

Jagdish Lal Ahuja

Langar Baba

- Serving **free food daily** to hundreds of **poor patients** and attendants outside PGIMER
- Also provides patients other support, from financial assistance to blankets and clothes
- Had started serving free food in the **1980s**, moving to PGIMER in 2000 to serve over **2,000 people** daily for 15 years
- **Self-made crorepati**, who had come to India empty handed during **partition**
- **Sold off properties** worth crores to fuel his mission, and continues to serve **undeterred** even by **Stomach cancer**
- Born in **Peshawar** in Pakistan, **partition** had forced him into becoming the sole breadwinner of the family at a young age - looks for his own lost childhood through the eyes of the children he feeds

“selflessly organizing langars for 500+ poor patients daily for over 2 decades”



Padma Shri | Social Work (Service) | Punjab | 84 Yrs



Popatrao Pawar

Gram Swaraj ke Super Sarpanch

- **Sarpanch** of **Hiware Bazaar village** in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra
- Transformed Hiware Bazar from an impoverished drought-prone village, into a **role model of village development**
- The village now has no **BPL families**, no alcohol consumption & was amongst the first **ODF villages** in 1992
- Reduced **STD** rates by making HIV tests mandatory before marriages
- Prepared **5-year action plans** for ecological conservation
- Built **40,000 trenches** around hills to conserve rainwater
- Planted **4.5 lakh trees**

“transformed a drought prone village into a green model village”



Padma Shri | Social Work (Water) | Maharashtra | 60 Yrs



Usha Chaumar

Sulabh se Swachhta

- **Dalit lady** who's life is an **embodiment of strong will & empowerment** - one who was helpless herself, has now become the voice of countless
- A **manual scavenger since the age of 7**, she had lived a life full of **hardships** – from being married off at the age of 10, to be ostracized in markets and temples for being an **untouchable**
- She was rescued by Nai Disha NGO of Sulabh International, and through her hard work rose to now head **Sulabh International Social Service Organisation** as its **President** – leading the fight for **Sanitation** and against the practice of **manual scavenging**

“former manual scavenger, who through decades of service has become President of Sulabh International, at the forefront of environmental sanitation”



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Sanitation*) | Rajasthan | 53 Yrs



Tulasi Gowda

Encyclopedia of Forest

- Known as the 'Encyclopedia of Forest' due to her **vast knowledge** of diverse species of plants & herbs - despite not having any formal education
- Despite growing up in **poverty** amongst backward community, planted and nurtured **thousands** of **trees** over the past **60 years**
- Even at the age of 72, continues to nurture plants and share her knowledge with the new generation, carrying forward the message of environmental protection
- Joined the Forest Depart as a temporary volunteer - the department recognized her dedication towards nature, offering her a permanent job as a Member

“illiterate Halakki Tribal woman known for possessing endless knowledge of plants and herbs”



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Environment*) | Karnataka | 72 Yrs

