

BHURI BAI

Bhil Kala ki Bhuri Abhushan

“Internationally acclaimed **Bhil Painter** from Jhabhua - First to transfer mud wall paintings to huge canvasses”

- 1st Bhil Artist to use paper and **canvas** for traditional **Pithora paintings** which have traditionally been done on mud walls
- Began painting from a young age, bringing **Bhil life and culture** to life since **40 years** – from myths about triumphant goddesses to everyday village life filled with songs, rituals, tattoos and **folklore**
- Used **neem twigs** as brushes and extracted **natural colors** from plants, soil and clays
- Took up painting despite being from a community where **women are not allowed** to pick a paintbrush - encouraging other women to take up painting as well
- Through **diligence** and **devotion** she rose to **prominence** with her artwork being exhibited and sold **globally**



Padma Shri | Art (Painting - Folk) | Madhya Pradesh | 60 Yrs

SHANTI DEVI

Shanti aur Seva ki Devi



“**Gandhian** Social Worker serving poor for **6 decades** in **maoist-hit** Rayagada - known for her work in eradication of **Yaws**, chronic bacterial infection”

- **86 yr old Gandhian** from Gunupur village who founded **Seva Samaj Ashram** for rehabilitating **orphan, destitute** and **poor** children
- The Ashram which started with 8 tribals, has now transformed into a hub of education and welfare of 131 such children
- Imbued with **ideologies** of Mahatma **Gandhi** and Vinoba **Bhave**, worked to wipe out a skin disease called **Yaws** and cured over **4,000 infected**
- Participated in the **Bhoodan Sarvodaya Movement** led by Vinobha Bhave in 1951
- With a focus on **empowering women**, she provided vocational training to 200 destitute women of Adivasi and weaker sections in tailoring, knitting, spices making, etc



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Gandhian*) | Odisha | 86 Yrs

PARSHURAM ATMARAM GANGAVANE

Chitrakathi ki Aatma Ganga



“**Folk Artist** from Sindhudurg - famous for preserving 500 year old art of **Chitrakathi storytelling**”

- Narrates the stories of **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** through **paintings** and **folk songs**
- Till date, he continues to use **natural colours** made from soil, flowers, vegetables and leaves
- Established 'Thakar Adivasi Kala Aangan' museum and art gallery to showcase the **Thakar tribal folk** arts of **Sindhudurg**
- Has **trained** more than **100** students to keep the dying art form alive
- **Contemporized** Chitrakathi beyond mythological stories, by painting to **raise awareness** about current situation and educate people about cleanliness, **Covid-19** and **social distancing**



Padma Shri | Art (Painting – Folk) | Maharashtra | 65 Yrs

MANJAMMA JOGATI

Yellamma ki Jogati

“**Transgender Folk Dancer** of Jogamma heritage - 1st transwoman President of Karnataka Janapada Academy”

- **Jogati Nritya Folk** Dancer who has performed 1,000 times in the past 35 years
- Became the **1st transwoman President** of **Karnataka Janapada Academy** in 2019
- Found a **reason to live** through dance after being stuck in a life of destitution, **social stigmas** and resistance
- Her **story of resilience** is now a part of syllabus for Bachelor in Arts course at Karnataka Folk University in Haveri
- Jogati Nritya is a **ritual folk dance** performed by a group of women - generally **Jogappas**, a community of **transgender** people in north Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, to appease **Goddess Yellamma**



Padma Shri | Art (Dance) | Karnataka | 63 Yrs

GHULAM RASOOL KHAN

Kashmiri Kaarigari ke Khan



“**Jamawar Patchwork Artist** from Srinagar - conserving the oldest form of **Kashmiri** shawl technique”

- Jamawar considered to be the **oldest form** of **Kashmiri shawl technique**, which is being practiced by artisans for more than **700 yrs**
- Developed new form of **Jamawar shawl** by creating the first Shawl with 64 pieces as opposed to conventional 32 pieces
- Crafted new prints of **Sozni** embroidery, the traditional style of Kashmiri embroidery
- As Director of B K Handicrafts has provided employment to over **300 artisans**
- Winner of National Award for Textile (2006) + Shilp Guru Award (2010)



Padma Shri | Art (*Textiles - Jamawar*) | Jammu and Kashmir | 66 Yrs

CHUTNI DEVI

Seraikela ki Sherni

“Tribal activist from Seraikela famous as '**Tigress**' - for having single-handedly saved 60 women from **Witch-hunting**”



