

# BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION'S

## MAHAVEER AWARDS

### A PROFILE

Many individuals and institutions are committed to social justice, to enhance the quality of life of the poor and seek to address and resolve social inequalities at every level of society and economic status especially among the poor and sick. They serve their fellowmen, under very difficult conditions in their self chosen task of community service without any recognition and rewards. There are still areas that continue to be neglected and people are still suffering for want of basic facilities. Therefore, there is the need for more individuals and institutions taking up social service for the growth of the nation. And it is essential for any responsible citizen to recognize such committed individuals and institutions.

**With this determination, Sri N. Sugalchand Jain** developed a strategy to identify, nurture and encourage the individuals and institutions engaged in social service, not only with a view to focusing public attention on their activities, but also to encourage others to take up community and social services as a worthwhile exercise. This initiative took concrete shape in the form of the setting up of the **Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation** as a public charitable trust in 1994 that instituted the annual awards, namely the **Mahaveer Awards** to be given away to individuals and institutions for their selfless service to the needy sections of the community that meet the exacting standards of evaluation prescribed by the Foundation.

## **TRUSTEES OF THE FOUNDATION :**

**Sri S. Prasanchand Jain**  
Managing Trustee

**Sri. P V Krishnamurthy, I.A.A.S. (Retd.)**  
Hony. Executive Trustee

**Trustees**

- 1. Sri N. Sugalchand Jain**
- 2. Sri Gunwant Nagardas Damani**
- 3. Sri S. Vinodh Kumar**
- 4. Sri Pravin. B. Chheda**
- 5. Sri P. Pramod Jain**
- 6. Sri V. Pratik Jain**

**Sri Paras Jain**  
Public Relations

## **THE MAHAVEER AWARDS :**

**The Mahaveer Awards** are instituted to recognize Excellence in Human Endeavour in the fields of

- **Non-violence and Vegetarianism**
- **Education**
- **Medicine**
- **Community and Social Service**

These awards carry a cash component of **Rs.10 Lakhs** (Rupees Ten Lakhs), a Citation and a memento each.

The Foundation also makes two Special Awards, **Dr. Nemichand Jain Memorial Awards** carrying a cash component of **Rs.1 Lakh** (Rupees One Lakh) each for books or other literary works on Vegetarianism in Hindi and English whether published or unpublished.

Nominations are invited from throughout the country for the Awards of Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation by advertising in National Newspapers in English and in all the regional languages. The major criteria for making the award would relate to the benefits reaching the economically and socially backward sections of the community. Individuals who are Indian Nationals and Institutions based in India, doing work of high standard in India would be eligible for these Awards. The Awardees are selected by a Selection Jury headed by **Justice Shri M.N. Venkatachaliah**, Former Chief Justice of India. The Foundation announces the Awardees and honours them at an Awards Day Function.

**SEVENTEETH MAHAVEER AWARDS DAY**  
**CHIEF GUEST OF THE DAY**



**DR. S.S. BADRINATH**  
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS - SANKARA NETHRALAYA

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY  
SHRI. S. PRASANCHAND JAIN  
MANAGING TRUSTEE OF BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION,  
AT THE SEVENTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARDS DAY  
ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

Distinguished members of the audience,

There is a saying that “time and tide wait for no man”. It would appear that only the other day the 16<sup>th</sup> Mahaveer Awards were distributed in the presence of a distinguished gathering such as this at the Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, in the hands of the Vice President, His Excellency Sri Hamid Ansari. But surprisingly



one year has rolled over since the Sixteenth awards were distributed and we are gathered here to give away the 17<sup>th</sup> Mahaveer Awards to entities with commendable record of service in the field of community service.

It is therefore, once again my privilege to welcome a distinguished gathering consisting among others our esteemed and scholarly Dr. S.S. Badrinath as also the members of the Selection Jury to yet another Awards Day.

Sabko Namaskar.

