

Late Dr. Jagannath Wani, Founder President & Mentor



For SAA Dr Wani is the founder, mentor and active supporter, all combined together. He has many accomplishments beyond SAA. Dr Wani is the Professor Emeritus of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Calgary. For a six year period, 1982-1988, he was Chairman of the Division of Statistics. One of his major contributions to the University was the creation of Actuarial Science degree program in 1983. His fund-raising activities include several scholarship programs for university students, Chair of Schizophrenia at the University of Calgary, relief fund for 1993 earthquake in India and many development projects in India.

He is founder of more than 14 voluntary organizations that include Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, Maharashtra Seva Samiti Organization, Raga-Mala Performing Arts of Canada and Vedanta Society of Calgary. Besides serving on the Board of the societies he founded, he also served on the Boards of Calgary Chamber Music Society, India Canada Association of Calgary, Camrose International Institute and Government of Alberta's Heritage Council. His experience in Development related activities include membership of the Program Review Committee of the Prairie Decentralized Support Program (PDSP).

Dr Wani has been honoured by at least a dozen institutions in India and Canada for his voluntary services to help the less privileged. These include Outstanding Service Award (1994) Special Felicitation by the President of India at the Jagatik Marathi Parishad, YMCA Calgary Peace Medal (2004) for International Peace Initiatives, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Lifetime/Outstanding Achievement Award of Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. The crowning of all the awards is the Order of Canada the highest civilian award of Canada bestowed upon him by the Governor General of Canada.

His inspiring memoirs in Marathi, ANDHARATEEL PRAKASHVATA, published in Pune by the Continental Prakashan, is now in its second edition. Its English version Triumphs and Tragedies has also been published.