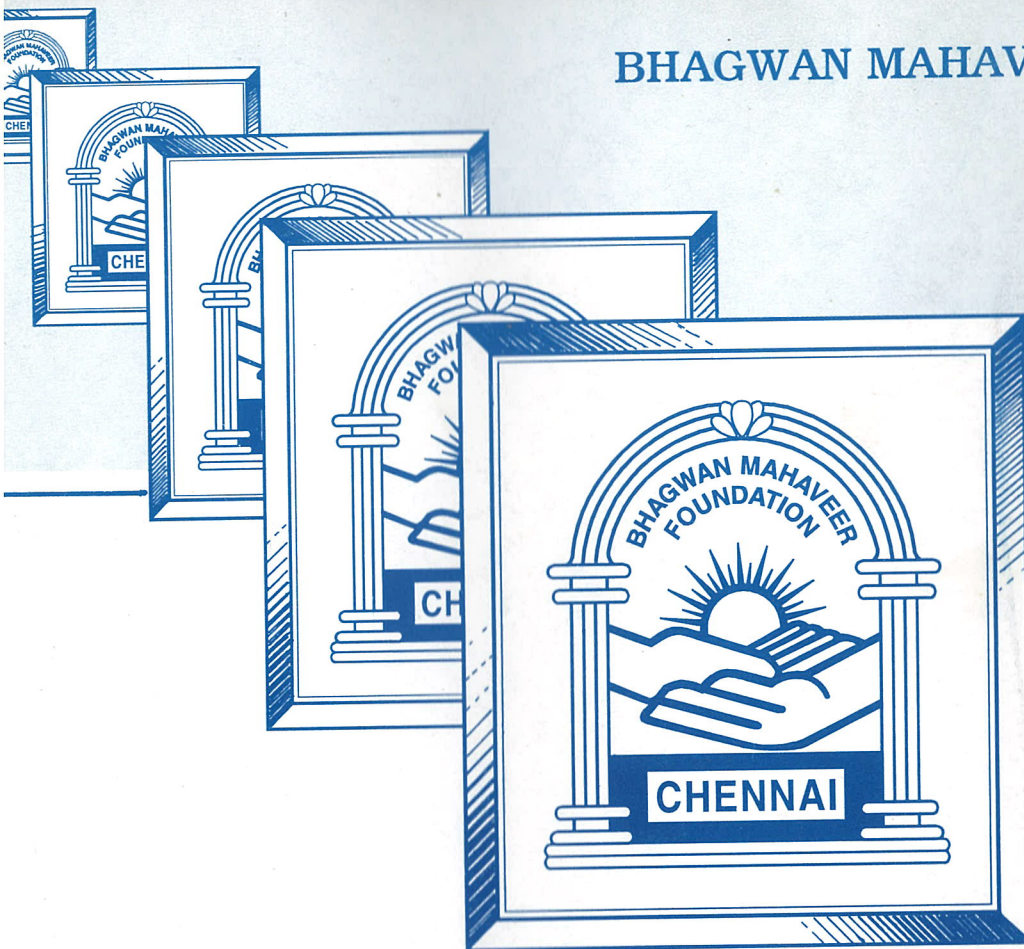


BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION



MAHAVEER AWARDS 1998



MAHAVEER AWARDS

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BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

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. Sugul Chand Jain, a well known business man and philanthropist of Tamilnadu.

TRUSTEES OF THE FOUNDATION

1. SRI N. SUGAL CHAND JAIN
2. SRI G.N. DAMANI
3. SRI S. PRASAN CHAND 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, 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, earthquakes, 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.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In pursuit of its objectives in promoting excellence, Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation has also instituted cash prizes for students who have achieved excellence at examinations, besides honouring the teachers who have helped the students to achieve such excellence. The Foundation is also presenting Silver Shields to the schools whose students achieve first rank in the State in Matriculation and Higher Secondary examinations every year.

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 Organising Government Lotteries, Financial Management, Stock Broking, Equipment Leasing, Real Estate and Farm Development, Travel Management and Diamond Jewellery.

