



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SINDHOLOGY

Civilian Awards of India

Sindhis of India Who Were Honoured

BHARAT RATNA

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

PADMA BHUSHAN

PADMA SHRI

INFORMATION COMPILED BY

Deepak Ramchandani

Adipur – Kachchh, Gujarat

8 May 2026

A SINDHOLOGY COMPILATION



FROM THE COMPILER

Foreword

I regularly explore about Sindhis and Professor Ramesh Luhana regularly posts some interesting articles in Kutch Mitra – the daily Gujarati newspaper.

Recently one interesting article about Sanu Sahaney was published. This raised my eyebrows, as very few people may be knowing about the honours received by Sindhis with the Civilian Awards.

I just wished to compile the information and started searching from the various sources available on different websites. It took me two days to gather the information and I started compiling the same.

Hoping it covers all the Sindhis receiving the awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

Shri L. K. Advani is honoured with the highest civilian award of Bharat Ratna. In his biography he considered Adipur as a second home after independence, as his father lived at Adipur and worked in Sindhu Resettlement Corporation.

Dada Hundraj Dukhayal also received the Padma Shri award and lived the rest of his life at Adipur.

Hope everyone will love to read this compiled information.

Deepak Ramchandani

Adipur – Kachchh · 8 May 2026



ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Four Civilian Honours of India

India's civilian honours recognise exceptional service across every field of human endeavour — art, literature, science, medicine, public affairs, sport, trade, industry and social work. The Bharat Ratna stands alone at the summit; the three Padma awards follow in descending order of precedence. The Padma awards were instituted in 1954 and are conferred by the President of India, customarily announced on the eve of Republic Day.

BHARAT RATNA*Highest civilian honour of India***PADMA VIBHUSHAN***Exceptional and distinguished service***PADMA BHUSHAN***Distinguished service of a high order***PADMA SHRI***Distinguished service in any field*

The pages that follow profile each honouree in turn. A summary roll of honour appears overleaf.



SUMMARY

Roll of Honour

The 24 Sindhis of India recorded in this compilation, in the order in which their profiles appear. Where an individual has received more than one honour, each is listed separately.

#	NAME	FIELD	HONOUR	YEAR
1	L. K. Advani	Public Affairs	Bharat Ratna	2024
			Padma Vibhushan	2015
2	Dada Hundraj Dukhayal	Literature & Education	Padma Shri	1983
3	Atmaram Ramchand Chellani	Civil Service	Padma Shri	1957
4	Santu Jouharmal Shahaney	Civil Service	Padma Bhushan	1965
			Padma Shri	1962
5	Ram Panjwani	Arts · Literature	Padma Shri	1981
6	Vera Hingorani	Medicine	Padma Shri	1984
7	Sundari K. Shridharani	Arts	Padma Shri	1992
8	G. S. Sainani	Medicine	Padma Shri	2000
9	Suresh H. Advani	Medicine	Padma Bhushan	2012
			Padma Shri	2002
10	Motilal Wadhmal Jotwani	Literature & Education	Padma Shri	2003
11	Pankaj Advani	Sports	Padma Bhushan	2018
			Padma Shri	2009
12	Gokuldas Shivaldas Ahuja	Social Work	Padma Shri	1986
13	Jawahar Gangaramani	Social Work	Padma Shri	2010
14	Indira Hinduja	Medicine	Padma Shri	2011
15	Ramesh Sippy	Arts · Cinema	Padma Shri	2013
16	Alka Kriplani	Medicine	Padma Shri	2015
17	Sanjeev Bikhchandani	Trade & Industry	Padma Shri	2020
18	Raveena Tandon	Arts	Padma Shri	—
19	Krishna Kripalani	Literature & Education	Padma Bhushan	1969
20	Lakhmal Hiranandani	Medicine	Padma Bhushan	1972
21	N. R. Malkani	Social Work	Padma Bhushan	1973
22	Dada Shewak Bhojraj	Social Work	Padma Shri	1983
23	Govind Nihalani	Arts · Cinema	Padma Shri	2002
24	Romesh Wadhwani	Trade & Industry	Padma Shri	2020

HONOUREE 01 • BHARAT RATNA

L. K. Advani

Statesman • Former Deputy Prime Minister of India



Left: Shri L. K. Advani. Right: President Droupadi Murmu presents the Bharat Ratna at his residence in New Delhi, 31 March 2024.

