



## 'BASAVASHREE' AWARD

Honouring the persons and institutions doing good to the common cause of man and society has been the tradition of the Math. They are invited and honoured on auspicious occasions of the Math Sri Math believes that recognizing and rewarding those who do something good to the society would definitely inspire them to contribute more in future and become role models to others.

As a part of this programme 'Basava Shree Award' was conceived and instituted by the present pontiff Dr. Sri Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru in 1997. It is meant to honour, every year, the scholars who study, do research and publish specialized works on the movement and philosophy of 12th Century Sharanas like Basaveshwara or to those social workers and institutions involved in selfless service to the humanity to create an egalitarian society, an ideal espoused by Basaveshawara. It consists of Rs. Five Lakh Cash Prize and a citation. The selection committee constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, which includes representatives from intellectuals, pontiffs, administrators and social workers as members would select the persons or institutions for the award every year.

## SRI JAGADGURU MURUGHARAJENDRA MUTT

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Sri Jagadguru Murugharajendra Math, Chitradurga, Karnataka State, (India), is an unique Lingayat Math. Its cultural history goes back to the period of Shivasharanas of 12th century AD. Since the most important social revolution took place during this period, under the stewardship of Sri Basaveshwara it is considered as an important land mark in the history of Karnataka. Sri Basaveshwara organized the people oppressed under caste system and strived hard for their social, economic and cultural upliftment. He established the Anubava Mantap which was a forum of sharanas to work against the evils of society. Sri Allama Prabhu, a sharana of highest spiritual order, was made Chairperson of the forum. This position has traditionally been known as Shoonya Peetha. SJM Math draws its cultural lineage from this Peetha. The Math's history is more clear from the period of 17th century when the Nayakas of Chitradurga popularly known as Palegars got constructed two Precincts of Maths, one is on the hills of Chinmooladri and the other at its bottom. It is the





later where the present enclave of Math's buildings is located. The Math has been propagating the ideals of sharanas and rendering service to the society in many ways, since its inception. It has started educational institutions and branch Maths in nooks and corners of the State to reach the people. It has about 120 institutions at present, including a Medical College, Engineering College, Dental College, Nursing College, Polytechnics, Nursery-Primary-Higher Primary, High Schools and Colleges for general education. Seers of Math enthroned in this Shoonya Peetha at different times have relentlessly worked for the progress of this institution. They have been working well in guiding the people to materialize the dreams of Sharanas, inspite of the opposition from conservative fundamentalists within the lingayatism. Because of their efforts and commitment, today, the Math is recognized for its secular functioning.



## His Holiness Dr. Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru

Dr. Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru is the present pontiff of Math. He was coroneted in the Holy Throne on 31st Jan. 1991 as a successor to Sri Jagadguru Mallikarjuna Murugharajendra Maha Swamiji. He started giving progressive dimension to lingayatism from the very day of his initiation as seer. He gave up the traditional prefix Jagadguru which connotes 'Guru of the world' in Kannada Language . He Also gave up suffix 'Swamiji' and substituted with 'Sharana' which means the 'one who has submitted to the spiritual life and causes of people'. He switched over to acts of social service from traditional religious ceremonies. He has been organizing the people having faith in Basavaism throughout the country. He has visited foreign countries to organize the followers of Basava philosophy and preaching peace. Organizations so started are called as 'Basava Kendras'. Organised efforts are being made through these centers to propagate the ideals of sharanas in and outside India. He has encouraged equal treatment to men and women, facilitated the widow and mass marriages, and pacified the parents and their sons and daughters to accept intercaste marriages, besides personally organizing and supervising such marriages. He frequently conducts the Meditation and Personality Development Training to all age people for a period ranging from 3 days to 6 days which is called as Sahaja Shivayoga. The practice of Meditating on Ishtalinga to develop concentration, confidence and creativity in participants has attracted large number of disciples. Besides supervising the routine administration he conducts cultural shows and presentation on the theme of Sharanas' philosophy, literary, Environmental awareness, Civic sense, Self reliance etc. Apart from these, he is quite prompt and generous in recognizing the good works done by others. To honour such outstanding persons and institutions 'Basava Shree Award' was instituted by him in the year 1997. He is more responsive to the needs of weaker sections like socially oppressed orphans, old age people, farmers, slum dwellers, jail inmates etc. The charity and missions of the Math are transformed into reality under his guidance and supervision that has been applauded by all.



## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2011

Dr. SHANKARA MAHADEVA BIDARI IPS

Born in a common family of a farmer, got education in rural environment, self made man, imbibed extra ordinary talent, Dr Bidari secured highest position in Police Department. He elevated the dignity of boots, belt and hat khaki uniform as supreme police officer. He started his career has district superintendent of police raised to DIG position. A clean personality without giving scope to any corruption he fought against the law breakers. His brilliance, claver and skilled work in teaching lesson to the criminals was noteworthy.

He made best use of knowledge both national and international and techniques to suppress terrorism and safeguard the innocent people and their property. A bold and stern officer Bidari worked day and night to threaten the criminals. He also served the various Matts and associations without any credit.

He was born on August 27th 1954 to Sri Mahadevappa Bidari and Smt. Guravva at Bagalkote district Bilagi Taluk, Galagali village. After completing his formal education he passed IPS with great success. He is a role model to our youths who was not only adventurous but also

maintained integrity with self respect throughout his service. Considering his service to the state and the people Sri Murugha Matt felicitated him with 2012 Basavashree Award.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2011

### Late Prof. M. D. NANJUNDASWAMY

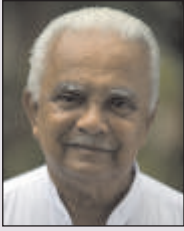
Prof MD Nanjundaswamy, a renowned leader of Farmers' Movement, pro-development of country culture, social thinker and revolutionist has fought for the sake of farmers. He founded Karnataka State Farmers' Association in 1982. He has given training to lakhs of youths to take initiative in social movement and inspired them to protest and fight against the danger of the fast food culture spread by foreign companies. He organized several workshops and national and inter-national conferences to motivate the farmers against the evils of globalization.

Born on 13th February 1936, Prof M D N, got education in Mysore and Dharwad. He got training in Research in Netherlands. He protested exploiting system in West Germany when he was pursuing his PhD which he left in the middle. While teaching Law in Bangaluru, he was influenced by the thoughts of the world renowned social thinker and Revolutionist Ram Manohar Lohia.

He started Youth Social Sabha Association in 1968. To bring out a change and intense development he entered politics and became a honest Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly. His ideals for social justice sound the spiritual and social laurels of Sharanas of 12th Century A D, Karnataka. His activism resembles the total Revolution of Lord Basaveswara.



The 2011 BASAVASREE AWARD posthumously . conferred on Prof M D N was received by his daughter Mrs Chukki Nanjundaswamy and her team, Karnataka State Farmers' Association.



## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2010

Dr. A. T. ARIYARATNE

Dr.A.T.Ariyaratne,founder of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Srilanka to help the poor villagers to empower themselves through self-reliance, community participation and a scientific approach, is a veteran Gandhian. He has been actively involved in non-violent movement which contemplates five Mantras for development of peace Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Re-awakening. He has trained many volunteers in many countries like U S A,UK,Japan,Germany and India to organize centers for Sarvodaya Movement.

Born on 5th November 1931,at a place called Unawatuana in Galle District of Srilanka, Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne completed his primary education in Galle and graduation from Vidyodaya University of Srilanka. Having earned two Doctorate degrees from Jayavardane University and Amelio Aguilando College of Phillipines, he has authored many books including the translation of works of E F Schumacher a wellknown Nobel Laureate of Economics.

He started his career as a Teacher at Nalanda College, Colombo and founded the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement.His ideals for social justice sound the spiritual and social laurels of Sharanas of 12th Century A D, Karnataka. His activism resembles the total Revolution of Basaveswara.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2009

### SMT. P.T. USHA

The sporting legend of India, the symbol of perseverance in Indian sports, winner of 5 gold medals and 1 bronze medal in the Asian track and field championship at jakartha, indoneasia, in 1985, Smt. P.T. Usha (Pilavullakandi Thekke parampil Usha) has been nicknamed 'Payyoli Express', 'udanpari', and "Golden Girl" because of her speed on the race-track.

She was born in a village called koothali near Perambra in kozhikode district of Kerala state to E.P.M. Paithal and T.V. Lakshmi couples and brought up in "thrikottur" in thikkodi panchayath. Right from her primary school days she showed the spark of athletic talent and was the star of many a sports meet. She had set an Asian best, 55.42 seconds, for the event which still stands today as Indian national record. Being undeterred by her disappointment in Seoul Olympics in 1988, she excelled astonishing skill by winning bronze medals in the 200 m and 400 m at the Asian Track Federation meet at fukkowakka in Japan.

