

List of Awardees

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2020

Sl. No.	Name and Place	Description
1.	<p>Anita Gupta Bhojpur, Bihar</p> 	<p>Anita Gupta is a social entrepreneur. After witnessing domestic violence, she created an NGO for rural women, along with her younger brother. She has set up 500+ Self Help Groups (SHGs) to conduct health check-up camps, impart adult education and vocational trainings for rural women. She also organized various campaigns to create awareness on water usage and sanitation. She has trained more than 50,000 underprivileged rural women in various skills through her NGO, 'Bhojpur Mahila Kala Kendra' enabling them to earn upto ₹ 8000/- per month. She is also a member of 'Usha Silai School', which runs more than 3,000 sewing schools across Bihar and Jharkhand.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is presented to her for outstanding contribution for empowering rural and underprivileged women</p>
2.	<p>Arti Rana Kheri, Uttar Pradesh</p> 	<p>Arti Rana, a handloom weaver and a teacher, is President of 'Tharu Hath Karga Gharelu Udyog', which was honoured by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2016. In the year 2015, she organized 'Tharu Mahotsav' an Integrated Tribal Project at Chandan Chowki, Lakhimpur Kheri. She imparted training in crafts to over 800 Tharu women. She also started over 150 women's Self-Help Groups, having over 3600 women members. Her work has resulted in increasing income of underprivileged tribal weaver women. In 2016, she also received the Rani Laxmi Bai Gallantry Award from the Uttar Pradesh Government.</p>

		The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded in recognition of her exceptional work for underprivileged and tribal women.
3.	<p>Dr. Ela Lodh West Tripura, Tripura (Posthumous)</p> 	<p>Dr. Ela Lodh, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, served as Administrative Director of the Tripura Health Service from 1990 until 2000. She founded the Hepatitis Foundation of Tripura. She was deeply involved in raising awareness about women's health.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded posthumously for her outstanding contribution towards women's health particularly for the marginalised and underprivileged.</p>
4.	<p>Jaya Muthu and Tejamma Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu</p> 	<p>Jaya Muthu and Tejamma are artisans, who make shawls and garments with intricate Toda embroidery, an art work of Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, which is made exclusively by women. The base material, which is white in colour, is hand woven in single width and embroidery is done by counting of threads. They create designs on cloth without tracing the pattern or referring to a book. The duo's work of telling the tales of their fading heritage is much appreciated.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to them for their extraordinary contribution for preserving and promoting the age old intricate Toda Embroidery of Nilgiris.</p>
5.	<p>Jodhaiya Bai Baiga Umaria, Madhya Pradesh</p>	<p>Jodhaiya Bai Baiga, a Tribal Baiga Art Painter, who widowed at the age of 40, portrays tribal cultures and lifestyles on canvas. She has exhibited at Galleria Francesco Zanuso in Milan, Italy and Claire Corcia Gallery in Paris, France. She has solo painting shows at the Alliance Francaise in Bhopal. She started learning Baiga Art at the age of 70, taught</p>

