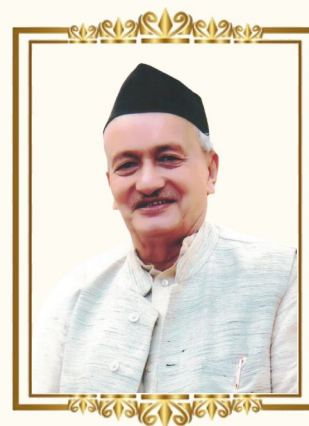


# Padma Bhushan



## SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI



Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, fondly known as '*Bhagat Da*' in the State of Uttarakhand, is a distinguished social worker, educationist, journalist, and devoted nationalist leader, who has dedicated his life to public service and the upliftment of the poor and marginalised sections of society. A committed Swayamsevak of the RSS, he is known for his simplicity, discipline, and deep love for learning.

2. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1942 in the hilly terrain remote village of Palanadhura in Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand, Shri Koshyari, despite his rural background pursued higher education with determination and completed his postgraduate degree in English Literature in 1964 from Almora College, affiliated with Agra University. He began his professional career as a Lecturer in Raja Ka Rampur (Etah, Uttar Pradesh) during 1964-1965. However, inspired by the vision of nation-building through education, he devoted himself entirely to academic and social service from 1965 onwards.

3. Shri Koshyari started teaching at Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Kasganj (Uttar Pradesh) where he worked to impart Bharatiya values along with modern education to young children. In 1966, he founded 'Saraswati Shishu Mandir' in Pithoragarh, a border district of Uttarakhand, thereby strengthening educational opportunities in remote areas. He also played an important role in establishing Vivekanand Inter College in Pithoragarh and remained actively associated with Saraswati Vihar, Nainital. He served as the Vibhag Karyawah of the RSS for several years and later became the Secretary of the Uttaranchal Utthan Parishad, an organization devoted to the development of primary and secondary education in Uttarakhand for decades. From 1979 to 1990, he was a member of the Executive Council of Kumaon University, contributing significantly to educational policy and institutional growth. He also initiated the publication of the Hindi weekly "Parvat Piyush" from Pithoragarh to promote awareness and social consciousness. During the National Emergency, he was arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), reflecting his active involvement in public life.

4. In 1997, Shri Koshyari was nominated to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. After the formation of Uttarakhand in November, 2000, he became a Cabinet Minister in the State's first Cabinet and later served as the Chief Minister of Uttaranchal (now Uttarakhand) for a short period. He also worked as the Leader of the Opposition in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly. In 2008, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha, and in 2014, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar constituency. As the Energy Minister in Uttarakhand, he played a significant role in advancing the long-pending Tehri Hydro Project, which involved the relocation of the historic town and district headquarters of Tehri. This ambitious project now generates approximately 2400 MW of electricity and supplies water to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and other regions. He also served as the Chairperson of the Petitions Committee in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, where he submitted detailed recommendations on important public issues such as One Rank One Pension, rail connectivity, and infrastructure development, including the Rishikesh- Karanaprayag railway line. He was later appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra on 5th September, 2019, where he served effectively and visited almost all the state's districts, as well as several historically significant forts. Further, in August 2020, he was also appointed as the Governor of Goa (Additional Charge).

5. Apart from his contributions to education and politics, Shri Koshyari is also an author. He wrote and published two books titled "*Uttaranchal Pradesh Kyon*" and "*Uttaranchal Pradesh: Sangharsh Evam Samadhan*," which reflect his vision and commitment toward the development of Uttarakhand. His life stands as an inspiring example of dedication, leadership, and unwavering service to the nation.