Bharat Ratna • 2024

Padma Vibhushan • 2015

FIELD
Public Affairs

Veteran BJP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani was conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, on 31 March 2024, by President Droupadi Murmu.

The award was presented at Advani's residence in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, honouring his decades-long service, monumental contributions to national development, and role as a statesman.

The Ceremony: President Droupadi Murmu presented the award to Shri Advani at his residence in New Delhi due to his health conditions.

Distinguished Attendees: The event was attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Announcement: Prime Minister Narendra Modi first announced the decision to honour Shri Advani on 3 February 2024, describing it as an emotional moment and a tribute to his monumental contribution to India's development.

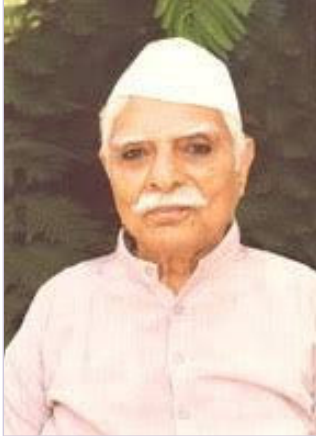
Advani became the 50th recipient of the Bharat Ratna. He previously received the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, in 2015.

Political Roles: Served as the Deputy Prime Minister (2002–2004), Home Minister (1998–2004), and Information & Broadcasting Minister.

Noted for his journey from a grassroots worker to one of the most respected statesmen in India, he is credited with shaping the socio-political landscape of India through his vision of cultural nationalism.

HONOUREE 02 • PADMA SHRI

Dada Hundraj Dukhayal

1910–2003 • Poet, Freedom Fighter & Social Reformer

Padma Shri • 1983

FIELD

Literature & Education

Dada Hundraj Dukhayal (1910–2003) was a revered Sindhi freedom fighter, poet, and social reformer who was posthumously awarded the Padma Shri in 1983 for his immense contributions to literature and education. He is widely remembered as a “True Sindhi Poet” whose work inspired nationalistic fervour during the Indian independence movement.

Born in Sindh (now in Pakistan), he was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi and served prison time for his activities in the freedom movement.

He was deeply involved in the Bhoodan Movement led by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, spending roughly 12 years travelling on foot to advocate for land reform.

Known for his patriotic and nationalistic songs, his poetry focused on the preservation of Sindhi heritage and culture. He published numerous books in both Sindhi and Hindi.

After migrating to India in 1949, he settled in Gandhidham / Adipur, Gujarat. He established schools and the Sarvodaya Press, which published the Sindhi journal *Dharti Mata* to promote Sarvodaya ideals.



HONOUREE 03 • PADMA SHRI

Atmaram Ramchand Chellani

Civil Servant

Padma Shri • 1957

FIELD Civil Service

Atmaram Ramchand Chellani was a distinguished Indian civil servant who was honoured with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, in 1957 for his contributions to the Civil Service field.

He is associated with Andhra Pradesh (and modern-day Telangana) in official records from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Context: He was among the early recipients of the Padma Shri, which was established in 1954 to recognise outstanding public service.



HONOUREE 04 • PADMA BHUSHAN

Santu Jouharmal Shahaney

First Indian Director General, Indian Ordnance Factories



Padma Bhushan • 1965

Padma Shri • 1962

FIELD

Civil Service

Santu Jouharmal Shahaney was an IOFS officer. He served as the first Indian Director General of the Indian Ordnance Factories.

He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1962, and the Padma Bhushan in 1965, for his contributions during the Indo-China War of 1962 and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, respectively.

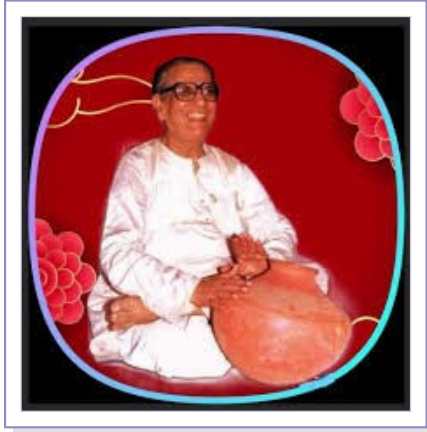
He studied Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, London, then a constituent of the University of London. He died at the age of 48.

