

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## PERSONS AND AWARDS

### INTERNATIONAL PERSONS

**António Guterres**, former Portuguese Prime Minister, took oath of office as the ninth UN Secretary-General on December 12, 2016. He succeeded Ban Ki-moon. Mr. Guterres takes the helm of the United Nations at a time of widespread disillusionment in international institutions such as the United Nations, with many UN member states choosing to turn inwards in response to global crises such as climate change, terrorism and forced displacement. In his inauguration speech, Mr Guterres acknowledged the challenges he now faces as Secretary-General, and highlighted three strategic priorities for the Organization going forward: working for peace; supporting sustainable development; and reforming its internal management.

**Michel Aoun**, the former Lebanese army chief, was elected president of Lebanon on October 31, 2016, ending more than two years of deadlock surrounding the vacancy.

Aoun secured the presidency by winning the support of 83 MPs, well above the absolute majority of 65 needed to win. The Lebanese presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian in the country's sectarian power-sharing system. Lebanon had been without a head of state for 29 months after Michel Suleiman stepped down as president at the end of his term in May 2014.

Since then, 45 sessions to elect a new leader have failed due to political infighting that led to lack of quorum. The situation turned in Aoun's favour earlier this month when Saad Hariri, the former prime minister who heads the largest bloc in parliament, supported Aoun for president.

**Alexei Ulyukayev**, Economic Development Minister of Russia, was arrested on November 15, 2016 after he allegedly received a \$2 million bribe in a sting operation. Ulyukayev, who held the post since 2013 and worked in the government since 2000, denied he is guilty of receiving bribes.

Alexei is a known liberal figure who has spoken against an increasing government presence in the Russian economy. Ulyukayev had opposed Rosneft's bidding for Bashneft, saying it was wrong for a state-owned company to take part in the privatisation drive. President Vladimir Putin had defended the deal saying that because Rosneft has minority

foreign investors, the sale was not simply a transfer of assets from one part of the state to another.

**Leonard Cohen (82)**, Canadian singer-songwriter, died on November 9, 2016. A highly-respected artist known for his poetic and lyrical music, Cohen wrote a number of popular songs including the well known "Hallelujah."

**Donald Trump**, President-elect of USA, was named by the Time magazine as its Person of the Year on December 7, 2016.

Trump beat out five other contenders, including his election rival Hillary Clinton, musician Beyonce, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to be named "the person who had the greatest influence, for better or worse, on the events of the year."

This is not the first time TIME has chosen a polarizing figure for its world-famous annual profile. For example, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin and Ayatollah Khomeini have all been named 'Man of the Year.'

The cover of the magazine called him the "President of the Divided States of America." This is the 90th time 'Time Magazine' named the person who had the greatest influence, for better or worse, on the events of the year.

**General Qamar Javed Bajwa** took charge as new chief of army of Pakistan on November 29, 2016. He succeeds General Raheel Sharif. Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the Inspector General of Training and Evaluation,

**Fidel Castro (90)**, former President of Cuba, died in Havana on November 25, 2016. Castro toppled the military government of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and introduced a Communist revolution. He defied the US for decades, surviving many assassination plots.

"Socialism or death" remained Castro's rallying cry even as Western-style democracy swept the globe and other communist regimes in China and Vietnam embraced capitalism.

**John Glenn (95)**, the first American to orbit the Earth and a longtime US senator, died on December 8, 2016. Glenn became a national hero in 1962 when he became the first American to orbit the Earth, one year after the Soviet Union had sent their

own man into orbit, Yuri Gagarin. Glenn was the third US astronaut in space and the first American in orbit, circling the Earth three times. Glenn became the oldest person sent into space in 1998 when, aged 77, he boarded the Discovery space shuttle.

**Rajiv Shah**, a former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, will be the Rockefeller Foundation's next president, the U.S.-based philanthropic organization announced on January 4, 2017. He will replace Judith Rodin, who has held the role since 2005.

Shah, at 43, is the youngest person and the first Indian-American ever to head the charity, which donates approximately \$ 200 million a year.

**John Berger (90)**, the Booker-prize-winning novelist and visionary writer, died in Paris on January 2, 2017. Berger won the Booker Prize in 1972 for his novel 'G' and pledged to give half the prize money to the radical African-American movement, the Black Panthers. He is also well-known for BBC series, 'Ways of Seeing', which brought a political view to art criticism.

Born in Hackney, North London, Berger began his career as a painter. Soon after his work was exhibited in the 1940s, he tried his hand at writing. His works ranged from poetry to screenplays, writings on photography, the exploitation of migrant workers and the Palestinian struggle for statehood.

**Nikki Haley**, former governor of South Carolina state, was sworn-in as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations on January 25, 2017.

Nikki Haley, who is the daughter of Indian immigrants, has already carved out a legacy for herself, serving as her home state's first female and first minority governor.

**Eugene A. Cernan**, the last astronaut to leave his footprints on the surface of the moon, died on January 16, 2017.

Cernan earned several distinctions in his 13 years with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He was the second American to walk in space and one of three men to have flown twice to the moon. But he is best remembered as commander of Apollo 17, the last mission to the moon in December of 1972.

**Rex Tillerson**, the ExxonMobil CEO who is President Trump's pick for secretary of State, got Senate confirmation.

As an executive for 40 years with one of the world's largest energy companies, the Texas-born Tillerson, 64, cut numerous multibillion-dollar deals with the

Russian government - as well as with other dictators and unfriendly rulers - and maintained a friendly relationship with Putin. Tillerson opposed sanctions against Russia that Washington and the European Union imposed after Putin invaded Ukraine and seized Crimea in 2014. He received one of Russia's highest awards, the Order of Friendship, in 2013.

Nobel laureate **Malala Yousafzai** was appointed, on April 8, 2017, as 'United Nations Messenger of Peace' to promote girls' education, more than four years after a Taliban gunman shot her in the head.

At 19, Yousafzai is the youngest Messenger of Peace, the highest honour given by the UN, for an initial period of two years. She was also the youngest person to win the Nobel peace prize in 2014 when she was 17. The education activist from Pakistan came to prominence when she was shot in the head in 2012 as she was leaving school in Pakistan's Swat valley, northwest of the country's capital, Islamabad. She was targeted for her campaign against efforts by the Taliban to deny women education.

UN Messengers of Peace are chosen from the fields of literature, art, science, entertainment, sports and other areas of public life. Their role is to help focus global attention on the work and ideals of the United Nations. Other current Messengers of Peace include actors Leonardo di Caprio (climate change), Charlize Theron (prevention of HIV and elimination of violence against women), and Michael Douglas (disarmament).

**Robert Taylor (85)**, who was instrumental in creating the internet and the modern personal computer, died on April 13, 2017 in San Fransisco, USA.

In 1961, Taylor was a project manager for NASA when he directed funding to Douglas Engelbart at the Stanford Research Institute, who helped develop the modern computer mouse.

Taylor was working for the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency (Arpa) in 1966 when he shepherded the creation of a single computer network to link Arpa-sponsored researchers at companies and institutions around the country.

Taylor was frustrated that he had to use three separate terminals to communicate with the researchers through their computer systems.

Arpanet, as it was known, evolved into the internet. As Taylor predicted, the limited communications tool morphed into a system that provides people with fingertip access to everything from encyclopedias to investment advice.

A few years later, Taylor went on to work at Xerox's famous Palo Alto Research Center, or Parc, where

he oversaw a team that helped create the Alto, a pioneering personal computer. Taylor's engineering team also helped develop the ethernet and a word processing program that became Microsoft Word.

**David Rockefeller (101)**, a billionaire philanthropist who was the last of his generation in the famous Rockefeller family, died on March 20, 2017.

David Rockefeller is the sixth child of John D Rockefeller Jr and the grandson of Standard Oil co-founder John D Rockefeller.

Rockefeller was at the head of a sprawling network of family interests, both business and philanthropic, that range from environmental conservation to the arts.

David Rockefeller spoke widely as a champion of enlightened capitalism. He believes that 'American capitalism has brought more benefits to more people than any other system in any part of the world at any time in history. The problem is to see that the system is run as efficiently and as honestly as it can be. Rockefeller favored assisting economies abroad on grounds that bringing prosperity would create customers for American products.

**Ahmed Kathrada (87)**, who spent 26 years in prison, many of them alongside his close friend Nelson Mandela for resisting the apartheid system of white minority rule in South Africa, died in Johannesburg on March 27, 2017. Kathrada was born on August 21, 1929 to Indian immigrant parents in a small town in northwestern South Africa.

