Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, a pioneering organisation established in 1951 in the field of leprosy in India, has instituted the award titled “International Gandhi Award” in 1986. The background for introducing the award and the relevant information are summarized below:

Mahatma Gandhi had evinced keen interest for over 50 years in mitigating the sufferings of persons affected by leprosy. The need to shed stigma against leprosy and adopt a humanitarian approach were amply demonstrated by the Father of Nation by nursing and caring leprosy patients. Leprosy work was accorded importance by Gandhiji by including it in his 18 point constructive programme. To perpetuate memory of this service and scientific approach of Gandhiji, the GMLF has instituted the "International Gandhi Award" in 1986.

PERIODICITY:

The Award is presented once in two years and consists of Rs. 2 lakhs as cash award, a Medallion and a Citation.

NUMBER OF AWARDS:

Two awards are presented either to individuals or institutions.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Award is given to a Leprosy Worker or Institution who/which has undertaken work in the field of leprosy for a period of not less than 10 years and made significant contribution in any aspect of leprosy work, resulting in the amelioration of the suffering of leprosy patients and enabling them to lead normal life.

The Award is open to medical, paramedical or non-medical and social workers in leprosy field. The candidate has to be nominated by a person of prominence in the field of leprosy. Post-humus nominations will not be accepted.
SELECTION PROCEDURE:

Nominations received are referred to an International Panel of Experts constituted by GMLF. The panel assigns a score in the scale of 1 to 5 to each nominee. The GMLF Committee peruses the recommendations of the Expert panel and prepares a short list of 3 nominees.

The Award Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble vice-President of India finalizes two names for presentation of the Award.

REQUIREMENTS:

The nominating agencies must provide complete bio-data of the nominee with detailed description of the anti-leprosy work done by the nominated person or institution. The significant contribution to leprosy work should be supported with documentary evidence/publications. It should include confirmation from the nominee that he/she or the institution is ready to accept the award, if given.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of Awardee</th>
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| 1986 | Dr.Dharmendra, India  
Dr (Mrs) Turkan Saylan, Turkey |
| 1988 | Dr Ma Hai De, China  
Prof. T.N.Jagadisan, India |
| 1990 | Dr R.V.Wardekar, India  
Dr M.F. Lechat, Belgium |
| 1992 | Dato E.J. Lawrence, Kuala Lampur  
Mr.Roger Gaudry Quebec (On behalf of Late Cardinal Paul) |
| 1994 | Dr Joon Lew, South Korea  
Dr V.Ekambaram, India |
Dr S.K.Noordeen, India |
| 1998 | Mrs.Mathilde Gruner, Germany  
Dr S.D.Gokhale, India |
| 2000 | Mr.Mengestu, Ethiopia (on behalf of ALERT Ethiopia)  
Dr K.V.Desikan , India |
| 2003 | Dr H.Srinivasan, India |
| 2006 | Mr.Yohei Sasakawa, Japan |
| 2009 | Dr V. Pannikar, India  
Vidarbha Maharogi Sewa Mandal, Tapovan, India |
| 2011 | DR Claire Vellut, Belgium  
DR J.D.Samant, India |
| 2013 | Dr.V.V.Dongre  
Professor Zhang Guocheng |