

# Padma Vibhushan



## DR. PRABHA ATRE

Dr. Prabha Atre is an internationally renowned, senior most, front ranking vocalist. She is representing the Kirana gharana. She is maestro par excellence, a multi-faceted creative personality who has excelled as a brilliant thinker, academician, author, composer, researcher, reformer and guru. A Science & Law graduate, Doctorate in music, she worked with All India Radio and also as Professor & Head of the Department of Post-Graduate Studies & Research in Music at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.

2. Born on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1932, Dr. Atre has given a new dimension to Kirana gaayaki in particular and Hindustani classical music in general with her constant innovative, creative endeavour. She is the first vocalist to popularize Indian art music in the West since 1969, giving full-fledged vocal music concerts. She enriched Hindustani classical music by the aesthetic use of sargam and adding gamak of Carnatic music. She has created awareness in classical music towards tonal quality of voice and clarity in the pronunciation of words and its effective use to express emotions. Keeping with changing times, following logical reasoning, she advocated deletion of redundant practices to make shaastra standard and easy for new comers. Drawing from different styles and cultures she made thumri genre richer in content and expression giving it a dignified look, setting it apart from the rendition of the courtesans.

3. Dr. Atre has released 11 books on a single subject (music), from a single stage - supposedly a world record. She is the first woman performer to compose and publish 3 books containing 550 compositions from classical to light music, reflecting changing trends and to write on various aspects of music making & contemporary music performance on the basis of logical reasoning & scientific perspective. Her Books in English help global music lovers to appreciate Indian music and are being used as reference books.

4. Dr. Atre's doctoral thesis on Sargam is the only pioneering work on the subject. As Professor & Head at SNDT University, she prepared Syllabus - first of its kind - holistic approach towards the study of music incorporating all genres from folk to classical music, Carnatic, Western & World music along with other fields of knowledge related to music like acoustics, aesthetics, sociology, etc., She has also prepared structured, standard teaching material making learning music fast and easy, filling the lacunae in teaching Hindustani music.

5. Dr. Atre has established 'Dr. Prabha Atre Foundation' to fulfil her socio-cultural commitments and established 'Swaramayee Gurukul' to nurture talented students into professionals & train music lovers. She is an active member of several social, educational, cultural institutions.

6. Dr. Atre has been honoured with the National Awards. This includes 'Padma Shri, 1990; 'Padma Bhushan, 2002 by the Government of India and 'Sangeet Natak Akademi' Award, 1991 amongst other prestigious honours and awards.

## Padma Vibhushan



### **SHRI KALYAN SINGH (POSTHUMOUS)**

Shri Kalyan Singh was a politician and social worker. He was known as a statesman, a veteran administrator, grassroot level leader who had magical connect with masses.

2. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1932 in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kalyan Singh did his B.A from Agra University. He became a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh while he was in School.

3. Shri Kalyan Singh was Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Atrauli during 1967-1980 and 1985-2002. He served as Minister of State, Health, Uttar Pradesh from 1977 to 1979. He was appointed Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh twice in 1991 & 1997. He was Member of Parliament from Bulandshahar (2004-2009) and Etah (2009- 2014). In 2014, he was appointed Governor of Rajasthan. He also served as Governor of Himachal Pradesh on additional charge. After his five year service as Governor, he re-entered active politics in 2019.

4. Shri Kalyan Singh has left behind an indelible contribution towards the development of Uttar Pradesh. Generations to come will remain forever grateful to him for his contributions towards India's cultural regeneration. He introduced good law and order in Uttar Pradesh during his tenure as Chief Minister. He gave voice to crores of people belonging to the marginalised sections of society. He also made numerous efforts towards the empowerment of farmers, youngsters and women.

5. Shri Kalyan Singh passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2021.

# Padma Bhushan



## SHRI VICTOR BANERJEE

Shri Victor Banerjee is a renowned actor who has worked in several award-winning Indian and International films of repute and also worked extensively on Stage in Calcutta and Bombay in theatre ranging from Musicals to Shakespeare, Opera to Folk theatre. He is the only actor to have worked with two of the greatest filmmakers of all time, Sir David Lean and Shri Satyajit Ray. Sir David Lean's "A Passage to India" won 3 Oscars, and earned Shri Banerjee a British Academy Award nomination. The BBC and Canadian Television picked him as one of six celebrities like Placido Domingo, Kiri Te Kanawa and Jackie Stewart and others in a series called "Return Journey" to document the lives of successful international artistes who preferred living in their Home Countries. Though outwardly a liberal world citizen, he remains at heart a conservative orthodox Bengali and Indian Bharatvarshi.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1946 in Calcutta, Shri Banerjee's father was an Army Officer in the Mahar Regiment who later went on to become a tea planter in Assam, where he spent his entire childhood. Till the age of 52 he was playing in the Calcutta Football and Hockey Leagues. He also looked after and ran (still does) the residential "Moran Blind School" established 50 years ago, near Dibrugarh, in Upper Assam: rated one of the best run establishments of its kind in India. He personally founded the first "Cine Co-Artiste's Union" for Film Extras, in the West Bengal Film Industry.

3. Shri Banerjee is the Brand Ambassador of the Srimanta Sankardev Society of Assam, the Goodwill Ambassador of the Dimasas tribe of the North Cachar hill tracts, the Brand Ambassador for the Uttarakhand Bird watchers Association, and a Board Member of PFA (People for Animals).

4. Shri Banerjee and his films have been the recipient of several International Awards, including the prestigious National Board of Review of America that very few non Americans and no Asian actor has ever received. He is the only Asian Actor who has played a lead role (as Jesus Christ) in British Theatre in England. His film Dev Bhoomi shot in Garhwal, directed by Goran Paskaljevic, won the best film award at the Bari Film Festival in Italy. Pavan Kaul's film "The Answer" in which he played Paramhansa Yogananda won 17 major international awards, while his role as Rabindranath Tagore in Pablo Cesar's Argentinian film "Thinking of Him" featured as the closing film at the International Film Festival in Goa. His documentary on the Indian Railways won the Gold Award at the Houston International Film Festival in a field of 3100 entries from 27 countries. He has also received the National Award in India in three different categories, as an Actor, Cinematographer and Director. In 2020 he was the recipient of the "Satyajit Ray Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement", presented by the West Bengal Film Journalists' Association.

# Padma Bhushan



## DR. KRISHNA MURTHY ELLA

Dr. Krishna Murthy Ella is the Founder, Chairman & Managing Director of Bharat Biotech International Limited, a company that has delivered over 5 billion vaccine doses to the poorest and most under served populations in over 123 developing countries including through UNICEF and GAVI. With 433 patents filed and over 145 granted patents, including the world's first global patents filed for Chikungunya and Zika Virus vaccines, Dr. Ella has led development of 17 vaccines that are used in India and around the world. He is known for his innovation in research and developing vaccines indigenously for use in India and across the developing world. He successfully led the development of COVAXIN®, India's first indigenously developed vaccine against SARS-COV2, that not only saved countless lives but also demonstrated India's indigenous vaccine development capabilities while catapulting India to a scientific super power in vaccine research and development.

2. Born on 10th July 1955, Dr. Ella, graduated in Agriculture, and earned his Ph.D from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then worked as a Faculty in Research and Teaching at the Medical University of South Carolina-Charleston, USA.

3. Dr. Ella along with his wife Smt. Suchitra Ella returned to India from USA in 1996 to establish Bharat Biotech International Ltd. Driven by passion to develop innovative and affordable remedies for neglected diseases, he forged and nurtured global partnerships to successfully develop vaccines against Rotavirus (ROTAVAC®) saving millions of infants from diarrhoeal infections and deaths, and Typhoid (TypbarTCV®), the world's 1st Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine, to save vulnerable populations including children from contaminated food and water borne illnesses.

4. Dr Ella also has agrarian roots and is passionate about contributing to the society and country by developing sustainable solutions for human health not only in the field of human vaccines but also in the areas of veterinary vaccines for FMD, agritech innovations, food processing, basic research, preclinical toxicology and testing through various group companies namely Biovet, Ella Foods, Innova Agri Park, RCC labs, Sapigen and Ella foundation to support basic, applied research for life sciences graduates and scholars. He has contributed to the development of biotechnology in India in various capacities as a former Member, Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C), Government of India, Governing Council Member— Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and as RC Member of various CSIR institutions.

5. Dr.Ella is a recipient of several National & International awards including the Distinguished Alumni- UW Madison, JRD TATA Best Entrepreneur of the Year, Marico Innovation Award and University of Southern California—Asia-Pacific Leadership Award, etc., including Honorary Doctorate degrees conferred by Amity University and KSN University of Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences, Shivamoga.

# Padma Bhushan



## SMT. SUCHITRA KRISHNA ELLA

Smt. Suchitra Krishna Ella is the Co-founder and Joint Managing Director of Bharat Biotech International Limited, a company that has delivered over 5 billion vaccine doses to the poorest and most underserved populations in over 123 developing countries including through UNICEF and GAVI. Smt. Ella, acknowledged by Dr. Krishna Ella as the driving force behind the decision of returning to India in 1996 to start Bharat Biotech International Ltd, shared the vision of developing technologies to provide innovative and affordable solutions for neglected diseases in India and for developing world populations. With 433 patents filed and over 145 granted patents, including the world's first global patents filed for Chikungunya and Zika Virus vaccines, she is instrumental in development of 17 vaccines used in India and around the world.

2. Born on 15th July 1963, Smt. Ella received her Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Economics, Philosophy from Ethiraj College, Madras University. She also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Patent Law from NALSAR University, Hyderabad. She trained and specialised in marketing and financial services in the USA for over 10 years before returning to India.

3. Smt. Ella provided strategic leadership in the successful development of COVAXIN®, India's first indigenously developed vaccine against SARS-COV2, that not only saved countless lives but also demonstrated India's indigenous vaccine development capabilities while catapulting India to a scientific super power in vaccine research and development. Her focus has been in building the company from the grass root level with strong emphasis on, operational systems, processes, quality, HR, corporate governance and heads the Corporate Social Responsibility programme for the organisation.

4. Smt. Ella, as a first-generation entrepreneur with experience in customer operations, finance, marketing and business development, is an equal partner to Dr. Krishna Ella's vision of developing innovation and indigenous vaccines in India. She has led multiple functions in growing the operations of the company during her entrepreneurial journey including those in Accounts & Finance, Business Development, Corporate affairs, Corporate Communications, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility, HR & Administration, Legal, Marketing, and Procurement in her 25 years since co-founding Bharat Biotech.

5. Smt. Ella and Dr. Krishna Ella have co-founded and nurtured more than 12 companies to indigenously develop & manufacture cost effective technology-based solutions, services & products in biotechnology, life sciences, biopharmaceuticals, food sciences, veterinary & human health through biotechnology & other cutting edge technologies for the common man and developing world.

6. Smt. Ella has served and supported many causes while contributing to organisations in the areas of basic research, trade, society, culture, non-profits, health and CSR related activities. She is the co-founder of all the group of organisations such as Ella Foundation, Biovet, RCC Labs, Ella Foods, Chiron Behring Vaccines, Innova Agri Park, Conress Labs, and Sapigen and also a director in many of these companies. She has held various leadership position as Chairperson, Confederation of Indian Industry- Andhra Pradesh State, Founder Chairperson- Indian Women's Network, Chairperson, CII- Southern Region, Indian School of Business Well Wishers Trust, Hyderabad, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, to name a few.

7. Smt. Ella is the recipient of numerous awards including SAARC Women Award, Colombo, Business Achievers Award - SIMA, Singapore; Best Employee Award UWCU — Madison; ZEE TV - Best Entrepreneur Award, Hyderabad; ALEAP - Best Women Entrepreneur Award, Hyderabad; South Indian Business Achievers Award; FICCI Ladies Organisation Award; GR 8 FLO Award.

# Padma Bhushan



## MS. MADHUR JAFFREY

Ms. Madhur Jaffrey is an Indian-American actress, food and travel writer and television personality. She is called the "Godmother" or "High priestess" of Indian Cooking. The Readers Digest called her "Star of Screen and Cuisine" on its cover. She has single-handedly introduced and popularized authentic Indian food, true 'desi khana' from all the states of India, in the Western world.

2. Born on August 13, 1933, Ms. Jaffrey went to college at Miranda House, Delhi University, where she did her BA (Honours) in English and graduated with the highest marks in the entire University. While at Delhi University, she won many Drama and Debating prizes. With her great interest in acting, she joined the Unity theatre in Delhi and on the basis of her performance in the Tennessee Williams play, *Auto da Fe*, she ended up with scholarships from the British Consulate, the Indian Government and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London to go and study at that great institution. Two years later, she graduated from the Royal Academy with Honours. By then, she had also become very interested in the culinary arts and thereafter pursued a multi-layered path that included the acting world, the food world, and the world of writing.

3. Ms. Jaffrey has acted in India, Britain and the US on radio, television and more than thirty films. Her films include *Sagar* with Rishi Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia, *Shakespeare Wallah* with Shashi Kapoor, *Autobiography of a Princess* with James Mason, *Assam Garden* with Deborah Kerr, *Prime* with Meryl Streep, *Cotton Mary* with Greta Scacchi, *Today's Special* with Asif Mandvi and *Flawless* with Robert De Niro. Her theatrical appearances include *Bombay Dreams* and *Conduct Unbecoming on Broadway and Last Dance at Dum Dum and Medea* in London. Her TV shows include the NBC series, *I Feel Bad*, and her cookery series, *Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery and Flavours of India*, shot by the BBC in London, and shown around the world. The First series, *Indian Cookery*, won her the most prestigious *Glenfiddich Award for Best Radio/Television Broadcaster of the year*.

4. Ms. Jaffrey has written about 30 cookery books. Her first, *An Invitation to Indian Cooking*, published in 1973, was inducted into the *Cookbook Hall of Fame* by the *James Beard Foundation* in 2006. She has also been inducted into the *Who's Who of Food and Beverage in America* by the *James Beard Foundation*. Besides that, she has won seven *James Beard Awards* for her cookbooks. In 2021, she recorded a *Master Class* program on the subject of *Indian Food*.

5. Ms. Jaffrey is recipient of numerous awards, like *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the *Guild of Food Writers* in the UK and *Cookbook of the year Award*. Queen Elizabeth II awarded her an *Honorary CBE* for her services to drama and the promotion of appreciation for Indian food and culture. Her other awards include *The Silver Bear* (1965): *Best Actress Award*, won at the *Berlin International Film Festival* for *Shakespeare Wallah* (1993); *Tarakhnath Das Award* given by *Columbia University* for her contribution to Indo-American understanding; *The Muse Award* for outstanding *Vision and Achievement*, given by *New York Women in Film and Television* (1999); *N.Y. Governor George Pataki's Award for Excellence* given for changing America through her work in the fields of acting and cookery (1999); the *Silver Spoon award* given by *Food Arts magazine* for her contribution to popularizing Indian food in America; and *IACP's Bert Green Award for Journalism* for a magazine article (2003). *New York magazine* has declared her to be among ten people, chefs, teachers, and food writers who tune our palates."

## Padma Bhushan



### SHRI SATYA NADELLA

Shri Satya Nadella is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft. Before being named CEO in February 2014, he held leadership roles in both enterprise and consumer businesses across the company.

2. Born on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1967, Shri Nadella earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Mangalore University, a master's degree in computer science from the University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago. He joined Microsoft in 1992 and quickly became known as a leader who could span a breadth of technologies and businesses to transform some of Microsoft's biggest product offerings. Most recently, he was executive vice president of Microsoft's Cloud and Enterprise group. In this role he led the transformation to the cloud infrastructure and services business, which outperformed the market and took share from competition. Previously, he led R&D for the Online Services Division and was vice president of the Microsoft Business Division. Before joining Microsoft, he was a member of the technology staff at Sun Microsystems.

3. Shri Nadella, originally from Hyderabad, India, lives in Bellevue, Washington. He serves on the board of trustees to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and his alma mater the University of Chicago, as well as the Starbucks board of directors.

## Padma Bhushan



### SHRI SUNDAR PICHAI

Shri Sundar Pichai is the CEO of Google and Alphabet and serves on Alphabet's Board of Directors. He joined Google in 2004 and helped lead the development of Google Toolbar and then Google Chrome, which grew to become the world's most popular internet browser. In 2014 he was appointed to lead product and engineering for all of Google's products and platforms including popular products such as Search, Maps, Play, Android, Chrome, Gmail and Google Apps (now Google Workspace). He became Google's CEO in August 2015. He joined the Board of Directors of Alphabet, Google's parent company, in July 2017.

2. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1972, Shri Pichai grew up in Chennai, India and studied engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology where he was awarded an Institute Silver Medal. He holds a master's degree from Stanford University and an MBA from the Wharton School, where he was named a Siebel Scholar and a Palmer Scholar.

3. Shri Pichai, under his leadership as CEO, Google has been focused on developing products and services, powered by the latest advances in AI, that offer help in moments big and small. Google has invested in new opportunities such as Google Cloud and YouTube and has continued to be a leader in advanced technologies, including machine learning and quantum computing.

4. Shri Pichai became the CEO of Google's parent company, Alphabet in December 2019, in addition to his role as CEO of Google.



## Padma Bhushan



### DR. SANJAYA RAJARAM (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Sanjaya Rajaram, an Indian-born Mexican scientist impacted the lives of millions of people with the development of 490+ high-yielding and disease-resistant wheat varieties grown on more than 60+ million hectares in 51 countries throughout the world. This has increased global wheat production by more than 200+ million tons in diverse regions across the globe. He trained and mentored 700+ scientists who are carrying out his legacy and ensuring that new wheat varieties continue to reach farmers across the world.

2. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1943 in Raipur, a small village near Varanasi, Dr. Rajaram graduated from the University of Gorakhpur, in B.Sc. (Agriculture). He later studied genetics and plant breeding under Dr. M.S. Swaminathan at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Sydney.

3. Dr. Rajaram's career began at CIMMYT in 1969, as he worked with Dr. Borlaug. In 1972, he succeeded him as Head/Director of wheat breeding and germplasm improvement program at CIMMYT for the next 30 years. He launched and operated his own seed company Resource Seeds International at Mexico, in addition to providing consultancy to various organization, including DCM Shriram (India).

4. Dr. Rajaram implemented a major expansion of Borlaug's ingenious shuttle breeding approach in countries beyond Mexico, emphasizing wide adaptation of new plants to differing climate and soil conditions; superior grain quality; and increasing the resistance to diseases and pests. His technique involved growing two successive plantings each year in northern and southern latitudes, cutting in half the years required for research and breeding new varieties. He developed aluminum-tolerant wheat that grew successfully in the acidic soils of Brazil. He also developed wheat cultivars with durable resistance to rusts—the most damaging disease to wheat worldwide—through his concept of "slow rusting", which proved cost-effective and environmentally sound way to control plant diseases.

