

Malin's kids meet city academicians

In need of moral support following disaster, students seek inspiration from renowned scientist, historian

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punemirror.feedback@gmail.com

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Nine months ago, Class-VIII student Pravin Shelke lost his parents, grandparents, two sisters and a brother to the deadly Malin landslide, which claimed 151 lives on July 30, 2014.

On Tuesday, Shelke and his 13 friends, all students who lived in Malin, were in the city to meet two noted academicians — scientist Jayant Narlikar and historian Babasaheb Purandare.

Speaking to *Mirror*, Shelke said, "I like mathematics and science and would want to pursue a career in it. The IUCAA lecture has given me confidence." Shelke escaped the disaster as he was at his relatives' house in the village of Panchale Khurda. The students also attended a lecture by scientist Jayant Narlikar on the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), located at the university campus.

Science student Vishal Zanzre, who lost 25 family members to the landslide, was also one of the 14 students. "I had heard about Narlikar and Purandare, but never thought I would ever meet them. It has inspired me to study further and achieve something in the field of science," said Zanzre, who recently appeared for his Class-XII examination.

The students met Purandare at his resi-



Students with Nirlekar at IUCAA

dence and later headed to Swargate for lunch.

Tukaram Lembhe, a teacher who also hails from Malin, accompanied the students. He said such initiatives are needed to inspire them and provide them with much-needed mental support. "I have been observing these students from the day of the incident and have realised that they need mental support. From the point of view of

their future, it is highly essential," Lembhe said.

Milind Bhoi, president of the city-based Shankarrao Bhoi Smruti Pratishthan, which organised this initiative, said they have been organising various programmes over the past six months. "The basic objective is to provide the students with mental support and impetus to continue with further studies," he said.