



सत्यमेव जयते

NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR, 2016



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR

From time immemorial, women in India have excelled in diverse fields. The contributions made by women saints, philosophers like Meera Bai, Gargi and Maitreyi, theologians like Anupama and Lopamudra, poetesses like Reva and Mahadevi, scientists like Leelavati in ancient and medieval India are recorded in golden letters in the annals of Indian history.

In modern India, and more particularly since Independence, more and more women have come forward to shoulder responsibilities with men in various walks of life. Sarojini Naidu and Kasturba Gandhi were at the forefront of our freedom struggle. Indira Gandhi, the longest serving woman head of Government in the world. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit became the first woman President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and Mother Teresa, who adopted India as her home, was the first woman Nobel laureate from Asia. Justice Anna Chandy was the first woman judge of a High Court, Dr. Sucheta Kriplani, the first woman Chief Minister of a State, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the first woman minister of the Union of India, Dr. Ashima Chatterjee, the first woman President of the Indian Science Congress and so on.

In the current 21st century, Indian women have made immense contribution in the field of science, sports and adventure, fine arts and music. Lata Mangeshkar created a world record of singing maximum number of recorded songs. Kalpana Chawla orbited in space. Kiran Bedi, Aruna Roy and Medha Patkar were honoured with the prestigious Magsaysay award for their contributions to society. In the field of sports and adventure, Arti Saha swam across the English Channel, Bachendri Pal scaled Mt. Everest, while P.T. Usha, Karnam Malleswari, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal and P.V.Sindhu won medals in international competitions.

The contributions of all these women are well known to everybody. What is less known is the silent, selfless, dedicated and determined work done by many Indian women, in the face of extreme difficulties and challenges, which is slowly changing the face of the country. Many of these women had humble origins and faced tragedies and hardships in their personal lives, but their indomitable spirit, courage and determination to serve humanity - the poor, the needy and the downtrodden surrounding them - remained undaunted. Such women have made major contributions to improve their lot and are legends in their local milieu.

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The Government of India has decided to confer “Nari Shakti Puruskar” on eminent women and institutions rendering distinguished service to the cause of women especially belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society.

These include institutional and individual awards for making outstanding contributions to women’s endeavor/community work/making a difference/women empowerment.

Nari Shakti Puruskar would carry a cash award of Rs. 1 lakh and a certificate for individuals and Institutions.

This year Ministry of Women & Child Development sought nominations from the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, concerned Central Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Universities, Institutions, Private and Public sector undertakings (PSUs) working for empowerment of women for consideration of Selection Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Minister, Ministry of Women and Child Development. In addition the Selection Committee also considered individuals and institutions other than those recommended by the State Governments/Central Ministries.



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Awardees of Nari Shakti Puraskar, 2016

1. State of Rajasthan
2. Chhanv Foundation (Sheroes Café), Delhi
3. Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (M.H.I.P), Mizoram
4. Sadhana Mahila Sangha, Karnataka
5. Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti, Rajasthan
6. Tripunithura Kathakali Kendram Ladies Troupe, Kerala
7. Ms. Amruta Patil, Goa
8. Ms. Amala Akkineni, Telangana
9. Ms. Anatta Sonney, Karnataka (Joint Award)
10. Ms. Anoyara khatun, West Bengal
11. Ms. B. Codanayaguy, Puducherry (Joint Award)
12. Ms. Bano Haralu, Nagaland
13. Ms. Deepa Mathur Rajasthan
14. Ms. Divya Rawat, Uttarakhand
15. Dr. Ilse Köhler Rollefson, Rajasthan
16. Ms. Janki Vasant, Gujarat
17. Dr. Kalpana Shankar, Tamil Nadu
18. Ms. Kalyani Pramod Balakrishnan, Tamil Nadu
19. Ms. Mumtaz Kazi, Maharashtra
20. Dr. Nandita Shah, Tamil Nadu
21. Ms. Pallavi Fauzdar, Delhi
22. Ms. Pamela Malhotra, Karnataka
23. Ms. Qamar Dagar, Delhi
24. Ms. Reema Sathe, Maharashtra
25. Ms. Ringyuichon Vashum, Manipur
26. Ms. Sangita Iyer, Kerala
27. Ms. Smita Tandi, Chattisgarh
28. Ms. Sumitra Hazarika, Assam
29. Ms. Sunita Singh Chocken, Haryana
30. Ms. Subha Varier, Kerala (Joint Award)
31. Ms. Tiasa Adhya, West Bengal
32. Ms. V. Nanammal, Tamil Nadu
33. Ms. Zuboni Humtsoe, Nagaland

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CITATIONS OF NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR AWARDEES



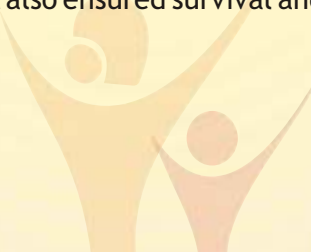
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1 State of Rajasthan

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Prime Minister, on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana to address the issue of the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and other related issues of disempowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. It is work in progress and positive changes on ground are visible.

The State has done lot of exemplary work through several district level interventions to address the issue of declining child sex ratio during the last one year. The sex ratio at birth has improved from 929 in 2015-16 to 942 (till December, 2016). There had been a successful state-wide awareness and advocacy campaigns for valuing the girl child. Effective implementation of PCPNDT Act is very important component among these initiatives. Several initiatives have been undertaken by the state like development of Impact software to control sex selective elimination activities, making it mandatory to install GPS system in the sonography machines, establishing 7 special upper CJM Courts for speedy disposal of pending cases under PCPNDT Act. State government has also declared awards under Mukhbir scheme for giving authentic information of sex selection and conducted several decoy operations to check the menace of sex selection elimination.

