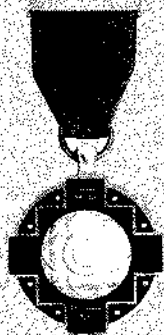


Padma Vibhushan



DR. VYJAYANTIMALA BALI

Dr. Vyjayantimala Bali's name figures prominently in the ranks of those who have heralded the renaissance of Bharatanatyam over several decades.

2. Born on 13th August, 1933 in South India, Dr. Vyjayantimala hails from a conservative family, but one of distinguished scholarship and one that has patronized the traditional and classical art of the Thanjavur style. Her talents surfaced early in life when she danced before the Pope at the age of 5 and earned his benedictions. She performed before many eminent statesmen and dignitaries and in many International Organizations.

3. Dr. Vyjayantimala was first Indian dancer to be invited to perform at the United Nations 20th Anniversary celebrations of the Human Rights day at the General Assembly in 1969. She has also had the honour of performing at the International Opera House - Sydney, the Royal Opera Rallst Festival-Stockholm, the Holland Festival- Rotterdam and the Autumn Festival-Paris.

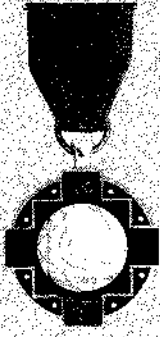
4. Dr. Vyjayantimala has to her credit a number of dance-dramas conceived, directed and presented by her. 'Andal Thiruppavai' Gurudev Tagore's 'Chandalika', Kavi Kunjara Bharati's 'Azhagar Kuravanji' 'Sant Sakhu', 'Ekta' a multi-dimensional ballet which depicts the growth of the National Freedom Movement and 'Om Santhi Santhi Santhi' to convey the message of universal peace. Her attempt to present Sita Vislesha Thrayam from Valmiki Ramayana, Nava Vidha Rama Bhakthi from Valmiki Ramayanam, Kaisika Puranam from Varaha Puranam in dance and abhinaya form, has won much appreciation.

5. As Dr. Vyjayantimala shot into fame, the celluloid world drew her into its fold. Her very first film in Tamil AVM'S "Vazhkai" followed by Bahaar in Hindi, took cine-goers by storm. Within a decade of her film career, she emerged as the reigning queen, a super star of the film world. She played the most coveted leading roles in a series of popular Hindi films such as Nagin, New Delhi, Madhumati, Naya Daur, Ganga Jamuna, Sangam, Sadhana, Jewel Thief, Amrapali and Tamil films such as Thennilavu, Vanjikottai Valiban, Baghdad Thirudan and Parthiban Kanavu were some of the memorable hits.

6. For Dr. Vyjayantimala, politics became a means to serve her countrymen and she contested from the South Madras constituency and served two consecutive terms in the Lok Sabha in 1984 and 1989. The then President of India nominated her to the Rajya Sabha in 1993 for her contribution to the field of fine arts.

7. Dr. Vyjayantimala is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. She has been conferred Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) by Annamalai University, Chidambaram in 1995 for her contribution to Classical Art form of Bharatanatyam. The Government of India conferred on her "Padma Shri" in 1968. She has received four Filmfare Awards for Best Actress in the year 1958, 1961, 1964 and 1996 (Life Time Achievement Award). The then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, honoured her with the State Artist Award in 1979. She is the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1982, Sangeet Natak Academy - Tagore Ratna Samman (Fellow) Award for Bharatanatyam in 2012 and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by Pune International Flint Festival (PIFF), Pune in 2006. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award - Konark Dance and Music Festival, Konark, Odisha in 2014 and was awarded Natya Kalanidhi by ABHAI in 2014 for Bharatanatyam by preserving and promoting the art in India and abroad. In 2016, Sri Shanmukhananda Fine Arts & Sangeetha Sabha, Mumbai awarded her the Dr. M.S.Subbulakshmi Centenary Award for her contribution to Bharatanatyam. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, honoured her with Bala Saraswati Award in 2019. She received the title "SARASWATHI PURASKARAM" by C.P.Ramaswami Aiyer Foundation in 2019.

Padma Vibhushan



SHRI KONIDELA CHIRANJEEVI

Shri Konidela Chiranjeevi is an actor, statesman and humanitarian par excellence. He has always excelled and continues to excel in his chosen field and continues to touch millions of lives across India and the world. A completely self made man, he rose from a humble background to the position of an indisputable Megastar of Indian, Telugu films.

2. Born on 1st August, 1955, Shri Chiranjeevi began his acting career in 1978, and quickly gained recognition for his superlative performances, heroic looks, excellent command over dance, perfect comedy timing and above all for his dedication towards his work. He went on to act in 155 films predominantly in Telugu, in a career span of 45 years.

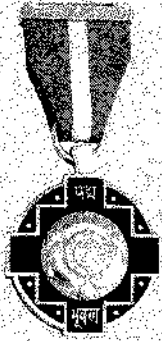
3. After achieving unparalleled success through his films, Shri Chiranjeevi has constantly yearned to give back to the society that has showered so much love on him. He has made pioneering efforts to channelize the collective energy of millions of his fans towards social causes. He founded the Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust (CCT) in the year 1998. In the last 25 years, CCT has secured the collection and donation of over a phenomenal 10 lakh units of blood to those in need of life saving blood. CCT had also arranged to restore the eye sight of over ten thousand people through corneal transplants. He had extensively campaigned against Child Labour, AIDS Awareness, Polio eradication and several other social issues creating huge impact. His exemplary efforts by setting up 42 free oxygen banks during Covid-19 pandemic have helped to save thousands of lives in the Telugu states.

4. From extending financial assistance to numerous people in distress, senior industry colleagues, needy persons of the society to standing by anyone and any cause that seeks his support, Shri Chiranjeevi has emerged as a fine example of a Megastar with a heart filled with compassion. He has inspired generations of actors to excel against all odds. He has motivated millions of his fans to strive not only for personal glory but also to care about the society and their fellow humans.

5. Shri Chiranjeevi was nominated as a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha in April, 2012. In October, 2012, he had been inducted into the Central Cabinet as the Minister of State for Tourism with Independent Charge. As Tourism Minister, he had taken several breakthrough initiatives to promote tourism across all sectors, and to optimally leverage India's soft power. Despite returning to films in 2016, after a long gap of 10 years, Shri Chiranjeevi's unmatched popularity remained the same. He was bestowed the prestigious 'Indian Film Personality of the Year' in November, 2022, at the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) at Goa.

6. Shri Chiranjeevi has won numerous awards and recognitions in his illustrious journey. He has won three Nandi Awards and 9 Filmfare Awards for the Best Actor. He was presented the prestigious 'Raghupathi Venkaiah' Award by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. He was bestowed the 'Padma Bhushan' in the year 2006.

Padma Bhushan



JUSTICE MS. M. FATHIMA BEEVI (POSTHUMOUS)

Justice Ms. M. Fathima Beevi was an eminent jurist and the first woman Judge in the Supreme Court of India. Her entry into the higher echelons of Indian Judiciary opened the gates for women all across India and Asia to dream big and achieve the greatest heights of success.

2. Born on 30th April, 1927, at Pathanamthitta in Kerala, Justice Fathima Beevi did her schooling from Catholicate High School, Pathanamthitta and B.Sc.(Chemistry) from the University College, Thiruvananthapuram. Her father persuaded her to study law. She secured law degree with first rank from Law College, Thiruvananthapuram and first rank and gold medal in the Bar Council examination.

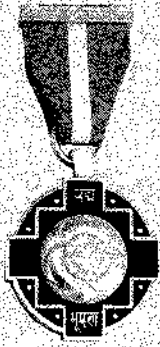
3. Justice Fathima Beevi enrolled as Lawyer in 1950 in District Court Kollam and practiced in Civil and Criminal cases for seven years. She secured first rank in PSC Examination and joined Judicial Service in 1958 as Munsiff and promoted as Subordinate Judge, Chief Judicial Magistrate and District & Sessions Judge in 1974. She was appointed as first female judicial member in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. She was elevated to the High Court as the first female Muslim Judge in 1983. She was appointed as the first woman Judge of the Supreme Court of an Asian Nation in 1989 and served till 1992. Her time as Judge in Supreme Court is remembered for her exemplary service to the cause of Justice, her impartial adjudication and warm relation with the bar. At Supreme Court, she left lasting impact in Indian law through a number of notable judgements.

4. After retirement in 1992, Justice Fathima Beevi continued to serve in various positions. She became the first Chairperson of the Backward Classes Commission of Kerala and the first woman member of the National Human Rights Commission. She served as Governor of Tamil Nadu from January, 1997 to July, 2001. A champion of women's rights in society, she symbolised the Indian woman's quest towards self-actualisation, transcending the taboos and inhibitions imposed by conservative mores. Her commitment to Justice and Equality evident in her ground breaking career will continue to inspire generations.

5. Justice Fathima Beevi was honoured with several awards like Mahila Siromani Award in 1990; Doctrate of Letters conferred by Sri Padmavati Mahila Vishwa Vidyalayam Medal of Distinction by International Association of Lions in 1997-98; Rashtriya Gaurav Award by IIFS in 2004; Sthree Dakil Puraskar by All India Federation of Women Lawyers-2009; Mahila Thilakam 2012 Award by Kerala Government in 2012; Doctrate of Letters conferred by University of Calicut, Kerala in 2013; U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015; First Lady Award by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India; Kerala Prabha Award by Kerala State Government in 2023. Also, a Documentary Film was released by Kerala State Film Development Corporation title 'Brave woman in the path of Justice' to commemorate her remarkable life and legacy.

6. Justice Fathima Beevi passed away on 23rd November, 2023.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI HORMUSJI N. CAMA

Shri Hormusji N. Cama is the Chairman and the Managing Director of the Mumbai Samachar, Asia's oldest newspaper in any language and has been instrumental in the promotion and spread of Indian languages and in particular Gujarati, the language of the Mumbai Samachar.

2. Born on 13th February, 1961, Shri Cama received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Mumbai. In and around 1982, he was instrumental in designing Gujarati fonts for computers with a British Company Linotype, and was instrumental in getting computer keyboards made in the Gujarati script to enable photo type setting in the Gujarati language, and subsequent printing on the then modern technology of using photo-polymer printing plates instead of traditional cast iron plates in use at that time.

3. Shri Cama believes that reading a newspaper being one of the first morning activities of people, should bring a smile on the face of the reader and the news should give the reader a feel good factor. He has chaired The Press Trust of India, Indian Newspaper Society, Audit Bureau of Circulations, Media Research Users Council, Readership Studies Council of India, Commonwealth Press Union India Chapter, and has been a nominated member of the Press Council of India for nine years.

4. Shri Cama has been the recipient of numerous awards and honours for his contribution to promotion of Indian languages and has been particularly active in encouraging reading habits of people by holding Gujarati book fairs, encouraging Gujarati authors by distributing their books and sponsoring Gujarati plays thereby spreading the use of the language.

Padma Bhushan



DR. ASHWIN BALACHAND MEHTA

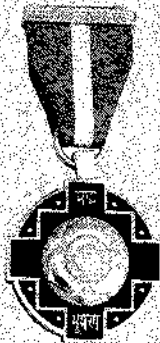
Dr. Ashwin Balachand Mehta is a renowned Cardiologist having illustrious career of over 5 decades.

2. Born on 3rd March, 1939, Dr. Mehta has been a brilliant student at all examinations and secured 19 gold medals and distinctions at MD & MBBS examinations. He provided completely free service from 1967 onwards for more than 30 years to Sion General Hospital. He organised free check-up camps and treated patients free at Sion Hospital, Mahavir Heart Foundation, U N Mehta Hospital Ahmedabad and at places like Rajkot, Porbandar, Kolhapur, Dapoli etc and also taught the art of Angioplasty to the local doctors. He has taught cardiology to hundreds of undergraduates and postgraduate doctors. He was invited as Teacher at France, Japan, China, Italy, U.S.A., Sri Lanka and Singapore for demonstrating techniques of Angioplasty. During his assignment at LTMG Sion Hospital (completely free), he has treated thousands of patients free of cost; providing them the treatment with high-grade technology of Cardiology. He set up state-of-the-art Cardiovascular Departments both at Jaslok and L.T.M. Medical College, Mumbai.

3. During his exemplary career, Dr. Mehta has numerous milestones to his credit like pioneer in starting Angiography in 1973 and Angioplasty in 1988; one of the first one to start Catheterization in new-born babies in 1973; first one to start his Bundle Electrography in 1974-75; first one to start 2D- Echocardiography in Maharashtra. He pioneered in starting Primary Angioplasty in acute Myocardial Infarction and published the first paper on the same subject in 1993. He is the first one to implant medicated drug eluting stent in India in 2002; one of the pioneers in starting Percutaneous Cardio-pulmonary support assisted angioplasty and first one to perform a Trans-catheter Aortic Valve Replacement in Western India in 2013.

4. Dr. Mehta has won several awards for his contribution to cardiology and service to Humanity like Padma Shri Award in 2004; Maharashtra Gaurav Award by the Government of Maharashtra in 2004; Andreas Gruentzig Memorial Award; Golden Contribution Award received at AICT 2012 at New Delhi; Life Time Achievement Award at the 1st IJCTO meet at Mumbai; Life Time Achievement Award at CSI Conference 2018 and by the Asia Pacific Vascular Intervention Course society; "Dronacharya of Interventional Cardiology" award by Continuous Medical Education Award & Summit 2019; first Jaslok Ratna Award by the Trustees & Management of Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre in the year 2020; Excellence in Cardiology Award at The Times Healthcare Leaders Award 2021; Vishesh Puraskar from Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratishthan for exemplary contribution to the field of Cardiology.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Satya Brata Mookherjee was a renowned Barrister and Senior Advocate, former Member of Parliament elected to the 13th Lok Sabha and a public figure.

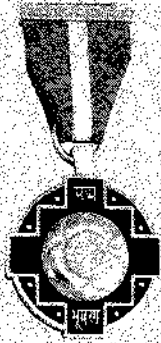
2. Born on 8th May, 1932 in Sylhet, Assam (now in Bangladesh), Shri Mookherjee attended St. Edmunds School at Shillong, and thereafter received his Bachelor of Arts (English) degree from Presidency College, Calcutta University. He went to United Kingdom for further studies, where he read for a Diploma in Journalism at the London and Regent Street Polytechnic, London. He was called to the Bar by the Hon'ble Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1955.

3. After returning from the United Kingdom, Shri Mookherjee enrolled as an Advocate in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta in 1957 and practiced under the tutelage of Shri Subimal C. Roy and thereafter, under Shri S.C. Sen, both Barristers. Eventually, he practiced before many Courts and Tribunals across the nation, including the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. He was designated as a Senior Advocate in 1976 and was a renowned lawyer specializing in commercial law and in particular, Company Law. He served as the Additional Solicitor General of India at the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta in 1998. He was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Indian Law institute, West Bengal State Unit.

4. Shri Mookherjee was keenly involved in public life and devoted himself to public causes. He implemented social welfare measures for upliftment of the poor and education and literacy of people, especially in his ancestral village, Jamalpur, in the Nadia District, West Bengal. He was elected as the Member of Parliament from the Krishnanagar Constituency to the 13th Lok Sabha and was part of the Union Council of Ministers. He held many portfolios: Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers; Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment; Minister of State for Statistics & Programme Implementation; Minister of State for Planning; Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. He was also a member of the Bengal Rose Society and had served as its President.

5. Shri Mookherjee passed away on 3rd March, 2023.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL

Shri O. Rajagopal is an eminent statesman from Kerala.

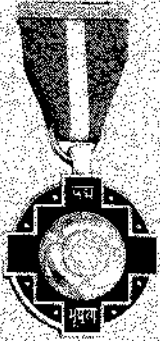
2. Born on 15th September, 1929 in Pudukkode Panchayath in Palakkad, Kerala, Shri Rajagopal took his early education in Kanakkannoor Elementary School and Manjapra Upper Primary School. Later, he went to Government Victoria College, Palakkad. He completed Law education in Madras and began practicing Law in 1956 at the Palakkad District Court.

3. Shri Rajagopal was inspired by Shri Deendayal Upadhyaya and began working in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1964, but the tragic death of his political idol Shri Deendayal in 1968 spurred him to pursue his political career full-time as a karyakarta of the party. Sacrificing his thriving legal career, he took on the arduous mission to build the Jan Sangh party in the Kerala state from ground level. He became the State General Secretary of Jana Sangh until 1974 when he was promoted to the post of President, a post he held until 1977. During the period of Emergency, he was jailed and was held in Viyyur Central Jail. Over the years, he also held several key posts in the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP). He is the senior most member of the BJP in Kerala and the first ever member and its floor leader in the Legislative Assembly of Kerala of the BJP.

4. Shri Rajagopal has been elected twice — in 1992 and 1998 — as a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh. He also held important portfolios under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government as Minister of State for Defence and Parliamentary Affairs, Urban Development, Law, Justice and Company Affairs, and Railways. As an MLA in the Kerala State Assembly, he was a member of Committee on Petitions and Committee of Public Work, Transport and Communications. His dedication to public service and commitment to improving infrastructure have left a significant legacy in Kerala's infrastructural development. During his term as Minister of State for Railways, he worked towards improving railway infrastructure in Kerala, connecting to the rest of India. As the Minister of Urban Development, he played a crucial role in shaping urban policies and infrastructure. His focus was on improving living conditions, sanitation, and civic amenities in cities and towns across India.

5. Shri Rajagopal, being a lawyer by profession, actively advocated for legal reforms. He worked towards simplifying legal procedures, enhancing access to justice, and ensuring fairness in the legal system. During his tenure as the Minister of State for Company Affairs, he worked on strengthening corporate governance, promoting transparency, and safeguarding the interests of shareholders and investors. As the Minister of State for Defence, he contributed to modernising India's armed forces, ensuring national security, and enhancing defence capabilities. He handled Parliamentary affairs, facilitating smooth functioning and coordination between various political parties within the Indian Parliament.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI TOGDAN RINPOCHEY (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Togdan Rinpochey, recognized as the reincarnation of previous Togden Rinpoches, a lineage rooted in the Drikung Kagyu tradition, is known for his contribution in Ladakh's spiritual and political spheres.

2. Born on 1st January, 1938 in Tibet, Shri Togdan Rinpochey received extensive teachings and empowerments. He held various leadership roles in Ladakh's monastic community and became a prominent spiritual figure. He embarked on a journey to Tibet, studying under renowned masters and receiving empowerments, transmissions, and teachings across different Buddhist traditions. He played an active role in Ladakh's spiritual and political spheres, serving as a Chos-rje and engaging in social activities. Throughout his life, he opened and revitalized sacred sites, performed miraculous deeds, and continued to bestow teachings and empowerments.

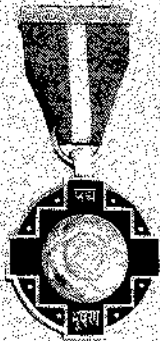
3. Shri Rinpochey was the President of Ladakh Gompa Association from 1972 to 1975. During this period, he attended International Buddhist Conferences held in Taiwan, Spain, Germany, Switzerland and France. Since 1959, he undertook various religious as well as social welfare activities in Ladakh and became a popular leader. He worked tirelessly for raising the consciousness among the Ladakhi populace for the need of good education, succeeding in sending many students to Srinagar and Jammu. The main task for him after his return from Tibet was to reorganize the approximately 50 various Drikung monasteries of Ladakh.

4. In 1967, Shri Rinpochey was elected as the Chairman of the Ladakh Action Committee, furthering the demands of Ladakh with the Indian Government. Under his leadership, the Committee was able to get ten demands accepted by the Government. Thus, he became a known political leader. For four years, he was also appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Ladakh Development Board. During this period, several developmental schemes were executed in far-off places in Ladakh. Among the most prominent achievements were Durbuk Canal, Alchi Bridge, High Schools and many Lower Schools, Medical Aid Centers at Temisgam, Sumoor, Man-Merak and Skurbuchen.

5. Shri Rinpochey was also President of National Conference Party, Leh and was nominated as MLC (Member of Legislative Council) in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and later elevated to Minister of State for Ladakh Affairs and Planning. As Minister of State for Ladakh Affairs and Planning, he took various steps for a speedier development of Ladakh.

6. Shri Rinpochey passed away on 24th May, 2023.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI PYARELAL RAMPRASAD SHARMA

Shri Pyarelal Ramprasad Sharma, one half of the acclaimed Music Maestros, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, is considered one of the most celebrated Violin and Piano Virtuosos of Indian Film Music, besides being one of the most successful Film Music Composers and Conductors of all time.

2. Born on 3rd September, 1940, Shri Pyarelal Sharma is the son of the renowned trumpeter, Pt. Ramprasad Sharma who, along with the famous Goan violinist, Shri Anthony Gonsalves, taught him the intricacies of playing the violin.

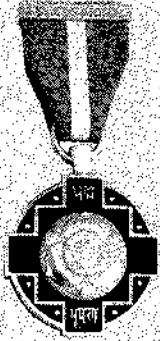
3. Shri Pyarelal Sharma, along with Late Shri Laxmikant actively composed for over 6 decades from the 1950s to the 2000s. They composed for over 800 Hindi and regional films, giving blockbuster music in every decade. The first released movie under their music direction was 'Parasmani'. Its songs "Wo jab yaad aaye" & "Hasta hua noorani chehra" became very popular. The same was followed by songs "Chahunga mein tuje saanjh savere" and "Rahi manwa" of Rajshree Production's film "Dosti" (1964). They won their first Filmfare Best Music Director award for "Dosti".

