

Shri Nana Ji Deshmukh

Founder, Deendayal Research Institute

Prologue

Nanaji's life is a mission and his mission is his life. He made up his mind while he is still in his teens to dedicate himself to the service of our motherland. Since then he never looked back nor has any time for a sojourn in his life's pilgrimage. At the age of ninety two years he stands as a beacon of light to the multitude of Indians and as an inspiring source for lakhs if not millions of people that came into his contact through the programmes conceived and organized by this stalwart of our nation. The ordeals he went through be it in the pursuit of social work, political activities or during and after the total revolution movement of Loknayak Jaya Prakash Narayan, never deterred him to deviate from his life's mission.

We are much aware that it is not possible to comprehensively picturize the activities and achievements of Sri Nanaji. What we presented here in black and white can only be a part but sure enough to understand the picture of his activities on our nation's canvas. Very few know that even at the age of 92 years he works 14-16 hour a day for the success of the programmes on hand designed by him for the upliftment of rural masses of India.

1. **Name** : Nana Deshmukh
2. **Date of Birth** : 11th October, 1916 Age : 92 yrs.
3. **Positions held**
- i) Member Rajya Sabha from 1999 to 2005.
(Nominated by President of India)
 - ii) Founder, Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Viswa Vidyalaya, Chitrakoot 1991-1994
(First Rural University in India)
 - iii) Elected Member of Parliament in the year 1977.
 - iv) Founder and continues to be chief architect of Deendayal Research Institute since the year 1968.
 - v) Managing Director Rashtra Dharma Prakashan 1948-51.
(This trust publishes the magazines viz, Panch Janya a weekly and Swadeshi, a daily)
 - vi) Founder of the chain of Saraswati Sishu Mandirs in U.P. in the year 1950. At present this is the **largest chain of schools** numbering 14,000 spreading all over India.

4. Distinctions

Year

- 2008 — Chandrashekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award for Community Development awarded by Kanchikamkotimath.
- 2008 — **D. Litt** awarded by Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya University.
- 2006 — **Samta Award**, awarded by Shri Akhil Bharatvarsiya Sadhumargi Jain Sangh, Beekaner (Rajsthan).
- 2006 — **Gyaneshwar Award**, awarded by Gyaneshwar Vidyapeeth Pune, and presented by The Hon'ble Vice President, His Excellency Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.
- 2005 — **Jhunjhar award**, awarded by Jhunjhar Samiti, Pune.
- 2005 — **National Mahatma Gandhi Award**, presented by The Madhya Pradesh Government.
- 2003 — **Jeevan Gaurav Puruskar**, awarded by Chaturang Pratisthan, Mumbai.
- 2002 — **Samta Award**, awarded by Shri Akhil Bharatvarsiya **Sadhumargi Jain Sangh, Beekaner (Rajsthan).**
- 2001 — **D. Litt** awarded by Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.
- 2001 — **National Citizens Award**, awarded by Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Hon'ble Chairman. U.N. Human Rights' Commission.

- 2000 — **Doctor of letters** awarded by the Chatrapati Sahaji Maharaj University - Kanpur.
- 1999 — **“Padma Vibhushan”** awarded by the President of India.
- 1998 — **Doctor of letters** awarded by Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Viswa Vidyalaya.
- 1997 — **Doctor of letters** awarded by the University of Pune, Pune.
- 1997 — **Rashtriya Ekata Puraskar** awarded by R. G. Joshi Foundation.
- 1996-97 — Person of the year awarded by the **Rotary International** and District 3290.
- 1997 — **Manas Sangh Sanman** on the occasion of Sant Tulasi Das 500th Birthday.
- 1995 — **Scroll of Honour** by the International Federation for Women in Agriculture - Presented by MS Swaminathan President **IFWA.**
- 1995 — **Rama Sastry Prabhune Pratishtan - Award.**

Work and Achievements:

Shri Nanaji Deshmukh is the founder of **Deendayal Research Institute** a voluntary Non Governmental Organization (NGO) established in the year 1969. He is a social worker reformer, original thinker and above all a man of action who dedicated his life to the service of motherland. His field work, rural development and social reconstruction, started with **Gonda experiment** in the year **1978** which spread to other needy places in the Country like Beed (Maharashtra) and Chitrakoot (M.P.).

Shri Nanaji believed to the core that upliftment of the rural poor and strengthening the village life is the only solution for our Country's progress. His precepts "**Gramodaya**" and "**Swavalamban**" reflects the philosophy of the great personalities and States men like **Swami Vivekananda**, **Bala Gangadhar Tilak** and **Mahatma Gandhi**. In him a great visionary and down to earth practical personality are blended together which is a rarity in nature. That is why, activities of all these centers were conceived and designed in minute details by Shri Nanaji. The success of these programmes are mainly due to the detailed planning and able execution under the constant guidance of Shri Nanaji. Several thousands of youth inspired by his personality and magnetized by his touch are participating in the programs. The results achieved are always unique, astonishingly successful and even amazing some times. Well all this was and is possible only because of radiant presence of Shri Nanaji.

It is the legacy of **Dr. Hedgewar**, **Shri M.S. Golwalkar (Guruji)** and **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya** that is being carried out by Shri Nanaji in every thought and deed. True to this legacy Shri Nanaji believes that a nation or its constituent can never achieve an independent progress at the mercy of foreign funds. Shri Nanaji in spite of his several visits to foreign countries and easy accessibility to foreign funding agencies, never entertained the thought of raising money through these agencies. **Time and again he stressed and is incessantly stressing this dictum.** The resources required for every project, programme and endeavour of Deendayal Research Institute came from persons associated with or influenced by Deendayal Research Institute activities or from the Govt. of India. Thus Deendayal Research Institute under the leadership of Shri Nanaji stands as a unique Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to the service of our motherland in its own unique way.

Since it is not possible to detail every activity he executed; we present in brief some of the important major projects (both completed and on going) in the following pages. However for the benefit of comprehensive understanding of the nature and particularly the magnitude of work of Deendayal Research Institute we are enclosing the detailed charts and brochures depicting the various activities.