5. Dr. Rajaram is the recipient of over 75 honors and recognitions like the World Food Prize in 2014; Pravasi Bharatiya Samman India 2015; Crop Science Society Presidential Award USA 2004; Khwarizmi International Award Iran 2004; Presen Estado de Mexico Mexico 2015; Ministry of Agricultural Almaty Kazakhstan 2003; Crawford Fund Derek Tribe Australia 2001; Jinding (Golden Summit) China 2000; Rank London 1998; Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony USA 2008 etc. He has also been conferred honorary doctorate degree by several well-known universities worldwide.

6. Dr. Rajaram passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

## Padma Bhushan



### DR. PRATIBHA RAY

Dr. Pratibha Ray is an internationally acclaimed Indian writer. She has immensely enriched the modern Odia literature by her pioneering short stories and novels, travelogues and essays. Her works not only depict the urban milieu of Odishan culture but also delve deeply into the life of tribal communities. Her novels create a large human order of history, myth and reality. Her worldview is one in many unities in diversity. She has been writing Novels and Short stories in her mother tongue Odia consistently for the last forty-five years and is a household name in Odisha today.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1944, Dr. Pratibha is a graduate in life science, post-graduate in Education and has Ph.D in Educational Psychology, with her post-doctoral research focused on Tribalism and Criminology of Bondo Highlanders, one of the most primitive tribes of Odisha. She began her professional career as a school teacher, and later taught in various government colleges in Odisha for thirty years. She took voluntary retirement as a Professor of Education and joined as Member, Public Service Commission of Odisha where she worked for six years.

3. Dr. Pratibha is role-model for many women from Odisha for shaping a distinct identity of their own. She has published twenty-two novels, twenty-six short story collections, eleven travelogues, nine books for children, ten books for Neo-literates, essay collections, biography in English, books of lyrics, anthology of poetry, books of tribal research. Her autobiography is the highly acclaimed "Life on Lotus Leaf".

4. Dr. Pratibha has received several awards, recognitions and honours. In 2011, she received the highest literary recognition of India, the Jnanpith Award (Fourth Odia writer, First Odia woman writer and 7<sup>th</sup> Indian woman writer to have received it). She received the Padma Shri Award for Literature and Education by the Government of India in 2007. She has received several international awards for the linguistic ingenuity in her works which explore the specificity of human experience. She has won prestigious awards like Moortidevi by Bharatiya Jnanapith Trust for her novel Jajnaseni (Draupadi). She is the only woman writer to receive this coveted award till date. She received Sahitya Akademi, Sarala, Bishuva Puraskar, Jhankara and Saptarshi Puraskar for her literary excellence. She has been titled as Kalinga Ratna, Utkal Ratna and Ravenshaw University Ratna where she studied. She received honorary D.Litt from Utkal University of Culture and Ravenshaw University.

## Padma Bhushan



### ACHARYA VASHISHTHA TRIPATHI

Acharya Vashishtha Tripathi is an eminent scholar of Sanskrit studies. A great man like him is the best example of Indian knowledge, Science, Indian culture, rituals and lifestyle.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1940 in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, Acharya Tripathi studied the Shastras like Nyaya, Veda. etc. under the guidance of his erudite Gurus like Acharya Badrinath Shukla, Pt. Vamacharan Bhattacharya and Acharya Shriram Pandey Prabhruti. According to the great tradition of Kashi, he enhanced his teaching skills by teaching junior students since his student days. At the young age of 20, with proper teaching of the difficult texts of 'Nyaya Shastru', even the then Acharyas of repute considered him as an authority on 'Aryaya Shastru'. The Gurus were obviously proud to have such a disciple, whose teaching led to the influx of even the trickiest science of Nyaya.

3. Acharya Tripathi's unparalleled devotion to Nyaya Shastra, hard work and complete devotion to teaching has given birth to a series of scholarly disciples. Presently, any Acharya of Nyaya and Philosophy in any Sanskrit University, College and Educational Institutions of India, is directly or by tradition associated with the scholarly tradition of him. There are many such universities where the entire department of Nyaya is being run by his disciples. The multidimensional glory of his knowledge is paving the way for the disciples. Soon after passing the examination of 'Nyayacharyar', with gold medal, he got selected at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He taught as Professor at Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi.

4. Acharya Tripathi has enriched the Indian knowledge system through 'Shastranuchilan'. His effort, loyalty and clean image are exemplary for today's youth. He is an institution in himself. Many students got the distinction of getting Vachaspati, Vidyavaridhi degrees under his guidance. His disciple- tradition is superb. Many of his disciples are glorifying his knowledge while working as Vice-Chancellors and in other administrative positions in reputed universities of India. Even during the Corona pandemic times, he has enriched the knowledge of students and scholars by satiating their thirst for knowledge through virtual mode.

5. Acharya Tripathi has been conferred with numerous awards and honours including Presidential Award in 2004; 'Antarrashtriya Himadri Award' in 2003 by the Uttarakhand Sanskrit Academy; 'Vidvat Bhushan', 'Annapurnashree', 'Mahamahopadhyay', 'Vachaspati Samman etc.. In Kashi, the capital of learning, he has been revered as synonymous to Nyaya Shastra.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI SUMIT ANTIL

Shri Sumit Antil is a para athlete, who won gold medal in Paralympics 2020 Tokyo by breaking the world record three times in a single final. He currently holds world record in Para Athletics F64 category in Javelin throw.

2. Born on 7 June 1998, in Sonipat, Haryana, Shri Antil completed his secondary education in Dev Rishi Senior Secondary School, Sonipat and was fond of wrestling. As a born wrestler, he was training in SAI Bhalgarh for his competitions. He met with an accident on 5 January 2015, while coming back from his study classes. Then he tried to do something big in study. He got admission in Ramjas College, Delhi University. There he was introduced to Para athletics and chose javelin.

3. Shri Antil has competed in various National and International platforms. He came 5<sup>th</sup> in Asian Para Games 2018 held in Indonesia. He never looked back. In 2019, at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Italy, he broke the world record in the F64 category and won Silver medal. He also won silver medal in World Para Athletics Championship 2019 in Dubai. He won a gold medal with a World Record throw of 68.55m in javelin throw F64 at Summer Paralympics. He has broken the world record and his own personal record several times in javelin throw (Para Athletics).

4. Shri Antil has been conferred with prestigious awards like Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Award, Bhim Award etc.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI T. SENKA AO

Shri T. Senka Ao is an eminent personality in the field of media literature, education, social work and highly regarded for his contribution during communal feud and crises. He hails from Mokokchung District in the North Eastern State of Nagaland.

2. Born on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1945, Shri Senka graduated in 1969 from St. Anthony's College, Shillong under Guwahati University.

3. Shri Senka is best known for his work as the Editor-in-Chief of the "Ao Milen" for twenty years, the first newspaper in Nagaland established in 1933 and the first newspaper ever to be published in the local Ao language. During the period of his editorship, he created the "Alokba" character famous for his witty commentary on social and current issues. He has contributed several articles to various publications and has authored ten books in the Ao language. Two of his books Kongro Lijen (The Abode of the Maidens) and Kishi Teztilen (Off the Doorway) are in the process of translation into English. His eleventh book, Akfitnlir Longkong (Mortal Trails) is in press.

4. Shri Senka has also contributed tremendously in the field of Education. He was the Joint Secretary in the Voluntary Adult Education Campaign in Mokokchung District (1975-1979). He was also the founder of the Model Night School at Mokokchung in 1972. The school was started to felicitate the surrendered underground groups of Nagaland who desired for the continuation of their educational career. The school successfully enrolled many underground personnel. At present the school felicitates the housewives, house helpers and less privileged people for their education. His books have been included in the syllabus of the Ao language in ICSE and ISC Board New Delhi, and up to class 10 under Nagaland Board of School Education. He is an examiner of Arrangtet Examination which is the highest Ao language degree.

5. Shri Senka has been pivotal in bringing peace and understanding between the warring rivals during many communal crises and feuds. He was a member of Peace Committee in solving communal feud between Ao Tribe and Sema Tribe in 1981, a member of Peace Committee 1985 when the Nagas and Assam people had violent confrontation at Merapani. He was pivotal in the formation of Joint People Forum having representation from both Nagaland and Assam in collaboration with District Administration.

6. Shri Senka is the recipient of Nagaland Governor's Award in Literature in the year 2016.

## Padma Shri



### MS. KAMALINI ASTHANA

Ms. Kamalini Asthana is a senior Kathak Exponent of Varanasi gharana who has served the art field for five decades. Her tutelage under radiant guidance of the guru Jitendra Maharaj, trend setter of temple style of kathak dancing and his Guru Padmashree Awardee Maharaj Krishan Kumar vested her with gems of this ancient tradition. She has added her own charm and content, over the years and filled it with craftsmanship that's unique. She has travelled round the globe and contributed significantly to the form and as Chairperson of the Kathak Kendra, constituent official wing of the Sangeet Natak Academy for Kathak, she brought in new directions and dimensions.

2. Born on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1954 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh Ms. Kamalini took Kathak to new heights set trends in choreographing mythological stories viz. Rudra Awtar, Agnishika, Vahadehi Vanvas, Akhand Sobhgyawati, Ramki Shakti Puja, Shiv-Shakti Mahima, Kala Aur Vasna, Ardh Nareshwar, Krishnamayee Meera Andaal, Veerangna, Yashodhra, Ganga Avtaran, Tagore, Traditional dhrupad Composition of Bhakti Kaal Kavi. She is a privileged dancer to have performed in all the religious cults under the cultural integration series "Jo Rab Hai Wahi Ram". She set world record dancing at 18000 ft altitude aboard at Kailash Mansarovar in 2003. She also performed in presence of Holiness Dalai Lama during 1000 year celebration of Toba Monastery at Potala Palace to strengthen Bharat Nepal Maitri. She was awarded senior fellowship by Ministry of culture for Aesthetics in Dance.

3. As Sanskar Bharti Pracharak, Ms. Kamalini organized dance workshops at the remote North East areas and Tribal belt where students are taught, patriotic, mythological & contemporary themes to make them aware of indigenous values. They are encouraged, exposed and empowered through placements as trainers to work as torch bearer of cultural heritage.

4. As Mentor, Ms. Kamalini has been grooming college Youth for the last three years under the banner of UDAAN. She trained more than 1500 students who are now the torchbearer of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'. As advisory member, she enrolled more than six lakhs artists through culture Mapping. She is doing documentation for NCERT on Science of dance making educational series on Sound, Metal & Non-Metals, Puberty/gender Equality. She worked on three projects with Sangeet Natak Academy, Ministry of Culture on voyage of kathak, therapeutic values of dance, relation of dance with yoga and Mudra Vigyan.

5. During lecture demonstration series in various universities of U.K. viz. Oxford, Cambridge, London School of Economics, Leiden University, Kings Medical College, Ms. Kamalini made an Educational Film Voyage of Kathak for I.L.E.A Educational Authority of London 1984, by Graham Bowers. As top graded artist, she has to her credit nearly sixty production Indian & foreign T.V. She performed many times for raising welfare funds for Military and Para military forces.

6. Ms. Kamalini is recipient of numerous awards and honours including Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy Award; Mahakal Samman; Atal Samman; Human Rights Commission Award and Life Time Achievement Award by Indian Association USA.

## Padma Shri



### MS. NALINI ASTHANA

Ms. Nalini Asthana is well known as the dancing duet and partner of her elder sister Kamalini Asthana. She has evolved her own academic style of rendition, blessed as she is with Saraswati's abundant grace and gurus blessings. She is a seeker of knowledge and skills. Her Kathak has educational content, fit for taking classical arts to the masses. She regales the classes too and has made her winsome personality the hallmark of her art. Together they create a synergetic energy on stage.

2. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1955 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Nalini is disciple of Guru Jitendra Maharaj of Varanasi Gharana, the trendsetter of temple style of Kathak dancing. She took Kathak to new heights and set trends in choreographing Mythological stories. She has privilege of performing under the cultural integration series 'Jo Rab Hai Wahi Ram' at Mahakumbhs, Sankatmochan, Badri KedarNath, Ramehswaram, Chidambaram, Thirupati, Virindaban, all the Shiva jyotirlingas and Shakti Peeth and ISCKON temples around the globe. She performed at Hemkund Sahib, Devasharif and Bareilly Sharif. She set world record dancing at 18000 ft altitude aboard at Kailash Mansarovar in 2003. She also performed in presence of Holiness Dalai lama during 1000 year celebration of Toba Monastery Potala Palace, Lahasa to strengthen Bharat Nepal Maitri. She has authored books 'spiritualism in Dance' 'Relation of dance with Yoga'. This has conveyed a message 'Nritya as medium of Moksha'.

3. As mentor, Ms. Nalini has been grooming college Youth for the last three years under the banner of UDAAN trained more than 1500 students who are now the torchbearer of EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT. As advisory members, she enrolled more than six lakhs artists through the project Cultural Mapping. She did five pilot projects across India. She is doing Documentation for NCERT on Science of dance making serials on Sound, Metals And Non-Metals, Puberty And Gender Equality. She has also worked on three Projects With Sangeet Natak Academy, Ministry Of Culture on Voyage And Evolution Of Dance, Therapeutic values of Dance and Mudra Vigyan. She is promoting Cultural And Indigenous values in the remotest part of Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Guwahati And Port Blair.

4. As Director, Ms. Nalini continues to teach at Sangeetka institute of Performing Arts, where Indian - foreign scholars are trained under Guru Shishya Parampara. Series of lectures held since 1984 in Academic Institution of World are widely acclaimed, which received amazing responses in Oxford, Cambridge, Leiden, Manchester University, London School of Economics, Kings Medical College, Helsinki, China Indonesia, Bangkok, USA. Through relation of Dance with Yoga, physical fitness and treatment through various Dance Mudras, remarkable progress was observed in the behaviour of stubborn, violent and depressed students. In the past two decades, she organized free camps in MTNL health Mela to develop concentration, will power, eye sight and Asthma through music-dance Therapy. She helped to rehabilitate spastic and physically handicapped students to the main stream of life for their biological and psychological treatments through Baisakhi Institute for Handicaps, Nagpur.

5. Ms. Nalini is recipient of numerous awards and honours including Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy Award; Mahakal Samman; Atal Samman; Human Rights Commission Award Peace through Culture and Life Time Achievement award by Indian Association USA.

## Padma Shri



### **DR. JATINDER KUMAR BAJAJ**

Dr. Jatinder Kumar Bajaj is the Director of the Centre for Policy Studies and currently Member of the National Commission to Examine Sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Classes appointed by the President of India.

2. Born on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1952 at Giddarbaha in Sri Muktsar District of Punjab, Dr. Bajaj had his early education at Government School, Giddarbaha and D.A.V. College Amritsar. He earned an M.Sc. (Honours) degree in 1973 and Ph.D. (Theoretical Physics) in 1978 from the Department of Physics, Punjab University, Chandigarh. During his research career, he has worked at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Bombay and at the Department of Theoretical Physics, University of Madras, Chennai.

3. In 1990, Dr. Bajaj along with a few colleagues founded the Centre for Policy Studies at Chennai with the objective of comprehending India from an Indian perspective. The Centre has produced an extraordinary corpus of work that places different aspects of the Indian situation today in historical and Civilisational continuity with our past and thus offers innovative ways of looking at and solving some of our current problems. In their seminal work, *Annam Bahu Kurvita* he and his colleagues, poignantly invoke the classical discipline of producing and sharing food in plenty and invite the India of today to reclaim that heritage of abundance. In their detailed exploration of the Religious Demography of India, they urge India to be aware of and recover the demographic balance essential for maintaining social harmony and civilizational continuity. In their sustained work on Mahatma Gandhi, they present him as the greatest exponent of Indian civilization, who challenges the India of today to achieve national greatness in the modern times while standing firm and securely anchored in our civilizational ways and commitments.

4. The continuing work of Dr. Bajaj on several localities of northern Tamil Nadu in the eighteenth century has provided a concrete micro-level description of the functioning of pre-British Indian polity in its various dimensions. He has also initiated a programme to create micro-level Resource Atlases that graphically document the distinct attributes of the land, and people of every district and locality of India. He has produced such Atlases for several districts of Madhya Pradesh and a couple of localities of Tamil Nadu.

5. Dr. Bajaj has served and continues to serve as a member of the Governing Councils and Advisory Committees of several apex organizations under the Government of India in the fields of education, social sciences and science and technology. He has also served as an independent director on the board of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.





### **PROF. SANGHAMITRA BANDYOPADHYAY**

Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay is the Director of the Indian Statistical Institute. She is widely recognized for her contributions in the field of Computational Biology, Machine learning and Artificial intelligence. She is a role model and inspiration for many young scientists around the world, especially the women scientists.

2. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1968, Prof. Bandyopadhyay did her schooling in different cities of India. She completed her B. Sc. in Physics from the erstwhile Presidency College in Calcutta, now Presidency University, after which she did her B Tech, M Tech and Ph. D. in Computer Science from Calcutta University, IIT Kharagpur and Indian Statistical Institute, respectively. She joined the Indian Statistical Institute as a faculty member in 1999.

3. Prof. Bandyopadhyay became the Director in 2015. During her tenure the Institute has been focusing on establishing strong connects with external agencies and industry, and on research and teaching with an applied perspective, besides theoretical studies for which the Institute is already world-renowned. She has initiated several new courses, research programs and centres of excellence particularly in areas of machine learning, artificial intelligence, computational and statistical biology, security, cryptology, economics of climate and energy, to name a few.

4. The research interests of Prof. Bandyopadhyay include artificial intelligence, machine learning, computational biology and multiobjective optimization. She has authored/co-authored several books and more than four hundred articles in journals, book chapters, and conference proceedings and has a citation h-index of 57 as per Google Scholar. She has worked in and collaborated with many Institutes and Universities worldwide. Her students are also working in top institutions in India and abroad, with most of them choosing to pursue careers in research and academia.

5. Prof. Bandyopadhyay is the recipient of several awards including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Engineering Science; TWAS Prize; Infosys Prize; JC Bose Fellowship; Swarnajayanti fellowship; INAE Silver Jubilee award; INAE Woman Engineer of the Year award (academia); National Women Bioscientist Award (Young) from DBT, IIT Kharagpur Distinguished Alumni Award; Humboldt Fellowship from Germany; Senior Associateship of ICTP, Italy, young engineer/scientist awards from INSA; INAE and ISCA and Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma Gold Medal and Institute Silver from IIT, Kharagpur, India. She is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA); National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI); Indian National Academy of Engineers (INAE); Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE); The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS); International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR) and West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology. She has served on several apex level committees at the national level and currently serves as a member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council of the Prime Minister of India (PM-STIAC).

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI AKHONE ASGAR ALI "BASHARAT"**

Shri Akhone Asgar Ali 'Basharat' is a renowned Literary expert and Poet in Balti Language. Balti language is spoken in Ladakh in India and widely spoken in Gilgit Baltistan under occupation of Pakistan. He has been continuously working to revive and popularize Balti language and culture.

2. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1957 in a small village namely Karkitchoo in district Kargil of Union Territory Ladakh, Shri Basharat did not receive any formal education as no educational institution was available in his native village. His basic education was in Arabic and Persian under the tutorship of his late father who was a teacher of Islamic seminary in Kargil. He later joined the only Islamic Seminary in Kargil Madrasa Ithna Asharia, Kargil for six years.

3. Shri Basharat initiated his endeavor to promote Balti language through All India Radio Kargil in 1999 as a literary resource person on Balti language and regularly presented feature programs. His contributions on Balti language to Cultural Academy Kargil, Cultural Academy Leh, Doordarshan, Leh and Doordarshan, Srinagar are innumerable.

4. Shri Basharat compiled three books on Balti Ode, Elegy and Glory in 2001 and later in 2002 published his first poetry collection in Balti language titled "Guldastae Basharat" which got wide acclaimed among Balti speaking population both in India and across the border. He also published a book on religious prose. The second poetry collection in Balti language was published in 2011 titled "Bazme Basharat". In 2015, he chaired the Board of Studies for compiling text books on Balti language by Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, Srinagar.

5. Shri Basharat is a regular writer in Urdu language for a number of weekly and fortnightly publications. He is a farmer by profession and also as-president of Fruit Growers Cooperative Marketing & Processing Society, Kargil contributes in promoting apricot farming in Kargil.



### **DR. (PROF.) HARMOHINDER SINGH BEDI**

Dr. Harmohinder Singh Bedi, is a renowned Hindi author and an academicians from Punjab. He is presently the Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala. He is also serving as Council Member of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, Member of Senate, Punjab University, Chandigarh; Executive member, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Wardha; Hindi Advisor to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India and Member of National Monitoring Committee on Minority Education, Govt. of India.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1950 in Mukerian, Hoshairpur district of Punjab Dr. Bedi received his M.A. (Hindi), M.A. (Punjabi) and Ph.D. in Hindi from Guru Nanak Dev University where later he joined as Lecturer in 1978. He got D.Litt. from Bhagalpur University, Bihar. At Guru Nanak Dev University, he initiated research to trace and compile Hindi literature in Gurumukhi script. His father played a vital role in nourishing his early interest in literature, language and culture.

3. Dr. Bedi along with his several researchers discovered and edited several books of Hindi literature in Gurmukhi script and also wrote medieval Hindi literature historiography exploring the contribution of Punjab to literature and language. His three volume edited work on Sharda Rani Phillauri, Hindu social reformer and writer from Punjab, has reoriented the history of Hindi literature. His most notable contribution lies in exploring and interpreting the message of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the most revered holy text of Sikhs. More than a religious text it represents syncretism of Indian tradition and a pan Indian dialogue of Gurus, Sufi's and Bhagat's. He compiled and edited the bani of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji famously known as Hindi Chadar and works of poets of Vidya Darbar of Guru Gobind Singh. Locating and editing this vast body of literature from Bhakti Kaav to Guru Kaav and many other centers of learning like Udasis and Nirmale have helped to redefine the contribution of Punjab to literature and learning.

4. Dr. Bedi's works have highlighted the spiritual, cultural and religious contribution of Punjab to Hindi literature in general and specially to explore the collective threads of knowledge and language that makes South Asia a unique and common cultural zone. Apart from publishing on all major national journals of Hindi, he has been regularly writing columns for several Hindi newspapers. A poet at heart, his creative side has gifted Hindi literature with over 15 books of poetry. His sensibilities are deep enough to touch all aspects of human life and his poems specifically brings to fore the state of contemporary human life disrupted by the forces of modernity. He has served as Professor Emeritus with the Punjabi University, Patiala from 2012 to 2014. He retired as Professor and Head of Department of Hindi, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, where he also served as Dean and Director of Chairs of Bhagat Kabir, Satguru Ram Singh and Swami Vivekanand.

5. Dr. Bedi has received various awards and honors including Sevi Puruskar in 2017; Shiromani Hindi Sahitkar in 2004 by Punjab Government and Raj Bhasha Puraskar in 2018 by Raj Bhasha Vibhag, Govt. of India for his contribution to the field of Hindi language.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI PRAMOD BHAGAT**

Shri Pramod Bhagat is an International Para Badminton player, who has won Gold Medal in Men's Singles SL-3 category at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics Games. He is the current World No.1 and World Champion in Men's Singles and Men's Doubles event. Shri Bhagat has won a whopping 107 international and nationals medals.

2. Born on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1988, Shri Bhagat hails from Attabira, Bargarh district in Odisha has studied Industrial Training(ITI) and Bachelor in Arts. From 2009 to 2013, he worked as a badminton Coach at Vikas Residential School in Bargarh. Later in 2016, Shri Bhagat joined Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Govt. of India as Upper Division Clerk and currently holds the position of Assistant Director at ESIC Regional Headquarters in Bhubaneswar.

3. At the age of 13, Shri Bhagat began playing badminton and for the next two years, he was deeply engulfed in the game with footwork, skills as well as the fitness. He played his first tournament when he was 15 years old which was a non para event and with his performance at the event, he was encouraged by parents and well-wishers which motivated him to move ahead in his badminton career.

4. Over the span of his badminton career, he has constantly performed well at the world stage and brought laurels for the country. His outstanding accomplishments include Gold at Paralympics, Asian Para Games, World Championships, Asian Championships and IWAS World Games, he has won all the bigger tournaments. He has won World Championship titles for 5 times.

5. Shri Bhagat is the recipient of numerous awards viz Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021 and Arjuna Award in 2019. Also, he is the recipient of Biju Patnaik Sports Award for the year 2019 conferred by Government of Odisha. In 2020, he has received the Sport star Aces Award and Times Sports Award for Best Para Sportsperson of the year. Shri Bhagat was also nominated for BWF Male Para Badminton Player for two consecutive year 2020 and 2021.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI KHANDU WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

Shri Khandu Wangchuk Bhutia is a master craftsman specialized in the art of Thangka Painting (Tibetan scroll painting). He is widely known and respected as a teacher and an artist of the craft. His contributions have been influential in the preservation of the art in the Himalayan regions.

2. Born on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1959, in a hamlet village of Sakyong, West Sikkim, Shri Wangchuk developed an interest to the arts at the early age, inspired by his father, H.E Duzin Rimpoche. He was eventually taken under the care of his teachers, late Shri Phuntsok Sangpo and late Shri Zapa Acho, who were well known artists of their time. He started training in the ancient art at the age of 15 and in the coming years evolved into an artist of his own right, developing a unique style and became proficient in the Thangka Arts.

3. Shri Wangchuk, however didn't keep the knowledge confined to himself and he started a training centre in the year 1982, where he taught students (commonly poor, spoiled children) the art with free accommodation and fooding. Till date, he has taught around 350 students. His Thangkas are highly appreciated and recognized by well known high learned Lamas of Buddhism. His paintings can be found in various major Dharma centres in North America, Europe and Asia affiliated to H.H. Dudjom Rimpoche. His name also features in some publications among outstanding personalities of India, some of which are, Reference India, Vol. 2 Biographical notes of man and woman of Achievement of Today and Tomorrow 1993, and Indo American Whose Vol. I published by FI Publications, Delhi, India 1994.

4. Shri Wangchuk has displayed his excellence in the arts in the form of large Buddhist murals in monasteries in Sikkim namely, Gnadak Monastery (Namchi); Pemayangtse Monastery (Pelling); Tashi Choling Monastery (Khechuperi); Allay Gumpa (Ravangla); Boomtar Tamang Monastery (Namchi). Outside of Sikkim, he has painted the buddhist murals in Tashi Choling Monastery in Hanle, Ladakh. He has worked in the Swayambu and Boudha in Nepal, where he took students from Sikkim for experience. Other places in Nepal includes Dudjom Gumpa, Tinchulae Gumpa, Manang gumpa. He has participated in various great exhibitions nationally like the Surajkand Mela 2006, India International Trade Fair, Delhi Haat, TRIFED exhibitions. He also represented India and the art in Jeddah International Trade Fair (EPCH) 2014 and Made in North East India II in Thailand.

5. Shri Wangchuk was conferred the National Award (handicraft) in 1981 by the then President, Dr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, which helped him in his path of preserving the art. He was also conferred the title of Kala Nidhi at Surajkand Mela 2006. Besides he has been given other recognitions like the Bharat Excellence Award in 2001.

## Padma Shri



### **PROF. (DR.) MARIA KRZYSZTOF BYRSKI**

Prof. (Dr.) Maria Krzysztof Byrski is the professor emeritus of the Warsaw University, Poland. His entire grown up life is dedicated to the study of the Indian Civilisation with special attention paid to Sanskrit literature and especially to the Vedas and the Sanskrit drama. He taught generations of Polish Indologists and has to his credit over one hundred published papers including the translation into Polish language of Manusmriti, Kamasutra and the dramas of Bhasa as well as the Abhijnanaakuntala of Kalidasa. Currently he is working on the translation into the Polish language of Vishakhadatta's drama entitled Mudrarakshasa.

2. Born on January 12, 1937 Prof. Byrski received his M.A degree from the Warsaw University in 1960, submitting a thesis on the dramas of Harshavardhana Siladitya and Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University submitting a thesis on the concept of ancient Indian theatre. Having returned to Poland as assistant - professor he taught history of Sanskrit literature and the Hindi language. During two years (1971-73) he taught the Polish language at the Delhi University. In 1978 he was awarded the title of *doctor habilitatus* for the thesis entitled "The Methodology of the Analysis of Sanskrit Drama." In 1980 he participated in organisation of the Solidarity movement at the Warsaw University and headed the Neophilological Faculty chapter of that Trade Union.

3. Prof. Byrski has been teaching at two other educational institutions in Warsaw: Collegium Civitas and University SWPS. Currently he is researching on the chosen hymns of the Rigveda and the Atharvaveda to show that the Vedic idea of the creative sacrifice of Purusha is compatible with Christian idea of the sacrifice of Jesus. This project was already announced in 2015 at Oxford University International Conference under the title "The Sacrifice of God in the Vedas and In Christianity" and published in the Journal of Academic Perspectives. The book on this topic in the Polish language is actually being prepared for publication.

4. Prof. Byrski has been honoured with numerous awards like Abhinandan Patra on the occasion of the first Vishva Hindi Sammelan at Nagpur (1975); Natyacarya by the Madhya Pradesh Natak Lokkala Akademi at Ujjain (1981); Media International Award by All India Citizens Council (1991); Prasasti-Patra by the Akhil Bharatiya Dinkar Sammelan; Role of Honour by the President of Bombay Smarak Nidhi and Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya for the outstanding contribution in the field of Indology and Gandhian Philosophy; Praastipatra in 1995 by the President of India on behalf of the Vishva Hindi Pratishthan; Global Peace and Friendship Award by India-European Union Friendship Society; Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta by the President of Poland (2012); Alumnus Award of the Banaras Hindu University in recognition of his epoch-making contributions to the propagation of Mahatma's ideals; The Badge of Honor - BENE MERITO - for strengthening the international position of Poland by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Poland, 2014).

## Padma Shri



### SMT. SULOCHANA CHAVAN

Smt. Sulochana Kadam, known as Sulochana Chavan is an Indian singer, known for her "Lavanis" in Marathi. She started her professional singing career at the age of 10 years. She has done playback singing for around 250 songs in 70 Hindi movies and over 5000 songs in Marathi films, albums, HMV and cassettes throughout her career. She was credited as K. Sulochana after her maiden surname Kadam then.

2. Born on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1933, Smt. Chavan completed her education upto 4<sup>th</sup> Standard, but showed remarkable interest in theatre and music by the age of 7. As a child, she played the role of 'Shri Krishna' in a local play and 'Majnu' in Urdu play. At the age of 10, she started singing professionally. In 1955, she sang her first "Lavani" in the Marathi movie "Kalagi Tura" directed by Shree Shyamrao Chavan who gave her valuable lessons on her basics of pronunciations and stress on words which further enhanced her Lavani singing. She became famous with her Lavani "Mala Ho Mhantyat Lavangi Mirchi" where the music was composed by Vasant Pawar and lyrics penned by Jagdish Khebudkar. Thereafter, she went on to sing many "Lavanis" through Marathi and Hindi films as well as doing stage performances.

3. Since 1960, Smt. Chavan has been conducting stage performances for donations to various schools, colleges, libraries, orphanages and hospitals in Vidarbha, Khandesh and Marathwada areas of Maharashtra. She raised a donation of Rs. 9 lakhs for necessary equipments in the Kuldham Hospital of Dr. Bhusari. She also conducted stage performances for the aggrieved people of flood affected parts around the Pune Panshet dam. She has done commendable contribution for social cause. She also performed for the Indian soldiers in Nagaland in 1969.

4. Smt. Chavan is the recipient of numerous awards and honours including the title "Lavani Samradhni" (Queen of Lavani) in 1965 for her singing to the art genre; the Lokshahir Patthe Bapurao Puraskar in 2007 by Pune Municipal Corporation; Ram Kadam Puraskar in 2009; Lata Mangeshkar Award in 2010 by Government of Maharashtra and Lavani Kalavant Puraskaar in 2011. She also received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2012.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI NEERAJ CHOPRA

Shri Neeraj Chopra is an Indian Track & Field athlete who competes in the Javelin throw event. He is the first Track & Field athlete to win a Gold medal for India at the Olympic Games. He is the reigning Commonwealth Games and Asian Games Javelin Champion and also the first Indian to win Gold at the Athletics Junior World Championships and set a Junior World Record in athletics.

2. Born on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1997 in the Panipat district of Haryana to Shri Satish Kumar and Smt. Saroj Devi, Shri Chopra has been a trailblazer in Indian athletics with several achievements in his illustrious career. His love for the sport of javelin started when as a 13-year old, he saw some seniors practising in a nearby stadium and started training with them. Having developed an interest in the sport, he dedicated all his efforts to becoming a better thrower, moving first to Panchkula and then getting inducted into the National Camp in Patiala.

3. Shri Chopra burst into national conscience with a remarkable world record throw of 86.48m at the Junior World Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland and has since gone on a record breaking spree, bettering his own national record on multiple occasions and routinely ranking among the top javelin throwers globally. He overcame a career threatening elbow injury in 2019 to create history at his Olympic Games debut in Tokyo on August 7, 2021 by winning India's first ever Athletics Olympic Gold medal, and contributing to Team India's best ever Olympic Games performance.

4. Shri Chopra is the current National Record holder in the Javelin throw event with a Personal Best of 88.07m, which he achieved at the 2021 Indian Grand Prix in Patiala. In 2018, he became only the second Indian Track & Field athlete after the legendary Milkha Singh to win back-to-back Gold medals at the Commonwealth and Asian Games. He was the Indian contingent's flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. He has also won Gold at the 2017 Asian Championships and the 2016 South Asian Games.

5. Shri Chopra is a Junior Commissioned officer in the Indian Army and has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022 and the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2020. He has also been honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 2021 and the Arjuna Award in 2018 for his excellence in the field of sports.



## Padma Shri



### **MS. SHAKUNTALA CHOUDHARY (POSTHUMOUS)**

Ms. Shakuntala Choudhary was a Gandhian leader and renowned social worker in Assam. Her life was devoted to selfless service, truth, simplicity and non-violence at Sarania Ashram, Guwahati where Mahatma Gandhi had stayed in 1946. She joined Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assam Branch on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1947 and continued for the rest of her life.

2. Born on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1920 at Panbazar, Guwahati to late Shri Harinath Pathak Choudhury and late Smt. Bidyadhari Choudhury, Ms. Shankuntala completed her higher education from Handique Girls College achieving 1<sup>st</sup> division. She was inspired by her parents to carry out social works at a young age. She worked as a Teacher in Tarini Charan Choudhury Higher Secondary School, Guwahati during 1945-1946. Later, she met Amal Prova Das, an ardent follower of Gandhiji and Acharya Vinoba Bhave and joined Assam Branch of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust (KGNMT) in 1947.

3. Ms. Shakuntala participated in Seva Gram Naitalim under the guidance of Asha Devi Arjya Nayakam in 1959. She was extremely devoted to her duties, honest and sincere and was appointed Secretary, KGNMT, Assam Branch in the year 1955, which she continued for 20 years. She led Bhoodan Movement (Padayatra) which commenced from 18<sup>th</sup> April 1951 and reached boundary of Assam. She conducted Stri Shakti Jagaran among women. Vinobaji entrusted regular printing of "Asomiya Viswanagari" to her with intention to develop spiritual observation, equality of intelligence and Aninnda Brata. The publication of Viswanagari was her source of inspiration and life strength. She established "Kasturba Juba Matri Samaj" to involve the students and youths and took active role to inspire the Matri Samaj to know about Mother & child welfare, removal of illiteracy and promote self-reliance.

4. Ms. Shakuntala received numerous awards for her selfless service including Sati Joymati Award; Joyendra Saraswati Samaj Ratna Award; Jannalal Bazaz Award; Gopinath Bordolai Award by Government of Assam; Kanak Lata Award; Suchibrata Ray Choudhary Award and Senior Citizen Award (National award by the Government of India).

5. Ms. Shakuntala passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI SANKARANARAYANA MENON, CHUNDAYIL**

Shri Gurukkal Sankara Narayana Menon is an established Kalaripayattu (an ancient Bharatiya art of defence and physical wellbeing) Guru at Vallabhata Kalari Institution in Chavakkad, Kerala.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1929, Shri Menon started his training in Kalaripayattu at the age of 7 from his family and mastered a high level of proficiency as a practitioner, performer and teacher for over 60 years of teaching experience. He has also received training in "Kalari Manna Chikilsa". He was born as the third son of Late Gurukkal Sankunni Panicker, who was the last member of the Mudavangattil family who were great deponents of Kalaripayattu and also held the 'Gunisthanam' of the Vettath Royal family decorating the title of commander-in chief and on whom the title of Panicker was conferred by the Vettath Rajah, a Ruler appointed by the Zamorin Raja of Kozhikode.

3. Shri Menon is also a Registered Medical Practitioner of Ayurveda & Unani. He also treats patients who come with physical and muscular ailments by applying medicated oils and performing various massage techniques. In 1957, Gurukkal Sankunni Panicker established the present Kalari (training center, SNGS Vallabhata Kalari Sangam) at Chavakkad, Trichur Kerala, based on a rigorous and fluid physical training system. Vallabhata Kalari Chavakkad is conducting Kalaripayattu classes, workshops, demonstrations and has worked with renowned dancers for choreographic performances held in India and many of the European Countries, USA, China, Singapore and Srilanka. Even at the age of 93 he delivers the expertise and knowledge to the upcoming generations which has reached the 9<sup>th</sup> generation of Vallabhata Kalari Sangham capable of preserving and propagating the wellness and value of Kalaripayattu.