4. Shri Pyarelal Sharma along with Late Shri Laxmikant gave a large number of musically hit films such as Milan, Shagird, Intaquam, Do Raaste, Jeene ki Raah, Shor, Bobby, Roti Kapda aur Makaan, Satyam Shivam Sundaram, Amar Akbar Anthony, Sargam, Karz, Ek Duje ke liye, Tezaab, Utsav etc. The legendary singers Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi sang the maximum songs in their career for them, namely 712 and 379 respectively, and Kishore Kumar and Asha Bhosle sang the second highest number of songs for any composer, 402 and 494 respectively. They composed with other leading singers like Mukesh, Manna Dey and Mahendra Kapoor and also with present singers like Alka Yagnik, Udit Narayan, K.J. Yesudas, S.P. Balasubrahmaniyam, Anuradha Paudwal etc. Their association with the famous lyricist Anand Bakshi in more than 250 movies resulted in some of the most popular songs of the Hindi Cinema.

5. Shri Pyarelal Sharma, at the age of 84, is still as relevant and prolific as ever—the ultimate youth icon. Besides his numerous mega-blockbuster stage shows around the world, he composed a Symphony, 'Om Shivam' #1 and #2 which was performed by world class musicians of MDR Classic in Leipzig, Germany on 4th June, 2016.

6. Shri Pyarelal Sharma, along with Late Laxmikant won 7 Filmfare awards for Best Music for the film Dosti, Milan, Jeene ki Raah, Amar Akbar Anthony, Satyam Shivam Sundaram, Sargam, Karz, third highest ever, and highest ever 25 nominations. They won 4 Filmfare Awards in a row at the height of their glory for Amar Akbar Anthony, Satyam Shivam Sundaram, Sargam, and Karz.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI CAPTAIN VIJAYAKANT (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Captain Vijayakant was an eminent actor of the Tamil Film Industry who is widely recognized in Tamil communities across the world for his role in promoting nationalism and patriotism amongst the Tamil film viewers by means of portraying several characters that reflect the same. He was also the Founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), a state-recognized political party based in Tamil Nadu.

2. Born on 25th August, 1952, Shri Vijayakant grew interest in cinema and displayed passion towards community and societal issues at a young age. He made his debut in the Tamil film industry in 1979 and went on to act in 154 movies till 2015. His first significant break happened with Sattam Oru Iruttarai in 1981, which went on to be remade in other languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

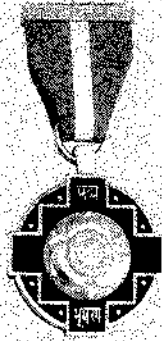
3. Shri Vijayakant created a massive revolution in the Tamil film industry by acting in the 90's, in several roles that promoted the patriotic and nationalistic values of the country and how the society should develop the same. This earned him the title "Puratchi Kalaighar" (Revolutionary Actor) amongst the masses. He played the role of a law enforcer, police officer or a village head in several films. His film, Captain Prabhakaran (1991) earned him the moniker 'Captain' amongst the masses of Tamil Nadu.

4. Shri Vijayakant was widely known for his humanitarian efforts towards impoverished families in the State of Tamil Nadu and supporting struggling actors in Tamil cinema. His strong stance towards ensuring the food equality on film sets for all members of the cast and crew, revolutionized working standards in the Tamil film industry for years to come. As the President of the South Indian Artistes' Association, he transformed a heavily debt-ridden organization into a charitable association by conducting cultural shows and collecting funds to settle loans of the association. He used the remaining proceeds of such events in transforming the lives of artists in the Tamil film industry by ensuring several benefits and pension to low-income artistes. He was also known for his humanitarian contributions beyond the state of Tamil Nadu during the Kargil War, 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, 1999 Odisha Cyclones and the 2009 Andhra Pradesh Floods. His overwhelming contributions to art, social service and public affairs has made him an irreplaceable figure in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu.

5. Shri Vijayakant received numerous awards and honours including two Filmfare Awards South and three Tamil Nadu State Film Awards. He received Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actor in 1988 for his performance in Senthooora Poove and his outstanding portrayal in Thayagam earned him the Tamil Nadu State Film Award Special Prize in 1996. He was also awarded with the Best Citizen Award in 2001 and the Bharat Shiromani Award for his humanitarian contributions across the nation. He was listed in the "Top 10 Legends of Tamil Cinema" announced by Filmfare in 2009. He received the prestigious Kalaimamani Award, the highest civilian honor in Tamil Nadu in 2001 and two Cinema Express Awards. In 2011, he was bestowed with the Honourary Doctorate from the International Institute of Church Management.

6. Shri Vijayakant passed away on 28th December, 2023.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI KUNDAN RAMANLAL VYAS

Shri Kundan Ramanlal Vyas is the Chief Editor of the Janmabhoomi Group of Newspapers. These newspapers, founded by visionary freedom fighter Shri Amritlal Sheth during the freedom struggle of India, are part of the freedom movement. The Group includes Janmabhoomi from Mumbai (90 years), Phulchhab from Rajkot (102 years), Kutchmitra from Bhuj (75 years) and country's first financial Newspaper Vyapar (Gujarati & Hindi). He has a vast experience of over six decades in journalism. He has been associated with prestigious professional organisations.

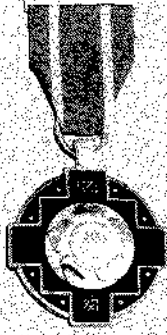
2. Born on 5th December, 1941, Shri Vyas is a Graduate in Arts and Law from University of Mumbai. He had a passion for journalism and started his career in the field of journalism from 1961-62. He joined Janmabhoomi Group in the year 1964. In the year 1967, he was appointed as the Chief of Janmabhoomi Group News Bureau at New Delhi. For more than three decades he had an opportunity of witnessing and reporting the political, economic and social developments from very close quarters. His daily political commentary "Delhi Durbaar" was very popular amongst the readers.

3. Shri Vyas had witnessed and reported the political upheaval of the year 1969, which marked a new chapter in political history. He was War Correspondent during India-Pakistan war of 1971. He also covered important international conferences held in India and abroad. He was accredited to parliament for "Long and Distinguished Service". He was the member of Press Gallery Advisory Board of the Lok Sabha (1978-1980). He was also the Joint Secretary to The Press Advisory Committee, appointed by Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha (1993-94). He was given the responsibility as the Group Editor of Janmabhoomi Group of Newspapers, Mumbai in 1996.

4. With his rich experience, he has penned few books in Gujarati, namely "Kargil Katha Ane Vyatha": Based on his experience as a War Correspondent; "Delhi Durbaar - Nehru Thi Narendra Modi": Two volumes of historical-political events, and "Ek Patrakaar Ni Vyavsay Katha: An autobiography of a journalist". He has been Member of Press Council of India (2004-2011 and 2014-2017), President of Indian Languages News Association (2003-2005), President of Indian Newspaper Society (2010-2011) and Member of the Editors' Guild of India.

5. Shri Vyas is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. To name a few Dag Hammarskjold Fellowship of United Nations (1976), UN HQ, New York; Lokmanya Tilak Award (2014), Dr. Harivanshrai Bacchan Patrakaar Puraskar (2003) and Priyadarshini Award (1999).

Padma Shri



DR. VELU ANANDACHARI

Dr. Velu Anandachari is widely recognized across the world for his pivotal role in "Traditional Temple Sculpture" and "Temple Architecture of India".

2. Born on 1st June, 1952 in Vennampally village of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Velu received his sculpture Training Certificate from SV Training Centre for Sculpture, TTD, Tirupathi from 1972 to 1975 and obtained B.A. Degree from Andhra University, Waltair in 1986 by pursuing Distance Education. He also pursued M.A. Degree in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archeology from Osmania University at Hyderabad during 1994-95. He worked as a Skilled Assistant (Teacher) in Silpa Kalasala which was run by the Endowments Department, from 1975 to 1978 and also worked as Assistant Stapathy under Srisailam Submersible Transplantation of Temple Project Works from 1978 to 1980. He had also designed and implemented the Stone Temple Reconstruction Works.

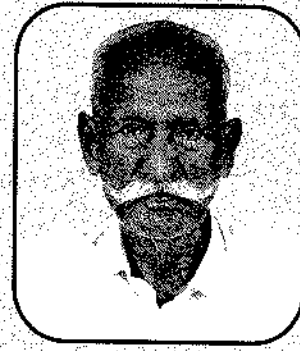
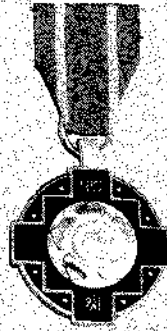
3. Dr. Velu worked as an Assistant Stapathy from 1982 to 1989 in Endowments Dept. in the combined state of AP. He undertook many prestigious temple projects i.e., Buddha Purnima Project (Hussain Sagar), Srisailam Devasthanam Fort Wall, Yadadri Temple Construction and many more Temple Constructions and Re-construction of Temple Works with Sculptural works. From 1990 to 2008 he worked as a Deputy Stapathy in the Endowment Department in the combined State of A.P. and successfully completed duly supervising all his projects. He retired as Stapathy Advisor from Endowment Department Government of Andhra Pradesh.

4. Dr. Velu, acquired the Chief Stapathy post in Government of AP from 2009 - 2010. He is the first person in Telugu Region to achieve this milestone. He was appointed as Member of Technical Advisory Committee, Government of AP and worked in a dedicated manner in all his works. Dr. Velu, worked at Yadadri Temple, a huge and prestigious project, was appointed as an Additional Advisor Stapathy and successfully completed the gigantic project work in the year 2022.

5. Dr. Velu worked as one of the Editor and imparted his services as a full-time work in publishing "The temple Architecture" in Telugu known as "Kasyapam" and "Mayamata Silpa Grandam" from 2011 to 2013. This was his first publication and a masterpiece brought out for the first time in India, which has boosted up the image of Dr. Velu. He was bestowed with "Prathibha Puraskar" from Telugu University in 2018 for his excellence in his own created works.

6. Dr. Velu is the recipient of numerous awards and honours from district level to Global level. He has been conferred with Honorary Doctorate Degree by Religious Architecture and Construction of methods from United Theological University, U.S.A, branch Secunderabad in 2018. He got Gold Medal in All India Amateur Painting Competition in 1987. Navarangh Chitra kalaniketana, A.P. honoured him on the occasion of 4th Telugu World Conference held at Tirupathi in 2012. He was honoured with "Ugadi Puraskar" by the Honorable Chief Minister in the years 2002, 2008, 2013 and 2023 and also received State Award "Hamsa Puraskar" with Kala Ratna Certification in 2013 for his excellence in sculpture works.

Padma Shri



SHRI M. BADRAPPAN

Shri M. Badrappan is the master of the Valli Oyil Kummi folk dance.

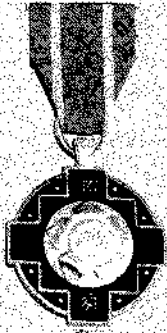
2. Born on 16th April, 1936 Shri Badrappan studied upto 10th standard and lived as a small farmer. He learned Arichandra Kummi from Master Shri Thottanagowder in 1959. Since 1962, he has been working with Shri Tirumappa Gowder, the Master of Valli Oyil Kummi. In 1992, he formed a team under his leadership. He has been working in folk arts for 52 years. He has been training Valli Oyil Kummi to around 100 boys and girls for the last 20 years in his village Dasanur in Government Middle school. In beginning stage, only men participated in folk art, now women are also participating. He has added the history of great Tamil poet Bhatathiyar, social concepts, method of life, environmental awareness, natural agriculture and health and infectious diseases through Valli Oyil Kummi.

3. Shri Badrappan conducts Valli Oyil Kummi in festivals in villages and cities, schools, colleges, universities, centers, organizations and associations. So far, he has conducted around 300 events. He is participating in social media like radio, television, YouTube and through short films to encourage and protect Valli Oyil Kummi and other folk arts.

4. Shri Badrappan has been performing at Coimbatore Radio for 24 years. He has conducted Valli Oyil Kummi programs three times on Coimbatore Pothigai TV, Bharatiar University, Coimbatore, Avinasilingam University and Kongunadu College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore. Thanjavur Southern Cultural Center helped him for two years 2015 and 2016 to implement the Guru Sishya Parampara project. He has implemented that plan in a great way. He participated in the Salangainatham program organized by Thanjavur Southern Cultural Center in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 and gave a great contribution.

5. Shri Badrappan has received many awards. The South Zone Cultural Centre Tanjore, Zonal Cultural Centre Salem, District Art Centre, Coimbatore honoured him with Kalai Muthumani Award in 2002. The Tamil Nadu Government honoured him with Kalaimamani Award in 2019 appreciating his continuous service in folk art.

Padma Shri



SHRI RAMLAL BARETH

Shri Ramlal Bareth is well known for the Raigarh style of Kathak from the Raigarh court. Currently he is only surviving Kathak Dancer of Raigarh court. He is widely recognized across India for his significant contributions in the field of Kathak dance to popularize the Raigarh Kathak style and establish Raigarh as a Kathak Gharana.

2. Born on 6th March, 1936, Shri Bareth's father was one of the finest Kathak dancer, maestro, and exponent of Raigarh style of Kathak dance. He learned the Kathak dance under the guru-shisya tradition from his father Pt. Kartikarm, Maharaja Chakradhar Singh and Guru Pt. Jailal Maharaj. He got an opportunity to stay in Raigarh court and learn Kathak dance, tabla and vocal music.

3. In 1956, Shri Bareth joined the Social Welfare Department as an artist and served until 1980. During this time, he founded Chakradhar Sangeet Vidyalaya in Raigarh and trained many Kathak dancers in Raigarh and nearby cities to promote the Raigarh Kathak style. In 1981, the Cultural Department of Madhya Pradesh government started Chakradhar Nritya Kendra in Bhopal and he was invited to work as Guru. He worked until 2011 and trained hundreds of students with the only intention to establish and evolve the Raigarh Kathak style as Raigarh Kathak Gharana. Currently he is residing in Bilaspur Chhattisgarh and providing advanced training to numerous students. He had served as Reader of the Dance Department at Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh and trained many disciples and guided several research scholars for their thesis on Kathak dance. With his profound knowledge of Nrit, Nritya and Natya, he has directed and composed many bandishes, thumri, tarana and also choreographed many nritya-natika based on poetry and traditional story.

4. Shri Bareth has performed extensively in Dance and Music conferences and festivals and trained a large number of disciples who became performers and exponents of Raigarh Kathak style. Disciples of Shri Ramlal are performing all over the world and many of them are teaching Raigarh Kathak style in different universities. He has been invited for Kathak workshops in many prestigious Dance and Music institutions from different parts of India, to provide training of specialties and rare compositions of Raigarh Kathak style. Over the last six decades, he has served as examiner in Dance and Music universities and institutes like Kathak Kendra Delhi, Jaipur Kathak Kendra, Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh etc. and participated in many Kathak seminars as speaker and presented Raigarh Kathak dance style. He worked as co-writer of the book 'Raigarh mein Kathak' written by his father. He has been a respected member of Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad and Program Committee Ustad Allauddin Khan Sangeet Academy Cultural Department M.P. Government Bhopal. He was also an Executive member of Sangeet Natak Academy.

5. Shri Bareth is the recipient of numerous awards and honours for his incredible work in Kathak Dance like Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1996, Chhattisgarh government award Chakradhar Samman in 2006 and Shikhar Samman by the Madhya Pradesh Government.

Padma Shri



SMT. PARBATI BARUA

Smt. Parbati Barua is India's First Female Elephant Mahout (Indian term for an elephant tamer and caretaker) and animal conservation activist. Overcoming gender stereotypes in the traditionally male-dominated field, she earned the nickname "Hasti Kanya" or "Daughter of Elephant" who has been taming wild elephants since she was just 14 years old.

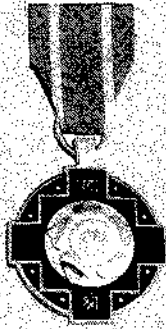
2. Born on 14th March, 1953 in the Royal Family of Gauripur, Assam, to Late Prakritish Chandra Barua (Lalji), the last in the line of Rajahs of Gauripur to hold power, Smt. Barua is a graduate in Political Science from Gauhati University and one would have probably expected her to pursue academics. However, she was not quite cut out for that. Since her childhood, she had a keen sense of understanding and interest in elephants and spent much of her time in the jungles along with her father (Lalji) who was an eccentric hunter and had a supernatural understanding of elephants and had 40 elephants in his royal stables.

3. Smt. Barua first domesticated an elephant in Kochugaon forest (Assam) at the age of 14. Following this, from 1975 to 1978, she successfully tamed 14 wild elephants through Mela Shikar (a traditional and unique method of capturing wild elephants in Assam where the elephant is caught with a Lasso and not by using tranquiliser guns), operating in the forests of Assam (Darrang and Kochugaon) and North Bengal (Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling). She has trained more than five hundred elephants till date.

4. Smt. Barua has actively assisted forest officers in the care and herbal treatment of the newly tamed elephants along with the training of mahouts and field staff in Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh, resulting in the resolution of several human-elephant conflicts. In recent years, she has also assisted the governments of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal in tackling rogue elephants or tending to the injured/ailing ones. She has attended various seminars and workshops, viz. the International Workshop on Elephants held in Jaldapara Sanctuary (West Bengal) in 1982, International Seminar on Asiatic Elephants organized by the Bombay Natural History Society in Mudumalai Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu) in June 1993 and has contributed two papers on the status of elephants of North Bengal. She represented India in the International Workshop on the Domesticated Asian Elephant at Bangkok, Thailand, organized by the F.A.O in February, 2001. She was a member of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

5. Smt. Barua is the recipient of numerous awards and honours which includes the Asom Gaurav (Highest State Civilian Award) 2023 from the Government of Assam. She received the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) award, "Global 500 - Roll of Honour" in 1989 for welfare and management of both wild and captive elephants. The Government of Assam felicitated her as the "Honorary Chief Elephant warden of Asom" for her lifetime work for Elephants on the 11th January, 2003. She was awarded the Life Time Achievement Award by Kolkata International Wildlife & Environment Film Festival (KIWEFF) and was also awarded with the "Nature's Warrior" Jury Award for Aparajita 2023.

Padma Shri



PROF. SOM DATT BATTU

Prof. Som Datt Battu is a renowned musicologist and composer.

2. Born on 11th April, 1938 in the family of musicians, Prof. Battu imbibed the rich musical tradition of the North Region at an early age. He started training under his father Pt. Ram Lai Battu of Shyam Chaurasi Gharana. He is a disciple of Pandit Kunj Lal Sharma of Gwalior Gharana and Prof. K.S. Chakravarty of Punjab Gharana. He also had a privilege to learn under the tutelage of Pt. Kundan Lal Sharma, disciple of Ustad Ashiq Ali Khan Saheb of Patiala Gharana. He has dedicated his entire life to music starting from the age of 5 years. He taught classical music in different colleges/Universities and other institutes for more than 40 years and at the age of 86 he still continues training his disciples world over.

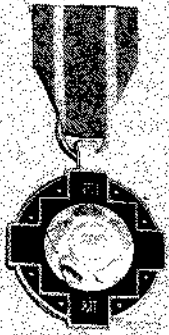
3. In the world of Indian music, Prof. Battu's legacy is always assessed by his role as a guru. As a musician trained by three gharanas, he has disseminated his repertoire freely, a passionate Guru who has guided countless 'shishyas' on the true path of music, without having ever charged a penny for the lessons imparted to his disciples. He always considered his Government salary and pension thereafter as adequate and never considered music lessons as 'tuitions' but looked upon them as 'Gyan- Daan' to his disciples. A true flag-bearer of our ancient musical traditions. He has compiled a priceless collection of traditional classical bandishes in the Punjabi language which has been published by the Punjabi University Patiala.

4. As a composer, Prof. Battu received the H.P. State Police Award for composing Martial songs for Army, Navy, Air force, whose lyrics were composed by Late Sh. Aminuddin Ahmed Khan, former Governor of H.P. He composed the Martial Tune for the Corps of Signals which has been adopted as its Core song abandoning the old British Tune. The lyrics have been composed by Anand Bakshi, renowned film lyricist.

5. Prof. Battu's achievements in the field of music as a writer have been recognized by Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, which brought out a book on music in the year 1992, titled 'Man and Music in India'. In this volume, papers by top ten musicologists of the country were selected for publication and his work was included among those ten. Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla organized a seminar on modern trends in various fields of humanities where he had the opportunity to present a paper on 'Modern trend in Music' which was thereafter published by the Indian Institute of Advance Studies. He has showcased our music abroad through ICCR, performed for AIR and stage concerts for over 50 years.

6. Prof. Battu has been honoured with several awards over the years for his contribution in the field of folk and classical music, including the Sangeet Kala Ratna conferred by the All India Hindu Vishwa Dharma Sammelan in 1975; The Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar Award conferred by Sirmour Kala Sangam, Himachal Pradesh in 2001; The Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by Punjabi Academy, Government of Delhi in 2012; The Sangeet Martand Award conferred by Arvind Kala Kendra in 2014; The Sardar Sohan Singh Samriti Award conferred by Punjabi University, Patiala in 2014, Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan Award in 2014 for being the senior most artiste of repute since 1955, the Punjab Sangeet Rattan Award in 2015, the Himachal Gaurav Puraskar in 2016 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2018.

