

## Shri F. B. Nigam Memorial Award 2014 – Shri Sukhbir Pehalwan

If a person has honesty in intentions, determination in goals, and a strong desire to achieve something meaningful, then even when walking alone the journey gradually turns into a caravan. After retiring from the army, Shri Sukhbir Singh Yadav had a strong passion in his heart to do something for society. To ensure that the youth remain healthy not only physically but also mentally, he opened a traditional wrestling arena (Akhada) in his village Sarfabad. The idea behind this initiative was that before achieving anything in life, it is essential to become a good human being.

The youth who came there commonly had habits of chewing gutkha and tobacco. At that time, he felt that the most dangerous social evil spreading in society was gutkha and tobacco. To eliminate this problem, he took a firm stand and started discussions with village panchayats. His efforts gradually began to show results and the panchayats started uniting against gutkha and tobacco.

On the initiative of Sukhbir Pehalwan, the village panchayats went through the City Magistrate to submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister demanding a ban on the sale of tobacco and gutkha. At the same time, the youth brigade of the village also stood strongly against tobacco. In protest, they collectively burned pouches of gutkha and tobacco. Soon, the panchayats of 45 villages joined this movement, and the sale of gutkha in the villages started declining.

The Arya Samaj of the city and youth wings of political parties also supported this campaign. Eventually, the state government imposed a ban on the sale of gutkha in October.

One of the wrestlers from Sukhbir Pehalwan's Akhada, Subodh Yadav, won gold and silver medals in wrestling at the international level. So far, six wrestlers from the Akhada have competed at the national level.

The campaign against social evils did not stop here. He also started a movement promoting dowry-free marriages in society. Because of his initiative, many families have benefited.

For these outstanding social services, Shri Sukhbir Singh Yadav, popularly known as Sukhbir Pehalwan, was honored with the Shri F. B. Nigam Memorial Award along with a cash prize of ₹21,000.

## Navratan Shyam Sundar Goyal Memorial Award – 2014

Shri Saleemuddin Solanki

Shri Saleemuddin Solanki, a 46-year-old resident of village Achheja, Dankaur, has been actively engaged in social service for the past two decades. He is currently serving as the National General Secretary of Human Rights Revolution and has been fighting for the rights of common people. Through his efforts, many people have received justice and support.

Shri Solanki has taken several actions against corruption carried out by police personnel and government officials. He has helped victims recover bribe money and has filed many complaints through the Right to Information (RTI). Some examples of his work include getting a Superintendent of the Customs Department caught red-handed while accepting a bribe, recovering ₹40,000 in bribe money from a Sub-Inspector, and helping bring punishment to a Sales Tax officer for possessing assets disproportionate to his income.

The list of Shri Solanki's social contributions is very long, and his work has greatly benefited society. Despite receiving several death threats, he has continued his social service work with courage and determination.

In recognition of his fearless service and dedication to society, Shri Saleemuddin Solanki was honored with the Navratan Shyam Sundar Goyal Memorial Award – 2014, along with a cash prize of ₹11,000.

Navratan Sardar Bhag Singh Memorial Award – 2014

Mrs. N. Sujata

With the inspiring vision of empowering abilities despite disabilities, Mrs. N. Sujata, a specialist in hearing and speech impairment and Director of Shankara Special School, Noida, has dedicated her life to serving people who suffer from various disabilities. According to Mrs. Sujata, whether the disability is single or multiple, proper time, support, and facilities should be provided so that such individuals can perform their daily activities independently rather than feeling helpless. She also believes that society should become more aware and accept them with open arms instead of treating them as different.

From childhood, Mrs. Sujata grew up in an environment devoted to the welfare of special children, as her parents were actively involved in providing education and rehabilitation for them. Inspired by this noble work from an early age, she pursued formal education in Audiology and Speech Pathology and worked in several reputed hospitals.

In 2001, when her parents were running a school for disabled children in Noida from a rented place, both of them passed away unexpectedly. After this tragic event, Mrs. Sujata resigned from her government job and decided to fulfill her parents' dream by establishing Shankara Special School, dedicated to empowering and training children with disabilities.

Today, through this school, hundreds of individuals with different types of disabilities have been trained and supported. She has organized more than 100 programs for these special children so that they may receive equal opportunities at every stage of life.

Mrs. Sujata also works actively for women's empowerment. She has organized several vocational training workshops for women to provide them with employment opportunities and financial independence.

Her special concern for children suffering from autism has led to the organization of the annual "Abhivyakti" program, where hundreds of such children participate and showcase their talents.

For her optimistic vision and dedicated efforts toward building a better and more inclusive society, Mrs. N. Sujata was honored with the Navratan Sardar Bhag Singh Memorial Award – 2014, along with a cash prize of ₹11,000.

