



परमयोग्यप्रदो जीवन्तम्

BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

170, Triplicane High Road,
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MAHAVEER AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR

1997

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR

Some of our countrymen have been serving their fellow citizens in various walks of life without any consideration of returns, material or otherwise. They continue to languish not so much for want of material resources but for want of even mere recognition. Most give up their efforts disillusioned and disheartened. Others who would have embarked upon such noteworthy efforts also stand discouraged. Some of them have been feeling that such selfless services should be recognised, if not for anything else, atleast for setting an example to those who would like to light a little candle rather than continue to blame the darkness.

THE FOUNDATION, ITS AIMS & OBJECTS

Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation was set up as a Public Charitable Trust on 22nd April 1994 by Sri N Sugal Chand Jain, a well known business man.

The Trustees of the Foundation are Sri N Sugalchand Jain, Sri G.N. Damani, Sri S. Prasanchand Jain and Sri S. Vinodh Kumar.

The main object of the Foundation is to recognise, promote and preserve "Excellence in Human Endeavour" in all forms of human activity but especially in the fields of propagation of Non-violence, Truth, Vegetarianism, Education, Medicine, Community and Social Services and also objects of advancement of general public utility with emphasis on the benefits of such endeavours reaching the poor and down-trodden. It is also the object of the Foundation to provide relief to the poor and handicapped people, including provision of adequate facilities for Education and Medical

Aid and to arrange relief to the affected on occasions of natural calamities like flood, drought, earthquake, etc.,

THE AWARDS

The Foundation has instituted Bhagwan Mahaveer Awards for nurturing Excellence in Human Endeavour :- Award A for excellence in the propagation of Truth, Non-violence and Vegetarianism and Award B for excellence in the sphere of Education, Medicine, Community and Social Service. The awardee shall be a person / Institution of outstanding and selfless service in the related fields.

Each Award consists of a cash prize of Rs.5 lacs, a Citation and a memento.

The Selection Jury comprising of Sri C. Subramaniam, former Union Minister of Finance and former Governor of Maharashtra, as Chairman, Justice E.S. Venkataramiah, former Chief Justice of India, Sri K. Parasaran, former Attorney General, Sri Mafatlal M Mehta, Industrialist, Dr. Ms Usha Mehta, President, Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Sri Suresh Krishna, Industrialist and Acharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj, Chairperson; Veerayatan, Rajgir, Bihar, as members, selects the Awardees each year.

EARLIER RECIPIENTS

The earlier recipients of the Awards are "Veerayatan", a socio religious institution of Rajgir, Bihar (1995), Sri S. Jagannathan & Smt. Krishnammal Jagannathan, an octogenarian couple of Gandhigram, Dindigul (1996) for excellence in the field of Non-violence, Truth and Vegetarianism and Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narianpur, Bastar

District, Madhya Pradesh (1996) for excellence in the field of Social and Community Service.

BHAGWAN MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR 1997

The Foundation received 211 nominations from all over the country for the Mahaveer Awards A and B for the year 1997. The Selection Jury met on the 20th of March 1997 at Chennai and selected Sri Ratanlal C Bafana, Maharashtra, for excellence in the sphere of Vegetarianism and Sri Anna Hazare, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, for excellence in the sphere of Social & Community Service.

Sri Ratanlal C Bafana, has dedicated his life to campaigning for Vegetarianism and Non-violence. He has travelled all over the country on this mission and has also published number of articles on Vegetarianism. Apart from organising lecture programmes on the subject, he has arranged exhibitions on Vegetarianism at a number of places. His other social service activities include the provision of medical help at nominal rates at Mahaveer Jain Hospital, provision of help to victims of natural calamities, as also making available meals to the poor and the needy at nominal rates.

Sri Anna Hazare has implemented a number of projects for water management through farmers co-operatives. He has campaigned against the consumption of liquor and has recently undertaken a campaign against corruption in public life.

The function for the presentation of Awards is scheduled to be held at Chennai on Mahaveer Jayanthi Day, Sunday the 20th April 1997. Dr. Karan Singh, M.P, would present the Awards. Sri C. Subramaniam, Former Governor of Maharashtra and Chairman of the Foundation would preside over the function.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

In pursuit of its objectives in promoting excellence, Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation has also instituted cash prizes for students who have achieved excellence at examinations. In 1995, 21 students have been honoured with cash prizes. In 1996, not only 19 students have been given such cash prizes, but also the teachers who have coached them to achieve such excellence have been honoured with cash prizes. The Foundation has presented silver shields to the two schools whose students achieved State First Ranks in the Higher Secondary and Matriculation Examinations.

Another step in the direction of promoting excellence is the Awards for Exemplary Bravery instituted by the Foundation. Under this scheme any person who is incapacitated while saving a fellowman in distress will be provided with rehabilitation assistance. Similar assistance would also be provided to the survivors of such a Good Samaritan in the event he loses his life in the process.

The Foundation has a plan to construct a Rest House to accommodate family members who accompany patients who are admitted to the speciality hospitals for prolonged treatment, in the city of Chennai.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP

The Sugal & Damani Group are running various business ventures such as Organisation of Lotteries, Financial Management, Equipment Leasing, Development and Sale of Farms and House Sites, Travel Management, Diamond Trading, Courier service etc.,

Sri. Sugalchand Jain has also, with the active co-operation of his co-trustees sought and developed avenues for utilising a substantial part

of his wealth for improving the lot of the poor. He has set up a number of Charitable Trusts such as the Singhvi Charitable Trust, Sri. Jadavbai Nathmal Singhvi Charitable Trust, besides the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, for channelising the resources to deserving causes. The Charitable activities undertaken by the Trusts include running of a Diagnostic Centre providing Diagnostic Services at very reasonable rates to the public, holding Health Camps, Yoga Camps, Eye Camps, provision of Scholarship to deserving students and running of a Higher Secondary School at Chennai. A prayer cum meditation centre has also been set up to provide much needed mental solace amidst the tensions of modern day life.

Another project that is being implemented is the provision of support equipment such as tricycles, calipers and artificial limbs to the handicapped at no cost. Free eye glasses are also provided to poor patients.

While the Trusts under the Management of Sri. Sugal Chand Jain are doing their best to improve the lot of the poor and the needy, there are limits to what a small group of individuals can do. We would therefore, request the enlightened section of the public to contribute generously to the Foundation so that the scope and content of its activities can be expanded.

Donations to the various Trusts in the Group are exempt from Income Tax u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act. More particularly donations to the Singhvi Charitable Trust are entitled to 100% exemption from Income Tax under the provisions of 35 AC of the Income Tax Act.