Padma Shri

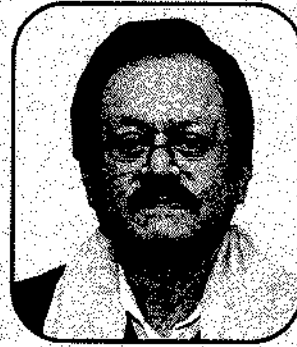
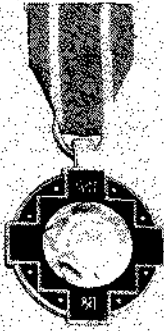


SHRI SATHYANARAYANA BELERI

Shri Sathyanarayana Beleri is a farmer- turned- paddy conservator of Netтанige, a small quaint hamlet located in the district of Kasargod, the northern most part of Kerala bordering Karnataka.

2. Born on 15th June, 1973, Shri Beleri with single-minded devotion is trying to preserve this seed heritage. His invaluable collections include some of the oldest Kerala grown varieties during pre-independent era such as Aryan, Chitteni, Kayama, Parambuvattan, Thekkencheera; important varieties with medicinal properties such as Navara, Rakthasali, Karigajavali, Chakayoporiyatt and so on. Along with traditional varieties of paddy, he is also conserving important traditional varieties of areca nut, nutmeg, black pepper and jack. Further, he is an apiarist and has the skill in grafting/budding of plants.
3. Shri Beleri's chance encounter, more than a decade ago, with the Gandhian and pioneering organic farmer Shri Cherkady Ramachandra Rao in Udupi district, Karnataka made him turn to conservation, to start with traditional Rajakayama paddy seeds, a variety requiring less water. Later, with increased interest and commitment he travelled across Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu to collect seeds of traditional rice varieties. Thus, what started as a hobby became a passion for him and he is now preserving more than 650 traditional paddy cultivars mainly traditional land races of Karnataka and Kerala.
4. Conservation of paddy germplasm is a cumbersome process requiring much investment of space, time, labour and energy. The land owned by Shri Beleri with its highly undulating terrain and red lateritic soils is unsuitable for paddy cultivation. However, these constraints did not hamper his conservation efforts, rather it led him to innovate. He started growing paddy in polybags. Different varieties are harvested, sun-dried and then stored in paper bags. By following this method, he has conserved as many as 650 land races in an area of 200 square meters. Besides conserving he also has shared these germplasms with important Research Institutes, State Agricultural Universities of South India and farmers that too free of cost.

Padma Shri



SHRI ASHOK KUMAR BISWAS

Shri Ashok Kumar Biswas is a thriving folk artist from Bihar, who has consecrated five decades of his life towards reviving Tikuli Art, an ancient craft dating back to the Mauryan period, by transforming it into the form of a folk painting and providing gratis training to uplift the women of rural and sub-urban areas of Bihar.

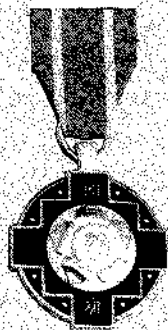
2. Born on 3rd October, 1956 at Rohtas, Bihar, Shri Biswas was exposed to financial struggles at an early age. He acquainted himself with painting while working with his elder brother in a shop of sign boards. After being skillfully trained from the Shilp Anusandhan Sansthan, Patna in 1973, he devotionally committed himself to the elevation of the fading Tikuli Art. His mentors, Shri Upendra Maharathi (Padma Shri awardee) and Shri Lai Babu Gupta, two of the prominent artists of Bihar guided him on the path of revival of the age-old craft.

3. While its origin lies in intricate 'bindis' which have graced women's foreheads since eons, Shri Biswas transformed it into a rich and refined folk painting of Bihar, which emerged as a significant promoter of women empowerment too. Approximately 8000 women have been trained by him, out of which a multitude earn their livelihood with their creativity.

4. In the 1982 Asian Games, the then Prime Minister of India chose Shri Biswas's Tikuli Paintings as the official gift for all the participating athletes from across the globe. He has represented Bihar in more than 100 exhibitions all over India, and has also represented India at various international exhibitions. Through his dedication, Tikuli painting is now a part of both, the 'Make in India' Movement and 'One District, One Product' Movement. He has held numerous incredible workshops notably, under the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme; All India Workshop on Folk Art; Visual Arts of Bihar, EZCC-all by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He has also conducted countless training programmes like those under the Kaushal Vikas Mission, Government of India; by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India; others held by the Government of Bihar; and furthermore in schools, universities and organisations to connect more and more people with this flourishing folk art. His Tikuli paintings adorn the walls of the Bihar Museum, the Secretariat; the Chief Minister's Office; EZCC Headquarters; Ministry of Culture, Government of India Headquarters and a plethora of other esteemed offices and embellished homes.

5. Shri Biswas has been awarded by numerous organisations for his extraordinary contributions towards the folk art. He was honoured with the State Award in 2008 by the Government of Bihar; the Kala Shri Award by the Government of India in 2009; Gold Medal in IHGF Delhi Fair in 2020; felicitation by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and by the Governors of Bihar; appreciation awards by the Royal Government of Bhutan at the 9th SAARC Fair; and scores of other prestigious awards and felicitations.

Padma Shri



SMT. SMRITI REKHA CHAKMA

Smt. Smriti Rekha Chakma is a Chakma indigenous expert artisan on the ethnic textiles of Tripura and a modern traditional textiles designer too.

2. Born on 20th September, 1964, Smt. Chakma has been weaving since childhood using the traditional Loin Loom and mastered on the craft at an early age. Later she developed her skills in herbal dyeing of cotton yarns from eco-friendly variant plants, herbs, seeds, flowers, roots, barks, leaves etc. collected from jungles. Her works have found place in various temples and museums of both in the state and abroad. Over the last two decades she participated in several seminars, workshops, demonstrations, trainings etc. in Tripura, Delhi, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Assam to showcase creation of her prestigious items.

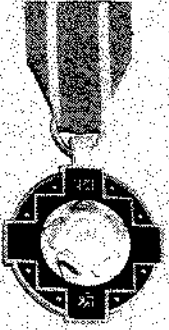
3. Smt. Chakma represented India in various conferences and workshops outside the country such as Regional Back Strap Loom Conference & Workshop in 2009, Dhaka, Natural colours programme on 2009 as a Guru by the Prabartana, Dhaka and Trade & Investment Show India-Myanmar-2014, Yangon. To preserve her skills several documentary films were filmed such as Doordarshan Film named "Culture & Handicrafts of Tripura" on the Chakma traditional weaving, designing and herbal dyeing by Film Division, Kolkata, Doordarshan documentary "The Culture & Heritage of Chakma" and Doordarshan Kendra, Tripura film named "Parbatta Tripurar Ekti Ujjal Nakshatrar Naam Smriti Rekha Chakma".

4. Smt. Chakma founded the NGO named "Ujeia Jadha" (Advance Society) in 1999 for upgradation of the rural women folk for their education and economy. She conducted training centers on weaving and natural dyeing with free food & lodging and also provided stipend to the trainees under her teaching. As a result, four of her trainees were also awarded National Awards.

5. Smt. Chakma was felicitated with many accolades on various occasions like State Bizu Mela-2002, Tripura; International Chakma Literary & Cultural Festival-2018, Tripura, International Poet & Literary Utsav-2022, Fhtirbareng, Chakma Literary Academy, Tripura..

6. Smt. Chakma received numerous awards and honours in her lifetime including National Award in 2000, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India; Guru Shishya Paramparya-2011 Dimapur, Nagaland; Sutrakar Samman-2018, Delhi Crafts Council, New Delhi; Sant Kabir Award for Master Weaver in 2018 by Ministry of Textiles, World Crafts Council Award in 2018 from the UNESCO, South Asia Region, Kuwait and Lifetime Award-2022, International Chakma Foundation, Tripura

Padma Shri



DR. RAGHUVeer CHAUDHARI

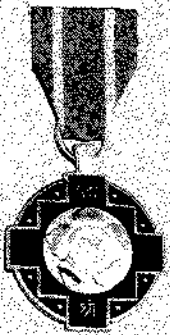
Dr. Raghudev Chaudhari is a novelist, poet and critic and a prominent figure on the contemporary Gujarati literature. He was a Professor and Head of the Department of Hindi, Post-graduate School of Languages, Gujarat University. He represents a voice of a true Indian writer, a writer with a social conscience, a writer with faith in mankind and utmost love for nature. Recognised and honoured as one of the most prolific writers on the contemporary Gujarati literary scene, he has been equally appreciated by his readers and critics.

2. Born on 5th December, 1938, Dr. Raghudev is a writer with deep sensitivity who believes in the co-existence of spirituality and science, reality and emotions, thinking and sentiments. He has to his credit over 125 books with almost all forms of literature including 44 novels, 12 collections of short stories, 8 collections of poems, apart from the collections of plays, travelogues, biographic sketches, criticism etc.

3. Dr. Raghudev is a Managing Trustee of 'Grambharati Gramvidyapeeth', 'Lokbharati Gramvidyapeeth', Chairman and Trustee of 'Adya Kavi Narsinh Mehta Sahitya Nidhi' and a trustee of 'Gujarati Sahitya Parishad'.

4. Dr. Raghudev has been conferred with the fellowship by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in 2013 and received the 51st Bhartiya Jnanpith in 2015. He was honoured with the Sahitya Academy's national award for his novel 'Uparvas Kathatrai' in 1977. He has won numerous prizes including awards given by the Gujarat state (1965-1970), Darshak Foundation Award (1995), K. M. Munshi Gold Medal, Gaurav Puraskar by Gujarat Sahitya Academy (2002), Sahitya Gaurav Puraskar by Hindi Sahitya Academy of Gujarat State (2007), Kavi Narmad Paritoshik by Maharashtra Rajya Gujarati Sahitya Academy (2010), Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (2014), and Govardhanram Sanman (2017).

Padma Shri



SMT. K. CHELLAMMAL

Smt. K. Chellammal is an organic farmer from remote islands in South Andaman, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and has successfully developed an 8 Acre Organic Farm. She has been maintaining coconut based cropping system by effectively utilizing interspaces in her garden for growing different inter/Mixed crops in a sustainable and profitable manner and is Popularly known as "Naryal Amma".

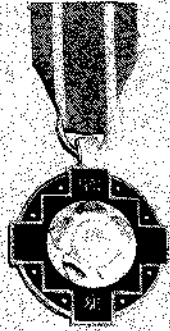
2. Born on 6th February, 1957, Smt. Chellammal studied up to Class 6. She is always happy to share her experiences with other farmers. She gave training to more than 170 farmers of nearby villages. More than 200 farmers visited her farm from local and mainland and many farmers adopted her techniques. Agriculture Colleges and institutions depute students to her farm for study purpose also. She raises coconuts trees and improves her income by planting intercrops like cinnamon, black pepper, bay leaves, areca nut, elephant foot yam, betel leaf, ginger, turmeric, papaya, banana, chiko, heliconia flowers, marigold and other vegetables etc.

3. Smt. Chellammal has developed innovative ways to overcome the damage of coconut by rats, she made garlands of cotton balls by wetting in Gur/Jangary or sugar syrup and tied on the coconut trees. When rats climbs the palm, they chew the sweet cotton ball and swallow it which in turn suffocates their respiratory system. For pets and disease control, she adopts Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy in which pheromones play a vital role in controlling the pest population. Beetles attracted by the RB-Lure fall into water in the bucket and get drowned. She adopts organic farming techniques like Jeevamruham, Panchagavya and adds green manure and farmyard manure for her farm. She promotes bee-keeping for pollination.

4. As a women, Smt. Chellammal bravely encountered problems and overcome difficulties while introducing innovation and new crops in Andaman. Her farm is a model farm for local and students of agriculture. Her farm is sustaining good income while keeping the productivity of crops and soil. She sees an exciting opportunity in Agro Tourism in Andaman. So she promotes Agro Tourism in her Farm. Now many tourists from local, mainland and international places have been visiting her farm.

5. Smt. Chellammal is the recipient of many awards and honours. She received National Award 2016-2018 as best coconut farmer from Coconut Development Board from Kerala, Innovative Farmer Award received from Pragati International Scientific Research Foundation, Meerut, India in the field of spices and flower farming in the year 2023, Best Farmer award in Kisan Mela organized by ICAR-CIARI Port Blair in year 2012, First Prize for Fruits, Flowers and Vegetable, organized by State Agriculture Department during the Island Tourism Festival 2014 and Progressive Best Farmer Award received from Central -Islands Agriculture Research Institute, Port Blair in the year 2016.

Padma Shri



MS. JOSHNA CHINAPPA

Ms. Joshna Chinappa, is an international Squash player, who has blazed a trail in Indian Squash by winning national and international squash tournaments.

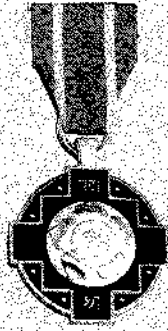
2. Born on 15th September, 1986 in Chennai, Kumari Joshna hails from the Kodava community in Coorg. She is the great grand niece of Field Marshal Shri K M Cariappa. Her schooling was in Chennai and she graduated from Ethiraj College for Women - Chennai, in B.A. Literature. At age of 9 years, she was introduced to Squash by her father Shri Anjan Chinappa, who mentored and coached her for 15 years. She won her first Senior National Squash Championship at the tender age of 14. With a record 19 National titles, she has dominated Indian Squash for 20 years.

3. After a successful junior career, Ms. Joshna won international tournaments and became the first Indian Asian Junior Champion in 2003. In 2005, she became the first Indian to win a Silver Medal at the World Individual Junior Championships in Belgium, and also the first Indian to win the prestigious British Open Junior Championship. Her pursuit of excellence in Squash continued, as she joined the professional tour. Her exploits on the tour led her in 2016, to reach her highest world ranking of No.10. An ACL injury in 2011, which kept her away from Squash for almost a year, did not dampen her passion for her sport. She returned stronger, winning the Chennai Open, and Penang Open in 2012, and was instrumental in India winning the gold medal at the Asian Team Championships - 2012, in Kuwait.

4. Representing India, Ms. Joshna has brought laurels for the country by winning Gold medals in SAF GAMES in 2006 and 2016. In 2014, she along with her team mate Ms. Dipika Pallikal created history, by winning the first Gold medal, ever, for Squash, in Ladies Doubles at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. In 2018, she won the Silver medal in the Ladies Doubles event in the Commonwealth Games - Gold Coast. In the Asian Games 2018 at Jakarta, she won a Silver medal in Team event, and a Bronze medal in the Individual event. In 2017, she became the first Indian Squash player to become the Asian Squash Champion, and in 2019 successfully defended her title. She continued to bring glory for the country by winning the World Doubles Championships in 2022. In the Asian Games 2023, she won a Bronze medal in the Team event. Her victories on the Squash arena have greatly helped popularize the sport.

5. In 2005, Ms. Joshna was appointed Goodwill Ambassador of the "Save The Girl Child" campaign by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. In recognition of her achievements in Squash, she was given the "Arjuna Award" by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, in August 2013. She has also received Sports Icon Award from Rotary International in 2010. She has been honoured and felicitated by Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu. She has also been honoured by various clubs like Madras Cricket Club, CCI - Mumbai, and by Ethiraj College for Women.

Padma Shri



SMT. CHARLOTTE CHOPIN

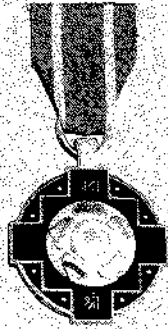
Smt. Charlotte Chopin is a French Yoga teacher who is still active as a yoga teacher at the age of 101.

2. Born on 11th December, 1922 in Germany, Smt. Chopin grew up first in Germany and then in Alsace, France. At a young age, she got a prize for her good results at school. Unfortunately, during the Second World War, evicted from their apartment, her parents migrated to the South of France where she worked for the French Red Cross. After the Second World War, she was in the services of the German Affairs Commission, under the authority of the French Chief Command in Germany, depending on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. Then she worked in two private companies. During the 1950s, she went to Africa with her husband working in an import export company. In Cameroon, she was executive secretary at the port of Douala. She worked as Executive Secretary during her professional life in Europe and in Africa before dedicating her life to the education of her children.

3. Back in France, Smt. Chopin devoted herself to the raising up of her four children. In 1972, at the age of 50, she discovered yoga and liked it immediately. Ten years later in 1982, she alongwith her husband moved to another city, where advised by her yoga teacher, she started to teach Yoga. Although she never went to India, she was trained by Shri B.K.S. Iyengar on two occasions, in 1985 in Paris and in 1986 in Tours. In 2022, she participated in a very popular TV show (Got Talent) where the audience was very impressed by the performance of a 99 years old lady. She was followed by many media requests: regional and national newspapers, radio stations, podcasts, TVs and internet reports. The French President Shri Emmanuel Macron wrote a letter to her on her 100th birthday. She was made honorary citizen in the Town Hall of her city on her 100th birthday. Next day, she was filmed in Sirsasana just before receiving a Golden Like from the popular FR3 TV channel. In July, 2023, she had a private interview with the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who was the National Day Guest of Honour of France.

4. Smt. Chopin has 51 years of practice and 41 years of teaching of Yoga. During the last 3 years of her long life, she did not seek or plan anything: media and honours came to her. Amazingly her mediatic exposure offered an opportunity of a much wider promotion of yoga.

Padma Shri



SHRI UDAY VISHWANATH DESHPANDE

Shri Uday Vishwanath Deshpande, popularly known as 'Mallakhamb Vishwa Guru' has been the Honorary General Secretary and Chief Coach of the 98-year-old premier and pioneer physical education institution, the Shree SainarthaVyayam Mandir, Dadar, for the last 42 years. He is also the Founder Director and Honorary Secretary of Vishwa Mallakhamb Federation, through which he conducted two Mallakhamb World Championships, in which 15 countries participated. He is instrumental in starting National Mallakhamb Federations in other countries.

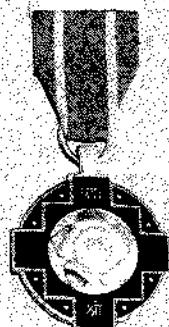
2. Born on 20th July, 1953, Shri Deshpande joined Customs and Central Excise Department and retired as Deputy Commissioner in 2013. A Wrestling and Mallakhamb enthusiast from childhood, all his personal time was dedicated to promoting the dying Indian Physical Culture of Mallakhamb. He had realized early the potential that Mallakhamb held for the health, fitness and quality of life at the level of the individual, the community and for all of humankind. At the tender age of 18, he vowed to nurture and revive Mallakhamb and began his tireless, passionate work.

3. Across 50 years, Shri Deshpande has travelled to every district in Maharashtra, every state in India and conducted thousands of Mallakhamb workshops, across all socio-economic groups, reaching even those most marginalized. He is credited with having trained over 1000 Mallakhamb enthusiasts from more than 52 countries, and has conducted several Mallakhamb workshops covering 3 continents Asia, Europe and USA. Not only did he start Mallakhamb centres across the country, but he also ensured standardized training by developing a pedagogy for training and instructions in Mallakhamb. He initiated and encouraged research in the field and designed teachers training courses. He wrote extensively, about Mallakhamb in many languages. His contribution includes meticulous documentation and building a body of work to be available for posterity. This includes the international "Rule Book" of Mallakhamb and spelling out the criteria for judging international Mallakhamb events.

4. Shri Deshpande broke glass ceilings of all kinds. He was the first to coach adults and senior citizens in Mallakhamb. He welcomed girls and women into the male-dominated sports arena and encouraged women to perform on the traditionally male bastion of the Pole Mallakhamb. He 'reached the unreached' by training the visually-challenged, children with special needs, orphans and tribals. He worked relentlessly for the recognition of Mallakhamb as a sport by the Government of India, the Indian Olympic Association and the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. He has mentored 15 Shiv Chhatrapati awardee players, 3 Shiv Chhatrapati Best Coach Awardees, including one Mallakhamb Arjun award winner.

5. Shri Deshpande's work of transforming Mallakhamb from a little-known traditional exercise to a sport that has a global presence won him over 50 National and International awards along with the Shiv Chhatrapati award as an organiser, Dadoji Kondadev Award as Best Coach and Lifetime Achievement Award by the Government of Maharashtra.

Padma Shri



DR. RADHA KRISHAN DHIMAN

Dr. Radha Krishan Dhiman is an eminent hepatologist and currently the Director of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow and Director of Kalyan Singh Superspecialty Cancer Institute, Lucknow.

2. Born on 4th June, 1960, Dr. Dhiman received his M.B.B.S. and M.D. in Medicine from King Georges Medical College, Lucknow in 1984 and 1987 respectively, Doctorate in Medicine (DM, Gastroenterology) from SGPGIMS, Lucknow in 1991. He subsequently joined prestigious Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh as Assistant Professor in Hepatology and went on to become Professor and Head of the Department, before he moved to SGPGIMS, Lucknow in 2020. He has been bestowed Fellow from several National and International Institutions.

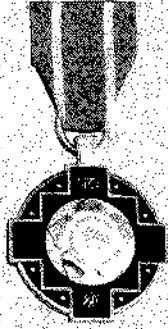
3. Dr. Dhiman started first ever DM in Hepatology in the country, along with Liver ICU for sick patients and initiated the liver transplantation program at PGIMER, Chandigarh. He devised a cost-effective treatment algorithm for hepatitis C. The primary care physicians and pharmacists were trained to treat hepatitis persons in all 22 district hospitals and 3 Government Medical Colleges across Punjab. Encouraged by the success in Punjab, Government of India launched the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP) in 2018 with provision of free diagnosis and treatment for viral hepatitis through the National Health Mission. Dr Dhiman has been the Chairman of Technical Resource Group (TRG) of NVHCP and was Scientific Advisor to Hepatitis C Control Program in the Injection Safety, Punjab, and member of "Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE)". In the capacity of Chairman, Injection Safety in Punjab, Dr Dhiman guided the introduction of Re-Use Prevention (RUP) syringes in all government hospitals in Punjab.

