



Karmaveer Trivia Booklet

Honouring THE POWER of FEW and Recognising THE POWER OF ONE!



Recognition by "We the People" for the POWER of ONE Citizen to BE THE CHANGE

A Coveted Inclusive Fellowship of Compassionate Citizen Noble Laureates with Courage of Conviction to RIGHT every WRONG.

Little known finer points about the most revered global award (as paraphrased by our Karmaveer Noble Laureates, aspiring nominees and citizens at large) given to Global Citizens for BEING THE CHANGE.



Dr. Verghese Kurien receiving his award from honorable Indian statesmen and iCONGO chief patrons, the late Shri. Vasant Sathe (leading parliamentarian, socialist, lawyer and veteran minister) and Shri. L.M. Singhvi (India'sleading jurist, diplomat, parliamentarian, constitutional expert and scholar who spoke about the constitution, our rights and duties in the first ever REX CONCLIVE)

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"Of all the awards I have been honoured with, Karmaveer Puraskaar holds a special place in my heart, since unlike most other awards, one does not need to indulge in any nepotism or lobby with any political or social faction for the Karmaveer award. One can simply earn this honour and recognition by doing something noble to make a difference in our world." Dr. Kurien, our first Karmaveer Puraskaar Lifetime Achievement Award recipient said this to our founders during the ceremony and he expressed the same to his life partner, Mrs. Molly Kurien (who had also accompanied him for the award ceremony because

Dr. Kurien insisted on being present at awards despite his failing health) and whose wish was that the Karmaveer Puraskaar - Global awards for Social Justice and Citizen Action should be mentioned topmost in the press release, issued after his death.

This was seen in this Times of India article that first appeared after his death on 9th September 2012 (http://articles.timeso_ndia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-10/ranchi/33736253 _1_verghese-kurien-tata-steel-white-revolution). Mrs. Molly Kurien told us about this when we called her to express our condolences after Dr. Kurien's death.

Dr. Verghese Kurien, undoubtedly the greatest Indian after Gandhiji and who was India's and the world's most leading, fearless, honest and committed social entrepreneur has left behind a lasting legacy, with his huge contribution for communities and environment. As a mark of our respect and a tribute for the legend, whose idea for action has made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of million people and children across the globe, we shall be naming the REX Karmaveer annual award as the Verghese Kurien - REX Karmaveer Puraskaar. We shall also continue to campaign for the Bharat Ratna for Dr. Verghese Kurien, a recognition that has been denied to him because of the fearless stands he took against emergency and several other wrong doings by several governments over the years.





2. It was a decade ago in 2003 when we conceived the Karmaveer awards at the JOY OF GIVING function organised by our Karmaveer Founders to felicitate Invisible Heroes from our society. Prince Charles was honored as a Karma Mitra-Friend in action by The Founders of iCONGO, REX and KARMAVEER. Prince Charles then honored and celebrated 4

invisible, unsung, ordinary citizen heroes of society for their extraordinary work. Ms. Mogalamma a 22 year old slum dweller working for polio affected; Mr. Saddam Basha an auto rickshaw driver promoting peace & communal harmony; Mr. Mahadev Rajmane a prisoner working for legal rights; Ms. Mangala Khillo a bonded labourer who did marvelous work for labour rights. Thus was born the egalitarian, austere & simple KARMAVEER movement under the aegis of iCONGO and Karma Mitra Foundation with the core objective of promoting INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILTY (a term coined by all the volunteers of iCONGO).



3. In 2006-7 at the first awards ceremony we honoured 8 people with the Karmaveer award for the first time. Ms. Anu Aga revered captain of industry and Chairperson of Thermax Ltd. was one of the 8 citizens who were honoured in our very first year along with Ms. Marcella D'souza, Mr. Verghese Kurien, Mr. James Michael Lyngdoh, Mr. Harsh Mander, Mr.