His younger brother was Ram Shahaney, the first Chairman and Managing Director of Ashok Leyland; and Bhagwan Shahaney, a brigadier in the Indian Army and Chairman of Instrumentation Limited, Kota, was a recipient of the Padma Shri. All three brothers studied engineering in England.

HONOUREE 05 • PADMA SHRI

Ram Panjwani

Folk Singer, Writer & Custodian of Sindhyat



Padma Shri • 1981

FIELD

Arts • Literature

He was a renowned folk singer and composed numerous Soofi Kalams, folk songs, Bhajans, Ghazals and more, releasing a number of audio cassettes spread over 50 years. There were also a few Sindhi films such as *Jhulelal* (Patron God of Sindhis), *Hojamalo* (Cry of Victory) and *Ladli* (Darling), in which he provided lyrics and also sang some popular songs.

Recognition by way of awards and honours: Ram Panjwani perhaps was the only Sindhi who received the maximum awards and honours in the shape of Manpatras, trophies, medals, silver caskets and so on, during a span of 50 years, particularly in the post-partition era.

A few of the most prestigious ones are given below.

Selected honours

- Sahitya Akademi honour for his novel *Anokha Azmooda* (Unique Experiences), 1964 — Ministry of HRD, Government of India
- Dr. Choithram Gidwani's Award for outstanding contribution in keeping Sindhyat alive, 1965 — at Mumbai, at a glittering function held for the purpose
- Sindhu Ratan honour for noteworthy contributions in the field of Sindhi language and literature, 1970 — at Jaipur, by the Rajasthan Sindhi Academy
- Padma Shri, the coveted honour conferred on him in 1981 — at New Delhi, by the Government of India

HONOUREE 06 • PADMA SHRI

Vera Hingorani

23 December 1924 – 23 April 2018 · Gynaecologist & Obstetrician



Padma Shri • 1984

FIELD
Medicine

Vera Hingorani (23 December 1924 – 23 April 2018) was an Indian gynaecologist, obstetrician and medical writer who was a professor and head of the department of gynaecology and obstetrics at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

She was an honorary gynaecologist and obstetrician to Indira Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister, and Pratibha Patil, President of India. The Government of India awarded her the fourth-highest Indian civilian honour of Padma Shri in 1984.

Vera Hingorani was born on 23 December 1924 in Bubak, India, to Tecklaand and Lilawati Hotchand, and graduated in medicine from the Lady Hardinge Medical College in 1947. After specialising in gynaecology and obstetrics, she joined the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, in 1959 and rose in the ranks to head the gynaecology and obstetrics department, a post she held till 1986. After superannuation from AIIMS, she joined Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre in 1987, worked there till 1996 and returned to AIIMS in 1997 to work as a consultant.

Hingorani was a clinical director at the World Health Organization (WHO) and wrote several articles and medical papers on the topic of gynaecology and obstetrics. She was an honorary fellow (1977) of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and an elected fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences.

Hingorani was involved with *Operation ASHA*, a non-governmental organisation working for eradicating tuberculosis from India, as a member of their management team. She was married to I. B. Hingorani and lived in the Greater Kailash area of New Delhi.

She died in Houston, Texas, on 23 April 2018, at the age of 93.

HONOUREE 07 • PADMA SHRI

Sundari K. Shridharani

6 April 1925 – 7 April 2012 · Dancer & Founder, Triveni Kala Sangam



Padma Shri · 1992

FIELD
Arts

Sundari K. Shridharani (6 April 1925 – 7 April 2012) was the founder and director of Triveni Kala Sangam, a multi-arts institution, which she established in 1950.

Born in Hyderabad, Sindh, in undivided India, Shridharani started learning dance while at Santiniketan. Thereafter she joined Uday Shankar at the Indian Cultural Centre at Almora, where she trained in Kathakali under Guru Shankaran Namboodiri and in Manipuri dance under Guru Amubi Singh. Subsequently, she joined the Ginner Mawer School of Dance and Drama, London, where she learnt Greek dance.

She married Krishnalal Shridharani (1911–1960), a poet, playwright and journalist.