He was among those tried and jailed alongside

Mandela in the Rivonia trial in 1964, which drew worldwide attention and highlighted the brutal legal system under the apartheid regime. Kathrada was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 and spent 26 years and three months in prison, 18 of which were on Robben Island.

After the end of apartheid, he served from 1994 and 1999 as parliamentary counsellor to President Mandela in the first African National Congress (ANC) government.

Indian-American **Seema Verma** was sworn-in as administrator of the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which are part of the Department of Health and Human Services. The \$1 trillion agency oversees health insurance programmes for everyone from nursing home residents to newborns.

**Kenneth Arrow (95)**, Nobel, USA Prize-winning Stanford economist, died in Palo Alto on February 21, 2017. Arrow, the Joan Kenney Professor of Economics and Professor of Operations Research, Emeritus, was a world-renowned scholar in the fields of economic theory and research operations.

Arrow's pioneering contributions to general equilibrium theory and welfare theory led him to become the youngest person to date to win the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, which he received in 1972 together with British economist Sir John Hicks. Arrow's 1951 book, *Social Choice and Individual Values*, was one of his most influential works and started the field of social choice theory. It publicized what would later be known as "Arrow's Impossibility Theorem," which addresses issues of collective decision-making.

## NATIONAL PERSONS

**Mangalamapalli Balamuralikrishna (86)**, Carnatic vocalist, playback singer and composer, died in Chennai on November 22, 2016. He performed at more than 25,000 concerts across the world and has more than 400 compositions in Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil to his credit. Though his native tongue was Telegu, he could sing effortlessly in many languages, including Tamil, Kannada, Sanskrit, Malayalam and Hindi.

He was a recipient of all three Padma awards - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. He won several awards, including the national award for best playback singer and best music director.

**Karnal Singh**, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Union territories cadre, was appointed as chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED) on October 26, 2016. The agency has a mandate to enforce two of the

most stringent laws in the country - Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) - to check black money and hawala trade cases.

**Bindeshwar Pathak**, founder of Sulabh International, has been appointed as a Brand Ambassador for Swachh Rail Mission of Indian Railways on November 1, 2016. Sulabh International has been assigned to clean some important railway stations across the country as part of the mission. As a pilot project, Sulabh has started cleaning and maintenance of five important railway stations namely Gorakhpur, Old Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Gwalior.

**Aniruddha Rajput (33)** is among the 34 individuals elected by the General Assembly as members of the International Law Commission, the UN organ tasked with the progressive development of international law and its codification. Amongst the

youngest to be elected to the nearly 70-year old body, Rajput is India's first time candidate to the Commission.

The newly elected members will serve five-year terms of office with the Geneva-based body from January 2017. The members have been elected from five geographical groupings of African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European states.

World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), global industry association for exchanges and clearing houses which represents nearly 45,000 listed companies, appointed National Stock Exchange (NSE's) Managing Director and CEO **Chitra Ramkrishna** as its new chairperson November 4, 2016. Her name was announced at the 56th General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia.

Headquartered in London, WFE works with policy makers and regulators around the world to support the development of effective rules and standards for exchanges and market participants.

**Narinder Batra**, Hockey India president, was elected president of the international hockey federation (FIH) in Dubai on November 12, 2016. He beat David Brinie of Ireland and Ken Read of Australia in a three-man race.

Batra is the first Asian to become the chief of the sport, thus breaking the monopoly of Europeans who have been ruling international hockey for decades. Batra succeeds Spaniard Leandro Negre, who was the FIH chief since 2008.

**Shashikala Kakodar (81)**, Goa's first woman chief minister, passed away on October 28, 2016 after a brief illness. A prominent leader of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, Kakodkar was the daughter of Goa's first chief minister Dayanand Bandodkar.

Following her father's death in 1973, Kakodkar was sworn in as the chief minister, and held charge till April 1979, following a split in the party. During her tenure as Education minister in the early 90s, Kakodkar was instrumental in implementing Marathi as the regional language in primary education and sidelining the use of English, an issue that continues to be a hot topic in state politics. Kakodkar was the president of the Bhartiya Basha Suraksha Manch, that is currently campaigning against the BJP-ruled government to end grants to English medium schools in the state.

**Cyrus Mistry** was removed as chairman of Tata Sons by the Board of Tata Sons on October 24, 2016 as the Board had lost confidence in him due to growing trust deficit and repeated departures from the culture and ethos of the Tata group.

**Kanubhai Gandhi (86)**, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and former NASA scientist, died in Surat on November 7, 2016, battling paralysis and heart attack. Immortalized in an iconic photograph as the boy tugging at Mahatma Gandhi's walking stick on Dandi beach during salt satyagraha, Kanubhai was the son Ramdas Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi's third son). A graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Kanubhai worked with the US Defense Department on the wing structure of fighter aircraft and joined NASA in 1991, from where he retired.

**Raj Begum (89)**, legendary Kashmiri singer whose voice mesmerized millions for over seven decades, died in Srinagar on October 26, 2016. Begum, called the "Nightingale of Kashmir", rendered thousands of songs from Radio Kashmir in Srinagar and in live concerts at other places in India and abroad.

Singing, particularly for women, was considered a big taboo in the conservative society those days. Undeterred by criticism from family and relatives, Begum continued to pursue her career shifting from festive marriage singing to melodies and classical singing after she joined Radio Kashmir in the 1940s.

She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2002 and the Sangeet Natak Academy award in 2013.

**Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar** was appointed the 44th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He was sworn in as the CJI on January 4, 2017. He succeeded Chief Justice TS Thakur. Justice Khehar is the first Sikh to hold the post of CJI.

External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**, who ushered in a new style of diplomacy through dynamic engagement on Twitter, was named in the Global Thinkers List of 2016 compiled by Foreign Policy magazine on December 14, 2016.

Swaraj was included in the 'Decision-makers' category alongside former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The minister, who has 6.8 million followers on Twitter, has resolved issues ranging from passport problems to rescuing overseas Indians trapped in conflict-prone conditions.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes Magazine in a list that has been topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin for a fourth straight year and had US President-elect Donald Trump in the second place.

Modi ranks ninth on the Forbes list of 74 of the World's Most Powerful People released on December 15, 2016.

**Priyanka Chopra** was appointed as UNICEF's (United Nations Children's Fund) Global Goodwill Ambassador on December 13, 2016 at the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of UNICEF. Priyanka has earlier worked with UNICEF as a Goodwill Ambassador on a national level for the last 10 years.

**J. Jayalalithaa (68)**, Chief minister of Tamil Nadu, died on December 5, 2016 after undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospitals in Chennai for 75 days. Jayalalithaa, who was admitted to hospital on September 22 with complaints of fever and dehydration, suffered a cardiac arrest.

Born on February 24, 1948, Jayalalithaa entered films when she was 16 years old. Making her debut as lead actress in a Kannada film, she was launched into Tamil films starring as the heroine in MGR's "Ayirathil Oruvan." Jayalalithaa and MGR acted together in 28 films. She acted in more than 140 films in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi and English. In 1982, she joined the AIADMK, which was founded by her mentor MG Ramachandran. She first became the chief minister of Tamil Nadu in 1991.

**Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy (82)**, senior political satirist popularly known as Cho Ramaswamy, died in Chennai on December 6, 2016 following a cardiac arrest. Cho was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 1999 to 2005. Cho launched Tamil magazine Thuglak on January 14, 1970. He was a political advisor and a satirist, and criticised senior politicians, including former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former Chief Ministers M. Karunanidhi, M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa.

**Prof MGK Menon (88)**, an acclaimed physicist and former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), passed away in New Delhi on November 22, 2016.

Menon was also a member of the Planning Commission (1982-1989), Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister (1986-1989), Vice President, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) (1989-1990) and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) during 1990-96.

He was also a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London.

**Dileep Padgaonkar (72)**, noted journalist, passed away in Pune on November 22, 2016. From 1978 to 1986, he worked at UNESCO, first in Bangkok, then at its Paris Headquarters. He was also editor of Sharjah's 'The Gulf Today' daily.

He served as Times of India (TOI) editor from 1986 to 1994. He returned as executive managing editor

in 1998 and retired in 2002. Thereafter, he continued with TOI in a consulting capacity.

In Oct 2010, he was nominated on a three-member panel of interlocutors for a dialogue with people and politicians of J&K.

**Lt Gen Bipin Rawat** took over as the head of the 1.3 million strong Indian Army on December 31, 2016 succeeding General Dalbir Singh Suhag. Gen. Rawat, a Gorkha Rifles officer, will be the 27th Army Chief. Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief, Rawat was General Officer Commanding in Chief, Southern Command. As a Brigadier, he also commanded a multinational brigade in the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Anil Dhasmana, IPS** an officer of the MP cadre, was appointed as the new Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief on December 17, 2016.

