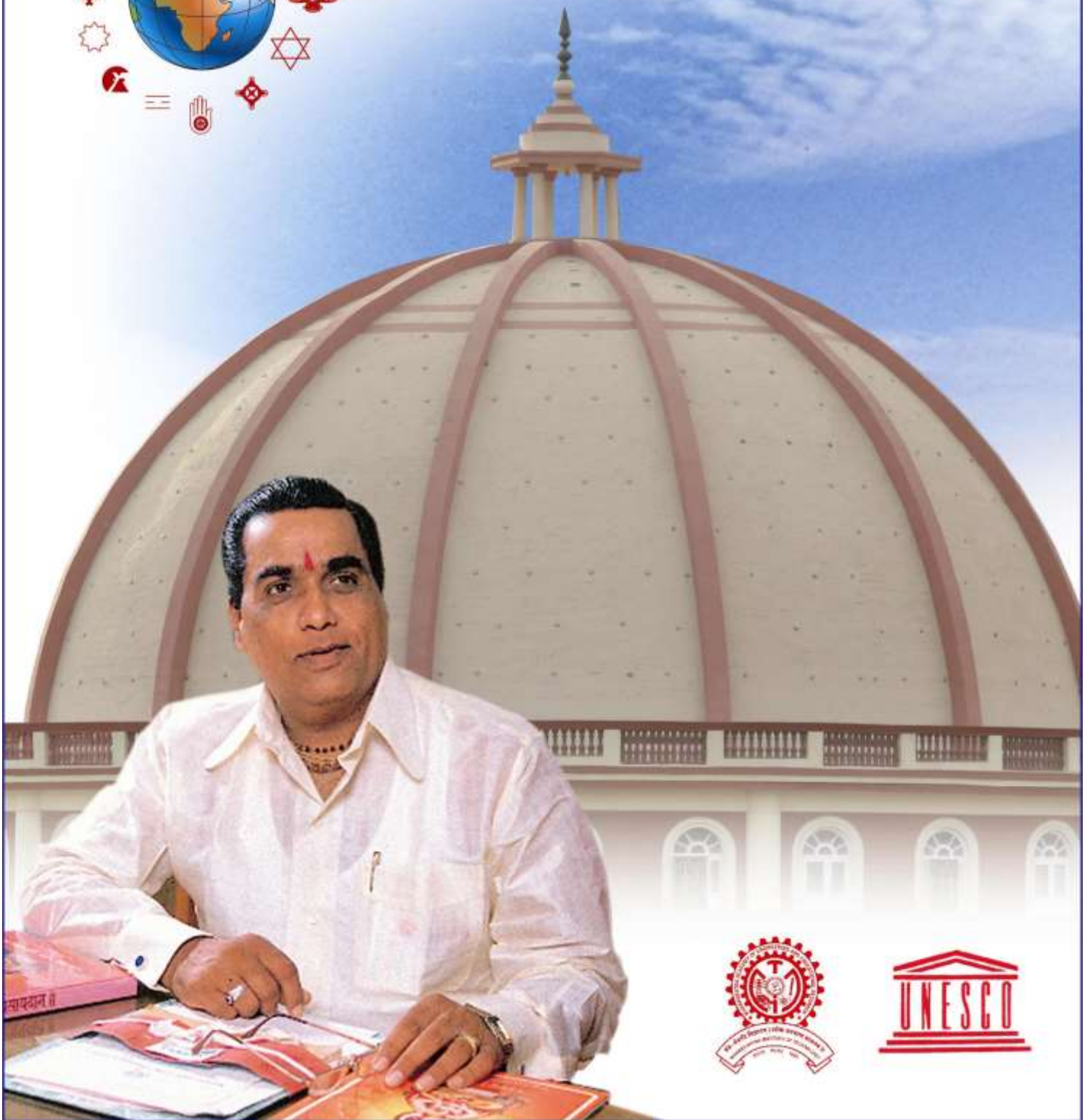


Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad

A Great Visionary Thinker, An Eminent Educationist



**A PROFILE OF
AN ILLUSTRIOUS NOBLE SON OF INDIA
PROF. (DR.) VISHWANATH D. KARAD**



PROF. (DR.) VISHWANATH D. KARAD

A Man with a great Vision and Insight, An Eminent Educationist, a Well-known Teacher of Repute and an Ambassador and Torch Bearer of World Peace

**Founder President & Director General,
WORLD PEACE CENTRE (Alandi) MAEER's MIT, Pune, India**

**UNESCO CHAIR Holder & Regional Co-ordinator for Asia-Pacific Region,
UNESCO CHAIR for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace & Tolerance
Member,**

