



Civilian, Film, and Literary Awards

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Awards

In recognition of noteworthy accomplishments, awards are given to individuals as a sign of respect and honour. India has a plethora of awards that acknowledge remarkable achievements across various domains.

In India, awards are classified into two major categories.

- Civilian Awards
- Gallantry Awards

Civilian Awards

Civilian Awards are bestowed upon individuals who show exceptional achievements in their respective fields of work. On Republic Day, the President of India presents these awards to deserving recipients. The tradition of Civilian awards began in the year 1954.

The degree of honour is the basis for categorizing Civilian Awards. The following awards are given to civilians in India:

1. Bharat Ratna is the highest degree of honour.
2. Padma Vibhushan is the second highest degree of honour.
3. Padma Bhushan is the third highest degree of honour.
4. Padma Shri is the fourth highest degree of honour.

The criteria for selecting the recipients of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are as follows:

- Every year, from 1 May to 15 September, it is customary to request recommendations from all State/UT Governments, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan awardees, and Institutes of Excellence.
- The Padma Awards Committee considers suggestions received from various sources, such as central and state ministers, chief ministers and governors of state, members of parliament, private individuals, and bodies. These suggestions are put forward to the committee for their consideration in the selection process.
- Every year, the Prime Minister forms the Padma Awards Committee, which is led by the Cabinet Secretary and comprises the Home Secretary, the Secretary to the President, and four to six distinguished individuals as members.

- The Padma Awards Committee does not follow any strict guidelines or fixed rules when selecting candidates for the award. Instead, the committee considers an individual's lifetime achievements as the primary factor for their selection.
- The individual to be chosen should have accomplishments that include a measure of public service.
- The recognition is presented for exceptional contributions rather than solely for extended tenure.
- The criteria for evaluation should not be limited to excellence in a specific field alone; rather, they should combine excellence with additional factors.
- The individuals chosen to receive the awards are scrutinized by the government's investigative agencies to ensure that their backgrounds and conduct are of high standards.
- The recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee are the basis for conferring the Padma Awards. The approval of the Prime Minister and the President is required for the awards to be conferred.
- The announcement of the Awards takes place every year on the night before Republic Day.

Bharat Ratna

The highest civilian honour in the Republic of India is known as the Bharat Ratna, also called the Jewel of India. It was established on 2 January 1954, and is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day, except for a few interruptions during the years of 1978 and 1979, as well as 1993 to 1997. An award is presented to acknowledge outstanding service or performance that is of the highest quality, regardless of race, occupation, position, or gender. At first, the award was restricted to accomplishments in the areas of arts, literature, science, and public service. However, in December 2011, the government broadened the requirements to encompass 'any field of human endeavour'. The President can award up to three people with the Bharat Ratna each year. The Prime Minister recommends the nominees for this award. The awardees receive a Sanad certificate that is signed by the President, as well as a medallion shaped like a Peepal leaf. The medallion features the state emblem of India with the words 'Satyamev Jayate' inscribed on it. The Bharat Ratna is an honorary award and does not come with any monetary reward. Bharat Ratna recipients are ranked seventh (7A) in the Indian order of precedence.

- It is prohibited by Article 18 (1) of the Constitution to use the award as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.

- However, if the award winner deems it necessary, they may use the following expression in their biodata, letterhead, visiting card, etc., to indicate that they have received the award: ‘Awarded Bharat Ratna by the President’ or ‘Recipient of Bharat Ratna Award’.

The statutes did not originally provide for posthumous awards, but they were amended in January 1955 to allow them.

- The first person to be honoured posthumously was former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar received the honour in 2014 at the age of 40, becoming the youngest person and the first sportsperson to do so.
- On his 100th birthday, Dhondo Keshav Karve was awarded in a special ceremony on April 18, 1958.
 1. M. S. Subbulakshmi was the first singer to receive the Bharat Ratna award, while M. G. Ramachandran was the first actor.
 2. The Bharat Ratna award does not require the recipient to be an Indian citizen. For instance, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, better known as Mother Teresa, was a naturalized Indian citizen who received the award in 1980. It has also been awarded to two non-Indians, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in 1987 and Nelson Mandela in 1990.
 3. Subhash Chandra Bose was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992, but due to the controversy surrounding his death, his family refused to accept the award. This is the only instance where an award was withdrawn in the history of the Bharat Ratna award.
 4. The Bharat Ratna award was suspended twice in its history. The first time was after Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister in 1977, but it was reinstated in 1980 after Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister. The second suspension occurred in mid-1992, when two Public-Interest Litigations were filed challenging the “constitutional validity” of the awards.
 5. On 25 January 2019, the government announced the posthumous awards of the Bharat Ratna to social activist Nanaji Deshmukh, singer-music director Bhupen Hazarika, and former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee.
 6. In 1995, the Special Division Bench restored the awards and declared that the “Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not titles under Article 18 of the Constitution”. The Bharat Ratna is treated differently from the Padma Award.

7. The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna award were Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, and Chandra Sekhara Venkata Raman (C.V. Raman) in 1954.
8. The Bharat Ratna award is not mandatory to be awarded every year, and as of now, 48 eminent persons have been awarded the Bharat Ratna award, with 14 of them being awarded posthumously.

