



सत्यमेव जयते

**पद्म पुरस्कार 2023**  
**Padma Awards 2023**

**अलंकरण समारोह-I**  
**Investiture Ceremony-I**

**मार्च 22, 2023**  
**March 22, 2023**

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**Note : \*Not Present in the Investiture Ceremony**

**\*सम्मान समारोह में उपस्थित नहीं**



## **PROF. BALKRISHNA DOSHI (POSTHUMOUS)**

Prof. Balkrishna Doshi was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architect and the Indian Institute of Architects. After initial study at the J J School of Architecture, Bombay, he worked for four years with Le Corbusier as Senior Designer (1951-54) in Paris and four more years in India to supervise his projects in Ahmedabad. His office Vastu Shilpa (Environmental design) was established in 1955.

2. Born on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1927, Prof. Doshi had been a member of the Jury for several international and national competitions including the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Pritzker Prize. Apart from his international fame as an architect, he was equally known as an educator and Institution builder. He was the first Founder Director of School of Architecture (1962-72) and School of Planning (1972-79), Ahmedabad. He had been instrumental in establishing the nationally and internationally known Research Institute Vastu Shilpa Foundation for Studies and Research in Environmental Design. As an academician, he had been visiting the U.S.A. and Europe since 1958 and had held important chairs at American Universities.

3. Prof. Doshi was foremost among the modern Indian architects and had to his credit outstanding projects ranging from dozens of townships and several educational campuses, which include those for CEPT University, Ahmedabad; National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

4. Prof. Joshi's distinguished professional career was more than matched by his academic achievements as the first founder Director of the School of Architecture, Ahmedabad started in 1962, which is regarded as both the pioneer and the fountainhead of modern architectural and planning education in India.

5. In recognition of his distinguished contribution as a professional and as an academician, Prof. Doshi had received several International and national awards and honours including 'Padma Shri' conferred by the Government of India in 1976; Honorary Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, USA in 1993; McGill University, Canada in 2006; Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 1996; Prime Minister's National Award for Excellence in Urban Planning and Design in 2000; Global Award for Lifetime Achievement for Sustainable Architecture by Institut Francais d'architecture, Paris in 2007; Officer in the Order of Arts and Letter from Ministry of Culture and Communications, French Republic in 2009; The Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2018; 'Padma Bhushan' conferred by the Government of India in 2020; Foreign Honorary Membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2021 and the RIBA Royal Gold Medal in 2022 personally approved by Her Majesty Late The Queen Elizabeth. It is one of the world's highest honours for architecture.

6. Prof. Doshi passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.





## SHRI ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Shri Zakir Hussain is a pre-eminent classical tabla virtuoso, appreciated and acknowledged in the fields of percussion, world music and western classical music.

2. Born on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1951, Shri Zakir was a child prodigy. The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Alla Rakha, Shri Zakir began his professional career at the age of 12, accompanying India's greatest classical musicians and dancers and touring internationally with great success by the age of 18. His brilliant accompaniment, solo performance and genre-defying collaborations, including his pioneering work to develop a dialogue between North and South Indian musicians, have elevated the status of his instrument both in India and globally, bringing the tabla into a new dimension of renown and appreciation. He is widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement. His contribution has been unique, with many historic and groundbreaking collaborations, including Shakti, Remember Shakti, Masters of Percussion, Planet Drum and Global Drum Project with Mickey Hart, Tabia Beat Science, Sangam with Diaries Uoyd and Eric Hariand, Crosscurrents with Dave Holland and Chris Potter, in trio with Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, and, most recently, with Herbie Hancock.
3. As a composer, Shri Zakir has scored music for numerous feature films, major events and productions. He has composed 3 concertos, and his third, the first-ever concerto for tabla and orchestra, was premiered in India in September, 2015, by the Symphony Orchestra of India, premiered in Europe and the UK in 2016, and in the USA in April, 2017, by the National Symphony Orchestra at Kennedy Center.
4. Shri Zakir has held various positions such as Mentor in the Rolex Mentor and Protege Arts Initiative, 2018-2019. As an educator, he has been in residence at Princeton University and Stanford University and in 2015, he was appointed Regents' Lecturer at UC Berkeley; Resident Artistic Director at SFJazz from 2013 until 2016.
5. Shri Zakir has many Awards & Recognition to his name such as Kyoto Prize Laureate in Arts and Philosophy, 2022; Aga Khan Music Award, 2022; LLD (Doctor of Law) degree conferred by Mumbai University, 2022; Doctor of Literature (D.LitL) (Honoris Causa) conferred by FTM University Gwalior, 2022; Downbeat Critics' Poll Best Percussionist Award, 2021 and 2020; Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow, 2018; Antonio Carlos Jobirt Award by Montreal Jazz Festival, 2018; San Francisco Jazz Lifetime Achievement Award, 2017; Grammy for Global Drum Project (Contemporary World Music Album), 2009; Padma Bhushan, 2002; USA's National Heritage Fellowship, 1999; Grammy for Planet Drum (Best World Music Album), 1992; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, 1990 and Padma Shri, 1988.

# Padma Vibhushan



## SHRI SOMANAHALLI MALLAIAH KRISHNA

Shri Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna is former External Affairs Minister and former Chief Minister of Karnataka. His statesman like vision and administrative acumen, set a new benchmark in every office that he occupied during a career straddling more than six decades. His citizen- friendly initiatives and humane approach to decision-making while serving in various capacities in New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai have benefitted millions across our nation.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1932, in Somanahalli, a village in Maddur Taluq, Mandya district, Karnataka, Shri Krishna obtained his B.A. degree from Maharaja's College, Mysore, and a degree in Law from Government Law College, Bangalore. Subsequently, he migrated to the United States to graduate from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and the George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C, where he was a Full bright Scholar. Soon after his return to India, he forayed into politics with his debut as Member of the Legislative Assembly from Praja Socialist Party in 1962.

3. Shri Krishna served the nation and the state in various capacities as Union Minister of State for Finance (1984-85) and Union Minister of State for Industry (1983-84); Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly (1989-92); Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka (1992-94); Minister for Commerce & Industry & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Karnataka (1972-77). He was a member of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha several times between 1971 to 2014.

4. Shri Krishna, as the External Affairs Minister, Government of India, approved the establishment of Passport Seva Kendras across the country for the convenience of the common person even as he extended a hand of friendship to several nations to cement bilateral economic and trade relations with them.

5. Shri Krishna, as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, worked to develop rural outreaches and urban precincts with equal resolve and diligence. He articulated, planned and implemented the novel mid-day meal scheme for school children. This initiative helped more children to pursue education regularly. He pioneered the concept of "Brand Bangalore" and established an ecosystem to facilitate the growth of industries in the Information Technology and Biotechnology sectors and for the genesis of start-ups. He was the project's chief architect to connect Bangalore with several international destinations through an airport of global standards. Today, with two terminals, the buzzing Kempe Gowda International Airport (KIAL) stands testimony to his visionary approach to developmental projects. He encouraged public-private-participation through the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF), an entity consisting of business and civic leaders, to draw up an agenda for the city and suggest ways in which the city's infrastructure and service delivery improve according to best practice systems elsewhere. He was also instrumental in introducing reforms in the Energy Sector and digitizing land records through a scheme christened BHOOMI.

6. Shri Krishna piloted Karnataka state to its place of pride between 1999 and 2004 after leading the Congress to victory as President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee in 1999. On demitting the office of Chief Minister, he took oath as Governor of Maharashtra in December, 2004. He returned to his home state in 2008 and was elected Chairman of the Election Management and Coordination Committee, KPCC, and occupied this post till 2013.



### **SHRI KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA**

Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla is the Chairman of the venerable Indian multinational, Aditya Birla Group. The Group's legacy dates to over a century and it was the first Indian business group to venture abroad. Today, the Group is present in 36 countries with turnover around \$60 Billion.

2. Born on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1967, Shri Birla chairs the Boards of all major Group companies, in India and globally. In the 27+ years that he has been at the helm of the Group, he has accelerated growth, and raised the Group's turnover by 30 times. He has been the architect of over 40 acquisitions, in India and globally, among the highest by any Indian multinational.

3. Under the stewardship of Shri Birla, the Aditya Birla Group enjoys a position of leadership in all the major sectors in which it operates, from cement to chemicals, metals to textiles, and apparels to financial services. Over the years, he has built a highly successful meritocratic organisation, anchored by an extraordinary force of 140,000 employees, belonging to over 100 nationalities.

4. Outside the Group, Shri Birla has held several key positions on various regulatory and professional Boards. He was a Director on the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. He was also the first industry nominee on the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). As the Chairman of SEBI Committee on Corporate Governance, he framed the first-ever Governance Code for Corporate India. He was Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of Company Affairs, and also served on the Prime Minister of India's Advisory Council on Trade & Industry. He is also the first Indian Industrialist to be conferred an Honorary degree by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).

5. Shri Birla is deeply engaged with Educational Institutions. He is the Chancellor of the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) with campuses in Pilani, Goa, Hyderabad, and Dubai. He has been the Chairman of India's premier management institute - Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. On the global arena, he is an Honorary Fellow of the London Business School. In 2019, he constituted a £15 million scholarship programme at the London Business School in memory of his grandfather, Shri B.K. Birla. This scholarship is awarded to 10 students every year, five of which is reserved for Indian students.

6. Shri Birla has been conferred several prestigious awards. He was the first Indian Industrialist to receive the TiE Global Entrepreneurship Award for Business Transformation in 2021. He received ABLF Global Asian Award in 2019. He has also received the Business Leader of the Year Award twice at the Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence. In addition, he has received several awards and honours from leading institutions like EY, Forbes, CNBC, CNN-News18 etc.



### **SMT. SUMAN KALYANPUR**

Smt. Suman Kalyanpur is a renowned Indian playback singer most well known for her success as one of the top three female playback singers of the golden era in Indian music. Her mellifluous voice took the industry by storm for almost four decades, delivering innumerable hit songs in Hindi, Marathi and 11 other languages. Even today at the age of 86, her voice is fresh, young and treat to listen to.

2. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1937, Smt. Kalyanpur began her musical career in the year 1952, with a broadcast in the Bombay station of the All India Radio. She received invaluable guidance about the basics of music from musicologist and music director Shri Keshavrao Bhole of Prabhat fame. She was also trained in classical, semi-classical and light music by gurus like Ustaad Abdul Rehman Khan, Tawde Bua, Navrang Nagpurkar and Yashwant Deo. She has sung with all the leading singers of the time like Talat Mahmood, Manna Dey, Mohd. Rafi, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, Parveen Sultana, Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle to name a few and under the baton of all the popular music directors in bollywood of that period (1952-1986) like S D Burman, Roshan, Shankar-Jaikishan, Naushad, Khayyam, Kalyanji Anandji, Laxmikant Pyarelal, Usha Khanna, Rajesh Roshan, Robin Banerjee, Dattaram and many more. She, according to many hard core critics and sensitive connoisseurs is unique in her rendition of film songs, bhajans, light classical music and non film songs too. Urdu ghazals of Smt. Kalyanpur have individuality peculiar to her with a style that is unique. One of her biggest hits, 'Aaj kal tere mere pyaar ke charche...' has become a cult song, famous till date with many renditions and remixes made of the same.

3. Smt. Kalyanpur has many 'Firsts' to her credit. She was the First Indian Female Playback Singer to sing live abroad and introduce an Indian cultural show of song and dance in USA, UK (Wembley Stadium), South America, West Indies and Canada. She was the first to appear on the BBC Channel, London. She has sung in 25 cultural charity programs for the Government of Maharashtra in aid of their noble cause of small saving scheme. She also showed her solidarity by engaging in free performances in five shows in aid of War Widows organized by the Government of India.

4. Smt. Kalyanpur has the rare distinction of having won many highly coveted awards since a young age. In the Best Female Playback Singer category: The Phalke Award of Rasrang Nashik, The Miyan Tansen Award, The Gujarat State Film Award 1970-73 consecutively, The Punjab Film and Drama Award, The Bhojpuri Film Award, A Gold Medal for Cultural Services to Maharashtra State, The Maharashtra State Cultural Award, The Lata Mangeshkar Award in Maharashtra as well as Madhya Pradesh and many more.

## Padma Bhushan



### PROF. KAPIL KAPOOR

Prof. Kapil Kapoor is former Professor of English and Concurrent Professor Sanskrit Studies, Dean SLLCS, Rector, JNU, New Delhi is known for his striven to 'Indianite' Higher Education by integrating Indian knowledge systems and establishing dedicated Institutes.

2. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1940, Prof. Kapoor received his MA from University of Delhi followed by M. Litt and Phd from JNU. It was Professor Kapoor's efforts that four of India's acknowledged gyaana-grantha - Astadhyayi, Natyasastra, Vakyapadiya, Yogasutra - were integrated into the English Post-Graduate syllabus in JNU in 1975; second, the given Research-Paradigm was reversed by applying Indian Theories to Western Data ending Indian Academy's Theory-Subordination to the West; third, true to the parivrajaka parampara, he travelled expounding India's knowledge systems, and the value of atmanirbharagyana to decolonize the Indian mind, instilling self-respect in young minds to enable them to interact with other traditions on level ground.

3. Prof. Kapoor's books also tries for relocating the Indian mind in India's own knowledge heritage some are Indian Knowledge Systems (2 Vols); Dimensions of Panini Grammar; Text and Interpretation in the Indian Tradition; Bharat ki Katha Parampara mein Rati-Bhakti (Hindi); Knowledge Traditions and Practices of India and his edited Encyclopaedia of Indian Poetics and the 11 Volume Encyclopaedia of Hinduism (2012).

4. Prof. Kapoor has held many important positions such as Member of PM's Amrut Mahotsav Committee proposed a multi-media program, Defending Freedom a Civilizational Obligation; as Chairman IAAS Shimla, 1918, in a radical move, research allowed in all Schedule VIII languages; as Chairman of MHRD's Language Expert Committee recommended a Comprehensive Language Policy for India 2016 enforcing State Languages as the medium of instruction at all levels of education to radically 'indianise' India's Education; as Chancellor of MGAH University Wardha, an international MA program in Indian Culture was proposed; as Chairman of the Editorial Board of IHRC of the National Archives, focused on States', such as Rajasthan's, archives; as Visiting Professor, Irish Academy of Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster, UK, delivered the in the House of Lords 2008, produced a parallel text, Mutual regards: Irish-Indian Writings (2017), and was the nominated External Member, India Studies program, University of Dublin. His writings / lectures on the Ten Gurus, and the affinities between the Rigveda - Punjab's gift to India - and Sri Guru Grantha Sahib - India's gift to Punjab - have positively impacted Punjab. On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019, a day before the PM's inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor, delivered the Keynote Address at the Punjab Government's International Conference on Sri Guru Nanak Dev at Sultanpur Lodhi.