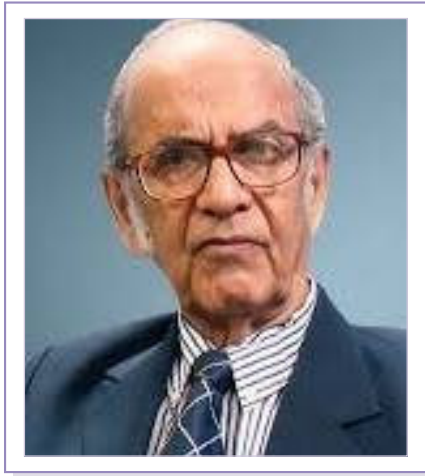
In 1947, she performed at the first International Youth Festival in Prague, and in the 1950s she received a Fulbright Fellowship and one from the University of California, Los Angeles, through which she travelled across several universities in the US, giving lecture-demonstrations of Indian dances.

She moved to Delhi after her marriage, and in 1950 started Triveni Kala Sangam. It began in one room and terrace above a coffee house in Connaught Place, Delhi, with two students under the noted artist K. S. Kulkarni. Soon her efforts got noticed, and Pandit Nehru allotted her half an acre of land for the institution. Gradually she organised a small group of people, started organising concerts, and collected funds. Construction finally began around 1957 and eventually, on 3 March 1963, the present building was inaugurated.

She was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1992. In 2011 she was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her overall contribution to the performing arts, which was conferred posthumously.

HONOUREE 08 • PADMA SHRI

G. S. Sainani

Physician, Medical Researcher & Emeritus Professor

Padma Shri • 2000

FIELD
Medicine

Gurumukh Sajanal Sainani is an Indian general physician, medical researcher, medical writer and an emeritus Professor of the National Academy of Medical Sciences. He is a former director of the All India Heart Foundation and the incumbent director of Jaslok Hospital, Mumbai.

He is a recipient of the highest Indian award in the medical category, the Dr. B. C. Roy Award, from the Medical Council of India, and the rank of Honorary Brigadier from the President of India.

The Government of India awarded him the fourth-highest civilian award of the Padma Shri in 2000.

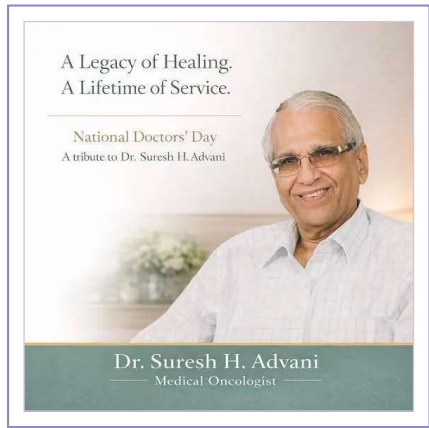
The Indian Association of Clinical Medicine (IACM) has instituted the G. S. Sainani Oration, an annual event in his honour. The Geriatric Society of India also has instituted an annual oration under the title “Prof. G. S. Sainani Oration”.

Sainani is also a recipient of the Sindhu Ratan Award.

HONOUREE 09 • PADMA BHUSHAN

Suresh H. Advani

Born 1 August 1947 • Medical Oncologist



Padma Bhushan • 2012

Padma Shri • 2002

FIELD
Medicine

Suresh Hariram Advani (born 1 August 1947) is an Indian oncologist known for his work in haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Affected by poliomyelitis at age eight, he studied at Grant Medical College, Mumbai, earning MBBS and MD degrees. After completing his education, he joined the Tata Memorial Centre as a medical oncologist, where he worked for several years.

He has been associated with Sushrut Hospital & Research Centre as a consultant. Advani received training in bone marrow transplantation at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington.

Advani was born on 1 August 1947 in Karachi, then part of British India (now in Pakistan). Following the partition, his family relocated to India, first residing in Deolali, Nashik, before settling in Mumbai. His father worked in the electrical trade.

He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2012 and the Padma Shri in 2002.

HONOUREE 10 • PADMA SHRI

Motilal Wadhupal Jotwani

13 January 1936 – 28 January 2008 · Writer, Educationist & Gandhian

Padma Shri • 2003

FIELD

Literature & Education

Motilal Wadhupal Jotwani (13 January 1936 – 28 January 2008) was an Indian writer, educationist, Gandhian and a former post-doctoral fellow of Harvard Divinity School who specialised in Sindhi language and literature.

A winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award, he was honoured by the Government of India in 2003 with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest Indian civilian award.

Motilal Jotwani was born on 13 January 1936 at Rohri, in the Sukkur district of the Sindh region in British India. His family moved to India after the partition of 1947 and settled in Delhi. He also obtained a doctoral degree (PhD) on the work of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, the renowned Sufi poet.

Jotwani authored 60 books in English, Hindi and Sindhi languages, composed of poems, short stories, novels and essays.

His contributions are also reported in the establishment of the Sindhi Education Society, which manages two schools — Baba Nebhraj Senior Secondary School and Hemnani Secondary School, in Delhi. He served as a member of its governing council for many years.

Motilal Jotwani received six citations and awards from the Ministry of Human Resource Development during 1973–1999 for his literary contributions. He received Hindi literary awards from the Government of Delhi and the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1988 and 1990 respectively. He has also received the Hindi Academy Kriti Puraskar, the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Sindhu Ratan Award.

In 2006, he received the Shah Abdul Latif Award from the Government of Sindh. Jotwani died on 28 January 2008 in Pune, succumbing to a cardiac arrest, leaving behind his wife, Raj Motwani, and two sons.

HONOUREE 11 • PADMA BHUSHAN

Pankaj Advani

Born 24 July 1985 • Billiards & Snooker World Champion



Padma Bhushan • 2018

Padma Shri • 2009

FIELD
Sports

Pankaj Arjan Advani (born 24 July 1985) is an Indian billiards and professional snooker player. He is a 27-time International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world champion.

He has won 20 billiards world titles, the IBSF World Billiards Championship on 17 occasions and the World Team Billiards Championship once. In snooker, he won the IBSF World Snooker Championship three times, the IBSF World Six-Red Championship twice, and the IBSF World Team Cup and IBSF World Team Championship one time each. He holds the record number of IBSF world championships. He became a snooker professional in 2012/2013.

In recognition of his achievements, the Government of India has bestowed several awards upon Advani: the Arjuna Award in 2004, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, the Padma Shri in 2009 and the Padma Bhushan in 2018.

Pankaj Advani was born on 24 July 1985 to a Sindhi family in Pune, India. He spent his initial years in Kuwait before moving to Bangalore, India.

HONOUREE 12 • PADMA SHRI

Gokuldas Shivaldas Ahuja

Born 1915 • Founder, Sea Cadet Corps of India



Padma Shri • 1986

FIELD
Social Work

In a small village in Karachi a boy named Gokaldas Ahuja was born in the year 1915. He was the second son of a small merchant. He completed his higher studies in the year 1935 and took over his father's business.

He was very fond of the sea and sailing. His interest led him to set up the sea scout group in Karachi in 1938. Once, while doing their training in 1942, the scouts saw a capsized optimist (a boat) and a man drowning. The scouts showed courage and saved the man (Commodore Khatri).

The Commodore was struck by the courage of the scouts and offered them a place and equipment to carry out their training at HMIS Delawar. Mr. Ahuja migrated to Mumbai after the partition and carried out activities to sustain the sea scouts. The Indian Navy was the saviour of the Sea Scouts, providing them with facilities in the naval dockyards in 1948 and at INS Kunjali in 1954.

In the later half of 1950, Mr. Ahuja travelled abroad to study the youth movement. At first hand he found what he was looking for in Britain: the SCC and Navy relationship. After returning in 1951, Ahuja presented the blueprint of the national headquarters. He renamed the organisation as the Sea Cadet Corps and led a revitalised movement.

A strong keel was laid down by Ahuja. Official recognition came in 1961, when Parliament permitted the SCC to fly the Blue Ensign.

A home of its own was the next dream of the founder. A piece of land on the South Mumbai waterfront from Bombay Port, and a ship of cement and concrete named T.S. Jawahar, was inaugurated on 21 March 1963 by our late PM Jawaharlal Nehru.

The SCC is still running smoothly, moulding children for their future. The idea of the SCC has spread across the country; there are a total of 20 bases of the Sea Cadet Corps across India.

He was honoured with the Padma Shri award in the year 1986.

