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पद्म भूषण
Padma Bhushan



Padma Bhushan



SHRI PANKAJ ADVANI

Shri Pankaj Advani is a world- renowned Billiards and Snooker player and has broken many records nationally and internationally in both sports. He is the only player in the history of Cue Sport to have won World Titles in both the long and short formats of snooker and billiards and he continues to put Indian Cue Sport on the global map.

2. Born in Pune on 24 July 1985, Shri Advani spent the first five years of his life in Kuwait. In 1990, after the Iraqi Invasion on Kuwait, he settled with his parents and elder brother in Bangalore and has been there since then. His father, Shri Arjan Advani, died in 1992 when he was just 6 years old. In spite of playing competitive billiards and snooker from the age of ten, he completed his ISC from The Frank Anthony Public School Bangalore and B. Com from Shree Mahaveer Jain College, Bangalore, with a first class distinction in both. In school he was the Head Boy in his final year. At the age of 19, while still in college, he joined ONGC under their sports quota. He is now at the Chief Managerial level at their Mumbai Office. His is a non-reporting job, giving him ample time for practice and participation in tournaments.

3. Shri Advani's first world title came at the age of eighteen, when he won the IBSF World Snooker Championship in China in 2003. In 2005, he won the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Malta in both Time and Points Format. He was the first ever to have won a double. His passion for the sport shows in his consistency in winning titles for his Country and State. His most remarkable achievement was winning back-to-back titles in the IBSF World Billiards and IBSF World Snooker in Doha in November 2017. Now at 32, he has won a total of 18 World titles- a record in Indian sport, 2 Asian Games golds in 2006 and 2010, 8 Asian titles, the Australian Open Billiards Championship, and 31 National titles.

4. With his long list of achievements, Shri Advani continues to be India's flag-bearer of Billiards and Snooker. He is a great ambassador of Indian sport, and consistently carries a huge responsibility on his young shoulders. He has a penchant for social causes and has lent ample support to organizations like PETA, CRY, Have a Heart Foundation, Shiksha, Smile Foundation and CMCA.

5. Shri Advani received the Padmashree Award from the Government of India in 2009. He also received the Arjuna Award in 2004 and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 2006. He is the recipient of the Eklavya, Rajyotsava and Shri Kempegowda awards of Karnataka. He has been conferred various awards like the ICICI-Times Now Global Indian for Sports in 2017, TOISA's Sportsperson of the year (Popular Category) 2015, World Economic Forum's Global Shaper title in 2012 and various other awards.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI

Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the erstwhile Captain of Indian cricket team across all three formats of the game. Having retired from Test cricket he now represents the country in One Day Internationals and Twenty Twenty matches.

2. Born in small town of Ranchi, Shri Dhoni received his schooling in D.A.V Shyamali, where he excelled in football but was later coerced into taking up cricket to represent his school. Thus began his journey to represent India in the highest level of the game in course of which he rewrote whole lot of records and bring glory to India in field of cricket.

3. Shri Dhoni has been one of the pillars of Indian cricket over the last decade. He has been one of the impact players for India in all three forms of the game. He has mesmerised fans across the world with his cool and calm captaincy, destructive hitting and his ability to finish off games in his trademark style. He holds record of longest unbeaten run in Tests right from his debut to 11 matches. Who can forget a young long haired Dhoni scoring 148 match winning runs against Pakistan in Faislabad Test. He also scored 183 runs, not out, against Sri Lanka in 2005, the highest run secured by a wicketkeeper. As a Captain, he has played the highest number of 331 International matches. He is the first Indian wicketkeeper batsman to cross 4000 test runs. It was under his captaincy that India topped the Test Cricket Rankings for the first time in the year 2009. He is the most successful captain with 27 Test wins in a row. Amongst the wicketkeepers he has the highest average of 51.37* in One Day International matches. Most centuries while batting at number seven in ODI. He also holds a record of over 174* stumpings across the format with 204 sixes to his name as a skipper. He as a captain and as a wicketkeeper, has represented the country in over 199 One Day Internationals, most in history. First Indian to hit 217* sixes in ODI, ranking fourth. In these outings he has a unbeatable record of 107* stumpings with still more to come. Always to lead from the front, the team won record breaking 41 Twenty Twenty International matches under him. He owns the record of most dismissals (78*) in T20 which includes record breaking 49* catches and 29* stumpings as on date. He was the first player to score 1000 runs in this shorter format of the game. Most T20 matches won (41) as captain. Shri Dhoni has been the most successful captain for India in International Cricket winning all three major ICC trophies. He catapulted to fame lifting the ICC T20 Trophy in 2007. He added another golden moment in the annals of Indian cricketing history by winning the 2011 World Cup after a gap of 28 years. He finished the treble by leading India to the Champions Trophy title in 2013.

4. Truly as a deserving champion, Shri Dhoni is a recipient of many awards and honours namely Padma Shri in Year 2009 and Rajiv Kbel Ratna in 2007. The same year he had been conferred the first Jharkhand Ratna, highest award of the State. He is the first player to be awarded ICC ODI Player for two successive years in 2007 and 2008 followed by Captain of the ICC World Test and ICC One Day International XI Teams in 2009. With his immaculate conduct both on and off the field, and sheer handwork, he was conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel by the Indian Territorial Army in 2011. His passion for Indian defence forces has grown over the years with him earning his wings as a paratrooper. He wishes to serve the Indian Army after finishing his cricketing career.

Padma Bhushan

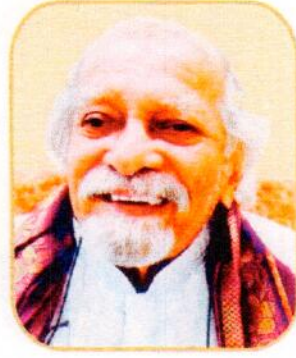


H.E. SHRI ALEXANDER KADAKIN (POSTHUMOUS)

H.E. Shri Alexander Kadakin, twice Ambassador of Russia to India (1999-2004 and 2009-2017), devoted almost 30 years of his entire brilliant diplomatic career to India, which he described as both his karma-bhoomi and his prem-bhoomi. He was a diplomat par excellence and seasoned statesman, eminent scholar, a confident-spoken man of great wisdom with many outstanding faculties, whose selfless and dedicated service contributed to strengthening Russia's international stand.

2. Born on July 22, 1949 in the city of Kishinev (the USSR), Shri Kadakin graduated with Honours from the Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in 1972, with a probationer at the Embassy of the USSR in India in 1971. His language proficiency included English, Hindi, Urdu, Romanian and French. He joined diplomatic service in 1972 working as attaché and later as third secretary of the Embassy of the USSR in India. From 1978 to 1983 he served as second, first secretary and counsellor of the Secretariat of the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. Concurrently he was teaching at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations as Assistant Professor of the Department of Indian Studies from 1979 to 1985. He continued his career at the Ministry serving as Assistant, Senior Assistant (Chef du Cabinet) to the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR from 1983 to 1989. In 1989, he returned to New Delhi as Minister Counsellor (DCM) of the Embassy of the USSR in India. He served as First Deputy Head of the Foreign Minister's Secretariat from June to September 1991, and then continued his service at the Embassy till 1993.
3. In 1993 Shri Kadakin was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Nepal and held the post until 1997. From 1997 to 1999 he served as Member of the Collegium and Director of the Linguistic Support Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry. In 1999, he came to New Delhi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India (till 2004). In 2004-2005 he became Ambassador—at—Large, Secretary of the Council of the Heads of Entities of the Russian Federation, MFA.
4. From 2005 to 2009 Shri Kadakin served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Sweden. On October 27, 2009, he was for the second time appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India, holding the post till his death on January 26, 2017, in New Delhi. He accompanied Chairman Leonid I. Brezhnev, President Michael S. Gorbachev and President Boris N. Yeltsin on a number of official visits abroad including India, the US, the UK and the UN as a consultant, participated in the work of Soviet delegations at five sessions of the UN General Assembly as an expert. He authored and translated several books from English and Hindi into Russian and published over 60 articles in scientific journals and press in Russia and India. He was a well – known Academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and visited more than 40 countries. Many of his essays, among which “Delhi Tour Guide” published in 1970s, recent editorial masterpieces “Prince Alexei Saltykov's Journeys Across India” and “Vasily Vereshchagin Indian Poem”, were marked by a high level of scholarly standards, deep insight and impartiality, being a great help for Russian people in the long process of introducing them into the infinite history of such an incredible country as India. One of his remarkable creations is the international Roerich Memorial Trust Nagar, which symbolizes deep affection and serves as a strong spiritual bond between Russian and Indian nations.
5. Shri Kadakin received the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in 1994. He had a number of Government decorations, including the Order of Honour (2009) and the Order of Friendship (2016), and was awarded the title of the Honoured Diplomatist of the Russian Federation in 2004.
6. Shri Kadakin passed away on January 26, 2017.

Padma Bhushan



SHRI LAXMAN PAI

Shri Laxman Pai is a contemporary Indian Artist who has passionately pursued visual art influenced by the vocabulary of Indian miniatures, traditional designs, Indian music, landscapes and beautiful beaches of his home town - Goa. He has synthesized pictorial wealth from the past with modern principles to create a novel yet honest contemporary Indian idiom, inspired by India's socio-cultural ethos.

2. Born on 1926, in Margao, Goa, Shri Pai naturally gravitated to fine arts at a very early age. He got his early education as a young 11 year old by coloring BW photographs at his uncle Mauzo's photo studio. Being of rebellious spirit, he took part in Satyagraha against the Portuguese rule in Goa and was beaten and jailed by the authorities. Moving to Mumbai, he completed his art education from the famed J.J. School of Art, where he was awarded the prestigious Mayo medal.

3. Ever hungry for knowledge, Shri Pai went to Paris and met up with his contemporaries - F.N. Souza, Raza, and Gaitonde. He spent fruitful decade in Paris marked by multiple critically appreciated exhibitions which were very well received by art community.

4. Passionate attachment to his motherland promoted Shri Pai to return to India and then further to Goa to head up Goa College of Art (1977 to 1987). He served on the Board of Studies for the painting faculty for Bombay and Goa Universities. He was on the executive board of Lalit Kala Academy and member of the General Council for Lalit Kala Academy and Sangeet Natak Academy.

5. Deeply influenced by teachings of Swami Vivekananda, J. Krishnamurti, and Indian philosophy combined with love of music, especially flute and Sitar, Shri Pai produced series of paintings inspired by Ramayana, Gita-Govinda, Musical moods. He has to his credit more than 110 one-man shows across the globe. His solo exhibitions have been held at New York, San Francisco, London, Paris, Munich, Stuttgart, Hannover, Bremen, Singapore, New Delhi, Mumbai, Panaji and other places. He has also participated in numerous Biennials in Paris, Tokyo, Sao Paulo. His paintings are various public and private collections, including Museum of Modern Art in Paris, New York Public Library, Berlin Museum, Ben and Abbey Grey Foundation (USA), National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Nagpur.

6. Shri Pai is recipient of Lalit Kala National award. He was honored by Govt. of Goa in 1987 with Nehru award and Gomant Vibhushan in 2016. He received Padma Shri award in 1985.

Padma Bhushan



DR. (SMT.) SHARDA SINHA

Dr. (Smt.) Sharda Sinha, an exponent of folk music, has brought the neglected part of our cultural heritage, the dignity and high seriousness of classical expression with warmth & spontaneity of the folk world. Her songs and lore on various aspects of social life have made her a byword for "Lok Geet" not only in the nation but abroad as well. Due to her immense popularity and the purity of songs sung on the occasion of most auspicious festival of "Chhath" she has become synonymous with Chhath puja – a globally celebrated festival by Indians all over the world.

2. Born on November 01, 1952, Smt. Sinha was initiated into Indian classical music by the late Pt. Raghu Jha, an eminent khayal singer of Panchgachiya Gharana. Her further training came from late Pt. Sitaram Hari Dandekar, a khayal virtuoso and later from Panna Devi, a contemporary of Begum Akhtar & an exponent of thumri and dadra. Dr. Sinha, a Nritya Visharad (Manipuri), M. Mus (Indian classical Music-vocal), Ph.D. started creating magic with her voice when she was almost a non-entity in the music world. With her debutant Maithili number "Dularua Bhaiya (1971)", she raised a storm which heralded the dawn of a new era in the realm of folk music. A tribute to "Maithil Kokil Vidyapati" (1983) made her famous even in distant lands like Russia, china, the UK and the USA.

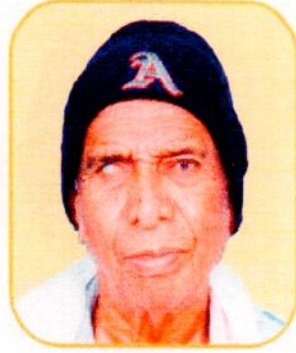
3. As a cultural ambassador of Govt. of India, Smt. Sinha performed in Mauritius (1988), Germany, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Egypt (2002), Suriname (2003) and presented the beauty & diversity of Indian folk music. With an inimitable style, Smt. Sinha, a "Top Grade" artiste of Akashwani has performed at the All India Radio Concerts and Cultural Festivals across India. Her renditions are devoted to the promotion of folk music, increasing its popularity among masses and classes alike. A notable feature of her recital remains with the fact that it depicts various aspects of mythological, ceremonial and behavioral experiences inherent in the Indian culture. Her numbers in the Bollywood Hindi Block Busters and regional films have further endeared her to countless people in India and abroad. In recognition of her dulcet voice she is fondly referred to as "Bihar Kokila", "Begum Akhtar Of Mithila" and "Swar Kokila" by her fans. Smt. Sinha has served the Department of Music, Women's College, Samastipur (L.N.M.U. Darbhanga) Bihar for more than four decades.

4. Smt. Sinha has received various awards and honours including "Rashtriya Devi Ahiliya Samman", "Bihar Kala Puraskar", "Bihar Gaurav", "Bihar Ratna", "Bhikhari Thakur Samman", "Bhojpuri Ratna", "Mithila Vibhuti Samman" and many others. She has also been the recipient of Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 2000 and Padma Shri in 1991.

पद्म श्री
Padma Shri



Padma Shri



SHRI DAMODAR GANESH BAPAT

Shri Damodar Ganesh Bapat is Ex-secretary and Patron of "Bhartiya Kushtaha Niwarak Sangh, Champa" and is known for his unparalleled contribution in eradication of leprosy and giving a self-reliant and dignified life to many leprosy patients. Even at the age of 82 he is incessantly working towards human welfare and is running a one of its kind leprosy eradication institute since last 45 years which also encompasses hostels & school for children of leprosy patients, a cowshed for preservation of Indian cow breeds, an organic farm and a vocational training centre which enables leprosy patients to live a life of dignity.

2. Born on April 29, 1935 in Pathrot village of Amravati district in Maharashtra in an upper middle class family Shri Bapat did B.A. and B.Com from Govindram Samsariya College of Commerce, Nagpur. Childhood association with Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh sowed the seeds of devotion for society in him. When he grew up he tried to do some small jobs but due to interest in sports and entertainment he could not sustain in a single job for long. After demise of his father in 1967 he took responsibility of his family. During this tough time he read about Swami Vivekananda and got deeply inspired by him and decided to dedicate his entire life for the service of the deprived people. He worked with several organizations such as Azad Hindu Sena, Sarvodaya, Hindu Seva Dal and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram.

3. In 1972 while serving in tribal areas with Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in Jashpur, Shri Bapat visited Bhartiya Kushtha Niwarak Sangh in Champa, Chhattisgarh (then Madhya Pradesh) which was the world's first leprosy eradication institute established by a leprosy patient Sadashiv Govind Katre. He was so moved that he decided to serve this organization for rest of his life, so after finishing his work in Jashpur he returned to Champa immediately and started serving leprosy patients. For his spirit of service, hard work and organizational capabilities, Shri Bapat was soon appointed Secretary of the organization in 1975. He always worked on the principal of 'Nar Sewa hi Narayan Sewa Hai' (Service to The Man is Service to The God). Shri Bapat has been doing the complex task of restoring the people suffering with leprosy with dignity, for over four decades.

4. Shri Bapat's main thrust was firstly on resolving the misconceptions regarding leprosy disease. He tried to make young patients self-reliant and stopped older patients from begging and brought them in his institution and ensured that they live a normal life with dignity. He has offered treatment and service to 11000 indoor and 15000 outdoor patients in last 44 years and established a 30 bedded Sant Guru Ghasidas Hospital for leprosy patients with public help. Apart from medical treatment to leprosy patients he has ensured education and protection of their children by constructing hostels and school for them in the campus. He engaged the patients in organic farming by training them and provided 80 acres of land for the same. For elder members of the family, vocational training is being provided for computer working, sewing, driving, chalk manufacturing etc. to enable them to get a livelihood. He always envisioned all round development for the leprosy patients.

