

Parbati Baruah

Hathi ki Pari

- India's 1st female elephant mahout, who overcame stereotypes to create a space for herself in a traditionally male-dominated field
- She stood out for her commitment towards **mitigating human-elephant conflict** with help of application of **scientific** practices - assisted 3 state governments to tackle & capture wild elephants
- Inheriting the skill from her father, she started at the age of 14 – her relentless efforts **over 4 decades** have played a vital role in saving & shaping the lives of many rogue tuskers
- Despite coming from a **well-off** background, she chose to live a **simple life**, dedicating it to serve the complex yet playful creature

“India's first female elephant mahout who started taming the wild tuskers at the age of 14 to overcome stereotypes”



Padma Shri | Social Work (Animal Welfare) | Assam | 67 Yrs



Jageshwar Yadav

Birhor ke Bhai

“welfare worker who dedicated his life for betterment of PVTG tribes of birhor and korwa”

- **Tribal Welfare Worker** from **Jashpur** who dedicated his life for the upliftment of **marginalized Birhor & Pahadi Korwa** people
- Established Ashram in Jashpur that worked for eradicating **illiteracy** and elevating **healthcare** standards by setting up camps
- Facilitated **vaccinations** during pandemic, addressing hesitancy – also helped reducing **infant mortality**
- Despite **financial hardships**, his passion remained to bring about social change



Padma Shri | Social Work (Tribal - PVTG) | Chhattisgarh | 67 Yrs



Chami Murmu

Seraikela ki Sahyogi

“tribal warrior who has planted over 30 lakh plants & empowered 30,000 women through SHGs”

- **Tribal Environmentalist and Women empowerment champion** from Seraikela Kharsawan
- Spearheaded afforestation efforts planting over **30 lakh plants with 3,000 women**
- Ushered socio-economic change by empowering over **30,000 women** across 40+ villages through formation of numerous **SHGs** & providing employment opportunities
- Through her NGO '**Sahayogi Mahila**', initiated impactful programs in safe **motherhood**, **anemia** & **malnutrition**, & emphasized adolescent girls' education
- Her relentless campaign against **illegal logging, timber mafia & naxal activities** & dedication towards protecting wildlife & forests has made her a force to reckon with



Padma Shri | Social Work (Environment - Afforestation) | Jharkhand | 52 Yrs



Gurvinder Singh

Divyangjan ki Asha

“social worker from Sirsa holding the beacon of hope for orphans & divyangs”

- **Divyang Social Worker** from Sirsa who worked for betterment of **homeless, destitute, women, orphans** and **divyangjan**
- With his unwavering dedication, he **nurtured 300** children dreams by setting up a child care institute named **Bal Gopal Dham**
- Provided **free ambulance** services to over 6,000 accident victims and pregnant women
- **Paralyzed waist down** after being **hit** by **truck** & confined to a **wheelchair** for life, he channelized his personal tragedy to work for welfare of others



Padma Shri | Social Work (Divyang) | Haryana | 53 Yrs



Sathyannarayana Beleri

Seeding Sathya

- **Rice farmer** from **Kasaragod**, who evolved into a guardian of paddy crop by preserving over **650 traditional rice varieties**
- Successfully introduced '**Rajakayame**' rice, boosting production and conservation across 3 states - Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu
- Through 15 years of hardwork, innovated technique, '**Polybag Method**' – conserved not only **indigenous rice varieties** but also traditional seeds of **arecanut, nutmeg** and **black pepper**
- Fostered **research** and conservation by providing 50 rice varieties to research centers and **distributed free rice seeds** to farmers

“preserving traditional rice varieties through innovative polybag method”



Padma Shri | Others (Agriculture - Cereal - Rice) | Kerala | 50 Yrs



Dukhu Majhi

Gaach Dadu

“environmentalist who dedicated 5 decades to planting trees & spreading awareness for a greener future”

- **Tribal** Environmentalist from **Sindri** village, Purulia
- Planted over **5,000 Banyan, Mango and Blackberry** trees on **barren** land, while traveling to new destinations on his **bicycle every day**
- Raised awareness about tree planting and featured in the documentary 'Rukhu Mati Dukhu Majhi'
- Working for a greener tomorrow since the **age of 12**
- Could not complete his education due to **financial constraints**, but that did not stop him from coming up with innovative solutions for protecting and safeguarding against wood theft and spreading awareness about the importance of trees



K Chellammal

Nariyal Amma

“veteran organic farmer who has developed efficient coconut & palm tree damage control measures”

- **Organic Farmer** from **South Andaman**, successfully developed a 10 acre organic farm
- Used **intercropping** method for cultivation of crops like Clove, Ginger, Pineapples, Banana and **motivated more than 150 farmers** to adopt it
- Devised **innovative & economical** solutions for **coconut & palm trees** damage control measures - harvested over 27,000 coconuts per annum & cultivated 2 hectares of coconut plantation with 460 palms of Andaman Ordinary Tall variety
- Studied till **class 6**, but **innovating** in farming for past 5 decades with commitment and enthusiasm



Padma Shri | Others (Agriculture - Organic) | Andaman & Nicobar | 69 Yrs



Sangthankima

Mizoram ke Sangh

“provided rehabilitation services and shelter to future generations”

- **Social worker** from **Aizawl** who has been running **Mizoram's largest orphanage** 'Thutak Nunpuitu Team'
- Over the course of 3 decades, addressed issues related to children's welfare, **addiction**, **HIV-AIDS** awareness, education, and other civic issues
- Continuously providing shelter and rehabilitation services to **orphans**, **divyangjan**, **drug addicts**, and **alcoholics**
- Worked for North Eastern communities and Burmese through his rehabilitation centres in **4 districts** of Assam



