

UNIVERSITY OF PUNE'S 65TH FOUNDATION DAY

Ready to give crores of rupees to fight corruption: Dr Cyrus Poonawalla

Dr Poonawalla gets 'Lifetime Achievement' award

Vaibhav Thombare



MILESTONE: Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman of the Poonawalla Group being awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Governor and Chancellor K Sankaranarayanan, at the University of Pune's 65th Foundation Day on Monday. Also seen are Vice Chancellor Wasudev Gade (extreme right) and Co-operation Minister Harshwardhan Patil (extreme left).

Pune: Chairman of the Poonawalla Group, Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla said that he was ready to provide crores of rupees to organizations fighting corruption. Poonawalla was addressing a gathering at the University of Pune's (UoP) 65th Foundation Day, where he was bestowed with 'Lifetime Achievement' award. The award was handed over to Poonawalla by Governor and University Chancellor, K. Sankaranarayanan

Dr. Poonawalla said, "I will utilise my time to fight corruption. I am ready to donate crores of rupees to organizations fighting corruption." Dr. Poonawalla pointed out that corruption was a major hurdle for industries and business houses. "Not only a few politicians, but a section of bureaucrats and government employees are responsible for the corruption in our country. Its is these people who delay work because of vested interest." Dr. Poonawalla said.

Encouraging University students to raise their voice against corruption, Dr. Poonawalla lamented that the fact that people even had to bribe their way to getting driving licenses.

Speaking to Sakal Times later said that he had been supporting NGOs like the Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT) for many years and was ready to support more such NGOs raising their voice against corruption.

Poonawalla advised students to start businesses to create wealth on the strength of innovation and creativity. Poonawalla told Sakal Times that he had himself started the successful Serum Institute of India with just Rs. Five lakhs.

The Governor in his address welcomed Poonawalla's announcement. "It is important to stop corruption," Sankaranarayanan said. Lauding Poonawalla's company, Serum Institute of India, the Governor said that Poonawalla and his company had saved the lives of millions of children across the world by producing affordable life saving vaccines.