

BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION



परस्यरोपग्रहो जीवानाम्

Fifth Mahaveer Awards

1999



BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

A PROFILE

The Foundation was setup in the year 1994 by Sri N.Sugalchand Jain with a view to identifying the clan of Good Samaritans spread throughout the country and focus public attention on their activities. The initiative took concrete shape in the form of the institution of Annual Awards namely the Mahaveer Awards to the institutions and individuals, whose services to the needy sections of the humanity met the exacting standards of evaluation prescribed by the Foundation. There are three annual awards today for Excellence in Human Endeavour in the fields of Truth, Non-violence and Vegetarianism, Education and Medicine, Community and Social service. Nominations are invited from all over the country for this purpose and the final Awardees are decided by a Selection Jury headed by Bharat Ratna C.Subramaniam. Since the year of its inception 11 Awards have so far been given away. The other activities of the Foundation include the provision of Cash Awards to meritorious students obtaining top ranks in the public examinations held in the State. Awards are also provided to the schools and teachers who motivate students towards higher levels of performance. The Foundation hopes to extend the scope and content of its activities in the coming years and invites all like-minded institutions and individuals to join hands with it in its mission of helping the weaker sections of the society.

नमो अरिहंताणं
नमो सिध्दाणं
नमो आयरियाणं
नमो उवज्झायाणं
नमो लोए सव्वसाहूणं
एसो पंच नमोक्कत्रये
सव्वपावप्पणासणों ।
मंगलाणंच सव्वेसिं,
पढमं ह्वई मंगलम् ।



भगवान महावीर



BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

Presentation of
FIFTH MAHAVEER AWARDS
for Excellence in the Human Endeavour

to
Mrs. MANEKA GANDHI
(Non-violence & Vegetarianism)

Dr. G. VENKATASWAMY
(Education & Medicine)

and
**BHAGWAN MAHAVEER VIKLANG
SAHAYATA SAMITI, JAIPUR**
(Community & Social Service)

Presentation of Awards
Dr. KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI,
Honourable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu

Bharat Ratna Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM
presides over the function.

Date : 3.4.1999
(Saturday)

Time
6.30 p.m.

Venue
KALAIVANAR ARANGAM,
Wallajah Road, Chennai - 600 002.

Cover Page :- Fourth Mahaveer Awards Day - April 1998 - New Delhi
Shri C. Subramaniam presenting a memento to the
Vice President of India, Shri Krishan Kant
Also seen in the picture : Trustees Shri G.N. Damani (extreme left) and
Shri N. Sugalchand Jain (third from left)



Dr. KALAINAR M. KARUNANIDHI
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu

Welcome Address

by Sri. N. Sugatchand Jain

FOUNDER TRUSTEE OF BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION,
AT THE FIFTH MAHAVEER AWARDS DAY 1999 ON 3.4.1999

It appears that only the other day I was welcoming an equally distinguished gathering at the 4th Mahaveer Awards Day function held at Delhi in April last. Yet another year has rolled by and we have gathered once again to applaud and honour meritorious individuals and institutions who have showed extraordinary interest and achieved outstanding success in the chosen fields of service to the relatively weaker sections of the community.

The Foundation of which I have the honour of being a Trustee has been set up in the name of Sri Bhagwan Mahaveer, the 24th Tirthankar of the Jain order. Bhagwan Mahaveerji happened to live 2,600 years ago and has left an indelible mark on the successive generations of our land. His philosophy, no doubt carried forward the tenets proclaimed by his 23 predecessors, but he has made considerable impact on succeeding generations of our countrymen mainly on account of his strong advocacy of Ahimsa in all its comprehensive aspects - relating ahimsa to thought, deed and action affecting all living creatures be it a towering elephant or an unicellular bacteria, a sadhu or an humble householder. The basic aspects of his philosophy consist of Anekantha - broadly meaning tolerance of differing view points, Sathya, Truthfulness, Aparigraha - non-attachment and non-possession of material things, Bramachariya - Practice of celibacy and Astheya - non-acquisition of things not belonging to one. His philosophy had spread not only to every nook and corner of the country but has crossed the national frontiers generating positive response from all over the world. By naming the Foundation after him the founders hope to draw inspiration from the values advocated by him.

