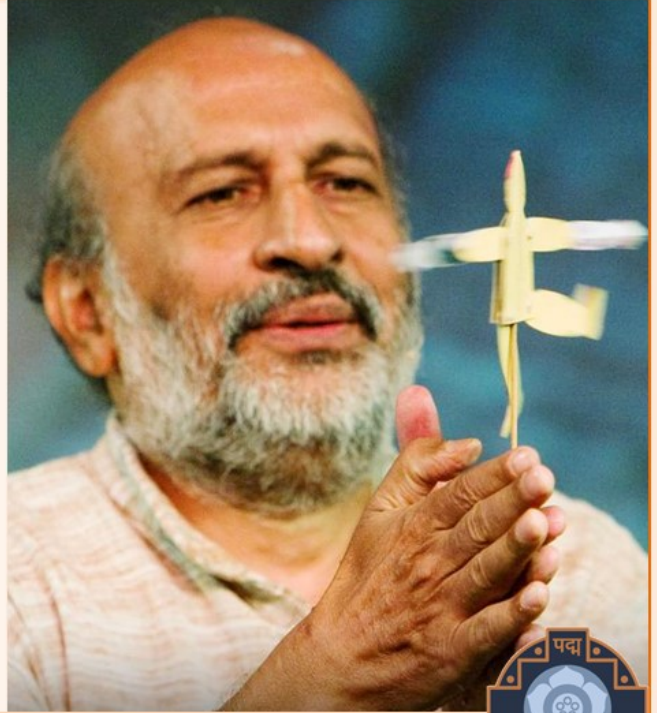


# Arvind Gupta

Scientist Toymaker

- Inspired generations of students to **learn Science from Trash** - uses household materials and garbage as building blocks for scientific experiments
- Over **4 decades**, travelled to **3,000 schools** + made **6,200 short films** on toy-making in **18 languages** + provides free books on his website in 12 languages
- Hosted popular DD show '**Tarang**' (1980s)
- His Ted Talk "Turning Trash into Toys for Learning" among Top 10 globally
- IIT Kanpur alumnus who chose to devote his life to education

"nurturing scientific temper and curiosity through toys made from trash"



Literature and Education (*Affordable Education*) | Maharashtra | 64 Yrs



# Bhajju Shyam

Gond Kala-Guru

“taking traditional tribal Gond kala global”

- Internationally-acclaimed **Gond Artist** - a **traditional tribal painting style of Madhya Pradesh**
- Famous for depicting life in Europe through Gond Paintings
- Illustrated, and contributed to **8 books**
- 'The London Jungle Book' sold 30,000 copies and published in 5 foreign languages
- Exhibited in India and multiple countries including Netherlands, Germany, England, Italy, Kyrgyzstan and France
- Born in a **poor tribal family**, he **worked as night guard** and **electrician** to support his family before becoming a professional artist



Art (Painting) | Madhya Pradesh | 46 Yrs

# Lakshmikutty

Vanamuthassi (Grandmother of Jungle)

- Tribal woman who **prepares 500 Herbal Medicines** from memory
- Has helped thousands of people, especially in snake and insect bite cases
- Gives lectures on Natural Medicine at Institutions across Southern States
- Teacher at Kerala Folklore Academy, Kallar
- Traditional knowledge of preparing the medicines passed down from her mother
- Lives in small hut with a Palm Leaves Roof in Tribal Settlement, deep in the forest
- Only tribal woman from her area to attend school in 1950s

“poison healer whose traditional medicines draw thousands for treatment”



Medicine (Snake Bite) | Kerala | 75 Yrs





## Sudhanshu Biswas

Swatantrataa aur Seva ke Senani

- **99 yr old Freedom Fighter** who **dedicated his life in service of the poor**
- Runs schools, orphanages and dispensaries in rural West Bengal
- Founder of Sri Ramakrishna Sevaashram, Sunderban, West Bengal
- Set up **free schools** for poor children and orphanages which have benefitted thousands
- Runs **charitable dispensaries** in which he collects medicine samples and distributes them among the sick and needy
- Shot and **jailed by British** while fighting for India's Independence

