



संस्कृति मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
CULTURE

# National Conference & Expo

Contributions of  
**Prof Shankar Agharkar**  
in Science and  
Freedom Struggle  
of India

**18<sup>th</sup> November  
2022**



Agharkar Research Institute, Pune



Maharashtra Association for  
cultivation of Sciences



Pachhim Maharashtra Prant

## Introduction

Vijnana Bharati and the Ministry of Culture have jointly planned a yearlong celebration on "Role of Scientists and Scientific Institutions in India's Freedom Struggle" on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The Indian struggle for independence was truly a struggle to defend and secure the identity of the nation. Invaders imposed their identity either by force or deceit by obliterating the existing native scientific knowledge system of our nation. The British used Science as a tool for ruling India. It is essential to understand the efforts made by our scientists to achieve freedom through science and scientific work much ahead of the colonial thought process.

## About the National Conference and Exhibition

This two-day event will consist of a one-day National conference and two days Exhibition which will be organised on 18 November, 2022 at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.



The conference will focus on the scientific contributions of Prof Shankar Agharkar, his role in building up the Scientific institution as a part of the freedom struggle and fight against the British for getting the scholarship for Bright Indian Students.

Along with conference delegates, school students, college students, researchers and scientific fraternity from Pune and other districts of Paschim Maharashtra prant, which include Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Kolhapur Nashik and Ahamad Nagar will visit the exhibition.

Conference shall achieve the public participation by broadcasting the sessions along with the curtain raiser programs through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter etc and digital





## Conference

Sessions will be organised on following themes. Sessions will include Inauguration, Public orientation, Plenary talk and Poster session.

## Themes

### Prof Agharkar's Contributions to Science

Shankar Purushottam Agharkar was an Indian Morphologist with a specialisation in Plant Morphology. He explored the biodiversity of the Western Ghats where he came across a species of freshwater jellyfish.



### Role of Building up Scientific Institution with Swadeshi Spirit



This leading botanist was the Founder and Director of the Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science. The institute ARI, Pune has been named after him. He is one of the groomed and trained patriots by Dr Ashutosh Mukharjee to fight against colonial science. He went to IACS for his studies and took inspiration to do science for the nation from the same. He had an idea of replicating IACS, a purely national scientific institution, in Maharashtra; so, he established MACS in Pune. His wife mortgaged her 'Mangalsutra' to get money to establish an institution; such was a sacrifice.

### Role in building careers of Young Scientists of India

Young Scientist like - Homi J Bhabha earned an 1851 Research Fellowship, a scheme conducted by the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to annually award to "young scientists or engineers of exceptional promise" was possible due to the efforts of Prof SP Agharkar. Due to his vision and fight with the British these fellowships were then awarded to Indian students. In 1936, Bhabha was one of the first Indian recipients of Senior Studentship.



## Competitions

### Poster / Drawing / Painting Competition

Category	Details
A - School students	8th to 12th standard students
B - Higher Education	Undergraduate and Postgraduate
C - General	

- Paint / draw or sketch and click the photo of it. Submit the photo / scanned copy in JPEG / PNG format with maximum size of 5 MB.
- Participants will be informed after selection and will be given place for display in the Expo during the National Conference

### Blog Writing Competition

- Participants shall select any one of the topics listed above
- Maximum words limit = To be decided based on the age groups
- Font - Times New Roman, Font size - 12
- Name of participant should be mentioned at the bottom of the write up
- Only 'pdf' format will be accepted for the evaluation.
- Write-up should be either in Marathi, Hindi or English

### Quiz Competition

- For 8th to 10th standard students.
- 3 Students per team per school

**Registration** - For Registration, details and submission  
<https://vijnanabharati.org/events/agharkar/index.html>

**Last Date of Registration and Submission of Entries**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022**

**Cash Prizes and E Certificates for Winners and Participants**



## Documentary Film Production

Film highlighting the inspirational lives and works of Prof Shankar Agharkar shall be screened on the inauguration of national conference. It will be later available for screening in different educational, academic and scientific institutions of repute throughout the nation.



## Publication

A coffee table book on the Life Story of Prof Shankar Agharkar will be prepared and will be published in the main event inauguration on 18th November 2022.

The life story of Prof Agharkar will be written in story format and will be published for school students during the event.



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