HONOUREE 13 • PADMA SHRI

Jawahar Gangaramani

Businessperson & Philanthropist · Partner, Al Fara'a Group



Padma Shri · 2010

FIELD
Social Work

Jawaharlal R. Gangaramani is an Indian businessperson and the Partner of Al Fara'a Group, which has a presence in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

In 2010, the Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his services to the field of social work.

Jawaharlal Gangaramani was born in a Sindhi family in Mumbai. After graduating in Structural Engineering from Bombay University in 1971 and starting his career in Mumbai, he moved to Dubai in 1974 to work as an engineer in a local construction company, and got involved in the construction of the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Gangaramani was listed by *Arabian Business* as 45th among the most powerful Indians in the Persian Gulf region. *Forbes Middle East* listed him as the 21st among the top 100 Indian leaders in the region.

Gangaramani's contributions to society have been widely reported in the media and generally acknowledged by public institutions. He has established two institutions, the *Al Fara'a Foundation* and the *R. P. Gangaramani Charitable Trust*, to channel his charity activities.

Awards and recognition

- Padma Shri — Government of India — 2010
- Pravasi Bharatiya Samman — Government of India — 2009
- Pazhassiraja Puraskar (Vyavasaya Ratna) — Government of Maharashtra — 2011
- Global Indian Achiever of the Year — Construction Week India — 2012
- Honoris Causa Doctorate — University of Georgia

HONOUREE 14 • PADMA SHRI

Indira Hinduja

Born 21 August 1946 • Gynaecologist & Infertility Specialist



Padma Shri • 2011

FIELD
Medicine

Indira Hinduja (born 21 August 1946) is an Indian gynaecologist, obstetrician and infertility specialist based in Mumbai.

She pioneered the Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer (GIFT) technique, resulting in the birth of India's first GIFT baby on 4 January 1988. Previously she delivered India's second test-tube baby at KEM Hospital on 6 August 1986.

She is also credited with developing an oocyte donation technique for menopausal and premature ovarian failure patients, giving the country its first baby out of this technique on 24 January 1991.

Honoured with various awards

- Young Indian Award (1987)
- Outstanding Lady Citizen of Maharashtra State Jaycee Award (1987)
- Bharat Nirman Award for Talented Ladies (1994)
- International Women's Day Award by the Mayor of Bombay (1995; 2000)
- Lifetime Achievement Award by the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society of India (1999)
- Dhanvantari Award by the Governor of Maharashtra (2000)
- Padma Shri award from the Government of India (2011)

HONOUREE 15 • PADMA SHRI

Ramesh Sippy

Born 23 January 1947 • Film Director & Producer

Padma Shri • 2013

FIELD

Arts • Cinema

Ramesh Sippy (born 23 January 1947) is an Indian film director, actor and producer in Hindi cinema. He is particularly known for being the director of *Sholay* (1975), often regarded as one of the most influential films ever made in India.

The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri in 2013. In 2017, he founded the Ramesh Sippy Academy of Cinema & Entertainment in Mumbai.

Ramesh Sippy was born on 23 January 1947 in Karachi, British India. He is the son of producer G. P. Sippy.

HONOUREE 16 • PADMA SHRI

Alka Kriplani

Gynaecologist, Medical Writer & Academic

Padma Shri • 2015

FIELD
Medicine

Alka Kriplani is an Indian gynaecologist, medical writer and academic, known for her contributions to the fields of Reproductive Endocrinology and Gynaecological Endoscopy.

She was professor and the Head of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. A recipient of the Dr. B. C. Roy Award in 2007, she was honoured by the Government of India in 2015 with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest Indian civilian award.

She is the author of 691 publications composed of 2 books, 269 medical papers and 271 abstracts, and has contributed 53 chapters in books published by other authors.

She has delivered over 500 guest lectures in India and abroad, conducted 79 live workshops, and holds regular endoscopy training programmes at AIIMS.



HONOUREE 17 • PADMA SHRI

Sanjeev Bikhchandani

Born 1963 · Entrepreneur, Founder of Info Edge

Padma Shri • 2020

FIELD

Trade & Industry

Sanjeev Bikhchandani is an Indian businessman, the founder and executive vice chairman of Info Edge, which owns Naukri.com, a job portal, as well as the co-founder of Ashoka University.

He was honoured with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, in January 2020.

