



पद्म पुरस्कार 2025

Padma Awards 2025



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राष्ट्रपति भवन

Rashtrapati Bhawan

नई दिल्ली

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Padma Vibhushan



SHRI M. T. VASUDEVAN NAIR (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri M. T. Vasudevan Nair, affectionately known M.T., was a cultural icon whose work has profoundly influenced several generations of readers, and continues to do so. He was a writer, film director, scenarist, editor and orator whose contributions to Malayalam language, literature and cinema, remain unparalleled.

2. Born on 15th July, 1933, in a small village called Kudallur, in Palakkad district, he was passionate about reading and writing from an early age. He graduated from Government Victoria College, Palakkad. In 1954 he made his presence known in the world of literature by winning the first prize in the World Short Story competition for Best Short Story in Malayalam. The competition was organized by the New York Herald Tribune. After graduation, he worked as a teacher in M B Tutorial College, Palakkad until he joined the premium Malayalam publication, 'Mathrubhumi', as a sub editor in 1957.

3. Shri Nair published his first novel "Nalukettu" in 1958, which won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award. He wrote his first screenplay "Murappennu" in 1965, based on one of his short stories. He was appointed Editor of Mathrubhumi weekly in 1968, and during his stint spanning three decades, he was instrumental in discovering and encouraging a generation of new Malayalam writers. His first directorial venture was "Nirmalyam"(1973), considered a classic which bagged several national and international awards including the President's Gold Medal in 1973 for best feature film and the Garuda award in the Jakarta Asian Film Festival.

4. Shri Nair has published more than 200 short stories, 8 novels, several collections of essays, travelogues and a play. He is credited with developing a well-defined structure and format to the screenplay in Malayalam cinema. He has written 55 screenplays for feature films as well as an anthology of short films. He has directed 7 films and most have won state, national and international awards. He was a pioneer in several aspects. He was the first to publish screenplays, adding a literary value to the format, which later became the unofficial guidebook for several screen writers. As the editor of the Mathrubhumi literary magazine, he facilitated translation of several books, from other Indian languages as well as English, into Malayalam, thereby introducing Malayalee readers to world literature. He was a visionary who understood the need to preserve language and culture. He took up the reins of the Thunchan Memorial, in 1992 and spent three decades of his life to create a befitting memorial to Thunchath Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, who is considered the father of modern Malayalam language. Today it is the most revered memorial dedicated to a language and its founder, in India.

5. Shri Nair had received innumerable awards and titles during his life time. The Central Sahitya Akademi (1970), Jnanpith (1995) Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (2013). He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2005. He holds the record for maximum number of National Film Awards for Best Screenplay, which he won four times - (1989, 1991, 1993, 1994) and 17 State Awards. The Vayalar Award (1984), Kerala Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (2005), Ezhuthachan Puraskaram (2011), J C Daniel Award (2013), Kerala Jyothi Puraskaram (2022) are some of the major recognitions.

6. Shri Nair passed away on 25th December, 2024.



DR. DUVVUR NAGESHWAR REDDY

Dr. Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, stands as a paragon of medical innovation, compassion and relentless pursuit of excellence in patient care. He is a globally renowned Gastroenterologist, who revolutionized the field of therapeutic endoscopy, transforming thousands of lives across the globe and made India a hub for world-class GI Endoscopy services.

2. Born on 18th March 1956, Dr. Reddy did his MBBS from Kurnool Medical College thereafter MD from Madras Medical College and specialization in Gastroenterology from the PGIMER, Chandigarh. He started as a Professor of Gastroenterology at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad and then at the Guntur Medical College before setting up the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology in 1994. Soon the institute became the first in India to be recognized by the World Endoscopy Organization as a Centre of Excellence. His ground-breaking inventions such as the Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES) procedure and the NAGI Stent have saved countless lives by offering a minimally invasive alternative to traditional surgery.

3. Beyond clinical excellence, Dr. Reddy's commitment to affordable healthcare is unparalleled. As the founder of the Asian Healthcare Foundation, he has bridged rural-urban healthcare divides, deploying India's first mobile endoscopy units and screening programs that bring life-saving diagnostics to underserved communities. His GI Endoscopy Technician Program has trained thousands, ensuring skilled care across the nation. His contributions extend to healthcare technology, where he has collaborated with IITs, IISc, and international research institutions to develop several diagnostic and therapeutic tools to treat gastrointestinal diseases.

4. An educator and mentor, Dr. Reddy has shaped the next generation of gastroenterologists, while his prolific research- over 1,090 publications and 18 textbooks-enriches global medical knowledge. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he spearheaded critical research, treatment protocols, and community initiatives, ensuring affordable COVID-19 care, free treatment for frontline workers, and vaccine strategy optimization. His scientific leadership and commitment to public health played a crucial role in shaping India's pandemic response. His leadership at AIG Hospitals produced critical research and protocols that guided national treatment strategies.

5. Dr. Reddy has been honoured with many awards such as the Rudolf Schindler Award by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy—the first Indian to receive this distinction and the prestigious AAAS Fellowship, a testament to his scientific eminence. He has been awarded the Distinguished Educator Award by the American Gastroenterology Association, Master of the World Endoscopy Organization (MWGO), among several other eminent global accolades. In national awards, he had received the Dr. BC Roy Award in 1995, Padma Shri in 2002 and Padma Bhushan in 2016.

Padma Vibhushan



DR. LAKSHMINARAYANA SUBRAMANIAM

Dr. Lakshminarayana Subramaniam is a Global violin icon.

2. Born on 23rd July, 1947, Dr. Subramaniam began his performing career at the age of six and has since become the face of the Indian violin on the global scene. A maestro of the Carnatic classical tradition, he has also made significant contributions to Western classical music and is the creator of the global fusion concept, and did the first North South jugalbandi (with the legendary Ustad Ali Akbar Khan). He was the first artist to compose and arrange for, perform with and conduct major western orchestras. He has been instrumental in bringing the violin to the forefront of Indian classical music while simultaneously pushing musical boundaries worldwide, to fulfil the vision of his father and guru Prof. V. Lakshminarayana.

3. With his technical brilliance and innovative approach, Dr. Subramaniam became a cultural ambassador, representing Indian classical music on world stages like the Royal Albert Hall in London, Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York, the Sydney Opera House, and the Bolshoi Theatre and the Tchaikovsky Hall. He was the first Indian musician to perform in several countries, including Japan, Madagascar and Iceland.

4. The groundbreaking performances of Dr. Subramaniam introduced global audiences to the depth and intricacy of Indian violin playing. Over his illustrious career, he has collaborated with legendary artists like Yehudi Menuhin, Stephane Grappelli, George Harrison, Stevie Wonder, Al Jarreau and Herbie Hancock, among others, further cementing his reputation as a global musical icon. He has also collaborated with Indian legends like Pt Ravi Shankar, Maestro Zubin Mehta, and Ustad Bismillah Khan. His compositions have been performed by renowned orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, the Swiss Romande Orchestra, and many others. He has also composed the music for films like Salaam Bombay, Mississippi Masala and others.

5. In addition to his contributions as a performer and composer, Dr. Subramaniam has made significant strides in music education and cultural promotion. He founded the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival (LGMF), which brings together legendary musicians from around the world and has been organised in over 25 countries over the past three decades. He also established the Lakshminarayana Global Centre of Excellence (LGCE) for advanced musical training and the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts (SaPa) to nurture young musical talent.

6. Dr. Subramaniam's contributions have been recognized with numerous prestigious awards. He was given the Violin Chakravathy title by the Governor of Madras in 1972. He has been hailed as the “GOD of Indian Violin” by the Times of India, and “The best this listener has heard” by the New York Times. He has been honoured with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan by the Government of India for his contributions to music. Additionally, he has received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and honorary doctorates from various institutions.

Padma Vibhushan



SHRI OSAMU SUZUKI (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Osamu Suzuki was a prominent figure, who dedicated himself to the development of the automotive industry, demonstrating exceptional leadership and initiative. He firmly believed that small cars could contribute to the motorization and industrial development of developing countries, which drove his efforts to expand Suzuki's presence globally leading. He led Suzuki Motor Corporation, a global manufacturer of motorcycles and automobiles, as Chairman and CEO from 1978 until 2021. He also played a significant role in India, serving as a Director and honorary Chairman of Maruti Suzuki from May 1983 until his passing in December 2024.

2. Born on 30th January, 1930 in Gifu Prefecture, Japan, Shri Osamu Suzuki graduated from Chuo University with a degree in law and began his career in the banking sector. In 1958, he joined Suzuki, where he made notable achievements in the construction of a new factory and procurement processes. By 1963, he had become a Director, taking charge of both domestic and international sales divisions. His leadership culminated in 1978 when he was appointed President and CEO of Suzuki. The launch of the compact car "Alto" in Japan in 1979 marked a significant milestone, becoming a bestseller and a major driving force behind Suzuki's growth and the advancement of motorization in Japan.

3. In March 1982, Shri Osamu Suzuki met with an Indian delegation in Japan that was tasked with selecting a partner for the state-owned automobile company, Maruti Udyog. He took the lead in conveying Suzuki's enthusiasm, which ultimately led to the signing of a joint venture agreement with the Indian government in October 1982. By December 1983, production of the Maruti 800 began. His contributions to the Indian automotive industry were extensive. The production of the Maruti 800 not only propelled motorization in India but also facilitated the growth of the automotive market to its current scale, which has become the third largest in the world. He focused on nurturing local parts manufacturers by providing guidance and investment to Indian partners, bridging collaborations with Japanese parts manufacturers, and establishing a robust supplier network.

4. Shri Osamu Suzuki introduced Japanese working culture in India, promoting practices such as Japanese expatriates wearing same uniforms as the ones of workers, having lunch at the same canteen, and sitting in common office space instead of private offices for management. He also facilitated the dispatch of Indian workers and managers to Japan for hands-on training, produced and consistently screened educational films highlighting Japanese work culture to help local employees cultivate a shift in mindset. Through his leadership and collaboration with Indian stakeholders, he helped create over one million jobs in India across Maruti Suzuki, parts manufacturers, sales/service outlets, and transportation companies. Their exports now reach over 100 countries, making them a leading player in the Indian automotive sector and significantly contributing to foreign currency earnings.

5. Shri Osamu Suzuki had received numerous awards from Japan, India, Hungary, and Pakistan, including Sitara-i-Imtiaz Award, Pakistan in 1985; Medal with Blue Ribbon, Japan in 1987; Commander's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit in 1993; Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, Japan in 2000, Induction into the Japanese Automotive Hall of Fame in 2002; Commander's Cross with the Star of the Hungarian Order of Merit in 2004; Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2007; Grand Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit in 2020 and Fourths Grade, Senior of the Court Rank in 2024.

6. Shri Osamu Suzuki passed away on 25th December, 2024.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI NANDAMURI BALAKRISHNA

Shri Nandamuri Balakrishna, Chairman & Managing Trustee, Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, is a popular cinema hero in the Telugu Film Industry.

2. Born on 10th June, 1960, Shri Balakrishna is the fifth son of Telugu doyen and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Late Shri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR). He started his film career at 14 in 1974 with the movie 'Tatamma Kala' (Great Grandmother's Dream), in which he portrayed the character of a young teenage student who brings modern technology to his distraught village for the betterment of farmers.

3. Initially groomed by his father, Shri Balakrishna in his cinema life as a top hero, enacted memorable roles like Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Arjuna, Abhimanyu, Narada, and characters with historical prominence like Sri Krishna Devaraya, Gautami Putra Sata Karni, Vemulawada Bheema Kavi, Siddayya and Saleem besides donning all types of characters found in the society in his social films. Like his father, he is unique in Telugu Film Industry for acting in films of every genre: mythological, historical, folklore, social, socio fantasy, and biopic. He has achieved a remarkable milestone in his film career, placing himself among the few actors worldwide who have had careers spanning more than five decades (1974 - 2024).

4. Shri Balakrishna apart from being a top hero is also widely recognized for his public services to the Cancer Hospital and Politics. In 2010, he became the Chairman of Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute, Hyderabad and has demonstrated exceptional commitment by extending services to underserved low-income and poor people lacking access to costly cancer medical care.

5. A three time MLA from the Hindupur assembly constituency, Shri Balakrishna did commendable work spearheading infrastructure development, restoring the Lepakshi Temple, improving access to clean drinking water, and upgrading the government hospital in Hindupur town. He also provided steadfast support and aid during the COVID-19 crisis.

6. Shri Balakrishna won the Best Actor award from the Andhra Pradesh Government three times besides innumerable awards and felicitations from various prestigious forums. The popular news magazine, India Today released a special edition in his honour in 2016 for his contribution to Telugu Film Industry.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI VINOD KUMAR DHAM

Shri Vinod Kumar Dham is the Founding Managing Director of Indo-US Ventures; an early-stage venture capital fund focused on India. The fund played a pivotal role in pioneering India's early startup ecosystem. Widely recognized as the "Father of Pentium," he is renowned for his groundbreaking leadership in the development of the Pentium microprocessor, which contributed significantly to making computing accessible to millions worldwide and makes it a household name.

2. Born on 22nd June, 1950, Shri Dham holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering (Electronics) from Delhi College of Engineering (now Delhi Technological University), in 1971, and a Master of Science in Solid State Science, specializing in Semiconductors, from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1977.

3. With a career spanning 54 years, Shri Dham has dedicated his professional life to the semiconductor industry and is now actively engaged with innovative Deep Tech startups in India. He spent 16 years at Intel, where he co-invented the company's first non-volatile memory cell and contributed to the success of Intel's 386, 486, and Pentium processor families. After leaving Intel, he reinvented himself as a successful entrepreneur, leading high-tech processor startups to acquisitions by global industry leaders AMD and Broadcom. Currently, he is working with his alma mater, Delhi Technological University, to establish a "Center of Excellence in Semiconductors," designed to equip students with essential semiconductor skills.

4. For decades, Shri Dham has been a trusted advisor to the Government of India, providing counsel on the domestic development of semiconductor manufacturing to meet the country's strategic military, space, and domestic needs. He has served as an advisor to the India Semiconductor Mission since its inception and is actively involved with the Design Linked Incentive program, where he recommends funding for early-stage domestic chip design startups to foster the growth of local semiconductor companies.

5. Shri Dham's numerous accolades include his recent appointment as an "Honorary Distinguished Professor" at Delhi Technological University. This year, he was honored with the nomination for the prestigious William Tuft Medal by the University of Cincinnati, recognizing his exceptional professional achievements and contributions to society. He was also recognized as one of the top 25 executives in the computer industry for his role in the iconic success of Pentium and as one of the top 100 most influential Asian Americans of the decade. Most recently, he was celebrated at the storied Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., among the Indian Americans who have shaped America through his contributions to the computing industry.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Sushil Kumar Modi was one of the longest serving Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar who contributed immensely to the development of Bihar. He turned around the finances of Bihar and was actively involved in introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in India. He held the unique distinction of being part of all the four Houses – Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and Member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Legislative Council.

2. Born on 5th January, 1952, Shri Modi was associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) from the age of 10. He was a pracharak of RSS, a full-time worker of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) from 1977 to 1986 and was the All-India General Secretary, ABVP from 1983 to 1986. He was the Cabinet Member and General Secretary, Patna University Students Union from 1973 to 1977. He was active during the Jai Prakash Movement (1973) and was imprisoned for 19 months during emergency (1975-1977).

3. Shri Modi joined active politics in 1990 and was elected as Member, Bihar Legislative Assembly from Patna Constituency from 1990 to 2004. He served as Deputy Chief Minister cum Finance Minister, Govt. of Bihar (2005-2013 and 2017- 2020). Being the longest serving Finance Minister of Bihar, he was credited with effective fiscal management of the State ushering in a period of stability. He boosted the State's revenue sharply and turned the State into a revenue surplus State. He hiked development spending and was able to increase industries and attract investments for the State. He was also known for innovative ideas, bringing in the concept of, a gender budget focusing on women's welfare. As the Chairman, Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (2011–2013), he played a key role in forming consensus for introduction of Goods and Services Tax in India. After introduction of GST, he was a Convenor / Member, of various Group of Ministers in the GST Council (2017–2020).

4. Shri Modi was actively associated with many social causes and played a major role in spreading awareness, about the 'organ and body donation after death'. He was actively involved in setting up blood banks for blood donation and organising / arranging free blood transfusion for thalassemia patients in Bihar. He was also involved in supporting the cause to overcome problems of differently abled in Bihar.

5. Shri Modi had a long and successful political career where he was Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1990 to 2004. During this time, he was the Chief Whip of BJP, Leader of Opposition (1996–2004), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of Bihar (2000). In 2004, he was elected as Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Bhagalpur Constituency. From 2005 to 2020, he was Member of Bihar Legislative Council. He served as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister between 2005-2013 and 2017-2020. He was elected as Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from 2020-2024 and was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

6. Shri Modi passed away on 13th May, 2024.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI SHEKHAR KAPUR

Shri Shekhar Kapur is one of the most celebrated film directors in India. He's currently a fellow at the ICAEW. He is reputed to have changed the way Indian films are perceived, both in India and overseas. He has also made a mark in the west, with his film Elizabeth and subsequent films and television series. His films carry many meaningful messages to society. Additionally, he has given back to society and to his profession by serving a term as a Chairman of the Film and Television Institute and is currently the director of the International Film Festival of India.

2. Born on 6th December, 1945, in Lahore, British India, Shri Kapur prior to his expansive film career, studied economics at St. Stephen's College, before becoming a Chartered Accountant with the ICAEW in the UK. He turned director with the family drama Masoom, 1983, starring Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi. The film went on to be nominated seven times at the Filmfare awards, of which it won five. He then went on to create Mr. India, a science fiction film, starring Anil Kapoor, Sridevi and Amrish Puri. Mr. India has attained the highest praises from critics both in India and globally with many critics having considered it one of the greatest Indian films of all time. In 1994, he released Bandit Queen, which premiered in the Director's Fortnight section of the 1994 Cannes Film Festival. Bandit Queen received International acclaim, with critics worldwide applauding the film. His next film Elizabeth and its subsequent film, Elizabeth: the Golden Age, was adored Internationally. With it being nominated at the Academy Awards, and winning a BAFTA, and Golden Globe, among many more, it is clear to see the massive impact of Elizabeth. This further cemented his reputation as a masterful filmmaker.

3. Following the success of Elizabeth, Shri Kapur worked further in International films, such as Four Feathers, starring Heath Ledger. Beyond feature films, he became involved in various creative ventures with digital storytelling, short films and even stage and theatre production. One notable venture outside filmmaking would be the stage production with Shri Andrew Lloyd Webber, Bombay Dreams. Additionally, this play kick-started Shri A R Rahman's career. He has also given back to the film community, by guiding students with new forms of storytelling. He has spoken at numerous global events, including TED Talks, discussing the evolution of cinema in digital age. He was also a scholar at MIT, researching storytelling in new technology. Moreover, he is an environmentalist. His concerns for the environment stem from the idea of water scarcity, a theme which can be noticed in his upcoming film, Paani.

4. Shri Kapur is a visionary filmmaker whose work spans Indian and International cinema. From redefining Indian cinema with Bandit Queen to earning global acclaim with Elizabeth, he has consistently pushed creative boundaries. His ventures beyond mainstream filmmaking reflect his ever-evolving artistic vision. His legacy lies not only in his films but in the inspiration he continues to provide to future generations of storytellers.

5. Shri Kapur has received numerous accolades throughout his illustrious career.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI S. AJITH KUMAR

Shri S. Ajith Kumar is a towering figure in Indian cinema, particularly in the Tamil film industry. More than just an actor, he has emerged as a cultural icon—one whose influence extends beyond box office numbers and critical acclaim.

2. Born on 1st May, 1971 Shri Ajith Kumar's cinematic journey spans diverse roles, each bringing a fresh perspective and resonating deeply with audiences. His ability to portray a wide spectrum of characters, from high-intensity action roles to emotionally layered performances, has cemented his reputation as one of the most versatile actors in the industry. But his impact is not limited to the characters he plays—his films often reflect societal themes, shedding light on relevant issues while entertaining millions. Since his debut in 1992, his journey has been defined by an unwavering dedication to his craft, a unique ability to connect with audiences, and an impact that transcends the silver screen. His ability to seamlessly transition between roles has earned him a reputation as one of Tamil cinema's most dynamic performers. Known for his meticulous preparation and professionalism, he approaches every role with sincerity, ensuring an authentic experience for audiences.

3. Shri Ajith Kumar's influence stretches far beyond the confines of cinema. With a fan base that defies regional boundaries, he is not just an actor but a phenomenon. Unlike conventional stars who thrive on media visibility, he has chosen a path of privacy and simplicity, a rare trait in an industry often defined by its glitz and glamour. His fan base is known for its loyalty and fervor, contributing to the immense anticipation surrounding each of his films. Off-screen, he is equally impactful. He is deeply involved in charitable activities, lending support to various causes without seeking public attention. In an industry often marked by conflicts and sensationalism, he has remained steadfastly apolitical and controversy-free, choosing to let his work speak for itself.

4. Shri Ajith Kumar has always stood on his own. He has never leveraged his stardom for endorsements, brand collaborations, or political affiliations. His self-sufficiency and commitment to artistic integrity set him apart in an industry where external influences often shape an actor's trajectory. His decades-long career, coupled with his philanthropic efforts and positive societal impact, commitment to his craft, coupled with an enduring fan following, solidifies his place among the stalwarts of Indian cinema.

5. Shri Ajith Kumar is more than just a celebrated actor—he is an institution of discipline, humility, and perseverance.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI PANKAJ R. PATEL

Shri Pankaj R. Patel is the Chairman of the Board of Zydus Lifesciences Limited, an innovation led global life sciences company. Widely recognised as a stalwart, Shri Pankaj Patel has championed innovation and pioneered first-in-the-world and first-in-India medicines to treat unmet healthcare needs and contributed to India's stature as the Pharmacy of the world.

2. Born on 16th March, 1953, Shri Patel received his Masters in Pharmaceutics from the LM College of Pharmacy, Ahmedabad in 1976. Later, he completed his executive education in Management Studies from the IIM Ahmedabad and has been conferred with D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow. A part time, non-official Director in the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India, he is also a member of Invest India and BRICS Business Council.

3. Starting his career with Cadila Laboratories in 1976, Shri Patel became the Executive Director of the company. In 1995, he became the Managing Director of Cadila Healthcare and the Zydus Group. Under his leadership, Zydus became a global research driven pharmaceutical company with presence in 85 countries worldwide. The company became a public listed entity in 2000, and he became the Chairman of the Board. He is also the Chairman of Zydus Foundation which works in the areas of Health, Education, Innovation and Community outreach initiatives for nurturing livelihoods and sustainability. He has published a number of research papers in peer reviewed journals and is a co-inventor in several patents.