4. Shri Menon is recipient of numerous awards and honours including 'Suvama Mudra Award' in 1995 by Kerala Kalaripayattu Association; 'Sahasramahodadi Award' in 2007 in memory of legend Poomully Neelakandan Namboothiripadu, well known for his wisdom and patronage in Kalarippayattu, Ayurveda, Yoga etc; Lifetime Achievement Award by Indian Kalaripayattu Federation affiliated to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India. He also received honours from Chairman of Chavakkad Municipality in 1989 for the teaching of Kalaripayattu to the general Public; Kerala Kalamandalam Silver Jubilee celebration in 1990 for propagation of Kalaripayattu and preserving the ancient art of India; Kerala Kalarippayattu Association in 2008 in connection with 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for his services; Thrissur District Kalaripayattu Association in 2011. He was also honored by the Governor of Kerala Shri. P. Sadasivam on the occasion of Indian Sports Day (Fit India).

## Padma Shri



### SHRI S. DAMODARAN

Shri S. Damodaran, totally devoted his lifetime since 1985 only to promote household toilet facilities to the rural, urban poor, people living in the coastal regions, tribal areas and in town panchayats by closely working with Central Government, State Government, international donor organizations and with CSR initiatives. He has been involved in all the Government total sanitation programs from 1980s to Swachh Bharat Mission Program - 2014 till date.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1962, Shri Damodaran founded Gramalaya and worked in the water and sanitation sector for more than three and half decades and created role model projects in South India. Under his guidance, more than six lakhs household toilets were promoted through the various Government schemes like CRSP, TSC, NBA, LCS (Low-cost Sanitation cum Scavengers Rehabilitation Program) and SBM Gramin which were sustainable models and working very well till today. He formulated three pronged strategy including health empowerment through toilets, safe drinking water and hygiene education and economic empowerment. His work through sustainable sanitation initiatives resulted in women and adolescent girls led a dignified life with privacy, safety and security.

3. The concept of Open defecation free village was first experimented in Thandavampatti village by Gramalaya in Tiruchirappalli District as First Open Defecation Free village in India where a resolution was passed at the Grama Sabha meeting on 26.1.2003 with 100 percent toilet coverage in all the households in the village including a ban on open defecation. Following this village, he was instrumental in declaring more than 300 villages in the rural areas and 187 slums in Tiruchirappalli City Corporation as ODF including India's first slum in Kalmandhai in 2002. In 2006, he developed a Centre for Toilet Technology and Training at the Gramalaya Training Centre.

4. Shri Damodaran introduced the concept of Self Help Group women managed community pay and use toilets in 2000 which is still working successfully in Tiruchirappalli City Corporation on a self-sustainable basis. This was acknowledged in the Five Year plan document 2012 to 2017 as Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth by Government of India as one of role model projects in India. He has designed the SMART Toilet model with bath attached wherein more than 60,000 SMART Toilets were built in South India under his leadership. In the National Key Resource Centre of Gramalaya approved by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, a number of training and orientation programs on water and sanitation technologies have been organized by him including three national-level workshops like Menstrual Hygiene Management India Summit at New Delhi.

5. Shri Damodaran designed and developed the reusable menstrual cloth pads six years ago which has reached the adolescent girls studying in Schools and women in the rural areas. So far more than 5,91,000 reusable cloth pads for menstrual hygiene were promoted by him that has saved our environment, land and our water sources. Through household toilet promotion and hygiene education, he has empowered many women and adolescent girls on economical, social and health aspects in India.



## PROF. PROKAR DASGUPTA

Prof. Prokar Dasgupta is the King's Health Partners (KHP) Professor of Surgery, Professor of Robotic Surgery and Urological Innovation, Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine, King's College London (KCL) and Hon. consultant Urological Surgeon, Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, UK. He is internationally reputed as a pioneering surgeon-scientist, educator and the 10<sup>th</sup> Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Urology International (BJUI).

2. Born on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1966, Prof. Dasgupta obtained his MBBS degree from Medical College Calcutta in 1989, FRCS in 1994, M.Sc. with distinction in 1996, FRCS Urology in 2001, MD in 2001 and Fellowship of the European Board of Urology in 2001. He is the Chairman of the King's-Vattikuti Institute of Robotic Surgery and Clinical Director of Surgical and Interventional Engineering at KCL, part of the ambitious Med Tech Hub at St. Thomas' Hospital London.

3. Prof. Dasgupta pioneered robotic surgery in urology in the UK. He was the first to develop image guided and 3D printed prostatectomies, indentation probes for precise localisation of cancers and is an Ambassador for the KCL-Ericsson 5G Global health program in telemedicine. His introduction of modern robotics has transformed how surgery is practised, particularly with regards to prostate cancer. He leads the Prostate Cancer Research Centre at King's and holds a patent for "Fusion Peptides" a new immune therapy for prostate cancer developed in his laboratory.

4. Prof. Dasgupta is acknowledged as a leading educationist. He developed the world's first laparoscopic nephrectomy simulator, led the EU-MARS project of the development and validation of robotic surgical training and the first and only international randomised trial of simulation for patient benefit—the SIMULATE study.

5. Prof. Dasgupta, during the COVID-19 crisis, published BJUI blogs and articles from Italy, China, New Zealand and South Korea, which helped the planning of surgical services. He was integral to bringing the Life Lines project to the AIIMS Rishikesh. As India's COVID-19 crisis hit, he with colleagues across KHP successfully used the same technology to connect with India's clinicians on the frontline. He is a tennis fan, a marathon runner and a reasonable cook.

6. Prof. Dasgupta was awarded the Fellowship of the King's College (FKC), King's highest honour, membership of the Academic Association of European Urologists, the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons and the Honorary Membership of the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand. In recognition of his achievements, he received the Golden Telescope in 2006 and the St. Peter's Medal the highest award from the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) in 2020. In 2021 he was made the King James IV Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

## Padma Shri



### DR. LATA ANILCHANDRA DESAI

Dr. Lata Anilchandra Desai is a founding trustee of SEWA Rural and president of Sharada Mahila Vikas Society. Inspired by the lives of Mahatma Gandhiji and Swami Vivekanand, She her husband Dr. Anil Desai and SEWA Rural team dedicated their lives towards the holistic, integrated wellbeing of tribal communities in Gujarat in the field of health, women-empowerment, education and poverty alleviation since 1980. Her motto in life is the salvation of individual self and well-being of all.

2. Born on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1941, in a family of freedom fighters, Dr. Lata graduated from the B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, in 1965. A call from the Indian Army soon after the 1965 war invoked her and Dr. Anil's desire to serve the country and both joined the army. She and Anil went back to college to complete post-graduation in pediatrics and general surgery respectively. Subsequently, they went to the United States of America (USA) in pursuit of higher studies as well as to earn and stayed there from 1971 to 1979. She obtained the degrees of Diploma in American Board of Pediatrics and Fellow in American Academy of Pediatrics.

3. Dr. Lata, along group of like-minded companions established the Society for Education, Welfare and Action — Rural (SEWA — Rural) in 1980 in Jhagadia, a village in a relatively neglected tribal region of Bharuch district in Gujarat. SEWA Rural began with a small hospital, later added outreach health services and then educational and developmental activities for women and youth. Since 1980, 23 lakh patients have received high-quality treatment at the 250 bed SEWA Rural Hospital, 70% of which are treated free of cost. The community-based outreach programs improved the maternal mortality ratio by 75% and successfully rehabilitated blind persons. Various eye operations have restored vision for 1.25 lakh people. Young persons from 3500 poor families have received a year-long residential industrial training as well as character-building education after which 95% of these youths were provided with employment to help them rise from poverty.

4. Dr. Lata has been instrumental in empowering many deprived women through various economic and awareness programs through the Sharada Mahila Vikas Society. The adolescent empowerment program helped a large number of young people to become healthy and responsible citizens. In addition, thousands of health workers of over 150 organizations all over the world have been trained at health training centre. SEWA Rural's Research studies have been published in renowned international journals. SEWA Rural's project area is getting widened through a unique amalgamation of Service, Research, Training and Empowerment programs.

5. Dr. Lata, as founder of SEWA Rural has received more than 35 awards like Sasakawa Health Prize 1985 for outstanding innovative community health work from WHO, Geneva; MacArthur Award in 2007 for her pioneering work in saving the lives of mothers and their babies in India; "Public Health Champion" award in 2015 from WHO etc.

## Padma Shri



### **SMT. BASANTI DEVI**

Smt. Basanti Devi is social worker. She is widely known for her efforts for women empowerment and environment conservation in the Kumaon region of Uttrakhand.

2. Born on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1958 at village Digra of Kanalichhina Tehsil of District Pithoragarh in Uttrakhand Smt. Basanti after passing the Intermediate examination, left her native village and joined Kasturba Mahila Utthan Mandal, Laxmi Ashram Kausani, Almora for social reforms. She has contributed in the various fields of Social Reforms viz. forest conservation, women empowerment etc. She formed women's groups to remove social evils prevailing the society. She started a campaign to save the forest through women's groups and also started public awareness to stop domestic violence and atrocities against women.

3. Smt. Basanti formed a group of women from 200 villages in the entire valley from Kausani to Lod to work together to save the river Kosi and struggle against other social evils. She launched the campaign for women's participation in village Panchayats in the year 2008. She also started a campaign for the emancipation of women facing domestic violence and harassment of men. In 2014, she helped 150 women from 51 villages become self-reliant. She became widow at age of 12. Being victim of child marriage, she made efforts to create awareness against child marriage.

4. Smt. Basanti has been honoured with Nari Shakti Puraskar; Devi Award and Femina Women Jury Award for her selfless distinguished social work.

## Padma Shri



### **SMT. LOUREMBAM BINO DEVI**

Smt. Lourembam Bino Devi is the oldest Expert in the traditional method of Applique Art called "Leeba" in Manipur and has been rendering women service in revival of such cultural asset for the last 53 years.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1944, Smt. L. Bino Devi got married at the age of 17 years to Late Shri Kunjahihari Singh of Keishamthong. Since then, she is working till now on this craft. She received formal training of this Art from her mother-in-law, Smt. L. Ibetombi Devi, who was the first recipient of National Award in Handicraft.

3. Smt. L. Bino Devi has imparted trainings in Applique art at Manipur State Museum in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts, New Delhi (in 1995) at Department of Art & Culture, Govt. of Manipur (2004), Manipur State Film Corporation and to women jail inmates organized by Manipur State Commission (2016) continuously under the full support of Dr. K. Sobita Devi, the then Chairperson of Manipur State Commission for Women. She also organized workshop on Arts & Crafts under the Guru Shishva Parampara Scheme and 3 more such training programmes at Heritage Foundation of Mankind under the sponsorship of the Directorate of Handloom & Textiles (2017) National Museum of Mankind, Bhopal (2019); Manipur Handlooms & Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd. Manipur (2022). Her contribution in uplifting women folk of Manipur has well proved when 3 of her students won State Awards in this trade.

4. Smt. L. Bino Devi is recipient of many prestigious Awards like State Award for Master Craftsmen; Silpa Bhusan from Manipur State Kala Academy; Women Achiever's Award etc.



### **SMT. MOIRANGTHEM MUKTAMANI DEVI**

Smt. Moirangthem Muktamani Devi is the founder and proprietor of Mukta Shoes Pvt Ltd, Kakching, Manipur. She is widely known for her woolen knitted shoes. She has employed many people in her shoes industry and has been promoting this craft by imparting training to the youth of India. So far, she has trained more than 2000 men and women.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1960, Smt Muktamani, daughter of a farmer studied up to class XII. Necessity was definitely the mother of innovation and invention as far as she was concerned. 30 years ago, when her daughter's school shoes were torn, she could not afford to buy a pair of new shoes. She knitted her daughter's torn shoes with old woolen threads. Her daughter happily wore the knitted shoes and went to school. After seeing the new type of shoes, teachers of the school started placing order. It was then that she struck upon the idea of knitting woolen shoes with woolen threads and hard soles. Today she is the proprietor of Mukta shoes Pvt. Ltd.

3. Smt. Muktamani who had started the entrepreneurship of making and selling of knitted woolen shoes from 1991, founded the Mukta knitted shoes Pvt. Ltd. in 1993. She has exported her knitted shoes to many foreign countries like Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Japan and Dubai. She received orders from countries like UK, France, and Mexico etc.

4. Smt. Muktamani has imparted training to many men and women under Entrepreneurship Development Programme (1993) organized by North Eastern Industry Consultants Ltd. Imphal; Training Programme of Business & Export Mgt (2002); Short Term Technical training in Knitted Footwear Fabrication at Central leather research institute (Chennai 2001 -2002); Entrepreneurship Development and Ethnic Design in Leather sector at Imphal (2002); Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program of Woolen shoe Making organized by MSME 2009; 6 month Skill Upgradation Training Program on shoe making, Manipur, 2009; Enterprise Development training Programme for Winner of the Citi Micro Entrepreneur awards Organized at EDI Campus Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmadabad by Citi Micro Entrepreneur.

5. Smt. Muktamani is the recipient of several awards and honours like True Legends awards in 2018 by National Insurance & Telegraph; Vasundhara award for North East Women Entrepreneurs (2013-14); Vasundhara Award for Manipur Women Entrepreneurship (2013-14); National Award Micro small & Medium Enterprises (2008). Citi Group Micro Entrepreneurs National Award 2006; Master Craftsperson award of the year 2008-2009 and 1996 by the Directorate of Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur etc.



## Padma Shri



### **SHRI SAVJIBHAI DHANJIBHAI DHOLAKIA**

Shri Savjibhai Dhanjibhai Dholakia is the founder and chairman of Hari Krishna Exports Pvt. Ltd., a diamond manufacturing and export company. His journey in the diamond industry has been of vision, passion, sheer dedication and philanthropy. As a visionary leader with more than 40 years of experience in the diamond industry, he built HK as one of the world's largest manufacturers of polished diamonds.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1962, Shri Dholakia dropped out of school at the age of 12 and with only Rs 12.5 in his pocket, he arrived in Surat in the year 1977 on a state transportation bus. He then began his career in Surat, working hard as a diamond polisher in his uncle's diamond unit for ten years. To fulfill his mother's dream, he founded his own company Hari Krishna Exports in 1992 along with his three brothers Mr. Himmatbhai, Mr. Tulsibhai and Mr. Ghanshyambhai. The group with turnover of USD \$1.5 Billion Dollar today exports polished diamonds & jewellery to 82 countries around the globe. HK manufactures over 45,000 carats of diamonds every month (and 500,000 carats every year). Hari Krishna Group also owns a Diamond Jewellery brand named "Kisna" with over 480 distributors and more than 3400 retail outlets across the country.

3. Shri Dholakia is a person who values the people in his life and sincerely cares for those around him. With his humility, simplicity, kindness, purity and compassion, he has garnered the admiration of people nationally and internationally. Through a 'Loyalty Program', he has given gifts such as Car, Jewellery and Flats to his employees. He started social work under "Hari Krishna Charitable Trust" in 1996, which is now known as 'Dholakia Foundation'. Choosing the path of serving Mother Earth, he has planted over 25 lakh trees and constructed 75 lakes under the Mission#100 Sarovar for villagers and farmers. His foundation is also involved in various other social welfare activities.

4. Shri Dholakia's Hari Krishna Group organizes mass-wedding ceremonies assisting needy young couples in starting a new life. HK conducts religious tours for the employee's Mother & Father as well as Father-in-law & Mother-in-law every year for their fun & motivation and also supports employees for their family's health and their children's education. HK also organizes Vipassana camps for their employees and motivational programmes by leaders.

5. Shri Dholakia's compassionate nature has been publicly recognized as he has been awarded honors from both the private and public sectors for his exceptional commitment to making a difference to the lives of others.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI ARJUN SINGH DHURWEY**

Shri Arjun Singh Dhurwey is a folk dancer and a retired teacher from the Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh. He is famous for popularising Baiga folk songs and dance. Baiga Pardhauni dance is the main dance of the Baiga tribe. In this form of dance, the performers wear the masks of peacocks, elephants, horses, etc.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1953, Shri Dhurwey has secured B.Ed degree in Education and MA degree in Sociology. He was the first post graduate degree holder from the Baiga tribe. He started his work as an assistant teacher on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1976. He was promoted to higher grade teacher in 1994 and to the post of head teacher in 2008 and retired from the service in 2015.

3. Shri Dhurwey and his team have given many performances of the Baiga dance within and outside Madhya Pradesh. In the year 2005, in the Republic Day Parade at India Gate, New Delhi, he and his team performed Baiga Pardhauni dance in Mangoli tableau. He also presented the programs at the residences of the then President Sh. APJ Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He performed Baiga Pardhoni, dance at various places such as: on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, at India Gate with 200 students by South Central Zone Cultural Center Nagpur; in 2009 at International Jan Jaati Film Festival; in 2009 at Allahabad Haat; at Vetava Mahotsav in 2011; at Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sanghralaya in 2017 etc. He was nominated as a member of core committee of Tribal Union from 2010 to 2013. Since September 1992 to till date, the work of recording songs like Karma, Dadaria, Faag, Jas, Reena, Wilma, Birha etc. is being done by him at Akash Vani Kendra Jabalpur.

4. For his distinguished service as a "Baiga Tribal Dancer and Singer, performing the dying art form for over four decades, Shri Dhurwey was conferred with Tulsi Samman by Madhya Pradesh Government.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI DHANESWAR ENGTI**

Shri Dhaneswar Engti is the founder Editor-In-Chief of a popular Karbi Literary Magazine named "MONJIR" in 1976. He is also the founder Editor of a Karbi Literary Magazine, named "SAMPHRI" in 1984.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1955 at Bithilangso Palam Engti village, Karbi Anglong, Assam, Shri Engti graduated from Diphu Government College, Karbi Anglong, Diphu, in 1978 and obtained his Master's degree in English from Guwahati University in 1981. The Assam Public Service Commission selected him for ACS in the year 1986, but served as Assistant Secretary under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Karbi Anglong, Diphu and retired as Joint Secretary from KAAC's service on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

3. Shri Engti is the Life Member of Asom Sahitya Sabha' since 2004 and Executive Member, Central Committee of the Asom Sahitya Sabha' for the Session 2009 — 2011. His poems, articles and short stories have been published in various news papers including 'The Assam Tribune', 'The Sentinel', 'Amar Asom', 'Dainik Janambhumi', 'Dainik Janasadharan', 'Ajir Edin', 'The Arleng Daily', 'The Hills Times', 'Solangdo', 'Dainik Protibedon', etc. His elite creation on the canvas of literature is cherished by a great deal of readers and book lovers.

4. Shri Engti has participated and inaugurated various Kavi Sammelan, National level seminars and workshops on important topics organized by different organizations of repute. He wrote and tuned several Karbi modern songs, Karbi Bhajans and Karbi Ghazals during his service life. Some of his beautiful songs were sung by Ms. Alka Yagnik, a renowned Bollywood Singer of Mumbai. He also penned a total of 19 (Nineteen) nos. of books in Karbi, Assamese and English languages.

5. Shri Engti was conferred with "kristinandan" literary award in 2017 for his meritorious contributions in the field of Literature and Karbi Music on the occasion of its 24<sup>th</sup> All India Conference at ICCR Auditorium, Kolkata. He was honoured with the "Semsonsing Ingti Award, 2018" by the authority of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, on the occasion of its 67<sup>th</sup> Council Foundation Day celebration as a token of acknowledgement and appreciation of his outstanding contribution in the field of Literary Works and Modern Music. He has also been honoured with literary pension in 2019-2020 by the Government of Assam for his outstanding contributions in the field of Karbi, English and Assamese literature.

