

पद्म पुरस्कार 2025

Padma Awards 2025



मई 27, 2025

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राष्ट्रपति भवन

Rashtrapati Bhawan

नई दिल्ली

New Delhi

Padma Vibhushan



JUSTICE (RETD.) SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KHEHAR

Justice (Retd.) Shri Jagdish Singh Khehar, former Chief Justice of India is one of the most distinguished jurists of India.

2. Born on 28th August, 1952, as a citizen of Kenya, Justice Khehar migrated to India with his parents in 1965 and obtained Indian nationality. He obtained his B.A. LL.B. degree in 1977 and the LL.M. degree in 1979, from the Panjab University, Chandigarh. The Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana enrolled him as an Advocate, in 1979. During the course of his practice, he was appointed as Additional Advocate General by the State of Punjab, and as Senior Standing Counsel by the Union Territory of Chandigarh, in 1992. He was designated as Senior Advocate, by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, in 1995.

3. Justice Khehar was elevated to the Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, in 1999. He was first appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand, and then as Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, in 2009 and 2010 respectively. He was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, on September 13, 2011, and was sworn-in as the 44th Chief Justice of India, on January 4, 2017.

4. As a judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Khehar delivered a number of landmark judgments, in different areas and subjects of law. He also authored a number of Constitution Bench judgments. He co-authored the judgment in a Presidential Reference, under Article 143(1) of the Constitution, wherein, he held that no part of the natural resources of the country, could be dissipated, as a matter of largess, charity, donation or endowment, for private exploitation. In *Madras Bar Association vs. UOI*, he declared the National Tax Tribunal Act, 2005, as unconstitutional. In *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs. UOI*, he co-authored the majority judgment, wherein, the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014, was declared as unconstitutional and void. He co-authored the judgment in *Nabam Rebia vs. Dy. Speaker Arunachal Pradesh Legislature Assembly*, wherein, he laid down the limits of the powers of Governors. In *Re: Hon'ble Shri Justice C.S. Karnan*, he authored the judgment convicting a sitting High Court Judge, to six months imprisonment, for having committed criminal contempt. In *Shayara Bano vs. UOI*, he co-authored the judgment, delivered by a multi-faith bench, in which the majority opinion set aside the practice of divorce by 'triple talaq', prevalent amongst Muslims in India.

5. Justice Khehar also delivered lectures on different facets of the Indian judiciary, in Europe and in China, where he represented the Supreme Court of India. In March 2018, after he demitted his office as Chief Justice of India, he was invited by the University of Birmingham, as a key-note speaker. He was also invited by the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, to be a part of a delegation of Supreme Court judges, for an exchange of ideas programme, on current issues of mutual interest, which he attended in June 2018. He was also invited to Belgium, to participate in a conference on the theme, 'Debating Ethics: Dignity and Respect in Data Driven Life', in the prestigious Hemicycle of the European Parliament, which he addressed in October 2018.

6. Justice Khehar has been honoured by many organizations. The Panjab University, Chandigarh, conferred a degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) on Justice Khehar, at its 66th convocation, held in March 2017. The Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, also conferred a degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa), on Justice Khehar, at its 44th convocation, held in May 2018.

Padma Vibhushan



SMT. KUMUDINI LAKHIA (POSTHUMOUS)

Smt. Kumudini Lakhia was a renowned Kathak dancer having a career in dance spanning over seventy-five years.

2. Born on 17th May, 1930, Smt. Lakhia received her education in Agriculture Science from University in Allahabad. A journey in dance came to her accidentally at the age of 17 when the famous Indian dancer Shri Ram Gopal offered her a role as his partner; with him she toured the world and it was this experience which laid the foundation for a holistic approach to dance and a life-time commitment to this field. She received the Government of India scholarship to take further training in kathak from the legendary guru Shri Shambhu Maharaji at the Sri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra, New Delhi.

3. After a long and successful career as a dancer with performances in over fifty countries, Smt. Lakhia chose to give up her career as a solo performer to start the Kadamb Dance Centre in Ahmedabad in 1964, where she focused her energies and vision on the development of the technique, vocabulary, and repertoire of the Kathak dance. From a rural and temple background and a stigma of the notch, she has in her long endeavor for Kathak elevated its place in the social fabric of India and internationally and given it its rightful place in the ancient classical arts of India. With the help of her students whom she trained in a rigorous routine, she started choreography and dance designing in 1973. Her performing company Kadamb has toured extensively around the world (in more than forty countries) where it has received critical acclaim and connoisseur's appreciation. An intelligent approach in the themes and its choreography Kadamb has provided a new dimension to the Kathak dance form. Kadamb Centre for Dance embodies the India story through her story of Kathak as a dance form.

4. Smt. Lakhia was conferred with 'Padma Shri' in 1987 and 'Padma Bhushan' in 2010. She received 'Pandit Omkarnath Award' from the Government of Gujarat in 1990; 'Kalidas Samman' from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2003; 'Tagore Ratna' from the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2012; 'Guru Gopinath National Natya Puraskar' from the Government of Kerala in 2021. She has been conferred with honorary Doctorate by the ITM University, Gwalior in 2021. She has been on the advisory board for significant institutes like the Council International de la Dance (CID, Paris), Sangeet Natak Akademi (New Delhi), Kalakshetra (Chennai), Kathak Kendra (New Delhi), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (New Delhi).

5. Smt. Lakhia passed away on 12th April, 2025.

Padma Vibhushan



DR. SHARDA SINHA (POSTHUOMOUS)

Dr. Sharda Sinha was a revered luminary in the realm of folk music. Her melodies and narratives, reflecting the myriad dimensions of social existence, have rendered her synonymous with “Lok Geet. The purity and resonance of her songs, particularly those that grace the venerable festival of “Chhath,” have intertwined her essence with this sacred celebration—an occasion revered by Indians worldwide.

2. Born on 1st November, 1952, in Hulas village in the Supaul district of Bihar, Dr. Sharda Sinha embarked on her musical odyssey under the tutelage of the revered Pandit Raghu Jha, an illustrious khayal singer hailing from the esteemed Panchgachiya Gharana. Her artistic journey further flourished under the guidance of the late Pandit Sitaram Hari Dandekar, a virtuoso of khayal, and later embraced the teachings of Panna Devi, a contemporary of the legendary Begum Akhtar, renowned for her mastery of thumri and dadra. Dr. Sharda Sinha, a Nritya Visharad in Manipuri dance, holder of a Master's in Music (Indian Classical Vocal), and a Ph.D., began to weave magic with her folk-classical experiment and an inimitable voice, even when she was relatively unknown in the vast tapestry of the music world. With her debut Maithili composition, “Dularua Bhaiya,” released in 1971, she ignited a tempest that signalled the dawn of a new epoch in folk music. Her tribute to the illustrious “Maithil Kokil Vidyapati” in 1983 catapulted her fame across distant shores, reaching audiences in Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Between the years 1985 and 1989, a remarkable collection of albums—“Kekra Se Kahan Mile Jala,” “Piritiya,” “Dulhin,” “Mehndi,” “Shiv Ke Bhajan,” “Bhajan Sagar,” “Khaili Bada Dhokha,” and “Chhathi Maiya”—captured the hearts of listeners and soared to unprecedented sales within the realm of folk music in Northern India. Certain melodies, such as “Paniya Ke Jahaaj,” “Koyal Bin Bagiya,” and “Patna Se Baida,” resonated so profoundly with their audience that they have been joyfully hummed across four generations. Even today, these timeless tunes continue to evoke a sense of nostalgia and vibrancy in the minds of the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

3. In recognition of her mellifluous voice, Dr. Sharda Sinha is affectionately dubbed “Bihar Kokila,” “Swar Kokila,” and “Begum Akhtar of Mithila.” Her fans honor her for the purity and lyrical integrity of her music with titles such as “Bhojpuri Ki Sita,” “Saanskritik Paharua,” and “Bihar Ki Lata Mangeshkar.” A defining characteristic of her recitals is their rich portrayal of the mythological, ceremonial, and social intricacies woven into the fabric of Indian culture. Her contributions to the Bollywood cinematic landscape, with memorable numbers in blockbuster films such as “Maine Pyar Kiya,” “Hum Aapke Hain Koun,” “Gangs of Wasseypur-2,” and “Kaagaz,” along with her presence in the web series “Maharani-2,” have endeared her to countless admirers both in India and beyond. In her esteemed role as a cultural ambassador for the Government of India, she graced the stages of Mauritius, Suriname in 1988, followed by performances in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Egypt in 2002, and Suriname again in 2003, showcasing the enchanting complexity of Indian folk music. With an unmistakable flair, this “Top Grade” artist of Akashwani has captivated numerous audiences at All India Radio concerts and cultural festivals throughout the nation. Over forty years, she has graced the halls of the Department of Music at Women's College in Samastipur of L.N.M.U. Darbhanga. In the month of April 2018, the university honored her with the honorary title of Doctor of Literature, a tribute to her profound contributions to the realm of folk music. Her artistry has been adorned with numerous prestigious accolades, including the revered titles of “Folk Queen of Bharat,” “Rashtriya Devi Ahiliya Samman,” “Bihar Kala Puraskar,” “Bihar Gaurav,” “Bihar Ratna,” “Bhikhari Thakur Samman,” “Bhojpuri Ratna,” and “Mithila Vibhuti Samman,” among countless others. She proudly wears the honors of “Padma Shri” (1991), the “Sangeet Natak Academy Award” (2000), and the distinguished “Padma Bhushan” (2018), each a testament to her exceptional legacy in the world of music.

4. Dr. Sharda Sinha passed away on 5th November, 2024.

Padma Bhushan



DR. SHOBANA CHANDRAKUMAR

Dr. Shobana Chandrakumar is a versatile artist and has the distinction of being an exponent of Bharatanatyam, a feature film actor, film choreographer, dramatist, music composer and a playwright.

2. Born on 21st March, 1970, Dr. Shobana has presented the classical art of Bharatanatyam to audiences in India and abroad appealing to diverse generations of the public as well as earning her critical acclaim. Her method, which is inspired from the ancient Sanskrit treatise of Drama, the Natya Shastra, is resonant with the general populace, thereby allowing her to broaden the scope of Bharatanatyam. She has incorporated both subtle and theatrical forms of abhinaya into her approach to ensure that it is inclusive of her audience. She is a disciple of Padma Shri awardee Smt. Chitra Visweswaran and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam. Her dance form and philosophy of movement are a brilliant confluence of both her gurus of the famed Vazhuvoor tradition, exemplified in her practice and performance for 50 years.

3. Dr. Shobana has been teaching the traditional art of Bharatanatyam since the year 1992. As an institutionalist, she has cultivated the individual artistry of her students, where a large number of traditional padavarnams, padams, and javalis are taught exclusively. Her dance theatre repertoire includes traditional and contemporary works, such as Thiruchitrabalam, BHAV, Shyama, Nayika, Sampradaya, Sur Taal Srinagar, and Navarasa. She explores Hindu mythology, social issues, women's emancipation, and music, incorporating Bharatanatyam and Hindustani music, involving luminaries like as Ustad Zakir Hussain and Vikku Vinayak Ram. In contemporary dance, her creations Trance, Krishna, and Maya Ravan have been showcased over 400 times globally, enchanting audiences with her interpretations of Indian mythology in a modern yet authentic manner.

4. Dr. Shobana is an icon of the South Indian film industry. She has acted in over 230 feature films in six Indian languages. She has revolutionized the art form of Bharatanatyam in cinema through her Bharatanatyam performances. She has inspired every artistically inclined girl child in Kerala to study the art form after her Bharatanatyam dances in the iconic film Manichitrathazhu. She has choreographed traditional dances for films such as Kochadaiyyan (2010), with Rajinikanth. She has also choreographed traditional dances in the iconic film Thalapathi and Ravan, directed by Mani Ratnam. The English film Dance Like A Man (1993), which received the National Film Award for Best Feature Film, was also choreographed by her. Furthermore, her portrayal in Manichitrathazhu (1993), which garnered her first National award for best actress, remains emblematic in the Indian cinema industry. She later received her second National Award for Best Actress for her performance in the English film Mitr, My Friend.

5. Dr. Shobana has performed at esteemed venues worldwide with traditional dance and theatre. She has performed at various festivals, including the World Music Institute, the Cleveland Museum, the Musee Guimet, and the Rhythm Sticks Festival. In 1997, she was featured at Michael and Friends, a charitable event in Munich, Germany, where Michael Jackson performed as the showstopper. She has collaborated with renowned musicians and dancers, including Ustad Zakir Hussain, Vallayapatty Subramaniam, Vikku Vinayak Ram, Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, Dr. Sonal Mansingh, and others.

6. Dr. Shobana possesses two honorary doctorates and a D.Litt. She is presently directing the documentation of the Thanjavur temples of South India.

7. Dr. Shobana has been honored with many awards . In 2006, she was awarded the Padma Shri, Her remarkable acting prowess garnered her the Kerala State Award for Best Actress in 1993 and the National Film Award for Best Actress on two occasions, in 1993 and 2002. She has also received the 'Kalaimamani' award from the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2011, the 'Bharata Kala Ratna' from the Trinity Arts Festival in 2013, and the 'Kalarathna' fellowship from the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi in 2013, 'Nrithya Kala Nipuna' by Mylapore Fine Arts in 2012, the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by Kartik Fine Arts in 2015, and the 'Nrithya Choodamani' by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in 2007, 'Viswa Kala Bharathi' by Bharat Kalachar in 2024.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI NALLI KUPPUSWAMI CHETTI

Shri Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti, an Indian icon in the Silk Industry, is a celebrity in public life, besides the Textile business.

2. Born on 04th May, 1938, soon after writing his school final examinations, Shri Chetti joined the family business upon the untimely death of his father. As the third generation ward, he took charge of the family business in 1956. He imbibed values of life and business even in his teens. He developed the 200 sq. ft. shop into a 3 storey building of over 30,000 sq. ft. showroom with sprawling car park, stretching from one street to another. This was possible because of his hardwork and foresight. He is friendly with fellow traders and helps them when they are in need.

3. Shri Chetti has built up a large clientele and a large stream of vendors. He is known for his customer care, which outreaches business confines. He treats his vendors and employees as his family members. He is a liberal donor to noble causes covering education health care, arts and culture.

4. Shri Chetti is a voracious reader and voluminous author with over 3 scores of books to his credits. He is the Vice-President of educational institutions run by The Ramakrishna Math, Chennai. He is the Chairman of a Trust running an Arts college for Women and an Engineering college. He has been on the Senate of Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore and Periyar University, Salem. He has been a member of the planning Board of the Tamil University, Tanjavur. He has been invited by these schools including IIM, Ahmedabad, for lectures. He has been recognized as a successful business icon, by the reputed Harvard Business School (HBS) in the United States. The HBS has documented his life and service. He speaks Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and English.

5. Shri Chetti has been honoured with Kalaimamani Award by the Government of Tamil Nadu. He has won the Best Tamil Books Awards by the Tamil Nadu Government for his books on Business Management. Several institutions have conferred on him Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Padma Bhushan



DR. BIBEK DEBROY (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Bibek Debroy was a distinguished economist, scholar, and policy advisor, known for his significant contributions to India's economic governance, legal reforms, and philosophical discourse. He served as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) from 2017-2024 and was instrumental in shaping several critical policy frameworks that influenced India's economic and governance landscape.

2. Born on 25th January, 1955, Dr. Debroy pursued his bachelor's degree in Economics from Presidency College, Kolkata; Master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and MSc. in Economics from Cambridge University. A prolific academic, he taught at Kirori Mal College (University of Delhi); Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. He also held research and advisory positions at leading think tanks, including the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

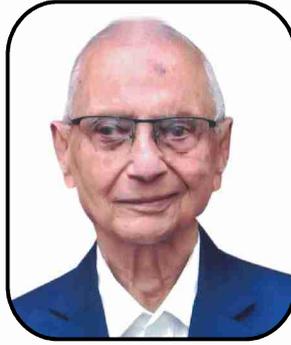
3. Dr. Debroy was a key figure in shaping India's economic policies, particularly through his work with the NITI Aayog (2015-2019) and as Chairman of the High-Powered Committee for Restructuring Indian Railways (2014-2015). His recommendations led to major structural reforms in the railway sector, focusing on efficiency, financial restructuring, and modernization. He also served as a Consultant in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance (1994-1995), where he worked on fiscal and trade policy reforms. His contributions extended to legal and governance reforms as well. As Project Coordinator for the LARGE (Legal Adjustments and Reforms for Globalizing the Economy) initiative and Visiting Professor at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore (1993-1998), he played a pivotal role in modernizing India's regulatory and legal framework for economic liberalization. He also served as a member of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and advised multiple state governments, including Jharkhand and Rajasthan, on economic and administrative reforms.

4. Beyond Economics, Dr. Debroy was an acclaimed Sanskrit scholar and translator, renowned for his unabridged translations of the Mahabharata, Valmiki Ramayana, Bhagavata Purana, and the Vedas. His work in bringing ancient Indian texts to a wider audience was widely appreciated, as he combined his deep historical and philosophical knowledge with contemporary economic insights. A prolific writer, he authored and edited over 100 books and numerous research papers spanning topics such as economic policy, legal reforms, governance, and mythology.

5. Dr. Debroy also played a significant role in India's academic and statistical institutions, serving as the President of the Indian Statistical Institute (2018- 2022) and Chancellor of Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute. His contributions to policy, governance, and literature were widely recognized, and in 2015, the Government of India conferred upon him the Padma Shri. His legacy as a thought leader, policy reformer, and scholar continues to inspire economists, policymakers, and intellectuals. His ability to seamlessly bridge disciplines—economics, law, governance, and ancient philosophy- made him one of India's most influential minds in recent times.

6. Dr. Debroy passed away on 1st November, 2024.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI KAILASH NATH DIKSHIT

Shri Kailash Nath Dikshit is an archaeologist, author and editor of numerous works on Indian Civilisation and the Organiser and director of many archaeological expeditions.

2. Born on 20th June, 1936, Shri Dikshit took his M.A. degree in Ancient Indian History and Archaeology from Lucknow University and Post- Graduate Diploma in Archaeology from Archaeological Survey of India, he joined Archaeological Survey of India in 1957 and rose to become its Joint Director General by serving in different positions from 1957 to 1994. He is still organising the archaeological activities for the Indian Archaeological Society (IAS) in different parts of the country.

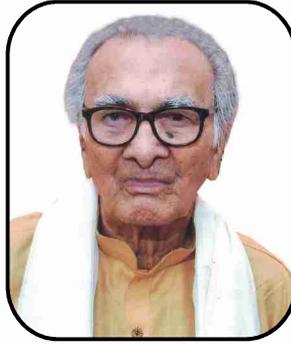
3. During his stint with the Archaeological Survey of India, Shri Dikshit has excavated and attended many excavations including Ujjain, Kalibangan, Bairat, Amkheri, Bargaon, Allahapur, Chichlim (Goa). In 1977 along the dried bed of Saraswati river, he investigated Nohar, Sothi and Sherpura. He also directed the project on "Archaeology of Ramayana Sites" in collaboration with Prof. B.B. Lal of Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, excavated Ayodhya, Shringverpur, Bhardwaj Ashram, Pariar and Chitrakoot and also directed excavations at Hulas, an eastern most site of Harappa culture in western UP. He has visited museums at Berlin, Paris, London, Cambridge, Rome and Cairo. Under Cultural Exchange Programme and International conferences, he also visited Turkey, USSR, Sri Lanka, Paris, Luanda, Angola. As visiting fellow, he has been to Kansai University, Japan and Ulanbator (Mangolia) for providing a report on the conservation of Buddhist monasteries.

4. After his retirement in 1994, Shri Dikshit directed the Kampilya excavation (2000-01) with Ca Foscari University, Venice and delivered lectures at Venice and Padova (2001). He visited Canada (2007) to attend the ICOMOS conference. He attended the International Conference on Archaeology, in Islamabad, Pakistan (2012), and was in Johannesburg and Durban, South Africa (2012) to conceptualise the image of father of the nation Mahatama Gandhi at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station. He visited Kenya and Ethiopia for International Conference at Kisumu (2017) and Sri Lanka to attend the International Conference on Archaeology, History and Heritage and also delivered a public lecture at University of Kelaniya, Colombo (2019).

5. Shri Dikshit has authored more than 150 research papers, reviewed more than 60 books, edited a number of books and journals in the span of his career including Archaeological Perspectives of India since independence', Neolithic-Chalcolithic cultures of Eastern India, Megalithic Cultures of South India, Excavation at Hulas, Archaeological Survey of India and Origin of Indian Civilization: Recent Archaeological Data from Saraswati Basin. He was Editor of 'An Atlas of the Indus-Sarasvati Civilization' and has been editing Puratattva - an annual journal of the Indian Archaeological Society since 1978-84 and from 1990 - till date 2024 and History Today on behalf of History and Culture Society.

6. Shri Dikshit was bestowed with: Dr. Vishnu Sridhar Wakankar RashtriyaSamman, Bhopal (2010-11). M.S. University, Baroda, honoured him for his contribution to South Asian Archaeology (2012). Draupadi Trust New Delhi, felicitated him as the Best Archaeologist of the year (2014). Allahabad Museum conferred Life Time Achievement Award as the best Archaeologist 2018. He was conferred Member of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (ASI), Museum Association of India (2015), Chennai, General Assembly, ICCR, Committee on National Museum Institute (2019 -22).He was awarded DAAD fellowship (1965-67). He has been honoured in 2018 by conferring the Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) from Deccan College, Deemed University, Pune.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI JATIN GOSWAMI

Shri Jatin Goswami, founder and Chief Director of Sattriya Akademi, a pioneer institute of Sattriya Dance in Guwahati is a veteran Sattriya dance exponent who is widely recognized for his role in growth and development of Sattriya dance. He has made the dance form popular inside and outside Assam.

2. Born on 2nd August, 1933, Shri Goswami started receiving basic education of Sattriya culture under the guidance of his father who was also one of the great Sattriya artistes of his times. He learned Sattriya dance under the guidance of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winners, Late Maniram Dutta Muktiar and Late Roseswar Saikia Bar Bayan hailed from Sri Sri Kamalabari Sattri. He became well trained up in the multi coloured Assamese folk songs, dances and Ankia Nat (Bhaona) under the guidance of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha. He first presented Ankia Nat in modern stage and he is the first and only person to form mobile cultural group for performance of Sattriya dance and Ankia Nat Bhaonas. He also imparted training of Sattriya dance to various mobile theater groups of Assam.