4. Shri Patel has advanced the healthcare sector combining his expertise in science, health and innovation. He holds the positions of Executive Chairman, Vice President, and Trustee at Gujarat Cancer Society and is also the Chairman of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute. He is the trustee of the Gujarat Cancer Society (GCS) Medical College and Hospital and the Chairman of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, a Regional Cancer Centre. The Zydus Medical College & Hospital (ZMCH) in Dahod offers high- quality tertiary healthcare services to the tribal and under-served populations across Eastern Gujarat and neighbouring districts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. An institution builder, Shri Patel has fostered the growth of India's several leading academic institutions across India by serving in their boards notably, as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad and Udaipur and as Chairman of the Governing Body of the Kamla Nehru Institute of Technology (KNIT), Sultanpur.

5. Shri Patel's contribution to create a blueprint for 'Innovate India' have been significant launching novel new chemical entities, biologics, vaccines to meet unmet healthcare needs. A crusader for access to affordable medicines these innovations have brought hope to millions of patients suffering chronic illnesses like cancer. India's first ever lab to market novel drug, Lipaglyn, is a critical treatment for over 15 lac patients are being treated with this drug for chronic liver diseases. Oxemia (Desidustat), a first-in-class alternative to injectable erythropoietin-stimulating agents is a boon for CKD-induced anemia patients in India. Exemplifying the 'Nation First' during the pandemic, India's first vaccine for H1N1 flu during the pandemic of 2009-10 was launched under his guidance. During the COVID pandemic, the most affordable treatments were made available to patients. World's first plasmid DNA vaccine with a plug and play technology, ZyCOV-D was shaped by his vision

6. Shri Patel is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. In 2018, the South Asian Chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology honoured him with the Leadership in Drug Discovery and Development Award. He was presented with the Acharya P.C. Ray Memorial Gold Medal Award and the Eminent Pharmacist Award. The World Pharmaceutical Frontiers ranked him among the Pharma 40, recognising him as one of the world's most influential figures in healthcare. Besides this, he has received several accolades for his lifetime contributions to the Indian pharmaceutical industry.

Padma Bhushan



DR. JOSE CHACKO PERIAPPURAM

Dr. Jose Chacko Periappuram is a famous Heart Surgeon, who is known to initiate and establish the advanced Cardiological and Cardiac surgical treatment in the southern state of Kerala.

2. Born on 28th April 1958, Dr. Periappuram Graduated in Botany from St. Thomas College Palai with first rank in the university of Kerala in 1978 and obtained MBBS from Government Medical College Kottayam, Kerala. He left for Ireland to do FRCS and joined the Royal College of Surgeons at Dublin. During his training period, he worked at various hospitals in Ireland and was a member of the first heart transplant team at the Mater Hospital, Dublin. He received extensive training in Cardiac Surgery from the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. He also received training in heart transplantation from the famous Papworth Hospital at Cambridgeshire and Freeman Hospital, Newcastle. He commenced his cardiac surgical carrier in India at Medical Trust Hospital, Kochi in 1997 and moved to Lisie Hospital in 2008 where he still continues to work as the head of Department of Cardiac Surgery.

3. Dr. Periappuram performed the first heart transplant in Kerala in 2003. He has so far conducted more than 20,000 open heart surgeries with excellent results. He is a pioneer in beating heart surgery, Awake Bypass surgery and Total arterial revascularisation in India. He conducted the first Heart-Lung transplant in Kerala, and so far conducted 30 Thoracic organ transplants, the highest in Kerala state. He has successfully conducted the first Heart Re-Transplant in India, and the first Bi-Ventricular assist device as a bridge to successful heart transplant in the country. He has conducted heart transplant in a Takayasu patient for the first time in Asia 12 years ago. The recipient is still living healthy.

4. Dr. Periappuram is the founder Chairman of the Heart Care Foundation helping poor patients to have the advanced cardiac treatments. The foundation has many projects successfully being carried out including CPR training of the public, heart disease awareness programs, publications and so on. Heart Care Foundation has conducted the first ever Transplant games in India in 2023 at Kochi. He is the Founder Secretary of the Oldest Heart failure and transplant society of India.

5. Dr. Periappuram is an organic farmer also and promoted indigenous Paddy farming in his village. He grows fruit trees, Jack fruit trees, Lemon as well as yam in his farm organically and thus motivates the farmers to love soil and promote organic farming.

6. Dr. Periappuram is the recipient of many accolades. Besides many vocational and social excellence awards by Rotary and Lions clubs, he received the Mother Teresa award in 2003 and Indira Gandhi Award in 2005. He received the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2011.

Padma Bhushan



DR. ARKALGUD ANANTARAMAIAH SURYA PRAKASH

Dr. Arkalgud Anantaramaiah Surya Prakash is an eminent scholar and a distinguished media professional, whose work has enriched India's democratic and parliamentary landscape. With over five decades of experience in print and electronic media, he has held prestigious positions including that of Chairman, Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster and Vice-Chairman, Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library.

2. Born on 9th February, 1950, Dr. Surya Prakash received his Bachelor of Science degree from Bangalore University, M.A in Sociology (Mysore University), D.Litt (Tumkur University) for his thesis on the working of India's Parliament and L.L.B (Chaudhary Charan Singh University). His deep insights into constitutional and parliamentary affairs have shaped national discourse, influenced significant reforms and strengthened the democratic ethos of the country. His advocacy for greater functional efficiency of democratic bodies and transparency in governance led to the introduction in 1993 of the department-related standing committee system in Parliament and the televising of parliamentary proceedings, bringing greater accountability to the legislative process.

3. A prolific writer, Shri Surya Prakash authored What Ails Indian Parliament, in 1995, which is regarded as a seminal work on the functioning of parliament and on how Indian MPs cope with their duties within the two Houses while facing immense constituency pressures. In 2013, he decided to examine the working of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in his much-acclaimed book Public Money, Private Agenda – The Use and Abuse of MPLADS. His conclusions led to a national discourse on the efficacy of MPLADS. In 2017, his book The Emergency - Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour, highlighted the dreadful fallout of the Emergency. He has also contributed a chapter titled Need to Regulate the Working of Political Parties in G.C. Malhotra (Ed.), Fifty Years of Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, 2002. These authoritative texts, which constitute critical audit of democratic institutions, have considerably enriched available literature in the area of democracy studies in India.

4. In recent years, Dr. Surya Prakash has turned his attention to the constitutions of various countries around the globe, resulting in a path breaking thesis on the features that ought to be there in the constitutions of nations which claim to be democracies. His meticulous research has cleared misconceptions about India's democratic framework, highlighting the unparalleled rights and freedoms enshrined in the Indian Constitution. This thesis was published by the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi. Dr. Surya Prakash has tirelessly defended India's democratic principles on global platforms including the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London in July, 2019.

5. During his career spanning over half a century, Dr. Surya Prakash has held key responsibilities in media which include Chief of Bureau, The Indian Express, New Delhi; Political Editor, Eenadu Group, New Delhi; India Editor, Asia Times; Executive Editor, The Pioneer; and Editor, Zee News. Beyond journalism and academia, Dr. Surya Prakash has been instrumental in shaping policy discussions. As Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, his pivotal role in curating the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya underscores his commitment to preserving and strengthening independent India's democratic legacy. He was also Chairman of the committee on merger of LSTV & RSTV & creation of Sansad TV.

6. Dr. Surya Prakash's expertise and leadership have been recognized with prestigious awards and honours. They include the fellowship from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Germany in 1995 which enabled him to study the working of the Bundestag Committees, the Bipin Chandra Pal Samman for Fearless Journalism in 2002, Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 2010 and the award of D.Litt (Honoris Causa) by the SGT University, Haryana in February, 2025.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI SREEJESH P. R.

Shri Sreejesh P. R. is the former Indian Hockey Goalkeeper and the current Coach of the Junior Indian Hockey team. Sreejesh is widely known for the double Olympic Bronze medals and being the only Hockey Goalkeeper in the world to win the prestigious FIH Goalkeeper of the Year thrice over the course of a 22-year playing career. He was one of the key members in the resurgence of modern hockey in India, popularly known as The Wall.

2. Born on 8th May, 1988 in Kizhakkambalam village, Ernakulam district, Kerala, to a family of farmers, Shri Sreejesh began playing hockey at the age of 12 when he joined the GV Raja Sports School in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He first appeared on the national stage at the Nehru Cup. He made his debut for the junior national team in 2004 and for the senior team in 2006 as a teenager at the South Asian Games in Colombo. He was part of the 2008 Junior Asia Cup-winning team and was awarded the 'Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament.' Since then, he has featured in almost all major tournaments: four Olympic Games (2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024), four World Cups (2010, 2014, 2018, and 2023), three Commonwealth Games (2014, 2018, and 2022), and three Asian Games (2014, 2018, and 2022).

3. Shri Sreejesh has been part of several memorable moments for India, including the bronze medal in Jakarta- Palembang, the joint-winning team of the Asian Champions Trophy in 2018, the gold medal winning team of the 2019 FIH Men's Series Finals in Bhubaneswar, the silver medal-winning team at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, and many more.

4. A veteran of three Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Cups, Shri Sreejesh played in his fourth Olympic Games in 2024. The 36-year-old goalie, he led the Indian hockey team to the quarterfinals at the 2016 Olympics in Rio and was one of the main architects of India's historic double Bronze medal wins at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the Paris Games 2024.

5. Shri Sreejesh has won many accolades. He received the Arjuna Award in 2015; Padma Shri in 2017; Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna in 2021; FIH Goalkeeper of the Year in 2021, 2022 and 2024. He also received the World Games Athlete of the Year in 2024.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI PANKAJ KESHUBHAI UDHAS (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Pankaj Keshubhai Udhas, known as the *Velvet Voice of India*, was not just a ghazal singer but a musical institution and a bridge between tradition and modernity.

2. Born on 17th May, 1951, in Jetpur, Gujarat, Shri Udhas grew up in a home filled with poetry and melodies. Though he had no formal classical training, his dedication and passion for music shaped him into one of the most revered voices of his time. His breakthrough came with *Chitthi Aayi Hai* from the 1986 film *Naam*, a song that continues to resonate with millions of fans worldwide. Throughout his career, he delivered timeless hits, such as *Ghungroo Toot Gaye*, *Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein*, and *Jeeye To Jeeye Kaise*, each capturing the depth and emotion of ghazals.

3. Shri Udhas' influence transcended borders, taking Indian music to global heights. He performed at some of the world's most prestigious venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, Madison Square Garden, the Sydney Opera House, and the O2 Arena. His concerts were not just performances but *spiritual and poetic experiences*, allowing audiences to connect deeply with the emotions conveyed through his ghazals. His ability to blend melody with heartfelt poetry earned him admiration across cultures, solidifying his role as a global ambassador of the ghazal genre. In 2022, he released his final ghazal album, *Forever Ghalib*, at the sold-out Sydney Opera House, reaffirming his enduring popularity and legacy. His contribution to the world of music was unparalleled, and he played a pivotal role in keeping the tradition of ghazals alive.

4. Beyond his musical career, Shri Udhas was also deeply committed to philanthropy. In 2002, he co-founded Khazana — A Festival of Ghazals, a charitable event that raised funds for cancer and thalassemia patients. He was actively involved with the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA), extending support to those battling the disease. As the president of the Parents Association Thalassemic Unit Trust (PATUT) for over 40 years, he worked tirelessly toward a thalassemia-free India, facilitating over 740 bone marrow transplants for children. His humanitarian efforts, combined with his musical genius, have left an everlasting impact on society, ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire and uplift future generations.

5. Throughout his career, Shri Udhas was embellished with numerous accolades, recognizing his exceptional contributions to music. He was honoured with the K L Saigal Award as the Best Ghazal Singer of the Year in 1985; Indira Gandhi Priyadarshani Award for his remarkable contributions to music in 1996; Dadabhai Naoroji Millennium Award, conferred by the Dadabhai Naoroji International Society and the MTV Immies Award for Best Ghazal Album in 2003. His exceptional artistry was further recognized in 2006 when he was bestowed with the Padma Shri. In 2023, he was felicitated with the Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, both celebrating his outstanding contributions to Indian music.

6. Shri Udhas passed away on 26th February, 2024.



DR. SHYAM BIHARI AGRAWAL

Dr. Shyam Bihari Agrawal is a distinguished artist, academician, and art historian whose contributions to Indian painting and visual arts span over six decades. He has played a pivotal role in preserving and extending the traditions of Indian painting, particularly in the styles of Basohli, Mewar, Kangra, and the Bengal School, while also infusing modern artistic sensibilities.

2. Born on 1st September, 1942, in Sirsa, Prayagraj, Dr. Agrawal pursued his formal training at Allahabad University's Department of Painting and later refined his skills at the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata. Under the mentorship of renowned artist Kshitindra Nath Majumdar, he honed his expertise in Fresco, Mural painting, and Indian miniature styles.

3. Dr. Agrawal has made significant contributions in various domains of art, including Fresco, Mural painting, photography, and sculpture. His painting 'Veni Gunthan' executed in the Mewar style, won the prestigious Indu Rakshita Award for the best Indian painting in 1965. Throughout his career, he has been an influential figure in academia, having served as a Lecturer and later as a Professor at Allahabad University's Department of Visual Arts. He has served as the Head of the Department of Painting at Allahabad University, Vice President and Secretary of the Allahabad University Teachers' Association, and a member of several boards and committees, including the Board of High School and Intermediate Education, Uttar Pradesh. He has also been an adviser for art curricula at various universities and a mentor to countless students and researchers. He has guided numerous doctoral students and contributed to the development of fine arts curricula at institutions such as Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Jharkhand, and Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot.

4. Beyond teaching, Dr. Agrawal has been a key figure in fostering artistic communities. He founded the 'Roop Shilp Lalit Kala Sansthan' in Prayagraj, an organization dedicated to promoting art and cultural discourse through exhibitions, workshops, and seminars. His influence extends to the editorial world, having served as the editor for esteemed art magazines like Kala Tramasik, Rooplekha, and Kala Darpan. His scholarly contributions include over 40 research papers, as well as numerous books on Indian painting and aesthetics, including 'Bhartiya Chitrakala aur Kavya,' 'History of Indian Painting' (Volumes I & II), and 'Figure Drawing and Composition'.

5. Dr. Agrawal's impact is evident in the widespread recognition of his work. He has been honoured by prestigious institutions, including the State Lalit Kala Akademi, Lucknow. His paintings are housed in notable collections such as the Allahabad Museum, Officers' Mess of the Kumaon Regiment, and in private collections of esteemed Indian and foreign art connoisseurs. His artistic excellence has been acknowledged with numerous accolades, including the 'National Humanity Award' for his contributions to art, education, and social service.

Padma Shri



H.E. SHKA. SHAIKHA ALI JABER AL-SABAH

H.E. Shka. Shaikha Ali Jaber Al-Sabah is the founder of Daratma for Yoga Education, Kuwait's first officially licensed yoga studio. She is a lifelong meditator and yoga practitioner. A humanitarian, she has dedicated her life to serving her family, community and the world and has been working for bridging cultures and bringing people together through her many charitable endeavors.

2. Born on 8th November, 1976, Shka. Shaikha Al-Sabah's lifelong mission is her advocacy for wellness, particularly through meditation and cultivating awareness. She is credited with establishing Kuwait's first licensed yoga studio in 2014, Daratma. The studio's name combines the Arabic word Dar (home) and Sanskrit Atma (soul), symbolizing a home for the soul and reflecting a cultural bridge between Kuwait and India. A pioneer in wellness education in the country, her efforts led Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce & Industry to introduce an official yoga education license, a policy change that made wellness instruction a formally recognized and accessible enterprise in Kuwait. This milestone not only legitimized wellness studios but also integrated holistic health into the fabric of Kuwait's educational and commercial regulations. Her pioneering efforts have paved the way for other practitioners and teachers to open their own legally recognized studios, fostering the growth of the wellness industry in Kuwait.

3. Beyond studio teaching, Shka. Shaikha Al-Sabah has focused on youth wellness education. In 2015, she co-founded the Shems Youth Yoga program, helping develop a curriculum for children aged 0-14 to learn mindfulness and self-awareness. Through this same initiative, she spearheaded local relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic by distributing educational supplies to underprivileged children in Kuwait, aiding students to continue their learning despite school disruptions.

4. Shka. Shaikha Al-Sabah is well known for being at the forefront of wellness promotion in the Gulf, fostering greater awareness of holistic health and strengthening cultural ties between India and Kuwait. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi personally met her and commended her efforts during his visit to Kuwait in December 2024. Government of India announced in January 2025 to confer upon her the Padma Shri award for her distinguished service in promoting wellness. She is the first Kuwaiti national ever to receive a Padma award.



DR. K. OMANAKUTTY AMMA

Dr. K. Omanakutty Amma is a distinguished academician, dedicated teacher and true devotee of Carnatic vocal music with around 70 years of experience.

2. Born on 24th May, 1943, Dr. Omanakutty comes from a family with three generations of musicians. She was initially trained by her father and mother, both accomplished musicians. Later, she received advanced training under legendary gurus Semmangudi Sreenivasa Iyer and G.N. Balasubrahmanyam. She dedicated 36 years to academic service, teaching music at Kerala University and Calicut University. Many of her students have become renowned musicians, including Padma Bhushan awardee K.S. Chithra. Through her long career, she has nurtured Carnatic singers worldwide. One of her major contributions was establishing the Department of Music at Kerala University.

3. Dr. Omanakutty is the first woman to be an A-Top Grade artist on All India Radio. She earned a Ph.D. in Kathakali music and is committed to preserving Kerala's musical traditions. One of her key projects, Ganakairali, is a concert series featuring Malayalam Carnatic songs by composers like Maharaja Swathi Thirunal, Irayimman Thampi, K.C. Kesava Pillai and Kavi Kuttamath and so on. The 50th episode of this series took place on January 23, 2025.

4. Dr. Omanakutty has been a guiding light for Carnatic music students. Her legacy comprises of the immense knowledge she inherited from her Gurus which she has shared with her disciples, thereby ensuring the reach of her sishya parampara across the globe. Her contributions have enriched Kerala's cultural heritage, making her a true icon of Indian classical music. She has also actively used music therapy to help differently-abled children and senior citizens in retirement homes.

5. Dr. Omanakutty has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Kendra Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award and Fellowship, Swathi Puraskaram from the Kerala Government, the Acharya Award from Madras Music Academy and the Guruvayurappan Puraskaram.

Padma Shri



SHRI MIRIYALA APPARAO (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Miriyala Apparao was a pioneering figure in the field of Burrakatha (traditional storytelling).

2. Born on 9th September, 1949 in Nadakuduru Village, Kadapa Mandal, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Apparao began his journey in this art form at the age of 15 when he performed his first stage show at Jonnada Village in Ravulapalem Mandal. Over the span of 53 years, from 1968 to 2021, Shri Apparao performed thousands of shows, significantly contributing to the preservation and promotion of Burrakatha, a revered tradition in Andhra Pradesh. His performances were not limited to Andhra Pradesh, as he took his art across borders, performing Burrakatha in countries like Singapore. He also participated in notable cultural events, including the Janapada Vibhaga Pradarshana at the Andhra Cultural University in New Delhi, where his artistry and influence were recognized on a national level.

3. Shri Apparao's contributions to Burrakatha extended to the world of broadcasting, where he showcased his talent on platforms like All India Radio and Doordarshan, earning B-high Grade and A Grade recognition respectively. His artistry and passion for the form have not only preserved the tradition, but have also inspired the younger generation to embrace Burrakatha. Over 200 individuals have had the privilege of learning directly from him, furthering the legacy of this traditional art form. His artistic journey has had a profound impact on society and his community. He has left behind a remarkable legacy that will continue to influence and inspire the art of Burrakatha storytelling for many years to come.

4. Shri Apparao had been honored with several prestigious titles and awards, including Gana Kokila, Gana Tumbura, Burrakatha Tiger, Ragala Apparao, The YSR Life Achievement Award in 2021, Suvarna Ganta Kankanam by the villagers of Nadakuduru in 1970, State-level 1st Prize in Burrakatha in 1975 from the Government's competition.

5. Shri Apparao passed away on 15th January, 2025.

Padma Shri



SHRI RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

Shri Ravichandran Ashwin is a renowned Indian Cricketer.

2. Born on 17th September, 1986 in Chennai, Shri Ashwin is one of few names who embody intellect, skill & relentless pursuit of excellence in the grand tapestry of Indian cricket. His journey has been one of reinvention from bowling tennis-ball off-spin in West Mambalam to conquering the grandest arenas of world cricket. He is a trained engineer but a scientist on the field. He did not just play the game, he deconstructed and redefined it.

3. Shri Ashwin debuted for India in 2010. The world saw him as an off-spinner, but what they didn't see was the strategist behind the deliveries. In an era when finger spinners were expected to contain, he attacked. The carrom ball wasn't just a variation; it was a statement. Over the years, he became India's greatest match-winner on home soil, spinning webs around the best. With 537 wickets in 106 Tests, he stands as India's second-highest wicket-taker, while six Test centuries prove his mastery extended to batting as well.

4. Shri Ashwin is a cricketing polymath, evolving constantly, from outfoxing Cook in 2018 to dismantling Smith and Labuschagne in 2020. He adapted to T20 cricket, excelling even as the format favoured wrist spinners. His role in India's 2011 World Cup win was brief but crucial and when the time came to give back, he did it in the most Ashwin way: through his YouTube channel, where he deciphers cricket's nuances, educates fans, and busts myths with his trademark insight.

5. Shri Ashwin has been honoured with many awards such as the Arjuna Award in 2014, ICC Cricketer of the Year in 2016, multiple Test Team of the Year selections. But his legacy goes beyond trophies. It lies in his insatiable hunger for knowledge, his ability to outthink the best & his contribution to the game's intellectual discourse. He redefined spin bowling, transformed cricketing intellect into an art & inspired a generation.



SHRI JOYNACHARAN BATHARI

Shri Joynacharan Bathari, a retired Govt. servant of Sub Divisional office Haflong is well known for traditional folk music in Dima Hasao. He had a passion to bring the folk music and traditional instruments of Dimasa Community in the lime light of the country for which he worked very hard with dedication.

2. Born on 1st July 1940 at Jorai Bathari village in Dima Hasao district of Assam (earlier North Cachar Hills), Shri Bathari from an early age devoted himself to Dimasa Folk music. His hard work and sincerity made him a singer and by virtue of this he has been invited to perform several programmes in AIR Silchar, AIR Haflong, AIR Dibrugarh & AIR Shillong. He has also performed stage programmes in various places at Haflong, Maibang, Silchar, Agartala, Umrangsho, Diphu, Guwahati and even at National Capital Delhi. Besides singing, he is acquainted with the Dimasa traditional musical instruments as well. He is well versed in playing the “Khram”(Drum) and “Muri”(Flute). He has been representing the district in various Cultural Meet held in other N.E. States. For his activities in Cultural field, he has been awarded by various NGOs of Dima Hasao district.