**“99 year old freedom fighter, who thereafter dedicated his life to the poor”**



Social Service | West Bengal | 99 Yrs

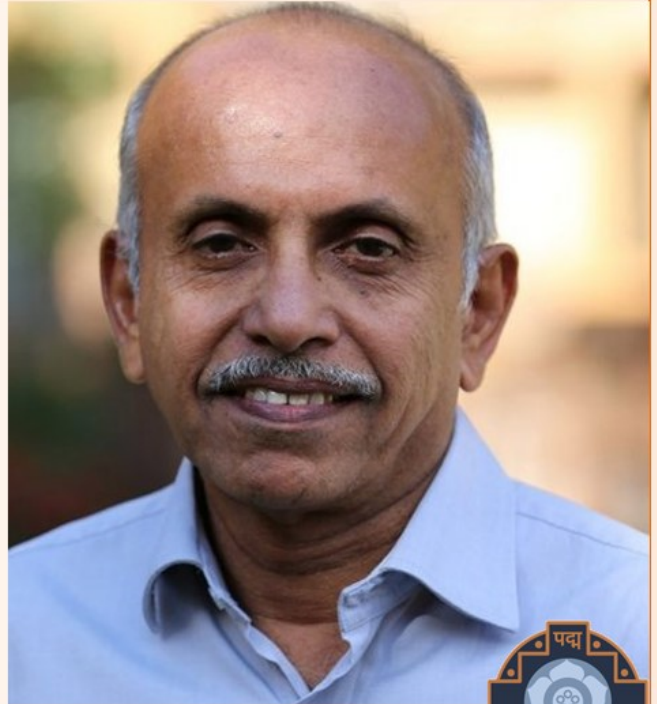


# M R Rajagopal

Medical Messiah to Terminally-ill

- Palliative care is pain relief care and medicine given to people suffering from **life-limiting or terminal illnesses**
- Specializing in **pain-free neo-natal surgeries** - brought down post surgical neo-natal deaths from **75% to 28%** in 1980s
- Set up **India's first palliative care unit** at Institute of Palliative Medicine, Kozhikode (1993)
- Introduced safe anesthesiology procedures
- Among Top 30 Anesthesiologist globally
- Improving accessibility & affordability of **pain relief drugs**
- Inspired to study pain medicine after seeing the agony of patients with terminal

**"father of palliative care in India, guiding us towards a pain free India for 40 years"**



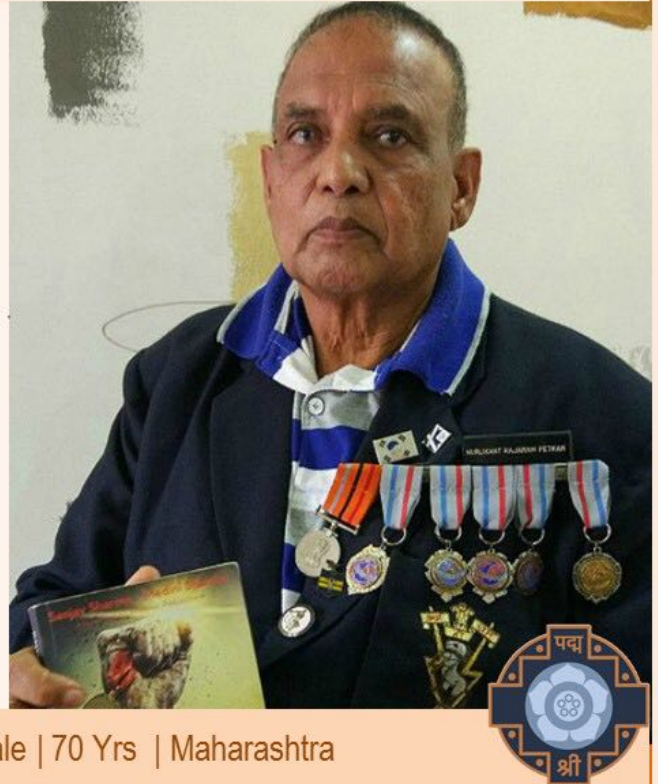
Medicine (*Palliative Care*) | Kerala | 70 Yrs