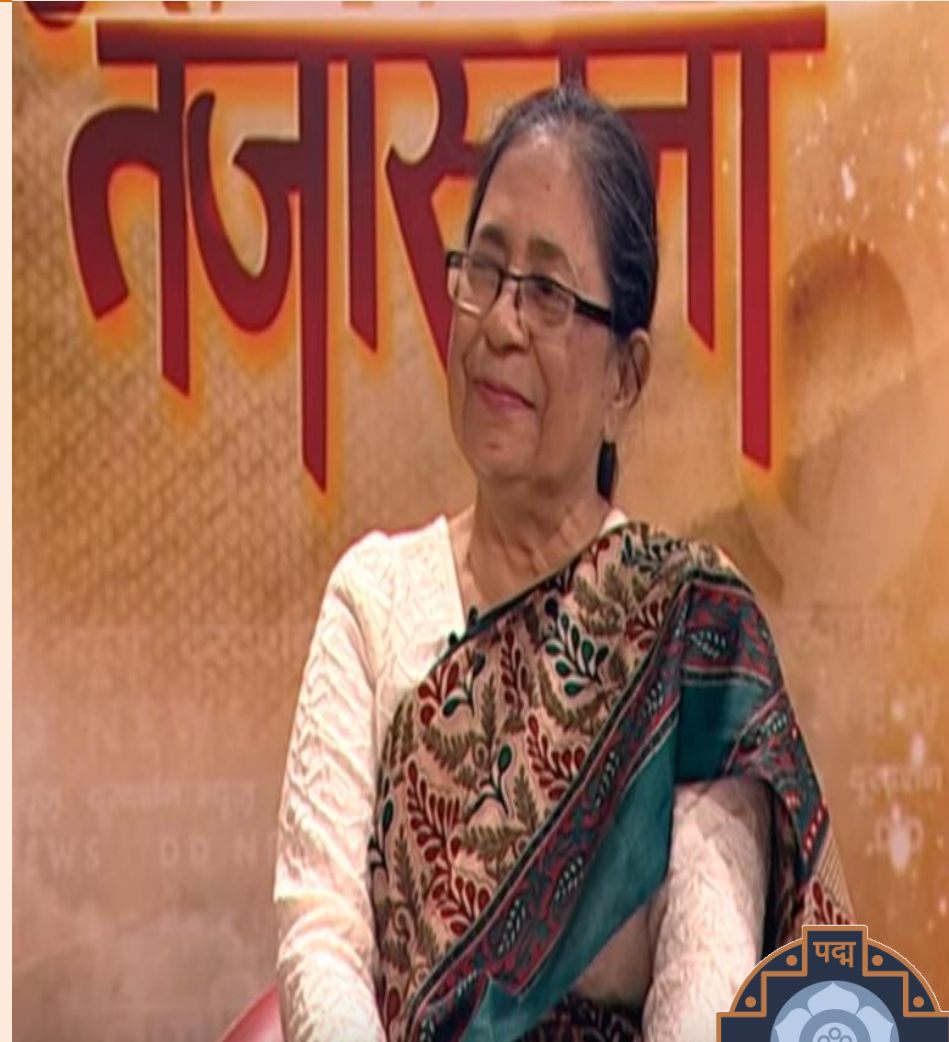


Leela Joshi

Mother of Ratlam

- Retired **Gynecologist** from Railways, who has treated over **2.5 lakh** women & children suffering from **Anemia** in Ratlam
- Instrumental in **reducing** neonatal deaths, **maternal mortality** & morbidity
- Organized 1,000 free of cost health camps & distributed supplements
- Initiated health scheme '**12/12/12**', where 12 year old girls, or girls studying in Class 12, must have 12 GMS% HB in their blood
- President of Shri Seva Sansthan, Ratlam
- Retired as Chief Health Director – Railway Medical Services in 1996

“retired Railways Medical Officer, cherished as the Mother of Ratlam for her over 2 decade long, high impact work amongst women suffering from Anemia in Ratlam”