**Rajiv Jain**, Jharkhand cadre IPS officer, was appointed as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB) on December 17, 2016. Jain, who is at present serving as the Special Director in the IB, succeeds Dineshwar Sharma.

A recipient of President's Police Medal, the 1980-batch officer, has served in various departments of the IB including the sensitive Kashmir desk.

**David R Syiemlieh**, UPSC member, was appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on January 2, 2017. He will take over from Alka Sirohi, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre. David R Syiemlieh has been a member of the UPSC since June 2012.

A post graduate in history from the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, he held various academic positions in the same varsity, including head of the history department and that of the pro-vice chancellor. Mr. Syiemlieh is also a former vice chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University in Arunachal Pradesh. He has also authored several books on the history of North East region.

**Kalvakuntla Kavitha**, Nizamabad MP and Telangana Jagruthi founder-president, was appointed as member of the CWP (Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians) Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India Region on December 28, 2016. Kavitha's tenure in the CWP will be for a period of three years. She replaces senior Parliamentarian PP Chaudhary who joined the union cabinet.

**Anil Baijal**, former IAS Officer and Union home secretary, was appointed as the next lieutenant governor (L-G) of Delhi on December 28, 2016. Mr. Baijal, a 1969 batch IAS officer of UT cadre, was

the Home Secretary in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government. He is currently associated with the Vivekananda International Foundation. The appointment follows Najeeb Jung's resignation from the post and its acceptance by the President.

**Surjit Singh Barnala (91)**, former Punjab Chief Minister who ruled Punjab from 1985 to 1987, died in Chandigarh on January 14, 2017. He also served as Union Minister and also as Governor of Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Andhra Pradesh.

He was a five-time member of Punjab Assembly - 1967, 1969, 1972, 1980 and 1985 - and twice a member of the Lok Sabha in 1977 and 1998. He fought the Lok Sabha elections for the first time in 1977 and served as Union Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Resources, Forests minister in the Morarji Desai-led Janta Party government from 1977 to 1980. Mr. Barnala was also Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Power, Chemical and Fertilisers and Rural Development and signed the historic Ganga Waters Agreement (Farakka Agreement) with Bangladesh.

**Om Puri (66)**, veteran actor, passed away after a major heart attack in Mumbai on January 5, 2017. He had made his film debut in 1976 with the Marathi film Ghashiram Kotwal.

The recipient of two National awards and two Filmfare Awards including a Lifetime Achievement Award, Om Puri had an illustrious film career, spanning over four decades.

A critically acclaimed actor, Puri featured in films like 'Ardh Satya', 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro', 'Aakrosh', 'Mirch Masala' and many others. More recently, he was seen in the movies, 'Dabangg', 'Bajranghi Bhaijaan' and 'Ghayal Once Again'.

The acclaimed actor delivered some stellar performances in mainstream commercial Pakistani, Indian and British cinema apart from making a name in Hollywood with his roles in 'East is East', 'City of Joy', 'Gandhi' and 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist'. He was nominated for the Best Actor BAFTA for 'East is East' in 2000.

**Alok Kumar Verma**, a 1979 batch Indian Police Service officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, was appointed the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on January 19, 2017.

**Ajay Tyagi**, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, took charge as the chairman of markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on March 1, 2017.

He is the ninth chairman of the Sebi and took over

from U.K. Sinha who completed his six-year tenure. Tyagi has diverse experience at the Centre. He was joint secretary in ministry of environment, forest and climate change before joining finance ministry in November 2014 as additional secretary. He has also worked in ministries of petroleum and natural gas, steel and rural development.

**Nand Kumar Sai**, senior tribal leader from Chhattisgarh and ex-parliamentarian, assumed charge as chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on February 28, 2017. The 71-year-old Sai succeeds Rameshwar Oraon. Taking charge, Sai said he would work to protect the rights of the tribal people living in far-flung areas of the country.

The term of office of chairperson, who is given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister, is three years from the date of assumption of charge.

Sai was elected to the Madhya Pradesh legislative assembly in 1977, 1985 and 1998. He was also elected to the Chhattisgarh legislative assembly in 2000 and was the first leader of opposition in the House.

The NCST is empowered to investigate and monitor matters relating to safeguards provided for STs under the Constitution. The Commission is also authorised to inquire into specific complaints relating to the rights and safeguards of STs and to participate and advise in the planning process relating to their socio-economic development. The Commission submits its report to the President annually on the working of safeguards and measures required for effective implementation of programmes and schemes relating to welfare and socio-economic development of STs.

**D.R. Doley Barman**, IPS Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Cadre, presently working as Director, North East Police Academy (NEPA), Shillong, Meghalaya, was appointed as Director, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad on February 28, 2017. The additional-DG rank officer is the second woman IPS officer to lead the academy after Aruna Bahuguna who retired.

**Shurhazlie Liezietsu** took oath as Chief Minister of Nagaland on February 22, 2017. He is the 11th Chief Minister of the State. Mr. Liezietsu succeeds T.R. Zeliang who stepped down amidst protests by various tribal organisations against the government's decision to reserve 33% seats for women in urban local body elections. Mr. Liezietsu is not a member of the Assembly and he will have to get elected within six months from taking office.

Mr. Liezietsu was unanimously elected as the leader of Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) Legislature Party at a meeting, which was attended by 59 legislators. Nagaland has a 60-member Assembly.

**Shashank Manohar** resigned from his post as International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman after eight months in office, citing personal reasons. Manohar was elected unopposed as the ICC's chairman in May 2016 for a two-year term.

**Soumya Swaminathan**, Indian Council of Medical Research director, was named to a high-level group set up by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on March 18, 2017 to provide expertise on and coordinate the global fight against antimicrobial resistance. Swaminathan is also Secretary, Department of Health Research in India's Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

A multi award-winning paediatrician and clinical scientist, she is known for her research on tuberculosis. She joined the Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai in 1992 and has spent the past 23 years in health research.

**Sheela Patel**, an Indian expert on urban poverty alleviation and advocacy for slum dwellers, was, on April 13, 2017, named by UN Secretary-General to a high-level independent panel that will assess and enhance effectiveness of UN Habitat, the agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.

Sheela Patel, a Padmashree awardee, is Founder and Director of the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) and a global expert on urban poverty alleviation and advocacy for slum dwellers. Patel founded SPARC in 1984, a Mumbai-based non-governmental organisation focused on housing and infrastructure rights for the urban poor. During this time, Patel has played a key role in the expansion of Mahila Milan, a federation of collectives of women living in slums across India.

Patel is also the Chair of Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI), an international network of poor people's organisations and supporting non-governmental organisations active in Asia and Africa.

Patel received the David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award from the Synergos Institute in recognition of her extensive efforts to ameliorate urban poverty, and the Padmashree, the fourth-highest civilian award in India for her work on urban poverty alleviation. Patel is part of the eight-member panel that will report directly to the Secretary-General.

**Raman Roy**, Chairman and Managing Director of Quattro, has been appointed as chairman of National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) on April 5, 2017 for 2017-2018. He succeeds CP Gurnani (Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra). Rishad Premji, Chief Strategy Officer and Member of the Board, Wipro Limited, was appointed as the Vice Chairman of Nasscom for 2017-18.

**Tanushree Pareek** became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in the 51-year history of the Border Security Force (BSF), the country's largest border guarding force on March 25, 2017. Pareek, a resident of Rajasthan's Bikaner, is the first woman to join the force in the officer rank. Pareek (25) also led the passing out parade of 67 trainee officers that was reviewed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

**Kishori Amonkar (84)**, renowned Hindustani classical vocalist, passed away in Mumbai on April 3, 2017. Amonkar was recognised as one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani tradition and as an innovative exponent of the Jaipur gharana. A gharana is a community of musicians sharing a distinctive musical style. She was known primarily for her skillful singing of classical khayal songs set in the traditional ragas of Hindustani music, but also performed the lighter classical thumri repertoire, bhajan, devotional songs and film music.

In recognition of her contribution to the arts, she received many awards, including the Padma Bhushan (1987) and Padma Vibhushan (2002), two of India's top civilian honours.

**S. Nandagopal (71)**, renowned sculptor and Painter, died of a massive heart attack in Chennai on April 14, 2017.

Mr. Nandagopal was the recipient of the National Award of Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi in 1970 and 1978 and the Jindal Stainless Steel Award for Sculpture, 2002.