# Murlikant Petkar

Jaanbaaz Jal Sipahi

“war-hero who went on to become India's first Paralympic Gold medalist”

- **India's first Paralympic gold medallist** in 1972 Germany Paralympics - won **Gold medal in 50 m freestyle Swimming** event, **setting a World Record** at 37.33 seconds
- Reached the finals of 3 other events in the 1972 German Paralympics - Javelin + Precision Javelin + Slalom
- Jawan in the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) in the Indian Army
- **Lost an arm** in **1965 Indo-Pakistan War**, with a bullet lodged in his spinal cord



Sports (Swimming) | Male | 70 Yrs | Maharashtra



# Rajagopalan Vasudevan

Plastic Road-maker of India

- Madurai Professor who developed and **patented** an innovative method to **reuse plastic waste to construct roads**
- Roads made using this method are more **durable, water resistant** and can withstand more load
- **Gol made it mandatory** for all road developers in the country to use waste plastic for construction within 50 km of cities with more than 5 lakh people (2015)
- Gave the technology to Indian Government for free, refusing to sell the same to other foreign governments

“his method has been used to lay 5,000 kms of roads across 11 states using recycled plastic”



Science & Engineering (*Innovation*) | Male | 65 Yrs | Tamil Nadu



# Subhasini Mistry

## Maanavta ki Misaal

- **Poor lady** from rural Bengal who **toiled 20 years** as a **housemaid** and **daily labourer** to build **Humanity Hospital for the poor** in in **Hanspukur**, West Bengal
- Current capacity: 45 beds + 10 bed ICU - treats **thousands of poor** every year **free of cost**
- Belonging to **extremely poor** family, forced to marry a wage labourer at the age of 12
- Widowed at 23, **husband could not receive treatment** because of unaffordability, which motivated her to help the poor in her community
- Sent son to orphanage who studied to become a **doctor**, now treats patients in the hospital
- Started by opening clinic in a **small hut**
- Sold vegetables, cleaned ponds, worked in paddy fields over 20 years to generate funds

“single-handedly built Humanity Hospital providing free healthcare to the Poor, by selling vegetables”



Social Work (Affordable Healthcare) | Female | 75 Yrs | West Bengal





# Sulagatti Narasamma

Janani Amma

“over 70 years has performed 15,000+ traditional deliveries free of charge”

- Nonagenarian **farm labourer** providing **midwifery services** in **backward regions** of Karnataka without any medical facilities
- Known as **Sulagitti**, possesses special talent of checking baby's pulse in the womb, position of head and baby's health etc.
- Provides services to all poor people **without charging any fee**
- From a poor family background, works as **Farm Labourer**
- Given Honorary Doctorate by Tumkur University



