



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.



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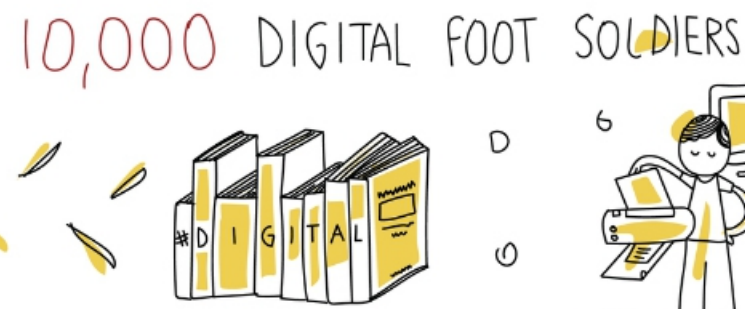
We aim to end information poverty and social backwardness by bringing about a digital revolution.



10,000 DIGITAL INNOVATIONS DOCUMENTED

An illustration showing a woman on a video screen, two women standing and waving, and a laptop displaying a grid of icons.

10,000 DIGITAL FOOT SOLDIERS

An illustration showing a stack of books with the word 'DIGITAL' on the spines, and two people working at computers.

500,000 AVAILABLE ENTITLEMENTS

An illustration showing a person at a computer screen with a large number '1' and a plus sign, and a group of people standing in front of a screen.An illustration of a bus with a screen on the side showing a person at a computer, and several people standing outside the bus.

24 STATES 130 DISTRICTS 850 LOCATIONS

An illustration showing two village clusters, each with a central house and several smaller houses, surrounded by communication towers.

1,000 DIGITAL PANCHAYATS

An illustration showing a village with houses, trees, and communication towers, connected by a network of lines to a central building.

15 MILLION DIGITALLY EMPOWERED

4 MILLION WOMEN DIGITALLY INCLUDED

50,000 ARTISANS & DIGITALLY EMPOWERED

An illustration showing a woman weaving on a loom, a woman working on a sewing machine, and a woman holding a large piece of fabric.

6,000 NGOs

DIGITALLY ENABLED

An illustration showing a group of people at computers, a person at a presentation board, and a person at a computer screen.An illustration showing a line of women holding up their mobile phones.An illustration showing a woman sitting on the ground with a 'START' button, and a grid of icons including a person, a mail icon, a play icon, and a person lying down.



# The Justice Sunanda Bhandare is happy to announce that

## ***Babita Saini***

of village Biwan in district Nuh, Haryana

The recipient of the 2021 Justice Sunanda Bhandare Award for her perseverance of her right to continue her education beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> standard in a district that is classified as one of India's most backward area 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.







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.

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.