5. Shri Bapat is recipient of numerous awards and honours. He was awarded Vivekananda Sewa Puraskar in 1995, Bhaurao Devras Sewa Memorial Award in 1996, Param Pujya Honorable Golwalkar Guruji Award in 2002, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar National Award in 2006, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial Samman in 2010, Swami Akhandanand Award in 2016, Chhattisgarh Rajya Alankaran in 2004, Divya Prem Sewa Mission Award in 2006, Tilak Smarak Award in 2006 and Maharaja Agrasen Rashtriya Samman in 2015.

Padma Shri



SHRI PRAFULLA GOVINDA BARUAH

Shri Prafulla Govinda Baruah, Managing Director and Editor of The Assam Tribune is considered a doyen of Journalism in the North-East India.

2. Born in Dibrugarh on July 26, 1932, Shri Baruah graduated from Presidency College, Calcutta with honours in Economics in 1953, passed M. A. from Presidency College in 1955 and was Gold Medalist of Calcutta University L.L.B. in 1957. While studying he started his journalism career by writing articles and editorials for The Assam Tribune. After completing studies Shri Baruah joined the news desk in 1962 and worked in various capacities. In 1964 he went to United Kingdom to study journalism with a fellowship from Thomson Foundation. He took over as Managing Director of the Assam Tribune group in 1966 and modernized the whole organization. Apart from The Assam Tribune, the group led by him also publishes popular Assamese Daily Dainik Asam and Assamese weekly 'Asam Bani'. Dainik Asam completed 53 years and Asam Bani is 63 years old proving wrong the oft repeated saying that Assamese newspaper cannot last for a long period. In order to contribute in the held of Assamese literature, Shri Baruah started the literary Magazine 'Gariyoshi' which filled up a long standing vacuum. The publishing House "Sahitya Prakash" has been contributing towards development of Assamese literature by publishing books of prominent literary personalities of state, besides reprinting works of outstanding values of past century.

3. The most notable contribution of Shri Baruah is the strong role played by the newspaper of the Assam Tribune Group under his leadership on every issue concerning the people of North-East region, the newspaper always raised their voices to draw attention of the Government of India. Whenever, the north-east region faced any crisis situation, be it the problem of infliction of foreigners, Chinese aggression in 1962, war with Pakistan in 1971 etc., he led from the front to ensure that the newspapers of the Assam Tribune group always stood by the people of the region and worked in the interest of the nation as a whole.

4. For his contribution to the field of journalism in this backward part of the country, Shri Baruah has been honoured by various prominent personalities and organizations. While attending the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of The Assam Tribune in 2014, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi described the newspaper as the voice of the people of the region and said "the people of North-East can live without their morning cup of tea but not without The Assam Tribune". This speaks volumes of the leadership quality and editorial skill of Shri Baruah. The concluding function of the Platinum Jubilee of The Assam Tribune was attended by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in April, 2017. Besides a host of citations that he received for his contributions to the field of journalism, recently he was honoured by the late Kamala Saikia Trust for his contribution towards field of journalism. The Trust has been formed in memory of Journalist Kamala Saikia, who was shot dead by militants.

5. The Assam Sahitya Sabha felicitated Shri Baruah with a life-time achievement award for his contribution in the field of literature, art and culture. Doctor B Barooah Cancer Institute presented an appreciation citation to him for his role in creating awareness for control of Cancer. To encourage young talents, he founded Jyotirupa, a socio-cultural organization which not only organizes annual drama festivals and competitions and also brings prominent artistes from different parts of the country to perform in Assam, so that the people of state get an opportunity to enjoy the legends perform live. To facilitate all round economic development of Assam, Shri Baruah and a few of his close associates organized a series of seminars under the banner of "Assam Prakalpa". Experts from various fields including economists attended the seminars and the outcome of the same were handed over to the Government to help with formulating policies for development of Assam. He also sponsored a programme on Investment Opportunities in North-East which attended among others by former Prime Minister Dr. Monmohan Singh. Under the leadership of Shri Baruah, The Assam Tribune is also organizing Edu-Fairs in different parts of North-East for the benefit of the students of the region as prominent educational institutions from all over the country take part in the Fairs.

Padma Shri



SHRI SUDHANSHU BISWAS

Shri Sudhanshu Biswas is a devoted son of India. His life is a classic example of living for others. He spent his early life fighting with Britishers to free his motherland. Post-independence, his efforts in rehabilitation of thousands of refugees were exemplary. Since 1970's, he has dedicated his life to making education at the grass root level and providing vocational training to rural youths. He is a tireless silent worker who is changing lives of the poor in distant villages of India.

2. Born on March 18, 1917 in the undivided Bengal, Shri Biswas though hailed from a rich family, since his childhood he empathized for the down trodden. Since his boyhood, he was inspired by freedom fighters such as Shri Aurobindo Ghosh and Shri Barin Ghosh. Even at the age of 100 now he considers them as his 'Guru'. With the dream of freeing India, he left home when he was in Class VII. He was mentored by revolutionist Smt. Kalyani Das (Bhattacharyya) and Smt. Bina Das. The nationalist sisters were the daughters of Shri Beni Madhab Das, mentor and teacher of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He joined the famous revolutionary group 'Anushilan Samity'. Soon, he was playing the critical role of carrying letters, arms and bombs – because of his teen age British police never suspected him. In 1939, he was entrusted to throw bombs at the Albert Hall in Calcutta. After completing this assignment, he had to evade many police chases though he was hit by the bullet once. He had to hid in distant places of East Bengal. Next, in 1942 he again was caught in a fierce gun battle with the British police in Birbhum district.

3. Shri Biswas was tortured and kept in the Alipore jail for 5 years and freed only in early 1947. It is here he was drawn to the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda. For the next phase of his life he made oneness to "Serve Man Serve God". As the country was celebrating newly gained independence, since July 1947 to the next few years he rehabilitated thousands of refugee families. Although a bachelor throughout his life, seeing the plight he adopted six orphaned girls, educated and married off all of them. Now the daughters are living happily and supporting Sri Biswas' noble work through their children.

4. In late 1950's, to fund his social work, Shri Biswas started a plastic business and it flourished with God's grace. He started providing food, cloth, shelter, and livelihood to hundreds of rural people in South 24 Paragans and Sunderban. In the next 10 years, he opened 18 free schools in remote villages and ran them for more than two decades. Now they have been transferred to the State Government and functioning as High schools.

5. In 1973, Shri Biswas founded Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram at Ramkrishnapur village in South 24 Paraganas in West Bengal to provide value based education among orphan and destitute boys. Almost a thousand student have stayed, studied and became self-sustained through the Ashram. He himself took academic classes. In the last two decades, it has also sheltered abandoned rural poor old citizens. He learnt Homeopathy in his sixties to treat villagers free of cost. Since the last fifteen years, the Ashram also provides much needed emergency service via an Ambulance van. At this ripe age, he is ever compassionate to the poor families and hence started vocational training program in 2015. Hundreds of rural youths have passed courses in health assistance, mobile repairing, electrical and sewing. Almost 50 percent of these rural young girls and boys have found jobs or started their own business.

6. Shri Biswas is seva personified. A person whose entire life has been spent loving and caring others. He has run his Ashram without any major political backing or corporate support, it is for his own countrymen – supported by common citizens. He rejected taking 'Tamra Patra' and freedom fighter pension, as he has worked for India's freedom out of love to his motherland and not for any form of benefits. That love has magnified post-independence, as till date he is more devoted to fight poverty.

Padma Shri



MS. SAIKHOM MIRABAI CHANU

Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu is a female weightlifter.

2. Born on August 08, 1994, Ms. Chanu hails from the State of Manipur. She has various national and international championship to her credit. She has participated in a number of national championships. She won Gold medal in 5th National Weightlifting Championship in 2009; National Junior Weightlifting Championship in 2011; National Junior Weightlifting Championship in 2012; Junior National Weightlifting Championship in 2012; Junior National Weightlifting Championship in 2013 and Senior National Weightlifting Championship in 2017. She also won Silver medal in National Junior Weightlifting Championship in 2010; National Senior Women Weightlifting Championship in 2013; National Senior Women Weightlifting Championship in 2014; XXXV National Games in 2015 and National Senior Women Weightlifting Championship in 2015.

3. Ms. Chanu won Gold medal in the 48 kg category in international events like World Weightlifting Championships held in Anaheim, United States in 2017; South Asian Games, Shillong in 2016; Common Senior Women Weightlifting Championship, Australia in 2017. Ms. Chanu won Silver medals in Asian Junior Weightlifting Championship, Kzakistan in 2013; XX Commonwealth Games, Glasgow in 2014; Asian Junior Weightlifting Championship, Thailand in 2014 and Commonwealth Senior Women Weightlifting Championship, Pune in 2015. Ms. Chanu also qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics in the women's 48 kg category.

4. For her dedication to the sport and her excellence in the sport, Ms. Chanu was felicitated by the Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh who also presented her with a Cheque for Rs 20 lakh.

Padma Shri



SHRI PANDIT SHYAMLAL CHATURVEDI

Shri Pandit Shyamlal Chaturvedi is the ex-chairperson of Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog (Cabinet minister rank) and still working as a freelance Journalist. He impersonated many roles in his inspiring life as a poet, a writer, a Journalist, a Teacher, an Editor and an Author.

2. Born on February 20, 1926 in Village Kotmi, Shri Chaturvedi was ranked 1st in 4th standard at the age of 9 but due to discontinued academic life, in 1941 he passed his 5th standard from Akaltara Middle School and Matric from Banaras in 1956. He received his BA degree in 1968 and MA degree in 1976 from Pt. Ravishankar University Raipur and it was a unique coincidence that his own poem was in the syllabus of an optional subject 'Chhattisgarhi' in MA, so he achieved an opportunity to answer his own poem.

3. Shri Chaturvedi has been so fond of classical music that he acted "Krishna" in Rasleelas held in Nariyara (1940-1945). He was the second 'Chhattisgarhi' poet whose poem was broadcast from Nagpur AIR in 1949 and later by, Bhopal, Raipur & Bilaspur AIR. He also did poetry and storytelling in Doordarshan Raipur, Bhopal and Delhi. His two Chhattisgarhi folk tales were selected by Indian Doordarshan for UNESCO 20-20 folk tales. As a Journalist initially he had been representative in newspapers like, Karamveer, Mahakoushal, and then became 'Bilaspur District Representative' of Navbharat (Nagpur), Navbharat Times (Calcutta), Jansatta (Delhi), Hindustan News Agency (1952-1979). Since 1982 he served as 'District Representative' in Nai Duniya (Indore) and later as 'Chhattisgarh State Representative' in Dainik Nai Duniya Bhopal till 2008. He also served as Editor in Dainik Lokswar News Paper, Shikshak Sandesh and Kshitij Magazines.

4. Since 1942, Shri Chaturvedi's articles had been published in Sukavi, Bal Sakha, Dharmyug, Hindustan, Kadambini, Kalpana, Vasudha, Madhya Pradesh Sandesh, and daily News Papers of Madhya Pradesh. His remarkable creations include "Ram Banwas" in 1954 and "Parra Bhar Lai" in 1985 an anthology of Chhattisgarhi poetry and "Bholwa Bholaram Banis" in 1995 — is an anthology of Chhattisgarhi stories and "Mere Nibandh" in 2003 — an anthology of Hindi Essays. Researches are done by scholars taking his Literature and Personality as a subject for Ph.d. degree awarded by Pt. Ravishankar University Raipur during 1998-99 and 2013-14. As a public activist, he led many organizations as Chairperson of Co-operative Printing Press, as member in C.G. Hindi Granth Academy Raipur and as Vice-Chairman in C.G. Hindi Sahitya Academy. In 1959, his efforts made Kotmi Sonar first flag halt station in Bilaspur Railway Division. He was elected as Sarpanch of Kotmi Sonar unopposed and his panchayat was declared the best on the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi in 1969.

5. Shri Chaturvedi has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. He received honor from 'Hindustan News Agency' Nagpur, Bhopal and also from 'Bhartendu Sahitya Samiti'; 'M.P. Shram Jivi Pitrakar Sangh' Raipur; 'M.P. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' Bhopal (1987); Mahakoushal Lok Mahotsav Samiti' Jabalpur; 'Ganesh Shanker Vidhyarthi Memorial Trust' Bhopal (1997); 'Thakur Pyarelal Singh Smriti Alankaran' Raipur (1999); Maharashtra Mandal Raipur — 'Mukti Bhodh Honour' (2000), 'Chhattisgarh Bhasha Sahitya Samiti' Raipur; Vasundhara Samman' (2002) and Srijan Samman — 'Hindi Gaurav' (2003) Raipur etc. Chhattisgarh Government conferred on him "Pt. Sunder Lal Sharma Award" in 2004. He also recieved 'Ramgadh Mahotsav Ambikapur' (2009), "Mandal Ratna Samman' — Shri Ekrasanand Aashram Mainpuri (UP), 'Chhattisgarh Ratna Award' by Pt. Ravishankar University Raipur (2013) and several awards and honors from different social and cultural organizations.

Padma Shri



SHRI JOSE MA. A. CONCEPCION III

Shri Jose Ma. A. Concepcion III is the Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte to help in MSME development. Mr Concepcion III has been advocating for entrepreneurship since 2005 with the establishment of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (Go Negosyo). He is also the Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council Philippines. He also leads the food and beverage company, RFM Corporation, as the President and CEO.

2. Born June 23, 1958, Shri Concepcion III is the eldest son of former Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion, Jr. and Ma. Victoria A. Concepcion. He is married to Ma. Luisa Orosa with whom he is blessed with five children - Jose Christian, Margarita, Catherine, Monica Teresa and Isabella. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from De La Salle University.

3. Shri Concepcion III is one of the country's leading business figures. Known for his dynamic entrepreneurial skills and aggressive market-driving approach, he was able to take the family business, RFM Corporation, to the next level after transforming the company from a once commodity-oriented business to one of the country's leading branded consumer food and beverage corporations. He is also the Chairman of the RFM Unilever Ice Cream Corporation, and Director and Executive Committee member of Concepcion Industries, Inc.

4. During his ASEAN Chairmanship, Shri Concepcion III led the advocacy on inclusive growth by implementing the theme: "Partnering for Change, Prosperity for All." In 2017, ASEAN BAG focused on ways to achieve prosperity through various programs including the first Prosperity for All Summit, first ASEAN Agriculture Summit, and ASEAN Business and Investment Summit. It also hosted the biggest ASEAN Business Awards which recognized exemplary enterprises across the region and beyond. Under his Chairmanship, ASEAN BAC Philippines led the launch of their legacy project which is the ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network which is a region-wide network of mentors who will guide micro and small entrepreneurs scale up.

5. Shri Concepcion III is also the founder of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship - Go Negosyo established in 2005. It aims to alleviate poverty by empowering entrepreneurs and eventually transform the country into an enterprising nation. Go Negosyo has become an Inspiring and motivational movement that also empowers the Filipino with entrepreneurship education as the way to succeed in life and business. For PCE, this is the lasting solution to poverty.

6. Shri Concepcion III was also one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM) in 1995, recognized in the Time Global 100 List of Young Leaders of the Millennium, and given the CEO Excel Award by the International Association of Business Communications. He was also hailed by Forbes Asia as one of the 48 Heroes of Philanthropy this 2011.

Padma Shri



SMT. L. SUBADANI DEVI

Smt. L. Subadani Devi, former founder Secretary, Nongdon Lairembi Weavers' Co-operative Society for nearly 20 (Twenty) years, is also the founder Secretary of Shiva handloom and Handicrafts co-operative society, Wangkhei Tokpam Leikai, Imphal since 2002. In the Master creation Programme 2005 at Delhi Haat for display and sale Smt. Subadani Devi made an important contribution by lighting the candle in the inaugural function as a mark of appreciation.

2. Born on March 1, 1949, Smt. Subadani Devi started her career as the Primary School (tribal) teacher in 1967 after passing only class VIII for upliftment of weaker section of the society. She also worked with the application of self help - the training of the females in the indigenous process of ginning, carding, rolling, spinning and winding for weaving in the loin loom, throw shuttle loom and fly shuttle loom for weaving bed covers, saris, table clothes etc besides giving employment to the females for washing purposes. She took part to play an important role at Textile Meeting at Imphal in 2008 for inclusion of Wangkheiphee, Moirangphijin and Shami Lanmi in the G.I. Act.

3. Smt. Subadani Devi served as the instructor of weavers each in 1995 - 96 and 2008 - 09 to impart training six months courses under Human Resources Development scheme for creation of different designs along with preservation of traditional designs. Five excellent masterpieces of Artistic textiles woven by five skilled weavers under her instruction and guidance had already been sent, as directed, to the office of the Development Commissioner, Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles.