Over a period, we found that a good deal of time elapses between the time when nominations are invited for these

awards and the dates on which the Awards were distributed. Over a period, we were trying to streamline the procedures connected with the evaluation of nominations for the Award and distribution thereof. We felt that it will be a welcome change, if the awards are given away by one of the previous years' Awardees, who is naturally in a position to assess the quality and extent of services rendered by the latter day Awardees. We didn't have to look too deeply to pitch on the eminent person for this purpose. The figure of the Chief Guest was starring at us right in the centre of Chennai i.e. no less a noble figure than that of Dr. S.S. Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus - Sankara Nethralaya and a distinguished Ophthalmologist of International repute and a previous year's awardee. On our request to be present here this day and distribute the Awards, Dr.S.S.Badrinath readily agreed to our request, notwithstanding his physical and professional commitments.

Even though most of us are aware of his achievements over the years, let me run through his life sketch briefly. Born in 1940, in the cultural centre of Chennai namely Triplicane, Dr. S.S. Badrinath had his early education in P.S. High School, Mylapore, Sri Ramakrishna Mission High School, T.Nagar and later entered the Madras Medical college, after passing through Loyola College. Contrary to the popular belief that one needs to study in prestigious institutions before reaching greater heights Dr. Badrinath proved that even though studying in what are considered ordinary institutions one can make the grade.

He had his graduate studies in ophthalmology in the United States of America., began his professional career as a fellow in the vitreoretinal services of Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston. He added to his personal stature by marrying Dr. Vasanthi who is present here today. It is the accepted faith of most of our countrymen that you go abroad for higher studies acquire citizenship of that country and seek employment there

itself. Contrary to this accepted value system Dr. Badrinath studied abroad acquired knowledge and experience and came back to India and put them to use in our country. Spurning inducements to stay back in foreign countries, he returned to India, worked for a period of six years at the Voluntary Health Services, Adyar, set up his private practice in ophthalmology and vitreoretinal surgery at the HM Hospital and Vijaya Hospital, Chennai. What is more important is that Dr. Badrinath, unlike most of us chose to abide by his Guru's advice and set up an institution in India viz. the Sankara Nethralaya.

His professional life took a permanent turn at the suggestion of His Holiness Paramacharya of Kanchi Madam. At their suggestion, he started a medical institution namely the Sankara Nethralaya Group of eye institutions in 1975. Few years later, he founded the Medical Research Foundation. He is currently the President of Medical Research Foundation, of which Sankara Nethralaya is the hospital unit, a charitable non-profit ophthalmic organization. Even though as Chairman Emeritus of Sankara Nethralaya he is supposed to take it relatively easy in his seventies, anybody who visits this institution will see that he is even an iota less busy. He relentlessly pursued the triple objectives of the Foundation; 1. Quality care at affordable cost, 2. Teaching and training of ophthalmologists and paramedical personnel to create an army for combating blindness in India and, 3. Research in vision sciences addressing the ophthalmic problems specific to India.

If we start to categorise the Awards and Titles bestowed on him, over the years, we will not be able to cover them during the remaining part of the function. Suffice it to say that these awards include Padma Sri, Padma Bhushan and Dr. B.C. Roy National Award and the Honorary Doctorate degrees by Annamalai University and Dr. M.G.R. Medical University. He was also the

Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon to the President of India as well as to the Armed Forces of India.

Let me pause and come back to the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation. Though most of us may be aware of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation's activities, let me briefly outline them. The awards had been created for identifying and nurturing Excellence in Human Endeavour in various walks of life such as Non-violence & Vegetarianism, Education & Medicine and Community & social service. There are Four Awards each carrying a cash component of Rs. 10 Lakhs, a memento and a citation. The Foundation has so far given away 47 Awards; spread out over 15 States of the Country.

Over the years, we have been receiving a huge response to our invitation for nominees. Over 400-500 nominations have been received every year, the current year's receipts exceeding over 250.

As we informed you on an earlier occasion, Government of India have issued a Notification exempting the cash component of this award namely Rs.10 Lakhs in the hands of the Awardees from payment of Income Tax, so that they are free to use this amount fully to expand the depth and extent of their activities. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Government of India for this generous gesture.