3. Shri Goswami founded Pragjyoti Kala Parishad, a Cultural organization under the guidance of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha. With this organization, he visited every Sattri (monastery) and Namghar of Assam and gathered a number of practical knowledge about Sattriya dances and dramas. He visited different parts of the country, performing Sattriya dance. He became most respected seniormost Sattriya dance Guru. He is the pioneer in experimentation and composition of Sattriya dance.

4. Shri Goswami articulated and designed several compositions of Sattriya dance, for which the danceform has got immense popularity. He has led key initiatives for promoting the danceform. He served as a member of the General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi. He was also a member of the Expert Committee of I.C.C.R, North East Zonal Cultural Centre, Etc.

5. Shri Goswami is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. The Government of India conferred on him Padma Shri in 2008. He received Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2004 for his outstanding contributions to Sattriya dance. The Government of Madhya Pradesh conferred on him Kalidas Samman in 2017. He has been conferred Akademi Ratna (Fellow) by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi in 2019. In 2002, he was honoured with Bharatiyam Samman by E.Z.C.C. Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of India. He was awarded with Best Dance Director award by Government of Assam for 1997-98.

Padma Bhushan



DR. MANOHAR JOSHI (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Manohar Joshi's career spans more than 55 years across social, political, business, and literary fields.

2. Born on 2nd December, 1937, in Nandvi, a small village in the Raigad District of Maharashtra, Dr. Joshi completed his schooling, BA, MA, and LLB degrees through the "earn and learn" approach. Due to his family's financial struggles, his life journey was challenging. Leaving his job at the Mumbai Municipal Corporation in 1961, he started his business by establishing Kohinoor Classes. With a vision of a skilled India, he founded Kohinoor Technical Institute in 1967. This initiative aimed to empower those young people who couldn't pursue formal education, enabling them to become self-reliant through technical training. He made a significant contribution and helped millions of children stand on their own feet. Later, he expanded into the hotel and construction industries, adopting innovative methods and integrity.

3. Inspired by Shiv Sena leader Shri Balasaheb Thackeray, Dr. Joshi joined the Shiv Sena party in 1967. He participated in various movements and agitations for social causes. In the political arena, his journey began as a Corporator in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation in 1968 and became the Mayor of Mumbai in 1976. He was passionate about environmental issues and started the "Swachha Mumbai, Harit Mumbai" movement to increase the green cover in Mumbai. At all public functions where he was invited as the Chief Guest, he would insist that the organizers would start the function with the planting of at least one tree. At the state level of Maharashtra, he served as a member of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, and Leader of the Opposition. During his tenure as Chief Minister from 1995 to 1999, he formulated 60 inclusive schemes with the welfare of the people in mind. Some notable schemes include military schools, old age homes in each district, and the "one rupee zunka bhakar" initiative. He played a major role in renaming Bombay to Mumbai. During this period, his focus on infrastructure development led to the construction of 55 flyovers in Mumbai and the Pune-Mumbai Expressway. Known as "Joshi Sir" due to his love for education, he even conducted adult education classes while serving as Chief Minister.

4. At the national level, Dr. Joshi was Member of Parliament- Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. As the Union Minister of Heavy Industries, he focused on reviving struggling industries. As the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, he made parliamentary proceedings more inclusive and efficient. He took the lead in installing a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Parliament and a portrait of Veer Savarkar in the Parliament House. Regardless of his position, he was always accessible to the common people and took the lead in solving their problems. With his studious nature and oratory skills, he passionately raised public issues during his work. He always guided young people not to run after jobs but to become job providers by starting businesses. With this aim, he took the initiative in establishing the Jagatik Marathi Chamber of Commerce and Industries and served as its President. He made study tours to 45 countries and tried to bring the good practices and technology to India. Due to his love for cricket, he served as the President of the Mumbai Cricket Association and the Vice-President of the BCCI. He has authored 15 books based on his experiences. 17 books about him have been published in Marathi, English, and Hindi.

5. Dr. Joshi was conferred with honorary degree of D. Litt. by Dr. D. Y. Patil University for his contributions. He earned a doctorate from the University of Mumbai at the age of 72 by writing a research paper on the topic of Shiv Sena.

6. Dr. Joshi passed away on 23rd February, 2024.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI ANANT NAG

Shri Anant Nag is a veteran Kannada Film actor known for his versatility and contribution to Indian cinema over the past 5 decades.

2. Born on 4th September, 1948, Shri Anant spent the first 12 of his formative years at Anandashram, an Ashram in Kasargode district founded by Swami Ramdas and Mataji Krishna Bai, and at Shri Chitrapur Math in Shirali, where Swami Anandashram was the Mathadhipati. His parents devoted themselves to the service of these two revered Sanatana institutions, which upheld the ideals of Naam, Dhyaana, and Seva. These spiritual moorings had a profound impact on his life cementing his love for Sanatana religion, tradition and culture.

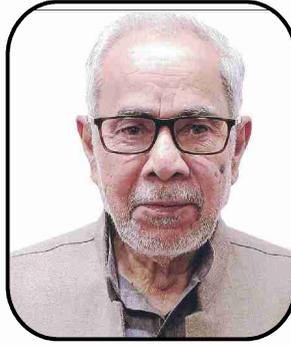
3. Shri Anant pursued his early education in Udipi, Chitrapur, Shirali and Honnavar in coastal Karnataka before moving to Bombay, where he completed his matriculation. Landing a vacation job during his college days, at the age of 18, he was selected to play the main role in a 3-act play on the life of Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu of Bengal by drama stalwarts, Writer Shri Prabhakar Mudur and director Shri Venkat Rao Talageri. His second assignment was on the life of Goutama, the Buddha. Third, was in the role of a youth, who has distinct remembrance and memories of his previous life. These three roles were the foundation on which he built his name as an actor. He went on to play over 50 diverse roles in as many plays over the next 5 years.

4. Encouraged by Y.N. Krishnamurthy, Girish Karnad, and G V Iyer, Shri Anant debuted in a lead role in his first Kannada feature film, Sankalp. Ankur was his first Hindi feature film. Over the years, he has portrayed variegated characters in over 300 films across Kannada, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, and Marathi. Malgudi Days was another of his forays. Known for his natural performances and remarkable versatility, he has captivated audiences across languages, regions, and generations, solidifying his status as one of Indian cinema's conspicuous actors. His immense talent has been recognized with multiple accolades, including five Karnataka State Best Actor Awards and five Filmfare Awards. In 2023, he marked 50 years in cinema, celebrating a glorious Golden Jubilee in his career.

5. Beyond the realm of cinema, in the 3 decades spanning 1970s -1990s, Shri Anant served as a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council from 1988 to 1994. He was Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1994-1999, whence he held office as Minister of State for Bangalore City Development.

6. Shri Anant has been awarded the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award for a biographical book on his late brother, Karnataka State Lifetime Achievement Award and an Honorary Doctorate from Bangalore University (North).

Padma Bhushan



SHRI RAMBAHADUR RAI

Shri Rambahadur Rai is a distinguished journalist and public intellectual, with an extensive career spanning over four decades in journalism. He currently serves as the Group Editor of Hindustan Samachar, a multilingual news agency founded in 1948 and oversees the publication of the fortnightly magazine Yugvarta and the monthly journal Navotthaan.

2. Born on 1st July, 1946, in the village of Sonadi in the Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Rai earned an M.A. in Economics in 1969 from Banaras Hindu University. During his student years in Varanasi, he participated in several movements including the liberation movement of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

3. Shri Rai's entry into journalism coincided with his association with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and his active role in the Bihar Movement led by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan in which he was arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). His commitment to political activism continued during the Emergency during which he was again incarcerated. He began his career in journalism as a correspondent for *Hindusthan Samachar* in Arunachal Pradesh. He subsequently obtained a postgraduate diploma in journalism from Rajasthan University. Over the years, he held various editorial positions at prominent Hindi newspapers, including *Jansatta* and *Navbharat Times*. Between 1986 and 2004, he covered proceedings in the Lok Sabha, eventually retiring as Editor of *Jansatta* in 2004. He has served as the editor of the Hindi fortnightlies *Pratham Pravakta* and *Yathaavat*. Presently, he contributes a regular column, *Lokayat*, in *Yugvarta* and writes a research article for every issue of *Manthan*. Additionally, he is a member of the editorial board of *Manthan*, a UGC-recognized academic journal dedicated to social and academic subjects.

4. A prolific writer, Shri Rai has authored and edited numerous works on political analysis, electoral reforms, constitutional studies, and contemporary socio-political and cultural issues. Among his notable contributions are *Rahbari Ke Sawaal* (a political biography of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar), *Manzil Se Zyada Safar* (a Q&A-style biography of Vishwanath Pratap Singh), *Shaashwat Vidrohi Rajneta-Acharya J.B. Kripalani*, and a concise biography of Jayaprakash Narayan. His editorial contributions include *Deendayal Upadhyaya Sampoorna Vangmaya*, *Lok Ka Prabhash* (a biography of Prabhash Joshi), *Hamare Bala Saheb Deoras*, *Bhanu Pratap Shukl-Vyaktitva Aur Vichar*, and *Rajneeti Ki Lok Sanskriti-Nimitt Govindacharya*. One of his most widely discussed works is *Bharatiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahaniyan* (The Indian Constitution: Untold Stories), which provides an in-depth analysis of the constitution-making process based on the Constituent Assembly debates.

5. Shri Rai has been actively involved in academic and policy discussions. He was nominated as a member of the Executive Council of the University of Delhi by the President of India and served as a member of the selection committee for the Best Parliamentarian award. He is also a member of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee. He currently holds the position of Chancellor at Shri Guru Govind Singh Tri-Centenary University (SGTU), Gurugram. Since 2016, he has also served as the Chairman of the Trust of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

6. Beyond journalism, Shri Rai has been an active participant in social movements, including the Right to Information (RTI) movement and the 'Know the Constitution' campaign initiated by Pragma Sansthan, where he serves as a trustee. His engagements further extend to his roles as Managing Trustee of Prabhash Parampara Nyas and Chairman of SPRF Trust. He is also a trustee of the Acharva J.B. Kripalani Memorial Trust.

7. For his contributions to journalism, literature, and public discourse, Shri Rai has received numerous accolades. In 2015, he was conferred the Padma Shri. Additionally, he has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) degree by Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

Padma Bhushan



SADHVI RITAMBHARA

Sadhvi Ritambhara is lovingly and popularly known as Didi Maa, is amongst the most respected spiritual leaders and distinctive humanitarian that India has given to the global community.

2. Born on 1st January, 1964, Sadhvi Ritambhara is a Spiritual Teacher, Inspirational Speaker and above all a distinct humanitarian. Her life is a life of purpose. An epitome of selfless love and creator of Vatsalya Gram - the only of its kind social intervention in the entire world which combines three different welfare programs (child care, women protection & empowerment and elderly care)-complementing program. This unique family-based rehabilitation model has been globally lauded and is also listed in the 'Golden Book of World Records'. Numerous welfare projects serving hundreds and thousands of disadvantaged children, destitute women and impoverished community members are being implemented at Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh, Sijai & Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh, Rudraprayag & Kankhal in Uttarakhand, Badmer in Rajasthan, Nalagarh, Solan in Himanchal Pradesh, Shahdara & Indraprastha Extension in Delhi and Dakor in Gujarat, in an institutional manner through her non-profit Param Shakti Peeth. She remains completely committed to her mission of mainstreaming the disadvantaged children & women and helps build a more equitable society, and has pledged to dedicate her entire life to this endeavour.

3. Sadhvi Ritambhara continues to receive appreciation and love for her works and is the recipient of many awards and honours including D.Litt. Honorary Degree from JJT University, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Award, Rani Lakshmi Bai Award, WOW India Women of the Year Award 2010 for National Movement against Female Foeticide, Certificate of Recognition-City of Pearland-USA, Certificate of Recognition-City of Sugar Land-USA, Certificate of Recognition-County of LA-USA, Certificate of Recognition-Hindu Community of Southern California-USA.

Padma Shri



SHRI VELU AASAN

Shri Velu Aasan is one of the senior and foremost well-known Parai artists in Tamil Nadu. Parai, also known as Thappu or Thappattai is a traditional percussion instrument from South India. It is a traditional instrument used to make announcements and played during temple festivals, cultural folk performances, weddings and functions.

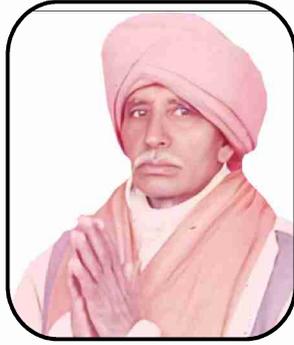
2. Born on 20th May, 1970, Shri Velu Aasan did not continue his study beyond the fourth grade of elementary school. Due to the family's poverty, he began performing Parai music with his father at the age of 10 for the world famous Alanganallur Jallikkattu (Bull Fight), temple festivals and sometimes funeral processions. He has been performing for the last 34 years to revive and rejuvenate Parai music, one of the traditional arts that is on the verge of extinction, and its artists. It is traditional to honour the Jallikkattu only after the swami darshan is completed and the Parai instrument is played. He is proud to have proclaimed the Parai Music of traditional not only in the Indian context but also in the universal folklore arena.

3. As cultural festivals grew, the importance of Parai music and performance was realized by the public. Shri Velu Aasan became a trainer who taught this music, dance and performance to people from schools, colleges and various folk groups. As an artist and a trainer, he was called a Velu Aasan (Teacher). His performance, which began with 52 steps (Adavu) through his memory power, has today reached more than 110 steps by his traditional knowledge. Not only as a trainer, he was also an expert in making drum and skin instruments. He has produced more than thousands of skin instruments.

4. Shri Velu Aasan became a trainer who took drum music and its culture to the world stage. He traveled to America, China, Malaysia, and Singapore and made this art known to the world. In the last 30 years, he has given more than 1200 programs and training. He has acted in more than thirty-five films in Tamil and Telugu. After 2001, he started an association of 'Thappaatta Kalainjargal Sangam' in Madurai and was involved in the work of organising many folk artists.

5. Shri Velu Aasan has been awarded by several organizations in recognition of his artistic contribution and cultural dedication. He has received the Ayya Azhagar Sami Award by Dalit Resource Centre - 2004, Om Muthu Mari Award by University of Madras, Parai Isai Sirpi Award in 2015 by Alagappa University and Kalai Nanmani Award in 2021 by Department of Art and Culture, Tamil Nadu.

Padma Shri



SHRI NARAYAN ALIAS BHULAI BHAI (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Narayan alias Bhulai Bhai was a dedicated leader, social worker, and politician who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and a Member of the Legislative Council, Uttar Pradesh. He was widely recognized for his contributions to public welfare at grassroots leadership. His efforts in rural development, political activism, and social service earned him immense respect among the people. He played a significant role in the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste (Dhobi community) and worked towards ensuring social justice and empowerment for the marginalized sections of society.

2. Born on 1st November, 1914, Shri Narayan alias Bhulai Bhai belonged to a humble family in Pagar Chhapra, Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. He completed his MA. and M.Ed. and later served as a Basic Education Officer before resigning to dedicate himself entirely to social and political service. His wife was also a strong leader who served as Village Head for five terms.

3. Shri Narayan alias Bhulai Bhai's political journey began at the grassroots level, where he first served as Village Head before being elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from 1974- 1977 and 1977-1980. He later became a Member of the Legislative Council. Throughout his career, he actively worked for rural development, education, and social justice. He played a major role in BJP and Jansangh, where he contributed significantly to party-building efforts, public welfare policies, and socio-political movements.

4. Shri Narayan alias Bhulai Bhai actively participated in various political and social struggles, including the 1962 Bikal Flood Crisis, where he prevented the submergence of an entire Vidhan Sabha by strategically cutting soil under the railway track. He was also imprisoned during the Emergency in 1970, jailed in Deoria in 1990 for participating in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, and again in 1991 during the Farmers' Movement. He played an active role in the 1992 Ram Janmabhoomi movement, advocating for the construction of the Ram Temple.

5. During his association with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Shri Narayan alias Bhulai Bhai had the opportunity to work closely with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. He contributed to editing and distributing newspapers like Tarun Bharat, Panchajanya, and Organiser to spread nationalistic ideologies. He also had a close association with Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, who gave him the affectionate name "Bhulai (Brother)".

6. Shri Narayan alias Bhulai Bhai Passed away on 31st October, 2024.

Padma Shri



SHRI SAJJAN BHAJANKA

Shri Sajjan Bhajanka is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and industrialist who has significantly transformed India's plywood and panel industry. As the Chairman of Century Plyboards (India) Limited and Star Cement Limited, he has been instrumental in shaping the industrial landscape, particularly in Northeast India, creating thousands of jobs and contributing substantially to regional economic growth.

2. Born on 3rd June, 1952, in Bawani Khera, Haryana, Shri Bhajanka Graduated with a Commerce degree from Dibrugarh University in 1973. He has also been honoured with hon. D. Litt degrees by Assam Down Town University (2018) and by Royal Global University, Assam (2022).

3. Shri Bhajanka's entrepreneurial journey commenced in the timber industry with a small veneer unit in Tinsukia, which laid the foundation for his future ventures, including the establishment of Century Plyboards and Star Cement, now leading entities in their respective sectors. Under his leadership, Century Plyboards has become India's top manufacturer of plywood, MDF, laminates, and particle boards, while Star Cement has emerged as a key player in Northeast India's cement sector. Beyond his enterprises, he served as President of the Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI) for two decades, from 2004 to 2024, advocating for policy reforms, sustainable industry practices, and the promotion of agro-forestry. Additionally, as President of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce for two successive terms (2013-2015), he championed business and trade across the nation.

4. Shri Bhajanka has been a driving force behind institutions such as Heritage School, Heritage Institute of Technology, and Heritage Law College in Kolkata. His involvement with the Friends of Tribals Society (FTS) since 1989, and as its All-India President from 2009 to 2015, led to the expansion of the One-Teacher School initiative, providing basic education to underprivileged tribal children. During his tenure, FTS grew from 23,000 to 47,000 schools, significantly impacting the lives of many.

5. Shri Bhajanka has made notable contributions to healthcare and social welfare. As President of the Marwari Relief Society, he played a pivotal role in the improvement of this 100-year-old hospital in Kolkata. He is a trustee of the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society, a chain of Gaushalas, and president of Prerna Foundation, which maintains major crematoriums in Kolkata. He has also served as the Chairman, Board of Governors, of the National Institute of Technology, Meghalaya (2019-2024), and currently chairs the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Kolkata. His social and educational initiatives include roles as a General Body Member of Vivekananda Kendra and Vice President of S- VYASA Society, that founded the S-VYASA University dedicated to AYUSH, recognized as a Centre of Excellence in Yoga by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

6. Shri Bhajanka's contributions have earned him several prestigious awards, including the Life-Time Achievement Award in Social Welfare (2003), Rotary Pride of Industry Award (2009-2010), Haryana Udyogpati Ratna Award (2012), and the Best CEO Award by Business Today (2023).

Padma Shri



DR. (PROF.) NEERJA BHATLA

Dr. (Prof.) Neerja Bhatla is Professor and former Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. She is widely recognized in India and internationally for her role in promoting cervical cancer prevention in India, validating feasible, affordable and acceptable technologies.

2. Born on 2nd January, 1959, Dr. (Prof.) Bhatla received her MBBS degree from AIIMS New Delhi in 1982, MD in 1985 and was appointed on the faculty in 1989. Over a distinguished career spanning over 35 years, she has been instrumental in significantly impacting women's health.

3. Dr. (Prof.) Bhatla worked closely with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and Department of Biotechnology in the field of maternal and reproductive health. Over the last two decades, she conducted numerous studies on various aspects of cervical cancer prevention, taking up the challenge to find tools that health workers can use at primary care facilities, evaluating alternatives such as VIA and low-cost HPV testing, portable battery-operated devices for diagnosis and treatment, AI-enabled next generation equipment and HPV vaccines, with a focus on Make-in-India efforts. She collaborated with corporate social responsibility efforts, paramilitary forces welfare programmes and organizations such as Rotary, etc. through which she has benefited lakhs of women.

4. Dr. (Prof.) Bhatla has served on numerous national and global advisory groups, with leadership roles in all major organizations. In these roles, she developed training curricula, guidelines for cervical cancer screening, management, HPV vaccination, revised staging criteria for cervical cancer, development of a mobile application for management, etc. She was the first from India to be Chairperson of the International FIGO Committee for Gynecologic Oncology. She is a member of WHO's Technical Expert Group for Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, and has been President of the Asia Oceania Research Organization for Genital Infections and Neoplasia and Association of Gynaecologic Oncologists of India, and Vice President of the Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI).

5. Dr. (Prof.) Bhatla has been the recipient of several awards and orations from national and international organizations. In 2018, she received the Inspiring Gynaecologists of North India Award by ET Healthworld for advancement of reproductive health. In 2019, she received the Women's Leadership Conclave Award by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India. In 2021, she was awarded the Shobha Wenger Distinguished Chair of Gynaecologic Oncology at AIIMS and FRCOG (ad eundem), UK. She received the IARC Award for Women in Cancer Research, 2023 from WHO-International Agency for Research in Cancer, Women Achiever's Award from Zee DNA, Fellowship of National Academy of Sciences, Prayagraj (FNASc) in 2023 and Indian National Science Academy (FAMS) in 2024. She is listed in Stanford's top 2% of researchers globally since 2020.

Padma Shri



SHRI AJAY V. BHATT

Shri Ajay V. Bhatt is an Indian-American, a former Intel Fellow, and a world-renowned technologist in the field of computer technology.

2. Born on 6th September, 1957, in Bangalore, India, Shri Bhatt earned his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electronics Engineering from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in 1980, subsequently acquiring a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the City University of New York in 1984.

3. In the early 1990s, Shri Bhatt joined Intel Corporation, where he was instrumental in developing various pioneering and innovative computer technologies. "A dream come true" is how he describes the opportunity to shape the future of Personal Computing as an engineer at Intel Corporation. His motivation to create the USB technology stemmed from his dissatisfaction with the lack of a universal interface for connecting peripherals to computers. He successfully led a team at Intel and collaborated with professionals across the computer industry to establish USB as a simple and standardized interface that facilitates seamless connectivity, data transfers, and power delivery. The first USB specification was introduced in 1995, and by the late 1990s, it achieved widespread adoption among leading companies, including Apple, Microsoft, and others. His inventions have fundamentally transformed how easily variety of devices connect to computers, both externally and internally. Today, approximately two billion USBs are shipped annually, with millions being sold daily.

4. In his 44 years in the computer industry, Shri Bhatt's co-inventions and leadership in several notable technologies have profoundly influenced the contemporary computer industry worldwide. He holds over 132 U.S. and international patents and has made substantial contributions to additional widely utilized innovations, including the Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP), PCI Express, and Thunderbolt.

