

## **Selected Awardees for Stree Shakti Puraskar 2010**

### **Rani Lakshmibai Award**

**Mrs. Pottabathini Padmavathi (Andhra Pradesh)**

#### **Area of Work/Special Achievements**

Ms. Pottabathini Padmavathi was born in a very poor weavers family on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1972 in Khammam town, of Andhra Pradesh. She suffered a polio attack in early childhood and as a result of post polio residual paralysis, she was bed ridden for six years. Over a period of eight years, she underwent seven surgical corrections, as a result of which, she could sit and walk with the help of callipers/crutches.

She did not allow herself to be overcome by this adversity and resolved to face this challenge positively. She took training in vocal music and went on to become an established artist. Highly awarded and recognised for her achievements. In 2009, the Hon'ble President of India honoured her with the "National Award for Best Creative Individual with Disabilities".

With the motive of helping handicapped persons, particularly disabled and disadvantaged women, she started the Padmavathi Institute for the disabled in December, 1999, with her own earnings. She has given more than 300 shows and has participated in many social dramas for stage and TV throughout Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere in the Country.

Ms. Pottabathini Padmavathi is being honoured with the **Rani Lakshmi Bai Award for the year 2010** in recognition of her indomitable spirit in winning the battle of life against all odds.

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**Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang Award**

**Mrs. Rathnamma (Karnataka)**

**Area of Work/Special Achievements**

Smt. Rathnamma was born in the remote village of Manuganahalli of Mysore District in the State of Karnataka. She has devoted her life for the upliftment of downtrodden women and children. She has worked extensively towards raising social awareness on issues relating to women and children such as child labour, eradication of dowry system, sexual harassment, prevention of early marriage and untouchability.

In 1995-96, she started the Sri Chamundaeshwari Mahila Mandali which is focused on the training of women to empower them socially and economically. She mobilized women to form Self Help Groups and had been imparting literacy through Continuing Education Centers. In recognition for her work for women and children, State Government honoured her with the, 'Kitturu Rani Channamma Prashasti' award in 2006-07. In 2009-10, she started a centre for women help line in a remote taluk of the State.

Smt. Rathnamma, Karnataka, is being honoured with the Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang Award for the year 2010 for her work towards economic empowerment of women.

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### **Kannagi Award**

**Smt Thagu Maya Bardewa(Sikkim)**

#### **Area of Work/Special Achievements**

Smt Thagu Maya Bardewa, a social worker, had started helping people in distress , destitute, orphans and widows from her school days. Having lost her mother in early childhood she undertook to provide opportunities to orphan students by starting an orphanage and also enrolling them welfare institutes.

She has organized classes in her villages for educating illiterate women. She has been instrumental in settling disputes pertaining to marriage of lower caste women to higher caste men and has taken up the cause of atrocities against Scheduled Castes.

Acknowledging her outstanding contribution in the field of social work, the State government conferred on her, 'Roll of Honour' in 2009.

Smt Thagu Maya Bardewa is being honoured with Kannagi Award for the year 2010 in recognition of her commendable work for the overall development of women.

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### **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award**

**Smt Monika S. Garg (Uttar Pradesh)**

#### **Areas of work/ Special achievements**

Mrs Monika. S. Garg, an officer of the 1989 batch of the Indian Administrative Service of Uttar Pradesh Cadre has done outstanding work for empowerment of women through building their capacity and promoting their participation in government programmes. In all her administrative work she has placed special emphasis on gender equity, inclusion and sustainability. She has worked diligently to put in place institutional reforms and systemic improvements and has consistently taken initiatives to increase public accessibility

As District Magistrate, she initiated an innovative public grievance redressal mechanism at the Nyaya Panchayat level through the use of 'Chaupals'. Currently posted as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, she has taken effective steps for involving people, specially women, in sericulture.

Smt Monika S. Garg is being honoured with Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award for the year 2010 in recognition of her administrative skills and commendable work for the overall development of women.