4. Smt. Subadani Devi further contributed valuable services for weaker sections of society as being the executive member of Women's Education Development Association (WEDA) since 2001. She participated as the representative in the discussion of Handloom Weavers and Handicrafts Artisans and Exporters at State Guest House, Imphal with Sub-committee of parliamentary Standing Committee 1998. She was also selected as Zonal Level Selection Committee member in 1999 for recommendation to the selection of Awardees. Further she has also been selected as member of Central Level Selection Committee for selection of Sant Kabir, National and National Merit Awards in New Delhi in 2017.

5. Smt. Subadani Devi is the recipient of several awards and honours. State Govt. awarded her first prize along with the best marketing handloom and handicrafts in the year 1992. She received Certificate of Honour in the Industrial exhibition 1993 at Imphal. She was placed in the first position in the exhibition on Women's Handloom and handicrafts products in 1999. She also received National Award in 1993 for development of Moirangphee sheet Lamthang Khuthat design. For her invaluable contribution to the development of traditional Artistic Textiles in Ningkham Samjin sheet design she was awarded Sant Kabir Award in 2011.

Padma Shri



DR. DODDARANGEGOWDA

Dr. Doddarange Gowda is a retired professor and director of post graduate studies in Kannada literature at Sheshadripuram Education Trust.

2. Dr. Doddarange Gowda is widely recognized across the Karnataka state for his contribution to Kannada poetry and is famous for his Kannada cine lyrics. He is a household name in the state. He has authored 108 books published by various publishers. He has penned more than 500 Kannada cine lyrics. He wrote dialogues for eleven Kannada cine lyrics. He is well known for his folk-lore writings (DESI)

3. Born on February 7, 1946 at Kurabarahalli, Tumkur District, Dr. Doddarange Gowda received his Bachelors honours degree in Arts from Bengaluru University in 1970 and Masters Degree in Arts in 1972 from same university. Dr. Doddarange Gowda was conferred Ph.D by Bengaluru University in 2004 for his doctoral thesis Kannada Navodaya Kavya: Ondu Punar Moulya Mapana.

4. Dr. Doddarange Gowda joined as lecturer in 1972 at SLN college of Arts, Science and Commerce at Fort, Bengaluru and served here for 38 years in different capacities and retired as Director of post graduate studies in Kannada literature. He was nominated as Member of Legislative Council during BJP government in Karnataka from 2008 to 2014.

5. Dr. Doddarange Gowda's 47 poems have been translated to Hindi Language and have come out in the form of a book titled as "GEETHA VAIBHAV". He represented Karnataka state and people in a Sarva Bhasha Kavi Gosht, National Symposium of Poet's - conducted during Republic day at Delhi in the year 1977. His poem "THE WHEEL OF TIME" and Other Poems (Poems) was released in Chicago (USA) – 2008 and "VOICE OF THE AGE" (Socialistic Poems) was released in London (UK) in 2012. Since 1st of August 1997 the American Biographical Institute of USA has appointed Dr. Gowda as an Indian Councilor.

6. Since 1977 Dr. Doddarange Gowda has written many film songs exceeding 500 in number and the songs got statewide popularity. He has written dialogues for more than 10 films. More than 72 cassettes have been released and reached the top most place in Kannada film field. He has contributed titles for more than 100 T.V. Serials. He has also to his credit the release of more than 50 Bhavageethe cassettes and CDs. His album 'Mavu Bevu has won Gold Disc Award from Sangeetha Cassettes and CDs.

7. Dr. Doddarange Gowda has received various honours and awards including National Integration Poem in the year 1982 for the picture titled as "AALE MANE" Award (Special Lyric Award); in 1992 "Ganeshana Maduve" Film Year best lyric Award; in 1995 "KAVYA" film got Best Lyric Award with silver medal; in 1997 "JANUMADA JODI" Film folk songs got best lyric of the year Award; in 1999 Kannada Rajyostava Award and felicitation; in 2000 Kempe Gowda Award from Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike; in 2002 Vardhamana Mahaveera Award from Sri Math of Shravanabelagola; Lifetime achievement award given by South Indian Cini and Music Directors Association; RECOGNITION AWARD from FLINT(USA) Michigan State in 1997 etc.

Padma Shri



SHRI DATUK RAMLI IBRAHIM

Described by international dance connoisseurs as one of the finest artistes of his generation, Shri Datuk Ramli Ibrahim has set stages ablaze in venerated centres of dance from Konarak and Khajuraho to Paris and New York for more than three decades. His rigorous training in ballet, modern, and Indian classical dance reflects not only his diverse technical accomplishment, but also his multifaceted approach to the Arts.

2. Born on May 20, 1953, Shri Ramli as a dancer, continues to hold audiences spellbound with his ability to draw them into his performance, allowing them to resonate with the spirit of the art and the artiste. As artistic director of the Sutra Dance Theatre, he has been a fountainhead of creativity, choreographing stunning works with his distinct artistic sensibility honed under legends such the late Guru Debaprasad Das (Odissi) and Shri Adyar K. Lakshman (Bharata Natyam).

3. Shri Ramli as a Guru, has nurtured some of the brightest talents to have emerged in the field of dance in Malaysia, many of whom have won international acclaim in both traditional and contemporary scenes. It is his unerring eye for detail and strong emphasis on authentic technical precision that has made him the quintessential Guru in the Indian tradition, exacting the best out of his pupils and yet instilling in them the modern sensibility required to become a truly international artiste.

4. Shri Ramli as a visionary, has been instrumental in transforming the dance scenario in Malaysia by boldly charting new paths and opening up fresh vistas through his innate yearning to embrace diverse art forms. Today, he is known for single-handedly establishing Odissi as a recognisable and widely appreciated dance form in the country, while creating a distinctively Malaysian interpretation of this ancient tradition. Odissi has remained Sutra's avowed concern specifically of the rare Debaprasad Odissi style. He has further evolved this Odissi as an intellectual art where the contemporary make its universal and international relevance. His unique re-interpretation and concept reflect the visionary dancer, teacher and choreographer that transcend the limitations of a tradition. He endeavours to release Odissi from its popular simplification and tinsel glamour to its true and authentic fundamental tenets.

5. Shri Ramli is Chairman of Sutra Foundation and has steered as artistic director, a highly successful international Odissi festival, Stirring Odissi '08 (Kuala Lumpur, May 21 – June 14, 2008); led Sutra on a successful performance at Carnegie Hall (New York, 2008) and performed at the Downtown Festival in the midst of Wall Street, Battery Park (2011) – New York's financial district. He was featured with his star dancer January Low on the International Dance Festival (New Delhi, 2010) presented by ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations). He recently had a successful world premieres productions in Diverse City 2015: Kuala Lumpur International Dance Festival focused showcase of 12 stimulating dance-theatre productions which also involves GuoGuang Opera Company, Taiwan. He is acknowledged as a 'Living Heritage' by the Government of Malaysia (2012) and is presently Chairman of Sutra Foundation. The United Nations declared him to be a UNESCO Living Treasure in 2012, an extraordinary recognition that a Malaysian artist possesses "to a high degree the knowledge and skills required for performing or re-creating specific elements of the intangible cultural heritage."

6. As a pioneer, Shri Ramli is recognized internationally as a cultural icon and a dynamic force within the arts scene, evident in the various accolades conferred upon him including the Fulbright Distinguished Artist Award 1999, the Lifetime Achievement (BOH Cameronian) Award 2003, ANGARAG Lifetime Achievement Award 2006 from Guru Debaprasad Dance Institute, Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Johan Setia Mahkota (J.S.M), Anugerah Karyawan Seni (National Arts Award) for Choreographer from the Ministry of Culture, Arts & Heritage and most recently Purush Award 2009 from the Nartak Festival (Chennai). 2011 - 2013 has brought four fresh major awards for him - Distinguished International Artist Award from his Alma Mater, University of Western Australia; Ram Gopal Best Male Dancer Award (Attendance, Bangalore); Best Foreign Odissi Institution (International Odissi Festival, Bhubaneswar); and the coveted Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (New Delhi), Living Heritage (Malaysia). The President of India awarded him the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award 2011, the first for a Malaysian and in year 2013 he received a Datukship from the Federal Government of Malaysia. At the recent Royal Arts Gala in January 2014, an annual event organised by My Performing Arts Agency (MyPAA) and Department of Culture (JKKN), YBhg. he was awarded the Arts Veteran Award.

Padma Shri



SMT. SITAVVA DUNDAPPA JODATTI

Smt. Sitavva Dundappa Jodatti is the Chief Executive Officer of Mahila Abhivruddhi Mattu Samrakshna Samsthe (MASS). MASS is a registered membership organization of women of Belagavi District, Karnataka, India, dedicated as devadasis. However, more than an organization, it is a social movement to empower women and girls from dalith and other historically socio- economically oppressed communities to resist being dedicated as devadasis and to secure their legitimate rights and entitlements, including the right to a life of security and dignity and a right to build a better future for their children.

2. Born on March 27, 1973 in Kabbur Village of Belagavi District, Karnataka, Smt. Jodatti was dedicated as a devadasi when she was 7 years old and was in Class 1, and in her new clothes and green bangles. She was happy to be the centre of attraction. It was not until she was in Class 7 that she was given to a man. It was because her parents were influenced by some of their friends that she was dedicated to Goddess Yellamma. Smt. Jodatti were 6 daughters in the family, and there were no sons. Three of her sisters died in childhood. Her parents were told that making a daughter a devadasi would ensure that at least one girl would remain unmarried and be a source of support to her parental home. Her father was unwilling but eventually got persuaded. However, after the dedication ceremony he did not allow her to drop out of school and so she was able to study up to Class 7. In school the others made fun of her saying that since she was married to the Goddess, any man could have her. She felt bad but did not stop studying. Then her father got very ill and it reached a point where there was almost no food at home. She had just finished Class 7 and that was when she was told she could not study any more.

3. Supported by a senior management team and cadres of field staff, Smt. Jodatti hold overall responsibility for the efficient and effective implementation of the following key programmes of MASS: Preventing the revival of the devadasi tradition and its associated rituals that have now been almost completely controlled in Belagavi District, and supporting agencies with similar interest in containing the tradition in other devadasi-endemic districts of Karnataka. This involves public education, campaigns, and managing an active system of constant vigilance through a network of volunteers. Protecting exploited and vulnerable women and children from various gender/religion/tradition based negative discriminations and engaging in collective actions against devadasi traditions, human trafficking, child marriage, violence against women and children, etc. Apart from public education and campaigns this involves interventions in specific cases of discrimination and violence, and joint actions with governmental, judicial and community-based agencies. Ensuring that all women of Belagavi District in general and devadasis and dalit women in particular, have a system and a place that they can approach with confidence when they are in difficult situations and require legal assistance. This involves running a legal help desk and conducting programmes towards making the legal and social environment more conducive to safeguard the rights of women and children and act against those who violate those rights.

4. Till date, Smt. Jodatti have gained 21 years of experience in MASS, and her growth has been through the several positions and programmes 1991-1996 : she was a SHG (self-help group) member in Kabbur village of Chikkodi block. She participated in training programmes, regular discussions in the weekly meetings, and awareness programmes. From 1996-2000 she worked as a volunteer for the Karnataka State Woman State Corporation (KSWDC). From 2000 -2001 she was selected as a Director on the Board of MASS and also served as Member-Secretary to MASS. From 2001 -2004, she worked as a Promoter in Hukkeri Block. From 2004 -2006, she worked as a Promoter in Chikkodi Block and my work was the same as what she did in Hukkeri Block in the previous years. From 2002 -2006, alongside the work detailed above, in this period she also as a resource person to KSWDC and was invited from time to time to give training to devadasi women in other districts (Bagalkote, Bijapur, Raichur, Koppal) on topics of SHG development, building organizations similar to MASS, and implementing dedication prevention programmes. From 2006 -2009, she worked in Raibagh Block as Community Organiser in the implementation of a child education programme for dalit children, supported by Every Child-UK. From 2010 - 2011, she was deputed from MASS to work as a Woman Coordinator for Shree Gowthama Grama Kalyana Kendra of Bagalkote District, an NGO supported by Every Child-UK. From 2011 - 2012, she worked as a Para Legal Officer for the entire district of Belagavi. From 2012 onwards she was appointed by the Board of Directors of MASS to lead the organization as its Chief Executive Officer. When she took charge, MASS was not having any major funding source, (only two small programmes : Every Child - UK, localized to Raibagh, and CRY, localized to a few villages in Chikkodi Block) and hence, many staff had to be relieved. Since then she have been able to mobilize credit of Rs. 80 million from microfinance institutions and supported 236 SHGs. This programme is going on and expecting to touch Rs. 100 million by March 2018. Apart from overseeing the management of MASS, she continues to be directly involved in the Legal Support Programme and the Microcredit Programmes of MASS. MASS believes in team work, and in all that she have done, she have had the support of her staff colleagues, the members of MASS, the SHG members, the partner agencies of MASS, and the local community groups.

Padma Shri



SHRI MANOJ NAVNEET JOSHI

Shri Manoj Navneet Joshi is a celebrated veteran actor in the sphere of theatre, television and film who has worked in a variety of genres in Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi. After graduating from the prestigious Sir J.J. School of Art, he entered Marathi theatre and today is a committed actor, director, producer and painter. His tryst with the theatre began as early as 1970 at the tender age of five, when he set foot on stage in a school play, and since then there has been no looking back.

2. Shri Joshi was born to Gujarati Brahmin parents in the small town of Goregaon in Raigad district, Maharashtra. His father Shri Navaneetshastri Joshi was a famed kirtankar of the Nardiya Parampara, who inspired and kindled in him the love for the stage. He has since his college days, performed with the Indian People's Theatre Association, Indian National Theatre and at Unmesh one-act play competitions in Marathi, Hindi as well as Gujarati. His professional engagements with theatre began in 1986 with the Gujarati play Tak Dhina Dhin, by the legendary Shri Kanti Madhiya. This was followed by Sarvasvi Tuzich by Vivek Lagoo in Marathi in 1995, and Chanakya in Hindi in 1996 directed by himself. Since then he has appeared in a number of stage productions in Gujarati and Hindi and has the distinction of playing the role of the eternal and immortal Chanakya on stage at 1046 performances for over 28 years.

3. Shri Joshi set foot into the world of television in 1990 with the tele-serial Raau, based on the valiant Marathi warrior Bajirao. His career zoomed up as he acted in several Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi serials. He found fame in the Hindi serials Chanakya(1990)and later in the immensely popular and gripping Chakravartin Ashok Samrat in 2015 that catapulted him to a household name in the realm of daily soaps. Simultaneously, films had beckoned him, starting with the NFDC production Hun Hunshi Hunshi Lal in 1990. He made his big leap into the silver screen with the role of a cop in the Hindi thriller Sarfarosh in 1996. Since then, he has worked in 102 movies in Hindi, Marathi and Gujarati, including the popular Hindi films Golmaal (2005), Phir Hera Pheri (2006), Bhool Bhulaiyya (2007), Hasi Toh Phasi (2014), and the Marathi, Bal Gandharva (2011) and Dashakriya (2016). His latest release is the Gujarati Pappa Tamnenai Samjhay in 2017. His roles assay the comic, slapstick, and the serious with slick dexterity.

4. Shri Joshi is the Vice-President of CINTA (Cine & TV Artists' Association), and with utmost sensitiveness and caring, provides assistance to the medical and financial needs of its over 7,500 members consisting of co-artists, technicians and other fraternities in the film and screen world. He has also been an Assembly Member of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) since 2016.

5. Shri Joshi strongly feels that Art can influence Society, which prompted him to play the historical role of the strategist and political thinker Chanakya innumerable times to drive home the awareness of responsibility among the citizens of India. He strongly believes that one must give back to society to make the world a better place. He is associated with the NGO Divya Prem Seva Mission, Hardwar helping the leprosy afflicted, since the last four years. He is also associated with the administration of Friends of Tribal Society (Vanabandhu), by training tribal students under the 'One Teacher, One School' scheme. The proceeds of his charity shows are diverted to these NGO's.