Judged by the number of nominations received by the Foundation it is gratifying to

note that within five years of its coming into existence the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation has succeeded in identifying nearly 1500 individuals and institutions who are toiling in serving their fellowmen without any consideration of reward, material or otherwise. It is an entirely different matter that the Foundation has been able to honour only eleven of these entities with the Bhagwan Mahaveer Awards in all these 5 years. Those of us who have put in time and effort in scrutinising the nominations realised that almost everyone of the nominees deserves an Award for their selfless service. But then, the Foundation's resources are not as large as the Trustees' hearts and do not provide the required wherewithal for more than eleven awards. I would therefore like to take this occasion to place on record, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Members of the Selection Jury our warmest commendation to all those engaged in serving major chunks of humanity. By and by, we hope to increase the number of awards but even then, I am certain that we will not be able to increase them to accommodate all the deserving candidates.

It is equally gratifying that we have in our midst today Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi, The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, no stranger to public service in all its aspects. We are proud to have him with us today for giving away the awards to the selected awardees. To repeat a cliché, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi is too well known to all our countrymen to need an introduction. His eminence as a writer and speaker in Tamil, is unsurpassed and at present you will agree nobody comes anywhere close to him in this particular field. On the last occasion when he was with us on a similar errand of encouraging the physically handicapped, we were inspired to conduct the entire proceedings in Tamil and notwithstanding our relative inadequacy in

this regard. We are making bold to continue the tradition and conducting today's proceedings entirely in Tamil. We hope he would forgive us any lapses in this regard. I am sure all of you will join me in extending him the heartiest welcome.

We also welcome the other Honourable

has been a guiding hand all along. He has been helping us all these years, counselling, encouraging and even admonishing where necessary. He has been largely responsible for making the Foundation what it is today. We are looking forward to the day when the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation will organise another such occasion to celebrate his



Bharat Ratna Sri. C. Subramaniam

Former Governor of Maharashtra
& Chairman
Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation

Ministers for honouring us by being present here on this occasion. Such encouragement would help us to do better than our best in our mission, of encouraging social service.

Once again we turn to the head of our family Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam who is happily present with us here. To modify what was said of another great personality in earlier days, Sri Subramaniam has a capacity to illuminate everything he comes in contact with. He has been associated with the Foundation's activities from the date the idea was conceived by a small group of us and

attaining 100 years. We are sure that his advice will continue to be available to us for years to come. We take great pleasure in welcoming you sir, to this function.

The Foundation's success could be attributed to the credibility the selection process has achieved in the minds of the public. Obviously this credibility is a reflection of the objectivity, personal integrity and the eminence of the members of the distinguished selection jury. We are also happy that Dr. L.M. Singhvi the distinguished Jurist has joined the Selection Jury this year.

Naturally this Foundation is extremely grateful to all the members of the jury and extends a very warm welcome to them.

Obviously there would be no need for us to gather here this evening but for the awardees. The Foundation realises the tremendous difficulties and even humiliation on occasion under which the awardees are working in the field solely with a view to helping the needy. On behalf of all of us here I extend a very hearty and warm welcome to the awardees, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, Dr.G.Venkataswamy and Sri B.P. Jain of the Mahaveer Viklang Samiti, Jaipur.

Now we come to the reasons for the existence of the Foundation. As I had occasion to point out earlier the major object was to identify, nurture and develop Excellence in Human Endeavour in all walks of community service. Apart from encouraging institutions and individuals already engaged in such services the Foundation wanted to entice more institutions and individuals to enter the field of social service and to assure them that their activities would not remain unknown and unhonoured. The fact that more and more nominations are received year after year, means that a large number of these entities have atleast been identified and public attention focussed to a certain extent on their meritorious work. Hopefully the Foundation will continue to attract more and more nominations and come out with selections which receive equal approbation from all sections of the society.