In 1998 and 2000, he was nominated by the Government of India to serve as an adviser to the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

**L.V. Revanth**, the South Indian playback singer, won the trophy of 'Indian Idol Season 9' on April 2, 2017. He won prize money of Rs 25 lakh and a contract with Universal Music.

Revanth is the second Telugu singer to win the Indian Idol title, the first one being Sreeram Chandra who bagged the title in the Season 5 of the Indian Idol.

## SPORTS PERSONS

**Saina Nehwal**, Indian badminton player, was appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission on October 27, 2016. The Athletes' Commission is chaired by Angela Ruggiero and it comprises nine vice presidents and 10 other members.

**Vikas Krishan**, former Asian Games gold-medallist in boxing, was presented the 'Best Boxer' award by the International Boxing Association for his performance in 2016 during the world body's 70th anniversary celebrations on December 20, 2016.

**Saina Nehwal**, Indian badminton player, was chosen as one of the five Integrity Ambassadors of the sport in December 2016 by Badminton World Federation (BWF).

Nehwal joins World No. 1 Japanese women's doubles pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi and top Denmark shuttlers Viktor Axelsen and Christinna Pedersen as part of the campaign launched by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). The world body started the campaign during the 2015 BWF World Junior Championships in an attempt to promote fair and clean competition in the wake of widespread doping, match-fixing, corruption and illegal betting.

**PV Sindhu**, Rio Olympic silver medallist in Badminton, won Badminton World Federation (BWF) Most Improved Player of the Year award in December 2016.

Germany's **Nico Rosberg** won his first Formula One world championship after finishing second in a tense Abu Dhabi Grand Prix won by Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton. Rosberg, who had needed only to finish in the top three to be sure of the title, held position to become his country's

third champion after Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel. Rosberg ended the 2016 season on 385 points to Hamilton's 380.

25-year-old **Karun Nayay** became only the second Indian batsman to score a Test triple century (Virender Sehwag scored too). He scored 303 runs England during the fourth day of the final Test against England.

He also become only the third Test batsman to convert his maiden hundred into a triple century, emulating West Indies legend Gary Sobers and Australia great Bob Simpson. Virender Sehwag got two triple-hundreds: 319 against South Africa in Chennai in 2007-08 and 309 against Pakistan in Multan in 2003-04.

**Mahendra Singh Dhoni** resigned as India's cricket captain of the one-day and Twenty20 sides on January 5, 2017. He was leading the Indian team in ODIs and T20 internationals. He retired from Tests on December 30, 2014 in Australia.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni informed the BCCI that he wished to step down as the captain of the Indian cricket team from the limited overs formats of the game. The 35-year-old from Ranchi played 283 ODIs and 199 of them as captain. Dhoni played 73 T20 internationals and in the shorter formats of the game is considered as one of the best finishers of the game.

After Ricky Ponting and Stephen Fleming, Mahendra Singh Dhoni has played the third highest number of ODIs as skipper. The 35-year-old Dhoni, who was named captain in 2007, led the country to the top of the world Test rankings and is the only player to captain in more than 50 matches in each of the three formats.

## INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

### Booker Prize Award :

**Paul Beatty** became the first American writer to win the Man Booker Prize for his book 'The Sell Out', a caustic satire on US racial politics.

The Man Booker Prize is considered to be one of the most-coveted literary awards for British and post-colonial novels (from countries that gained independence from Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries). But after a rule change in 2014, Britain's richest writing prize now allows authors of any nationality to be eligible for the award.

The Man Booker was launched in 1969 and has awarded writers including Ian McEwan, Iris Murdoch

and Salman Rushdie. It was only opened to non-Commonwealth authors from 2013 -- a decision that was highly controversial in Britain.

### International Children's Peace Prize :

**Kehkashan Basu**, 15 year old UAE-based Indian girl, won International Children's Peace Prize for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation.

Kehkashan Basu was presented the award by Bangladesh's Nobel peace laureate Mohammad Yunus at a glittering ceremony in The Hague in December 2016.

Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006

for his efforts for economic and social development, underlined the urgency and importance of Kehkashan's work, as more than three million children under the age of five die every year from environment-related diseases and many more suffer deeply from environmental issues.

Kehkashan Basu founded Green Hope at the age of 12 and within four years managed several successful environmental projects, including planting 5,000 trees in Colombia, France, Mexico, Nepal, Oman and the United States.

Apart from planting trees, Green Hope also focuses on activities such as cleaning up mangrove swamps around the UAE. Ms. Basu hopes to draw special attention to the threats facing fragile coastal forests.

Green Hope has become an international organisation with activities in more than ten countries and over a thousand young volunteers. Basu was selected for the award from among 120 nominees from 49 countries.

The prize is awarded annually "to a child who fights courageously for children's rights," Kids Rights said. It also includes a 100,000 euro (\$106,000) investment for projects in the winner's home country.

Past winners include Pakistani education campaigner Malala Yousafzai and the prize's first recipient, Nkosi Johnson, a South African boy who highlighted the plight of children with HIV/AIDS.

#### **Genesis Prize :**

**Anish Kapoor**, renowned Indian-origin British sculptor, who has emerged as a champion of Syrian refugees' rights, won Israel's prestigious one million dollar Genesis Prize.

Kapoor joins Itzhak Perlman, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and actor-director Michael Douglas as recipients. Kapoor, born in Mumbai to an Iraqi-origin Jewish mother and Indian father, said he will donate the award money to help people who have fled war or persecution.

He said he would use the money to help alleviate the refugee crisis and try to expand the Jewish community's engagement in a global effort to aid Syrian refugees. More than 12.5 million Syrians, including 2.5 million children, have been displaced during the current political turmoil in the West Asian state, he noted.

The prize, which is awarded by the Genesis Prize Foundation, the office of the Israeli Prime Minister and the 'Jewish Agency for Israel', recognises individuals who have attained excellence and international reputations in their fields and whose actions and achievements express a commitment

to Jewish values, the Jewish community and the State of Israel.

#### **Brain Prize 2017 :**

The one million Euro 'Brain Prize', awarded by the Lundbeck Foundation in Denmark, was given to three neuroscientists for their work in understanding the mechanisms in the brain. The winners are:

**Peter Dayan** - Director of the Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit, University College of London

**Ray Dolan** - Director of the Max Planck Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing

**Wolfram Schultz** - Professor of Neuroscience and Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge.

#### **Regeneron Science Talent Search Prizes :**

Indian-American teenager, **Indrani Das**, won the top \$ 250,000 prize in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search competition for her research on treating brain injuries and diseases.

Another Indian-American, **Arjun Ramani**, took the third place, which carries a prize of \$ 150,000, for his project on networks using mathematical field of graph theory and computer programming.

It is the oldest US science competition for students and is now sponsored by the medical company, Regeneron, in association with the Society for Science and the Public (SSP). Nicknamed the "**Junior Nobel Prize**", it was originally sponsored by Westinghouse in 1942 and Intel took it up from 1998 till last year.

#### **Cartier Women's Initiative Awards :**

**Trupti Jain (46)**, an Indian environmental engineer, won the prestigious 'Cartier Women's Initiative Awards' for providing women working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash floods.

Trupti Jain, 46, was one among the six winners chosen for the Asia-Pacific laureate from a pool of nearly 1,900 applicants from over 120 countries and were selected by an independent international jury.

Each recipient receives a USD 100,000 prize money as well as a year of mentoring. Jain, an Indian government employee for two decades in the rural development, has worked for women farmers whose work frequently go unrecognised. Jain said that she hopes to use the prize money to scale up the business as well as create a certification programme for women, so that their skills and indigenous knowledge will be recognized.

Jain started Naireeta Services in 2013, providing handmade water management solutions that enable small farmers to filter and store rainwater underground to protect them against droughts and flash floods. Her Gujarat-based company has already implemented 232 systems in India, directly benefiting 18,000 small farmers and indirectly helping more than 100,000 of the rural poor.

Five other winners, representing Latin America, North America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa, were also honoured at the awards ceremony.

#### **About the Awards :**

The Cartier Women's Initiative Awards are an international business plan competition created in 2006 by Cartier, INSEAD Business School, McKinsey & Company and former partner the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society to identify, support and encourage projects led by women entrepreneurs. Six women entrepreneurs, one Laureate per continent (Latin America, North America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East & North Africa, Asia-Pacific) are awarded every year.

The six Laureates receive

- US \$ 100,000 in prize money,
- a place on the INSEAD Social Entrepreneurship, 6-Day Executive Programme (ISEP),
- Business mentoring,
- Media exposure, and
- Networking opportunities.

