of ethanol from sweet sorghum. This led to NARI being the only Institute in India to be made a member of European Economic Community (EEC) sweet sorghum consortium. NARI developed the first non-spiny hybrid safflower and various varieties. In late 1990s he pioneered the concept of using ethanol as cooking and lighting fuel for rural areas and his group pioneered the development of loose biomass gasification system in late 1990s. His group also pioneered the production of potable water via rainwater harvesting using low cost unelectrified solar-based water purifier. And his efforts have shown how a small rural S&T Institute working on shoestring budget can pioneer technologies for rural India.

4. Dr. Rajvanshi is the recipient of numerous national and international awards. In 1998, he became the second Indian to be inducted in the U.S. based Solar Hall of Fame. In 2001, he received the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for the use of science and technology for rural areas. His efforts led to NARI getting FICCI Platinum Jubilee Award in 2002. His work on ethanol lanstove was given the 2009 Globe Forum Award for sustainability research in Stockholm. In 2014, he became the first Indian to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Florida, USA. He has delivered prestigious endowed lectures both in India and abroad and has more than 250 publications in national and international journals, seven patents, five books, and various chapters in books.