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, NEW YORK

**Member, Founding Council,
UBUNTU – WORLD FORUM OF NETWORKS, BARCELONA, SPAIN**

**Member, International Advisory Board,
INTER-RELIGIOUS AND INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE, NEW YORK**

**Member, Board of Directors,
UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION IN INDIA (USEFI) FOR THE YEAR 2002**

**Founder, Executive President,
“SHREE KSHETRA ALANDI - DEHU PARISAR VIKAS SAMITI”, Pune**

**Founder, Executive President,
SAINT SHREE DNYANESHWARA AND SAINT SHREE TUKARAM
ENDOWMENT LECTURE SERIES TRUST, PUNE**

**Founder, Executive President,
WORLD PEACE RESEARCH FOUNDATION, PUNE, INDIA**

Prof. (Dr.) Vishwanath D. Karad, born in a very pious farmer's family, in the tiny village, Rameshwar (Rui) in the State of Maharashtra, India has earned a great reverence, respect and recognition for his distinguished services through his missionary pursuit in promoting the “Value Based Universal Education System” and Training Programmes for ‘World Peace.’ He is one of the internationally acclaimed educationists, a great visionary and a highly devoted teacher of repute.

Prof. Vishwanath Karad, with his tremendous sense of dedication and commitment to promote the “Culture of Peace” in the world, has devoted his entire life for the noble cause of human welfare. His life Mission for World Peace, and the pioneering work in promoting “Value Based Universal Education System” has helped hundreds of thousands of students and others in developing their positive mindsets.

DR. VISHWANATH D. KARAD A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL UNIQUE PERSONALITY

Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad is a simple man of austere and clean natural habits, a strict vegetarian, a lover of Mother Nature, a pious man with a highly philosophical but analytical mind, a devout believer of the time-tested human values, and proud of Indian ethos and culture. He has staunch faith in the universal truth that all World Religions are True and Equal and as such convey the same Message of True Love and Compassion for Human Welfare.

Prof. Karad has been a champion to promote Interfaith, Universal Brotherhood and Understanding, through Value Based Education and Training of students, and the society at large, to make them realize the role of science and spirituality in establishing a Peace Loving Holistic Society.

Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad is one of the finest example of a true multi-dimensional personality engaged in various activities such as Education, Social and Cultural activities for the well-being of the Mankind, Welfare, Environmental Improvement and Pollution Control, Research and Development, Peace Studies, Promotion of Human Rights Education, Village Development Programmes, Mass Education, Healthcare Programmes, Religious Harmony and many more including nation building programmes based on very innovative concepts.

He is an eminent accomplished engineer by qualification, a noble educationist by profession and not only a teacher of repute but a highly skilled, visionary Architect, a great Orator and above all a great Humanitarian with a burning passion for human welfare.

Prof. Karad is a man of very high principles with a tremendous sense of commitment to promote the moral and ethical family values, which will ultimately contribute in establishing Harmony and Peace in the global society.

As an ardent follower and believer in the philosophy professed by the greatest saints, sages, seers like Saint Philosopher Sri Dnyaneshwara, Swami Vivekananda, Saint Francis of Assisi and the modern scientist like Dr. Albert Einstein, Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad, with his rich knowledge, wisdom and appropriate understanding of the role of science and spirituality along with the essence and philosophy of all world religions, is constantly engaged in promoting the noble cause of human welfare through various National and International Conferences, Conventions, Workshops, Seminars, Lecture Series and many other socio-cultural activities organized at the World Peace Centre, MAEER’s MIT, Pune, India.

A few of such activities carried out by Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad till date under his visionary able leadership, which are really note worthy are as under:

- a) **World Philosophers Meet-1996, Pune, India – A Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy.**
- b) **World Philosophers Meet-1998 – Second Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy organized at Geneva, Switzerland in August, 1998 with the theme of “Science, Religion and Ethics in the 21st Century”.**
- c) **Asia – Pacific Regional Conference on Education for Human Rights from 3rd to 6th February 1999 in collaboration with UNESCO, Paris.**
- d) **National, International, Regional, and State Level Students Conferences to promote the “Culture of Peace”.**
- e) **Saint Shree Dnyaneshwara and Saint Shree Tukaram Endowment Lecture Series from the year 1996 under the UNESCO Chair Programme.**
- f) **World Peace Conference on Role of Gandhi, Ganga and Giriraj Himalaya symbolizing Peace, Life and Ecology.**
- g) **Role of Youth in promoting World Peace-2008**
- h) **Need to redefine Philosophy and interpret its Indian / Oriental and Western Concepts.**
- i) **Three day national round table conference on “Pathways to World Peace through Democratic Change”**
- j) **A National Round Table Conference on Promoting Wrestling and Mission Olympic 2012.**