#### **2016 International Press Freedom Award :**

2016 International Press Freedom Awards were awarded to journalists from Egypt, India, Turkey, and El Salvador on November 22, 2016 by 'The Committee to Protect Journalists'(CPJ).

#### **The 2016 IPFA awardees are:**

- **Malini Subramaniam**, a freelance journalist from India, who was attacked and harassed after she reported on human rights abuses and the conflict between Maoist groups and state forces in Chhattisgarh.
- **Mahmoud Abou Zeid**, an Egyptian photojournalist also known as "Shawkan," who had been imprisoned since August 2013. Shawkan was arrested while covering the dispersal by security forces of the Raba'a Al-Adawiya protest in Cairo, in which hundreds of protesters were killed.
- **Can Dündar**, editor-in-chief of the Turkish daily Cumhuriyet, who was sentenced to five years

and 10 months in prison on charges of revealing state secrets. The charges were in connection with reports Cumhuriyet published that alleged Turkey tried to smuggle weapons to Syrian opposition groups.

- **Óscar Martínez**, an investigative reporter for the online newsmagazine El Faroin El Salvador, who covers gang violence and extrajudicial killings in the country. Martínez has been threatened for his work and CPJ has documented repeated threats against the staff of El Faro.

Christiane Amanpour, chief international correspondent and anchor at CNN, was awarded the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for extraordinary and sustained achievement in the cause of press freedom.

#### **About CPJ :**

The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. It defends the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal.

In 1981, a group of U.S. foreign correspondents created CPJ in response to the often brutal treatment of their foreign colleagues by authoritarian governments and other enemies of independent journalism.

CPJ is funded solely by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. CPJ does not accept government funding.

#### **Asian Businesswoman of the Year :**

65-year-old **Dame Asha Khemka**, Principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College, was honoured with 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year' in an award ceremony in Birmingham for her efforts in the field of education and skills.

Born in Bihar's Sitamarhi district, Dame Asha Khemka left school after passing her exams at the age of 13 and had minimal English language skills when she moved to the United Kingdom with her husband and kids at the age of 25. She taught herself English by watching children's TV shows and talking to other young mothers. She went on to acquire a business degree from Cardiff University before becoming a lecturer and eventually taking over as principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College, one of the largest in the UK.

In 2013, she was awarded a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, one of Britain's highest civilian awards. Dame is the female equivalent of knighthood.

### **CAREER Award :**

An Indian-American computer scientist, **Anshumali Shrivastava** has won National Science Foundation (NSF)'s prestigious CAREER award for his research on redesigning current machine-learning processes. He is an Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science at William Marsh Rice University, commonly referred to as Rice University or Rice which is a private research university located in Houston, Texas. Anshumali Shrivastava was one of the recipients of the CAREER awards given to about 400 scholars each year across all disciplines to support the research and educational development of young scholars likely to become leaders in their fields.

Anshumali Shrivastava hopes to come up with clever algorithmic strategies to enable faster, more scalable computations required by big data and machine-learning technologies.

Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) awards support the research and educational development of young scholars likely to become leaders in their fields. The five-year grants, which are among the most competitive awarded by the NSF, are given to some 400 scholars each year across all disciplines.

### **Forbes List of World's 50 Greatest Leaders :**

SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Indian-origin physician Raj Panjabi have been named by Fortune magazine among the world's 50 greatest leaders who are transforming the world and inspiring others to do the same.

Bhattacharya, Chairman of India's largest bank and the first-ever woman to do so, has been ranked 26th on the list while Panjabi, founder and CEO of Last Mile Health, follows closely on the 28th spot.

The list has been topped by President of Baseball Operations at Chicago Cubs Theo Epstein, followed by Alibaba Group Executive Chairman Jack Ma on the second spot, Pope Francis (3), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Cochair Melinda Gates (4) and Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (5).

Fortune said Bhattacharya has expertly steered SBI through "rough waters (an ongoing battle with bad loans) and sudden storms (India's surprise demonetization scheme)."

She has been transformative too taking the sprawling 211-year old institution into the digital era and overhauling human resources for her over 200,000 employees.

On the otherhand, Panjabi had at age 9 escaped a civil war in his home country of Liberia. Fortune said Panjabi's nonprofit 'Last Mile Health' is striving

to change problems affecting poor regions by training locals in developing countries in lifesaving measures, such as protecting themselves against pandemics and safely burying victims killed by infectious diseases.

Fortune said the 50 leaders are transforming the world and inspiring others to do the same in areas of business, government, philanthropy and the arts. The list also includes German Chancellor, Angela Merkel(10), Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen (17), former US Vice President Joe Biden (23), Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (31) and London Mayor Sadiq Khan (48).

### **Miss World 2016 :**

**Stephanie del Valle** of Puerto Rico was crowned Miss World 2016 on December 19, 2016 Yaritza Miguelina Reyes Ramirez of the Dominican Republic, became the first-runner up, and Miss World Indonesia Natasha Mannuela, became the second-runner up. India's Priyadarshini Chatterjee only made it to the top 20.

The Miss World pageant, created in Britain by **Eric Morley in 1951**, is the oldest surviving major international beauty contest. It is one of the three most publicised beauty contests in the world, alongside the Miss Universe and Miss Earth contests.

This was the 66th edition of the gala, which put the contestants through a series of challenges and interviews to determine who will win the coveted title of Miss World 2016 and become the ambassador of the motto 'Beauty with a purpose'.

### **Miss Universe 2016:**

On January 29, 2017, **Iris Mittenare** became the 65th Miss Universe and only the second woman from France to hold the title, bringing the crown home 64 years after her predecessor. Haiti's Raquel Pelissier was the first runner-up, while Andrea Tovar of Colombia placed second runner-up.

### **Oscar Awards :**

89th Academy Awards popularly called Oscar Awards were announced on February 27, 2017 in Los Angeles, USA. Casey Affleck won the Best Actor Award for 'Manchester By The Sea' and Emma Stone walked away with the Best Actress Award for her performance in 'La La Land'. Damien Chazelle won the Best Director Award for 'La La Land'.

### **List of the Winners:**

**Best Picture :** 'Moonlight'

**Best Actress in a Leading Role :** Emma Stone for 'La La Land'

**Best Actor in a Leading Role :** Casey Affleck for 'Manchester By The Sea'

**Best Director :** Damien Chazelle for 'La La Land'

**Best Adapted Screenplay :** Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney for 'Moonlight'

**Best Original Screenplay :** Kenneth Lonergan for 'Manchester By The Sea'

**Best Original Song :** 'City Of Stars' from 'La La Land' by Justin Hurwitz, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

**Best Original Score :** Justin Hurwitz for 'La La Land'

**Best Cinematography :** Linus Sandgren for 'La La Land'

**Best Live Action Short :** 'Sing' by Kristof Deak and Anna Udvardy

**Best Documentary Short :** 'The White Helmets' by Orlando Von Einsiedel and Joanna Natasegara

**Best Film Editing :** John Gilbert for 'Hacksaw Ridge'

**Best Visual Effects :** Robert Legato, Adam Valdez, Andrew R Jones and Dan Lemmon for 'The Jungle Book'

**Best Production Design :** David Wasco and Sandy Reynolds-Wasco for 'La La Land'

**Best Animated Feature :** 'Zootopia' by Byron Howard, Rich Moore and Clark Spencer

**Best Animated Short :** 'Piper' by Alan Barillaro and Marc Sondheimer

**Best Foreign Language Film :** 'The Salesman' by Asghar Farhadi

**Best Actress in a Supporting Role :** Viola Davis for 'Fences'

**Best Sound Mixing :** Kevin O'Connell, Andy Wright, Robert Mackenzie and Peter Grace for 'Hacksaw Ridge'

**Best Sound Editing :** Sylvian Bellemare for 'Arrival'

**Best Documentary Feature :** Ezra Edelman and Caroline Waterlow for 'O J: Made In America'

**Best Costume Design :** Colleen Atwood for 'Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them'

**Best Makeup and Hairstyling :** Alessandro Bertolazzi, Giorgio Gregorini and Christopher Nelson for 'Suicide Squad'

**Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) :** Mahershala Ali for 'Moonlight'.

### International Film Festival of India :

The 2016 International Film Festival of India was held in Goa in November 2016. Following are the list of awardees.

#### **The Lifetime Achievement Award: Im Kwon Taek**

South Korean filmmaker Im Kwon-taek, was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He has directed more than 100 films in a career spanning more than 50 years.