5. Besides many Fellowships, Prof. Kapoor, has been honored and awarded with: Akhil Bharatiya Shikshak Samman, Shiksha Bhushan (2021); Rishi Samman by Shankar Shiksayatan, New Delhi (2022); Visista Samman of Kunwar NP Singh Kalyankari Trust Gorakhpur (2012) awarded by Mahant Adityanath Yogi ji; the Uberoi Foundation California USA (2011) Award; Shiksha Sanskriti Utthana Nyasa, New Delhi (2010), and Sanskrit Mitra award by MHRD, Government of India (2003).

## Padma Bhushan



### **SHRI KAMLESH D. PATEL**

Shri Kamlesh D. Patel, also known as Daaji, is the founder of the Heartfulness Movement, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of Shri Ram Chandra Mission and the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Guru Parampara of the Sahaj Marg system of meditation, which uses special technique of Pranahuti to assist seekers in their spiritual progress. Today they are practiced by millions of people in over 160 countries.

2. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1956, in rural Gujarat, Shri Patel displayed an early interest in both science and spirituality. He graduated with B. Pharma and M. Pharma with Honours in 1980. While still at college, he also started Sahaj Marg meditation in September 1976, meeting the spiritual Guide, Babuji Maharaj, in 1977. After college, he moved to New York City, U.S.A., where he built a successful chain of pharmacies. At the same time, he continued to pursue his love of meditation and played an increasingly active role in the Heartfulness Movement.

3. On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Shri Patel became the spiritual head of the Heartfulness Movement. As a student of science and spirituality, he is always doing research to ensure that these practices are accessible to more and more people. This has led to online meditation master classes, the one-of-kind Heartfulness App that has the functionality to connect a seeker to a trainer anywhere in the world anytime, large-scale meditation Utsavs in many cities across India and abroad, as well as the regular sessions in centres and ashrams, schools and colleges, government offices and corporates, medical facilities, and the armed forces. In addition, he has developed Kanha Shanti Vanam, which is home to the world's largest meditation centre and the international headquarters of Heartfulness. He has also opened the Heartfulness Yoga Academy, the Heartfulness Tree Conservation Centre, the Heartfulness Wellness Centre, and spearheaded a revolution in Green Initiatives that are being rolled out across the world, in collaboration with local, state and federal governments, farmers, and partners. He is the author of three bestselling books - The Heartfulness Way, Designing Destiny, and The Wisdom Bridge.

4. In 2018, Shri Patel received an honorary doctorate from Sri Venkateswara University. In 2020, the Priyadarshini Academy awarded him the Ramkrishna Bajaj Memorial Global Award, and he has received India's Most Admirable Leader and The Silent Changemaker awards by various business publications and organizations. Kanha Shanti Vanam, has been the recipients of multiple awards, including "The Pride of Telangana," "Haritha Haram" for the last three years, and the Indian Green Building Council Platinum Award.



### **SMT. JODHAIYA BAI BAIGA**

Smt. Jodhaiya Bai Baiga, belonging to Baiga Tribe is a renowned artist of Baiga painting.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1949 in a small village Lorha in Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, Smt. Baiga lived most of her life in utter poverty and spent many years doing hard manual labour, odd jobs, selling firewood and brewing a local alcohol out of Mahua for a living. However, her life got a big change in 2008 when Ashish Swami, an artist and alumnus of Kala Bhavan, Shanti Niketan, Kolkata came to her village Lorha and set up his art studio 'Jan Gan Tasveerkhana' there. He gave Smt. Baiga some manual work there and simultaneously introduced her to painting with brush and colours. The Baiga Tribes mainly worship Shiva, Naag and Tiger as their deities. Smt. Baiga started painting here. She expressed fabulous sense of imagination. She portrays Lord Shiva in a very prominent way. Almost all her paintings have symbol of Lord Shiva. The geometric figures, she draws are childlike, colourful, and dressed in dramatic costumes. Depicting the folk tales associated with tiger as a god, she has disseminated the importance of protecting environment and wildlife.

3. Smt. Baiga has brought recognition and identity to the traditional relief work, culture and philosophy of Baiga Tribe. The illiterate woman who has never seen the face of school drew the attention of the new generation and art masters towards her art. Attracting thousands of indigenous as well as foreign visitors to Baiga painting and culture, she has turned the village into an Art Tourism Spot. She has also been teaching more and more Baiga women artists about how to do the paintings and making them self dependent.

4. Smt. Baiga has been honoured with many awards such as Nari Shakti Puraskar by the Hon'ble President of India in March, 2022. She was honoured by Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for Baigha International Art at Vindhya Maikal Utsav, Umeriya 2016. She participated in National Tribal Art Camp 2020 at Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh organized by Lalit kala Academy, New Delhi.



### **SMT. USHA BARLE**

Smt. Usha Barle is a renowned performer of Pandwani and Panthi art forms of Chhattisgarh. Pandwani is a folk song form performed in Chhattisgarh, which describes the story of the Pandavas, the main characters in the epic Mahabharata and Panthi is a traditional dance of Chhattisgarh. She has used these art forms to spread awareness among women about their rights and make people aware about Government plans/schemes for dangerous diseases like AIDS, Malaria.

2. Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1968, Smt. Barle is an 'A' Grade Artist of Akashwani Doordarshan Kendra Raipur. She has performed Pandwani and Panthi on all Akashwani channels. She has performed not only in various States of India but also in cities like New York and London. To name a few cities where she has performed Pandwani and Panthi are, Delhi, Bhopal, Gwalior, Kanpur, Urav Ramnagariya, Jaipur, Indore, Jhabua, Maharashtra, Kolkata, Allahabad etc.

3. Smt. Barle has the honour to perform Pandwani and Panthi on the occasion of Indian Republic Day, 2006. She also performed these art forms at Indira Sangeet Kala Vidyalaya, New Delhi and Geet Sangeet Natya Academy, New Delhi. She has been a regular performer of Pandwani and Panthi on the occasions of Rajyotsava Mela and Lok kala Mahotsav. In the year 2007, she popularized these art forms in New York and London through her performance. She has spread messages on the life of Guru Ghasidas and Mini Mata not only in Chhattisgarh but also in other states through cassettes and CD of 'Chouka Vistar'.

4. Smt. Barle is a recipient of many awards/honours for her valuable contribution to the society and these traditional art forms of Chhattisgarh including Bhuiya Samman, Gaika Samman, Nehru Yuva Samman, Chakradhar Samman, Rajiv Samman, Guru Ghasi Das Samaji Chetna Puruskar, Totran Bai Mirche Samman, Mini Mata Samman, Swarna Padak Samman on Girodipuridham etc.





### **DR. SANKURATHRI CHANDRASEKHAR**

Dr. Sankurathri Chandrasekhar is an eminent social activist and the Managing Trustee of Sankurathri Foundation; the President of Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation; Correspondent of Sarada Vidyalayam and Managing Director of Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology.

2. Born on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1943. Dr. Sankurathri received his M.Sc. degree in Zoology from Andhra University, M.S. degree in Biology from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada and Ph.D. degree from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Later, he worked in Canada for 13 years in various capacities and returned to India in 1988 to start the humanitarian work.

3. Dr. Sankurathri established Sankurathri Foundation as a memorial to his wife and two children killed in the explosion of Air India Flight 182 off the coast of Ireland on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1985. The Foundation's aim is to improve the quality of life among rural poor and needy through some sustainable developmental projects. He has been in Kakinada since 1988 to organize, implement and manage the projects, children's education, quality eye care and emergency relief measures during natural disasters. He educated over 5,000 rural students, eye care services to over 37 lakhs of people and performed over 3,25,000 surgeries.

4. Dr. Sankurathri's work is well recognized. He has won many awards and recognitions for his selfless services to the humanity. An hour-long documentary "A Ray of Light" was broadcasted by Canadian Broadcasting Company in 2005; "Margadarsi" by ETV 2 in 2008 and "Velugu - Veliginchu" by Maa TV in 2011. For his outstanding work, he received many awards like CNN Hero by CNN International in 2008 and was the first Indian to be nominated. He was invited by the World Volunteer Conference, Edmonton, Canada in 1998, and in 2009 he was featured as one among six people making Canada proud by his work. In 2010, he received Certificate of recognition by Government of Ontario, Canada for the outstanding contribution to humanity. In 2012, he received "Doctor of Laws" degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. In 2013, he received "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, he was awarded "Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award", by The Canadian Ophthalmological Society for unflinching dedication and compassion in providing accessible, equitable and quality eye care to underserved populations.

5. In India, Dr. Sankurathri received best NGO award for performing maximum number of cataract surgeries by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2002 and 2003. He received "Service above self Award" from Rotary International in 2004; received ASSOCHAM Social Innovation Excellence Award in 2012 and received "Senior Citizen" Award by CNN - IBN in 2013 for the outstanding work. In 2019, he received "Certificate of Appreciation for the services rendered to poor and downtrodden" by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, the then Vice-President of India.



### **SHRI RAMAN CHERUVAYAL**

Shri Raman Cheruvayal is a tribal farmer from Kerala, who is known for his contribution to sustainable agriculture and preservation of bio diversity.

2. Born on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1952, at Mananthavady, Wayanad District, Shri Cheruvayal belongs to Kurichyan caste of Scheduled Tribe Community. At the age of 10, he began his pursuing in agriculture. His works in organic farming, natural resource management and conservation of traditional food crops have made him a unique figure among other natural lovers and earth researchers.

3. Shri Cheruvayal has a collection of 52 varieties of paddy seeds and various types of banana plants, which are unique in Kerala. Two of the varieties of paddy i.e. 'palthondi' and 'kayama' have been used as donor of gene for the development of rice varieties at Keaia Agricultural University. One of the pepper variety 'uthirankotta' has contributed towards the development of panniyoor 1, the most widely planted pepper breed of Kerala.

4. Shri Cheruvayal was an invitee of Belame 30 International Conference on Nature at Brazil in 2018. He was certified in outstanding contribution by Indian Institute of Rice Research in 2015 for adoption and popularization of new varieties and technology of rice. Apart from this, he was invited for presentations in agriculture and organic farming conducted by various organizations and institutions across the country.

5. Shri Cheruvayal has been honoured with many awards. He was awarded with Plant Genome Saviour (Farmer Recognitions 2013) by the Government of India and Kerala State Bio-diversity Board (Green individual) in 2012. He was awarded at agricultural Fest in 2018 organized by Habitat School, Al Tallah, Ajman. He was awarded testimonials by Tamilnadu Agricultural University and participated in Kerala State Biodiversity Congress, 2019.



### **SHRI BHANUBHAI CHUNILAL CHITARA**

Shri Bhanubhai Chitara is a highly regarded artisan of the Mata Ni Pachedi craft, known for his lifelong dedication to this traditional art form.

2. Born on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1957 in Ahmedabad Gujarat, Shri Chitara learned the craft from his parents. He spent his entire life working in the field of Mata Ni Pachedi craft, creating beautiful and intricate paintings that depicted scenes from Hindu mythology and religious stories. His works were characterized by their bold colours, intricate detailing, and stunning compositions, which captured the imagination of all.
3. Over the years, Shri Chitara became a highly respected figure in India of Mata Ni Pachedi craft. Mata Ni Pachedi craft is a traditional art form that has a history of over 750 years. It is a form of religious painting that originated in Gujarat and depicts scenes from Hindu mythology and religious stories. This art form is highly regarded for its intricate detailing, bold colors, and stunning compositions. One of the unique aspects of this craft is that it has been passed down through generations within families. He participated in various exhibitions and cultural events across the country, showcasing his stunning creations and spreading awareness about this traditional art form. His works were not just beautiful pieces of art, but also served a deeper purpose. They were created with the intention of spreading religious awareness and helping people connect with their spiritual beliefs.
4. Shri Chitara passed on his knowledge and skills to his family members, ensuring that the craft will continue to thrive and evolve for generations to come. His contributions to this craft, along with the contributions of many others, have helped to preserve and promote this beautiful traditional art form, ensuring that it will continue to inspire and touch the lives of people for many more generations to come.
5. Shri Chitara's contributions to the field were recognized by the Government of India on two separate occasions. In 2006, he was awarded the National Merit for his exceptional work in the field of Mata Ni Pachedi craft. In 2012, he received the National Award for his outstanding contribution to the Mata Ni Pachedi craft. His stunning works of art not only captured the essence of Hindu mythology and religious stories but also helped to spread awareness and understanding of these beliefs. These awards stand as a testament to his talent, dedication, and hard work in the field of Mata Ni Pachedi craft.



### **SHRI NARENDRA CHANDRA DEBBARMA (POSTHUMOUS)**

Shri Narendra Chandra Debbarma, the President of the Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura was a well-known politician.

2. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1942 in Khowai District of Tripura, Shri Debbarma completed graduation from University of Calcutta in the year 1962. He did Government Service in the Food & Civil Supplies Department and All India Radio. He retired as Station Director, All India Radio, Agartala, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002. During his govt. service life, he was associated with Tripura Tribal Employees Association also known as "Tripura Upajatikarmachari Samiti", an Affiliated Organization of All India Federation of SC & ST, Backwards and Minorities Employees Welfare Association of New Delhi. He served as President of the "Tripura Upajatikarmachari Samiti" and actively participated for the welfare of Tribal Karmacharis.

2. Shri Debbarma was also a writer and wrote several books on Central govt. concern of illegal land acquisition and its direction to state govt. of Tripura Autonomous State as per Article 244(A) of constitution and why it is necessary, Towards Greater Autonomy, Takhumsabodol(Balaka) -a translation of Rabindranath Tagore Balaka poems in Kokborok Language, Koklam (A handbook of spoken Kokborok) published by Directorate of Research, Department of Welfare for Sch. Tribes and Sch. Castes, Government of Tripura, Role of folk literature and culture in human civilization as a contribution of write up for Centenary Celebration of Kokborok language of the state held during 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec to 24<sup>th</sup> Dec-2000. He also contributed in publishing of Book on Customary laws of the Tripuris, Jamatia, Mogs and Reangs of Tripura with special reference to their land holding system as a Research Officer

3. After retirement, Shri Debbarma also served as Addl. Chief Executive Officer, Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). In 2008 he contested State Assembly Election from 18 Charilam (ST) Assembly Constituency from Indigenous Nationalist Party Of Tripura (INPT) party but lost the election. In 2009 he floated a new tribal party namely Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT) with new vision and Ideology of "Tripura Land" constituting the TTAADC area, a separate state for better governance and development of Indigenous peoples of Tripura residing mostly in TTAADC areas. In the year 2018, under his leadership BJP & IPFT Alliance Government in Tripura was formed. In the new government he was sworn in as State cabinet Minister of Revenue and later on also given the portfolio of Forest Minister. He was Minister from 9 March 2018 to 1 January 2023. He was easily accessible to public and served for betterment of every section of the society and people of Tripura.