Padma Shri | Medicine (*Affordable Healthcare*) | Madhya Pradesh | 81 Yrs

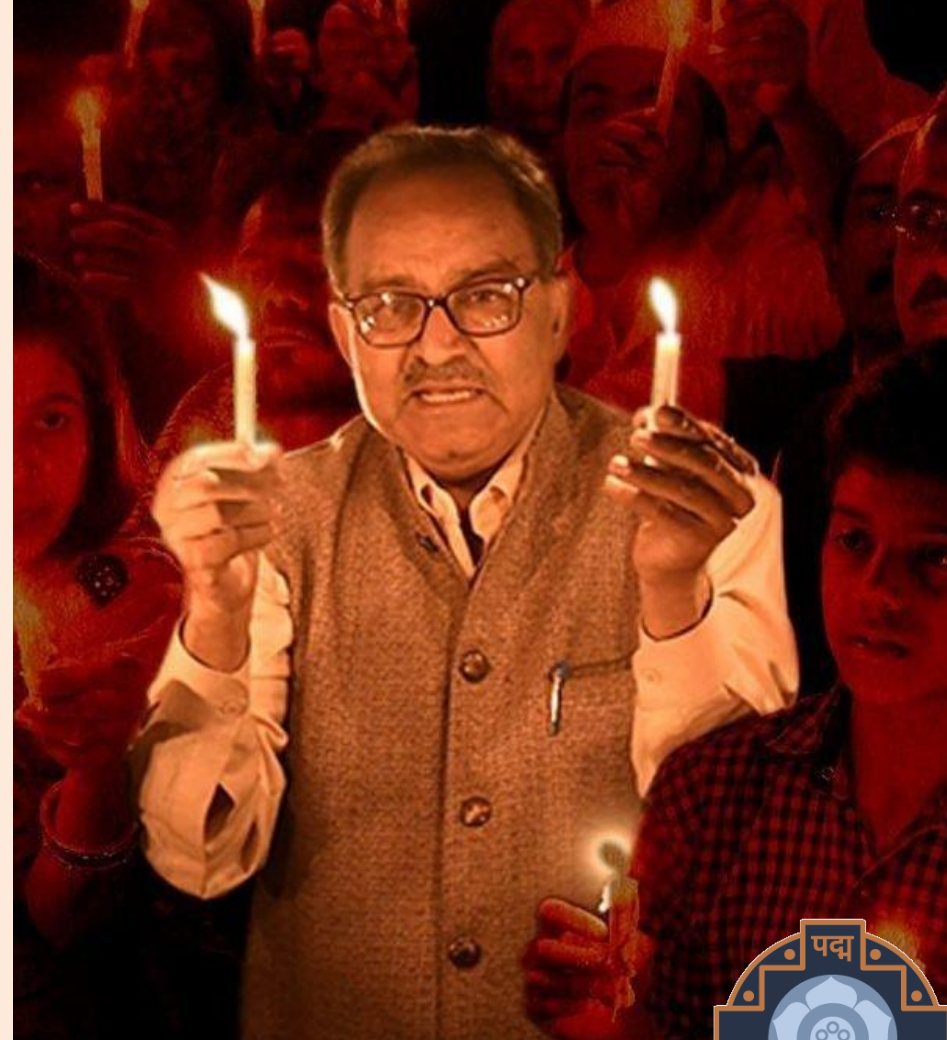


Abdul Jabbar

Voice of Bhopal

- Convener of **Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan**, an advocacy group for victims, survivors & their families
- His **35-year**-long struggle **from a hand pump fitter to a people's advocate** is reference point in independent India's history of people's movements
- Provided **vocational training** to 2,300 widows of those who died from the gas leak
- Filed petitions in court seeking medical rehabilitation for victims
- Gas leak from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal had killed more than 3,500 people
- **Lost his family** after the gas leak, while he suffered lung fibrosis and lost 50% of his vision due to the accident
- **Posthumous** (15 Nov 2019)

“fought for fair treatment and rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Tragedy survivors for over 3 decades”



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Service*) | Madhya Pradesh | 63 Yrs