As part of the IEC campaigns of BBBP, a SMS is also being sent on the registered mobile number of the pregnant women to create awareness about 104 toll free number for complaining against sex-determination activity. Programmes such as 'Annaprashan' and 'Goad Bharai' are also being organized regularly at Anganwadi centres of all the district of Rajasthan for pregnant women. The efforts have not only prevented gender biased selective elimination but also ensured survival and protection of girl child.



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2 Chhanv Foundation (Sheroes Hangout Café), Delhi



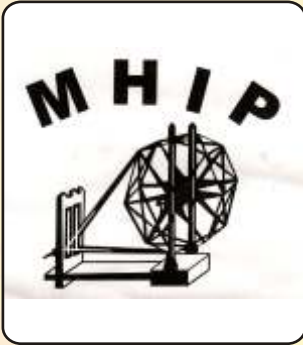
Sheroes' Hangout Café is the world's first café run by female acid attack survivors. The Café first opened its door to public in 2015. The Café started up in the city of Agra because the large number of acid survivors availability in Agra or nearby places. The cafe looks like any average café dotted close to the Taj Mahal, serving tea and french fries. It is more than a triumph that Sheroes Hangout has single-handedly generated much-needed awareness of the issue and has since branched out from food and drink. It now houses a library, art gallery and even an activism center. It's set to expand even further.

Sheroes Hangout has been instrumental in empowering the five women staff to reclaim their visibility. It has been generally observed that most survivors of acid attack are young and their education and career is greatly affected. As a result they start to live a covert life, aloof from the society. Through this entrepreneurial project their careers get regenerated. They can earn a livelihood by themselves and can also pursue their desired career. Each one of them is assigned a chance to interact with the guests offering them little room to hide from the public. The layout of the Café enables cultivation of skills and confidence among these acid attack survivors. It is even more praiseworthy for it forces the society to re-evaluate the conventional idea of beauty.

The project is the brainchild of the Stop Acid Attacks campaign that aimed to work as a bridge between survivors and the society, as most of the victims of this brutal crime, isolated themselves after losing their face. Most survivors find no hope and stay like an outcast, in solitude. This campaign began a research to track acid attack cases and compile a data to get the actual situation of survivors, which eventually led to the establishment of Chhanv Foundation in 2014. The foundation stands for acid attacks survivors and against acid attacks in India.

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Mizo Hmeichhe Insuikhawm Pawl (M.H.I.P), Mizoram



Mizo Hmeichhe Insuikhawm Pawl (MHIP), the biggest women organization in the state of Mizoram, which has made a great impact in promoting the status of women in Mizoram since its existence 6th July 1974. It is the Apex Body of the different women organization in the state and thus all the initiatives taken up by the MHIP are supported by the rest of the women organizations.

Creation of strong political will among the women of Mizoram has been the major achievement of MHIP. These achievements are reflected through 33% of reservation of women in the Aizawl Municipal Council (AMC). Similar is the case in the Local Council (LC) and Village Council (VC) which have been approved by the Government. The AMC was established in 2010, and in its first elections, out of 19 seats, 6 were allotted for women, and in the LC/VC around 700 women candidates were allocated positions.

There have been holistic empowerment of women in the State, especially lot of emphasis was given to the political empowerment of women. “Mizo Customary Law’ has been replaced by ‘The Marriage, Divorce and Inheritance Property Act of 2014’. MHIP, created a cell, which has also been a service provider to give appropriate advice to women affected by various forms of violence such as domestic violence, rape etc. In this regard, they also conduct several awareness generation programmes The awareness programmes were fruitful and influential for rape victims to come forward and file cases against rape committers instead of hiding away. This is one of the factors that rape cases registered are high in Mizoram State. MHIP has also recognized as specialized Adoption Agency by State Government and also runs Free Computer Training Centre exclusively for Women in Aizawl City in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology.



Sadhana Mahila Sangha works towards the dignity and violence free right to life for all street-based women workers with a vision to build a world where all marginalized communities live in an environment of mutual respect and dignity. It has an empowerment initiative for women in sex work in Bangalore, Karnataka. The Sangha has been engaged with street sex workers for over 15 years and addresses issues of health, safety and violence against women working in the street. Through their efforts they reached out to thousands of women in sex work, empowering them to gain control over resources and decision making platforms. It provides access to counseling on sexual health and HIV prevention, health services, and alcohol de-addiction referrals through the support from the support group organizations.

Sadhana Mahila Sangha has made contributions to women's endeavor and community work by making a difference. Its work, is trying to assert a street sex worker's right over the city streets to earn their livelihood with dignity and without violence, as any other working women.

Sadhana Mahila Sangha rendered services by supporting street children and helping their parents to enhance their livelihood skills, health concerns of women, helping children of sex workers to continue education, preventing early child marriage, offering emotional and legal support, crisis intervention, facilitating negotiated settlements, helping women to enhance their livelihood options and providing shelter to needy women through supportive social organizations and NGOs. Today the Sadhana Mahila Sangha is working as an agent of social change and supporters of all struggles against human trafficking, violence against women, caste-based violence and impoverishment.

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Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti (SRKPS), Rajasthan



Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti (SRKPS) was established on 15 August 1987 by a group of youths along with Mr. Rajan Choudhary to conduct welfare activities for women and children as per regional needs. Initially the working area of the organization was limited to Jhunjhunu district but later it covered entire Rajasthan. Organization has exclusively promoted girl education, prevented child marriages & fought against dowry practitioners for all these years.

SRKPS is functioning in Rajasthan with the aim to bring an end to sex selective elimination. They have provided essential support to the State Government by supporting Mukhbir Yojana. Under this scheme health officials and district administration officials conduct decoy operations with the support of a pregnant woman to unearth illegal practice of sex determination. Of the 38 decoy operations conducted under this scheme in the State of Rajasthan, 26 have been with the support of SRKPS. They have been awarded by the government for this contribution. SRKPS has conducted 12 decoy operations in Rajasthan and published books and manuals in this regard.