## Padma Shri



### **SMT. RAMILABEN RAYSINGBHAI GAMIT**

Smt. Ramilaben Raysingbhai Gamit, is a social worker, who is working in the different fields of social upliftment work such as health, women and child development, agriculture, skill development of village people economic upliftment.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1969 at Taparwada Village, Tapi, Gujarat, Smt. Gamit studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> standard. Her dream was to do something best for the benefit of the society and country.

3. Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Mission by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Smt. Gamit helped to construct more than 700 toilets under the banner of Rseti and bring awareness on toilet sanitation campaign. Towards Sakhi Mandals, Self help Groups (SHGs) under the Government programmes Pradhan Mantri Skill Development and towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat, she has made 162 SHGs women groups and linked to banks and given Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Yojna, Atal Pension Yojna and Sukanya Yojna. In coordination with Government Departments, she worked to arrange meetings and brought farmers to Kisan Vikas Kendras (KVK) to learn modern techniques of agriculture for healthy soil and better produce from farming. She created social health awareness by arranging 30 blood donation camps, health awareness seminars in the tribal belt. She also worked for the 'Sahi Poshan to Desh Roshan Abhiyan' by the Government through linkages with the people and the ICDS Department at grass root level as well as Block and District level. She specially focused on awareness on nutrition among children, women and pregnant women.

4. Smt. Gamit created strong healthy networking with Government Department 181 Abhiyan women helpline for the women protection. She worked for the widow's empowerment by providing them the benefits of widow schemes pension Yojna, rehabilitation, bank loans and old age pension benefits beyond the age 60 years. She also helped and motivated young generation to actively participate in the sports event Khello India at national level and Khel Mahakumbh at State level. During the unexpected situation of Covid 19 pandemic, she grouped Sakhi Mandal groups to spread awareness among villages and also took leadership by providing ration kit, clothes, masks, hand sanitizers to the needy and poor people.

5. Smt. Gamit has received several honours and awards including 'Swachh Shakti' Award in 2017 for her outstanding performance under "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan"; "Abhayam" Mahila Sammelan, Tapi for best work for women security in 2018 and also "Nari tu Narayani Award" at Ahmedabad etc.



## DR. GIRIDHARI RAM GAUNJHU 'GIRIRAJ' (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Giridhari Ram Gaunjhu 'Giriraj' retired from the Department of Tribal and Regional Languages, Ranchi University, Ranchi. He was an academician, author, cultural personality and a theatre worker. In addition to this he was also an icon of Jharkhand's cultural language. He was an historian and the mirror of Jharkhand's art and culture. He has done profound researches and guided countless students. He also wrote many dramas, plays, stories, essays, criticism, translation, satires, sketches, reminiscence, screenplay, editing, poetry etc. Therefore people called him as a 'walking encyclopedia' in this regard.

2. Born on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1949 in Belwadag, Khunti (Jharkhand), Dr. Gaunjhu was graduated from St. Xavier's College Ranchi with Hindi (Honours) in 1970 and did Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) in 1971, Post Graduation (P.G.) with Hindi in 1973 and Bachelor of Laws (L.L.B.) in 1976 from Ranchi University. In 1988 he earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) under Dr. Shrawan Kumar Goswami, his research topic was "Peter Shanti Navrangi : Vyaktitva Evam Krititva".

3. Dr. Gaunjhu has successfully guided more than 18 Ph.D. aspirants. He also worked as a guest lecturer in P.G. Department of Hindi at St. Xavier's College Ranchi, Central University Ranchi and many others Universities. His endeavour to preserve the entity of language, literature and culture of Jharkhand through his dramas, poetry, stories, discussion and conversation broadcast on All India Radio and Doordarshan is really appreciable. He also successfully staged many plays written by him like "Jharkhand Ka Amrit Putra : Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh", "Akhra Nindaye Geisk" in the field of theatrical presentation and acting.

4. Dr. Gaunjhu has written more than 35 books yet. His famous published works are ; - "Peter Shanti Navrangi : Vyaktitva Evam Krititva" 1990; "Akhra Nindaye Gelak" (Play) 1990; "Jharkhand Ka Amrit Putra : Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh" (Play) 2001; "Marang Gomke" (Play) 2002; "Maharaja Madra Munda (Play) 2004; "Hiranagpur Kar Heera" (Play) 2012; "Mahabali Radhey Kar Balidan" (Play) 2019; "Dhangar" (Nagpuri Stories) 2019; "Om Vishwavidyalaya Namah" (Samiksha) 2000; "Jharkhand Ke Lok Nritya" 2004; "Jharkhand Ke Vadhya Yantra" 2007; "Jharkhand Me Matri Bhasa Ki Bhumika" 2010; "Angna-Nagpuri Lok Kathayen" 2012; "Nagpuri Sikhen" 2013; "Jharkhand Ka Lok Sangect" 2015; "Jharkhand Ki Sanskritik Virsat" 2015; "Jharkhand Vibhuti Aur Sahid" 2018; "Jharkhand Ki Paramparik Kajayen" 2015; "Ritu Ke Rang Maander Ke Sang" 2018; "Nagpuri Sahitya Darpan" 2019; "Nagpuri Prakirna Sahitya" 2019; "Jharkhand Ke Vividh Aayam" 2020; "Oraon Evam Sadaan Sanskriti" 2020 and etc.

5. Dr. Gaunjhu received many awards and honours such as, "Jharkhand Ratna" in 2003 by Lok Seva Samiti, Ranchi; "Jharkhand Samman" by the Government of Jharkhand in 2018; "Jharkhand Navratna" for his notable contribution in 9 Jharkhandi languages Santhali, Mundari, Ho, Kudukh, Khariya, Nagpuri, Kurmali, Khortha and Panchparganiya amongst other prestigious honours and awards.

6. Dr. Gaunjhu passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Padma Shri



### DR. SHAIBAL GUPTA (POSTHUMOUS)

Dr. Shaibal Gupta, was the founder of Asian Development Research Institute, a leading social science research institute based in Patna. This institution has achieved a reputation as an outstanding centre for social science research.

2. Born on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1953, Dr. Gupta was born to enlightened Bengali family in Bihar. The core area of his interest was to understand the reasons for under development of Bihar. He worked relentlessly for the last four decades towards the development of his home state and nurturing a research culture in very adverse circumstances.

3. Dr Gupta established his reputation as a scholar and remained a leading expert on Bihar with numerous publications in academic journals, research reports and newspapers. He had written extensively on issues related to development, social justice, cosmopolitanism and knowledge society. He had a deep knowledge about the political dynamics of Bihar and it is difficult to identify anyone who was as informed about Bihar politics.

4. Dr. Gupta followed an interdisciplinary approach using his understanding of Economics, History, Sociology, Anthropology and Politics. He was one of the first people to realize that in order to develop, creation of a knowledge society driven by a centre of advanced research was absolutely essential for Bihar. Over the years, he not only managed to achieve this, he was also able to establish a close working relationship with many international organizations. He facilitated involvement of several international bodies (European Science Foundation, Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development of the Netherlands, the London School of Economics and the Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, University of Oxford, International Growth Centre) for collaborative development studies in Bihar.

5. Dr. Gupta had also been involved in development advocacy for Bihar. He played a key role in ensuring the publication of the annual economic survey of Bihar. Additionally, he actively promoted the submission of an 'all party' and professional organizations memorandum to Union Finance Commissions to foster sub-national identity in Bihar. He had worked as a literacy activist in Bihar and Jharkhand for several decades.

6. Dr. Gupta passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI RYUKO HIRA

Shri Ryuko Hira is a prominent Indian investor. He is President of HMI Hotel Group and Ora Group of companies Japan, engaged in investment, ownership, and development of real estate, hospitality and tourism projects in railways, airports, seaports, and public transportation located in 59 cities in Japan. He plays a key role in directing Japanese investments towards India and pioneers in establishing agreements of co-operation between several Indian state governments and Japanese prefectures.

2. Born on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1948 at Jaipur, Shri Hira graduated from Sitaram Prakash High School in Mumbai. Later, he studied a 12 week course at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration and attended Japanese language courses at Sophia University, Tokyo. He has a diploma in character development from the Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

3. Shri Hira joined his family business in 1966 in Japan wherein 300 foreign companies were established in Japan under the Anglo-Japanese treaty of which 22 were renowned Sindhi silk merchant companies from British India and also imported iron ore, metals and sundries from India. In 1970, he invested in a joint venture to establish the Sun Route Hotel System Chain. The business grew rapidly and it soon became one of the most prominent foreign businesses, with an unprecedented broadcast of an one hour documentary on national television, NHK on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1984. From 1985, he commenced real estate development of residences, townships, and commercial projects. Their Majesties of the Imperial Household have graced his hotels for three generations. He grew HMI Hotel Group, receiving more than 10 million guests each year and being ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> largest hotel chain by the Nikkei Marketing Journal on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

4. Shri Hira is the Chairman of the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan (ICU), celebrating its 100 years of serving as an apex body to support and develop the economic and investment potential with India. He also serves in multiple economic and industrial organizations in Japan, including the Japan National Tourism Organization. In 2016, he served as a senior advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister's working group for the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. He has contributed extensively to the cultural and social interactions between India and Japan. He has sponsored and supported the translation and publication of Sanskrit and Hindi dictionaries in Japanese, as well as volumes of Mahabharata, Vedas, Upanishads and books on Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. He is also a trustee for the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust in Andhra Pradesh and is the founder of the Sai Hira India Foundation.

5. Shri Hira has been conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the Government of India in 2010. He has also been conferred with several Japanese travel and tourism awards. He was recognized for lectures on Buddhism at the Dongguk University in Korea and was honored at the Great Hall of the People for hosting the first All China Provinces' Human Values Essay Contest.



### **DR. AWADH KISHORE JADIA**

Dr. Awadh Kishore Jadia is a Government Ayurvedic Medical. He is a well known Scholar, writer and a Poet. He is recognized as the representative Poet of Bundelkhandi dialect and honoured as a "Bundeli Gaurav". His five books of Rajbhasa, Braj and Bundeli dialects have been published till now.

2. Born on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1949, in a small town named Harpalpur in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh in a "Rajvaidhya Family", Dr. Jadia completed B.A.M.S in 1970 from Jiwaji University, Gwalior with 'Gold Medal'. Later, he was appointed as the Medical Officer in Madhya Pradesh. During this period, he got great affection towards literature and writing. His first achievement is the honour of 'Udiyaman Manas Mani' from Gwalior in 1968.

3. Dr. Jadia makes great effort to refine Bundeli dialect to recognise and to popularize it in the field of Literature. In his writing, he uses Figure of Speech, Classical Language in his own manner to make his writing more appealing. He is recognized as a representative poet of Bundeli Bhasa at present. He is a member of the Selection Committee of 'Bundeli Utsav' Basari, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. He was a member of Valuar Committee in Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow from 2013 to 2015. His four Bundeli rhymes are the part of M.A. syllabus of Maharaja Chhatrasal University, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

4. Dr. Jadia is the recipient of numerous awards and honours in the field of Literature. He was awarded "Sahityalankar" from Kalaa Sanskrati Sahitya Peeth, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh in 1979, for his first Publication "Vandniya Bundelkhand"; "Bundeli Gaurav" from Akhil Bharatiya Braj Sahitya Sankay, Agra in 1991; "Kavi Shiromani" from Akhil Bhartiya Braj Sahitya Sangam, Mathura in 1994 and "Kavya Ratna" from Sahityanand Parishad Gola Gokarnath in 1997. His another great achievement is "Lok Bhusan Samman" in the year 2012 from Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow.



## Padma Shri



### SMT. SOWCAR JANAKI

Smt. Sankaramanchi Janaki, popularly known as Sowcar Janaki, is a versatile Indian film actress, TV, voice, radio and stage artist who has appeared in more than 450 films in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi. She has essayed a wide variety of roles in a career spanning 72 years and continues to do so. She is one of the few Indian actors with the longest career span.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1931 in Rajahmundry, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, Smt. Janaki started her career as a prominent radio artist at "Aakashvani Madras" at the age of 13. She made her debut in the year 1949 after her marriage, at the age of 18, with the film Shavukaru, paired alongside Dr. NT Rama Rao, directed by the doyen of the film industry and Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Shri LV Prasad and produced by the Dadasaheb Phalke awardee, Late Dr. B.N. Reddy. This film gave her the moniker "Sowcar".

3. Smt. Janaki has acted in films with Dr. MG Ramachandran, Dr. J. Jayalalithaa, Dr. N T Rama Rao, Dr. Nageswara Rao, Dr. Rajkumar, Shri Sivaji Ganesan, Shri Gemini Ganesan, Shri Prithviraj Kapoor to name a few. Some notable films being: Teen Bahuraniyaan, Dosti Dushmani, Prem Geet, Oli Vilakku, Kaaviya Thalaivi, Puthiya Paravai, Iru Kodugal, Thillu Mullu, Bama Vijayam, Ethir Neechal and Baabu. She has acted in Telugu radio plays penned by prominent authors like Dr. P.V. Rajamannar, Shri Aarudra, Shri Padmaraju Aacharya Atreya and others. She has also acted on stage in 3 popular plays directed by notable director Shri. K. Balachander in over 300 shows.

4. Smt. Janaki has been a part of the Freedom movement during the Independence struggle in 1946-47. She has worked closely with Dr. Durgabai Deshmukh during the time. She recalls with great pride, the privilege to have served Mahatma Gandhi, as a young volunteer when Bapuji visited Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras. She has engaged in various philanthropic activities, especially to do with women empowerment. She has been a role model for generations owing to her disciplined and dedicated nature. She has served as jury member twice, for the National South Indian Film awards committee at Delhi and as chairperson for the State Telugu Film awards committee.

5. Smt. Janaki has received several awards and honours for her contribution to the arts field and some notable ones are: Kalaimamani in 1969-1970; Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Special Kalaimamani Award in 2021; Nandi Award in 1987 and 2007; Sri Krishnadevaraya Award; Karnataka State Rajyotsava Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015, Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award — South in 1984 and 2004; Wonder Women Awards-evergreen entertainer of Indian Cinema in 2019. She has also received an honorary doctorate from the World University, Arizona for Excellence in her chosen field in 1985.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI H. R. KESHAVAMURTHY

Shri H. R. Keshavamurthy is a versatile artist in the art form called 'Gamaka'. The art of gamaka (meaningful and melodious rendering of verses from classical epics) has been there in our land since the times of Ramayana. He has been recognized globally for his style of singing. His style is proven to be Keshvamurthy Gharana just like Varanasi, Kanpur, Jaipur, Mumbai, Puna gharanas.

2. Born on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1934 to Vedabramha Ramaswamy Shastry and Lakshmiddevamma. Vedabrahma, Shri Keshvamurthy learnt his linguistic scholarship from his father who was a pouranika (used to give discourses on epics). His initial training in gamaka was under the tutelage of Sri Venkateshaiah, a senior Gamaki of yester years. He hails from Hosahalli, a tiny hamlet in Shivamogga district of karnataka. This village is renowned as Gamaka Grama all over the state. This renown is owing to his achievements.

3. During the last seventy-five years, Shri Keshavamurthy has given more than 5,000 programmes, singing compositions of ancient as well as contemporary composers. His programmes with great Gamaka artistes like vid. Lakshmi keshava shastry, Padma shri Awardee Mathoor Krishnamurthi, vid. Markandeya Avadhani are heard and watched by hundreds and thousands of people all over Karnataka and kannada associations all over India. The number of students whom he has been training at home free of cost exceeds hundred.

4. The contribution of Shri Keshavamurthy in extending and expanding the scope of the art of gamaka that grew over ages is immense and unique. He has been appreciated by music doyens like Padmabhusan Lalgudi Jayaraman who heard, Sri Keshavamurthy sing verses from kumaravyasas bharatha, jaiminis bharatha, pampas bharatha, rannas gadayuddha, harishchandra kavya, besides vachanas, markutimannakagga, devotional songs, hymns, ramayana, mahabharatha, bhagavatha, kumarasambhava, raghuvamsha in Sanskrit in the gamaka style. He has never commercialized his art. HMT brought out the Mahabharata rendering in more than one hundred cassettes with his singing and Padma Shri Awardee Mathoor Krishnamurthi providing commentary on the singing. The success of this prompted Udaya TV to broadcast his singing with Padma Shri Awardee Mathoor Krishnamurthi's commentary - everyday in the morning for over 15 years non-stop. He continued the gamaka programme on Udaya TV with vid. Markandeya Avadhani which concluded in april 2016. The entire Kumara Vyasa Bharata was recorded by him with vid. Lakshmi Keshava Sastry in 135 cassettes for the first time during the early 70's which has been used as an authority for higher studies by postgraduates and Phd students at various universities.

5. Shri Keshavamurthy has been a source of motivation and leadership for the construction of Gamaka Bhavana at Hosahalli - for which his donation was the initiation, honouring veteran Gamaka Artists for the past three decades, gamaka saptaha ( a weeklong celebration ) and competition for youngsters. His personality is further adorned by simplicity, friendly demeanor, his nature of not fingering at others and his sense of humor.

6. Shri Keshavamurthy has received numerous awards and citations. Major ones among them are - The prestigious Karnataka Rajyotsava award; the Kumara Vyasa Prashasti -the highest award given to a gamaka artiste. (He is the very first artiste to receive this award); Artist of the year - 1994 from Karnataka Sangeeta Nritya academy; Gamaka sindhu - 2000 - from Attimabbe pratishthana, Gamaka gandharva - 1985; Gamaka kesari - 2009 from Shanti theosophical Society; Gamaka Chudamani - 2012 from his Holiness Sri Sri Jayendra Saraswati Mahaswamiji and many more.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI RUTGER KORTENHORST**

Shri Rutger Kortenhorst is a Sanskrit enthusiast, researcher and teacher in the John Scottus Schools, Dublin, Ireland. He has been a pioneer in propagating Sanskrit in Ireland. He became involved in Advaita Vedanta Philosophy in Ireland when he was 21 years old.

2. Born on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1956 in The Hague, the Netherlands, Shri Kortenhorst finished his secondary school in Dublin, Ireland at age of 17 and completed his post-graduation from Trinity College, Dublin in French, German and Mathematics and a Higher Diploma of Education. Since 2016, he has been running a Junior Certificate Short course in Wellbeing for 12-15 year-olds in John Scottus Secondary School, Dublin. This course is based on Ayurveda and Yogasatras, the former for physical and the latter for mental wellbeing.