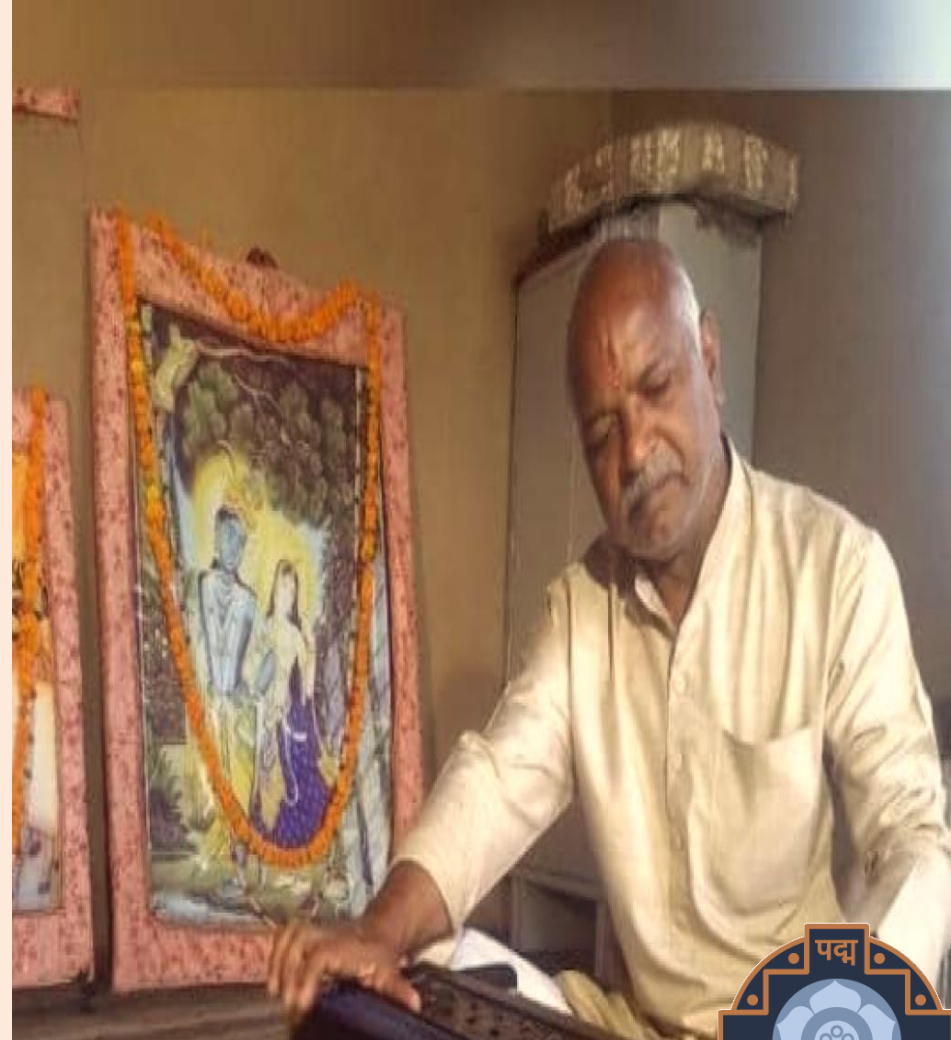


Munna Master

Bhaichare ke Bhajan

- **Bhajan singer** from a traditional **Muslim** family of Bagaru in Jaipur district, carrying forward the family tradition of singing Ram-Krishna bhajans
- Has penned bhajans in praise of **Lord Krishna & Cows**
- His book 'Shri Shyam Surabhi Vandana' is popular in the area
- Epitome of India's **syncretic ethos** - offers namaz, sings bhajans, knows Sanskrit, takes care of cows

“muslim bhajan singer, epitome of India's syncretic ethos”



Padma Shri | Art (Vocals - Bhajan) | Rajasthan | 61 Yrs



Rahibai Soma Popere

Seed Mother

- **Tribal farmer** from Ahmednagar district, honoured with the title of 'Seed Mother' by **CSIR** for her inspirational work in the tribal-dominated region
- Conserved 50 acres of **collective indigenous land**, growing many varieties of rice & vegetables
- Established **seed bank** - successfully preserving hundreds of varieties of various crops in a traditional tribal way
- Created methods to **harvest water** on farms thereby turning wasteland into fertile land
- Increased **crop yield by 30%** with improved cultivation practices
- Excellent outreach work, **training** other farmers and spread awareness

"self-taught tribal woman famous globally for her work in agro bio-diversity conservation particularly of indigenous varieties"



Padma Shri | Others (Agriculture - Organic) | Maharashtra | 56 Yrs



Dalavai Chalapathi Rao

Kathputli ke Chhayachitra

- Veteran exponent of **Shadow puppetry**, an ancient art form of **storytelling** using flat cut-out **leather figures** as **puppets**
- Narrations are on **mythological** themes like the Mahabharata & Ramayana
- Performed over 60 shows **internationally**
- Inspired & **trained youth** in the art form
- **Preserving a dying art**, as poverty turns these puppet artistes into farmhands
- Despite being old & frail, continues to be the patriarch of **Nimmalakunta** village in Anantpur district synonymous with the art form

“veteran folk artist preserving the ancient art of storytelling, shadow puppetry”



Padma Shri | Art (*Puppetry*) | Andhra Pradesh | 83 Yrs



Kalyan Singh Rawat

Himalaya ke Harit Nandan

- Maiti – derived from Mait, meaning married woman's parental home, began with encouraging **tree** plantation on a **girl's wedding**
- Started in 1995, Maiti movement has spread across **6,000 villages** in **18 states** & 5 countries (UK, Canada, Indonesia, Nepal & Bhutan) in past **25 years**
- It is one of India's biggest afforestation movements
- Founder President - Himalayan Vanya Jeev Sansthan
- Created '**Shaurya Van**' in memory of Kargil martyrs
- Also campaigned against animal sacrifice and providing education to the girl-child
- Retired **Teacher**, Government Inter College

“founder of Maiti movement integrating tree plantation into social customs, which has led to plantation of more than 1 lakh trees in the Himalayan region”



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Environment - Afforestation*) | Uttarakhand | 66 Yrs