6. Shri Joshi has been conferred with a number of recognitions, awards and honours. Some of the prestigious ones are Best Actor, Abhiyaan Natyaspardha for Chanakya in 1990, Best Actor, Maharashtra State Vyavasayik Gujarati Natyaspardha for Gandhi Virudh Gandhi in 1997, and Best Actor in a Negative Role in the serial Kehta Hai Dil, at the Indian Tele Award in 2009. He received the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Kala Academy Award for his contribution to theatre by the Government of Gujarat in 2010, followed by the Sabarkatha Ratna Award in 2014 by the Government of Gujarat at the hands of Shri Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister. In 2015 he was awarded the Critic's Gold Award for Best Supporting Actor by ABP News for his role in Chakravartin Ashok Samrat. In the same year he received the Impact Makers Award at Telebrations by ITV, and the Chhatrapati Award from Hindi Bhasha Ekta Parishad, Rajasthani Sewa Samiti and Brahman Parishad. He was bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award by Glorious Gujarat, New Jersey, U.S.A. and the Sangeet Natak Kala Akademi Award for his contribution to theatre, also in 2015. He had the honourable opportunity to present his play Chanakya in the Indian Parliament for which he was felicitated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan. His crowning glory came in 2016 with the National Award for Best Supporting Actor for the Marathi film Dashakriya at the hands of President Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Padma Shri



SHRI RAMESHWARLAL KABRA

Entrepreneur, Management Guru and a Leader par excellence, Shri Rameshwarlal Kabra is the Founding Chairman of RR Global - one of India's largest conglomerates spread across multiple verticals from Wires & Cables, Automated Car Parking Systems, Electricals & Infrastructure. Under his vision & guidance, RR Global has spread its footprint to more than 80 countries worldwide, employing over 4000 people with a turnover of close to a Billion Dollars.

2. Born on November 13, 1933, in the town of Sherpur in erstwhile Bengal (now Bangladesh), Shri Kabra grew up in a predominantly affluent family. However, during the bitter partition of 1947, like millions of others, he too had to leave everything behind and eventually migrated to Biratnagar, Nepal. With the limited opportunities Nepal presented, the entrepreneur in him found his way in to India in 1963. He was highly influenced by the great leaders of the time and was actively involved in both Social and National causes, a trait that only developed with time.

3. These same beliefs now transpire into RR Global's philosophy of innovation, trust and complete transparency. This has led the group to grow from a small trading house to one of India's leading Wires & Cables company under the brand RR Kabel and further diversifying into Electrical Appliances & Accessories, Chemicals and Multi Level Mechanical Automated Car Parking solutions provider and an Export House, catering to a host of clients – both in India & across the world addressing their needs with innovative products and solutions.

4. One of the key elements that made Shri Kabra an industry Stalwart recognized by every institution he has served and elevated RR Global to a Multinational is the focus on delivering products of the highest quality and safety. This, he ensured by hiring the most qualified individuals, investing in rigorous R&D & utilizing state-of-the-art technology to benefit Indian consumers by offering products which meet global standards of safety.

5. Shri Kabra has always upheld the importance of Indian tradition & nationalism even in modern times. He holds multiple social positions of importance; he is the trustee of the Maharshi Vedavyas Pratishthan, an organization which works towards teaching philosophy of our Vedas. He is also trustee of Brahma Savitri Vidhyapeeth and was a key figure in establishing the Ram Ratna Vidya Mandir, a Gurukul style school, setting an example for others to follow. He also helped establish the Ram Ratna International School which is now recognised by the Prestigious Cambridge University. He has served as President of Friends of Tribals Society (Vanbandhu Parishad) which today runs 60000 one teacher schools – known as Ekal Movement, reaching out to the most remote part of our country and improving life of tribal villagers. He strongly believes that education is the key to establishing a strong foundation for a successful nation.

6. Shri Kabra has been bestowed with a number of awards. He was honoured by Mumbai Metal Exchange for his immense contribution to the Industry. In 1980, he was nominated as Special Executive Magistrate by the Government of Maharashtra. He was also conferred with the Rajasthan Ratna by the Rajasthan Charitable Trust as well as the Swami Vivekanand Puruskar for his selfless contribution to society at large. In 2016, he was honoured with the Bharat Gaurav Samman by Maheshwari Samaj.

Padma Shri



SHRI BOUNLAP KEOKANGNA

Shri Bounlap Keokangna was born in Champasak province, Lao P.D.R. on March 10, 1955. After completing Higher Secondary at Paly College in Vientiane, Lao PDR, he decided to study in India and got admission in Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar in 1975. After completing Palyarchariya(B.A) in 1977, he received a scholarship from the Government of India to continue his studies for a Master's degree in Ancient Indian History and Archaeology at the Department of History and Archaeology, Patna University, Bihar.

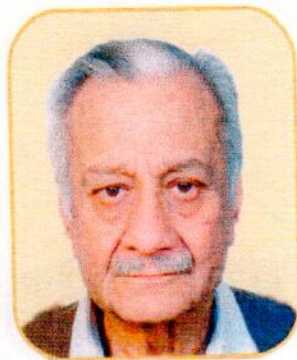
2. In 1981, after graduating and returning to Laos, Shri Keokangna was employed in the Department of Library and Archaeology, Ministry of Education. As a technical staff he was assigned to study the ancient history of Laos and archaeology. In 1983, he was transferred to the newly formed Ministry of Culture, Department of Museum and Archaeology and was assigned to study the history of Lao Revolutionary Party's movement and to upgrade the display in the exhibition at the National Revolutionary Museum of Lao PDR.

3. In 1987, when the Ministry started its work on Vat Phou's protection Shri Keokangna was included in the team to do the survey on the site and made the necessary arrangements for its protection. In 1988, he was appointed as the Director of the site, Office of Vat Phou Monuments, and implemented the UNESCO/UNDP project (1987-1990) for the preservation of the site resulting in the delimitation of a protected area around the main temple, and drafting of technical proposals for the restoration of the main monuments. In between 1991-1996, he co-implemented the archaeological research project run in the ancient city and in Vat Phou to collect historical data of the area. In 1994 he was commissioned by the Champasak province to organize the exhibitions at the historical museum of the province at Pakse city and held an official opening ceremony on December 2, 1995. In between 1996 – 1998, with the support of UNESCO, Champasak Heritage Management Plan was completed and submitted to the Government of Lao PDR and UNESCO. Vat Phou with associated sites in the Champasak Plain was listed on the UNESCO world Heritage List in 2001. As part of his responsibilities, he also initiated and proposed the setting up of the Provincial Heritage Committee and established Vat Phou Protection Fund. He was appointed chief of the secretariat of the Committee.

4. The Vat Phou temple complex along with the archaeological and Cultural Landscape of the Champasak plain is one of the finest examples of Indian Art, Architectural and Cultural influences in South East Asia. After Vat Phou and associated sites being declared a world heritage site, numerous projects of UNESCO and friendly countries such as Japan, France, Italy, India and South Korea have helped support the conservation and restoration of the monuments. The restoration project supported and funded by the Government of India and executed by ASI started in 2009. By June 2017, after eight seasons of restoration, ASI completed the restoration of the Northern Quadrangle.

5. Shri Keokangna has received numerous awards and honors from the Government of Lao PDR such as 02 commendation awards by Government of Laos (LieneKaHaingNgan), 01 commendation award given by the Lao Front For National Construction (LieneKa neo Lao Sang Chard), 03 commendation awards given by Government of Laos (LieneXayHaingNgan-III) and 02 commendation awards given by Government of Laos (LieneXayHaingNgan-II) in honour of effective protection and development of the nation. He continues to work tirelessly to conserve the heritage site of Vat Phou and the associated areas around Champasak Cultural Landscape.

Padma Shri



SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KICHLU

Shri Vijay Kumar Kichlu, a Master of Arts in History from the University of Allahabad is a unique combination of executive ability and artistry. As a senior mercantile executive for 22 years, Shri Kichlu had an impressive career in some of the best known British Commercial Houses of Calcutta like Turner Morrison Ltd. and Jardine Henderson Ltd. Following his transition from a glittering career, Shri Kichlu planned, set up and managed Sangeet Research Academy Kolkata as its Executive Director for 24 years. A creation of the well known Commercial House, I.T.C. Ltd, Sangeet Research Academy is a revolutionary institution in the field of Indian Classical Arts which was established in 1977; which to this day remains the one and the only residential institution in India that imparts intensive advanced training in "raga" music through the age old "Gurukul" system. He is now a permanent resident of West Bengal, having lived here since 1955.

2. Born on September 16, 1930, Shri Kichlu started initial training in music at the tender age of five from Pandit Nathuran Sharma. Later he had the good fortune of becoming a disciple of Ustad Moinuddin Dagar and Ustad Aminuddin Dagar, the famous senior "Dagar Brothers". He also took guidance from Ustad Latafat Hussain Khan of Agra Gharana. He follows the Agra Gharana gaikee and has been recognized as a leading vocalist of the same Gharana in the country. His forte lies in "alapchari" in the traditional Dhrupad style, compositions in the "Madhya laya" and "boltaans" true to the character of the Gharana Gaikee.
3. Shri Kichlu has been an "A" grade artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan (National Television). He has appeared several times in the National Programme of Music of All India Radio, Radio Sangeet Sammelan and the National Programme of Television. The genuine old world charm of Agra gaikee is his striking power. He has to his credit numerous successful concerts given all over the country. For more than four decades he has been invited every year by his admirers in U.S.A. and the Canada. He has also been to countries like Italy, Holland, Germany, U.K., U.A.E Pakistan & Thailand etc.
4. An erudite musician and a very fluent speaker, Shri Kichlu is a well known name in the musicological circles. His Lecture Demonstrations and concept Workshops are pleasantly enlightening for the listeners. He has made significant contribution in several important musical and musicological meets all over the world particularly in Italy, Philippines, the U.K., U.S.A., and Canada. He has delivered Lectures in several Universities of U.S.A. and has been granted Honorary Citizenship of the state of Maryland and the city of Baltimore respectively in appreciation of his services for the promotion of Indian Classical Music in the U.S.A.
5. Shri Kichlu has held several honorary positions like Member, Performing Arts Sub Committee, Festival Of India In USA—1985 under the chairmanship of Late Smt. Pupul Jayakar, was in-charge of organizing the entire classical music programmes in the USA during the Festival of India 1985. In 1987, he was Member, General Assembly Indian Council of Cultural Relations — 1987 (ICCR). In 1994, he was Member, High Powered Committee set up by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India for reviewing the working of the Zonal Cultural Centres which were set up all over the country by the initiative of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.
6. In 1995, Shri Kichlu was given the responsibility by the Dept. of Culture, Human Resources, Govt of India of conducting and organizing seminars on Classical Music and Dance (with emphasis on "Teaching Methods"). In 2009 he was nominated as a nominee of The Government of India on General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi. He was also nominated on the Advisory Committee of Music on Sangeet Natak Akademi. In 2011, he was nominated by the Planning Commission (Tourism & Culture Division) as a Member of Working Group on Culture for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17).
7. Shri Kichlu has received the several awards like The most prestigious SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI RATNA AND FELLOWSHIP AWARD in 2014 given by Shri Pranab Mukkherjee, President of India. He has also been Awarded the Prestigious SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARD in 2006 by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "Kala Vipanchi" by Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna Trust, Chennai, and "All India Bhuwarka Award" 2008.

Padma Shri



PROF. TOMMY KOH

Prof. Tommy Koh is currently Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Special Adviser to the institute of Policy Studies; and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is the Chairman of the International Advisory Panel of the Asia Research Institute (NUS) and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Master's Degree on Environmental Management (NUS). He is also the Co-Chairman of the Asian Development Bank's Advisory Committee of Water and Sanitation. He is Rector of the Tembusu College, at NUS, and the Chairman of the board of directors of the SymAsia Foundation of Credit Suisse.

2. Prof. Koh had served as Dean of the Faculty of Law of NUS, Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador to the United States of America, High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico. He was the President of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for and the Main Committee of the UN Conference of Environment and Development. He was the founding Chairman of the National Arts Council, founding Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundations and former Chairman of the National Heritage Board. He was also Singapore's Chief Negotiator for the US – Singapore Free Trade Agreement. He acted as Singapore's Agent in two legal disputes with Malaysia. He has chaired two dispute panels for the WTO. He is the Co-Chairman of the China-Singapore Forum, the Japan-Singapore Symposium and the India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue.

3. In 2006, Prof. Koh received the Champion of the Earth Award from UNEP and the inaugural President's Award for the Environment from Singapore. He was conferred with honorary doctoral degrees in law by Yale and Monash Universities. Harvard University conferred on him the Great Negotiator Award in 2014.

Padma Shri



SMT. VIJAYALAKSHMI NAVANEETHA KRISHNAN

Smt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha Krishnan former Professor & Head of the Department of Art History Aesthetics & Fine Arts of Madurai, Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, has been spearheading her life goal of collection, preservation, documentation, research, promotion, propagation and performance of Folk and Tribal Music, Folk Dances, Folk Theatre and Craft since 1979, in India and abroad. Her sustained and committed endeavour has created a great awareness of our folk music and art forms among all the people, irrespective of age, for the present and future generations.

2. Smt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha Krishnan, born on June 20, 1946 at Chinna Suraikai Patti, Rajapalayam, Virudhu Nagar District, Tamil Nadu in an agricultural family and brought up in a folk environment was naturally talented in folk music, folk dances, folk deities rituals, folk drama and folk drawing (Kolam) owing a commendable record with several awards and prizes as her scholastic achievements. She sprang up as the State First Rank holder in her graduation and won G.U. Pope Gold medal and Bavanandam Academy award Gift of acting, writing and Painting, showered on her Professor Manornaniam Sundarampillai Award for Drama and Jaycess Award for Rangoli Drawing. Starting her professional career as Assistant Professor in 1967, in her 39 long years of Teaching Research experience in Literature Folk music, Folk Ritual, Folk Theatre and Folk Arts as a promising academic, she has participated in more than 60 National & Inter National conferences, seminars, workshops and presented research papers on Folk music and arts. She has held prestigious positions in several academic body as well as art and cultural committees of Central & State Government and served sincerely. Her thesis on the Hymns of Tamil Vaishnava saints with special reference to the Religious Dance 'Araiyaar Sevai' and St. Andal's Bridal Mysticism was highly commended as the best research work in the research world. She has authored 16 books, both as research on folk music and dances, theater and Literature and as creative writings like novel, drama, short stories and poems.

3. As the output of her wideranging field work, along with her husband Dr. M. Navaneetha Krishnan, Professor of Folk Arts, who is well known as a Folk researcher as well as an expert in Folk dances, Smt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha Krishnan has brought to light, here detailed exploration of the Folk music and arts field, in her collection of folk songs in 5,000 Audio cassettes, consisting of 10,000 rare folk songs, Folk visual arts in 200 Video Cassettes, 100 rare scripts of folk lore, and a number of photographs, documentation of folk events, various folk songs, musical operas, folk theatre, folk rituals, and festivals and other folk arts and culture, documented by her as audio, video, scripts and stills for Research purpose are the real treasure of the Indian Culture.

4. By rejuvenating and propagating the folk songs and dances, Smt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha Krishnan has staged more than three thousand performances among the public, especially among the youngsters, made them aware of the native soil's culture and involve themselves in folk music and folk arts field with enthusiasm and spirit. To prop up folk music she has sung and released 13 Audio Albums of folk musical song with the soil's flavor, which are public knowledge and very popular in midst of the youth. Her spread of folk songs through Radio and Television has earned an honour and recognition for the folk music in the music world, because of which even a single music ensemble does not miss singing her folk songs in its concerts. Her experimentations on applying scientific themes and social reformation in folk music and arts also have won name and fame, significantly the documentary film 'Pachai Koil' on water management won Indo - Pacific Award and feature programme about environmental pollution 'Markali Pookkal' won the AIR award as the best feature programme.

5. Smt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha Krishnan has travelled not only to remote and secluded villages of Tamil Nadu for collecting and propagating folk music and art but also to foreign countries. A number of lecture cum demonstration of Folk music and arts were presented by her to enlighten the foreigners on Indian Folk Music and Arts. The Heads of states, Dignitaries and reputed journals praised her valuable contributions to folk music field and conferred on her including Kalaimamani Award of Tamil Nadu Government, outstanding young person of India award, by Indian Jaycees, Sthree Ratna Award and MAC Award.

6. Though Smt. Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha Krishnan has been honoured with Awards and Titles, with all simplicity and sincerity still she is pursuing her ideal with effort and elan progressing towards her achievement of aims, to form a folk archive; to construct a model folk village like a vast museum exhibiting various folk materials, folk religious elements, folk deities rituals and folk art sources; and codify the movements of folk dances and encode the folk musical songs to bring out folk principles and grammar and folk encyclopedia and a comparative research study of Tamil folk music and arts with other states folk arts and music of India with special reference to Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Padma Shri



H.E. SHRI HUN MANY

H.E. Shri Hun Many is a youth leader, Member of Parliament, and the first Cambodian youth to serve as a Board Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Forum of Young Parliamentarians representing Asia-Pacific group. He is currently serving as the President of the Asian Youth Council (AYC) and the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC).