Padma Shri | Social Work (Children) | Mizoram | 63 Yrs



Hemchand Manjhi

Vaidyaraj Manjhi

“traditional medicine practitioner treating patients across states, especially the needy in villages”

- A traditional medicinal practitioner from **Narayanpur**, providing affordable healthcare to villagers for over 5 decades, having started **servicing the needy** since the age of 15
- Known for his special knowledge of **herbs** in **remote forests of Abujhmarh**
- Charges **meagre amount** to treat patients suffering from varied diseases
- Despite **repeated threats** & personal attacks by **Naxals**, he **continued to serve people** with sincerity and zeal

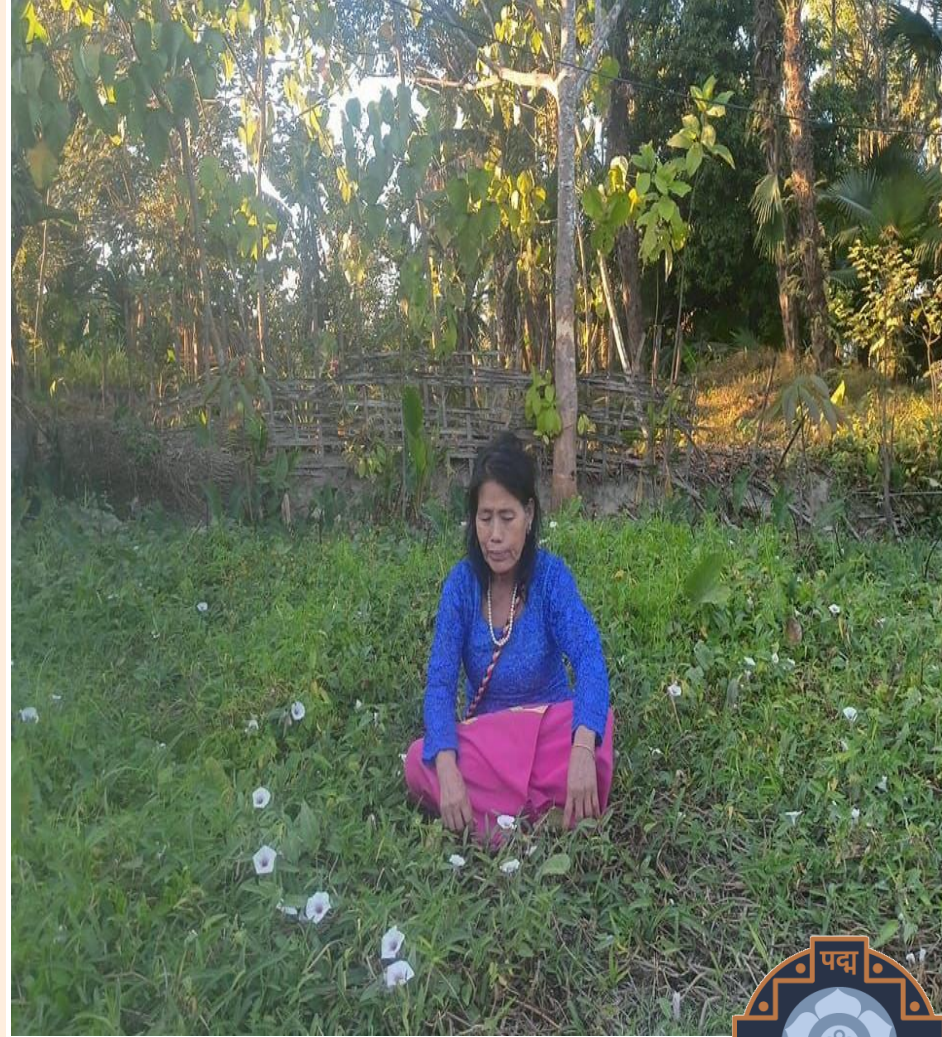


Yanung Jamoh Lego

Adi Queen of Herbs

“tribal herbal medicinal expert – revived traditional healing system of adi tribe”

- East Siang based **herbal medicine expert** who has provided **medical care** to over 10,000 patients, educated **1 lakh individuals** on medicinal herbs and **trained SHGs** in their use
- **Planted over 5,000 medicinal plants** annually & promoted setting up of **herbal kitchen gardens** in every household across the district
- Despite financial constraints & personal challenges, she dedicated her life for **revival** of the lost **traditional healing system** of **Adi tribe** in particular & the entire Arunachal Pradesh as a whole – becoming **instrumental** in keeping the traditional knowledge of medicines alive



Somanna

Jenu Kuruba ke Janak

“tribal welfare worker working for betterment of jenu kuruba tribe”

- **Tribal Welfare Worker** from Mysuru, tirelessly working for upliftment of **Jenu Kuruba** tribe for over 4 decades
- Assisted in acquiring **title deeds** to ensure the legal recognition and protection of more than 500 tribal communities residing in forest areas
- His social work extended to environmental **conservation**, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural habitats
- Jenu Kuruba is a honey collecting tribe from Nilgiris with around 40,000 inhabitants
- Previously a **bonded labourer**, he realised the true importance of freedom and rights and went on to dedicate his life to advocating for the rights of tribals



