

# Dr Bharathi Vishnuvardhan

*Padma Shri · National Film Award Winner · Social Entrepreneur*



*Muddu Nati*

## A Legend Across Five Decades

Dr Bharathi Vishnuvardhan is one of India's most celebrated actors — a woman who conquered five film industries across four decades, earned the nation's highest civilian and cinematic honours, and turned her stardom into a lifelong vocation of service.

**150 + Films** **5 Languages** **5 Decades of work**

## ❖ Padma Shri — India's Fourth-Highest Civilian Honour ❖



### Padma Shri · 2017

Conferred by President Pranab Mukherjee on 30 March 2017 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi — in recognition of distinguished contributions to Indian cinema and decades of humanitarian service.

"मैं, भारत का राष्ट्रपति, प्रणब मुखर्जी,  
व्यक्तिगत गुणों के लिए आपके सम्मानार्थ, पद्म श्री प्रदान करता हूँ।"

## ❖ National Film Awards ❖

**Best Actress (1966–67): Sandhya Raga · National Film Award — the pinnacle of Indian cinema recognition**

## ❖ Baale Bangara — The Documentary ❖



### Baale Bangara (Kannada) · 2021

*Produced by Keerthi Innovations · Directed by Aniruddha Jatkar*

A documentary capturing both her reel and real life.

## ❖ Oscars-Funded Short Film-Making Course ❖

### 🎬 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



To commemorate Dr Bharathi Vishnuvardhan's 50 years in cinema, Vibha Charitable Trust initiated a Short Film-Making Course — fully funded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (the Oscars). This landmark international recognition reflects the global stature of her contribution to the art of cinema.

## ❖ Legacy with Dr Vishnuvardhan ❖

### An Enduring Love Story & Shared Legacy

Dr Bharathi Vishnuvardhan and her husband, the legendary actor Dr Vishnuvardhana, shared a remarkable partnership that made them one of Indian cinema's most respected and celebrated couples. Together they transformed stardom into service, co-founding the Vibha Charitable Trust to channel their combined influence toward education, health, and the arts.

*His legacy lives on through her continued philanthropy and through Baale Bangara — the documentary that honours the extraordinary life they built together.*



## ❖ Vibha Charitable Trust ❖

### Founded in 2009 · President: Dr Bharathi Vishnuvardhan · Bengaluru

Co-founded with Dr Vishnuvardhana, Vibha Charitable Trust channels philanthropic energy into art, music, education, healthcare, and direct assistance to the poor — running Little Infants School, Mysuru, and sustaining dozens of community programmes across Karnataka.

- Free cardiac, eye, and speciality surgeries for the needy
- Blood donation camps and free health check-up camps
- Donation of artificial limbs
- Food grain support for HIV/AIDS-affected families and orphanages
- Computers donated to educational institutions
- Environmental initiatives and sapling distribution
- Jana Shakti –Jana Kalyana: NGO platform for community outreach
- North Karnataka flood relief (alongside Dr Vishnuvardhana)

## ❖ Honours & Awards ❖

Year	Award	Details
2017	<b>Padma Shri</b>	<i>India's 4th highest civilian honour</i>
1966–67	<b>National Film Award — Best Actress</b>	<i>Sandhya Raga</i>
2016	<b>Aryabhata Award</b>	
2016	<b>Mother Teresa International Award</b>	
1969–70		
2011–12	<b>Kempe Gowda Award</b>	<i>Bengaluru city's highest honour</i>

Year	Award	Details
2010–11	Kittur Rani Chennamma Award	
–	Karnataka Rajyotsava Award	
–	Hamsa Ratna Award	
–	Nageshwar Rao Lifetime Achievement Award	
2009–10	Honorary Doctorate	Karnataka State Open University
2025	Honorary Doctorate	Maharani Cluster University, Bengaluru

## ❖ A Cinematic Life — Five Languages, One Legend ❖

**KANNADA · TAMIL · TELUGU · MALAYALAM · HINDI**

Her debut as heroine in Love in Bangalore (1964–65, directed by Kalyan Kumar) launched a career spanning four decades and over 150 films. She was the most popular Kannada actress from her debut through the 1980s and was conferred the title 'Kala Jyothi' upon completing 100 films.

### Selected Collaborations

- Kannada: Dr Rajkumar · Kalyan Kumar · Dr Vishnuvardhana · Dr Srinath · Ananth Nag
- Tamil: M. G. Ramachandran · Sivaji Ganesan · Gemini Ganesan · Ravichandran
- Telugu: N. T. Rama Rao · Akkineni Nageswara Rao · Krishna · Shobhan Babu
- Malayalam: Prem Nazir · Mohanlal · Thilakan
- Hindi: Dilip Kumar · Vinod Khanna · Manoj Kumar · Mehmood · Rakesh Roshan

## \* Selected Filmography \*

<b>Kannada</b>	Sandhya Raga · Bangarada Jinke · Bangarada Manushya · Sri Krishna Deva Raya · Nagarahole · Jaga Mechhida Maga · Swayamvara · Mayor Mutthanna · Hasiru Thorana · Thai Devaru · Madhu Malathi · Preethi Prema Pranaya <i>With: Dr Rajkumar · Kalyan Kumar · Dr Vishnuvardhana · Dr Srinath · Ananth Nag</i>
<b>Tamil</b>	Nadodi · Annamitta Kai · Uyarndha Manidan · Aval Oru Manam · Kadhal Paarvai · Nimirndhu Nil · Chandrodayam · Poovum Pottum · Snehithai · Neela Gavani Kadhal <i>With: M. G. Ramachandran · Sivaji Ganesan · Gemini Ganesan · Ravichandran · Jai Shankar</i>
<b>Telugu</b>	Kathanayakudu · Neene Pelladutha · Krishna Pandaviyam · Jai Jawan · Katta Kapuram · Ada Pillala Tandri · Anaganaga Oka Tandri <i>With: N. T. Rama Rao · Akkineni Nageswara Rao · Krishna · Shobhan Babu · Krishnam Raju</i>
<b>Hindi</b>	Purab Aur Paschim · Kunwara Baap · Hum Tum Aur Woh · Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani · Meherban · Izzatdar · Khel · Duniya Kya Jaane · Sab Ka Sathi · Uttar Dakshin <i>With: Dilip Kumar · Vinod Khanna · Manoj Kumar · Mehmood · Rakesh Roshan · Vinod Mehra</i>
<b>Malayalam</b>	Chandhonam · Nakshatra Thalattu · Narasimham · Achan Komatthu Amma Varampattu <i>With: Prem Nazir · Mohanlal · Thilakan</i>
<b>Television</b>	Lead role in Kannada television's first mega-serial Janani · Lead role in superhit serial Bhagyavantharu (Suvarna TV) · Jury member, Paripoorna Mahile (ETV Kannada)

**"From the silver screen to serving the marginalised —  
a life dedicated to art, service."**

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