- 62 yr old brave-heart popular as '**Tigress**' in her locality for strongly opposing the **social evil** of Witch-hunting - tirelessly **fighting** the evil practice for decades
- From being **branded** a '**Dayan**' herself, she faced and overcame strong opposition and even violent **attacks** with undeterred willpower, and has till date successfully **rescued** more than **60 women**
- She also served as an example for humanity, by providing food to the underprivileged on her own with no support from local authorities
- It is estimated that more than 1,500 women have been killed because of being branded as witches over the past 2 decades



Padma Shri | Social Work (Women) | Jharkhand | 62 Yrs

RAMCHANDRA MANJHI

Bhojpuri Naach Nayak

“95 yr old **Naach Folk dancer** from Bihar - carrying forward the legacy of **grameen natak** for over **8 decades**”



- Dedicated his life to keep the tradition of **Naach** alive, a prominent **Bhojpuri folk** art form where men impersonate women in performances - comprising of songs, dance, comedy, satire, pun, banter, parody and theatre
- Plays are based on **social evils** and raise pertinent questions on **caste** discrimination, **dowry** killings etc
- Following his Guru (Bhikari Thakur)'s narrative art, passed from generation to generation since **11th century** – continues to represent the dusty land of Bhojpur belt
- Even at the age of 95, his performances continue to be as astounding as ever



Padma Shri | Art (*Dance - Folk*) | Bihar | 95 Yrs

NANADRO B MARAK

Meghalaya's Black Pepper Marak

“**Organic** Farmer from **West Garo** hills growing **black pepper** - transferring his knowledge to others”



- A pioneering, progressive farmer, he produces **10,000 kgs of black pepper** every year through complete organic farming techniques
- Black pepper is a crop which is very **time consuming** to grow
- Did not **compromise** on his farming methods despite **hardships** – the trees suffered damage during the initial years
- Apart from the **3,400 trees** on his ancestral land, he planted 100 new saplings every year for over 3 decades
- To help farmers, he conducted **training** sessions which have benefitted **800 farmers** across **18 villages**



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

REWBEN MASHANGVA

King of Naga Blues

“**Naga Folk** Blues musician - known for resurrecting Manipur's **Tangkhul Naga** musical heritage”



- Modified **Yangkahui**, the traditional **Tangkhul Naga flute** to suit the **western** tone
- Created Naga tribal folk songs based on **blues** and **ballad** rhythms - 'Tantivy', 'Naga Folk Blues', 'Creation'
- Born in a remote village of **Choithar** in Ukhrul district, he is one of the most popular and ingenious Naga musicians
- Popularly known as 'King of Naga Folk Blues' and 'Cultural Ambassador of the Nagas'
- His latest song captures the emotions of people affected by **Covid-19**



Padma Shri | Art (*Music - Folk*) | Manipur | 59 Yrs

SHYAM SUNDER PALIWAL

Piplantri's Super Sarpanch

"Inspirational **Sarpanch** of model village of **Piplantri** - catalysing pioneering work across forestry, water, **conservation** and **girl child** empowerment"



- As former Sarpanch of Piplantri village, successfully **transformed** his village – with the **Piplantri Model now** recognized **internationally**
- Emulated by 157 panchayats in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar and other states
- Transformed village into lush green belt by planting **3.5 lakh trees** through **community engagement**, which has **improved water level** by 10 times
- Initiated '**Kiran Nidhi Yojana**' to celebrate every girl child's **birth** in the village by planting **111 saplings** - dedicated himself towards the cause of the girl child, after the tragic **death** of his **daughter**
- Villagers now **plant trees** to commemorate births, deaths, and other major life events



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Environment*) | Rajasthan | 55 Yrs

PAPPAMMAL

Organic Kheti Grannie



“**106** yr role model **Organic Farmer** from Coimbatore - cultivating varieties of **millets**, pulses & vegetables for **9 decades**”

- **Continues to cultivate herself** on 2.5 acres of land in **Thekkampatti** village - going to her farm every morning without fail
- Loved by everyone, she is an **inspiration** to all on how **age** is never a **barrier**
- **Eager to learn**, she joined **Tamil Nadu Agriculture Uni** to receive formal training, and now is a part of its Advisory Committee
- Losing her parents at a young age, she was brought up by her paternal grandmother, who bequeathed a provision store for her
- Earnings from the provision store and an eatery she launched, helped her buy 10 acres of agricultural land - three-fourths of this she has given to her sister's daughters whom she brought up



Padma Shri | Others (Agriculture) | Tamil Nadu | 106 Yrs

KRISHNA MOHAN PATHI

Ganjam's ke Swasthya ke Krishna



“**People's doctor** from **Ganjam** known for serving the underprivileged - recognized for his pioneering work in **Tribal** healthcare”

