



**ROHINI  
NAYYAR PRIZE**



**Dr. Rohini Nayyar**  
(1944–2021)

# THE 1st ROHINI NAYYAR PRIZE 2022

**for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development**

The Rohini Nayyar Prize has been instituted in the memory of the life and work of the late Dr. Rohini Nayyar by her family. It will be conferred annually to an individual aged 40 or below and comes with a cash award of **Rs 10 lakh**, a citation and trophy. Over her long career, Dr. Nayyar mentored several young professionals in the field, in government and outside. By recognising the outstanding work of persons under 40, the Rohini Nayyar Prize hopes to carry forward her legacy of improving the lives of those who live in rural India.

**December 20th, 2022**

India International Centre, New Delhi

Chief Guest :

**Shri Suman Bery**

Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

**Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose**

[www.rohininayyarprize.org](http://www.rohininayyarprize.org)



# Rohini Nayyar



Rohini Nayyar was one of India's foremost economists in government. She studied in Miranda House and the Delhi School of Economics, for a B.A. Honours and M.A. in Economics, at the University Delhi. She taught Economics at Miranda House for a short period, before she joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and served in the Uttar Pradesh cadre for five years. Thereafter, she went to University of Oxford where she studied for a B. Litt in Economics. She was awarded her D. Phil in Economics from the University of Sussex. Some years later, she joined the Planning Commission of India – the country's apex development policy institution – in 1987, where she worked till 2005 in different capacities until she retired as Principal Advisor, Rural Development (in the rank of Secretary to Government of India). Her myriad contributions to academic literature, policy making, and institution building have greatly enriched our understanding of rural development in India.

# THE AWARDEE 2022



## Sethrichem Sangtam

Sethrichem Sangtam grew up in a remote village in eastern Nagaland. Educated at the National Law School of India University at Bangalore, he later travelled across continents, and obtained a H1B work visa that would have allowed him to work in the USA. Choosing instead to make a meaningful contribution to his community, he returned to India to work at the grassroots level. In 2009, Sethrichem founded a not-for-profit organization, Better Life Foundation (BLF), to concentrate on issues of rural livelihood security, environmental sustainability and education for change. He emphasized local participation in the development process because a process owned and appreciated by the community would become institutionalized and sustained. Since then, he has promoted 337 Self Help Groups and 3 Farmers' Producer Cooperative Societies in the districts of Tuensang and Kiphire, Nagaland.

Among his many achievements is to encourage farming families to gradually relinquish the traditional but wasteful jhum cultivation and shift to permanent, settled farming. He now envisages adding value to the region's horticulture produce and creating forward linkages through farm tourism and a Farmers' Innovation Centre, an ideation lounge to facilitate innovative solutions for the common challenges faced by the marginal farming communities.

# THE JURY

## Dr. Ashok Khosla

is an global environmentalist based in New Delhi. He received his MA in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and his PhD in experimental physics from Harvard University. He set up and headed India's (and the global South's) first government Office of Environment and, then UNEP's global information system, INFOterra. Subsequently, he founded Development Alternatives, the world's first social enterprise for innovation and large scale application of appropriate (or "frugal") technology with direct relevance to eradicating poverty and regenerating the environmental resource base.

He served for a decade as the founding co-chair of the United Nations Environment Programme's International Resource Panel (UNEP-IRP) and is internationally known for pioneering and contributing to the concepts and praxis of sustainable development. He was President of IUCN (2008 to 2012) and the Club of Rome (2005 to 2012).

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## Ms. Renana Jhabvala

is a social worker, who has been active for decades in organising women in the informal economy into trade unions, co-operatives and financial institutions in India, and has been extensively involved in policy issues relating to poor women and the informal economy. She is best known for her long association with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India, and for her writings on issues of women in the informal economy. She presently the President of SEWA Bharat, the All-India Federation of SEWAs.

In 1990, she was awarded a Padma Shri from the Government of India for her contributions in the field of social work. In April 2012, she was Chancellor Gandhigram Rural University (2012-2017) and was Member of UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (2016-2017).

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## Dr. Rajesh Tandon

is the Founder-President of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and the Chairperson of Martha Farrell Foundation. He is also Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, since 2012.

A Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA and an electronics engineer (IIT, Kanpur) with a graduation in management (IIM, Calcutta), Dr. Tandon is an internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. A pioneer of participatory research, he has given new meaning to academic research by redefining the relationship between the researcher and the researched. Dr. Tandon has also served on numerous Expert Committees of Government of India, University Grants Commission, United Nations, Commonwealth and World Bank.





## The Trophy

The trophy for the Rohini Nayar prize is based on an artistic interpretation of the name Rohini, which refers to an ascendent star. It is made by rural artisans from Alibagh in the Raigad district of Maharashtra. It is a tribute to the late Dr. Nayar and a recognition of the long tradition of rural craft in India.

The trophy is designed by Latika Khosla who is the founder of Freedom Tree, a design and colour strategy studio based in Mumbai.

The trophy is made by Kshitij Vaidya and his wife Vaishnavi who work with veteran rural artisan Prashant Vaidya in Bhaimala village Maharashtra. They practice the traditional craft of Meenakari in which the surface of metals like gold, silver and copper is embellished with beautiful patterns in vibrant coloured glass and intricate gleaming wires.

**Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose**

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