3. Shri Kortenhorst has been both a student and voluntary teacher of Vedanta in the School of Philosophy and Economic Science in Ireland for the last 45 years. He was guided by the Sankaracharyas from North India, Sri Santananda Sarasvati and later Sri Vasudevananda Sarasvati to the present day. He has been a guest of Dr. Ramachandra Bhat in Veda Vijnana Gurukula every summer since June 2006, where he studied the meaning of several Upanisads, Vyakarana, chanting, Vivekachudarnani and spoken Sanskrit also with the help of Samskrita Bharati. He started looking into spoken Sanskrit from 2005 in the village of Mattur, Karnataka. He took a sabbatical year from his job in Ireland to study a child-friendly method for youngsters in the West and found a novel way to teach under Dr. Narendra, whose novel system he adopted and adjusted, by visiting him at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry for many years from 2008. In order to really take on Sanskrit in John Scottus School, he stepped down as vice-principal to run a fully-fledged Sanskrit program for the John Scottus Primary Schools.

4. Shri Kortenhorst has many publications to his credit such as Sopanam, Saralarn Saniskritam 1, 2 and Patha Likha 1 and 2 and a website called <https://sanskrit.ie> with colour-coded translations and chanting of the Bhagavadgita and the Isopanisad. He has received the ICCR World Sanskrit Award 2020 for propagation of Sanskrit in Ireland. His contribution to Sanskrit was mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Maan Ki Baat' broadcast on 29 August 2021.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI P. NARAYANA KURUP

Shri. P. Narayana Kurup is a Malayalam poet and literary critic from Kerala. He has also chaired and helmed the operations of Thapasya (forum for art and literature), Margi (a centre for classical arts), and is considered a connoisseur and critic of Kathakali and Koodiyattam.

2. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1934 in Harippad, Alappuzha, Shri Narayana grew up in a culturally rich environment. Traditional art forms such as Kathakali performed in the precincts of the Shri Subramanya Swami temple had a strong influence on him. After completing his Masters in English literature, he joined the Central Information Service and served as Assistant Editor and later as Editor in the Publications Division.

3. Shri Narayana was deputed to the Kerala Bhasha Institute in Thiruvananthapuram as research officer. Later, he worked as Consulting Editor in the Encyclopaedic Publication of Kerala Government. He was the editor of two encyclopedias (1985-1988) published by DC Books. He was a member of the governing body of Kerala Kala Mandalam (1986 to 1992), All India Vice-President of Sanskar Bharati, Agra (2000 to 2004) and a trustee of Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal (2004 to 2010). He was a member of the Film Advisory Committee from 2002 to 2008. He was re-appointed in 2015 and still holds the position.

4. Shri Narayana has authored more than 10 poetry collections including 'Astramalyam', 'Hamsadhvani', 'Nishagandhi', 'Apoornathayude Soundaryam' and 'Dashapushpam'. Some of his poems have a satirical tone that ruthlessly attacks the hollowness of urban living and the politics of opportunities. Another aspect, seen time and again, is a deep veneration and recreation of classical myths and images and as well as our spiritual traditions. The satirist in him penned some of the most powerful poems during the 1976-77 Emergency period. 'Kadalaasu Kappal', his first poetry collection published in 1962, was for children. "Ayyappa Sankaran", one of the poems in it, became immensely popular and was included in Malayalam school curriculum.

5. Shri Narayana, besides poetry, has authored several significant works on satire and criticism. His noted works in literary criticism are 'Kaviyum Kavithayum' (two volumes), 'Vrithapadanam', and 'Kaavyabimbam' "Kaviyum Kavithayum. His work 'Kaviyum Kavithayum' is a critical study on poets which was included the graduate/post graduate curriculums by many universities. This work remains an in-depth analysis of the life and merits of six prominent Malayalam poetic voices of the fifties and sixties. He has translated many works into Malayalam including Goethe's Faust, Shakespearean plays and Hindi poems. He has also authored travel memoirs as well as biographies on Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Jayaprakash Narayan. Several of his works were the subject of Ph.D and M.Phil theses in various Universities.

6. Shri Narayana is the recipient of numerous awards and honours including Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Literary Criticism for 'Kaviyum Kavithayum' in 1986; Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Poetry for 'Nishagandhi' in 1991; Odakkuzhal Award, an Indian literary Award.

## Padma Shri



### **PROF. (DR.) MOTILAL MADAN**

Prof. (Dr.) Moti Lal Madan is a globally renowned animal scientist, biotechnologist and a science manager with exceptional scientific achievements. He is being credited with several firsts in animal science research in India and holding world records. He has contributed immensely in science infrastructure development across different States in India and in the developing world.

2. Born on 1st January, 1939 in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Madan had his early education in Srinagar and obtained his professional BSc and MSc degrees from Punjab University (Gold Medalist at Graduate and Masters level), and pursued his doctoral program at University of Missouri, Columbia, USA.

3. Dr. Madan laid the foundations of the research in animal reproductive biotechnology in India and pioneered in Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) with the distinction of having produced a record 10 calves from a single elite mother within a year's time. Through technology innovation he produced World's First ever in-vitro fertilized, IVF (Test Tube) buffalo calf 'Pratham', and thus opened a technology window for our national breed improvement. He also innovated in the production of FIRST cloned buffalo embryo in the world and thus laid the foundations of buffalo cloning technology in the country. The technologies of ETT and IVF have been adopted for field use by different agencies including Govt. of India (DFAHD) under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and also been utilized in the Developing world where he provided professional consultation through UNDP of FAO.

4. Dr. Madan has contributed significantly to education and science management. He was Vice-Chancellor of two universities in different agro-ecologies of the country, Veterinary University Mathura (UP) and Agriculture University Akola in Maharashtra. He has played a leading role as an environmentalist and developed a unique biodiversity park at Nagpur. For his dedicated leadership, distinguished work and ability to lead in scientific innovation and capacity to deliver technologies, coupled with the highly performing scientific group he built at NDRI, he is cited as the Father of animal reproductive biotechnologies in the country.

5. Dr. Madan is a Fellow of five National Science Academies and has received the highest and most prestigious scientific National and International recognitions that include Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, Hari Om Award of ICAR; B.P.Pal Award of National Academy of Agriculture Sciences; Sunderasan Award and Bhasin Award for science and technology. He has also been conferred Vigyan Ratna Award by Haryana Government. His international recognitions include Japanese OGURI award and International Science Pioneer Award from Egypt.

## Padma Shri



### PANDIT SHIVNATH MISHRA

Pandit Shivnath Mishra is a Sitarist from Benares Gharana. He represents a long lineage of Benares Gharana music tradition. He plays the four styles of Benares Gayaki Ang - Dhrupad, Khayal, Thumri, and Tappa, on the Sitar thus creating a unique style of playing the instrument. He has taken this lively and powerful style around the world and taught it to many students from India and abroad.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1943 in Varanasi, Pandit Mishra started learning Sitar from the age of 8 from his uncle, legendary vocalist Pandit Mahadev Prasad Mishra of Benares Gharana. In 1976, he received his Sangeet Pravin degree from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad. He was the Head of the Music Department at the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi, where he worked for 36 years.

3. Pandit Mishra has written a book-My Musical Journey, which consists of his 129 compositions based on 80 Hindustani Ragas. He is an 'A' grade artist of All India Radio and an "Established Artist" with Indian Council of Cultural Relations, an autonomous body of Ministry of External Affairs.

4. Pandit Mishra has performed with several international jazz artist such as John Handy, Paul Horn, David Freezen and Indian Classical artists such as Pandit Kishan Maharaj (Padma Vibhushan awardee), Pandit Samta Prasad Mishra (Padma Bhushan awardee) among others. He has played for National and International Television like BBC, CBC (Canadian Radio), Rai TV (Italy), and many more. He has given numerous demonstrations and has been a guest lecturer at many Universities in India and abroad, like University of Brighton and University of Chichester, United Kingdom under British Art Council also University of Torino, Italy, among others. He has four LPs and several CDs produced by Indian and International recording companies. He transfers his knowledge to many of his students in Guru Shishya Parampara and teaches underprivileged children free of cost, so the music carries on.

5. Pandit Mishra is a recipient of numerous awards and honours including U.P. Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2004; Swathi Thirunal Award by the Maharaja of Varanasi in 2015 and Recognition Award from International Yoga School of Spain.

## Padma Shri



### **DR. NARENDRA PRASAD MISRA (POSTHUMOUS)**

Late Dr. Narendra Prasad Misra served as the Dean, the Head of Department of Medicine and a Professor at Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal.

2. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1932, Dr. Misra passed his MRCP exam in 1967 and was elevated as an FRCP in 1973 at a young age of 39 years, which speaks volumes about his academic brilliance. He was embellished with innumerable medals and awards for excellence in his field. He topped the university for his MBBS degree. During his undergraduate course in Medicine, he received certificates of honor in virtually all the subjects, including a distinction in Medicine.

3. In the UK, Dr. Misra trained as a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of London, specializing in gastroenterology, cardiology, chest diseases, neurology and advanced medicine at the Royal Post Graduate Medical School (Hammersmith Hospital). He also underwent training at the National Institute of Health in Washington, USA. In America, he gained valuable experience in the disciplines of cardiology, nephrology and nuclear medicine, besides Internal Medicine, while undergoing training at several reputed medical institutions, as a Senior Visiting Professor designated by the World Health Organization. In addition, he was a Fellow of the International College of Chest Physicians; the US International College of Angiology; the All India Institute of Diabetes; the National College of Chest Physicians of India, etc., amongst others.

4. Dr. Misra retired as Dean, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal and was appointed as the chief investigator for the ICMR project associated with the Bhopal Gas Disaster. He later successfully presented the Bhopal Gas Episode in the District Court of New York where the case was being heard, which highlighted his hitherto unknown legal prowess as well. He keenly attended and presented papers at many international conferences in the USA and UK, besides South-East Asia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia and South Africa etc. He was an eminent physician with an uncanny clinical acumen that helped him develop his phenomenal and well-known diagnostic skills. He is revered as a generous and gifted teacher who possessed an untiring devotion to the medical profession, which inspired him to serve mankind till his very last breath.

5. Dr. Misra published over 200 research papers, at least half of which were presented at various international and national conferences. He is the author of the book, *Progress in Cardiology*; he was the Sectional editor of the A.P.I. Textbook of Medicine and the author of *The Technical Bulletin of Malaria*. He exhibited his medical and administrative acumen in mobilizing resources — both human and material, during the Bhopal Gas Disaster, distributing medicines to over 1,73,000 victims and facilitating the hospitalization of over 10,700 patients in a hospital with a bed strength of only 800 beds. This fact was reported in the *Journal of Medical Association (JAMA)* in an editorial on 12th April 1985 as a "Heroic Effort".

6. Dr. Misra has received various recognitions & honours including Fellowship of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of India in 1986; Dr. BC Roy National Award in Medicine in 1992 by Medical Council of India; Gifted Teacher Award in 1995 by the Association of Physicians of India. Decorations and acclaims have followed him like life-companions which include several awards like the Sarabhbai, the Warner and the Torrent awards.

7. Dr. Misra passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI KONGAMPATTU A.V. MURUGAIYAN**

Shri Kongampattu A.V. Murugaiyan is a Thavil Vidwan, an A+ (Top Grade ) Artist and trained a Jury of Music Audition committee for Pondicherry AIR (All India Radio ) and New Delhi AIR. Working as a Thavil Teacher in Villupuram District Govt Music school, Tamilnadu, he trained aprox 300 students in his 23 years of Teaching service. He initiated and performed Thavil Bharatha Isai Sangamam, Laya Isai Sangamam, Jugabandi with Thavil Thani Avarthanam

2. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1963, Shri Murugaiyan completed his Three year Diploma of "Thavil natha mani" from Arasar Thavil Nathasura isai kalluri Thiruvaiyaru. Later he received his scholarship from scholarships to young workers in different cultural fields by Department of Culture, India. He was a first student of his Guru Valaiyapatti Padmasri Awardee Shri AR Subramaniyam and performed along with him for several years.

3. With the experience of spanning over 50 years in this field, Shri Murugaiyan has created the name Kongampattu for Thavil where his guru created the name for Valaiyapatti Moreover he has given his tremendous service with Nadhaswara vidwan -Padmasri Awardee Shri Namagiripettai K. Krishnan, Padmasri Madurai MPN Sethuraman, MPN Ponnusamy etc. and with Thavil Vidwan -Valaigaiman Shanmugasundaram Pillai, Thirucheraai TG Muthukumarasamy Pillai, Padamasri Aridwaramangalam AK Palanivel.

4. Shri Murugaiyan had a privilege of playing at violin concert with violin maestro L. Subramaniyam and the world famous Tabela Maestro Sri Ustad Allarakha at Mumbai Air India-California (USA) festival. He represented 'Festival of India' in Paris along with Nadaswara widwan Sri Thiruvizha P. Jayashankar and thavil chakravarthy Sri Valaiyapatti AR Subramaniyam during 1985.

5. Shri Murugaiyan had an honor of playing in front of Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam at Rastarpathi Bhavan. He performed divinely concerts at Sri Shiradi Sai Baba Temple , Shiradi and Sri Ragavendra Temple. He has given Thavil Demo at Bala Thandayuthabani Devasthanam Palani and Chennai colleges for Music artists of Tamilnadu state. He performed Thavil isai for 25 years at Thiruchendur senthilaandavar Devasthanam and has been an Aashthana Vidwan for Kanchi kaamikoti peedam and Goden Temple sri Narayani Peedam .

6. Shri Murugaiyan is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. The Tamilnadu State conferred on him Kalaimamani in 2006. He received District best teacher award in 2017 from district collector of Villupuram, Tamilnadu. Kalai Sudar Mani was conferred on him in 2003 by Tamilnadu Art and Culture. He has been awarded as a Kanchi Kamakodi Peeda Asthana Vidwan in 2006 and Golden Temple Asthana Peeda Vidwan in 2019. He was chosen for Valaiyapatti award in 2019. Many of other titles and recognition such as Thavil Kalaiyarasar, Suthi Suga Sunatha Laya Arasu ,Thala Lava Semmai, Laya Mamurasu, Mangala Isai Selvar etc have been received by him from well-known Music Shabas and organizations.



## Padma Shri



### SHRI ABDULKHADAR IMAMSAB NADAKATTIN

Shri Abdulkhadar Imamsab Nadakattin is the chairman and founder of Vishwashanthi Agriculture Research Centre, Annigeri. He is widely renowned social worker and an environmentalist. He has also developed a number of user friendly and useful agriculture innovations. He is actively involved in inventing the agricultural equipments required by small and marginal farmers. His equipments have become farmer friendly because they are economical and do not require much technical knowledge.

2. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1953, Shri Nadakattin is a serial innovator and his prominent innovations include a device to separate tamarind seeds, ploughing blade manufacturing machine, seed cum fertilizer drill, water-heating boiler, an automatic sugarcane sowing driller and a wheel tiller. All his innovations demonstrate principles of sustainability, cost-effectiveness, eco-friendliness and most equipments a social acceptance. His in-depth knowledge of agro-climatic conditions and soil characteristics has made him an inspiration to other farmers in the country.

3. Shri Nadakattin's first innovation was a "Water Alarm," which was his personalized attempt to solve his own nature of sleeping till late in the mornings. He tied a thin rope at the end of the key of the alarm in such a way that when the key unwound itself, the string tied to the key got wound. The string was in turn tied to a bottle filled with water when the key was completely unwound, the bottle would tilt, and the water would fall on his face. Later he developed Agri-technologies and equipments which addressed a variety of needs for the local people while maintaining relevance with modern agriculture.

4. Shri Nadakattin was conferred with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 during National Innovation Foundation (NIF), an autonomous body of Department of Science & Technology (DST)'s 8th National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards by the then Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee. True to his grassroots spirit and as a mark of respect for the award, he chose to walk barefoot and hence came to be known as the country's "Barefoot Scientist".

5. Owing to Shri Nadakattin's portfolio of innovations related to tamarind, people started calling him "hunase huccha", which means tamarind maniac. It started with his success in growing tamarind with scarce but alkaline water and further graduated with experiments like the technique for harvesting tamarind from the tree and also the highly accepted machine to separate tamarind seeds. This inspired him to develop a machine for slicing tamarind. In furtherance of success with tamarind, he came up with innovations to address agriculture operations like deep ploughing, sowing of seeds and also fuel-efficient water heating boiler.

6. Shri Nadakattin is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He received the State Level 1st Prize of Karnataka region for the innovation machine of Tamarind cultivation and processing from National Innovation Foundation India (Dept of Science and Technology, Govt of India in 2001). He also received Kanaka Prashasti on 589<sup>th</sup> Kanaka Jayanthi and Rajyotsava Award 2017, Govt. of Karnataka from former Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri. Siddaramaiah at Ravindra Kalakshetra Bengaluru.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI AMAI MAHALINGA NAIK

Shri Amai Mahalinga Naik is an innovative farmer from Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka who is known for tirelessly digging tunnels to irrigate his barren land and transforming it into lush green farm. He single handedly dug 7 tunnels to bring water to his farm. He is a living example for perseverance, optimism and determination. He is known as "One-Man Army" and "Tunnel Man" in his surrounding areas.

2. Born on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1944, Shri Naik constructed 300 percolation trenches, all alone to increase the groundwater levels. He built 2 revetments and a tank of 12000 litres capacity. Now his land hosts Arecanut Palms, Coconut Trees, Cashew Trees, Banana plant, cacao plants and Pepper Vines. He was working as agriculture labour in and around Adyanadka. His landlord gifted him 2 acres of land in which he started digging horizontal tunnels. He is known as water warrior. Failures never deter his determination and he finally got water at his 6<sup>th</sup> attempt and he is able to lead a self-sustaining life with the water from the tunnel. His success story was brought to lime light by Dr. Varanashi Krishnamoorthy and Adike Pathrike editor Shree Padre. Now thousands of farmers visit his land to know more about the farming methods, particularly to learn about water supply and water conservation he has adopted.

3. Shri Naik's endeavour has been telecast in the 'Water Warrior' series on Doordarshan. History TV18 has telecasted an episode about him in its "OMG! Yeh mera India" episode. The multimedia research centre of Mysore University has prepared a documentary titled Incredible Tale of a water warrior. This movie won Jury Special Mention Award at 10<sup>th</sup> National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI -2020), organised by Vigyan Prasar and Tripura State Council of Science & Technology at Tripura. Senior Developmental Journalist, Shree Padre has written a booklet titled "Guddadamelina Eka Vyakthi Synya." (One Man Army of the hillock) It was published by Krishi Madhyama Kendra Dharwad. The honorable Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi applauded his achievements in his 85<sup>th</sup> edition of "Man ki Bath" programme. His farm has become a model-farmland and has over 1000 visitors a year including the foreign tourists.

4. Shri Naik was honoured with Varanashi Farmer of the year award - a big recognition to the small farmer in 2004. He also received "Krishi Panditha award" from the Agriculture Department, Government of Karnataka. Mangalore press club also honored him for his achievements.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI TSERING NAMGYAL

Shri Tsering Namgyal is a very creative Woodcraft artist belonging to Nyanpa family in village Hinju (Ladakh) in which wood carving has been practised over successive generations. He learnt the art of wood carving at a young age and has been working for the last more than four decades towards the preservation and promotion of this unique tradition of Wood Carving in the Northern Himalayan state of Ladakh.