Arun Maira, Mr. Crispino Lobo and Mr. Vikram Akula . She was honoured for all her noble work for society and for being the first captain of industry in India to announce 2% of profits for the benefit of social causes. This noble action of Ms. Anu Aga set the precedent for industry to pledge 2% of profits for addressing social issues. Now after years of policy influencing by civil society leaders, other Karmaveer awardees and iCONGO volunteers , the government announced that all PSU's shall mandatorily contribute 2% of profits for social causes. Very soon the private sector overall may also have to contribute 2% of profits for social welfare. Several captains of Industry like Dr. Villoo Patell, Ms. Meera Sayal, Mr. P. Sridhar Reddy Mr. Karan Paul, Mr. Ajay Bijli, Mr. Sunil Mittal, Mr. Marian Noronha, Mr. Duncan Watkinson and others have also been honoured with the Karmaveer over the years.



4. In 2007 we felicitated 3 international celebrities Mr. Gopichand Pullela, Mr. Remo Fernandes and Mr. Rahul Bose for all their noble work. Several other movie, music and sports celebrities from India have also been nominated and chosen for the Karmaveer. Over the years several international celebrities have been nominated and awarded the Karmaveer

Puraskaar which include Ms. Kajol, Ms. Gul Panag, Ms. Saskia Laroo, Mr. Gregory Roberts (author of Shantaram), Mr. William Dalrymple, Mr. Arzell Paparazell and others. We have also received nominations of international celebrities like Ms. Ashley Judd for all her humanitarian work, Mr. Carlos Santana for his work through his Milagro foundation and Mr. Will Smith for all his community service work. In 2009 Mr. Nick Vujicic, prominent motivational speaker and inspirations for millions of young people across the globe was also nominated for the Karmaveer award. However we have been unable to give these awards due to their being unable to receive it personally due to some other commitments.

We follow a strict policy of not giving awards in absentia, which was created with feedback from the past Karmaveer awardees who are also invited to serve as jury members every year, thus making it an awards program governed by the community of Karmaveer Noble Laureates. Every year the KARMAVEER JURY consists of 7 members who are invited from amongst the past awardees and 2 members who are independent, credible citizens who work on selecting the award recipients through a process created pro bono by Mercer – the global HR consulting firm.



5. 26/11 has been celebrated by us as the CITIZEN ACTION DAY for over a decade now since this is the day we in India adopted our constitution in 1949. For years we have been creating awareness about how CITIZENS need to ACT and fulfill their FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES to ENJOY THE PRIVILEGE OF OUR RIGHTS. In 2008,

26/11 got whole new meaning due to the terror attacks in Bombay. CITIZEN ACTION came to the fore when people came out on the streets demanding GOOD GOVERNANCE. This was the year that we at iCONGO embarked on the journey to create progressive electoral reforms through our RIGHT every WRONG movement under the patronage of our chief patron and retired CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS Mr. James Michael Lyngdoh (awarded the KARMAVEER in the first year i.e. 2006-7) and Mr. Krishnamurthy. The desired Electoral Reforms were worked on for over 4 years with active Citizen Participation and involvement of Electoral Process Experts from across the globe. The proposed reforms were then given in early 2012 to Chief election Commissioner, Mr. Shahabuddin Yaqoob Quraishi (awarded the KARMAVEER in 2012, who immediately set up a committed to study and act on the proposed reforms. It is also important to note that Ms. Meera Sanyal (CEO of RBS) who was awarded the KARMAVEER on the eve of 26/11 announced the next day during her speech at the conclave that she plans to contest elections and INSPIRE CITIZEN ACTION. In 2008, we also instituted the KARMAVEER CHAKRA in partnership with the UN.



6. In 2009 we launched the CRUSADE AGAINST CORRUPTION in partnership with UNODC at our 4th RIGHT every WRONG conclave and KARMAVEER PURASKAAR awards ceremony. Several people including children and youth who were leading the crusade in their own small way to make a big difference by SAYING NO TO CORRUPTION were awarded the KARMAVEER. The idea was to

inspire CITIZENS to be the change and SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. This was the beginning of a long battle against corruption that began at our conclave and awards ceremony. Mr. Anna Hazare (who was to launch a full blown campaign against corruption later in 2011) was also nominated and chosen for the award in this year, but could not attend the ceremony due to some unforeseen circumstances.



