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Dr Hegde, Kambara get Padma awards

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RENOWNED cardiologist Dr B M Hegde, Jnanpith awardee Chandrashekar Kambara and folk artist Manjamma Jogati are among five from Karnataka to get Padma awards this year, which were announced on Monday.

While Dr Hegde gets the second-highest civilian award of Padma Vibhushan, Kambara gets Padma Bhushan. Jogati, K Y Venkatesh (para-athlete) and Prof Rangasami Lakshminarayana Kashyap (a mathematician) have been awarded Padma Shri.



Dr B M Hegde and Chandrashekar Kambara

Dr Hegde said he is extremely happy with the award. "I got a call on Monday morning asking whether I agree to receive the award and I did." Asked whether he expected it, Dr Hedge, who was conferred with Padma Bhushan in 2010, said many had expected the second-

highest civilian award for him.

Kambara said the award is for Kannada Saraswathi. "It is Kannada which got me till here. It gave me Jnanpith and now Padma Bhushan. I might not have got the awards if I had done my literary work in English. I am happy." P7

AWARD FOR ABE, SPB

Ex-Japanese PM Shinzo Abe and late singer S P Balasubramaniam will be awarded Padma Vibhushan. Ex-Union minister late Ram Vilas Paswan, late Tarun Gogoi and late Keshubhai Patel will get Padma Bhushan | P7

Dr Hegde, motivational speaker too

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DR Belle Monappa Hegde, born in Pangala of Udupi district on August 18, 1938, got an ayurveda degree from Madras, MD from King George Medical College, Lucknow and FRCP from Royal College of Physicians in London. In his long career spanning over 40 years, he has held positions like principal of Kasturba Medical College, Mangaluru and vice-chancellor of Manipal University. He was a visiting professor at various reputed medical institutions in different parts of the country and abroad. He was also a member of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission.

Dr Hegde has authored many books in English and Kannada, and is a popular motivational speaker, often educating masses on how doctors fleece patients. He advises people to love one another and to shun hatred, as it helps lead a healthy life. He had challenged many practices and diagnoses of doctors, sometimes leading to controversies.

Life of hardship for Jogati

Sixty-four-year-old Manjamma Jogati, the first transwoman to have been appointed chairperson of the Karnataka Janapada Academy, was delighted with the honour. "I never even dreamt



Manjamma Jogati K Y Venkatesh

of getting this prestigious award. I dedicate it to all the Jogatis and people who stood with me all these years. I used to sell idlis, sleep at bus stands and spend nights near farms after performing Jogati Nritya. Now I have been honoured with this award," she said.

Born Manjunath Shetty at Kallukamba village near Ballari, she faced hardships throughout her life. After running away from home when she was 16, she went to Hosapete where she learnt Jogati Nritya. She has trained hundreds of people in the dance art form.

This is the best award: Venkatesh

Former para-athlete K Y Venkatesh has added another feather in his impressive cap as the 4 feet 2 inches man has been conferred with Padma Shri. The small-statured athlete featured in the first-ever Paralympic Athletics World Championship in Germany in 1994. He also starred in the World Dwarf Games in 2005, where he collected an impressive haul of six medals.

The Malleswaram resident,

who retired from the sport in 2012, ranks Padma Shri as the best recognition ever. "I am excited and pleased that I will be conferred with such a prestigious award. I may have several accomplishments to my name, including a good number of medals, but Padma Shri is 100 per cent the best award. I am honoured," said Venkatesh, who featured in different sports.

Interestingly, Venkatesh, who has won several medals around the world, had applied for the Padma award in the past. This time, however, he did not as he felt corona warriors would be given this award. "I did not apply, the home ministry gave this award to me on their own. This award is a boost for the sport as the government may call me for various committees and I can inform them about quality para-athletes also," he added.

Prof Kashyap unravels secret of Vedas

Prof Rangasami L Kashyap is an Indian applied mathematician and a professor of electrical engineering at Purdue University. The 82-year-old professor, along with his colleague, has developed an important algorithm in pattern recognition. He has translated four Vedas and written numerous books exploring the hidden meanings behind Vedic mantras.