Shri Ram Anugrah Narayan Memorial Navratan Women Empowerment Award – 2014

Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma

Due to the continuous efforts of Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma, the Gram Pradhan of Nithari village in Noida, Nithari village located in Sector-31, Noida—once considered a cursed place because of unfortunate incidents that occurred there a few years ago—has now taken on a new and positive identity.

Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma holds the distinction of being the first woman Gram Pradhan of Nithari village. She breaks many stereotypes that people often associate with village heads. Though she appears in simple attire, her confident personality becomes even more impressive when she is seen speaking fluent English. Having received her education from Delhi University, she has worked tirelessly for women's empowerment as well as the welfare of the elderly.

Understanding that many government policies and welfare schemes often fail to reach the common people despite existing in the administrative system, Mrs. Sharma adopted a working style that focused on reaching every individual so that each person could benefit from these schemes.

Some of her important initiatives include facilitating pensions for disabled people living below the poverty line, helping poor village children gain admission to public schools, organizing employment-oriented workshops for unemployed youth and women, and assisting extremely poor villagers in obtaining bank loans to start small businesses. She has also been working toward opening more government inter colleges in the Noida region.

Mrs. Sharma has consistently made efforts to bring together the neglected talents from slum and rural areas and help them develop their potential. She has also worked actively for environmental protection, particularly by campaigning to eliminate plastic waste in the village and promoting tree plantation to increase greenery. At the same time, she continues efforts to free the village from antisocial elements.

For her courageous, dedicated, and hardworking leadership as a woman village head, Mrs. Vimlesh Sharma was honored with the Shri Ram Anugrah Narayan Memorial Navratan Women Empowerment Award – 2014, along with a cash prize of ₹11,000.

Shrimati Kshama Gaud Memorial Navratan Award – 2014

Shri Vikrant Tongad

Shri Vikrant Tongad, the 24-year-old founder of Social Action for Forest and Environment and a resident of village Manauta in Greater Noida, completed his postgraduate studies in Sociology. After completing his education, instead of choosing a conventional career path for livelihood, he dedicated himself to social and environmental causes.

Shrimati Kshama Gaud Memorial Navratan Award – 2014

Shri Vikrant Tongad

Instead of pursuing a regular job, Shri Vikrant Tongad was deeply disturbed by the large-scale wastage of water taking place in Noida and Greater Noida. He chose to change the direction of his life and dedicated himself to the conservation of water resources.

Observing the rapid urbanization and the reckless extraction and wastage of groundwater by builders, this young activist raised his voice and began a determined struggle. There was a serious concern that if such wastage continued, water would become scarce for future generations in this region.

While the administration remained largely inactive, Vikrant Tongad shook the entire system by filing several Public Interest Litigations (PILs). Through these efforts, he brought public attention to the urgent need to protect water resources and warned that it was better to act immediately rather than allow the future to deteriorate. Due to his persistent efforts, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered restrictions on the use of groundwater by builders so that the groundwater level in Gautam Buddha Nagar could be preserved.

Vikrant believes that humanity should not move toward destruction due to its own actions. Even if collective efforts are difficult, an individual can still make a significant difference. A clear example of this is that through the PILs and other initiatives filed by him, several polluting industries in Ghaziabad were forced to relocate. Metro authorities were also directed to install water harvesting systems at all metro stations.

Furthermore, the National Green Tribunal formed a committee regarding the pollution of the Ganga River caused by industrial units such as the Simbhaoli Sugar Mill and Gopalji Dairy, so that the river could be protected from further pollution.

For carrying out many such important initiatives and for his dedication as a protector of the environment and a messenger for humanity, Shri Vikrant Tongad was honored with the Shrimati Kshama Gaud Memorial Navratan Award – 2014, along with a cash prize of ₹11,000.

Shrimati Chandra Devi Memorial Navratan Award – 2014

Mrs. Harpreet Ahluwalia

The lives of nearly 40 potter families, who once struggled to survive by selling earthen pots on the roadside, have been transformed. Earlier, despite working very hard, it was difficult for them to arrange even two meals a day, and they could not even think about educating their children. Today, their income has improved and their children are going to school. This positive change has been made possible through the efforts of Mrs. Harpreet Ahluwalia, a resident of Sector-38, Noida.

Harpreet Ahluwalia, who has an MBA degree and a passion for gardening, used her creativity and skills to bring color and hope into the lives of these potter families living in poverty. She is also a strong supporter of women's empowerment and environmental conservation.

She explains that when she started interacting with potters to get specially designed pots made for her garden, she gradually realized how difficult the lives of these artisans were. People greatly appreciated the designs of the clay pots she created. She then decided to use her creativity to help potters move beyond making only traditional water pots and expand their work into new decorative products.