4. Dr. Dhiman contributed significantly to fight against Covid in UP. He is the Chairman of the UP State Advisory Boards on Covid management and Covid-Associated Mucormycosis. He provided guidance and assistance in strategic planning, implementation, and management of COVID in UP in micro-containment, stricter CAB discipline and enforcement, enhanced RT-PCR testing, serosurveillance and genomic sequencing. Strategies employed in UP in fight against COVID have been well appreciated by WHO, Australia, NITI Ayog and media.

5. Dr. Dhiman has also been front runner in promoting the organ donation. With all his efforts, the "Pledging for Organ donation" on driving license in Chandigarh UT became a reality and Chandigarh became the 2nd State/UT for Organ Donation in India. He was the President of the prestigious International Society on Hepatic Encephalopathy and Nitrogen Metabolism (ISHEN) for 6 consecutive years from 2012 to 2019, Secretary, Indian National Association for the Study of Liver (INASL) for 3 consecutive years – 2016, 2017 and 2018; he is now the President of the same society. He was Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Clinical & Experimental Hepatology (*JCEH*) for 10 years – 2011 to 2020. He was Governor of ACG for 6 consecutive years - 2011 to 2017.

6. Dr. Dhiman is recipient of numerous National and International awards and honours such as Dr BC Roy National Award, (2008), 4-times Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) awards; "Basanti Devi Amir Chand Prize" in 2009, "Amrut Modi Unichem Prize" in 2007, "Shakuntala Amir Chand Award" in 1997 and "Dr DV Datta Memorial Oration Award" in 1996. He received Harold O Conn Award by AASLD, and several other international awards.

Padma Shri



PROF. PIERRE-SYLVAIN FILLIOZAT

Prof. Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat is a Professor of Sanskrit.

2. Born on the 15th February, 1936 at Neuilly s/Seine in France, Prof. Filliozat is the son of Shri Jean Filliozat (1906-1982), a reputed Professor of Indology in College of France, founder and director of the French Institute of Pondicherry. He obtained degrees in Sanskrit and Hindi (Paris) in 1959. He obtained his PhD (Paris) in 1962, with a thesis entitled *Le Prataparudriya de Vidyanatha* (Alamkara-shastra), a 13th century treatise of Sanskrit Poetics.

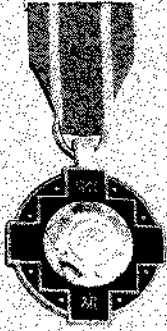
2. Prof. Filliozat worked in India from 1963 to 1967 as Member of Ecole frangaised'Extreme-Orient (French School of Asian Studies), in its Pondicherry branch. From 1967 to 2004 he has been Professor of Sanskrit in Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes (School of Higher Studies), Sorbonne, Paris. Since 2004 in retirement, he is Emeritus Professor of Sanskrit, Paris.

3. Prof. Filliozat fulfilled missions to India every year (average of six months), at Pondicherry from 1955 to 1992 and at Mysore from 1993. During his stays in Pondicherry he was trained in Sanskrit by two traditional Sanskrit Pandits, N. Ramachandra Bhat and M. S. Narasimhacharya.

4. From 2000 Prof. Filliozat is a Member of Academie des inscriptions et belles-lettres (Institut de France, Paris). He was its President for one year in 2010. From 2000 to 2019, he has been Vice-President of the Societe Asiatique, Paris, 2000-2019. All along his career including the present day he has conducted research in the following areas of Sanskrit Studies: Sanskrit language and Indian grammatical tradition (Vyakarana), Sanskrit philology, paleography of Sanskrit manuscripts, Sanskrit epigraphy, Sanskrit poetical, religious, especially Shaivagamas, and scientific literatures and also on Indian religious architecture and iconography, with special reference to Karnataka monuments and the extraordinary site of Hampi and History of Indology. He has published 23 books and around 250 articles.

5. Prof. Filliozat has received many awards in India such as Mahamahopadhyaya Honoris causa (conferred by Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in 2013), Certificate of Honour for Sanskrit received from the President of India in 2014, Honorary Fellow of the Samvidya Institute for Cultural Studies (Pune), Vanamali Samman for Sanskrit from Vanamali Trust, Mysore. In France he was awarded as Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur; Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Merite; Commandeur de l'Ordre des Palmes academiques.

Padma Shri



SMT. ANUPAMA HOSKERE

Smt. Anupama Hoskere is a master puppeteer and the Founder-Director of the Dhaatu Puppet Theater, Bengaluru, India. She is globally recognized for her wide experience in every facet of the composite art form of puppetry.

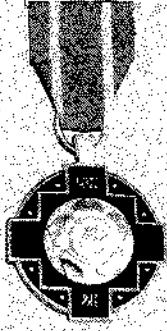
2. Born on 20th December, 1964 in Bengaluru, Smt. Anupama started getting training in Carnatic music and Bharatanatyam even before starting formal schooling. Along with formal education, she received lessons in the great Indian Epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata. She received her Bachelor in Engineering degree from BMS College of Engineering in 1987 and Master of Science degree from California State University, Long Beach in 1993. She also received training in traditional puppetry of Karnataka.

3. Along with her husband, Sri Vidyashankar Hoskere, Smt. Anupama founded Dhaatu in 2004 with the aim of bringing to the people India's great Treasure Trove of stories from historical epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, from literary masterpieces of poetic greats such as Bhasa and Kalidasa as well as stories from the Panchatantra and the many stories of India's great sages, kings and thinkers. A careful and detailed study of the Natyashastra provided her much impetus to expand the intricacies and intellectual merit of her productions. She has redesigned the old puppet theater into a more composite layered theater - combining puppetry, dance, and theatre into large-scale performances. Dhaatu has, over time, developed to become India's first puppetry brand name that catapulted puppetry into being recognized as a respected and classical art form of India. With over 25 full-length productions, the Dhaatu Puppet Theater has been invited to perform at prestigious International Festivals in France, Belgium, Morocco, USA, China, etc., apart from several platforms within India.

4. Smt. Anupama decided to take traditional puppetry to the masses and thus began the Dhaatu International Puppet Festival. This annual festival of puppet shows, workshops and conferences provides a platform for urban and rural puppeteers of India to come together along with puppeteers from foreign countries. The proceedings of the conference are brought out in a publication called "Punashchetana", recording the knowledge systems and history of Indian puppetry and that of visiting artistes and scholars. She also initiated the Dhaatu Navaratra Mahotsava in 1995. Through a still-theatre display of individually detailed story boxes consisting of well over ten thousand traditional dolls, stories of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata, Shiva Purana and temple traditions of India are told during the Dussehra festival. She continues her endeavours with Dhaatu Puppet Paathashala, training students in puppetry. She has established the Dhaatu Puppet Museum in Bengaluru that has a curated collection of unique puppets from different states of India and across the world.

5. Smt. Anupama is a recipient of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar [2018] for puppetry and numerous other awards by cultural organizations in India and abroad. She has been a recipient of the Senior fellowship in Puppetry awarded by the Ministry of Culture. She is also the recipient of the UN Erasmus Mundus Scholarship to teach Indian puppetry across universities in Europe.

Padma Shri



PROF. (DR.) RAJARAM JAIN

Prof. (Dr.) Rajaram Jain, a distinguished Indologist, epigraphist, exceptional writer, and a versatile scholar in Prakrit, Pali, Apabhramsha, Sanskrit, and Hindi literature, has passionately dedicated over 64 years to restoration, research, compilation and translation of ancient and medieval Indian manuscripts.

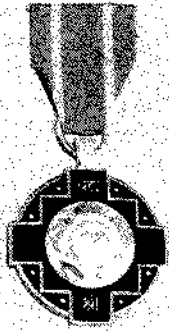
2. Born on 1st February, 1929, Prof. (Dr.) Jain earned his B.A. degree from Banaras Hindu University in 1951; followed by M.A. in Hindi literature and Shastracharya in 1954; M.A. in Prakrit language in 1958 and Ph.D. in 1967 from Bihar University. In 1961, he joined Magadh University, Bodhgaya, as a Lecturer in Sanskrit and Prakrit. His significant positions include Director at 'Kundkund Bharati', New Delhi (1991), President of 'Nagari Pracharini Sabha' (1983-2003), and Director of 'D. K. Jain Oriental Research Institute' (1979-2003), Ara, Bihar. He has also been associated with various institutes such as UGC, NCERT, prestigious 'President of India Awards' in Literature (1999-2000) and an Associate Member of the 'Centre of Jaina Studies', University of London (2020). He chaired the "All India Oriental Conference" in 1976.

3. Prof. (Dr.) Jain's 11,000+ published pages are a translation of rare Indian manuscripts into Hindi, preserving invaluable ancient knowledge spanning diverse aspects of ancient Indian life. His notable works include deciphering a rare Prakrit Manuscript of the 1st Century AD (Jony Pahuda) that reveals secrets to a healthy life through Mantra, Tantra, Ayurveda and longevity formulas; exploring India's trade relations with foreign countries in the 15th century (Sirival Chariu) honoured with an international Award in 2018; and shedding light on Delhi's origin in the 12th century (Pasanaha Chariu). His contributions extend to critically examining 22 rare Apabhramsha epics of the 14th Century AD (Raidhu Sahitya Aalochnatmak Parishilan) offering insights into Medieval Indian history and culture; and decoding the 12th century masterpiece on literature, art, culture (Vaddhamanachariu).

4. Prof.(Dr.) Jain's academic journey involves the discovery of unpublished manuscripts in remote Indian regions, which he diligently translated, revealing their literary, cultural, scientific, and historical significance. In his teaching career spanning over 35 years, he has inspired scholars and mentored numerous students. His dedication to Indology has sparked a resurgence of research, leaving an indelible mark, shaping Indology's future and nurturing a legacy.

5. Prof.(Dr.) Jain is recipient of numerous awards and honours. The Government of India conferred on him 'Jain Itihas Ratna' in 1974; 'President of India Certificate of Merit and lifelong fellowship' in 2000. He has been conferred a D.Litt. (Honoris Causa) by Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi, in 2005 for his pioneering contributions to Indology. The Institut de France, Paris conferred on him the prestigious 'Colette Caillat Foundation Award' in 2018. His contributions were further recognized through honours like the 'Festschrift' in 2019; 'Ahimsa International Award' in 1997; 'Acharya Kundkund Memorial Award' in 1999; 'Man of the Year', USA in 2004; 'Prakrit Jnanabharati International Award' in 2007. He holds the titles of 'Prakrit Sindhu', 'Prachya Vidya Vachaspati', 'Prachya Pandulipi Visheshgya', and 'Prakrit Purush'.

Padma Shri



SHRI RATAN KAHAR

Shri Ratan Kahar is an exponent of folk song Bhadu Gan and many other types of songs.

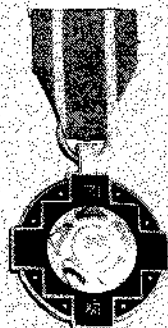
2. Born on 1st January, 1945, Shri Kahar resides in Nagaripara, Sonatorepara Mouja, Suri Birbhum, Jharkhand. He has been active in this art practice for more than 65 years. He had been performing on stage since he was 9 years old. Bhadu and Alcup songs are traditional form of Folk Culture particularly in this part of West Bengal i.e. in the district of Birbhum. Along with dancing he had a natural inclination to write songs. This talent of his manifested in writing parody songs for Bhadu and Alcup in the initial part of his life and soon with the abundance of his talent he started to write original songs from a very early age in his life. He has written at least 250-300 original Bhadu and folk songs. He has performed on Radio and Television several times in his life.

3. Shri Kahar himself provides tune to the numerous Bhadu, Alcup and various types of Folk songs written by him. Indianness has been expressed in all over his creations. He wrote and sang songs of the soil, and these songs told tales of the common and neglected men. His songs like 'Boroloker Biti lo', 'O Ravan pala re, Lanka ghirechhe Hanuman' were sung by legendary folk singers like Swapna Chakroborty, Purna Das Baul and many others.

4. Even today, Shri Kahar gets up before dawn for the rendition of devotional prabhati songs, which is called 'Tahal' in this part of West Bengal. His songs have been entertaining and teaching people in their own inimitable ways at least for the last 60 years. He himself is an institution.

5. Shri Kahar was felicitated many times by various Government institutions like the Department of Information & Culture and private institutions. The State Government has given a monetary benefit of Rs 1000/- per month as Artiste Allowance. Despite receiving little in terms of assistance, he didn't stop the pursuit of his passion which fascinated both rural and urban people of West Bengal and India alike.

Padma Shri



SHRI GAURAV KHANNA

Shri Gaurav Khanna has been widely recognized as the Man behind the rise of Para Badminton in the country. He has extended commendable contribution in promoting sports among disabled and elevating them from grassroots level to the level of Deaflympics and Paralympics.

2. Born on 11th December, 1975, Shri Khanna received his B.Com degree (1995), Bachelor of Physical Education degree (1996), Diploma in Yoga (1998) from Lucknow University as well as NIS-Badminton (2010) and Master Trainers in Sports and Games for the Disability (2011) from SAI Bangalore and LNIPE, Gwalior respectively. His chronicle of battles that led to him becoming a role model for society is also included in the National Geographic documentary series One For Change.

3. Taking on the challenge of training hearing impaired athletes, Shri Khanna learned sign language to communicate with hearing impaired athletes and played an important role in representing India in a number of international Deaf competitions, including the Asian Deaf Pacific Games, World Deaf Badminton Championship, and Deaflympics. In addition to creating a number of Deaflympic and International medallists as a National Coach, he served as the "Continental coach" of the Asian Deaf Badminton Team in 2011.

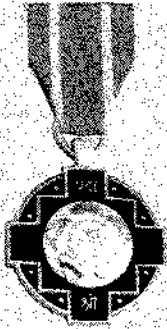
4. Apart from organizing tournaments and training camps for differently abled athletes, Shri Khanna established the country's first Residential Badminton academy dedicated to disabled athletes, where all categories of athletes from various parts of the country, train together for free. His residence for differently abled athletes is known as the "Drona Paralympic House" in Lucknow. Since 2015, after his nomination as Head National Coach of Indian Para Badminton Team, the Indian Para Badminton team has won 871 medals (239 Gold, 247 Silver, and 385 Bronze) in BWF recognized international competitions including the Asian Para Games, World Championships, and Tokyo Paralympics. Many of his trainee athletes are in World's top rank and have been conferred with highest sporting awards of the country.

5. During 2011-2015, working with the NSFs for PWDs i.e. Special Olympic Bharat, Paralympic Committee of India and All India Sports Council of Deaf, Shri Khanna contributed in formulating policy, drafting syllabus and teaching faculty for MYAS, GOI scheme for Sports and Games for the Disabilities in University of Physical Education (LNIPE), Gwalior and developed more than 5000 Master Trainers across the country.

6. Shri Khanna is also a qualified International Umpire and qualified International Referee of Badminton Asia, having travelled throughout the world to officiate and represent the country in over 100 international sporting events. Shri Khanna has also served as Competition Director, Competition Manager, Live Scorer, Match Controller, and Technical Official at several international and national level multisport events in India and overseas.

7. Shri Khanna is the recipient of numerous accolades and honours, including the highest state awards, Yash Bharti (2016) and Best Individual Working for the Cause of Disabilities (2019) from the Uttar Pradesh Government. He has been conferred with the country's highest coaching honour and is the first Dronacharya Awardee (2020) of Para Badminton in the country.

Padma Shri



SHRI SURENDRA KISHORE

Shri Surendra Kishore is a famous journalist from Bihar.

2. Born on 2nd January, 1947 in a farmer's family in the village of Bharahapur in Saran district in Bihar, Shri Kishore obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in History. Despite being a talented student, he did not go for a government service. Instead, he worked as a political activist and later as a journalist.

3. Shri Kishore has been pursuing journalism for the past five decades. After working as a freelancer, he entered mainstream journalism in 1977. He held important positions successively in major newspapers such as Dainik Aaj (1977-83), Jansatta (1983-2001), Dainik Hindustan (2001-2007), and Dainik Bhaskar (2013-16). Additionally, he continued to write for various magazines and newspapers like Dharmayug, Dinman, Ravivar, and others. Even today, he continues to work for leading newspapers and websites in the country.

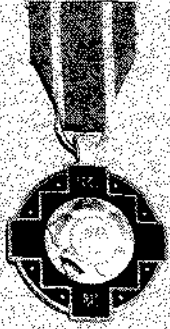
4. Due to his dedication, hard work, and honesty, the editors of country's leading newspapers wanted to associate Shri Surendra Kishore with them. During his journalistic career, he has broken several news stories. His reports often led to discussions in the Bihar Legislative Assembly as also Indian Parliament. He was the one who took the interview of Shri Jayaprakash Narayan on important issues.

5. Shri Kishore had participated in many political movements. In 1969, he was arrested in New Delhi during a jan-andolan and he spent some time in Tihar Jail. He and his wife took active part in the JP Movement. During the Emergency, he was active across the country, including Bihar, along with George Fernandes.

6. Shri Kishore's rich personal library and reference collection attracts people even from outside Bihar and they come to consult the library. Dr. Namwar Singh and Jansatta's editor Shri Prabhash Joshi also visited Surendra ji's personal library. Shri Shambhunath Shukla, editor of several major newspapers in the country, wrote in April last year on his Facebook Wall about the top ten journalists in the country from whom he had learned a lot, he was one of them. Shri Harivansh, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who himself is a renowned journalist wrote that honouring Shri Kishore was like honouring the disappearing glorious tradition of Hindi journalism. He described him as a walking and talking encyclopedia.

7. Shri Kishore is known for his humility, Gandhian simplicity and honesty. He is regarded as a saintly journalist. He never accepted any favour and even declined many local and regional awards.

Padma Shri



PROF. SRIDHAR MAKAM KRISHNAMURTHY

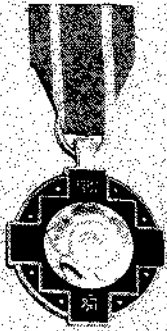
Prof. Sridhar Makam Krishnamurthy is a Teacher, Researcher, Education Policy Expert, and Institution builder, deeply rooted in Bhartiya philosophy and values.

2. Born on 15th September, 1954, Prof. Krishnamurthy was educated at SDGS College in Hindupur, and then at Bangalore and Mysore University. He served as Lecturer in Vijaya College, Bangalore, and Professor at Bangalore University. As a student and teacher Karyakarta of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarathi Parishad and as a Swayamsevak of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, he reached out to numerous people, engaging them deeply in the endeavour of National Reconstruction, through and with education. His roles in education and public service have ranged from: Executive Director of Karnataka Knowledge Commission; Project Lead of Management Development Programme in Karnataka; Member of Central Advisory Board of Education; Member of University Grants Commission, of Boards of various Central Universities, and National Assessment and Accreditation Council. He played a key role in the development of the National Education Policy 2023 and National Curriculum Framework of 2023, as critical member of the team led by Dr K Kasturirangan.

3. Prof. Krishnamurthy's original thoughts and insights in the field of Management were the energy behind his setting up the Centre for Leadership and Management in Public Services. He also rejuvenated the Centre for Educational and Social Studies, successfully managed the Gnana Fellowship in Public Services and was a special fellow of Indian Council for Social Science and Research on 'Management of and by Common man'. At present, he is the founding Chancellor of the Chanakya University in Bengaluru.

4. Prof. Krishnamurthy was a Paul Harris Fellow at the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. He is a recipient of Karnataka Rajyotsava and Kempagowda awards as well as "Shikshan Bhushan" of Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshika Mahasangh and General President Gold Medal of Indian Science Congress Association.

Padma Shri



SHRI JORDEN LEPCHA

Shri Jordan Lepcha is a famous bamboo craftsman from Sikkim.

2. Born on 28th July, 1971, in the serene village of Rubeyam Ram, nestled amidst the stunning landscapes of Dzongu, Mangan District, Sikkim, Shri Lepcha's early years were shaped by the teachings of his parents who introduced him to the art of bamboo crafting.

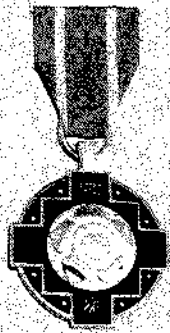
3. Driven by a deep passion to revive ancient traditions, Shri Lepcha immersed himself in mastering the intricate techniques of crafting Lepcha hats, known as Thyaktuks. The pivotal moment came in 1997 when he participated in a six-month training program for traditional hat weaving organized by the Government of Sikkim's Industry department. Despite facing challenges in selling his creations initially, he persevered, taking on additional jobs to support his family while honing his craft.

4. In 2005, Shri Lepcha began sharing his knowledge and skills by conducting training sessions for aspiring artisans in Gangtok, summoned by the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handlooms (Govt. of Sikkim). His commitment extended to offering free training sessions at his own residence, empowering individuals to embrace and propagate the ancient craft of Lepcha hat weaving.

5. Shri Lepcha's legacy goes beyond individual accomplishments; it's about the impact one person can have in preserving and perpetuating cultural traditions. Through his efforts, he has not only safeguarded a cherished cultural heritage but also empowered countless individuals to embrace their heritage and sustain themselves through craftsmanship.