The details of current year's awards are available in the Brochure, which will be distributed to you shortly as well as in the citations to be read out a little later.

Many of the Nominees who have come closer to being selected for the awards had taken up their task willingly and without any expectation of a reward which itself gives them immense satisfaction. However, the Foundation would like to place on record our humble thanks to them on behalf of the entire community for the quality services being rendered by them.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Foundation's family who have put in remarkable work in the entire process of evaluation.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not place on record the active and constructive support my father Sri Sugalchand Jain has been giving to the Foundation's activities in the recent past. Of course, it was at his initiative that the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation was nurtured through its toddler's days and he is keeping a careful watch on all of us, lest we fail to follow the healthy traditions set up by him. We are grateful to you, Daddy, for functioning as a beacon light to us in our efforts to follow in your footsteps and ensure that the activities of the Foundation rise to greater heights. Incidentally, my thanks also go to the members of relatively younger generations, naturally my brother and sister, the off springs in the family and the latest addition to the family Smt. Shradda Jain, my daughter-in-law. We look forward to welcoming all of them and eventually at a subsequent date handover the reigns to them for continuing the family tradition of dedication to community. They have not only extended their physical, financial and emotional support to this project, but also projects associated with Sugal Group.

Before I close, I would like to welcome the members of the public and the press who are present here today. We hope to meet you, as usual, on the next year's Awards Day.

We will now brief you in slightly more detail about the origin and objects of the Foundation and also inform you about the manner in which the nominations are evaluated and the final awardees decided upon.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Distinguished members of the audience,

Even though most of you are aware of the manner in which the nominations are evaluated by the Foundation permit me to briefly dwell on the subject.

The nominations are sought from all over the country through information in the newspapers, national and regional, besides through over 10,000 letters addressed to eminent persons in public life such as Ministers, MPs, Vice Chancellors, Senior Civil Servants, Media, Social Workers and industrialists, to cite a few. The Selection Jury has put in extraordinary efforts in meticulously selecting the awardees. The members of the Jury have had a tough time in selecting the final awardees and it goes to their credit, and their objectivity that they have been able to arrive at an unanimous decision. The Foundation places on record its sincere thanks and warmest regards to the Chairman of the Selection Jury, Justice Shri M.N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India and the other members of the Selection Jury, namely Justice Sri G.S.Singhvi, Former Judge of the Supreme Court who has recently joined the Selection Jury, Poojya Acharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj, an eminent sanyasini and a social reformer, Shri D.R. Mehta, Ex-Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Prof. B.M. Hegde, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Mangalore Kendra, Mangalore, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman Emeritus - M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, Shri T.S. Krishnamurthy, Chief Election Commissioner of India (Retd), Shri S. Gurumurthy, Journalist and writer from Chennai and Sri Prabhat Kumar, IAS (Retd), former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India.

I take this opportunity to convey my heartiest thanks to the members of the Jury for their efforts and patience in finalizing the Awards. I extend a hearty welcome to them.

I once again want to place on record my grateful thanks and appreciation of the fact that all the members of my family have extended very warm support not only to this project, but also certain other projects associated with Sugal Group which we are implementing as part of their corporate social responsibility.

All our efforts would be in vein, but for the nominees whose selfless work makes our work worthwhile. These entities are working under very difficult conditions in harsh terrain without certain basic facilities such as electricity and even drinking water. All that is expected in return from the beneficiaries is occasionally a smile in acknowledgement of the services provided to them. The fact that more and more organizations have recognized the offer of awards by the Mahaveer Foundation is proved by the fact that nominations have already been received for the next year's awards. These are being evaluated and would be finalized in due course.

We would like to place on record our grateful thanks to the sponsors who has spent time and effort in identifying these individuals and institutions and sending us nominations.

Before I close, I regret to announce the recent death of Sri Dipchandji Gardi, one of the Selection Jury Member of the Foundation. A person of advanced years, inspite of his frail health Sri Gardi did not allow his weakness to affect his role as a Member of Selection Jury. He was invariably present at the Meetings of Selection Jury as also generally at the Award Functions.

