The Justice Sunanda Bhandare is happy to announce that the
Digital Empowerment Foundation
is the recipient of the 2021 Justice Sunanda Bhandare Award for its crucial role in helping to bridge India’s digital gender gap at a time when the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has made online learning and access to digital information a necessity in a country where only one in four citizens has access to a digital device.

The Foundation commends Digital Empowerment Foundation and its founder, Osama Manzer for its role in promoting women web champions, upskilling 10,000 women entrepreneurs from marginalised and underserved communities and strengthening women-led community development organisations.

We are inspired by DEF’s demonstrated ability to effect positive change in our society in order to achieve Justice Sunanda Bhandare’s goal of a gender equal society.

We aim to end information poverty and social backwardness by bringing about a digital revolution.
10,000 Digital Innovations Documented

10,000 Digital Foot Soldiers

24 States 130 Districts 850 Locations

500,000 Availed Entitlements

50,000 Artisans Digitally Empowered

1,000 Digital Panchayats

15 Million Digitally Empowered

4 Million Women Digitally Included

6,000 NGOs Digitally Enabled
The Justice Sunanda Bhandare is happy to announce that Babita Saini of village Biwan in district Nuh, Haryana, is the recipient of the 2021 Jusce Sunanda Bhandare Award for her perseverance of her right to continue her education beyond the 10th standard in a district that is classified as one of India’s most backward areas with a literacy rate of just 56.1%.

Babita Saini is both the first woman graduate in her village and the first woman to be formally employed.

The Foundation commends Babita Saini for starting a virtuous cycle of girls’ education not only in her family, including her mother, but also in her village.

We are inspired by her demonstrated ability to effect positive change in our society in order to achieve Justice Sunanda Bhandare’s goal of a gender equal society.
Babita is now training with Digital Empowerment Foundation to become a Digital Sarthak that will help her in transforming the lives of 100 other women entrepreneurs.

Despite coming from a poor background and a place where literacy rate is well below the national average, she has defied all odds in becoming the first woman in her village to graduate and get a job. She has inspired many women across the village who now aspire to do the same.