Prof. Karad has been constantly involved in organizing Orientation Programmes for Students, Staff and the people at large, based on the methods and practices like Yoga, Meditation etc. with a number of Socio-Cultural programmes like Human Rights Day, Tolerance Week, Peace Marches, Observation of Hiroshima Day, Kranti Din, International Women’s Day, Children’s Day etc.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF DR. VISHWANATH D. KARAD

Establishment of nearly 45 educational and research institutions of repute in the field of Engineering Sciences, Medical Sciences, Management Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Marine Engineering Sciences, along with the most unique institution called “World Peace Centre, MAEER’s MIT, Pune, Maharashtra State” along with the completely new concept of Institution named “MIT School Government” and the most unique “Vishwa Shanti Gurukul” based on time-tested value systems to build a sense of discipline and character along with educating

and training the students to develop their brain and intellect on scientific lines will give a brief glimpse of his achievements, in a short span of 20 years or so.

Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad has also conceptualized and put into effect a unique Music Academy at Rajbaug, Loni to promote the time-tested values and ethos of Indian Classical Music and Dance. This academy, known as "Vishwashanti Sangeet Gurukul" has Bharat Ratna Smt. Lata Mangeshkarji is the Chairperson.

AS AN EMINENT TEACHER OF REPUTE AND A VISIONARY EDUCATIONIST

Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad is a highly revered and respected teacher of repute, who has helped in inspiring and motivating tens of thousands of students to develop their "Winning Personalities" by making them 'Physically Strong, Mentally Alert, Intellectually Sharp and Spiritually Elevated.'

His own life truly reflects the purity of his mind, purity of his thought and purity of his each and every action, oriented towards helping the poor, the needy and the deserving student community.

The establishment of World Peace Centre of MAEER's MIT, Pune, India on 1st of December 1996, after the First Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vishwanath Karad, to emphasize the importance of "Value Based Universal Education System" in promoting the 'Culture of Peace' in the global society, has been one of the most unique and historic contributions for the well-being of the society. This remarkable work of Prof. Karad deserves to be recorded in Golden Letters in the history of World Peace.

THE WORLD PEACE CENTRE OF MAEER'S MIT, PUNE, INDIA – THE BRAIN CHILD OF DR. VISHWANATH D. KARAD, FIRMLY BELIEVES IN WHAT THE 13TH CENTURY SAINT PHILOSOPHER SAINT SHRI DNYANESHWARA HAD STATED "THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS A MANIFESTATION OF PURE INTELLIGENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS". THE CENTRE, FURTHER IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH ALBERT EINSTEIN'S ASSERTION "I BELIEVE IN GOD, WHO REVEALS HIMSELF IN THE ORDERLY HARMONY OF THE UNIVERSE, AND I BELIEVE THAT INTELLIGENCE IS MANIFESTED THROUGHOUT THE NATURE". THE GREAT SAINTS, SAGES, SEERS AND THE LEARNED SCIENTISTS OF THE WORLD HAVE ALWAYS HAD A COMMON GOAL i.e. WELFARE OF THE HUMANITY."

Some of the premier Educational and Training Institutions out of 45 projects, promoted by Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad, are mentioned below.

- 1) World Peace Centre of MAEER's MIT, Pune, India,**
- 2) MAEER's Maharashtra Institute of Medical Sciences and Research and Maharashtra Institute of Medical Education and Research, Medical Colleges at Talegaon and Latur**
- 3) MAEER's MIT School of Management, Pune, India**
- 4) MAEER's MIT School of Government, Pune, India**

- 5) Maharashtra Academy of Naval Education and Training – Marine Engineering College – MANET, Pune, India
- 6) MAEER's MIT School of Design, Loni
- 7) MAEER's MIT Food Technology, Loni
- 8) Maharashtra Institute of Pharmacy, Pune, India
- 9) A unique project of “Vishwa-Shanti Gurukul”, Pune, India
- 10) Vishwashanti Sangit Academy, Loni
- 11) A unique Multi-Media Coliseum Project to “Transform the Pilgrim Centers of India into Divine Knowledge Centers of India” on the banks of Indrayani River for Mass Education.
- 12) Environmental Improvement and Pollution Control Project at Alandi
- 13) World Peace Union – World Peace Research Foundation.
- 14) Vishwadharmi Bharatiya Vichar Manch – “Indian Forum Based on Universal Religion” to Promote the Culture of Peace.
- 15) Vishwa Shanti Sangh - World Peace Association to involve the common man in the mission to establish "Culture of Peace".