He was a philanthropist and was held in high esteem by everybody who knew him over the years.

Courteous to a fault, Sri Gardi played a useful role in the affairs of the Foundation. The Foundation places on record, its great grief on the passing away of this doyen of the Selection Jury.

Thank you,

## **THE SEVENTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARDEES :**

The Foundation received more than 271 nominations from all over the country for the Seventeenth Mahaveer Awards. The Selection Jury met on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Chennai and selected the Awardees for the Seventeenth Mahaveer Awards. The details are as follows.

- *For Excellence in the sphere of Non-violence & Vegetarianism*  
**i) Blue Cross of India**  
**Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
  
- *For Excellence in the sphere of Education*  
**ii) Sri Sarada Ashram**  
**Ulundhurpet, Tamil Nadu**
  
- *For Excellence in the sphere of Medicine*  
**iii) Dr. Sunil Sanon**  
**Mussorrie, Uttarakhand**
  
- *For Excellence in the sphere of Community & Social service*  
**iv) Smt. Phoolbasanbai Yadav**  
**Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh**

## **THE SELECTION JURY FOR THE AWARDS:**

**Justice Shri M.N. Venkatachaliah**

Chairman – Selection Jury

Former Chief Justice of India

**Justice Sri G.S. Singhvi**

Former Judge of Supreme Court of India

**Poojya Acharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj**

Eminent Sanyasini & Social reformer

**Shri D.R. Mehta, I.A.S. (Retd.)**

Former Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India

**Prof. B.M. Hegde**

Chairman

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mangalore Kendra, Mangalore

**Prof. M.S. Swaminathan**

Chairman Emeritus

M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai

**Shri T.S. Krishnamurthy**

Chief Election Commissioner of India (Retd.)

**Shri S. Gurumurthy**

Journalist & Writer

**Sri Prabat Kumar, IAS (Retd)**

Former Cabinet Secretary

**Mahaveer Awards - State wise distribution since 1995**

S. No.	States	Since 1995	Current Year	Total
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	1	-	1
3	Assam	1	-	1
4	Bihar	2	-	2
5	Chattisgarh	-	1	1
6	Gujarat	1	-	1
7	Jharkhand	2	-	2
8	Karnataka	4	-	4
9	Madhya Pradesh	3	-	3
10	Maharashtra	9	-	9
11	New Delhi	2	-	2
12	Orissa	2	-	2
13	Rajasthan	7	-	7
14	Tamilnadu	9	2	11
15	Tripura	1	-	1
16	Uttarakhand	1	1	2
17	West Bengal	1	-	1
Total		47	4	51

**Mahaveer Awards - Field wise distribution since 1995**

S. No.	Fields	Since 1995	Current Year	Total
1	Non-Violence & Vegetarianism	12	1	13
2	Education & Medicine	12		
	Education	3	1	
	Medicine	3	1	20
3	Community & Social Service	17	1	18
	Total	47	4	51

**RECIPIENTS OF MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR THE  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE  
FIELDS OF NON-VIOLENCE & VEGETARIANISM**

AWARD	AWARDEES
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Blue Cross of India</b> Chennai, Tamil Nadu
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Mohd Shafique Khan</b> Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Chiranjee Lal Bagra</b> Kolkata, West Bengal
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Dayananda Swamiji</b> Bangalore, Karnataka
12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA),</b> At Hatapatana, Kendrapara, Orissa
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Bharat Amritlal Kothari,</b> Rajpur, Gujarat
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Siddharaj Dhaddha,</b> Chaura Rasta, Jaipur, Rajasthan
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Late Dr. Nemichand Jain,</b> Indore, Madhya Pradesh
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. Kalyan Motilal Gangwal,</b> Pune, Maharashtra
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Smt. Maneka Gandhi,</b> People for Animals, New Delhi
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sadhu Vaswani Mission,</b> Pune, Maharashtra
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Sri Ratanlal C Bafna,</b> Jalgaon, Maharashtra
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sri S Jagannathan &amp; Smt. Krishnammal Jagannathan,</b> Gandhigram, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