5. Among his numerous accolades, Shri Bhatt has received The Light of India Award in 2012 for his contributions to science and technology, The Asian Award in 2013 for outstanding achievements in these fields, and the EU Inventor Award in 2013 for his pioneering work in developing USB.

Padma Shri



MS. RADHA BHATT

Ms. Radha Bhatt is a renowned social worker from Uttarakhand.

2. Born on 16th October, 1933 in a remote place of Uttarakhand, Ms. Bhatt had to take more efforts to continue her education because there was no awareness about education especially for girls and there were no facilities of education in the village. In her teenage, she decided to become a social worker especially to help and development of the women and girls to give education and build a confidence into them. With this aim, she left her education in 12th standard and joined Sarla ben's institute/ashram at the age of 16 years. She entered Lakshmi Ashram when she was just 16 years old.

3. Ms. Bhatt has been serving the women and children and the rural areas of Uttarakhand. She carried out an experiment in propagating social service based on Gandhian ideals and techniques in the Bougad village of Pithoragarh district during 1961-1963. She set up small organizations (Mandals) for the teenagers, a 'one hour school' for the girls, and personality development activities for children of all ages. She motivated the women to work for the preservation of their forests, and set up the Berinag Gram Swarajya Mandal for carrying out social and economic programmes of development. The Mandal is active even today and has contributed largely to the growth of Khadi and village industries and to environmental protection.

4. Ms. Bhatt had toured Denmark and other Scandinavian countries for training in advanced methods of school instruction. After her return she was entrusted in 1966 with the main responsibility of conducting the affairs of the Ashram. For the next 3-4 years she organized the women in a movement against the drinking habit in Almora and the surrounding three districts. The movement was highly successful and brought about the closure of the liquor shops in the region. She also visited the United States, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, England, Poland, France, China and Canada to lecture on Environment, Gandhian through to participate in Conferences and to deliver lectures on various issues.

5. Ms. Bhatt had actively participated in Chipko movement in 1975. She extended the Ashram activities to tree planting programme. She launched a campaign against blasting and excavation in soapstone quarries, with a view to protect the environment and saving the common village grazing lands and forests from destruction. The movement made over 300 acres of land available to the villages of *Khirakot*. Many quarries in the Saryu catchment area were closed down and more than 1.60 lakh trees were planted. She had done 79 thousand kilometers *padyatra* with women and girls in the mountain for different *Andolan*, campaigns during her life. She started Nadi Bachao Andolan' in 2008 against the hydroelectric power station with the local women and girls in Uttarakhand.

6. Ms. Bhatt has written many articles and a few books, which have also been published in Danish, Swedish and German languages. She has been associated with many Gandhian institutions, being the Chairperson of the Himalaya Sewa Sangh, New Delhi. She is a member of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, New Delhi. She became a Secretary of All India Kasturaba Trust, Delhi. She was the first woman chairperson of the Gandhi Peace Foundation in Delhi, 2006 and Chairperson/President of Lakshmi Ashram Kausani till 2024. She is also a member of Central Himalayan Environment Association, Nainital and Center for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

7. Ms. Bhatt has been honoured with many awards such as Jannalal Bajaj Award in 1991, Godavari Award, Indira Priyadarshini Award (Govt. India) (Environment), Muni Santbal Award and Swami Rama Humanitarian Award 2024.

Padma Shri



SHRI HARCHANDAN SINGH BHATTI

Shri Harchandan Singh Bhatti is a renowned painter and art designer.

2. Born on 20th April, 1959 in Dehradun, Shri Bhatti is a graduate in painting from Government Fine Arts College, Indore in Madhya Pradesh. After completing the studies, he was among the chosen ones by the visionary painter Jagdish Swaminathan when he was establishing one of its kind Multi Arts Centre Bharat Bhawan Bhopal, which is known for its diverse cultural activities and contribution in field of tribal and contemporary arts on a parallel platforms along with music drama and literature. During the making of Bharat bhawan and under the guidance of eminent painter J. Swaminathan, he got the opportunity to see, understand and document the tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh closely which later worked as the base of his thinking process to carry forward the legacy of his Guru.

3. Shri Bhatti is the chief designer of the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum, which is known for its exceptional display and works by tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh. It was his vision that all the aspects of art culture living traditions, devotional practices etc. of tribal communities should be showcased in very contemporary manner and not in a showcase. He has designed the museum as a living tradition of tribal communities that has broken all the parameters of any conventional museum and turned the space into art site. The grand vision and display here has left museologists around the nation amazed and forced them to think about making the museums more interactive for the coming generations. Department of Culture has assigned him to make several such museums and research centers around the state. From past three decades, he is also involved in designing national and international exhibitions, stages for state cultural events also. He has more than 40 years of experience in the field of painting and design.

4. Shri Bhatti is a visionary of creating works in a massive scale. He is probably one of its kind of an artist who re-enacts the cultural and traditional art forms with modernity. During the Simhasth 2016 with initiation of Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh, he has again created one of its kind museum TRIVENI based on the Shaiv, Shakt and Vaishnav traditions where traditional art forms of India meets in a modern form. It's a perfect blend of tradition spiritualism meeting modernity. Being the chief art designer of Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum, he is responsible for breaking the concept of conventional museum. He has forced museologists around the country and also the world to rethink how the modern day museums should be like. He can be seen as pioneer who has given a path to make the museum more interactive for the visitors and to give them more understanding of the displays there.

5. Shri Bhatti has an unforgettable contribution in developing a whole new dimension of grandeur in the field of art and design for several art events, exhibitions of national and international levels. He has been designing stages for prestigious khajuraho international dance festival, Tansen Samaroh, Mahabodhi Samaroh and lok-rang festivals along with Madhya Pradesh Divas organized by Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

6. Shri Bhatti has been awarded many awards and fellowships by government and several private institutions such as Shankar International Exhibition award for four consecutive years, Award at Camlin National Art Competition alongwith National Kalidas Exhibition award Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh Raza Award Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh State award for three years, Award at Chandigarh drawing exhibition, recipient of prestigious Amrita Shergil Fellowship, Junior Fellowship by Department of Culture, Government of India. He is also a recipient of prestigious National Kalidas Samman by Government of Madhya Pradesh for the year 2016 and prestigious Madhya Pradesh Gaurav Samman, Bhopal for the year 2017.

Padma Shri



DR. BHIM SINGH BHAVESH

Dr. Bhim Singh Bhavesh is a distinguished journalist and social activist hailing from Lakshanpur Village in the Jamira post of Bhojpur district.

2. Born on 18th January, 1964, Dr. Bhavesh possesses a diverse educational background with qualifications including an M.A. (Dual), Ph.D. and L.L.B. Throughout his career spanning over three decades, he has been deeply committed to advocating for the rights and welfare of marginalized communities, particularly the Musahar caste. His seminal work, 'Hashiye Par Hasrat', 'Name Plate' and 'Culcutta se Kolkata' stands as a testament to his dedication to shedding light on the challenges faced by these communities and advocating for their upliftment. Alongside his literary endeavors, he has actively engaged in various social initiatives, serving on committees addressing issues such as healthcare, education and grievance redressal. As a journalist, he has made significant contributions to the field, covering a wide range of topics and providing a voice to the voiceless. He continues to inspire through his relentless pursuit of social justice and his unwavering commitment to creating a more equitable society.

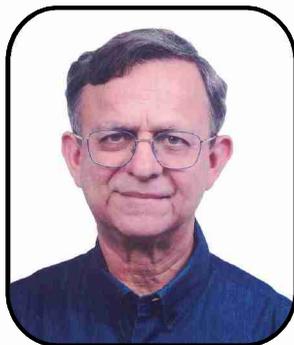
3. Dr. Bhavesh's journey began in 2003 in Jawahar Tola Musahar Toli of Ara Town, expanding to over 200 Musahar settlements across 13 blocks of Bhojpur. At the time, literacy in the community was merely 4-5%. Due to his efforts, over 300 children have passed their matriculation exams, with many pursuing higher education and vocational training.

4. Dr. Bhavesh has facilitated the construction of community buildings, improved drainage systems and ensured access to clean drinking water. He has played a crucial role in providing healthcare, especially for sick and pregnant women and actively participated in sterilization campaigns. His initiatives also helped thousands secure identification documents for government welfare schemes. Under his leadership, 142 students cleared the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) exam, securing financial support for further studies. He has also worked to enhance early childhood education and nutrition programs, ensuring that children and pregnant women benefit from Anganwadi centers and government schemes.

5. To sustain progress, Dr. Bhavesh mobilized educated youth from Musahar settlements, leading to the creation of the "Parvarish Yojna," which supports 87 orphaned children with monthly financial aid. His efforts have enabled over 3,500 individuals in Bhojpur to access social security pensions. During the 2012 Ara liquor tragedy, he coordinated relief efforts and secured employment for affected families. He has also been an active advocate against illegal sand mining in the Son River, influencing government action through his reports and articles.

6. Dr. Bhavesh has authored four books: 'Sannidhya Ka Sansmaran', 'Name Plate' 'Hashiye Par Hasrat' and 'Culcutta Se Kolkata'. His contributions extend to radio discussions and publications in various newspapers and magazines. He held various position viz Member - National Service Scheme (NSS) Advisory Committee, Veer Kunwar Singh University, Member - Local Complaints Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment, District Collectorate, Bhojpur and Chief Patron - Maa Aranya Devi Temple Development Trust. His relentless commitment to social justice, education and healthcare has transformed the Musahar community, leaving a lasting impact on their lives.

Padma Shri



DR. CHETAN EKNATH CHITNIS

Dr. Chetan Eknath Chitnis is Professor and Head, Malaria Parasite Biology and Vaccines Unit at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, a world-renowned research centre dedicated to the study of the biology of micro-organisms, diseases and vaccines. He is widely recognized for his pioneering contributions to our understanding of the basic biology of malaria parasites and efforts to develop malaria vaccines. His group has developed the first vaccine to show efficacy against *Plasmodium vivax* malaria in a human clinical trial.

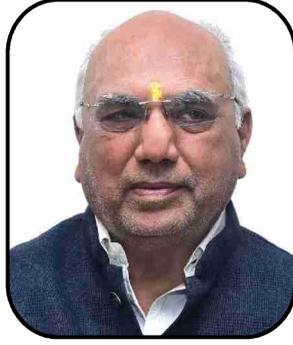
2. Born on 3rd April, 1961, in Mumbai, Dr. Chitnis received a Master of Science degree in Physics in 1983 from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay; Master of Arts degree in Physics in 1986 from Rice University, Houston, Ph.D. in Biophysics in 1990 from University of California, Berkeley, for his studies on the biosynthetic pathways for the polysaccharide alginate, a key pathogenic factor secreted by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* during lung infections in cystic fibrosis patients. He received the Henry Kaiser Fellowship, University of California Regent's Fellowship and Abraham Rosenberg Fellowship during his doctoral studies.

3. Following his Ph.D., Dr. Chitnis received a Fogarty International Fellowship from 1990 to 1995 to conduct post-doctoral research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, where he started investigating host-pathogen interactions in malaria. In 1995, he joined the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi as a Principal Investigator where over the next 18 years he established a group to study malaria parasites and develop vaccines. Based on studies on the molecular mechanisms that mediate host cell invasion by malaria parasites as well as field studies on immunity to malaria, he developed the rationale for novel malaria vaccine candidates. He also established a process development laboratory at ICGEB, New Delhi to develop methods to manufacture these recombinant protein based malaria vaccines. These methods were transferred to Indian biotechnology companies to produce the vaccine candidates that were then tested in clinical trials. His group developed the first vaccine for *Plasmodium vivax* malaria to show efficacy in a human challenge trial. In 2014, he was appointed Professor at Institute Pasteur, Paris where he continues to develop vaccines for malaria.

4. Dr. Chitnis, together with colleagues at ICGEB, established the Malaria Vaccine Development Program, a not-for-profit society whose mandate was to support ICGEB and other academic institutions to undertake product development of vaccines for malaria and other neglected diseases. He has served on advisory boards of various research institutes and organizations including Department of Biotechnology, BIRAC, WHO, European Commission and National Institutes of Health. He is a member of editorial boards of various international journals and serves on review panels for national and international funding agencies. He has also contributed to teaching and currently serves as Co-Director of the renowned Pasteur Vaccinology course and as Director of the Pasteur online course on Malaria, which attracts large number of students from around the world each year.

5. Dr. Chitnis is the recipient of several awards and honours. He received the Infosys Prize for Life Sciences in 2010, Distinguished Alumnus Award, IIT Bombay in 2009, Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Prize in Medical Sciences in 2004, M. O. T. Iyengar Award for Research in Malaria in 2000 and the Young Investigator Award from American Society of Microbiology in 1995. He received the TATA Innovation Fellowship from Department of Biotechnology (2007-2012), International Senior Research Fellowship from The Wellcome Trust, UK (2000-2005) and International Research Scholarship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, USA (2000-2005). He was elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi in 2014 and Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore in 2008.

Padma Shri



DR. VILAS GAJANANRAO DANGARE

Dr. Vilas Gajananrao Dangare is a famous homeopathic doctor who has led a highly disciplined and dedicated life. His clinic in Surendra Nagar is a known place for everyone. This clinic was never closed except in 2014 for some months when he suffered with cerebral infarction. He lost his vision in the same year. This incident did not deter his faith towards his work and his confidence. He kept serving people once he was alright. He treated many stalwarts including Shiv Sena Pramukh late Shri Balasaheb Thackeray, Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadanvis, former MP Shri Vilas Muttemwar and many others.

2. Born on 4th November, 1952 in a small town called Chandurbazar, Dr. Dangare earned his degree from Nagpur Homoeopathic College. During that time, modern medical education was highly appealing, but he who had a deep sense of service from the beginning, chose a different path and embraced homeopathy. He completed his homeopathic education in 1976. He practiced for some time with his brother in law Dr. Prabhakar Bhoyar in his clinic near Ayachit Mandir and later opened his own clinic at Surendra Nagar.

3. While managing his profession, Dr. Dangare also engaged himself in social service. He fulfilled various responsibilities assigned to him by the RSS. He worked as Area Head of RSS for many years and currently holds the responsibility of being the Chairman of Shri Narkesari Publications, which runs the newspaper 'Tarun Bharat'. He was offered many prestigious positions and even invited to enter politics due to his popularity, but he politely declined to stay focused on his service work without any distractions. He mentored many young doctors in his Nagpur clinic and guided them to success.

4. Recently, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University honoured Dr. Dangare as its proud alumnus during the centenary celebrations.

Padma Shri



DR. P. DATCHANAMOORTHY

Dr. P. Datchanamoorthy is an eminent artist of Thavil music. Thavil is a percussion musical instrument, which is played commonly in folk music and classical music with Nathaswaram. It is played in traditional spiritual feasts and ceremony mostly in the southern states of India.

2. Born on 21st December, 1956 in a small village in the Union Territory of Puducherry, Dr. Datchanamoorthy is the son of Shri R. Poovan, a known Nathaswara vidhvan. As Nathaswaram goes with Thavil Music, he learned and practiced Thavil music from the age of 15. His beatings are echoed in many spiritual and government celebration and ceremonies. He has played Thavil in more than 5000 temples, 8000 domestic and traditional ceremonies and over 3000 govt organised sociocultural programs from 2006 onwards. The track record of him shows that he has been receiving one honour or award almost every year. He has dedicated his life time for taking the Thavil music to future generation.

3. Based on his skilled and commendable performances, Government of Puducherry honoured Dr. Datchanamoorthy by giving the title 'Puducherry Kalaimamani' in 2009. By the virtue of his Thavil music, he continued his performance in many stages and forum and bagged many title like Thavil Esai Vendhar, Thavil Esai Enthal, Thavil Esai Thilagam, Thavil Esai Mamani, Thavil Esai Sudar Oli, Thavil Esai Bushan and Thavil Esai Kalai Vendhar.

4. Dr. Datchanamoorthy is also the recipient of fellowship from music academy Sabas and Sangams. Bharathiya Dalit Sahitya Academy awarded him Dr. Ambedkar Fellowship National Award in 2011 and Bagavan ji Buddha Fellowship New Delhi in 2017. In 2014, he received Kanchi Kaamakodi Peedam Asthana Vidvan award from Sankara Madam, Kanchipuram in Tamilnadu. He is the recipient of title 'Doctor of Music Thavil Award' from International Peace University, Germany in 2022 at Puducherry.

Padma Shri



SMT. ASHWINI BHIDE DESHPANDE

Smt. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande is a Hindustani classical singer in the famous "Jaipur-Atrauli" Khayal singing tradition.

2. Born on 7th October, 1960 into a musical family, Smt. Deshpande received the "Sangeet Visharad" of the "Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya" and the President's Gold Medal in All India Radio Music Competition at the age of sixteen. She has chosen music as her first love and career after completing a doctorate (PhD) in Biochemistry at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre/University of Mumbai.

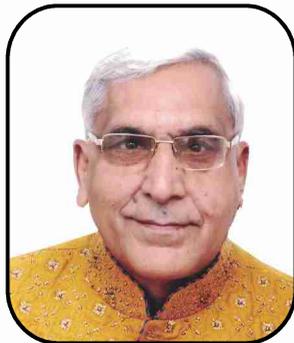
3. After imbibing the foundations of Hindustani classical music from her first guru, Late Pt. Narayanrao Datar, Smt. Deshpande started learning the stylised "Jaipur-Atrauli gayaki" under the guidance of her mother, mentor and guru Late Smt. Manik Bhide. Later, senior artist and guru of the Gharana, Late Pt. Ratnakar Pai provided her invaluable guidance on the rare and complex ragas of the Gharana. Along with classical Khayal, semi classical genres like thumri-dadra, devotional bhajans/marathi abhangs and Sanskrit hymns/stotras effortlessly blend in her repertoire. She has performed at various prestigious music festivals within and outside the country and has received acclaim from critics and music lovers all over the world as a vocalist who presents an unmatched blend of raga composition-architecture, vitality, emotion and tonal sweetness, while staying true to the tradition and grammar of the raga.

4. Contributing to the tradition of Khayal, Smt. Deshpande published a book (along with a CD) of self-composed bandishes "Raag Rachananjali" in October 2004. "Raag Rachananjali 2" was published in October 2010. Launched in 2023, her YouTube channel - "Batiya Daurawat" is popular among classical music audiences. Her first recording album was released by HMV in 1985, followed by albums under various banners, including Rhythm House, Times Music, Sony Music, Music Today, Navras Records, and Universal Music.

5. Smt. Deshpande is a 'Top Grade' artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan and has participated in many national programmes of All India Radio-Doordarshan. She has contributed to the enlightenment of lay listeners in India and abroad through lectures and demonstrations on Hindustani classical music in various schools, colleges and music conferences on a regular basis. As a teacher she has guided many disciples; who are now successful concert artists themselves.

6. Smt. Deshpande has received several honours and awards for her contribution to Indian classical vocal music, some of them are Government of Madhya Pradesh's Rashtriya Kumar Gandharva Samman 2005, the first female Hindustani singer to receive this award, Pandit Jasraj Gaurav Puraskar 2005, on the occasion of Pandit Jasraj's 75th birthday, Sahyadri Doordarshan "Sangeet Ratna" Award 2010, first Ganatapaswini Mogubai Kurdikar Award 2011, Government of Maharashtra's "Sanskritic Puraskar 2011, Bangalore Kidney Foundation's "Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur Award" 2013, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 2014, Madhya Pradesh Government's Rashtriya Kalidas Samman 2016 and D.Litt (Honoris Causa) conferred by ITM University, Gwalior, 2020.

Padma Shri



DR. SANT RAM DESWAL

Dr. Sant Ram Deswal is a luminary in the literary world, acclaimed as an educator, essayist, poet, memoirist, travelogue writer, editor, biographer, folklorist, and distinguished columnist. His profound expertise as a freelance journalist and researcher spans the rich realms of contemporary Hindi literature, Haryanvi literature, and the folk traditions of Haryana.

2. Born on 24th April, 1955 in Kherka Gujjar, a small village in the Jhajjar district of Haryana, Dr. Deswal hails from an illiterate farming family, but he earned postgraduate degrees in both Hindi and English literature, alongside a certificate in French. He further pursued a law degree (LL.B.), a postgraduate diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication, and advanced studies, culminating in an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Hindi literature. He is currently undertaking a D.Litt. in Hindi literature.

3. Dr. Deswal was a flag bearer of literary and cultural activities right from his college days. He was student editor of college and university magazines. His creative writing journey has continued for the past 50 years, enriching the corpus of Hindi literature. His works have become important readings for scholars, researchers, and readers alike. His essays offer deep insights into cultural heritage, societal dynamics, and human values. He has authored more than two dozen books, including 8 books of 'Lalit Nibandhas' of new genre. His literature has also been the subject of research underscoring his stature in the field. In journalism, he has been a regular columnist, writing extensively on contemporary issues.

4. Beyond his literary achievements, Dr. Deswal's contributions to social service have had a lasting impact. His involvement in social service, particularly through the National Service Scheme (NSS), has earned him the "Best Program Officer" award twice. He organised several camps and actively participated in social awareness and reforms programmes, such as dowry eradication, girl child infanticide, untouchability, gender inequality, illiteracy etc. A notable example is the village of Jagdishpur in Sonapat district, Haryana, which achieved total literacy under his leadership.

5. Dr. Deswal has garnered numerous prestigious awards, accolades, and honours including the 'Mahakavi Surdas Aajeevan Sahitya Sadhana Samman' (2018), the 'Jankavi Mehar Singh Samman' (2014), *Lok Aalok* (2005) and *Ankahe Dard* (2011) received the Best Book Award from the Haryana Sahitya Avam Sanskriti Academy. He has also been honored with the 'Babu Bal Mukund Gupt Sahitya Samman,' 'Lok Sahitya Shiromani Samman', 'Sarvottam Patrakarita Award', 'Lok Sahitya Anuvad Puruskar' (Sahitya Academy Delhi) and many more. His exceptional contributions to social causes have been acknowledged with recognition from the Government of India, the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana and the Government of Haryana.

Padma Shri



KUMARI THIYAM SURYAMUKHI DEVI

Kumari Thiyam Suryamukhi Devi is a famous Manipuri classical dancer.

2. Born on 8th December, 1935, Kumari Suryamukhi Devi started her career as a child stage artiste of theatre and started learning Manipuri dance from Guru Maisnam Amubi Singh. She also learnt from other gurus like Yambem Mahavir Singh, Haobam Atomba Singh, Amudon Sharma, Kh. Lokeshwar, A. Yaimngbi Singh, Th. Babu Singh etc. She worked and trained with contemporary choreographers - notably Shri Apunikarta, Shri Prabhat Ganguli and Shri Narendra Sharma. She received training in Chhau dance of Mayurbhanj from Shri Krishnachandra Naik.