The following unique programmes adopted by a great visionary Prof. Karad for the very noble mission of Nation Building speak for themselves -

- a) Makers of India Avenue
- b) Bharat Asmita National Awards Programme
- c) Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Development Programme
- d) MIT Sanskritik Sandhya

Apart from many other allied activities, in the interest of human welfare with a sense of complete devotion and dedication, taken up by Prof. Karad to educate and train and truly help hundreds of thousands of people mainly from the rural areas as well as from the urban areas across India in developing the positive mindset, social awareness and a sense of cleanliness, discipline and character.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECTS AT THE PILGRIM TOWNS ALANDI, DEHU AND PANDHARPUR

The project of Environmental Improvement and Pollution Control initiated and completed at Alandi - Dehu on the banks of the holy river Indrayani, is an example of the fulfillment of Dr. Karad's commitment to Healthcare, Hygiene, Sanitation, Preservation of Ecology and Pollution Control, issues, which are of great relevance, particularly in India because of the huge gatherings on various occasions at different religious and other socially oriented centers.

Shri Kshetra Alandi-Dehu-Pandharpur Parisar Vikas Samiti established in the year 1986 took up this unprecedented project of constructing the huge beautiful and long-lasting Ghats on the banks of Indrayani River and diverting the

highly polluted sewage from the towns away from the river and providing pure potable drinking water as a "Holy Teertha" to the pilgrims.

Frequently, cleaning programmes of the river-bed as well as the area on both banks of the river are undertaken by the students, staff and other socially committed groups to maintain the cleanliness and the sanctity of these pilgrim centers.

A number of cleanliness drives are regularly undertaken at the places like Barshi, Pandharpur, Rameshwar etc. under the socially committed leadership of Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad.

Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad firmly believes and advocates that "the rule of law of any nation must run close to the rule of life of the people, and the rule of life of a human being must run close to the rule of Mother Nature, because the rule of Mother Nature, is the rule of Almighty –The Creator –The Brahma – The God".

A Comprehensive Development Plan of Pandharpur as envisioned by Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad

The Holy Town of Pandharpur is known as Dnyan-Pandhari or Knowledge Center and is one of the most important pilgrim towns not just in Maharashtra but whole of India. Nearly, one crore (ten million) people visit Pandharpur each year. This necessitates the creation of proper sanitation facilities, clean drinking water, healthcare and medication facilities, proper roads, parking places etc. and most importantly, keeping clean the surrounding on both banks of famous Chandrabhaga / Bhima River. Unfortunately, inspite of the sincere efforts of the Govt. of Maharashtra and the local municipal authorities the present conditions at Pandharpur are not sufficient to meet the healthcare, hygiene and environmental requirements.

With this in mind and with a futuristic view of next 100 years, Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D.Karad conceptualized and prepared a highly comprehensive Development Plan of Pandharpur and took the initiative of presenting it along with eminent computer scientist Dr. Vijay Bhatkar to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the concerned authorities to consider for implementation. The Hon'ble Chief Minister and other Govt. Authorities have appreciated this unique development plan of Pandharpur and have indicated their willingness for its implementation with some minor changes.

The development plan of Pandharpur prepared and presented by Dr. Vishwanath Karad and Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, if properly implemented will be a major path-breaking initiative and an ideal role-model for the development of all other pilgrim centers in India.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIQUE MULTI-MEDIA COLISEUM PROJECT FOR MASS EDUCATION - ALANDI

One of the most unique and noteworthy projects initiated, executed and put in to action by Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad through World Peace Centre of MAEER's MIT, Pune, India, under the able guidance of eminent Computer Scientist Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, and Well-known Scientist Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, is a Multi-Media Coliseum with 63' x 45' permanent concrete based screen viz. "VISHWAROOPA

DARSHAN MANCH” established on the banks of Indrayani River at Alandi, with a modern projection system for promoting “**MASS EDUCATION PROGRAMME**’ in the fields of Interfaith, Inter-religious dialogues, Human Rights Education, Democracy, World Peace, Pollution Control, Health and Hygiene issues, Role of Science and Spirituality, Sustainable Development, Conservation of Nature etc.

This multi-media coliseum project is going to play a key role in TRANSFORMING PILGRIM CENTERS OF INDIA INTO DIVINE KNOWLEDGE CENTERS OF INDIA, and the World which Prof. Karad hopes and feels confident that it will help to educate, train and enlighten the human race in the 21st Century, in appropriately understanding the essence and philosophy of all the world religions and the role of science and spirituality in promoting the Culture of Peace.

It is a landmark achievement in the field of education and training of masses and an ideal example set forth by Prof. Karad for dissemination of knowledge.