**RECIPIENTS OF MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR THE  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE  
FIELDS OF EDUCATION & MEDICINE**

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>AWARDEES</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tribal Health Initiative,</b> Sittilingi, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu
12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences,</b> Sevagram, Maharashtra
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. Shiv Kumar Sarin,</b> New Delhi
10 <sup>th</sup>	1) <b>Dr. Sharadkumar Dicksheet M.D,</b> Dr. Sharadkumar Dicksheet Charitable Trust (India), Pune, Maharashtra 2) <b>Dr. S S Badrinath,</b> President & Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, Tamilnadu
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan,</b> Jakhan Devi, Almora, Uttaranchal
8 <sup>th</sup>	1) <b>Vivekananda Rock Memorial &amp; Vivekananda Kendra,</b> Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu 2) <b>Marudhar Mahila Shikshan Sangh,</b> Vidyavadi, Kimel, Rajasthan
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. H Sudarshan,</b> Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, Yelandur Tk, Karnataka
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cancer Institute (W I A),</b> Chennai, Tamilnadu
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. G Venkataswamy, Chairman - Aravind Eye Hospital &amp; Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology,</b> Madurai, Tamilnadu
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust Institutions,</b> Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



**THE AWARD FOR EDUCATION AND MEDICINE WERE BIFURCATED INTO SEPARATE AWARDS ONE EACH FOR EDUCATION AND THE OTHER FOR MEDICINE SINCE FOURTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARDS**

**RECIPIENTS OF MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>AWARDEES</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sri Sarada Ashram,</b> Ulundhurpet, Tamil Nadu
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Gandhi Vidya Mandir</b> Churu, Rajasthan
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences</b> Bhubaneswar, Orissa
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Indian Planetary Society</b> Mumbai, Maharashtra

**RECIPIENTS OF MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE**

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>AWARDEES</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. Sunil Sanon,</b> Mussorrie, Uttarakhand
16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. R. Ravi Kannan</b> Silchar, Cachar Dt., Assam
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dr. Anant Sinha</b> Ranchi, Jharkhand
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Voluntary Health Services</b> Taramani, Chennai Tamil Nadu

**RECIPIENTS OF MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR THE  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE  
FIELDS OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICE**

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>AWARDEES</b>
17th	<b>Smt. Phoolbasan Bai Yadav</b> Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh
16th	<b>Smt. Sushila Bohra</b> Jodhpur, Rajasthan
15th	<b>Sri Ramakrishna Mission Hospital</b> Ita Nagar, Arunachal Pradesh
14th	<b>Snehalaya Social Charitable Trust,</b> Solapur, Maharashtra
13th	1) <b>Sri Karni Nagar Vikas Samiti,</b> Gordhanpura, Kota, Rajasthan and 2) <b>Swami Vivekananda Integrated Rural Health Centre,</b> Pavagada, Karnataka
12th	<b>Amar Seva Sangam,</b> Ayikudy, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu
11th	<b>Acharya Dr. Kishore Kunal,</b> Patna, Bihar
10th	<b>Sri Rajmal S Jain,</b> Village Bisalpur, Pali, Rajasthan
9th	<b>Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement,</b> Saragur, Karnataka
8th	<b>Dr. S V Adinarayana Rao,</b> Director General - Prema Hospital, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
7th	<b>Bharat Sevashram Sangha,</b> Sonari West, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

**RECIPIENTS OF MAHAVEER AWARDS FOR THE  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE  
FIELDS OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICE**