2. Born on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1955 in Hinju, Ladakh, Shri Namgyal learnt the basic skills of art of woodcraft in the family and later underwent rigorous training for over five years (1976-1981) from renowned wood carving master of Wanla Shri Tsering Stobdan. He worked in most of the monasteries in Ladakh. He has immensely contributed in the preservation of the traditional art of woodcarving and promotion of an important intangible cultural heritage of Ladakh. He imparted training in wood carving to hundreds of young craft-persons ensuring the passage of the art of woodcarving to future generations and in-turn helping to preserve this traditional art. He participated in many programmes for the promotion and preservation of this unique art like radio and TV talks, seminars, lectures and craft-fairs to showcase the art. He provided expertise and guidance in the designing of the new art by fusion of traditional and modern styles of woodcarving. Through this art he is providing scope for self-employment and source of livelihood to hundreds of unemployed youths.

3. Shri Namgyal, during 33<sup>rd</sup> Kalachakra Teachings in Ladakh in 2014, especially designed and crafted the Solchok (elaborately designed tea table) for His Holiness Daini Lama and the Kilirhor (rack) for Kalachakra Mandala. In 2008 he worked on the wooden shrines of Lamayuru monastery (oldest monastery in Ladakh). He also designed the throne and scripture or statue cases at the largest monastery Hemis in 2007. He crafted 25 wooden main doors called Shing-stags at Chemdey, Matho and Tserkarmo monasteries. The wooden throne design for the head of the Drukpa lineage during the Great Nampa Festival (Kumbh Mela of Himalayas) at Shey in 2004 was also crafted by him. In 2003 he worked on the elaborate 60 by 15 feet highly decorative shelves for statues and scriptures at Leh Chokhang Vihara (Main monastery in Leh town). A 3-storey wooden crafted Zang-doug Spatri Temple at Chumathang and the grand altar of Tara temple and exquisite wooden throne at Thiksey monastery are some of the exceptional wooden arts crafted by him.

4. Shri Namgyal is an expert in traditional and modern styles of wood carving. His woodcraft designs involve Jugskhang (elaborately designed statue and scripture case), Jugthis (wood crafted throne), Solchok (designed tea table), Zimtom (elaborately designed bed for high Lamas) and Shing-stags (Wooden doors and windows with exquisite design). He contributed in wood carving designing across Ladakh in many monasteries and individual houses. Some of major monasteries where his work can be seen are Hemis, Thiksey, Main Chokhang Vihara Leh, Phyang, Lamayuru, Likir, Matho, Sankar, Kharboo in Kargil, Wanla, Chemdey, Tia-Timosgang, Chemdey, Chumathang (in Changthang) and Khatyas monastery.

5. Shri Namgyal received National Merit Certificate in Woodcarving in 2007 in recognition of his contributions in craftsmanship and the development of the art of woodcraft from the Development Commission (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles. He also received certificate of appreciation for his work from the Office of Craft Union Leh (1994); Thiksey Monastery (2004); Hemis Monastery (2007); Ladakh Buddhist Association (2008); Lamayuru Cultural and Welfare Society (2008); Surajkund Mela Authority (2009); Phyang Monastery and All Ladakh Gompa Association (2014).

## Padma Shri



### SHRI V. L. NGHAKA

Shri V.L.Nghaka is one of the founding members of Assam Rastrabhasha Prachar Samiti, representing all North-East States. He set up the Mizoram Hindi Prachar Samiti in 1954, which became a pivotal turning point in the history of Hindi education in Mizoram. He is also the Founder President of Mizoram Hindi Prachar Samiti and the Founder President of Hindi Prachar Sangh, Mizoram (1954-59).

2. Born on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1930 in Buhban, Shri Nghaka received M.A degree in 1976 from Guwahati University, M.Ed in 1980 from NEHU. He is the first to receive Siksha Visharad from Mizoram in 1954 from Misamari. He published 3 books in Hindi- (i) Hindi Grammar 1954, Middle School Text Book (ii) Hindi-Mizo Dictionary 1960 (iii) Hindi Pariksha Sahayika 1964. These are the first Hindi books in Nilgiri alphabets. Of the 23 books he authored, 2 books are prescribed as Middle School textbooks, viz., Hindi Grammar and Assam History 1962.

3. Under Shri Nghaka's Chairmanship on the Survey Board of Educationally Backward Areas inhabited by Chakma, Bru, Ranglow, Chowrai and others, a thorough and extensive survey was conducted and based on his detailed report, the Government of Mizoram introduced Compulsory Elementary Education in these areas. He worked as a Peacemaker, Interpreter and Negotiator between the Indian Army and the Mizo National Front during the 20 year insurgency, bailing out more than 100 Mizo prisoners from the Indian Army.

4. Shri Nghaka is the recipient of numerous awards and honours including Meritorious Award, as Circle Education Officer in 1978; Certificate on Tlawmngaihna at the Chapchar Kut Festival in 1984 (Tlawmngaihna is a Mizo code word which can be translated to selfless conduct and self-sacrifice for the service of others and society); Scouts and District Commissioner Warrant Award from the Bharat Scouts and Guides in 1989; Certificate of Appreciation from Mizoram Hindi Prachar Sabha on its Golden Jubilee, 2004 for his endless efforts towards the upliftment and propagation of Hindi in Mizoram; Appreciation Award by the Y.M.A Ramhlun South in 2010 for his charity work in helping the poor, promotion of Hindi Education and the heroic act of retrieving the body of a young girl from Tuilut, Kolasib; Appreciation Award by Senior Citizens Association in 2012, for his bravery and rescue of drowning victims; Appreciation Award by Senior Citizens Association in 2013; for his altruistic service during Mizoram Insurgency; Jubilee Award by Ramhlun South Presbyterian Church; for his service as a Sunday School Teacher for 50 years. Lifetime Achievement Award from Mizoram Hindi Prachar Sabha, 2020 for his endless efforts in propagating Hindi Education etc.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI SONU NIGAM

Shri Sonu Nigam is a singer, music director and actor. He is well known for his fiery, passionate and pitch perfect stage performances.

2. Born on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1973 in Faridabad to artistes Shri Agam Kumar Nigam (father) and Late Shobha Nigam (mother), Shri Sonu began singing at the age of four. He learnt music from Shri Mohd Tahir ji in Delhi and then Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan in Mumbai. From the age of 14, he began his 'tapasya' by juggling between school, Riyaz, performing in concerts and then later recording jingles and musical albums in Delhi.

3. Shri Sonu co-created and coined 'Saregama' in 1995 which was the first Musical Competition Television program of the world. The program changed the concept of music in the minds of the common man in the entire subcontinent and brought together the Veterans and Maestros of Film Music and Classical music along with the budding younger talents on one stage thus bringing about a revolution in the field of music in the entire subcontinent. Many of the singers introduced then in the competition, continue to shine in the world of music even today. As a result he became a household name.

4. Shri Sonu, in the year 1997 saw two of his first mainstream hits, 'Sandese Aate hai' which still remains the biggest ode to the Indian soldier through music and 'Ye dil deewana' a path breaking song that catapulted him into an acknowledged versatile singer. He has to his credit some of the highest selling private albums of all times namely 'Kismet', 'Deewana', 'Mausam', 'Jaan', 'Yaad', 'Chanda ki Doh' etc. Also his musical album 'Classically Mild', has given birth to an entire generation of singers who have grown up practising on its songs. He judged various TV Musical shows like Indian Idol, Little Champs, Chhote Ustaad, X Factor and Super Singer and is known for his guidance and dignified demeanor. He has composed music and written lyrics for his albums and films and in 2014 his score in the movie 'Jal', was selected in the short list of Oscars.

5. Shri Sonu has sung over 6000 songs in more than 28 languages. He has to his credit some of the most iconic songs like 'Panchhi Nadiya pawan ke jhonke', 'Suraj hua maddham', 'Saathiya', 'Main hoon na', 'Turn se milke dil ka hai jo haal', 'Soniyo', 'Sapna Jahaan' etc. Then 'Abhi mujhme kahin' became one of the most revered songs ever in the history of music of the subcontinent.

6. Shri Sonu has won many awards like Filmfare Awards, Zee Music Awards, Big Star Entertainment. He won National Award for his iconic song 'Kal ho na ho' and received "The best male actor" for his performance in a short film called "Spotless". He has also been an RJ and interviewed Bharat Ratna awardee Late Ms. Lata Mangeshkar which according to Lataji in her own words was her ever best interview till date.



**DR. CHIRAPAT PRAPANDVIDYA**

Shri Chirapat Prapandvidya is a Thai Sanskrit scholar who is a member of the Board of Management of Sanskrit Studies Centre, Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University, Bangkok. He is also Fellow, Royal Society of Thailand; President of Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge Association and President of Sanskrit Studies Foundation.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1941, Shri Prapandvidya was reemployed by Silpakorn University as a distinguished knowledgeable person since his retirement in 2001, to teach Sanskrit and to act as thesis-supervisor at M.A. and Ph.D. degree level. He is a member of the Academic Committees of The Royal Society of Thailand; Committee for Preparing a Dictionary of Tripitaka; Committee for Preparing Vocabulary of old Thai words (till 2020); Committee for the Studies of Ancient Thai Law; and one of the members of the Committee for Preparing the Proper Names in the World Religions, responsible for Brahmanism and Hinduism.

3. Shri Prapandvidya held several important positions such as being the Head, Department of Oriental Languages, Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University 1994-1997; Director of Sanskrit Study Centre, Silpakorn University, 1996-2001; and Chair of the 16<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, June 28- July 2, 2015 etc. He has published numerous research papers in prestigious journals and books on religions, linguistics, inscriptions and artistic history of Thailand and its links with India.

4. Shri Prapandvidya has been honoured with several awards like Honorary Doctorate Degree from Mahachulalong-kornrajavidyalaya University, Bangkok, (2010); Vidya Vacaspati (D.Litt.) (Degree Honoris Causa) from Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (Deemed University), New Delhi, (2012); Honorary Doctorate Degree from Mahamakutaraja Vidyalaya Buddhist University, Bangkok (2014); and Presidential Award of the Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit (International) for the year 2017, New Delhi. He received the Certificate of Honour for his literary contributions with regard to the Ramayana from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 2019.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI SAKINI RAMACHANDRAIH**

Shri Sakini Ramachandrai is a vocal folk singer and Dhol player well-known for "Kanchu melam-Kanchuthalam, a tribal art form belonging to the Koya (Primitive Tribal Group) people in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1963 to Sakini Musaliah and Sakini Gangamma, Shri Ramachandrai was brought up in Kunavaram Village of Manuguru Mandal, Bhadrachalam Dist, Telangana. He learnt the art of playing "Kanchu Thalam-Kanchumelam" from his forefathers.

3. Shri Ramachandrai is the only person left in the tribe who is capable of narrating the history of the sacred festival "Sammakka Sarakka Jathara" in Telugu and Koya languages. This ancient art form is almost at the stage of extinction and hence there is much need of protecting and promoting this dying art form for the upcoming generations. He is teaching this art to the youngsters who are interested in learning this particular art.

4. Shri Ramachandrai's story came into limelight by the documentary made by Retired Osmania University Professor Jayadheer Thirumala Rao under the guidance of the ITDA, Bhadrachalam. His speciality is that without taking a single break, he can sing the entire tale of Goddess Sammakka-Sarakka continuously for 24 hours in Telugu and Koya language as well. He shared his entire knowledge with the research scholars, media and the youngsters regarding the ancient history, origin and culture of the tribal community Koya.

## Padma Shri



### SMT. GADDAM PADMAJA REDDY

Smt. Gaddam Padmaja Reddy, is an internationally renowned Kuchipudi dancer, who has been performing for over fifty years. It was under the tutelage of the renowned Kuchipudi exponents Dr. Vempati Chinna Setyam (Padma Bhushan Awardee) and Dr. Sobha Naidu (Padmashree Awardee) that her real passion for Kuchipudi was kindled.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1967, Dr. Reddy is a committed Artist, Guru, choreographer. She works relentlessly to promote and bring awareness to this great Indian dance form Kuchipudi. In a spectacular career that has spanned over 5 decades, she has given over 3000 performances in India and various parts of the world. Hailed as one of the most talented Kuchipudi dancers by critics and connoisseurs alike, she is most famous for portrayal of Satyabhama and Rani Rudhrama Devi. A deep love for Kuchipudi and a fiery zeal to preserve and promote this classical dance form has led her to start "Pranav Institute of Kuchipudi Dance". Under her guidance, over 1500 students are being trained at this Institute.

3. With a strong urge to rid the society of its many evils, Dr. Reddy composed many Kuchipudi ballets that carry a social message. Bruna Hathyalu (a powerful Kuchipudi ballet that condemns female foeticide), Jagruthi (ballet that addresses various issues regarding AIDS), Vajra Bharathi (Ballet composed as an effort to kindle the spirit of national integration among people). Her ballets deal with various subjects ranging from contemporary social issues to mythology, Gods and Goddesses. Some of her famous mythological ballets include Mahishashura Mardhini, Navadurgalu, Kakatiyam - Part I and Part II.

4. Dr. Reddy is a general assembly member of Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR, Delhi) and served as an advisor to National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) member, Department of Tourism, Government of India. "Kakatiyam" is a commendable initiative and a milestone achievement of her life. She introduced a new art form "Kakatiyam" to the people of Telangana, which otherwise would have remained in the books but for her efforts. She has converted the theoretical dance concepts (detailed in the book Jaayana Charyulu's "Nritta Ratnavali") into a visual art form which made the audience understand and visualize the dance forms which once existed in the 1253 AD. With a creative and innovative choreography, she has reconstructed the dance concepts detailed in the "Nritta Ratnavali" interwoven with some interesting episodes from history. She has started a unique initiative to spread Kuchipudi. She is the first Kuchipudi dancer in India to teach this dance form through the Internet. She has written Kuchipudi sampradaya, a theoretical insight and syllabus for Certificate Course book. This book provides deep insights for students learning Kuchipudi dance. It has detailed explanation of theory and practical details for the young dancers who are appearing for certificate course examinations.

5. Dr. Reddy's performances and services to the classical dance have been recognized by various organizations. The President of India has conferred her with 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award - 2015'. "KALARATNA (HAMSA) 2006" from State Government of Andhra Pradesh; "NATYA VISHARADHA 1994" by His EXCELLENCY Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma, former President of India; "KALKI KALAKAR 1990"; "ABHINAYA SATYABHAMA & SAMSKRUTI RATNA" and many more awards and rewards have been received by her. She has been also honored with D. Lit Degree by Sri Krishna Devarya University in 2005.





### **HIS EMINENCE 12<sup>th</sup> GURU TULKU RINPOCHE**

His Eminence Guru Tulku Rinpoche- Ven. Tenzin Thrinley Namgyal is the Abbot of Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery in Bomdila, West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. He is the Chairman of Monyul Traditional Culture Development Society and was the Abbot of Tawang Monastery from 2008 to 2016. He is a Buddhist monk who is identified as the 12th incarnation in the lineage of Venerable Merag Lama Lodroe Gyatso who founded Tawang Monastery in 17th century.

2. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1968, His Eminence did his monks' training in Buddhist philosophy and psychology from Dagpo Shedrupling Monastery, Institute of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. Rinpoche completed his Doctorate in Buddhist philosophy (Geshe Lharampa) from Drepung Gomang Monastic University, Mundgod (Karnataka). He also has a doctorate in Vajrayana Studies in Mahayana Sanskrit Buddhism from Gyudmed College, Karnataka.

3. Guru Tulku Rinpoche founded Guru Tenpai Dronme Vidyalaya at Shakya Choeling, Labau in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. The residential institution provides education both in spiritual and modern subjects to the monks and under privileged children from across the region. Thubchog Gatsel Ling Monastery is a prime centre of Dharma in the region. His Eminence travels widely within India and internationally to impart teachings on philosophy and psychology. He has rendered service to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's Office by being one of the Editors of the books and teachings of H.H. the Dalai Lama for publication and archiving. He also served as Translator to translate the teachings of His Holiness into various local dialects.

4. Guru Tulku Rinpoche is a prolific teacher of Buddhism. His relentless service in spreading the message of compassion and wisdom of Lord Buddha through his public teachings, private and public audience and travels, draws the public's great fondness and reverence to Rinpoche. His initiatives in social service have gained great support from the public, local community based organisations and defence establishments in the border state. Through his teachings, Rinpoche has inspired the locals to abstain from hunting the exotic wildlife of the region and engage themselves in conservation through community tree plantation drives.



## DR. VEERASWAMY SESHIAH

Dr. Veeraswamy Seshiah is a distinguished professor of Tamilnadu Dr. MGR Medical University for life time. He is the founder patron of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group in India (DIPSI) and Vice-chair of International Association of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group.

2. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1938, Dr. Seshiah obtained his M.B.B.S degree in 1962. He joined the Army Medical Corps in 1963 and took part in Indo Pak War at URI in 1965. In recognition of his service in the war theatre, he was awarded "Samar Seva Star 1965" and "Sainya Seva Medal" with clasp Himalayas. After returning from Army service, he joined Tamilnadu Medical Service. He obtained Post Graduate Degree of MD (General Medicine), then he was posted as Assistant Professor Medicine in Madras Medical College.

3. During his service, Dr. Seshiah realized the importance of Diabetes as a significant health problem and he started the Department of Diabetology, a first of its kind in the country in 1978. He also realized the problem of Diabetes during pregnancy and he started Diabetes and pregnancy division in the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Govt. Maternity Hospital, Chennai in 1980 first time in the country. He started a "Post graduate course in Diabetology"; which has been recognized by the Medical Council of India in 1985. He hypothesized that increase in the prevalence of diabetes is likely to be due to undiagnosed and untreated Gestational diabetes mellitus (Diabetes detected during pregnancy). Women diagnosed to have Gestational diabetes are at increased risk of developing diabetes in the future as are their children. "Transgeneration transmission occurs". He believed that diagnosing and taking care of women with gestational diabetes would prevent the epidemic of diabetes the country is facing. In early 2000 the prevalence of gestational diabetes was not known in the country. His pioneering effort was to launch "Diabetes in pregnancy awareness and prevention project" supported by the Government of Tamilnadu and World Diabetes Foundation.

4. Dr. Seshiah introduced economical and evidence based "Single Test Procedure" for diagnosing gestational diabetes. This information was published in the international journal of Acta Diabetologia. After this publication, DIPSI approved this guidelines and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India gave instruction to follow this single test procedure in the country. Now World Health Organization has also approved this diagnostic procedure. He published and edited many books and articles. Among them the most important is "Handbook on Diabetes Mellitus", a popular book among medical professionals. His birthday 10<sup>th</sup> March is observed as National GDM Awareness Day declared by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India, in recognition of his service in Diabetes and Pregnancy.