#### **Others winners of various categories under International Competition :**

**Golden Peacock Award for the Best Film:** Iranian film Daughter directed by Reza Mirkarimi.

The Highest Honour "The Golden Peacock" was taken home by Reza Mirkarimi for his exceptional family drama 'Daughter.' Set in Iran, the film revolves around the issue of the generation gap between a daughter and an uncompromised father. The Peacock statuette and a cash prize of Rs. 40 lakh were awarded to the winner by the Chief Guest Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore.

**The Best Director Award:** Soner Caner and Baris Kaya for Turkish Film 'Rauf'.

The Turkish Drama Rauf is the story of a young lad who seeks for love amidst the chaos of the war-stricken Kurdish village. Co-directors Soner Caner and Baris Kaya shared the Best Director award for this film. The award includes Rs 15 lakh, a citation and Silver Peacock Trophy. Laxmikant Parsekar, the then Chief Minister of Goa, and filmmaker Nagesh Kukunoor presented them with their award.

**The Best Actor (Male) Award:** Farhad Aslani for Iranian film 'Daughter'.

The movie 'Daughter' bagged yet another award in addition to being the Best Film. Actor Farhad Aslani from Iran was announced as the Best Actor (Male) for the role of an Authoritarian father in the film. Prize money of Rs.10 Lakh was given to the awardee along with the Silver Peacock Trophy.

**The Best Actor (Female) Award:** Elina Vaska for Latvian film 'Mellow Mud'.

Latvian Lass Vaska was applauded for her performance in the movie Mellow Mud. The Drama had so many dialogue-free portions that made it reliant almost entirely on the actors' eyes and body language. She too received the Silver Peacock and Rs.10 Lakhs as the award.

**Special Jury Award:** South Korean movie 'The Throne' by Lee Joon-Ik.

This award comes with a special citation, a Silver Peacock and a cash prize of Rs.15 lakh. Lee Joon-Ik received this honour for his South Korean historical period drama film 'The Throne'. The movie speaks of an aspirant who aims to become a perfect king due to his tarnished background.

**Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year: S.P. Balasubrahmanyam**

Legendary singer, actor and music director S. P. Balasubrahmanyam was felicitated for his contribution to Indian Cinema with the Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year. Having made his debut in a Telugu film, he has rendered his voice to over 40,000 songs and holds a Guinness Record for having recorded the highest number of songs.

**The ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award: Mustafa Kara for Turkish film Cold of Kalandar**

The International Council for Film, Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Award was given to filmmaker Mustafa Kara for his Turkish-Hungarian film, 'Cold of Kalandar'. He

was awarded for his poetic portrayal of a villager's life in a remote hilly region of Turkey. The film was chosen for its ethical values and for retaining its rustic nature.

**The ICFT UNESCO Special Mention Award: Tiffany Hsuig for 'The Apology'.**

The multi-lingual film 'The Apology' by Canadian filmmaker Tiffany Hsiung received a Special Mention in the ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal Competition. The medal which was awarded to the winner bore a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, etched alongside his message 'in the midst of darkness light prevails.

**Centenary Award for the Best Debut Film of a Director: Pepa San Martin for the Spanish film Ra Ra.**

Pepa San Martin's Spanish film from Argentina/Chile 'Ra Ra' won the Centenary Award for best debut feature film. This short film is about a woman who loses the custody of her children for being a lesbian. The story is told from the perspective of her elder's daughter Sara.

**NATIONAL AWARDS**

**PADMA AWARDS-2017 :**

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. In 2017, the President of India has approved conferment of Padma Awards to 89 persons as per the list below. The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 5 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and 6 Posthumous awardees.

**PADMA VIBHUSHAN**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>State</b>
1.	Shri K J Yesudas	Art-Music	Kerala
2.	Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev	Others-Spiritualism	Tamil Nadu
3.	Shri Sharad Pawar	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
4.	Shri Murli Manohar Joshi	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Prof. Udipi Ramachandra Rao	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
6.	Late Shri Sunder Lal Patwa (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh
7.	Late Shri PA Sangma (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Meghalaya

**PADMA BHUSHAN**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>State</b>
8.	Shri Vishwa Mohan Bhatt	Art-Music	Rajasthan
9.	Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh

10.	Shri Tehemton Udwardia	Medicine	Maharashtra
11.	Shri Ratna Sundar Maharaj	Others-Spiritualism	Gujarat
12.	Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati	Others-Yoga	Bihar
13.	H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner)	Literature & Education	Thailand
14.	Late Shri Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous)	Literature & Education - Journalism	Tamil Nadu

**PADMA SHRI**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>State</b>
15.	Smt. Basanti Bisht	Art-Music	Uttarakhand
16.	Shri Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair	Art-Dance	Kerala
17.	Smt. Aruna Mohanty	Art-Dance	Odisha
18.	Smt. Bharathi Vishnuvardhan	Art-Cinema	Karnataka
19.	Shri Sadhu Meher	Art-Cinema	Odisha
20.	Shri T K Murthy	Art-Music	Tamil Nadu
21.	Shri Laishram Birendrakumar Singh	Art-Music	Manipur
22.	Shri Krishna Ram Chaudhary	Art-Music	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Smt. Baoa Devi	Art-Painting	Bihar
24.	Shri Tilak Gitai	Art-Painting	Rajasthan
25.	Dr. Prof. Aekka Yadagiri Rao	Art-Sculpture	Telangana
26.	Shri Jitendra Haripal	Art-Music	Odisha
27.	Shri Kailash Kher	Art-Music	Maharashtra
28.	Smt. Parassala B Ponnammal	Art-Music	Kerala
29.	Smt. Sukri Bommagowda	Art-Music	Karnataka
30.	Shri Mukund Nayak	Art-Music	Jharkhand
31.	Shri Purushottam Upadhyay	Art-Music	Gujarat
32.	Smt. Anuradha Paudwal	Art-Music	Maharashtra
33.	Shri Wareppa Naba Nil	Art-Theatre	Manipur
34.	Shri Tripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary	Civil Service	Telangana
35.	Shri T.K. Viswanathan	Civil Service	Haryana
36.	Shri Kanwal Sibal	Civil Service	Delhi
37.	Shri Birkha Bahadur Limboo Muringla	Literature & Education	Sikkim
38.	Smt. Eli Ahmed	Literature & Education	Assam
39.	Dr. Narendra Kohli	Literature & Education	Delhi
40.	Prof. G. Venkatasubbiah	Literature & Education	Karnataka
41.	Shri Akkitham Achyuthan Namboothiri	Literature & Education	Kerala
42.	Shri Kashi Nath Pandita	Literature & Education	Jammu & Kashmir
43.	Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry	Literature & Education	Delhi
44.	Shri Harihar Kripalu Tripathi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
45.	Shri Michel Danino	Literature & Education	Tamil Nadu

46.	Shri Punam Suri	Literature & Education	Delhi
47.	Shri VG Patel	Literature & Education	Gujarat
48.	Smt. V Koteswaramma	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
49.	Shri Balbir Dutt	Literature & Education- Journalism	Jharkhand
50.	Smt. Bhawana Somaaya	Literature & Education- Journalism	Maharashtra
51.	Shri Vishnu Pandya	Literature & Education- Journalism	Gujarat
52.	Dr. Subroto Das	Medicine	Gujarat
53.	Dr. (Smt.) Bhakti Yadav	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
54.	Dr. Mohammed Abdul Waheed	Medicine	Telangana
55.	Dr. Madan Madhav Godbole	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
56.	Dr. Devendra Dayabhai Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
57.	Prof. Harkishan Singh	Medicine	Chandigarh
58.	Dr. Mukut Minz	Medicine	Chandigarh
59.	Shri Arun Kumar Sharma	Others-Archaeology	Chhattisgarh
60.	Shri Sanjeev Kapoor	Others-Culinary	Maharashtra
61.	Smt. Meenakshi Amma	Others-Martial Art	Kerala
62.	Shri Genabhai Dargabhai Patel	Others-Agriculture	Gujarat
63.	Shri Chandrakant Pithawa	Science & Engineering	Telangana
64.	Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
65.	Shri Chintakindi Mallesham	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
66.	Shri Jitendra Nath Goswami	Science & Engineering	Assam
67.	Shri Daripalli Ramaiah	Social Work	Telangana
68.	Shri Girish Bhardwaj	Social Work	Karnataka
69.	Shri Karimul Hak	Social Work	West Bengal
70.	Shri Bipin Ganatra	Social Work	West Bengal
71.	Smt. Nivedita Raghunath Bhide	Social work	Tamil Nadu
72.	Shri Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	Social Work	Maharashtra
73.	Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal	Social Work	Punjab
74.	Shri Virat Kohli	Sports-Cricket	Delhi
75.	Shri Shekar Naik	Sports-Cricket	Karnataka
76.	Shri Vikasa Gowda	Sports-Discus Throw	Karnataka
77.	Smt. Deepa Malik	Sports-Athletics	Haryana
78.	Shri Mariyappan Thangavelu	Sports-Athletics	Tamil Nadu
79.	Smt. Dipa Karmakar	Sports-Gymnastics	Tripura
80.	Shri P R Shreejesh	Sports-Hockey	Kerala
81.	Smt. Sakshi Malik	Sports-Wrestling	Haryana