Sri Sugal Chand Jain has also, with the active co-operation of his associates, 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 Trusts so that the scope and content of their 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.

THE MAHAVEER AWARDS 1998

The Foundation received over 300 nominations from all over the country for the Mahaveer Awards for the year 1998. The Selection Jury met on the 27th of March, 1998 at Chennai and selected the awardees for the three awards for 1998.

SELECTION JURY

Bharat Ratna Sri C. Subramaniam

Padma Vibhushan Dr. Ms. Usha Mehta

Justice Sri M.N. Venkatachaliah, Chairman
National Human Rights Commission

Sri Dipchand Gardi, Bar-at-law, Philanthropist

Sr S. Venkitaramanan, former Governor of
Reserve Bank of India

Aacharya Sri Chandanaji Maharaj, an eminent
Sanyasini and Social Reformer

Sri Suresh Krishna, Industrialist

RECIPIENTS OF 1998 AWARDS

AWARD for Excellence in the sphere of Truth,
Non-violence & Vegetarianism

Sadhu Vaswani Mission

No. 10, Sadhu Vaswani Road,
Pune - 411001

AWARD for Excellence in the sphere of
Education and Medicine

**Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust
Institutions**,

Coimbatore - 641043

AWARD for Excellence in the sphere of Social
and Community Service

**Dr Prakash Murlidhar Amte &
Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte**

Maharogi Sewa Samiti, Warora,
Post : Anandwan,
via Warora - 442914

SADHU VASWANI MISSION

If there is something worse than man's cruelty to man, it is man's cruelty to animals, because animals have rarely the ability to fight back on an equal footing and what is more heinous is that such cruelty is perpetrated on a number of occasions in the name of some form of divinity or other, even though generally the time is motivated by the desire to satisfy man's appetite for meat eating. It is this senseless cruelty which Sadhu Vaswani's Mission has been fighting from the 30's of this Century.

The mission, originally founded by late Sadhu Vaswani in 1930 as "Sakhi Satsang", later on became the brotherhood association, renamed as Sadhu Vaswani Mission in the year 1966. Since then, its activities are guided by Dada J.P. Vaswani and the Mission's activities cover a wide number of fields such as education, medical relief, village upliftment, housing and propagation of Vegetarianism. However, it is basically identified with vegetarianism and has set up a large number of branches all over the world. Believing in the dictum "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", the Mission has been campaigning vigorously for vegetarianism and universal brotherhood which knows no barriers and embraces man, birds and beasts alike. At their instance, the "Animals Welfare Day" is being observed annually by all educational institutions and other associations engaged in community service.

The Mission has been campaigning for setting up more veterinary hospitals and is also engaged in research to find out suitable vegetarian substitutes for non-vegetarian food items.

Sadhu Vaswani's birthday on the 25th of November each year is being observed as "International Meatless Day" and certain State Governments have also issued instructions for the closure of slaughter houses on that day. As we all know, vegetarianism is no longer a fad associated with religious fanaticism, but has been accepted as a vital necessity for a healthy, tension free life, particularly for those who have crossed the middle age. In fact, vegetarianism has even become a fashion of sorts with the western youth, keen on maintaining their physical and mental health. All this development the world owes to the vision of late Sadhu T.L. Vaswani and his successors and disciples in the Mission carrying on his torch through the years and hopefully through the succeeding ages.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation takes pride in honouring the Mission for its selfless service on behalf of the voiceless millions in the world. If they can speak, (and they are not all that dumb as we imagine them to be but have feelings and emotions as we do), they will cheerfully join us in saying a "Thank You" to the Sadhu Vaswani Mission.

SRI AVINASHILINGAM EDUCATION TRUST INSTITUTIONS

The maxim "each one teach one", is no longer valid for the simple reason that there has been an explosion in the number of people required to be taught, and what is more there has been a quantum leap in the areas of knowledge which is required to be taught and assimilated. Filling this kind of knowledge gap requires a deeper, extensive and comprehensive institutionalised arrangement. This equipment has been largely met by Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust Institutions, Coimbatore, the recipients of the Foundations' Mahaveer Award for the year 1998.