The Bharat Ratna Award has certain specifications:

- The award’s initial specifications included a circular gold medal measuring 35 mm in diameter.
- The medal was to feature the sun, as well as the Hindi phrase “Bharat Ratna,” above a floral wreath.
- The reverse side of the medal was to display the state emblem and motto. The medal was intended to be worn around the neck using a white ribbon.
- However, the design was modified one year later.

S. No.	Name	Awarded In
1.	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878–1972)	1954
2.	Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan (1888–1975)	1954
3.	Dr. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (1888–1970)	1954
4.	Dr. Bhagwan Das (1869–1958)	1955
5.	Dr. Moksha Gundam Visvesvaraya (1861–1962)	1955
6.	Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889–1964)	1955
7.	Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant (1887–1961)	1957
8.	Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve (1858–1962)	1958
9.	Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1882–1962)	1961
10.	Shri Purushottam Das Tandon (1882–1962)	1961
11.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1884–1963)	1962
12.	Dr. Zakir Husain (1897–1969)	1963
13.	Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane (1880–1972)	1963
14.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Posthumous) (1904–1966)	1966

List of Recipients of Bharat Ratna

(Continued)

List of Recipients of Bharat Ratna (*Continued*)

S. No.	Name	Awarded In
15.	Smt. Indira Gandhi (1917–1984)	1971
16.	Shri Varaha Giri Venkata Giri (1894–1980)	1975
17.	Shri Kumaraswamy Kamraj (Posthumous) (1903–1975)	1976
18.	Mother Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa) (1910–1997)	1980
19.	Shri Acharya Vinoba Bhave (Posthumous) (1895–1982)	1983
20.	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1890–1988)	1987
21.	Shri Marudur Gopalan Ramachandran (Posthumous) (1917–1987)	1988
22.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ramji Ambedkar (Posthumous) (1891–1956)	1990
23.	Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918–2013)	1990
24.	Shri Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous) (1944–1991)	1991
25.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Posthumous) (1875–1950)	1991
26.	Shri Morarji Ranchhodji Desai (1896–1995)	1991
27.	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Posthumous) (1888–1958)	1992
28.	Shri Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata (1904–1993)	1992
29.	Shri Satyajit Ray (1922–1992)	1992
30.	Shri Gulzarilal Nanda (1898–1998)	1997
31.	Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali (Posthumous) (1909–1996)	1997
32.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1931–2015)	1997
33.	Smt. Madurai Shanmukhavadiyu Subbulakshmi (1916–2005)	1998
34.	Shri Chidambaram Subramaniam (1910–2000)	1998
35.	Shri Jayaprakash Narayan (Posthumous) (1902–1979)	1999
36.	Professor Amartya Sen (b–1933)	1999
37.	Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi (Posthumous) (1890–1950)	1999
38.	Pandit Ravi Shankar (1920–2012)	1999
39.	Sushri Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar (1929–2022)	2001
40.	Ustad Bismillah Khan (1916–2006)	2001
41.	Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi (1922–2011)	2009
42.	Prof. C. N. R. Rao (b–1934)	2014
43.	Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar (b–1973)	2014

List of Recipients of Bharat Ratna (*Continued*)

S. No.	Name	Awarded In
44.	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1924–2018)	2015
45.	Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Posthumous) (1861–1946)	2015
46.	Shri Nanaji Deshmukh (Posthumous) (1916–2010)	2019
47.	Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (Posthumous) (1926–2011)	2019
48.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee (1935–2020)	2019

Padma Awards

The Padma Awards are a prestigious civilian honour in India and are awarded in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. Recipients are recognized for their contributions in fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, and others. Those who have demonstrated exceptional and distinguished service are awarded the Padma Vibhushan, while the Padma Bhushan is given to those who have provided distinguished service of a high order. The Padma Shri is awarded to those who have rendered distinguished service in any field.

The Padma Awards are declared every year on the night before Republic Day. In 1954, the Government of India established two civilian awards, namely Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan. The latter award had three categories called Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg, and Tisra Varg. On 8 January 1955, the categories were renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri through a Presidential Notification. The Padma Awards were established in 1954 and are declared annually on Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997. All individuals, regardless of their race, profession, status or gender, have the opportunity to be considered for these accolades. However, individuals who are employed by the government, including those working for PSUs, with the exception of doctors and scientists, are not eligible to receive these Awards. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge and honour exceptional and distinguished accomplishments and services in all fields and areas of expertise.

Please find below an illustrative enumeration of the fields:

- Art is a broad field that encompasses various forms of creative expression, such as music, painting, sculpture, photography, cinema, theatre, and more.
- Social work refers to various activities that aim to improve the well-being of individuals and communities, such as social services, charitable work, and participation in community projects.