82.	Shri Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu	Trade & Industry	Telangana
83.	Shri Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO)	Art-Music	USA
84.	Shri Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education	USA
85.	Shri H.R. Shah (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education- Journalism	USA
86.	Late (Smt.) Suniti Solomon (Posthumous)	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
87.	Shri Asoke Kumar Bhattacharyya (Posthumous)	Others-Archaeology	West Bengal
88.	Dr. Mapuskar (Posthumous)	Social Work	Maharashtra
89.	Smt. Anuradha Koirala (Foreigner)	Social Work	Nepal

#### **Ashok Chakra Award :**

On January 26, 2017, President Pranab Mukherjee posthumously conferred the Ashok Chakra, the highest peacetime gallantry award for valour and courageous action, on Havildar Hangpan Dada of the Rashtiya Rifles, who laid down his life after single-handedly killing three terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in 2016. The Award was accepted by Dada's widow Chasen Lowang.

#### **Jnanpith Award :**

**Shankha Ghosh**, eminent modern Bengali poet, was chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 2016.

His nomination was decided at a meeting of the Jnanpith Selection Board, chaired by writer and scholar Namwar Singh. Instituted in 1961, the award by Bharatiya Jnanpith recognises Indian literateurs who write in one of the 22 Indian languages listed in the Schedule Eight of the Indian Constitution.

A prolific poet, critic and academician, Mr Ghosh is an authority on Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. His poetic idiom and experiments with various poetic forms mark his greatness as a creative talent.

Born in 1932, Mr. Ghosh has penned several poems including 'Adim lata -- gulmomay', 'Murkha baro, samajik nay', 'Kabir abhipray', 'Mukh dheke jay bigyapane' and 'Babarar prarthana', that went on to become classic creations. His works have also been translated widely into several Indian languages including Hindi, Marathi, Assamese, Punjabi and Malayalam, as well as into some foreign languages. Mr. Ghosh has also been the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Narsingh Das Puraskar, Saraswati Samman, and Rabindra Puraskar among others.

Last year the Jnanpith award was given to Gujarati writer Raghuvveer Chaudhary. The recipients are given a cash prize, a citation and a bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati.

#### **Sahitya Academy Awards 2016 :**

Noted English novelist **Jerry Pinto** and Hindi author **Nasira Sharma** were among the 24 authors named for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2016 in New Delhi on December 22, 2016. They were cited for 'Em and the Big Hoom' and 'Paarijat' respectively.

**Boluwaru Mohammad Kunhi** was named for 'Swatantryada Ota' in Kannada, Edwin J.F.D Souza for 'Kale Bhangar' in Konkani and Gita Upadhyay for 'Janmabhumi Mero Swadesh' in Nepali.

**Eight poets were also honoured :** Jnan Pujari ('Meghmalar Bhraman'/Assamese), Anju ('Ang Maboroi Dong Dasong'/ Bodo), Kamal Vora ('Anekek'/ Gujarati), Prabha Varma ('Shyamamadhavam'/ Malayalam), Sitanath Acharya ('Kavyanirjhari'/ Sanskrit), Gobinda Chandra Majhi ('Nalha'/Santhali), Nand Javeri ('Akhar Katha'/Sindhi) and Papineni Sivasankar ('Rajanigandha'/Telugu).

**Seven writers were cited for short stories:** Chahatrapal ('Cheta'/Dogri), Shyan Darihare ('Barki Kaki at Hotmail Dot Com'/Maithili), Moirangthem Rajen ('Cheptharaba Eshingpun'/Manipuri), Asaram Lomate ('Aalok'/Marathi, Paramita Satpathy ('Prapti'/ Odia), Bulaki Sharma ('Murdjat Ar Dujee Kahaniyan'/ Rajasthani) Vannadhasan 'Oru Siru Isai'/Tamil).

Aziz Hajini ('Aane Khane'/Kashmiri) and Nizam Siddiqui 'Mabad-e-Jadidiat Se Naye Ahed Ki Takhliqiyat Tak'/Urdu) were awarded for their books on criticism. Nrisinghaprasad Bhaduri has been honoured for his essay 'Mahabharater Astadashi' in Bengali and Swarajbir for his play 'Masia Di Raat' in Punjabi.

The awards comprising a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, as well as a shawl and a cheque of Rs.100,000 are presented to the winners.

#### **About the Awards :**

Every year since its inception in 1954, the Sahitya Akademi Award prizes to the most outstanding

books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages recognised by the Akademi. The award amount, which was Rs.5,000 since inception, had been enhanced to Rs.10,000 from 1983, Rs.25,000 from 1988, Rs.40,000 from 2001, Rs.50,000 from 2003 and is now Rs.1,00,000 from 2009. The first Awards were given in 1955.

#### **National Bravery Awards :**

Twenty five children which include 12 girls and 13 boys were selected for the National Bravery Awards - 2016 announced on January 17, 2017. Four of the Awards have been given posthumously. The coveted **Bharat Award** has been conferred on 8 year old Late Km. Tarh Peeju of Arunachal Pradesh, who sacrificed her life in an attempt to save two of her friends from drowning.

The prestigious **Geeta Chopra Award** has been conferred on 18 year old Tejasweeta Pradhan and 17 year old Shivani Gond both from West Bengal, who showed immense courage in fearlessly helping the police and the NGO in uncovering an International sex racket leading to the arrest of the mastermind in Delhi.

The **Sanjay Chopra Award** has been given to 15 year old Master Sumit Mamgain of Uttarakhand who displayed outstanding bravery in fighting a leopard to save his cousin.

#### **Bapu Gaidhani Award :**

**Late Km. Roluahpuii (13 years)** of Mizoram, Master Tushar Verma (15 years) of Chhattisgarh and Late Km. H Lalhriatpuii (14 years) of Mizoram have been given the Bapu Gaidhani Award. Late Km. Roluahpuii sacrificed her life in her bold and selfless act of saving two girls from drowning. Master Tushar Verma, risking his own life, extinguished a fire in his neighbour's shed and saved many cattle and Km. Lalhriatpuii sacrificed her life in an effort to save her cousin in a car accident.

The other recipients are Master Praful Sharma (Himachal Pradesh), Master Sonu Mali (Rajasthan), Km. Akshita Sharma, Master Akshit Sharma, Master Naman (all from Delhi), Km. Anshika Pandey (Uttar Pradesh), Km. Nisha Dilip Patil (Maharashtra), Km. Siya Vamansa Khode (Karnataka), Master Moirangthem Sadananda Singh (Manipur), Master Binil Manjaly, Master Adithyan M.P. Pillai, Master Akhil K. Shibu and Km. Badarunnisa K.P. (all from Kerala), Master Tankeswar Pegu (Assam), Km. Neelam Dhruv (Chhattisgarh), Master Thanghilmang Lunkim (Nagaland), Master Mohan Sethy (Odisha) and Late Km. Payal Devi (Jammu&Kashmir).

The selection was made by a high powered committee comprising representatives of various Ministries/Departments, non-governmental

organisations as well as office bearers of Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW).

The children received their Awards from the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 23, 2017 prior to Republic Day and thereafter participated in the parade. The awardees receive a medal, certificate and cash.

#### **About the Award :**

The National Bravery Award Scheme was initiated by the Indian Council for Child Welfare's (ICCW) to give due recognition to the children who distinguish themselves by performing outstanding deeds of bravery and meritorious service and to inspire other children to emulate their example.

Eligible awardees will be granted financial assistance until they complete their schooling. Some State Governments also provide financial assistance to them. In addition, ICCW provides financial assistance under its Indira Gandhi Scholarship Scheme to those undertaking professional courses such as engineering and medicine. For the others, this assistance is provided till they complete their graduation. The Government of India has reserved some seats for the awardees in medical and engineering colleges and polytechnics.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1957, the ICCW has given awards to 945 brave children which include 669 boys and 276 girls.

#### **Nari Shakti Puraskars 2016 :**

President Pranab Mukherjee presented Nari Shakti Puraskars 2016 at a special ceremony/function held in New Delhi on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 2017 to 33 women in recognition of their efforts in rendering distinguished services for the cause of women, especially vulnerable and marginalized women.