Padma Shri | Social Work (Tribal - PVTG) | Karnataka | 66 Yrs



Sarbeswar Basumatary

Chirang ke Krishi Chiraag

“daily wager turned farmer who has evolved into a model for all in mixed integrated farming”

- **Tribal Farmer** from Chirang who successfully adopted **mixed integrated farming** approach and cultivated varieties of crops like **coconuts, oranges, paddy, litchis and maize**
- Demonstrating a community-focused approach, he transmitted his **knowledge** and learnings to other **farmers**, helping increase efficiency and uplift livelihoods
- Once a **daily wage labourer**, his enduring spirit and enthusiasm has become a role model for the agricultural community – despite lacking any formal education and against heavy odds



Padma Shri | Others (Agriculture) | Assam | 61 Yrs



Prema Dhanraj

Agni Rakshak

“burn victim turned burn surgeon, who overcome personal tragedy to dedicate her life to the cause of burn victims”

- **Plastic (Reconstructive) Surgeon** & Social Worker, dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of **burn victims** - her legacy extending beyond surgery, championing **burn prevention**, awareness and policy reform
- Founded **Agni Raksha** NGO, provided **free surgery** to **25,000 burn victims** + Authored 3 books on Plastic Surgery
- As part of her global humanitarian efforts, **established Ethiopia's 1st burns unit**, and educated doctors in Kenya, Tanzania, Norway, Ethiopia
- A survivor of **50% burns at age of 8** (when a stove burst on her face while playing in the kitchen), she triumphed over personal tragedy to become a driving force of change
- She underwent more than **14 surgeries** as a child at Christian Medical College Vellore - and went on to become a Surgeon & **HoD** in the same hospital



Padma Shri | Medicine (Indigenous - Burns) | Karnataka | 72 Yrs

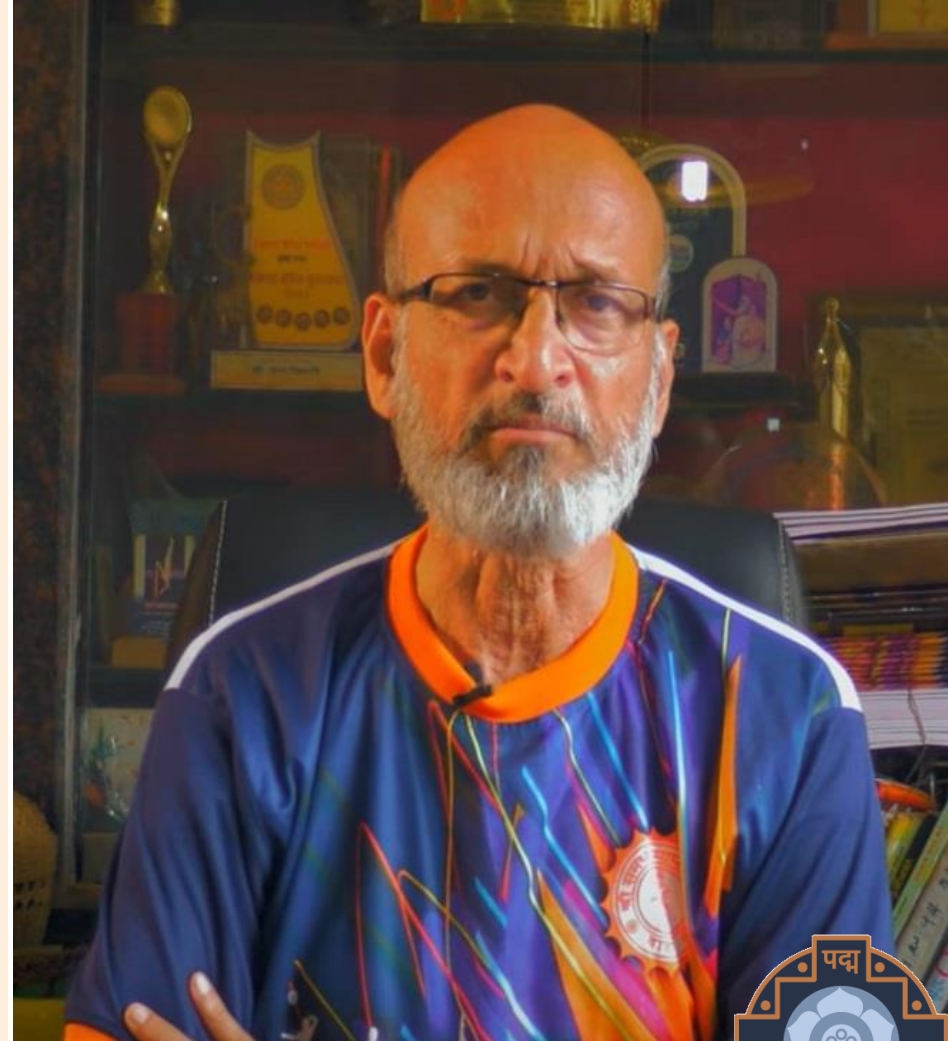


Uday Vishwanath Deshpande

Mallakhamb Pitamah

“flagbearer of Mallakhamb, credited for bringing the sport on global map”

- International **Mallakhamb Coach**, who worked relentlessly in reviving, revitalizing and **popularizing** the sport at **global** level
- Personally **trained** over **5,000** people from **50 countries** - introduced Mallakhamb to diverse groups including women, divyangjan, orphans, tribals and senior citizens
- As director of **Vishwa Mallakhamb Federation**, played a pivotal role in contributing significantly to it's international reach
- Created a **rule-book** with criteria of judgement and competition and **standardizing all regulations** which was recognized by Indian Olympic Association