- The category of Public Affairs encompasses areas such as law, public life, politics, and related subjects.
- Science and Engineering is a broad field that includes areas such as space engineering, nuclear science, information technology, research and development in science, and its allied subjects.
- The Trade and Industry category includes areas such as banking, economic activities, management, promotion of tourism, business, and related subjects.
- The following categories are Medicine, which encompasses medical research and specialization in practices such as Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Sidhha, Allopathy, and Naturopathy.
- Literature and education include journalism, teaching, book writing, literature, poetry, promotion of education, promotion of literacy, education reforms, etc.
- Civil Service, which involves excellence in administration and other aspects performed by Government Servants.
- The category of Sports encompasses popular sports, athletics, adventure, mountaineering, promotion of sports, Yoga, and related activities.
- The Others category includes fields that are not covered above and may involve the propagation of Indian culture, protection of human rights, wildlife protection/conservation, and similar areas.
- The award is generally not granted posthumously. However, in deserving cases of high merit, the Government may consider conferring the award posthumously.
- A person can be awarded a higher category of Padma award only after at least five years have passed since they received the earlier Padma award. However, if the Awards Committee deems it necessary, the period of five years can be relaxed in highly deserving cases.
- The President of India usually presents the awards annually in March/April. A Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion are given to the awardees.
- The awardees are presented with a miniature version of the medallion, which they can choose to wear during official or ceremonial events. The names of the recipients are announced in the Gazette of India on the same day as the award ceremony.
- A maximum of 120 awards can be given in a year, excluding posthumous awards and awards given to NRIs/foreigners/OCIs.
- It is important to note that the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name, and it does not confer a title.

Padma Vibhushan

The “Lotus Decoration”, or the Padma Vibhushan award, is the second-highest honour for civilians in India. This award is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in the areas of Arts, Literature, Science, and Public Services.

The circular-shaped award is made of bronze and has a geometric design on its top. In the center of the circle, an embossed lotus flower can be seen, while the words “Padma” and “Vibhushan” are engraved above and below it in Devanagari Script. On the reverse side of the award, you can see the State Emblem and the State Motto.

Padma Bhushan

The award, which is the third-highest civilian award in India, is given to individuals who have made significant contributions in any field, including government officials, doctors, and scientists. However, those working with public sector undertakings are not eligible for the award. The Padma Vibhushan and this award share similar designs, and all the embossing is done in gold.

Padma Shri

The Padma Shri award, which can also be spelled as Padma Shree, is India’s fourth-highest civilian honour. It is preceded by the Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, and Padma Bhushan. The award was established in January 1955 to recognize exceptional contributions made by individuals in various fields, such as the arts, education, industry, literature, science, medicine, social service, acting, and public affairs. The Indian government presents the award annually on India’s Republic Day to honour distinguished individuals.

Gallantry Awards

Param Vir Chakra

The Indian government instituted the first three gallantry awards, namely Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra, on 26 January 1950. These awards were given effect from 15 August 1947, after India gained independence.

The Government of India instituted three gallantry awards, namely Ashoka Chakra Class-I, Ashoka Chakra Class-II, and Ashoka Chakra Class-III, on 4 January 1952. These awards were deemed effective from the 15 August 1947. In January 1967, the awards were renamed as Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra, respectively.

Gallantry awards are announced on two special occasions twice a year: Republic Day and Independence Day. The order of precedence for these awards is as follows: Param

Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra.

The Param Vir Chakra (PVC) was established on 26 January 1950, which is celebrated as Republic Day of India. It was instituted as a Gallantry Medal and was given retrospective effect from 15 August 1947 by Dr Rajendra Prasad, who was the President of India at that time.

The award named “Wheel of the Ultimate Brave” is given for showing “most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy.” The medal’s designer, Mrs. Savitri Khanolkar, took inspiration from Vedic rishi Dadhichi, who selflessly sacrificed his body to create a deadly weapon called Vajra or Thunderbolt from his spine. The medal is made of bronze and features the state emblem at the center, surrounded by four replicas of Indra’s Vajra on a raised circle, flanked by Shivaji’s sword. It is suspended from a straight swivelling suspension bar and held by a 32 mm purple ribbon.

The medal is circular and made of bronze. It measures one and three-eighth inches in diameter. On its obverse side, there are four replicas of “Indra’s Vajra” with the State Emblem, including the motto, embossed in the center. The reverse side has the Param Vir Chakra embossed in Hindi and English, with two lotus flowers between both languages. The fitting will be a swivel mounting.

The Riband is plain and coloured purple.

Eligible Categories: The army, navy, air force, reserve forces, territorial army militia, and any other lawfully constituted armed forces including officers, men, and women of all ranks. The Nursing Services and other hospital staff, including matrons, sisters, nurses, and civilians of either sex who serve regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions, or supervision of any of the above-mentioned forces are also included.

Conditions of Eligibility:

- The Chakra award is presented to those who have shown remarkable bravery, daring, or sacrifice in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea, or in the air. It is possible to receive the award posthumously.
- If a recipient of the Chakra performs an act of bravery that would have made them eligible for a Bar to be added to the ribbon that suspends the Chakra, they will receive an additional Bar for each subsequent act of bravery. The award of any Bar or Bars is also possible posthumously.
- For each Bar given, a replica of the Chakra in miniature will be added to the ribbon if it is worn alone.
- The recipients of the Chakra award will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 10,000, and each Bar attached to the award carries an additional allowance of Rs 10,000 per month.