- Born in **Sukunda** village, he earned his MS from England on scholarship, travelling over 22 countries, to ultimately **quit** his **affluent life** and return to India to **fulfill his father's dream** of **servng** the **poor** - continues to go strong even at 82 yrs
- Did pioneering work in **sickle cell** disease
- His innovative work on Temporomandibular Ankylosis led to a patient being able to eat for the first time in 20 years
- Still actively involved in **research** and **education**, presents papers internationally
- Established Bharadwaj Gurukul Ashram in **maoist-affected** backward region of Ganjam – a charitable organization providing **free healthcare** to **tribals**



Padma Shri | Medicine (*Healthcare*) | Odisha | 82 Yrs

GIRISH PRABHUNE

Pardhi ke Guru Girish



“**Social Worker** who has dedicated his life towards the empowerment of **nomadic Pardhi tribals**”

- Established **Punaruththan Samarasta Gurukulam**, school housing more than 300 students, mostly tribals
- Working particularly for upliftment of the **Pardhi** community, a denotified nomadic tribe **criminalized** under the **British Raj**
- He travels to **remote** places to request parents to send their children to Gurukul - with a vision of bringing smiles to the faces of everyone attending his school
- Promotes **traditional arts** through **Gurukul** tradition
- **Founder** of **Chapekar Memorial** Museum - transformed “Chapekar Wada” into a memorial, with photos of more than **450 revolutionaries**



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Tribal*) | Maharashtra | 70 Yrs

NANDA PRUSTY

Nanda Master



“**100 yr old** Village School Teacher from Jajpur - providing **free education** to generations since independence”

- **Selfless, dedicated** teacher with a mission to eradicate illiteracy, providing free education in **Kantira** village in **Jajpur**
- Keeping the tradition of **chatashali** alive (non-formal school, under a **tree**) - teaching multiple batches of students at dawn and elders at sunset without charging any fee for over **7 decades**
- Many of his students have gone on to have successful careers
- Unfazed by health and financial issues, continues to **tirelessly serve** the society
- A people’s person, respected and loved by all, is considered as a Head in resolving **Panchayat** issues



Padma Shri | Literature & Education (*Education*) | Odisha | 100 Yrs

KANAKA RAJU

Rajgond's Gussadi Master Raju

“**Gussadi dancer** preserving the **dying tribal art form** by training **Adivasi** youth for decades”

- From the tribal dominated **Kumuram Bheem** Asifabad **district**, preserving the Gussadi dance form of **Rajgond tribal** community for more than 4 decades
- Popular as “**Gussadi Master**”, trained hundreds of Adivasi youth to keep the traditional dance form alive
- Led Gussadi cultural troupe to Delhi, performing at the 1981 Republic Day celebrations - promoting Unity in Diversity
- Performs wearing a Gussadi **hair cap** made of 1,500 peacock feathers locally known as *Mal Boora*
- From a very **modest** background, works as a **cook** on **daily wages** at a welfare hostel in Marlavai village



Padma Shri | Art (Dance – Folk) | Telangana | 63 Yrs

Maitya Ram Reang

Rythimic Reang's Hojagiri Hero

“Tribal **Hojagiri** dancer from Tripura - conserving & promoting **Reang tribe's** traditional dance for over 5 decades”

- Established **Hojagiri Dance Academy** and **Lokaranjan Shakha** for the propagation of **indigenous** art and dance forms of **Tripura**
- Started at an early age and imbibed the **music** and **dance** traditions of **Reang tribe**
- Gained **proficiency** in **Hojagiri** dances and **Kokborok** songs by performing in traditional festivals of the community
- Travelled widely across the country and globally
- Continues to strive to conserve and promote Hojagiri Dance by **training** young people of 'Reang' tribe - passing on his knowledge of the art form to the younger generation