2. Born on November 27, 1982, just three years after the country had been liberated from the genocidal Khmer Rouge Regime, in Phnom Penh, where Shri Many grew up until 1991 when his parents sent him and his brother abroad to continue their studies. After the completion of his primary education in France and high school in the United States, Shri Many graduated with a bachelor degree in Political Science from Hofstra University in New York, and later earned his master degree in International Relations from Melbourne University, Australia.

3. Shri Many returned to Cambodia in 2007 and became a member of the Prime Minister's cabinet office. In late 2009, he got accepted to pursue his master degree in Strategic Security Studies focusing on Counter-Terrorism under a prestigious scholarship program of National Defense University, Washington D.C. Upon his successful graduation, he decisively returned to Cambodia and resumed his role in the Prime Minister's cabinet in 2011, when his dream to contribute back to his country through the form of volunteerism began to take shape. His volunteerism journey starts in mid of 2011, which he and his colleagues formed a group under the name Youth in the Cause of Motherland before attaining leadership role of the Youth Association of Cambodia (YAC) in early 2012 as Deputy President. In November of that year, YAC became the Union of Youth of Federations of Cambodia, in which he was elected as President.

4. Shri Many has made utmost efforts to affiliate the networking with other youth organizations throughout the region with a special endeavor to promote national and regional peace and stability. With all the great achievements and strong leadership, Shri Many has earned trusts and esteemed respects from youths and people nationwide, and was elected as a Member of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, a member in the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media. In 2014, he was elected as a Board Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Forum of Young Parliamentarians representing Asia-Pacific group.

5. Under Shri Many's leadership, UYFC, a long-serving youth organization focusing on social, humanitarian activities and community service dated back to December 2nd, 1978, has become the center of youth attention throughout the country regardless of their backgrounds, religious beliefs or political tendencies. Those who have thus far thought of nothing about social contribution get invigorated and encouraged to give back to their society in different forms and efforts. The contribution ranges from community-based projects to nationwide youth missions, in the fields of humanity, society, culture, education and sport. The recent nationwide campaigns include blood donation, anti-cervical cancer, Youth and Clean City, helmet and road safety, extra-curricular program for high school students and annual cultural based "Angkor Sankranta" festival.

6. Shri Many has received 2 distinguished awards in 2015 alone: Gusi Peace Prize on "Youth Leadership, Humanitarianism and Advocate of Cultural Heritage" in the Philippines and the "ASEAN People's Award" on behalf of UYFC in the 27th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia. He was elected as President of Asian Youth Council in February 2016 in Phnom Penh.

Padma Shri



SHRI. ZAVERILAL DALPATRAM MEHTA

Shri Zaverilal Dalpatram Mehta is a Photo Journalist of Gujarat Samachar, a daily Gujarati Newspaper, since 1972. His area of focus concentrated on the subject "LIFE" of people rather than ordinary photos. Also he made people to read photograph by beautiful detailed write up under the photo, reason being he is popularly known as a Photo Journalist rather than Photographer. The publication of his photo stories occupied columns and rows on the front page of the daily Gujarat Samachar for almost four decades. His expertise includes the photograph intertwining the environment and the subject, subtle but loud, in the simplest form as to reach maximum readers and connect to them. It is a boon that he in his early 90's as well he is able to make the most of skills and continue to work with same spirit and zeal.

2. Born on July 9, 1928 at Halvad, Gujarat, Shri Mehta studied "Commercial Arts" at Sir JJ School of Arts, Mumbai. Later he joined Arvind Mills at Ahmedabad as "Textiles Artist" for 18 years. Along with that he worked as a freelancer and captured pictures for various daily newspapers like Times of India, Jansatta, Gujarat Samachar, Sandesh etc. for the weekly novel episode. In 1972, the Editor of Gujarat Samachar offered him to join the daily located at Delhi. Those 4 years at Delhi he captured very important political moments through his lens particularly Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Moraraji Desai etc. and also connected well with all-time great photographers like Raghu Rai and Kishor Parekh.

3. Shri Mehta returned to Ahmadabad after those 4 learning years at Delhi and captured thousands of pictures which got recognition on the front page of the daily - Gujarat Samachar. The simple texts, jargons and the down to earth approach with the aam aadmi not only made him connect to the readers but also induced new readers towards reading about the culture and literature. Four decades captured the lives of people depicting their way of life, unique and distinguished feature that stands out giving them recognition, their general issues, raising concerns, increasing awareness and also led to draw attention of the Government bodies for quick and amicable resolution of problems.

4. Shri Mehta is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. The Government of Gujarat honoured him with the "Best Photo Journalist" award for the year of 1996-97. He received the honour from Ahmedabad Municipality Commission with "Sarvoday Award", Kishor Parekh "Shaishav Award". He was honoured with the "Gaurav Award" by the Gujarat State, Lalit Kala Akaadami in the year 2008-09. The book "Flashback" — a compilation of his immense contribution was published and inaugurated by the then Honourable Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The journey doesn't stop at the awards but only acts as a recognition, acknowledgement and motivation factor. His main goal remains unchanged to serve the society by covering the social, political and cultural themes in the photo stories. Utterly grateful to continue the journey and proving age is just a number at 90 with the blessings of Goddess Devi Saraswati.

Padma Shri



SHRI SISSIR PURUSHOTTAM MISHRA

Shri Sissir Purushottam Mishra is a renowned Indian Film Writer and Director. He is popularly known as the "Dronacharya of Oriya Cinema". He has pioneered modern film making in Oriya cinema and was the first person to produce, write and direct the TV serial in Oriya known as DHARMAVATAR for Doordarshan. He has been known to be a perfectionist who doesn't believe in compromising on the quality of his work at any cost. He is hence regarded as the best Director of Oriya Industry. Shri Mishra, in his career, has written and directed multiple award-winning movies in both Odia & Hindi language. In Hindi his movies (Bheegi Palkein & Samay Ki Dhara) have been nominated in International film festival (IFFI & Moscow) respectively.

2. Born on April 3, 1943, in Bomkei, near Brahmapur in Ganjam district of Odisha, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Khallikote College, Brahmapur and Masters of Science, in Physics from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, both from UTKAL University. He has been continuously dedicating his entire life to the Indian Film Industry. He left his academic career as Lecturer in Physics and moved to Mumbai in June 1966. Shri Mishra started his film career in Hindi films as an Assistant Director under Director Jyoti Swarup of "Padosan" fame. In 1975, he became an independent Film Writer & Director with the Oriya Cinema — Sindoor Bindu.

3. Shri Mishra, in the year 1978 was the first person to convince the government of Odisha to start the Kalinga Film Studio which facilitated film shooting and entire post production work, this project was done in association with Prasad Studios (Chennai). He also persuaded the IB department to start the Oriya film censor certification at Bhubaneswar in 1990, which was a much-needed criterion for the industry to survive on its own. All this effort inspired the Oriya Film producers to make multiple Oriya films and serials. This further enhanced the opportunity of getting work for many film workers. Shri Mishra, currently produced and created the 1st Odia Kids Edutainment channel on YouTube in the world, which has close to 50 lacs of people as viewers across the globe. Also, he is producing and directing the first animated documentary film on KONARK, The Sun Temple of India.

4. Shri Mishra has received numerous awards and honours. He is the only Odia film personality who has been conferred with DADA SAHEB PHALKE ACADEMY AWARD in Mumbai, in 2011 for his contribution to the Hindi Film Industry. The art & culture department of State of Odisha has awarded him with JAIDEV AWARD, in 2005. The highest award in Odisha — NITAIPALIT Award for a film personality in state of Odisha has also been given to him in the category of BEST DIRECTOR, in 2004. He has also been awarded as Best Director at Film & Cultural Festival, by The Government of Odisha, in 2006. The most popular TV channel in Odisha, OTV gave him — Best Citizen Award in Art & Entertainment Category, in 2015. He has been awarded with KALINGA BHARAT RATNA for his contribution to the Oriya film Industry, in 2016, he was felicitated by Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Governor of Odisha.

Padma Shri



PROF. TOMIO MIZOKAMI

Prof. Tomio Mizokami, Professor Emeritus at Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Japan, is known widely for his love for Indian culture, Indian languages, and Indian people. He was engaged in teaching and research in modern Indian languages like Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, and Urdu for almost four decades until 2007, when he retired. Since then, he has been the President of Kansai Japan-India Cultural Society.

2. Born on May 12, 1941, Prof. Mizokami received his B. A. degree from Osaka University of Foreign Studies in 1965. After learning Hindi at the University of Allahabad in 1965-67 and Bengali at Vishva Bharati University in 1967-68 as a casual student, he was appointed as a research assistant at the then Indo-Pakistani Department of Osaka University of Foreign Studies in 1968. He was promoted to lecturer, associate professor, and finally to full professor in the Department of South Asian Studies at the same university in 1990. Taking advantage of sabbaticals and vacations, he obtained his M.A. Composite Hindi Degree in 1975 and Ph.D. degree by the thesis on “the language contact in Panjab” from the University of Delhi in 1983.

3. Besides writing many academic articles, Prof. Mizokami developed several important teaching materials to make language learning interesting and easier. These included Practical Panjabi Conversation, Singing Japanese Songs in Hindi, A Collection of 301 Popular Hindi Film Songs (Hindi-Urdu texts with Japanese translation) and other materials that involved creative uses of Door Darshan TV Serial Ramayana, Satyajit Ray's famous films Ghare Baire and Mahanagar etc. His most prominent contribution to spread and popularize Hindi was that his Hindi students staged Hindi dramas 71 times in six countries abroad, mainly in India during the years 1997-2007. In 2017, the Year of India-Japan Friendly Exchanges, Prof. Mizokami made an extended lecture tour in India titled Japan-India Relations: History and Perspectives: a total of 24 talks in 13 Indian cities in Hindi, Panjabi, Bengali and Japanese. His lectures enchanted the audiences, who learned much from him about Japan-India Relations.

4. Prof. Mizokami is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including Vishva Hindi Samman on the occasion of the 5th World Hindi Convention held in London in 1999, the George Grierson Prize from President Dr. Abdul Kalam in 2002, and Friends of Liberation War Honor from the PM Begum Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh in 2013.

Padma Shri



DR. KESHAVRAO SADASHIVSHASTRI MUSALGAONKAR

Recipient of Rashtrapati Samman (2008), Dr. Keshavrao Sadashivshastri Musalgaonkar is the son of Dharmaratna, Dharmamartanda- Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Sadashivshastri Musalgaonkar. He belongs to a family that has two scholarly people who are the recipients of Mahamahopadhyaya Samman by British Government and Rashtrapati Samman by Government of India for their dedication to the promotion of Sanskrit language and literature in India.

2. Born on March 29, 1930, Dr. Musalgaonkar received his D. Phil. from Allahabad University, Allahabad in 1963, M.A. (Sanskrit) from Agra University, Agra in 1955, Sahityaratna - Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag in 1954, M.A. (Hindi) from Agra University, Agra in 1952. The most distinctive feature of his contribution to the promotion of Sanskrit learning has been that in spite of his long association with secondary education in the schools he has been instrumental in enriching the curriculum and teaching at the higher education.

3. Dr. Musalgaonkar retired as a Principal, Government Higher Secondary School, Byohari, Sivani (M.P.) in 1990. He devoted himself to the cause of free teaching of Sanskrit language at places like Gwalior, Indragarh (Datia); Magaroni (Shivpuri); Kahani (Sivani); Lakanadaun (Sivani), Ujain etc. These places in the state of Madhya Pradesh are academically backward and poor but despite this he promoted Sanskrit language and literature by making them accessible to the learners in these areas as a part of his Free Education Mission and Extension Programme.

4. Dr. Musalgaonkar's critical acumen and expertise in Mimansa Darshan and Natyashastra has been widely praised. His endeavours to encourage Sanskrit are reflected in his substantial writings which include works like Sanskrit Mahakavya Ki Parampara; Adhunik Sanskrit Kavya Parampara; Natyamimansa- Part 1-2; Kalidasa Mimansa; Natyashashtra Paryalochan and a translation work entitled Bhavbhooti. His urge to make Sanskrit literature accessible to all encouraged him to write commentaries through explanatory works in exceptionally and clear style which includes Harshacharitam; Shishupalvadhmahakavyam; Dashroopkam: Naishadhmahakavyam; Rasagangadhar; Shrimadbhagvatgeeta; Dhvanyalok. His books are displayed in the libraries of India and of the world including the libraries of University of Chicago (USA) and International Hebrew University, Jerusalem (Israel). His dexterity and genius is also recognized when his books are being used as reference material in the ambitious project of Government of Uttar Pradesh on 'Sanskrit Shastron ka Vrihad Itihas.

5. Dr. Musalgaonkar's contribution to Sanskrit language and literature has been recognized by the state government and the central government when he received coveted awards like Rashtrapati Samman in the year of 2008, Vishwabharati Award in 2017 by the government of Uttar Pradesh, Mahakavi Kalidas Samman in 2012 by the government of Madhya Pradesh. He is also the recipient of Rajshekhar Samman in 2008 (Conferred for the best work i.e. Sanskrit Natya Meemansa), Bharatmuni Samman by Akhil Bhartiya Vidwat Parishad, Kashi in 2007, Maharashtra Bhooshan Samman by Maharashtra Samaj in 2008, Shikshaka Samman by UMC in 2005; Kalasanmvahak Samman by Dakshin Madhya Kshetra Sanskriti Kendra, Nagpur in 2009 etc.

Padma Shri



DR. THANT MYINT - U

Dr. Thant Myint-U is an historian, past Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and former Adviser to the President of Myanmar. He is also the author of three award-winning books and has played several prominent roles in Myanmar's recent transition from military dictatorship. As Founder and Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust he pioneered urban planning and conservation efforts in Yangon and as Special Advisor to the Government was a senior member of the team that negotiated the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

2. Dr. Thant Myint-U was born on January 31, 1966 and was educated at Harvard University, the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he received his PhD in 1996. He subsequently taught imperial history at Cambridge as a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge. He has served on three United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia (UNTAC 1992-3) and the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR 1994-5 and UNMIN 1996) including as the UN's Chief Spokesman in Sarajevo during the Bosnian war. From 2000-2007 he served at the UN Secretariat in New York, in 2003 becoming the Chief of Policy Planning in the Department of Political Affairs. In this role he was the principal officer responsible for UN reform efforts, leading to the 2005 World Summit.

3. Since 2007 Dr. Thant Myint-U has worked in numerous government and non-governmental capacities, encouraging, facilitating, and supporting Myanmar's transition from military dictatorship and international isolation. From 2011-2015, he was a Member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council and a Special Adviser to the Government on Peace building. Since 2012 he has also been the Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust, the Chairman of U Thant House, a Founding Partner of the Ava Advisory Group, and has served in many other advisory roles, including with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Economic Forum.

4. Dr. Thant Myint-U has written three books: *The Making of Modern Burma* (2001), *The River of Lost Footsteps: A Personal History of Burma* (2006), and the best-selling *Where China Meets India: Burma and the New Crossroads of Asia* (2011). He also writes frequently for international publications and has lectured widely at universities around the world. He is currently writing a fourth book, *The Secret History of Burma: 2005-2018*. He was named one of *Foreign Policy Magazine's* "100 Leading Global Thinkers" in 2013 and one of *Prospect Magazine's* "50 World Thinkers" in 2014. He is also the recipient of Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize (2016) and the President of Myanmar's Award for Outstanding Public Service (2016).

Padma Shri



SHRI BAPAK NYOMAN NUARTA

Shri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta is the Chairman and Lead Sculptor of PT Siluet Nyoman Nuarta. He established a company in 1979 specializing in designing and building monumental sculptures.

2. Born on November 14, 1951 in Tabanan, Bali, Shri Nuarta spent his childhood in a small village called Tegallinggah. Brought up by his village chief uncle, he grew up very close to nature and learned the importance of guarding the harmonious relationship between human and their Creator, human with nature and among human themselves. Naturally, most of his artworks reflect this very important Balinese life philosophy known as the Trihita Karana. After finishing high school in Bali, he moved to the island of Java and then continued his study in the School of Fine Arts, Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB)

3. Shri Nuarta's professional career began when he was still a student. He joined the Indonesian New Art Movement in 1977 and actively participated in the group's exhibitions. His name started to gain popularity after he won the Indonesia's Proclamators Monument competition in 1979, just before he graduated from ITB. He was appointed by President Soeharto to build the statue of Soekarno, Indonesia's first president and founding father.