S. No.	Name	Service	Award/Date of Action
1.	Major Somnath Sharma	Indian Army	Posthumous (3 November 1947)
2.	Naik Jadunath Singh	Indian Army	Posthumous (6 February 1948)
3.	Major Rama Raghoba Rane (Then Second Lieutenant)	Indian Army	08 April 1948
4.	Company Havildar Major Piru Singh	Indian Army	Posthumous (18th July 1948)
5.	Lance Naik Karam Singh	Indian Army	13 October 1948
6.	Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria	Indian Army	Posthumous (5 December 1961)
7.	Major Dhan Singh Thapa	Indian Army	20 October 1962
8.	Subedar Joginder Singh	Indian Army	Posthumous (23 October 1962)
9.	Major Shaitan Singh	Indian Army	Posthumous (18 November 1962)
10.	Lieutenant Colonel Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore	Indian Army	Posthumous (11 September 1965)
11.	CQMH Abdul Hamid	Indian Army	Posthumous (10 September 1965)
12.	Lance Naik Albert Ekka	Indian Army	Posthumous (4 December 1971)
13.	Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon	Indian Air Force	Posthumous (14 December 1971)
14.	Major Hoshiar Singh	Indian Army	15 December 1971
15.	Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal	Indian Army	Posthumous (16 December 1971)
16.	Naib Subedar Bana Singh	Indian Army	26 June 1987
17.	Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran	Indian Army	Posthumous (25 November 1987)
18.	Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey	Indian Army	Posthumous (3 July 1999)
19.	Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav	Indian Army	3 July 1999
20.	Rifleman Sanjay Kumar	Indian Army	4 July 1999
21.	Captain Vikram Batra	Indian Army	Posthumous (7 July 1999)

List of Param Vir Chakra Awardees

Maha Vir Chakra

An award was established on 26 January 1950 to acknowledge acts of bravery in the presence of the enemy. The medal is circular and made of standard silver. On the obverse side of the medal, a five-pointed heraldic star with points touching the rim is embossed. The medal's diameter is one and three-eighth inches. In the centre of the medal, the state emblem (including the motto) is embossed, which is adorned. The star is polished, and the centrepiece is in gold gilt. On the reverse side, "Maha Vir Chakra" is embossed in Hindi and English, with two lotus flowers between the Hindi and English lettering. The fitting is swivel mounting. The ribbon is half white and half orange in colour.

Eligible Categories: Individuals who hold the position of matrons, sisters, nurses, or work in any other services related to hospitals and nursing. Civilians of both genders who serve on a regular or temporary basis, under the supervision or directions of any of the mentioned forces.

Conditions of Eligibility: The Chakra medal is awarded for acts of bravery in the presence of the enemy on land, at sea, or in the air. If the recipient of the Chakra performs another act of bravery that would have made them eligible to receive the Chakra, a Bar will be attached to the ribbon by which the Chakra is suspended, and for every additional act of bravery, an additional bar will be added. Any such bar or bars may also be awarded posthumously. If the decoration is awarded posthumously, the monetary allowance of Rs 5,000/- per month and each bar to the decoration of Rs 5,000/- per month will be given to all recipients. Additionally, for every bar awarded, a miniature replica of the Chakra will be added to the ribbon when worn alone.

Vir Chakra

The award was established on 26 January 1950, and is given for acts of bravery in the face of the enemy.

The medal is circular and has a diameter of one and 3/8 inches. It is made of standard silver and has a five-pointed heraldic star with the points of the star just touching the rim embossed on the obverse. The centrepiece, which is domed, has the State Emblem (including motto) embossed on it. The star is polished and the centrepiece is in gold gilt. On the reverse, there will be Vir Chakra embossed in both Hindi and English, with two lotus flowers between Hindi and English wording. The fitting is swivel mounting.

The riband is gold in colour and is divided into three equal parts by two red vertical stripes.

The riband for the Bar to the Medal is half blue and half orange in colour.

Eligible categories: Members of all ranks in the army, navy, and air force, including those in the reserve forces, territorial army, militia, and any other lawfully established armed forces. This also includes matrons, sisters, nurses, and personnel of the nursing services and other services related to hospitals and nursing, as well as civilians of either gender who are serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions, or supervision of any of the aforementioned forces.

Conditions of Eligibility: Acts of bravery in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, sea, or in the air, may be recognized with a decoration. This award can also be given posthumously.

If an individual who has received the Chakra performs another act of bravery that would have made them eligible to receive the Chakra again, a Bar will be attached to the ribbon by which the Chakra is suspended to record the additional act of bravery. If an individual performs multiple acts of bravery, an additional Bar will be added for each act, and these Bars may also be awarded posthumously. Whenever a Bar is awarded, a miniature replica of the Chakra will be added to the ribbon when worn alone.

All recipients are granted a monthly monetary allowance of Rs 3,500 and an additional Rs 3,500 per bar of decoration.

Ashoka Chakra

The award was established on 4 January 1952, and was given a new name on 27 January 1967 in order to acknowledge outstanding acts of bravery, courage, or selflessness that do not occur in the context of battle.

The medal is circular and measures one and three-eighth inches in diameter. It has rims on both sides and is made of gold gilt. The obverse side of the medal has a replica of Ashoka's Chakra embossed in the centre, surrounded by a lotus wreath. On the reverse side, the words "Ashoka Chakra" are embossed in Hindi and English, separated by two lotus flowers. The riband is green in colour and is divided into two equal segments by an orange vertical line.