ERECTION OF 145-FEET TALL GARUD STAMBH - FLAG POST - A SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE, DEVOTION AND DEDICATION, CONVEYING THE MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE DIVINE / WISDOM, DEDICATED TO WORLD PEACE, AT ALANDI, PUNE, INDIA

Mother India is more known for its tradition, culture and the Philosophy of Sacrifice, Dedication, Devotion and its Humanitarian Approach. Particularly, it is worth mentioning that the entire country and Maharashtra State in particular is highly spiritually oriented with an appropriate understanding about the essence of philosophy of all World Religions and Role of Science and Spirituality.

India has always worshipped the **Knowledge Divine** and has been in the quest of the **Ultimate Reality - Ultimate Truth**. Further, India is increasingly being recognized as the "**Knowledge Corridor**" of the World, championing the cause of **World Peace**.

As a symbol of **Knowledge Divine / Wisdom and World Peace**, Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad conceptualized and implemented the erection of 145-Foot tall Garud Stambh - Flag Post at Alandi, which was completed in a record time of 45 days.

On a concrete pillar of 118 feet stands the 27-feet tall "Garud Stambh", which is Gold Plated and bears the flag of the Warkari Community, symbolizing Sacrifice, Devotion and Dedication. On top of this Gold Plated Garud Stambh has been placed a light source, which signifies the GYANJYOTI or the Light Of Knowledge Divine, spreading the MESSAGE OF WORLD PEACE.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MIT SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, PUNE, INDIA

One of the most unique and noteworthy projects initiated, executed and put in to action by Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad through World Peace Centre (Alandi) of MAER's MIT, Pune, India with the active support of UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance is the establishment of "MIT School of

Government". Mr. T. N. Seshan, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India is the Mentor of this unique project and Prof. Rahul V. Karad is the Chief Initiator and Dean. This is the first of its kind school not just in India but also in whole of Asia.

MIT School of Government, Pune, India, established in the year 2005 on the lines of John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, USA, is dedicated to nurture and develop "Winning Personalities" of young deserving students to be the leaders of tomorrow committed to Nation Building and equally dedicated to establishing "Culture of Peace" at the global level.

This school is engaged in promoting "Value Based Education and Training" with an emphasis on Humanitarian Approach and nurturing Character Building.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MAKERS OF INDIA AVENUE

Another unique and noteworthy project "Makers of India Avenue" giving the glimpses of the life Messages by the great men and women of India, who have really devoted their entire lives and contributed their share in the making and building of this great nation of ours - Mother India, is appropriately helping and creating awareness amongst the students community at large from these role models.

BHARAT ASMITA NATIONAL AWARDS

One of the most unique and noteworthy awards have been instituted at the national level by the MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, MIT School of Government and World Peace Centre (Alandi), MAEER's MIT, Pune, India is "Bharat Asmita National Awards" with a view to encourage and promote the deserving young parliamentarians, eminent management teachers and well-known devoted media persons engaged in the Nation Building process in the true sense of the word.

This prestigious BHARAT ASMITA NATIONAL AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE includes Hon'ble Mr. T.N. Seshan, World Famous Scientist Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, Eminent Computer Scientist Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar, Eminent Scientist Prof. Yashpal, an eminent advocate Bhaskarrao E. Avhad, Industrialist Smt. Ritu Nanda and Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad himself. The Convener of this Committee is Prof. Rahul V. Karad.

PROMOTION OF CULTURE OF PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad strongly believes in the time-tested adage "Healthy Body leads to Healthy Mind" and therefore constantly promotes various activities for Physical Fitness and Health. Some of them include the following -

- **Annual week-long Yoga Workshop in the month of November for the staff of MIT Group of Institutions.**
- **Organizing State Level Annual Engineering College Sports Meet "Summit".**

- **Organizing State Level Annual Wrestling Championships in the memory of his late father Rashtradharma Pujak Dadarao Karad.**
- **Organizing wrestling championship exclusively for Warkari Devotees at Wakhari during the month of July-August - Ashadhi Pilgrimage.**

Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad has also taken the major initiative of reviving and utilizing the old and Historic Hill Forts of Maharashtra of Great Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and convert them into Educational and Training Academies for the promotion of Traditional Sports like Wrestling, Mallakhamb, Judo, Karate, Taekwondo, Martial Arts and other physically challenging sports.

PROF. KARAD'S PASSION FOR THE NOBLE CAUSE OF HUMAN WELFARE

As a great Humanitarian, Prof. Karad has always shown and demonstrated his total commitment and the sense of responsibility in extending all possible services to the poorest of the poor, needy, down-trodden and deprived ones. He has been particularly very pro-active and supportive in highly critical times of Natural Calamities, such as devastating Earthquakes, destructive Floods, Cyclones and also during the time of man-made disasters like Bomb Blast, Terrorist Attacks, War, Riots, Accidents etc.