Medicine (Affordable Healthcare) | Female | 97 Yrs | Karnataka

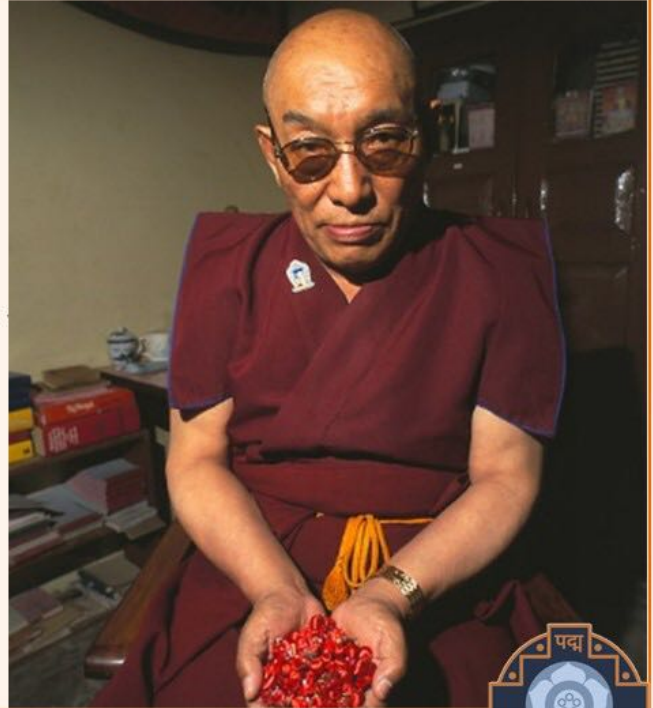


# Yeshi Dhoden

Monk Healer

- **Monk Physician** who is foremost expert of **Sowa Rigpa** (Tibetan Herbal Medicine)
- Working in **remote areas** of Himachal Pradesh
- Founder, **Men-Tsee-Khang**, Tibetan Medical College, Dharamsala
- Treated thousands of patients using herbal medicines and diet

“system combines ancient healing systems of India and China”



Medicine | Male | 90 Yrs | Himachal Pradesh



## Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan

### Tamil Folk Encyclopedia

- Acclaimed Tamil folk-art exponent who has dedicated her life towards the collection, documentation and **preservation of Tamil folk and tribal music**
- Retired Professor - Department of Folk Arts and Culture, Madurai Kamaraj University
- Recorded **10,000+** audio cassettes of authentic folk music
- Co-authored **11 books** on folk art and music
- Compiling Tamil folk art **Encyclopaedia** - to generate **Tamil folk music grammar and guide**
- Her works on **Andal** and Tamil language have brought out the glorious history of **Bhakti movement** centered in Tamil Nadu

“lifelong devotion to research & collection of ancient Tamil folk songs and dances”



Art (FolkMusic) | Tamil Nadu| 71Yrs



# Lentina Ao Thakkar

## Gandhian Utsu (Grandmother)

- Known locally as Utsu (grandmother), a Gandhian who has served for decades at the Gandhi Ashram in Chuchuyimlang village in Nagaland
- First woman from her village to study up to Class VII, also the first Naga woman to be trained as a Gandhian voluntary worker at the Kasturba Ashram in Guwahati in 1950s
- She is married to Natwar Thakkar, a Gandhian freedom fighter, social reformer

**“takes extraordinary courage to embrace Gandhi and work in his name in the Naga Hills, more so in the charged 1950s”**



Social Work (Service) | Nagaland | 84 Yrs

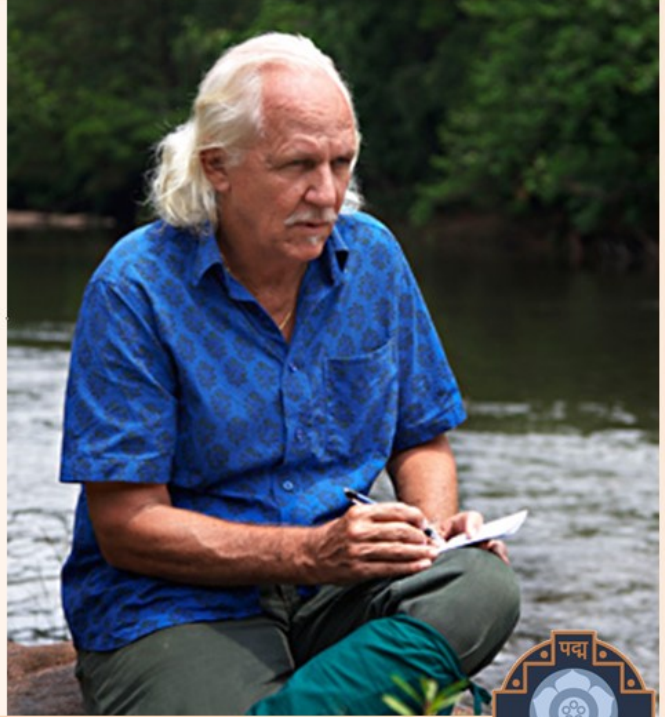


# Romulus Whitaker

## Reptile Rom

- **Wildlife conservationist** and **herpetologist** preserving biodiversity in **Andaman & Nicobar** and Tamil Nadu
- Founded **Madras Snake Park**, The Andaman & Nicobar Environment Trust (ANET) & Madras Crocodile Bank Trust
- Established **International Gene Bank** consisting of 2,100 animals of 17 species, including crocodiles, turtles, tortoises, snakes & lizards in Karnataka
- An **expert on snakes**, his research is also featured in the Emmy-winning documentary "King Cobra"
- 'Boa Eryx whitakeri' named after him
- Born American, took up Indian nationality