7. In early 2010 we were approached by the advisor of an Indian business family who owned a big healthcare business and they proposed to give us a huge donation in lieu of awarding the brothers who managed the business now. This family had recently sold their Pharmaceutical business to a MNC Pharmaceutical organisation and had invested the

moneys they made from the sale to create a Non Banking finance Company and some other affiliated businesses. They also own hospitals and other healthcare related businesses. The advisor who approached us was a senior retired Indian Army General along with another consultant. They told us that they have similar arrangements with other recognitions created by other institutions and media houses. Without mincing words we reprimanded this gentleman for his unscrupulous and appalling offer and told him that he could buy all the awards he wanted from media houses, but he can NEVER EVER get the KARMAVEER with all his immoral ways. We told him that the only way to earn and receive the KARMAVEER award is to genuinely make a difference in our society. That's all that is needed for ONE to be honoured with the KARMAVEER recognition. However these people had closed the doors altogether on themselves and would never be honoured with the KARMAVEER now.

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.- **Confucius**





8. In October 2009 our founder Jeroninio Almeida (Jerry) met Dr. Phil Zimbardo in a conference at Croatia where they were co-panelists. Dr. Zimbardo is a LIVING

LEGEND and is best known for his Stanford prison study (that highlighted the ease with which ordinary intelligent college students could cross the line between good and evil when caught up in the matrix of situational and systemic forces.) and authorship of various introductory psychology books, textbooks for college students, and books including The Lucifer Effect, The Time Paradox and the The Time Cure. Dr. Phil Zimbardo spoke about his plans to launch a HERO IMAGINATION PROJECT (http://heroicimagination. org) during the conference and how he needed a huge grant of some million dollars to begin this project. Jerry spoke at the conference about our movement to get people heroes together as ONE to RIGHT every WRONG and about how we were inspiring citizen action through ordinary heroes with the Karmaveer Awards without any funding. Dr. Zimbardo reached out to Jerry and asked him during the meeting about how KARMAVEER sustains without any funding?. Jerry explained to him that we are passionate about the mission to create more and more heroes in our world and rely more on our resourcefulness rather than on resources. It was during this meeting that Dr. Zimbardo decided to immediately begin the Heroic Imagination Project . This is what Dr. Zimbardo said to us after his return to Stanford, "Jerry, It was a delightful experience meeting with you and getting brilliant insights on the creation of True Heroes. For years I have been trying to launch the Heroic Imagination Project but have been unable to do so due to paucity of funding. I was happy to note that what I have been thinking for years is already being done all of you involved with Karmaveer in a big way. My meeting with you has inspired me to begin irrespective of funding and the work you all are doing to create true heroes in society is commendable and inspirational. It is only by creating true heroes from amongst ordinary citizens that we shall be able to combat evil in our world. Thank you for showing us the light to begin with our own ingenuity". Karmaveer over the years has inspired several campaigns like Lead India, Teach India, REAL HEROES and SOCIAL IMPACT awards. Several media houses have emulated our idea and newspapers/ magazines have now begun special PEOPLE HERO features. A young journalist and KARMVEER Noble Laureate, Ms. Tithiya Sharma also embarked to find ordinary heroes from across the globe through her "100 HEROES PROJECT"



Michael Norton receiving his award from Jugnu Almeida and Bosco Fernandes



9. Mr. Anthony Gonsalves the 82 year old living legend and music maestro par excellence who was also mentor to several music directors from the Indian Film Industry. Veteran Music Directors Laxmikant – Pyarelal who were also his protégés dedicated the song "My name is Anthony Gonsalves" to their mentor and guru. However the Film Industry