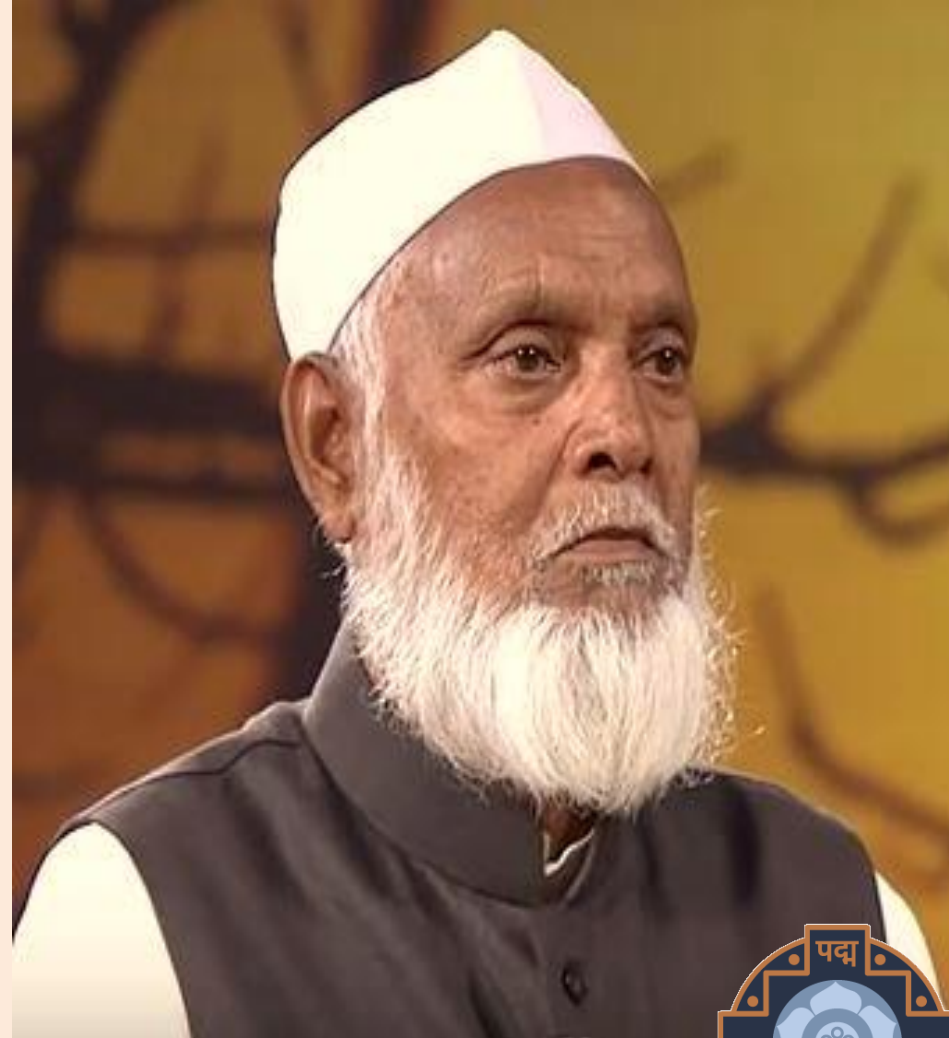


Mohammed Sharif

Chacha Sharif

- Performed the **last rites** of **25,000+** **unclaimed** bodies in and around Faizabad over the past **25 yrs**,
- An apostle of **Communal Harmony**, he has never differentiated on the basis of religion – performing the last rites in accordance with the person’s religious practices (cremating Hindus and burying Muslims)
- **Bicycle mechanic** by profession, he struggles to make ends meet

“bicycle mechanic who has been performing the last rites of thousands of unclaimed dead bodies for the last 25 years”



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Service - Last Rites*) | Uttar Pradesh | 80 Yrs



Javed Ahmad Tak

Anantnag ke Apne

- **Divyang** Social Worker, working with specially-abled children for 2 decades, to integrate them into mainstream life
- Established Humanity Welfare Organization, Kashmir and **Zaiba Aapa School** for the specially-abled (physically & intellectually) - providing free education, material aid & motivation to 100+ such children
- Implemented project for child-friendly spaces in 40+ villages in **Anantnag & Pulwama**
- Wheelchair-ridden since 1997, due to spinal injury from a **bullet hit** in **militant attack**
- Lives by the motto of '**Be a part, not apart**'
- From Bijbehara, Anantnag in Kashmir

“improving the lives of Kashmir’s divyang children”



Padma Shri | Social Work (*Divyang Welfare*) | Jammu & Kashmir | 46 Yrs