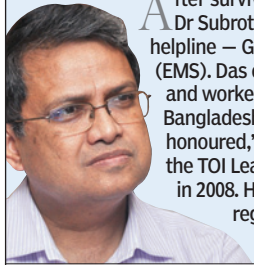


# PADMA STARS OF THE STATE

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

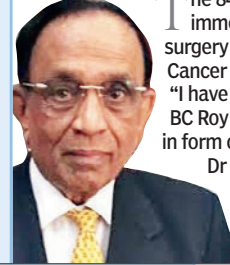
## PADMA SHRI

### DR SUBROTO DAS | MEDICINE



After surviving a serious highway accident in 2002, Dr Subroto Das established a highway accident helpline – Gujarat's first emergency medical service (EMS). Das catalyzed EMS in countries like Sri Lanka and worked closely with stakeholders in Turkey, Bangladesh and Bhutan. "I am humbled and honoured," he said. Das was one of the finalists of the TOI Lead India contest in the Ahmedabad round in 2008. He was also on the panel of judges in the regional round in Vadodara of the Times Public Speaking contest in 2015 and 2016.

### DR DEVENDRA PATEL | MEDICINE



The 84-year-old surgical oncologist has made immense contribution in the field of cancer surgery in Gujarat. He was director of Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute from 1993-2002. "I have received many awards including the Dr BC Roy Award but getting national recognition in form of Padma Shri is a matter of pride," said Dr Patel who continues to perform surgeries. "Advanced diagnostics has played a big role in more cancers being diagnosed," he said.

### GENABHAI PATEL | AGRICULTURE



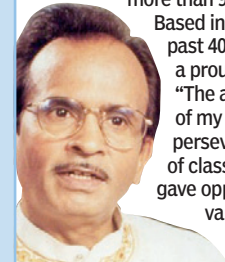
The disabled farmer from Sarkari Goliya village in Lakhani taluka of Banaskantha was awarded Padma Shri for transforming drought-affected land into profitable pomegranate farms. The 52-year-old 'Divyang' farmer single-handedly took up pomegranate farming and is credited for turning the border district into one of the largest producers of pomegranate with exports to the Middle East.

### VISHNU PANDYA | EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND JOURNALISM



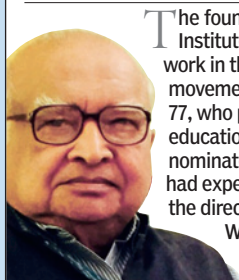
Vishnu Pandya, 71, has already scored a half-century in journalism. "I am happy because this award increases Gujarat's pride," Pandya said. He has penned 'Mera Rang De Basanti Chola' on freedom fighters. He was jailed for a year during Emergency. "I wrote against Emergency in 'Sadhna', a weekly I ran. I know freedom of press and appreciate when journalism is awarded."

### PURSHOTTAM UPADHYAY | ART- MUSIC



Purshottam Upadhyay, 83, who composed music for stalwarts like Begum Akhtar and Mohammed Rafi, has lent his voice in more than 40 Gujarati, Hindi and Marathi films and has released more than 90 music albums. Based in Mumbai for the past 40 years, Upadhyay, a proud Gujarati, said, "The award is the result of my 40 years of perseverance in the field of classical music. I also gave opportunity to various Gujarati artists."

### V G PATEL | LITERATURE & EDUCATION



The founder of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), is credited with pioneering work in the field of startups in 1970s when the movement was yet to pick up momentum. Patel, 77, who presently works with a consumer education organisation, says that he was nominated for Padma awards thrice in the past. "I had expected the award a decade ago when I was the director of EDII and was also working with the World Bank and other globally renowned financial organisations," said Patel.

### NRI HASMUKH SHAH | LITERATURE & EDUCATION-JOURNALISM



The US-based NRG is a well known entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader. Shah, 71, is the chairman and CEO of TV Asia, a coast-to-coast 24-hour TV network for South Asians in the US with focused content ranging from politics to religious and social causes. He is chairman of Bharti Vidyabhavan which promotes Hindi and Indian culture amongst second and third generation Indian Americans.

## PADMA BHUSHAN

### SHRI RATNA SUNDAR MAHARAJ | SPIRITUALISM

The 70-year-old Jain saint is widely acclaimed for his spiritual sermons and books aimed at uplifting the society. Shri Ratna Sundar Maharaj has penned 311 books and was awarded the Golden Book of World Records for writing over 275 books in a single language (Gujarati). His most acclaimed book is 'Lakhi Rakho Aaras Ni Takhti Par', a parental guide translated in 20 languages including English, Urdu, French and German. His sermons have a viewership of 3.8 crore.