and Government never ever honoured this LIVING LEGEND and he was a FORGOTTEN HERO. In 2010 for the first time this LEGENDARY HERO was given an award which was the KARMAVEER award at a ceremony specially organised by the International Film Festival of India (IFFI in Goa). Mr. Anthony Gonsalves who got his public recognition for the first time in his 82 years of being was so happy that at the ceremony after being given the award he simply said "I am happy, so happy". After this Mr. Gonsalves was written about not only by media in India but also by media across the globe. After the Karmaveer award Mr. Amitabh Bachchan also wrote a tribute to Mr. Anthony Gonslaves in the Sunday Times. A year later in 2011, the Government of India and Indian Film Industry who had ignored this TRUE HERO was duty-bound to honour him with the DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD which is the highest honour given to people from the performing arts sector in India. Ms. Laxmi Gonsalves (daughter) who was with Mr. Gonslaves during the ceremony called our founders after the ceremony and said "My father has tears in his eyes today for finally being recognized by the Industry. This has all been possible due to the efforts of Mr. Bardroy Barretto, Mr. Armando Gonsalves and all of you at Karmaveer. It is the simple supremacy of the Karmaveer award that has finally made it possible for us to get all the recognition that was long overdue to my father. My father asked me to tell you that Karmaveer rocks and you need to ensure that Karmaveer mainstreams several other forgotten heroes also".

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-01-20/goa/30646575_1_goans-anthony-gonsalves-music

http://www.hindustantimes.com/Entertainment/Music/His-name-is-Anthony-Gonsalves/Article1-634468.aspx

P.S. Mr. Anthony Gonsalves passed away in January 2012 and we at Karmaveer are humbled by his conviction in the Karmaveer and shall always strive to mainstream forgotten ordinary heroes who have created a left behind an extraordinary body of work and a huge legacy for future generations.



10. In 2010 we also awarded Ms. Jyothi and Mr. MC Raj who are Dalit leaders and have been at the forefront of leading huge Dalit Rights movements in India. Mr. MC. Raj also spearheaded the process on electoral reforms to propose Proportionate representation rather than the current First Past the Post process. This is what they wrote in their blod.

"We received our awards too! But it mattered very little. The atmosphere of responsibility to the nation and to the world so overwhelmed the participants that the Award to individuals paled into insignificance. However, no one could deprive anyone of the pride in receiving the award. We could see it on the face of many. Brahmins came and touched our feet and addressed us as their Ammaji and Appaji. It was not out of ignorance. It was after knowing very well that we are Dalits. A world is in embryonic stage. We can come together and live together, Dalits and Brahmins. The Karmaveer memento is huge. The Karmaveer Citation will stand tall for life."

http://troubledgalaxydetroyeddreams.blogspot.in/2010/12/fwd-karmaveer-on-26-nov.html

http://dalitrefugees.blogspot.in/2010/11/fwd-karmaveer-on-26-nov.html (MC Raj and Jyothi picture)





11. In 2010 we also announced KarmaYuga – the RIGHT every WRONG generation to inspire people to become EveryDAY Heroes. The idea is to help create more and more heroes in our society and world who can make a big difference with their simple actions. These are heroes who consistently act to be the change 24/7, over 365 days every year. 12 years ago

we embarked on the journey of beginning the process for getting people involved with social issues and began THE JOY OF GIVING movement. This movement has become popular across India now and is also being emulated at places in Europe and USA. However after having begun the movement which has led to people mostly giving money to charity, we realized the need to get people involved with social justice to understand how each of us could become and lead the change. This comes from the deep belief that it is not just charity but justice that is wanting in our world. Thus 9 years ago we also launched the RIGHT every WRONG movement. We sincerely believe that no one can do everything but that everyone can do something to leave behind a legacy of a better world for future generations. Like was said by the Native Americans "we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children and that social service is the rent we pay to occupy our space on this Earth". We also know that everyone cannot join NGOs as full time volunteers and leave everything else and need to fulfill other commitments in our day to day life and business as usual. However while we continue doing our business as usual and being whatever we are as professionals, students, corporate executives, homemakers, teachers, government officials, lawyers, accountants, bankers, media professionals, journalists or whatever our roles may be, we can also do some small or big simple action to make a big difference. More details are on www.

