

## Illustrious Maharashtrians to descent on Pune

Open interview with prominent Marathi entrepreneurs who have left a mark in foreign countries, sportsperson, scientist, artists and educationists will be the main attraction of the two day annual conventional of the World Marathi Academy (WMA) on January 6 and 7.

The convention, titled 'Shodh Marathi Manach-2007', will be inaugurated by planning commission member Bhalchandra Mugekar in the presence of actor Shriram Lagoo and IT expert from the Silicon Valley Prakash Bhalerao at the MIT Campus on the Paud road on January 6 to 9 am.

Addressing a news conference here on Sunday poet Ramdas Phutane, chairman of WMA, said the valedictory function of the meet would be held at Vishwarup Darshan Manch at Alandi on January 7 at 7pm. All the programmes would be held at the MIT campus. "The aim of the convention is to inspire Marathi youth to achieve greater heights."

Interview with prominent Marathi personalities, who have left a mark abroad, will be conducted in a session titled 'across the sea' chief Milind Sovani (Singapore), Prakash Bhalerao (US), entrepreneur Shriniwas Thanekar (US), scientist Kalpana Nimkar (US), Prabhakar and Gauri Bhogale (Nigeria) will be interviewed.

The personalities for the session was not just their individual success but also the fact that they have been helping other Marathis, Putane said.

The second part of 'across the sea', scheduled on January 7, will include Sunil Deshmukh, Anil Deshpande (both from the US), Moses Chandgaonkar, Issac Awaskar and Perikar (all from Israel).

Interviews of university vice chancellors Narendra Jadhav (Pune), Vikas Khole (Mumbai), Nagnath Kotapalle (Aurangabad) and Manikarao Salukhe (Kolhapur) will be organized on the first day.

The session titled 'winds of sahyadri' will feature road expert Dattatreya Mhaiskar and industrialists Prakash Ratnaparakhi and Pramod Chowdhary.

The Programmes on January 7 will start with interaction with scientists Vasant Gowariker, Vijay Bhatkar and Chandrakant Panday. It will be followed by open interviews with TV personality Rajdeep Sardesai, film Director Madhur Bhandarkar and actors Vikram Gokhale and Milind Gunaji. Marathi sports persons who will share their views include cricketers Bapu Nadkarni Chandu Borde and shooter Anjali Bhagwat.

Students who wish to attend the convention have been asked to contact the principals. Other delegates will be charged Rs.100. The entry cards will be available at the MIT college and hotel Pathik on J.M.Road.