6. Through dedication and hard work, Shri Lepcha's expertise gained recognition, earning him accolades such as a Certificate of Merit from the Ministry of Textile (Government of India) and the esteemed title of Master Craftsman for the State of Sikkim. But beyond personal achievements, his journey has always been about giving back to his community and preserving their cultural legacy.

Padma Shri



SHRI BINOD MAHARANA

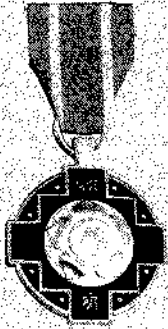
Shri Binod Maharana is widely recognized for his great fine art and traditional "Patta painting" talent not only in India but also in abroad too.

2. Born on 3rd February, 1945, in a traditional artist family of "Chitrakara Sahi" in Puri, Odisha, Shri Maharana pursued intensive coaching in traditional "Patta painting" from his grandfather, Shri Markanda Maharana and fine art training from Guruji Shri Asit Mukherjee. He is distinguished for his 50 years of rigorous research on Pattachitra. During this long research span, he made detailed studies and observations of the interior art forms of ancient temples and palm leaves stored in various museums. He has applied the essence of those ancient art forms to his Pattachitra. He is also highly praised by art lovers for his unique touch to the mythological and social art forms, which is a valuable addition to the ancient art world.

3. Shri Maharana joined State Institute of Handicraft Training (SIHT), Odisha in the year 1973 and retired as Artist Superintendent from SIHT in February, 2003. He was also a member of the General Body of Odisha Lalit Kala Academy and member of Utkal Charukala Parishad, Bhubaneswar. He demonstrated Palm-Leaf carving in Boston (USA) in the year 1987, organized by National Council of Science Museum, Calcutta. He has trained more than 300 trainees in palm leaf carving and Patta painting. After retirement, he is preparing the future generation of artists through his "Sunday School" concept in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He has participated in several exhibitions and artist camps across the country.

4. Shri Maharana is the recipient of numerous awards and honours including State Award from Director of Industries, Odisha in 1974; National Award of All India Handicraft Board, New Delhi in 1974; Award from Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata in 1975; Utkal Charu Kala Parishad's Best Artist Award in 1978; Viswakarma Citation Award by the then Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1983; Odisha Lalit kala Academy Award, Bhubaneswar in 1983; Life time Achievement Award in Handicrafts, Handloom, Textiles & Handicrafts, Government of Odisha in 2014; Shilpi Samrat Award by Odisha Modern Art Gallery in 2017; Sarala Puraskar, Ella Panda Chitra Kala Samman in 2018; Dharmapada Award in 2019 by Odisha Lalit Kala Academy, Bhubaneswar, Odisha; 75th Capital Foundation Day- 2023, "Rajdhani Gaurav Samman" by Odisha Government. He was also honoured by Boston Museum of Sciences in 1987 and by India Association of Greater Boston, USA in 1987.

Padma Shri



PANDIT RAM KUMAR MALLICK

Pandit Ram Kumar Mallick is an artist from one of the oldest tradition of Musicians since 500 years, the Dhrupad tradition of Darbhanga.

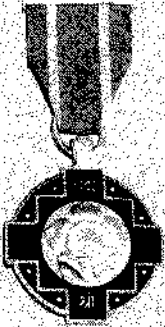
2. Born on 10th February, 1957, Pandit Mallick belongs to the illustrious musical family of Darbhanga Gharana (Mallick Gharana) and represents the 12th generation of this musical lineage. His training in Dhrupad Music started at an early age under the guidance of his father Late Pandit Vidur Mallick and grandfather Late Pt. Sukhdev Mallick, the renowned Dhrupad vocalists. His recital is marked for the unique, rich repertory of compositions, the use of Gaurharwani & Khandarwani besides variety of Layakaries & Tihayees. He has mastered not only Dhrupad Music but also Khyal, Thumri, Dadra, Vidyapati Geet as well as Bhajan.

3. Pandit Mallick founded an organization in the name of his father and Guru, so that the Dhrupad Music can be preserved and this genre can be propagated. To make the new generation aware of Dhrupad Music, a grand music festival is also been organized in Darbhanga (Bihar) every year. Apart from this, free Dhrupad training is also being provided by Pt. Ram Kumar Mallick in "Pandit Vidur Mallick Dhrupad Sangeet Gurukul", Darbhanga (Bihar).

4. Pandit Mallick is a regular broadcaster of All India Radio and Television, and is a well known 'A' Grade Artist of AIR & TV in Dhrupad. He is an empanelled artist with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). His music has been released on the CDs like The Fast Side of Dhrupad Museum Collection released in Germany; Darbhanga Dhrupad Collection released in Berlin (Germany); Dhrupad of Darbhanga released in Berlin (Germany) and The Kalawant of Darbhanga Tradition by Bihaan Music, Kolkata. He has participated in many prestigious Music Festivals in India and abroad like Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, Geneva, London, Netherlands, University Music concert Cambridge (England), Nehru Center Concert London (U.K), New Jazz Festival Moers (Germany), BBC Promos Concert Royal Albert Hall, London (U.K), Palazzo Annonici concert Loco (Switzerland), France, America. I.C.C.R Programme-Bonn (Germany). Darbar Music Festival, London (UK), and many others. Outside India his concerts have been recorded by Radio Bremen (BR), Radio Frankfurt (HR), Radio Belgium (BRJ), BBC London.

5. Pandit Mallick is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. In the year 1985 he stood first at the National Youth Festival and was awarded by the then President of India Shri Gyani Zail Singh. He was awarded by the Vidyapati Seva Sansthan, Darbhanga with title of "Mithila Ratna" in International Maithili Sammelan, New Delhi. He was selected as a "Dhrupad Guru" by Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata. He was also been awarded "Swati Tirunal Puraskar in the 39th Akhil Bhartiya Dhrupad Mela Varanasi (2014), "Sadhna Samman by Youth, Art & Culture Department Patna (Bihar), "Pt Siyaram Tiwari Varishta Kalakar Award" in 2017.

Padma Shri



DR. CHANDRASHEKHAR MAHADEORAO MESHAM

Dr. Chandrashekhar Mahadeorao Meshram, a talented Neurologist, is a multifaceted personality with excellence in Clinical Neurology, public health awareness, academic leadership, research, education, and social activities.

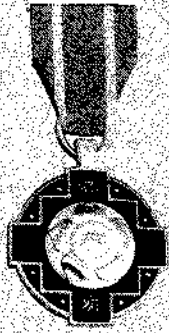
2. Born on 9th July, 1954, Dr Meshram completed MBBS from Government Medical College, Nagpur and then did MD (Medicine) and DM (Neurology) from Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. Currently he is Neurologist and Director, Brain and Mind Institute, Nagpur. He was the National delegate for the Council of Delegates meetings of World Federation of Neurology (WFN) at Bangkok, Marrakesh, Stockholm, Vienna, Santiago, Kyoto, and Dubai. He also served as a member in Constitution and byelaws committee, and in scientific program committee of WFN. He held high position of the Trustee and President of Tropical and Geographical Neurology Specialty Group of WFN. He is the first Indian Neurologist in 65 years to serve as a Trustee of this prestigious academic organization which has 123 countries as members. He was the National President of Indian Academy of Neurology in 2013-14.

3. Dr. Meshram is passionate about public health education and awareness programs and does it through meetings, radio-talks, television, lectures in schools and colleges and newspaper articles for many years, regarding diseases like Stroke, Epilepsy, Dementia, Parkinson's Disease, Autism, Rabies, Headache, brain infections etc. He published 400 articles on public awareness. He is Course Director of educational activity WFN-IAN neuro infection webinar series. He has organized National and International conferences and conducted CME on 6 topics every year for 11 years. He initiated neurology departmental visits for students from poor Asian countries for training in India.

4. Dr Meshram is the Assistant Editor of international journal eNeurologicalSci, and section editor of Encyclopedia of Neurosciences. He has 63 publications in Journals. He was a principal investigator for 18 international clinical research trials and based on these, two new medicines received U.S. FDA approval for treatment of Epilepsy and Parkinson's disease. He is trustee of Baba Amte's Maharogi Seva Samiti, Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Smarak Samiti Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur. He gives scholarships to poor meritorious students and sponsors students for residential art camps. He is the founder President of Orange City Cultural Foundation and through it he organized six orange city international film festivals, movie appreciation workshops, two Indian film festivals and other cultural activities in Nagpur. He was Brand Ambassador of Nagpur for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by NMC in 2018.

5. Dr Meshram is recipient of various awards like Samman Puraskar by Income Tax Department, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Jeevan Sadhana Puraskar by RTM Nagpur University, Inspiring Neurologist of the country award, Professional Icon of Vidarbha award, Lokmat Times outstanding contribution award for excellence in healthcare, Dr Wankar Gold Medal and Life Time Achievement Award IMA and FIAN by Indian Academy of Neurology.

Padma Shri



SHRI ALI MOHAMMED

Shri Ali Mohammed is a famous folk singer of folk music 'Mand' of Rajasthan. He sings with his brother Shri Ghani Mohammed and has a long melodious musical journey of around 40 years.

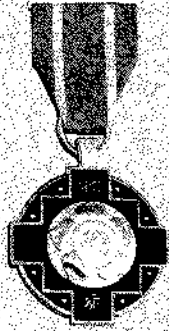
2. Born on 15th July, 1960 in a village of Bikaner District of Rajasthan, Shri Ali Mohammed got initial music education from his father Ustad Sirajudeen Khan. Mand (मण्ड) is a very popular Folk singing style specially in Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer. He and his brother not only revived this folk singing style but also promoted it by teaching the new generation about this folk singing style.

3. Shri Ali Mohammed has given performance on various national, international stages and on Radio and Television. Now a days, he and his brother have become synonymous to Mand (मण्ड) style at folk singing. Many of their music albums containing Mand (मण्ड) are in market these days. "Kesariya Balam" "Supno" "Moomal" and "Kuijan" are some of their most popular Rajasthani folk song albums.

4. Shri Ali Mohammed and his brother have participated in various T.V. shows as judge. They have also given music direction in the Indian Cinema. Most of the modern film singers have sung in their music direction. They have released many music albums where singers like Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Udit Narayan, Alka Yagnik, Richa Sharma, Suresh Wadekar, Anup Jalota, Pankaj Udhas, Hans Raj Hans, Anuradha Paudwal, Sadhna Sargam have performed. The Songs, Bhajans, Gazals sung by them have been appreciated by legends of the music Industry. Today, they are performing around the world and in their every performance one will find the fragrance of Rajasthani Folk "Mand" (मण्ड) and sand.

5. Shri Ali Mohammed has been conferred with State Level Award in the year 2022 by the Government of Rajasthan for his contribution to the field of music. He was conferred with Allahzilla Bai Award in 2019-20 and Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 2022-23. He was also awarded by the District Administration of Bikaner (Rajasthan) in 2018.

Padma Shri



SHRI GHANI MOHAMMED

Shri Ghani Mohammed is a famous folk singer of Rajasthani folk 'Mand'. He sings with his brother Shri Ali Mohammed and has a long melodious musical journey of around 40 years.

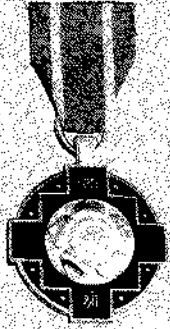
2. Born on 17th April, 1955 in a village of Bikaner District of Rajasthan, Shri Ghani Mohammed got initial music education from his father Ustad Sirajudeen Khan. Mand (मण्ड) is a very popular Folk singing style specially in Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer. He and his brother not only revived this folk singing style but also promoted it by teaching the new generation about this folk singing style.

3. Shri Ghani Mohammed has given performance on various national, international stages and on Radio and Television. Now a days, he and his brother have become synonymous to Mand (मण्ड) style at folk singing. Many of their music albums containing Mand (मण्ड) are in market these days. "Kesariya Balam" "Supno" "Moomal" and "Kuijan" are some of their most popular Rajasthani folk song albums.

4. Shri Ghani Mohammed and his brother have participated in various T.V. shows as judge. They have given music direction in the Indian Cinema. Most of the modern film singers have sung in their music direction. They have released many music albums where singers like Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Udit Narayan, Alka Yagnik, Richa Sharma, Suresh Wadekar, Anup Jalota, Pankaj Udhas, Hans Raj Hans, Anuradha Paudwal, Sadhna Sargam have performed. The Songs, Bhajans, Gazals sung by them have been appreciated by legends of the music Industry. Today, they are performing around the world and in their every performance one will find the fragrance of Rajasthani Folk "Mand" (मण्ड) and sand.

5. Shri Ghani Mohammed has been conferred with State Level Award in the year 2022 by the Government of Rajasthan for his contribution to the field of music. He was conferred with Allahzilla Bai Award in 2019-20 and Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 2022-23. He was also awarded by the District Administration of Bikaner (Rajasthan) in 2018.

Padma Shri



MS. CHAMI MURMU

Ms. Chami Murmu is an environmentalist who is popularly known as the Lady Tarzan of Jharkhand because of her determination to protect the forests and wildlife and enhance the livelihood of locals.

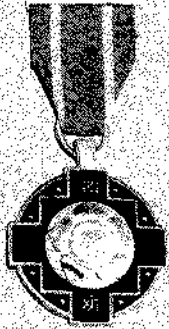
2. Born on 6th November, 1971 in a poor family in a small village Bhursa in Seraikela district, Ms. Murmu started her social life about 30 years ago. The condition was extremely pathetic in her surrounding areas. Some people could barely manage two meals a day. She made a team of 10 women and started working in local areas for the forests, plants and livelihood for the local poor people. She has been mobilising women from more than 500 villages to plant Eucalyptus, Sal, and Acacia trees, among others, to replenish the forests in Jharkhand that had been destroyed by the timber mafia. She and her group plants Neem, Sal, and Sheesham because they are good for making furniture and building homes.

3. Ms. Murmu is the former Secretary of Sahayogi Mahila, Bagraisa which is empowering women and making them self-dependent. To enhance the livelihood of the farmers, she and the members of Sahayogi Mahila, Bagraisa are building watersheds, not just in Seraikela Kharsawan but in the other districts, to save rainwater, which can then be used for farming purposes. The team has also started making diversion canals and water harvesting tanks. Through these initiatives, she and her team have given hope to the locals and now, farmers of Jharkhand are able to plant paddy, vegetables and arhar dal and enjoy good harvests all year around. In the last decade, more than two million trees have been planted, under her supervision and wildlife in the region has made a comeback to Jharkhand because of the revival of their habitat - the forests.

4. Ms. Murmu's network of women has become so strong that when a tree is being cut down illegally, information reaches to them and they immediately prevent any tree from being chopped off. She has connected 2800 SHG (Self Help Group) groups with her and each group have 10-15 women members. In this way she has managed to reach out to 30,000 women. All these women are able to earn by the help of SHG groups, Bank Loans are being distributed among them with the help of Sahayogi Mahila. With the help of Bank Loans, women are now capable for earning themselves by goat rearing, piggery, poultry farms. They are learning hybrid technical agriculture methods. She is also providing free education to the hundreds of poor primitive tribal girls of Jharkhand who cannot afford study. Free hostel facilities are also provided to them.

5. Ms. Murmu has been awarded with 'Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award' by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India and 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.

Padma Shri



SHRI PAKARAVOOR CHITHRAN NAMBOODIRIPAD (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Pakaravoor Chithran Namboodiripad was a multifaceted personality and a prominent figure in the socio-cultural sphere of Kerala. He was a resourceful teacher, eminent educationist, adept organizer, and above all a passionate traveler.

2. Born on 15th January, 1923 in a small hamlet in Malappuram District of Kerala, Shri Namboodiripad was initiated into the system of Gurukula at a very early age of seven and underwent rigid training in Samaveda, Sanskrit Kaavya and Shastra for seven years under his father. He did B A (Hons), in Economics from Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai.

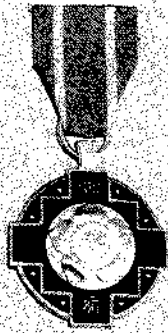
3. After completing his studies, Shri. Namboodiripad returned to his native place and finding the hardships faced by children, he started a High school. Under his leadership, the school famously imparted value-based education for the younger generation of the locality. After a few years, he handed over the ownership of the school to the Government of Kerala for a token sum of One Rupee. This institution has now been renamed after him as PCN Higher Secondary Government School and is currently excelling in academic and co-curricular spheres.

4. Shri Namboodiripad was inducted to the State Education Department as District Education Officer and retired in 1978 as the Joint Director of Education, Kerala. It was during this period, under his leadership the Youth Festival of Schools of Kerala was transformed into a grand event for promoting arts and cultural abilities among school children in a competitive environment. Currently this festival is one of the most important cultural events in Kerala and has gained national attention. On retirement, he was appointed as the Secretary of Kerala Kalamandalam, (now Kerala Kalamandalam deemed University) the iconic institution offering courses in traditional Kerala art forms like Kathakali, Koodiyattam, Mohiniyattam etc. His astute administrative ability coupled with his knowledge and passion of traditional arts, helped Kerala Kalamandalam to attain global attention. He led a troupe of artists to West Europe and USA, besides other states in India, and their performances were highly appreciated. During his period, Kerala Kalamandalam became an institution of eminence and began to attract scholars and students from foreign countries.

5. Realizing the sad plight of pensioners of the state, Shri Namboodiripad founded a movement for pensioners of the state with no political affiliations. The organization, now called Kerala State Service Pensioners Union, has been instrumental in providing bargaining power to the senior citizens and is the biggest of such unions of pensioners in the country. He was also the founding member of Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Thrissur chapter and was actively involved in its cultural and academic activities till his death. Above all, he holds the unique record of visiting the Himalayas for thirty times in a row. He was the Acharya of the pilgrimage group of Shree Sarada Ashram Nagercoil for a long time, until reaching his centenary.

6. Shri Namboodiripad passed away on 27th June, 2023.

Padma Shri



DR. G. NATCHIAR

Dr. G. Natchiar, is an eminent ophthalmologist. She is the Director Emeritus, Human Resource Department and Vice Chairman Emeritus of Aravind Eye Hospitals & Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Madurai.

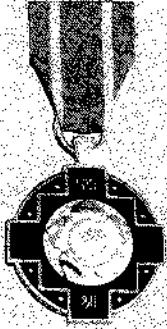
2. Born on 15th September, 1940, Dr. Natchiar graduated from Madras University in 1962 and earned her Master's in Ophthalmology from Madurai Medical College in 1969. She further specialised in Ocular Pathology at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and completed a Non-Clinical Fellowship at Boston, and Harvard Medical University, Massachusetts. She began her career as an Assistant Professor at Madurai Medical College. She is a founding member of the GOVEL Trust, which runs Aravind Eye Hospitals, and the Postgraduate Institute of Ophthalmology. The Aravind Eye Hospital was established in 1976 with the primary mission to eliminate needless blindness by providing high-quality, compassionate, and affordable eye care to all. Since inception, she played several significant roles to further the organisation's journey towards its mission.

3. From quite early on Dr. Natchiar took responsibility for the Mid-Level Ophthalmic Personnel (MLOP) programme at Aravind and over the years, she played a crucial role in its development. Her passion lies in empowering young women from rural backgrounds, by providing training, and transforming them into world-class mid-level eye care professionals. She played a key role in launching the much-needed microsurgical training programme, first of its kind and personally trained over two thousand ophthalmologists from India and other developing nations. In addition to heading the Neuro-ophthalmology and Cataract departments, she also coordinated the community outreach programme, which is the cornerstone of Aravind's high-volume work. Today, Aravind Eye Care System renders services through its wide network of 14 eye hospitals, 112 telemedicine-assisted village vision centres, seven community eye clinics, a manufacturing centre for ophthalmic products (AuroLab), Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) and a consultancy and training institute for community eye care (LAICO). After retiring from active clinical services in 2011, Dr. Natchiar continues to work full time - devoting 50% of her time to organic farming at Aurofarm, and the remaining 50% to further growing Aravind Eye Care System.

4. During Dr. Natchiar's long career of over 50 years, she held several memberships and positions at professional bodies, including President of Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, Syndicate member of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Member of Gandhigram Trust, and many more. She was also the consulting editor for the journal of the Neurological Society of India for neuro-ophthalmology, and Managing Editor in Kannoli - Aravind's journal to create eye care awareness among its patients. Recognising the paucity of academic text books relevant to developing economies, she authored several books, including Visual Field Defects in Intracranial Tumours (1980), Anatomy of the Eye (1986), Neuro-Ophthalmology - A Manual for Postgraduates (1995), and contributed chapters for around 16 books related to Ophthalmology. She brought out a series of manuals for the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel, again a first of its kind. She has published over 55 papers in national and international journals, delivered many prestigious orations, and participated in several international and national conferences.

5. Dr. Natchiar has been honoured with several awards including the Rotary Humanitarian Service Award presented by the Chidambaram Mid-Town Rotary Club on February 21, 1999; Doctors Day award from the Indian Medical Association, Madras, Tamil Nadu State Branch, on July 15, 2001. Life-Time Achievement Award bestowed upon her during the 57th Annual Conference of TNOA at Coimbatore in August 2009; Doctor of Science award from Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai in 2010; Lifetime Achievement Award by the Centre for Sight, I Focus 2018, New Delhi.

Padma Shri



SHRI HARISH NAIK (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Harish Naik was a distinguished author of Gujarati children's literature, and a captivating story-teller.