He was born in 1963 to a Sindhi family in Delhi. He attended St. Columba's School, Delhi, and finished schooling from there in 1981. Thereafter, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, in 1984. He completed his MBA from IIM Ahmedabad in 1989.



HONOUREE 18 • PADMA SHRI

Raveena Tandon

Born 26 October 1972 · Actor

Padma Shri

FIELD
Arts

Raveena Tandon was born on 26 October 1972 in Bombay (present-day Mumbai) to filmmaker Ravi Tandon and Veena Tandon.

Tandon is a niece of the character actor Mac Mohan, and thus a cousin of Manjari Makijany, his daughter.

Raveena Tandon received the Padma Shri for her contribution in the field of arts.

HONOUREE 19 • PADMA BHUSHAN

Krishna Kripalani

29 September 1907 – 27 April 1992 • Author, Freedom Fighter & Parliamentarian

Padma Bhushan • 1969

FIELD

Literature & Education

Krishna Kripalani (29 September 1907 – 27 April 1992) was a Sindhi Indian freedom fighter, author and parliamentarian. He wrote a number of books on Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and on Indian literature.

The son of Ramchand B. Kripalani, Krishna was born at Karachi on 29 September 1907. He completed his early education in Karachi and Hyderabad, and graduated from the University of Bombay. He proceeded to London for higher studies, studying for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn and at the London School of Economics for history, economics, political science, law and anthropology.

Back in the country, initially at Karachi in 1931, he started practising law in Lahore. However, he was arrested for participating in the freedom movement, which cut short his legal career. At that time, he was interested in learning Bengali.

After his release from imprisonment he proceeded to Santiniketan with that objective. Rabindranath Tagore was so impressed with him that he offered him the position of a lecturer at Visva Bharati. Kripalani worked for Visva Bharati from 1933 to 1946. During his stay at Santiniketan, he met Nandita, daughter of Mira Devi, the youngest daughter of Rabindranath Tagore, and the two decided to marry.

In 1946, on a personal request from J. B. Kripalani and Jawaharlal Nehru, he joined the Indian National Congress as its general secretary. In subsequent years, he shouldered the responsibility of many other party positions.

He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 1969. He was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 1974 to 1980.

HONOUREE 20 • PADMA BHUSHAN

Lakhumal Hiranandani

1917–2013 • Otorhinolaryngologist & Philanthropist

Padma Bhushan • 1972

FIELD
Medicine

Lakhumal Hiranand Hiranandani (1917–2013) was an Indian otorhinolaryngologist, social activist and philanthropist, known for pioneering several surgical procedures which later came to be known as Dr. Hiranandani's Operations.

He was the founder chairman of the Hiranandani Foundation Trust, which runs two schools in India, and was reported to have been active in the social movement against organ trade in India.

He was a recipient of the Golden Award of the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, the first Indian and the fifth overall to receive the honour.

The Government of India awarded him the third-highest civilian honour of the Padma Bhushan in 1972, for his contributions to medicine and society.

Lakhumal Hiranand Hiranandani, born as Lakhumal Hiranand Khiara, was born in September 1917 in Thatta, the Sindh province of British India (presently in Pakistan), in a family of limited financial means.

After his early education in Sindh, he accompanied his family, which migrated to Mumbai in 1937, and graduated in medicine in 1942 from Topiwala National Medical College, Mumbai.

He died on 5 September 2013, succumbing to age-related illnesses at the age of 96, survived by his wife and two younger sons.

HONOUREE 21 • PADMA BHUSHAN

N. R. Malkani

1890–1974 • Social Worker & Freedom Fighter

Padma Bhushan • 1973

FIELD
Social Work

Narayandas Malkani (1890–1974) was a noted social worker and freedom fighter from Sindh state in undivided India. He was an academic by profession. He was the eldest brother of K. R. Malkani. They hailed from Hyderabad, Sindh. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan award in 1973 by the Government of India.

He was a member of the Rajya Sabha for two terms.

Malkani left teaching, joined Mahatma Gandhi and became his close confidant. He later took up constructive work in Sindh. He helped influence Allah Bux in favour of the Congress and introduced the Congress to Pir Pagaro of the Hurs.

The Government of India decided to take note of the unmatched social service of Malkani and his active participation during the freedom movement, and honoured him with the Padma Bhushan Award.