SRKPS works in collaboration with a number of national and international organizations for implementing various projects such as the Garv Project, Let Girls be Born, UBR Project as well as a Rath Yatra Campaign to empower communities to realize the need for gender balance in society and eliminate sex selection.

The work of SRKPS also extends to the areas of HIV/AIDS, preventing drug addiction, child nutrition and reproductive care, advocacy for right to education, universalization of birth registration, reduction in child labour, and access to safe drinking water, water management and skill based livelihood programmes among others.

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Tripunithura Kathakali Kendram Ladies Troupe, Kerala



Kathakali, a well-developed dance-drama, is a performance where traditionally male actors depict characters from the epics of ancient India. Tripunithura Kathakali Kendram Ladies Troupe was formed in 1975, which was coincidentally the International Year of Women, by a group of immensely talented female artists. Till then this art form was purely male dominated. It was a period when youth festivals were gaining momentum among the students, and there was a section for Kathakali where few girls performed and won the prize. It was started by a small group of women from the Cochin Royal Family, and has grown in strength over the years.

The troupe has the record of making 800 performances all over India including performances at the Cochin Festival. Each member of the troupe has had training in the classical dance-drama art of Kathakali, as well as associated art form such as music, from some of the most renowned Gurus or teachers in the field. In the year 2002 was a milestone achieved, when the troupe made its international debut and in three months performed 19 shows. During one of these shows, Radhika Varma, the first woman of the troupe did a demonstration about 9/11 at Washington through this dance form.

The troupe started performing at the time when most women were not allowed to perform any art form. Now it has been more than 30 years since they have been performing. They have done about 1500 performances till now. The biggest achievement that they feel proud about is that their troupe has been able to inspire and encourage many girls and young women to learn and give performances on this dance form, which has largely been dominated by male.

7 Ms. Amruta Patil, Goa



Ms. Amruta Patil is a writer, painter and India's first female graphic novelist. Her novel *Adi Parva* based on the Mahabharat, Puraans and tradition of oral storytellers was selected as one of the year 2012's best graphic novels by comic book historian Paul Gravett.

Her work has recurring themes which include *memento mori*, sexuality, myth, sustainable living and the unbroken thread of stories passed down from storyteller to storyteller through the ages.

Through her work, she is continuously pushing literary boundaries, rejecting templates of how graphic novels (as defined by the European/North American/Japanese canon) ought to be and challenging the notion that graphic novels are, in any way, 'lesser literature'.

Presently, she is writer-in-residence at the prestigious La Maison des Auteurs in Angouleme, France.



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8 Ms. Amala Akkineni, Telangana

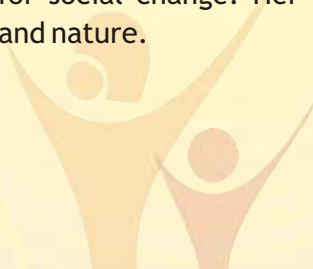


Ms. Amala Akkineni is co-founder and Chairperson of Blue Cross of Hyderabad, a registered animal welfare organization working since 1993 for the welfare of animals in Hyderabad and extending support to other groups. Blue Cross has helped over 4,00,000 animals since inception and continues to rescue, treat, re-home hundreds of injured and abused animals every year besides training volunteers and professionals.

For the last 23 years she has been supporting various non-government and government organizations working for social change by addressing issues on girl child welfare, rural women's empowerment, HIV Awareness, animal welfare, wildlife protection and preservation of the environment. In 2015, she was appointed ambassador for the Swachh Bharat Mission by the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India and is an active volunteer.

She has had a successful career in Indian cinema completing 50 films as leading lady in five Indian languages. Her background in films and television and her social commitment, led her to be appointed as Director, Annapurna International School for Films & Media. In this new role she seeks to fulfill her late father-in-law's dream to guide young people on a skilled and informed path for professions in Films and Media. Ms. Amala serves on the boards of Children's Film Society and Satyajit Ray Film Institute.

As a film personality, she is constantly available to highlight and support issues that need focus for social change. Her personal interest includes connecting with animals and nature.



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9 Ms. Anatta Sonney, Karnataka



Ms. Anatta Sonney did post graduation in Mathematics from Kerala University. She joined ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore in 1987 and has been working in Flight Dynamics Group since 1989. At present she is heading LEO and Interplanetary Orbit Dynamics Section of Flight Dynamics Group.

Anatta Sonney is a key member in design and development of Orbit Determination system for Remote Sensing, Communication, Lunar and Interplanetary missions. Her areas of interest include satellite tracking data preprocessing, evaluation of tracking systems, orbit estimation, prediction, simulation and related analysis. She was assigned the responsibility as Project Manager for Orbit Determination of Mangalyaan. Her specific contributions are in realization of precise orbit determination software crucial for mission operations and payload data analysis. She has been playing a major role in orbit estimation of low Earth and communication satellites as well as Lunar and Mars mission, analyzing and improving satellite tracking data quality for the Indian Deep Space Network stations. She also has the credit of determining the orbit of Chandrayaan-1 precisely which is significant for the mission operations and payload data processing.

Currently she is Deputy Project Director, Flight Dynamics for Space Docking Experiment and responsible for providing suitable autonomous guidance and navigation system. She is also associated in orbit determination of Chandrayaan-2 mission to aid in precise landing on Moon.

She is recipient of Astronautical Society of India Team award for her contribution towards Mars Orbiter Mission and ISRO Team Excellence award for 'Chandrayaan-1 Payload Instruments, Science Data center and Mission operations'.

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10 Ms. Anoyara Khatun, West Bengal

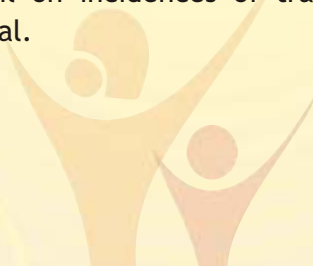


Ms. Anoyara khatun, a survivor of trafficking, works towards the prevention of child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and domestic violence. At the age of 13, while she was being trafficked, she saved not only herself but a large number of children being trafficked with her and enabled the arrest of the trafficker.