4. Not long after, Shri Nuarta's name began to rise to prominence. With more than 50 monumental public artworks and no less than 300 sculptures, he now confirmed his reputation as one of Indonesia's most successful modern sculptor. His most well-known artworks include "Arjuna Wijaya" statue in Jakarta, the 60 meters tall "Jalesveva Jayamahe", housed in the Naval base complex in Surabaya, "Ku Yakin Sampai Di Sono" at National Museum, Jakarta, "Monumen Proklamator" in Jakarta, "Sultan Hasanuddin" in Makassar, "Garuda Gate" at Soekarno Hatta International Airport and "Bale Kulkul" at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali. But his most popular artwork is no doubt the highly ambitious "Garuda Wisnu Kencana" or "GWK" statue in Bali. Scheduled to be completed in August 2018, GWK is his personal project and has taken him 28 years to build. The sculpture and its pedestal will reach 121 meters tall with Garuda's wings span across 64 meters. The statue of Garuda Wisnu Kencana will become the pride of the nation.

5. For his achievements, Shri Nuarta has received numerous awards and honours, most notably the Satyalancana Kebudayaan (equivalent to India's Padma Shri Award) from Indonesia's 6th President Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in 2014, the Ganesha Widya Jasa Adiutama from Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) in 2014 and the 72 Icons of Achievements from President Joko Widodo's Special Task Force Unit (UKP Pancasila) in 2017. As a senior sculptor, he is actively involved in many art exhibitions and seminars as well as providing spaces and mentoring for young and emerging artists to showcase their talents. Nuart Sculpture Park is his personal art space where he displays his artworks on a 3 hectare land in Bandung, West Java. The place has now become the destination for those who seek knowledge in art and culture.

6. Shri Nuarta lives in Bandung with his wife and family, heading PT Siluet Nyoman Nuarta with its 300 personnel from various academic and cultural background and continues to build commissioned artworks and projects.

Padma Shri



SHRI MALAI HAJI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI MALAI OTHMAN

Shri Malai Haji Abdullah Bin Malai Haji Othman is the President and founder of SMARTER Brunei, which stands for the Society for the Management of Autism Related issues— in Training, Education and Resources, Brunei Darussalam, which is a non-government and non-profit organization run by parents and family members for parents and family members exclusively for Individuals with Autism (IWA). He is also the Deputy President of Council Welfare of Person With Different Ability (CWPWDA) MKOKU (Majlis Kesejahteraan Orang Kelainan Upaya) and was the Chairman of ASEAN AUTISM NETWORK from 2013 to 2015 and the Honorary Chairman of ASEAN AUTISM NETWORK 2015-2017.

2. Born on December 29, 1952, Shri Othman started his career in 1976 as a General Nurse in Dudley and Stourbridge School of Nursing U.K, in Mental Subnormalities and Mental Health, and he progressed quickly. Upon his return to Brunei, in 1980 he was the first Bruneian Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing Officer. He then moved his way up, with a full, wide and diverse range of roles and responsibilities which further enriched his experiences and leadership qualities. He retired from civil service as a Special Duties Officer. He was recognized in Brunei while he was a civil servant with various medals, the P.J.K, P.J.P, P.I.K.B, P.K.L.

3. In April 2001, Shri Othman's youngest child and only son, Farid Azeem, was diagnosed with Autism. Driven by his love for his son, and by his core value of family, he was determined to make a difference, to make the world a safer place for Farid and for other Individuals with Autism. In September of the same year, SMARTER was founded. What started as a small room in a local primary school, expanded into 3 centres, a charity shop and a bakery. In addition to fundraising events, under Shri Othman's leadership, SMARTER also he designed, developed and implemented a whole life holistic approach to managing IWA, from early intervention to adulthood. His methods and centres have been recognized by National Autistic Society, United Kingdom as well as National and International universities such as University of Perpetual Help System DALTA Philippines and Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia under the New Colombo Plan, in which students and professionals regularly come for attachments to experience and learn from the expertise at SMARTER. SMARTER also holds conferences in which renowned academics and professionals have participated as keynote speakers.

4. In addition to his work in Autism awareness, Shri Othman is also a consultant, a motivational speaker and a licensed professional trainer. From 2012 to 2017, he was a consultant and trainer for the Bruneian National Services (PKBN). He is proud father of 5 children and has 11 grandchildren, 3 of which are diagnosed with Autism and 1 with ADHD.

5. Shri Othman is a firm believer that everything is possible, with determination, hard work and most importantly, the correct Niat- intention. He aspires to have all individuals with Autism employed to live a full quality life. His work continues to inspire those around him and his dreams of a fully inclusive and accepting world in which different abilities are not only accepted, but also respected.

Padma Shri



DR. GANGADHAR VITHOBAJI PANTAWANE

Born on 28 June 1937 in Nagpur in Maharashtra, Dr. Gangadhar V. Pantawane, fondly called Pantawane Sir, began writing early in his childhood. He had a humble beginning and faced many hardships to continue his early education. He passed his matriculation in 1956, took B.A. (1960) and M.A. (1962) from Nagpur College, Nagpur.

2. Dr. Pantawane began his professional career, teaching for 15 years in Milind College, Aurangabad, founded by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and later, in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for 20 years, as Professor and Head of the Dept. of Marathi Language and Literature. While teaching, he sincerely made efforts to urge upon the students from the Dalit, tribal and backward classes, to cultivate social, literary, intellectual and research aptitudes. In 1967 he started publishing a literary journal called Asmitadarsh in order to voice and express the realities and sufferings of the community that had remained mute for thousands of years.

3. Dr. Pantawane has regularly been organizing 'Asmitadarsh Sahitya Sammelan' with the sole intention of encouraging new Dalit writers and making the people in rural areas understand Dalit literature and the philosophy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Mahatma Phule and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj. Dr. Pantawane is an active member of Sant. Chokhamela Samaj Education Society that was founded in 1922 by a few Dalit social workers with an objective to promote education among girls from the Scheduled class. He is an active member of the executive committee of People's Education Society founded by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1945 in order to provide facilities of higher education especially to the Dalits and other deprived classes. In his unrelenting mission of study and research, he has travelled to several universities in the UK and Thailand.

4. Dr. Pantawane's oeuvre includes twenty seven publications comprising literary criticism, research work, biography, life sketches, collections of articles and his various addresses. He also has edited a number of works of literary and cultural significance. He was elected President of the first Marathi Vishwa Sahitya Sammelan to be held in the USA. He has actively contributed on a various committees of Govt. of Maharashtra. He presided as the Chairman of the committee for publication of "Dalit Shabdakosh".

5. Dr. Pantawane is the recipient of many national and international awards including FEI foundation, Bhim Ratna (Ambedkar Centenary Committee, U.K), to name a few.

Padma Shri



SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAİK

Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanaik is the Chairman, Kalinga Foundation Trust, the only organisation in India which gives an International Prize viz. Unesco-Kalinga Prize to eminent scientists across the globe and is engaged to popularize Science among common mass. He is also working as the President of Ruchika Social Service organisation a 31 years old reputed philanthropic organisation engaged in welfare and development of marginalized Children, as the General Secretary, Gopabandhu Daridra Narayan Seva Sangha which promotes Khadia and Cottage industries in Odisha. In addition, he works as President and Board of Director in many other development organizations and educational institutions in Odisha.

2. Born on May 11, 1922, Shri Pattanaik joined Gandhiji's Satyagrah Movement and left his school during Quit India Movement. Leading the peasant's movement at Nimapara in Puri district of Odisha, he unfurled the National Flag and tried to capture the Police Station on 16th Sept. 1942. As a result, one freedom fighter was shot dead on spot, 37 including him were injured and imprisoned. Released from jail after three and half years, he dedicated his life to fight against social discrimination, strongly supported Swadeshi movement, Harijan movement, and Peasant movement in Odisha. A protagonist of Khadi movement, he re-established Khadi in Odisha even at this modern age. He led the farmers who were getting agonized by the Math Mahantas, Zamindars and Mahazans (money lenders) for which the peasants were able to get their rights on the land they cultivated. Walked for miles and miles he reached the flood affected people with relief and advocated to government for permanent solution of flood. A real Satyagrahi, he conducted fasting several times for the rights of marginalized people to end violence.

3. A leader of suffering people and an effective organizer, he served as Secretary, Puri District Congress Committee (1951- 53), Provincial Organiser of Congress Seva Dal (1954-57), Chairman Congress Seva Dal, Odisha upto 1984, Provincial Secretary, Student and Youth Congress Committee, General Secretary and Chairman, Bharat Sevak Samaj (1957 - 65), General Secretary, Utkal Pradesh Congress Committee till 1961, Secretary of Utkal Pradesh Congress Party till 1967. He served as Member, Rajya Sabha for three terms from 1961 to 1984.

4. He inspires people for manual labour, simple living and brought spirituality to politics and social work. He has donated most of his property for the service of poor sufferings and for the development of education. He never drinks a glass of water before feeding the animals and birds around him. He lives his life as a saint.

5. He has received many awards and recognition including Presidential Medal — 1951 for Census work, Presidential Honour 2003 for his patriotic activities as Freedom Fighter, Rajiv Gandhi Samman — 2001, Rajdhani Gourav Samman-2015, Pranatanth Samman-2013 & 2016, Bhubaneswar Samman-2013, Sangrami Samman-2013, Samanta Gourav Samman- 2014, Gandhi-Binoba Santi Samman — 2006 and many other awards during his life time. Doordarshan and many other print/electronic media have featured his life history as a great patriot of Odisha.

Padma Shri



PROF. HABIBULLO RAJABOV

Prof. Habibullo Rajabov, Professor of the Department of Indian Philology of the faculty of Asian and European languages of the Tajik national University is the Head of the Department of Southeast Asia, Institute of Asian and European Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of the Tajikistan-India Friendship Society. He is the Vice-Chairman of two academic councils for awarding degrees and doctorate of sciences to candidates as well as member of three such councils in other scientific institutions and universities.

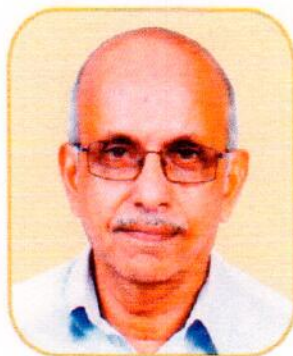
2. Born on June 29, 1945 Prof. Rajabov graduated from the Hindi and Urdu Department of St. Petersburg (Leningrad) State University in 1967. In 1973 he completed postgraduate studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow. He completed his doctorate thesis on the topic "Mohan Rakesh - novelist". He also defended his doctoral dissertation on the theme "Formation and development of Modern Hindi Short Story" and received degree of Doctor of Philology. Prof. Rajabov has worked in various positions at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and conducted research work on Hindi and Urdu literature. During 1989-90 he was an Intern Researcher at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He delivers lectures and conducts research work at the Department of Indian Philology of the faculty of Asian and European languages of the Tajik National University. He also conducts research work in the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. He has attended various international scientific conferences on Indian Philology and made significant contribution towards strengthening friendship between the peoples of Tajikistan and India.

3. Prof. Rajabov took lead in establishing Department of Indian Philology at the Tajik National University in 1984 and worked as the Head of that Department for 22 years. From 2005 to 2008 he was the first Vice-Rector of the Tajik National University. He annually holds scientific conferences and seminars on various topics of literature, languages and art of India, as well as on cultural relations between Tajikistan and India at the University and in the Academy of Sciences. He leads the scientific management of students, postgraduates and doctoral students. He also takes active part in preparation and publication of the Embassy News Magazine "Oinai hind". He speaks on the local radio and television and has published articles in national newspapers and magazines.

4. Prof. Rajabov is the founder of the Indology school in the Republic of Tajikistan. He has guided five candidates of Doctors of Sciences. All teachers of the Department of Indian Philology of the Tajik National University are his students. He is the author of 15 books including "Premchand", "Rabindranath Tagore", "This is India", "Hindi Literature in Modern Times", "Phanishwarnath Renu", "Ten Stars of Hindi literature", "Three Generations of Hindi Novelists" and more than 250 articles on various Indology issues. He has made significant contribution to the distribution of Indian literature in Tajikistan. He has translated into Tajik and Russian the works of such masters of words of India as Rabindranath Tagore, Prem Chand, Upendranath Ashk, Mohan Rakesh, Phanishwarnath Renu, Bhishma Sahni, Udai Prakash, Rajendra Yadav, Krishna Chander and published them as separate books. He also translated into Tajik a collection of poems by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee "Twenty one poems", which was published as "One drop of rain" (2006).

5. Prof. Rajabov has been awarded the "Badge of labor valour" (USSR, 1983), two medals by the Government of Afghanistan (1988), an Honorary Mark of Friendship Society of the USSR and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries "For contribution to Friendship" (1991), medals of the Russian Federation (2011, 2014) and the Title of "Outstanding worker of education of Tajikistan" (1999). He has also been awarded Honorary diplomas of the Society of Friendship and Cultural Relations of Tajikistan with Foreign Countries, the Republican Society "Znanie" ("Knowledge") and the Tajik National University.

Padma Shri



DR. M.R. RAJAGOPAL

Dr. M.R. Rajagopal is a leading palliative care physician in India who, for about 25 years, has left no stone unturned in his battle against the unnecessary suffering from severe pain faced by millions of people with various diseases in India and around the world. Alternately wearing the hats of clinician, health program developer or manager, academic, spokesperson and activist, Dr. Rajagopal has likely done more than anyone alive to implement and promote the right of patients with severe pain to live and die with dignity.

2. Born on September 9, 1947, Dr. Rajagopal was first confronted with the suffering caused by untreated pain when, as a medical student, a neighbor was dying in terrible pain and his relatives were at a loss as to what to do. Later, as a young and upcoming medical doctor, Dr. Rajagopal was so offended by the notion that patients in pain could not access inexpensive and highly effective medications that he left the prestigious field of anesthesiology to become a palliative care physician.

3. After securing solid training, Dr. Rajagopal began tramping all over rural Kerala to visit patients who were too sick to come to his clinic in their homes-many homes no more than a few sticks with a banana leaf roof-to offer them palliative care. But he was deeply aware of the great numbers of patients with severe untreated pain all over India, and felt compelled to do whatever he could to end their suffering. Together with another doctor and a layman, he began catalyzing palliative care services throughout northern Kerala. They recruited community volunteers to support sick neighbors while organizing medical teams that regularly visited the villages to offer medical treatment. The network of palliative care providers that emerged is widely recognized as the most successful community-based palliative care program in the world. In 1996, the World Health Organization recognized it as a demonstration Project. Simultaneously, Dr. Rajagopal engaged the government to ensure availability of morphine. In India, the use of morphine had plummeted by 97 percent over the decade following the adoption of the 1985 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which set up an extremely complex licensing system for opioid medications and imposed harsh punishments for even unintentional clerical mistakes. Together with the Pain and Policy Studies Group (PPSG), a WHO Collaborating Center in Wisconsin, Dr. Rajagopal set out to convince the Indian government to reform its narcotics regulations. In a clear tribute to his tenacity and eloquence, in 1998 the central government of India recommended that states adopt new regulations for morphine that would greatly simplify access to morphine for healthcare institutions, saying that the old rules denied morphine to "even terminally ill cancer patients...causing undue suffering and harassments."

4. As this recommendation was not binding on India's states, Dr. Rajagopal and PPSG then organized workshops in more than a dozen states bringing together healthcare providers, drug regulators and health policy makers to advocate for its implementation. Due to these efforts, fourteen of India's states have now adopted the model rule. Concurrently, he continued to work with the government of India to change the law, working with the government officials to draft an amended law and then working with parliamentarians. The efforts finally paid off when the Indian Parliament amended the law in February 2014. But Dr. Rajagopal knew that without proper implementation the new regulations would remain a dead letter and patients would continue to suffer. He continues to work with cancer and other hospitals and with non-government organizations across India to set up palliative care units, train doctors and nurses, and secure licenses for morphine. As a direct result of these efforts, tens of thousands of cancer and other patients today are spared the agony of severe pain, other symptoms and psycho-socio-spiritual distress.

5. The World Health Organization estimates that tens of millions of people, including 5.5 million patients with advanced cancer and a million people with AIDS, suffer from moderate to severe pain every year without access to treatment, despite the fact that strong pain relievers, such as morphine, are inexpensive, safe, highly effective, and generally not hard to administer. The suffering of these people is so severe that the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has held that denial of appropriate analgesics can constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

6. In India alone, an estimated 1 million patients with advanced cancer develop severe pain every year. Yet most hospitals, including major government-supported cancer centers, do not have morphine or other strong pain relievers because doctors are not trained in pain management and outdated drug regulations aimed at combating misuse prevent healthcare institutions in many states from stocking and dispensing morphine.

Padma Shri



PROF. CHANDRASEKHAR RATH (POSTHUMOUS)

Prof. Chandrasekhar Rath has been a deep thinker, eloquent speaker, athlete, fascinating writer touching all genres of literature, a creative artist with his hands on sculpting, painting, clay modeling, doodling, carvings on wood and stone and an inspiring professor par excellence with pupils all over the world. Many awards, doctorates were conferred on him for his illustrious work in the fields of education, oration and literature. He has been a spiritually realized person, austere, straight and unbending. A complete man who assimilated all aspects of culture and art; and disseminated the Indian values in India and abroad.