2. Born on 28th October, 1926 in a modest family in Surat, Gujarat, Shri Naik did his matriculation in 1943 and started writing after that. He never stopped and fondly kept on writing for children even in the last days of his life.

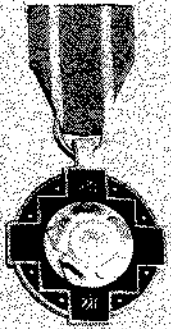
3. Shri Naik has written more than 2000 stories in over 500 books. His works include stories across a wide range of genres like animals, action & adventure, war, music & drama, religion & mythology, science & space, biography, comedy, radio dramas, Bhavai, children songs & lullabies, fairytales, and adaptations of international literature. He wrote in children's magazines like Zagma (where his stories still appear), Bal Sandesh and Ramakdu. There, he created many memorable fictional characters and also wrote about real life heroes and soldiers. He started his own publication and published a monthly named "Nayak" in 1980. He published books in large font without "Jodakshar" (conjunctions) for children learning to read and for adult education (Proudh Shikshan). The books were sold for the modest price of one rupee. His adaptations like those of the stories of Hercules and the science fiction classics of Jules Verne made such literature accessible to Gujarati readers. His works have been translated into Marathi, Hindi, Sindhi and other languages.

4. Shri Naik was also a prolific storyteller. During World Children's Year in 1979, he told stories to more than 5 lakh children in 400 Municipal Schools of Ahmedabad and 100 private schools. He volunteered as a storyteller at cancer wards for children, at wards for mentally and physically challenged children, in orphanages and in slums. He wanted to bring enjoyment, to encourage and uplift all children.

5. Shri Naik was conferred the Gujarat Sahitya Parishad Best Book award for his books 6 times, by the Gujarat Government from 1960 to 1981 and thereafter by the Sahitya Akademi. He was conferred the Long Endurance Award for Children writing for 40 years and storytelling for 25 years by National Conference on Children Education in 1985, felicitated by Akhil Bhartiya Bal Kumar Sabha (Marathi, Pune) in 1989, awarded the Gijubhai Badheka Award by Gujarat Sahitya Akademi in 1990, the NCERT Prize for Prerak Rashtra Kathao in 1993, National Center for Education Research award in 1997 and Marathi Balkumar Sahitya Sabha Sanman in 1998. He received Rashtrapati Sammaan in 2007 from then President APJ Abdul Kalam, Narmad Sahitya Sabha Freniben Award in 2008, Gujarat Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature in 2016 and Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puruskar in 2017.

6. Shri Naik passed away on 24th October, 2023.

Padma Shri



DR. SHAILESH NAYAK

Dr. Shailesh Nayak is known for his contributions in the field of science of climate change, weather services, polar science, geoscience, ocean science and modelling, ocean survey, resources, and technology. His current research interest includes building strategy for blue economy, sustainable development and science diplomacy.

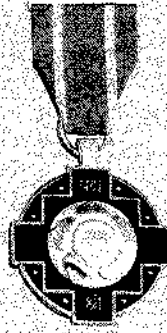
2. Born on 21st August, 1953, Dr. Nayak obtained Ph. D. degree in Geology from the M.S University of Baroda in 1980. He joined the Space Applications Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1978 as a scientist, and subsequently elevated as the Director of Marine and Water Resources Group. Currently he is the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, Chancellor of the TERI School of Advanced Studies, Delhi, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing and Life Trustee, India International Centre, New Delhi. He was the Chair, Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) and Secretary to the Government of India, for Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), from August 2008 to 2015. He was mainly responsible for conceptualising, formulating and executing many national level projects related to application of satellite data on ocean colour, integrated coastal zone management, snow and glacier studies and water resources. The generation of detailed information on the Indian coast has influenced the development of policy for zoning of coastal zone for regulating coastal activities and was instrumental in restructuring Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India.

3. Dr. Nayak was appointed as the Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, in May 2006. At ESSO-INCOIS, he set up a state-of-the-art Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean. He was responsible for the conceptualisation and development of Marine GIS. He made outstanding contributions in improving advisory services related to potential fishing zones, ocean state forecast, and Indian Argo project. He is Member of the Governing Board of the Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (In-Space), Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand, and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management, Chennai. He is Chair, Jury for the National Blue Flag Committee, Research Advisory Committee of ESSO-National Antarctic and Ocean Research Centre, Goa, ESSO- National Centre for Coastal Research, Chennai, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun.

4. Dr. Nayak is the President, Indian Geophysical Union, Hyderabad, and Indian Mangrove Society. He was the President of the International Geological Congress during 2015-2017. He has published about 190 papers in International and National journals and deliver about 200 invited talks in national and international fora. He is Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, the National Academy of Sciences, India, Allahabad, the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), and Academician of the International Academy of Astronautics, Paris.

5. Dr. Nayak has been awarded honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the Andhra University in 2011, by the Assam University in 2013, and by the Amity University in 2015. Dr. Nayak is recipient of IGU - Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award in Geosciences-2013, the ISCA Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Award 2012, the Bhaskara Award for 2009 by the Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Dehradun.

Padma Shri



SHRI FRED NEGRIT

Shri Fred NEGRIT is the founding President of Guadeloupean Council for Indian Languages, in the French West Indies. He is recognised for his role in promoting Indian Languages and Culture in the Islands of French West Indies. This has helped in promoting and dispersing Indian Languages and Culture to the common public and to the Indian Diaspora.

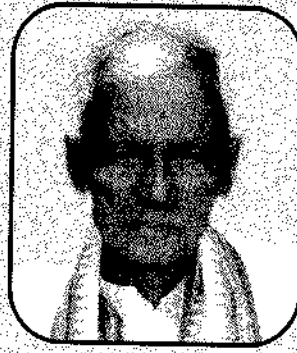
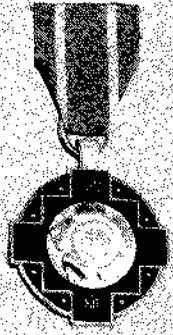
2. Born on 7th June, 1949, Shri NEGRIT completed his Master of Arts from the Université des Antilles Guyane (U.A.G.), Pointe à Pitre, Guadeloupe. He was a teacher at a government school for 35 years and retired as a Vice-Principal. He also did his Hindi Pravesh Certificate from Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi. His passion for teaching, added to his Indian roots inspired him to start free classes of Indian languages at his home. He worked as volunteer for the Red Cross and with various Indian Associations in the Island for the promotion of Indian Culture.

3. Shri NEGRIT founded The Guadeloupean Council for Indian Languages (CGPLI), the first and only Indian languages school in the French West Indies, in 2002, which started with the promotion of Hindi, Sanskrit and Tamil initially and today, is also teaching other regional languages of India. He has been the founding president for 22 years and now is handing over the reins of the association to a new board of directors. It was a one-man army at the beginning. Slowly and steadily, with his die heart faith, passion for India and its culture and hard work managed to expand it into a full-fledged school which proudly receives students of all walks of life.

4. Shri NEGRIT started the WEST INDIA news magazine which broadcasts news of India to the local French Indian diasporas updating them and helping them to be connected to India. In the entire Island, The Independence Day and Republic Day are considered sacred and are celebrated by inviting the local Indians. All Indian festivals are marked by colorful celebrations and intellectual conferences to spread the awareness of the rich Indian culture and traditions.

5. Shri NEGRIT is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. The Red Cross honoured him with the Gold Medal for his selfless service that he offered to the community for 2 decades. The local Indian associations awarded him with various honours regularly.

Padma Shri



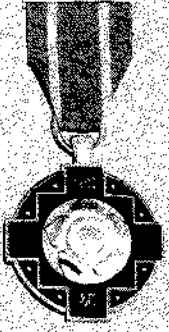
SHRI BHAGABAT PADHAN

Shri Bhagabat Padhan is the Guru of 'Sabda Nrutya', one of the oldest dance form based on mythology from Odisha.

2. Born on 24th June, 1938, Shri Padhan after passing Class-VII got a Government job of Teacher in Education Department. But this job couldn't satisfy him because he was a true lover of art. So he left the job and joined the institution "Brajewari Nrutya Kala Sansad", a Government, registered Cultural Institution of Lokakala Grama (village) "Kumbhari" in Bargarh district in Odisha, established in 1850, as an artist. Later he became the "SABDA NRUTYA GURU" in 1974 and has been continuing till date. Since then he has created more than 600 artists and has established himself as "BHAGA MASTRE" across the region. As a Guru of SABDA NRUTYA" he had a number of disciples in his own district and also in other districts. People praised him for this dance form. He was highly admired by many Government/Private institutions for this. He was rewarded and awarded in many places and achieved silver/gold medals.

3. Many educationists, artists, Odishi dancers, Scholars and researchers visited his institution and were anxious to know what "SABDA NRUTYA" is. When they came to know the uniqueness of this mythological dance, they highly praised Guru Bhagabat Padhan. Besides many foreign artists/dancers from Italy, German, Japan, Srilanka, Thailand, America etc. also visited this institution and gave positive remarks on it. This dance form has spread in Odisha and also outside Odisha.

Padma Shri



DR. SHANKARBABA PUNDLIKRAO PAPALKAR

Dr. Shankarbaba Pundlikrao Papalkar is a personality who has dedicated his entire life to society especially for the disabled and destitute children.

2. Born on 14th February, 1942, Dr. Papalkar started a wonderful but very difficult task of providing shelter to all such disabled people. In 1990, he received 25 acres of land in a small town called Vajjhar, 50 Km away from the town Amravati. He started the "Late Ambadaspant Orphanage for Divyang and destitute children" on this barren land. In the beginning, there were only four disabled girls in this ashram who were brought from different parts of the country and handed over to him. He accepted these four girls in the Ashram and from then onwards this amazing process of social welfare started.

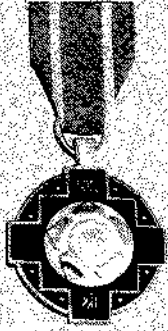
3. Today, in his ashram, a total of 98 girls and 25 boys live. Dr. Papalkar not only sheltered them but also gave them their identity. Today, Aadhaar cards of 123 children of this ashram have been made on which their father's name is written, Dr. Shankarbaba Pundlikrao Papalkar.

4. The upbringing that Dr. Papalkar has given to these children is in itself an example for society. While fulfilling the responsibility of all these children, he has done another amazing work. To include the marriageable boys and girls of the ashram in the mainstream of life, he used the social system to arrange marriages for them in good families. Till date, his 21 daughters and 3 sons have been married with great vigour and participation of masses. Today, 12 children who grew up in his ashram have got different government jobs. All the 123 disabled children of the ashram, are the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana.

5. This ashram, which was started on barren land in 1990, is today full of green trees with about 15,000 trees, which are looked after by Dr. Papalkar through these 123 disabled children. His work and life have become an example. He was awarded Honorary D.Litt by Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University.

6. Dr. Papalkar has established a successful model of self-help and identity for the Divyang children in the name of the "Vazzar Model" where the children take care of each other and find the way to lead a respectable and proud life. With such dedicated work towards these Divyang children, he has proved to be the epitome of social responsibility and commitment and a guiding force for generations to come.

Padma Shri



DR. DAYAL M. PARMAR

Dr. Dayal M. Parmar, also popularly known as "Dayalmuniji" is a distinguished Sanskrit scholar, Ayurvedic doctor, professor, author, and dedicated translator.

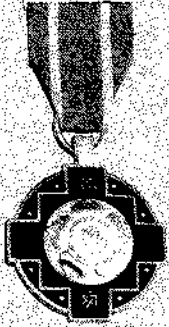
2. Born on 28th December, 1934 in Tankara, Gujarat in a humble lower-middle-class tailor family, Dr. Parmar completed his primary education in 1947 at Tankara. Demonstrating exceptional proficiency in Sanskrit learnt at Arya Samaj, he served as a teacher at Maharshi Dayanand Vividhlakshi Vidyalaya before pursuing Ayurvedic education, earning a B.S.A.M. degree from Shri Gulabkuvarba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya in 1968.

3. Beginning his career as a demonstrator at Shri Gulab Kuarba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Dr. Parmar eventually became the head of the Kayachikitsa Department until retirement. Concurrently, he held the position of professor of Ayurveda, and continued his journey as a prolific writer and researcher, authoring 18 Ayurvedic texts recognized as reference books by the University of Ayurveda. Among his notable works were detailed interpretations of the Charaka Samhita and other core texts. Additionally, he dedicated 20 years of his post retirement life for honorary service at the Ayurvedic clinic in Arya Samaj Tankara. He cured thousands of patients and improved the lives of many others.

4. Dr. Parmar's literary achievements included the monumental task of translating all four Vedas from Sanskrit to Gujarati, encompassing over 20,000 mantras and 700,000 words. He was greatly inspired by Shri Acharya Gyaneshwarji, Vanprastha Sadhak Aashram, Rojad. He authored over 50 books, including 18 reference books on Ayurveda approved by Gujarat Ayurvedic University.

5. Dr. Parmar has been honoured with numerous honours and awards. In 2007, he received the Ayurveda Chudamani Award from the Governor of Gujarat, followed by a Lifetime Achievement Award from RAJAYUCON in 2009 and the Arya Karmayogi Award from Arya Samaj, Mumbai, in 2010. In 2015, Gujarat Ayurvedic University conferred upon him the title of Doctor of Literature (Ayurved), and in 2020 he was honoured with the Sanskrit Sahitya Akademi Award by the Government of Gujarat.

Padma Shri



SMT. SILBI PASSAH

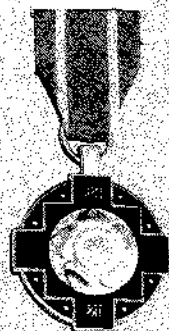
Smt. Silbi Passah, a resident of Riatsamthiah, Shillong, Meghalaya, is a retired Hindi teacher, a resource person of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Directorate of Educational Research & Training (DERT). She is a renowned artist and at the same time assisting SCERT, DERT, in connection with training the teachers in art and craft, acting, dancing and singing. Her domain is socially useful, productive work (SUPW) and Music. She also has in Institute of Khasi Jaintia Folk songs and Traditional Musical Instruments.

2. Born on the 3rd March, 1952, Smt. Passah completed her Bachelor in Hindi (Kovid) and joined service as a hindi teacher at Khasi Jaintia National Government Upper Primary School, Mawkhar Shillong in 1982. To promote Hindi, she also took part in a Radio Programme, "Hindi Lesson", broadcasted by All India Radio Shillong (AIRS). Thus in 2005, she was deputed to Central Institute of Hindi (Agra) for preparation of Hindi- Khasi Contrastive Grammar.

3. Smt. Passah has a keen interest in promoting music and culture in the state. Through the Department of Art and Culture in collaboration with (NEZCC) North East Zone Cultural Centre, she and her troupe have had opportunities to participate in different octave festivals organized by various zones of the country like South Zone Cultural Centre, South West Zone Cultural Centre, West Zone Cultural Centre etc. It is through these platforms she tried her level best to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Meghalaya. She is the first Khasi women to produce the Hindi Skit titled "Hindi Bhasha Hamari Rashtra Bhasha Hai" telecast in the Doordarshan Kendra Shillong. Recently her troupe has also presented traditional dance form at the "Adi Shaurya Parv Parakram ka" 2023.

4. In recognition of Smt. Passah's sincere service, devotion and dedication, she received various awards in various fields. She was awarded the District Certificate of Honour by the State Government 2001, Seng Khasi, Seng Kmie Honorary Award (2008); State award (2005); People's Choice Award NETV (2005); National Award for teachers (2006); Jeebon Roy Award (2008); Khasi Jaintia Welfare Award (2009); International Gold Star Award (Bangkok 2010); Seng Samla Seng Kmie Honorary Award (2011); Lady of Hope (Cape Town South Africa) (2012); U Tirot Sing Award for Art and Literature (Meghalaya 2014); Youth Affair Award (2019); 4th Northeast Unsung Heroes red carpet social award (2021) and Sangeet Natak Academic Award (2021).

Padma Shri



SHRI SANJAY ANANT PATIL

Shri Sanjay Anant Patil, locally known as Sanjay Kaka is an innovative farmer and a green revolutionary, known to many as the 'one-man-army' because he single-handedly transformed a ten-acre barren land into a lush green *Kulagar* (Plantation-Livestock based integrated farming system) wholly adopting the principles of Natural Farming and zero-energy micro-irrigation system.

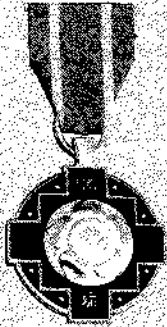
2. Born on 31st August, 1964, Shri Patil has been practising natural farming since 1991 using Jeevamrut. He produces 5000 litres of Jeevamrut per month from the dung and urine of a single indigenous breed of cow. He has proven through his practice that a single indigenous cow is adequate for the cultivation of 10 acres of land without using a gram of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. He also designed and built an automatic *Jeevamrut* production plant to accelerate and enhance production. He observed a reduction in production cost by 60%-70% and his crop yield increased by 25%-30% with savings of Rs. 3 Lakhs per year by adopting natural farming practices.

3. Shri Patil overcame the major challenge of water shortage mainly after the monsoon by digging a 125 feet tunnel (*surang*) all alone on the hill of his farm. Further, he constructed several percolation trenches alone in the hills surrounding the farm for the collection of rainwater. He ensured that he received 15 lakh litres of water for irrigation throughout the year through his innovative zero-energy micro-irrigation and rainwater harvesting system.

4. Shri Patil, even though, has had formal school education up to the 11th class, he possesses the knowledge and skills of an engineer, when it comes to water conservation and natural farming practices. He is not only an innovator but also an early adopter of the technologies of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Goa and local Krishi Vigyan Kendra. He has been a model farmer and resource person for his fellow farmers and his farm has become a must-see model farmland and has over 300-500 visitors a year. His story has inspired his fellow farmers, especially in attracting the youth into agriculture.

5. Shri Patil has received coveted awards like the *Krishiratna* Award-2014 by Government of Goa and the IARI-Innovative Farmer Award-2023.

Padma Shri



DR. K. S. RAJANNA

Dr. K. S. Rajanna himself a Divyang having lost both his hands and feet in his childhood, is known for his works for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

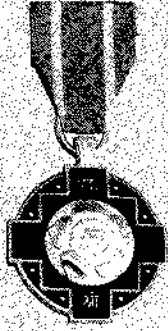
2. Born on 6th December, 1959 in village Koppa in Mandya District, Dr. Rajanna studied SSLC and Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. His ability to engage in activities like Writing, Walking, Running, Swimming and floating on water for hours together, driving four-wheelers and riding two wheelers defies the limitations imposed by his physical condition. Braving all odds up against him, he has made spectacular achievements in various fields like Social Work, Sports, Arts, Industry, Administration and Justice. His life is an inspiration to all.

3. Dr. Rajanna is an acclaimed artist in various forms of art. He won first prize in the State Level painting competition organized by the State of Karnataka in the year around 1971-72. He, in 1980 established M/s. Shine Disabled Industries under self-employment scheme through which he provided employment to around 500 persons, majority being disabled persons, and given skill development training to around thousands of poor and disabled persons. He also guided and helped them to avail entitled benefits from the Government to start their own industries for self-employment and to lead independent and respectable life.

4. As the first and only disabled person to hold the position of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the history of Karnataka, Dr. Rajanna has been instrumental in enacting and executing policies that promoted inclusivity and accessibility for Divyangs. This has markedly created a Divyang-Friendly atmosphere and improved the lives of Divyang people in the state. He has represented India in International Paralympics in 2002 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and earned Gold Medal in Athletic Discus Throw and Silver Medal in Swimming and made the country proud. He is an ardent social worker, tirelessly advocating the welfare of marginalized communities and working relentlessly to ensure that they receive benefits they are entitled to.

5. Dr. Rajanna is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. The Government of India conferred on him "National Award" for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities in 2003. The Karnataka Government conferred on him "Kannada Rajyotsava Award" for achievements in various fields in 2020. In 2000, the Karnataka Government conferred on him "State Award" for social work and Industrialist. Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike conferred on him "Kempegowda Award" for sports in 2003 and was awarded "Karnataka Vishwakarma Ratna" by Karnataka State Vishwakarma Mahamandala in 2014. In 2016, his name was entered in "Limca Book of Records" by Coca-Cola India and South-West Asia. He has been conferred Honorary Doctorate by Indian Virtual University for Peace and Education in 2017. He received Honorary felicitation award by Akhila Bharatha Kannada Sahitya Parishat in 2023. He received the Sevaa Dharmik Award by Chaitanya Social Cultural Organization Telangana in 2014. He was awarded the Prerana Puraskara award by Jolle Group of Employment Examba in 2013.

Padma Shri



DR. BHAGWATILAL RAJPUROHIT

Dr. Bhagwatilal Rajpurohit is a distinguished scholar whose lifelong dedication to the preservation and promotion of Indian literature, culture, and heritage is unparalleled.

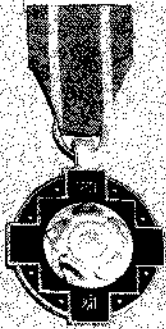
2. Born on 2nd November, 1943 in Chandodiya village, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Rajpurohit was brought up in a traditional environment. He pursued his Master's in Sanskrit, Hindi, Ancient Indian History, and Culture, followed by a Ph.D. from Vikram University, Ujjain. Proficient in languages such as Hindi, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Apabhramsha, and Malwi, Dr. Rajpurohit excels as a scholar, educator, and researcher. The authenticity of his research is highly regarded among scholars. He has deciphered epigraph of the ancient Indian Brahmi and other scripts. He has held positions including Director of the Maharaja Vikramaditya Research Institute, Ujjain, and Professor of Hindi at Sandipani Mahavidyalaya, Ujjain.

