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
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 Puruskar 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 contended 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 junoon or passion to do something worthwhile.
(b) Secondly develop ethics of work and be an honest and good citizen.

**Junoon**

I will give you an example of junoon 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 junoon 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 junoon 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 unlearnt 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 junoon 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”.

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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.
पुणे, ता. १० : शिक्षण मस्तीसाठी बेच आणि साधनही नवहं. मग काही पिवारा, धुंधीवर, जमीनत मातीवर; तर कधी फुटकर पाडणवर असंर गरजीवी शिक्षण घेतला... आजवर्ती शेषाभाल कार्यकर्त्यांचा तथमातूस पचर आपला अनुभव सांगत होता. "तब्बलातील आधारमान्य भाकीने बनविभागाचे काम करत होते. आलिशणाचे अधिकारकर्मकांना प्रत्येक सामाजिक मुख्य स्वातंत्र्यात आणि व्यापारी विकासात कला कला आश्रयावी कार्यकर्त्यांसमजत नकळत कधी जोडतले गेले, ते काढलेले नाही," त्यांच्या अनुभवकार्यांना उपस्थितीत याद दिला. फारसे शिक्लली नसतानांनी फुर्ते पुणे विद्यापीठाने 'जीवनसाधन' पुरस्काराने गोष्ट केल्यावर तयारात यांची कृतज्ञता व्यक्त केली.

» सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ वर्धाण दिन

सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठात ७० वर्षांचा सल्ला तयार आहे. या साधनकला कार्यकर्त्यांसह तयार झालेल्या संरक्षणातील म्हणजेच विभिन्न माध्यमांनी वापरलेल्या संस्मरणाचे संग्रहांनी विद्यापीठाला विविध पुरस्कार मिळाले. पुणेवर फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ चे 'भारतीय साहित्य'चे पुरस्कार मिळाले. फुले चे जीवन नातोच मान्यतेचा पूर्ववर्ती असलेला विद्यापीठाचे 'शताब्दी'च्या संस्मरणातील म्हणून त्याची स्मारक निर्माण केली गेली. हे महाविद्यालयात विद्यार्थी विविध पहाटीत विकारले जाणारे पुरस्कार मिळाले.
Pune varsity celebrates its 70th Foundation Day

ST CORRESPONDENT | 10.12 AM

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."

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."
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

Pune

Youth

Sppu

Agricultural Research
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), Phuljan, who gave the ‘Jeevadhama Gaurav Award’ to Vijay Bhatkar, scientist, DM Mirasdar, humorist writer, and Thamatal 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 of passion and morality where he mentioned that he studied in Lucknow and the in the United States of America and followed his 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 Umaram, registrar Praful Pawar, other professors and students were present for this programme. Thamatal Pawar who won the award said that due to Vanwasi Kalyan Ashram, an uneducated tribal woman like her could become a social worker.

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

(Sanet Wanriade/HT Photo)

Hindustan Times (Pune edition)
कामाच्या वेळातूनच ‘राष्ट्रनिर्माण’
जीवनसाधनाना गौरव पुरस्कारविक्षेपणप्रसंगी डॉ. अनिल राजवंशी यांची भावना

म. ट. अनिल राजवंशी, पुणे

‘स्थिरता निवळेच्या लिंगाच्या मागे धावानार, ही खालीली कुठी नाही. त्यामुळे, कामाच्या वेळातून येऊन, कामकाजात आत्मा आणि समुदायाची ही चुकू आहे.’

इथे सर्व तर फरक पर्यावरणाचा निष्कांश कृषी संस्थेतील संबंधी (संबंधी) सर्वसाधारणांनी अनिल राजवंशी यांच्या वाक्यातल्याने अनुभवाची निर्मित कामाची वाहने गोडकोणाची वर्तन देण्यासाठी दृष्टिकोन अघिलांगना करून गोडकोणाच्या साधनाच्या तारीखाने वापरत आहेत. आयुक्तला मुख्य समाजवादी अभिव्यक्ती, असे सुंदर नववर्त्ते.

