

## **UGC Chairman, Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat conferred the Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement Award for 2010**

The Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof Sukhadeo Thorat, was conferred with the prestigious, Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2010. The award ceremony was held on 10<sup>th</sup> April in Kolkata.

The Award, instituted in 2000-01, by the Mother Teresa International and Millennium Awards Committee under the banner of the city-based All-India Minority and Weaker Sections' Council, has some notable winners including, late Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu , US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and late Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi (posthumously). Mother Teresa International awards are presented to eminent personalities who have excelled in the fields of education, science, culture, music, sports, social work, medicine, industry and politics, both at home and abroad.

Prof. Thorat, is an eminent author of several publications (21) on agricultural development, rural poverty, institutional and economic growth, problems of marginalized groups, economics of caste system, caste discrimination and poverty, human development, human rights issues, thoughts of Ambedkar, and slums. As Chairman, UGC, he has been instrumental in introducing several academic and administrative reforms in the higher education system during the ongoing XI Plan. He has combined academic activity with social activism and created awareness about the marginalized section in the Indian society.

In recognition of his contribution in the field of Literature & Education, Prof. Thorat was awarded the Padma Shree in 2008.