3. Shri Bathari retired from service on 31/07/1998. Even after that, he has been leading an active social life. He worked as Mouzadar w.e.f. 2001 to 2007 of Haflong Mauza. He also worked as Khunang (Gaon Bura) of Sainza razi for 22 (twenty two years) w.e.f.1987 to 2001 and 2012 to 2020 and he also worked as Assistant Khunang (Gaon Bura) w.e.f. 1979 to 1987. Even after retirement he rendered his services as a priest of the Dimasa community day in and out and he was associated with NGO “Jadikhe Naisho Hoshom” (The Dimasa Apex Body). He is well versed with Dimasa customs and rituals. Even at this age of 84, he continues to sing and entertain.

4. Shri Bathari was conferred the coveted Pratima Baruah Pandey memorial award for the year 2013 by All Assam Student Union (AASU) for playing a pivotal role in popularising the Dimasa traditional and folk culture. Shri Bathari was also awarded Life Time Achievement Award in the year 2018 by Akhil Bharat Hindu Sammelan, Assam. He also got Johaya Bathari award in the same year by Bathari Sengphong Mel.



SMT. BEGAM BATOOL

Smt. Begam Batool is a Bhajan & folk Maand singer from Rajasthan. She plays Harmonium, Tabla, Dholak, Dhol, Daf and intercontinental instruments like Djembe and Darbouka. Her unique style is to sing while playing the tabla herself.

2. Born on 20th September, 1956 in a small village Kerap in Rajasthan, Smt Batool comes from Mirasi community. Women of this community are still confined to sing only within the four walls of their home. It was never easy for her to learn music and to sing on public stage. She got married in her childhood. Despite of all these social obstacles, she did not lose courage. Her husband and sons also supported her to continue her musical journey for the past 50 years.

3. In 2016, Smt. Batool was invited to perform in France and since then she has been regularly performing in Europe. Today she is an internationally acclaimed artist performing in India, France, Australia, Tunisia, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Holland, Germany, Monaco and many more countries spreading in 4 continents. She is the only Rajasthani singer to perform at the prestigious Town Hall of Paris. She also performed at international film festival of Cannes, Paris Olympic Games 2024, Cathedral of Saint-Louis in Tunisia, Parliament of Victoria in Australia, Mina Agrupa Vicenta in Spain etc. She is an integral part of international fusion music band “Bollywood- Klezmer”, this is a unique musical group in the world in which artists from four religions of the world (Hindu-Muslim-Christian-Jewish) present the fusion of their traditional music. She recently recorded a Ram Bhajan with famous French music Directors duo Paul Armand-Deille and Alexandre Grynszpan for their upcoming project. Since 2017, she is performing regularly at Europe's biggest Holi festival in Paris. More than 30000 people participate in this festival every year. Life of Mrs Batool has inspired the famous French film director Audre Gordon therefore she is making a documentary on the musical journey of Begam Batool.

4. Smt. Batool continues to motivate other women in her surroundings to go out and work in the field of their choice. Inspired by her now girls in her community are learning and performing music. She has been teaching traditional music to new generation and many of her disciples are performing around the world and promoting Indian music and culture.

5. Smt. Batool received “Nari Shakti Puraskar” from the Hon'ble President of India in 2022. She received “Bharat Gaurav Award” at the Senate of France in Paris in 2024, Certificate of Honor at the Parliament of Victoria in Australia in 2024, conferred with “Rajasthan Gaurav Puraskar” by Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan in 2023, conferred with “Achievers Award” by Global Organization of People of Indian Origin in France in 2021, received “Certificate of Excellence” on International Women's Day 2020 from GOPIO South Africa and “Rajbhasha Samman” by Bank of Baroda in 2022.



SMT. ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA

Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya is a trailblazer in the Indian financial services sector and currently serves as the Chairperson and CEO of Salesforce South Asia. Widely recognized for her transformative leadership, she has played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of the Indian banking and technology industries. Her visionary approach has not only strengthened India's financial ecosystem but also advanced the adoption of cutting-edge technologies to drive inclusive growth.

2. Born on 18th March, 1956, Smt. Bhattacharya did her schooling at St. Xavier's School (Bokaro Steel City) and then completed her graduation in English Literature from Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, and pursued further studies at Jadavpur University. She began her illustrious career by joining the State Bank of India (SBI) as a probationary officer in 1977, rising through the ranks to become the first woman to chair the 210-year-old institution.

3. Smt. Bhattacharya spearheaded several groundbreaking initiatives during her tenure at SBI, including the successful merger of its associate banks, which was one of the largest consolidation efforts in the banking sector. The bank played a pivotal role in executing the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) program, a cornerstone of all financial inclusion initiatives. Under her leadership, SBI underwent a significant transformation, marked by enhanced operational efficiency, customer-focused innovation, and accelerated digitalization. Notably, the bank played a critical role in the successful implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), along with other major government programs. She also played a key role in advancing financial inclusion through initiatives such as the "SBI Buddy" mobile wallet and the "SBI Digital Village" program. Her forward-thinking approach positioned SBI as a leader in digital banking and earned her widespread acclaim as a reformist in the financial sector.

4. After her tenure at SBI, Smt. Bhattacharya brought her expertise to the technology sector by joining Salesforce India as Chairperson and CEO. In this role, she has been instrumental in driving Salesforce's growth in the region, fostering innovation and supporting India's digital transformation journey. Her leadership has enabled Indian businesses to leverage advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and cloud computing, thereby enhancing productivity and global competitiveness.

5. Smt. Bhattacharya's autobiography, *Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Work, Life, and Leadership*, offers an intimate and inspiring look into her journey, from growing up in Bhilai and Bokaro to becoming one of India's most influential business leaders. She is a vocal advocate for women in leadership. She has introduced impactful policies such as free cervical cancer vaccines for women employees and their wards and sabbatical leave for women employees to care for children and elderly family members. She is also a strong proponent of AI-driven digital transformation, seeing technology as a fundamental force for economic progress.

6. Smt. Bhattacharya's exemplary contributions have been recognized through numerous awards and honors. She was named among Forbes' "World's 100 Most Powerful Women" and Fortune's "50 Greatest Leaders." She has also been conferred the "Business Leader of the Year" award by multiple institutions.



PROF. ANIL KUMAR BORO

Prof. Anil Kumar Boro is an eminent poet, folklorist, translator, academician and literary critic, who has made significant contributions to the growth and development of Bodo literature, folklore and culture. Currently, he is serving as the Head of the Department of Folklore Research at Gauhati University, where he continues to inspire and mentor scholars in the field.

2. Born on 9th December, 1961, in Kahitama near Manas National Park, Assam, Prof. Boro completed his Master's degree from the Department of English, Gauhati University, and later earned his Ph.D. from the Folklore Research Department. He began his academic career as a Lecturer in English at Dimoria College in 1988 before joining the Folklore Research Department at Gauhati University in 2000.

3. Prof. Boro has authored and edited over 30 books spanning multiple literary genres, including poetry, literary criticism, novels, children's literature, travelogues, and folklore studies. His landmark books, such as *Folk Literature of the Bodos: An Introduction*, *A History of Bodo Literature*, *The Flute and the Harp*, *Delphini Onthai Mwdai Arw Guhun Crubun Khonthai* and have been instrumental in shaping modern Bodo literary discourse. His translated works from other languages, have introduced world literature to Bodo readers, bridging cultural and literary gaps. As an editor, he has played a crucial role in curating significant literary anthologies and journals, including *The Bodo Quarterly*, *Journal of Folklorists* and *Thunslai*, an online journal of translation.

4. Beyond his literary contributions, Prof. Boro has worked extensively for the promotion of mother tongue education and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Bodoland. He has actively contributed to literary organizations, including the Bodo Sahitya Sabha and has been instrumental in organizing the Kokrajhar Literary Festival since 2021. His participation in national and international conferences has helped bring Bodo literature and folklore to global platforms, representing India in academic and literary forums across Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Denmark and China. He has participated in various national / international programmes and conferences.

5. For his contributions to Bodo literature and folklore, Prof. Boro has been honored with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award (2012), Rangsar Literary Award and the Sahitya Sadhana Botha (2024).



SHRI R. G. CHANDRAMOGAN

Shri R. G. Chandramogan, founder and Chairman of Hatsun Agro Product Ltd., which is recognized as India's largest private-sector dairy enterprise, has been pivotal in the advancement of India's dairy sector.

2. Born on 1st March, 1949, Shri Chandramogan has an extensive career spanning over five decades in the dairy industry. Under his guidance, Hatsun Agro Product Ltd. has launched various initiatives aimed at supporting dairy farmers and enhancing rural communities to provide essential technical assistance, veterinary support, and subsidized cattle feed to improve milk quality and productivity. In addition, the organization aids farmers in the adoption of modern dairy practices and simplified automation techniques, which collectively enhance operational efficiency, increase farm income and reduce labor costs. The company maintains a policy of sourcing milk exclusively from farmer communities.

3. Under the guidance of Shri Chandramogan, Hatsun has also collaborated with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (TNAU) to develop high-protein fodder varieties, including C03, C04 and C05, with the objective of improving cattle nutrition and bolstering milk production. Currently, Hatsun operates 20 state-of-the-art processing facilities across India, encompassing the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

4. Shri Chandramogan has played a crucial role in the development of local infrastructure, notably including railway stations, sanitation facilities, basketball courts and the maintenance and enhancement of water bodies in Thiruthangal, Sivakasi. Furthermore, he provides educational scholarships for underprivileged students pursuing degrees in engineering and medicine through the Raja K.S.P. Ganesan Trust. He has also established "HAP Sports Trust" in 2017 as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives through Hatsun Agro Product Ltd, with the objective of promoting sports. The trust is structured into three distinct categories, encouraging young talents to reach the top position in national and international levels.

5. Shri Chandramogan contributed as a member of the Planning Commission for Animal Husbandry-Secondary Agriculture. He served as a Director at City Union Bank Ltd. for 16 years. In addition to his corporate affiliations, Shri. Chandramogan is recognized for his philanthropic endeavors and unwavering commitment to social causes. Hatsun Agro is a case study in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad and also Shri.Chandramogan has been a visiting Faculty in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad; Harvard Business School, USA and Moscow University, Russia.

6. Shri Chandramogan's contributions were acknowledged when he received the Patronship from the Indian Dairy Association in 2018. In March 2024, Shri Chandramogan was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Dairy Association at the Hi-Tex Convention Centre in Hyderabad, acknowledging his substantial contributions to the dairy industry.



SHRI MARUTI BHUJANGRAO CHITAMPALLI

Shri Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli is a renowned Indian naturalist, wildlife conservationist, and Marathi author, widely respected for his contributions to forest conservation and environmental awareness.

2. Born on 5th November, 1932, Shri Chitampalli pursued his early education at T.M. Pore School and Northcote Technical High School in Solapur (1952-53). He completed his higher secondary studies at Dayanand College in Solapur. In 1958, he enrolled at the State Forest Service College in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, where he underwent a two-year forestry program, graduating in 1960. This education laid the foundation for his distinguished career in the Maharashtra Forest Department, he joined the Maharashtra State Forest Department, where he served until retiring as the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests.

3. Shri Chitampalli played a pivotal role in the development and management of several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in Maharashtra, including the Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Navegaon National Park and Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary. Beyond his administrative contributions, he is celebrated for his literary works in Marathi, which have significantly enhanced public understanding of wildlife and nature. His notable publications include "Jangalachi Duniya," "Chakavachandan," "Nilavanti," and "Ranvata," among others. He has written more than 18 books on wildlife, nature and forestry in Marathi.

4. Shri Chitampalli pursued traditional Sanskrit literature studies and later expanded his linguistic knowledge by studying German and Russian. He enrolled in a certificate course on Environmental Studies in Ancient Indian Literature offered by Kalidasa Sanskrit University, Ramtek, successfully completing it. A distinguished ornithologist, he contributed significantly to Marathi terminology in ornithology. He coined "Kakagar" for the English term "Rookery" (a crow colony) and "Sarangagar" for "Heronry" (a breeding site for herons and storks). He introduced "Raatnivaara" as a Marathi equivalent for "Roosting Place" and made terms like "Raimunia" (for the plant *Lantana Camara*) and "Amaltash" (for the *Golden Shower Tree*) known to Marathi readers. His meticulous documentation of tribal culture, nature's mysteries and wildlife behavior has expanded Marathi's scientific vocabulary and environmental awareness. The Government of Maharashtra has officially declared 'Pakshi Saptah' (Bird Week) as a state event, celebrating his contributions.

5. Shri Chitampalli has received numerous prestigious awards for his contributions to wildlife conservation, literature, and forestry. His book **रानवाटा** (1991) earned the Maharashtra State Literature Award (1991-92), Bhairuratan Damani Literature Award (1991) and Mrunmayi Literature Award (1991). **जंगलाचं देणं** (1985) received the Maharashtra State Literature Award (1989) and Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh Award (1991), while **रातवा** (1993) was honored with the Maharashtra State Literature Award (1993-94). Additionally, he was conferred the Maharashtra State Award three times, the Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award (2016), Damani Sahitya Award (1991), Phi Foundation Award (1991) and All India Marathi Science Council Honor (1996). Other notable accolades include the Maharashtra Foundation's Gaurav Award (2003), Venu Memon Lifetime Achievement Award (2007), Nagbhushan Award (2008), Vasundhara Sanman (2009) and Bharati Vidyapeeth Jeevansadhana Award (2013).



SHRI BHERU SINGH CHOUHAN

Shri Bheru Singh Chouhan is a renowned Kabir Nirgun folk artist who has been associated with the traditional folk music and cultural heritage of Malwa for over 50 years.

2. Born on 27th July, 1961 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, Shri Chouhan since the age of nine, actively participated in folk singing, particularly Nirgun Gayan (a devotional folk music tradition). He has performed in various folk singing programs across villages, presenting the legendary tales of Sant Kabir, Sant Gorakhnath, Sant Dadu, Sant Meera Bai, Sant Paltunath and many other legendary saints. His soulful renditions have left a deep impact on the rural audiences, who listen to him with great reverence and devotion. He has contributed immensely by showcasing folk singing at village, district, state, national and international levels. His efforts have played a key role in keeping the tradition of Nirgun Gayan alive. His professional journey began in 1978 with folk musical instruments (Tambura and Kartal). At that time, there were no proper means of transport and there were no audio facilities. In that era, he and his team would travel on foot or bicycles to different villages to perform.

3. Shri Chouhan started presenting folk singing on All India Radio, Indore, in 1989 which gave him wider recognition. He has also contributed significantly to cassette and CD recordings of folk music. During one of his performances, while recording a cassette, he met with an accident but despite financial hardships and physical pain, he never abandoned his passion for folk singing and continued his journey with full dedication.

4. Shri Chouhan was nominated as a Member of Executive Board and Educational Committee of Kala Kshetra Pratishthan, Chennai through Department of Culture, New Delhi's notification. He was the proud presenter at the inaugural ceremony of the 10th National Cultural Festival, Rewa organized by Department of Culture in 2019. His presentation at Raising Day of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Kala Kendra, New Delhi in 2019 also drew a loud applause from the audience and the authorities.

5. Shri Chouhan's performances have played a key role in spreading social awareness on important issues such as eradication of untouchability, social equality, women's education and girl child empowerment. Through folk storytelling of legendary saints, he has enlightened rural communities on social reforms. His efforts have helped in strengthening cultural heritage, promoting communal harmony and preserving rural traditions. Conducted over 6,000 folk performances to inspire and educate the masses.

6. Shri Chouhan has been honored at various cultural festivals such as National Cultural Festival (2015-2016) and Kabir Mahotsav (2018). He has presented his folk music in presence of the Hon'ble President Shri Ramnath Kovind and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Along with his presentations at Sadbhawna Utsav organized by the Department of Culture, Lucknow (1993), Kabir Bhajan Sandhya in the event organized by Uttar Madhya Sanskritik Kendra, Prayagraj in (1999), Kabir Utsav organized by Sahitya Academy, New Delhi at Varanasi (2005), Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Kala Kendra, New Delhi (2012), Tribal Museum (2014), Bharat Parv event organized by Swaraj Sansthan in Bhopal (2010), he has presented folk singing at Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal in the event organized by Madhya Pradesh Adivasi Lok Kala Parishad for the delegation of World Bank during their visit to Madhya Pradesh.



DR. K. DAMODARAN

Dr. K. Damodaran is a renowned chef and is the first Indian chef to receive the doctorate degree-PhD - in Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

2. Born on 3rd September, 1954 Dr. K. Damodaran started his career in the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation as Management Trainee in the year 1977 after completing Diploma in Hotel Management and Catering Technology from Institute of Hotel Management, Taramani, Chennai. He further completed B.Com degree from Madurai Kamaraj University, MBA degree from Madras University, the CHE and CHA from the EI of the “American Hotel and Motel Association”, Conference Centre Management from “Cornell University” in USA. He stepped into teaching profession in 1986. He has headed Chennai-based Asan Institute of Hotel Management, MGR Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology and Empee Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology. He is well-known for his book Damu's Home Free Style Cook. He has entered in Guinness World Record for 'Longest Cooking Marathon — Individual'. On December 22, 2010 he has set the record by cooking 617 dishes (190 kg of food) in 24 hours, 30 minutes and 12 seconds. He got certificate in English and Tamil. He tasted 12000 dishes in 13 days in Tamil Nadu in 2019. He has hosted cooking programmes on Raj TV, Pothigai, Jaya TV and Vijay TV over the last 22 years.

3. Dr. K. Damodaran is passionate about Tamil Nadu food. He has special passion for Chettinad food. He grinds his own masalas and exhorts his fans to do the same. He travels to the Karaikudi region almost every weekend to collect recipes. He has published 17 cookbooks for housewives with 2,700 recipes and four books for catering students. He was associated with the Government of Tamil Nadu in the implementation of mid-day (noon meal) meal scheme during 2008 and 2011 with the improved quality of food having 8 types of rice and 6 types of egg dish which was provided for 1 core 68 lakh school children. He has trained 1,40,000 noon meal workers in 32 districts in the state, to provide tasty food to the school children. He has also trained the cooks in the Girls' hostels in 13 districts run by School Education department in Tamil Nadu under RMSA scheme. He has helped more than 6000 catering students to get good catering jobs in reputed hotels. He trained and sent 10 chefs from India for The Food Olympia and the chefs achieved 4 gold medals in 2019.

4. Dr. Damodaran was the President of the Rotary Club, Tambaram in the year 2007 and 2008 and during his tenure, as many as one lakh children were given polio drops, cataract operation was done to 260 senior citizens and general medical camp was conducted for the Public every Sunday. In coordination with the Department of Training and Development, 750 Self Help Group women members were trained and SHG members have now set up 150 canteens. Through the Social Welfare Department, Tamil Nadu, his cooking demonstrations for the cooks were video-graphed and distributed to all villages in the State. Now to the present Government 14 varieties of breakfast for school children shown as demonstration for 56 pilot trainers in various districts. Presently he has been appointed as State Honorary President for National Youth Association. At present he is the knowledge partner for Hindu news paper covering 25 districts of Tamil Nadu spreading the traditional food competition for the public called Our State Our Taste.

5. Dr. Damodaran has received the “Culinary legend award” from the World Tamil Organization, London, UK in 2021. He has also received the “Lifetime achievement award” presented by SRM University and Nestle in India, 2021. He holds 3 Guinness records- Longest cooking marathon (Individual), 2010, Chennai, India, Longest Dosa in the world, 2012, Madurai, India and Largest Curry in the world, 2014, Little India, Singapore.



SHRI GOKUL CHANDRA DAS

Shri Gokul Chandra Das is the protagonist and the chief mentor of Maslandapur Motilal Dhaki.com. He is widely recognized across the India and also other countries of the world for his active role in pioneering the global presence of Dhak.

2. Born on 3rd February, 1967 at Maslandapur, North 24 pargarnas in West Bengal, Shri Das since childhood performed with two abandoned sticks leading the young boy to his dream of a percussionist. He passed madhyamik in 1985, but due to family responsibilities he concentrated only in playing Dhak for little earning and to support his family. In several hurdles which embraced him during his journey which has showed the speed to his destination.

3. Shri Das started playing different "taal" which is normally played in Tabla, Pakhowaj and Dhol. Every day he is creating a new invention with a new "taal" which gave the Dhak a new Percussion identity. He is now playing in both Indian classic and western music. He is the first person in India who has introduced Dhak for women all over the world. Now a days many married, unmarried and widow women are playing Dhak and earning lively hood for their families.

4. Shri Das has performed world wide with the many legends like Ustad Zakir Hussain, Ustad Amzad Ali Khan, Pt. Ravi Shankar, Pt. Tanmoy Bose, Pt. Bikram Ghosh, Santanu Maitra, Anuska Shankar, Ms Kavita Krishna Murthy, Dr. L Subramaniam, Ustad Taufiq Qureshi, Nabin Sharma and many more. He performed in U.S.A, UK, Norway, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangladesh and many other countries. He completed Senior fellowship from Ministry of Culture (C.C.R.T) Government of India. He is a part time trainer in Rabindra Bharati University. On 3rd march 2013, he established the famous organization "Maslandapur Motilal Dhaki.com".

5. Shri Das has been honoured with several recognition and awards. He received senior diploma in tabla in 1987; senior diploma in vocal classical -1991 and "Sangeet Bishrad" in Folk song-1992. He received "Dhaki Samrat" of the world in 2004.



SMT. NIRMALA DEVI

Smt. Nirmala Devi, President of Bhusura Mahila Vikas Samiti, Muzaffarpur, has made an extraordinary contribution to the preservation and global promotion of Sujni craft. Her tireless dedication to this traditional art has helped it gain international recognition.

2. Born on 15th August, 1947, Smt. Nirmala Devi was unable to complete her matriculation, due to financial issues. Since then, she has been working to enhance Sujani craft and establish embroidery's identity worldwide. She has been widely recognized for her immense contributions to the promotion and preservation of Sujani embroidery. Through her efforts, she has empowered countless women by training them in Sujni embroidery, significantly improving their livelihoods and giving them economic independence. Under her leadership, Bhusura Mahila Vikas Samiti has become a ray of hope for the women of the region, enabling them to showcase their craftsmanship on a global platform. Smt. Nirmala Devi's work in uplifting women and preserving this intricate craft is a testimony to her vision and commitment towards social empowerment.

3. One of the most significant achievements of Smt. Nirmala Devi was securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Sujni embroidery in 2007, a milestone that helped establish its unique cultural identity and protect the rights of artisans engaged in this centuries-old craft. Her intricate and artistic embroidery work has been displayed in museums in Bihar, Mumbai and even in London, showcasing the rich heritage of Sujni embroidery to the world. Through her unwavering dedication, she has successfully positioned Sujni embroidery on the global stage, preserving its legacy for future generations.