"hailed as Snake Man of India, devoted 60 years to reptile research and conservation"



Others (*Wildlife Conservation*) | Tamil Nadu | 74 Yrs

# Rani & Abhay Bang

Grameen ASHA ki kiran

- Doctors who over 30 years transformed healthcare in **Gadchiroli**, Maharashtra
- Their **home-based newborn care model** led to significant reduction in infant mortality
- Adopted by Government of India for pan-India roll out as **ASHA** program (forms the backbone of Indian rural healthcare system)
- **WHO & UNICEF** adopted approach globally
- Established **Shodh Gram**, a model Gond tribal village in Gadchiroli with tribal friendly amenities like hospitals, canteen, temple, training centre, pharmacy etc
- Devoted life to working in **remote, poor, tribal, Naxal-hit region** - despite graduating from John Hopkins Institute of Public Health

“revolutionised community based primary healthcare across India and the World”



Medicine (Affordable Healthcare) | Maharashtra



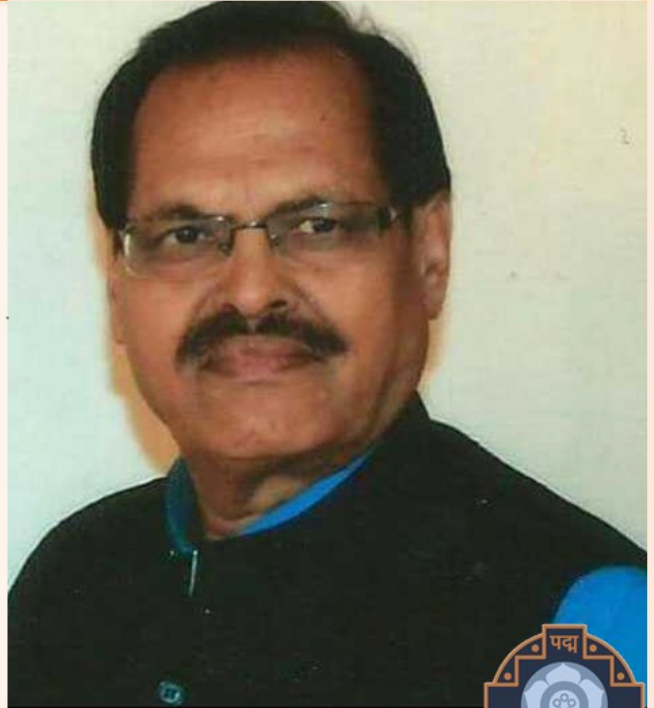


# Sampat Ramteke

Sickle Cell Torchbearer

“devoted lifetime as torch bearer of patients suffering from sickle cell disease”

- **Pioneer of Sickle Cell Disease advocacy**  
- started awareness campaign in 1991
- Efforts led to **policy changes** like inclusion of sickle cell in the list of disabilities in Rights of Persons with Disability Act (2016), travel concessions etc
- Despite no medical background, he gathered knowledge about the disease becoming a **self-taught expert** over time
- Fr. President of Sickle Cell Society of India
- Began crusade for his son (who was an SCD patient), later started working towards welfare of all sickle cell patients
- *Posthumous* - Died in November 2017



Social Work | Maharashtra | 67 Yrs

# Sanduk Ruit

Netra Rakshak Ruit

- Ophthalmologist whose **innovation** in the 1980s led to a **90% reduction** in the cost of **cataract eye surgery**
- Exports **low cost cataract surgery lenses** to **30+ countries**
- Treating 2,500 patients every week, fees are **waived off** for those who can't afford
- Over 30 years has restored eye sight of **100,000+** people across Asia & Africa
- Reaches out to poor and blind people who cannot make it to Kathmandu, by **himself trekking** into those areas in Nepal
- Studied MBBS at AIIMS New Delhi