HONOUREE 22 • PADMA SHRI

Dada Shewak Bhojraj

1906–1988 • Freedom Fighter, Educationist & Journalist

Padma Shri • 1983

FIELD
Social Work

Padma Shri Dada Shewak Bhojraj (1906–1988) was a distinguished freedom fighter, writer, educationist and journalist. A Gandhian to the core, he engaged in social service, especially the upliftment of Adivasis.

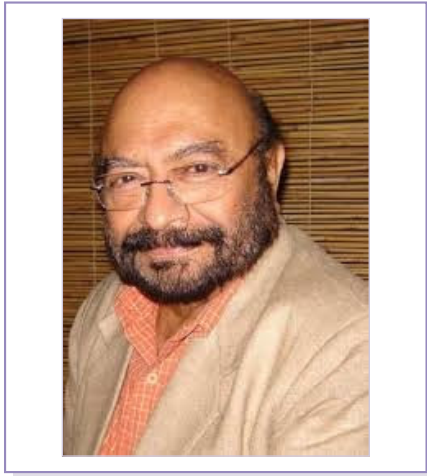
He was also the founder of Balkan-Ji-Bari, an all-India children's organisation recognised by the United Nations Organization (U.N.O.).

Shewak Bhojraj was born on 1 October 1906 at Larkana (Sindh). He got his school education in Sukkur, Karachi and Larkano.

He came under the influence of Gandhiji at an early age and joined his Non-Cooperation Movement, Salt Satyagrah and Quit India Movement, and suffered many imprisonments.

HONOUREE 23 • PADMA SHRI

Govind Nihalani

Born 19 December 1940 · Film Director & Cinematographer

Padma Shri · 2002

FIELD

Arts · Cinema

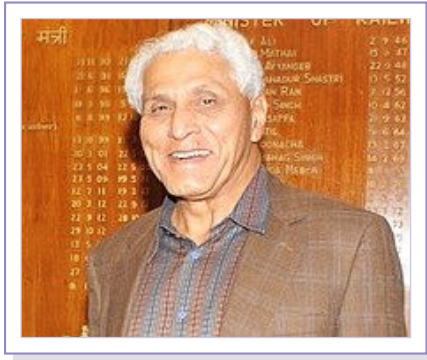
Govind Nihalani (born 19 December 1940) is an Indian film director, cinematographer, screenwriter and producer, known for his works in Hindi cinema, particularly the movement of parallel cinema.

He has been the recipient of six National Film Awards and five Filmfare Awards.

He was honoured with the Padma Shri in the year 2002.

HONOUREE 24 • PADMA SHRI

Romesh Wadhvani

Born 1947 • Entrepreneur & Philanthropist

Padma Shri • 2020

FIELD

Trade & Industry

Romesh Tekchand Wadhvani (born 1947) is an Indian-American billionaire, businessman and head of the investment firm SAIGroup. He is the former chairman and CEO of Symphony Technology Group, a private equity firm for software, Internet and technology services companies, including SurveyMonkey and Onclusive.

He established the Wadhvani Foundation for economic development in emerging economies, with an initial focus on India.

Romesh T. Wadhvani was born into a Sindhi Hindu family in Karachi, Pakistan, 10 days after the partition of India on 15 August 1947. His family moved to India shortly thereafter. He contracted polio at age 2 and had difficulty getting admission to school. He received a bachelor's degree from IIT Bombay, and master's and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University.

Wadhvani was awarded an honorary doctorate by IIT Bombay in 2018.

He was awarded the Padma Shri for Trade & Industry, the fourth-highest civilian honour of India, in 2020.



COLOPHON

About this Compilation

This document gathers, in one place, the Sindhis of India who have been conferred the Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The information was assembled from publicly available sources over two days in May 2026 and is offered as a record of community achievement rather than as an official register.

The compilation is not claimed to be exhaustive. Corrections, omissions and additional names are warmly invited, so that future editions may be more complete.

COMPILED BY	Deepak Ramchandani, Adipur – Kachchh, Gujarat
DATE	8 May 2026
HONOUREES	24 individuals · 28 awards recorded
SOURCES	Publicly available biographical records and press reports
PUBLISHED UNDER	The Indian Institute of Sindhology imprint

An acknowledgement is due to Professor Ramesh Luhana, whose articles in Kutch Mitra prompted this compilation.