4. In acknowledgment of her efforts, Smt. Nirmala Devi has received numerous prestigious awards for her outstanding work in the field of embroidery and women's empowerment such as National Award in Delhi Raj Bhawan in 2003 and State Award in 2007.



SHRI HRIDAY NARAYAN DIKSHIT

Shri Hriday Narayan Dikshit is a renowned thinker, philosopher, politician and social worker, known for his contributions to politics, education, society, literature and philosophy. His works hold a significant place in the Indian knowledge tradition, reflecting his deep intellectual insights and commitment to social and political discourse.

2. Born on 25th December, 1946 in Lauwa, Unnao district, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Dikshit completed his Masters in Economics from Kanpur University. He began his political journey in his native place and became a Member of the District Panchayatraj Council, Unnao, in 1972. During the Emergency (1975-1977), he was imprisoned for 19 months. He led multiple protests, marches and public movements in Unnao on different issues. Committed to the betterment of society and the pursuit of knowledge, he has taken on the responsibility of serving education as the Manager of Bharatiya Adarsh Anglo Sanskrit Inter College, Purwa, Unnao (since 1981) and as the Founder/Manager of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Girl's Inter College, Mawai, Unnao.

3. Shri Dixit has had a distinguished political career, leaving a significant impact on the political system with his creative and innovative ideas. He served as the Speaker of the 17th Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and as Minister for Panchayati Raj and Parliamentary Affairs in Uttar Pradesh. Elected five times as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 17th), he also served as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and Leader of the BJP Legislative Party (2010-2016). Additionally, he held key positions as Chairman of the State Legislature's Public Undertaking Committee. Within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he has been a Member of the National Executive Committee, District Secretary of Jan Sangh, District President of BJP, Unnao, as well as Vice President and Spokesperson of BJP, Uttar Pradesh.

4. Shri Dikshit has had a remarkable journey in journalism and literature. He was the Founder and Editor of Kalchintan magazine (1978-2004) and has been a regular columnist for Dainik Jagran for over 35 years. His articles frequently appear in Rashtrdharma, Panchjanya and other nationalist periodicals. His contributions extend to Svatantra Bharat, Rashtriya Swarup, Amrit Vichar, Daily News Activist, Swadesh, Nai Duniya, Saamna (Mumbai), Jan Sandesh times and many other publications. Over the years, he has authored more than 6,000 articles.

5. Shri Dikshit's literary contributions are remarkable, with numerous published works that enrich the Indian knowledge tradition. His books include 'Shriram: Faith and History', 'Introduction to Rigved', 'Atharv ved ka Madhu', 'Gyan ka Gyan', 'Nachta Adhyatm', 'Madhu Abhilasha', 'Hum Bharat ke Log', 'Hind Swaraj ka Punarpath', 'Rigved and Dr. Ramvilas Sharma', 'Madhuvidya', 'Madhurasa', 'Sanskritik Rashtradarshan', 'Bhartiya Sanskriti ki Bhoomika', 'Bhagavad Gita', 'Sanskritik Anubhuti Rajnaitik Prititi', 'Bhartiya Samaj Rajnaitik Sankraman', 'Jambudweep Bharatkhande', 'Sanvidhan ke Samant', 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay-Darshan, Arthneeti, Rajneeti', 'Tatvdarshi Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay', 'Bharat ke Vaibhav ka Deendayal Marg', 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay-Drishti, Drashta, Darshan', 'Ambedkar ka Matlab', 'Rashtra Sarvopari', 'Bharat ki Rajniti ka Charitrik Sankat', 'Suvasit Pushp' (a compilation of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's parliamentary speeches), 'Rashtray Swaha', 'Bhartiy Anubhuti ka Vivekanand', 'Hindutv ka Madhu', 'The Way Bharat Thinks, Geeta Ka Antarsangeet', 'Gita Revisited and many other works. His extensive body of work reflects his deep engagement with Indian philosophy, politics, culture and history.

6. Shri Dikshit has received numerous recognitions for his contributions to literature, journalism and social thought. A research study on his works led to the awarding of Ph.D. titled "Hriday Narayan Diskshit and his Journalism." Additionally, an anthology of his writings, Hriday Narayan Dixit Rachnavali, has been published. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Literary award (Hindi Sansthan, Uttar Pradesh), Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award (Madhya Pradesh Government), Dr. Hedgewar Pragya Samman, (Kumarsabha Library, Kolkata), National Literary creator Award (Madhya Bhartiya Hindi Sahitya Sabha, MP), Bhanu Pratab Shukla Journalism Award (Rashtradharm) and the Deendayal Upadhyay Award (Chhoti Khatu Library, Rajasthan) among others.



SHRI GANESHWAR SHASTRI DRAVID

Shri Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid is a Vedic Scholar and a great astrologer who by way of his deep knowledge in the field of astrology helping thousands of people across the world free of cost.

2. Born on 8th December, 1958, Shri Dravid Shastri does not have any degree from any recognized college or University. He received all his education since his childhood from the traditional Gurukul, which was conducted by his father Pandit Rajeshwar Shastri Dravid, an eminent scholar of jurisprudence at Ramnagar in the city of Banaras. Besides his knowledge in Astrology, he also has a vast knowledge in all four Vedas, Vedanta, Nyaya-Shastra (Jurisprudence), Dharma-Shastra (Theology), Darshan-Shastra (Philosophy), Niti-Shastra (Ethics), Raj-Shastra (Political Science), Mimansa-Shastra (Epistemology), Puranas, Ayurveda, etc.

3. Shri Dravid Shastri has made the efforts to promote the Vedic knowledge and practices of Sanatan-Dharma across the country. He is the Examination officer of the council known as Shri Girvanvagvardhini Sabha, established under Shri Vallabhram Shaligram Sangved Vidyalaya, Ramghat, Varanasi. Through his efforts this council provides classical solutions of complex religious, astrological, social and political questions. Notably, Shri Dravid Shastri ji provided the auspicious timing (Muhurta) for the Bhumi Pujan and Pran Pratishtha of the Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and the Kashi Vishwanath Mandir corridor in Varanasi.

4. Earlier, Shri Dravid Shastri had played an important role in preserving the Ram Setu (which was built by Lord Ram's Army) by providing various evidences from the ancient religious texts to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. He had edited the book of Krishna- Yajurveda, 23 years ago in Madras (Chennai) which is one of the historical works.

5. Shri Dravid Shastri is the recipient of various awards and honours. He received various titles like 'Jyotish-Vidya- Ratnam' from Shri Kanchi Kamkoti Peetham, Kanchi, Tamil Nadu in 2022, 'Manikya- Gauravam' from Shri Manikya Prabhu Samsthanm, Humnabad, Karnataka in 2021, 'Tark- Vagish' from Akhil Bharatiya Shri Pandit Parishad, Varanasi in 1982, etc.



SHRI ADWAITA CHARAN GADANAYAK

Shri Adwaita Charan Gadanayak is a renowned Indian sculptor, celebrated for his significant contributions to the world of art. His work, spanning several decades, has earned him a prominent reputation both in India and globally. He is widely acclaimed for his mastery in crafting sculptures that reflect the depth of Indian culture, spirituality and heritage.

2. Born on 24th April, 1963 in Odisha, Shri Gadanayak's formative years were deeply influenced by the indigenous arts and traditions of Indian sculpture. He pursued formal training in fine arts and sculpture at prestigious institutions both in India and abroad. His dedication to his craft grew stronger as he delved deeper into India's rich tradition of sculptural art, which is rooted in religious iconography and cultural history. His work is deeply rooted in classical Indian sculptural traditions, but his modern approach adds a universal appeal to his creations. He has headed the Visual Art Department at the KIIT University Odisha. His ability to blend traditional themes with contemporary aesthetics has set him apart from many of his contemporaries. Drawing inspiration from Hindu mythology and India's diverse cultural heritage, he is known for creating abstract sculptures, demonstrating his versatility in conceptual art forms.

3. Among his most celebrated works is the Police Memorial in New Delhi, which exemplifies his conceptual approach to sculpture. This abstract creation explores the divine, the eternal, and the cosmic, offering a glimpse into the spiritual philosophies. Shri Gadanayak has also developed Sculpture Park for the Piramal Group in Mumbai and a Sculpture at Sakai City's Daisen Park, Japan.

4. As the Director General of the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Shri Gadanayak has led the institution with a visionary approach from 2016 to 2022. Under his guidance, NGMA has undertaken several national projects of great significance. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping the future of India's art landscape. Other highlight projects include E-Auction of Prime Minister's Mementos, Commissioner of the India Pavilion at Venice 2019 under the auspices of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Major exhibitions under BRICS alliance in China and exhibitions in collaborations with art institutions and museums from Japan, Australia, Israel, South Korea, France, Germany, Slovenia, Sri-Lanka, Italy, South Africa, Portugal and more.

5. One of the standout achievements during Shri Gadanayak's tenure as Director General of the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) was the successful renovation of Jaipur House, the gallery's iconic headquarters in New Delhi. Under Shri Gadanayak's visionary leadership, the renovation project revitalized this historic building, blending its rich heritage with modern aesthetics, making it a beacon of India's artistic future. This strategic revamp of Jaipur House not only bolstered NGMA's capacity to display world-class exhibitions but also ensured that the gallery remained a key player in shaping the discourse around Indian and global art in the 21st century.



DR. PAWAN KUMAR GOENKA

Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka is an industry veteran whose career spans several decades across sectors ranging from automotive to space. Dr. Goenka began his professional journey in the automotive industry at General Motors in USA followed by a long and impactful tenure, culminating as MD & CEO, at Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M). Now, as the Chairperson of IN-SPACe, he brings his vision to India's space sector with an unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence, embodying the spirit of "Make in India" in this sunrise sector.

2. Born on 23rd September, 1954, in the small village of Harpalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Goenka completed his high school in Shri Jain Vidyalaya in Kolkata, earned his B. Tech, in Mechanical Engineering from NT Kanpur and Ph.D. from Cornell University, U.S.A. He is also a Graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. He worked at General Motors R&D Centre in Detroit, U.S.A. from 1979 to 1993.

3. Dr. Goenka heeding the call of his heart, gave up a comfortable life and career in the US to return to his motherland in 1993. At M&M, Dr. Goenka transformed challenges into opportunities, developing an advanced automotive centre, modernising R&D infrastructure, and creating products that set industry benchmarks. Under his leadership, M&M introduced world-class vehicles that combined performance with affordability. He also helped groom the Automotive Supplier ecosystem in India, which today is counted as amongst the best in the world. He led the development of the Scorpio SUV, leading to him being called the "Scorpio Man". His commitment to quality and innovation positioned Mahindra as a respected global brand from India.

4. Dr. Goenka is charting a new course for India's space sector IN-SPACe with the creation of a more accessible and vibrant space ecosystem. He has been instrumental in shaping policies that encourage private sector participation, fostering collaboration between startups, entrepreneurs and established industries with government agencies such as ISRO. He has a clear vision for a self-reliant, research-driven space industry with technological advances opening new avenues for economic growth as India moves forward in its journey to become a global leader in space.

5. Dr. Goenka is a Fellow of SAE International and of The Indian National Academy of Engineers and a member of National Academy of Engineers, USA. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Madras. He is the Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Advancing Local value-add and Exports (SCALE), an initiative under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. He was President of SIAM, of the Society of Automotive Engineers India and the ARAI Governing Council.

6. Dr. Goenka has been recognised with numerous awards and honours. He is the first Indian to be awarded the prestigious FISITA Medal. Other awards include the Burt L. Newkirk Award, Charles L. McCuen Achievement Award, Lifetime achievement Award by The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) in March 2022 and by Auto Car India in 2021. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from IIT Kanpur in 2004 and was also conferred with the Doctor of Science (honoris causa) in 2015, reflecting his leadership and visionary contributions to the automotive industry.



PROF. BHARAT GUPT

Prof. Bharat Gupta, former Associate Professor, University of Delhi, Ratna Sadasya, Sangeet Natak Academy, Executive Trustee, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and Vice-Chairman, National School of Drama, is a well-known figure in the field of arts. He is a classicist, theatre theorist, sitar and surbahar player, musicologist, cultural analyst, and newspaper columnist. His writings have altered the perception of ancient Greek drama as 'Western theatre', showing its utter closeness with techniques of ancient Indian theatre. He is known as an international authority on the *Natyashastra*. His book on a comparison of ancient Greek and Indian theatre is found in all the libraries of the world and is used widely as a teaching text.

2. Born on 28th November, 1946, Prof. Gupta has expounded extensively on many classical Indian Sanskrit texts including the *Dharma Shastras*, *Arthashastra* and *Kamasutra*. He is an ardent advocate of the need to include texts of Dharma and Arts in modern curriculum. He is one of the very few persons in India who is formally trained in both, Western and traditional Indian systems. Apart from his degrees from premier institutions of India and North America, he has studied the classical texts from famous gurus in the traditional method. Not only a theorist and an academic, he is an accomplished sitar and surbahar player, formally trained in sitar by Pt. Uma Shankar Mishra, and in *shastras* by Swami Kripalvananda, Acharya Brihaspati and Prof Satya Bhushan Yogi.

3. For more than fifty years, Prof. Gupta has lectured and taught at Universities in India, North America, Europe, and Greece on Indian music, culture, and dharma and theater theory. He was awarded the famous Onassis Fellowship to research on ancient Greek theatre and served as jury for the International Onassis Award for Drama. Working for life-long on Indology and Faith Dialogue, he is a master of comparative studies in the area of theatre, religion, culture and music as well as religious studies. As an Indologist he has delivered innumerable lectures in India and North America to counter the views of some anti-Hindu Indologists and has published many articles against them.

4. Prof. Gupta has participated in dozens of inter-faith dialogues which were held in serious academic locations in Greece, Europe and America. His most famous encounter was to represent Hinduism in the Hindu Jewish Dialogue conducted by Swami Dayanand Saraswati with Rabbi Daniyal Sperber of Israel. As an Exponent of Classical Indian Texts, Prof Gupta has developed a special expertise in providing *vyaakhya* or analysis of classical Indian texts in Sanskrit to the modern audience. He expounds in the traditional *kaarika baddha riiti*, that is reading the original text in Sanskrit and after translating it into Hindi or English or both, he provides the analysis of the whole text in the style of ancient *vyaakhyaakaaras*.

5. Prof. Gupta has tirelessly promoted an understanding of Indian Knowledge traditions by mentoring a wide variety of young scholars, public speakers, social influencers and Youtubers. His major published books include: *Dramatic Concepts Greek and Indian* (1994, 1996, 2006, 2012 & 2016), *Natyashastra*, Chapter 28: *Ancient Scales of Indian Music* (1996), *Twelve Greek Poems into Hindi* (2001), *India: A Cultural Decline or Revival?* (2008). He is a proficient user of Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Greek languages for his scholarly studies and writings and is an internationally renowned speaker in Hindi and English. His 360 video lectures of 500 hours can be seen on www.youtube.com/Bharatgupt10 and <http://www.bharatgupt.com>.



SHRI NAREN GURUNG

Shri Naren Gurung is a renowned and outstanding person in the field of art and literature from Sikkim. He is celebrated as a bridge between Sikkim ancient traditions and modern cultural expression.

2. Born on 21 January, 1957, Shri Gurung received the Higher Secondary Education Certificate from West Bengal Education Board in the year 1974. Later he joined as a Primary Teacher in Dikling High School, presently under Pakyong District of Sikkim. Government of Sikkim transferred him into Song and Drama unit, in the year 1979 on considering his talent in the field of Art and Culture. Shri Gurung is the founder artist of the Song and Drama unit of Sikkim.

3. Shri Gurung with his vehement talent in the field of Art and Culture served the state govt, as singer, musician, choreographs and drama artist. Besides he has generously preserved the Nepali Folk literature and music. Shri Gurung with his extraordinary talent has revived/recollected the vanishing cultural heritage of his community.

4. Shri Gurung is a graded artist as he has performed radio AIR concert and recording with AIR Gangtok, AIR Shillong, AIR Agartala, AIR Imphal, AIR Guwahati, AIR Kurseong. He is associated to Sangeet Natak Akadamy, New Delhi (life time) and NEZCC, EZCC and Sikkim Akademi, Nepali Sahitya Parishad Sikkim and Sanskar Bharati Sikkim. Besides the above awards, he has been invited as a resource person and Jury Member for many events held within state and outside as well. Showcasing the cultural heritage of the state, he had performed various folk lore all over India and abroad such as North/South America, Africa etc.

5. Shri Gurung has done specialization on Research and Study in many subjects of Nepali folk songs and folk dances as well as parampara and folk tales (customary and folk tales) such as Maruni, Sorathi, Sangini, Ratauli, Ghasia, Rasia, Asaray, Damkey, Bethi, Balan, Khaichadi, Dolakhe, Kanyadan, Nawmati, Dhan naach, Shilok, Kabite, Chudka, Jhaurey, Gaine, Deosi-Bhailo, Bhaileni, Malshree, Thado Bhaka, Tamang Selo, Chandi, Ghato, Kaura, Gothaley geet, Tungna geet, Lok dohori etc. Shri Gurung has penned a couple of books viz; Lok Darpanbhitra Bhanjhyangka Bhakaharu 2017, Lokayan ma Banchaka Nepali lokgeet Sangeet 2021, Tirsana Geet-Sangeet ko- 2023.

6. Shri Gurung is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has been conferred Sikkim state Award - 2008 for folk Singer Composer and Lyrist, Sangeet Natak Akadamy Award 2004 - New Delhi, Sikkim Sewa Samman - 2022 – by Govt, of Sikkim, Lok Sahityakar M.M. Gurung Smriti award- 2022 by Gaari Bas – Darjeeling.



SMT. SHALINI DEVI HOLKAR

Smt. Shalini Devi Holkar is a leading advocate for India's handloom industry and a champion of artisan empowerment. Her efforts in promoting Maheshwari textiles and supporting weavers, particularly women, have had a lasting impact on India's textile heritage.

2. Born on 11th August, 1945 in the United States, she pursued her education at Stanford University, USA, where she developed a deep appreciation for art, history, and culture. After her marriage into the Holkar royal family of Indore, she was introduced to the centuries-old Maheshwari weaving tradition. Recognizing the need for its revival and the empowerment of the weaving community, she dedicated herself to revitalizing the craft.

3. Smt. Holkar co-founded REHWA Society in Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh in 1978 with the vision of rejuvenating the Maheshwari weaving industry while providing sustainable livelihoods for artisans. Under her leadership, REHWA has trained hundreds of weavers, introduced new designs while maintaining traditional techniques, and expanded markets for Maheshwari textiles both in India and internationally. She played a crucial role in ensuring financial independence for women weavers, pioneering social initiatives such as weaver housing, education, and healthcare programs. She also established the Devi Ahilyabai Bal Jyoti School to provide low-cost, high-quality education to the children of Maheshwar's weaving community and built a housing colony for Maheshwar's handloom weavers.

4. Smt. Holkar also founded Women Weave Charitable Trust in 2003 to create employment opportunities in handloom for women from non-weaving backgrounds. Women Weave specializes in weaving hand-spun Khadi textiles in contemporary designs for the export market. She actively promotes natural dyeing techniques, ethical textile production, and direct artisan-consumer linkages, shaping discussions on sustainable fashion and cultural preservation. Women Weave also focuses on innovation and sustainability in rural weaving communities, ensuring that traditional skills continue to thrive in a modern context.

5. Smt. Holkar founded the Handloom School under the aegis of Women Weave In 2015, an initiative aimed at equipping young weavers with essential business and design skills to help them become handloom entrepreneurs. The school provides training in entrepreneurship, design innovation, and market access, ensuring that the next generation of weavers can sustain and grow their craft in the 21st century.

6. Smt. Holkar's relentless efforts in reviving the Maheshwari handloom tradition have positioned Maheshwar as a key center for handloom textiles, ensuring that the age-old weaving tradition continues to thrive in modern times. Through her leadership and dedication, she has redefined the role of handloom as both a cultural treasure and a means of economic upliftment.

Padma Shri



SHRI VASUDEO TARANATH KAMATH

Shri Vasudeo Taranath Kamath is an eminent painter.

2. Born on 27th April 1956 in Karkala, Karnataka, Shri Kamath completed GD Art (Drawing and Painting) through prestigious Sir JJ school of Art in Mumbai with distinction and Gold Medal.

3. Shri Kamath has a passion to paint portraits from life. The most prestigious portraits by him are of the former Presidents of India Smt. Pratibha Devising Patil and Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Besides that he has also painted Shiv Sena Supremo Late Shri Balasaheb Thakare, Governor of Uttar Pradesh Shri Ram Naik, Ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra Late Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh and Shri Bhavarlal Jain family and friends, Jalgaon. His subjective paintings are revelation of historical or mythological events bearing his unique signature qualities.

4. Shri Kamath's unique and genuine approach has bagged him the legendary series of paintings on illustrious life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. A series of more than 100 paintings on the life of Lord Buddha at Global Vipassana Pagoda at Mumbai are made under his directions and drawings. He has also rendered his work at Akshardham Temple in Delhi, whereby he has designed the sculptures of Deities, elephant panels and exhibition area. Recently he is doing drawings for the plinth panel sculptures of Ram Janmabhumi temple, Ayodhya. He has also worked on paintings on the life of Buddha at Tsubosaka Dera Temple in Nara, Japan, Mahatma Gandhi panel paintings for Gandhi research centre in Jalgaon. Through these paintings he tries to revive the long lost tradition of subjective painting and act as a link to carry further the art form to enliven a lost thread of past.

5. Shri Kamath has been giving demonstrations and lectures at various art schools and colleges. He has also been providing guidance to self- aspirant artists and students under the roof of Sanskar Bharati for the last 20 years. He has also authored books; 'Sketching and Drawing', 'Portraits' and My Paintings and my Thoughts'. 'Portrait Artist Group' (Non Profit Organisation) conceptualised by Shri Vasudeo Kamath in 2014, holds an annual painting and Sculpture competition among young and aspiring artists. He has held more than 25 solo exhibitions and numerous group exhibitions. He has also served as 'President' of Sanskar Bharati, The Bombay Art Society and The Art Society of India.

6. Shri Vasudeo Kamathji is recipient of numerous awards and honours. A few prestigious awards are 1977 'Gold Medal' in Annual Art exhibition, Sir JJ. School of Art 1977 Usha Deshmukh 'Gold Medal', 1982 Bombay Art Society's 'Gold Medal', 1991 31st Best Entry- State Art Exhibition Maharashtra, 2006 The Draper Grand Prize, Portrait Society of America, 2019 60th National Lalit kala Academy Award for Best Entry, 2021 'Kalidas Samman' Puraskar, Madhya Pradesh.