Eligible Categories: The Army, Navy, and Air Force employ officers, men, and women of all ranks. Members of the Reserve Forces, Territorial Army, Militia, and other lawfully constituted forces are also included. The Nursing Services of the Armed Forces are also considered part of this group. However, members of Police Forces and recognized Fire Services are excluded. Civilian citizens of all genders, regardless of their profession, are also included.

Conditions of Eligibility: The Chakra is granted to those who have demonstrated exceptional bravery, courage, or selflessness outside of combat. In some cases, the award may be given posthumously.

If a Chakra recipient performs another act of bravery that would have made them deserving of the award, they will receive a Bar to be added to the ribbon that the Chakra hangs from. For every subsequent act of bravery, an additional Bar will be awarded, with a miniature replica of the Chakra added to the ribbon if worn alone.

Each person who receives a decoration will be given a monthly monetary allowance of Rs 6000. This allowance applies to all recipients, and each bar added to the decoration will increase the monthly allowance by Rs 6000.

The award for bravery, Kirti Chakra, was initially established as Ashoka Chakra class-II on 4 January 1952. Later, on 27 January 1967, it was renamed as Kirti Chakra.

Kirti Chakra

The medal has a circular shape and is made of standard silver with a diameter of one and three-eighth inches. The obverse side of the medal features a replica of Ashoka Chakra in the center, enclosed by a lotus wreath. On the reverse side, the words “Kirti Chakra” are embossed in both Hindi and English, with two lotus flowers separating the two versions. The riband of the medal is green in color and is divided into three equal parts by two vertical lines in orange.

Eligible Categories: The army, navy, and air force, as well as reserve forces, territorial army, militia, and any other legally-established forces, including the nursing services of the armed forces, all consist of officers, men, and women of various ranks. Civilian citizens from various professions and walks of life are eligible except for members of police forces and recognized fire services.

Conditions of Eligibility: The Chakra is a decoration awarded for outstanding bravery, not necessarily in the presence of an enemy. It is possible to receive the award after death. If a Chakra recipient performs another act of bravery which would have made them eligible for the award, they will receive a Bar attached to the ribbon of the Chakra. Each subsequent act of bravery will result in an additional Bar being added to the ribbon, and the Bars can also be awarded posthumously. When the Chakra is worn alone, a miniature replica will be added to the ribbon for each Bar. All recipients of the Chakra will receive a monthly monetary allowance of Rs 4,500, and each Bar will also come with a monthly monetary allowance of Rs 4,500.

Shaurya Chakra

The award known as Ashoka Chakra Class-III was established on 4 January 1952, and was later renamed as Shaurya Chakra on 27 January 1967. This award is presented to individuals who have displayed bravery and courage, not necessarily in combat situations. The medal itself is circular, made of bronze, and measures one

and three-eighth inches in diameter. The front of the medal displays a replica of Ashoka Chakra in the center, surrounded by a lotus wreath. On the back of the medal, the words “Shaurya Chakra” are inscribed in both Hindi and English, separated by two lotus flowers. The ribbon of the medal is green in color and divided into four equal parts by three vertical lines.

Eligible Categories: The army, navy, air force, and other legally established armed forces consist of officers, men, and women. This also includes reserve forces, territorial army, militia, and other such forces. The nursing services of the armed forces also have members of any gender who are not part of police forces or recognized fire services, but are in any profession or field, are known as civilians.

Conditions of Eligibility: The Chakra award is given to those who show bravery in situations other than face-to-face combat. This award can also be given posthumously. If a recipient of the Chakra performs another act of bravery that would have made them eligible for the award, they will receive a Bar to attach to the ribbon of the Chakra. Additional Bars may be added for subsequent acts of bravery, and these Bars may also be given posthumously. For each Bar, a miniature replica of the Chakra will be added to the ribbon when worn alone. All recipients of the award, including those who receive additional Bars, will receive a monthly monetary allowance of Rs. 3000/-.

Other Gallantry Awards

Sarvottam Yuddh Seva Medal

The purpose of its establishment on 26 June 1980 was to acknowledge and honour the exceptional service of individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication during times of war, conflict, or hostilities.

The medal is required to have a circular shape with a diameter of 35mm. It should be fitted to a plain horizontal bar using standard fittings and be made of gold gilt. The obverse of the medal must have the State Emblem alongside inscriptions in both Hindi and English. Meanwhile, the reverse of the medal should feature a five-pointed star. As for the ribbon, it must be gold in colour and have a single red vertical stripe placed at the center, which is equally divided into two parts.

If a person receives a medal more than once, a Bar will be attached to the ribbon that holds the medal. The government has approved a pattern for a miniature insignia that will be added to the ribbon for every Bar. This insignia should be worn along with the ribbon if it is worn alone.

Eligible Categories: The Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as Territorial Army Units, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces, and other lawfully constituted Armed Forces, at

all ranks when embodied. The Members of the Nursing Services in the Armed Forces, including Nursing Officers.

Conditions of Eligibility: The medal is granted for exceptional service during war, conflict, or hostilities. It is possible for the award to be given posthumously.

Param Vishisht Seva Medal

The VSM Class-I was established on 26 January 1960 to recognize outstanding service of the highest order. On 27 January 1967, it was renamed the PVSM. The medal is circular in shape, with a diameter of 35mm. It is attached to a plain horizontal bar using a standard fitting and is made of gold gilt. The obverse features a five-pointed star, while the reverse features the State Emblem and an inscription along the upper rim.