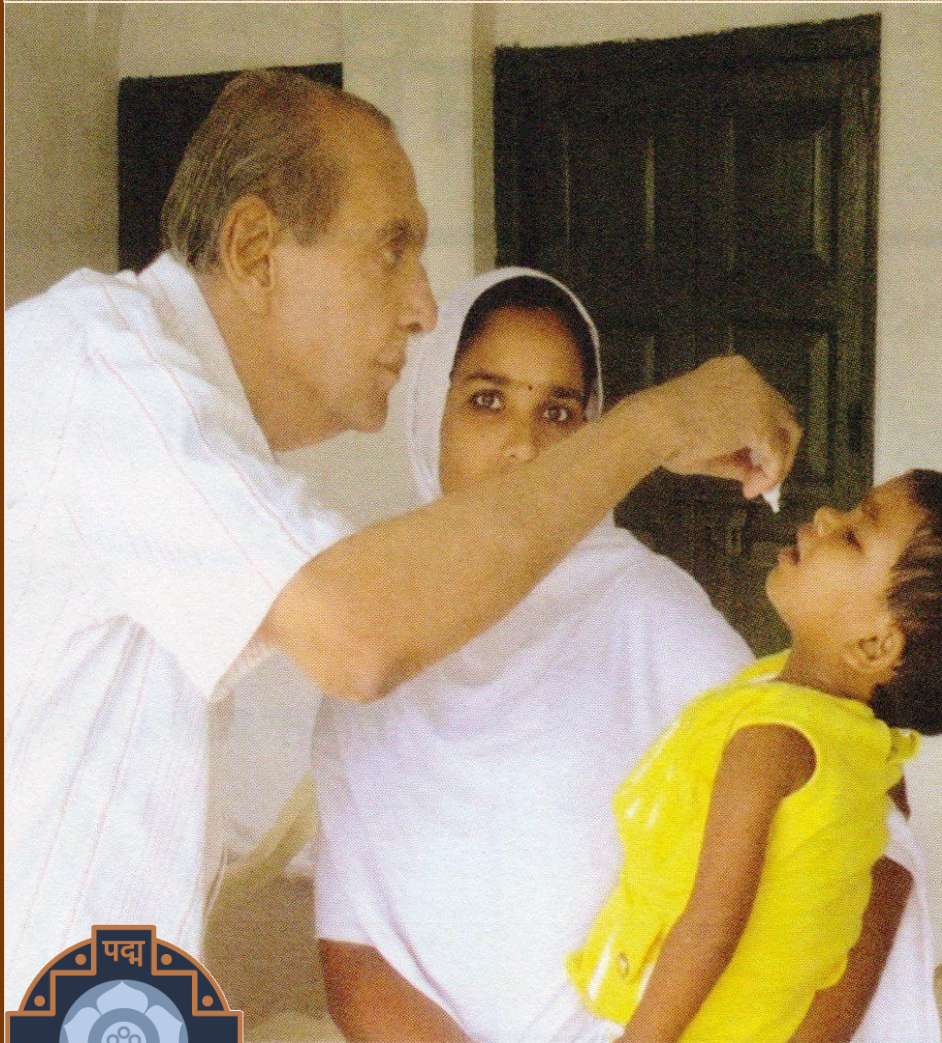


Padma Shri | Art (*Dance - Folk*) | Tripura | 77 Yrs

DILIP KUMAR SINGH

Bhagalpur ke Bhagya-vidhata

“92 yr Physician from Bhagalpur - devoted to healthcare of **poor** for over **7 decades**”



- Doctor who chose to serve in **rural** areas throughout his life despite being from a well-to-do family – dedicated to helping the poor fighting Leprosy, Polio, Cataract, Deaddiction etc
- Practicing in remote **Pirpainti** town in **Bhagalpur** district since 1952 - when there was no electricity and roads, used horses to travel to different villages to offer treatment
- Treated and rehabilitated **250 Leprosy** patients over a three decade period
- Amongst first to conduct free **Polio** vaccine camps in which thousands of children were vaccinated



Padma Shri | Medicine (*Healthcare*) | Bihar | 92 Yrs

VIRENDER SINGH

Goonga Pehlwan

“**Para** Freestyle **Wrestler** from **Jhajjar** - won India **multiple medals** on the world stage”



- Living through **hearing** and **speech** impairment, went on to not just **represent India**, but win her 7 medals in global events
- Won **Gold** Medal at Melbourne Summer **Deaflympics**
- Continues to contribute as a **Coach** at Sports Authority of India
- Born in Jhajjar district's **Sasroli village**, trained under his father, a former wrestler - woke up daily before dawn followed by 8 hr workouts, no vice and single-minded focus
- Inspired by him rising above circumstances, a National Award winning documentary film has been made on his life