DR. JASPINDER NARULA KAUL

Dr. Jaspinder Narula Kaul is a celebrated Bollywood playback singer, who shot to fame after her super chartbuster "Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha" from the film 'Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha' for which she won the 1999 Filmfare Best Female Playback Singer Award & Star Screen Best Female Playback Singer Award.

2. Dr. Narula was born on 14th November, 1966 in a musical family. Her father S. Kesar Singh Narula, was a renowned music composer of Punjabi Film & Music industry and her mother Mohini Narula was a noted Punjabi & Haryanvi Folk singer. Apart from her father, her Gurus were Pt Sita Ram ji & Ghulam Sadiq Khan Sahib of Rampur Sahaswan Gharana. Dr. Narula's career started at a very early age when she was discovered as a wonder child and in 1974 her first singing tour abroad started with shows in UK & Canada. And thereon she kept travelling across the globe delighting billions of music lovers with her melodious voice and heart rendering numbers. Her 1st Super 7 record of devotional songs was released by HMV (His Masters Voice) in 1975.

3. Dr Narula kept away from films singing to complete her studies and it was only post her Bachelor's, Master's & MPhil degrees in music that she entered film industry but pursued her studies in parallel to her commercial successes and completed her Ph.D. in Hindustani classical music from Delhi University in 2008. She not only excelled in Bollywood singing but also commands Sufi, devotional, Punjabi folk, classical & Western music styles. She has her uncountable number of songs released in all genres of music recorded in almost all languages of India and rest of the world.

4. Dr. Narula again won the title of India's Best Live Performer in NDTV Imagine's professional/celebrated singers' competition reality show, 'Dhoom Macha De' in 2008. She is the 1st Indian singer to introduce the Sufi chartbuster 'Dama Dam Mast Kalandad to Indian audiences at a young age of 8 at the inaugural function of Doordarshan Kendra, Jalandhar. And in 2024 she completed 50 illustrious years of her singing career during which according to an estimate she has sung for about 350 films & 25-30 thousand non-filmi songs.

5. In Mumbai's film world, it was Ghazal Maestro and music composer Late Sh. Jagjit Singh who gave Dr. Narula the first break with a devotional Punjabi Film's number closely followed by the noted music composer Kalyanji Bhai and his son music director, Viju Shah with films like 'Master', 'Aar Ya Paar' and 'Bade Miyan Chhote Miyan'.

6. Dr. Narula's first commercial hits started from songs of Film "Judai" in 1996-97. And then followed a series of block-busters like Virasat, Fiza, Aa Ab Laut Chalein, Pinjar, Soldier, Dulhe Raja, Major Saab, Mission Kashmir, Devdas, Mohabbatein, Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani and Bunty Aur Babli, Hello Brother, Surya Vansham, Dulhe Raja, Hogi Pyar ki Jeet, Chaar Sahebzade Soldier, Janam Samjha Karo Dillagi, Joru Ka Ghulam etc.

7. Dr. Narula has been honoured with several awards including filmfare award in 1999: Best Female Playback: "Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha" from Pvaar To Hona Hi Tha. Star Screen Award in 1999: Best Female Playback: "Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha" from Pvaar To Hona Hi Tha. NDTV Imaging award in 'Dhoom Macha De': A celebrity singers contest on NDTV Imagine. She has been awarded by Legislative Assembly Alberta, Canada, Silver Nighingale of Uzbekistan & many other distinguished institutions of USA, UK, Canada, South Africa, North Africa, East Africa, Mauritius, New Zealand, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Bangladesh, Singapore, Indoneisa, Malaysia, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Surinam etc

Padma Shri



SHRI STEPHEN KNAPP

Shri Stephen Knapp is an American author, researcher, and speaker deeply dedicated to understanding and promoting Indian traditions, particularly Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism). He has been a bridge between the East and West, helping millions understand the profound spiritual depth of India. His writings, lectures, and service to humanity have made him an important global ambassador for Indian culture.

2. Born on 29th September, 1950, Shri Knapp also known by his spiritual name of Shri Nandanandana Dasa after being initiated by Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. He is presently the Chairman of the Board at the Detroit Iskcon Krishna temple and has spent over 50 years managing various Krishna temples. He is also the founding president for 15 years and presently Co-Chairman of the Vedic Friends Association, an organization that networks with other writers, scholars and teachers of Vedic culture with students from around the world. He is also the founder of the World Relief Network, a publishing company that helps distribute books and media that explains Vedic spirituality globally.

3. Shri Knapp's contributions to Indian culture include the writing of hundreds of articles and 55 books so far on Indian spirituality, Vedic traditions, and philosophy, such as "The Secret Teachings of the Vedas", "Proof of Vedic Culture's Global Existence", "The Heart of Hinduism," "Advancements of Ancient India's Vedic Culture," "Crimes Against India," and many others. These books provide insights into Indian culture and history and offer a spiritual roadmap for seekers worldwide. He has explained ancient Indian scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam, and the Upanishads, making them accessible to international audiences. Through his lectures and writings, Stephen Knapp has been an advocate of Indian spirituality and has tirelessly worked to dispel misconceptions about Indian Vedic culture and promote its universal appeal, and to show how to apply the Dharmic traditions to uplift people everywhere.

4. Shri Knapp is a supporter for the preservation and respect of Indian temples and heritage sites, both in India and abroad. His campaigns for protecting these treasures from neglect encourages people worldwide to visit and appreciate India's architectural and spiritual marvels. After two dozen trips through India, he has visited every state in the country except Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, and acquired a collection of over 18,000 slides of India's holy places and festivals. He has also brought global attention to the richness of Indian spirituality, art, and heritage. These efforts have boosted cultural tourism, contributing to India's global image as a spiritual hub. His efforts have fostered greater understanding between India and the rest of the world. His teachings have inspired young Indians and foreigners alike to delve deeper into the roots of Sanatana Dharma, helping create a revival of interest in Hinduism and yoga.

5. Shri Knapp contribution to Indian culture is a testament to his unwavering devotion and commitment to spiritual enlightenment and cultural preservation. He recently won an award from the Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council (HMEC), and from the Vishva Hindu Parishad of America for a lifetime of contributions to the Hindu community.



SHRI LAMA LOBZANG (POSTHUMOUS)

Reverend Lama Lobzang was a profoundly inspiring Buddhist monk and a man of remarkable character. His dedication to community welfare is a source of gratitude and appreciation for the Ladakhi people. For nearly sixty years, he embodied the teachings of Buddhism, spreading compassion and offering specialized medical care to the people of Ladakh.

2. Born on 1st January, 1931 into the Kau family in Sheynem village, Leh, Lama felt a profound spiritual calling from an early age. He embraced monkhood, embarking on his spiritual journey in the Sankar Gompa, mentored by Revered Lama Lobzang Tsonduz within the Gelugpa Buddhist Order. From 1951 to 1962, he completed his education at Sarnath and was ordained a monk after a significant journey to Tibet. Recognizing the importance of modern education, he played a crucial role in enabling many children from Ladakh to seek learning opportunities, first at Sarnath and later at the Ladakh Institute of Higher Studies, Delhi, and later renamed Vishesh Kendriya Vidyalaya. In 1961-62, he was appointed the private secretary to Reverend Kushok Bakula Rinpoche. They secured permission from the government to establish Ladakh Bodh Vihar, a distinctive colony aimed at helping the people of Ladakh. This Vihar, a centre for education and medical care, was a significant milestone in Reverend Lama Lobzang's career. Appointed as Secretary-in-charge, Lama Lobzang devoted nearly two decades to serving the Ladakhi people who came there for education and medical care.

3. From 1980 to 1983, Shri Lama Lobzang was a member of the Minorities Panel for Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, and Other Weaker Sections. Later, he served as a non-statutory member of the National Commission for Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes from 1984 to 1992, followed by constitutional membership from 1995 to 2001. He was also a member of the National Commission for Schedule Tribes, Government of India, from 2004 to 2007. As a supporter, founder, and Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation, he was pivotal in realigning Buddhist organizations globally and participating in significant revitalization efforts. His influence extended far beyond Ladakh, profoundly impacting the global Buddhist community.

4. In the 1980s, as President of Ashoka Mission, Shri Lama Lobzang committed himself to establishing a Medicare facility. The mission offered patients and caregivers accommodations for short and long durations with treatment at AIIMS and Safdar Jung Hospitals. His vision connected the remote region of Ladakh with Delhi, creating a collaborative model of medical care accessible to all areas of Ladakh. In the 2024 medical camp organized by Ashoka Mission, 5500 patients were examined by a team of superspecialist doctors. To the people of Ladakh, he was affectionately known as 'Mey lay.' Under his stewardship, the Ashoka Mission in Delhi has become a medical missionary work hub.

5. Shri Lama Lobzang has been honoured with many awards such as the Atisha Dipankar Peace Gold Award in 2019 (Bangladesh) and an honorary doctorate from Vietnam's Buddhist University in 2013, awarded an outstanding leadership role (2014) by two organizations: Vietnam's Buddhism Today & Thailand's World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth and the National Office of Buddhism, Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 by the All Ladakh Gompa Association, An award for his contribution to Buddhism by the Acting Supreme Patriarch of the Supreme Sangha Council Thailand in 2016, the Lifetime Achievement Award from LAHDC, UT Ladakh and the Medal of Honour from the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (Mongolia) in 2024, presented by the Honourable Vice-President of India.

6. Shri Lama Lobzang passed away on 16th March, 2024.



SHRI VINAYAK LOHANI

Shri Vinayak Lohani is the Founder and President of Parivaar (parivaar.org), a humanitarian organization established in 2003 with its chief institutions and projects based in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

2. Born on 12th April, 1978, Shri Lohani received his Bachelor of Technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 2000, and MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta in 2003. He was driven by the inspiring exhortation of Swami Vivekananda of selfless service to those in suffering and make one's life one with them. He resolved to devote himself for serving 'Divine in Man' as taught by Swami Vivekananda. Immediately after passing out of IIM in 2003, with just 3 children in a small rented building on the outskirts of Kolkata, he started Parivaar. But he had no resources. So in order to kickstart his mission, till the level of 15 children at Parivaar, he used to take some lectures for students appearing for Management entrance examinations and through that could meet the expenses of the set-up. Gradually people began to be inspired by this dedicated service and started to support the initiative and the number of children at Parivaar grew.

3. At the end of 2004, Parivaar could purchase its own land to develop its permanent campus. Parivaar's mission and theme began to attract dedicated youth, many of whom joined Parivaar as resident workers and began to become bearers of this mission. As on January 2024, Parivaar's Bengal Residential Institutions have more than 2100 resident children and is considered to be a model institution for caretaking and overall development of children from destitute backgrounds in a residential setting. It is also the largest free residential institution for children from impoverished backgrounds in the whole of West Bengal.

4. Shri Lohani after 14 years of relentless service in Bengal and with many youth inspired to join him, expanded Parivaar's footprints into Madhya Pradesh in 2016. From 2017 onwards it has set up, as on 10th February 2025, 834 Seva Kutirs (Educational and Nutrition Centers) which are serving more than 55 thousand children in selected impoverished tribal pockets in 18 districts of Madhya Pradesh and one district of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand each. There are 4 residential institutions in 3 districts of Madhya Pradesh which are serving about 1350 resident children which too are scaling up. From the year 2021, several health initiatives have also been started. 93 free 24*7 Ambulance Services in selected impoverished tribal regions in 23 districts of Madhya Pradesh are serving more than 6500 persons every month. Vision Restoration Program has been started for poor elderly from rural/tribal area. Under this more than 5800 eye camps have been organised in 36 districts of MP and one each in UP and Rajasthan, serving more than 6.5 lakh persons and conducted more than 73 thousand surgeries free of cost in collaboration with some eye hospitals. 21 Mobile Medical Clinics have been started in 8 districts covering 982 villages in highly impoverished tribal areas, treating and serving free medicine to more than 50 thousand persons every month.

5. Shri Lohani is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has been awarded the National Award for Child Welfare 2011 presented by the Hon. President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He is also the recipient of Sanskriti Award 2011, country's premier award for young achievers in 2011 from the Former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Shri Lohani was awarded 'Sri Sathya Sai Award' by the Vice President of India, Dr Venkaiya Naidu, in 2018. Shri Lohani was awarded the 'Distinguished Alumnus Award' of both IIM Calcutta and IIT Kharagpur, in 2011 and 2014, respectively.



PROF. (DR.) ASHOK KUMAR MAHAPATRA

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra is an eminent neuro surgeon working as Medical Advisor to SOADU.

2. Born on 29th December, 1952, at Puri, Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra joined MKCG Medical College in 1970, where he completed MBBS in 1975. He did MS and MCh Neuro Surgery from AIIMS Delhi. From 1983 - 2017 he worked as a faculty of Neuro Surgery at AIIMS Delhi. He joined as Professor in the year 1996 and as a Senior Professor at AIIMS in the year 2004. He was appointed Director, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) Lucknow in 2006 and Director AIIMS Bhubneswar in the year 2012. He retired as Dean Research, AIIMS New Delhi after spending nearly 42 years at AIIMS (Delhi). He worked as Vice-Chancellor at SOA University (Deemed to be University), at Bhubneswar and superannuated in 2022 December. Currently, he is working as Medical Advisor to SOADU.

3. During the tenure at AIIMs, Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra published 870 papers, wrote 16 Books and more than 140 chapters. In last 30 years he conducted over 20 research projects. He guided 12 Ph.D students during his tenure at AIIMS. During 1998 – 2008, he had 3rd highest Medical Publication in India and highest no. of publications at AIIMS. He has 870 publications with more than 26,800 citations and H index 64 and I 10 index 569. He figures in 2% scientist of world 2019-2023 and 5% of Neuro Surgeon in the world of Neuro Scientist, and 1% of Pediatric Neuro Surgeon in world.

4. Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra worked as Director of SGPGI for 3 year (2006-2009) and during these 3 years he successfully completed more than 10-12 projects such as School of Telemedicine, Liver Transplant Centre, BMT Centre, Advanced Pediatric Centre, Trauma Centre etc. and completed 2nd phase of SGPGI (2006-2009). During his tenure 6 depts. were started at SGPGI. 1) Hospital Administration, 2) Pediatric Surgery, 3) Pulmonary Medicine, 4) Maternity and reproductive health, 5) Neonatology and 6) Molecular Medicine.

5. Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra was the founder Director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, which was started in 2012. Starting from scratch, MBBS, BSc (Nursing Hons), PG and DM, MCh was started in a four years period between 2012-2016. He also started BSc. (Hons) Medical Technology at AIIMS Bhubaneswar - 2015.

6. Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra started Neurological Surgeon Society of India (NSSI) in 2011 became the founder President. He also started Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery (ISPNS), 2011 and was the founder President. He contributed heavily to the development of Pediatric Neuro-Surgery (1989-2012), Neuro trauma (1991-2020) and Skull Base Surgeon society in India (1998-2020) and Peripheral Nerve Surgery (2020-2020). In SGPGI, a Centre of Medical Technology was created between 2007-2008. When New AIIMS started, he ensured from Govt. of India MCH to start Medical Technology College in each AIIMS. It was a welcome step and was approved for all 6 AIIMS.

7. In the last 40 years Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra has received many awards. He received 75 awards delivered 17 Orations and received many life time achievement awards. He was a fellow of National Academy of Science, and member of Academy of Medical Science.

Padma Shri



SHRI BAIJNATH MAHARAJ

Shri Bajinath Maharaj is the Peethadheeshwar of the Shri Nathji Maharaj Ka Ashram, Laxmangarh, Sikar, Rajasthan.

2. Born on 5th March, 1935 in a Brahmin family of Panlawar, a village near Laxmangarh. Shri Bajinath at the age of 4, came into contact with Shri Shraddhanathji Maharaj, a saint of the same village and remained in his guidance until his demise in 1985. As a student, he was very brilliant and obtained the degree of M.A. in English literature and Hindi from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He worked for 25 years at Gyan Bharati Vidyapeeth, Kothiyari as Principal. During his tenure the school became widely popular for the character building of students.

3. In 1985, at his guru Shri Shraddhanathji Maharaj's behest, Shri Bajinathji left the school and came to the Nathji Maharaj ka Ashram, Laxmangarh, where he was duly initiated into Nath panth and declared his heir at the Ashram. After passing away of his guru, Shri Bajinath further developed the Ashram. He built several other rooms and a library of religious books. He replaced the hut, in which his guru used to live into Shraddha Smriti Mandir where his belongings are placed. He wrote several books and got them published. He also established a branch of the Ashram at Mount Abu, where activities like meditation, bhajan are conducted. At Ashram, many programs are organized throughout the year, among which Shraddhanathji's Barsodi (Nirwan Day), Shivratri, Gurupurnima, Diwali, New Year, Holi, Navratri, Ramnavami, Hanuman Jayanti etc. are prominent. He built Shraddha Sanskrit Vidyapeeth where students get Vedic knowledge besides usual school subjects. Recently he has established Shri Shraddha Yoga evam Darshan Shikshan Sansthan, where trained teachers prepare the students for diploma in yoga. This institute is recognized by Shri Ramanand Sanskrit University, Jaipur.

4. In about 90 years of his life, Shri Bajinath has worked hard towards service of the country, religion, humanity, education, character building etc. but has never tried to popularise himself or seek praise.



JAINACHARYA SHRI VIJAY NITYANAND SURISHWAR JI MAHARAJ

Jainacharya Shri Vijay Nityanand Surishwar Ji Maharaj is a Jain Monk, who was conferred with the title 'Acharya Shri' at the age of 35. Apart from spreading of principle of Jainism, he is known for his contribution to literary works and social service.

2. Born on 3rd August, 1958, in a Punjabi Jain family in Delhi, Jainacharya Maharaj renounced all worldly possessions at the age of 9 and became a Jain monk along with his family. He studied Sanskrit, Prakrit etc. For 57 years, he has traveled over 2 lakh kilometers on foot, spreading the principles of Jainism across India, from Jammu to Kanyakumari/ Chidambaram and from Kutch to Kolkata/ Cuttack.

3. Jainacharya Maharaj has also established or renovated several educational institutions across India, including the 30+ institutions set up by the Punjab Kesari Acharya Vijay Vallabh Surishwar Ji Maharaj years ago, who had succeeded the sect lineage of Jainachrya Shri Vijyanand Suri. 110-year-old Shri Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya in Gujarat, which has undergone renovation and expansion; Jain Study Center at Sharda University; Acharya Vijay Vallabh School in Pune; Shri Atma-Vallabh Public School, in Abohar; Shri Atma-Vallabh Jain Kanya Mahavidyalaya in Ganganagar, Rajasthan are such few examples. He has developed several institutions which prominently includes Mahavir Super Specialty Hospital in Lachhwad (Bihar). This is providing free medical services, including microsurgery and eye operations, benefiting over 40,000 people over several years. Offering free education to over 700 students annually, along with computer labs and job assistance has also been a key priority in this region. He has renovated and developed over 400 Jain temples and pilgrimage sites across India. He has also written over 30 books based on his inspiring discourses, contributing significantly to the literary world.

4. Jainacharya Maharaj's peaceful nature, seriousness, and organizational skills have earned him the title of "Shantidoot" (Messenger of Peace). From time to time, in accordance with his work, he has been decorated with many titles like Kalyanak Teerthodwarak, Gyan Ganga Bhagirath, Vikas Visharda, Aman e Masiha, Samanvay Sarathi etc. by various Sangh Samaj. Communities such as Sikhs, Muslims, Gram Panchayats have also regarded him with various appreciation titles on several occasions. Doing great such social services, despite being living a life of strict discipline as Jain saint is regarded quite an uncommon effort.



PT. RONU MAJUMDAR

Pt. Ronu Majumdar is India's ace flautist who has the credit of popularizing Indian Flute (Bansuri) in the younger generation of this era all over the globe. He is considered as the most respected name in the Indian Flute Playing of this era. When it comes to Flute, he is a style maker and has invented unique style of rendering the Raga, which has good mixture of 'Drupad Gayaki' with 'Laykari'.

2. Born on 28th July 1965, Pt. Majumdar began playing the flute under the guidance of his father Dr. Bhanu Majumdar, late Pt. Lakshman Prasad Jaipurwale and finally the revered Pt. Vijay Raghav Rao. He was also fortunate to receive training from his grand guru Pt. Ravi Shankar. A powerhouse performer, he is firmly rooted in the Maihar gharana. He has created an enviable niche for himself in the field of contemporary popular music which is exemplified by his Grammy Nomination in 1996.

3. Pt. Majumdar has conducted a concert of 5,378 flautists on one stage called 'Venu Naad'. This event is being recorded in Guinness Book of World Records. His another World Record was when his composition 'Samved' was played at the Tansen festival at Gwalior on 15th December 2024. He was the music composer and lead of the 'Largest Hindustani Classical Band' where 546 participants played different musical instruments together. This also is included recently in the Guinness Book of World Records. He has composed music for India's first I-Max film "Mystic India".

4. Pt. Majumdar has been felicitated with numerous remarkable accolades for his mesmerizing performances worldwide. He has been awarded the 'Sangeet Natak Academi Award for 2014' for his contribution to Hindustani Instrumental Music - Flute. Films Division of India has produced a documentary film on him called 'Bansuriwala'. He has also been bestowed with All India Radio Award {1981}; Aditya Vikram Birla Award {1996}; National Kumar Gandharva Award {2006} and Lifetime Achievement Award by Navbharat Times by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Phanavis.



PT. TEJENDRA NARAYAN MAJUMDAR

Pt. Tejendra Narayan Majumdar is one of the foremost icons of Sarod who is globally revered as one of the finest contemporary maestros propagating Indian Classical Music in concerts and festivals across the globe. He is also an extremely popular music composer who has been composing scores in numerous movies, documentaries, theatres, dance dramas, nonfilm audio albums and television commercials for the last 5 decades.

2. Born on 17th May, 1961, Pt. Majumdar's early initiation into music was by his grandfather, Shri Bibhuti Ranjan Majumdar and later his father, Shri Ranjan Majumdar, who was a Sitarist. He got further training by the Sarod Maestro Ustad Bahadur Khan, Pandit Amaresh Chowdhury and Shri Anil Palit. Eighteen years of intensive study under Ustad Bahadur Khan matured his talent into a true genius. After the demise of his guru, he studied under Shri Ajay Sinha Roy and the Sarod Legend Padma Vibhushan Awardee Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. One of the best equipped maestros to carry on the great Senia Maihar Gharana mantle, Pt. Tejendra combines the intellectual density and technical virtuosity of his gharana, with an extraordinary tone, touch and an ambient melody. His repertoire combines elements from the Dhrupad, Tantrakari as well as Gayaki styles of music.