The Riband has a golden hue and has a single dark blue stripe at the center, dividing it into two equal parts.

In the case of a recipient receiving the medal again, a bar shall be attached to the riband by which the medal is suspended, to acknowledge every further award.

The government-approved miniature insignia of a pattern shall be added to the riband when worn alone, for every such bar.

Eligible Categories: The Armed Forces consist of various ranks, including Territorial Army Units, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces (when embodied), and other lawfully constituted Armed Forces. Additionally, the Nursing Services in the Armed Forces comprise nursing officers and other members.

Conditions of Eligibility: The highest level of exceptional service is recognized with this medal, which can be awarded after death.

Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal

An award was established on 26 June 1980 to acknowledge and honour exceptional orders of distinguished service during times of war, conflict, or hostilities.

The medal will be round-shaped, measuring 35mm in diameter, and attached to a simple horizontal bar with standard fittings. It will be made of gold gilt. The obverse side will feature the State emblem with inscriptions in Hindi and English. The reverse side will have a five-pointed star.

The riband will be gold, with two vertical red stripes dividing it into three equal parts.

If a person receives a medal multiple times, each subsequent award will be denoted by a Bar attached to the ribbon by which the medal is hung. For every addition of the

bar to the ribbon, a miniature insignia following a design approved by the Government will accompany it.

Eligible Categories: When called into active duty, all levels of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, including those of Territorial Army Units, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces, and other legally established Armed Forces are included. The members of the Nursing Services in the Armed Forces, including Nursing Officers and other personnel, are also included.

Conditions of Eligibility: A medal is granted for outstanding service of a remarkable level during a period of war, conflict, or hostilities. The medal can be granted to an individual posthumously.

Ati Vishisht Seva Medal

A distinction award of exceptional order was introduced on January 26, 1960, and named VSM Class-II. On 27 January 1967, it was renamed AVSM.

- The medal is circular in shape and has a diameter of 35mm. It is attached to a plain horizontal bar using a standard fitting.
- The medal is made of standard silver.
- The obverse side of the medal features a five-pointed star that is embossed on it.
- The medal's reverse side features the State Emblem and the inscription "in Hindi," both of which are embossed along the upper rim.
- The riband is of gold colour and is divided into three equal parts using two vertical red stripes.
- The Riband for the Bar to the Medal consists of three equal parts divided by two vertical dark blue stripes and is gold-colored.

Eligible Categories: The Armed Forces, including Territorial Army Units, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces (when they are called to active duty), and other legally established Armed Forces, include all ranks. Nursing Officers and other members of the Nursing Services in the Armed Forces are also included.

Conditions of Eligibility: The highest level of service may be rewarded posthumously if it is truly exceptional. If a person has already received the medal and is awarded it again, they will be recognized with a bar attached to the ribbon.

For each additional award, another bar will be added to the ribbon, and when the medal is not worn, a miniature approved insignia by the Government will be incorporated on the ribbon to acknowledge the award.

Yuddh Seva Medal

Instituted on 26 June 1980 to recognise distinguished service of a high order during war/conflict/hostilities.

The medal is required to have a circular shape and a diameter of 35mm. It should be attached to a plain horizontal bar using standard fittings, and must be made of gold gilt. The obverse of the medal shall show the State Emblem and inscriptions in Hindi and English embossed along the upper rim. On the reverse side of the medal, a five-pointed star shall be present.

The riband for this medal is gold and divided into four equal parts by three red vertical stripes. If a recipient is awarded the medal more than once, each subsequent award will be recognized by attaching a Bar to the riband. When the medal is worn alone, a miniature insignia of an approved pattern by the Government is added to the riband for each Bar. It is also possible for the medal to be awarded posthumously.

Eligible Categories: The personnel of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, including those of Territorial Army units, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces, and other lawfully constituted Armed Forces, are all included. The members of the Nursing Services in the Armed Forces, including Nursing Officers, are also included.

Conditions of Eligibility: “Recognized for exceptional performance in a time of war, conflict or hostilities, resulting in the award of distinguished service of a high order.”

Vishisht Seva Medal

The VSM Class-III was established on 26 January 1960 to acknowledge high-level excellent service. On 27 January 1967, it was renamed VSM.

The medal has a circular shape and is 35mm in diameter. It is attached to a plain horizontal bar with a standard fitting. The medal is made of bronze. Its obverse has a five-pointed star embossed on it, while the reverse side features the State Emblem and an inscription embossed along the upper rim.

The Riband, on the other hand, has a gold colour and is divided into four equal parts by three dark blue stripes.

Eligible Categories: The included groups are: members of all ranks in the Armed Forces, as well as the Territorial Army Units, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces (when they are embodied), and other lawfully constituted Armed Forces. Additionally, Nursing Officers and other members of the Nursing Services in the Armed Forces are also included.

Conditions of Eligibility: The highest level of service can receive a posthumous award. If someone receives the medal more than once, they will be recognized with a Bar attached to the ribbon of the medal. For every such Bar, a miniature insignia of a pattern approved by the Government shall be added to the riband when worn alone.

Nao Sena Medal

Notification No. 17-Pres/60 dated 26 January 60 issued by the President's Secretariat.