P.T. Usha entered her married life in 1991 with V. Srinivasan, and is now an affectionate mother to son Ujjwal. Her domesticity and motherhood never drawn her back from athletics even after her retirement from active profession in 2000. She started a training school for athletes in Kerala to groom bright young talents to emulate her excellence.

She is the proud of India and the world. She was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1983, and the PadmaShree in 1985 besides many decorations. Her

commitment, perseverance and success is a role model not only to the budding talents in sports and games, but also to other young turks. Her spirit of life, determination and struggle to over come hardships resemble the path and revolution of Sharanas of 12th century A.D. Karnataka.







## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2008

DR. KIRAN BEDI

Dr. Kiran Bedi, the first woman IPS Officer in India, is known for her valiant non-traditional way of doing things, transforming prisoners and alcoholics, drug addicts. Her dedication to duty as senior most police officer, commitment to the cause of common man especially the disgusted prisoners, knowledge and tactfulness in executing decisions, highest regard for democratic and humanitarian values, courage and compassion exhibited in dealing with anti-social elements are the noble qualities to emulate.

Born as a second child to Prakash and Premreshawaria couples in Amritsar, the holy city of Punjab, completed most of her education there itself and did post-graduation in political science from Punjab University, Law education from Delhi University and Ph.D. from IIT Delhi on "Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence". Dr. Kiran's personality is a rare embodiment of academic excellence, sportsman's spirit and administrative talent anointed with spiritual fragrance.

Being joined Indian Police Service in 1972 moved upto the Director General level with her profound knowledge and skill. She relentlessly worked in various posts and executed challenging operations in India and outside with discipline and dedication.

Her yeoman service to the prisoners, alcoholics and drug addicts and AIDs victims has decorated her with many honours and rewards including Police Medal for gallantry by the President of India and Ramon Magsaysay Award 1994.

Her entire activism resembles the revolution and culture of Sharanas of 12th century A.D. Karnataka, heralded under the stewardship of Sri Basaveshwara.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2007

### SRI SWAMI AGNIVESH

Sri Swami Agnivesh is a valiant saint known for his revolutionary social activism. He has been tirelessly working for the rights of the poorest, deprived, oppressed and depressed class of the society.

His campaigns and legal fights against bonded labour, sati system, environmental degradation, religious fundamentalism, impacts of new economic reforms etc., have earned him a sobriquet Fire Brand Sanyasi. In the last two decades of his crusade against bonded labour, about 1,75,000 bonded labourers including women and children were being liberated and rehabilitated.

Though born in a traditional royal family, he choosed saintly life and social activism to transform his dream of egalitarian society into a reality. Through his Arya Samaja Movement he is tirelessly struggling against various acts of exploitation, dogmatic practices and other social evils. Very recently he has floated an organization Parliament of Religions to combat communal disharmony and curb communal elements through non-violent and spiritual means.



His ideal of Religion for Social Justice sounds the spiritual laurels of Sharanas of 12th Century A.D. Karnataka. His activism resembles the Total Revolution of Basaveshwara.



## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2006

Ms. SHABANA AZMI

Ms. Shabana Azmi is a noted creative Bollywood actress. Her performance in films and theatre has been widely appreciated by the fans of films not only in India but also throughout the world. Her relentless work and fight for the rehabilitation of slum dwellers, distressed people of Kashmir; victims of earthquake in Lathore, and the dreadful decease, that is AIDS. Besides, she has voiced against the cunning designs of religious fundamentalists and their violent expressions, especially the communal riots and terrorism at national and international level.

Ms. Azmi known for her versatile performance in creative films was born on September 18, 1951 to the parents Mr. Kafi Azmi, a renowned Indian Urdu poet and writer; and Ms. Shaukat, a well known stage actress. Ms. Azmi did her education in Mumbai city including her graduation in Psychology followed by a course in Acting at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

Shyam Benegal's Ankur (1972) was her first movie to be released. Then onwards she has acted in more than one hundred films, besides acting in many stage plays, a notable among them is M.S. Sathyu's Safed Kundali (1980). Though a film actress, she turned as a social activist to work in favour of destitute slum dwellers and AIDS victims. Her voice against communalism and active participation in National Integration Council as a member has been widely recognized.