Now we come to this year's awards. I do not think there is anybody in the country, cutting across, all forms of differences, who has not recognised the incomparable service rendered by Smt. Maneka Gandhi in the field of animal welfare. The citation which will be read before you later on would say everything that needs to be said on the subject of her contribution in this field. Suffice it to say at this stage that we in the Foundation and the selection jury could not even think of anybody else who could even be a runner up in this field of kindness to animals.

Dr.Venkataswamy the Founder of Aravind Eye Hospital and Post-Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology at Madurai and elsewhere has distinguished himself in providing medical and surgical care to patients suffering from visual defects. Lakhs of people have been benefited, and quite a few of them at no cost to themselves, by these institutions setup by Dr.Venkataswamy during the past two decades. We are confident that the recognition accorded to Dr.Venkataswamy would provide an incentive for similar institutions coming up in other parts of the country.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur is another institution which has no peer. Its innovation of the Jaipur Foot, its humane consideration to the physically handicapped have all enabled the institute to carve a niche for itself in the field of social service in the country. The Foundation warmly commends its activities in rehabilitating the handicapped.

In order to save time, I have refrained from elaborating on the activities of the awardees at this stage. The citations which will be presented to them later during the function would say all that the Foundation and Selection Jury have to say on the merits of the three awardees which enabled them to run away with the Mahaveer Awards this year.

Obviously the Foundation's work would not be as effective and as successful as it is today but for the constructive and immense co-operation we have been receiving from the sponsors and other enlightened members of the public who have put in considerable time and effort in identifying the nominees and sponsoring their cases to the Foundation in adequate detail with supporting evidence. The presence of a large number of people today gladdens our heart because this very presence is definitely a sign of the continued interest the members of the public who are taking interest in the activities of the Foundation and of those who are engaged in serving the fellowmen. We are sure that this encouragement will continue in future also.

As usual, Members of the Media, All India Radio, and Doordarshan have been

extremely considerate and effective in bringing the services of the Foundation to the notice of the public.

My Colleagues and Co-Trustees have been providing unstinted help and encouragement in redefining the contours of the Foundation's activities and giving shape to new ideas. I realise that no one of us, not even a few of us, can equal all of us in fruitfully shaping any endeavour. As charity begins at home, our hope is to achieve excellence in the field of our own activities namely the identification and development of social service and we hope that we have been successful albeit in a modest way.

It will be inappropriate on my part, if apart from welcoming all of you, I do not have a special word of thanks to Honourable Dr.Kalaingar Karunanidhi for his ready acceptance of our request to be present on this occasion and give away the awards. I once again on behalf of Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, its Chairman, and the Members of the Selection Jury, would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr.Kalaingar Karunanidhi and also place on record our warmest thanks for his presence here.

Most of you may smell a rat when the thanks given on any given occasion, are a little effusive but let me make it very clear that our thanks to the Chief Minister are sincere and genuine. However, as every businessman does, in addition to my thanks, I have a request to place before the Honourable Chief Minister. All of us would have noticed that we have statues for almost every distinguished Seer or Sage of our country at Chennai, but none has been erected so far to commemorate the major preceptor of the Jain Philosophy namely, Bhagwan Mahaveer. A sage of unquestioned repute, cutting across all borders, whether of caste, community or even national frontiers, his 2500th Anniversary which fell 98 years ago should have been the occasion for erecting the statue of Bhagwan Mahaveer at Chennai, as Jainism was practiced in Tamil Nadu from time immemorial. As we celebrated his 2598th birth anniversary a few days back on the 29th March we thought that

we should make good this omission during the 2600th anniversary falling a couple of years from now in the year 2001. We are therefore proposing to install a huge statue of Sri Mahaveerji at Chennai comparable to the one of Gomateswara presently located at Shravanabelgola in Karnataka State (probably of about 60 feet in height). As you are aware the Father of the Nation, Gandhiji drew inspiration from the philosophy of Mahaveerji particularly relating to the fields of Truth and Non-violence. We are therefore utilising this occasion to request our Honourable Chief Minister Dr.Kalaingar Karunanidhi to assist the people of Tamilnadu in general and those of the Jain Community in particular in this gigantic endeavour by providing an appropriate site for the location of such a statue. Every one will agree that the proposal will not attract any criticism or lead to any controversy. Dr Kalaingar, himself a Tamil scholar of great repute, is well aware of the active and constructive role played by the Jain philosophers in the cultural life of Tamilnadu. Silappadikaram one of the greatest Tamil epics was written by Illango Adigal, a Jain saint is one such important segment of the cultural contribution. We are also aware of the Chief Minister's sympathetic and affectionate attitude towards the Jain community which has always blended itself into the cultural ethos and economic life of Tamilnadu.