4. Shri Debbarma passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.



### SHRI VADIVEL GOPAL

Shri Vadivel Gopal is a traditional and expert snake catcher belonging to the Irular tribe. Like several other Irular people living in the area, he is an expert in snake tracking and catching, a skill that he learned from his father.

2. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1964, in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, Shri Vadivel is a licensed member of the Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society. He had caught thousands of snakes for venom production. The venom is used for manufacturing of anti-venom, a life saving drug.

3. In 2016, Shri Vadivel went to Sakaerat Environmental Research Station, Thailand to train the local snake catchers and to catch venomous snakes for research. He had caught over 20 venomous snakes of different species.

4. Shri Vadivel also went to Florida, USA in 2017 to catch the invasive Burmese pythons. Just within 2 months, he had caught 31 pythons and helped the USA Government reduce the problem of the invasive species. He was then globally appreciated and recognised.

5. Shri Vadivel continues to help Tamil Nadu Government in producing venom for the manufacture of anti-venom, which is saving hundreds of thousands of lives every year.



### **SHRI MASI SADAIYAN**

Shri Masi Sadaiyan is a traditional and expert snake catcher belonging to the Irular tribe. Like several other Irular people living in the area, he is an expert in snake tracking and catching, a skill that he learned from his father.

2. Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1965 in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, Shri Masi is a licensed member of the Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society. He had caught thousands of snakes for venom production. The venom is used for manufacturing of anti-venom, a life saving drug.

3. In 2016, Shri Masi went to Sakaerat Environmental Research Station, Thailand to train the local snake catchers and to catch venomous snakes for research. He had caught over 20 venomous snakes of different species.

4. Shri Masi then went to Florida, USA in 2017 to catch the invasive Burmese pythons. Just within 2 months, he had caught 31 pythons and helped the USA Government reduce the problem of the invasive species. He was then globally appreciated and recognized.

5. Shri Masi continues to help Tamil Nadu Government in producing venom for the manufacture of anti-venom which is saving hundreds of thousands of lives every year.



### **SHRI HEM CHANDRA GOSWAMI**

Shri Hem Chandra Goswami is a stalwart sattriya artist known in the country and abroad for his thought-provoking ability, innovation and skill.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1958, Shri Goswami passed his HSLC Examination from a local High School and then he took the bachelor degree in Arts and Crafts from Arts and Crafts Society of Guwahati, Assam. From his childhood he was acquainted with the environment of satra, i.e., Vaishnavite monastery of Assam, where mask making is an indispensable trait. It was the great Guru Sankaradeva, who had innovated the art of mask making from bamboo splits which are invariably used in the Vaishnavite plays (bhaona) and dances (satriya nritya) performed in the satras (Vaishnavite monasteries) and namghars (village level Vaishnavite prayer house).

3. Shri Goswami plays the pivotal role for the acceleration of the pristine skill from local to the national and universal context. Masks prepared by him are at present installed and displayed at reputed institutions like Dibrugarh University, Tezpur University, Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati; Vivekananda Institution, Guwahati; Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi; Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, etc., and in the museum of abroad like America, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Israel, etc. In the year 2015 the Chief Curator of the British Museum Shri. T. Richard Blurton came to Majuli to discuss about the mask depicted in the Vrindavani Vastra preserved in the British Museum. He met Shri Goswami to know about the mask depicted in that heritage textile piece of Assam, stayed there for five days and took back with him five masks which are now preserved in the British Museum. The masks were displayed in an exhibition entitled Krishna in the Garden of Assam which was held at the British Museum from January to August, 2016.

4. Shri Goswami had delivered lectures on the heritage of split bamboo mask in different institutions of the country like Dibrugarh University, Tezpur University, Vivekananda Kendra: Guwahati; Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre for the Arts; New Delhi; Visva-Bharati: Santiniketan, etc.

5. Shri Goswami had established an institute on Sattriya Art and culture in Chamaguri Satra Majuli, viz., Sukumar Kala peeth to teach the new generation about the heritage of mask making of this remote part of India.

6. Shri Goswami has been conferred with different prestigious awards for his expertise in mask making, which includes La Mezo Da Anand Award: 2012, Damodara Deva National Award: 2014, PhD from Gauhati University (Honourous causa) ,2017, Luitporia Life time Achievement Award 2018 Sangeet natak academy award 2019, Achiever Award in Excellence on Art by Pratidine Time, Assam, 2022.



### **SMT. PRITIKANA GOSWAMI**

Smt. Pritikana Goswami is a renowned Master artisan & craftswoman of Nakshi Kantha.

2. Born on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1959, Smt. Goswami after completion of her matriculation examination was looking for meaningful work to support her family. With no financial backing from the family, she started doing odd jobs related to embroidery. Smt. Goswami was encouraged by Ms. Ruby Pal Chowdhury, Chairperson of Crafts Council of West Bengal in 1990 to open an artisan training cum workshop in rural south 24 Parganas, which was her first major break into Nakshi Kantha.

3. Smt. Goswami moved sonarpur in south of Kolkata in 2000. Her centre taught women traditional Kantha embroidery called Nakshi Kantha. In 2016 she took up the role of chief mentor & memory officer at Hushnohana. Today, the Kamrabad centre has 18 skilled craftswomen. She took up various training workshop on Kantha Stitch under the scheme Guru Sishya Parampara under affiliation of Government of India. She also received certificate from FICCI Ladies Organisation, supported by Hans Seidel Foundation Germany on Entrepreneurship Development Program for Craft Person. Under her umbrella almost 300 students have thrived and found direction. She started touring the country to present her skilled craft at many fairs and exhibitions. Alongside she attained many Workshops on craft and culture at many countries such as United States of America, Romania etc. In 2006 she became associated with a Japanese project, which is an extension of the Crafts Council of West Bengal and is still running in Sonarpur. She conducted the Culture Crafts Conservation Convention as main artist at National Bal Bhawan.

4. Smt. Goswami has been honoured with many awards. She won Special prize from West Bengal Government on Karu Shilpa Protijogita on 1996-97 and first prize in 1997-98. She won National Award in 2001 for the craftsmanship by the then President of India. Later she was also recognized as master Craftswoman.





### **DR. MODADUGU VIJAY GUPTA**

Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta has been involved for over 60 years in improving the food and nutritional security of resource-poor through aquaculture in Asia, Pacific and Africa. He is credited with being architect of Blue Revolution in Asia and across the globe. His special focus has been for empowerment of rural women and landless in developing countries through simple, low-cost fish farming technologies he has developed.

2. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1939, Dr. Gupta received Bachelor of Science degree from Andhra University, Master of Science degree from Banaras Hindu University and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree from University of Calcutta. His ground breaking research in early 1970s led to doubling production in aquaculture and laid the foundation for "Blue Revolution

3. Dr. Gupta worked for over 30 years as Fisheries Expert/Advisor with various international organisations - the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (UN-ESCAP), Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO) of UN) and the World Fish Center (CGIAR), and oversaw implementation of programs in some 20 countries of Asia, Africa and the Pacific. In all these countries, his work resulted in increasing incomes and food security of millions of rural poor and led to empowerment of rural women.

4. Dr. Gupta has been Consultant to many international organisations such as FAO of UN; DANIDA; AusAID; USAID; the World Bank; the Asian Development Bank; Commonwealth Secretariat, London; Agriculture Research Center of Netherlands; Mekong River Commission; WorldFish Center (CGIAR), Malaysia, etc. He has been a Member, High Level Panel of Experts of Committee on World Food Security of United Nations, former Technical Advisor to Government of Andhra Pradesh and to Government of Telangana.

5. In recognition of his exceptional achievements in enriching the diets and lives of the most impoverished families and contributing to food and nutritional security, Dr. Gupta has received many awards and honours, most prominent among them being: the World Food Prize in 2005, considered as Nobel Prize in Food and Agriculture. The Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, South Korea conferred on him the inaugural Sunhak Peace Prize in 2015, considered as alternate to Nobel Peace Prize for addressing food crisis facing human kind and giving the poor a sense of hope. He received Trillion Million Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Union for Food Science and Technology (IUFoST); Nutra Life Time Achievement Award from Nutraceutical and Health Food Industries; Gold Medal from the Asian Fisheries Society, Malaysia; Honorary Life Member Award from the World Aquaculture Society, USA; Eminent Agriculture Scientist Award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh; Outstanding Team Research Award from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), etc. He received Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc) degrees from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, and Central Institute for Fisheries Education.



### **SHRI DILSHAD HUSSAIN**

Shri Dilshad Hussain is an eminent craftsman of metal wares from Moradabad which is world famous for metal handicraft products.

2. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1943, Shri Hussain after completing his basic education, started learning the Engraving - Nakkashi on Metal wares from his grandfather Shri Abdul Hamid. He was very keen to adopt this craftsmanship.

3. Shri Hussain, since his childhood has a patience to sit for hours continuously & concentrate by focusing his eyes on the process of Nakkashi. He had also joined a training programme at Metal Handicrafts Service Centre, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India at Moradabad to use the modern technologies in the area of Metal Handicrafts which is helpful to preserve the ancient Art. His whole family has been working in crafts and many of them have won awards.

4. Shri Hussain had visited Iran in 2015 and delivered a training in Engraving to their Artisans. He had also trained about 400 Artisans in Moradabad. He had attended several Handicrafts Fairs and demonstrated Engraving for making its more popular in modern era. The Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi had also gifted an Engraved Matka (Vessel) made by him to the German Chancellor during G-7 Summit last year.

5. Shri Dilshad Hussain won several awards in Engraving including Rajya Hast Shilp Puraskar by State Government of Uttar Pradesh in the year of 2004; National Award IInd Certificate of Merit - 2012 by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; Shilp Guru Award in 2007 by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.



### **SHRI BHIKU RAMJI IDATE**

Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate alias Dada Idate, former chairperson of Union Development and Welfare Board for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC) is an eminent social activist and is known for his remarkable contributions in the development of downtrodden people.

2. Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1949 in a small village from Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra, Shri Idate started his career as a teacher. However, his concern for the poor nomadic tribes, motivated him to leave the job. Since then for last 53 years, he has been working for the socio-economically oppressed people. He established, 'Savitribai Phule Shikshan Prasarak (SPSP) Mandal in 1992. This paved path for the higher education to the poor students from a backward tahsil Mandangad. The SPSP Mandal has established colleges, Jr. Colleges, High schools, OBC Hostel and Ashram Schools in Mandangad and Dapoli tahsils. He founded Bhatke Vimukta Vikas Parishad along with eight other sansthas specially working for Bhatke Vimukta Samaj.

3. An ardent follower of Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh (RSS) ideology, Shri Idate had conducted 'Phule-Ambedkar Sandesh Yatra' in 1990, which covered all districts of Maharashtra marching about 7000 km distance in 47 days. Later, he organized Samarasata Yatra (2005) which covered nearly 8000 km distance. He played a crucial role in organizing first of its kind 'Samajik Samarasata Sahitya Sammelan' at Jalgaon. He has taken up several welfare projects for Nomadic Tribes at Ratnagiri, Tuljapur and many other places in Maharashtra. He was Chairman of Idate Committee constituted by the Government of Maharashtra (1999). As a Chairperson of Union Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT) Commission (2015), he has made several useful recommendations for the upliftment of DNT communities.

4. Shri Idate is a great thinker, speaker, writer and leader. He has delivered numerous motivational speeches, wrote seven books and many articles on the subjects of national and social interest. He has established many organisations and has held important positions of other organisations. He did a great job of bringing forward the people who are deprived and downtrodden in the society. Shri. Idate's work resembles to that of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

5. Many premier institutions and organizations have conferred coveted awards upon Shri Idate like Madhukarrao Deval Samajik Award in 1991; Swami Vivekanand Seva Sanman Samajik Award in 2005; KARMAVEER in 2006; Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Prabodhan Award in 2010; Rashtriya Gaurav Award; Gunvant Nagarik Award; Bharat Ratna Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Excellence Award; Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Ratna Award; Best Citizen of India; Glory of India Award; Baba Aamate Prerana Award; SAMAJIK Award; Atal Samaj Bhushan Award; Jivan Gaurav Award; Mahatma Phule Award; Seva Ratna Rashtra Gaurav Award and many more.



### **DR. RATTAN SINGH JAGGI**

Dr. Rattan Singh Jaggi is an eminent scholar of Punjabi and Hindi Literature with Gurmat & Bhakti movement literature being his forte.

2. Born on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1927, Dr. Jaggi has devoted more than 60 years of his life to serve the cause of medieval literature. He retired as Professor and Head of Punjabi Literary Studies Department of Punjabi University, Patiala in 1987. His literary works include books, commentaries and encyclopedias. Despite being 95 years of age, he is still continuing his literary stint untiringly and indefatigably.

3. Dr. Jaggi obtained Ph.D in 1962 for "Critical study of Pauranik compositions in Dasam Granth" and was awarded D.Litt. in 1973 on the subject "Guru Nanak: His personality, works & teachings". In 2000, he came out with meticulous commentary of Dasam Granth in five volumes. He is considered an authority on the Dasam Granth and his works got accolades in immense measure from the prominent literary personalities. Continuing his literary contribution to the society, he authored many books on Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji and during the 550<sup>th</sup> Prakash Purb celebrations Punjab Government published "Guru Nanak Bani: Paath atey Vyakhya" prepared by him in Punjabi and Hindi. He also published a treatise on Guru Nanak bani namely "Guru Nanak: Jeevni atey Vyaktitvatva" and second book "Guru Nanak di Vichardhara", both of which were awarded by the Languages Department, Punjab. One of his most significant is the transliteration and translation of glorious holy book "Tulsi Ramayan" (Ram Charit Manas) in Punjabi. The book is recipient of the National Award by the Sahitya Akademi in 1989. He readied Reference Dictionary of Punjabi Literature in 1994. He also prepared five volume History of Punjabi Literature.