AWARD	AWARDEES
6th	<b>Tripura Adivashi Mahila Samithy,</b> (Mrs. Anurupa Mukherjee) Krishna Nagar, Agartala, Tripura
5th	<b>Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti,</b> Sawai Man Singh Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan
4th	<b>Dr. Prakash Murlidar Amte &amp; Dr.Mandakini Prakash Amte,</b> Lok Biradari Prkalp, At: Hemalkasa PO : Bhamragad, Dt.Gadchiroli. Maharashtra - 442710.
3rd	<b>Sri Anna Hazare,</b> Ralegaon Siddhi, Ahmed Nagar, Maharashtra
2nd	<b>Sri Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama,</b> Narainpur, Bastar Dist., Maharashtra
1st	<b>Veerayatan,</b> Rajgir, Bihar

**SEVENTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN THE  
SPHERE OF NON-VIOLENCE (ANIMAL WELFARE)**



**Blue Cross of India, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

In 1964, Captain Sundaram, a pilot (an instructor at the Madras Flying Club) and a staunch crusader against cruelty to animals along with Dr. Chinny Krishna, currently Chairman Emeritus founded the Blue Cross of India (BCI), one of the India's largest animal welfare organizations looking after not less than 1500 resident animals at any point of time.

BCI had taken serious efforts to ban the export of frogs legs & monkeys for experimentation and Jalli Kattu (Bull Racing). It has made Chennai, the first Rabies free city in India through the launch of ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme. Its pioneering work which is recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO) as the only humane way to control the menacing street dog population is being replicated in many advanced countries too.

It has various departments like puppy & dog, kitten & cat shelters, aviary, goshala, operation theatres, outpatient clinics & humane education centre that educates the youth on ahimsa (non-violence), vegetarianism & environmental protection.

BCI, which has rescued cattle from being illegally transported to slaughter houses, fought various cases to save animals and has been serving the cause of sick, confined & injured animals. It has three shelters at Chennai, Kanchipuram & Thiruvallur Districts of TamilNadu. This golden jubilee NGO has been receiving National and International acclaim.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation is privileged to confer the Seventeenth Mahaveer Award on Blue Cross of India in recognition of its yeomen service in the field of Non-violence i.e. animal welfare.

**SEVENTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR  
IN THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION**



**Sri Sarada Ashram, Ulundhurpet, Tamil Nadu**

Sri Saradha Ashram, founded at Virudhachalam in 1979 was shifted to a place near Ulundurpet in 1985, which is about 200 kms from Chennai. In 1992 the Ashram formed the Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Trust for extending social services and to uplift the lives of the rural poor. The Ashram's activities could be broadly brought under educational, health, economic development and family welfare realms.

The Ashram is engaged in running orphanage, hostel, schools for dropout girls, conducting night classes for poor boys in addition to managing Colleges for B.Ed., Arts & Sciences etc. Moreover, it manages free dispensaries, laboratory, hospital, organising camps

etc., besides coordinating with about 500 SHGs, running vocational training programmes, entrepreneurship development projects and organizing free computer centre for girls. On the rural service front it is propagating organic farming, water shed programmes, maintaining herbal gardens etc. Further, in coordination with CAPART (a wing of Rural Development Ministry) many rural projects are being implemented. It is also engaged in family counseling and running an old age home for about 30 women. The Ashram's activities include reaching out to the victims of natural calamities.

The Ashram's two schools, one at Gurukulam has 600 students and another at Ulundurpet has 3700 students besides educating hundreds of students in its colleges. Its activities over the decades has benefitted lacs of people in many villages functioning through over 40 monastic sisters.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation is honoured to confer the Seventeenth Mahaveer Award in the field of Education on Sri Sarada Ashram in due recognition of its great services hoping that it would definitely inspire many more to emulate this institution.

**SEVENTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR  
IN THE SPHERE OF MEDICINE**



**Dr. Sunil Sanon, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand**

The 63 year old Dr. Sunil Sanon, fondly addressed “Healer in the Hills” and “Travelling Hospital” has converted his Ambassador car’s bonnet into a medical examination table! He has been contributing since the last three decades to alleviate human suffering and to protect the flora and fauna. He is also educating and financially assisting poor students through the “Divine Light Trust” established along with his wife Dr. Venu. Together they run a hospital and conduct regular health camps. Moreover, he is working on environmental issues like water conservation. He is a motivational guide too.