		<p>by Ashish Swami who runs studio 'JanganTasweerkhana' in several tribal belts of Madhya Pradesh to prevent local cultures and traditions from becoming extinct.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for resilience and brilliance in promoting the Tribal Baiga Art at global level. By doing so, she is helping the art from becoming extinct.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Meera Thakur S.A.S Nagar, Punjab</p> 	<p>Meera Thakur is a Sikki Grass Artist, who established 'Folk Art Handicraft Training Centre', aided by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Governement of India. She also operates an NGO 'HastkalaVikas Kendra'. She provides free training in her art and has trained more than 400 underprivileged women. Her work has been widely covered by the Media.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is being awarded to her for promoting the unique Sikki Grass Art and empowering the underprivileged women in Punjab.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Nasira Akhter Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir</p> 	<p>Nasira Akhter is a grassroot innovator, who after working for over 8 years, demonstrated an innovative way for making polythene biodegradable at Kashmir University Science Instrumentation Centre. She developed a herb that converts polythene to ashes, a biodegradable product that does not pollute the environment. She has been recognised by Kalam World Record, Asia Book of Records, and India Book of Records among others. She has received an honorary doctorate from World Record University in London.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is being awarded to her for exemplary grassroot innovation for environmental conservation.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>Nivruti Rai Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka</p> 	<p>Nivruti Rai is Country Head of Intel India. She developed semiconductor chips that consume less power using a technique called error correcting codes and also a new rural connectivity solution that uses overhead electric cables to deliver cost-effective high-speed broadband connection. She launched AI-Youth, AI-Ready Generation, AI-Blockchain, 'AI for All' programme. Nivruti dedicated herself for high-impact technology-led initiatives and built a platform for diagnostics and analytics based on AI, genomics and co-morbidities to combat COVID-19. Her work has empowered more than 1.5 lakh students across 7,000 schools in the country. She found a place in the Fortune India's Most Powerful Business Women 2020 list.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for excellence in the field of technology, truly representing the 21st Century Women and empowering students to build Artificial Intelligence enabled Hi-Tech future for India.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Padma Yangchan Leh, Ladakh</p> 	<p>Padma Yangchan is an owner of designer studio and a café, who revived the lost cuisine and clothing of Ladakh. She started her own designer brand called 'Nazma'. Her cafe is based on the idea of sustainable agriculture, with a personal kitchen garden of fresh organic farm produce in the café compound itself. The cafe serves handcrafted food and is preserving the existing undocumented Ladakhi cuisine and recipes. Her vision is to let the people experience the culture of Ladakh. She is also preserving and modifying the hand weaving techniques and art of Ladakh, making it more suitable for both national and international markets.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for preserving and reviving the lost cuisine and hand weaving techniques of Ladakh and promoting it at International Level.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p>Sandhya Dhar Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir</p> 	<p>Sandhya Dhar is a divyang social worker who has been associated with Divyangjan Bill Rights, their accessibility to schools, colleges, workplaces and Divyang-friendly subway crossings. She has also arranged for self-employment loans and jobs for Divyangjan through various Government schemes.</p> <p>Sandhya founded 'Jammu Institute of General Education and Rehabilitation (JIGER)' in 2015 that conducts classes for Divyangjan and underprivileged children together under the guidance of Divyang teachers. It also conducts awareness programs for Autism affected children. The organisation operates 4 centres with more than 65 children and organizes free medical camp and has provided free check-ups and medication to more than 100 children. She has 90% disability in her upper limbs.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to recognise her exceptional contribution and indomitable spirit & dedication towards divyangjan rights.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Saylee Nandkishor Agavane Pune, Maharashtra</p> 	<p>Saylee is a Kathak dancer, who has not allowed the Down syndrome to come in the way of achieving her dreams. She has performed in more than 100 programmes and events. At the Global Olympiad Dance Competition, she received a bronze medal. She is a recipient of National Award from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and a World Down Syndrome Day Awardee from Down Syndrome International Organization, London & Scotland.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her in recognition of her excellence in promoting Indian Classical Dance internationally despite facing hardship.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Tiffany Brar</p>	<p>Tiffany Brar founded the Jyothirgamaya Foundation that works for empowering blind</p>

	<p>Thiruvananthapuram , Kerala</p> 	<p>people, particularly blind women. In 2012, she established a mobile blind school in rural areas of Kerala. Her idea to identify the different denominations led to creation of 'Tiffy Template'. She herself has provided training to over 200 blind persons in Braille, computers, personal grooming, and other basic skills. Tiffany is the only blind woman in India who has delivered 5 Ted talks and conducted sensitization sessions in 10+ countries. She became the first Indian to receive the Holman Prize, and also received National Award for Best Role Model among People with Disabilities.</p> <p>Nari Shakti Puraskar is being awarded to her for exemplary work done for visually impaired rural women and motivating the masses despite being visually challenged.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Ushaben Dineshbhai Vasava</p> <p>Narmada, Gujarat</p> 	<p>Ushaben Dineshbhai Vasava is an organic farmer and tribal activist who ensured land entitlements to over 500 women. She is the Chairperson of District ATMA Project. She is also the President of Swabhoomi Kendra and Sagbara Mahila Manch. She is Advisory Board Member of the 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' in Narmada district. She delivers lectures and provides training on fertiliser use for KVK, ATMA, and NGOs, as well as sharing technology-based farming experiences with the community providing training to over 2700 farm women. She has been associated with over 3,500 SHGs for organic farming by informing them about government programmes like soil health card benefits. Ushaben received Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay ICAR's Antyodaya Krishi Puraskar.</p> <p>Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for outstanding contribution in organic farming and assisting and educating the women farmers at ground level.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Vanita Jagdeo Borade</p> <p>Buldhana, Maharashtra</p>	<p>Vanita Jagdeo Borade is the "First Women Snake Rescuer" who founded "SoyreVanchare Multipurpose Foundation" for nature and wildlife protection and for promoting pollution-free environment. She has rescued and released over 50,000 snakes to their</p>



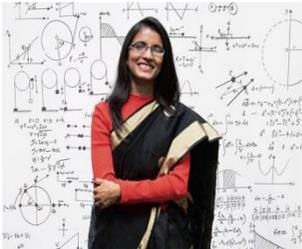
natural habitat. Vanita conducted trainings on snake awareness that included topics such as first aid for snake-bite victims, safety considerations etc. She is known as 'Snake Friend' and has been honoured by The Indian Postal Department by releasing a postal stamp. The Government of Maharashtra has also awarded her with 'The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vanashri Puraskar'.

Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded in recognition of her exemplary efforts in wildlife conservation particularly by rescuing Snakes and creating awareness on the subject.

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1.	<p>Anshul Malhotra Mandi, Himachal Pradesh</p> 	<p>Anshul Malhotra is founder of Krishna Wools, that is working for preservation of Himachal handloom and creating new patterns for popularising it. She has provided free handloom weaving training to 200 underprivileged rural women and created a collection of more than 2200 handloom designs and provided it to the weavers to weave. She is also promoting handloom weaving and heritage through workshops, seminars and lectures in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. She is a recipient of Himachal State Award.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her in recognition of her outstanding contribution for skilling the underprivileged rural women in learning handloom weaving and also for preserving and promoting Himachal Handloom.</p>
2.	<p>Batool Begam Jaipur, Rajasthan</p> 	<p>Batool Begum, a Maand and Bhajan Folk Singer specialises in Rajasthani folk tunes. She also plays instruments like Tabla, Dholak, and Dhol. She is a member of the folk band 'Klezmer.' She has performed and promoted Indian folk music internationally in countries such as Tunisia, France, Spain, Belgium, Italy.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her outstanding contribution in promoting Indian folk music internationally and also being a source of inspiration for others.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>Kamal Kumbhar Osamanabad, Maharashtra</p> 	<p>Kamal Kumbhar, an accomplished entrepreneur in the field of animal husbandry; founded 'Kamal Poultry & EktaSakhi Producer Company' in 1998 that helped more than 3000 women in drought-prone Osmanabad region. She has also established poultry operations for premium chicken species. After getting training as a 'Energy Sakhi' in SSP's 'Women in Clean Energy Programme', she was instrumental in lighting up more than 3,000 houses with solar-powered equipment. She helped over 5,000 women to start micro businesses. Kamal Kumbhar has also been conferred with 'CII Foundation Women Exemplar Award' and Women Transforming India Award in 2017 by NITI Aayog.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for contribution in promoting women's entrepreneurship in the field of animal husbandry.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Madhulika Ramteke Rajnandgaon , Chhattisgarh</p> 	<p>Madhulika Ramteke is a social worker who works for the wellbeing of domestically abused women. She started a modest banking operation for domestically abused women and in 2001; the bank was formally named 'Maa Bamleshwari Bank' by the district administration, which now has 5,372 branches. The bank is entirely managed and controlled by women and has raised Rs 1.19 crore and disbursed Rs. 70 lakh in loans. She began growing Elephant Foot Yam in 2015 with 12 lakh plants that has now grown to more than 35 lakh plants. She also teaches local people as to how to make vermi compost and encourages them to participate in the Swachhata Abhiyaan and Jal Suraj Abhiyaan and creates awareness on superstition, health and hygiene, which resulted in construction of 64 village toilets in 2018. In 2016, She was also honoured with the State Level Award.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for remarkable efforts for upliftment of</p>

		women and their economic empowerment.
5.	<p>Neena Gupta Kolkata, West Bengal</p> 	<p>Neena Gupta is a mathematician, researcher and professor at Statistics and Mathematics Unit of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata who solved 70 years old Zariski Cancellation Problem, a basic problem in algebraic geometry and has published over 20 research papers in national and international publications including 'The Structure of a Laurent Polynomial Fibration in Variables,' Journal of Algebraic Geometry (2012). In 2022 she became third woman and fourth Indian to win the prestigious 'Ramanujan Prize' for Young Mathematicians for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra as well as youngest Indian to win the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her excellence in the field of Mathematics.</p>
6.	<p>Neerja Madhav Uttar Pradesh</p> 	<p>Neerja Madhav is a Hindi Author who promoted world peace, rights & reservation for Eunuchs & Tibetan refugees. Some of her remarkable works are Yamdeep (2002), Tebhya: Swadha (2004) , GesheJumpa (2006), Anupameya Shankar (2009), Diary of 5-Avarna Female Constable (2010) etc.</p> <p>She received Yashpal Award in 1998 and Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her in recognition of her work for marginalised people through Hindi Sahitya.</p>
7.	<p>Niranjanaben Mukulbhai</p>	<p>Niranjanaben is an author and educator, who contributed immensely to Gujarati</p>

