

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY, LATE DR. BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL THROUGH VIKHE PATIL SHALEYA GRANTHALAYA YOJANA

“Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words, And missed beyond measure!”

The Dr Vikhe Patil Foundation, Pune is a charitable trust established in memory of Padmashree Dr. Vitthalrao Vikhe Patil, father of the first sugar cooperative movement in rural Maharashtra in 1950. His leadership skills, values and vision enabled the start of process of rural emancipation, which continues till date. Understandably, education, health care and creation of employment opportunities figured high in bringing about radical developmental growth in Maharashtra. The remarkable work was carried forward by Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil who gave prime importance to social upliftment of the poor and devoted his life to public service. He successfully shouldered the responsibilities and carried forward the endeavours initiated by his illustrious father and brought them to logical closure. He played a pivotal role in providing educational facilities, health and finance sectors, ushered in reforms in the rural agro industries, conservation of water, and agriculture. Needless to say, his efforts for transforming the lives of farmers in an exceptionally distinguished manner were recognized through innumerable awards. The Government of India conferred him with the highest civilian award of ‘Padmabhushan’ in 2010.

His passing has been deeply mourned by innumerable staff members and students at Pravara Centre of Management Research and Development, Vikhe Patil Memorial Schools at Pune, Nasik and Lohegaon, and Little Flower School, Loni

Taking his vision forward, Dr Ashok Vikhe Patil has successfully initiated and seen to completion a considerable portion of projects in further enhancements for advancement in rural health and education. Under his dynamic leadership, many health and educational initiatives were spearheaded which now stand as colossal accomplishments across the districts of Ahmednagar and Pune. The medical and educational trusts that have worked relentlessly to bring about a revolution in the child centric methodology, challenging the traditional methods propagated by the existent educational systems are now the most sought after institutions in the haven of learning and service in the districts of Pune and Ahmednagar.

In memory of his beloved father and celebrating his life well lived , Late Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil and to commemorate his First Death Anniversary on the 30th of December, Dr Ashok Vikhe Patil has initiated a novel endowment of contributing books towards the school libraries of one hundred rural schools every year. After having spent more than four decades of working closely with the schools at grass root levels, the dearth of reading material for the school children, non availability of basic supplementary reading books and the pitiable condition of the schools steered him to develop this enterprise.

Dr. Vikhe Patil Foundation will invite applications exclusively from rural schools from across the districts of Maharashtra in a prescribed format that can be acquired from the offices in Patrakar Nagar, Off Senapati Bapat Road in the coming New Year. These forms will also be available online on www.drvpf.org, where mandatory disclosure of certain parameters would be necessary to fulfill the criteria and establish eligibility to receive the donation.