




Unsung Heroes of Yugaantar 2012

<p>BINA KALINDI</p> 	<p>At just 14, Bina Kalindi from West Bengal bravely stood against the tradition of child marriage prevalent in her village, where girls were often married by 12. Witnessing her sister's suffering, she resolved to protect other young girls, going door-to-door to educate parents and involving the police when necessary. Supported by the National Child Labor Project (UNICEF), Bina and her friends expanded their efforts, speaking at public gatherings to raise awareness despite community resistance. Her courage earned her recognition, including an invitation to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.</p>
<p>Rajesh Bhat</p> 	<p>Rajesh Bhat founded Head Held High Foundation, dedicated to transforming rural India by creating a local talent pool and employing them in knowledge industries within their villages. The Foundation was started to train illiterate, impoverished villagers in 6 months to be BPO employees capable of working for any MNC in India.</p>
<p>Nilesh Gaonkar</p> 	<p>Nilesh Gaonkar, a 24-year-old from Caurem, Goa, bravely confronted the powerful mining mafia threatening his village's environment and the livelihood of its 2,000 residents. He formed the Caurem Adivasi Cachao Samiti (CABS) with fellow youths, gathered evidence and rallied villagers, even enduring threats and a brutal assault for his activism. His courageous fight, which included blocking roads for over 30 days and seeking legal intervention, earned him a CNNIBN bravery award and recognition as a young leader standing up against illegal mining despite facing significant personal risk.</p>

<p>BHANWAR MALVIYA</p> 	<p>As a young innovator of just 18, Bhanwar Malviya has dedicated himself to science projects aimed at the betterment of mankind. His innovations have earned him significant recognition, including the distinct honor of being felicitated twice by the Late President Hon'ble APJ Abdul Kalam for his significant work. These innovative projects include diverse areas such as mobile wireless charging technology, automobile accident prevention systems and enhanced security solutions, showcasing his remarkable talent and commitment to addressing real-world challenges through scientific exploration.</p>
<p>Siswa Gram Panchayat</p> 	<p>The Siswa Gram Panchayat in Gujarat gained national attention for its innovative approach to village governance. In a groundbreaking move, the village elected an all-female panchayat composed of young, educated, and unmarried women. This "powerpuff girls" team, as they were sometimes called, brought fresh perspectives and a strong focus on development to Siswa, earning the village recognition and awards. Their success challenged traditional norms and showcased the potential of young women in leadership roles, making Siswa a model for progressive governance.</p>
<p>Dr. Anil Joshi</p> 	<p>Dr. Anil Joshi, an Ayurveda doctor in Fatehgarh village, Madhya Pradesh, demonstrated the power of collective effort with his simple yet impactful initiative. Moved by the plight of drought-stricken farmers, he mobilized the community to contribute just one rupee each. This seemingly small contribution from one lakh people enabled him to construct a check dam across the seasonal Somli river. This single act of water conservation transformed the landscape, providing a lifeline to the farmers by recharging the groundwater table and ensuring irrigation, proving that even "little drops of water make a mighty ocean" in bringing about real change.</p>

<p>Dr. Alok Bhargav</p> 	<p>Dr. Alok Bhargav has served as the National Co-Convenor of the BJP's Bioenergy Cell and is actively engaged in bio-energy initiatives, organic farming, and rural development.</p>
<p>Himanshu Patel</p> 	<p>Himanshu Patel, as Sarpanch, transformed Punsari, a village in Prantij, Sabarkantha, into a "Smart Village" with modern infrastructure and amenities. Under his leadership, Punsari has witnessed significant development, including cemented roads, a mineral water plant, a Panchayat-owned city bus service, door-to-door waste collection and a thriving "friends' society," highlighting holistic rural development and innovative governance.</p>
<p>SANDEEP MANOHAR DESAI</p>	<p>Sandeep Manohar Desai is a familiar sight in Mumbai's local trains, where he can often be seen collecting donations to support his mission: educating underprivileged children from the city's slums. With a bowl in hand, he directly appeals to commuters, channeling the funds towards providing educational opportunities for those who might otherwise be left behind. He had a personal commitment to bridging the educational gap and empowering Mumbai's most vulnerable youth.</p>

Shri Karangiri Goswami	Shri Karangiri Goswami, a dedicated Block Resource Co-ordinator in Vadhra, Bharuch, ensures that government-provided educational facilities effectively reach their intended beneficiaries, including those in the Narmada-Aliabet region. His work involves not only making resources accessible but also actively engaging with the community to educate and inform people about the importance and availability of these educational opportunities, thereby maximizing their impact.
Shri Vinod Parmar	Shri Vinod Parmar is committed to taking education to the farthest corners by traveling 30 kilometers daily by boat, a 45-minute journey through what is described as a jungle-like environment with no formal homes, to reach the place. There, he tirelessly teaches 60-70 deprived children under the shelter of trees, highlighting his unwavering dedication to bringing education to even the most geographically isolated and underserved communities.