



PRESS RELEASE

Nominations for 'Guruvar Awards'- the biggest award for Teachers in India now extended to 15th November, 2009

Mumbai, October 06th, 2009: Owing to an over whelming response to the Guruvar Awards the deadline for the application of nominations will be extended to the 15th of November, 2009. This is mainly attributed to larger participation and greater involvement from all sections of the society.

With nomination requests pouring in from all over India, it is clear that the nation has woken up to such a cause bringing in the much required recognition that teachers should be bestowed upon. The movement has truly caught up pace not just as drive to recognize teachers but also as a social commitment to our educators.

Speaking on his experience nominating her favorite school teacher, Jason D Costa Don Bosco High School said "It was rather a nostalgic moment nominating my teacher. Every year on Teachers Day I go back down the memory lane remembering the good old school days, looking back I have realized the contribution that my teachers have made in me, thankfully this year, Guruvar Awards has given me the platform to gratify my teachers. "

Highlighting the moment **Sunny Varkey, Founder and Chairman, GEMS Education and Chairperson of the Varkey Gems Foundation** said, " We are extremely happy with the initial response to the nominations that are pouring in from across the country and are in the process of creating more awareness towards this movement, we hope to elicit participation from as many as we can which is why we decided to extend the nomination period."

The categories under which nominating entries would fall are '**Lifetime Achievement Award**', '**Outstanding Indian Teacher**', '**Outstanding Young Indian teacher**' and '**Outstanding Indian teacher of Children with Special Needs**'.

The criteria to be kept in mind while sending entries are simple.

- To nominate a Teacher for the 'Lifetime Achievement Award', the Teacher needs to have dedicated an entire working life in the profession of teaching.
- To nominate a Teacher for the 'Outstanding Indian Teacher Award', the Teacher should be above the age of 30 years and should have devoted more than 5 years in teaching.
- To nominate a Teacher for the 'Outstanding Young Indian Teacher Award', the Teacher should be under the age of 30 years.
- There is no criterion to nominate a Teacher for the 'Outstanding Indian Teacher for Children of Special Needs'.

The website was launched on the eve of Teacher's Day by Dr. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD). It has extensive information on the awards including categories, process and messages from eminent personalities like Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukherjee, Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan who are supporting the cause for teachers.

About Varkey Gems Foundation:

Created by Padmashree Sunny Varkey, the Varkey Gems Foundation is a philanthropic trust. Meant for the upliftment of education of children the foundation promotes superior quality of teaching and strives to strengthen the teacher-student interface. The Guruvar Award 2009 programme is the first of a series of recognition and reward programmes by the Foundation. The Foundation is connected to a number of education related charitable initiatives such as the R&D of innovative educational programmes and models to enhance both the teaching and learning experience, financial support for deserving students, education for slum children and promotion of rural schools.