Since 2007, she has been working with the Dahadia Social Welfare Society. Popularly known as 'Malala of Bengal', she has managed to prevent the marriage of 50 minor girls, foiled around 85 attempts of child trafficking and enabled the rescue and reunion of more than 200 children with their families and persuaded 200 dropouts to resume their studies.

In the year 2012 she was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize on account of her extraordinary efforts towards prevention of child trafficking and early child marriages in India. She represented India in the UNO and participated in the Global Partnership for Education Replenishment Conference hosted by the European Union. She was also invited to participate in the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York.

An NSS volunteer she is a role model in her village and adjoining areas for employing out of the box techniques to prevent the incidences of trafficking and catch the traffickers. Presently, she has 80 volunteer groups who regularly keep vigil on incidences of trafficking in rural areas of Sundarbans of West Bengal.



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11 Ms. B. Codanayaguy, Puducherry



Ms. B.Codanayaguy, as a Group Head of Quality Division of Electronics, Instrumentation & Control Systems in the Systems Reliability Entity is responsible for ensuring the smooth functioning of the Electronics, Instrumentation and Control System related to Solid Motor Production, Flight Motors/articles testing, Liquid propellant storage and servicing facilities at the Launch Complex facilities of Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

She joined in ISRO in August, 1984 as an Electronics & Instrumentation Engineer, started her career in the Calibration and Test Instruments facility. Subsequently graduated as Head of Quality division for Process Instrumentation & Control Systems for Liquid Propellant Facilities. At present she is working as Group Head of Quality Division for the entire Electronics, Instrumentation & Control Systems of the Centre. As an eminent expert on the System Reliability aspects, she plays a crucial role in review and clearance of procedures, systems and documentation at each and every step of Solid Motor production & Testing, Launch Complex systems.

Her specific contributions for PSLV C37 include all the solid motors for the PSLV C37 launch vehicle- S139, HPS3 and PSOM-XL motors are produced at SDSC SHAR and flight articles have been tested at SMP & ETF for their reliable performance during flight. The readiness & performance of instrumentation and control system in these areas has been ensured by her group by strict adherence to laid down procedures and also implementation of recommendations by various review Committees.

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12 Ms. Bano Haralu, Nagaland

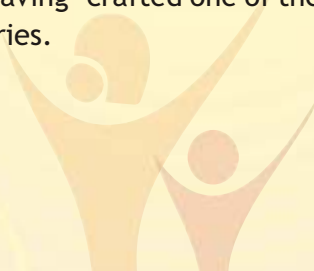


Ms. Bano Haralu is a pioneering television journalist from North- East India. After a Masters Degree in Mass Communication from Jamia Millia University, she cut her teeth in journalism with Doordarshan and New Delhi Television and also headed the NE Bureau in Guwahati.

Ms. Bano Haralu has been involved with environment conservation since 2010. She pioneered a bird and wildlife survey for the Forest Department leading to the publication of the book on 'Birds of Nagaland' and co-ordinated a survey to determine the status of wildlife in eight locations across the state. She along with a team highlighted the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of the migratory Amur Falcons in Pangti under Wokha district, Nagaland. This and other combined efforts led to convincing the Pangti Village Council from enforcing a ban on the killing and trapping of the Amur Falcons.

She formed the Nagaland Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Trust in 2013 that focuses on 'Wildlife Conservation Education'. With support from conservation societies/trust she has been instrumental in establishing four eco-clubs for children from the age group of 9 to 14.

In 2001 she was awarded the 'Chameli Devi Award' for interpreting the issues of Northeast to the rest of the country and within the region as well. She has also received the 'Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award' in 2016 and was recognised for having 'crafted one of the country's most staggering conservation success stories.'



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13 Ms. Deepa Mathur, Rajasthan



Ms. Deepa Mathur founded an NGO named Quality of Life Improvement Society (QUALIS), 2008 in to promote artisans and craftsmen working in the State of Rajasthan.

At present, QUALIS is associated with 700 artisans and 400 weavers primarily based in Kota, Bundi, Jaipur, Kalwara, Goner and Mundia Ramsar. Through QUALIS she works to promote the dying art of weaving and provides funds, training and forward linkages to artisans to showcase their products at international platforms.

In the course of their work, QUALIS has established several micro-credit centers for lacquer artisans and provided training to more than 2000 girls and women about safe banking methods. Through the QUALIS Connect program, they run a full-time volunteership/internship programme with linkages established with American Institute of Indian Studies, School of International Training and University of Texas to place candidates in their operations.

Ms. Mathur has received a number of awards such as Indira IVF Women Empowerment Award 2016, Zee Women Empowerment Award 2016, Jyoti Vidyapeeth Women Empowerment Award 2015.



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14 Ms. Divya Rawat, Uttarakhand



Ms. Divya Rawat is a social entrepreneur who promotes mushroom cultivation as a means of sustainable livelihood among villages situated in remote areas of Uttarakhand. She uses mushroom cultivation as a tool to stop migration of people from hills in search of sustainable livelihood.

She hails from a small village of District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. After completing her post-graduation in Social Work, she worked in a civil society group raising the issues related to human rights.

In the year 2013, when the State of Uttarakhand was dealing with the aftermath of terrible floods, she quit her job and moved back to Dehradun to revive livelihood opportunities for the people affected with this terrible disaster.

Ms. Rawat decided to promote mushroom cultivation as a simple household project so that it could be adopted by as many people as possible. Along with her friends, she identified remote villages and started mushroom production units. Her successful business model for production and practical training centre has won many accolades. Popularly known as ‘the Mushroom Lady’, she is the Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand State Government for Mushroom Promotion.