3. Kumari Suryamukhi Devi presented classical solo dance in 1952 at the occasion of All India Music and Dance Conference sponsored by the Bharatiya Kala Kendra, Delhi and many more performances in Calcutta, Allahabad etc. In 1954, as a member of the Manipuri troupe of the Indian Cultural Delegation, she visited U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Tashkent, Uzbek, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland etc. During the visit, she performed Manipuri dance at the iconic Bolsoi Theatre and got the golden chance of witnessing the legendary "Swan Lake" ballet - a timeless classic. As a member of Indian Cultural Delegation, she visited Peking, Shanghai in 1955 and China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong in 1956. She joined the Little Ballet Troupe, Andheri, Bombay in 1957, and visited France, United Kingdom, South America, Tunisia, Holland, Scotland, Morocco etc. The Sangeet Natak Akademi organised Tagore Centenary Celebrations in 1961, in which she presented the Manipuri dance-drama "Chitrangada" under the able guidance of Guru Amubi Singh at Talkatora Camp at Delhi. In 1967 she performed Dasa Avatar in dance drama 'Khandita' at the Geet Govinda Celebrations organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.

4. In 1968 as a member the Little Ballet Troupe, Gwalior, Kumari Suryamukhi Devi participated in cultural programmes at Mexico Olympic and toured U.S.A. Japan, Thailand, Indonesia. She joined 'Ballet Unit' of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Akademi as the Senior Production Assistant and played many important roles and worked as an assistant choreographer. One of the ballets 'Keibul Lamjao' participated in 5th London International Festival of Theatre and bagged five merit awards. Its film version, "Sangai - Dancing deer of Manipur" is also very famous and bagged many awards. She also participated in the Seoul International Folk Lorie Festival (Asiad 1986). She had given many solo dance performances like, Abhimanyu, Dasa Avataar, Krishna Biraha, Sakhi Ukti, Basak Sajika Nila Kamala at different Classical Manipuri Solo Dance Festivals organised by Manipur State Kala Akademi.

5. Kumari Suryamukhi Devi established Research Centre for Manipuri Performing Arts in 1984 and imparts training to young artistes in the field of classical Manipuri solo dance. She composed many solo items - Basanta Varnan, Sakhi Ukti, Yasoda, Dooti Sambad . She trained many students who came from different parts of the country and stayed at her residence for a month under Guru-Sishya Parampara system and gave lecture-cum-demonstration as requested by the SPIC-MACAY to be the Guru since 1986.

6. Kumari Suryamukhi Devi is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. The Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, conferred her Akademi Award' in 2003. The Manipur State Kala Akademi has given her 'Akademi Award' in 1985. The Manipur Sahitya Parishad honoured her as 'Nriytra Ratna'(Classical) in 2015. She was honoured with 'Guru Tarunkumar Sanman' in 2009 and many more accolades by the local institutions and organisations.

Padma Shri



SHRI GURUVAYUR DORAI

Shri Guruvayur Dorai is a percussionist representing the ancient South Indian drum “mridangam”. As a soloist, an accompanying artist, as well as a teacher, he is regarded as a musician with few parallels.

2. Born on 2nd July, 1935 into a musical family, Shri Dorai showed early signs of virtuosity that culminated in his performance on stage at the tender age of eight. He had the privilege of early training under Palakkad Subbu Iyer, E.P. Narayana Pisharody and later from the legendary Pazhani Subramania Pillai. Shri Dorai has carved for himself a “bani” or style known popularly as the Guruvayur Bani. This style expresses the unique handling of the base(thoppi) of the mridangam.

3. The stage performances of Shri Dorai are nothing but monumental. He provided percussion support to the living and past legendary musicians that elevated their own performance by the inimitable and unobtrusive beats of his magical fingers. He has performed in musical concerts in front of luminaries such as former Presidents Smt. Pratiba Patil (India), Shri Barack Obama (USA) and former Prime Minister Late Shri Manmohan Singh (India). In addition, Shri Dorai has played the role of a “Cultural Ambassador” by representing India in musical concert tours in more than twenty countries, participating in International Music Festivals as well as tours to USA and South Africa sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

4. The pedagogy of Shri Dorai is exemplified by his erudite contributions to students from national and international universities. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Universities of Washington, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Sydney to name a few. Shri Dorai still maintains a stream of students who take advantage of his expertise to learn this musical art. Many of his students have themselves turned into stage performers both in India and abroad. The Guruvayur Dorai Trust founded by him is an example of his determination to acknowledge every year the contributions by other percussion artists.

5. Shri Dorai has been honoured with numerous regional, national and international awards and recognitions such as “Kalaimamani” by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Tagore Ratna by the Government of India, TTK Memorial Award by the Chennai Music Academy, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy award by the State of Kerala, “Sangeetha Samrat” by the Bharthiya Vidhya Bhavan (Coimbatore), Man of the Year by the American Biographical Institute, Sangeetha Ratnakara by the Bhairavi Indian Fine Arts Society, Cleveland, USA, Honorary Patron of CMANA (USA), Laya Chakravarthi by Indian Fine Arts (USA), Palghat Mani Iyer Award by the Percussive Arts Centre, Bengaluru, “Asthana Vidwan” by the Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt, Sri Guruvayurappan Chembai Puraskar by Guruvayur Devasom.

Padma Shri



SMT. JUMDE YOMGAM GAMLIN

Smt. Jumde Yomgam Gamlin, founder Chairperson of the Mother's Vision (NGO) is an eminent social activist from Arunachal Pradesh.

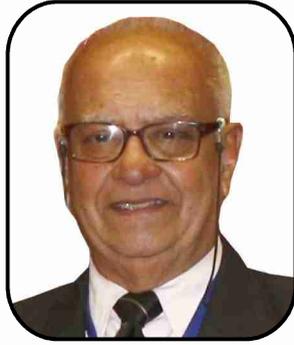
2. Born on 1st February, 1965, at Akker Yomgam village, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, Smt. Gamlin grew up in a poverty ridden atmosphere. Her father died at a very young age and she had to work as daily waged labor with pay of Rs. 2 per day in order to pursue her formal education. In the year 1980, she joined the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh as a Gram Sevika. She took voluntary retirement as CDPO (Child Development Project Officer). In her 35 years of govt. service, she has been an instrumental in teaching for women empowerment. Her main focus was to make each woman financially independent and hence through the self help group she introduced livelihood programs in the lives of countless housewives. She shared ideas of making chalk pencils, candles, sewing, embroidering, and many other home based utility products. She herself is very well trained in sewing, knitting, embroidery, handcrafted items etc. She suggested the government to train the gram sevika/supervisor for better innovative ideas and to guide govt. trainers to be more corporative and supportive in the process.

3. In her three decades of journey as govt. employee, Smt. Gamlin developed a deep understanding of different issues faced by people in different places. When she observed a strange behavior change in her son due to addiction, she decided to stand strong and battle it. In 2011, she started creating awareness regarding the ill effects of drugs/addiction in an individual, family and society. She helped rural women/self help groups of Geku circle under Upper Siang to fight against drugs and also promoted cleanliness. She went around villages conducting awareness campaign and also among the self help group regarding the ill effects of drugs, marijuana which was being cultivated by people in that area. By her initiative and with the help of District Administrative, local people, Gaoh Burah and women of self help group destroyed the narcotic plants like marijuana and opium under Geku and Katan circle under Upper Siang Dist.

4. Smt. Gamlin founded an NGO, Mother's Vision more particularly concentrating in the field on de-addiction and hygienic lifestyle. The NGO jointly started to carry out awareness campaigns, orientation sessions, workshops, anonymous counseling etc. all over the district, then throughout the State, as they acknowledged that addiction involves more than the use of drugs and alcohol. The awareness campaigns at schools, community meetings and interactive sessions with youth, etc. became regular activity. In turn, it extended its approach to take care of the recovering addicts. During these sessions they are counseled besides provided indoor gaming facilities, in the meantime, escorting misguided youths to rehabilitation centers across the country also continues. The escorting part covered a huge number of youths. Later she decided to establish a De-addiction -cum- Rehabilitation center on a self help basis. A De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Center has been set up with capacity to provide treatment to 30 inmates at one time. The infrastructure was developed all on self help basis and contribution within the members of NGO itself.

5. As on date, the Mother's Vision has multiple units as the nearest help to people. The members are regularly given training on coping skills, methods to deal with the addicts, how to conduct public meetings, school presentations and community interactions. The network is indeed effective and connects people. However, the Mother's Vision works in silence. The members are restricted from sharing its activities on social sites and open platforms. The Governor of the State also funded her to carry out the mission to a larger extent. Lately, she has also started working for HIV/ AIDS patients, female sex workers, IDUS, TB patients, Transgender and MSM, etc.

Padma Shri



SHRI HUGH GANTZER

Shri Hugh Gantzer is a famous travel writer. He is an Indian Naval veteran who retired in the rank of Commander. After he retired from the Indian Navy, he and his wife Smt. Colleen Gantzer decided to discover the attractions of the Indian mosaic. They believed that more and more Indians needed to explore the many attractions of our multi-ethnic polyglot sub-continental nation because they were convinced that India's attractions far exceeded those of other countries including the much larger ones. Their discoveries led to them writing a great number of articles for the Indian and International press and they have been credited with pioneering the distinct genre of Travel Writing.

2. Born on 9th January, 1931 in Patna, Shri Hugh Gantzer completed his education in a convent in Patna, Hampton Court School, St. George's College, Mussoorie, St. Joseph's College, Nainital, St. Xavier's College, Calcutta and the K C Law College in Bombay. He joined the Indian Navy as an officer in 1953 and retired as the first Judge Advocate of the Southern Naval Command in 1973. He married Ms. Colleen Adie and together they launched the by-line "Hugh & Colleen Gantzer" credited with pioneering Travel Writing in India.

3. Shri Hugh Gantzer and Smt. Colleen Gantzer have written over 3,000 articles, columns and magazine features and authored over 30 books. The Gantzers also created the first travel documentaries to be telecast across India by Doordarshan: Looking Beyond with Hugh and Colleen Gantzer & Take a Break with Hugh and Colleen Gantzer. While the Gantzers' writings covered a wide genre including science fiction, thrillers and historical, their main focus was on travel. The Gantzers believe that Indians have the most varied bloodlines of all populations in the world. This has led to our incredible variety of customs, traditions, handicrafts and festivals. And it is this astonishing diversity that intrigued them and they were determined to expose this to fellow Indians and the rest of the world. The impact of the Gantzers on Indian travel journalism is immeasurable. Their commitment to ethical storytelling, coupled with thorough research and first hand experiences, established a high standard for travel writing in India. Through their exploration of India's hidden gems, they not only deepened readers' appreciation of the country but also motivated many writers to follow their example.

4. Shri Hugh Gantzer admits that they became Travel Writers because of the drive of his late wife, Smt. Colleen who was extremely curious, very courageous and with an empathy that made complete strangers open their hearts to her. These qualities came out in their writings. It was these qualities that won the Gantzers international and national awards. These include, among others, the D.C. Mehta Award from the Travel Agents Association of India, the National Tourism Award in 2012 from the Government of India, the Gold Award from the Pacific Area Travel Association, which they won twice, the Pride of the Community Award from the All-India Anglo-Indian Association, the Best Travel Writer Award from the Indian Association of Tour Operators, and the National Tourism Lifetime Achievement Award from the Government of India.

Padma Shri



SMT. COLLEEN GANTZER (POSTHUMOUS)

Smt. Colleen Gantzer was a famous travel writer. She and her husband Shri Hugh Gantzer decided to discover the attractions of the Indian mosaic. They believed that more and more Indians needed to explore the many attractions of our multi-ethnic polyglot sub-continental nation because they were convinced that India's attractions far exceeded those of other countries including the much larger ones. Their discoveries led to them writing a great number of articles for the Indian and International press and they have been credited with pioneering the distinct genre of Travel Writing.

2. Born on 25th July, 1934 in Godhra, in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency, Smt. Colleen Gantzer completed her education at the Christ Church School in Bombay. She first worked for Lummus, who were then constructing the oil storage facilities in Bombay for Burmah Shell. She later moved to Metal Box and then to Coca-Cola. She married Shri Hugh Gantzer and together they launched the by-line “Hugh & Colleen Gantzer” credited with pioneering Travel Writing in India.

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5. Smt. Colleen Gantzer passed away on 6th November, 2024.

Padma Shri



SMT. MAMATA SHANKAR GHOSH

Smt. Mamata Shankar Ghosh is an eminent dancer and choreographer and has also acted in Bengali, Hindi, Telugu and English films.

2. Born on 7th January, 1955 in Calcutta, daughter of the legendary dancers Uday and Amala Shankar, Smt. Ghosh had her basic training in dance and choreography at the Uday Shankar India Culture Centre in Calcutta under Smt. Amala Shankar. She also completed training in various other Indian Classical dance forms, from eminent Guru's at USICC. She, following the footsteps of her father has imbibed that rare sense of choreography, which, apart from being highly imaginative is truly Indian in spirit. She has performed in several countries as a member of USICC in noteworthy productions choreographed by her mother Smt. Amala Shankar.

3. Smt. Ghosh's dream and mission is to create an universal language through the Uday Shankar style of dance, which is Indian in spirit and universal in nature, to bring people of all caste, creed, religion, language and nation, on one platform to usher in peace and love in this world of unrest. In 1978 she and her husband Chandroday Ghosh formed Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe, presently known as Mamata Shankar Dance Company. They have travelled in several countries in different parts of the world, occasionally as members of Indian Delegation sent by ICCR on cultural exchange programmes. She has conducted workshops in institutions all over India and also in U.K., USA, Japan, China, Europe, West Indies, Bangladesh, Malasiya, UAE.

4. Smt. Ghosh made her journey in films with debut as heroine in Mrinal Sen's 'Mrigaya' in 1976. She was fortunate enough to have worked with stalwarts like Satyajit Ray, Budhhadev Dasgupta, Goutam Ghosh, Raja Mitra, Rituporno Ghosh and also with several upcoming promising directors, even now. Apart from her mother tongue Bengali, she has acted in Hindi, Telugu and English as well.

5. Smt. Ghosh opened her dance institution Udayan Kalakendra in 1986 in Calcutta, which imparts lessons in the authentic Uday Shankar Dance style along with other Indian Classical dance forms. It is not an institution where only dance lessons are imparted, but also imbibes in the students the basic essence of human values, discipline, aesthetic sense and an awareness of the rich cultural heritage of our country India. The institution also provides free dance lessons to the children of Lower Income Group.

6. Smt. Ghosh received several awards for her acting prowess-National Film Fest. Award(1992), Filmfare Award-several times since 1984, BFJA Award-several occasions, Bangabandhu Puraskar (2018), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2019), National Women Empowerment Award (2019) to mention a few.

Padma Shri



SHRI L. HANGTHING

Shri L. Hangthing is a progressive farmer from Nagaland.

2. Born on 23rd September, 1974, Shri Hangthing is the first person to set up Plantation nursery in Noklak district of Nagaland. In 1988, he set up a plantation nursery which later became a Jungyam Nursery & Horticulture Farming Society. The nursery introduced several non-native fruits, plants and vegetables. He formed Agro-Revolution Society in 2001 with the aim to transform the farming tradition. The society focused on experimenting season based farming including livestock farming and horticulture to replace the tradition of the harvest of one crop in a single growing season. In 2018, he alongwith his wife Mongshai and the farmers from Noklak, established a Noklak based product society known as 'Taste of Noklak Society (TONS).' The Society produces several organic products. In 2021, the Taste of Noklak Society launched over 15 products. With the initiatives of Taste of Noklak Society, the homegrown native brand "Made in Noklak" gained popularity beyond the district. The main office of the Taste of Noklak Society is located at Jungyam Nursery where the activities of the society are conducted.

3. Alongside the nursery and the farmhouse, Shri Hangthing also runs a homestay providing congenial atmosphere for the guests and visitors. The homestay facility effectually functioning since 2021 contributes immensely to the district's attraction on resort, vacation spot and place of interest.

4. Shri Hangthing was conferred "Best Fish Farmer Award" for Noklak District by the Government of Nagaland for the upliftment of Fisheries in the state of Nagaland in November, 2021.

Padma Shri



PROF. SYED AINUL HASAN

Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan is a highly regarded educationist with an extensive career in academia, specializing in Indology, Indian Culture, Comparative Studies, Language, and Literature.

2. Born on 15th February, 1957, Prof. Hasan obtained his Bachelor's degree from Allahabad University in 1978 and a Master's in Persian Language and Literature from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, in 1981. He earned his doctorate for his research on Iranian poetess Forough Farrokhzad. His scholarly work encompasses Modern Persian Literature, Indo-Iranian Relations, Indian Culture, and Indie Studies, guiding numerous research projects throughout his career. His academic pursuits extend to comparative literature, Indo-Persian culture, and the popularization of Indian wisdom through the stories of Panchatantra. He played a pivotal role in fostering Indo-Afghan relations, establishing the Pashto Chair at JNU's Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, and introducing the Afghan Resource Centre. He has authored several books and articles focusing on Indian Knowledge Systems, Indian Culture, Literature and Society, Literary Relations, and Cultural Coexistence. A distinguished poet, he has represented India at poetic gatherings in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, the USA, and Canada. He has presented papers at numerous international seminars, chaired academic sessions, and delivered keynote addresses. Notably, he has supervised over 100 doctoral theses on diverse literary and cultural themes.

3. Prof. Hasan has contributed scholarly research papers to national and international journals and led significant academic projects sponsored by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Additionally, as part of international academic exchange programs, he served as a Fulbright Fellow at Rutgers State University, New Jersey, USA, in 2007, sharing his expertise in Indology and promoting Indo-US academic cooperation.

4. Currently, Prof. Hasan serves as the Vice Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, Telangana. Under his leadership, the university has introduced skill-based vocational courses and flagship programs, including: Fashion and Interior Designing, Medical Laboratory Technology and Medical Imaging Technology with Emergency & Trauma Care Technology (ETT) courses, Four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programs, BA LLB, LLB, and LLM programs to promote legal education in vernacular languages. He has actively promoted female education and empowerment, especially among marginalized communities. He has also initiated environmental conservation efforts, developing a biodiversity park and promoting sustainable practices on the university campus.

5. Prof. Hasan has been the recipient of several prestigious awards. In 2017, he was honoured with the National Award and 'Certificate of Honour' by the President of India for his contributions to classical languages. He received the 'Academic Excellence Award' from the Government of Afghanistan in 2019, the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from the Islamic Education Centre in Chicago in 2015, and the 'Persian Poet of the Year' title from Iran's Ministry of Culture in 2007. Recently, he was recognized by Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) for his contributions to literature, education, and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Padma Shri



DR. BUDHENDRA KUMAR JAIN

Dr. Budhendra Kumar Jain is an eminent ophthalmologist and a distinguished leader in the field of community eye care. With over five decades of dedicated service, he has played a pivotal role in transforming eye care accessibility for the underprivileged. He currently serves as the Director of Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya at Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust, Chitrakool, Madhya Pradesh.

2. Born on 5th December, 1948 Dr. Jain was inspired by the philanthropic vision of Saint Shri Ranchhoddasji Maharaj and joined the Trust in 1974 after completing his medical studies from Rewa and Mumbai. At the time, the institution was in its nascent stage, with limited facilities. Under his visionary leadership, a modest 12-bedded eye dispensary has evolved into one of India's largest NABH-accredited eye hospitals, equipped with Asia's most extensive and largest ophthalmic modular operation theatre complex. Today, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya provides high quality, affordable eye care to millions of patients from rural and underserved communities across the country.

3. Dr. Jain pioneered the concept of community outreach in eye care, introducing large-scale rural eye camps and vision centers across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The hospital now conducts over 4,500 outreach camps and over 1.55 Lakh ophthalmic surgeries annually, also benefiting over two million of patients each year. So far, Dr. Jain had individually performed over 1.50 lakh eye surgeries, demonstrating his exceptional expertise and dedication to restoring vision. Under his visionary leadership and guidance, the trust has successfully performed more than 31 lakh eye surgeries and more than 2.70 crore patients have been screened and served, making a profound impact on eye care and elimination of avoidable blindness.

4. Dr. Jain has contributed extensively to ophthalmic research, with over 20 publications in national and international journals. His expertise is sought after by various ophthalmic institutions, where he serves as a mentor, guiding the development of sustainable eye care models. His efforts have also positioned Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya as a premier training center in ophthalmology, recognized by the International Council of Ophthalmology. His commitment to eliminating preventable blindness has led to the establishment of over 130 primary eye care centers and four-advanced city clinics, ensuring accessible treatment for remote populations. His efforts have been instrumental in declaring five districts as cataract backlog-free zones.

5. Dr. Jain has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and honors such as 'Dhanda Award' for rendering the best community eye care services (1996), 'Firdausi Award' in 2003 and the 'Life Time Achievement Award' at Eye Advance 2004 in Mumbai, 'Best Work in Community Ophthalmology' by the Indian Alumni of the International Centre for Eye Health, London in 2005, 'K.R. Dutta Award' for Outstanding Ophthalmic Services to the Rural Community in 2010, 'Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award' by Vision 2020 and the 'Dr. M.C. Nahta - Rashtreeya Netra Suraksha Puraskaar'. He is also recipient of 'Award for Outstanding Work in Prevention of Blindness' by Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology APAO in 2013, 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the Indian Society of Cornea & Kerato-refractive Surgeons, 'Prof. T.P. Lahane Orientation Award' in 2014, 'Shri S.N. Shah Award' for Vision 2020, 'Life Time Achievement Award' at the IIRIS Annual Conference, and the 'Excellence in Ophthalmology Award' in 2017, 'AIOS Life Time Achievement Award' in 2018, 24th Mahaveer Puraskar by the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, Chennai and the prestigious 'Dr. Gullapalli Rao Endowment Award'. Dr. Jain was recognized as a "Living Legend in Indian Ophthalmology" by the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology in 2023, in his honor, the journal (IJO) dedicated its cover page to him and featured a guest editorial, celebrating his remarkable contributions to the field of Indian ophthalmology.

Padma Shri



SHRI BARRY JOHN

Shri Barry John is the Director of The Free Birds Collective that currently conducts training programs for actors of stage and screen.