We have even thought of a tentative location for the proposed site viz. the junction of the road coming from the Airport, and the road coming from Raj Bhavan towards Saidapet (roughly close to the Chinnamalai suburb). We will be extremely grateful if the Honourable Chief Minister can see his way to acceding to our request at the earliest possible occasion as the proposed venture will take two to three years for completion and we would like to open the statue for the public before the end of the year 2001.

Once again I warmly welcome all of you on the occasion.



Sri N. Sugalchand Jain



Sri G.N. Damani

**TRUSTEES OF
BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION**



Sri S. Prasanchand Jain



Sri S. Vinodh Kumar

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE SPHERE OF NON-VIOLENCE & VEGETARIANISM



Mrs. Maneka Gandhi

Notwithstanding the strict injunctions, against exploitation of the weak by the physically strong, by almost all the world religions, humanity has been exploiting animals and birds for satisfying their own needs and desires, be it for food or for enjoyment, taking the form of hunting of animals or taking part in nauseating events such as bull fighting or bull baiting. In fact even killing of animals for food is rarely done with mercy or consideration; the animals are tortured and allowed to die slowly and painfully. Even the so called domestic pets such as the loyal dogs are rarely taken good care of. In most of the cases, they are at best tolerated for their use in guarding one's person or property.

It is in this context, that the role played by Mrs. Maneka Gandhi assumes

greater significance. She is one of those rare people who have real empathy for all God's living creatures specially those which cannot protect themselves against the villainy of what is euphemistically known as the superior race. For over two decades now, Mrs. Gandhi has played a dynamic role in designing and implementing measures for the protection of animals, birds and other living creatures such as reptiles. Be it a hospital for taking exclusive care of birds, or a Ghouseala or a Pinjrapol or a Kennel for the dogs, she is finding ways of improving their structuring and contents with an eye on the ultimate beneficiary. Over this period she has been carrying on a running fight with official bodies seeking greater consideration in sterilising stray animals and in destroying rabid ones. She has found a home for a large number of unwanted pets and is helping in building hospitals and animal sanctuaries to take care of animals at places where none exist so far. She has agitated valiantly against cruel practices amounting to torture of animals and birds. She has exploded a large number of myths such as the one that states that snakes possess nagamani. Her large number of books and her T.V. shows focusing on animal welfare

continue to attract millions of readers and viewers. She is also the Chairperson of the "People for Animals" movement whose sole aim is to provide for the well being of all living creatures.

She has been a staunch supporter of vegetarianism mainly because non-vegetarianism involves destruction of animals even if the means adopted for slaughtering them are the most merciful. Her argument is that one section of God's creatures can ill afford to kill another section belonging to the same category for their personal pleasure. She has also disproved a large number of reasons usually attributed by non-vegetarians in support of meat eating by pointing out that there are equally nutrient vegetarian alternatives available to take care of our needs for growth.

Eventhough the laws of the country provide for stringent punishment for violation of the dignity of the animals by overloading them or ill treating them otherwise, cruelty to animals in one form or another is still widespread mainly because of the ignorance of the Law Enforcement Agencies, particularly at the grassroot level, of the provisions of these laws. She has made a dent in this area of ignorance by arranging for a compilation of all laws relating to animal welfare. She is also chairing a number of committees

engaged in the work relating to animal welfare, providing that spark which is so necessary to ignite the noble but dormant instincts in a large number of individuals and organisations. Her dynamic leadership in this area has resulted in the spread of public awareness of the long neglected need for protection of animals and birds which as part of the nation's valuable inheritance, contribute to its environmental balance. All these only go to show that even a single candle is enough to light a million lamps, if there is even a single individual who is willing to go round lighting these lamps.