Padma Shri | Sports (Coach - Mallakhamb) | Maharashtra | 70 Yrs

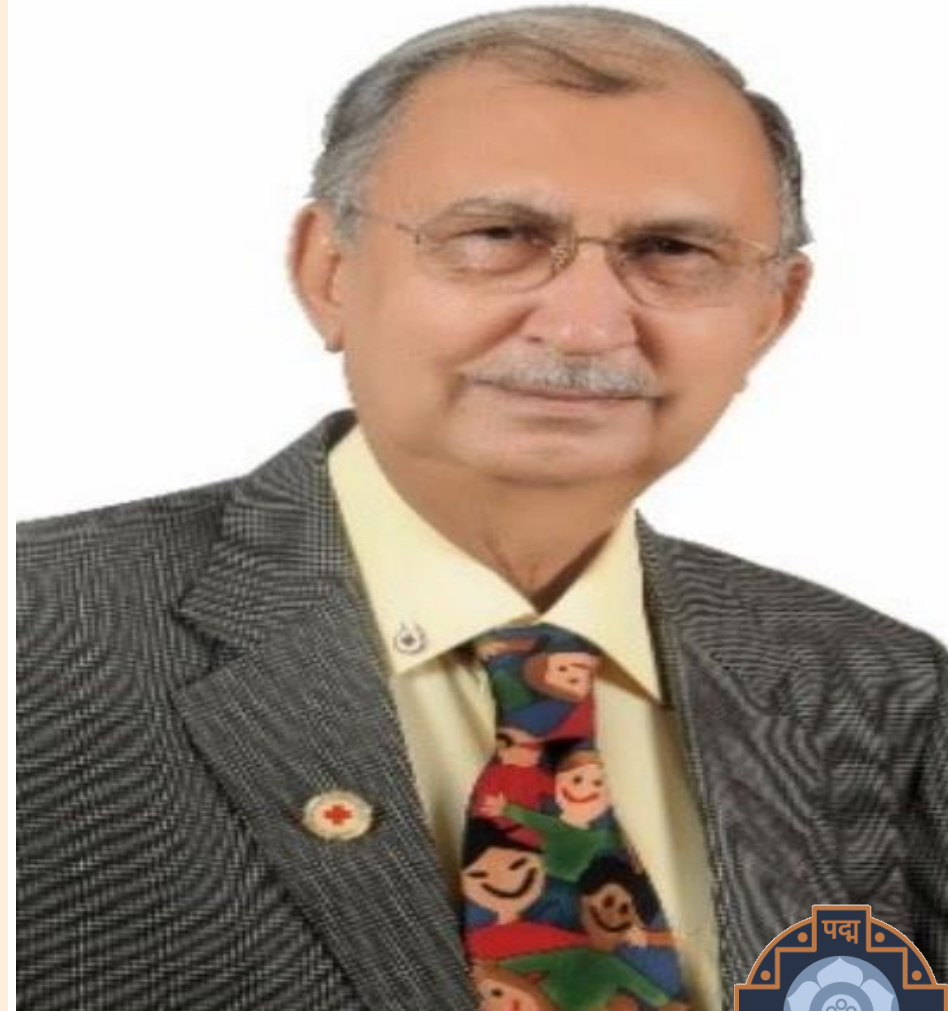


Yazdi Maneksha Italia

Sickle Cell Crusader

“doctor who dedicated his life to fight sickle cell anemia amongst Tribals of Gujarat”

- Renowned **Microbiologist** who pioneered development of India's inaugural **Sickle Cell Anemia Control Program (SCACP)**
- **Pioneered newborn screening** through heel prick dry blood samples in collaboration with ICMR - prevented & controlled new births with SCD by screening 2 lakh tribals
- Screened more than 95 lakh tribal individuals across Gujarat, identifying 7.2 lakh Sickle Cell trait cases, and issuing color-coded cards for effective counselling