As all of us know, late Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, fondly known as "Ayya" to his admirers and disciples, set up this trust to provide education to the large number of students thirsting for knowledge in Coimbatore district in particular and Tamilnadu in general. Sri Avinashilingam believed that one should not be satisfied with attaining freedom from foreign rule, as India did in 1947, but what will really add intrinsic worth to its citizens is a comprehensive system of education to make them well rounded and disciplined. With this end in view, Sri Avinashilingam set up the trust whose main objective was to promote liberal education, to integrate into a system of education, the concepts of science and social service, to impart spiritual, ethical, cultural and human values to the students coming under the influence of the

educational institutions under the trust and to refine and streamline curricula and teaching methods based on the best wherever these could be found in the world. In practice, this has meant that the schools set up under the trust provide a comprehensive system of education commencing from pre-primary and carrying on to the level of Doctorate and even beyond. Provision is also made for practical participation in rural development in the form of service through the National Service Scheme and a training centre for rural development. Over 3000 students actively participate in services connected with rural development and extension service. Functional education is also provided to illiterate women to help them stand on their own feet. The other activities of the trust include provision of primary health care, nutrition, research, agricultural farming, vocational skill development, etc. Under the able leadership provided by Dr. Rajammal P. Devadas, Managing Trustee and Chancellor of the Deemed University, the trust has largely succeeded in making the vision of Dr. Avinashilingam come true in a relatively short time.

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, commends the trust as well as those at its helm on their winning the Foundation's Award for Excellence in the sphere of Education and Medicine in 1998.

DR. PRAKASH MURLIDHAR AMTE & DR. MANDAKINI PRAKASH AMTE

Self effacement is so ingrained in the lives of Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte and Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte's serving the tribals in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, that till very recently the Foundation's authorities were unable to get in touch with them to give them the glad news that they are the winners of the 1998 Mahaveer Awards for Excellence in Human Endeavour in the fields of Social and Community Service. We had only succeeded in contacting a friend located far away and requested him to establish contact with Amte couple to convey the good news. So deep inside the forest are they located busy serving the tribals, that even the friend was not sure when and how he will be able to establish contact with them.

Known as the 'Schweitzer Couple of India', Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte and Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte, have settled down in Hemalkasa, a remote village in the dense forest in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, inhabited by one of the most primitive tribal communities. The service provided by the Amte couple include education to the tribals, medical assistance, treatment and eradication of leprosy, community development, rehabilitation of tribals highly endemic to Malaria. The area is also inhabited by wild animals, poisonous vipers and the like and doctors continue to receive, for

treatment, unusual cases such as injuries caused by an enraged bear. They have also established an orphanage to take care of the destitute children and have succeeded in training a good number of tribals for being employed as teachers, forest guards, policemen, etc. Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte is ably assisted by his wife, who is also a doctor and is particularly helpful in getting over the inhibitions and the superstitions of the tribal women. In these days of self seeking mercenaries pretending to be engaged in serving their fellowmen, rare indeed are cases such as those of the Amte couple.

The Foundation is happy that its Award for Excellence in the sphere of Social and Community Service has gone to a well deserving pair of recipients namely Dr. Prakash Murlidhar Amte and Dr. Mandakini Prakash Amte. We are sure that the limelight now being directed on the Amte couple, will enthuse more and more doctors to embark on such services where it is most needed.

EARLIER RECIPIENTS

MAHAVEER AWARD 1995

For excellence in the sphere of Social and Community Services.

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

MAHAVEER AWARDS 1996

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

Sri S. Jagannathan and Smt Krishnammal Jagannathan, an octogenarian couple of Gandhigram, Dindigul.

For excellence in the sphere of Social and Community Services.

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

MAHAVEER AWARDS 1997

For excellence in the sphere of Vegetarianism.

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

For excellence in the sphere of Social and Community Services.

Sri Anna Hazare, Ralegan Siddhi, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.



परस्परप्रेमो जीवनाम्

BHAGWAN MAHAVEER FOUNDATION

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Chennai 600 005