2. Born on 2nd February, 1946 in Coventry, UK., Shri Barry's passion for acting was manifested throughout his school career and led to his qualification as a teacher of Drama at Bretton Hall College, Leeds University in 1967. After teaching for a year, he came to India in 1968. For the first two years, he was with a voluntary service agency and trained teachers of English in Bangalore, Coimbatore and Mysore. While in Bangalore he began acting with local theatre groups. In 1970, he shifted to Delhi to join Yatrik Theatre Group. As well as acting and directing, he initiated workshops for children of all ages and also directed a number of plays for Delhi University colleges.

3. In 1973, Shri Barry co-founded Theatre Action Group (TAG), one of Delhi's most active repertory companies over the next 25 years. It was during this period that he explored the application of Drama to the needs of specially abled and socially disadvantaged groups.

4. Shri Barry also served on the faculty of the National School of Drama, first as Asst. Professor of Western Drama (1977-1980) and then as Founder-Director of the NSD's Theatre-in-Education Company (1989-1992). He has made occasional forays into the film industry. Films he has acted in include "Gandhi", "Shatranj Ke Khilari", "Tamas", "Massey Sahib", "Chittagong" and "Tere Bin Laden".

5. Shri Barry has been awarded by Delhi Natya Sangh, Sahitya Kala Parishad, and Sangeet Natak Akademi. Recently, he was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree by ITM University, Gwalior.

Padma Shri



SHRI JAGDISH 'JOSHILA'

Shri Jagdish 'Joshila' is a notable literary figure and a pioneer of Nimadi literature, widely recognized as the first and only Nimadi novelist in India. He is also acknowledged as the father of prose in Nimadi literature for being the first to create prose in the language. His contributions to Hindi and Nimadi literature over the last five decades have helped preserve and promote the rich culture and heritage of the Nimad region. His works reflect a deep connection to his roots and highlight the historical and cultural significance of his homeland.

2. Born on 3rd June, 1949, Shri Joshila holds a strong command of both Hindi and Nimadi languages. He began his literary journey with a passion for storytelling and a commitment to document the lives of unsung heroes. Over the years, he has authored 56 books- 28 in Hindi and 28 in Nimadi-establishing himself as a writer, researcher, and historian. His research on martyrs and the freedom struggle in the Nimad region is highly respected and has made a significant contribution to regional history.

3. Shri Joshila's work extends beyond literature to research on India's independence movement and the history of lesser-known martyrs. His novels and historical writings have inspired countless readers and researchers to explore the untold stories of the Nimad region. His writing style, blending creativity with historical accuracy and factual depth, has earned him a place among India's most respected regional writers. His literary work has had a great impact on Indian regional literature and continues to inspire future generations of writers.

4. Shri Joshila has been honoured with numerous awards by the Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Academy including the Eeswari Award (2007) for his literary achievements, the Pandit Balakrishna Sharma 'Naveen' Award (2016) for his significant contributions to Hindi literature and the Sant Singaji Award (2019) for his work in regional literature and history. He has been also honoured by various literary organizations across the country.

Padma Shri



DR. RICKY GYAN KEJ

Dr. Ricky Gyan Kej is a leading figure in the world of global music. He is a three-time Grammy Award winner and four-time Grammy nominee.

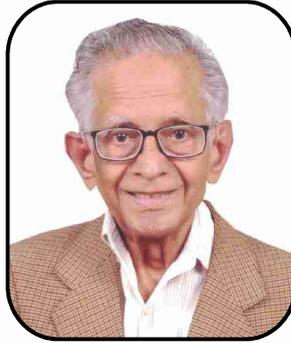
2. Born on 5th August, 1981, Dr. Kej displayed an early inclination toward music, eventually pursuing it as his life's calling despite initial societal and family expectations. His dedication led him to become a globally recognized artist, creating compositions that transcend boundaries. He has performed at prestigious venues in over 35 countries, including at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and Geneva. His past repertoire of work includes 25 studio albums released internationally, over 3500 TV and radio commercials and 8 feature films, including the natural history documentary 'Wild Karnataka' narrated by Sir David Attenborough. He also scored music for the opening ceremony of the Cricket World Cup 2011 held in Dhaka-Bangladesh.

3. Dr. Kej's ground-breaking compositions fuse traditional Indian elements with contemporary global sounds, earning widespread critical acclaim and industry recognition. His innovative approach to music has garnered him a devoted international following and his works have been performed at some of the world's most esteemed venues including global environmental summits and humanitarian gatherings.

4. Dr. Kej's artistic vision extends beyond entertainment; he sees music as a catalyst for change. His compositions often focus on themes of environmental conservation, climate action and social consciousness. He is a UNCCD "Goodwill Ambassador", UNHCR "High Profile Supporter", UNICEF "Celebrity Supporter", UNESCO MGIEP "Global Ambassador for Kindness" and works closely with the WHO on their "Make Listening Safe Initiative". He works closely with several wings of the United Nations. As a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador (UNCCD), he uses his massive celebrity status to raise awareness on issues such as land degradation, desertification and drought. Notably, he has composed the official "Land Anthem" for the UNCCD and is a passionate advocate for their "Her Land, Her Rights" campaign to champion Gender Equality and Women's Land Rights. He is a "High Profile Supporter" of the two-time Nobel Peace-Prize Winning organization United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) and is involved in several of their campaigns to protect refugees and other displaced peoples. He works closely with the World Health Organization's "Make Listening Safe" initiative that aims to realize a world where people of all ages can enjoy recreational listening without risk to their hearing. He also works with UNICEF as a "Celebrity Supporter" to help protect children's rights.

5. Dr. Kej has received numerous honors recognizing his significant contributions. He has been awarded the United Nations "Global Humanitarian Artist" award. Among other awards to his credit, he has also won the prestigious "Ban Ki-Moon Award", The House of Commons, Parliament of Canada has awarded him for his "Outstanding Musical and Humanitarian Achievement". A chapter on his life and musical journey is taught in the 7th grade English textbooks in India.

Padma Shri



PROF. K. L. KRISHNA

Prof. K. L. Krishna is a renowned scholar of Econometrics and Professor of Economics (Retired), Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

2. Born on 16th August, 1935 in Unguturu village, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, Prof. Krishna received his B.A. degree in Mathematics from Andhra University in 1954, M.Sc. degree in Statistics from Kerala University in 1956 and underwent Advanced Professional training on Statistics from Research and Training School headed by Prof. C. R. Rao in Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata during 1956-58. His teaching and research career began in the Delhi School of Economics (DSE) in 1958. In 1963, as a Fulbright Scholar, he took leave from Delhi University and pursued a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Chicago from 1963 to 1967. After returning to DSE and DU, he continued his academic pursuits until his retirement in 2000 at the age of 65. He continued to teach Econometrics in honorary capacity at the M.Phil. and Ph.D. level at the DSE until 2010. He supervised a large number of Ph.D. theses and M.Phil. dissertations at DSE. As Visiting Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in the early 2000s, he taught Econometrics and supervised 4 Ph.D thesis.

3. Prof. Krishna was Chairman of the Governing Body of Centre for Economic Studies (CESS), Hyderabad during 2007-13. Later during 2013-20, he was Chairman of the Governing Body of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai.

4. Prof. Krishna held many administrative and academic positions such as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics and Annual Survey of Industries, Government of India, Member of the Andhra Pradesh State Development Board in mid 1980s, Member of the Board of Governors, IGIDR, Mumbai, for about ten years, Director, DSE, Head of Department of Economics at DSE, Chairman of the EXIM Bank Ph.D. Award.

5. Prof. Krishna was President of The Indian Econometric Society (TIES). He was the Founding Managing Editor of the Journal of Quantitative Economics (JQE) from 1985-95. He was leader of the India KLEMS Productivity Project at the Centre of Development Economics (CDE) at DSE during 2013-22. The project was funded by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and produced the India Productivity Report in 2022. The project is now located in RBI. Prof. Krishna has been engaged in a study of urbanization in India for the last one year.

6. Prof. Krishna was a recipient of Fulbright Travel Grant in 1963 from the United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI), Golodetz Foundation Fellowship for the two years 1963-65 at the University of Chicago, Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship 1964-65 and the Brookings Institution Doctoral Fellowship 1965-66 at the University of Chicago as a Doctoral student.

Padma Shri



DR. HEMANT KUMAR

Dr. Hemant Kumar is a renowned nephrologist, who has spent the previous four decades rendering professional and social services in the fields of Nephrology and public health, with a focus on improving kidney healthcare for newborns, children, women of reproductive age particularly during pregnancy, cancer patients, and the elderly, especially those from poor and marginalized communities.

2. Born on 2nd January, 1960, Dr. Kumar has a master's degree (MD) in Medicine and a doctorate degree (DM) in Nephrology. He is the first postgraduate from a medical college in Bihar to achieve the latter. He has headed the Department of Nephrology at Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS), Patna and Patna Medical College, Patna. During his tenure at IGIMS, he held a policymaking position as Member, Board of Governors and administrative positions as Deputy Medical Superintendent and Controller of Examinations. He has also served as President of Indian Society of Nephrology (East Zone). He is one of four members from the country chosen for central liaison committee of Indian Society of Nephrology which is instrumental in developing and suggesting key guidelines to policymakers to upgrade the management of kidney patients.

3. Dr. Kumar has pioneered the 3P model in Nephrology - Pediatric, Preventive and Palliative Nephrology, and is credited with introducing the technique of continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) in Bihar. He is also a leading promoter of deceased organ donation in the state, coining the now popular phrase "life beyond life". He is the founder of the Patliputra National Kidney Foundation, the first of its kind in Bihar, under the banner of which he has organized World Kidney Day events for the past several years, visiting remote areas in the state to create public awareness of kidney health. He has helped impoverished patients identify and address health issues early, reducing the risk of complications and expensive treatment. He has also led the development of free dialysis services using limited resources at various hospitals.

4. In addition to his clinical and social contributions, Dr. Kumar has been an enthusiastic medical teacher and researcher. He has been actively involved with classroom and bedside teaching, and in delivering seminars and symposia. He has organized several innovative medical conferences, including groundbreaking conferences on Onco-Nephrology and Pediatric Nephrology. He has made significant research contributions on the topic of acute kidney injury in pregnancy, wherein his work was cited in Brenner and Rector's prestigious textbook "The Kidney". His work on acute kidney injury in neonates twenty-five years ago, published in the Indian Journal of Nephrology, inspired many clinicians to pursue research work leading to improved neonatal kidney care in India.

5. Dr. Kumar has been awarded Fellowships of the International Society of Nephrology, Indian Society of Nephrology, Indian Society of Organ Transplantation and Indian Academy of Clinical Medicine. He has been conferred with the Guru Dronacharya Award by Avatar India (an association of nephrologists) to recognize his lifetime contribution in the field of Nephrology and the Life Time Contribution Award and Award for Excellence in Nephrology by Indian Society of Nephrology (East Zone) for his decades-long service. He was felicitated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar at the "Times Bihar Healthcare Achievers Award 2014" organized by Times of India, for his exemplary contributions in Nephrology.

Padma Shri



ACHARYA SHRI KISHORE KUNAL (POSTHUMOUS)

Acharya Shri Kishore Kunal is known for playing his significant role in paving the way for the construction of a grand temple of Ram Lalla at Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi.

2. Born on 10th August, 1950, Shri Kunal during his tenure as Superintendent of Police in Patna, in 1983-1984 got the Mahavir Mandir, Patna reconstructed and regulated the financial discipline which led to an increase in the income of Mahavir Mandir, Patna from Rs. 12000 monthly to Rs. 350 crores annually at present. In 1989, he was appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Special Cell, set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to resolve the Ayodhya Janmabhoomi temple dispute. He continued to serve as the OSD in the Ayodhya cell during the tenure of three successive Prime Ministers. He authored two historic books "Ayodhya Revisited and Ayodhya Beyond Educated Evidence" spanning 1600 pages on this history of Ayodhya, during the protracted legal battle over the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya. These books were presented as documentary evidence in the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court of India. The map prepared and provided by him proved to be a crucial link in the Supreme Court's verdict in favour of the Ram Janmabhoomi.

3. Shri Kunal inaugurated Ram Rasoi in the Amawa Ram Mandir complex on December 01, 2019, located adjacent to the Ram Janmabhoomi. He also served as the Secretary of the Amawa Ram Mandir, Ayodhya. Here, an average of 10,000 devotees from India and abroad are served high quality free meals daily. Under his leadership, the famous Mahavir Mandir of Patna contributed a total of Rs. 10 crores towards the constructions of the Ram Lalla Temple at Ayodhya. He was invited as a special guest at the "Praan-Pratishtha Ceremony of Ram Lalla" in Ayodhya.

4. Shri Kunal linked religion with social service and established 09 charitable hospitals. In 1989, he founded the Mahavir Arogya Sansthan. In 1998, he established the Mahavir Cancer Sansthan. Today, with 700 beds, Mahavir Cancer Sansthan is the country's second largest cancer hospital, providing subsidised medical care to the poor and needy and free treatment to all patients below 18 years. Just before his demise, he laid the foundation for the country's first cancer hospital for children. He initiated the construction of the grand Virat Ramayan Mandir in Kaithwalia, East Champaran, Bihar.

5. Shri Kunal did remarkable work for the upliftment of Dalits. On 13 June, 1993, a Dalit priest was appointed by him at the Hanuman Mandir in Patna. Similarly, as an administrator of Bihar Rajya Dharmik Nyas Board, he ensured appointments of Dalit priests and trustees at major temples in Bihar and tried to promote unity and social harmony among people of different caste and class. He wrote a book "Dalit Devo Bhava" which was published by the Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

6. Shri Kunal passed away on 29th December, 2024.

Padma Shri



SHRI RENTHLEI LALRAWNA

Shri Renthlei Lalrawna, Chief Editor of Gilzom Publication, known for his relentless efforts in promoting Mizo language and literature.

2. Born on 22nd December 1940, in a small Village Dawn, in Lunglei District of Mizoram, Shri Lalrawna received his Bachelors Degree from Pachhunga Memorial College in 1963 and Master Degree from Gauhati University in 1975. He started his profession as LDC and promoted upto Joint Director, School Education and retired from service on 1st January, 2003.

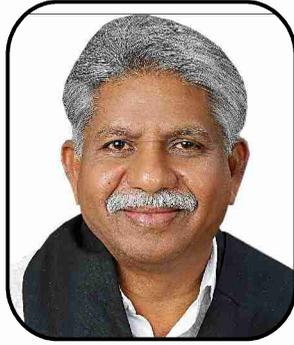
3. Shri Lalrawna is prominent novelist, essayist, critic and fiction writer. He published 14 volumes of his own authorship, and 15 volumes of his translation from English literature. Out of his works, 2 books and one essay are prescribed by Mizoram Board of School Education (MBSE) and Mizoram University in their respective syllabi.

4. Understanding the dearth of Mizo literature for academic purposes, Shri Lalrawna translated some books written by famous writers like William Shakespeare, Mary Correlli, Lloyd C. Douglas, Jules Verne, Franklin G Slaughter, John Bunyan and some other writers. He met Mother Teresa at Calcutta and wrote a book on her and her Missionaries of Charity. His compilation of Mizo songs called 'Mizo Rohlu' is widely used and highly appreciated.

5. Shri Lalrawna is also recognised as an educationist. While serving in Education Department, he took steps to produce Text Books for Adult Education Wing, drew up a good Action Plan; set out on state-wide literacy campaign; built up good convergent with NGOs like YMA, MHIP, Churches, V.C. etc. towards the promotional programmes of Adult Education. With his inexorable efforts the literary percentage rate of 59% in 1981 Census, Mizoram hurdled up to 88.49% in the 1991 Census and thereby claimed 2nd position amongst the Indian States. He was the President of Mizo Writers Association and is an expert member of Mizoram Publication Board and Member of the Mizo Language Committee.

6. In recognition of Shri Lalrawna's outstanding contribution towards the development of Mizo language and literature, he was awarded Literary Award by Mizo Writers Association. Sahitya Akademi also conferred its Bhasha Samman for the year 2023 on him for his outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of Mizo language on 29th August, 2024.

Padma Shri



SHRI MANDA KRISHNA MADIGA

Shri Manda Krishna Madiga is a distinguished social activist and politician from Telangana, who pioneered the mass movement for social justice for the Madiga community and other marginalised groups, paving the way for the landmark judgement on SC Sub categorisation.

2. Born on 7th July, 1965, in New Shayampet, Hanamkonda, Telangana, in the Madiga community, traditionally associated with leatherwork and other marginalized professions. He experienced first-hand, the challenges and systemic discrimination faced by his community. In the early 1980s, he emerged as a prominent anti-caste and social activist in Warangal, Telangana confronting dominant caste individuals who oppressed lower castes. He chose to pursue the rights of marginalized Dalit communities through legal and peaceful means.

3. Disillusioned by the broader Dalit movement's inability to address the specific grievances of the Madiga and other sub-castes, Shri Madiga recognized the need for a focused movement, which led to the inception of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS) in 1994. The MRPS was established with the primary objective of advocating for the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs) to ensure a more equitable distribution of reservation benefits among all constituent communities. This grassroots movement sought to highlight the disparities within the SC category and demand justice for underrepresented communities.

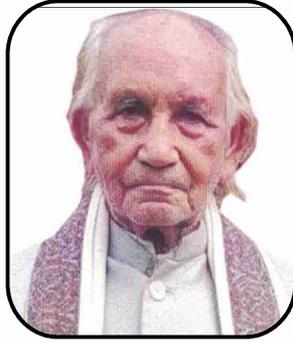
4. A significant aspect of the movement was the reclamation of the term "Madiga" which had been used pejoratively. By adopting "Madiga" as his surname, he transformed it into a symbol of pride and resistance. The movement also embraced the "Dandora," a traditional announcement made using the Dappu (a leather drum), as a powerful emblem of their struggle. This cultural symbolism resonated deeply within the community and amplified their call for justice.

5. Shri Madiga has been a vocal advocate for various social causes. In 2007, he founded the "Vikalangula Hakkula Porata Samithi" to champion the rights of persons with disabilities. He also took up the issues of children affected with cardiac diseases. His activism irrespective of caste, creed, religion, and all other identities led to the implementation of Arogyasri (Health Insurance scheme) and Monthly pensions for the disabled in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He has also been instrumental in campaigns advocating for increased pensions for widows and single women, expanded ration rice quotas and medical assistance for children with heart ailments. His multifaceted activism underscores his commitment to uplifting all marginalized sections of society.

6. Under Shri Madiga's leadership, the MRPS organized numerous protests, dharnas and rallies bringing national attention to the issue of SC subcategorization. In 2008, he undertook a hunger strike to emphasize the urgency of their demands. His relentless advocacy played a pivotal role in the eventual acceptance of SC sub-categorization by both central and state governments. In August 2024, the Supreme Court of India ruled in favour of allowing states to sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure that reservation benefits reach the most disadvantaged groups.

7. Shri Madiga's relentless struggle from a grassroots activist to a nationally recognized leader exemplifies the power of resilience and dedication. His life's work has not only brought about tangible policy changes but has also inspired countless individuals to advocate for their rights and dignity.

Padma Shri



SHRI REBA KANTA MAHANTA

Shri Reba Kanta Mahanta, the Sattradhikar of Khatpar Sattra, Sibsagar, Assam is known for dedicating his life in the services of sattras and Satriya Culture and occupies a distinguished place in Satriya mask making and promoting Mukha Bhaona (a dance drama where the actors play their roles wearing mask).

2. Born on 19th April, 1935, Shri Mahanta learnt the art of making masks and performing Mukhabhaona from his sattradhikar father. He took initiative to establish Hahchara Girls' High School and retired as a Head Master in 1996. He served the District Sattra Mahasabha as General Secretary for 27 years and President for 2 years. He is life time member of Asom Sahitya Sabha and Satra Mahasabha. He has written many articles on religion, culture and mask making in various newspaper, magazines and souvenirs.

3. Shri Mahanta has established a unique museum in his own Satra campus which reflects the artefacts, musical instruments and masks etc. related to Satriya Culture and this museum attracts the footfalls of different visitors and tourists from different places of the state and country and even from abroad also. His artistic creations are also being displayed and demonstrated in different institutes, museums and universities etc. In 1989 on invitation of Craft Council of India, he took part in Exhibition cum Workshop at Eden Garden, Kolkata about mask making and its uses and from the exhibition 5 masks were taken to distant Russia and Japan to preserve in their museums. His masks were procured by Indian Museum, Kolkata; National Museum, Washington and IGNCA, New Delhi for preservation in their respective museums. In 2016, Tezpur Central University procured one huge mask of Narasingha (Bormukha) for demonstration and preservation in its museum. In 2017 by using different types of masks, he built a Welcome Gate at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati which wore a global look at that time. In 2018, Australia procured 2 masks for demonstration and preservation in their museums.

4. As an expert master artist and instructor, Shri Mahanta showcased his performances and conducted different workshops in different parts of the country such as "Ram Vijoy" Bhaona in Delhi and Vrindavan (1975); NE India cultural function (1976); Khol- Ba Don and Chordhora Bhaona in All India Radio, Dibrugarh (1998); at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra (SSKS), Panjabari, Guwahati, Assam (1999). In 2004, he was invited to International Ramayana Festival, Trivendrum and demonstrated two Ankla Bhaona viz. Kiskindhya Kanda and Sundara Kanda. In 2010, he performed Shyamantaharan Bhaona and demonstrated masks in the Commonwealth Games Festival held in New Delhi. In 2013, he demonstrated various Mukhas in the Independence Day celebration at Guwahati on invitation of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam. In 2003, he represented Assam in the Republic Day parade with the mask making tableau and cultural performance and bagged second prize for the state of Assam.

5. Shri Mahanta has been honoured by Government of Assam and Government of India with various awards. In 2003, Government of Assam awarded State Award for Excellence in Handicrafts. In 2008, he received Shilp Guru Award from Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. In 2015, Government of India honored Sangeet Natak Academy Award for his excellence and pioneering works. Government of Assam awarded Bishnurabha State Award in 2019 for excellence in mask making. In the long span of his life, at the age of 90 years he has received felicitation and encouragement from more than 100 organizations.

Padma Shri



SHRI PANDI RAM MANDAVI

Shri Pandi Ram Mandavi is known for his contribution to Muria Wood art which is a significant tribal art. This unique art form has gained notable recognition in society. His efforts brought this important tribal heritage to cultural centers of regional and national significance.

2. Born on 12th February, 1957, in Garhbengal, Bastar, Shri Mandavi grew up in a family with a rich tradition of woodwork. His father was a skilled and renowned woodcarver who taught him the intricacies of the craft from a young age. He began his artistic journey by crafting wooden combs and bamboo flutes, later expanding his repertoire to include wooden swords, battle axes, bows, walking sticks, arrows, and whistling bamboo flutes.