Padma Shri | Medicine (Indigenous - Sickle Cell) | Gujarat | 72 Yrs

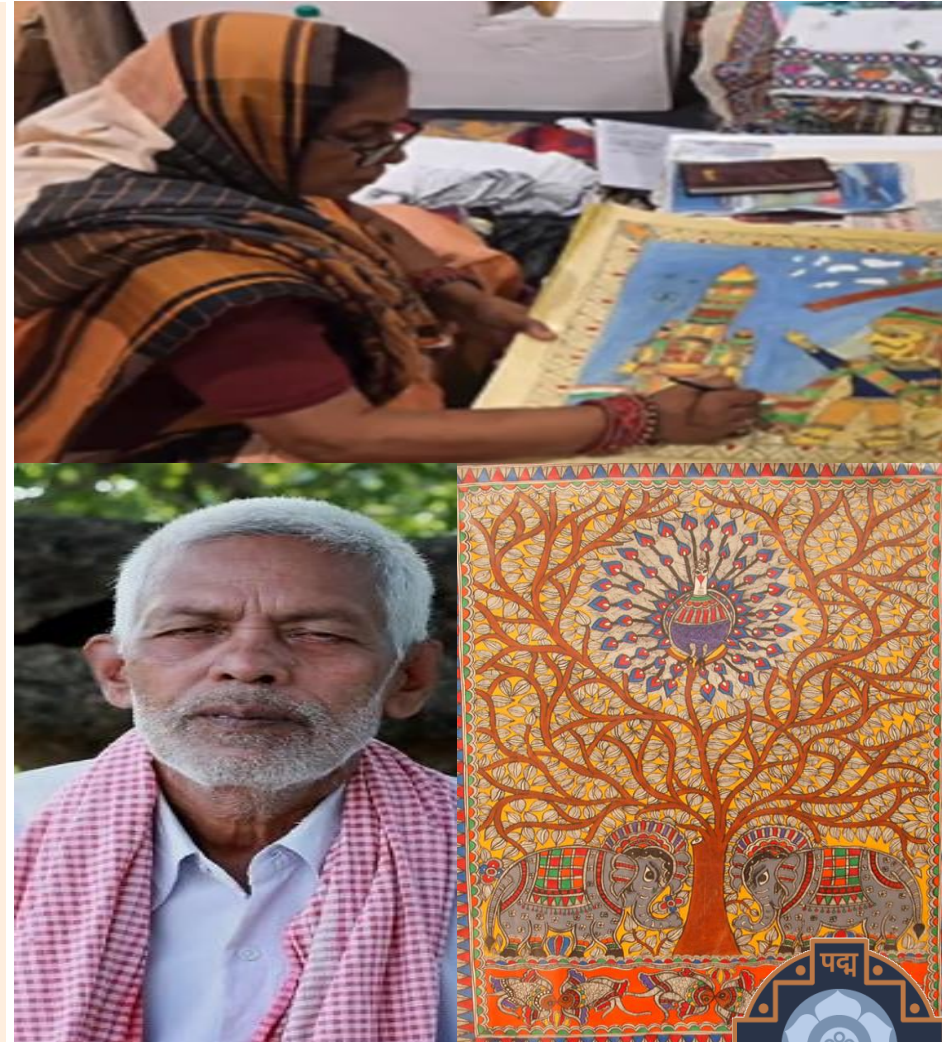


Shanti Devi Paswan & Shivan Paswan

Godna ke Gaurav

- Husband-wife from Dusadh community, who overcame social stigma to become **globally recognized** Godna painters - exhibiting artwork in countries like USA, Japan and Hong Kong and **training** over **20,000** women
- Painting themes are centered on epics and legends of Dusadh community, with **Raja Sailesh** (chief deity of community) as a key character
- Shanti Devi, who was once refused drinking water in village because of her caste, went on to **showcase** her talent on global stage at **G20 Summit** in India
- Despite facing financial constraints, Shivan continued to paint and impart the skill to young people

“duo Godna painters who overcame social stigmas to become prominent face in Madhubani painting globally”



Padma Shri | Art (Painting - Folk - Madhubani) | Bihar | Duo



Ratan Kahar

Bhadu Ratan

“captured people's attention with his composition 'Boro Loker Biti Lo'”

- **Renowned Bhadu Folk Singer** from Birbhum, has devoted over 60 years to folk music
- Known for captivating roles in **Jatra Folk theatre**
- Specializing in Bhadu festival songs and genres like **Tuṣu, Jhumur, and Alkab**
- Propogates Bhadu songs which are sung on each night of the Bhadu festival
- His composition 'Boro Loker Biti Lo' is popular
- Despite financial hardship and coming from a family of **labourers**, he started singing at the age of 16 and has left a indelible mark



Padma Shri | Art (Vocals - Folk - Bhadu) | West Bengal | 88 Yrs



Ashok Kumar Biswas

Tikuli ke Bhishma Pitamah

- Prolific **Tikuli** Painter credited for revival and modification of the **Mauryan era** artform through his efforts over last **5 decades**
- Creating **thousands of designs** & exported countless paintings
- Providing **free training** to women & girls - trained more than **8,000 female artists**
- Popularised the art Nationally as well as Internationally by showcasing work in more than **100 exhibitions in 5 countries**
- Left his job and dedicated his life for reviving the Tikuli art

“folk painter who revived mauryan era tikuli art, crafting thousands of designs and training 8,000 woman”



Padma Shri | Art (Painting - Folk - Tikuli) | Bihar | 67 Yrs



Balakrishnan Sadanam Puthiya Veetil

Kallu Kathakali Guru

“earning global acclaim for Kalluvazhi Kathakali for past 6 decades”

- Distinguished **Kalluvazhi Kathakali Dancer** with a career spanning over 60 years - earning **global acclaim** and promoting a deeper understanding of Indian traditions
- Graced 30 national / international festivals across **25 countries**
- As a choreographer and producer, crafted more than **35 new plays** and adapted **Shakespeare into Kathakali plays**
- His literary contribution included compilation of **14 Aattakathakal** or Kathakali texts, enumerating stories from Puranas and Greek tragedies
- Considered a sought after and respected **Guru**, passing on the true essence to future generations - many of his disciples have now become accomplished performers
- Started as a Senior Artist at a Dance Institute in Delhi in 1974, later became it's Director by 1980



Padma Shri | Art (Dance - Classical - Kathakali) | Kerala | 79 Yrs



Uma Maheshwari D

Swar Maheshwari

“1st female harikatha exponent who has performed globally in different ragas”

- **1st Female** Harikatha Exponent, has showcased her skill in **Sanskrit** recitation
- Recites **Kathas** in multiple **ragas** such as Savitri, Bhairavi, Subhapantuvarali, Kedaram, Kalyani
- Proficient in Telugu and Sanskrit - **authored** over four Harikathas, covering figures like Ramana Maharshi and Potti Sriramul
- Her contribution has **encouraged many young girls** to come out of barriers of tradition and adopt the art
- From family of musicians, grandchild of renowned Nadaswara Vidwan late Daliparti Pichihari