Earthquake Relief :

Under the personal care and supervision of Prof. Karad, Free Healthcare and Medical Services alongwith Free Medicines were rendered to tens of thousands of people affected by the natural catastrophe of the Earth Quake at Killari near Latur – Maharashtra State in 1993 and the Earthquake at Bhuj – Gujrat State by the Medico students and staff of its two MIMSR and MIMER Medical Colleges at Latur and Talegaon.

Flood Relief :

During the devastating Kosi Floods in Bihar in the year 2008, World Peace Centre (Alandi) of MAEER's MIT, Pune, India helped nearly 10,000 flood affected families by sending necessary items like food, clothes, utensils, medicines etc. through a team of about 50 dedicated and committed students and staffs of the Institution, who personally went to the affected areas in Bihar and provided all possible relief.

World Peace Centre (Alandi), MAEER's MIT, Pune, India, under the compassionate Leadership and Guidance of Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad has been always on the forefront in extending such flood relief to the affected people whenever similar situations have arisen in the state of Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country.

Free Healthcare and Diagnostic Services :

A number of Free Healthcare and Diagnostic Camps for the poor, needy, and underprivileged community are being conducted by the World Peace Centre of MAEER's MIT, Pune, India, rendering yeomen service to the humanity. These camps also include distribution of free medicines, spectacles, wheelchairs, prosthetic devices etc. wherever needed.

Scholastic Aid :

Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad has always rendered the most important service of providing scholastic aid to the most needy and deserving students community at large right from Primary Schooling to Professional Education like Engineering, Medicine, Management etc.

He has been helping hundreds of poor and needy students in their education programmes with all possible help in the forms of fellowships, scholarships, books and other facilities like Free Food, Free Hostel facilities, Uniforms, Clothes etc.

Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad has been always on the forefront in rendering the highest possible services in providing humanitarian services like Pure Drinking Water, Free Food, Shelter, Health-Care Services, Sanitation and Toilet facilities to the hundreds of thousands of people, who visit the various holy places like Alandi, Dehu, Pandharpur etc.

Particularly, it is worth mentioning that a special center named Tyagmurty Prayagakka Karad Annapurna Sadan has been set up at the town of Wakhari near Pandharpur for extending the above mentioned services to the people at large inclusive of the poor peasants, workers, devotees and others.

“ESTABLISHMENT OF MAHATMA GANDHI RASHTRIYA GRAM-SWARAJ VIKAS YOJANA (RURAL TRAINING CENTER) AT RAMESHWAR (RUI), LATUR

Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad has taken a great initiative in establishing a very highly innovative "Mahatma Gandhi Rashtriya Gram-Swaraj Vikas Yojana (Rural Training Center) at Rameshwar (Rui), Dist. Latur, Maharashtra, to educate, train and provide all sorts of allied facilities for the rural masses, particularly the farmers, workers, underprivileged and downtrodden sections of the society.

This is one of the most unique village development programme based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi as conceptualized on the lines of the Providing Urban Facilities for the Rural Area (PURA) concept of a well-known Scientist and a Great Humanitarian Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India has been set up for the purpose of educating and training people from a cluster of 11 adjacent villages.

Under this unique project, the following public service centers have been set up :-

- 1. A 25 bedded fully equipped Shri Saraswati Karad Rural Hospital***
- 2. Vayuputra Hanuman Gymnasium and Wrestling Center***
- 3. Dadarao Karad Public Library***
- 4. Vishwakarma Vocational Training Institute.***
- 5. Shri Saraswati Karad Vidyanagari.***
- 6. Hostel and Boarding facilities for the socially backward children.***
- 7. Smt. Prayagakka Karad Social and Cultural Center.***

8. ***A massive tree plantation and afforestation drive under the guidance of Padmavibhushan Hon'ble Dr. Mohan Dhariyaji, Founder-Chairman of "Vanarai" committed to develop "Green India".***
9. ***Village beautification drive and development of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Udyan on the erstwhile cremation and burial grounds of the village.***

This is one of the unique examples in the entire country, where a private institution under the forward thinking and visionary leadership of its Founder - Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad - has taken up such an initiative with a tremendous sense of commitment, devotion and dedication in promoting the vision of "Rural Development" of Mahatma Gandhi for the well-being of MOTHER INDIA.

RECONSTRUCTION OF SRI RAM TEMPLE, KHWAJA ZAINUDDIN DARGAH AND JAMA MASJID IN RAMESHWAR (RUI)

In his home town of Rameshwar (Rui), Dr. Karad took the very important initiative to reconstruct the ancient Sri Ram temple, which was destroyed in a battle between the Peshwa forces and Nizam army around 275 years ago and Khwaja Zainuddin Dargah and Jama Masjid destroyed by communal forces some time during the Razakar movement after independence.