4. Dr. Jaggi compiled "Guru Granth Vishavkosh" (Encyclopedia) in 2002 and Encyclopedia of Sikhism in 2005 and also a five-volume sub-commentary of Sri Guru Granth Sahib titled "Arthbodh Sri Guru Granth Sahib" in 2007. It was in 2013 that he rendered his biggest service to the cause of Sikhism preparing comprehensive commentary of Sri Guru Granth Sahib namely "Bhav Prabodhini Teeka-Sri Guru Granth Sahib". It contains detailed explication of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and is proving to be immensely invaluable for humanity. The year 2017 saw him publishing five volumes of this commentary in Hindi also.

5. Dr. Jaggi has been conferred with many honours including National award in 1989 by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, "Punjabi Sahit Rattan" the Highest State Award by the Punjab Government in 1996 and in addition eight times his books got first prize by Languages Department, Punjab and once from Haryana Government also in 1968. The Punjabi Academy under the aegis of Delhi Government honoured him with "Param Sahit Satkar Sanman" in 2010 with the Uttar Pradesh Government felicitating him with "Souhard Sanman" in 1996. Punjab Kala Parishad of Punjab Government honored him with Punjab Gaurav Sanman in 2022.



### **SHRI BIKRAM BAHADUR JAMATIA**

Shri Bikram Bahadur Jamatia, retired. Under Secretary, Government of Tripura, former Okra, Jamatia Hoda (Community Chief of Jamatia Community) & Founder President, Janajati Faith & Culture protection Forum, Social Service is known for his works for tribal communities of North East India.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1939, Shri Jamatia joined in Government Service as Tribal Colony Supervisor. Later he joined in Civil Secretariat service in the year 1967, where he formed Tribal Employees organization known as TUKS (Tripura Upajati Karmachari Samiti). He retired from service in 1997 as Under Secretary. Just a month later he was selected as Okra (Community Chief) of Jamatia Hoda (Community).

3. Shri Jamatia found that extremist in the area had destroyed peaceful community system. He formed thousands of community volunteer force to counter terrorism. He was provided with personal security by Government. In the long run extremists were compelled to leave Tripura & took shelter in Bangladesh and to surrender to the Government. His five years tenure of Community Chief was a great achievement and appreciated by all concerned quarters.

4. By dint of these activities there was a call from all Janajati leaders of North East seven sister state to form a united organization to restore Janajaties faith & culture. Accordingly, an organization named "Janajati Faith & Culture protection forum was formed in 2002. He became founder president of the forum. The activities of the forum spread all over North East state of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram raising a slogan "Jagta Purbanchal" promising to restore Janajaties faith & culture. In 2006 in Guwahati in Nehru Stadium in a gathering of historic movement from 24 to 28 December 2006, a declaration was made that all Janajaties customary laws to be enacted in all 6<sup>th</sup> scheduled areas of District Council. Accordingly, Janajati forum activities are going on.

5. Shri Jamatia has been honoured with many awards such as Janajati Krantikari Samman given by Punbanchal Kalyan Ashram Kolkata & Howrah Mahanagar (2001), World Council of Ancient Tradition & Culture - by ICCS, Nagpur (2003), Prestigious VKIC Samman (2004), N.R. works Samman by A.B.V.K.A. Golden Jubilee function (2004), 11th Baurao Deorash Samman (2006), Guruji Puruskar (2008), Uttar Purba Bharat Gyan Gyapan Govesana Kendra (2013), My Home India ONE India Award (2015) and National Integration Award, (2018) and Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Govt. of Tripura (2018) etc.



### **SHRI RAKESH RADHEYSHYAM JHUNJHUNWALA (POSTHUMOUS)**

Shri Rakesh Radheyshyam Jhunjunwala was an Investor, Trader and Philanthropist. He is widely recognized as one of the most successful investors of the world.

2. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1960, Shri Jhunjunwala was a Chartered Accountant and held a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from Sydenham college in Mumbai. He began his career in 1985 and started trading in the stock market with an initial investment of just Rs. 5,000. He was able to turn his small investment into a significant portfolio by investing and trading for over 30 years. His success story has been an inspiration to many aspiring investors.

3. Shri Jhunjunwala believed in investing in companies that have strong growth potential, good managements, and a competitive advantage in their respective industries. His investments were not limited to any specific sector, and were spread across various sectors such as banking, pharmaceuticals, and consumer discretionary.

4. Most of all, Shri Jhunjunwala believed in India and this belief shaped his career in investing. He recognized India's potential and held unwavering belief in its people, institutions, and cultural values. He believed that India contains all the ingredients necessary to emerge as an economic powerhouse of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

5. Apart from a successful career in the stock market, Shri Jhunjunwala was also involved in various philanthropic activities. He donated generously to various causes. He believed that all Indians must have access to world class education and healthcare, which led to his support of Ashoka University and foundations such as Sankara Eye Hospitals and Agastya, among many others.

6. Shri Jhunjunwala is considered an icon in the Indian stock market and is known for his unique investment style and astute market predictions. His success story is a source of inspiration for many aspiring investors in India and around the world.

7. Shri Jhunjunwala passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.



### **GURU THIRUVIDAIMARUDUR KUPPIAH KALYANASUNDARAM**

Guru Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiah Kalyanasundaram hails from a family of Nattuvanar parampara from Thanjavur, traditional dance masters and is known for his contribution to the art of Bharatha Natyam.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1932, in Thiruvaidaimarudur, (Thanjavur Dist- Tamil Nadu) Guru Kalyanasundaram learnt Bharatha Natyam from his father Bharatha Vidwan Thanjavur Kuppiah Pillai, his brother Guru T. K. Mahalingam Pillai, brother in law Guru A.T. Govindraj Pillai and sister Smt. Karunambal. He learnt mridangam from his brother Vidwan Sri Marudappa Pillai and Vidwan Sri Raghunathan Iyer; vocal music from Vidushi Smt. Nagalakshmi and Vidwan Alattur Panchapakesa Iyer.

3. Guru Kalyanasundaram ancestors were honoured in the royal courts of Baroda, Mysore, Ramanathapuram and Thanjavur. He conducted the arangetram of his first disciple in 1960, in Mumbai. For the last over seventy years, he has trained innumerable students some of whom are well established dancers in India and abroad. His countless productions both traditional and innovative include - 18th century Thirukuttralla Kuravanji -(Vasanthavalli ), Sri Andal - Thiruppaavai, Charanapaduka - based on Tulsidas Ramayan with the music by Sangeet Martand Pt. Jasraj, Skanda Leela, Sri Krishna Leela, Mahatmanjali based on the noble ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Isai Vani Nriyjanjali centenary tribute to M. S. Subbulakshmi (Bharat Ratna awardee) by hundred dancers. He has presented compositions of Great Poets of India. His presentations on Adi Shankaracharya, Sri Purandara Dasa, Sri Thyagaraja, Sri Papanasam Sivan, Sri. G. N. Balasubramaniam, Mahakavi Bharathi (presented at Bharathi's Centenary at his birth place Ettayapuram in 1981) and Saint Purandaradasa (presented on his 500th birth anniversary at New Delhi in 1984) are notable among the presentations of other composers.

4. Guru Kalyanasundaram's other choreographic work includes traditional dance compositions of the Thanjavur Quartet, Thiruvalluvar's Thirukkural, Kambar - Kamba Ramayanam, Elangovar's Silappathikaram, Avvaiyar's Agaval, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Sant Narsi Mehta, Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi, Sant Tukaram & also the National Poets of Nepal & China.

5. In 1982, along with Guru Govindraj Pillai, Guru Kalyanasundaram led a 30 - member dance troupe to Nepal. In 1986- he had choreographed along with eminent gurus, (of the other classical dance forms), Pt. Birju Maharaj (Kathak), Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (Odissi) and Guru Vempatti Chinnasatyam(Kuchipudi), a widely acclaimed presentation 'National Integration through Dance'. In 1989, he led a 10 - member dance troupe to participate in the First International Arts Festival of China. He has presented his work at other International dance festivals in Australia, America, Canada, Europe Indonesia, Columbia, Mexico, Japan, Malaysia& Singapore. Guru Kalyanasundaram continues to train a vast number of students and is constantly engaged in choreographing new themes.

6. Guru Kalyanasundaram has been honoured with many awards and titles for his outstanding contribution to the art of Bharatha Natyam. Some of the Awards & titles conferred upon him are the Kalaimamani Award from the Govt. of Tamil Nadu, The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, elected fellow of The Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna Sadasya and several titles such as Natya Kalanidhi, Natya Selvam, Naada Brahmam and many more.



### **DR. RATAN CHANDRA KAR**

Dr. Ratan Chandra Kar, retired. Chief Medical Officer, has served Andaman and Nicobar Health Services from 1988 to 2022, serving across the length and breadth of Islands. He was pioneer in medical intervention to Jarawa tribe and also established an eco-friendly Jarawa ward for medical assistance.

2. Born on 04<sup>th</sup> May, 1954 at Ghatal, Midnapore, West Bengal, Dr. Kar received his M.B.B.S Degree from Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College, Kolkata in 1981. Post MBBS, he has served in Nagaland to provide medical care to the people of Konyak Tribe and also to the Jawans of Assam Rifles, 26 Bn while posted in Tripura.

3. Dr. Kar joined the services of Andaman and Nicobar Administration in the month of September 1988. During the year 1998, he was posted as Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Kadamtala, Andaman and Nicobar. It was during his tenure as Medical Officer here, he came in contact with Jarawas and despite initial resistance from them, he was successful in winning over their confidence and trust. During the measles outbreak of 1999 among Jarawas, he along with his team were able to save the tribes from the verge of extinction and he has been popularly known as "Jarawas Ke Jeevan Data". It was because of his pioneering medical care and intervention, population of Jarawas has increased from 255 in 1999 to 560 plus as on date.

4. Dr. Kar has also served as Deputy Director (Tribal Health and Welfare), Andaman and Nicobar Administration from 2006 to 2011 and Executive Secretary, Andaman Aadim Jan Jaati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) in 2009. He has been instrumental in devising and formulating medical care policies of Jarawas, Onges and Shompen Tribes.

5. Dr. Kar has documented his experience and covered some unknown facts of Jarawas Tribes in his book titled "Andamaner Aadim Jan Jaati Jarawa" (Bengali) and "The Jarawas of the Andaman" (English). He has also authored books on Cellular Jail and history of Andaman Penal Settlement.

6. In recognition of his love, compassion and distinguished medical service towards the Jarawa Tribe, on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2000, Dr. Kar was conferred the Hon'ble Lt. Governor's Commendation Certificate.





### **SHRI MAHIPATRAI PRATAPRAI KAVI**

Shri Mahipatrai Prataprai Kavi (popularly known as Kavi) is an international puppeteer and the founder of "Puppets and Plays" which was founded in the year 1973.

2. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1931, Shri Kavi did his Diploma in Acting from Darpana Academy of Performing Arts and participated in many dramas that were being performed at the academy. He was there at the academy from 1960 -1970. However, during his tenure at the academy, he wasn't satisfied with his acting career and always felt that something was missing and started to search for something new. That is when, he saw Meherben Contractor manipulating her puppets. On seeing her do that, he was convinced that Puppetry is for him and that is when he decided to plunge in to it.

3. Shri Kavi learnt the art of Puppetry under the guidance of his Guru Meherben Contractor and while learning this art form, he realised that in order to perform this art, a puppeteer needs to master other art forms such as Reader, Writer, Poet, Actor, Drawing, Sculptor, Music, and command over Languages.

4. Till date, Shri Kavi has written and directed over 200 plays in various languages such as Gujarati, Hindi, Sindhi, Urdu, English and French. He has performed more than 4000 shows in India and abroad. He has successfully used this art to represent Indian History, Culture and Heritage with some of his plays like Krishnaleela (performed with Leather puppets in languages like French and English); Ramayana (performed with Leather puppets in languages like French and English); Umar Marvi (performed with Rod and Glove puppets in Sindhi Language); Stories of Panchtantra (performed in Gujarati, Hindi and English); Tagore's Dak Ghar (Post-Office) and Bhartendu Harishchandra's Andher Nagri Chaupat Raja.

5. Shri Kavi has also conducted workshops on puppetry in various educational institutions such as CEPT, PDPU, Gujarat University Department of Journalism, etc. He has also designed some courses to include puppetry in children's education, puppetry for social causes and awareness, etc.

6. Shri Kavi is the recipient of numerous awards and honours viz. Gaurav Puraskar by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Gujarat in 1993-94; Zaverchand -Meghani Award by the Government of Gujarat in 2000-01; TagorePuraskar by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi in 2012; Gujarat Lok kala Rashtriya -Gaurav Puraskar in 2018.



### **SHRI MAGUNI CHARAN KUANR**

Shri Maguni Charan Kuanr, a renowned Puppeteer from Keonjhar, is very popular in Odisha and outside as well for his enchanting puppet shows. He learned this art form from Guru Makardhwaja Behera at the age of 15 successfully and he formed a cultural party named as 'Utkal Biswakarma Kalakunja' for puppet dance and performed throughout the Nation.

2. Born on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1937, Shri Kuanr faced several challenges, mostly financial, from the beginning till today. He lost his wife as he was unable to provide medicines and medical treatment while she was suffering from heart disease for his puppet party. He faced many problems and have sacrificed a lot but kept this art form alive.

3. When late Shri Dhiren Pattnaik was the Secretary, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, Shri Kuanr arranged his first official show 'Ravan Baddha' at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar in 80's. Since then he has been consistently performing across the State and India mostly under the aegis of State and Central Sangeet Natak Akademi. Apart from private program, he has staged puppets show at places like New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Agartala, Cooch Behar, Bhopal, Shantiniketan and Asiad-1972, Bangalore (International Puppet Show) etc.

4. Shri Kuanr is a versatile artist. He prepares puppets of different character and writes scripts dialogue. He is also a wood carver, painter, script writer, clay image maker and an actor. He also performed on Geeti-natya of Baishnab Pani and Ramayan of Biswanath Khuntia. Even, now at the age of 87 years, he never sits idle. Apart from puppet making, he is still performing at different places and thereby providing entertainment to the people and promoting and propagating this traditional puppet dance with all its pristine glory.

5. Shri Kuanr is the recipient of numerous Awards and honors both inside the State and outside and brought laurels to the State. He received Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1984; Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2004 by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the State's highest award on Culture "Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Sanman in 2012.