**Background :** To acknowledge Women's achievements, the Government of India confers Nari Shakti Puraskars on eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment.

The awards recognize the efforts made by women & institutions in rendering distinguished services for the cause of women, especially vulnerable and marginalized women. The Ministry of Women and Child Development announces these national level awards for eminent women, organisations and institutions.

The Puraskars are open to all Indian Institutions, organisations and individuals. The WCD Ministry invites nominations from the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, concerned Central Ministries/Departments, Non-Governmental

Organisations, Universities/ Institutions and private and public sector undertakings (PSUs) working for empowerment of women. However, in exceptional cases, the Selection Committee may also, suo moto, recommend a person or institution for the award, with justification.

The Nari Shakti Awards were initiated in the year 1999 and the guidelines were reframed in the year 2015.

The Nari Shakti Puraskar carries a cash award of Rs.1 Lakh and a certificate for individuals and institutions.

#### **G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award 2016 :**

**Karan Thapar**, Senior journalist and television commentator, was chosen for the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award 2016 for excellence in journalism.

Mr. Thapar is the president of ITV, a production house that makes programmes for the BBC, Doordarshan and Channel News Asia. He is currently associated with India Today .

The GK Reddy award consists of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a gold medal and a special trophy. The GK Reddy Award was instituted in the memory of distinguished journalist GK Reddy.

The TSR foundation award committee works under the chairmanship of Karan Singh (MP), and has Anand Sharma (MP), Kantha GK Reddy and T Subbarami Reddy as its members.

#### **64th National Film Awards 2016 :**

The 64th National Film Awards 2016 were announced on April 7, 2017.

**Best Feature Film:** Kasaav (Marathi)

**Best Direction:** Rajesh Mapuskar for Ventilator(Marathi)

**Best Actor:** Akshay Kumar for Rustom (Hindi)

**Best Actress:** Surabhi C.M for Minnaminungu - the Firefly (Malayalam)

**Best Supporting Actor:** Manoj Joshi for Dashakriya (Marathi)

**Best Supporting Actress:** Zaira Wasim for Dangal (Hindi)

**Best Child Artist:** Adish Praveen for Kunju Daivam (Malayalam), Nur Islam and Samiul Alam for Sahaj Pather Gappo (Bengali), Manohara. K for Railway Children (Kannada)

**Best Male Playback Singer:** Sundharayyar for song Jasmie E from film Joker (Tamil)

**Best Female Playback Singer:** Iman Chakraborty for song Tumi Jaake Bhalo Basho from film Praktan (Bengali)

**Best Cinematography:** S. Thirunavukarasu for 24 (Tamil)

**Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment -** Sathamnam Bhavathi

#### **BEST SCREENPLAY**

**Screenplay Writer (Original):** Syam Pushkaran for Maheshinte Prathikooram (Malayalam)

**Screenplay Writer (Adapted):** Sanjay Krishnaji Patil for Dashakriya (Marathi)

**Dialogues:** Tarun Bhascker for Peli Chuplu (Telugu)

#### **BEST AUDIOGRAPHY**

**Sound Designer:** Jayadevan Chakka Dath for Kaadu Pookkunna Neram (Malayalam)

**Re-recording of the final mixed track:** Alok De for Ventilator (Marathi)

**Best Editing:** Rameshwar for Ventilator (Marathi)

**Best Production Design:** Subrata Chakraborty, Shreyas Khedekar and Amit Ray for 24 (Tamil)

**Best Costume Designer:** Sachin Lovalekar for Cycle (Marathi)

**Best Make-up Artist:** NK Ramakrishna for Allama (Kannada)

**Best Music Direction (Songs /Background Score):** Babu Padmanabha for Allama (Kannada)

**Best Lyrics:** Vairamuthu for song Entha Pakkam from film Dharma Durai (Tamil), Anupam Roy for Tumi Jaake Bhalo Basho from Praktan(Bengali)

**Special Jury Award:** Mohan Lal for Pulimurugan, Janatha Garage and Munthirivallikal Thalirkkumbol

**Best Choreography:** Raju Sundaram for Janatha Garrage(Telugu)

**Best Special Effect:** Naveen Paul for Shivaay (Hindi)

**Best Stunt Choreography -** Peter Hein (Pulimurugan)

**Best Children's Film -** Dhanak (Hindi)

**Best Film on social issue -** Pink

**Best Feature Films in Regional Languages :**

Madipur (Tulu)

Joker (Tamil)

Wrongside Raju Gujarati

Pelli Chupulu (Telugu)

Dashakriya (Marathi)

Bisarjan' (Bengali)

Maheshinte Prathikaram (Malayalam)

Ke Sara Sara (Konkini)

Reservation (Kannada)

Neerja (Hindi)

### **62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017:**

62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017 were announced on January 14, 2017 in Mumbai. Aamir Khan bagged the Best Actor Award for his performance in 'Dangal'. Alia Bhatt was honoured with the Best Actress Award for her gritty portrayal of a Bihari migrant in 'Udta Punjab'.

#### **Details of Awards :**

**Best Actor (Male):** Aamir Khan for 'Dangal'

**Best Actor (Female):** Alia Bhatt for 'Udta Punjab'

**Best Film:** 'Dangal'

**Best Director:** Nitesh Tiwari for 'Dangal'

**Filmfare Critics Award for Best Film:** 'Neerja'

**Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Male):** Shahid Kapoor for 'Udta Punjab' and Manoj Bajpayee for 'Aligarh'

**Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Female):** Sonam Kapoor for 'Neerja'

**Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film:** Manoj Bajpayee for 'Taandav'

**Best Short Film People's Choice:** Khamakha

**Best Short Film (Fiction):** 'Chutney'

**Best Short Film (Non-fiction):** 'Matitali Kusti'

**Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film:** Tisca Chopra for 'Chutney'

**Best Debut Director:** Ashwini Iyer Tiwari for 'Nil Battey Sannata'

**Best Male Debut:** Diljit Dosanjh for 'Udta Punjab'

**Best Female Debut:** Ritika Singh for 'Saala Khadoos'

**Best Dialogue:** Ritesh Shah for 'Pink'

**Best Screenplay:** Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'

**Best Story:** Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'

**Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male):** Rishi Kapoor for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'

**Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female):** Shabana Azmi for 'Neerja'

**Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award:** Shatrughan Sinha

**Best Music Album:** Pritam for 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'

**Best Lyricist:** Amitabh Bhattacharya for 'Channa Mereya' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'

**Best Playback Singer (Male):** Arijit Singh for 'Ae dil hai mushkil' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'

**Best Playback Singer (Female):** Neha Bhasin for 'Jag Ghoomeya' from 'Sultan'

**Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent:** Amit Mishra for 'Bulleya' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'

**Best Visual Effects:** Red Chillies for 'Fan'

**Best Editing:** Monisha Baldawa for 'Neerja'

**Best Costume:** Payal Saluja for 'Udta Punjab'

**Best Action:** Shyam Kaushal for 'Dangal'

## **SPORTS AWARDS**

### **Laureus World Sports Awards :**

The Laureus World Sports Awards is held annually, celebrating the most remarkable men and women from the world of sport along with their achievements from the previous calendar year. To find the winners of the Laureus World Sports Awards a Nominations Panel of the world's leading sports editors, writers and broadcasters vote to create a shortlist of six nominations in five categories - Laureus World Sportsman of the Year, Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year, Laureus World Team of the Year, Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year and Laureus World Comeback of the Year. The nominations for two additional categories - the Laureus World Action Sportsman of the Year and the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year with a Disability are produced by Specialist Panels.

The members of the Laureus World Sports Academy then vote by secret ballot to select the Award winners in all seven categories.

**Laureus World Sportsman of the Year :** Usain Bolt

**Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year :** Simone Biles

**Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year :** Nico Roseberg

**Laureus World Comeback of the Year :** Michael Phelps

**Sportsperson of the Year with Disability :** Beatrice Vio

**Action Sportsperson of the Year :** Rachel Atherton

**Laureus World Team of the Year :** Chicago Cubs  
In a historic first for Indian boxing.

### **FIFA Awards:**

In 2016 Best FIFA Awards were given away in January 2017 in Zurich, Switzerland.

**The Best FIFA Men's Player :** Cristiano Ronaldo (PORTUGAL)

**The Best FIFA Women's Player :** Carli Lloyd (USA)

**The Best FIFA Men's Coach :** Claudio Ranieri (Italy)

**The Best FIFA Women's Coach :** Silvia Neid (Germany)