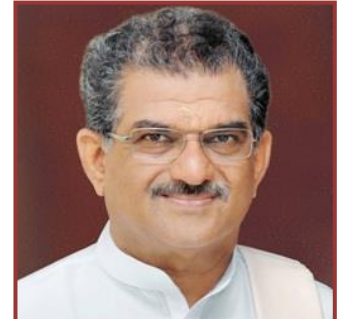




## DR. VEERENDRA HEGGADE NOMINATED TO RAJYA SABHA



Veerendra Heggade was born the eldest son of Dharmadhikari Ratnavarmaeggade and Rathnamma Heggade on 25-11-1948 in Udupi in the state of Karnataka, India. He belongs to the Pergade dynasty of Tulu Lineage, the hereditary trustees of the famous Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy temple in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. Veerendra Heggade has three younger brothers-Harshendra Kumar, Surendra Kumar and Rajendra Kumar, and one sister Padmalata. Veerendra Heggade married Hemavathi Heggade. They have one daughter, Shraddha Heggade. Veerendra Heggade's net worth is estimated to be \$1 million- \$4 million. He is also a car collector and a passionate photographer. Heggade's car collection is on display in Dharmastala.



Heggade has been a devoted philanthropist for more than five decades and has led various transformative initiatives for the rural development and promotion of self-employment. Dr. Veerendra Heggade is administrator of the Dharamasthala Temple. He took that post at the young age of 20. In his career as an activist and administrator, he has carried the temple heritage to greater heights. Besides lending his services to temple, he also archived a name for lending his services to mankind. Veerendra Heggade, since the tender age, served as the 'Dharmadhikari' of the Dharamasthala Temple in Karnataka and has been a devoted philanthropist for more than five decades.

Veerendra Heggade is also credited for establishing the Rural development and Self-employment Training Institute (RDSETI) to spread awareness about self-employment opportunities and train rural youth. Veerendra Heggade has also conceptualized the Shri Kshethra Dharamasthala Rural Development Project. It is an initiative for the inclusive rural development and self-employment in Karnataka. Currently, the project has more than 6 lakh SHGs and over 49 lakh members.

### Veerendra Heggade Philanthropist

1. Veerendra Heggade has been conducting Free Mass Marriage every year in Shri Kshethra Dharamasthala since 1972. Around 10,000 couples have been married under this scheme since April 2004.
2. Heggade introduced a rural development project in the coastal area of Karnataka, comprising 600 villages and 6 towns.
3. He has also been promoting solar energy and providing such facilities to many villages.
4. Veerendra Heggade established the Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) in the collaboration with Syndicate Bank, Syndicate Agricultural Foundation and Canara Bank to train the rural youth for self-employment and volunteering for rural development in 1982.
5. He also runs the Annapoorna Kitchen at Dharamasthala which is one of the largest and the oldest family run kitchens in India. It feeds around 50,000 people every day.

For the magnanimous services that he has rendered to mankind, he has been conferred with various prestigious awards like Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan among others. Besides that, he was awarded the Karnataka Ratna Award and various other noted awards. This is all because of his immense contribution to cultural, economic, and social projects he undertook for the development of the society. He has initiated multiple pioneering social, economic and cultural projects for the development of the society. He publishes a publication series and a monthly journal Manjuvani.

Veerendra Heggade has been nominated for Rajya Sabha. Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, while congratulating Veerendra Heggade via Twitter, said that he has been at the forefront of outstanding mmunity service and he will certainly enrich the Parliamentary Proceedings.

**Heartiest Congratulations Dr. Veerendra Heggade**

**A. K. Jain**  
**AHIMSA FOUNDATION**

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