### **PROF. (DR.) ARVIND KUMAR**

Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Kumar, Founder Vice-Chancellor of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), is a renowned Agricultural Scientist, Reformer, and Eminent Educationist who has made exemplary contributions in agricultural science and technology during his 47 years of diverse professional career in universities and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

2. Born on July 4, 1952, Dr. Kumar has an excellent academic record having obtained Ph.D degree in Agronomy from Meerut University in 1975. His visionary leadership played a pivotal role in creating the new Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU, Jhansi), an Institution of National Importance. The university features energy-efficient architecture, solar harvesting, total rainwater catchment, and world-class self-sustainable infrastructure and amenities for the Colleges of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry. These facilities were completed in a record time and were inaugurated by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The notification of first chickpea variety and the establishment of seed production hubs for pulses, oilseeds, and millets, accelerated availability of quality seeds and enhanced farmers' income. Moreover, during his tenure of 8 years as Vice-Chancellor, he developed two modern constituent Colleges of Veterinary and Fisheries Sciences at Datia, MP.

3. As Deputy Director General (Agri. Education), ICAR, Dr. Kumar effectively coordinated and improved educational quality in India through numerous innovative approaches and policies, formulation of the World Bank-aided National Agricultural Higher Education Project, Student Rural Entrepreneurship and Awareness Development Yojana, and establishment of Central Agricultural Universities, among other reforms. He facilitated national and international collaboration in frontier areas, strengthened research capabilities and student entrepreneurial skills in agricultural universities, resulting in better employability. As Chairman, he was instrumental in drafting the policy document for doubling farmer's income for the UP state and also revised the syllabus for postgraduate Agricultural Education, influencing innovations to meet current needs.

4. Dr. Kumar's efforts through agro-technological advances and contribution towards the development of four improved varieties, including India's first mori CMS-based mustard hybrid, led to productivity enhancement. During his tenure as Director of ICAR - Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur, establishment of laboratories and efficient implementation of Brassica research resulted in identification of 53 varieties for different ecologies, which further boosted the production. As the Indian team leader for international projects, he added 150 diverse Brassica germplasms, making significant genetic gains. During his 27 years of profession at GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, he authored several books and research papers, guided PG students, and established KVVKs, promoting farm literacy, and fostering partnerships between farmers and researchers. He is a Fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and several other societies. He was also elected as President of reputed societies like ISA, ISOR, and SRMR. He has participated in many international events across the globe and in recognition of his valuable contributions on Brassica, he was granted membership in the GCIRC, Paris.

5. Dr. Kumar's achievements have been recognized by several awards and fellowships, including the Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA) Gold Medal and the Lifetime Achievement Award of ISA and Society for Rapeseed-Mustard Research. His accolades include the Delhi Ratan, UP Ratan, Harit-Ratan, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puruskar, among others.



### SHRI RISINGBOR KURKALANG

Shri Risingbor Kurkalang is widely recognised as a master craftsman in traditional instrument making and is an accomplished folk musician as well.

2. Born on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1978 into a family of farmers at Laitkyrhong village, East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, Shri Risingbor developed a passion for traditional music and drew inspiration from his grandfather. He began making different traditional instruments and mastered playing all of them. He started to manufacture the traditional music instruments for sale in the year 2001. He is the first person from his village who manufacture these instruments.

3. Shri Risingbor was invited by a group of traditional musicians in 1990 at his village to record at All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra under their programs dedicated to traditional music. This boosted his career as a musician and a music craftsman. He has travelled extensively around the state and the country to showcase his talent as a musician and music craftsman as well as a champion in preserving the Khasi traditional folk music and dance. His instruments are all handmade and with a sense of understanding for the quality of sound and form.

4. Shri Risingbor participated in several exhibitions and workshops including the workshop on traditional music/ traditional musical instrument making organised by the Government of Meghalaya. He participated in the Vadya Darshan organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi in the year 2002 and also participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Thoh Shun International Art Camp 2006 held at Cherrapunjee (Sohra), East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. He has performed in the International Festival on Inter- Cultural Dialogue between North East India & South East Asia (2010). He composed and played the song entitled 'Mei Mariang' from an album titled 'Sai-thain ki Sur' by the Khasi-Cymru collective which was released in 2021 on Naxos World. He was invited by Mr. Gareth Bonello, a Welsh musician from Wales, United Kingdom to perform with him at the Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF) at Jodhpur (2022).

5. Shri Risingbor was awarded a Certificate of appreciation for his participation in the workshop on the making of the traditional musical instruments organised by the Government of Meghalaya (2008). He has received INTACH's Martand Singh Memorial Award 2021, a cash award in the Handicraft Category amounting to Rs.1 lakh (Rs. one lakh) from Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), New Delhi.



### **SMT. HIRBAIBEN IBRAHIMBHAI LOBI**

Smt. Hirbaiben Ibrahimbhai Lobi, President of the Adivasi Mahila Sangh, also known as the Siddi Woman's Federation, is known for her works for the Siddi Samaj and women's empowerment, their education and upliftment, which has 550 Siddi members from 42 Mahila Vikas Mandals. She founded the Women's Development Foundation in 2004. She did not run in any elections but has emerged as a village leader as a result of her efforts to better the lives of her community, women, in particular.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1953. Smt. Hirbaiben hails from Jambur village, Gir, Gujarat. She lost her parents at a young age and was raised by her grandmother. She received no basic education and did not attend school or college. She was married with Shri Ibrahimbhai Lobi at an early age. She earned her livelihood by cultivating with the help of her husband on a small piece of land given by her father. In the absence of modern tools, they tilled the ground by hand.
3. Smt. Hirbaiben is a member of the Siddi community which accounts for 98% of Jambur's population. Siddis are African tribals who were brought to India as slaves for the ruler of Junagadh around 400 years ago. The Siddis, one of Gujarat's most backward communities, have spent decades living in the shadows, neglected and ignorant. She was determined to make a difference in the lives of other women. She is spearheading a silent revolution in 18 Saurashtra villages. Her initiatives include a cooperative movement, family planning, and a small savings club for the Siddis. They are also selling the trademark Siddis vermicompost. The women's cooperative now also provides loans and raises awareness about health problems. She also assisted in the construction of a community school for the Siddis and thus transformed the lives of over 700 women and children.
4. Smt. Hirbaiben has received several honours and awards. In 2001, she was awarded the Samman Patra by Gujarat Agriculture University in Junagadh and again in 2007 and 2012; the Women's World Summit Foundation's 'Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Living' in 2002 and the IMC Ladies' Wing awarded with the 'Jankidevi Bajaj Puraskar' for Outstanding Woman Rural Entrepreneur in 2006; Harmony Silver Award and the Reliance Industries' 'Real Heroes Award' in 2008. She also received numerous awards for her endeavors, including the Senior Citizen Award - CNN IBN, the Business Women Committee - Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Amodini Award - Godfrey Phillips Bravery, among others. She donated her prize money to children's schooling and the empowerment of Siddi women.



### **DR. PRABHAKAR BHANUDAS MANDE**

Dr. Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande is an eminent scholar in the field of Folklore, Folk Culture and Literature.

2. Born on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1933, Dr. Mande completed his Ph.D., in 1967, in the field of Analytical Studies of Folklore. He started his career in 1955 as a Teacher in Government School in Pishor, Aurangabad. He joined Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani in 1961. He was Reader in Marathwada University for 17 years and retired as a Senior Professor in 1993. Some of his important books are 'Gawgadya Baher', 'Ramkathechi Maukhik Parampara' 'Lokrangbhoomi', 'Mangani Thyanche Magte' which are honoured by Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad Pune. He has presented more than 25 papers in National, Inter-National conferences held at Hyderabad, Mysore, Kolkata, Madurai, New Delhi, Cuttack and also at Heidelberg University, West Germany and Arizona University, USA (in absence).

3. Dr. Mande also started his studies on folklore and folk artist. While studying this he specially focused on collecting thousands of folk songs and hundreds of folk stories. He wrote on various folk arts, lifestyle of folk artist and their presentations of culture and tradition. This work has been highly appreciated by various universities. Folk literature was not included in the post-graduation studies at university level. Considering the importance of life style of these people of society, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University included these studies for post graduation in 1973.

4. Dr. Mande prepared the syllabus for post-graduation course, wrote books for students which were included by universities for this subject. This subject was included at post-graduation level by other universities of Maharashtra. He established "Loksahitya Research Centre", a platform to young generations for studying folk lore and research projects on this. He conducted about 50 yearly seminars in Maharashtra and Goa. His many books are translated in Hindi and English languages.

5. Dr. Mande was honoured by various State and National level awards. He has been honoured with D. Lit in 1991 by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for his books 'Gawgadya Baher' and 'Sanketik Gupta Bhasha: Parampara and Swaroop'. He was also honoured with Late Yashwantrao Chavan Puraskar; Honoured by Dr. Mohanjee Bhagwat, Sar Sanghchalak, RSS with Bhushan Puraskar and the title "Lok Maharshee"; Lok Shahir Annabhau Sathe Jeevan Gaurav by Maharashtra Government; Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad Jeevan Gaurav (Lifetime Achievement); Sangeet Natak Akadami Award from Government of India and many more.



### **SHRI NADOJA PINDIPAPANAHALLI MUNIVENKATAPPA**

Shri Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa is a famous Artist of Tamate Folk Instrument.

2. Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1947, Shri Munivenkatappa has been playing the hand drum, with its roots in the Old Mysuru Region. He started his performances at the age of 17 after learning the skill from his father and continues to perform till date. The 75-year-old known as the 'Tamate' (hand drum) master, resides in a remote village named Pindipapanahalli and plays the instrument with his co-artists even today.

3. The turning point in the life of Shri Munivenkatappa came when Shri H.L. Nage Gowda, a Kannada folklorist, noticed him performing at a temple fair at Devaramallur village in Sidlaghatta taluk. Shri Gowda felt the artist deserved a wider audience. Since then till now he has presented in thousands of programs of Department of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka apart from many private programs. Not only in festivals, he has given many programs in Mysore Dussehra every year, National Sports Event conducted by the Department, District Festivals and also in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, Mumbai, Karnataka Sangha, Delhi Karnataka Sangha, as the head of a team of 15 people.

4. In the year 1992, Government of Karnataka organized a program abroad in Japan, 2014, AKKA Sammelanna, America and also in the year 2015, Navika Kannada Sammelana, America through the Department of Kannada and Culture to showcase Karnataka art which brought glory to the entire state. The team under him participated in these programmes. The Government declared the team as Best Art team for the State by imparting this art to thousands of people in Kolar and Chikkaballapura district.

5. Shri Munivenkatappa is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has been conferred honorary Nadoja from Hampi University. The Government of Karnataka honoured him with the State Award in 1992. Also, several self-organizations have honoured with many awards and certificates.



**PROF. (DR.) MAHENDRA PAL**

Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal, fondly known as father of Veterinary Mycology in India is a distinguished academician, internationally renowned scientist with outstanding contribution in Veterinary Public Health and Microbiology. He has pioneered and excelled in field of mycology and zoonosis.

2. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1946, Prof. (Dr.) Pal obtained B.VSc. and AH, MVPH, Ph.D. and D.Sc. in 1969, 1975, 1981, and 2008 respectively. He has served in Veterinary and Medical Colleges in India and abroad, published over 575 papers and authored 8 books. He elucidated etiologic role of many fungi in various diseases in animals and established prevalence of various fungi in countries across globe. He has collaborated with scientists across globe. He has explored so many unexplored areas of research that many of his research works are first ever authentic scientific literature in respective fields.

3. "First Asian" to be Deputy Editor of International Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology (Germany), Prof. (Dr.) Pal is also Honorary Editor in Chief, Editor, Associate Editor and Member of the Editorial Board of many peer reviewed online scientific journals. He has been advisor to many more online scientific publications and is always ready to help research, publication or education even without mention of his name.

4. Prof. (Dr.) Pal is "First Indian Veterinarian" to become JSPS Visiting Scientist at University of Tokyo, Japan. He was awarded Fellow by the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences and also by Korean Society of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, Seoul, South Korea. He has worked in countries like Belgium, New Zealand, and Ethiopia. APRM agar, sunflower seed medium (Pal medium), PHOL stain, and Narayan stain are few of excellent innovative inventions by him. Keeping his determination and faith, he developed and demonstrated culture media from vegetarian ingredients.

5. More than 400 papers of Prof. (Dr.) Pal uploaded on international websites are viewed by 100,000 Scientists of 125 countries. His biography has been published in Who's Who in World, Who's Who in Asia, and Who's Who in Science and Engineering.

6. Prof. (Dr.) Pal is recipient of Distinguished Teacher Award; Jawaharlal Nehru Award, Sandoz Medical Times Prize; Lifetime Achievement Award by Indian Association of Veterinary Public Health; and International Achievement Award to name few. The Indian Association of Veterinary Public Health Specialists has instituted an award in his name "Prof. Mahendra Pal Zoonosis Award".





### **DR. NALINI PARTHASARATHI**

Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi, popularly hailed as Mother Theresa of Puducherry, is known for contributing richly to the growth of Medical Education, Medical care and Human welfare in the tiny territory of Puducherry.

2. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1944, Dr. Nalini graduated from Seethalakshmi Ramasamy College Trichy and acquired M.B.B.S and M.D. (Pediatrics) from Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), an Institute of national importance. She has had a chequered professional career spanning over 50 years, joining her own alma mater as a Senior Resident in 1970. She had a phenomenal rise in her career to occupy the coveted position of Professor and Director Professor in Pediatrics in JIPMER in 2003. She also served Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, a pioneering medical Institution of Puducherry, as a Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics for seven years.

3. Dr. Nalini has rendered yeoman service in the cause of child welfare and Hemophilia. As a Doctor (Pediatrician) in JIPMER, she used to cure child diseases with ease and painless methods. She was very popular and loved by the people and children from Puducherry and the neighbouring districts of Tamil Nadu.

4. Another monumental contribution of Dr. Nalini can be seen in the realm of Hemophilia care in the Union Territory of Puducherry. She has dedicated herself to the care of persons with Hemophilia for about 30 years there by popularizing this specialization in the Union Territory. She was instrumental in the establishment of Hemophilia Society of Puducherry and she became its Founder President. She established Diagnostic and Lab services in JIPMER and regular care of Hemophilia patients. With the kind offices of Chief Minister of Puducherry and the Indian Oil Corporation, she was able to construct a new building for the office of Hemophilia Society of Puducherry, an NGO running only through collection of donations from well wishers. She herself donates One Lakh Rupees every year and in year 2021, she donated Rupees Ten Lakhs to the society for building expansion. Hemophilia Society offers Financial support for education of school children and college students. Hemophilia Carrier Women Self Help Group (Hemophilia Nalinam) and Youth (with Hemophilia) Group was established by her. She also helps financially for the marriage of Hemophiliacs.