This is the backdrop against which the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation has chosen her for the Mahaveer Award'99 for Excellence in Human Endeavour in the field of Non-violence and Vegetarianism. The country particularly the animal kingdom owes Mrs.Gandhi a huge bouquet for her emotional support, dynamic leadership and the effective results she has achieved in promoting their welfare notwithstanding her other more demanding and urgent preoccupations. Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation joins the millions of Indians interested in animal welfare in congratulating Mrs.Maneka Gandhi for getting the Mahaveer Award'99 for Non-violence and Vegetarianism.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION AND MEDICINE



Dr. G. Venkataswamy

Till recently people were resigned to accept, whatever in their view fate had in store for them. These include millions of our countrymen who are born blind or became blind by accident or neglect or were making good with bare minimum vision. They thought that this was God's way of punishing them for their sins in their previous births. But over the years, people have started realising that if one believes in a divinity which is kind and considerate, obviously such a divine being would not believe in punishing a large chunk of humanity by depriving them of one of the basic human needs, namely vision. They also realised that the means of restoring or atleast improving vision did exist in certain parts of the world obviously provided by the same Almighty and were available to all its children. Once this

became general knowledge coming up of an institution to assist the people in curing them of their blindness or defective vision was just one step ahead. A large number of individuals and institutions started taking the lead in setting up hospitals for treatment of diseases connected with the eye.

One of the few institutions which have come up in TamilNadu in this field, is the Aravind Eye Hospital & Post-Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology. From a modest beginning in 1976 the institution has developed into what it is today, namely a full fledged Eye Hospital and a Post-Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology. The Hospital provides comprehensive services relating to Eye treatment including surgery and over 90 lakhs of people have been so far benefited by these services during the last two decades. The Hospital has developed a number of institutions providing related facilities such as the manufacture of intra-ocular lenses pharmaceuticals etc. The Aravind Medical Research Foundation is also involved in basic clinic and operation research in collaboration with leading international institutions.

Most of these services are provided by the Hospital at reasonable

costs. What is equally relevant is that people who are relatively well off are able to get themselves cured either through operation or by purchase of spectacles at their own cost. But as matters stand today, almost 2/3rd of the population are under the poverty line which does not permit them to have recourse to any effective treatment. It is in this context that the services rendered by the Aravind Eye Hospital & Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology assumes significance. A large percentage of the patients treated by the Hospital are below the poverty line and the treatment provided to them is entirely free of cost.

As no vehicle can move without a prime mover providing the motive force, no institution can develop into a successful one, i.e. an effective one in the absence of a leader capable of pulling and where necessary pushing it in the desired direction. Dr.G.Venkataswamy the Founder of the institution has provided this type of leadership to the Hospital for over two decades and has been almost single handedly responsible for the growth of the institution. The institution has branched out all over Tamil Nadu with Branches at Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Theni. It has become virtually a household name in Tamil Nadu for its quality treatment with emphasis on use of the latest techniques of treatment and surgery.

Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhiji and Sri Aurobindo, Dr Venkataswamy realised early in life that the best way to serve our nation was to do the best in whatever role one is trained for and one need not become a sadhu or a martyr to serve humanity and God. Even though theoretically he retired from active service in 1976 his best was to come during the subsequent years of his life. Though suffering from rheumatoid arthritis from his early years and also weakened by the ravages of time, Dr. Venkataswamy set about systematically to set up a comprehensive organisation for providing treatment to millions of our countrymen suffering from eye defects. Though grateful patients revere him virtually as God, he considers himself only as a tool in the hands of God while serving the patients. His goal is to spread the hope of relief from pain to every nook and corner of the country.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation is happy in congratulating Dr.G.Venkataswamy for his getting the Mahaveer Award for Excellence in Human Endeavour for the year 1999 in the field Education and Medicine. We fervently hope that the presentation of this Award would stimulate many more individuals and organisations to come forth to serve the public.

We are sure that Dr.Venkataswamy will also welcome the competition !