3. Pt. Majumdar is a regular face in almost all the prestigious classical music festivals all across India. He was invited by the Sitar Legend Pandit Ravi Shankar to perform at the Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA, in 2009. He has performed in the prestigious global festivals and venues such as - Madisson Square Garden, USA; World Trade Center - The Twin Towers, USA; Swar Sammelan, Esplanade Theatres, Singapore; Theatre de la Ville, France; 50 Years Celebration of Sangeet Natak Academy, Egypt; WMI Festival, Symphony Space, USA; Chicago Symphony Hall, USA, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; Stanford University, USA; University of California, Los Angeles, USA; Emory University, USA; University of Illinois, USA; Duke University, USA; University of Toronto, Canada; University of Georgia - Athens, USA, University of Columbia, New York, USA; Cornell University, USA, among others.

4. Pt. Majumdar is the Founder and Head of Shreeranjani Foundation Trust, which has been actively organizing Indian Classical Music & Dance Festivals across India under the name of Swara Samrat Festival since 2013. His brilliance and popularity as a classical artist has not dimmed his interest in composing, arranging and experimenting in other areas of music. One of his composed and arranged music albums "SOUL CALL-OM NAMO NARAYANA" had been nominated for the 2010 GRAMMY AWARDS.

5. Pt. Majumdar's recognition came as early as in 1981, when he stood First in the All India Radio Music Competition and was awarded the President's Gold Medal and the Pandit D.V. Paluskar Award. He is also a Top Grade artist of All India Radio & Doordarshan. The Government of India has honoured him with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (in 2019). The Government of West Bengal also has awarded him Sangeet Mahasamman (in 2014) and Banga Bhushan (in 2015).



SHRI SHEEN KAAF NIZAM

Shri Sheen Kaaf Nizam is an eminent Urdu critic, poet, and literary scholar, whose poetry flows at a confluence of the Arabo-Persian and Hindi-Sanskrit tradition.

2. Born on 8th November, 1946 in the princely State of Jodhpur, Shri Nizam's name at birth was Shiv Kishan Bisssa. However, his love for poetic accuracy and discipline led him to a new name Sheen Kaaf Nizam. He had a deep religious upbringing, accuracy of language of the Pushtikar Brahmin household and early an extensive grounding in Sanskrit classics with the phonological accuracy of reading aloud; all traits he carried right across into his Urdu creativity. The grounding in Hindu religion nurtured and equivalent respect for the Islamic scriptures and their literary ramifications. His primarily self learnt Urdu was refined by Persian that he learnt from his treating Janab Muinuddin Ahmad at the Unani dispensary and Urdu linguistic accuracy and finesse from the Urdu critic and editor Mahir ul Qadari of Pakistan, through correspondence with him. He is loved by Hindus and Muslims, Indian and Pakistani, Hindi and Urdu readers and poets alike.

3. Author of over a dozen volumes of poetry and books of criticism, Shri Nizam has mesmerized audiences in over a thousand mushairas in a hundred cities across a dozen countries across the world. Some of his poetry collections are Lamhon Ki Saleeb (1971), Naad (1980), Dasht Mein Dariya (1984), Saaya koi Lamba Na Tha (1988), Saayon ke Saaye mein (1996), Bayaazen Kho Gayee Hain (1997), Rasta yeh Kahin nahi Jaata (2010), Aur Bhi Hai Naam Raste ka (2015). He has also published books in criticism, including Tazkira Maasir Sho'ra-e-Jodhpur (1991), Lafz Dar Lafz (2001), Mani Dar Mani (2010), Lafz Ke Dar Par (2020), Bheed Mein Akela (2001). He has edited many Devnagari volumes of poets like Wazir Agha, Nida Fazli, Kumar Pashi and others besides editing Deewan-e-Ghalib.

4. Shri Nizam's works have been widely published, translated, acclaimed and recorded. His poetry collection "Gumshuda Dair ki Gunjti Ghantiyan" won the Sahitya Akademi Award (2010). He has received numerous national awards such as "Iqbal Samman" (2006), "Begum Akhtar Ghazal Award" (2006), "Mahmood Sheerani Award", "Marwar Ratna", "Raja Man Singh Samman", "Shaane-Urdu Award" (2015), "Acharya Vidya Niwas Mishra Samman" (2016), "Sanskriti-Saurabh Award" (2017), "Shameem Jaipuri Award" (2019), "Gangadhar National Award for Poetry" (2019), "Rajasthan Ratna" (2022), "First Fellowship Award of Rajasthan Urdu Academy" (2023) and "Lifetime Achievement Award" in Qatar.



PROF. NITIN NOHRIA

Prof. Nitin Nohria is the Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor and George F. Baker Jr. Professor of Business Administration. A distinguished scholar and leader, he served as the 10th Dean of Harvard Business School from 2010 to 2020, significantly contributing to the school's global reputation and impact. As a thought leader in leadership and organizational behavior, his research has shaped the understanding of CEO effectiveness and corporate performance. His work continues to shape the next generation of leaders and redefine the role of business in society.

2. Born on 9th February, 1962 in Mumbai, Prof. Nohria received his Bachelor of Technology in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, in 1984 and then earned a Ph.D. in Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management in 1988. He then joined the faculty of Harvard Business School, where he became a beloved teacher and renowned voice on the factors that drive individual and organizational success. A prolific author, he has co-authored or co-edited 16 books and over 100 research articles and teaching cases.

3. Prof. Nohria as Dean of Harvard Business School, led a decade of transformation focused on innovation, intellectual ambition, internationalization, inclusion, and integration. He revitalized the MBA program by launching Field Immersion Experiences for Leadership Development (FIELD), an innovative hands-on learning initiative to complement the school's famed case teaching method. He spearheaded the launch of Harvard Business School Online, enabling the school to reach a broader global audience. He championed intellectual ambition through initiatives like the U.S. Competitiveness Project, inspiring research on the Future of Work, Financial Stability, and Business and Society. He expanded the school's international reach by opening new research centers in several countries, encouraging faculty and students to learn from the best ideas worldwide. He promoted inclusion, enabling everyone to thrive fully, become more central to the school's culture. He advanced integration across Harvard, particularly through the Harvard Innovation Lab, which has since become a university-wide hub for entrepreneurship. Under his leadership, Harvard Business School also completed a major capital campaign that enhanced its campus and strengthened its ability to influence the future of business education.

4. Prof. Nohria has been actively engaged in management practice as an advisor to leaders in a wide range of firms. He is the chairman of Thrive Capital, a leading venture capital firm, and Exor N.V., a global financial holding company. He also serves on the boards of ABI, Alsym, Bridgespan, Massachusetts General Brigham, and Rakuten Medical. In India, he has been a senior advisor to the Piramal Group and served as an independent director of Tata Sons.

5. Prof. Nohria has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to business education and leadership. His notable recognitions include the George R. Terry Award for the Best Book by the Academy of Management (1997), the Pricewaterhouse Coopers Award for Best Article (2005), the McKinsey Award for Best Paper in Harvard Business Review (2008), and the C.K. Prahalad Distinguished Scholar-Practitioner Award from the Strategic Management Society (2012). He has also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Bombay (2007), Global Indian of the Year from The Economic Times (2010), Indian Global Achiever from CNBC/TV18 (2010), Foreign Policy Association Medal (2013), and honorary doctorates from INCAE Business School, Costa Rica (2018) and Universidad PanAmericana, Mexico City (2019).



SHRI ONKAR SINGH PAHWA

Shri Onkar Singh Pahwa, Chairman and Managing Director of Avon Cycles Limited is a visionary leader whose strategic innovations have significantly advanced the cycling industry in India. Under his stewardship, Avon Cycles has set new standards for quality and innovation, establishing itself as a global force in both traditional and electric bicycling. His initiatives have helped transform Avon Cycles into one of India's top bicycle brands, now present in over 80 countries, and his contributions have been fundamental in shaping the broader industry.

2. Born on August 10, 1952, into the family that established Avon Cycles, Shri Pahwa was immersed in a tradition of innovation from a young age. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Govt. College, Ludhiana, in 1973. His early experiences and deep understanding of market dynamics from the outset have been crucial in preparing him for significant roles that have propelled the cycling industry forward.

3. Shri Pahwa over the past five decades, has not only overseen the expansion of Avon Cycles' reach but has also diversified its product line, significantly impacting the global market. His leadership has been instrumental in integrating cutting-edge designs and advanced technologies, which have played a pivotal role in contributing to the Indian cycling industry. His tenure as President of the All-India Cycle Manufacturers' Association and his directorships in various industry-related companies underline his influential role in the industry.

4. Shri Pahwa is also deeply committed to community service. Through the Kaushalya Devi Pahwa Trust, he supports health and education initiatives, improving lives within and beyond his community.

5. Shri Pahwa has earned numerous accolades for his contributions, including the "Punjab Udyog Ratna" award in 2022 and the "Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year." In 2023, he received the LMA - Sat Paul Mittal Lifetime Achievement Award. His role has been invaluable in laying a foundation for bringing the dream of the common man into reality, making bicycling more accessible and affordable, thereby enhancing mobility and fostering sustainable transportation solutions.



PROF. RATAN KUMAR PARIMOO

Prof. Ratan Kumar Parimoo is an internationally renowned painter, art historian, pedagogue and curator. He is widely acknowledged as the pioneer of New Art History in India having introduced European methodological framework alongside Indian aesthetic theories of Rasa and Alamkara for the analysis and interpretation of Indian art.

2. Born on 16th June 1936 in Srinagar, Prof. Parimoo received his Bachelor's (1955) and Master's (1957) degrees in Painting and diploma in Museology from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara and BA Honours in History of Art from University of London (1963). He earned his PhD in 1972 - the first ever in Art History from an Indian art institution as a painter. Prof. Parimoo served as the Head of the Department of Art History & Aesthetics from 1966 to 1991, the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts from 1975 -1981 and retired from active teaching service as Professor in 1996. He has served on advisory committees of the UGC, NCERT, Lalit Kala Academy, JNU Board of Studies, NGMA, ASI, and INSA among others. He has expanded the scope of Indian Art History by developing upon the scholarship of earlier generation of scholars. He pioneered research and critical writing on Modern Indian art when it was still an untrodden path. Through his teaching and writings, he has convincingly demonstrated how theories of iconology, semiotics and hermeneutic reading of representation of art could be applied to Indian art as well.

3. Prof. Parimoo's leadership in curating, revamping and reorganising the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum and NC Mehta collections between 2007-2019 into a world class institution has been widely acknowledged. As an artist he co-founded the first Baroda Group of Artists (1956) where he played a key role in defining modern Indian art in post-Independence India. In his own art practice, he pioneered Abstraction and Surrealism inspired by his study and teaching of European art.

4. Prof. Parimoo is an acclaimed authority on classical and modern Indian arts, especially Arts of Ajanta & Ellora, Buddhist Art of Asia; Medieval and Modern sculpture; Jain, Rajasthani, Pahari and Mughal paintings; the art of Raja Ravi Verma, Rabindranath Tagore and the Bengal school, among others on whom he has published many monographs way before they received much academic attention. Being the first artist-art historian to research on the art of the Three Tagores, his *Art of Three Tagores - From Revival to Modernity* (2010) is a timeless authoritative reference book. Among his most recent publications, a massive volume titled *From the Earthly World to the Realm of Gods* (2015) on the rare drawings from the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Collection is a world class publication elevating the artistic endeavours of Indian traditional master painters.

5. Prof. Parimoo is a recipient of the Cultural Scholarship for Painting from the Government of India (1957-59), Commonwealth Scholarship to study Art History in England (1960), JDR Rockefeller III Grant of the Asia Society New York (1974), Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship (1991), Gaurav Puraskar of the Gujarat State Lalit Kala Academy (2000), Raja Ravi Verma Chitrakar Award (2016) the prestigious Rabindranath Tagore Birth Centenary Medal (2019) of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for his contribution to Human Culture, and the Raja Ravi Verma award for excellence in the field of Visual Arts by the Maharaja Ranjitsingh Gaekwad Baroda Festival of Arts (2024).



SHRI CHAITRAM DEOCHAND PAWAR

Shri Chaitram Devchand Pawar is an eminent social worker from Maharashtra who is known for his works for the tribal welfare and environment protection.

2. Born on 1st June, 1967 in Baripada Distt of Sakri Tehsil of Maharashtra, Shri Pawar received his master's degree in Commerce from University of Pune in 1993. He belongs to tribal background and has worked with forest dwelling tribes since last 30 years on various issues such as tribal development, empowerment, self reliance, forest rights, conservation of natural resources, agriculture and sustainable development etc.

3. Shri Pawar started working from his village with the help of Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram, which has now been extended to 100 villages in Maharashtra and Gujarat. He is working as President of Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram and also networked with various NGOs working in tribal area to pool their knowledge for empowering the emerging tribal youth leaders. Modules from this model of leadership development in tribal villages have been taken up by other organizations working with tribals in Western Ghats.

4. Shri Pawar undertook various activities for the development of tribal persons. Tribal life and culture is dependent on Jal, Jungle and Jameen. He tried to stop cutting of forest in his village and took forest conservation and development to a new level. He started water conservation efforts with community participation. He started community based water shed development initiatives like loose boulder bunds, CCT etc. He began with cultivation of 5000 trees with his own contribution. He leveraged existing Government schemes towards forest and water conservation. Due to his efforts and community support, a dense forest on 445 hectares has been developed. The water conservation effort has resulted in providing protective irrigation to atleast 500 acres and irrigation system for Rabi crops in 250 acres. Recognizing his efforts for environment protection, he was appointed as an Expert Member of Forest Advisory Committee of Department of Environment and Forest of Government of India in 2015.

5. Shri Pawar's initiatives resulted in increase farm and forest income of tribal people improving their socio economic status. He also worked for curbing mal-nutrition, adoption of small family norms, Primary education, girls education and women involvement in decision making. He encouraged used of chlorinated water, regular use of toilet and soak pit, use of improved chulhas, solar cooker etc.

6. Shri Pawar's contributions have been honored with many awards. He was awarded Biodiversity Award in 2014 by UNDP. Maharashtra Government conferred upon him Shetinisht Shetkari Puraskar in 2013, Adivasi Sevak Puraskar in 2014 and Maharashtra Vanbhushan Puraskar in 2024. He was also honored with several other awards such as Sant Tukaram Vangram Puraskar, Vasant Rao Naik Samaik Puraskar etc.



DR. HASSAN RAGHU

Dr. Hassan Raghu is the founder and director of Centre for indigenous Folk Martial Arts, Ramanagara, Karnataka. His contribution as a Master (Guru) of indigenous martial arts in India is commendable.

2. Born on 18th January, 1954, Dr. Raghu is an Ex-Defense Personal in the Indian Artillery Division and was awarded with Sangram Medal (Indo-Pak War 1971). He was a Physical Instructor at ASPT-Pune and gymnastic Instructor from NS NIS South. He started his career as stuntman in the year 1978 and became action Director/Stunt master in the year 1980. He established stunt institute to trained unemployed youths to provide job opportunities as stunt artist in Film and TV theater and stage performance. He trained more than 10 thousand artists and more than 300 masters in the India and also overall contribution in the field of Art more than thousands of Artists working make their life in Film and Television industry, Theaters and Stage performance. He worked in more than 150 movies South Indian films. In 1986 he received Best Action Award for Kannada film 'Accident' from Govt. of Karnataka. In 2009 he was member of Jury for the feature film section of Indian Panaroma- 2009. He is also a Board member for state cine workers Welfare Fund Committee, Govt. of India; Founder Secretary, All Karnataka Cine Stunt Directors and Association, Founder Vice President Karnataka Film Workers, Founder General Secretary for Karnataka Film and TV Technicians.

3. Dr. Raghu is associated with many organisations. He is founder of Karnataka Sahasa Kala Academy, Sahasa Kala Shikshana Kendra, Janapada Guru Kula and Adventurous Sports Hostel, Ramanagara, Karnataka, Rashtriya Shouryakla Mahavidhalya, Research & Development centre for indigenous Martial Arts and rural games and Ancient Marshal Arts study centre, which is first of its kind in India.

4. Dr. Raghu is Visiting Faculty for National School of Drama, New Delhi, Bangalore & Varanasi Kendra since 1994. He has organized Akhila Bharath Shourya Kala Mahothsava-Shourya Parva, since 2011, which has completed 14 National Festivals and Akhila Bharatha Loka Kala and Adhivasi Kala Festival from 2018, 2019 & 2020, which was conducted all over India in about 18 states. He is the Founder General Secretary for All India Folk & Tribal Art Parishath, New Delhi for the welfare of the Folk and Tribal Artist in the country.

5. Dr. Raghu is Member of Expert Committee for folk and indigenous art of Ministry of Culture, Government of India and CFPGS committee member from 2010-2017, Senior Fellowship for Indian Traditional Fight Arts in theatre from Sangeeth Nataka Academy, Govt. of India, Research Project Director for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage and diverse cultural traditions of India from ICH, SNA, New Delhi. He served as member in Karnataka Janapada Academy, Govt. of Karnataka and Syndicate member for Karnataka Folklore University, two terms Chairman for Board of Studies for indigenous Martial Art, Chairman of Studies for Gurushishya Parampara scheme, Chairman for Board of studies for skill development programs in folklore studies, member of rural youth services and traditional games.

6. Dr. Raghu was honoured with Karnataka Rajyothsava award from Karnataka Govt. in 2017 and Janapada Lokasri award 2018 by Karnataka Janapada Parishath. He was awarded Honorary Doctorate from Karnataka Folklore University, Haveri, Government of Karnataka for the year 2024.



DR. LAKSHMIPATHY RAMASUBBAIYER

Dr. Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer is a famous journalist. Starting from humble beginning in Dinamalar, Tamil Newspaper as an Advertisement Executive in 1956, he rose to the level of its Joint managing Editor. He is the President of Subbalakshmi Lakshmipathy Foundation - a Charitable Educational Trust.

2. Born on June 17, 1935, Dr. Ramasubbaiyer received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Travancore University, and Diploma in Newspaper Management in Thompson Foundation, United Kingdom. In 1970, Thompson Foundation deputed him for a Diploma in Newspaper Management in University of Cardiff, South Wales, United Kingdom.

3. Dr. Ramasubbaiyer revolutionised the newspaper industry bringing in the cutting edge technology from time to time. He held various positions in newspaper arena. He was the Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulation (1986-87), Chairman of Press Trust of India (1998-99, 2006-07 and 2012-13), President of Indian Newspaper Society (1992-93) and President of Indian Languages Newspapers Association, Mumbai (2001-03).

4. Besides his achievements in Newspaper industry, Dr. Ramasubbaiyer started his efforts in providing quality education to the under privileged society in rural areas around Madurai. With this objective, he started Subbalakshmi Lakshmipathy Foundation, a Charitable Trust to bring about radical changes in education. His vision was to provide job-oriented education. He started a CBSC School, Arts and Science College, Business School, Maritime Training Institute, Engineering College, with a single objective of "Learning for better living". These institutions provide quality education for the last 30+ years for the meritorious students without any kind of capitation fee. These job oriented under-graduate and postgraduate courses are in the fields of catering, animation, visual communication, banking, insurance, cyber security, data science, networking, food processing, fire & Industrial safety, logistics and commerce.

5. Dr. Ramasubbaiyer held many honourable positions in universities. He was the Senate Member of the Madurai Kamaraj University (1989-91), Senate Member of the Bharathiar University (1997-2000), Syndicate Member of the Madurai Kamaraj University (2003-06, 2018-21, 2021-24), Secretary Madurai College Board (1986-90), President of the Tamil Nadu Unaided Colleges Management Association, President of Madurai Kamaraj University Private Colleges Management Association, Member of the National Integration Council, Ministry of Home Affairs (2005-08).

6. Dr. Ramasubbaiyer was conferred with Doctor in Literature (Honoris Causa) in recognition of his contributions and achievements in Education and Journalism by Alagappa University in the year 2003 and by Bharathiar University in the year 2009.



SHRI DURGA CHARAN RANBIR

Shri Durga Charan Ranbir, a distinguished figure in Odissi dance, is known for his exceptional performances and is revered as a mentor. As one of the most senior Gurus in the field, his international recognition is a testament to his virtuosity. Over his four-decade career, he dedicated himself to propagating this dance form, serving as a dancer, demonstrator, Guru, and choreographer.

2. Born on 1st March, 1951 in Kamaguru, Odisha, Shri Ranbir pursued his education at Utkal Sangeet Mohavidyalaya under the guidance of Guru Deba Prasad Das. He also received additional lessons from Dr. Minati Mishra and Guru Pankaj Charan Das. He earned the esteemed "Nrutyacharya" degree, facilitating his professional journey.

3. In addition to his teaching, Shri Ranbir established the Temple of Learning Nrutya' (Nrutyayan). This institution follows the traditional Gurukul system and has expanded its influence both nationally and internationally, with centers such as "Lotus" in the United States, "Tarana" in Canada, and "Kalpana" in Malaysia. His students have achieved significant recognition, attaining prestigious honors such as the State and Central Sangeet Natak Academy Award, the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Award, and the Mahari Award, among others. More than 120 of his students have received National Scholarships. At the same time, over 40 have been awarded Fellowships, and more than 30 have been acknowledged as empanelled artists of the ICCR and 10 TOP-graded artists of Doordarshan.

4. Shri Ranbir performances, workshops and training programs have spanned the globe, taking him to diverse locations such as the USA, Japan, Australia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, France, China, Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Germany. In India, he has performed both solo and in groups at major dance festivals, including Khajuraho, Konark, Ghungroo, Nisagandhi, Surya, Natyanjali, Nataraj Mahotsav, Haridas Sammelan, Ananya Festival, and the International Odissi Festival, and those organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Department of Tourism & Culture of the Government of India and various state organizations.

5. Shri Ranbir's choreographies are a testament to his profound understanding and deep reverence for traditional dance, incorporating elements such as Sabda-Swara-Pata. His repertoire includes over 20 Mangalacharans, 18 Pallavis and 100 Abhinayas along with notable dance dramas like "Ramayan to Bharatiya Nari," "Navagraha to Gopinath Jagannath," "Konark to Chandra Upasana" and "Aditya Archana." His expertise is widely recognized as a member of selection committees for significant festivals and a jury for national scholarships.

6. Shri Ranbir has received numerous accolades, including the Odisha State Academy Award and the Central Sangeet Natak Academy Award. He is acclaimed as a Top Grade Choreographer by Doordarshan and an Outstanding Guru by the ICCR.



PROF. ARUNODAY SAHA

Prof. Arunoday Saha is an economist and a renowned literary personality with a vast reader base in India and abroad. He is the first and founding Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University (a Central University) and the former Chairman of Tripura State Higher Education Council.

2. Born on February 4th, 1948 in Sepahijala district, Tripura, Prof. Saha did his schooling from Bishalgarh Higher Secondary School. He studied briefly at Umakanta Academy, Agartala. He attended M.B.B. College in Tripura to pursue his pre-university course before moving to the prestigious Presidency College, Kolkata, to obtain his bachelor's degree in Economics. He completed his master's in Economics from Calcutta University and received a Ph.D in Economics from Utah State University, USA.