5. Due to the continuous efforts of Dr. Nalini, Free Factor Treatment for Persons with Hemophilia is now available in JIPMER, Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital, Puducherry and Government General Hospital, Karaikal



### **DR. HANUMANTHA RAO PASUPULETI**

Dr. Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti is a practicing pediatrician, rehabilitation Specialist and Founder - Chairman of Sweekaar Academy of Rehabilitation Sciences at Hyderabad, Telangana.

2. Born on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1945 at Hyderabad in a family of Doctors, Dr. Pasupuleti, completed MD Pediatrics in 1975. Not satisfied with his routine practice, he had a great inner urge to serve - the Divyangjans. Refusing the Government job and leaving his lucrative practice, he went to Bombay and had special training in Rehabilitation Medicine at All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and completed Ph.D in Rehabilitation Psychology.

3. Dr. Pasupuleti founded a special school for the intellectually impaired children in the year 1977 in his garage and part of the clinic with 5 children and 2 special teachers, with the name "The Hyderabad Special School for Children in need of Special care". As the services expanded, the name was changed to Sweekaar Academy of Rehabilitation sciences. He also established special school for the Deaf & junior college in year 1986. Till date 745 hearing impaired persons have been employed in Government Sector and 672 in the private sector.

4. Realizing the great shortage of trained manpower to provide rehabilitation services, Dr. Pasupuleti introduced two diploma courses in Special Education in 1986 which later expanded to 30 training programmes producing 8071 professionals across Diploma, UG, PG, Post PGs in Special Education, Speech & Audiology & Clinical Psychology, including Doctorate in Clinical Psychology affiliated to OU and RCI, Government of India.

5. Dr. Pasupuleti as a Visionary & Missionary has been providing services to all types of Disabled under one roof, for all age groups and service by all types of specialists. He served 85.75 Lakhs persons with disabilities for 46 years. He left no stone unturned to reach the unreached to care the uncared sections of the society, by conducting screening programmes in schools, slums, rural, urban areas, Colleges, Private & Government Offices. He started mobile health clinics in rural area and charitable clinic in Sweekaar. He also started three campuses in Kadapa, Guntur and Tandur.

6. Dr. Pasupuleti employed 105 Divyangjans in Sweekaar, 640 Divyangjans in the community for which he received Award by President of India in 1994. Dr. Rao extended services to needy through oxygen bank, home for senior citizens, drug de addiction centre, artificial limb center, integrated rural rehabilitation center for adult mentally handicapped, state information center for Disabled, early intervention center for Children with Developmental Delays, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, Learning Disability, Institute for Mentally ill patients in addition to developing training programmes in Special Education, Speech & Audiology & Clinical Psychology.

7. Dr. Pasupuleti received Dr. B.C. Roy Award in 1995. He also received National Awards for 5 times from The Presidents of India. He received 56 awards from Private Institutions & State Governments and 9 International Awards.



### **SHRI RAMESH RAGHUNATH PATANGE**

Shri Ramesh Raghunath Patange is an eminent writer, thinker and social activist. He is the Chairman of the Hindustan Prakashan Sanstha, Mumbai. Besides this, he is co-founder of Samajik Samarasata Munch, Bhatke Vimukta Vikas Parishad [Nomadic Tribes Development Council], Samarasata Sahitya Parishad, Samarasata Adhayan Kendra, Vivek Vyaspeeth.

2. Born on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1944, Shri Patange received his Master of Arts degree from the University of Mumbai in 1972. During Emergency, he went underground and was arrested in 1976 along with Shri Ravindra Varma, the then General Secretary of All India Jana Sangharsha Samittee. He was put under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and send to Thane Jail, where he remained for 14 months. From 1977 to 1985, he served as the Director of Udyog Krishi Vikas Mandal, a NGO formed with the objective to develop Entrepreneurship among youths.

3. In 1985, Shri Patange joined Vivek Weekly as co-editor and subsequently become the Chief Editor of the Weekly. Under his leadership, the Vivek reached nooks and corner of Maharashtra. Under his editorship, various volumes were published, such as Govigyan, RashtraRatna Atalji, Kritirup Samarasata, Rashtra Rushi Shri Guruji, Kritirup Vivekananda, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Lokneta-Vishwaneta, etc.

4. Shri Patange has penned numerous articles on Mahatma Phule and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar. His books on Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, such as Sangharsha Mahamanvache, Social Justice and Dr. Ambedkar, Ambedkar and Vivekananda, Dr. Ambedkar a Nation Builder are widely read books. He has written four books on the Constitution of India and another four books on the Constitution of America, Britain, France and Russia. He has delivered lectures on Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, Samarasata and the Constitution of India in major Universities of India, various colleges and intellectual forums. He served as member of India Book Trust, Bharat Bhavan Bhopal, Raja Rammohan Roy foundation and Central Board of Film Certification. His three books, Me Manu Ani Sangh[!, Manu and RSS], Angustan Te Lekhani [From Tailor to Writer], and Samarastecha Vatsaru [Journey of Samarasata] are his thought stories. These books are regarded as distinct and unique literary contribution in Marathi Literature.

5. Shri Patange has devoted major part of his life in eradication of caste hierarchy in Hindu Society, practice of untouchability and social injustices. Under his parentership schools for the boys and girls of the Nomadic Tribes are run in Chinchwad (Pune) Yamgarwadi [Dharashiv district] Maharashtra, wherein near about 900 nomadic tribes students are getting education from class one to ten. To create public awareness, under his guidance various seminars, conferences are conducted on the topics of evils of untouchability, caste discriminations and essentials of the Constitution of India.

6. Shri Patange is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. Madhya Pradesh Government has awarded him Manikchand Vajpayee Rastriya Patrakarita Puraskar, Government of Maharashtra has awarded him Lokmanya Tilak Jeevan Gourav Patrakarita Puraskar, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Nyas has awarded him Boudhik Yoddha Sanman. Late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee awarded him Panchajanya Nachiketa Puraskar. Various local bodies have conferred on him various awards for his social, literary and editorial work.



### SHRI V. P. APPUKUTTAN PODUVAL

Shri V. P. Appukuttan Poduval has been a pioneer in the Gandhian movement of self-reliance through Khadi and Village industries propagation and promotion. He had actively participated in freedom struggle, movements against untouchability and social discrimination.

2. Born on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1923, Shri Poduval had his schooling in the Board High School, Payyanur, Malabar district of then Madras province. He completed SSLC in 1942 and later on did his Masters, MA in Political Science, from Mysore University. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, whom Shri Poduval was fortunate to meet during schooling, he jumped into the freedom struggle and participated actively in the movement. He was jailed due to his activities in the movement. He felt the Khadi propagation as a means for alleviation of poverty, upliftment of the poor, a means for self-employment and show of solidarity of Indians against the British rule, and dedicated himself for the same. The self-reliance and empowerment of India was envisioned in the Khadi movement at that period of time and he firmly believed the same.

3. Shri Poduval joined the Akhil Bharat Charka Sangh in 1944, which later merged into the Khadi and Village industries Commission. He had travelled through the length and breadth of the country, mainly headquartered at Lucknow, Madras, Bombay and Trivandrum in the process of propagation of Khadi movement and Gandhian philosophy, for about 40 years. He also had to contact and interact with the people of dacoit infected areas of Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh where Khadi units had been set up. Many such dacoits of that area had surrendered in front of Vinobaji, at the time of Bhoodan movement. He had actively participated in the Bhoodan movement as well.

4. In 1989, Shri Poduval co-founded an institution for Sanskrit studies, the Bharatheeya Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya at Payyannur and was heading it for fifteen years, training students. It is affiliated to the Rashtreeya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. He is also associated with the Sarvodaya Mandal, Chinmaya Mission, Ananda Theertha Ashram etc. among many others, working for the emancipation of the society in general.

5. Shri Poduval had contributed many articles in publications on the subjects of Gandhian studies, Spiritualism, Bhagavat Gita etc. He had also published two books in Malayalam titled "Spiritualism in Gandhian Ideology", and "Bhagavad Gita -Science of Self unfoldment".

6. Shri Poduval is the recipient of many awards, prominent among them are Gandhi Smruthi Samman from Central University, Periya 2003; Citation for Gandhian Literature from Calicut University 2014; Gandhi Smruthi Samman of Vishwa Sanskrit Prathistan 2018; G . Kumara Pillai Award in recognition of overall contribution to the society 2013 and Sahrudaya Thilakam Award for Sanskrit by Vishwa Sanskrit Prathistan, Kerala 2003.



### SHRI S. R. D. PRASAD

Veteran Kalarippayattu exponent, Shri S.R.D. Prasad, popularly known as Prasad Gurukkal, is the chieftain of Sree Bharath Kalari, one of the few old training centres of Kalarippayattu, the martial discipline of Kerala.

2. Born on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1945 in the Village Pallikunnu, District Kannur, Kerala, Shri Prasad was initiated in Kalarippayattu by his father, Late Shri Chirakkal T. Sreedharan Nair. He was groomed at home and later in Sree Bharath Kalari, founded by his father in 1936 as Rajkumar Kalari which was renamed post-Indian Independence. After graduation, he served as an officer in the Rubber Board and then as a Manager of a rubber estate while continuing the practice and dissemination of his art. Since 1998, he has been the full-time guru of Sree Bharath Kalari. Still teaching hundreds of young boys and girls, he established himself as an exponent of Kalarippayattu.

3. Along with his disciples, Shri Prasad has given numerous lectures and demonstrations of this art at various State, National and international venues. Some of them are the Railway Protection Force celebrations in 2000, World Book Fair in 2008, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi in 2012 (Health and Harmony in Asian Systems of Medicines), Yoga Parva of Sangeet Natak Academy in 2015, Presidency College Kolkata, Embassy in Belgium and Luxembourg in 2017 and Bhuvaneswar in 2018. He served as a member of the Syllabus Formation Committee of Mumbai University for devising the postgraduate course 'Movement Science' and the Diploma course 'Dance and Fitness'. Additionally, he prepared the syllabus for the Diploma in Kalarippayattu Course at Kannur University and served as the visiting faculty. He was also the visiting faculty for the Dance and Fitness Course at Mumbai University.

4. Shri Prasad has authored various books disseminating the legacy of Kalarippayattu. Those are Otta (2004), Kalariyile Kala (2010), which is the biography of his father and guru, Maippayattu (2012), published under a two-year Senior Fellowship of the Central Ministry of Culture) and Marapidichu Kuntha Payattu (2019). Bharatha Kandam (2009) is a novel based on the epic Ramayana. To his credit, there are also many articles in various journals explaining the influence of Kalarippayattu on other art forms of Kerala and the philosophy behind this comprehensive martial discipline. He is also the co-editor of an English Book on Kalarippayattu. Besides, various television channels such as the Doordarshan carried out interviews and features on him.

5. Shri Prasad has received many accolades for his contributions to this martial arts tradition. Among them are the Gurupooja Award of Kerala Folklore Akademi (2012), Kendra Sangeeth Nataka Akademi Puraskar (2015), the Award for Best Book (2018) from Kerala Folklore Academy and the coveted Fellowship of Kerala Folklore Akademi (2021).



### **SHRI CHINTALAPATI VENKATAPATHI RAJU**

Shri Chintalapati Venkatapathi Raju, a grassroots innovator from Etikoppaka village, Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh, is known for preserving the traditional method of making Etikoppaka toys.

2. Born on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1963 at Jonnavalsa, Vijayanagaram, Shri Raju got his secondary education was at Visakhapatnam and Vijayanagaram. He completed his SSC in the year 1979.

3. Shri Raju has developed a variety of contemporary wooden lacquer toys for which a market was gradually emerging in India and abroad. He explored plant sources and the lead-free dyes in their roots, barks, stems, leaves, fruits, seeds and much more. His experiments resulted in natural dye concentrates over wide-ranging colours, including royal red and Indigo. He walked through a strategy of strengthening the local traditions of making vegetable dyes, develop new tools, techniques and methods for increasing the bright range of products. This traditional method of making wooden products and toys by using non-toxic paints and natural dyes, defined the identity of the craft community of the Etikoppaka village in Southern India, which was otherwise a slowly dying art.

4. Shri Raju was supported by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - for his efforts to be more vocal about local. Financial support was given through Micro Venture Innovation Fund (MVIF) to satisfy working capital needs, setting up of a community lab at the premises of innovator which could facilitate in-situ product improvements, research and development. To strengthen their relevance, the portfolio of innovative products have been made highly interesting, and now, there are a plethora of toy shapes that kids like. Etikoppaka wooden lacquer toys are well rounded and made using natural dye colours. This makes them safe, especially for kids. Keeping this in mind, he remains glued to the conventional art form. Moreover, he engaged his fellow artisans and also provided them with an employment opportunity locally in the same village. For his work on Etikoppaka toys, that is, bringing back the lost glory of local toys, he has been praised by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi in his 68<sup>th</sup> Mann Ki Baat.

5. Shri Raju was conferred with NIF's 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Award in the year 2002 by former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. INTACH, Vizag Chapter, 2009 gave him the Lifetime Achievement award. In the year 2018, he was invited to be part of the 5th batch of the Innovation Scholar-In-Residence programme organized by Rashtrapati Bhavan. In 2019, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Craft Council of India, Telangana. He has also participated in the annual Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE), the biggest platform for grassroots innovators to showcase the merit of their innovations, organized by NIF and DST under the aegis of Rashtrapati Bhavan.



### **DR. BANDI RAMAKRISHNA REDDY**

Dr. Bandi Ramakrishna Reddy a former Professor of Linguistics at the Osmania and P.S. Universities Hyderabad; the founder Registrar of Dravidian University, Kuppam and a close associate and the 37<sup>th</sup> President of Dravidian Linguistics Association, is a noted linguist.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1942, Dr. Reddy completed his schooling, Graduation and Post-Graduation in Hindi Language and Literature from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati in 1972. He was awarded the Prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship by the Association of Commonwealth Universities London for his doctoral studies in Linguistics. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) by the Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune.

3. Dr. Reddy speaks Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and many other Dravidian Tribal Languages besides his mother tongue Telugu. During 1970-72, he worked at Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore. He has conducted a number of fieldworks during this period on Kuvi, (UNESCO) listed language as a definitely endangered.

4. Dr. Reddy has been involved in organising National and Regional seminars and conferences which provided an opportunity to many scholars to participate and express their ideas. He was particularly interested in collecting the then forth coming new ways of interpreting the tribal data for the implementation of new ideas / ways of thinking in writing the data collected from the Tribal languages. His interpretation and commentary of tribal data has led many scholars to work on Tribal languages.