The medal is made of standard silver and has a pentagonal shape with curved sides. Its mounting is a fixed ring attached to a metal stripe 3mm wide ornamented with Ashoka Leaves. The medal bears the Naval Crest embossed on its obverse. On its reverse side, there is a trident within a circle and rope, and the inscription is embossed along the upper rim.

The riband is navy blue in colour and has a white thin silver stripe running down the centre.

Eligible Categories: All ranks of the Navy

Conditions of Eligibility: The Navy may award individuals for their exceptional devotion to duty or courage, which holds special significance. The awards may be given posthumously. A bar will be given for every subsequent award of the medal to an individual. All Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) awardees will receive a monetary allowance of Rs 1000/- per month, and each bar to the medal will provide an additional Rs 1000/- per month.

Vayu Sena Medal

An award was created on 26 January 1960 to acknowledge outstanding devotion to duty or acts of bravery by personnel in the Air Force. In 1994, it was divided into two categories – VM (Devotion to duty) and VM (Gallantry).

The medal is 35 mm in diameter and is shaped like a five-pointed star made of standard silver. The mounting is fixed on a ring that is attached to a 3 mm wide metal strip adorned with Ashoka leaves. On the obverse, the State Emblem is embossed in the center and is surrounded by a garland of leaves. On the reverse side, there is a representation of a Himalayan Eagle with an inscription below it.

The ribbon of the medal is 32 mm wide and has alternating stripes of saffron and silver grey. Each stripe is 3 mm wide and runs diagonally from right to left.

When the medal is awarded, the bar is attached to the ribbon that suspends the medal. However, when only the ribbon is worn, a miniature insignia of an approved pattern by the government must be tied to the center of the ribbon.

Eligible Categories: All ranks of the Air Force

Conditions of Eligibility: The Air Force gives out an award for extraordinary acts of courage or devotion to duty that hold special significance. VM (Gallantry) is awarded for acts of bravery, while VM (Devotion to duty) is given for commendable acts of duty. Each subsequent award of the Medal earns the recipient a bar. The award may be given posthumously.

Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) awardees receive a monthly monetary allowance of Rs 1000/-, as well as Rs 1000/- for every subsequent bar to the medal.

National Film Awards

The Indian National Film Awards is a prestigious film awards ceremony that takes place annually. The Directorate of Film Festivals, an organization established by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, presents these awards to celebrate the best of Indian cinema. The awards are distributed in two categories: Feature Films and Non-Feature Films made in Hindi and other regional languages. The National Film Award Regulations require films to have been produced in the previous year, and independent juries select the winners.

An award ceremony takes place in New Delhi where the President of India presents the awards. After the ceremony, a National Film Festival is organized where the public can watch the award-winning films. The categories for the 'Golden Lotus Award' or 'Swarna Kamal' are Best Feature Film, Best Direction, Best Popular Film providing wholesome entertainment, Best Children's Film, and the Indira Gandhi Award for Best First Film of a Director. Meanwhile, the 'Silver Lotus Award' or 'Rajat Kamal' is given for Best Actor and Actress, Best Art Direction, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, Best Costume Design, Best Playback Singers, Best Choreography, as well as the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration and Best Films on family welfare, environment conservation, and other social issues. The awards for the Non-Feature Film category include those for Best Non-Feature Film, Best Biographical Film, Best Arts/Cultural Film, Best Anthropological or Ethnographic Film, and Best Scientific Film, among others. There are also awards for the Best Film Critic on Cinema and the Best Book on Cinema.

The National Film Awards acknowledge exceptional contributions of individuals in the industry by presenting the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, in addition to recognizing outstanding films in various categories. This prestigious award is the highest honour in Indian cinema and is given annually to someone who has made significant contributions to the industry. The award is named after Dadasaheb Phalke, who is widely regarded as the father of Indian cinema.

Dada Saheb Phalke Award

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the most prestigious recognition in the Indian film industry. It is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, who is often referred to as the father of Indian cinema and also known as Dadasaheb Phalke. The award was instituted in 1969 to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's birth anniversary and has been presented ever since.

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is presented by the Government of India every year to honour exceptional contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema. Recipients of the award are individuals who have made a significant contribution to Indian cinema throughout their lifetime. The award comprises of a Swarna Kamal (golden lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize worth Rs. 10 lakhs. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award serves as a symbol of recognition and appreciation for the invaluable contribution made by film personalities to Indian cinema.

In 1990, Akkineni Nageswara Rao was awarded. Bhalji Pendharkar was awarded in 1991. Bhupen Hazarika received the award in 1992. Majrooh Sultanpuri was awarded in 1993. Dilip Kumar received the award in 1994. Dr Raj Kumar was awarded in 1995. Shivaji Ganeshan was awarded in 1996. Kavi Pradeep received the award in 1997. B.R. Chopra was awarded in 1998. Hrishikesh Mukherjee was awarded in 1999. Asha Bhonsle received the award in 2000. Yash Chopra was awarded in 2001. Dev Anand received the award in 2002. Mrinal Sen was awarded in 2003. Adoor Gopalakrishnan was awarded in 2004. Shyam Benegal received the award in 2005. Tapan Sinha was awarded in 2006. Manna Dey received the award in 2007. V.K. Murthy was awarded in 2008. D.Ramanaidu was awarded in 2009. K. Balachander received the award in 2010. Soumitra Chatterjee was awarded in 2011. Pran received the award in 2012. Gulzar was awarded in 2013. Shashi Kapoor received the award in 2014. Manoj Kumar was awarded in 2015. K. Viswanath received the award in 2016. Vinod Khanna was awarded in 2017. Amitabh Bachchan received the award in 2018. Rajinikanth was awarded in 2019. Asha Parekh received the award in 2020, and Waheeda Rehman was awarded in 2021.