3. Prof. Saha during his four-and-a-half decades-long professional career held various positions in academic and civil administration. He began his professional career as a school teacher, and his first assignment was at Bir Bikram Institute, Dharmanagar, North Tripura. After serving there for brief period, he moved to Agartala to join Ramthakur College as a faculty of economics. He joined Tripura University as a teaching faculty in 1978 when it was just a study centre under Calcutta University. Tripura University became a fully pledged state university in 1987, and in 2007, it became a Central University. He served Tripura University in all stages of progress and promotion. He was a professor of Economics there, and in 2007, he was trusted with the responsibility of the first and founding Vice-chancellor of Tripura University (a Central University) to lead it from the front.

4. Prof. Saha returned back to India after completing his Ph.D in the USA with his newly acquired skills, experience, and wisdom to serve the people of his home state and country, and he did so successfully throughout his professional career and thereafter. He is a prolific writer in Bengali literature. His writings have taken the flavour of cultural tradition and harmony of Tripura beyond the geographical and cultural boundaries and barriers to have a long-lasting impact on the minds and thoughts of the readers. He has made an immense contribution to strengthening the treasure house of the literature of Tripura. He has inspired writers of his time and the next generation. His writings and literary creations reflect the cultural and traditional bonds of the two communities, the tribal and non-tribal of the state of Tripura. He enjoys the love and appreciation of his readers from all across the globe.

5. To recognise and acknowledge his service and contribution to society through education and literature, Prof. Saha was conferred with the prestigious 'Tripura Vibhushan Samman-2024', the highest civilian award of the Government of Tripura.



SMT. LIBIA LOBO PRATAPRAO SARDESAI

Smt. Libia Lobo Prataprao Sardesai is a distinguished freedom fighter, Goa's first woman advocate, social worker, and activist on issues relating to women and consumers. She co-ran the radio station 'Voice of Freedom' against the Portuguese regime, and hers was the voice that declared to the people of Goa that they were free on December 19, 1961.

2. Born on May 25, 1924, in Socorro, Porvorim, Smt. Sardesai completed her matriculation at Antonio de Souza High School in Byculla, Bombay, and thereafter completed her B.A. in English (Hons) from Siddharth College, Bombay. During her student days, she was Secretary of the Goan Youth League working for the freedom of Goa.

3. During World War II, Smt. Sardesai worked as an Italian translator/censor in the POW British Establishment for Italian prisoners in Bombay. In 1955, she was awarded her LL.B degree from Government Law College, a course she completed while working for All India Radio, Bombay. After completing her law studies, she resigned from All India Radio to join the underground movement for Goa's Liberation. From 1955 to 1961, she was instrumental in running 'The Voice of Freedom', an underground radio station broadcasting from the forests to listeners in Goa. She ran the station along with Shri Vaman Sardesai (Padma Shri awardee) and for a short time, Shri Nicolau Menezes. The last broadcast of the radio station was the announcement of Goa's Liberation on December 19, 1961, from an Indian Air Force plane in the skies. The announcement was synchronized with the lowering of the Portuguese flag and the hoisting of the Indian tricolour for the first time on Goan soil.

4. After Liberation, Smt. Sardesai did liaison work with the Union Ministry of External Affairs connected with the repatriation of Portuguese troops in Goa. In March 1962, she was appointed Goa's first Director of Tourism. She held the post till 1968, and during her tenure, completed various projects including a colour film on Goa with the United Nations Development Programme, and helped put Goa on the tourist map of India and the world. In 1968, she left government service to start legal practice, becoming the first woman lawyer to practice in the courts of Goa.

5. Smt. Sardesai promoted and founded the first and only Women's Cooperative Bank in Goa, in Panaji in 1973. She was its Chairperson for more than ten years after its founding. The bank is still running, totally by women with women Directors. Later, in 1986, she founded and was President of the AIWC Jubilee College of Home Sciences, Goa, affiliated to Goa University. In 1973-74, she was lecturer in Constitutional Law at Salgaocar College of Law, Panaji. From 1974 to 1987, she was Vice-President, Goa Daman and Diu Advocates' Association. In 1983, she was a member of the Indian delegation to the World Peace Conference in Moscow. In 1985, she was a member of the Indian delegation to the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women in Nairobi, and participated on behalf of the All India Women's Conference.

6. Smt. Sardesai was felicitated by the Indian Army and Indian Navy for her collaboration in the struggle for Goa's Liberation on her 100th birthday. She was thereafter felicitated by the Chief Minister of Goa with a Certificate of Honour for her role in Goa's freedom struggle.



DR. MADUGULA NAGAPHANI SARMA

Dr. Madugula Nagaphani Sarma is a renowned Sanskrit and Telugu poet par excellence who has revived, revolutionised and propagated the Bharatiya art of Avadhanam. He is widely recognised across the world for his innovations, melodious voice, divine poetry and songs which made this scholarly art of Avadhanam reach millions of people.

2. Born on June 8, 1958, Dr. Sarma learnt Vedas from his father at a very tender age. He also pursued Ramayana, Mahabharatam, Bhagavatam and other scriptures. He completed Sahitya Shiromani from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupathi in 1981 and completed Proficiency in Oriental Learning from Andhra University, Waltair in 1982. He completed M.A. in Sanskrit from Andhra University. Further, he completed Doctorate (Ph.D) in Sanskrit from Rastriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Mysore in 1996.

3. Dr. Sarma performed his first Avadhanam at the age of 14 years and was accredited as the youngest Avadhani in the country. In his illustrious career of over 52 years, he has performed over 2000 Avadhanams across the globe. His literary innovations in avadhanam include, Mee Prashnaku Naa Pata- My song to your question, Nrityapadi- Metrical notation to the footwork of dance, Swarapadi- Extempore poetry to Sonic metre. He is the first and only Avadhani to perform Maha Sahasravadhanam with 1116 Scholars and then Dwi Sahasravadhanam with 2116 Scholars in Sanskrit and Telugu. His savadhanams had crossed Indian shores and drew audiences across the world in various countries such as U.S.A., Australia, Singapore, Bahrain, U.K., Germany, France, etc. He has authored over 40 books, 33000 Poems, authored and rendered over 3000 songs- stotras in his melodious voice, delivered over 11000 hours of discourses on Sanskrit and Telugu literature, Santana Dharma, thus promoting Vedic, spiritual and nationalistic ideals in society.

4. Dr. Sarma established Avadhana Saraswathi Peetham, an ashram about 30 years ago, which is an abode to Goddess Saraswathi (Temple) and Goshala serving over 100 desi cows. He serves the society through the numerous Educational, Cultural, Spiritual and Welfare programs benefitting over onelakh students and general public from different sections of the society. He served as Additional Secretary, Dharma Prachara Parishad, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (1990-92). He also served as Chairman (Cabinet Rank), Official Language Commission (1999-2002), Government of Andhra Pradesh (undivided). He has greatly advanced the popularity of Avadhanam, Indian Languages and Culture in these roles.

5. Dr. Sarma has been honoured with covetous honours from chief pontiffs of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, Sringeri Sarada Peetham, Mysore Datta Peetham. He is the recipient of many awards like Ugadi Puraskaram by Government of Andhra Pradesh (1997), Kopparapu Kavula National Award by Kopparapu Kavula Kala Peetham(2016), Swastivachanam Award by Sarwabhoma Sanskrit Samvardhana Samstha(2014), Sri Kala Poorna by SAPNA, U.S.A.(2002), Lifetime Achievement Award by World Telugu Federation(1992), American Telugu Association(2004), Telugu Association of North America(2005), Sivananda Eminent Citizen Award by Sanatana Dharma Charitable Trust(2017), Nanduri Ramakrishna Memorial Centenary Award (2022) etc. He has also been honoured with the titles- Avadhana Sahasraphani, Tarun Tapasvi, Human Computer, Intellectual Super Computer, Medha Ratna, etc. by eminent leaders in public life.



DR. PRATIVA SATPATHY

Dr. Prativa Satpathy is an eminent and celebrated poet, critic, translator and editor in Indian literature and is known for her profound contributions to Odia language and literature.

2. Born on 18th January, 1945, in the Cuttack district of Odisha, Dr. Satpathy received her post-graduation and Ph.D. degrees from Utkal University. She has taught in reputed government colleges of Odisha, both at UG and PG levels, throughout her illustrious teaching profession under the Government of Odisha, which also includes academic research work and administration too. She retired from the Odisha Education Service as a member of the Staff Selection Board, Odisha. Along with her teaching profession, she has also edited two literary magazines titled 'Istahar' and 'Udbhas', which have a landmark in the field of Odia literature for their editing values.

3. Dr. Satpathy's poetry and poetic work are noted for their emotional depth, feminist perspectives, and exploration of personal and societal themes. Her poetry often reflects the experiences of women in Odia society, addressing issues like identity, empowerment, and social constraints. Her writings frequently highlight women's struggles and aspirations, blending traditional Odia cultural elements with contemporary feminist thought. She delves into intimate aspects of human connections, love, loss, and resilience. Her work has inspired a generation of writers, particularly women, to articulate their experiences through literature. Her poetry remains relevant for its exploration of universal themes through the lens of Indian culture, life, myth and humanity, resonating with readers across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Her contributions to Odia literature have 20 poetry collections, 04 critical research works, 6 essay collections, 8 books on translation, 01 autobiography and biography, one travelogue, etc.

4. Dr. Sathpathy's poetry collection includes titles like Asta Jahnara Elegy, Grasta Samay, Sahada Sundari, Niyata Vasudha, Nimishe Akshara, Mahamegha, Shabari, Tanmay Dhuli, Adha Adha Nakshatra', Kahi na Hele, Tuma paain Thare Sabuthara, Jaba Kusum Sankaasang, Ajaramara, Hrudaya Kholi Dele and other titles. Her most notable research-orientated critical works are Kalpanaara Abhishek, Spandanar Bhumi, Pratifalan, Uttara Adhunika Odia Kavita O Anyanya Prabandha, Bharat Matara Luha, Kabitara Udbhasan O Nabyalochana, Nari Janma, Nari Astitwara Bastabata: Bibartita Odia Kabita, etc. She has also penned her autobiography in a book titled 'Shaishabaru Sansar' alongwith the biography of eminent lady freedom fighter Sarala Devi. Along with editing literary journals, she has also translated books by eminent Nobel Prize winners and veteran Indian authors. Her literary works are also widely translated into all major Indian languages and poems in foreign languages like English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Hungarian and some other languages.

5. Dr. Sathpathy's poetry collection titled 'Nimishe Akshara' was awarded by the Odisha Sahitya Academy in 1986. Her collection 'Shabari' received the prestigious Sarala Award in 1991 and 'Tanmay Dhuli', awarded by Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters), New Delhi, in 2001, which is translated into 13 Indian languages, including English, under the title 'Enchanting Dust'. She is awarded many prestigious national awards, like the Kabeer Samman, 2014, from the hands of the Honourable President of India in the year 2017. She has also received the N.N. Thirumalamba Saswati Rastriya Puraskar, Karnataka, for her poetry collection 'Adha Adha Nakshatra' in the year 2001. She is honoured with the Gangadhar Meher National Poetry Award for 2025 from Sambalpur University.



SHRI HARIMAN SHARMA

Shri Hariman Sharma is a well-known progressive farmer, who has developed an innovative variety of Apple (HRMN-99) that can be successfully grown in plains, tropical and subtropical areas where the temperature can be as high as up to 40 to 50 degree Celsius during summers. This variety does not require chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting.

2. Born on 4th April, 1956 in a small village Paniyala in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sharma studied till class ten and left schooling, because of family's economical background. He started practicing farming for wealth generation. But traditional farming has not given enough dividends to him. That is why he has started practicing horticulture. Initially he was growing traditional fruit plants of this area like mango, litchi, guava, etc. But this area received heavy snow frost during winter season due to which mango plants were spoiled and not giving as much fruit. Then he started working on alternative for traditional crops. That alternative came in the form of HRMN-99 (a variety of apple developed by him).

3. Shri Sharma always used to dispose the seeds of eaten apple in his backyard or surroundings of his home. After some years he noticed that the seeds had started germinating. In 2001 he got some fruits on the tree. As a farmer he could sense that this apple tree bearing fruits at a warm area like his village situated at 1800 feet above sea level was extraordinary. He preserved this plant and next year he took some branches and grafted on a plum tree as no apple tree was available. The grafting was successful and started bearing good quality fruits after three years. During 2004 to 2005 he brought crab apple seedlings from Shimla and grafted the same. He created mini orchard of apple trees which continues to bear fruits till date. National Innovation Foundation has extended their support and started transplantation of HRMN 99 saplings from 2014 to 2015 for introduction and evaluation trial in different areas of the country with the objective of adoption and fruiting study in three years plants. Interestingly fruiting has been reported in two or three year plants in almost every state of India. Now this variety is also giving fruits in different parts of world like Nepal, Bangladesh, Germany, Oman, etc. This variety has also conserved under the PPVFRA Act 2001 and designated as a Farmer' Variety.

4. Shri Sharma is the recipient of numerous awards and honours such as 9th Biennial Green Grass Root Innovator award by National Innovation Foundation (An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Science and Technology Govt, of India) in 2017, Jagjivan Ram Krishi Abhinav Puruskar given by Indian council of Agriculture Research in 2020, National Innovator Award by Govt. of India Deptt. of Agriculture in 2016, Best Farmer award by ICAR at Varanasi U.P. in 2018, IARI Fellow award in 2017. Rajasthan Veterinary University Bikaner conferred him with Kheton ke Vagayanik in 2017. Bihar Agriculture University presented him with Best Green Grass Innovator award in 2018. Sher e Kashmir University of Science and Technology Jammu conferred him Innovative Farmer Award in 2021. ZEE Media conferred him with Pride of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal award in 2017. Due to his vast experience in the field of agriculture Career Point University Hamirpur Himachal Pradesh has appointed him as Professor of Practice.



PROF. (DR.) CHANDRAKANT TRIKAMLAL SHETH (POSTHUMOUS)

Prof. (Dr.) Chandrakant Trikam Lal Sheth was a distinguished poet, essayist, critic, translator, and editor, who has made significant contributions of high order to Gujarati literature and academia. He served as an esteemed professor at Gujarat Vidyapith, an institution founded by Mahatma Gandhi, for 35 years until his superannuation. His literary and academic journey continued when he joined the Gujarat Vishwakosh Trust in March 1998, where he played a crucial role for over 25 years.

2. Born on February 3, 1938, in Kalol, Panchmahal district, Gujarat, Prof. (Dr.) Sheth had an impressive body of work spanning over 150 published works across multiple literary genres. His literary career began in 1948 with a poignant poetic tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Since then, he has authored fifteen collections of poetry (1972–2023), demonstrating mastery in diverse forms, including sonnets, ghazals, epic-length poems, and songs. Writing in both Chhand and Achhand poetic traditions, he explores themes of despair, hope, and self-discovery. As a literary critic, he has analyzed Gujarati, Indian, and international works through Indian and Western critical frameworks, focusing on principles, coherence, narrative development, and creativity. His contributions to literary criticism include 31 books (1979–2022), offering profound insights into the evolution of literary trends, styles, and cultural contexts.

3. Apart from poetry and criticism, Prof. (Dr.) Sheth has made remarkable contributions to creative writing, including essays, short stories, and monologues. Essay writing remained his preferred genre, with 17 collections showcasing his imaginative, descriptive, and reflective style. His autobiography, "Dhool Ma Ni Paglio," is a deeply introspective and compelling work that has resonated widely, with eight editions and translations into Rajasthani and Hindi. His literary works, particularly his poetry, have been widely recognized and included in school and college curriculums, shaping generations of readers.

4. Prof. (Dr.) Sheth has played a remarkable role in Gujarat Vishwakosh Trust's monumental endeavour of producing 25 volumes, 25,000-page general encyclopaedia in Gujarati. Following its successful completion, he led the creation of the Children's Encyclopaedia (Bal-Vishwakosh), overseeing the production of ten volumes. Additionally, he was instrumental in updating the first ten volumes of the general encyclopaedia and contributed significantly to several subject-specific encyclopaedic works.

5. Prof. (Dr.) Sheth's contributions have left an indelible mark on literature and academia. His vast body of work has fostered a love for reading, inspired critical thinking, and promoted intellectual growth among readers of all ages. His legacy is a testament to the transformative power of words, ensuring that his influence will continue to inspire future generations.

6. Over his illustrious career, Prof. (Dr.) Sheth has been honoured with 36 awards for his contributions to literature. His autobiography won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award (1986), while his work in children's literature earned him the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Award (2018). Other notable accolades include Kumar Chandrak (1964), Narmad Suvarna Chandrak (1964), Ranjitram Suvarna Chandrak (1985), Uma-Snehrashmi Prize (1984–85), Dhanji Kanji Gandhi Suvarna Chandrak (1986), Narsinh Mehta Award (2005), Sahitya Gaurav Puraskar (2006), and the Savyasachi Saraswat Award (2023).

7. Prof. (Dr.) Sheth passed away on 2nd August, 2024.



SMT. BHIMAVVA DODDABALAPPA SHILLIEKYATARA

Smt. Bhimavva Doddabalappa Shilliekyatara is an international puppet artist of Moranahalli village, Koppal taluk, Koppal district. She belongs to a Scheduled Caste Nomadic Tribe and has made puppetry as a clan craft and has made significant achievements in art.

2. Born on 1st June, 1929, Smt. Shilliekyatara gained international fame in puppetry. She has performed leather puppetry in many countries including America, Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, Saudi Arabia, Paris, Tayron and Dubai. She has been appreciated by foreigners and has given significant contribution by performing leather puppetry in thousands of cultural programs of Karnataka Government. She has been performing leather puppetry for seven decades and preserving the art culture heritage of Karnataka. She has performed 18 Parvas of Mahabharata including the most legendary story Ramayana, Mahabharata, Virata Parva, Kurukshetra, Lavakusa Kalaga, Daupadi Vastrabarana, Adiparva, Sarpaparva and the current events through puppetry. She is still training her children and grandchildren in leather puppetry training camp and her family, the Government and many organizations have given her many honors in recognition of her service.

3. Smt. Shilliekyatara has given her performance in Hampi Utsav, Anegundi Utsav, Kanakagiri Utsav, Mysore Dussehra Utsav, Koppal District Utsav, Darwada Utsav, Lakkundi Utsav, Horanadu Utsav, 87th All India Kannada Literature Conference, Bangalore Utsav, Kittoor Utsav, Belavadi Mallamma Utsav, Sangolli Rayanna Utsav, Performing Arts Study Utsav, Gombe Heritage Utsav, Folk Fair, Janpara Utsav. She has succeeded in upholding the art, culture and heritage of the country by performing leather puppetry in the Suggy Huggy Utsav, a program sponsored by the Kannada Culture Department and thousands of other government and association cultural programs.

4. Smt. Shilliekyatara is the recipient of several awards and honors for her contributions to performing puppetry such as 1992 Teran Country International Gombe Utsav Award, 2004-2005 janapada Yakshagana Award, Performing Arts Study Award, 2014 Karnataka Rajyotsav Award, 2021-22 Janapadashree Award, Bayalata Academy Award, Senior Citizen Special Award, All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelna Award, Hampi Utsav Award and Anegundi Utsav Award, Gombe. The Government of Karnataka honored with Heritage Festival Award, Mysore Dasara Festival Award, Darwada Festival Award, Koppal District Rajyotsava Award, Belavadimalamma Award, Kittoru Festival Award.



SHRI TUSHAR DURGESHBHAI SHUKLA

Shri Tushar Durgeshbhai Shukla is a poet par excellence, renowned across Gujarat for revitalising Gujarati language through his powerful songs, poems and inspirational talks that links Gujarati culture and values with literature and music.

2. Born on 29th June, 1955, in Ahmedabad, Shri Shukla completed his BA with Gujarati and English literature from St. Xavier's College - Gujarat University in 1976 and MA with Gujarati literature and linguistics from School of Languages - Gujarat University in 1978. He joined All India Radio (AIR) in 1979 as Announcer-junior grade and served AIR for 28 years till he took a premature retirement from the post of Station Director, Rajkot to serve Gujarati language full time. Since 2007, he has been spreading his love for his mother tongue across the globe. He has been to USA, UK, France, Norway, Japan, Australia, Canada, UAE, and many nations of African continent as an invited speaker by NRI community where he has focused on engaging with NRI youth to help them reconnect with their roots.

3. Due to Shri Shukla's ability to connect with masses, especially the youth through poetry that energizes, his poems are used as institution's anthems by Gujarat University, Gokul Global University, Teachers University, L J University, CVM University, Silver Oak University, AMC School board, BANAS Dairy. He has written theme songs for prestigious state events such as the Gujarat Day, Independence Day, Bharatiya Bhasha Sangam, Gujarati Hastakshar Abhiyaan, Rannotsav, Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam, Maharshi Arvind Vandana, Sardar Vandana, Khele Gujarat, G-20 event, Azadi no Amrit Mahotsav. His songs are included in various textbooks of Gujarat.

4. Shri Shukla is a member of Rajabhasha Samiti (MoH-GoI), Advisory Board of GURUVANI - Gujarat University Community Radio, and Adhoc Board of Studies for Journalism- Gujarat University. He has served as a visiting faculty member of Journalism and Development of Communication Gujarat University as well as Radio Training Institute - All India Radio, Ahmedabad. He is also engaged with the next generation communicators by training Radio Jockeys at L.J. College and National Institute of Mass Communication and Journalism (NIJMC) Ahmedabad. He is a columnist for Janmbhoomi Pravasi, and has worked with movies and TV as a script and song writer. Tushar Shukla was invited by Doordarshan - Ahmedabad to write Television films based on great literary works by Gujarati writers, i.e., Govardhanram Tripathi, Jyotindra Dave and Dhansukhlal Maheta, Raghuveer Chaudhary, Bhagavatikumar Sharma - a series that is now a landmark celebrating these literary giants.

5. Shri Shukla has received award for Best song writer for three films from Government of Gujarat. Every major playback singer has sung his songs, making him one of the most popular song writers of Gujarat. He is a recipient of the Gujarat Gaurav Ratna award, Noteworthy personality of Gujarat by Popular magazine - Chitralekha and Daily Divyabhaskar, TIMA award for portraying power and showing respect for women, Times man of the year in the field of literature, Pride of India for contribution in the field of Literature award by Feelings magazine, PUSHTI Ratna award and Brahm Ratna award.

Padma Shri



SHRI ARIJIT ADITI SURINDER SINGH

Shri Arijit Aditi Surinder Singh is one of the most celebrated playback singers in the Indian music industry. Known for his soulful voice and versatility, he has become a household name, captivating audiences with his renditions in Bollywood films and independent music. His journey from a small-town boy to a musical sensation is a testament to his talent, dedication, and passion for music.