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15 Dr. Ilse Köhler Rollefson, Rajasthan



Dr. Ilse Köhler Rollefson, a veterinarian who arrived in Rajasthan in 1991 for a research project on animal husbandry, has dedicated her life to the Raikas (Rajasthan's Nomadic Tribe) and camels. She has set up an NGO called the Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan (LPPS) in Pali, Rajasthan that serves as an advocacy group for the Raikas and their camels. She was enchanted by the intimate and affectionate relationship between the camel and the Raika families.

It wasn't easy for Dr. Rollefson, to become an activist and advocate on behalf of a community that has traditionally been wary of outsiders. Ultimately it was her veterinary training that made the Raikas first take note of her. Diseases were killing camels and many had miscarriages. So, she began helping the herders treat sick animals. She recognized the need for steady funding to help the Raika and their camels. It was then she set up LPPS with her associate Hanwant Singh to sustain the community's livelihood as well as their animals. Today, LPPS helps the Raikas by providing camel veterinary care using both traditional remedies and modern medicine. Even the state and national government officials seek their advice.

Under the aegis of LPPS, Dr. Rollefson organizes the Marwar Camel Culture Festival, a modest three day event held at Sadri that features bazaars to promote camel milk and wool products, visits to a Raika village, discussions on the future of camel rearing and even a camel milking competition. In 2010, Dr. Rollefson set up Camel Charisma, a micro dairy near Jaisalmer and organized camel yatras to spread awareness among local communities across Rajasthan about what's happening to their iconic animal.

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16 Ms. Janki Vasant, Gujarat



Ms. Janki Vasant is a founder of non-governmental organization Samvedana whose motto is “*not just education, but quality education is the right of every child*”. Over the past 14 years, she is working with underprivileged communities and rural areas around the city of Ahmedabad.

Her interventions are focused towards strengthening the public education system, Infant Nourishment - early care and Skill training to achieve holistic and integrated development of socially and economically deprived children, youth and women.

Her journey started in the year 2001, when she volunteered for overall coordination of an earthquake shelter in Gujarat, where over 20,000 earthquake victims stayed for 2 months.

In June, 2016, she planned and initiated ‘Sattva’ a 100 day drive to eradicate malnourishment among children through 76 Anganwadi Centres functioning in the localities of Thaltej, Chandlodiya and Ghatlodiya in the city of Ahmedabad.



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17 Dr. Kalpana Shankar, Tamil Nadu



Dr. Kalpana Shankar is Chairperson & Managing Trustee of Hand in Hand India, an organization working on women SHGs, livelihoods, child labour, strengthening citizen participation and sustainable development through Natural Resource Management and Solid Waste Management for 21 years. It is active in 17 districts of Tamil Nadu, with projects also in Puducherry, Karnataka and 6 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Hand in Hand's SHG won the Manimegalai Award for Best SHG in 2012 constituted by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

She has done PhD in physical sciences as well as a PhD in women's studies and SHGs and an Executive MBA from TRIUM. She has been a Consultant to the Govt. of South Africa, UNOPS, UNDP, Christian Aid and Wetlands International on poverty reduction, job creation and microfinance, and also worked on this in Afghanistan and Brazil. She has been a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Tamil Nadu. She prepared the chapter on Social Welfare for the Xth Plan of the Tamil Nadu Government as well as authored and co-authored a number of publications and manuals on microfinance and SHGs.

She has received many awards for her work including ICTACT Women Social Entrepreneur Award 2016 and SKOTCH Order of Merit for India's Best Financial Inclusion and Financial Deepening Project 2014 to Hand in Hand. The UN Solution Exchange's Microfinance Community Report, 2009 recognized Hand in Hand as one of the top 10 MFIs in India and NABARD honoured them as the Best NGO in the State for Continuing Excellence in SHG-Bank linkage program in 2009. Women empowerment, skill development and technologies, child labour elimination, health, education and environment are the key pillars of her organization's work.

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18 Ms. Kalyani Pramod Balakrishnan, Tamil Nadu



Ms. Kalyani Pramod is a graduate of textile design from NID. She was always passionate about the traditional crafts and desired to bring a sense of design to them. She began this journey documenting the camel belt weaving of Rajasthan and working with the craftsmen. She documented the Bedouin craft of the Middle East and bringing new designs and changing the product without changing the craft gave it a new impetus.

She worked with the Toda's of the Nilgiris and motivated them to present their work at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Her desire to work with women who had simple skills had her setup Rhapsody, a company making her designs for illustrated quilts for children, stuffed toys, patchwork quilts in cotton and silk.

To expand her design sensibilities to other areas, she had opened a centre for arts and crafts called Manasthala. Research, education and a platform to present and share, allowed many to partake in the activities of the centre.

She has done a project with the central government, working with the poorest of the poor weavers of Tamil Nadu, over 19500 of them and visiting them, assessing their skills, motivating them. A six year adventure culminated in the creation of a brand and products that made these weavers step out from their present positions.

She has been a guest faculty at NIFT Chennai for many years igniting young minds. Today she works with the very differently-abled children and uses their limited movement. To give them opportunities to be creative, be transformed into products that reach many and help these children find a purpose and a vocation.

नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

19 Ms. Mumtaz Kazi, Maharashtra



Ms. Mumtaz Kazi is Asia's first woman who drives a diesel train. She drove her first train only at the age of 20 years. She is the face who silently inspires and empowers the world of women by her heroic achievements and gesture.

Born and brought up in Mumbai, she has seen many ups and downs in the life but it's the family support that kept her moving. With the experience of nearly 20 years she is now serving the most crowded railways.

In 1995, her name featured in LIMCA Book of Records as first lady diesel locomotive driver. In the year 2015, she was awarded with Railways General Manager Award.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

20 Dr. Nandita Shah, Tamil Nadu



Dr. Nandita Shah is a homeopath by profession and founder of Sanctuary for Health and Reconnection to Animals and Nature (SHARAN). SHARAN is a non-profit organization devoted to spreading awareness about holistic health and an ecologically sustainable compassionate lifestyle.