3. Through his tireless advocacy, Shri Mandavi not only elevated the visibility of Muria Wood art but also nurtured a community of artisans who could share their skills and traditions. By organizing workshops and exhibitions, he created a platform for these talented individuals to showcase their craftsmanship and educate the public about the narratives embedded within each piece. His commitment to preserving the authenticity of this traditional art form resonated with many, drawing interest from collectors, art enthusiasts, and cultural organizations alike. These interactions sparked a renewed curiosity in tribal art, encouraging collaborations that blended contemporary designs with traditional techniques, thus revitalizing the craft without compromising its essence.

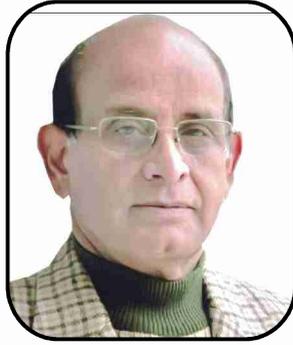
4. Shri Mandavi's work transcended mere promotion; he became a guardian of cultural heritage, ensuring that the young generation of artisans was equipped with both the knowledge and the means to carry forward their ancestral legacy. His vision encompassed not only the celebration of Muria Wood art but also the empowerment of the community that breathes life into it.

5. Shri Mandavi runs a wooden art workshop in his village. His wood works have provided him opportunities to travel to distant places in the country as also at some places abroad like France, Italy and Russia. He has been invited for demonstration, exhibit preparation etc. on wooden Muria art in various parts of the country. He has co-curated many exhibit preparations and installations in various museums and similar other institutions, and has also worked for developing Tourist Resorts in Chhattisgarh.

6. Shri Mandavi's dedication and enthusiasm have spread his efforts across the country and beyond, benefiting the Muria Society by attracting more individuals in the world of Muria creativity and enhancing the conservation of its traditions, as well as improving earnings for the associated creators. His influence has encouraged many youths to join him in creating artwork, employing nearly two dozen artists who earn their livelihoods through this work.

7. Shri Mandavi has received several awards, including the State-Level Handicraft Award 2018-2019 from the Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board; the J. Swaminathan Puraskar 2011 from the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi; Dau Mandar Ji lok Natay Aur Lok Shilap Samman Chhattisgarh Government 2024 and the International Urasgatta Award 2016 from the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge London. He was also awarded with Dau Mandaraji Award by Chhattisgarh State in 2024.

Padma Shri



PROF. LALIT KUMAR MANGOTRA

Prof. Lalit Kumar Mangotra, a former professor of Physics, is an eminent Dogri writer. Ever since the 1970s, he has been consistently contributing to the genres of short story, playwriting, poetry, essay, literary criticism etc. He remains a prominent voice promoting and bringing into vogue the Dogri language and literature.

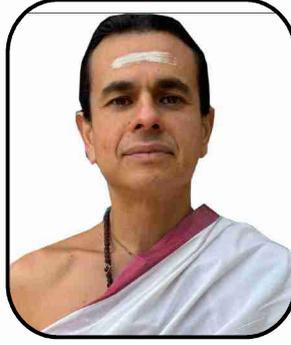
2. Born on 14th April, 1944, Prof. Mangotra received his M.Sc. degree in Physics from the University of Jammu and Kashmir in 1968, and Ph.D. degree in High Energy Physics in 1974 from the University of Jammu. Subsequently, he embarked on an illustrious career involving teaching and research in Physics and retired in 2004 as a Professor of Physics with more than 300 scientific publications to his credit.

3. Prof. Mangotra published his first Dogri short story in 1976 and since then he has been writing prolifically. He has 13 published works to his credit, covering diverse literary genres such as fiction, poetry, essays, literary criticism etc. Many of his books have been prescribed for the post-graduate course in Dogri because of their high literary value.

4. For the last 30 years, Prof. Mangotra has been chairing the Dogri Sanstha, a pioneering and the oldest literary organisation of Jammu and Kashmir. In that capacity, he has spearheaded various initiatives to popularise and propagate Dogri. His signal contribution to this cause has been in integrating Dogri with the information technology. He performed a significant role in the initiatives such as localisation of 11 computer software tools in Dogri, creation of online Dogri-English-Dogri dictionary and adaptation of a course on computer concepts in Dogri.

5. Prof. Mangotra's outstanding contribution in the field of literature and education has been duly acknowledged from time to time. Among the numerous honours and awards that he has received are Sahitya Akademi Award, 2011; J&K State Award for Outstanding contribution to Dogri Literature, 2009; Best Book Awards by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and languages for the years 2000 and 2010; Senior Fellowship (Literature) of Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Govt. of India and the Kunwar Viyogi Lifetime Achievement Award, 2024. He has had also the honour of being a member of prominent decision-making bodies such as the Press Council of India (the only person from J&K with the distinction of being in this body twice over); the Executive Board of Sahitya Akademi (2003-2007 and 2013-2017); Chairman, Governing Board of Govt. College for Women Parade Ground, Jammu; Member of Council for Promotion of Indian Languages, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India and Chairman of North Zone Selection Committee for Saraswati Samman of K.K. Birla Foundation, among others. He was also a member of the Official Indian Delegations of Writers to China and Japan.

Padma Shri



ACHARYA JONAS MASETTI

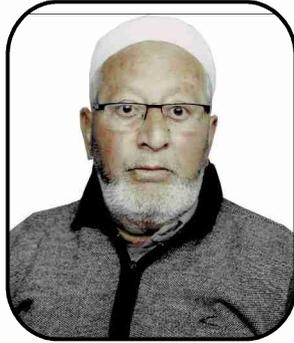
Acharya Jonas Masetti is a Vedanta Acharya, the founder and Director of Vishva Vidya, an organization dedicated to the teaching and dissemination of Vedanta, Sanskrit, and Vedic culture.

2. Born on 23rd May, 1981, Acharya Masetti graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the Instituto Militar de Engenharia (IME). Before dedicating himself fully to Vedanta, he was an entrepreneur who built a successful company and career in the stock market. However, seeing that the material worldly life wouldn't answer his need for happiness and freedom from suffering, he found on the knowledge of Vedanta and Yoga his way of life and, after his studies, he attended his call to become an acharya and reached a global audience, leaving his previous career behind to focus entirely on teaching. He also studied under the guidance of Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Swami Sakshatkrtananda at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam in Tamil Nadu, where he lived in complete immersion for four and a half years, receiving direct transmission of Vedanta, from his teachers. He was introduced to Vedanta by Santosh Vallury, his first teacher and Gloria Arieira, the oldest and prominent teacher of Vedanta in Brazil.

3. Acharya Masetti's teachings gained international recognition in 2020, when he was mentioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the national Indian channel "Mann Ki Baat", where he was acknowledged as an Ambassador of the Vedic Tradition in the Americas. His work has reached over 250,000 people, expanding beyond cultural and linguistic barriers through structured courses, online classes and immersive cultural retreats.

4. Acharya Masetti founded the first Gurukulam of Vedanta of his lineage. In 2024, in Brazil, located in Petropolis, creating a dedicated space for traditional study, contemplation, and deep immersion in Vedanta, where new teachers can be trained. His approach integrates modern technology with traditional teaching, making Vedanta more accessible while maintaining the depth and authenticity of the teachings. Currently, he leads a meditation program that attends more than 108,000 participants in Brazil, reinforcing his mission of bringing self-knowledge and spiritual wisdom to people worldwide. His influence continues to grow, consolidating him as one of the most prominent Vedanta teachers in the Portuguese-speaking world. Currently he is expanding his reach into English-speaking audiences and organizing yatras in Brazil where foreigners can learn Vedanta and also have contact with the ancient native culture of Brazil, from where he comes from.

Padma Shri



SHRI FAROOQ AHMAD MIR

Shri Farooq Ahmad Mir is a renowned Kashmiri shawl weaver and a multi weaver.

2. Born on 9th August, 1953 in Srinagar khaiwan area, Shri Mir's forefathers were affiliated with said craft. Being the son of a weaver, he couldn't attend any school at that time. Being the eldest son in the family he was bound to help his brothers and sisters. However, his sons acquired degrees from colleges and universities. The entry of educated youth provided new blood to the dying craft. His sons have also achieved multiple awards in pashmina weaving.

3. Shri Mir made the weaving procedure simple which was previously a little bit difficult. He invented designs with new techniques. He invented Hindi, Urdu and Sanskrit calligraphy in Kani weaving. He achieved his goal. He provided livelihood to countless people directly or indirectly. For his works, the Government of India felicitated him with numerous awards. The State Government also awarded him at different occasions.

4. Shri Mir has received the National Award from Ministry of Textiles (2007), Thakur Ved Ram National Award from Buttico Weavers Cooperative Society (2012), Sant Kabir Award from Ministry of Textiles (2014), Shanta Prasad Award from Craft Council of India (2018) and Prestigious State Award from Jammu and Kashmir Government (2019).

Padma Shri



PROF. RAMDARASH MISHRA

Prof. Ramdarash Mishra is a distinguished Hindi poet, novelist, critic, short-story writer and essayist. His literary contributions span across multiple genres, including poetry, fiction and critical essays.

2. Born on 31st January, 1925 in Dumari village, Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh, Prof. Mishra completed his Master's and Doctorate degrees in Hindi from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He served as a Professor at the University of Delhi and has been actively involved in academic and literary organizations. He has also been a member of various Hindi advisory boards in government ministries and literary institutions.

3. Prof. Mishra has authored more than 80 books, including poetry collections, novels, short story collections, essays, critiques, memoirs, autobiographies, diaries and literary anthologies. His works embody themes of social reality, rural life, human relationships and contemporary concerns. His poetry collections include Path ke Geet, Baerang-Benam Chitthiyan, Pak Gai Hai Dhoop, Kandhe par Suraj, Din Ek Nadi Ban Gaya, Baajaar ko Nikale hain Log, Juloos Kahan Ja Raha Hai?, Aag Kuchh Nahin Bolati, Shabd Setu, Barish Men Bhigate Bachche, Hansi Othh Par Aakhen Nam Hain (Ghazal collection), Aise Men Jab Kabhi, Aamke Patte, Tu Hi Bataa Ai Jindagi (Ghazal collection), Havayen Saath Hain (Ghazal collection), Kabhi-Kabhi In Dinon, Dhoopke Tukaden, Aagki Hansi, Lamhe Bolte Hain, Aur Ek Din, Main To Yahan Hun, Rat Sapne Mein, Sapna Sada Palta Raha (Ghazal collection), among others. His novels, such as Panike Pracir, Jal Tootata Hai, Sookhata Hai Talaab, Apne Log, Raatka Safar, Aakashki Chhat, Aadim Raag, Bina Darvajeka Maquan, Doosara Ghar, Thaki Hui Subah, Bis Baras, Parivaar, Bachpan Bhaskar Ka, Ek Bachpan Yeh Bhi, and Ek Tha Kalakar, reflect deep social consciousness. His autobiography, Sahachar Hai Samay, is considered one of the finest Hindi autobiographies. His short stories and essays are widely recognized for their narrative depth and critical perspectives. His complete works have been compiled into 14 volumes. Many of his works have been translated into English, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, and other Indian languages.

4. Prof. Mishra has held several important academic and literary positions, including serving as President of Bharatiya Lekhak Sangathan (1984-1990), Chief Secretary of Sahityik Sangh (1952-55), and President of Gujarat Hindi Pradhyapak Parishad (1960-64). He has also been a member of Sahitya Akademi, the Hindi Advisory Board in several Ministries of the Government of India and syllabus committees in various universities. Additionally, he has chaired sessions at Sahitya Akademi, Hindi Akademi, and other prominent literary institutions. His works have been included in the syllabi of various universities and colleges, and numerous research studies (Ph.D. dissertations) have been conducted on his literary contributions. His influence extends beyond academia, as his writings continue to inspire contemporary Hindi literature and scholarship.

5. Prof. Mishra has received numerous prestigious awards and honors, including the Sahitya Akademi Award (2015), Saraswati Samman (2021) of K. K. Birla Foundation and Rashtriya Kabir Samman (2022) of the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Vyas Samman (2011) K. K. Birla Foundation, Bharat Bharati Award (2005) Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthaan, Shalaka Award (2001) of Hindi Akademi, Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award (2004) of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, Sahitya Bhushan Award (1996) Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthaan, Dayavati Modi Kavi Shekhar Award (1998) among others. His book Aag ki Hansi received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2015.

Padma Shri



SHRI MAHABIR NAYAK

Shri Mahabir Nayak is a traditional Nagpuri folk singer from Jharkhand.

2. Born on 24th September, 1942 in a rural family in Uruguttu Village, Ranchi, Shri Nayak did his schooling from village Uruguttu and further Intermediate, ITI, CTI. He got Government Job in 1963 in HEC as a worker and retired in 2001. But he never gave up his art of traditional folk singing. In his journey as a traditional folk singer, he gave more than 62 years in his passion and love for Nagpuri folk song, poet and literature and is still working with Jharkhand Art and Culture Department as an Advisor in Committee and giving his best to various Art and cultural groups in Jharkhand. He used to perform the Folk song in fair, jatra mela, festivals like Sarhul etc. and whenever he got the opportunity. He worked with various organizations and NGOs in Jharkhand related to Jharkhand Traditional Art and Culture, organizations like Chottanagpur Sanskritik Sangh, Kunjwan, Nagpuri Kala Sangam.

3. Shri Nayak has been giving stage performance since 1960. In Hatia village, he started stage programme for tradition folk song and Kavi Sammelan where various artists performed their art of singing, dance and music. Later on, he used to perform stage programme in Jagannath Fair in Dhurwa, Ranchi every year. He also performed stage programme in different states of India like Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Delhi and various places of Jharkhand. In 1992, he and his group of 20 members performed an international programme in Taipe, Taiwan.

4. Shri Nayak is the co-founder of Kunjwan. He also worked as Editor in Dahar Magazine, Kala Sangam, Nagpuri Kala Sangam. He worked in Ranchi Doordarshan Kendra, All India Radio from 1977 to 2011. He is also helping Ph.D. scholars in Nagpuri Languages and Literature. He also writes song for Jharkhand Movement "Mil ke chalu nawjawan re, har ghadi rahu savdhaan". He served as Editor, Advisor and support member in Kunjwan, Chottanagpur Sanskritik Sangh, Nagpuri Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Nagpuri Bhasha Parishad. He published his poetry, songs in various magazines. Most of the 300 traditional folk songs in his poetry have been published in books and magazines.

5. Shri Nayak has received various awards and honors from various organization including Jharkhand Vibhuti Samman by Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sansthan Ranchi in 2009; Doordarshan Samman by Ranchi Doordarshan Kendra Ranchi, Jharkhand in 2011; Swarn Samman by Nagpuri Sansthan, Pithoria, Ranchi and Lok Kalratna Award by Ministry of Art and Culture NCZCC Allahabad in 2014; Praful Award by Nagpuri Bhasha Parishad, Ranchi in 2019; Jharkhand Ratna Award by Lok Sewa Samiti, Ranchi in 2021 and National Award - Sangeet Natak Akademy 'Amrit Award' in 2023.

Padma Shri



PROF. SONIYA NITYANAND

Prof. Soniya Nityanand is an eminent clinical hematologist and medical scientist. She has played a pioneer role in establishing the field of clinical hematology and bone marrow/hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (BMT/HSCT) in the country. She is the first lady bone marrow transplant specialist in India. She is also one of the leaders in stem cell research in India. Currently she is Vice-Chancellor of King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow.

2. Born on 6th September, 1962, Prof. Nityanand did her M.B.B.S. and M.D. (Medicine) from the King George Medical College (K GMC), Lucknow, in 1986 and 1989, respectively. She thereafter did a Ph.D. in Immunology from Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. In 1993, she joined the Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow, as an Assistant Professor and was deputed to develop the hematology services and BMT program. In 2003 she was appointed as Prof and Head, Dept. of Hematology and thereafter of the Stem Cell Research Centre also. She held additional charges of Executive Registrar and Chief Medical Superintendent in SGPGIMS. In 2021, she was appointed as Director of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow.

3. Prof. Nityanand developed the first Hematology Unit of U.P. in SGPGIMS in 1993 for treatment of patients with blood disorders, when this super-specialty was just evolving in India. Thereafter, single handed she established a BMT/HSCT program in 1999. Her continued efforts led to the establishment of a comprehensive center for clinical and laboratory hematology and BMT at SGPGIMS, which is a major referral center for patients with blood disorders from U.P. and neighboring states and countries.

4. Prof. Nityanand is one of the pioneers in stem cell research in India. As early as 2005, she established a stem cell research facility at SGPGIMS under aegis of Dept. of Biotechnology, Government of India. Thereafter, she developed this facility into a full-fledged Stem Cell Research Centre with state of the art research labs, serving as a platform for multidisciplinary basic and translational stem cell research. One of her significant contributions has been the mentoring and training of young hematologist and stem cell scientists, creating a pool of super specialists in India.

5. Prof. Nityanand has been actively engaged in several community health programs in U.P. including cervical cancer awareness and vaccination program and early detection and counseling of Thalassemia Carriers in U.P. She also served as State Nodal Officer of hemophilia for strengthening of hemophilia care services in U.P.

6. Prof. Nityanand has been a resource person in the drafting of several National Policies/Guidelines. She has served as member of many National Task Forces, Technical Expert Committees and Scientific Advisory Committees of National Medical/Scientific Institutes of repute.

7. Prof. Nityanand is a recipient of several awards, some of the noteworthy being the Chancellor's Medal for the best medical student, gold medal for the best MD (Medicine) student, Indian National Science Academy Young Scientist Award, DBT National Biosciences Career Award, Rajib Goel Young Scientist Award and the prestigious Swedish Institute Scholarship. She is an elected fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, and the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore.

Padma Shri



SHRI ACHYUT RAMCHANDRA PALAV

Shri Achyut Ramchandra Palav is a calligrapher known for his work in Indian scripts, especially Devanagari and Modi. He is the founder of Achyut Palav School of Calligraphy and has pioneered many initiatives with the purpose of demonstrating and promoting the versatility of Indian scripts, across traditional and modern applications.

2. Born on 27th January 1960, Shri Palav grew up in Mumbai and is an alumnus of Sir J.J. Institute of Applied Art where he also worked as a faculty member in later years. In 1984, he received a Research Scholarship from Ulka Advertising for a thesis on Modi script (15th to 17th Century). He created 'Mukta Lipi', an amalgamation of Modi and Devanagari scripts. Recognizing the vast potential of Indian scripts, he began working as a professional calligrapher making significant contribution in popularizing the artform both in the aesthetic and commercial realms. With original approaches, novel ideas and informative programs, he has fostered international interest in Indian calligraphy, created viable career opportunities for youth and reconnected Indian Diaspora to their cultural roots. He has been actively working towards advancing calligraphy as a vital part of Indian art heritage and an accessible art form for the masses.

3. Shri Palav undertook a Pan-India tour - Calligraphy Roadways to research the diversity of scripts and calligraphy styles in the country and to understand the ground reality of the art in the nation. To ensure the art's continued growth, he established The 'Achyut Palav School of Calligraphy', India's first academic institution dedicated to teaching calligraphy in a scientific and methodical manner. Additionally, he also launched Callifest, India's first international calligraphy festival (six editions to date). Exhibitions like 'Adishakti-Aksharshakti' and workshops like 'Aksharyadnya' have discovered and encouraged emerging talent in the field. Each project has employed an innovative approach to the study of scripts and language spectrum of India.

4. Through various publications, workshops, calligraphy demonstrations and lectures, Shri Palav has provided comprehensive insights into the basics, evolution and contemporary applications of Indian calligraphy. To further nuances of the calligraphy, he has integrated it with other art forms, collaborating with prominent figures in performing arts, literature and music. His paintings are a part of museums and archives like European Contemporary Museum of Calligraphy (Moscow), Stiftung Archive (Germany), Klingspor Museum (Germany), Akademie der Kunste (Berlin), Armenian Consulate, Museum in Algeria and Calligraphy in Devanagari for a project of Societe Generate Paris (France). He was invited to international exhibitions like 2nd Indo - Arab Festival (Algeria) by ICCR, International Calligraphy Exhibition (Russia), SEOUL International Print, Photo Art Fair, ICOGRADA World Design Congress (Mumbai & Beijing), Hues of Harmony (Dubai), Third International Festival of Calligraphy and Typography Rutenia (Ukraine), World Calligraphy Biennale of Jeollabuk Do (South Korea), Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial, Fachhochschule Wiesbaden and Pentiment International Academy (Germany).

5. Shri Palav has to his credit about 14 Publications till date which include diaries, books, Informative Manual, Traditional 'Kitta' and his latest compilation 'Akshar Bharati, 'The Magnificent Scripts of India' which brings into limelight the ancient and prevailing scripts of India. He has conducted numerous workshops and given calligraphy demonstrations in many prestigious galleries, institutions and locations in India and abroad.

6. For his work, Shri Palav has received 1 National award (for his book Aksharanubhava), 5 State awards, 3 Communication Art Guild Awards, an award from Indian Express Group of Publications and most recently Lifetime Achievement Award by IDC (IIT Bombay) and Banaras Hindu University during Typoday 2023 and 'Best of Best' Award at the 21st Cheongju Jikji and Hunminjeongeum World Calligraphy Contest (South Korea).

Padma Shri



VACHASPTI DR. V. R. PANCHAMUKHI

Dr. V. R. Panchamukhi is a distinguished scholar with expertise in both Economics and Sanskrit.

2. Born on 17th September, 1936, in Bagalkot, Karnataka, Dr. Panchamukhi excelled academically, earning his B.A. in Mathematics and Statistics from Karnataka University, Dharwad and M.A. in Mathematical Statistics with Econometrics from Bombay University in 1956. His Ph.D. in Economics from Delhi School of Economics (1963) on "Application of Game Theory to International Trade and Investment" was highly acclaimed by international scholars. His pioneering work on Game Theory, Effective Rate of Protection, and Domestic Resource Cost has been widely recognized as pathbreaking contributions. He held esteemed positions such as Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit University, Tirupati (10 years), Founder Director General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries, Ministry of External Affairs (18years), and Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Ministry of Human Resources(ICSSR) (3 yeais). He also served as a professor at Bombay University (15 years) and Delhi University (5 years).He currently serves as Chancellor of Sri Gurusarvabhousma Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Mantralayam, and President of The Indian Econometric Society's Trust (TIES Trust).