“game changer in restoring vision of the poor, through low cost cataract surgery”



Medicine (Ophthalmology) | Nepal | 62 Yrs



# Anwar Jalalpurī

Kalamkar Kavi

“renowned Urdu poet, translated the Geeta to Urdu to promote communal harmony”

- **Urdu Poet** from Lucknow
- Translated over 700 shlokas of the **Bhagwad Gita** from **Sanskrit** to **Urdu**, with an aim to **promote communal harmony**
- Former Chairman of UP Madrasa Board
- Former Member of the UP Haj Committee, UP Urdu Academy, Urdu-Arabic-Persian University Committee
- Honoured by UP Urdu Academy, MP Urdu Academy, Meer Academy, Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Bazm-e Urdu Adab, etc.
- *Posthumous* – Died in January 2018



Padma Shri | Literature and Education (*Literature – Urdu*) | Male | 71 Yrs | Uttar Pradesh





# Ibrahim Sutar

Kannada Kabir

“Spreading social message through his  
Bhajans for the last 44 years”

- **Sufi Bhajan Singer** from Bagalkot in Karnataka
- Icon of **Hindu Muslim unity**
- Established "Folk Music Festival" (1970)



Padma Shri | Arts (Music – Sufi) | 77 Yrs | Karnataka

# Manas Bihari Verma

Vigyan Purush

“having served the nation for 35 years as a Defence Scientist, retired to continue serving by imparting science education in rural Bihar”

- Former Program Director of **Tejas** (India's first indigenous multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft) – **wherein he played a pivotal role in indigenisation of technology**
- Post retirement, returned to his village in rural Bihar to impart **Science** and **Computer** education to **poor children** in rural schools through **mobile science labs**
- Covers **1.2 lakh students** in **300 schools** - conducting experiments for Class 6-12 students to provide practical experience of science
- Resulted in attendance in schools increasing from 10% to **80-90%**



Padma Shri | Science & Engineering (Defence) | 74 Yrs | Bihar



# Sitavva Joddati

## Mahila Sashaktikaran ki Devi

- Champion of **women development** and empowerment, especially **Devadasis** and **Dalits** in Belgaum, Karnataka for 3 decades
- CEO of Mahila Abhivrudhi Mattu Samrakshana Samasthe (MASS), which has around 4,000 former Devadasis are members
- Conducts awareness, legal aid and training programmes on **women and child rights**, STDs, financial management etc.
- Provides financial support, through over 300 Self Help Groups as well as getting credit from banks and other micro-lenders
- Was herself dedicated as a **Devadasi** at age 7

“a former Devadasi who is empowering Devadasis and Dalit women of rural Karnataka”



Padma Shri | Social Work | 60 Yrs | Karnataka





# Nouf Marwaai

Saudi Yogacharinie

“the face of Yoga revolution in Saudi Arabia”

- **First certified Yoga Instructor in Saudi Arabia** with played an **instrumental role legalising Yoga in Saudi Arabia**
- Taught **3,000+** students and **certified 70+ Yoga teachers** in Saudi Arabia since 2009
- Founder of Arab Yoga Foundation (2010), the **first official Yoga organization** in the Gulf region
- Born with auto-immune disease, overcame the same through Yoga and Ayurveda
- An active practitioner of Yoga & Naturopathy for last **19 years**
- She has traveled across India to study the practice of Yoga and Ayurveda



Padma Shri | Others (Yoga) | Saudi Arabia | 38 Yrs



# V Nanammal

Yogini Dadi

“nonagenarian Yoga teacher who has trained 10 lakh students over 45 years”

- **India's oldest Yoga teacher** - still practices and teaches **100 students** daily
- **600 students** including **36** members of her family have become yoga instructors around the world
- Students have won gold medals in Yoga competitions in China, Australia, UK, Singapore, Malaysia & Thailand
- Established Ozone Yoga Centre (1972)
- Creates **awareness** among girl students, about Yoga techniques to solve health-related problems
- Started learning Yoga at **8 years** of age from her father, a martial artist



Padma Shri | Others (Yoga) | Tamil Nadu | 98 Yrs