She has been the one who is honoured with National Film Award consecutively for three years from 1983 to 1985 and totally there are five awards are there to her credit. In 1998 she was awarded with the PadmaShri also. She was appointed Good Will Ambassador for the United Nations Population Fund in 1998.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2005

### SUBHASH PALEKAR

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Sri Subhash Palekar is a saintly person who has been researching, experimenting and executing the self-reliant Desi methods of agriculture as an alternative to West oriented techniques. He is a socially committed agricultural scientist who has invented a practice that does not require the 'Capital' of western concept. It is simple, spiritual and based on the idea of developing agriculture by strengthening the nature. The 'Zero Budget Natural Farming', termed by him is the out come of his efforts to study the ancient methods of Indian agriculture in the light of modern scientific outlook.

Sri Subhash was born on July 1, 1949 in a village called Belur in Amaravathi district of Maharashtra state and is a graduate in agricultural science. Being inspired by the principles and philosophy of Karl-Marks, Mahatma Gandhi and the spiritual personality like saint Tukaramji, he directed his efforts to end the suicidal foreign technology centered agricultural practices. He worked in the direction of releasing the soil, food and environment from poisoning. He has promptly documented the out come of these in his 24 books already published and 34 awaiting for publication. Besides, he has worked for an agricultural magazine 'Baliraja' as a writer and an editor. His dream is to transform his findings and experiments into a movement throughout the nation. "Use cow horn manure, end the chemical fertilizer and pesticide, grow more and deliver toxin less food to the people", is his slogan. Government of



Maharashtra has taken initiative to literally practice his ideas, which others can emulate. 'Basavasree' award is conferred on him by SriMath recognizing and revering his 'Silent Movement' in agriculture.



## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2004

### DR. VANDANA SHIVA

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a brilliant academician and researcher in science, technology, environmental policy and alternate economic development models. Being born to a father who was the conservator of forests and an agriculturist mother on November 5th 1952, in the verdant valley of Dehradun, she received her first lessons in environment protection on the lap of the Himalayas. Her formal education began at St. Mary's school in Nainital and went up to receiving Ph. D., Degree from the University of Western Ontario. In the beginning she pursued her research at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and at present is the Director of 'Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology', Deharadun, founded by her in 1982. She has initiated and led national and international campaigns, at different times, on Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering, Intellectual Property Rights, Gender issues, Native seeds etc., in close partnership with local communities and social movements. The 'Neem Campaign', 'Basmati Campaign' and 'Navadanya' movement are the special examples to mention.

Besides initiating and organizing campaigns and movements, she has served as adviser to governments in India and abroad as well as NGOs. She has written books, research articles and delivered many lectures at universities and international forums in India and abroad. Her books, "The Violence of Green Revolution" and "Monocultures of the Mind" have become basic challenges to the dominant paradigm of non-sustainable, reductionist green revolution agriculture. She has also been working with farmers and their several organizations, de mystifying the GATT and WTO proposals and policies. More recently, she has initiated an international movement of women working of food, agriculture, patents and biotechnology. She has also founded 'Bija Vidyapeetha', the Schumacher College in India. "Basavashree Award -2004" is being conferred on her in recognition of her "People and Nature sustainable researches, campaigns and movements".





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2003

GADDAR

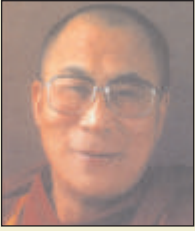
Sri Gaddar is a famous revolutionary poet, singer and dancer of Andrapradesh. He writes for the people, sings for the people and dance for the people. He has totally dedicated his life for the cause of people who don't have a voice to voice against exploitation of all kinds. This prophet of downtrodden, draws inspiration for his poetry from the sufferings of people living in distress. He sings to the tunes of people's pains and dances to the heart beats of the weakest. His beating of drums evinces beatings of fear and conscience in the hearts of exploiters. He has been successfully inspiring the oppressed class to organize themselves on the lines of thoughts of Karl Marx and Ambedkar to emerge from their weakness to the strength.

Being born in a Dalit family in a remote village in Andrapradesh, he is now in his 55th year, experiencing the full circle of life, passing through the pains of untouchability, child labour, discrimination in school and college, unemployment, life in jail and finally the taste of bullets. He is unperturbed by the violence meted out to him by the exploiting class and the system of society. He is deeply hurt by the killings of both by the oppressors and oppressed. He believes in democratic means and ways to solve the problems and that is why he writes, that is what he sings and that is what he preaches.