Without delay, she gave orders to several potters to produce a large number of pots based on her designs. The results were encouraging. She also traveled to several cities across the country and connected more potter families with this work. As they began receiving regular orders, their worries about earning a livelihood gradually reduced.

Today, not only potter families from Noida but about 42 families from nearly eight states have joined her initiative. These states include Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Kerala, and Karnataka. Harpreet Ahluwalia personally helps sell the beautifully designed pots and other clay products made by these families, sending them to different places and also traveling herself for their promotion and sales.

Whatever income is generated from these sales, she keeps nothing for herself and gives the entire amount to the potter families. This selfless act gives her deep personal satisfaction.

About five years ago, she also started an initiative to educate the children of these families. However, she placed one condition—that she would support only the education of girls, because these families traditionally focused only on educating boys. She asks each family to provide the annual school fee receipt, and based on that, she transfers the required amount directly into their bank accounts.

As a result of this initiative, families began sending their daughters to school, and the effort has proved highly successful.

In recognition of her outstanding social service and contribution toward uplifting these communities, Mrs. Harpreet Ahluwalia was honored with the Shrimati Chandra Devi Memorial Navratan Award – 2014, along with a cash prize of ₹11,000.

**\*\*Shri Dwarka Das Agrawal Memorial Award – 2014**

**Mrs. Radha Sharma\*\***

Mrs. Radha Sharma, the 54-year-old founder of Shri Radhe Seva Samiti, was born into an educated family and received national and religious values from early childhood. For 26 years she worked as a school teacher, educating children and inspiring them with patriotism, respect for parents, and a sense of connection with the nation.

After her retirement, during the last eight years she has visited nearly 300 families in Noida, spreading awareness of national and cultural values. She has guided many women and children who lacked proper values or had lost direction in life, helping them find the right path and regain social respect.

As the founder member of Shri Radhe Seva Samiti, Noida, she organizes Sunderkand recitations and devotional gatherings (Bhajan Sandhya) by visiting homes. The donations collected during these events are used to support poor and helpless families. The funds are especially used for the education of girls whose fathers have passed away and whose families have no source of income, ensuring that their education does not stop due to financial difficulties.

One such girl supported by the committee successfully completed her B.Ed. from Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in 2012 with 75% marks. Mrs. Radha Sharma, along with her husband Mr. Suresh Sharma, continues to serve society and the nation with dedication. In recognition of her contributions, she was honored with the Shri Dwarka Das Agrawal Memorial Award – 2014 along with a cash prize of ₹11,000.

## Navratan Award – Shri Nipun Malhotra

Disability is not merely a physical condition but a matter of perspective. What is needed is empathy, not sympathy. Shri Nipun Malhotra is a remarkable example of a person who transformed his physical limitations into strength and inspiration for society.

Despite suffering from a rare and serious condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which affects only a few people among millions, Nipun excelled academically. He topped APJ School, Noida, later studied at St. Stephen's College, where he received the Anil Wilson Scholarship, and completed his graduation in Economics. He then completed his post-graduation in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics.

Currently, he serves as a Director at Nipman Fasteners. After overcoming his physical challenges, Nipun dedicated himself to empowering others in society. Through motivational speaking and his writing skills, he continues to inspire many people.

Together with his mother Mrs. Priyanka Malhotra, he founded the NGO Nipman Foundation, which works for the welfare of persons with disabilities. Through this organization, numerous social initiatives have been carried out to maintain the dignity, happiness, and health of disabled individuals. These include health camps, distribution of tricycles for the disabled, assistance with small livelihood activities such as shoe-polishing stalls and handcarts, and many other welfare programs.

For his dedication to empowering people with disabilities and for his ongoing efforts to implement many such initiatives in the future, Shri Nipun Malhotra was honored with the Navratan Award.

## Navratan Award – Dr. P. C. Bhardwaj

Dr. P. C. Bhardwaj, a 75-year-old ophthalmologist, has never believed in slowing down in life. According to him, even though medical science has made tremendous technological progress, it is still unacceptable that people should remain blind due to lack of proper treatment.

## Navratan Award – Dr. Prakash Chandra Bhardwaj

Dr. Prakash Chandra Bhardwaj has always been especially concerned about people who are economically weak. If he comes to know about someone who needs medical treatment, he never hesitates to devote every possible effort to help them.

Even 15 years after his retirement, he has never turned his medical practice into a highly commercial activity. Instead, he has dedicated his life to the service of humanity. Even today, he can be found offering his services daily at one or another charitable clinic, such

as the Sai Temple, Sector-40 Noida, Gurudwara Rakab Ganj, Delhi, Swaminarayan Temple (Akshardham), Delhi, and the Noida Diabetic Forum, among others.