Sharan's mission is to help people regain an optimal quality of life by guiding to engage actively with their own health. They guide to make long-term lifestyle changes that will make people as healthy as possible for the rest of their life. SHARAN consists of growing group of doctors and professionals connected by the same vision. Dr. Nandita Shah conducts workshops and retreats, actively promote a natural, organic healthy non-violent diet and has already positively impacted the lives of over 20,000 people in India and abroad. She believes that all life on the planet is interconnected. By reconnecting we can heal ourselves and the earth.

All health and disease statistics and research indicate that diabetes is the major health challenge of this century. SHARAN assists in preventing and reversing diabetes by identifying the causes of the disease and using food as medicine. Dr. Nandita Shah's methods are based on scientific evidence. They have been used and tested by doctors all over the world and are becoming a part of mainstream knowledge in other countries. SHARAN's vision is a diabetes free India.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

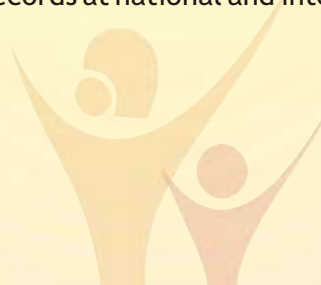
21 Ms. Pallavi Fauzdar, Delhi



Ms. Pallavi Fauzdar is an Adventure Motorcyclist. She has created unparalleled landmarks in the field of motorcycling which are still to be achieved by male counterparts in a male dominated sport. She is the first Motorcyclist in the world to conquer 8 Mountain Passes Above 5000meters altitude in a single trip covering 3500kms of tough mountain terrain of Himachal ,Leh, Ladakh and Kashmir valley. Her feat has been recognised by Limca Book of world record. She has been the first motorcyclist to reach the top of the highest and the toughest mountain pass in the world, The Mana Pass, Uttarakhand at an altitude of 5638meters or 18774 feet. She is also the First Female Rider to reach the highest lake in the world on motorcycle, the Deo Tal at an altitude of 17950 feet above sea level.

Pallavi has been using her passion for riding to do various social and humanitarian services. She has been actively participating in community and rides for various causes such as spreading awareness about malnutrition in children, sex selective elimination and other activities for women empowerment.

She inspired and took along an all women group of 11 riders this year in August from Manali to Khardungla on TVS Scooty. She has taken part in regional, state and national level activities in adventure motorcycling. She has created numerous records at national and international level.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

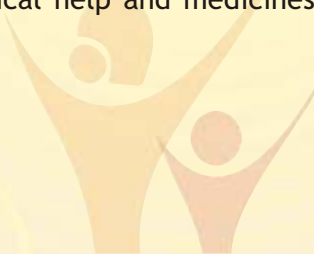
22 Ms. Pamela Gale Malhotra, Karnataka



Ms. Pamela Gale Malhotra is co-founder of SAI (Save Animals Initiative) Sanctuary. SAI Sanctuary is located in the Kodgu/Coorg District of Karnataka. The Sanctuary is the fulfilment of a dream and mission to protect, preserve, and expand India's forests and wildlife for the benefit of India's present and future generations, especially for India's disadvantaged women and children.

She along with her husband bought the 55 acres of land and began afforestation work. After 23 years, their unmatched passion for wildlife and nature has helped them in establishing one-of-its-kind wildlife sanctuary spread over 300 acres, the only private sanctuary in the country. In the sanctuary itself, she has personally designed all buildings to run with green renewable energy sources and rainwater harvesting systems. To help spread more awareness of the critical need to protect forests, she has given countless free presentations all over the country to schools, colleges, women's groups, businesses, and others, one of the latest presentations being to 500 NCC Cadets.

Her mission has also encompassed the uplifting of women and children especially in remote areas. She practices a concept of community-based ecotourism by outsourcing services such as providing meals, cleaning, laundry, etc., to local people, especially to local women including tribals, to help give them an additional source of income. She empowered village women to form 'Mahila/Women's Committees' to acquire low-interest loans and provided free medical help and medicines to those living in remote regions.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

23 Ms. Qamar Dagar, Delhi



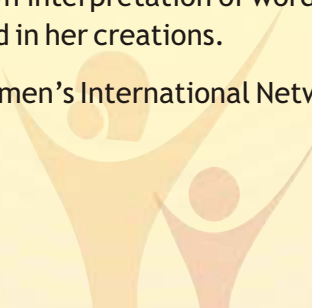
Ms. Qamar Dagar is a professional Pictorial Calligrapher who has been working to orient people around the art of calligraphy. She is the founder Director of Qalamkaari Creative Calligraphy Trust, Delhi and has organized and curated International Calligraphy festivals “Qalam-Aatma” in Delhi and Jaipur. She works in Hindi and Urdu scripts using alphabets/letters as art material giving visual interpretation to a chosen theme.

She is trying to revive art of calligraphy in its traditional and contemporary forms so that it may become a fruitful career option for future generations.

She has exhibited in many exhibitions and represented India at International Calligraphy Festival at Iran. She is regular Project participant of Russia based MVK Contemporary Museum of Calligraphy, Moscow. Her pictorial calligraphy works are showcased at Museum of Spiritual Art (MOSA), Belgium (2014) and in private collections across India, US and Europe. Most recently some of her works were acquired by the King of Bhutan, the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh and also the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

A diehard fan of all fine and visual arts, she tries to integrate the elements of music and visual art through her pictorial contemporary calligraphy work. Her own interpretation of words, themes, expressions and even poetry get reflected in her creations.

She has received Women’s International Network award (2012).



