



A list of great artists would be incomplete if Dr. Shriram Lagoo's name is not included: Vikram Gokhale

Pune, January 15, 2020: "Dr. Shriram Lagoo was an asset to Indian theatre and if a list of great artists is prepared without mentioning the name of Dr. Lagoo then it would remain incomplete. Honoured with the PIFF Distinguished Award at the film festival which is dedicated to Dr. Lagoo was very heart-warming and gratifying," said national award winner veteran actor, Vikram Gokhale.

He was speaking at a Press conference organized by Pune Film Foundation and Maharashtra Government as a part of the 18th Pune International Film Foundation (PIFF) today at Deccan Rendezvous, Pune in presence of Dr. Jabbar Patel, Director, PIFF.

"Dr. Lagoo besides being famous was also an intelligent actor and I learned a lot from him. Once while watching me perform on the stage he had told Dr. Shanta Jog that my acting prowess was natural and spontaneous. I guess that was the biggest compliment I had ever received," he said.

Speaking on theatre, Gokhale said, "I think theatre is the only place that can develop self-confidence among budding actors. Theatre is different from films where you can get several takes. Theatre gives you a chance to learn more and more and makes you a good actor," he added. He also complimented Jabbar Patel for being his positive critic since the early days of his career stating how Patel's criticism helped him to improve.

Gokhale accordingly also pointed toward the recent controversy involving Vinayak Savarkar. "I am a fan of Savarkar as I know what he stood for. The people who have been vilifying and belittling Savarkar should read and do some research about him first. I also ask Congress leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi what do they know about Savarkar and who has given them right to malign him," Gokhale said. He also spoke regarding the recent protest over Citizenship Amendment Act, which he said was unwanted. "I am in support of CAA. Why should an Indian taxpayer take the burden of illegal immigrants? When it comes to such issues, I am with the PM," he said.

Since there has been no censorship in the entertainment content shown on OTT platforms, Gokhale said that it was being misused. "Time has come to think about what steps can be taken to stop this misuse. But at the same time, it should be done on government level and no unauthorized or unofficial faction should get involved in it," he said.

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(L-R) Dr. Jabbar Patel and Vikram Gokhale at a Press Conference organized by Pune Film Foundation and Maharashtra Government as a part of the 18th Pune International Film Foundation (PIFF).