



PRESS RELEASE

Nominations open for 'Guruvar Awards' - 'The biggest award for the Teacher in India'

Mr. Kapil Sibal unveils www.guruvar.com

Mumbai, September 2009: Providing an opportunity to one and all across India to felicitate their favorite Teacher, 'Guruvar Awards' launched their website www.guruvar.com today. This was unveiled by Mr. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD).

Guruvar Awards is a national movement to honor outstanding teachers across India. The Award aims to endow teachers their due recognition and respect by felicitating them. By logging on to www.guruvar.com, people across the nation can nominate their favorite teacher. The website will aid the nomination process and also ensure that the movement evolves with the spirit of the whole nation. (Duration of nomination: Entries open till?)

The nomination process is easy, smooth, credible and yet stringent. One can log on to www.guruvar.com, click on the '**Nominations**' icon and fill the nomination form. Right from personal details like relationship with the teacher, that of a 'Student', 'Parent', 'Colleague' or 'Principal', to details of the person one would like to nominate, to choosing the category of the nomination, to writing in 200 words about the teacher's contribution, the process is effortless and quick.

The categories '**Lifetime Achievement Award**', '**Outstanding Indian Teacher**', '**Outstanding Young Indian teacher**' and '**Outstanding Indian teacher of Children with Special Needs**' are mentioned and clearly described in the form. Post nominations Awardees would be selected through an intensive selection process comprising of reviews, accolades and interviews. Winners will be decided over a process involving pan-India nominations, four Zonal Juries and one Grand Jury. A Strategic Advisory Panel comprising of eminent personalities to guide the course of the awards will be on board along with jury at various levels.

The 'Guruvar Awards' website will ensure **wider participation**, making this initiative interactive so we do not merely gain an appreciative audience but also an equal involvement from people in raising these awards beyond the traditional ceremony, and marking the foundation of a national movement. We are attempting to reach grass-root levels targeting over 3,000 schools, 1.5 lakh teachers and 57 lakh students across the nation to ensure the best of Teachers are recognised." (Do have a new target?)(Quote from Guruvar's spokesperson?)

On this occasion, **Chief Guest and Union Minister of HRD, Mr. Kapil Sibal**, said, "Guruvar Awards' is a platform where teachers who shape our society will be duly recognized and felicitated. It is an honor to unveil the medium that will reflect the thoughtful choice of thousands across the nation. The website will make them a part of this movement."

To be held in December this year, the award marks the establishment of a movement to acknowledge role of teachers in shaping the future of our nation. The nominations will begin around September with 48 teachers being recognized and felicitated for their invaluable contribution across four categories. The total prize money is Rs. 2 crore.

Four simple steps to nominate your favourite Teacher:-

1. Log on to guruvar.com
2. Click on the 'Nominations' icon (finalized site?)
3. Enter details like date of birth, residential & school address, contact number of your Teacher.
4. Mention your teacher's contribution in your life within 200 words

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.

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