As a General Secretary of "All India League of Revolutionary Culture", he is organizing, training and motivating the depressed and dejected people through revolutionary and peaceful art and culture, to find solutions to their



own distress. "Basavashree Award - 2003", is being conferred on him to honour his relentless fight against social injustice and inequality - the Revolution espoused by Basavanna and other Sharanas of 12th century AD.



## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2002

### HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA IENZIN GYATSO

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso is the vibrant symbol of Buddhism, a religion that has an unbroken history of more than 2500 years. He is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. His Holiness is renowned worldwide for his perpetual and peaceful struggle for the self-rule and self respect of the millions of the Tibetans living in China occupied Tibet and those who are in the exile.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama now heads the Tibetan Government in Exile with its headquarters at Dharmashala, Himachala Pradesh. With more than a million of his followers he has been living in India for the past five decades and spearheading the struggle of the Tibetans. His struggle is based upon Maitri and Karuna, the basic tenets of the Buddhism. This struggle has been one of the longest among the contemporary struggles waged for the self-respect of a populace. His struggle is an unique endeavor in the history of asserting the human rights and his contribution towards achieving world peace has been recognized through many awards including the Nobel Award for Peace.

Sri Murughamath felt itself honoured by conferring on His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso the prestigious 'Basavashree Award' for the year 2002 in recognition of his service to the Tibetans and the mankind. Sri Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru Conferring Basavashree Award on His Holiness Dalai Lama, Sri Mahantha Swamiji of Ilkal Sri Thontada Siddalinga Swamiji of Gadag Chief Minister S . M . Krishna Sri H. Hanumanthappa, Vice Chairman of Karnataka Planning Board were Present.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2001

### MEDHA PATKAR

In the past one and a half decade 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' has been involved in the movement for proper rehabilitation of 4 lakh tribal ousters of Narmada Valley project. Well known environmentalist, committed social worker and the untiring fighter Medha Patkar is the leader of this movement. This valiant woman has dedicated her entire life to organize the poor, illiterate and destituted tribal families of the valley.

Medha and her associates, being clear about the absence of credible rehabilitation measures for the evacuees of the mega project which is a complex of about 3500 big and small dams, have been consistently mobilizing peaceful protests over a decade against this anti-people project. This has not only re-established the sanctity of 'Satyagraha' but also has succeeded in touching the conscience of the nation about the path of development it has chosen to adopt. Basavashree Award is being conferred on them to honour their efforts in fighting for social justice of tribals and equip distribution of fruits of development to one and all.

Smt Medha Patkar and her associates receiving Basava Shree Award from Dr. Shivamurthy Murugarajendra Sharanaru. Sri V. Srinivas Prasad, State Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Govt. of India, Sri Baraguru



Ramachandrappa, Chairman, Kannada Development Authority were Present.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 2000

### SRI ANNA HAZARE

After Mahatma Gandhi, the only living example we can see in the field of selfless social service, is Sri Anna Hazare of Ralegansiddhi, Perener T q. Ahemed Nagar Dist., Maharashtra State. In the past two and half decades he has set an unprecedented example in implementing the ideals of development of Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda. Development requires dedication is the conclusion we can draw on observation of achievements of Sri Anna Hazare and his team of villagers. The real development of a village can be seen in its all facets here. Heads of Govt., Bureaucrats, and Social Workers visit this place to study and get motivated themselves on the different aspects of developments. Activities like co-operative movement community development, watershed development, women empowerment, peoples' participation in community welfare have been the programmes successfully implemented. There is a residential school for orphans and children left out from schools, there are toilets for all men and women, a Grain Bank for the people falling short of food grains due to drought. No liquor or any intoxicating material is sold or consumed in the past 20 years are 'some of the samples only to quote.

He has been struggling to unearth and avoid corruption in administration. A man who had not gone to any college, who had worked as a vehicle driver in the Indian Army, who is not in occupation of his own room in the village, not having the Bank balance of about Rs. 5000/= in his name, is the advisor of welfare and development activities of different State Governments today. As a token of recognition, respect and regard of social services, Sri Math honoured him by conferring its Basava Shree Award 2000.