Padma Shri | Art (Storytelling - Harikatha) | Andhra Pradesh | 63 Yrs



Gopinath Swain

Krishna Leela ke Nath

“centenarian performing Krishna Leela for over 9 decades”

- **Krishna Leela Singer** from **Ganjam**, dedicated his life to **preserve** and **promote** the tradition
- His commitment to **traditional techniques** and **improvisational** methods breathed life into Krishna Leela, created a **bridge between past and present**
- Sang & taught **5 ancient ragas** - Dakhinasri + Chinta Desakhya + Todi Bhatiari + Bhatiari + Kumbha Kamodi
- Established **Akhadas** (traditional village schools) and imparted his knowledge to **hundreds of disciples** - Despite old age, he has been teaching and propagating this unique art, scouting talent from across Southern Odisha
- Coming from a family of Krishna Leela performers, commenced his musical journey from the young age of 5



Padma Shri | Art (Vocals - Bhajan - Odia) | Odisha | 105 Yrs



Smriti Rekha Chakma

Chakma's Rekha

- **Chakma Loinloom Shawl Weaver** from Tripura, who transforms **eco-friendly vegetables dyed cotton threads** into traditional designs, promoting the use of natural dyes
- Established **Ujeia Jadha**, a socio cultural organization to impart **training** to **rural women** in the art of weaving
- Continues the process of **travelling** into **forests** to procure roots, seeds, herbs or leaves for the dye, before it gets into the whole process of drying, crushing & getting the colour
- She spent her childhood watching her grandmother weave on the loinloom (one of the oldest weaving machine) using traditional Naga methods, and now imparts training to younger generation

“weaver transforming eco-friendly vegetable-dyed cotton threads into traditional designs”



Padma Shri | Art (Textile - Weaving - Loinloom) | Tripura | 63 Yrs

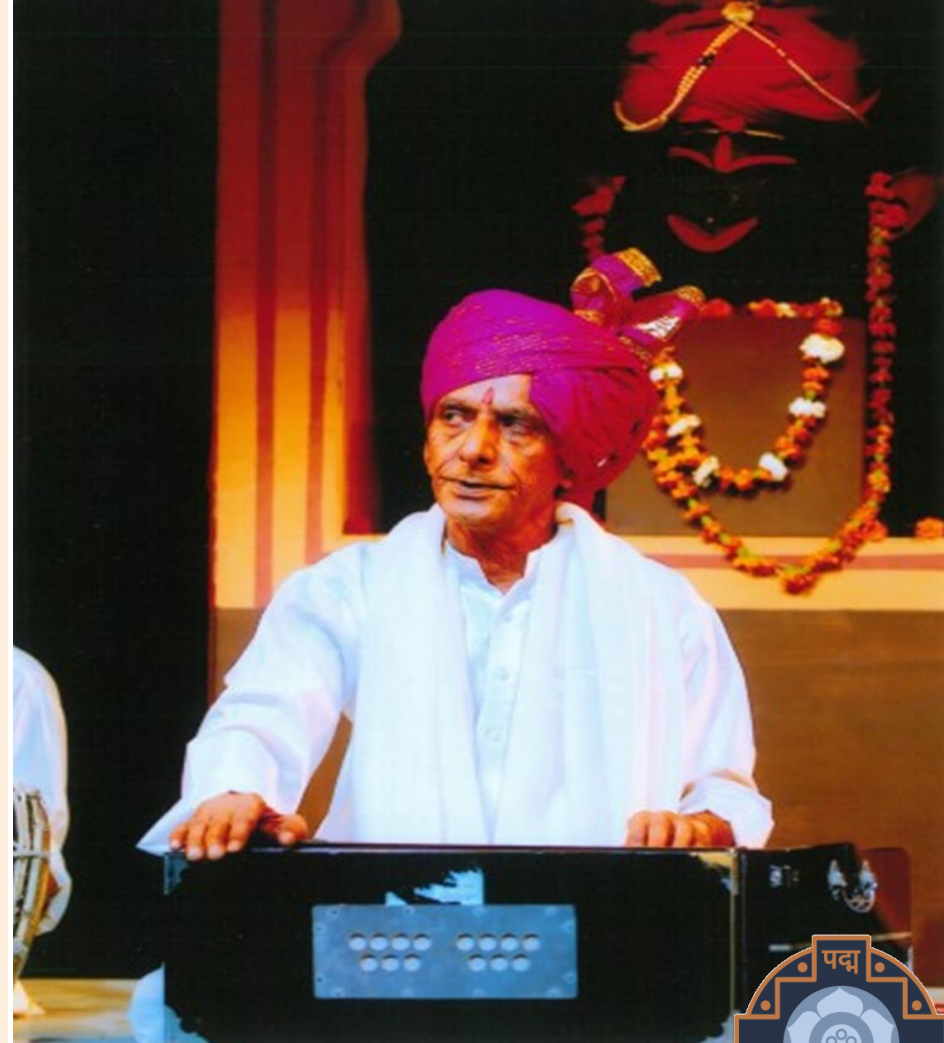


Omprakash Sharma

Mach ke Prakash

“promoted 200 year-old Malwa region's traditional dance drama 'Mach' for over 7 decades”

- **Mach Theatre Artist** who has devoted 7 decades of his life to promote this **200 year old** traditional dance drama of the **Malwa region**
- Penned **scripts** for Mach theater productions and **re-crafted Sanskrit plays** into Mach style
- Serving as an **educator**, trained students at NSD Delhi and Bharat Bhavan Bhopal, passing on his expertise in the art form
- Coming from a **humble background**, had learned the artform from his father under Ustaad Kaluram Mach Akhada