He emphasized upon the populace that since both the Hindu and Muslim communities have suffered because of this, it is important that all of them should come together and as a symbol of communal harmony, reconstruct these destroyed places of worship. The residents of the village, comprising of various communities, castes and creeds, responded positively to this appeal and participated to reconstruct a beautiful Sri Ram temple along with the Jama Masjid and Dargah.

These magnificent edifices were offered to the people of Rameshwar (Rui) in a public dedication ceremony in April 2011, to coincide with a National Communal Harmony Conference, which was attended by eminent personalities of both communities of Hindu and Muslims.

ORGANIZATION OF ONE-DAY NATIONAL COMMUNAL HARMONY CONFERENCE ON THE THEME 'SUFIS AND WARKARIS MOVEMENT IN INDIA FOR WORLD PEACE'

India has a rich tradition of Sufi Saints, initially who migrated to India more than eight centuries ago and established their own sects in different parts of the country. They preached love, sacrifice and devotion and created a place in the hearts of the people.

The Warkari Sect of India – particularly Maharashtra - was also established more than 700 years ago by great saints like Sant Dnyaneshwar and others. The warkaris are the followers of Lord Vitthal and are famous for their annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur from Alandi, Dehu and other parts of Maharashtra, which they undertake on foot.

The Sufis and Warkari Saints of India have made a great contribution to the society through the years, to foster a spirit of brotherhood and unity. To pay homage to their contribution and awaken the spirit of communal harmony, Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad organized the One-Day National Communal Harmony Conference on the theme ‘Sufis and Warkaris Movement in India for World Peace’ on 27th May 2012 in MAEER’s MIT Campus in Pune and Vishwa Roop Darshan Manch, Alandi.

The event was a historical one, which saw the coming together and felicitation of the Chiefs (Sajjada Nashins) of almost all of the important Dargahs in India including Ajmer Sharif, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Bande Nawaz Gulbarga, etc, as well as some very eminent men from the Warkari sect.

As a precursor to this event, During this historic occasion, the holy chaddars from Alandi and Dehu were offered at the Dargah of Khwaja Gharib Nawaz in Ajmer Sharief. On the day of the National Conference the holy chaddar from Ajmer Sharief was offered on the Sanjeevan Samadhi of Saint Dnyaneshwar in Alandi at the hands of the Union Minister for Power Shri. Sushil Kumar Shinde. During the evening session, the Qawwals of the Sufi cult and the kirtankars of the Warkari Cult performed on a common platform on Vishwa Roop Darshan Manch, Alandi, in a rare and unique message of communal harmony and world peace.

INSTITUTION OF PHILOSOPHER SAINT SHRI DNYANESHWARA WORLD PEACE PRIZE

Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad, with a vision to promote the Culture of Peace in the World, instituted a very unique Philosopher Saint Shri Dnyaneshwara World Peace Prize in the year 2006 on the lines of the Nobel Peace Prize. This World Peace Prize is most prestigious and perhaps the first of its kind in India.

The following eminent personalities have been conferred with this prestigious award :-

- 1. Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayee Devi, the renowned Spiritual Leader who is more fondly known all over the world as "Amma - The Mother".*
- 2. H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji, the world famous / spiritual leader and the promoter of unique "Art of Living" concept championing the cause of World Peace.*
- 3. Hon'ble Hiroo Saionji and Masami Saionji, Chairperson, Goi Peace Foundation, Japan and "May Peace Prevail on Earth", USA.*
- 4. Hon'ble Revered Saint Shri Dada J. P. Vaswani, President, Sadhu Vaswani Mission.*

2015 NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF WORK

It is a matter of great pride that under the initiative taken by Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad in the wake of the devastating Nepal earthquake of April 2015, 120 houses and a school building are being erected near Kathmandu in Nepal for the relief of the affected victims.

“RIGHT TO LIFE AND RIGHT TO LIVE”

Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad has a commitment for the promotion of UNESCO Chair Programme for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, through World Peace Centre, with a motto “right to life and right to live”.

In essence, Friendship & Fellowship in the quest of Universal Peace, has been the Life Mission of Prof. Karad, which is truly reflected in the following verse.