3. Dr. Panchamukhi contributed significantly to economic policy, serving as Member Secretary of the PC. Alexander Committee on Import-Export Policies, which laid the groundwork for trade liberalization in 1977-78. While working in UN ECAFE, Bangkok, his collaboration with Nobel Laureate Jan Tinbergen on 'Development Models and Resource Gaps for ESCAP countries', in 1970, influenced global resource transfers. His work at South Centre, Geneva, played a key role in the rejection of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) at the NAM Summit in Singapore. He has delivered impactful lectures worldwide, including 'Theme of Strategy for Least Developed Countries' at a special session at ESCAP in Shanghai and the prestigious Bob Hawke Lecture in Adelaide, Australia. His roles at UNESCAP, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, ILO, World Bank, IMF, and other multilateral bodies highlight his influence in global economic policymaking. Under his leadership, the SAARC Trade, Manufactured, and Services (TMS) Study became the foundation for inclusion of TMS in the framework of economic cooperation in the SAARC region.

4. Dr. Panchamukhi has authored several influential books, including Trade Policy in India: A Quantitative Analysis and Planning, Development, and the World Economic Order displaying deep insight in various aspects of Economics. He also explored India's classical economic thought in Indian Classical Thoughts on Economic Development and Management. As President of the Indian Economic Association and The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) (1998-2000), he significantly advanced economic research. He was the Managing Trustee of the TEA Trust for Research and Development (1987-2005) with Dr. Manmohan Singh as its Chairman. With his exceptional academic acumen, he played a crucial role as the Convener of the World Economic Congress (1986). He was the joint editor of the volume on "Agriculture and Industry". As a member of the National Statistical Commission, he contributed to making far-reaching recommendations, strengthening India's statistical systems. He served on the boards of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Indian Overseas Bank for several years. As the Managing Editor of the Indian Economic Journal, he raised the stature and quality of the journal to international standards. His recent work - a magnum opus, an English translation (1050+ pages) of Kannada Grantha 'Kaliyugakalpataru' by Sri Raja S. Gururajacharya, received extolling forewords from Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and others.

5. Dr. Panchamukhi is also an accomplished scholar of Sanskrit and Indology. He has delivered lectures in Sanskrit on contemporary issues and authored books such as Economic Survey of India and Contemporary Economic Issues and Challenges in Sanskrit. He was honored with the President's Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit (2003) and titles like Vachaspati by Lai Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit University and Visishta Sanskrit Seva Vrati by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan University at the world Sanskrit conference. He was President of Akhila Bharata Madhva Maha Mandal, where he delivered a unique lecture on "Madhva's Philosophy of Life and Social Welfare.

6. Numerous cultural and spiritual institutions have recognized the contributions of Dr. Panchmukhi. Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt awarded him the Sri Raghavendra Anugraha Prasasti, while Sri Vyasaraya Mutt honored him with Vyasara Janugraha Prasasti. He has also received accolades such as Vidwat Chakravarti, Viswa Vidya Kulapati, Vidya Ratnam and Madhva Shiromani.

Padma Shri



DR. SETHURAMAN PANCHANATHAN

Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan is a computer scientist and engineer and the 15th director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), a \$9.5 billion U.S. government federal agency, and the only agency charged with advancing all fields of scientific discovery, technological innovation and STEM education.

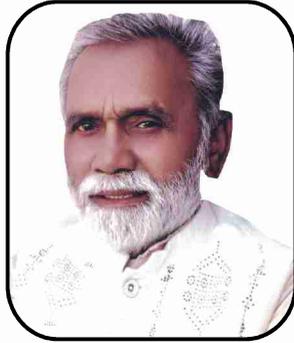
2. Born on 24th June, 1961, Dr. Panchanathan received his B.Sc in Physics at the University of Madras, in 1981; B.E. in Electronics and Communication Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1984; M.Tech. in Electrical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in 1986; and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Ottawa, Canada in 1989. He is a leader in science, engineering and education with more than three decades of experience. He has a distinguished career in both higher education and government, where he has designed and built knowledge enterprises, which advance research innovation, strategic partnerships, entrepreneurship, global development and economic growth.

3. Dr. Panchanathan previously served as the executive vice president of the Arizona State University (ASU) Knowledge Enterprise, where he was also chief research and innovation officer. Under his leadership, ASU rapidly increased research performance fivefold, earning recognition as the fastest growing and most innovative research university in the U.S. In 2014, he was appointed by the President of the United States to serve on the National Science Board where he chaired the Committee on Strategy and Budget. Additionally, he was chair of the Council on Research of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and co-chair of the Extreme Innovation Taskforce of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils. Arizona's governor appointed him as a senior advisor for science and technology in 2018. He was nominated to the NSF Director position by the President of the United States in 2019, and subsequently, unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 18, 2020. He was the editor-in-chief of the IEEE *Multimedia Magazine* and editor and associate editor of several international journals.

4. Dr. Panchanathan's scientific contributions have advanced the areas of human-centered multimedia computing, haptic user interfaces and ubiquitous computing technologies for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with different abilities; machine learning for multimedia applications; and media processor designs. He has published close to 500 articles in refereed journals and conference proceedings, and has mentored more than 150 graduate students, postdocs, research engineers and research scientists, many who now occupy leading positions in academia and industry. He was the founding director of the Center for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing (CUbiC) at ASU which has been focused on designing technologies and devices for assisting individuals with disabilities. For his scientific contributions, he was inducted as a member of the National Academy of Engineering; a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Association for Computing Machinery, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Optical Engineering.

5. Dr. Panchanathan has received numerous awards, including ten Honorary Doctorates from prestigious universities in the US and India; the Distinguished Alumnus Awards from IIT, IISc., and University of Ottawa; the Arizona Governor's Innovator of the Year for Academia Award; the Washington Academy of Sciences Distinguished Career Award and the IEEE-USA Public Service Award.

Padma Shri



SHRI LAVJIBHAI NAGJIBHAI PARMAR

Shri Lavjibhai Nagjibhai Parmar is the Master Weaver of Tangaliya Craft, who has mastered the art of Tangaliya weaving.

2. Born on 28th July, 1959, Shri Parmar has studied upto 8th Standard at Wadhwan, Gujarat. After completing the education, he joined his father in the traditional Tangaliya Craft. Tangaliya weaving, also known as Daana weaving, is a 700 year old weaving technique, native to the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. The uniqueness of this craft lays in the dot patterns created by twisting weft around warp threads, which creates bead-like embroidery on the fabric. He is extremely passionate about the craft; and has ensured that he masters all the skills and knowledge associated with it.

3. Shri Parmar has taken the training from Weavers Service Centre, Ahmedabad to further improve the weaving technique. He has completed 4 months of training and applied that learning into the craft and helped the associated weavers to improve their productivity and quality of product. His work for the craft and society has earned him the National Award for his Tangaliya woollen shawl from Ministry of Textiles, Government of India in the year of 1990. His contribution to revive the craft and support the young weavers is widely recognized in the region. To support this cause, he is providing training to the young generation and travelling across the country to increase the visibility of the craft and understand the market trends.

4. During the period of 1996-2006, Tangaliya weavers faced economic distress due to high cost of raw material, seasonality of the market, and changing trend of the customers towards synthetic garments. Around 300-350 weavers were forced to quit the Tangaliya weaving due to shrinking margins, but Shri Parmar has continued their passion for weaving. Based on his observation, he has made some innovative changes in the weaving technique, shifting from pit loom to handloom, making product more customer friendly by introducing cotton and bringing new design and modifying the products. His continuous efforts has not only sustained and preserved the craft but also generated interest from Tangaliya weavers and many of the weavers who were working in the factory as a daily wage labourer has joined the craft. He has provided loom and space under the shed to the weavers so they can learn the new technique and starts to weave again.

5. In the year 2019, Shri Parmar was awarded with the Sant Kabir Award from Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. He got this award for weaving naturally dyed Tangaliya saree with exclusive dotted pattern.

Padma Shri



SHRI SWAMI PRADIPTANANDA

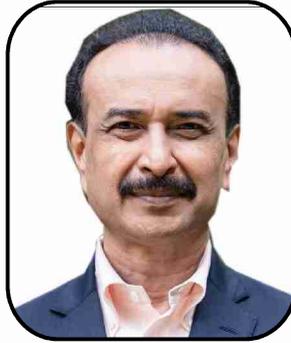
Shri Swami Pradiptananda, also, popularly known as Kartik Maharaj, is the President of Beldanga, Aurangabad & Pyradanga branches of Bharat Sevashram Sangha and also a member of the governing body of that NGO, with hundreds of branches in India and abroad.

2. Born on 1st January, 1955, Shri Swami Pradiptananda came in Beldanga ashram in 1982. By his hard, selfless "Seva" works, he earned love of the local people, and increased the ashram area from few thousands to few lacs sqft, with 3 children's schools, ST students' hostels, children park & playground, an old age home, a big pond & "Goshala", community hall, stage for functions, guest rooms etc. Also he donated a big land to the "Anandalok trust" and built a big branch of that famous charitable Hospital group of Kolkata, just by the side of Beldanga ashram, to provide medical facilities at a nominal cost. He runs 21 schools with 11,000 students of ST & all communities, a 10-bedded hospital & 3 regular medical camps in remote ST villages of Murshidabad and Nadia. About 1000 staffs work under him.

3. Shri Swami Pradiptananda spreads awareness & knowledge about "Sanatan Hindu Dharma". He has brought back thousands of Hindus, converted to other religions, again in Hinduism (Gharwapsi), has started again the long forgotten "Triveni Sangam" place in West Bengal, travels at least 20 days/month for Hindu unity, education & health of people without regular timely food/rest for himself. He is the President of "Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad", a large group of Hindu sanyasies- who arranged Gita-Path in Kolkata, Siliguri and many other places recently & remains the only hope for Hindus in Muslim dominated Murshidabad & other districts of West Bengal.

4. Shri Swami Pradiptananda was offered to fight election for MP/MLA seats, but he politely refused. He fights for Hindus, but has no hatred at all for other communities, who also help him. Thousands contact him daily for all kinds of helps, which he tries to provide.

Padma Shri



SHRI PRASHANTH PRAKASH

Shri Prashanth Prakash is known for playing a key role in defining India's entrepreneurial and philanthropic landscape since the mid-90s, and is particularly renowned for his strategic interventions in the startup space - backing homegrown, high-growth ventures that are valued at billions today.

2. Born on 29th May, 1965 in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Shri Prakash received his Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science) from Bangalore University in 1988, and Master's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Delaware, USA in 1990. He has also been awarded a Doctorate from the University of Mysore.

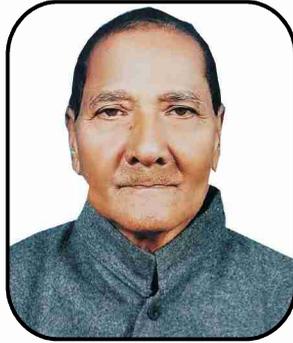
3. Shri Prakash is the Founding Partner of Accel India. He also serves as the Chairman/ Founding partner of multiple non-profits including ACT Grants, United Way Bengaluru, Unboxing BLR Foundation, Sikshana Foundation and Krishikalpa Foundation. He is a Founding Partner of the Chanakya Center for Sustainability, and is part of the Founding Group at Plaksha University. He founded Visual Reality, one of India's first animation companies, in 1996. The next year, he co-founded NetKraft, which emerged as a leader in offshore solutions for both retail and healthcare sectors. He co-founded Erasmic Ventures in 2004, one of India's first seed-stage funds, which later merged with Accel, one of the earliest global venture capital firms to enter India. As the founding partner of Accel India, he made audacious early bets investing in nascent companies that went on to redefine consumer experiences across the globe - Flipkart, Swiggy, BookMyShow, BlueStone, Infra.Market, AgroStar, Clever Tap and RentoMojo etc being a few notable names that have been instrumental in shaping eCommerce, digital consumer brands, agritech, B2B, and global value chains. He has invested in over 50 other companies and has served on the boards of more than 30 organisations.

4. Shri Prakash is the Founding Patron of Longevity India and has enabled research in the field of longevity and aging in the country. In August, 2022, he partnered with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to set up a geriatrics wing as part of IISc's upcoming Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital. His contributions to this initiative were acknowledged by the President Smt. Droupadi Murmu during the 2023 Visitor's Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

5. Shri Prakash is a member of the National Startup Advisory Council, where he advises government bodies on how to build a strong ecosystem for startups and innovation. He has also served as the Strategy & Policy Advisor to the Chief Minister, Karnataka. His leadership as the Chairman of Karnataka's Vision Group for Startups has yielded excellent results including the crafting of an enabling policy framework for startups. Through initiatives like Elevate, Unnati, and the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), he has helped in nurturing both entrepreneurs and investors alike. In 2020, he co-founded ACT Grants - Action Covid Taskforce; a coalition of entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and social impact leaders who collectively raised a Rs 100 crore fund to support critical healthcare needs during the period. He was chosen as the Social Impact Leader in 2021 for his philanthropic work by ASSOCHAM. He leads the Culkey Foundation, which preserves Karnataka's cultural and tourism assets through initiatives like Namma Smaraka and ONE-TAC, a digital platform enhancing accessibility and support for local artisans and small businesses.

6. Shri Prakash is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions.

Padma Shri



SHRI NAGENDRANATH ROY

Shri Nagendranath Roy is a literary personality and eminent writer of Rajbangshi language in the field of Indian classical and traditional thought. His innovative writings, compositions, translations and poetical creations of many books have made him a legendary figure.

2. Born on 15th December, 1953 at Bodapara Garalpara village of Jalpaiguri District. Shri Roy took his education from Bhubanjote Primary School, Harasundar High School and Siliguri Collage. His father died when he was infant and his mother brought up him. He became scholar linguistically and literally with sincere care of his mother despite of untold difficulties.

3. Shri Roy has authored many books. Some of the notable books are Nigamkatha' (Story of Swami Nigamanada),' Shri Shri Geeta Ai', 'Chandalika Anubad' (Rabindranath Tagore's Chandalika), 'Chhaoali path' (Children reading books),' Shri Shri Debi Chandi Ai',' Kuler Guru, Kulaguru', 'Shrimadbhagbater Dasham Skandha', ' Glimpse of the Upanishad' and ' The Rajbangshi Ramayan'. Indeed, the Rajbangshi Ramayan is the greatest work of all his works. The socio cultural picture and characteristics of the society of the Rajbangshi people of North-East India is reflected along with the episodes of the Balmiki Ramayana. Shri Roy is honored and regarded as a great poet of North Bengal and also of North-East area of India.

4. Shri Roy is not only a writer but also a distinguished orator. He delivered more than 1000 (thousand) speeches and joined seminar and symposium nationally and internationally organized by different educational institutions like Colleges, Universities and Socio-Cultural Organizations.

5. Shri Roy is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has received 'Shiksha Ratna' Sanmanana from the Government of West Bengal in the year of 2011. In the year of 2019 he has been awarded 'Prasar Bharati' Sanmanana from All India Radio Station, Siliguri. Sanskar Varati, Siliguri has honored him as ' Saraswatir Barputra, Rajbangshi Vasa Sahityer Bhagirath' in the year of 2015. He has given 'Rajbangshi Vasa Academy and Kamtapuri Vasa Academy' award from the Government of West Bengal in the year of 2023. Many others prestigious awards and felicitations have been given upon him for his outstanding achievements.

Padma Shri



SHRI PURISAI KANNAPPA SAMBANDAN

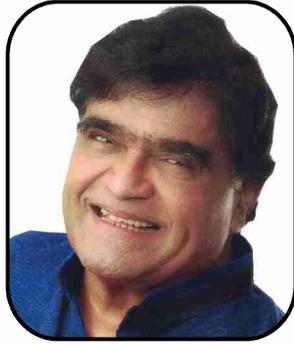
Shri Purisai Kannappa Sambandan is an artist of Purisai School of Therukoothu from Tamil Nadu.

2. Born on 16th October, 1953 in Purisai village of Tiruvannamalai District, Tamilnadu, Shri Sambandan is a fifth generation artiste of the Purisai School of Therukoothu. He has been performing since 1977 in the main roles. In 1977, he participated in the National School of Drama workshop conducted by Bansi Kaul at Gandhigram and later, in the workshops of Badal Sircar and Ingeborg Mayer.

3. Shri Sambandan conducted workshops Therukoothu at National School of Drama, New Delhi, International Theatre Workshop- Alwaye, the Central University- Pondicherry, National School of Drama - Bangalore, School of Drama and Fine Arts- Thrissur, Bhaskar's Arts Academy- Singapore, Theatre du Soleil- Paris. He also conducted workshops and promoted this art in many schools and colleges. The Therukoothu version of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's 'An Old Man with Huge Wings', directed by him for 5th International Theatre Festival at Bogota, Colombia in 1996 drew critical attention. Other Koothu plays directed by him are Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle', Thenali Raman, Basan's Dhoodha Gadothgajan and Silambu Selvi (Silapathikaaram). He choreographed the Therukoothu part in Ms. Arianne Mnouchkine's "Une Chambre En Inde" of Theatre du Soleil, Paris, France. He has accompanied his troupe in all major performances within India and abroad. He has performed in France, Sweden, Singapore, Colombia, USA, La Reunion and Sri Lanka.

4. Shri Sambandan was given a scholarship under the Young talented artiste scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in 1985. He was conferred the prestigious title Kalaimamani by the Tamilnadu state Eyal, Isai, Natak Manram in 1995. He was conferred the prestigious Title Nataka Thamizh Aringar by Pongu Thamizh Arrakattalai in the Year 2002, Dakshina Chitra Kalai Virudhu by Madras Craft Foundation in 2004, Podhigai Award by Chennai Doordharshan in 2007, Nritya Kala Nipuna Award by Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society, Singapore in 2008. He was given the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in acting for the year 2012, and the Kalai Sudar award by Tamilnadu Progressive Writers and Artistes association in the year 2014, the Dr. M.A. Chidambaram Chettiar Award for his excellence in Fine Arts followed in the year 2015. He was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from Tamilnadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha Music and Fine Arts University in the year 2020. Naataar Kalaikon Award from ABHAI in the year 2022, Nanban Arts and Crafts Award in the year 2023 are other notable recognitions.

Padma Shri



SHRI ASHOK LAXMAN SARAF

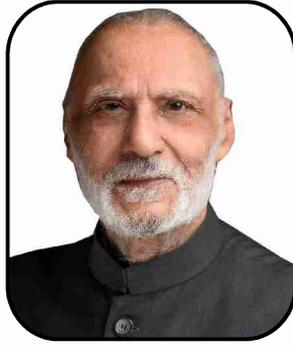
Shri Ashok Laxman Saraf is a legendary Indian actor, comedian, and producer known for his remarkable contribution to Marathi and Hindi cinema. Over five decades, he has entertained audiences with his unparalleled comic timing, compelling performances, and deep-rooted connection with Marathi culture. His impact on the Indian film industry is significant, making him one of the most beloved and respected actors.

2. Born on 4th June, 1947 in Mumbai, Shri Saraf began his career in Marathi theatre and quickly transitioned to cinema. He has acted in over 250 films, excelling in a variety of roles that showcased his versatility. His memorable performances in Marathi cinema include iconic films such as Ashi Hi Banwa Banwi, Dhum Dhadaka, De Dana Dan, Chaukat Raja, and Navra Maza Navsacha. His contribution to Hindi cinema is equally remarkable, with notable roles in Karan Arjun, Singham, Yes Boss, Jodi No. 1, and the cult-classic comedy series Hum Paanch.

3. Apart from his successful film career, Shri Saraf has been a dominant force in Marathi television, captivating audiences with his comedic excellence. His contribution to Marathi theatre has significantly influenced the industry, inspiring a new generation of actors. Currently at the age of 78, he is also currently starring as the lead in a daily soap on a leading Marathi channel. His ability to blend humor with emotional depth has left a lasting impression on Indian audiences.

4. Shri Saraf has been honored with multiple awards, including the Maharashtra Bhushan in 2023, Sangit Natak Akademi Award in 2022, 11 Maharashtra State Film Awards, 5 Filmfare Awards, V. Shantaram Award, Dinanath Mangeshkar Award, Lifetime Achievement Awards, and numerous accolades for his contribution to Indian cinema, theatre and serials.

Padma Shri



PROF. ARVIND SHARMA

Prof. Arvind Sharma is the Birks Professor of Comparative Religion in the School of Religious Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

2. Born on 13th January, 1940, Prof. Sharma received his B.A. degree from the University of Allahabad in 1958 and subsequently joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1962. He served for six years in the state of Gujarat before resuming his academic career in 1968, when he moved to Syracuse University in upstate New York, U.S.A. There, having obtained a Master's degree in economics he became interested in the role of non-economic factors in economic development, and the role of religion as a non-economic factor. To explore these connections further he obtained a Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School in 1974. Thereafter religion became the main focus of his studies, and he obtained a PhD in Sanskrit and Indian Studies from Harvard University in 1978.

3. Prof. Sharma joined in 1976, as a lecturer to teach Asian Religions in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. In 1980, he moved to the University of Sydney, where he organized a special session on the Bhagavad- Gita at the quinquennial conference of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), which was held in Sydney in 1985. In 1987, he moved to McGill University in Montreal as Associate Professor in the Faculty of Religious Studies, where in 1994 he was appointed the Birks Professor of Comparative Religion. While at McGill University, he was instrumental in organizing three global conferences on World's Religions in 2006, 2011 and 2016. These culminated in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions. Five Nobel laureates were the patrons of this project: the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Madame Shirin Ebadi, Bishop Belo of Timor Leste, and Elie Wiesel.

4. Prof. Sharma has published extensively in the fields of comparative religion and Indian religions. Comparative Religion, Comparative Philosophy, Women's Studies and Hindu Studies constitute his main areas of interest. His book *Our Religions*- in which scholar practitioners of seven of the world's religions describe their tradition- has been hailed as a best seller, while his book titled *Religious Studies and Comparative Methodology: the Case for Reciprocal Illumination* is considered a major contribution to methodology in the field of religious studies. His book on the philosophy of religion as found in Advaita Vedanta, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Primal Religions has provided a non-Western perspective to this field, while several books edited by him on women in the world's religions have been significant in promoting Women's Studies. One such book co-edited by him titled *Feminism in World Religions*, was selected as the Outstanding Academic Book in 1999 by CHOICE. He has also published several books on Hinduism, of which the most recent: *From Fire to Light: Rereading the Manusmriti* breaks new ground in the study of that text.

5. Prof. Sharma is the recipient of an Honorary Degree of Doctor in Humane Letters from Lehigh University (2014) and has served on the governing board of the Nalanda University (2016-2019).

Padma Shri



PROF. ASHUTOSH SHARMA

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma is an Institute Chair Professor at IIT Kanpur, elected President of the Indian National Science Academy (2023-25), a former Secretary to the Government of India (2015-2021) and former Chairman of the Board of Governors of IISERs at Tirupati and Berhampur.