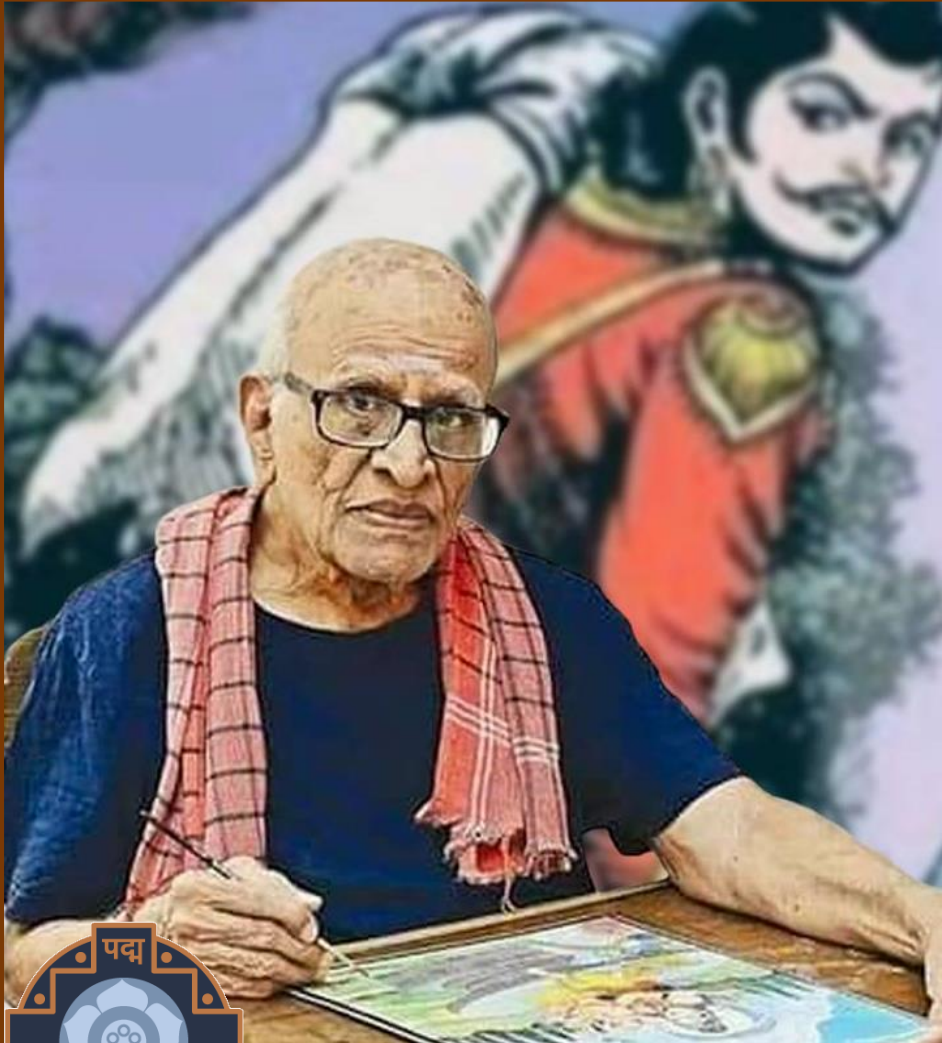


Padma Shri | Sports (*Divyang*) | Haryana | 34 Yrs

K C SIVASANKAR

Chandamama Sankar

“**Veteran Cartoonist** from Chennai - creator of the iconic **Chandamama** magazine for children”



- **97 year** old Veteran Cartoonist, who is famous for the remarkable '**Vikram Vetala**' series of **Chandamama** magazine
- Published in **13 regional languages**, the magazine became a mainstream favourite powered by his work
- His illustrations helped bring to life various stories and **folklores** for **children**, while also persuading them to **think** and critically apply their minds
- Contributed to the field by making cartoons of both cultural connection and fiction
- His drawings incorporated **vivid colours** which made everything seem **real**
- Last artist of the original 'Chandamama' magazine's team from nineties



Padma Shri | Art (*Cartoon Art*) | Tamil Nadu | 97 Yrs

MARACHI SUBBURAMAN

Sanitation Subbu

“Social Worker from Trichy who has impacted lakhs, especially **fishermen**, by installing 30 lakh eco-friendly, low-cost **toilets**”



- Established '**SCOPE**', Society for Community Organisation and People's Education with the idea of promoting **sanitation** and **rural development**
- Introduced people to **ECOSAN toilets**, which are **dry toilets** with no flushes and septic tanks - suitable for areas with rocky terrain water scarcity
- A journey that started in 1986, evolved into installation of over 30 lakh units of environmentally sound toilets thereby impacting lives of 1.5 crore people
- The Ecosan toilet system is suitable for **Manure** produced through the toilets after 6 to 12 months of composting – this is distributed to the farmers free of cost, who earlier used to spend Rs 20,000 a year on manure and urea



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Sanitation*) | Tamil Nadu | 69 Yrs