Padma Shri | Art (Theatre - Folk - Mach) | Madhya Pradesh | 85 Yrs



Narayanan E P

Theyyam Tradition Reviver

- Veteran **Theyyam Folk Dancer** from Kannur - mastery extending beyond dance to the entire Theyyam ecosystem including **costume designing & face painting** techniques
- Began his 6 decade-long career at 5 yrs, showcased art in 300 performances across **20 variants** of Theyyam
- Theyyam is an **ancient** folk **ritual** combining theatre, music, mime and dance, generally performed in front of the **village shrine** - performed with musical instruments like Chenda, Elathalam, Kurumkuzal
- Gave performances in **100 Kaavus** (ritual locations)
- Started off as a driver, now dedicatedly working towards conserving this Art form

“dedicated 6 decades promoting the traditional art form of Theyyam”



Padma Shri | Art (Dance - Folk - Theyyam) | Kerala | 67 Yrs



Bhagabat Padhan

Sabda Nrutya ke Pradhan

“expanding the scope of Sabda Nrutya dance to wider platforms and training diverse groups in the art”

- Exponent of **Sabda Nrutya Folk dance** from **Bargarh**, who has taken the dance form **beyond the temples**
- Dedicated over **5 decades** of his life to preserve and popularise the art which is considered the **dance of Mahadev**
- His lifelong efforts contributed significantly in sustaining this dance form - including **training** more than **600 dancers**
- Worked as Lower Primary **School teacher** during 1960s, faced financial challenge, but never gave up devotion towards his art



Padma Shri | Art (Dance - Folk - Sabda Nrutya) | Odisha | 85 Yrs



Sanatan Rudra Pal

Durga ka Rudra

“sculptor known for crafting traditional Sabeki Durga idols for over 5 decades”

- Distinguished **sculptor** with over **5 decades** of experience, preserving and promoting the traditional art form - specializes in crafting **Sabeki Durga idols**
- His work has become an integral part of the annual **Durga Puja** celebrations, with his clay sculptures adorning more than 30 pandals each year
- Garnered recognition from **UNESCO** for his idols
- Providing employment to over 1,500 individuals
- Coming from a **family of idol makers**, he embraced crafting a one of a kind style that showcased impressive idols with captivating, radiant eyes.



Padma Shri | Art (Sculpture) | West Bengal | 68 Yrs



Badrappan M

Light of Kummi Oyil

- Exponent of **Valli Oyil Kummi Folk Dance** from Coimbatore - a mixed form of song and dance performance which depicts the stories of deities '**Muruggan**' and '**Valli**'
- Addresses **social issues** through dance - spreads knowledge regarding Indian history & mythology
- Though predominantly a **male-dominated** art form, Badrappan believed in **women empowerment** and thus broke the tradition and **trained women artists**

“87 yr old Valli Oyil Kummi Dance guru, breaking from tradition to also train women”



Padma Shri | Art (Dance - Folk - Kummi) | Tamil Nadu | 87 Yrs



Jordan Lepcha

Lepcha Maestro

“bamboo craftsman preserving the traditional Lepcha hats of Sikkim”

- **Bamboo Craftsman** from **Mangan**, who is nurturing the cultural heritage of **Lepcha tribe**
- Preserving the **ancient craft** of weaving traditional **Lepcha hats** and **bamboo crafts** for last 25 years
- A skilled artisan and dedicated trainer, imparted his knowledge to over **150** youths from different parts of Sikkim - many of whom now sustain themselves by establishing their own Bamboo Crafts
- He is also a **marginal farmer** and **carpenter**



Padma Shri | Art (Craft - Bamboo) | Sikkim | 50 Yrs



Machihan Sasa

Earthen Alchemist

- **Longpi Potter** from **Ukhrul** who dedicated **5 decades** to preserve this ancient **Manipuri traditional pottery** which traces its roots back to the **Neolithic period** (10,000 BC)
- Longpi Pottery is a rare pottery form which uses black serpentine stone and brown clay **without a wheel**
- Created, marketed and exhibited varieties of Longpi Pottery **products** such as cooking pots, teacups, etc - infusing **new designs** inspired by Manipuri folk art
- **Trained** over **300 individuals**, that not only helped in reviving the art form but also create a sustainable **income source** for the villagers

“master craftsperson who has promoted and preserved ancient Manipuri tradition of Longpi pottery”



Padma Shri | Art (Craft - Pottery - Black) | Manipur | 73 Yrs



Gaddam Sammaiah

Yakshaganam Yajman

- Eminent **Chindu Yakshaganam Theatre Artist** from **Jangaon**, performing this rich heritage art form for over **5 decades** over **19,000 shows**
- Addresses **social issues** such as total literacy, environmental protection
- Founded **Chindu Yaksha Kalakarula Sangham & Gaddam Sammaiah Yuva Kala Skethram** to promote this art
- Hailing from a humble background had worked as an **agriculture labourer** - learnt the artform from his parents who were both Chindu Yakshaganam artists

“highlighting social issues through Chindu Yakshaganam performances for over 5 decades”



Padma Shri | Art (Dance - Yakshagana) | Telangana | 67 Yrs



Jankilal

Bhilwara ke Behrupiya Baba

“3rd generation performer mastering the fading Behrupiya art for over 6 decades”