2. Born on 22nd August, 1961, Prof. Sharma secured 2nd rank in the Rajasthan Board in the higher Secondary examination (1977), received his B.Tech. from IIT Kanpur (1982), MS from the Pennsylvania State University (1984) and PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo, SUNY (1988). After a brief stint as a research faculty at SUNY, he joined IIT Kanpur in 1990, became full professor in 1997 and the Head of Chemical Engineering (2003-05). He was also the founding PI- Coordinator of Nanoscience Center and Advanced Imaging Center at IITK. He was Chairman, Life Sciences Research Board, DRDO (2024), Chairman, Research Council, CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata (2024-2028) and Chairman, Governing Council, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad (2024-2028). He has been Chair of G20 Science, S20/G20 in India's Presidency (2023).

3. Prof. Sharma's research contributions are highly interdisciplinary, spanning a wide spectrum in nanotechnology; materials and devices in energy, health and environment; nanopatterning and nanofabrication; biomaterials & biosurfaces; wetting and adhesion. He has published over 350 peer reviewed papers that have been cited more than 20000 times (until 2024), filed over 15 patents, and mentored a successful nanotechnology startup. His other interests are in science policy, history, philosophy, literature and art.

4. Prof. Sharma while heading the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, helped initiate several new policies, programs and reforms related to infrastructure and human capacity building; innovation and startups; R&D in advanced manufacturing, waste processing, clean energy; national missions on supercomputing, quantum technologies and cyber-physical systems (AI); industry-academia cooperation; Surveying, mapping and geospatial data; science-society interfaces; science communication; women scientists; and major international partnerships.

5. Prof. Sharma is a recipient of numerous honours and awards, some of which are: the UNESCO Medal in nanotechnology (2017), inaugural Infosys Prize in Engineering and Computer Science (2010), TWAS Science Prize of the World Academy of Sciences (2008), Bessel Research Award of the Humboldt Foundation (2006), J. C. Bose Fellowship (2006-2025), S. S. Bhatnagar Prize (2002), Distinguished Alumni Awards of IIT Kanpur (2007) and SUNY Buffalo (2016) and several Honorary Doctorates from India and USA. He is an elected Fellow of The Indian National Science Academy and Indian National Academy of Engineering and others including The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He was an associate editor of ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces (2014-24) and has been on the editorial boards of over six international journals.

Padma Shri



SHRI SUBHASH KHETULAL SHARMA

Shri Subhash Khetulal Sharma is a distinguished practitioner and proponent of natural farming, having dedicated over 30 years to the experimentation and adoption of sustainable agricultural techniques. His methods prioritize the conservation of natural resources in their purest form, ensuring the production of toxin-free agricultural products.

2. Born on 13th December, 1952 at Yavatmal, Maharashtra, Shri Sharma completed his B. Com I from Amolkchand College, Yavatmal. A key innovation in Sharma's farming approach is contour farming with intercepted furrows, which ensures efficient water storage and percolation contributing to groundwater replenishment. His system not only prevents crop damage from excess water but also supports sustainable irrigation practices.

3. One of the most significant impacts of Shri Sharma's techniques is the substantial reduction in cultivation costs. By eliminating chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, and weedicides, farmers achieve higher soil organic carbon levels-rising from 0.5% to 2%-which fosters improved soil fertility and productivity. His approach enhances soil porosity, biological activity, and overall crop health. The complete avoidance of insecticides and pesticides helps preserve beneficial insects and birds, which naturally regulate pests. Additionally, mixed cropping, crop rotation, and boundary tree plantations contribute to ecosystem balance by minimizing pest infestations and maintaining temperature stability. Additionally, his promotion of natural farming has encouraged farmers to rear cows, further supporting sustainable agriculture.

4. Shri Sharma has actively disseminated his techniques among farmers, researchers, NGO workers, and agricultural extension officers from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and agricultural experts. Over 200,000 farmers and professionals have participated in his training programs, farm visits, and workshops. His contributions have been recognized by leading agricultural institutions such as Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (Maharashtra), Punjab Agricultural University (Ludhiana), and Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology. He was also invited to present at the 2018 Conference on Doubling Farmers' Income in New Delhi and an ICAR-organized session for African Ambassadors in Bengaluru.

5. Shri Sharma has received numerous awards in recognition of his pioneering work, including State Awards-Shetinishtha Shetakari Puraskar - Government of Maharashtra, 1983, Vasantrao Naik Krushi Bhushan Puraskar - Government of Maharashtra, 2002, Sendriya Sheti Avalamb Prachar Prasar Samman - Government of Maharashtra, 2003, Vanarai Puraskar - Vanarai, Pune, 2004, Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Sewa Puraskar - Dindayal Bahuuddeshiya Prasarak Mandal, Yavatmal, 2009, Samaj Sahayog Puraskar - 2009, Jeevan Puraskar - 2009, and Agrovan Smart Shetakari Award - Dainik Sakai (Agrovan), Pune, Maharashtra, 2019. He was felicitated at Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan - Yavatmal, 2019.

Padma Shri



SHRI HARVINDER SINGH

Shri Harvinder Singh is an accomplished Indian para-archer known for his remarkable achievements on the international stage. He has made history as the first-ever Indian para- archer to win medals for India in both the Paralympics and the Asian Para Games. His contributions have significantly elevated the recognition of para-archery in India and inspired a new generation of athletes.

2. Born on 25th February, 1991, in a remote village in Haryana, Shri Harvinder Singh faced adversity from an early age when an adverse reaction to an injection during childhood resulted in a permanent disability in his left lower limb. However, his determination and perseverance led him to archery, a journey he began in 2012 under the guidance of coach Mr. Jiwanjot Singh Teja. His international career took off in 2017, and within a year, he made history by winning India's first-ever gold medal in para-archery at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. He secured the top position in the Men's Individual Recurve Archery (Open category), marking a significant milestone in his sporting career.

3. Shri Harvinder Singh continued his historic achievements by winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, becoming the first Indian archer to earn a Paralympic medal. In 2022, he added another bronze medal to his record in the Men's Team Recurve Archery event at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China. His most defining moment came at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, where he won a gold medal in the Men's Recurve Archery (Open category), securing India's first-ever gold in the sport at the Paralympics. This victory solidified his legacy as a trailblazer in Indian para-archery. Apart from his sporting excellence, he is also an academic achiever. He completed his Master's degree in Economics from the Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala. Following this, he pursued a PhD in Economics, further demonstrating his dedication to education alongside his sporting career.

4. Shri Harvinder Singh's extraordinary achievements have been recognized with numerous honors. He was awarded the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2021 for his outstanding contributions to para-archery. In 2022, the Haryana government honored him with the Bhim Award for his excellence in sports.

Padma Shri



SHRI CHANDRAKANT BALVANTRAY SOMPUA

Shri Chandrakant Balvantray Sompura is a renowned temple architect known to have contributed in numerous temples holding high religious value.

2. Born on 8th November, 1943, in Palitana Gujarat, Shri Sompura started his architecture journey in his early age. In 1967, after the demise of his father, his grandfather (an esteemed and famous architect, Shri Prabhashankar O. Sompura) became the guidance for him. Shri Sompura in 1967 was dealing in Marble who later joined the family business of temple Architecture. At the renovation site of Shamlaji Temple, he received the practical knowledge where he simultaneously continued the study of literature by sculpture. He had the opportunity to work for 15 years with his renowned grandfather. He also gained the experience of publication of literature in shilpshastra. With the guidance of his grandfather, he designed the creative art pieces, notably, Shri Hastagiri 72 Jinalaya, Palitana, Gujarat; Shri Sheshshayi Vishnu Temple, Nagada, Madhya Pradesh and Shri Renukuteshwar Mahadev Temple, Uttar Pradesh.

3. In 1979, Shri Sompura took charge of the well-organized business set by his late grandfather, leading many projects to completion. His mission continued to keep this architecture alive and giving it the prosperity his grandfather aimed to get. He further kept evolving his architecture and applied the skills in designing valuable temple exemplifying the art in temples such as Akshar Dham – Gandhinagar; Shiva Temple-Singapore, Vishnu Mandir, Bangkok, Indonesia; Swami Narayan Temple – London, Ambaji Mataji – Ambaji, Jain Darasar - (Chicago and Houston U.S.A.), Swaminarayan Temple - Surat and Mumbai; 108, Parshwanth Bhakti Vihar – Shankheshwar, Sanvariaji Mandir Chitor, Nritya Mandap of Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan, Bahucharaji Mandir, Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

4. Temples such as the 'Akshardham' and temples abroad made Shri Sompura prominent in the field. Plans for Shri Rama Temple at Ayodhya prepared by him is under construction as his manifestation with his guidance. In the sphere of publication, preparation of various drawings in "Pratima Kala Nidhi" and "Vastu Kala Nidhi" are his contributions. He completed the publication of "Vastu Ni Ghantu" left unfinished by his grandfather with his prime focus developing temples. He intends to publish two incomplete volumes and reprint the invaluable works of his late grandfather in near future.

5. Shri Sompura is a recipient of several honours and awards. He has received special Award for 'Architect and Design' for his master work Swami Narayan Temple at London for 1995. He has received awards from 'The Indian Institutes of Architects' for his works around India. The recognitions from various news and publication like the 'ABP Asmita Sanman Puruskur' and 'News 18 India Amrit Ratna Award' are under his name. 'Shri Guruji Puruskar', 'Stone federation Natural Stone Award', 'JCARC award', 'Shri Bhagwat Bhavan' marks some of his recognitions by organization for his contributions.

Padma Shri



PROF. MANDYAM DODDAMANE SRINIVAS

Prof. Mandyam Doddamane Srinivas is the Chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies. He is a member of the National Syllabus and Teaching-Learning Material Development Committee (NSTC). He has earlier served as vice-chairman of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, and as member of the Indian Council of Historical Research. Prof. Srinivas was elected a Fellow of the Indian national Science Academy in 2023, for his work in History and Philosophy of Science.

2. Born on 2nd October, 1950, at Bengaluru, Prof. Srinivas had his early education at the National High School and National College, Basavanagudi. He earned B.Sc. Hons, and M.Sc. degrees in Physics, in 1969 and 1971, from the Central College, Bangalore University. He was awarded Ph.D. (Physics) in 1976 from the University of Rochester, NY, USA. His Ph.D. dissertation was supervised by Prof. Emil Wolf. In the same year, he joined the Department of Theoretical Physics, University of Madras, where he worked till 1996. His research work in Theoretical Physics was in the areas of conceptual and mathematical foundations of quantum mechanics and quantum optics. He is known for the development of a quantum formalism of continuous measurements which successfully explains photon counting probabilities in quantum optics and counting experiments in other areas of physics.

3. In late 1970s, Prof. Srinivas with some of his colleagues took up serious scholarly studies of Indian traditions of Science and Technology, based on the conviction that, for our endeavours in science and technology to be creative, relevant and effective, they should be informed by and anchored in our science and technology traditions and rooted in the Indian context. In collaboration with Prof. K. V. Sarma, Prof. Srinivas and his colleagues, Profs. M. S. Sriram, K. Ramasubramanian and R. Venkateswara Pai, have studied many seminal works of Kerala School of Astronomy and Mathematics. This has led to an authentic and comprehensive account of how the Kerala savants had developed their own approach to the discovery of infinite series and evolved non-geocentric planetary models which computationally approximate the Keplerian model—discoveries which were to become the hallmark of the scientific revolution in Europe a few centuries later. Prof. Srinivas has been a pioneer in the study of proofs (*upapattis*) in Indian mathematics. Dr. Jatinder Bajaj and Prof. Srinivas have carried out extensive studies on the epistemology of Indian sciences, as expounded in the canonical source texts, and explained how these sciences are fundamentally rooted in the Indian philosophical traditions.

4. In 1990, Prof. Srinivas along with Dr. Jatinder Bajaj (Padma Shree awardee in 2022) and a few colleagues founded the Centre for Policy Studies at Chennai with the objective of comprehending India from an Indian perspective. The Centre has produced an extraordinary corpus of work that places different aspects of the Indian situation today in historical and civilisational continuity with our past and thus offers innovative ways of looking at and solving some of our current problems. Thus, in *Annum Bahu Kurvita*, Srinivas and his colleagues, poignantly invoke the classical discipline of producing and sharing food in plenty and urge the India of today to reclaim that heritage. In their detailed exploration of the *Religious Demography of India*, they urge us to be aware of and recover the demographic balance essential for maintaining social harmony and civilizational continuity. In their sustained work on Mahatma Gandhi, they present him as the greatest exponent of Indian civilisation, who challenges us to achieve national greatness in the modern times while standing firm and securely anchored in our civilisational ways and commitments. Taking forward the work of the renowned Gandhian scholar, Shri Dharampal, Prof. Srinivas and Dr. Bajaj have analysed the detailed palm-leaf accounts of several localities of northern Tamil Nadu in the eighteenth century. This work provides a concrete micro-level description of the functioning of pre-British Indian polity in its various dimensions.

Padma Shri



DR. VENKAPPA AMBAJI SUGATEKAR

Dr. Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar is a distinguished Gondhali folk artist from Karnataka. He is renowned for his profound contributions to preserve and promote the Gondhali folk music tradition with a career spanning over seven decades. He possesses an exceptional memory and has mastered thousands of folk songs, including Dasar Pada, Santha Shishunalar Pada, Vachan Sahitya, Devi Pada.

2. Born on 1st May, 1943, Dr. Sugatekar began performing from the age of 10. He has dedicated over seventy one years to performing Gondhali Folk Music and storytelling, captivating audiences with his unique style and deep knowledge of the art form. He knows over 1,000 songs and 150 long form stories of mythology by rote. He has trained over 1,000 students free of cost, ensuring the transmission of Gondhali traditions to younger generations. He has actively engaged with both rural and urban audiences, ensuring the wide spread appreciation of Gondhali Folk Traditions.

3. Dr. Sugatekar unwavering commitment to Gondhali Folk Music has not only preserved a vital aspect of Karnataka's Cultural Heritage but has also inspired countless individuals to appreciate and continue this tradition. His work has been instrumental in keeping this traditional art form alive, especially among younger generations. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi praised Dr. Sugatekar during his 110th "Man Ki Baat" address, highlighting his efforts in reviewing and sustaining Karnataka's Folk Traditions. Hon'ble Prime Minister described him as a "Cultural Torch Bearer" who has dedicated his life preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

4. Dr. Sugatekar has performed extensively across Karnataka, spreading awareness about this traditional art form. His performances often include devotional songs, storytelling, cultural narratives that reflect the rich heritage of Karnataka. He is celebrated as a living legend of Karnataka's Folk Music. His work has not only preserved Gondhali Folk Art but also inspired countless artists to take up this traditional form. At the age of 82, he continues to be an active cultural ambassador, ensuring that the legacy of Gondhali Folk Art remains vibrant and relevant. His life and works stand as testament to the power of cultural preservation and the enduring impact of traditional art forms in modern times.

4. Dr. Sugatekar has been awarded Honorary Doctorate in 2022 by Karnataka Folklore University and Government of Karnataka awarded Janapadshri award in 2017. He was awarded Rajyotsava Award in 2012, Karnataka Satate Senior Citizen Award in 2022 and Karnataka Janapad Yakshagana Academy Award in 2004. He has received more than 30 dignified awards.

Padma Shri



MS. GITA UPADHYAY

Ms. Gita Upadhyay is a distinguished writer, translator, academician and social worker from Assam. A teacher by profession, she is known for her literary works in both Assamese and Nepali.

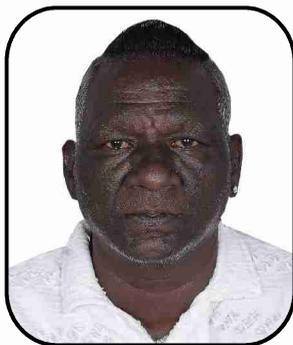
2. Born on 14th February, 1939, Ms. Upadhyay after completing her secondary education from Behali High School, went to Guwahati to pursue higher education. She received her Bachelor's degree from Handique College and then went on further to pursue Masters Degree in political science from Guwahati University. Notably, she is the first woman from Gurkha Community in Assam to achieve this academic milestone. After that she was appointed as a teacher at Sibasagar College and retired as Head of the Department (Political Science) after 30 years of service.

3. Ms. Upadhyay's literary works includes two of her Sahitya Academy Award winning literary works such as Janmabhoomi Mero Swadesh, a biography of Gurkha Freedom Fighter U. Sri. Chabilal Upadhyaya and Dorbar ki Susart, a Nepali translation of Assamese play by renowned poet Jyoti Prasad Agarwala. Her earliest publication includes Nepali and Assamese translations of the Diary of a Young Girl by Ann Frank in 1972. After that, she went on to translate Nepali Poet Bhanubhakta Acharya's Ramayan in Assamese (1987). Her other translations include Muna Madan (Nepali to Assamese, 1998), Kata Suruj (Nepali to Assamese, 2008), Bhumiputra (English to Assamese, 2008), Karamveer Dhan Bahadur Nij Abhiyaktir Dapunat (Nepali to Assamese, 2008) and Abhiyatri of Nirupama Borgohain (Assamese to Nepali, 2010). Her notable original works include Ma Moi First Holu (Assamese, 1997), Amma Ma First Bhayert (Nepali, 1998), Nepal Deshar Sadhu (Assamese, 2001), Mandakini Ra Alakananda Ka Tiretir Kedar Bodrisamma (Nepali, 2002), Mahapurush Sankar Deva - Jeevan ra Karma (Nepali, 2003), Suvasit Batah (Assamese, 2004) and Kathanjali (Nepali, 2008).

4. Through her literary works Ms. Upadhyay has been able to bridge the cultural and linguistic divide between the Assamese and Nepali speaking people of Assam, thereby facilitating assimilation and harmony between the two communities.

5. Besides literature, Ms. Upadhyay has been active in the field of social work and has actively participated as member of the Board at Tezpur University as well as a Member of Juvenile Court at Tezpur District Court.

Padma Shri



SHRI I. M. VIJAYAN

Shri I. M. Vijayan, is an eminent football player. He was former captain of the Indian national football team (1989-2003) is currently serving as the Assistant Commandant of Kerala Police & the Director of Kerala Police Football Academy.

2. Born on 25th April, 1969 Shri Vijayan's career included numerous club and national team victories, numerous awards, and record-breaking goal-scoring feats including three "Best Indian Footballer" awards, captaincy of the Indian national team, and several state and national lifetime achievement awards. During 1986-2006, he played club football, winning numerous titles with various teams including the Federation Cup, National Football League, and Malaysian Charity Shield, scoring 142 goals in 284 appearances.

3. Shri Vijayan has made India really proud with his extraordinary performance in the international football games including a hat-trick debut, key roles in multiple SAFF Championship and Nehru Cup victories, top scorer awards, MVP awards, participation in three AFC Asian Cups (reaching the quarter-finals in 2000), and a Merdeka Cup victory. He has scored 40 international goals, holds numerous scoring records (including fastest goal in Asia) and also achieved top scoring records in various Indian leagues and tournaments.

4. Shri Vijayan has served on various sports committees, including AIFF juries, Sahara Sports Award jury, and Kerala State Sports Council. He has also held positions as National Observer of Indian Football and Director of a football academy.

5. Shri Vijayan is currently a brand ambassador for a children's rehabilitation organization, actively supporting underprivileged children, providing them with resources, training, and a pathway to professional football. With the state government backing, he trusts this can be achieved as he strongly believes harnessing the plentiful talent available in the state and providing budding footballers the right opportunity at the right time.

6. Shri Vijayan has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Arjuna Award and a place in the Limca Book of Records. He also received two honorary doctorates for his exemplary football achievements from the World Human Rights Protection Commission and Northern State Medical University, Arkhangelsk, Russia.

Padma Shri



SHRI SEENI. VISWANATHAN

Shri Seeni. Viswanathan is a writer and research scholar. He is widely known in Tamil literary circle for his dedication for decades.

2. Born on 22nd November, 1934, Shri Viswanathan studied in Urumu Dhanalakshmi Vidhyalayam, Thiruchirapalli district and finished his S.S.L.C in the year 1953. He started his research on Shri Maha Kavi Bharathiyar's works and desired/decided to bring out the Mahakavi's works in chronological order and began this work in early 1960s. He joined as sub editor in "Sanga Palagai" a weekly Magazine published by Shri Chinna Annamalai, a well-known freedom Fighter.

3. Shri Viswanathan right from his school days got very much inspired by Mahakavi Bharathiar, compiled and published a book titled "Thamizagam Thantha Mahakavi" in the year 1962. This was during the commemoration of Mahakavi Bharathi's 81st Birthday by the Tamilnadu Government. This book was widely appreciated by learned scholars. He was fortunate enough to get appreciation from Shri C. Viswanathaiyer, younger brother of Mahakavi Bharathiyar. This exactly motivated him to continue to bring out only Mahakavi's writings and he made that as his life mission.

4. Shri Viswanathan single handedly compiled and published books that have enriched and expanded Bharati literature for about 63 years. Precisely to note his writings on Bharati are substantiated with facts in such a manner to know the broad scope of Bharatiyar, national unity and the zealous and selfless services of the national leaders. The accuracy in his compendium of Kala Varisaiyil Bharthi Padaippugal spanning about 15000 pages in 23 volumes - Bharathi's writings in chronological order is the source for today's generation of younger community researchers and aspirants. On 11th December 2024, the latest 5 volumes of the above 23 were released by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Many in India and aboard have read and praised him for publishing the work of Bharati literature.

5. Shri Viswanathan is the recipient of numerous awards and honours such as Bharathi Award in the year 2004 by Tamilnadu Government, U.V. Swaminatha Iyer Award in 2005 by Ilakkiya Manram, Coimbatore, Bharathi Sevai Semmal in 2014 by Bharathiyar Sangam, Chennai, Swami Vivekananda Award of Human Excellence in 2014 by Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, Manonmaniam Sundaranar Award in 2014 by Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathi Kalanjiam Award in 2016 by Sriram Bharathi Kalaillakkia Kazhagam, Bharathi Award in 2016 by Bharathi Pasarai, Coimbatore, Potramarai Award in 2016 by Potramarai Kalaillakkiya Arangam, Vivekanandar Award in 2017 by Ramkrishna Mission Madurai, Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award in 2018 by Dinamani -Tamil News Paper, Life Time Achievement Award in 2019 by Brahma Gana Sabha, Bharathi Award in 2020 by Vanavil Cultural Centre, Bharathi Award in 2021 by Tamil Nadu Government.