Organizing lectures and medical camps for the benefit of society has become a regular part of his work. Through these events, medical experts educate the public about the prevention and treatment of various diseases affecting the human body. Thousands of people have benefited from these initiatives.

For his remarkable dedication to social service and humanitarian work, Dr. Prakash Chandra Bhardwaj was honored with the Navratan Award.

Navratan Award – Shri Shyam Kumar

Social service has countless forms, and sometimes there are areas where we do not immediately recognize that social service is being performed. One such example is the work of Shri Shyam Kumar, Director of the Natsamrat Theatre Group, New Delhi.

For the past 17 years, Shyam Kumar has carried out numerous activities in the field of theatre and has become a well-known figure in Delhi. He has presented more than 1,700 theatre performances, and through various theatrical festivals and events he has provided opportunities to hundreds of hidden talents in the fields of theatre and music.

His work is remarkable because many artists who received encouragement and guidance from him have gone on to prove their talent at the national level and in Bollywood, with several of them becoming well-known stars. This became possible because Shyam Kumar selflessly recognized their talent, nurtured it, and helped them gain recognition.

For his selfless and dedicated efforts to keep theatre alive and vibrant in the Delhi-NCR region, Shri Shyam Kumar was honored with the Navratan Award.

Mrs. Sonia Kohli Social “Sahayog” Navratan Special Award – Shri Mahesh Sharma

Generally, government officials are not often seen as very cooperative, and an ordinary person usually approaches them with many doubts and apprehensions. However, for many years now, Shri Mahesh Sharma, who has been serving as the Regional Transport Inspector (RTO) in Noida, has changed this perception.

The moment one meets him, all fears and doubts disappear. He is known for being extremely soft-spoken, friendly, and always smiling, and he treats people with warmth and respect. He is always ready to help and has a unique ability to make even difficult tasks seem simple. By fulfilling his official duties with sincerity, he has effectively transformed his role into one of social service and cooperation.

He is widely respected and admired by people from all sections of society—whether elderly citizens, women, youth, the poor, or the wealthy. He assists everyone equally and ensures that their work is completed as quickly as possible, provided their documents and formal requirements are properly fulfilled.

In recognition of his cooperative and socially supportive nature, Shri Mahesh Sharma was honored with the “Mrs. Sonia Kohli Social Cooperation Navratan Special Award.”

Chitransh Omprakash Kamthan Education Award – 2014

Ms. Nikita, a student of M.C. Gopichand Inter College, Village Khedi, Greater Noida, secured the highest marks in the district of Gautam Buddh Nagar in the Uttar Pradesh Board Class 10 examination in 2013. For this outstanding achievement, she was honored with the Chitransh Omprakash Kamthan Education Award along with a cash prize of ₹3,100.

Navratan ke Ratna (Gems of Navratan)

Dr. Mukesh Daksh, Dadri – For remarkable performance in the field of poetry recitation.

Shri Dhorendra Pratap Singh – Roll Ball sports player, for outstanding performance at the international level.

Ms. Shreya Mangal, Dadri – Skating and skating dance player, for remarkable performance at the national level.

Ms. Medhavi Mangal, Dadri – Skating and skating dance player, for remarkable performance at the national level.

Shri Ram Anugrah Narayan Special Education Award

In 2013, Navratan Foundations announced that students of Government Inter College, Noida, who secured 75% or more marks in the Uttar Pradesh Board Class 12 examination, would be given a cash reward of ₹5,000 as encouragement.

After the examination results were declared, the number of successful students was much higher than expected. For the first time, 24 students scored more than 75% marks.

To recognize and encourage their academic excellence, Navratan Foundations honored all these successful students with the Shri Ram Anugrah Narayan Special Education Award, along with a cash prize of ₹5,000 each.

1. Shri Akar – 87.2%
2. Nitin Kumar – 85.2%
3. Akit Yadav – 83.4%

4. Ramesh Kumar – 82.4%
5. Shamshad Balam – 81%
6. Tejveer Singh – 80.0%
7. Jitender Kumar – 80.4%
8. Kasmendra Kumar – 80.2%
9. Ravikant Kumar – 79.6%
10. Satish Sharma – 79.4%
11. Ms. Rashi Kumari – 79.4%
12. Anit Patroli – 79%
13. Ritesh Kumar Dubey – 78.8%
14. Ms. Madhu – 78.4%
15. Shakti Kumar Rai – 77.8%
16. Ms. Preeti Kanojia – 77.2%
17. Isai Lal Tandon – 77.2%
18. Ashish – 76.6%
19. Anil Kumar – 76.6%
20. Vipin Pandey – 76.6%
21. Rishabh Saxena – 75.8%
22. Shubham – 75.8%
23. Ms. Kiran – 75.0%
24. Ms. Sarita Nagar – 75.2%