5. Dr. Reddy's extensive fieldwork among Kuvi speakers came out as Kuvi Phonetic Reader in 1974 and Kuvi Folk Literature with Oriya and English. He has shown interest on another UNESCO listed critically endangering language MANDA. He published a Manda-English Dictionary and Manda- Oral Literature in 2009. He identified another independent Dravidian Language Indi/Awe spoken in Rayada District of Odisha. He pioneered Editorial Attempt Agreement in Dravidian Languages (2003) published by International Institute of Tamil Studies, Chennai.

6. Dr. Reddy has edited 4 volumes of Osmania Paper in Linguistics Volumes 4 to 7, 1978-81, Kuvi - Origin-English Dictionary in 1995 (Trilingual) and Dravidian Folk and Tribal Lore in 2001.



### **SHRI MANGALA KANTA ROY**

Shri Mangala Kanta Roy, famously known as "Morag Dadu of North", producing unique bird calls, one of the oldest folk musicians, is widely recognized for his role in pioneering through musical instrument 'Sarinda'. He has taken folk music to another level that haunts others to think folk music in a new way.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1921 at Gadhayar Kuthi in Dhugguri Block, Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal, Shri Roy got his primary education from Gadhayer Kuthi Primary School. At childhood, he lost his parents and took shelter at neighbor's house. Rather than study, he was enchanted with the musical instrument 'Sarinda'. He got inspiration from Tolmohan Roy, a ballad singer, who was playing with the "Sarinda". The tune touched his heart at once and he wanted to learn Sarinda from him. He bought 'Sarinda' from him. Out of his profound love, Shri Roy has chosen Sarinda music as his profession.

3. At the age of ninety, Shri Roy was called to Delhi in Pragati Maidan to show his performance. He won everyone's heart. Now a days we can still hardly find such musician like Shri Roy who is at the age of 102 still can produce such mesmerizing & performances to keep the Sarinda music alive. He craves to teach the future performers who are interested in the 'Sarinda' so that the song of life can continue, irrespective of caste, culture and creed. His patience and tenacity, his devotion, ultimately his love for the Sarinda music is enormous, with full of vitality. His Sarinda tune makes everyone's mind indifferent to the world. He leads everyone to another world where only spiritual delight looms large without any 'din and bustle'.

4. Shri Roy received 'Bangaratna' award in the year 2017 from Chief Minister of West Bengal. On behalf of the State Government he won 'Shilpi Samman' award. Apart from these, he was invited by so many cultural institutions and given prestigious medals and awards.





### **PROF. (DR.) MANORANJAN SAHU**

Prof. (Dr.) Manoranjan Sahu, former Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, Banaras Hindu University is a well-known name in the field of Shalya Tantra, the surgical discipline of Ayurveda. He has been a pioneer in reviving and popularizing ancient surgical practices of Ayurveda in accordance with contemporary science. He is globally known for his contribution in the management of anorectal diseases, especially for the innovative technique of anal fistula treatment by ksharasutra therapy. He has also made significant contributions in the field of wound management by Ayurvedic drugs.

2. Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1953 at District Midnapur, West Bengal, Prof. (Dr.) Sahu pursued his Graduation from J. B. Roy State Ayurvedic College, Calcutta in 1977 and completed M.D.(Ay.) and Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1982 and 1986 respectively. He began his career as a Lecturer at Institute of Medicine, Kathmandu, Nepal and State Ayurvedic College, Varanasi before joining the Department of Shalya Tantra, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University in 1993 where he served in the capacity of Reader, Professor and Head of the Department before his superannuation in 2018. In the meanwhile, he also served as the Professor-in-charge of Ayurveda Wing of Sir Sunder Lal Hospital and rose to the position of the Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda.

3. Prof. (Dr.) Sahu was also appointed as Founder Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi in 2010 by the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Government of India. His visionary approach for the development of surgical practices in Ayurveda led him to establish the National Resource Center on Ksharasutra Therapy at BHU as the founder coordinator in 2013. This Center of Excellence is first of its kind for the diagnosis and management of anorectal diseases with advanced facilities suitable for teaching, training and research programs.

4. Prof. (Dr.) Sahu in a career spanning over 35 years, has mentored more than 80 scholars and made significant contributions with more than 45 important research publications. A scholar of international repute, he has been the torch-bearer of Shalya Tantra and Ayurveda across the nation and abroad. He has visited several countries as an invited faculty to deliver scientific talks and perform live demonstration of his innovative technique of Ksharasutra Therapy. He has also served as the Indian Coordinator for the India-China collaboration in traditional medicine in 2015.

5. Prof. (Dr.) Sahu was felicitated by the Department of AYUSH, Government of India in 2008. He has also been honored with Vaidya Sundarlal Joshi Smriti Puraskar in 2014 by Maha Gujarat Medical Society and Vaidyaraj Haribhau Paranjape Award by the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM) in 2016. For his contributions towards the development of Ayurveda and Shalya Tantra, he has also been conferred with the Fellowship of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, New Delhi in 2017 and the Sushruta Award and Honorary Fellowship of National Sushruta Association, India in 2019.



## SHRI KOTA SATCHIDANANDA SASTRY

Shri Kota Satchidananda Sastry is a famous artist of Harikatha. In his more than seven decades of artist career, he contributed his best to the art of Harikatha.

2. Born on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1934 at Addanki Village, in Prakasam District, in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Sastry received his primary education in Addanki and started his artist career in 1946 as an artist of Harikatha and is continuing till date. He learnt it from Shri Akkapeddi Ramakrishnaiah and some others, Shri Panditaradhyula Sambamurthi (Father of Cine Playback Singer Shri S.P. Bala Subrahmanyam) who was an exponent in the art of Harikatha stood as a model to him. Later, he learnt the scripts of Mahabharatha from his Guru Late Musunoori Suryanarayana Das Garu.

3. During the decades of 60s to 90s and early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Shri Sastry extensively gave his performances throughout Andhra Pradesh and other States of India and abroad like England and Mauritius. He used the works of Shri Adibhatla Narayana Dasu, Shri Parimi Subrahmanya Bhagavathulu and Shri Peddinti Surya Narayana Deekshita Dasu. He sang Kruthis from Tyagaraju, Purandaradasu, Ramadasu, Annamayya, Kshetrayya, Sadasiva Brahmendra and many Vaggeyakaras. He quotes the work of modern poets like Sri Sri, Jashua, Athreya, Arudra, Devulapalli Krishna Sastry and many others. Through his art form, he tried to bring the moral values to the common man. According to the scene and situation he enacted the characters and show cased them to the spectators.

4. During his long career Shri Sastry performed more than 15000 performances. He made a lot of study and research and got acquaintance with the characters and bhavas, emotions, dialogues, actions and ideas. He was given "A" top rank in All India Radio.

5. Shri Sastry got felicitations from former Chief Minister Shri N.T. Rama Rao, Shri M. Janardhan Reddy and Shri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu. Many legends, luminaries like Dr. Akkineni Nageswara Rao (Padma Vibhushan awardee), Shri Ghantashala Venkateswara Rao (Padma Shri awardee), Shri Vedantam Satyanarayana Sarma (Padma Shri awardee), Shri C. Narayana Reddy, Dr. Mangalampalli Bala Muralikrishna, Shri Turlapati Kutumba Rao. He was felicitated with titles like "Katha Gana Kala Kovida", "Viswa Kala Prapoorna", "Harikatha Chakravarthi". He got Sangeet Natak Academy Award for the year 2018. He got "Hamsa Puraskar" for the year 2015 from Andhra Pradesh State Government.



### **SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH**

Shri Gurcharan Singh is a retired cricket coach from the Sports Authority of India. He is widely recognized across the cricket fraternity for his role in producing national and international cricketers.

2. Born on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1935, Shri Singh passed his matriculation exam from City High School, Patiala. He completed a Certificate Course in cricket coaching under the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Cricket Coaching Scheme in 1958; took a diploma in cricket coaching from the National Institute of Sports, Patiala in 1962 and secured an honorary B A (Hons) degree in Sports Management from the Croydon College of Business Management, London.

3. Shri Singh played first-class cricket for Punjab and Indian Railways from 1953 to 1969. He was NIS and later Sports Authority of India cricket coach at the National Stadium in New Delhi from July 1969 to June 1995. He was in the Board of Control for Cricket in India's zonal coach (North Zone) from December 1977 to December 1982 and BCCI National coach from July 1985 to July 1986. He conducted a three-month cricket coaching camp at Maldives. He was director-cum-chief coach of the Pace Bowling Academy at the Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) from 1991 to 1993 and was honorary sports adviser to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation.

4. Shri Singh has produced 12 international players and more than 100 players who have represented various states and institutions in first-class cricket in the country and abroad. His prominent trainees are Shri Kirti Azad, Shri Surender Khanna, Shri Sunil Valson, Shri Maninder Singh, Shri Ajay Jadeja, Shri Murli Kartik, Shri Vivek Razdan, Shri Gursharan Singh, Shri Gagan Khoda, Shri Rahul Sanghvi, Shri Vijay Mehra (UAE) and Shri Nikhil Chopra.

5. Shri Singh received Dronacharya Award from the President of India in 1987.

## Padma Shri



### SHRI LAXMAN SINGH

Shri Laxman Singh is the founder and Secretary of Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya (GVNML), a non-governmental registered voluntary organization. He is well-known for initiating community led collective efforts for example, the "Chauka System", saving environment (Haryalli bachao) through Eco-parks and "Khulla - Chidiyaghar" or open aviary. His initiatives and efforts for water harvesting and management, in his native village, is recognized as the famous "Laporiya Model" for groundwater recharges thus strengthening rural livelihood.

2. Born on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1959 in "Laporiya" a small village of Jaipur District, Rajasthan, Shri Singh's parents sent him to Jaipur for better education but he returned home while studying in 10<sup>th</sup> standard because he could not adjust to urban lifestyle. About the same time, he was badly shaken and touched by the drought conditions prevailing in Rajasthan and his village was suffering from acute scarcity of water. This prompted him to undertake the repair of this tank. He motivated some village youth to join him and work on the basis of "shramdaan".

3. Shri Singh invented a unique in-situ rain water conservation technology - the "Chauka System", which is based on indigenous technical knowhow, and is applied to the village commons. The GVNML team has helped the rural community develop 10 thousand hectares of degraded pasturelands, as result of it milk production of this region boosted up to 3-4 times.

4. In 1987, Shri Singh launched the "Dharti Jatan Yaatra" in the form of a campaign for creating awareness for development and management of common property resources, and this Yaatra has completed 35 years. More than 3000 community-based organizations are in place and engaged in programmes/ activities for development of "Gauchar", "Talaab" and Naadis", and seasonal rivers. All these efforts resulted in, the groundwater aquifers have been recharged and ground water level risen by 2-3 meters. The green cover has increased 4-5 times, the numbers of birds and wildlife have increased remarkably. Till now, more than 5 lakhs people have taken the pledge for protecting the local environment. In addition, some 2000 "Talaabs" were worshipped, more than 4 lakhs trees were tied-up with "Raksha Sutra" and more than 10 lakhs saplings planted.

5. Shri Singh has received several awards, few of them are "National Youth Award" in 1992, "Indira Priyadarshini Vriksh Mitra" in 1996; "Silver Award for Water Warrior" in 2008, "Rajiv Gandhi Prayavaran Sanrakshan Puruskar" in 2013. Further, GVNML was awarded the "Bhumi Jal Sanwardhan Puruskar" by the MoWR, Government of India in 2007, and the "Best NGO", at the National Level, for Rain Water Conservation by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India in 2020. The UNDP had appointed him as the "Eco-Volunteer India" in 1996. Ashoka Innovators for the Public has presented him the "Lifetime Member of the Ashoka Fellowship" in 1997. He is also on the Board of Governors of some leading Civil Societies Organizations of Rajasthan.



### **PROF. PRAKASH CHANDRA SOOD**

Prof. Prakash Chandra Sood is an eminent nuclear researcher and scientist. Another area of his activity is institute building not only for academic, but for the wider field of national development.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1928, Prof. Sood got his early education in DAV institutions in Jalandhar (Punjab) followed by M.Sc. (Hons) degree of Punjab University in 1952. After three years of teaching in Punjab Government colleges, he proceeded to USA where he completed his Ph.D from Florida State University in January 1958 in a record time of just two years and three months. After a brief stint in BARC (1968-69) he moved to Banaras Hindu University for the next 29 years as a distinguished teacher, academic administrator and developer of new facilities. Post retirement he has been serving as honorary professor at the SSSIHL, Puttaparthi.

3. As a Nuclear Researcher, Prof. Sood has reported his findings in 320 publications in prestigious national and international journals and conferences. As a research propagator, he has been personally connected with 67 Universities and Research labs in India and 62 Institutions in 12 nations abroad.

4. As an Institute builder, Prof. Sood was very closely associated with two research centres of national importance, namely DAE Cyclotron Centre, (VECC) in Calcutta and the first ever UGC sponsored Inter-University Nuclear Science Centre (NSC, later renamed as IUAC), in New Delhi, from planning to commissioning stage. In the early seventies, at BHU, he set up the first van de Graff accelerator based Nuclear Research Lab. In the mid seventies, he took up the challenge of building and setting up the first ever computer center in BHU, wherein he served as founder director (1978-83). He also served as Dean, Faculty of Sciences and Head of department of Computer Science during 1985-87. He also introduced Computer Science as a regular curriculum course in Banaras Hindu University. He was hosted by the Royal Society, UK and Japan society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) for lecture tours. He was also invited to various academic programmes in several countries including USA, Canada, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Nepal.

5. Prof. Sood is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences (FNASc) since 1978, UGC National Fellow (1983-85), UGC Emeritus Fellow (1989- 1992), Vice President, Indian Physical Society (1985-87), Vice President, Indian Physics Association (1979-81). At the International level, UNESCO-IAEA sponsored International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) selected him as a Senior Associate for a 6-year term. He received the National Science Foundation (NSF-USA), International Travel awards for collaborative research (1975-84).



**SMT. NEIHUNUO SORHIE**

Smt. Neihunuo Sorhie is a master crafts-person adept at weaving, knitting, bead-works, making decorative items and dry flowers.

2. Born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1963, Smt. Sorhie learnt weaving at the age of 4 from her mother and by age of 6, she could weave clothes which was a big achievement as weaving has been a major occupation of Naga women. Her father passed away when she was very young and being the only girl child with two brothers, it was her duty to weave alongside her mother.