2. Born on October 17, 1929, Prof. Rath still stands out among his contemporary writers in Odia literature for his remarkable background and contributions to diverse literary genres like belle-letters, fiction and poetry. His strong roots in the legacy of a traditional Indian family gave him an early exposure to scriptural Sanskrit which is the fount of his pan-Indian thought and philosophy. Degrees in Mathematics and English gave him both precision of expression and a rich sensibility for literatures available through English. In Lucknow, he studied English literature under Prof. N.K. Siddhanta, an eminent scholar from Oxford. Acharya Narendra Dev was his Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma taught him law and others who played vital role in shaping post-independent India. He himself was an example of whatever he taught.

3. Prof. Rath's writings form a rich tapestry of sensibility in their depth, dimension and diverse pictures of life with an inherent urge to unfold the ultimate truth through simplicity, charm and glitter of poetic prose to entice the reader, thus creating his new genre of essays. While continuing to write his essays he seamlessly changed to a powerful story writer. He believed that every form has its own identity and all that can be told in a short story cannot be expressed in an essay.

4. Prof. Rath has three novels, sixteen volumes of short stories, nine volumes of essays, four volumes of poetry in his mother tongue, Odia. As rightly assessed by critics, his three novels form a trilogy of a thesis, antithesis and synthesis viz. Yantrarudha story of hoary traditions and time honoured values of life, Asurya Upanivesha, exposes the total absence of values in a world of darkness while the third one Nav Jataka is a transcendence of values to superhuman heights. They seem to represent the past, the present and the future of mankind in the Indian perspective. Rathasaptaka which is sheer emotional profound poetry in prose laced with scriptural erudition woven around Lord Jagannath and Rath Yatra. The other is Pathachakra Diary, a record of reflections and meditations inspired by Sri Aurobindo's philosophy. He also translated the commentary of Acharya Shankara on the Bhagwad Gita into Odia. Ritu Chitrashala, unique Sanskrit Composition with his own English rendering (Picture Gallery of Seasons and other Compositions) and hundreds of his poems in English were released in Hyderabad Literary Festival.

5. Prof. Rath has probably a much larger number of admirers of his oratory in India and abroad than he has readers of his books. His speeches were ex tempore and at ease. He addressed at Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad (Calcutta) 1991, Divine Life Society (Rishikesh) on 125th Birth Anniversary of Swami Shivananda 1991, The Parliament of Religions: Centenary Celebration of Vivekananda's Chicago Address (Calcutta) 1993, Foundation Day Oration, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture (Calcutta) 1994, Swami Vivekananda Birthday Oration Patna & Lucknow 1995-96, Institute of Human Studies (Hyderabad) 1998, Religio-cultural Assemblies (USA and Canada) 1999, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch 1998-2002, All India Senior Citizens Study Camps (Nainital): Spiritual Orations 10 days every year during 1998-2002 on the Gita, The Upanishads, The Life Divine, Supramental Manifestations, The Mother; Speeches in public forum in Lucknow University, 2008, Public Speeches on Sri Aurobindo's Philosophy & Indian Cultural Heritage at Singapore, 2009, Addresses in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, 2009-12, Renaissance International Orations, 2010-12, Nilakantha Memorial Oration, Bhubaneswar 2013 (YouTube), Swabhimani Divas Oration, Aama Odisha, 2014 (Sambad Aam Odisha Website), Think Literature: Keynote Address, 2013 (Youtube). In addition, World Union meetings were conducted by him once every month for several years as an exercise of introspection and spiritual seeking.

6. Prof. Rath has received the following awards: Prajatantra Vishuva Swikruti 1963 & 1967, Prajatantra Vishuva Award (Essays), 1971, Dhartree Recognition (Comprehensive), 1979, Odisha Sahitya Akademi (Novel), 1973, Odisha Sahitya Akademi (Essays), 1978, Sarala Award (Stories), 1982, Sambalpur University Bharat Chandra Award, 1989, Jaggannath Samman (Comprehensive), 1997, Sahitya Akademi National Award (Stories), 1997, Hutch Crossword Book Award for novel Yantrarudha, (Translated title Astride the Wheel), 2004, D.Litt. by Lucknow University, 2008, Kadambini Award, 2010, Atibadi Jagannath Das Award, 2010, Sahitya Bharati Award, 2011, D.Litt by Utkal University of Culture in 2012, Utkal Sahitya Samaj Lifetime Member Award, 2015, Chaturdhaa Samman, 2017.

7. Prof. Rath passed away on February 09, 2018.

Padma Shri



DR. SANDUK RUIT

Dr. Sanduk Ruit is the Executive Director of the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology. Dr Ruit is widely known as game changer in restoring vision of the poor, through low cost and high quality cataract surgery. His extraordinary struggle to provide sustainable modern cataract surgery delivery system to the community is widely recognized.

2. Born on September 4, 1954, Dr. Ruit received his MBBS degree from the King George's Medical College Lucknow in 1976, MD in Ophthalmology from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi in 1984. He modified and applied small incision cataract surgery to the community with comparable results. Manufacturing low cost high quality intraocular lenses made it possible for millions of people to have benefit of this surgery.

3. In the 1990s, Dr. Ruit and his team simplified the intraocular lens implantation surgery made it appropriate for local conditions specially developing world. Four areas of priorities a) simplifying the surgical technique, delivery system and team building; b) finding the effective system of training; c) working affordable medical consumables and d) Solve the complexity of financial sustainability.

4. Dr. Ruit and his colleague have been spreading this technology to many parts of the world particularly Asia and Africa. This system often referred as "reverse innovation" has received extraordinary awards by hundreds of thousands of patients, eye doctors and health personnel globally. Dr. Ruit and his association with the Fred Hollows Foundation and the Himalayan Cataract Project allows to develop similar programs in Thailand, Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia, China, India, Bangladesh, Mangolia, Pakistan, North Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam and in many parts of Africa.

5. Dr. Ruit is the recipient of number of honors and awards. He has been conferred 'Honorary Fellowship of the Australian College of Ophthalmology' in 1995. In 2005, Dr. Ruit received 'Queens Pacesetter Award New York'. In 2006, he received the prestigious 'Roman Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding'. In 2007, Reader's Digest announced 'Dr. Ruit as the Asian of the Year'. He received 'Prince Mahidol Award for Public Health' in 2007. The Government of Australia conferred on him 'The Order of Australia' in 2007. In 2014, he was awarded Social Entrepreneurs of the Year by Schwab Foundation. In 2016, he was awarded as 'Asian Game Changer Award' by Asia Society New York. In 2017, he was picked by Albert Einstein Foundation as one of the 'Hundred Leading Global Visionary of the Century'.

Padma Shri



HIS HOLINESS SHRI SOMDET PHRA ARIYAVAMSAGATANANA

His Holiness Somdet Phra Ariyavamsagatanana (previous Buddhist name Amborn Ambaro) was born as Amborn Prasatthapong on 26 June 1927 to Mrs. Tal Prasatthapong and Mr. Nab Prasatthapong. Hailing from a tradesman family, he studied upto Grade 4 at Devanugrah School located in Khokkratiam Sub-district of Lopburi Province.

2. At an age of 10 years, His Holiness was ordained as a Buddhist novice in 1937 at Sattanartpariwatworavihara Temple of Na Muang Sub-district in Ratchaburi Province by Phra Dhammaseni. In 1940, he completed the Elementary Level of the Dhamma Studies while staying at Triyat Temple, Pongsawai Sub-district, Ratchaburi Province. He also completed the Intermediate and Advanced levels of Dhamma Studies in 1941 and 1943 respectively and the third and fourth grades of Buddhist Theology in 1943 and 1945 respectively.
3. Moving to stay at Ratchabopit Sathitmahasimaram Temple in Bangkok, His Holiness came under the guidance of His Holiness Somdet Phra Ariya Wongsā Khottayan Somdet Phra Saṅgharāja (Wasna Wasano), the 18th Supreme Patriarch of Kingdom of Thailand in 1947. He was ordained as a Buddhist monk of the Dhammayuttika Sect in 9 May 1948 with Somdet Phra Ariya Wongsā Khottayan Somdet Phra Saṅgharāja (Wasna Wasano) officiating the ceremony. Having continued his studies at the Ratchabopit Temple, His Holiness passed the fifth grade of Buddhist Theology in 1948 and the sixth grade in 1950. In 1957, he received the Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from Mahamakut Buddhist University, Bangkok.
4. His Holiness also obtained education at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, India and completed the postgraduate programme in history and archaeology from the university in 1969. He was one of the first Thai monks who were sent to study at BHU with the tradition continuing even today.
5. When he was a young monk, he sought advice in meditation in the 'Forest Monk' School in the northeastern part of Thailand under revered masters such as the late Most Venerable Phra Ajarn Fahn Ajaro. In 2009, University Council of Mahamakut Buddhist University, Bangkok presented him an Honorary Doctorate degree in Buddhist Studies. Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Bangkok, in 2010, presented him an Honorary Doctorate degree in Dhamma Communication.
6. During his eight decades as a Buddhist monk, His Holiness has been instrumental in propagating Theravada Buddhism at the international level and in promoting better understanding across national boundaries. He was among the first group of the official "Dhammaduta" (members of the Dhamma Missionary) sent abroad by the Supreme Sangha Council of Thailand with full support of the Royal Thai Government. In 1973, he began his work as the Dhammaduta in Canberra, Australia, covering Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, and other cities. He is much admired for his role and contribution to the establishment of a solid foundation for Theravada Buddhism in Australia and New Zealand. Back in Thailand, he continued to serve as advisor to the Dhammaduta training programme, and eventually became the Executive Director of Dhammaduta Affairs in the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand. The official Thai Dhammaduta missions are working in many parts of the world, including in India, with the mission's headquarters in the Royal Thai Monastery in Bodh Gaya.
7. Rising in monastery ranking, His Holiness has been a senior member of the Supreme Sangha Council of Thailand for many years, and has served as the Deputy Abbot, Acting Abbot and then the Abbot of Wat Ratchabopit monastery in Bangkok. He has been working in various prominent positions in the administration of the Thai Buddhist Sangha system and also of the Dhammayuttika Sect. Since 2011, he has assumed the duty of the President of the University Council of Mahamakut Buddhist University (MBU), his own alma mater.
8. On 7 February 2017, His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun of the Kingdom of Thailand appointed His Holiness as the 20th Supreme Patriarch of Rattakosin (Thailand) [and the President Ex Officio of the Supreme Sangha Council of Thailand]. The appointment ceremony was held on 12 February 2017 at Phra Sri Rattanasasadaram Temple.
9. His Holiness is a Pali scholar who also speaks Thai, English, and Hindi, with some knowledge of Chinese. Since the time he was still a mere Venerable monk Amborn, His Holiness has been well-known and much loved in Thailand for his humility, simple and disciplined lifestyle, accessibility, kindness, and deep knowledge of Buddhism.

Padma Shri



DR. PANKAJ MANUBHAI SHAH

Dr. Pankaj Manubhai Shah is the Vice President, Gujarat Cancer Society, Former Director of Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute & a Trustee of Sadvichar Parivar.

2. Born on December 28, 1945, Dr. Shah is one of the founders of Medical Oncology in India. He served Gujarat Cancer Research Institute (GCRI) for 44 years. As a dedicated life-long professor of medicine he brought Medical Oncology super specialization to Ahmedabad, which was second in the country after Chennai. He has mentored generations of Oncologists who, like their revered mentor Dr Shah, combine excellence in profession with devotion to humanity. Dr Shah's mission has been 'Service to all with suffering to none.'

3. Dr. Shah hails from a modest family background. He was born in Khadia Area of Ahmedabad. His primary education took place in Municipal School. In 1962 Dr Shah passed his SSC with good result and after Inter Science moved to Medicine. He completed his medical studies at BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad in 1972 and became a Physician.

4. Dr. Shah joined Gujarat Cancer Research Institute (GCRI) in 1973. The same year he was deputed by Dr T B Patel, the then Director of GCRI and Dr Shah's mentor, to participate in a course on Chemotherapy being offered by UICC at Germany. After attending the said course Dr Shah returned home with knowhow of Chemotherapy.

5. On his return Dr. Shah got immersed in his single minded goal to serve pain stricken cancer patients. Soon he earned faith and support of Gujarati Shresthis, society, colleagues, students and Govt for which he feels grateful. Dr Shah played the key role in establishing a permanent exhibition on Cancer, the first of its kind in the country. He used innovative idea of combining cancer awareness with festival celebrations effectively. GCRI under the leadership of Dr Shah was the first one to establish Pediatric Oncology Unit in India. Dr Shah has become a leader of his profession; the President of Indian Society of Medical and Pediatric Oncology (1997-1999) and President Indian Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (1993-1994).

6. At present, after retirement, Dr. Shah is devoting his time for social service to Sadvichar Parivar, an NGO devoted to health care, old age dignity, and disaster management. His medical consultation continues. Thousands of cancer survivors gratefully remember him for the lesson of hope that they learnt from Dr. Shah who always stood by them in critical health situation reassuring; 'bend of a road is not the end of the road'.

7. Dr. Shah is decorated with awards and orations like; Living Legend of Oncology (ICC Bangalore: 2017), Living Legend in Hematology (2013) Madanmohan Ramanlal GCRI Luminary Oration Award (2012) B.C.Roy award (2005) and many more.

Padma Shri



SHRI IBRAHIM. NABISAHEB. SUTAR

Shri Ibrahim. Nabisaheb. Sutar founded "Bhavaikya Janapada Sangeeta Meta" (An association of the folk people for promotion of emotional integration". Shri Sutar, who is fondly known as Kabir of Kannada, has named his home "Bhavaikya" (Harmony). For the last five decades he has been inspiring people all over the state by offering literary talks, lectures, bhajans and social service by using the literary works of saintly writers to spread their humanitarian and spiritual messages across the state. He has been offering hundreds of lectures every year for promotion of communal harmony between Hindu and Muslim.

2. Born on May 10, 1940 in Mahalingpur town in Bagalkot District of Karnataka state to Nabisab and Ameenabi, Shri Sutar is basically a weaver. His formal education was in Urdu and upto third standard. The family was very poor. He founded "Ramjan Awareness Association" in 1960 along with his childhood friends. It was a very significant step in his days of youth.

3. Shri Sutar has enriched the world of literature by writing "Paramartha Lahari", "Tatvajnanakke Sarvaroo Adhikarigalu" and "Navella Bharateeyaru". His poem "Navella Bharateeyaremba Bhava Moodali" has become a very famous and popular prayer song of emotional integration. His six companions join him in offering individual Pravachanas (simple moralistic and spiritual speech) and offer panel discussion programmes. He is the Innovator of art forms called "Bhavaikya Rasamanjari", "Adhyatma Samvada Tarangini" and "Geeta Samvada Tarangini". Many CDs of his programmes have been released. He has offered messages of emotional integration in many of the public festivals of Karnataka. He has presented lectures for emotional integration and bhajans during the Historic Basava Shanti Jyoti Padayatra" held between 1986 and 1996 which contributed to the success of the peace march.

4. Shri Sutar travels across the state in the holy month of Shravana as per the Hindu Calendar in order to deliver lectures. This has been a regular feature of life for the last many decades. His passion is to render the much needed social service when he visits a village for delivering lectures. The fact of the matter can be understood in his selfless, dedicated and (detached) social service as Construction of 9 km. road between Shegunsi to Terdal in 1988, Formation of "Swami Vivekananda Primary School at Dhavaleshwar village in 2004, Construction of a Kalmeshwar Marriage Hall at Sonna village in 2010, Construction of a tourist home called "Shri Basaveshwar Yatri Nivas" at Aralimatti village in 2012. His other activities involves active role in eradication of Devadasi system (a tradition of temple related prostitution) in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1998, Member of Karnataka Sangeeta Nrutya Academy from 1998 to 2001, Organized monthly camps for the study of the philosophy under the guidance of His Holiness Sahajananda Swamiji of Mahalingpur and he has also offered his services in teaching He has actively participated by associating with Shri S S Ganapatrao Maharaj in the padayataras for building a liquor.