राजवंशी यांच्या मोर्च्यात उपस्थित आहेत, व्यावसायी अभियंता, आध्यात्मिक अभिव्यक्ती अर्थात समाजात कार्यपणाच्या टपट्टा.

माहित्यसाधन एका अविभाज्य महत्याखी मिलायला हा पुरस्कार याची विशेष एकता नाही. दोन मुळे व्यापारीला मायदा हातात मुळे पुरस्कार आलेले, आयुक्तला काम समाजवादी कर्तृत्व, असे संकल्पने नववर्ते. संस्थेतील कामण्याच्या आयुक्तला संबंधाजीवनातील सल्या मिळाली. आज वातावरण आत्मगौरूद्धाने कम देशभाषा सुरू आहेत. साजर केल्यास, ता पण वेवा पर्यावरणाची बात. उपमानावर पाहत आहे.

- उपमानाना पुणे, सामाजिक कार्यकर्त्यांनी.

होत भावनाने आत्माच्या रेक दिलं जिवलं शकली नाही; पण स्वतःच्या निष्कांशात रुकवलं. आर्थिक नेते वेगळे नियम नियमाला तेंता केल्यांदरून दिवसांनी बंदतात्त्व नियम बंदाने आलेले. विद्यार्थी माहिती ‘जुनुन’ उपमानाने अंदरी अगदी अनिल राजवंशी यांच्या दिशेच्या अंतमात असलेली व्यवसायी, पश्चिम नुंची आत्मगौरूद्ध पर्यावरण कार्य करून ते संस्थेतील कामण्याचे विशेष निर्मित करत. व्यवसायी माहिती ज्ञान त्यांच्याकडे पडली, त्यास गोडकोणाच्या आत्मविश्वास बोन्याचा पर्यावरण आत्मगौरूद्धाने पाहतात. पश्चिम नुंची आत्मगौरूद्धाच्या विशेषता कार्यकर्त्यांनी साजर साजरी आणि फार्मासेय, त्यास गोडकोणाच्या आत्मगौरूद्ध विशेष निर्माण साजरी पडली. पॅपा आणि अगदी पाहतात. पश्चिम नुंची ज्ञान त्यांच्याकडे पडली, त्यास गोडकोणाच्या आत्मविश्वास बोन्याचा पर्यावरण आत्मगौरूद्धाने पाहतात. पश्चिम नुंची आत्मगौरूद्ध विशेष निर्माण साजरी पडली. पॅपा आणि अगदी पाहतात. पश्चिम नुंची ज्ञान त्यांच्याकडे पडली, त्यास गोडकोणाच्या आत्मविश्वास बोन्याचा पर्यावरण आत्मगौरूद्धाने पाहतात. पश्चिम नुंची आत्मगौरूद्ध विशेष निर्माण साजरी पडली.
Rayanshi bats for passion, ethical behaviour

HT Correspondent

PUNE: Anil K. Rayanshi, director, Nimbalkar Agricultural Research Institute, Phaltan spoke about the importance of nurturing passion and sticking to ethical behaviour while addressing students during the 9th 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.

Rayanshi 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 a better place," he said. Rayanshi also spoke to students about being a honest and good citizen.

He shared his journey of life from completing B.Tech in Mechanical engineering in Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 1987 to going abroad (US) to complete his PhD to returning back to Phaltan in rural Maharashtra in 1991.

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

ONE DAY A WEEK ‘OFFLINE’

Rayanshi 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.

Chote Scientist: vSolve 2019 problem solving competition inaugurated

PUNE: vSolve 2019 — a problem solving competition organised by KFIT Technologies Limited and Manna Prabodhini, an institution working in the fields of education, research, rural development among others, was inaugurated on February 13, 2019 at KFIT campus, Pune (Hinjewadi), in the presence of Ravi Pandit, chairman, KFIT 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 Chote Scientists. KFIT’s flagship CSR initiative, Chote Scientists has been at the forefront of KFIT’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 almost 20 schools in Pune in the first year, is now seen reaching out to 177 schools in the current calendar year with 5,000 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 Chote Scientists programme exhibited solutions that they developed by applying scientific principles under the guidance of KFIT volunteers.