	<p>Kalarthi, Surat, Gujarat</p> 	<p>literature. Her notable work include 'Ba and Bapu' and 'Gujaratna Shirchhatra Sardar', among many other books. She founded Mukul Trust, Bardoli in 1988, Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya, and Swaraj Ashram, Bardoli in 1996, which have helped Gujarati tribal and underprivileged girls in getting education. She was awarded with National Teachers Award by the Government of India in 1989 and Sewa Samman by Bhaurav Devras Smriti in 2003.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puruskar is awarded to her for promoting Gujarati language and to promote the education of underprivileged tribal girls.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Pooja Sharma Gurugram, Haryana</p> 	<p>Pooja Sharma, a farmer and entrepreneur hails from Gurugram, Haryana. Created Gurgaon based Self Help Group 'Kshitiz' in 2013 and Delhi based 'ZingNZest' Company in 2017. She used IARI-standardized technology to make processed soy, soy health drink, biscuits and other soynut items. She established 9 SHGs and trained more than 1,000 women in Haryana. Her food manufacturing units employ nearly 150 women.</p> <p>In 2016, ICAR awarded her with Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodya Krishi Puraskar and Navonmeshi Krishik Samman.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her outstanding contribution in the field of skill development and empowerment of women and entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Radhika Menon Dharwad, Karnataka</p>	<p>Radhika Menon, the first Indian Woman Captain of Merchant Navy, hails from Thrissur, Kerala and is well known for her rescue operation conducted successfully in June, 2015 saving 7 fishermen who were trapped for a week in a boat while in command of 'MT Sampurna Swarajya' ship. She is first woman in the world to receive</p>

		<p>Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) & Gallantry at Sea by NMDC India in 2016.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for excellence in Indian Merchant Navy & exemplary courage.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Sathupati Prasanna Sree Visakhapatanam, Andhra Pradesh</p> 	<p>Sathupati Prasanna Sree, Professor & Chairperson of the Board of Studies, Andhra University, is an Indian linguist who has worked to preserve minority tribal languages and developed new writing systems for tribal languages. She is the 1st woman in the world to devise scripts (alphabets) for 19 tribal languages namely Bhagatha, Gadabha, Kolami, Konda Dora etc. Her literary contributions includes works such as 'Psychodynamics of Women in Postmodern Literature of the East and West', 'Shades of Silence', and 'Woman in Shashi Deshpande's Novel - A Study,' among others. She is the 1st Indian and Asian woman to be featured in World Atlas of Endangered Alphabets, USA (2019).</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her exceptional contribution for preserving minority tribal languages.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Shobha Gasti Belagavi, Karnataka</p>	<p>Shobha Gasti started Mahilla Abhivrudhi Mattu Samrakshana Samasthe (MASS), NGO that works in 360 villages across three talukas in Belgaum, Karnataka. MASS was effective in mainstreaming 3600+ devadasis in the Belgaum district; putting an end to the practise of forced Devadasi. She has strategically desecrated symbols of ritual sanction to the practise of devdasi system by publicly appealing to people and</p>

		<p>through campaigns that focuses on ensuring the dignity and education of girl children by preventing child marriage, child trafficking, and child abuse.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for remarkable efforts & exemplary contribution for the cause of empowerment of women and girls.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Sruti Mohapatra Bhubaneswar, Odisha</p> 	<p>Sruti Mohapatra, a disability rights activist is a former Chairperson of the Odisha State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and a current Member of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She is known as the 'Crusader in a Wheelchair'. In 2001, she founded 'Swabhiman' and 'SHARE', NGOs working for upliftment of divyangjan in Odisha. She also founded Project Anjali for Divyang children to showcase their talents and other projects for education and self-employment support for Divyangjan. She worked for the passage of the PWD Act in 1996 and the RPWD Act in 2016. She was awarded with Vidya Bhawan Social Service Award in 2013 and National Young Scientist Award in 1992.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puruskar is awarded to her indomitable spirit and for outstanding contribution towards upliftment and empowerment of Divyangjan.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Tage Rita Takhe Subansiri Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>Tage Rita Takhe is an entrepreneur who produces 'Naara Aaba', India's first organic kiwi wine, with an annual capacity of approximately 60,000 litres and a turnover of ₹ 4.5 crores. She is an engineer by qualification, however, left her job to become entrepreneur. She founded "Lambu - Subu Food and Beverages", 'Naara-Aaba wine' in 2016 in Lower Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh. She has been awarded 'The United Nations' Women Transforming India Award'.</p>

		<p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is given to her for excellence in promoting women entrepreneurship and local product internationally.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Thara Rangaswamy Chennai, Tamil Nadu</p> 	<p>She is the co-founder and Vice Chairperson of Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) in Chennai. She is a Psychiatrist and Researcher. She established a free mobile tele-psychiatry service in seven rural districts of Tamil Nadu and conducted the 'Madras Longitudinal Study,' for more than 35 years on Schizophrenia patients. Her creation 'Indian Disability Evaluation and Assessment Scale (IDEAS)' is used by the Government of India to assess mental disorders. She was also a member of the World Health Organization's Mental Health Expert Group. She has received President's Medal, Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK in 2010 & Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Award from Schizophrenia International Research Society in 2020.</p> <p>The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her innovative and relentless efforts to create awareness about and cure for mental disorders.</p>