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

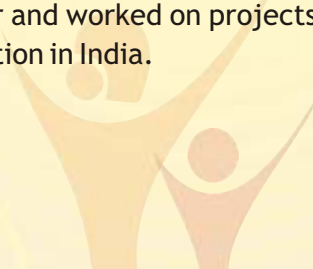
24 Ms. Reema Sathe, Maharashtra



Ms. Reema Sathe is Founder & Director - Happy Roots Foods & Beverages India Pvt. Ltd., a social enterprise that works on socio economic development and inclusive growth of marginal farmers and rural women in India. She has developed a direct agri-produce sourcing network of 12,000 small and tribal farmers in Maharashtra. She quit her corporate career in the year 2014 and since then has worked with over 20,000 small & tribal farmers in Gujarat & Maharashtra; and built value chains for onion, tomato, grains and poultry products. In the last 2 years of it's establishment, Happy Roots has impacted 12,000 small & tribal farmers and 1,500 rural women through it's work. They also conserve & protect over 120 varieties of indigenous crops and find them high potential markets.

She is working in Vidarbha to grow Barley which is never grown in the region and built a complete value chain for supply of processed Barley to Microbreweries in Maharashtra. She has worked on conceptualizing and developing a community poultry farm for tribal women farmers in Maharashtra. This farm would aim at breeding indigenous birds.

She has been selected by Unlimited India to become a part of their social enterprise incubator in Mumbai and IIM-Ahmedabad's social enterprise incubator (2014). Her work has been covered and recognized by several national and regional media platforms in India. Ms. Reema has also briefly served as a UN Volunteer and worked on projects for women empowerment in Africa and child education in India.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

25 Ms. Ringyuichon Vashum, Manipur



Ms. Ringyuichon Vashum is a Social Activist for Women and Child Rights Issues in Ukhrul District, Manipur. Since 2008 she is serving as Credit Manager for Ukhrul District Women Institute of Micro-credit (UDWIM), an offshoot of IFAD/NERCORMP Project and an apex body of 745 Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising of more than 130000 illiterate and semi literate members. She has been constantly working for empowering the underprivileged women through micro credit by orienting and monitoring their Income Generating Activities (IGAs). She counsels and encourages them for alternative livelihood from growing marijuana/ganja or poppy for opium or illicit sale of narcotic drugs, etc. to handloom weaving, embroidery, food and fruit processing, organic farming, poultry and so on. Campaigns for grass root banking literacy and convergence.

She has been catalyzing intra district/inter zonal exchange programs among SHG Women leaders and promoted closer relationships among different sections/villages. This initiative has impacted transparency, recognition, trust, entrepreneur motivation, confidence for leadership and participation in decision-making bodies in the traditional village councils & district level organizations.

She is a forerunner for awareness on HIV/AIDS, Stigma & Harm Reduction as many members are affected ones. At the district level and at the backdrop of a patriarchal society, she strongly campaigns for Gender Sensitization and The Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition for Sex Selection) (PCPNDT) Act 2003.

Involved against Child & Women Trafficking she has worked two terms (2007-2013) as Member Secretary, Child Welfare Committee, Ukhrul District Social Welfare Dept., Govt. of Manipur. She has been honored for remarkable work and dedication for Women & Peace Issues in North East India by Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Control Foundation of India.

नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

26 Ms. Sangita Iyer, Kerala



Ms. Sangita Iyer is a multiple award-winning nature and wildlife journalist, documentary film maker and biologist. She is the Executive Producer & Director of the internationally acclaimed and United Nations nominated documentary "Gods in Shackles" - that reveals the truth behind the glamorous cultural festivals where temple elephants are exploited for profit under the guise of culture and religion.

Having worked in the media for over a decade, she harnesses the power of sounds and images in her documentary films to deliver effective environmental messages. In 2009, she co-founded the Bermuda Environmental Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public on environmental issues, and providing practical solutions that would foster environmental stewardship. She has also hosted, directed and produced a six part series "Bermuda - Nature's Jewel" which is currently being used as an educational aid in Bermuda's schools. A four-part mini-series was featured on Discovery Channel Canada's Daily Planet show, which draws more than four million viewers.

In September 2012 Ms. Sangita was one of the few Canadians selected for The Climate Reality Project training by America's former Vice President, Al Gore, which further inspired her to write for The Huffington Post. She has received numerous awards including the "Founder's Award for Leadership, Sustainability, and Personal Development" in May 2013, and the "Award of Excellence" for her Masters' thesis documentary, Connecting the Dots: television news media and climate change, at the International Film Festival for Environment, Health and Culture in Indonesia.

नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

27 Ms. Smita Tandi, Chattisgarh



Ms. Smita is a constable, but unlike any you may have come across. Ms. Smita along with her friends started a group 'Jeevandeep' in 2015 to provide financial help to poor people in order to enable them to access medical treatment. They collect money through their Facebook page which has 7 lakh followers.

In the year 2013, her father died as she did not have enough money to pay for the medical treatment he required. This made her realise the plight of thousands of people who die because of lack of money. She decided to take action and opened a Facebook page to collect money for those who require the same to access medical treatment.

Before collecting money for any person, she visits the person and after due verification issue a plea for collection of money towards medical treatment. She has never counted on how many people she has helped by raising money through Facebook, but it must be in hundreds. She has played volleyball at national & state level.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

28 Ms. Sumitra Hazarika, Assam



Ms. Sumitra Hazarika is an international medal winner Athlete and President of Mission for Integration, Gender Equalization, Harmony and Fight against Threat (MIGHT). She has been working in the field of women welfare since 1982 and received many awards for her social work. She is an activist with missionary zeal for eradication of various social ills viz. child marriage, dowry demand, child labour, child and women trafficking, domestic violence and sexual abuses of women at work place etc. She is also an author and writing columns in newspapers and magazines.