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE SPHERE OF SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti

Our ancient lores are full of stories of handicapped men ruling kingdoms and emerging victorious in wars even ending up marrying beautiful princesses notwithstanding their handicaps, be it a lost arm or a leg. But these successes even if they were true, were confined to very few. Virtually the entire handicapped segment of the population continued to suffer indignities, wallow in poverty and kept cursing their maker for their handicaps. The tragedy was greater in cases, when the concerned persons were born with all their limbs in tact but had lost their limbs either in an accident or on account of some illness, such as polio. Having experienced complete freedom of action they felt terribly upset after the loss of these faculties and spent rest of their lives depressed, dejected, and in some cases even resorted to suicide.

Even after the development of medical science, access to artificial limbs was costly, taking a lot of time and the limbs were too complicated to use and therefore physically enervating. It is in this background the services provided by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti assumes considerable significance in the lives of handicapped persons in the country who had lost the use of their legs. The Jaipur Foot designed by the Samiti and produced on a large scale could virtually be deemed to be a miracle for those who had lost their legs either above or below the knees. One of the Foundation's representatives watched with pleasant surprise when a man who has lost his knee walked in to be measured for an artificial limb, watched the limb being made and fitted to the individual and the individual walked away in visible happiness and satisfaction all within a period of about 90 to 100 minutes. People who have been fitted with this device can walk, run, climb a tree or even ride a cycle, let alone a car. All of us are also aware of the famous dancer who has been fitted with this device and has been dancing her way into the hearts of millions of admirers.

The patients and their attendants who visit the institution are treated as honourable guests and not as supplicants and what is more, everything is done with great concern to the sensitivity of the disabled and entirely free of cost. The Samiti has helped over four lakhs of people so far with artificial limbs and has also assisted a number of them in getting rehabilitated in life. It is indeed no coincidence or even accident that the reputation of the Jaipur Foot and the Viklang Samiti is spread not only all over India but has also crossed the oceans of the world and thousands of people have been benefited by Jaipur Foot in a number of countries of the world.

Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation warmly congratulates the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, its founders and its management for their humane dynamic and innovative role in providing relief to millions of handicapped people. They have erased the stigma of disability from the hearts and minds of the handicapped and have made them realise that they too can play a useful role in society and in the nation.



Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation 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.

To fulfil this need, Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation was set up as a Public Charitable Trust on 22nd April 1994 by Sri N. Sugalchand Jain, a well known business man and a philanthropist of Tamilnadu.

Trustees of the Foundation :

1. Sri N. Sugalchand Jain
2. Sri G.N. Damani
3. Sri S. Prasanchand Jain
4. Sri S. Vinodh Kumar

Aims & Objects

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, 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.,

Mahaveer Awards

The Foundation has instituted three Mahaveer Awards for Excellence in Human Endeavour. One in the sphere of propagation of Truth, Non-violence and Vegetarianism; second in the sphere of Education and Medicine and the third in the sphere of Social and Community Service.

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

Donations to Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation are exempt from Income Tax u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act.

The Mahaveer Awards 1999

The Foundation received over 326 eligible nominations from all over the country for the Mahaveer Awards for the year 1999. The Selection Jury met on 5th of March, 1999 at Chennai and selected the Awardees for the three Awards for 1999.

Selection Jury

Bharat Ratna Sri C. Subramaniam,
Former Governor of Maharashtra,

Padma Vibushan Dr. Ms. Usha Mehta,
Justice Sri M.V. Venkatachaliah, (Retd.)
Chairman, National Human Rights
Commission

Sri Dipchandji Gardi,
Bar-at-law & Philanthropist,

Sri S. Venkitaramanan,
Former Governor of Reserve Bank
of India,

Poojya Acharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj,
An eminent Sanyasini & Social Reformer,

Padma Bhushan Dr. L.M. Singhvi,
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha),
& Former High Commissioner for India
in U.K.,

Sri Suresh Krishna,
Industrialist

Recipients of 1999 Awards

Award for excellence in the
sphere of Non-violence & Vegetarianism:

Mrs Maneka Gandhi, Union Minister of
State for Social Justice & Empowerment
& Chairperson, People for Animals
A-4, Maharani Bagh,
New Delhi - 110 065.