righteverywrong.com



12. In 2011 during the launch of KarmaYuga we also announced our intent to create a series of books titled "KARMA KURRY for the mind, body, heart & soul". These books are soon to be published by a leading publishing house and shall have inspiring stories of KARMAVEER HEROES. These are stories that we tell

in our DISCOVER THE LEADER WITHIN training programs conducted by iCONGO in schools, colleges, B-schools and companies to inspire people to be the change. KARMA KURRY books shall have several stories of heroes to inspire ethical leadership by understanding our human values and duties as citizens. Karma Kurry shall have a foreword by Mr. Nelson Mandela. We had shared a few stories with Mr. Mandela in mid 2012 and this is what his office wrote back to us. "Dear Jerry, Thank you so much for sharing your stories. Mr. Nelson Mandela is unwell at the moment but specially made the time to read all the stories, which you shared in your email. He has expressed his best wishes to all of you and is highly inspired by all the work you are doing at iCONGO. He loved all the stories of the Karmaveer award winners and was very impressed by Karmaveer movement. He has agreed to write the foreword for your book and has requested you to share the completed manuscript once you are ready with the book."



Aubrey and Lorraine Aloysius receiving award from Anuj Aggarwal



13. In 2012 we launched the REX Karmaveer Global Fellowships. REX KARMAVEER GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS shall be inclusive of people who are making a difference in Technology, Innovation, Entertainment, Media, Design, Performing Arts, Architecture, Engineering, Aviation, Creative Arts, Fine Arts and Sciences, Humanities. RKGF also comprises of Writers & Authors, Journalists, Activists,

Whistle-Blowers, Students, NGO Leaders, CSR Professionals, Investment Bankers, Entrepreneurs, Fundraisers, Humane Business Strategists, Leadership Coaches, Educationists, Citizens from the Armed & Police Forces, Government Leaders & Bureaucrats, Diplomats, Engineers, Consultants, Entertainers and people from several other disciplines & sectors. REX Kid-power fellows, REX Youth-Power Fellows, REX Senior Fellows and REX Veteran Fellows evolve from many knowledge disciplines that reflect the diversity the FELLOWSHIPS. At RKGF we choose an eclectic combine of people, which includes everyone from life-changing innovators, brave crusaders and soldiers of peace & justice to integrate within the REX and KARMAVEER community for sharing their thought provoking ideas for action with millions of people across the globe for transforming lives through social impact projects and ideas for action. RKGF comprises of people who believe that knowledge is power and power must be share to create a balance of power in the KNOWLEDGE AGE. All fellows must value learning and traditional wisdom and sharing knowledge. RKGF is an ecosystem where we unlearn and mentor each other by keeping an open mind for learning and sharing wisdom and progressive knowledge for mutual advantage and the common cause of creating a better, just, humane, egalitarian world. Here at RKGF we need to value learning, knowledge & traditional Eastern wisdom and best practices from western philosophy as our real wealth and award.



14. Over the years several Karmaveer award recipients have gone ahead to win other global awards & fellowships, become global ambassadors for the UN and International NGOs and become members of the Planning Commission, National Advisory Council and other top think tanks from across the globe.

KARMAVEERS have been extensively profiled in media from across the globe and the Karmaveer website has over time become an archive for journalists and others from across the world to feature and scout for true heroes. Several KARMAVEERS have also partnered with each other over the years to create huge social

impact in our society with their work through a win-win collaboration, thus endorsing our slogan of "TOGETHER AS ONE WE CAN RIGHT EVERY WRONG". Over the years KARMAVEER has truly become an egalitarian and humane platform. KARMAVEER has brought together people from several sectors, nations and segments of society, who are finding ways to work together without any discrimination in a just, responsible and equitable way, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, nationality and age. All these stories and more trivia about our KARMAVEER NOBLE LAUREATES shall be penned and featured in our Karma Kurry books.



15. Ms. Mary Pawlenty who is the founder of Healing Hearts Foundation in India, a prominent member of the legal fraternity in the United States of America and the wife of Mr. Tim Pawlenty, Governor of Minnesota and USA Presidential Hopeful in 2012 was awarded the Karmaveer in early 2012 for all her work to provide timely healthcare to children born with

congenital heart diseases. Several other global citizens like Ms. Lindsay Levin, Princess Francois Sturdza, Mr. Michael Norton (OBE) and others have been awarded and honoured over the years. More about Mary Pawlenty is on her wiki link. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Pawlenty (Mary Pawlenty Picture)





