# Ten Iconic Women in Indian Science

# E K Janaki Ammal

She was a renowned Indian Botanist and Plant cytologist who contributed extensively to genetics, evolution, phytogeography and ethnobotany and was awarded the Padma Shri in 1977. The Janaki Ammal Herbarium in Jammu is named after her and houses more than 21,500 specimens.





# $Asima\ Chatterjee$

She was the first woman to be awarded a Doctorate of Science by an Indian University. She made significant contributions in the field of medicinal chemistry and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1975. She was also the first female president of the Indian Science Congress.





# Kamala Sohoni

1939

She was the first Indian woman to get a PhD in a scientific discipline. She received the Rashtrapati Award for her work on the nutritional benefits of the palm extract called 'Neera'. She was the first female director of the Institute of Science, Bombay.

# Rajeshwari Chatterjee



1960

She was the first woman engineer from Karnataka appointed as a faculty at IISc, where she along with her husband set up a microwave research laboratory where they did pioneering work on Microwave Engineering. She has received several awards such including the Lord Mountbatten prize, the J C Bose Memorial prize and the Ramlal Wadhwa Award.

# 1982



#### Kamal Ranadiye

She was a renowned Indian Biomedical researcher who is known for her research in Cancer. She established the first tissue culture laboratory in India and founded the Indian Women Scientist Association (IWSA). She also received the Watumal Foundation Award for her work in the field of leprosy.





#### Aditi Pant

She is a well-known oceanographer who became the first Indian woman to visit Antarctica in 1983. She was a part of the third Indian expedition to Antarctica and received the Antarctica award along with three of her colleagues for their contributions to the project.





# 1987

#### Anna Mani

Known for her work in atmospheric physics and meteorological instrumentation. Anna Mani joined India Meteorological Department in 1948 and worked there until she retired as Deputy Director General in 1976. She has published two books on solar radiation research and worked on several projects for harnessing wind energy in India.

Darshan Ranganathan

She was an organic chemist from India who was known for her work in bio-organic chemistry. She was an elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and the recipient of many honors including The Third World Academy of Sciences Award in chemistry.





# Tessy Thomas

She is the first Indian woman scientist to have headed a missile project, earning her the nickname "Missile lady". She was the Project Director for the Agni-IV and Agni-V missile sin Defence Research and Development Organisation. She is the recipient of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for her work in the field of missile technology in India.





2000

# Usha Barwale Zehi

Usha Zehr is the Director and Chief Technology Officer at Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Private Limited, where she has been utilizing biotechnological tools for improving the quality and productivity of seeds and agriculture. She has the distinction of producing India's first genetically modified food, Bt brinjal.