Award for Excellence in the
sphere of Education & Medicine:

Dr. G. Venkataswamy, Chairman,
Aravind Eye Hospitals & Post-Graduate
Institute of Ophthalmology
1, Anna Nagar,
Madurai - 625 020.
Tamilnadu.

Award for Excellence in the
sphere of Social & Community Service:

**Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata
Samiti**
Sawai Man Singh Hospital,
Jaipur - 302 004.
Rajasthan.

Earlier Recipients

Mahaveer Award 1995

For excellence in the sphere of Social & Community Services,

"Veerayatan", a socio religious institution of Rajgir, Bihar.

Mahaveer Awards 1996

For excellence in the sphere of Non-violence, Truth & Vegetarianism,

Sri S. Jagannathan & Smt Krishnammal Jagannathan, an Octogenarian couple of Gandhigram, Dindigul.

For excellence in the sphere of Social & Community Services,

Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narainpur, Bastar District, Madhya Pradesh.

Mahaveer Awards 1997

For excellence in the sphere of Vegetarianism,

Sri Ratanlal C. Bafna, "Nayantara", Subhash Chowk, Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

For excellence in the sphere of Social & Community Services,

Sri Anna Hazare, Ralegaon Siddhi, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

Mahaveer Awards 1998

For excellence in the sphere of Truth, Non-violence & Vegetarianism.

Sadhu Vaswani Mission, 10, Sadhu Vaswani Road, Pune 411 001.

For excellence in the sphere of Education & Medicine.

Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust Institutions, Coimbatore 641 043.

For excellence in the sphere of Social & Community Service.

Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte & Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte, Maharogi Sewa Samiti, Warora, Post : Anandwan, Via Warora 442 914.

SINGHVI CHARITABLE TRUST ITS MISSION

The Singhvi Charitable Trust was setup by Sri.N.Sugalchand Jain in order to assist weaker section of the community who are unable to take care of their basic needs by themselves especially in the fields of medical assistance and education.

The major activity of the Trust relates to the facilities provided for treatment of eye defects. For this purpose the Trust runs eye camps, both in the City and in the remote rural areas of Tamil Nadu for identifying and treating visual defects with medicines and spectacles based on the recommendations of qualified Eye Doctors. This comprehensive service involves about 2500 patients a month of whom nearly 2000 are provided spectacles entirely free of cost. Provision also exists for detecting cases of dormant diabetes.

Yet another project undertaken by the Singhvi Charitable Trust relates to the collection of used spectacles, getting them repaired and distributing them to those for whom they were useful entirely free of cost. We were pleasantly surprised by the heartwarming response to the project as nearly 5000 spectacles have come in at the first stage of collection, out of which about 500 have been already matched and distributed. The Singhvi Charitable Trust has also undertaken the task of screening the students of all the schools run by the Chennai Corporation and has so far covered 23 schools and 1204 students. Apart from providing glasses to 604 students so far, the scheme has also succeeded in detecting dormant defects at an early stage so that they could be rectified easily.

In addition, assistance is also provided to patients needing major surgery such as Heart Surgery etc to meet part of their expenditure. Other activities of the Trust includes the running of two Schools at Chennai, one having classes upto the Plus Two level and the other providing primary education. The Trust also provides financial assistance in case of deserving students for pursuing their education. A prayer hall is also available for those seeking to practice yoga, meditation and other means of providing physical and mental relief. As part of its mission the Trust also runs a Diagnostic Centre providing investigation facilities including X-Ray and ECG at subsidised rates.

It may be mentioned in passing that all donations to the Singhvi Charitable Trust are completely exempted from Income Tax under Section 35AC and 80G of the Income Tax Act. We are sure that these will provide yet another incentive to those friends of the Singhvi Charitable Trust for coming to the Trust's assistance in cash and kind.

Fourth Mahaveer Awards Day 1998 New Delhi - 9th April 1998
Presentation of Awards For Excellence in Human Endeavour

**Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust
Institutions, Coimbatore
(for Education and Medicine)**



**Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Pune
(for Truth, Non-Violence and Vegetarianism)**



**Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte
&
Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte
Maharogi Sewa Samiti, Warora
(for Social and Community Service)**