3. Dr. Rajpurohit established the historical significance of the era of the initiator of the Vikram Samvat, King Vikramaditya, through the mutual validation of archaeology and literature. His research has validated the existence of Vikramaditya's literary associates and identified the birthplace of Patanjali. He has published numerous previously unpublished literary works on Rajabhoj. He also played a crucial role in identifying the roots of modern languages and cultures through ancient languages. His exploration and publication of copper plate inscriptions underscore his scholarly pursuits.

4. As a renowned playwright, Dr. Rajpurohit has authored over fifty plays in Sanskrit, Hindi, and Malwi, many of which are staged theatrical performances. Notable works include portrayals of Emperor Vikramaditya, "Kalidascharitam", "Shree Krishna Ujjaini", "Mahadev", "Raja Bhoj", "Shree Krishna", "Meera", "Shankutalotra", "Kaikayi" and depictions of freedom fighters such as, Rana Pratap, Rani Durgavti, Chatrala, Bakhtawar Singh, Tatyia Tope, and others. He translated several Sanskrit plays into Hindi and Malwi language. He translated all of Kalidasa's plays and Meghadoot into Malwi. He also rendered Meghadoot and Ritusamhara into Hindi songs. He continuously contributes to pioneering research in the Indian languages of Hindi-Sanskrit and the Indian cultural domain. He has published over a hundred books. Among his notable works are the renowned novels "Vidyottama" (Hindi) and "Lastakah" (Sanskrit). He actively participates in various events, including the Bhartrihari Utsav, Vikramaditya Utsav, Bhoj Utsav, Kalidas Samaroh, and numerous other cultural activities. He played a leading role in the establishment of the Rajpurohit Ashram in Ujjain and the Malwi Kala Sanskriti Sansthan.

5. Dr. Rajpurohit has been honoured with many awards. He was honoured with the Kalidas Award twice, in 1963 & 1964 and with the Bhoj Award by the Madhya Pradesh Sanskrit Academy in Bhopal four times: in 1986, 1990, 1992 and 2000. Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Parishad also awarded him the Bal Krishna Sharma Navin Puraskar in 1990 and Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Grant Commission honoured him with the Dr. Radhakrishna Award in 1990 and 1992. In 2023, he was honoured with the Sanskrit Shikhar Samman by the Madhya Pradesh Government and the Amrit Award by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi, for his contribution to scholarship in Indian theatre.

Padma Shri



SHRI ROMALO RAM

Shri Romalo Ram is a Dogri Folk Artist of Jammu Region and is known as the real founder of Dogri Folk Song Geetru who revived the dying Folk Form "Geetru and Bhakh" with his dedication and hard work.

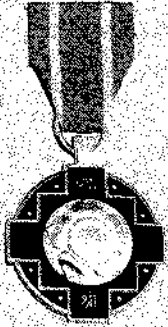
2. Born on 3rd March 1963, Shri Ram received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985 from the University of Jammu. After graduation, he joined as a Government Teacher in 1987 and also started writing Dogri Poems and Folk Songs. He served almost in the remote areas for the better education particularly of the village students. He retired as ZEO Ramnagar in March, 2023.

3. Shri Ram started performing Dogri folk in 1980-81 under the banner "Romalo Ram and Party" by participating in local functions. He served across the Jammu Region for so long and started a new revolution by the name of "Mission Maa Dogri". His "Mission Maa Dogri" Model has become the foundation for the huge success of young aspirants of the region. More than 150 pupils are working and learning the traditional art.

4. Shri Ram published a book named as "Geetruyen Di Fouhar". His works were published in various newspapers such as Dogri Times, Daily Excelsior, State Times, Amar Ujala, Dainik Jagran, The Earth News, The News Now etc. His contribution in the form of Cassettes, Records and published articles is the proof of his excellence in the field. He was approved as a B-grade artist in all India radio (AIR) Jammu in 1988 and in 1995 was given a B-high grade status. He acted as a member of General Council Committee of JKAACL to represent Dogri folk music and remained the active member of Advisory Sub Committee for folk music nominated by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of art culture and languages. He acted as brand ambassador of SVEEP program of district Udhampur and Reasi in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly Election 2014.

5. Shri Ram is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has been conferred honorary "Gold Medal" in the Folk Song Competition in National Youth Festival, 1999 in Lucknow, UP. The UT Government conferred on him "State Award" for his pioneering role in performing Arts of J&K in 2022. JK Sopori Academy of Music and Performing Arts at New Delhi honoured him by "Samapanund Rishi Samman" in 2018. Doordarshan Jammu and Montage film industry felicitated him by "Virasat Shri" in Jashan-a-Virasat, 2013. He received Certificate of appreciations from various government agencies for different cultural participations. He received Lok Kala Rattan Purashkar, 2019 in Akhil Bhartiva Lok Kala Mahotsav organised by Karnataka Sahasa Kala Academy. In 2017, he was honoured by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and J&K Tourism Department at Katra in Navratra Festival.

Padma Shri



SHRI PRAN SABHARWAL

Shri Pran Sabharwal is the Director and Chief Executive of the Board of National Theatre Arts Society (NTAS) who is known for his contribution in Theaters.

2. Born on 9th December, 1930, Shri Sabharwal received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Punjab in 1953. His theatre group NTAS emerged in 1953. Being an 'A' Class Radio and Doordarshan Drama artist since 1952, he participated in 500 Radio and National AIR Plays, T.V. films, plays, serials, three National Award winning Punjabi films and many "Light and Sound" shows of Central and State Governments. He also won praise for participation in about five thousand stage events as drama actor and one-man humorous performer in value-based shows of Central, State Governments and public during 70 years of his continuous theatre activity. Besides, he imparted theatre training to over 2500 youths.

3. Shri Sabharwal created "Speech Drama & Music Department" in Punjab University Patiala in 1967, where he served as faculty member for teaching acting for 3 years. The department was renamed as "Theatre and Television Department", where he remained a guiding force as "Fellow" of the department till 2017.

4. Shri Sabharwal shifted to Patiala in 1962 and continued organising 2-day theatre festivals on each Independence and Republic Day every year till 1988 completing 50 annual theatre festivals. Shri Sabharwal alongwith his artist wife Smt. Sunita Sabharwal arranged World Theatre tour in association with World Punjabi Associations, Ministry of Culture Government of India and I.C.C.R. They visited Canada, USA, UK, Paris, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Singapore and Malaysia and strengthened cultural ties with them by organizing meetings, performances and photo exhibitions.

5. Shri Sabharwal received worldwide recognition for producing two episode T.V. documentary film "Rang Lok Di Gatha" depicting history of Punjabi Theatre movement, interviews with living legends and their creations. He got praise for his producing "Ahinsa Parmo Dharma", a play in Sanskrit language, staging at 8 places in the state; producing and widely staging "Punjabi Bal Ramayan", a Punjabi play, written by Sunita Sabharwal, launching "Monthly Garden Theatre movement", which completed 22 years covering 258 continuous Monthly Natak Melas.

6. Shri Sabharwal is the recipient of numerous awards like Punjab Government's highest Shiromani Natakkar Award 2015, Punjab Government State Award Parman Patra - 2022, two times Independence Day and one time Republic Day Parman Patra Awards. He received "Hungary International Cultural Award of Honour 1990" from National Institute of Music and Drama Budapest (Hungary); "Indo- Norway, Amity Award 91" from Indian Welfare Society OSLO (Norway), "Pride of Punjab Award 2017 at World Punjabi Conference Pune; "Canada - Punjabi Brotherhood Award of Honour 97" Ottawa (Canada); Patiala Rattan Award by Punjab Governor 2000; "Life Time Achievement Award by Prasar Bharti Akashvani 2014.

Padma Shri



SHRI SANGTHANKIMA

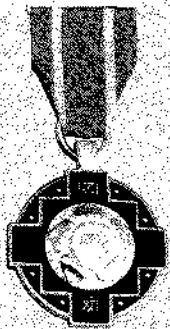
Shri Sangthankima is the founder and Chairman of Thutak Nunpuitu Team (TNT), one of the most prominent organizations in Mizoram, running the biggest Orphanage, Mental Home and Drug De-Addiction centre in Mizoram.

2. Born on 18th October 1958, Shri Sangthankima could study only up to Class V. In the beginning, he started the mission voluntarily without a single penny to work for the welfare of orphans, destitute, addicts and mentally ill people. To obtain funds for his project, he and his followers assigned themselves to multiple labour works. As a result of their hard work, people from different regions including all the North Eastern States and even from foreign country came to him with hope to receive permanent relief from their numerous problems.

3. Shri Sangthankima found the Thutak Nunpuitu Team (TNT) in 1988 at Champhai. Under his chairmanship the TNT is running rehabilitation institutions at Aizawl, Lunglei, Kolasib, Champhai and Tahan, Mayanmar. TNT is running Children Home, Mental Home and De-Addiction Centre at their centres having 3,535 patients.

4. Shri Sangthankima was awarded a Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters, Humanitarian Award by Swami Rama Centre, Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust, Uttarakhand in 2009 in addition to countless regional Certificates of Honours and Awards. He received Former Legislative Association of Mizoram Chawimawina Award 2003, Karmayogi Award 2005, NETV People Choice Award 2005, and Mother Teresa Memorial International Award in 2014 for outstanding contribution in the field of social work, Eastern Panorama Award in 2013, State Bank of India Appreciation Award in 2015. His team, TNT was conferred the National Children Award in 2013. He is the recipient of the Mizo Award in 2014, which is the most prestigious Award in Mizoram.

Padma Shri



DR. EKLABYA SHARMA

Dr. Eklabya Sharma is an ecologist with over 40 years of proficiency in sustainable development of the Himalayan region. He is globally known for his pioneering research in the Himalaya, science diplomacy for regional cooperation and advocacy for the mountain agenda.

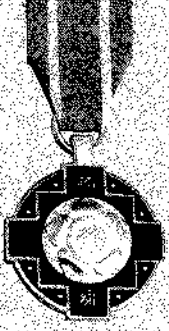
2. Born on 11th May, 1958, Dr. Sharma received Bachelor of Science in 1977, Masters of Botany in 1979 and Ph.D in Ecology in 1985 from the Banaras Hindu University. He is the Chairperson of Scientific Advisory Committee of the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Government of India, and Strategic Advisor of Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore.

3. Dr. Sharma made an ingenious contribution to the global knowledge by publishing nitrogen fixing role of non-leguminous Himalayan Alder from Darjeeling hills of the Eastern Himalaya. Under his leadership, Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment was used for evidenced based policy by engaging 300+ leading researchers, practitioners, experts and policymakers, and drew global attention. This work has influence on 240 million people living in the mountains of eight countries including 86 million people of the Indian Himalayan Region and 1.9 billion people living in the basins of the rivers originating from the Himalaya.

4. Dr. Sharma taking the example of the Himalaya, successfully advocated mountain agenda in global initiatives such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Climate Assessments and Summits (UNFCCC and IPCC), and Biodiversity Assessments and Conventions (CBD and IPBES). Dr. Sharma contributed to many national and international initiatives of which to mention some are: Director of International Mountain Society, Switzerland; Trustee of The Mountain Institute, USA; Steering Committee of the UNEP's "Global Mountain Waste Management Outlook"; Steering Committee of the Nutrition in Mountain Agriculture Programme of Switzerland in three Continents namely Asia, Africa and South America; Adhoc Expert Committee on Mountain Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada; Expert Panel on 'Research for Development' call of the Swiss National Science Foundation and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland; Steering Committee of IUCN's 'The Asia Protected Areas Partnership'; Advisor, Himalaya Unnati Mission, Art of Living; Governing Council of Sikkim Manipal University; and Advisor, Chief Minister's Office, Government of Sikkim.

5. Dr. Sharma is the Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI). He received many awards such as Young Scientist Medal of the Indian National Science Academy; Vishisht Vaigyanik Puraskar from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India; Honorable Mention Paper Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society, USA. He received the "Excellence Award" for contributions in Science and Environment towards development of Modern India from the Sikkim University and Government of Sikkim, and the Government of Sikkim also conferred on him its 'Social Status Award' for contribution on the environment.

Padma Shri



PANDIT OMPRAKASH SHARMA

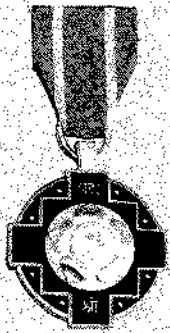
Pandit Omprakash Sharma is a writer, director and music composer of Maach plays of "Ustad Kaluram Maach Akhada", a renowned tradition of the legacy of folk play Maach in the city of Ujjain. Maach is folk dance drama of Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh. These Maach plays popularly known as khel have been revived and preserved by Pandit Sharma through his creative writings, musical compositions and performances.

2. Born on 1st January, 1938 in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Pandit Sharma is carrying forward the rich legacy of his grandfather, the renowned Maach guru Ustad Kaluramji Pandit Sharma's creative genius is reflected through his music. Blessed by the unique gift of classical singing and music creation, Shri Sharma received the training of classical music at very tender age from his father Late Shaligram ji Sharma. He has contributed significantly to films, folk theatre and classical music and has been involved in reviving the tradition of folk drama Maach through his creative writings, performances and workshops. He has been conducting workshops on Maach at renowned centers of art like National School of Drama, New Delhi, Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal. He has been instrumental in inspiring thousands of young talents in the field of folk drama. Pandit Sharma has been equally instrumental in promoting Sanskrit Theatre through translation and music composition.

3. Pandit Sharma prepared musical notations of Rangats of 85 Maach plays, which have been preserved in Adiwasi Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal. He has translated Sanskrit dramas into Hindi films. His association with legendary musicians, composers like B.V. Karant, Dr. Premlata Sharma, Dr. Tripathi, Professor Shrinivas Rath, M.K. Raina, Braj Mohan Shah, Bansi Kaul and Dr. Prabhat Kumar Bhattacharya has earned him prestigious national and state awards. Pandit Sharma's flawless service to Sanskrit theatre, regional theatre, classical music has earned him reputation of Ustad or maestro in his field.

4. Pandit Sharma was honoured with Sangeet Natak Academy Award by the Government of India in 2006-07. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has felicitated him with the prestigious Shikhar Samman in 2009-10 and Rastriya Tulsi Samman in 2018.

Padma Shri



PROF. (DR.) RAM CHANDER SIHAG

Prof. (Dr.) Ram Chander Sihag is a world renowned beekeeping and pollination scientist.

2. Born on 5th January, 1952, Prof. (Dr.) Sihag graduated in Biology in 1973, received his Masters degree in Zoology in 1975 and Ph.D. in Zoology (Apiculture) in 1980. He joined Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar as a Honey bee Scientist on November 23, 1979 and worked there till January 31, 2012. During his tenure at Haryana Agricultural University, he made highly significant and outstanding contributions in research and extension in the discipline of beekeeping and crop pollination ecology. His works led to the development of a huge Beekeeping industry in the State of Haryana and later in India. Since February 1st, 2012, he has been working as an independent researcher and an extension worker for the benefit of beekeepers and farmers of the country.
3. Prof. (Dr.) Sihag is credited with the introduction, establishment and expansion of beekeeping in the semi- arid and hot environments of Haryana and India. In 1982, he started annual beekeeping trainings for the farmers, ex-servicemen, Agriculture and Home science graduates and women in Agriculture. On the basis of his researches, he standardized the management practices for Mellifera Beekeeping in India. With these recommendations and the availability of adapted stock of European honey bee for semi-arid and hot environments, its expansion in the country became easy, and thus Mellifera Beekeeping reached every nook and corner of the country.
4. The persistent, dedicated and unstinted efforts of Prof. (Dr.) Sihag have enabled the country in rearing and raising the European honeybee colonies from merely 5 thousand in 1980 (producing only 50 tons of honey annually) to 50 thousand colonies by 1990 (producing 5000 tons of honey annually), and to a highly respectable 3.5 million colonies at present producing more than 100 thousand metric tons of honey, 10 thousand metric tons of beeswax, and tons of pollen. Beside this, this venture has helped generating self employment for more than 100 thousand rural and urban unemployed youths, and providing pollination service to over 2.5 million acres of cross-pollinated plants, thus adding annually about 1200 billion to the GDP of the country.
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sihag was elected Fellow of the highly prestigious Royal Entomological Society, London in 1997. Since 1992, he has been the Chairperson of Pollination Section of Asian Apicultural Association (headquarters in China). Presently, he is the Academic Editor of International Journal of Ecology (since 2009), Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Entomology (Since 2016); Editor of Journal of Ecology and the Natural Environment (since 2018); Regional Editor of other 4 International Journals (since 2012) and Associate Editor of still other 2 International Journals (since 2013). Earlier, he remained Editor of Indian Bee Journal for 5 years (1990-1994). He is also a member of the editorial board of other 15 National and International Journals. Due to his outstanding contributions for the farmers and beekeepers of the country, Door Darshan (Kisan), has put him in the prestigious group of 'Kisano Ke Mahanayak (Great Heroes of Farmers)'.
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sihag has been honoured with several awards for his outstanding contributions for beekeeping profession and beekeeping science. These include highly prestigious Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prize (1980-82) by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi; Group Award-cum-Certificate of Appreciation (1993) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USA); and Scroll of Honour (2005) in the International Conference on Plant Sciences at Amravati (India); Life Time Achievement Award by the Environment Society of India, Chandigarh (2007); E. P. Odum Memorial Award by the Educational, Cultural and Social Welfare Society of India, Hisar (2008); and Ambedkar Fellowship Award (1998) for his distinguished social services.

Padma Shri



DR. RAVI PRAKASH SINGH

Dr. Ravi Prakash Singh, a distinguished Scientist (Emeritus) and Senior Advisor, at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), played a pivotal role in increasing food production and nutritional security in India and many other countries through research, development, and training/education.

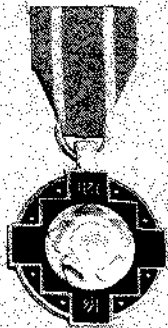
2. Born on 24th June, 1957 in Varanasi, Dr. Singh obtained Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in 1977 and 1979 in agriculture from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and then a doctoral degree from the University of Sydney in 1983. He joined CIMMYT in 1983, became distinguished scientist and Head of Global Wheat Improvement in 2005 and continued until retirement in 2022.

3. Leveraging scientific expertise, ingenuity and personal skills of Dr Singh has established unique and extensive multi-disciplinary partnerships, engaging scores of scientists from developed and developing countries and generated products and knowledge on wheat pathology, genetics, breeding, nutrition, genomics and phenomics. He has authored or coauthored, which include 384 referred journal articles and reviews, 36 book chapters/extension publications and 80 proceedings. He is listed amongst world's top 100 plant science/agronomy scientists by research.com in 2022, 2023 & 2024 and top 1% highly cited scientists during 2017-2021 by Clarivate Analytics- Web of Science.

4. Dr. Singh actively shared his knowledge and skills with over 600 young and 40 senior scientists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, inspiring them to pursue their agricultural research and development careers in their respective countries. He has contributed to the development of over 730 wheat varieties with public and private sectors partners in 49 countries. Due to their higher yields, climate resilience, and disease resistance, these varieties are grown annually on over 10 crore acres worldwide and ensure food security for over 2 billion people, who are wheat consumers in targeted geographies of Asia, Africa, and Latin America while generating an additional income of more than Rupees eighteen thousand crore for small-holder farmers.

5. Dr. Singh has received numerous awards, including Parvasi Bhartiya Samman Award, Friendship Award by the Chinese Government, Jinding Award by the Government of Sichuan Province- China, Caiyun Award by the Government of Yunnan Province- China, Tianshan Award by the Government of Xinjiang Province- China, CGIAR Outstanding Scientist Award, Shri V.S. Mathur Memorial Award by Society for the Advancement of Wheat and Barley Research, E. C. Stakman Award by University of Minnesota, Lifetime Achievement Award-Norman from Cornell University, Crop Science Research Award and International Service in Crop Science Award by Crop Science Society of America, DBN Science and Technology International Award in Agriculture- China. He is Fellow of American Association for Advancement of Science, American Society of Agronomy, American Phytopathology Society, Crop Science Society of America, and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences- India.

Padma Shri



SHRI SOMANNA

Shri Somanna, belonging to PVTG tribal group Jenukuruba of Mysore district is known for his works for tribal persons.

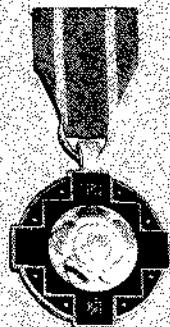
2. Born on 1st June, 1957, Shri Somanna lost his father at the age of two due to illness. He studied only up to fourth standard and to take care of his mother he left the school and started working as bonded labourer in the neighboring agriculture family. Till the age of 18 years he worked as bonded labourer and left it in 1978 after the bonded Labour Abolition Act was implemented in Karnataka. He joined Dalit movement 1978. In 1981, he started tribal organization BKS (Budakattu Krushikara Sangha) along with his people and started organizing tribal communities in H.D.Kote, Saraguru and Mysore District.