FELLOWSHIP

*We are the birds of the same nest | We may wear different skins ||
We may speak different tongues | We may believe in different religions ||
We may belong to different cultures | Yet, we share the same home, Earth ||
Born on the same planet | Covered by the same skies ||
Gazing at the same stars | Breathing the same air ||
We must learn to progress together | Or, Miserably perish together ||
For a person can live Individually | But, can only survive collectively ||*

- Atharva Veda

An earnest appeal, particularly to the elite and educated society at large, by Prof. Vishwanath D. Karad, has always been to Pledge in the name of all the saints, sages, seers and the great scientists of the world, to rededicate our lives for the Human Welfare and overall Well-being of the Global Society, championing the cause of ‘World Peace.’

“REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS”

The following few remarks/observations, made by eminent Scholars, Scientists, Social Thinkers, Philosophers on the achievements and dedicated yeomen services rendered by Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad for the cause of World Peace, truly reveal the outstanding attributes of this great personality.

"A Great experience to visit MIT as to the TRUTH in the Saint Dnyaneshwara Hall".

*Bharat Ratna Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Hon'ble President of India*

"It is a remarkable institute. I salute the teachers and students for their discipline, dedication and sense of duty to the motherland. I wish them well in life".

*Shri S. Chandrashekhar
Former Prime Minister of India*

"MIT is an Island of hope' in the vastness of Humanity and I sincerely hope and feel confident that the students of this great institution will keep the flag of Mother India flying high in the years to come.

Shri P. N. Haksar

Former Dy.Chairman, Planning Commission

"The World Peace Centre of MAEER's MIT, Pune, India is doing commendable service to the society by promoting the Culture of Peace through various programmes.

Dr. Mohammed Fazal

Former Governor of Maharashtra

"MIT has been the eye-opener. There is a spirit prevailing here, which is hard to describe."

Shri Rusi Modi

Ex-CMD, Tata Group of Companies

"MIT, Pune is an institute, remarkable in every way, what impressed my wife and me most is the tremendous emphasis on character building. We found here a truly exemplary sense of discipline. Prof. Karad and his colleagues are doing the job of Nation Building. I wish them further success in their laudable endeavours.

Nani A. Palakhiwala,

Renowned Jurist & Economists

"It was glorious to see the development of MIT in such a short period of time. It has already reached a position of excellence and is on the way of becoming one of the best, based on Indian requirements of principles. All my good wishes towards this aim"

Padmabhushan Dr. Raja Ramanna

National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ***Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award***
- ***Bharat Gaurav Award***
- ***Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Award***
- ***Vidnyan Ratna Puraskar***
- ***Rashtra Bhushanam Puraskar***
- ***Vishwa Tatva Bhushana Award***
- ***Punya Mudra Puraskar by PMC***
- ***Marathawada Gaurav Puraskar***
- ***Sahyadri Navratna Puraskar by Mumbai Doordarshan***
- ***Shikshan Ratna Puraskar***
- ***Bhrunga Rushi Puraskar - September***
- ***Millennium Award by Zoroastrian College***
- ***Award of Excellence in Education***
- ***Samata Puraskar***
- ***Pradnyawant Puraskar***
- ***Dharma Bhushanam Puraskar***
- ***Ambassador for Peace Awarded by IIFWP***
- ***Bhakti Bhushanam Puraskar Awarded by Mantralayam***

- *Samata Award*
- *Loknete Yashwantrao Chavan Shikshak and Vidyarthi Puraskar*
- *Madhav-Mandakini Award*
- *Alandi Bhushan Puraskar*
- *Garuda Award*
- *Morya Gosavi Puraskar*

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS TO THE CREDIT OF DR. VISHWANATH D. KARAD

A) Books Edited and Published:

- 1) *In Quest of Universal Peace.*
- 2) *Harmony (Samanvaya)*
- 3) *Human Rights, Human Values and Social Change*
- 4) *“Dnyaneshwara – A Mantra for the New Millennium*
- 5) *The Bell of Hiroshima - Ringing once again, conveying the Message of World Peace.*
- 6) *Pathway to World Peace*
- 7) *In quest of MIT's Ethos - Jewels of MIT - a Golden Page*
- 8) *Eethe Sakarale Pasaydan*
- 9) *Rashtradharma Pujak Dadarao Karad Abhivadan Granth*
- 10) *Vishnu Sahasranam*

B) Journals and News Bulletins:

- 1) *MAEER's MIT, Pune, Journal (Quarterly): Special Issues include,*
 - a) *Education*
 - b) *Population Problems : A Geographical Perspective*
 - c) *Water*
 - d) *Drought*
 - e) *Energy*
 - f) *Indian Agriculture in 21st Century*
 - g) *Geopolitics and International Relations*
 - h) *Coastal Environment Management*

Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad has to his credit more than 60 papers read and presented at the national and international conferences on various subjects of education, human rights, peace studies, science and spirituality etc.