3. Due to financial problems, Smt. Sorhie could not complete her education and weaving became her routine duty which soon developed and became a passion. She immensely enjoyed it and is happily practicing it even today, albeit it is a languishing tradition. She does not regret about not completing her education as she has been well trained in weaving, tailoring and knitting, all of which she has learnt with no formal guidance.

4. Smt. Sorhie is also conducting training to local Naga Women in lion-loom weaving (300 trainees); knitting (20 trainees) and bead-works (15 trainees), and also to school drop outs, widows, children and students to enable them to become self-reliant and earn their livelihood. She is also a shop proprietor and a manager of a handloom and handicraft unit at a shopping market in Kohima for the last forty years. She endeavours to pass on the legacy of traditional crafts and preserve traditional Naga designs. She has participated in over a hundred twenty major exhibitions, trade-fairs and melas across India and in foreign countries representing India

5. Smt. Sorhie has received Sant Kabir Award (2018), National Award (2007), Balipara Foundation Naturenomics Assam Award (2014), State Awards (twice in 2001) and several miscellaneous awards.



### **SHRI S. SUBBARAMAN**

Shri S. Subbaraman, former Superintending Archaeological Chemist of the Archaeological Survey of India, has rendered distinguished service in the field of Heritage Conservation.

2. Born on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1929, Shri Subbaraman received a First Class B.Sc. Honours degree in Chemistry (equivalent to Masters degree) from the Madras University in 1951. After a brief stint in the Madras State government, he joined the Archaeological Survey of India (Chemistry Branch) in 1954 and was posted at Ajanta in February 1955, where he worked on the conservation of the iconic Ajanta murals. In 1958, he was transferred to Lepakshi, where he tackled the challenging conservation problems of the Vijayanagara period murals in the temple there, very successfully.

3. Shri Subbaraman was awarded an Italian Government scholarship and proceeded to Rome in 1960 for higher training in the Restoration of Works of Art. After return, he worked on the conservation of the famous Hoysala temples of Belur and Halebid in Karnataka.

4. Shri Subbaraman was deputed to the Indian Museum, Calcutta, in May 1966, and set up the Conservation Laboratory of the Museum, carrying out and supervising the conservation of a large number of museum objects of different kinds. Returning to A.S.I. in May 1975, he took charge as Deputy Superintending Archaeological Chemist and Head of the Southern Region of the Chemistry Branch at Hyderabad, holding responsibility for the conservation of monuments in the four southern states, besides Maharashtra and Gujarat, including Ajanta and Ellora. He retired from A.S.I. on December 31, 1987. Among his notable achievements during this period is the successful separation of two layers of old mural paintings, one superimposed over the other, and preserving them both in the Brihadeeshwara temple, Thanjavur. They were the Chola paintings of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and the 16<sup>th</sup> century Nayaka paintings superimposed on the former. This was the first time anywhere in the world that such a feat had been accomplished and the work attracted international attention. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation sent a team to film this process in 1986 and this was telecast in their programme 'Beyond 2000'.

5. Shri Subbaraman was the team leader in 1977, when the work on the gigantic Buddha statues in Bamiyan was completed by A.S.I. in 1977 and the monument formally handed over to the Afghan Government. He was part of the A.S.I. team to Angkor Wat, Cambodia in 1982 and prepared the Chemical conservation part of the project report. He also led the team that carried out the conservation of the churches of Old Goa and the large number of artifacts in them in 1983.

6. Shri Subbaraman has attended national and international conferences and presented papers, besides publishing research articles in reputed journals, including 'Current Science', including a State of the Art report for the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India on 'Conservation of wall paintings'.

7. Shri Subbaraman was honoured by the Honble Governor of Karnataka in 2011, along with other distinguished Archaeologists.



### **SHRI VISHWANATH PRASAD TIWARI**

Shri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari is an eminent Hindi poet, critic, creative prose writer and editor. He has wide acceptance as an independent thinker among all Indian languages. He is the Editor of the famous literary magazine 'Dastavez' being published quarterly since 1978.

2. Born on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1940 in a village of Gorakhpur (now Kushinagar) district in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Tiwari received his Masters and Doctorate degree from DDU University, Gorakhpur. He retired as a Professor and Head of Hindi Department from the same University in 2001. In 2008, he became Convener of Hindi language in Sahitya Akademy, New Delhi and in 2011 he was elected as Vice President of Sahitya Akademy. From 2013 to 2017, he served as the President of Sahitya Akademy. He is the first Hindi writer to be elected at this prestigious position since the inception of Akademy. He was elected unopposed.

3. Shri Tiwari has written and published more than 50 books comprising 13 books of criticism, 6 collections of poetry, 4 travelogues, 2 memoirs, 1 diary, 1 autobiography, 4 interviews and 19 edited books. He has both creative and critical talent. His entire writing is against colonial inferiority complex and rigidity of ideologies. Ancient Indian values based on love, compassion and peace for all beings and whole existence, Democracy, Equality and Freedom form the core of his writings. Some of his books have been translated in 16 Indian languages and also in English and Russian. He has widely travelled and participated in various literary and cultural events in India as well many foreign countries including USA, Russia, China, Japan, UK, Germany, France, Canada, Mauritius, Netherland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Thailand, South Korea, Austria and Nepal.

4. Shri Tiwari is the recipient of various awards and honours. He received 'Moortidevi' award of Bhartiya Gyanpeeth, 'Vyas samman' of Birla Foundation, Maithilisharan Gupta Samman of Madhya Pradesh, Samagra Krititva Samman of Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad Kolkata, Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Gangadhar Mehar National Poetry Award of Odisha, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Shikhar Samman of Bihar, Sahitya Bhushan and Hindi Gaurav Samman of Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan, Lifetime Fellowship of Sahitya Akademy and many other awards.





### **SHRI DHANIRAM TOTO**

Shri Dhaniram Toto is the person who has played a great role to preserve an endangered language 'Toto' and making people aware about the importance of their culture and language. He is a government employee who belongs to a small tribe 'Toto'.

2. Born on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1964, Shri Toto started his primary education from Totopara Primary School. He did his Matriculation from Rampur Singimari Higher Secondary School. Later, he joined BCW SC/ST Welfare Department as a Social Worker in 1991. He is still associated with this Department.

3. The engrossment of Shri Toto in his culture and tradition is praiseworthy. He has represented Toto folk culture, tales, and songs through his writings. Also, he has written poems and novels in Bengali language. Despite all the odds, his dedication towards the Toto culture and developing Toto Script is commendable. His work on Toto Alphabet was completed in 2018. He represented Toto tribe in Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1993, on the invitation of the then President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and the Prime Minister Shri Narshima Rao.

4. Shri Toto has been honoured with many Awards like 'Tamro Patro' from West Bengal Government in 1997; 'Samaj Sanskriti Puruskar' for his work on Toto folk culture; 'Sahitya Puruskar' for his novel "Dhanua Totor kothamala" in 2021 and Doars Ratna-2019 etc.



### **SHRI TULARAM UPRETI**

Shri Tularam Upreti is a devoted organic farmer from Sikkim.

2. Born on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1926, Shri Upreti after his primary education put all his efforts and energy in traditional farming on his father's 30 acres land where he single handedly grew and managed different types of agricultural crops like paddy, maize, mustard, millet, buckwheat and cardamom to name a few. He has still been managing it at the age of 97 years. His entire family used to support him in his agricultural activities. He never used any kind of chemicals/fertilizers except for cow/goat manure produced by his own cattles which he himself reared, hence he is referred as an organic man.

3. Shri Upreti used cattle manure for crops as the only way of productive farming since he was unaware of the existence of chemical fertilizers until lately. He always believed that organically grown food will always improve the quality of soil for better productivity in future.

4. Shri Upreti is also a social and political worker. In 20 long years of his Panchayat career, he became President of Unit Panchayat twice, Vice- President and member, once each. He was actively engaged in democratic movement of Sikkim in 1973, which culminated in Sikkim becoming the 22<sup>nd</sup> State of India. He was felicitated by the local MLA & Public for his contributions to the society as Panchayat and other social works. He has always advised local youths to create work culture to sustain and progress in life.



### **DR. G. VELUCHAMY**

Dr. G. Veluchamy is a senior Siddha Physician known for his devoted services for the cause of Siddha System of Medicine for more than fifty years.

2. Born on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1947, at Panayadipatti, a small village in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Veluchamy received his Bachelor of Indian Medicine degree from the University of Madras in 1969 and Doctor of Medicine (Siddha) degree from Madurai Kamaraj University in 1975. He started his career in 1970 as Assistant Lecturer in Government Siddha Medical college at Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu. Later on, he worked as Head of the Siddha section in Arignar Anna Hospital for Indian Systems of Medicine, Chennai upto 1981.

3. Dr. Veluchamy joined in 1981 as Assistant Director (Siddha) in Central Research Institute for Siddha at Chennai, a unit of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. As a Researcher, he started his research in literacy and clinical side. He was instrumental to collect more than 1500 palm leaf manuscripts pertaining to Siddha System of medicine and out of these manuscripts, 14 original Siddha texts were edited and published and these books were very useful for UG and PG students as well as the researchers.

4. Dr. Veluchamy took initiatives to establish the safety and efficiency of Siddha medicines based on modern parameters as per the standards laid down by WHO under his supervision. Diseases like Psoriasis, Cancer, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Diabetsmellitus, Vitiligo were selected for conducting clinical trials at Central Research Institute of Siddha and the results were published in many journals and organized 9 national level seminars/workshops through which the outcome of research on the above diseases were presented among the experts of other system of medicines including Allopathic doctors to prove that Siddha medicines are safe, effective and based on the scientific lines.

5. During his tenure as Director, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, New Delhi from 1999 to 2003, Dr. Veluchamy participated in many international conferences and events like Expo 2000, Hannover, Germany, presentation before the Sub-committee of House of Lords, London UK; Made in India Show in Johannesburg, South Africa, intergovernmental committee on intellectual property and Genetic Resources Traditional folklores at World Intellectual Property Organization HQ, at Geneva.

6. After his retirement in 2007, Dr. Veluchamy continues his service to the Department of AYUSH, Government of India at various capacities. At present, he is the Chairman of Scientific Advisory Board, Central Council for Siddha, Chairman of Siddha Pharmacopoeia Committee, Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India and member in Ayurveda Siddha Unani Drug Technical Advisory Board, Department of AYUSH.

7. Dr. Veluchamy is the recipient of lifetime achievement award from Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University in 2012 in recognition of his exemplary contributions to the cause of Siddha System of Medicine.



### **SHRI KARMA WANGCHU (POSTHUMOUS)**

Shri Karma Wangchu the former Health, Transport and Cooperation Minister and the first Minister from Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh Government, in the Cabinet headed by then Chief Minister Lt. Shri Tomo Riba is known for his services to the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

2. Born on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1935 at Seru village, Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Wangchu didn't receive formal education but started his career from NEFA Police in the year 1959-60 and thereon served as Junior Intelligence Officer-II in the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB) from 1960 to 1976. During his service tenure, he was awarded a Certificate and cash award for his distinguished and meritorious service during the 1962 Indo-Sino War. He was also a recipient of the Silver Medal for meritorious service in 1972. He was appointed as the first Gaon Burah (Village Head Man) of Seru Tso village by Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

3. Shri Wangchu at the age of 16, undertook a trip to Lhasa on foot and had an audience with His Holiness, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama at Potala Palace. The mutual bonding continued and was further cemented by the gracious visit of His Holiness, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama to his residence at Tawang twice in the years 1997 and 2003. He was the founder of the Indo-Tibet Friendship Society, Arunachal Pradesh. He tried to bring the Tibetan community of Arunachal Pradesh closely to bonafide locals so that it could prevent Chinese influence over Tibetan communities on our side. He always tried to make the people of Indo Tibet Border more patriotic towards our motherland India.

4. Shri Wangchu, as a representative of the public from 1978-1994, worked tirelessly towards preservation and the promotion of the rich cultural heritage in the border areas of the State and diligently served the people at the grass root level. He was a pioneer in taking the Government policies and development schemes to the remotest corner and border areas of Tawang District. He served as Pro-Tem Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. In his long political career, owing to the love of his people, he has not lost any elections. He gracefully retired from active politics in 1994.

5. Shri Wangchu believed Education was the catalyst of economic growth and other developmental/social works so, after retirement from active politics, he continued his service towards the society especially in the field of education by starting the Choephelling Public School for the destitute and orphans. As part of his philanthropic contribution, he provided free education along with residential facilities to more than 1256 children, mostly orphans, destitute and children belonging to very poor families of the border villages like Mago, Thingbu, Zemithang of Tawang District. A devout follower of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama and an ardent advocate of his teachings of Compassion, he till his demise was actively involved in Humanitarian activities and took out time to work tirelessly towards the preservation of the rich Monpa culture and traditions of Tawang.

6. Shri Wangchu passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.



### **SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD ZAZ**

Shri Ghulam Mohammad Zaz, manufacturer of handmade musical instruments like Sitaar, Rabab, Tawoos, and Santoor, is widely recognized across the country and overseas for his role in manufacturing quality musical instruments, especially Santoor.

2. Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1948, Shri Zaz had an inclination towards musical instruments in his childhood and used to watch his grand father Shri Rehman Joo Zaz, father Shri Abdul Ahad Zaz, and uncle Shri Ghulam Rasool Zaz manufacturing musical instruments and by that time started working with them besides his schooling. Zaz family was well recognized at the time of Maharaja and some of the musical instruments manufactured by them are still displayed in the museum of Srinagar. Besides Kashmiri Musical Instruments like Sitar Kashmiri, Santoor Kashmiri, Saazi Kashmiri, Sarang Kashmiri, and Rabab, some Indian Musical Instruments like Indian Santoor, Dilruba, Tanpora, and Surbahaar were also manufactured by the Zaz family. The musical instruments manufactured by the Zaz family had amazing tonal qualities which were relished and played by the elite class of society.

3. The passion and love for the art of manufacturing musical instruments of Shri Zaz was a lot, that he declined some good offers of jobs and continued the profession of his forefathers and took their legacy forward. He gained tremendous experience in his field from his forefathers who were working in the same profession for seven generations. He is eighth in the line and perhaps the last one as his three daughters have taken the other professions for their livelihood.

4. Kashmiri Santoor manufactured by Shri Zaz was introduced in Indian Classical Music and also played in the bollywood by Shri Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma. The santoor had some extraordinary tonal qualities that no other person could have manufactured such a Masterpiece and was played on a lap rather than a table. Shri Bajan Sopori also played Santoor manufactured by Shri Zaz.

5. Shri Zaz has contributed in the field of art of manufacturing quality musical instruments, especially Santoor which has incredible tonal qualities and spreads music of love and peace.