She has been successful in persuading parents not to marry their minor children. She is using the tool of community policing to stop the trafficking of women and children in the State of Assam. She counsels elders and parents of vulnerable segment of the society which result in two-way benefits; one, it creates awareness in the society and enable vulnerable individuals to resist any temptation from the traffickers, who are often disguised in various hues; and secondly, victims, post their rescue can be expected to gel with society smoothly again when society is properly informed and sensitized. Apart from conducting such counseling routinely, she has been personally involved in rescuing five girls / women victims from various parts of the country.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

29 Ms. Sunita Singh Chocken, Haryana



Ms. Sunita Singh Chocken is die-hard mountaineer with around 10 years of experience in Mountaineering, Rock climbing and water-sports. Ms. Sunita is a person whose passion dwells from conquering the most difficult tasks be it personal life or professional. She is the youngest girl of Haryana to have scaled the highest peak, Mt, Everest by 2011.

She is also the Brand Ambassador of “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” campaign from district Rewari, Haryana and received Bharat Gaurav Award in 2013. Ms. Sunita’s dedication to support the campaign talks volumes of her in what she wants to achieve for her motherland India. She is focused to eradicate the “Early Marriage cult” & “Stop Child Marriage” from India.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

30 Ms. Subha Varier.G, Kerala



Ms. Subha Varier. G, a graduate from CET, Trivandrum in Electronics and Communication Engineering joined ISRO in December 1991.

Presently she is heading the Video Systems Development Section in Avionics Entity, VSSC. She is responsible for developing various onboard systems like Video processing electronics based on JPEG & MPEG, SD & HD Cameras, DSP based Data processing Units for Scientific payloads, Real Time Decision system for Liftoff, different types of onboard recorders etc.

She was instrumental in inducting and globalizing onboard Video Systems in all the ISRO Launch vehicle programmes. Video system has been inducted for the first time in PSLV in 2016 with multiple cameras for viewing all separation events. PSLV C37 mission was very significant due to the fact that the vehicle carried 104 satellites from 6 different nations.

A full fledged video system, conceptualised, configured and realized by her, was employed in the mission to confirm the collision free separation of all the satellites in the mission. PSLV being an operational vehicle and used for multi satellite deployment for world-wide users, it is essential to have images of critical separating events of stages and satellites as proof of performance, from the technical and commercial point of view. These images helped in quick look post flight data analysis. Further, it provided good video content for public viewing, expanding the avenues of this operational vehicle.

नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

31 Ms. Tiasa Adhya, West Bengal



Ms. Tiasa Adhya is a conservationist; she started the Fishing Cat Project in 2010 to conserve Fishing Cats in the human dominated Howrah district in West Bengal and to mainstream its conservation. To address the pervasive lack of awareness about the endangered felid, she did a campaign to sensitize locals about the cat's global threatened status and about the legal implications of killing it. She tried to instill a sense of pride in conserving their State Animal which is threatened due to ongoing habitat destruction. She along with her team emphasized on women's participation in such programs and held meetings with women self-help groups.

She collaborated with elected local representatives of three tiers -village, block and district, for devolution of ownership and responsibilities for Fishing Cat conservation. As a fruitful collaboration, the highest tier declared its resolution to form Fishing Cat Protection Committees (FCPCs) at the village and block levels. Till date all the committees formed comprise atleast 33% women representatives, 10% Schedule Caste/ Schedule Tribes, in an attempt to bring all sections of society on board.

After an event of Fishing Cat hunting last year, she along with her team launched an international petition to arrest five hunters in August, 2015. The petition had more than 5,500 signatories from 48 countries within 3 days resulting in the hunters getting arrested. She further collaborated with the Forest Department to spread awareness including the circulation of a film on Fishing Cat in local TV channels every hour.

She works with local and national media to highlight the issue of Fishing Cat hunting outside Protected Areas and that of local conservation initiatives. She focuses on creating awareness and engaging the general public in 18 villages to generate Support for Fishing Cat conservation and to address conflict. These villages form a unique matrix of marshy reed cultivation and small scale pisciculture that facilitates the cat's persistence.

नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

32 Ms. V. Nanammal, Tamil Nadu



Ms. V. Nanammal is a Nonagenarian (97 year old) yoga enthusiast. Practicing yoga since she was 8, she has mastered more than 50 kinds of asanas. She comes from a family that has been practicing this ancient Indian practice for generations which she learnt from her grandfather. Her five children also practice and teach yoga. She has been inspiring an entire generation to take up the yoga practice.

She has also taught yoga to school kids and spreads awareness about its benefits to her village people. She has rejected offers from several yoga federations across the world on account of not knowing English; recently she has even attempted a Guinness record. She follows a very strict routine. She is an advocate of Naturopathy. Living close to nature and knowing its rhythm keeps her energetic and active. She believes in sharing tips about medicinal plants with people who come to visit her.

As many as 600 students of Nanammal are teaching yoga across the world. She was recognized in 2003 when she participated in a yoga competition, she has participated in 100 competitions so far. Till now she has won many gold medals and trophies in different competitions. Now, 36 members of her family are yoga practitioners.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

33 Ms. Zuboni Humtsoe, Nagaland



Ms. Zuboni Humtsoe founded a company named Preciousmelove (PML) in 2011, through Facebook with an initial capital of Rs. 3500, saved from college scholarship money. PML managed by an all girls team is an online fashion brand selling premium Nagaland designs for women, accessories, vintage clothing and handicrafts.

PML promotes talented young models, photographers, stylists, seamstresses, doll-makers and provide them a platform to sell their products and designs.

In the year 2015, she started 'Nungshiba' Handicrafts division of PML, which recycles waste fabrics from textile manufacturing units to create beautiful handmade dolls of Northeast India. This initiative has been very successful in empowering differently-abled women and school drop-outs by providing them employment and in turn leading towards their empowerment.

In June, 2016, PML launched its own e-commerce website becoming the first fashion e-commerce site from Northeast India managed by an all girls team. The company also conducts 'Entrepreneurship Training/workshop' in different rural/urban schools, institutes and colleges.



नए समाज की ओर
Towards a new dawn

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नए समाज की ओर
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