5. Government of Karnataka conferred "Rajyotsava Award" in recognition of Shri Sutar's active role and services to the state through his lectures for promotion of spiritual knowledge in 1995. He is a recipient of the "Karnatak Kalashree" award from the Government of karnatak for katha-keertanas in 2009-10. "Alvas Nudi Siri Award" was conferred on him in 2006 as recognition of his services unique contribution to emotional integration. Several other awards and titles conferred on him include "Kannada Kabeera", "Sufisanta" (Sufisaint), Sharana Santa Tatvapraveena", "Abhinava Shareefa", "Basavatatava Pracharaka", "Basavatatvashree", "Sarvadharmha Samanvayee", "Bhavaikya Nidhi", "Sahitya Shree", "Gadinadu Chetana", "Shreenatha", "Sujayashree" "Sarvabhauma Sammana", "Sarvadhari Sammana", Allahabad Maulana Award, Outstanding Person for National Integration and "Kayakayogi" in addition to "Asamanya Kannadiga-2016 award conferred by Kannada Prabha and Suvrna News Channel. He has successfully nurtured the sapling of emotional integration and has enabled it to become a gigantic tree by offering all his care and pride. In recognition of his great and unique services his admirers came together to felicitate him on the occasion of his 75th Birth Day in 2016 by organizing "Bhavaikya Shanti Sammelana" at Mahalingpur and have brought out a book titled "Bhavaikya Darshana" which has been dedicated to him.

6. The press representatives have introduced Shri Sutar to the society in their articles under the Headings "Sauharda Setuve", "Bhavaikya Hadina Modigara", "Ella Dharamagala Kondi" "Bhavaikya Kavi", "Dharma Samanvaya Harikara", "Adhyamika Kshetrada Harikara" "Bhavaikya Setu", "Nadina Aparoopada Pravachana Kalavida", "Kannadakobba Kabeera", "Sarvadharmha Pravachaka", "Matandhara Madye Avannobba Santa", "Bhavaikyada Ghatti Dhvani" "Sufi santar hadiyalli Ibrahim" and more such other titles. He hopes to establish an all — faith study center in his town, which will be an Ashram for studies in all religions and faiths. He will train a team of youngsters to carry the message to future generations. The goal of his life has been to promote emotional integration and love of the universe.

Padma Shri



DR. VIKRAM CHANDRA THAKUR

Dr. Vikram Chandra Thakur is the former Director of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology at Dehradun, Uttarakhand. He has devoted 45 years of research work on the regional geology and tectonics of the Northwest Himalaya and active tectonics of the frontal Sub Himalayan zone. Dr. Thakur, as Director, has contributed significantly for growth of the institute in terms of building analytical laboratory facilities and developing thrust areas of research in Himalayan tectonics, seismicity and glaciology.

2. Dr. Thakur was born on January 15, 1940 at Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh. He did his M.Sc. in 1962 from Punjab University, Chandigarh, and Ph.D. in 1971 from Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, U.K. He joined the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology as a Scientist in 1972, and later years selected as the Director in 1988. He served two terms as Director of the institute. After superannuation, he continued his research as CSIR-Emeritus scientist during 2000 to 2005, Principal Investigator in two DST projects, 2005 to 2013, and Co - Principal Investigator in MOES project, 2014 to 2017.

3. Dr. Thakur has published 120 research papers in both national and international journals with high impact factor. He has authored a book on the Geology of Western Himalaya, Pergamon Press, and the second co — author of a book on Active faults of Uttarakhand, Springer, in press. With his team of research students working in the Chamba, Kishatwar and Doda regions in NW Himalaya, he revealed the structural and tectonic framework. He with his fellow scientists geologically mapped the remote areas in Nubra, Shyok, Indus and Karakoram and carried out multidisciplinary studies, leading to publish a monograph. Post — superannuation, he has contributed significantly in active tectonics including paleoseismology and active faults of the Sub Himalayan zone. He has served as a member of the editorial boards of the journal of the Geological Society of America and Transactions of Royal Society of Edinburgh. In recognition of his work, he has been a member of several international committees of the International lithosphere Programme. He has been an invited scientist to deliver lectures in several universities of Japan, USA, USSR Academy of Sciences, Royal Society London, CNRS France, Germany and Holland.

4. As a Director, Dr. Thakur organized and developed field laboratories / stations in the Himalayan region. A seismological network of stations was established in Kangra — Chamba region of Himachal Pradesh to record and monitor seismicity. A permanent field station was set up at the base of Dhokriani Bamak glacier in Garhwal to monitor the advance and retreat of the glacier. The 10 years data generated on glaciology brought international recognition for climate change programme. The Natural Resources Data Management System centre was established at Pauri Garhwal that provided technical support for ongoing development projects in the state. Dr. Thakur is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, elected in 1991. He is a recipient of the National Mineral Award of Government of India, Ministry of Steel and Mines (1983 — 1984).



MOST VEN. DR. NGUYEN TIEN THIEN

Most Ven. Dr. Nguyen Tien Thien (Dharma name: Thich Duc Thien, born on April 05, 1966), Vice President - Secretary General of Executive Council of National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS); Vice Chairman of Vietnam - India Friendship Association; Head of the Department of International Buddhist Affairs of VBS; Vice Rector of Vietnam Buddhist University in Hanoi; Senior Lecturer of Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Tran Nhan Tong Academic Institute). He is abbot of the Phat Tich Pagoda, the Special National Heritage and Treasure in Bac Ninh Province; and he has a great dedication to develop Buddhism in the mountainous areas North -West Provinces of Vietnam, being abbot of Truc Lam Ban Gioc Pagoda, Cao Bang Province; being abbot of Linh Quang Pagoda, Dien Bien Province; and being abbot of Hoang Phuc Pagoda, Quang Binh Province.

2. Dr. Tien Thien, firstly he graduated BA in Economic in the National Economic University, Hanoi in 1988; then he became a Monk and graduated from Vietnam Buddhist University, Hanoi; he also spent times to study Chinese Buddhist philosophy in Fo Kuang Shan Buddhist Monastery, Taiwan; and to be engaged in research cultural anthropology in Palo Alto, California, USA; In 2005, he finished Ph.D in Buddhist Studies in Delhi University, India.

3. Dr. Tien Thien is active and close with Leaders of State and Government of Vietnam in bringing religious believers into closer coexistence with the State of Vietnam. He is able to see clearly the value of Vietnam's commitment to religious freedom as well as Buddhism's own value on humanity, bringing these joint values together. He has worked and played as a key role in organizing the UN Day of Vesak in Vietnam, which worked to express Buddhism's perspective towards the UN Millennium Development Goals. He is also a published author in many books in Buddhist studies and history.

4. Dr. Tien Thien has been working closely with Indian Embassy in Hanoi in organizing successfully many Indian cultural activities in Vietnam such as: Indian Buddhist cultural Festival in 2014, 2016; International Day of Yoga 2015, 2016, 2017; In 2016, he organized successfully a red-carpet welcome ceremony for Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to visit Quan Su Pagoda, the headquarter of the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha to deliver talk to thousands of Vietnamese monks and nuns.

5. Dr. Tien Thien is the recipient of numerous awards and honours of Vietnam: Great National Unity Order in 2011, Labor Order in 2017, Friendship Medal...The Kingdom of Cambodia conferred on him the Great General Awards of the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2014.

Padma Shri



PROF. BHAGIRATH PRASAD TRIPATHI 'VAGISH SHASTRI'

Prof. Bhagirath Prasad Tripathi (well known as Vagish Shastri) is an international Sanskrit grammarian, eminent linguist, Tantric and yogi.

2. Born on July 24, 1934 at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, Prof. Tripathi started his teaching career as a lecturer of Sanskrit at Tikmani Sanskrit College, Varanasi in 1959, and soon he became the Director and Professor of the Research Institute at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University Varanasi (1970-1996). He served this prestigious academic post for about three decades. He received his Masters degree, Vyakarana Acharya (1959); Ph-D Vidyavaridhi in Grammar and Historical Linguistics (1964), German Diploma (1966) and D.Litt. Vachaspati (1969) degrees on the Indo-European and Indo-Iranian Study of Paninian Verbs and Semantics.

3. Prof. Tripathi furnished a UGC Project on the Photography of Tantric Manuscripts of Darbar Library, Nepal and a Project of Subject Dictionaries of eighteen Mahapuranas. He also was Chief Editor of the famous Sanskrit journal Sarasvati Sushama for 27 years. He has written more than 55 books in Sanskrit, Hindi and English languages in different subjects which included grammatical and philological research work, drama, history, poetry, satire, historical research work and metaphysical writings. He guided more than 40 Research Scholars, both Indian and Foreigner.

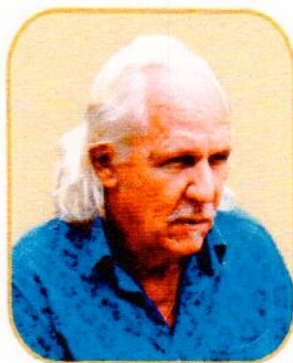
4. Prof. Tripathi invented a new technique for the teaching of Sanskrit without the need of painstaking memorization of hundreds of grammatical formulas, named: Vagyoga: Natural Law and Mnemonics. He also developed a new Technique to teach Kundalini Yoga through Shaktipata called "Vagyoga Kundalini Meditation". He wrote four original books on Paninian Grammar and Linguistics. He refuted the claim of the eminent linguist of America W.D. Whitney in his book: 'Paniniya Dhatupatha-Samiksha'. In the World, this was his first semantical study on the Sanskrit Verbs: Dhatvartha Vijnanam (1980).

5. Prof. Tripathi enriched the satirical Sanskrit literature by the composition of 'Narma Saptashati' consisting of seven hundred shlokas (1984). He enriched the dramatic literature of Sanskrit by the composition of 'Kṛishakanaam Nagapashaḥ' (1958) a radio one act play. He enriched the story literature of Sanskrit by composing 'Katha Samvartika' (1959). He enriched philosophical Sanskrit Literature by composing 16 hundred Shlokas in Sri Vagyoga-Tantram in 2010. He enriched Sanskrit prose literature by the composition of "Sanskrit Vāñmaya Manthanam" in 1990 and "Tolstoy Katha-Saptakam" in 1970. He enriched the Shataka literature of Sanskrit by the composition of Atankavada Shatakam (1992) and 'Nisarga-sarasanjalih' (2013). This poetic work is about Nature. He exposed the Aryan's home by etymological, geographical, historical and comparative study in his book: 'The migration of Aryans from India' (2010) and 'Sanskrit enhanced knowledge of the West' (2010). Gypsy Language and Grammar, 'Why Sanskrit' (2017), 'Shabdaparayanam' (2017), 'Sanjnakriyapadasamshleshika Vyakriya' (2017), 'Samkshipta Saar Vyakaranam' (2017), 'Naad Shabdikam' (2017), 'Antyajon ke prati Hinduvon ka kartavya' (2017) and 'Raag Ratnavali' (2017).

6. Prof. Tripathi founded Vagyoga Chetanapeetham (Yogic Voice Consciousness Institute) Shivala, Varanasi in 1984 where he has been organizing Ganga kavya Sangitika, on the waves of Ganga, Shiva Kavya Sangitika, Guru Kavya Sangitika and Sarasvati Kavya Sangitika time to time for benefit of society. He is Founder member of many Institutes like Swastivachanam Samstha of Delhi, Vishva Sanskrit Pratishthan, Ramnagar fort, Mistiq India, New Delhi, Para Vidya Samsthan, Kolkata etc.

7. Prof. Tripathi got many prestigious awards from all over the world which includes President's Certificate of Honor, Govt. of India 2013, Yash Bharati Samman 2014, Vishva Bharati Samman 2013, Sauhard Samman by U.P. Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow 2014, Akhila Bharatiya Veda Vedanga Award, Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy 1994, Mahakavi Kalidas Sanskrit Vratti Samman 2017, Sanskrit Sadhana Samman 2017, Kalidasa Award, 1966, Mahamahopadhyaya, Shri Kashi Pandit Parishad, Varanasi 1982, Bana Bhatta Puraskara, 1995, Vishishta Puraskara, U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan, 2004. Gold Medal of Honour ABI, USA 1993, A twentieth Century award for achievement Cambridge, England 1998 are some of them.

Padma Shri



SHRI ROMULUS WHITAKER

Shri Romulus Whitaker is the founder of several wildlife conservation and research organizations in India, mostly specializing in reptiles. He has been the mentor for dozens of young wildlife biologists and popularized the field of herpetology in the country. Besides publishing over 300 scientific and popular articles he has produced and presented numerous award winning wildlife documentary films and written several books including "Snakes of India-the Field Guide".

2. Born on May 23, 1943, Shri Whitaker moved to India in 1951 with his mother, Doris Norden and step-father R.K. Chattopadhyaya, son of Kamaladevi and Harindranath Chattopadhyaya. He took Indian citizenship in 1975.

3. Shri Whitaker founded the Madras Snake Park in 1969, the Madras Crocodile Bank in 1976 with his former wife, Zai Whitaker, Irula Snake-catchers Cooperative in 1978, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Environmental Trust in 1989, Agumbe Rainforest Research Station in 2005, Gharial Conservation Affiance in 2006 with his son Nikhil, and is currently the Project Manager (India) of the Global Snakebite Initiative, dedicated to the mitigation of snakebite in rural India.

4. Shri Whitaker has served on many State and Central Government committees including the Western Ghats Task Force, the Tamil Nadu State Wildlife Board, the National Tri-state Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee and has been a consultant and adviser on conservation agendas throughout the country. He has been a United Nations and other international agency consultant on wildlife projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

5. Shri Whitaker is the recipient of a number of awards and honours. He received the Rolex Award for Enterprise on two occasions, Ashoka Foundation Fellowship, the Peter Scott Award from the UK, Order of the Golden Ark from the Netherlands, Salim Ali Award and the Whitley Fund for Nature Award, UK and an Emmy Award for his National Geographic wildlife documentary "King Cobra". His work has been widely reported in the Indian press as well as Time Magazine, Newsweek and the New York Times.

Padma Shri



SHRI A. ZAKIA

Shri A. Zakia, Retired School Headmaster, is widely recognized for his role in the development of Mara literature and for being the distinguished person among the roams in Educational field.

2. Born on October 30, 1930 at Lorrain Vill, Saikao, Siaha District in Mizoram, Shri Zakia received his school education in Mission School, the first Missionary School at Saikao. In 1956 he completed Teacher Training at Serkawn and Junior Basic Training at Aizawl in 1960. He had been serving as School Headmaster in Government Primary School at Siaha since 1957 till his retirement (1957 - 1996)

3. Shri Zakia founded Primary Teachers Association (PTA) in Chhimtuipui District in 1969. He served in the Association in various capacities such as President, Vice President and General Secretary till 1990. Again in 1978 Saiha Teachers Union (STU) was founded. He is one of the Co-founders and served as Vice President and Finance Secretary. He is a member of local church Siaha vaihpi and served as General Secretary (1984-2002). In 2000 Civil Pensioner Association was founded and served as Assistant Secretary 2000-2007. He also served as Adviser in two NGO's i.e. Mara Student Organisation (MSO) and Mara Chatno Py (MCHP).

4. Shri Zakia had greatly contributed in the field of literature of Mara and Journalism. His Contribution and achievements are, Editor, Zirtirtu Entu (1976-1979), Editor, Krizyhpa Chiamie (1988-1991), Member Mara Literature Committee (2002-2003), Editor Awsichani (2002-2003), Member, Board of Mara Literature (till date), Adviser, Chhimtuipui Acetlamy of letters (2016-2018), Proof Reader, ECM Office (1997-2001), Mara Bible, Proof Reader (2004-2007).

5. Shri Zakia has published numerous books worth mentioning are, Translation of school Text Books in Mara language (1993-1996), Mara Reih (Mara language) (1992), Mara Geography (1994), Mara Grammar Book I (1991), Mara Grammar Book II (2018), Ei khitlyna (my journey), Reit a chu teh (language learning), Missionary Chakaona (missionary Ministry) 2016, Hawtizy Bible (Simplefied Bible version for children) 2005.

6. Shri Zakia's contribution in the field of Education forum is also tremendous. A few are Member, High School Board (1958-1964), Member, Mizoram Text book Committee (1978-1976), Member, Mara education School Committee (2000-2003), Member Juvenile Justice board Social welfare Department (2010-2013).

7. Shri Zakia is the recipient of numerous awards and honours such as Certificate of Honours & Medal, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi (1971), Rokhumi Memorial Award. Govt. of Mizoram (1981), Productivity Award, Governor, Govt. of Mizoram (1987), Certificate of Merit, School Education Department, Govt. of Mizoram, Certificate of Merit, MADC, Siaha (1991), National Award for Teacher, Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi (1992), Moonlight lifetime Achievement Award (2005), Maraland Gospel Centennial Award (2007), Appreciation Certificate for song composer and song translation, ECM Assembly 2010.

8. Shri Zakia's contribution to literature, education, religion and public are tremendous. He is the living legend of Maraland who enjoys doing philanthropic activities to the public and never gets tired of engaging himself in education too. Let him live longer showing the torch of knowledge in various fields to the benefit of the people in the years to come.