Dr. Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanuru conferring Basavashree Award on Sri Anna Hazare at the Award Conferment Function held in Chitradurga on 5th June 2000. Justice Shivaraj Patil, Supreme Court was present at the function





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 1999

DR. H. SUDARSHAN

Dr. H. Sudarshan has been the ray of light for the tribes of Bilegiri Hills, located on the southern border of Karnataka State. He motivated trained and organized the tribals and exposed them to the civilized life. He dedicated his entire life for the betterment of these jungle people neglected by the civic society. He promoted the 'Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra' (Vivekananda Tribal Welfare Centre) through which health, education, employment, entrepreneurship, community living were made accessible to the people of soliga society. He promoted cottage industries as a means of livelihood to the majority of people including women and children. Being a Doctor himself, provided health care to the tribes by starting hospitals and training them in the use of decentralized, low cost, ecologically sound and culturally acceptable medicines from local herbs. He has worked as the Chairperson of Task Force Committee for Health, appointed by the Govt. of Karnataka. Now he is working as honorary Investigation Director, for the Karnataka Lokayuktha. Basava Shree Award 1999 was given to him in honour of his dedicated and un matching commitment to service.

Dr. H Sudarshan, receiving the Basava Shree Award 1999 on 7th May, 1999 from Sri Shivamurthy Murugharajendra Sharanaru at the Award Conferment Function, held at Basava Kendra, Bangalore. Dr. Siddalingaiah, MLC, Dr. K. Siddappa, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University, Sri. V. P. Baligar Director for Industries and Commerce Govt. of Karnataka were being present.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEE 1998

### LATE. DR. HIREMALLUR ESHWARAN

Late Dr. Hiremallur Eshwaran was a renowned scholar in Vachana literature and Social Science. He did his higher education in England and Holland after his Master degree and Ph.D. in India. He served as Head of the Dept. of Social Anthropology in Karnataka University for some time. Later he worked as Professor of Social Science in York University, Canada for about 30 years.

Dr. Eshwaran has contributed about 25 books of his own, edited about 72 works and written large number of articles. Among his works 'Lingayat Religion and Culture' is a master piece from the view point of the recital interpretations of social revolution of Basaveshwara and vachana literature. He was also a good orator. He crossed the set line of tradition by marrying a Christian lady, who later changed her name as Shylaja Eshwaran. He was the publisher for 3 International Journals. He died on 22.6.98 that is, just after the announcement of his selection for award.

Smt. Shylaja Eshwaran, wife of late Dr. Hiremallur Eshwaran receiving the Basava Shree Award, Posthumously awarded to Dr. Hiremallur Eshwaran, a Social Scientist and Scholar in Basava Philosophy, at the Award Conferment Function held at Basava Kendra, Bangalore, on 7th July 1998. Sri Haa.Ma. Nayaka, Dr. Siddalinga Pattana Shetty Kannada Laureates, Sri G. N. Ranganatha Rao, Editor, Prajavani were present.





## BASAVA SHREE AWARDEES 1997

### SRI SIDDHARAMA SHARANARU

Sri Siddharama Sharanaru, Pontiff of Beldal Math, Bidar Dist., is working for eradication of the stigma of untouchability. He himself is hailing from this community and has accepted lingayatism for his spiritual life. He was initiated as seer in 1973 by Sri Channabasava Pattadhyaksharu, the then Seer of Sri Bhalki Matha. The plain speaking polite man in white robes is a scholar in Basava philosophy. Since the beginning of his initiation, he has been relentlessly working for the propagation of lingayatism, the religion propounded by Basaveshwara.

Sri Siddharama Sharanaru has written many books on Vachana Uterature. Vachanatatva Saara, Bhagavaan Buddha, Vachanatatvaanubhava and Bedagina Belagu are the few to name. The Book Bedagina Belagu is a remarkable work in which he has tried to interpret the riddles in vachanas of Allama Prabhu, the great spiritual master among the 12th Century A.D. Sharanas. The decision to confer the first Basava Shree Award on Sri Siddharama Sharanaru is a commendable step of Math to encourage the solid service of a sober saint working against untouchability .

Sri Siddharama Sharanaru receiving the 'Basava Shree Award-1997' from Sri Shivamurthy Murugharajendra Sharanaru, the architect of the award, at the Award Conferment Function held in Davangere on 26th Feb. 1997. Dr. M. I. Savadathi Vice Chancellor of Mangalore University Sri Basavalinga Pattadhyaksharu of Bhalki Math, Sri Swamiji of Hulalur, Sir YR. Patil, DIG Davangere were being present.