2. Born on April 11, 1987, in Jiaganj, West Bengal, Shri Arijit's achievements extend beyond playback singing. He is also a trained classical musician, having studied under the guidance of his Guru Rajendra Prasad Hazari Ji and Guru Birendra Prasad Hazari Ji. His technical prowess and understanding of music theory have enabled him to experiment with various genres, from classical to electronic music. His ability to connect with listeners on a personal level has made him one of the most streamed artists on digital platforms in the world.

3. In addition to his vocal prowess, Shri Arijit is known for his contributions as a music producer and philanthropist. He has worked on independent music projects and supports budding artists through his Oriyon music label. His ability to convey deep emotions through his singing has made him a favorite among music lovers and filmmakers alike. His live performances and concerts across the world continue to attract massive audiences, reinforcing his status as one of the most influential singers of his generation.

4. Shri Arijit's remarkable career has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards. He has won multiple awards for Best Male Playback Singer. He has also received National Film Awards and numerous accolades from Filmfare, IIFA, Zee Cine, and Mirchi Music Awards. His contribution to Indian music remains unparalleled, and he continues to be one of the most sought-after voices in the industry. His journey is a remarkable story of talent, perseverance, and success, making him an icon in the world of music.



DR. SATYAPAL SINGH

Dr. Satyapal Singh, a trailblazing athletics coach and mentor, has redefined the landscape of Indian para-sports through his unwavering dedication and visionary leadership.

2. Born on 1st January, 1978 in the remote village of Machhri, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Singh overcame significant adversity to pursue his passion for athletics, earning a Doctorate in the field alongside multiple prestigious qualifications in sports coaching and yoga. A former national-level athlete with 19 university medals to his name, he transitioned to coaching in 2004, dedicating his life to nurturing young talent. His trainees began winning medals at national and international levels from 2005 onward, setting the foundation for his transformative impact. In 2007, he took on the challenge of coaching para-athletes, propelling India onto the global stage.

3. As the Chief Coach of the Indian Para-Athletics Team for 15 years, Dr. Singh has been instrumental in shaping India's para-athletics legacy. Under his guidance, Indian para-athletes have won 4 Paralympic medals, 6 World Championship medals, and 18 Asian Para Games medals. His trainees, including Paralympic medalists Praveen Kumar, have shattered national and international records, bringing unparalleled glory to Indian sports. His mentorship has produced seven Arjuna Awardees, including India's first blind Arjuna Awardee, a testament to his exceptional coaching prowess.

4. With a career spanning 100+ international tournaments across 80+ countries, Dr. Singh has positioned India as a dominant force in global para-athletics. His relentless pursuit of excellence has not only shaped champions but also transformed lives, proving that determination and dedication can break all barriers. His legacy continues to inspire generations of athletes and coaches alike. Beyond the field, Dr. Singh has selflessly supported financially disadvantaged athletes, providing them with training, nutrition, and equipment at no cost, embodying the spirit of inclusivity and compassion.

5. Dr. Singh was honoured with the Dronacharya Award in 2012 becoming the youngest recipient in Indian sports history.



BHAI HARJINDER SINGH JI

Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji, is a melodious and proficient Kirtan Singer. In the world of Gurbani Kirtan, he has created his niche and unique identity by reviving ancient Ragas and rituals, singing new Bandishs and recording an adjectival Shabad series.

2. Born on 1st April, 1958 in the village of Ballarh Wal in Gurdaspur district of Punjab, Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji completed his matriculation in 1975 from Government High School, Mari Buchiyan (Gurdaspur). He took admission in Shaheed Sikh Missionary College Amritsar for Gurmat Gyan and Music education. After studying Gurmat literature and raga arrangement for three years, he devoted himself to Nishkam Kirtan.

3. From 1980 to 1983, Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji served as a Hazuri Raagi at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Amira Kadal in Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir). Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji served as a Hazuri Raagi at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Sabzi Mandi, Ludhiana from 1983 to 1987 and at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Kalgidhar, Ludhiana from 1987 to 1989. After this, he has been engaged in independent Kirtan service till now. He got his first audio cassette “Sab Desh Paraya” recorded in 1985. Till now he has recorded more than 700 Gurbani Shabads. He has also served as a Nishkam Kirtaniya at Sri Harmandir Sahib Amritsar (Punjab) regularly since 1986. Through his religious preachings he has transformed life of many souls and guided them to follow right path of life.

4. Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji is also a torchbearer when it comes to preserving our environment. He strongly believes in first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji's preaching “Pawan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahatt” (Air is the Guru, Water the Father, and Earth is the Mother). Through his “Bhai Ladha Ji Parupkari Organisation”, he has been actively associated with social work, where all kinds of support are being provided to the needy from all religions. He is also an Executive member of Dhan Guru Ramdas Langar Organisation, Hoshiarpur, that provides free food (langar) daily to over 50000 of people in all Government Civil Hospital in Punjab.

5. Bhai Harjinder Singh Ji has received honours from many Religious Organizations, National and International Cultural forums, Government and Non-Government institutions. In 1991, he was awarded the “Adutti Gurmat Sangeet Award” by Gurdwara Gurgyan Parkash located in Jawaddi Kalan (Ludhiana). Prof. Mohan Singh Memorial Foundation (Regd.) Ludhiana honoured him with the Prof. Mohan Singh Memorial Kirtan Sewa Award in 1994. In the year 2002, he was presented with the Siftee Award for Gurmat Kirtan Sewa. Akal Purakh Ki Fauj Sanstha Amritsar honoured him with the “Sikh Gaurav Puraskar” in 2003. United Sikh Organization honoured him in 2003. The Language Department of Punjab, awarded him with the “Shiroman Raagi Award” for the year 2005. In the year 2011, he was honoured with the “Punjab Raj Puraskar”. He was awarded the title of “Shiromani Panthak Raagi” by the apex institution of the Sikh Panth, “Shri Akal Takht Sahib”. The California State Assembly of America also gave a letter of appreciation in the year 2021. He has also been honoured with more than 25 gold medals through various Religious Organizations.



SHRI SURESH HARILAL SONI

Shri Suresh Harilal Soni is a Founder & Managing Trustee of Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust of Gujarat.

2. Born on 23rd November, 1944 in Shinor, Vadodara District, Gujarat, Shri Soni passed M.Sc., First class first with Distinction, with Mathematics, from the M. S. University of Baroda, in 1966. During his study, he went to Remand Home to meet children and tell them stories. He gave free tuition to children and helped child beggars on street. He started leprosy work voluntarily in 1970; learned through leprosy patients, giving medicines, injections, dressing ulcers, etc. He and his wife helped Leprosy beggars of two big slums of Baroda in various ways in personal capacity; approaching the Baroda Municipal Corporation helping financially from own pocket, encouraged the beggars to give up begging and to spin on Ambar Charkha and helped their children to study. He left lucrative & comfortable job of lectureship of the Baroda University & started living with leprosy afflicted persons. He is in the field of leprosy since 1970, i.e. for last 55 years.

3. Shri Soni received 31.75 acres of land with tubewells, some buildings, etc as an unconditional gift. He and his wife started Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust in 1988 with 20 Leprosy Afflicted Persons & their children. Today, the Trust has 1050 ashramites (Leprosy Afflicted Persons and relatives, Disabled persons and relatives, persons with social problems, persons with Schizophrenia, Children of Leprosy Afflicted and poor parents, Mentally Retarded Males, Mentally Retarded Females) living a new life with dignity, care, love, security & without worrying for tomorrow. Beneficiaries come from all over India. The Trust has 33 old - disabled cows. SAHYOG is a newly constructed village, with Govt. Primary school upto VIII Standard, Unique Temple to accommodate 500 people, Election Booth, Hospital with 45 beds, Physiotherapy Centre; Houses for Leprosy Afflicted Persons along with Latrine -Bathrooms & Tulsikyaras, Trainnig Hall, Parking stands for nearby villagers etc. He gives full cooperation, (including financial if required) even to Govt. Leprosy control work in Dang, through Leprosy cured tribal local people in past. Thousands of Seminars-workshops were organized here for Leprosy, Hepatitis-B Programme, Reconstructive & Surgical Operations.

4. Shri Soni arranged several camps in co-ordination with other NGOs on Ophthalmic, AIDS, T.B., to learn to write gazals, trekking for Youth, Leadership, Environment, Cattle, National Seminar for Mentally Retarded, etc. The Trust has become a source of inspiration to students, teachers, youth, govt. officers, saints. He has given lectures to Govt. staff, written articles, published papers, talks on Radio & several T.V. channels not only on Leprosy but on other health topics, also for inspiration. He was a member in several committees at District & State level.

5. Shri Soni and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust have received more than 100 Awards & Sanmans from Central & State Governments & NGOs such as International Gandhi Award, National Award for Best Institution for disabled by former President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and National Award for development of children etc.



SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN DEVASENAPATHY STHAPATHY

Shri Radhakrishnan Devasenapathy Sthapathy belongs to 34th generation of the family of sthapathis, known for their contribution to temple construction and sculpture such as in Brihadeeswarar Temple and bronze icons at Swaimimalai (one of the abodes of Lord Sri Murugan) at Thanjavur.

2. Born on 30th July 1960, Shri Sthapathy learned traditional Panchaloka sculpture in the Gurukulavasam tradition from a young age from his father Late Shri S. Devasenapathy Sthapathy, a traditional sculptor from Swamimaiai who received the President of India Award in 1984. After completing his schooling (SSLC), he studied under Padma Bhushan awardee Shri V. Ganapathi Sthapathy, Principal of the Tamil Nadu College of Sculpture and Architecture in Mamallapuram, where he learned temple construction and sculpture. After his father's demise, he became the Chief Sculptor at S. Devasenapathy Sthapathy Sons in Swamimaiai and has been creating Panchaloka idols for many temples.

3. The following main Panchaloka idols were created by him; 1) 27-foot Sri Nataraja statue in Ashtadhatu (eight metals: Copper, Brass, Lead, Silver, Gold, Tin, Mercury, and Iron). The statue weighs 18 tons. The Sri Nataraja statue is installed in front of Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, the venue of the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi. The statue has a height of 27 feet and a width of 21.5 feet. It is the world's largest Nataraja statue created using the traditional Lost Wax Process method (single casting); 2) Three 6' Feet Bharatha Madha Statue for "yegathma yagyam" - 1st National ratha yathra order given by Vishwa Hindu Parishath, RK Puram, New Delhi; 3) 2.5' feet Gnaratha Murugan for Ratha Yathra ordered by Vishwa Hindu Parishath, Tamilnadu; 4) Swamimaiai Aruimiku Swaminatha Swami Temple; Golden Rath Utsavar statue and Shri Arunagiri Nadhar Panchaloka statue, Tamil Nadu; 5) Samayapuram Aruimiku Mariamman Temple: Golden Chariot Utsavar statue, Tamil Nadu; 6) Thiruvanaikovil: Golden Chariot Utsavar statue, Tamil Nadu; 7) Sri Dattashanamurthy and Sri Varagi Idols: Located in the Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu; 8) Tirunelveli Aruimiku Nellaippar and Gandhimathi Mother: Utsava idol, Tamil Nadu; 9) Thiruvannamalai Thirukarthikai: 5 feet copper pot two nos, Tamil Nadu; 10) Bangalore ISKCON Temple: Panchaloka Krishna and Radha Moolavar Idols: 6 nos, 11) 15-tonne Sri Panchatattva: Five idols, each 10 feet tall, at the ISKCON World Headquarters, Mayapur, West Bengal; 12) Sri Anjaneya: Located in Sri Murugan Temple, London; 13) Sri Ayyappan Panchaloka Utsavar Statue: In Sri Balaji Temple, Birmingham, London; 14) Sri Abhirami Buttar: Sri Panchaloka idol at Thirukkadaiyur Shree Amrithakateswarar Temple, Tamil Nadu; 15) Sri Perumal and Sri Mariamman Temple: Panchaloka Utsavar statue erected at a port in Sri Lanka; 16) 9 Feet Vijayan (Dwara Balakar) Panchaloka Statue: Placed on the steps of Srimushnam Aruimiku Bhavaraghava Perumal Temple, Tamil Nadu; 17) Sri Sanmukha Swami Panchaloka Utsavar Statue: Set in Ratnagiri Aruimiku Balamurugan Temple, Tamil Nadu; 18) 108 Sivadandava Panchaloka Sculptures: Located on Hawaii Island, USA.

4. Shri Sthapathy's talent was recognized when the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, praised him as the Best Sculptor of India during the State Bank of India's bicentennial function in Mumbai on 4th June, 2005.



PROF. DAVID R. SYIEMLIEH

Prof. David R. Syiemlieh is a scholar of history and culture of North East and former Chairman of UPSC.

2. Born on 22nd January 1953 in Mutrapore, Sibsagar, Assam, Prof. Syiemlieh graduated with Honours in History in 1974 from St. Edmund's College, Shillong. This was followed with an M. Phil in 1980 and Ph.D in 1985 from the North-Eastern Hill University. He taught in St. Edmund's College (1977-1979) and NEHU (1979-2012) where he held several responsible positions including Dean Students' Welfare; Head, Department of History; Controller of Examinations; officiated as Registrar and held the position of Pro- Vice-Chancellor. He was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh in October 2011. He joined as Member, Union Public Service Commission in 2012 and in 2017 he was appointed Chairman UPSC.

3. Prof. Syiemlieh's first book British Administration in Meghalaya: Policy and Pattern, Heritage Publishers, New Delhi, 1989 established him as a scholar grounded in the history and culture of Meghalaya and the North East. This was followed by Survey of Research in History on North East India 1970-1990 and an edited volume with J. B. Bhattacharjee, Early States in North East India. His more recent publications are On the Edge of Empire: Four British Plans for North East India and Layers of History: Essays on the Khasi-Jaintias, a collection of 17 articles on the history and culture of the Khasi-Jaintias of Meghalaya. He coordinated the research, editing and publication of Meghalaya at Fifty 1972-2022, launched on 21 January 2022 on the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the State of Meghalaya. He is credited with researching and discovering the date of death and other details of the last days of U Tirot Sing, the Syiem/chief of Nongkhlawhima/state in the Khasi hills, Meghalaya, who took a leading role in resisting British expansion into the Khasi hills and died while under house arrest as a state prisoner on 17 July 1835. The day is annually observed in Meghalaya as a State holiday to commemorate the life, sacrifice and patriotism of this little known freedom fighter.

4. Prof. Syiemlieh has received a number of scholarships/fellowships including a Government of India Post Graduate Scholarship; Senior Fulbright Fellowship for research in USA; Charles Wallace Grant for research in UK and Indo-France Cultural Exchange Grant for research in Paris. He was elected President, NEIHA in 2010-2011. He was Council Member for two terms of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi. He was Council Member of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi for a term. He was elected President of the Modern India Section, Indian History Congress at its 73rd session, Bombay University in January 2013. He is on the academic council and board of management of several universities. In his continued support of education and literature he is Adviser, Meghalaya State Education Commission, Government of Meghalaya.



SHRI C.S. VAIDYANATHAN

Shri C.S. Vaidyanathan is a Senior Advocate practicing in the Supreme Court of India, various High Courts across the country, various Tribunals (Inter-State River Water Disputes, Telecom, Electricity/ Power, Companies, Environment, Arbitral Tribunals (International and Domestic), Consumer Disputes, etc.), etc. for more than 50 years.

2. Born on 8th August, 1949 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Shri Vaidyanathan did his Bachelors in Science from St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru and completed his Bachelors in Law from Madras Law College, Chennai before he was 20. He then did his Masters in Social Work from National Institute of Social Sciences, Bangalore. He joined DCM Ltd. as a Management Trainee and worked there for four years. He joined the Law Chamber of Shri M.K. Nambyar, Senior Advocate and Shri K.K. Venugopal, Former Attorney General for India and Senior Advocate in June, 1974 and shifted his legal practice to the Supreme Court of India in 1979. He became an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India in 1979 and a Senior Advocate in 1992. He was appointed as the First Additional Solicitor General of India in 1998 where he represented the Government of India in numerous sensitive and important matters. He returned to private practise in late 1999.

3. Shri Vaidyanathan has contributed to the socio-political-economic and legal landscape of India by appearing in some of the most significant cases/disputes pertaining to Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law, Religious/Personal Law, Administrative Law, Civil Law, Commercial Law, Taxation Law (Direct and Indirect), Arbitration Law, Property Law, Telecom Law, Intellectual Property Rights (Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, etc.), Electricity Law, Inter-State River Water Disputes (Cauvery, Ravi-Beas, Narmada, Vamsadhara and Krishna Rivers), Environmental Law, Service Law, Labour Law, Election Law, Infrastructure sector, Regulatory sector, Mines and Minerals Law, Competition Law, Insolvency Law, etc. *Some of the more notable cases in which Shri Vaidyanathan appeared include the Ram Janma Bhumi, Ayodhya Case (Appeared for Ram Lalla), the Justice Verma Commission and Commission of Enquiry on Rajiv Gandhi Assassination (Appeared for Tamil Nadu Police).*

4. Shri Vaidyanathan, has always had a great interest in the sensitive and compassionate side of life such as Community, Education, Arts, Culture, Music, Dance, etc. It is thus, that he is and has been the President, Chief Patron, Trustee, Advisor, etc. of several Educational, Arts, Culture, Music, Dance, Community, Lawyers, etc. Institutions/ Organisations including Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Shanmugananda Sangeeta Sabha, Gayatri Fine Arts, SOS Children's Villages, etc. For his fellow legal community, Shri Vaidyanathan is and has been representing their interests and concerns as the Conseiller de President (Advisor to President) and Regional Secretary (South Asia) of UIA- International Association of Lawyers, Vice President of the Bar Association of India, etc.



DR. SURINDER KUMAR VASAL

Dr. Surinder Kumar Vasal is an accomplished Maize Breeder, Geneticist and Millennium World Food Prize Laureate.

2. Born on 12th April, 1938 and grew up in Amritsar, Dr. Vasal completed his university education and academic degrees from various institutes in India including Ph.D from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. His professional career started in Himachal Agriculture Department where he served as Assistant Botanist Maize cum Assistant Professor. In 1967, he took up his first foreign assignment with Rockefeller Foundation Agricultural Program in Thailand as Research Associate and conducted research on maize. He was one of the key players to develop Suwan-1, a most popular variety even today in the world and identified resistance to *Curvularia lunata* and its inheritance.

3. Dr. Vasal moved to Mexico in 1970 as a post-doctoral fellow at the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT) and later he was promoted as Senior Maize Scientist. He made significant contributions to the development of agronomically acceptable Quality Protein Maize (QPM) cultivars for varied maize production environments. In 1984, he was assigned a hybrid maize development program at CIMMYT and also served as maize program germplasm coordinator. In 1991, as coordinator of lowland tropical maize program of CIMMYT, his team released the first set of 58 tropical and 42 subtropical lines as CMLs. In 1994, an additional 62 tropical white and yellow lines and 55 QPM lines were announced as CMLs. In 1997, he was the first scientist to be promoted to the rank of Distinguished Scientist and was given a new role as Team Leader of the Asian Regional Maize Program of CIMMYT in Thailand. He developed sources of resistance to downy mildew, strengthened hybrid research activities and coordinated the Tropical Asian Maize Network (TAMNET). He has registered 12 hybrid oriented source populations, 24 white lines and 21 yellow lines in Crop Science journal and published 14 book chapters and 150 research papers. He has trained many post-doctoral fellows, visiting scientists and conducted in-country training courses on hybrid. He is a fellow of many scientific societies in India and abroad.

4. Dr. Vasal has received many awards such as recipient of International Service in Crop Science Award, International Service in Agronomy Award, Crop Science Society Presidential Award, Chinese Friendship Award and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture from TAAS. He in conjunction with Dr. Evangelina Villegas were Awarded 2000 World Food Prize by the World Food Prize Foundation. He has received honorary doctor of science degrees from IARI, PAU and JNKVV.



DR. DESHMANE VIJAYALAXMI

Dr. Deshmane Vijayalaxmi is a famous oncology surgeon, who is known for her contribution in the Research activity of Breast Cancer. She is Chairperson of BOG (Board of Governors) of IIIT Kottayam, Kerala [2023] and the Chairperson of BOG of IIITDM Kurnool, Andra Pradesh (Additional Charge) 2024. She also Served as Member of BOG of NIPER (National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research) 2016.

2. Born on 10th April 1955 in a Slum at Kalaburagi a highly backward district in Karnataka State, Dr. Vijayalaxmi belongs to Scheduled caste [Madiga] Community. Her mother was Fruits and Vegetables seller and her father was Freedom Fighter from Kalaburagi. She received her MBBS from Karanataka medical college Hubli (1980). She was the First Lady MS student at government Medical College Bellary and completed her MS in General Surgery from Government Medical College Bellary [1985]. She received Fellowship in Surgical Oncology from the Association of Surgeons of India [1993]. She received Oncology training at TATA Memorial Hospital Mumbai. She was honoured as the woman of the year by the American Biographical Institute [1999].

3. Dr. Vijayalaxmi has served for 3 decades in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology Bangalore. She joined there as a First lady Senior Resident and as as First lady Faculty in the Department of Surgical Oncology and retired from the service as Professor and Head of Department of Surgical Oncology in 2015. She also served as Director (In charge) of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, a premier Institute. She trained the senior Residents, MS students from different Medical Colleges, Mch [Surgical Oncology] students. She has conducted Global Breast Cancer Research projects as Principle Investigator at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru. She was appointed as Inspector of Medical Council of India. As the Principal Investigator, she conducted Global Breast Cancer project and the Report was published in the International Cancer Journal. She presented Cancer Research papers at various conferences and seminars in the country and abroad. She has addressed the convocations at Karnataka medical Collage, Bangalore medical College and SNDT University Mumbai.

4. Dr. Vijayalaxmi is a known Philanthropist. From the pension benefits she has built Shri Krishna Mandir at Banashankri Bangalore and she has planned to start the Goshala at Hubli. She has served as President of Karnataka Cancer Society. The Life story of Dr. Deshmane was published in the World Journal of Surgery. The Family Film of Dr. Deshmane 'Matangi Deevatige' was produced and screened in the International Film Festival at Bangalore 2022. 'Matangi Deevatige' was honoured as Best Feature Film and received Dadasaheb Phalke Achievers Award [2024].

5. Dr. Vijayalaxmi has received many awards. For her exceptional contribution in the Research activity of Breast Cancer, she received the Award in the Oncology Summit held at Thailand [2011]. She received Hon. Doctorate: Doctor of Science in recognition of her service in the field of Surgical Oncology from Karnataka Mahila University, Bijapur [2013]. The Government of Karnataka has bestowed upon her Rajyostava Award in recognition of her services in the field of Surgical Oncology (2004).