

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the Mahaveer Awards for Excellence in Human Endeavour function organised by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the Mahaveer Awards for Excellence in Human Endeavour function organised by Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation at Tag Auditorium, Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Kilpauk, Chennai today (29.01.2021) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to be participating in the function organised by the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation and conferring the Mahaveer awards for excellence in Human Endeavour. It is a tribute to the spirit of selfless service and sacrifice so special in our Indian society.

I congratulate the Founder and the trustees of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation for having come up with this wonderful idea and much needed endeavour of honouring and inspiring individuals and institutions who are doing selfless services for the welfare of the people. I am sure this will encourage many others to emulate such selfless service.

I congratulate the Awardees who are receiving the Mahaveer Awards today in this function. I would not just congratulate them but would like to express my deep appreciation for their work. As long as there are people like these awardees and institutions like the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation there is hope for humanity.

The forces of modern culture are sweeping across the globe and upsetting our traditions, values and attitudes. It is imperative that we do not lose the core values of our culture, namely, non-violence, peace and harmonious living and helping the needy.

Bhagwan Mahaveer, the 24<sup>th</sup> Thirthankara, who lived 2600 years ago, said "A living body is not merely an integration of limbs and flesh but it is the abode of the soul which potentially has perfect perception (Anant darshana), perfect knowledge (Anant jnana), perfect power (Anant virya), and perfect bliss (Anant sukha)" Mahaveer's message reflects freedom and spiritual joy of the living being.

Bhagwan Mahaveer belonged to Royal Kshatriya family. He was born and brought up in Kundalgrama in Bihar. His Parents, Siddhartha and Trisala called him by the name Vardhaman. But Vardhaman came to be popularly known as Mahaveer i.e. the conqueror because of his courageous and fearless character. He was a brave and wise child.

Bhagwan Mahaveer wanted to help each and every living being on Earth and wanted to remove their all kinds of sufferings. He wanted to make this world a calm and peaceful place to live in. He taught us: 'Live and let live', i.e. we should live in harmony in this world without harming others. This is the solution to all manmade problems that plague our society today.

He also taught Satya, Aparigraha, Astheya and Brahmacharya. These teachings were relevant not only in the past but are also relevant today.

The most burning problem of our age is the problem of human sufferings. These human sufferings are due to our attachment towards worldly objects. Jainism believes that lesser the attachment greater the mental peace.

Bhagwan Mahaveer said and I quote, "Don't accumulate if you do not need. The excess of wealth in your hands is for the society, and you are the trustee for the same".

Bhagwan Mahaveer said and I quote, "Kill not, cause no pain. Nonviolence is the greatest religion".

In the category of Non-violence and vegetarianism for the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Mahaveer Awards, the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation has selected Federation of Indian Animal Protection organisation, New Delhi and Baba Palla Singh Goushala, Punjab respectively.

The Awardees in the category of Education are truly inspiring and doing very good work for tribal and underprivileged children. Shree Panchmahal Anusuchit Jati Education Trust (PAJET) is working in the Panchmahal and Dahod Districts of Gujarat, predominantly inhabited by the Bhil tribe. Manav Kalyan TRUST, Gujarat is working for the rehabilitation of persons with various disabilities for the past four decades and Shri Anand Kumar ,the "Maths Wizard", founder of 'Super 30' ,the innovative educational programme ,is training poor children to face the entrance exams of educational institutions like the IIT.

The awardees in the category of Medicine are setting examples that "There is limit for cure, but no limit for care". Jeevodaya Hospice for Cancer Patients in Chennai and

the Pain and Palliative Care Society, Kozhikode are focusing on cancer care and providing free Palliative Care to patients.

The awardees in the category of Community and Social Welfare for Gramin Adiwasi Samaj Vikas Sansthan, Madhya Pradesh and Sewadham Ashram, Madhya Pradesh for providing community based rehabilitation and livelihood support programmes.

I am really happy to see that the award under the category Women Social Entrepreneur goes to Smt. Shyamalatha Mohan Raj, New Delhi. 'Maa Shyama", as she is fondly called, has dedicated her life for the welfare of leprosy afflicted patients and their families.

The recipients of the awards this evening are powerful role models for our society. They are a blend of social commitment and compassion. I am grateful for their services to the weak and underprivileged in our society. I congratulate the award winners and I am sure that many more will be inspired to follow them in their quest to serve society with selflessness.

I applaud the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation for their initiative to honour notable citizens of India who have distinguished themselves by their service to the poor and needy.

I extend my best wishes and greetings so that they may witness success in all their endeavours in the future. May their noble contributions to society continue with zeal and dedication and be guided by the message of Bhagwan Mahaveer.

I would like to conclude with this quote of Mahatma Gandhi ji

"Your beliefs become your thoughts,  
Your thoughts become your words,  
Your words become your actions,  
Your actions become your habits,  
Your habits become your values,  
Your values become your destiny."

On this occasion, Thiru D.R. Mehta, Presiding Guest, Former Chairman Securities & Exchange Board of India, Member Selection Jury, Thiru S.Gurumurthy, Editor Thuglaq, Part-time Director of RBI, Member – Selection Jury, Thiru T.S. Krishnamurthy, Former

Chief Election Commissioner of India, Member Selection Jury, Thiru Prasanchand Jain, Managing Trustee, Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

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Addl. Director (PR)