- **Behrupiya Artist** from **Bhilwara**, mastering the fading art form and captivating **global** audiences for over **6 decades**
- Carrying on the legacy of 3 generations - intricately created multiple characters from mythology, folklore and traditional stories
- Dedicated his life in promoting this local art in Mewar region of Rajasthan
- Despite facing financial hardship and limited institutional support, he continued his passion and commitment for his art



Padma Shri | Art (Theatre - Folk - Rajasthani) | Rajasthan | 81 Yrs



Dasari Kondappa

Guardian of Burra Veena

- 3rd generation **Burra Veena** player from Damaragidda village in **Narayanpet**, has dedicated his life to preserving the artform
- Holding the distinction of being the **last exponent** of Burra Veena, he has protected it from extinction
- Sings '**Tatvalu**' socio-religious moral compositions & spiritual-philosophical renditions in Telugu, Kannada
- Burra Veena is an indigenous stringed instrument created using bamboo, gourd shell, and metal strings
- Custom of Burra Veena is to play within their own community, but Dasari went beyond to attract wider audiences

“one of the last Burra veena players, dedicated his life to the indigenous art”

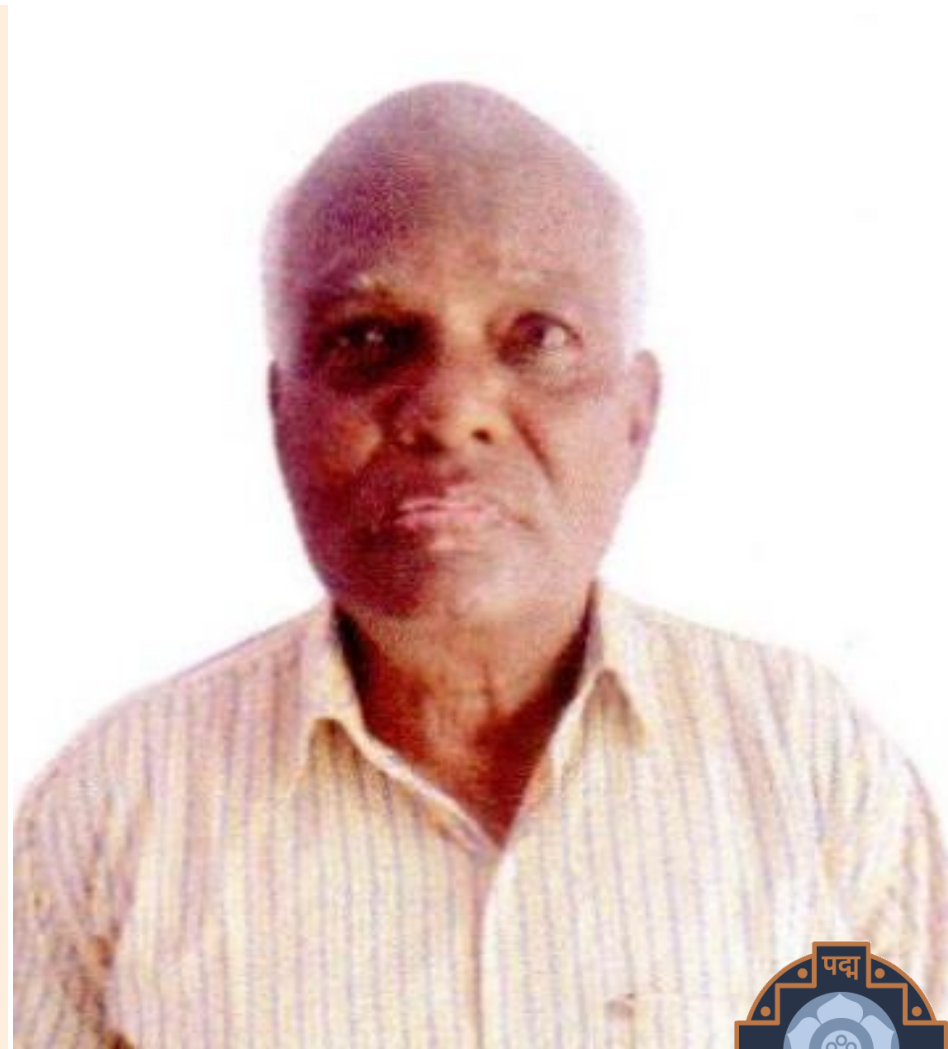


Babu Ram Yadav

Brass ke Babu

“brass craftsperson championing the intricate brass marori craft globally since past 6 decades”

- **Brass Marori Craftsperson** with over **6 decades** experience in creating intricate brass artifacts using **traditional crafting** techniques
- Dedicated his life to learn the intricacies and nuances of this artform & showcased his work at **40 exhibitions globally**, along with **exporting** the products
- Successfully kept this craft alive through his training workshops and training cum production centre in Uttar Pradesh, where he provides **free training** to over **1,000 new artisans** including **leprosy patients**
- Founded **Artisan Light**, aimed at providing economic welfare and support to artisan communities



Padma Shri | Art (Craft - Brass) | Uttar Pradesh | 74 Yrs



Nepal Chandra Sutradhar

Chhau ke Sutradhar

“one of the last and senior most practitioners of Purulia style dance & maskmaking of age-old Chhau”

- 3rd Generation Chhau mask maker with over 50 years spent in the preservation of Chhau mask-making
- Trained 70+ Chhau Dance Groups and participated in mask making workshops nationally & internationally
- Learnt Chhau mask making from his father & grandfather at the age of 8 years
- Posthumous (Nov 2023)



Padma Shri | Art (Craft - Mask Making - Chau) | West Bengal | 82 Yrs