Since 1980, he has conducted more than a thousand free medical camps (attending to about 100 - 150 in a camp) and treated over a lakh of patients free of cost. He has planted over 15,000 saplings and distributed around 1000 pressure cookers for limestone workers in Mussoorie Hills to reduce wood consumption for fuel. He has addressed hundreds of meetings on ‘the state of environment’ at corporates, educational institutions and participated in live media programmes etc. Further, he had produced the first video “Mussoorie Calls for Help” on ecological sensitivities. He has also been nominated by the Government of India, to impart training to farmers.



In addition to the people from Mussoorie, those from many villages around Dehradun, far-flung areas of Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand as also from Saharanpur and Western U.P are benefitted by the doctor couple's services.

Indeed, he is revered as "God sent" by hundreds of coolies, petty traders and poor farmers of many villages in and around Dehradun.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation is pleased to confer the Seventeenth Mahaveer Award in the field of Medicine on Dr. Sunil Sanon in fitting recognition of his quality services anticipating that it would inspire many others to follow his footsteps.

**SEVENTEENTH MAHAVEER AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN ENDEAVOUR  
IN THE SPHERE OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICE**



**Smt. Phoolbasan Bai Yadav, Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh**

Born in a poor family and married while she was barely 10, the 44 year old Smt. Phoolbasan Bai Yadav became the first women in the entire district of Rajnandgaon in organising the 'Pragya Women Self Help Group' covering various activities. These include village cleanliness, sanitation, conducting tailoring classes, fisheries, brick and tile manufacturing and running cottage industries for making of pickles & fried stuffs etc. for income generation. She was instrumental in establishing 12,000 women SHGs with more than 2 lakh members and a group saving of above Rs. 17 crores.

Further, she has organised national campaigns on literacy, save water etc. She has prevented 600 child marriages, adopted 2800 girls, influenced 4000 women to learn cycling and arranged for the

closure of 250 liquor shops in rural areas. Further she has persuaded many men in 625 villages to quit drinking. She has also organised health camps, ensured the participation of women in Gram Sabhas and rushed to help earthquake victims in Gujarat.

Her other activities include organising “Bal Bhoj” (serving food items) for 4000 infants from Anganwadis and supply of food for about 1600 Women Self Help Groups which run mid day meal programmes etc.

The awardee who is leading a frugal life and serving the people in and around her village has become the brand ambassador for Janai Suraksha Yojna (maternity security scheme) for the Rajnandgaon district.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation proudly confers the Seventeenth Mahaveer Award in the field of Community and Social Service on Smt. Phoolbasan Bai Yadav duly recognizing her pioneering services envisaging that it would certainly motivate many others to follow her suit.

## SINGHVI CHARITABLE TRUST

Over the years, Sri Jain has been assisting the weaker sections of the community through various charitable works. Singhvi Charitable Trust was founded in the year 1997, with the vision to give medical assistance to the weaker sections of the community irrespective of any caste, creed or religion. It focuses particularly on the visually challenged weaker sections in remote rural areas and urban slums, through the supply of spectacles and medicines entirely free of cost through the camps. The Trust also provides comprehensive dental treatment at the camps. Since inception the Trust has served nearly 380926 poor eye patients & 54690 poor dental patients. So far, it has distributed 242205 spectacles. More than 1,500 TB cases were detected in the camps and referred to the nearest Government hospitals for further treatment.

Singhvi Charitable Trust also provides assistance for heart surgeries since 2001 and so far provided assistance of more than Rupees 66.39 Lakhs for poor patients. The Trust has also provided general medical assistance of more than Rupees 17.73 Lakhs to the poor patients. Since 2001, it assists other Organisations with similar interests and has provided the assistance of more than, Rupees 2.50 Crores so far. It has also provided more than Rupees 6.17 Lakhs to poor students for their school and college education. To encourage women's empowerment, Singhvi Charitable Trust has recently initiated steps to award scholarships to poor girl students taking up technical and professional courses in Colleges and Polytechnics of Tamil Nadu.

The LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS 2009 has recognized the work of the trust for the distribution of spectacles free of cost to the public in the camps conducted in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu.

The Singhvi Charitable Trust has already started the works related to establish a Palliative Care Unit termed as a Hospice at Sriperumbudhur, in the land belonging to the Trust. This Rs.10 Crore project is expected to be completed soon envisaging the unit to become operative by next year.

### **VIDHYA JYOTHI TRUST**

The Vidhya Jyothi Trust set up by Sri Jain, has taken over the various schools run till recently by the Jadavbai Nathmal Singhvi Trust formed in 1984, with the objective of running educational institutions. The institutions provide quality education at modest rates. In pursuance of this object, the Trust manages three institutions having a total strength of 1639 students. The schools run by Vidya Jyothi Trust are recognized by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

At present, there are three schools - two Nursery & Primary Schools and one Matriculation Higher Secondary School. The schools have well equipped infrastructure in terms of land & building, science laboratory, library, computer lab, indoor playground, auditorium and faculty. The schools lay emphasis on the holistic development of the students by providing extra curricular activities like Abacus, Bharathanatyam, Table Tennis, Guides, Scouts and Junior Red Cross. The students are also encouraged to volunteer for the Road Safety Patrol, to visit orphanages & rural hospitals and participate in various competitions regularly.

The Trust has also started Mahaveer Institute of Technology and Science (MITS) at Jadan, Pali District Rajasthan closer to the birth place of its Founder Sri N. Sugalchand Jain. The college has already started functioning with 125 students.

## **JAINSINDIA TRUST**

The Jainsindia Trust set up by Sri Jain is a Religious Charitable Trust, to reach out to all the sections of the Jain community, especially the poor and the needy fringes in Tamil Nadu. The Trust provides various kinds of relief to the poor and needy members of Jain community.

Jainsindia Trust aims to propagate Jainism as the way of life, promotes the philosophy, literature and architecture of Jainism. It grants scholarships to the deserving school & college students of the Jain community. It also provides financial assistance to the needy widows/ deserted women and other deserving people belonging to Jain community, for the maintenance of their livelihood.

During the year 2014-15, 616 students have been benefitted through scholarships, worth Rs. 92.49 Lakhs. Every year, nearly six hundred scholarships are given to the deserving students.

## **GANADIPATHY TULSI'S JAIN ENGINEERING COLLEGE**

Ganadipathy Tulsi's Jain Engineering College has been established at Kaniyambadi, Vellore. It is approved by AICTE & affiliated to Anna University. The institution aims to give education in engineering subjects to provide professionals of superior values to the Nation. The college has excellent infrastructure in terms of land, building, equipments, laboratories and faculty. It has strength of about 2000 at present.

The institution offers B.E degree in Electronics & Communications, Electrical & Electronics, Computer Science, Mechanical and Information Technology. It also offers M.E in Computer Science, Computer & Communication and M.C.A.

The institution offers special scholarship programmes to encourage prospective students. Bus facilities are available to the students at reasonable charges to facilitate the student's transport even from relatively distant places. Separate hostels are available for boys & girls. A well equipped and modern science laboratory is available for the students. It has a seminar hall with all latest equipments. For co curricular activities, outdoor game & indoor game facilities are provided. A medical centre is also available for the students. The students are encouraged to involve themselves in Meditation & Yoga, NSS, YRC & Cultural activities etc. The students are further given soft skills & technical training, In-plant training and practical exposure through Industrial visits. It also has a placement cell which helps to place its students in reputed Organizations.



The Sixteenth Mahaveer Awards were distributed by the Vice President, His Excellency Sri Hamid Ansari at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. He is flanked on his right by Dr. B.M. Hegde, Member of Selection Jury & Sri Prasanchand Jain, Managing Trustee and on his left by Sri N. Sugalchand Jain, Trustee of the Foundation



The Seventeenth Mahaveer Awards are announced by (Right) Sri N. Sugalchand Jain, Trustee of the Foundation at a Press Conference