3. Shri Somanna joined movements like Save Western Ghats, Narmada Movement, Movement against Taj Hotel which was initiated in Nagarahole National Park, Save Avenue Trees, Enter Forest Agitation to seek Forest Rights for Adivasis and movement demanding PESA-1996, FRA-2006. He helped tribal people to approach High Court for public interest litigation to seek justice for displaced tribal families due to Wild life Protection Act. He represented BKS in the High Court of Karnataka along with Development through Education (DEED) in 1999-2000. He got favourable order from High Court in 2009 to rehabilitate 3418 families. Similarly he helped tribal families to apply for Forest Rights-individual and community rights. 19 haadis got community forest rights and about 300 families individual rights.

4. Shri Somanna was the President of Budakattu Krushikara Sangha (tribal peoples organization), H. D. Kote for 10 years from 1984 to 1994 and then he become District President for 4 years. He was elevated to State Indigenous Peoples Forum - Rajya Mulantvasi Vedike as President. During his tenure, he could mobilize nearly 6000 acres of agriculture land with the help of Revenue Deputy Commissioners and Tehsildars for displaced 1500 tribal families out of 4995 from Nagarahole National Park, Bandipur National Park, Kabini and Tharaka Dam area H. D. Kote and Sarguru taluks. He focused on providing civic amenities for tribal communities like housing, connecting roads, drinking water, pre and primary schools, old age pension, ration cards, ration shops etc. for the deprived tribal families from 125 tribal haadis covering nearly 2000 elderly persons and widows. He also made efforts to get ration card, Voter ID and other identity cards for Adivasis. He is known in all the 125 tribal haadis and 4995 forest dependent tribal families-Jenukuruba, Bettakuruba, Yarava and Soliga as he has responded to their needs as President of BKS.

5. Shri Somanna has been striving to get traditional Forest Rights and Rehabilitation for displaced tribal families from National parks.

Padma Shri



SMT. SHASHI SONI

Smt. Shashi Soni is a famous entrepreneur, social activist and philanthropist.

2. Born on 4th April, 1941 in Lahore (undivided India), Smt. Soni is the Founder of the Deep Group which encompasses companies engaged in the fields of Defence manufacturing, Information Technology and Semiconductor packaging. The group has operations in India, Europe and the United States. She started her entrepreneurial career with Deep Transport (1971-1975) with Rupees 10,000 in hand. She established Deep Mandir cinema in 1975, the first Air-Conditioned cinema in Mulund, Mumbai. She established Deep Oxygen Pvt. Ltd. in 1981, first industrial gas manufacturer in Mysore and changed the face of small-scale gas manufacturing in India. She was elected as the only woman member of the Managing Committee of the All India Industrial Gas Manufacturers Association. She was appointed as the only woman member of Director General of Technical Development panel of the Government of India for 5 years.

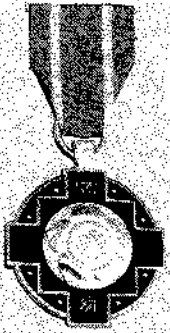
3. Smt. Soni is the Founder and Chairperson of IZMO Ltd. in 1996. IZMO is now the World leader in interactive marketing solution and offers hi-tech automotive and e-retailing solutions in North America, Europe and Asia. IZMO Limited is listed in NSE and BSE. IZMO's products are used by more than 1,800 customers in India, Europe and the USA. IZMO has won the award every year from 2019 from Financial Times, UK for being one of the fastest growing companies in Asia and The Economic Times for being part of the fastest growing companies in India since 2019.

4. Smt. Soni is actively involved in setting up a state-of-the-art ammunition manufacturing facility Hughes Precision Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., in a record span of 18 months at Goa during Covid period under the "Make in India" initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It is the only ammunition manufacturer in the private sector in India. Hughes is one of the most advanced ammunition manufacturing facilities in the world. Setup as an Export Oriented Unit, it is exporting ammunition to 14 countries around the world.

5. Smt. Soni is the Founder of Deep Janseva Samiti (1996), a Charitable Trust which has given immense contribution to society by providing organized jobs, educating women from the adjoining slums, rehabilitation of people living in slums, launching pension schemes, raising funds for physically handicapped etc. Smart Shiksha is a pioneering program started by her in the State of Karnataka for young students.

6. Smt. Soni was honoured with 'Mahila Gaurav Puraskar' in 1990 for her contribution to the Indian Industry.

Padma Shri



SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA SUTRADHAR (POSTHUMOUS)

Shri Nepal Chandra Sutradhar is a renowned Chhau artist who has created history in the field of Chhau dance and mask making. Shri Sutradhar is widely recognised for his immense contribution for the development of traditional form of Chhau dance and unique way of making chhau mask. This has made Purulia, West Bengal and India a home of unique traditional dance and craftsmanship.

2. Born on 5th August, 1939, Shri Sutradhar received his early education from Tunturi H.S. School and completely devoted himself in Chhau dance and Chhau mask making. In his course of life, he participated in many workshops and excelled in this performing art form not only in various states of India, but abroad. Trained under Guru Gambhir Singh Mura from the age of 12, Shri Sutradhar excelled in exceptional techniques of Chhau dance and mesmerized the audience on stages.

3. Shri Sutradhar's artistic skills in Chhau dance and the minute techniques in making Chhau masks won the hearts of millions. He was invited to perform Chhau dance from the foreign countries like the USA, Scotland, New Zealand, and so on. He participated in various workshops in Chhau mask making in and around the world. He participated in North American Bengali conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1997. In 2001 he visited Edinburgh, Scotland for the Dussehra festival project.

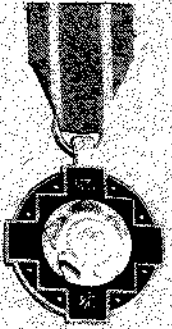
4. Shri Sutradhar was invited by Scottish India Art forum as a reputed Chhau mask-maker and performer in Edinburgh Festival. The spectacular Ten Headed Mask he made during the workshop was widely praised and immediately bought by the National Museums of Scotland as unique piece of art. He also participated in 17th American Bengali Conference, USA, Asia New Zealand Diwali Festival of Light in Auckland, Wellington in October, 2007.

5. Shri Sutradhar performed as Chhau dancer and artist in Taj Bengal, Kolkata in the inaugural ceremony of British Airways, attended workshops at National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, excelled in Surajkund Crafts Mela, 2008.

6. Shri Sutradhar is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has been conferred the title of "Kala Mani" award in Surajkund Crafts Mela, in 2008. He got recognition from Sangeet Natak Akademi in August 2019, Certificate of Participation in International Museum Expo 2023, Recognition from National Institute of Fashion Technology, Certificates from Kutir O Khudra Shilpodhikar under Government of West Bengal, American Bengali Conference, Philadelphia, USA, 1997, Recognition in Dussehra, 2001 by National Museum of Scotland.

7. Shri Sutradhar passed away on 4th November, 2023.

Padma Shri



SMT. GOURI LAKSHMI BAYI THAMPURATTY

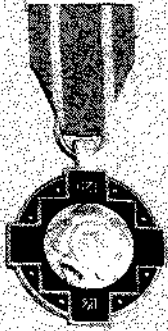
Smt. Gouri Lakshmi Bayi Thampuratty is an Indian writer in English.

2. Born on 4th July, 1945 in the Royal family of Travancore, Smt. Thampuratty was privately schooled in the Palace. Later, she graduated in Economics from the Maharaja's College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram. She has 13 books to her credit. Among these, three are collections of poems and the rest, non-fiction literature. Most of these books focus on the splendour of Indian and Kerala culture, ancient Temples of Travancore, Travancore history and random thoughts on men and matters. Her monumental works, 'Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple' and 'History Liberated: The Sree Chithra Saga' invite special mention. Many of her books have been translated into Malayalam and one each into Tamil and Hindi. She has presented many papers on national and international platforms. Her articles and poems have been published in regional, national and international dailies and periodicals.

3. Smt. Thampuratty served as Director of State Bank of Travancore twice. She was National Council member of University Women's Association, President of Bal Vikas Institute (for children in need of special care), etc. Currently, her positions include Trustee of Travancore Palace Charitable Trusts, Trustee of Puthen Malika Palace Museum, Patron of Hindu Mahila Mandiram and Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International and so on. She is actively involved in the promotion of Indian culture and Sanatana Dharma.

4. Smt. Thampuratty has been honoured with many awards such as Kala Poshaka Award by Lalitha Kala Academy Foundation, Mysore; Deva Rama Award by Travancore Devaswom Board, Kerala; Arsha Samskara Deepika Puraskar by the National Centre for Research and Development in Education, Science and Technology, Mumbai; Indus Literary Award by India Inner Search, USA; Interfaith Leadership Award by World Yoga Community, New York, USA; Sanatana Dharma Bharati Spoorthi Puraskar by Bharat and Veda Vigyana Samithi, Tirupati and Baba Saheb National Award by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Foundation, New Delhi.

Padma Shri



SMT. DALIPARTHI UMAMAHESHWARI

Smt. Daliparthi Umamaheshwari is an accomplished Harikatha artiste both in Telugu and Sanskrit languages with a nationwide reputation of being the first woman Harikatha artiste in Sanskrit.

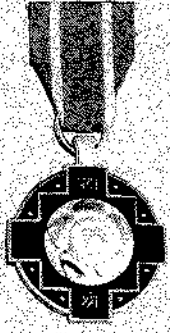
2. Born on 21st May, 1960 in a traditional musician's family in a village named Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh, Smt. Umamaheshwari started learning classical music from early childhood while simultaneously completing her secondary school education. Her father was the Asthana Vidwan of Vemulawada Raja Rajeswari temple of Telangana. She was mentored and motivated to pursue Harikatha by Sri SBPBK Satyanarayana Rao and Smt. SB Rajarajeswaramma. She learnt Harikatha from gurus Sri Kadali Veerasudu, Peddinti Suryanarayana Deekshithulu, Rajasekharam Lakshminpathi Rao, NCH Krishnamacharya and Vedimanic Narasimha Dasu. She was the disciple of Shri Nataraja Ramakrishna and trained in classical dance as well. She gave her first Telugu Harikatha - Gowrikalyanam at Sarvaraya Harikatha Pathasala which was her maternal institution. Her first Sanskrit Harikatha was Kalidasa Kumarasambhavam, which was staged at the prestigious Kalidasa Academy, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Since then, her performance became a regular feature at Kalidasa Academy, where she presented almost all dramas and Kavyas of Kalidasa in Sanskrit. As an Honorary Principal of the Sarvaraya Harikatha Pathasala she trains and inspires many girl students to take up Harikatha as a profession.

3. Smt. Umamaheshwari propagated the Harikathas of Adibhotla Narayana Dasu who is considered the father of Harikathas. She brought uniqueness to her performances by including many episodes from epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavatha. She had also written Harikathas on Ramana Maharshi, Sarada Devi Paramahansa, Pottisreeramulu, Adikavi Nannayya and popularized their contribution. She proved to be a poet and writer of greater status. She is regular performer at Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams, Srisailem, Annavaram, Vemulawada etc. The crowning glory of her career was the performance at Badrinath in the year 1986 at the Jayanthi celebrations of Sri Adishankaracharya. She also went to Harvard University, USA and also Yale University to participate in Vedic conferences.

4. Smt. Umamaheshwari had travelled wide and breadth to popularize her finesse of Harikatha to every nook and corner of the country and abroad. Her performance in the World Telugu Conference in Malaysia (1981), Vedic Conference at Harvard University, USA (1993), Telugu Conference of ATA at Houston (1996), U.K in (1996), Singapore and Indonesia in 2003, Sultanate of Oman are noteworthy. Many cultural centers have recorded her Video and Audio to preserve this great art of Harikatha. Among such centers National Centre for performing arts, Bombay, Central Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, Sahitya Kala Parishad, New Delhi, India International Centre, New Delhi and Gnana Pravaha, Varanasi are noteworthy.

5. Many awards and rewards had crowned her to recognize her great services to the art. She won the Central Sangeeta Nataka Akademi Puraskar, Lalitha Kala Puraskaram, Kalaratna Puraskaram, Mahila Navaratna Award, Durgabai Deshmukh Award, etc amongst many other awards. She was the first woman Harikatha artiste from Telugu states to secure a place in the Limca Book of Records. She was honoured the title Abhinava Matangi in recognition of her great services by Sringeri Sarada Peetadhipathi, Chitra Katha Saraswati by Ujjain Kalidasa Academy, Best Harikatha Demonstrator by Madras Music Academy, and Harikatha Kala Vahini by Telugu literary and cultural association. She is also a graded artiste in Doordarshan and All India Radio. She also won Lalithakala Puraskar by Sri Sarvaraya Educational Trust. Department of Culture, Andhra Pradesh honoured her with Ugadi Puraskaram.

Padma Shri



SMT. SANO VAMUZO

Smt. Sano Vamuzo is a social worker and an educationist. She is currently an Advisor to the Naga Mothers' Association (NMA), the first voluntary women's organization for all Naga women.

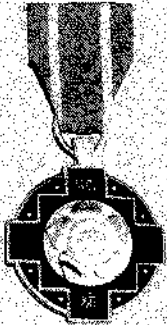
2 Born on 27th March, 1940 in Phek, Nagaland, Smt. Vamuzo received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Gauhati University (1963), B.Ed. from Bombay University (1965), and M.A. (Education) from North-Eastern Hill University (1980). Mrs. Vamuzo taught at several schools and helped to start the erstwhile Mission English School (now Eastern Christian School, Chozuba, Phek district), serving as its first Headmistress (1967-71), and also as Headmistress, Baptist English School, Kohima (1972). She also taught at Baptist College, Kohima as lecturer (1982). Sano has also been actively involved in the Bharat Scouts and Guides. She served as the State Organizing Commissioner (G), Bharat Scouts & Guides Nagaland, Kohima (1972), and later as its Vice President for several years.

3. Smt. Vamuzo served as the founding President of NMA seven years (1984 - 1991), and again from 1994-1995. Smt. Vamuzo, with NMA transformed the face of social action in the state and inspired the northeast region, making a start in addressing a wide range of issues including women's rights, roles and empowerment, drug and alcohol abuse, education, health, economic exploitation, deforestation, etc. To cope with challenges of inter-factional conflicts, NMA has facilitated peace building and peacekeeping through its Peace Team under the banner, "Shed No More Blood." Their efforts towards this end continue to this day. The NMA has served as a channel of communicating their mutual interests and encouraging human development through educating the masses for responsible and wholesome living. NMA was also entrusted by all Naga tribal women's organizations to represent them on the issue of 33% reservation for women in urban local bodies, and through its Joint Action Committee, it has spearheaded the issue. The bill has finally been passed in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

4. Smt. Vamuzo was appointed in January, 2007, as the first Chairperson of the Nagaland State Commission for Women (NSCW). She served for two consecutive terms (2007-2010 & 2010-2013). Besides these experiences and achievements, she was also actively engaged and involved with her husband, Late Vamuzo, the former Chief Minister of Nagaland throughout his political career, spanning more than three decades.

5. Smt. Vamuzo is the recipient of the Navjyoti Award from the Delhi Police Foundation for Outstanding Achievement in Social Services for the youth. The NMA was conferred the prestigious Sadin-Pratidin Achiever Awards 2023 in recognition of Outstanding Dedication and Commitment in the field of Social Service in January 2024.

Padma Shri



DR. KURELLA VITHALACHARYA

Dr. Kurella Vithalacharya is a well-known poet and writer.

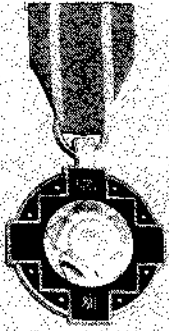
2. Born on 9th July, 1938 at Vellanki, a small village located in Ramannapet Mandal of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district Telangana, Dr. Vithalacharya did M.Phil on the topic of "Telugulo Golusukattu Navalalu" which means "Chain Novels in Telugu" from Osmania University, Hyderabad. Later, he was awarded Ph.D by the same university for his exhaustive thesis on the subject of "Telugu Navalallo Swathanthrodyma Chitrana (Up to 1947)", which means "Portrayal of Independence in Telugu Novels (up to 1947)". He has written as many as 30 books and is popularly-known as a poet writer, critic, litterateur, sociologist and reformist and above all humanist.

3. Dr. Vithalacharya established several institutions with an eye to promoting and inspiring the countryside in literary, cultural, educational, spiritual, sociological domains like Akshara Kalabharathi, Bhuvana Bharathi, Mitra Bharathi, Praja Bharathi, Aathmiya Bharathi, Bala Bharathi, Mahila Bharathi etc. are among those institutions which he has established in his life. He started "Akshara Udyamam" (Literacy Movement) teaching the illiterate going from house to house. He took the slogan "Learn signing before dying" to the hearts of the old people and made them learn how to sign/write their name.

4. Dr. Vithalacharya developed all the schools where he worked during his professional career. He received Best Teacher and Best Headmaster awards from the Government. Later, after his retirement, he turned his own house, located in a remote village Vellanki, into a big library. The library named after him as "Acharya Kurella Grandhalayam" was inaugurated with 5000 books. Today, it is being run very- grandly and efficiently in the two-floor building with over two lakh books. So far, many a research scholar both from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have benefited largely from this library and have received Ph.D degrees too. Even today, a good number of scholars are utilizing the services of this library.

5. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his 84th episode of "Mann Ki Baat" made appreciatory and congratulatory comments about Sri Kurella Vittalacharya and his selfless services. The Telangana Government has felicitated and honoured him by bestowing upon him the prestigious state-honour "Mahakavi Dasaradhi Puraskaram". Earlier, he was conferred "Telangana Avirbhava Puraskaram" by the Governor. He was also richly honoured by the then Vice-President of India, Sri Venkaiah Naidu with "Vishista Puraskaram", sponsored by Potti Sree Ramulu Telugu University Hyderabad. Satavahana University, Karimnagar, felicitated and honoured him with "Life Achievement Puraskaram".

Padma Shri



SHRI KIRAN LABHSHANKER VYAS

Shri Kiran Labhshanker Vyas is a bridge between East and West through his journey of Yoga and Ayurveda.

2. Born on 31st March, 1944 in Lakhtar, Gujarat, Shri Vyas studied at Sri Aurbindo Ashram, Pondicherry under the direct guidance of the Mother. He practiced Hatha Yoga with Shri Ambu, and learnt Ayurveda from Vaidyas Kejriimal, Shantarambhai Vaidya and Pragjibhai Rathod.

3. During the year 1968-1975, Shri Vyas founded and directed three experimental schools in Gujarat in collaboration with his father in Bhilad, Bardoli and Nargol. He developed there a new system of integral education based on creativity and physical, mental and spiritual progress. In 1971, he worked at Indian Space Research Organization with Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. He worked at UNESCO Paris as permanent representative and member of the World Council of the INSEA (International Society for Education Through Art).

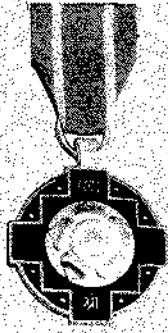
4. In year 1982, Shri Vyas founded Tapovan, the Centre of Yoga and Indian Culture in Paris which developed into an Open University of Yoga and Ayurveda.

5. Shri Vyas is the author of more than fifteen books on many aspects of Indian Culture such as Yoga, Ayurveda and Education. He speaks six languages - Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali, Sanskrit, English and French. From 2003, he has been organizing International Conferences and Symposiums on Ayurveda and Yoga and Environment. In 2004, he participated in World Religion Congress held in Barcelona and presented a paper on Pre-primary Education and World Peace. He has published various articles on Yoga and Ayurveda. He has given interviews on different platforms such as radio, cinema, television and social media. Since 2006 eminent doctors and research scholars have travelled with him to Gujarat and other places of India to learn the ancient Indian system of medicine- Ayurveda and physical and spiritual practices of Yoga. In 2013, he signed MoU with Gujarat Ayurveda University, in presence of the then Chief Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi. Since 2015, he has been celebrating International Yoga Day in Paris.

6. Shri Vyas has hold honorary posts of Member of the Consultative Committee of the International Foundation of Yehudi Menuhin, Brussels, Belgium; President of ACE Ayurveda Consortium of Europe, Prague, Czech Republic and Chairman, Sincerite Education Trust, Bardoli, Gujarat.

7. Shri Vyas was honoured with award of "Vishwa Ratna" by the Udupi Ayurvedic University.

Padma Shri



SHRI JAGESHWAR YADAV

Shri Jageshwar Yadav is a tribal activist, who is known for his work for the upliftment of Birhor tribes of Chhattisgarh.

2. Born on 10th October, 1955, Shri Yadav has been working for the upliftment of Birhor caste since 1980. He met poor Birhor families and inquired about their conditions. Birhor community used to lead nomadic life. They hunted animals like monkeys to make a living and made their residence wherever it was night. Shri Yadav made efforts to provide agricultural land and agricultural tools for agriculture to the Birhor people. He also made efforts to get lease of forest lands. Due to these efforts, the Birhor people have started to live in their permanent residence. They have also started earning and living by doing agricultural work and labourer work.

3. Shri Yadav made efforts to create awareness about education among Birhor caste and to open schools with the help of government. Now their children are currently studying in schools. Especially girls are taking interest in studies. Some children are doing government jobs today.

4. Shri Yadav has also worked in many other areas for the upliftment of Birhor people. He established an ashram in this village and opened an ashram school with the help of government. Due to his efforts, Birhor families are getting government facilities. He has also put special focus on their health. He has encouraged mass marriage, launched drug de-addiction campaign, cleanliness and tree plantation.

5. Shri Yadav has been honoured by several authorities for his works like Chairman Chhattisgarh Rajya Anusuchit Janjati Aayog, MPs, MLAs, Commissioner, Bilaspur Division etc.