5. Dr. Seshiah received a number of awards. To mention a few are Distinguished member award of the association of physicians of India; Master Teacher award of the Indian college of Physicians; Doctor of science (Honoris causa) Award from Tamilnadu Dr. MGR. Medical University, Chennai; Fellowship of Royal college of Physicians, Glasgow; Lifetime Achievement award by Tamilnadu Dr. MGR. Medical University, Chennai. He was also awarded the most coveted Dr. B.C. Roy award in 1988, the highest award given to medical professionals.

## Padma Shri



### SMT. PRABHABEN SOBHAGHCHAND SHAH

Smt. Prabhaben Sobhaghchand Shah, the former President of Mahila Mandal and Lions Club, is well-known for her efforts to encourage rural and urban women to be more open-minded through her organization's constructive and productive activities. Her role as a founding member of the Darnaa District Multipurpose Co-Operative Society Ltd, which was founded in 1964, is considered one of her professional highlights, as her work continues to inspire people as a powerful creative force. She has been an Executive Member of Daman Zilla Sahakari Bhandar Ltd for the past nine years.

2. Born on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1930, Smt. Shah was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. When she was 15, the Quit India movement was in its last stages, and high school students were being addressed about renunciation. She decided to sleep on gunny and work as a Charkha spinner for 8 hours every day during her high school years. This was the moment when the seed of a great nation was planted in her mind and heart. She was elected to the defence committee in 1965 and 1971, respectively, during India's Indo-China war and Bangladesh Partition and she and her fellow women made sweaters for the soldiers on the front lines and distributed to them.

3. Smt. Shah started running a library in 1969, with two English medium and two Gujarati medium Balwadis, as well as awareness camps, sewing income Group Training Class, National Integration Camps, Seminars and Workshops for women's upliftment and literacy, as well as spreading awareness about environmental and consumer protection programs. She also assisted Gujarat flood victims through All India Women Council's "VASTRA BANK" in Surat. The fair-price shops that she established as a founding member of the Daman District Multipurpose Co-Operative Society are still operational.

4. Smt. Shah who aspired to have a "MANILA BHAVAN" in Daman, raised funds for its construction with the support of other Mahila Mandal members during her tenure as Treasurer, and today, the facility is all operational. In 1990, Mahila Mandal directed the establishment of a canteen in the Government Hospital in Marwad to serve patients and the needy. She established the Employment Oriented Service Bureau for low-income women. She organized a Holiday Home Camp and a trip to Pavagah, Gujarat, for students who couldn't afford train tickets. She mentored and inspired women from the Scheduled Caste in Dunetha village. As a result on February 17, 1935, Dunetha Mahila Mandal was established. She has urged women to participate in the National Savings Scheme to save money. Kendra's relentless efforts and dedication allowed for the creation of the "WOMAN ADVISORY BOARD" in Daman.

5. Smt. Shah served on the Board of Directors of the Gujarat State Social Welfare Advisory Board in Ahmedabad from 1992 to 1994. She handed out clothes, food-packets, fruits, biscuits, and other stuff to eligible children when government benefits were provided to the public through the Primary Health Center Family Care Welfare system. She appeared on the radio-shows "Sakshrata Abhiyan" and "Lekhen Kaora Shibir" in November 1997. During her tenure as Dowry Prohibition Officer in 1998, she raised public awareness through several activities, including guest talks by experts against Dowry. She served as a president of the Lioness District and was designated to Daman and Diu district forum. She was also nominated to District Legal Advisory Committee of Daman and Diu in 2001 and worked in Coordination Committee for the implementation of the 1955 Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. The same year, she also worked in several health camps within the Medical and Health Services section of Daman and Diu's "SEVA" program. She collaborated with numerous trusts for relief works for the Kutch people's health and development following earthquake in Kutch.



## DR. TATIANA SHAUMYAN

Dr. Tatiana Shaumyan is Head of the Centre for Indian Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.

2. Born on 11th January 1938, Dr. Tatiana graduated from the Department of History, Moscow State University in 1960 and did her Post-graduation from the Institute of Oriental Studies. She was a Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies from 1960 and her Thesis was on: "Russia and Tibet at the beginning of XXth century, 1966". She is the Head of Centre for Indian Studies from 2001.
3. Dr. Tatiana is Specialist in India's Foreign Policy, International Relations in South and Central Asia and Far East in XX century. She participated in International Conferences and Seminars in India, China, Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, China, Turkey etc.; Human Rights Commission, Geneva (1996-2006); Trilateral Joint Project Russia-India-China (from 2001).
4. Dr. Tatiana taught as a professor on South Asian Politics, Department of World Politics, Moscow State University. She was a leading Researcher at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences. She has also worked as Deputy Head, Indo-Russian Joint Commission on Cooperation in Social Sciences.
5. Dr. Tatiana has contributed a lot in the field of literature and education. She has published more than 250 publications in Russia, India, USA, Great Britain, Netherlands etc. Some of her publications include Tibet: The Great Game and Tsarist Russia; Post-Soviet Central Asia; Geopolitical Situation in Central Asia: Attitude of Russia, China and India // Russia and India – Strategic Partners (in Russian); India and SCO // SCO: Interaction for the Sake of Development (in Russian); Human Rights in the Context of Inter-civilizational Contacts // Peoples of Eurasia: The Problem of Inter-civilizational Contacts. (In Russian); Britain and Russia: Struggle for Tibet (In Russian); Indo-Pak Armed Conflict in Kargil: Causes and Consequences; The Russian "Threat" to British India: Tibetan Angle // Indian History. A Russian Viewpoint; The Kashmir Problem // South Asia in World Politics, Moscow, 2003 (In Russian); The Himalayan Frontiers of China; Who is Fighting in Kashmir and Why?; India and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (In Russian); Russia's security and the geopolitical situation in South Asia; The Changing Geopolitical Situation in Central Asia and China, Russia and India (In Russian); Environmental Problems: Possibilities for Trilateral Cooperation; Russia and India: Trade and economic Cooperation etc.



## DR. VIDYA VINDU SINGH

Dr. Vidya Vindu Singh is educationist, writer, editor, speaker, propagator of Indian folk, religion and culture for more than 60 years. She has worked as Chief Editor, Dy. Director and Joint Director at U.P. Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow.

2. Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1945 at Village Jaitpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Vidya completed her M.A. Degree from Agra University, B.Ed. from Gorakhpur University and Ph.D from BHU, Varanasi.

3. Dr. Vidya has compiled the folk traditions, songs, stories, idioms, and beliefs in the field of worship, agriculture and environment. Through lectures, songs rendition and explanations of folk inheritance from a traditional and scientific point of view, she has helped in preserving and spreading the traditional Indian cultural values in the society. She has 118 publications to her credit and 16 more are under publication, includes books on child, adolescent adult education. Several of her books have received recognition and awards. Every year, she organizes a series of lectures on spiritual thinking which are published in a commemorative publication Sant Vivek which is distributed free of cost. Eminent freedom fighters, social workers, folk artists, environmentalists, writers, spiritual thinkers, journalists, Doctors etc. are honoured in such programmes. 132 eminent citizens have been felicitated in 26 such programmes. Every year, she also organizes a festival in her native village on extinct folk arts, religion and culture, which includes debates, plays, exhibition and competition etc. on relevant issues. Free medical health checkup camps are organized on this occasion.

4. Dr. Vidya has established Krishnapratap Vidyavindu Lokhit Nyas. This platform is also used for solving the problems and upgrading the quality of life of the local population living below the poverty line. She is actively associated with several cultural, literary and social institutions in the capacity of founder, patron, chairperson and member. Eight Scholars have done research for her works. Her works have been translated into Malayalam, Bengala, Telugu, Kashmiri, English, Oriya, Marathi, Nepali and Japanese languages. Her Poetic Collection "Sach ke Paany" translated into Nepalese language has been awarded by Sahitya Academy, Delhi. She is the recipient of Senior Fellowship from Culture Department, Government of India for the study of folk arts.

5. Dr. Vidya has actively participated in various literary programmes, International Ramayana Conferences, International Hindi Conferences in India and abroad. She has been associated as an editor of many books and magazines. She has been the honorary editor of Prawasi Bhartiya, a quarterly Patrika published in Canada. She has edited the literary magazines Sahitya Bharti magazine, Atyev and Baal Vani Published by Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan. She has associated in edition of works of senior literary authors including publications such as, Awadhi Granthawali, Apariharya Parikrama, Associate Editor of Braj Bhasha kosh, Awadhi kosh. She edited Saal Bhar Parv (by Dr. Vidya Nivas Mishra), Bhartiya Wangmay mein dharm aur Sanskriti; Hamare Akshar: Aarsh parampara evam adhunik bodh; Ram katha ka Vaishwik Paridrishya (by Shiv Singh Saroj); Translation of Jangnama on poetic tale of bravery and sacrifice of Chehlari Naresh Raja Balbhadra Singh and his soldiers. Her six lectures had been broadcast through e-path of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha. She is editor in Ramkatha Vishva Kosh, Culture Department, Uttar Pradesh. More than 3500 of her articles have been published in various literary magazines. She has been associated with All India Radio and Doodarshan and other communication media as writer, director, coordinator for various serials, short films, features, plays, panel discussions etc.

## Padma Shri



### **SANT BABA IQBAL SINGH JI (POSTHUMOUS)**

Sant Baba Iqbal Singh Ji was widely recognized as the pioneer of values-based education method at 129 CBSE affiliated rural schools in the villages of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. He was the President of The Kalgidhar Trust Baru Sahib; Chancellor, Eternal University Baru Sahib, Himachal Pradesh; Akal University Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda and Chief Mentor of a chain of rural school system, Akal Academy.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1926, Sant Iqbal Singh Ji was postgraduate in Agricultural Sciences from Khalsa College Amritsar and served as Director of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh. He sowed the seed of rural education from a hut with five students in 1986-87 with just Rs 2,200/- as his savings as the investment in a project that scaled up from Hut to 129 rural schools, 2 rural universities and 70,000+ students. This became a case study of bringing social impact at scale at IIM Ahmedabad, also published in Harvard Business Review in 2018.

3. Sant Iqbal Singh Ji propounded socio-economic development through quality education, a massive scale model that built a new paradigm in outpacing the ripple effect of home grown impact that became subject of study in business management academia. This has made Gurukul way of teaching from Kindergarten to University level, contemporary and people focussed. These schools based on faith and tradition imparts quality education with all modern gadgets at the village doorstep. These Gurukuls blend spiritual way of life with modern day science. Such robust is the model that switch to online mode of teaching was as received equally well by the students and teachers alike. Under his leadership, The Kalgidhar Trust was acknowledged by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commendation in 2020. In light of Sustainability Development Goals Orientation 2030, successful implementation of electrification of teaching infrastructure through solar power is a true green evolution from the hinterlands of Punjab.

4. Sant Iqbal Singh Ji had made drug de-addiction as his personal cause and had been practising naturopathy efficaciously. This method has been documented in two books professing managing different signs, symptoms and psychological disbalances in addicts and family, community and society. Various institutions established under his guidance include 129 Akal Academies, 2 Universities, 2 Akal Gurnat Sangeet Vidyalaya, 1 Women Empowerment Center, 1 Charitable Hospital, 3 drug de-addiction centers, 13 Gurdwaras and various other philanthropic projects.

5. Sant Iqbal Singh Ji was recipient of many recognitions including Maharishi Valmiki Sampooran Swachhta Purnskaar 2014; Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Institute of Cleanliness Education Research (NICER); Vidya Martand Award; Shiromani Panth Ratan Award by Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji (Patna Sahib) in 2018; Sikh Lifetime Achievement Award by Sikh Awards 2016 (UK); 5th Most Influential Sikh Award by the Top 100 Sikh Organizations (UK); Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Achievers Award by Government of Punjab. He has been signatory to Historic Peace Agreement 2014 at Carlson Los Angeles. He participated in 'Workshop on Global Development and Institutions Inspired by Faith' in South and Central Asia in Dhaka organized by Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, Washington, USA. He has also been honoured by Government of Punjab for extraordinary achievements and service towards the society in 2019.

6. Sant Iqbal Singh Ji passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

## Padma Shri



### **SHRI SADGURU BRAHMESHANAND ACHARYA SWAMIJI**

Shri Sadguru Brahmeshanandacharya Swamiji is Internationally acclaimed spiritual master, Peace Leader. He is Founder Head of International Sadguru Foundation working worldwide for Uniting world as one big family for World Peace & Harmony. He is the pioneer of Vedic Renaissance in Goa, making the Peeth the only place where access to Vedic Scriptures, values, literature, culture, etc. are imparted impartially to very seeker without any discrimination.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1981, Shri Swamiji received 'Atmadhyam Deeksha' of Advait Vedanta Guru Shishya Parampara of Shri Dattatreya Peeth from Rashtrasant Sadguru Brahmanandacharya Swamiji, and mastered time-honored scientific nectar of Vedas, Upanishadas, Sanskrit etc. At the age of 21, he was enthroned as the Spritual head- "Peethadishwar" of Shree Datta Padmanabh Peeth. Currently he heads 22 organizations working in different fields around the world. He has also taken novel approach to promote Sanskrit and take it to every household by setting up Sanskrit Academy, Sanskrit pathshalas".

3. Shri Swamiji has been keynote speaker at various conferences, symposiums and gloabal forums to deliver spiritual discourses and guidance through national and international organizations like Parliament of World Religions- Canada, Asian Arab Chamber of Commerce-UAE, World Peace Development & Research Foundation-USA, Horasis- Switzerland, Surya Chandra Yog Ashram- Italy etc. To spread the message of peace and spiritualism, to develop cordial relations between countries, he has organized several interfaith programs, world peace summits, global solidarity events like "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" etc to establish harmony and promote peace across globe, over past two decade.

4. In recognition of Shri Swamiji's divine work to spread, promote spirituality, peace & harmony various organizations and countries have honored him with distinguished titles, and prestigious awards: 'Ambassador of Peace' at British Parliament; International Peace Promoter by Mahabodhi Society, Sri Lanka; Spritual Excellence Arab Award conferred by Asia Chamber of Commerce, UAE; Yog Master award by Sadhana International Yoga, Interfaith Leadership Award by World Yoga Community, USA; Vishwa Shanti Padmam award by Lotus of World Peace, USA; title "Dharmbhushan" by Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti- India; Spiritual Ambassador of the Year' award by Bharat Nirma Foundation, Nepal; Messenger of Love award by World Yoga Community, USA etc.

# Padma Shri



## SHRIGURU DR. BALAJI TAMBE (POSTHUMOUS)

Shriguru Dr. Balaji Tambe was a pioneering, world-renowned Ayurveda physician, author, spiritual guru, and public educator with exceptional contributions in Ayurveda, Yoga, Meditation, Vedic Lifestyle and Healing Music. He is the founder of Atmasantulana Village - one of India's largest Panchakarma centres, Santulan Ayurveda - known for Ayurvedic medicines in India and abroad, and Aum-Kurzentrums - Europe's first Ayurveda and Panchakarma centre.

2. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1940 in Baroda, Dr. Tambe, the son of a renowned Vedic scholar Shri Vasudeo Tambe shastri, earned a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering in 1960 as well as an Ayurveda Vaidya Visharad in 1964. Along with a parallel career in engineering he began his practice of Ayurveda in Pune.

3. Dr. Tambe founded the Atmasantulana Village in the rural area of Karla near Pune in 1982 and created a model Ayurvedic village that has successfully treated more than 30,000 residential patients and over 2,00,000 outpatients. Along with providing authentic and result oriented Ayurvedic treatments he also founded Santulan Ayurveda in 1985 which manufactures over 200 FDA approved medical formulations, several of which are exported to Europe. In 1995, he founded AumKurzentrums in Gleichen, Germany and subsequently a Yoga school and Ayurveda clinic in the South and West of Germany. He is a pioneer of holistic therapeutic methods and has demonstrated in thousands of patients over more than 4 decades the combined effects of Ayurveda, Yoga, Meditation and Healing Music. He has advanced Ayurvedic pharmacology by the use of modern and innovative production techniques without changing traditional, proven formulations. He was among those who restored the ancient science of Panchakarma to its authentic form. He has given society the tools to ensure the wellbeing of mother and infant, through his celebrated Ayurveda Garbhasanskar project. The book and music album have sold over 1,000,000 copies each. The project has spread to millions of families with several translations including German, and inclusion of the book in the American Library of Congress.

4. Dr. Tambe is fondly known as 'Family Doctor', in Maharashtra. He has authored a supplement in the Sakal Newspaper, for more than 18 years (over 3,400 articles), circulating 1 million copies each week. This is a unique contribution in modern Ayurveda to spread medical knowledge in simple language for the common man. The Family Doctor TV show also offered real-time, interactive health guidance to viewers. He authored more than 60 books, 50 healing music albums, countless articles and conducted more than 2000 episodes on television, in the sphere of health, spirituality and Shrimad Bhagwad Geeta. He has travelled extensively for over forty years to raise awareness about Indian knowledge systems particularly in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, as well as Africa, America, England among other countries.

5. Dr. Tambe has received over 50 awards, notably, a D.Litt from Dr. DY Patil University in 2017; the Indo-US Conclave award for Outstanding Contribution to Ayurveda in 2013, the Scroll of Honour by the Municipal Corporation of Pune in 2003; the Bharat Nirman in 1997 and the Priyadarshini Academy Award in 1996.

6. Dr. Tambe passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.



## Padma Shri



### **SMT. LALITA VAKIL**

Smt. Lalita Vakil is a Chamba Rumal Embroiderer. She has been key in reviving the craft and bringing it to the forefront. Her main objective is to preserve, practice and impart the training of this cultural dying form and be the proud ambassador of the Chamba Rumal Embroidery.

2. Born on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1954, in a middle class family of the legendary and culturally rich Chamba town of Himachal Pradesh, Smt. Vakil got involved with this art at the age of 14. She learned the skills and techniques of Double-Sided, Do-Rukha Embroidery known as Chamba Rumal, which would have been sadly come to a state of almost extinction, if had not been promoted by such eminent artist like her.

3. Smt. Vakil has immensely contributed to keep alive an almost dying form of art that is a pleasure to adorn. She has been working relentlessly & pricelessly to uplift this art by developing new designs and skill. By doing so, she took the art a step ahead to survive and thrive for the contemporary lifestyle. She created new modern day utility pieces bringing together the perfect blend of old traditional designs pleasingly fused with modern sensibility. She has rightfully contributed to evolve this art form to the need of modern lifestyle. She has exhibited her work in numerous exhibitions in and outside India to promote and preserve the art form of intricate and breathtakingly beautiful embroidery of Chamba Rumals.

4. Smt. Vakil has inspired and helped number of women to learn this craft. She uses her expertise to train younger generations to acquire this rare artistic skill and therefore increase their employment opportunities. Also, she has imparted training to over thousands of women artisans under Guru Shishya Parampara with the support of the Government and on her own initiative. She devoted her entire life for preservation and upliftment of the traditional art form of Chamba by keeping the uniqueness alive.

5. Smt. Vakil has been appreciated and awarded with numerous awards and honours including Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2018; Kala Shri Award twice in 1998 & 2002 and Kala Ratan in 2006.