16. The KARMAVEER awards program has always been accompanied by the RIGHT every WRONG CONCLAVE. This is a knowledge forum that has churned

great thought leadership with ideas to create huge social impact. This is a pioneering and premier knowledge forum from India and has attracted the best speakers from across the globe. The ideas created at the forum have been included in the auxiliary curriculum of several universities across the globe including the esteemed UN managed, University of Peace (uPeace) in Costa Rica. Over the years people who have spoken in the forum have called us the best knowledge platform in this part of the world and compared us with the World Philanthropy Forum, Skoll World Forum and TED. Although these comparisons are flattering and with all due respect to these forums, we are not them because we unquestionably have our own identity and distinctiveness. In 2012 after a lot of consultation with several of our supporters, we decide to rechristen the movement as REX – Ideas for Action and the knowledge forum as REX CONCLIVE. More details are on www.



17. In 2012 we also announced the Karmaveer - Golden Candle awards. These are awards that would be the highest honour annually given to past award winners within the Karmaveer ecosystem for their sustained citizen action to be the change and make a difference in our world. Ms. Sumithra Prasad and Mr. Abhishek Bharadwaj were bestowed with this honour in REX

CONCLIVE- 2012 for their sustained citizen action for social justice. During the REX CONCLIVE- 2012 we also witnessed the launch of the ONE BILLION RISING campaign to address crimes against women and everyone shared ideas about how citizens need to address eve teasing, rapes, violence and other atrocities where innocent women are targeted. It was a SAD BLACK DAY for India, when a few days after our REX CONCLIVE- 2012, we had a heinous crime in India, with the brutal rape and murder of a young girl at Delhi. This girl was christened as Damini and Nirbhaya by the media. This young girl whose real name was Ms. Jyoti Singh Pandey, ignited an uprising in India with people coming out to protest on the streets. These protests happened without any leader at the helm and probably marked the beginning for the flame of change to grow into a blazing fire for citizens to wake up and address wrongs and social evils in our society. As a tribute to Ms. Jyoti Singh Pandey we shall now be rechristening the Karmaveer- Golden Candle awards as the KARMAVEER JYOTI.



18. Over the years the KARMAVEER awards have sustained our sanctity and austerity by not accepting any kind of insensible and insensitive funding. We have resisted the temptation by declining offers from sponsors whose idea of up-scaling the KARMAVEER award is to have a glitzy ceremony in a 5 star hotel. We declined as we do not wish to abuse the sensitivity of our grassroots

heroes or lose our values of austerity, integrity and simplicity. Hence it has always been a struggle to sustain the awards program. However with the support of our past award winners we have come a long way and are now into the 8th year of our awards program. Over the years we are grateful to our KARMAVEER NOBLE LAUREATES who have reached out to offer their support and solidarity. Our board member Ms. Amala Akkineni and KARMAVEER award winner Mr. Sailesh Rao pledged funds to sustain KARMAVEER in 2008. In 2010 Mr. Sridhar Reddy of CtrlS offered to underwrite most of the event costs and has been doing so for the past 3 years. This support encouraged all of us to reach out to our KARMAVEERS with a simple appeal to support us sustain our integrity and sanctity and we were overwhelmed by the support pledged by several KARMAVEERS who offered sums ranging from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 1 million plus to help us sustain the KARMAVEER movement . Your support shall always keep us on the right path to uphold the values of integrity, humility and courage of conviction, for always doing the RIGHT THING. Together as ONE we can RIGHT every WRONG.

The above mentioned are just a few indicative finer details and there are many more memorable moments and thoughts that shall be available on our website. Our website which used to get very huge traffic was hacked in early 2013 and the hackers demanded a huge sum. Hence we changed our website from www. karmaveer.com to www.karmaveerglobalawards.com

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.- **Christopher Reeve**

Nothing is given to man on earth – struggle is built into the nature of life, and conflict is possible – the hero is the man who lets no obstacle prevent him from pursuing the values he has chosen. – **Andrew Bernstein**



Mary Kom receiving her award from H.R.Bangia and Anupam Kataria



Sunish Suramanian Kunju receiving his award from Praveen Kumar and Bosco Fernandes