Filmfare Awards

One of the most prestigious awards ceremonies in India is the Filmfare Awards, which takes place at this time of year and celebrates the finest cinematic achievements in Bollywood. The Times Group presents these awards annually to recognize artistic and technical excellence in the Indian film industry. The Filmfare ceremony is one of the oldest film events in India, having been established in 1954. The Hindi cinema has produced some extraordinary magical moments over the years that will remain

cherished and memorable for a lifetime. By recognizing the stalwarts who are redefining Hindi cinema, Filmfare continues to contribute to this legacy. The elegant and prestigious Black Lady has been a symbol of credibility and success in the world of Indian cinema for decades.

The inaugural Filmfare Awards ceremony took place on March 21st, 1954, where Gregory Peck, a well-known Hollywood actor, was invited as the chief guest. The ceremony was organized at Mumbai's Metro Theatre, but unfortunately, due to a flight delay from Colombo, Peck couldn't attend the event. Nonetheless, he later graced the banquet that was held at the Willingdon Sports Club.

The Clares Awards was the original name proposed for the film awards instead of Filmfare. The proposed name was in honour of Clare Mendonca, a renowned film critic for The Times of India and one of the earliest film journalists in India. The first ceremony, held in 1954, presented only five awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Music Director.

The movie *Do Bigha Zameen* became the first to win the Filmfare Award for Best Film. Bimal Roy was the recipient of the first Filmfare Award for Best Director for his work on *Do Bigha Zameen*. Dilip Kumar was the first actor to receive the Filmfare Award for Best Actor, thanks to his performance in *Daag*. Meena Kumari was awarded the first Filmfare Award for Best Actress for her role in *Baiju Bawra*. Naushad won the first Filmfare Award for Best Music Director for his work on *Baiju Bawra*.

The Black Lady, the name given to the trophies, is made of bronze, making it quite heavy. In the 25th year of the Filmfare Awards, the statue was crafted from silver. In celebration of the 50th year, the trophy was made of gold. A few modifications have been made to the trophy to enhance its appearance and provide a three-dimensional look and feel.

In 2005, the movie *Black* won the most awards (11 awards). Dilip Kumar won the most Best Actor awards (8 awards), followed by Shahrukh Khan with 7 awards and Amitabh Bachchan with 5 awards. Nutan won the most Best Actress awards.

Vyjayanthimala declined to accept the Filmfare award for Best Supporting Actress for the movie *Devdas*. Her reason for doing so was that she considered herself to be the main actress in the film and not Suchitra Sen.

Sholay, the biggest blockbuster hit in Bollywood's history, was awarded only one Filmfare Award in 1975 for Best Editing.

After losing to Dilip Kumar for the Filmfare Best Actor Award in 1969, Sunil Dutt threw a party in his honour, which became a trend in Bollywood for post-award celebrations.

The category of Best Choreography was introduced in 1988, and Saroj Khan won it for her work on Madhuri's *Ek Do Teen* from the film *Tezaab*.

Currently, the movie *Gully Boy* directed by Zoya Akhtar holds the record for winning the highest number of Filmfare Awards. It won 13 awards at the 65th Filmfare Awards, surpassing the previous record holder *Black*, which won 11 awards. The movies *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* and *Devdas* are next in line, as they both won 10 awards each in the years 1996 and 2003, respectively.

The winners of the Filmfare Awards for the year 1985 were declared in 1986, and the ceremony was originally planned to take place by the end of that year. However, due to a strike by the Bollywood industry (then referred to as the 'Bombay Film Industry') against the Government of Maharashtra in 1986, the event was eventually postponed to the following year. As a result, the Filmfare awards were not awarded for the years 1986 and 1987. Irrfan Khan, who starred in the movie *Angrezi Medium*, became the only actor to have received the Filmfare award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) posthumously, in the year 2021.

Literary Awards

Sahitya Akademi Award

The prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award was instituted by the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters) in 1954. It is an esteemed literary prize awarded annually to exceptional writers in the 24 languages recognized by the Akademi for their contribution to Indian literature. The award comprises a cash prize, a citation, and a bronze replica of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of learning.

Every year in November, the individuals who have been selected for the awards are announced, and the prizes are given to them on February 21, which is celebrated as the National Day of Indian Literature. The winners are determined by well-known writers and scholars in each language who form a jury and evaluate the works published in the previous five years. The awards cover various genres, including poetry, fiction, drama, literary criticism, biography, and travelogues.

The Sahitya Akademi Award is an esteemed literary honour in India, and authors feel immense pride and recognition when they receive it. Some of the well-known recipients of the award include Rabindranath Tagore, Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan, Mahasweta Devi, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, and Arundhati Roy. The Sahitya Akademi also conducts various annual literary events, such as seminars, workshops, and book fairs, to promote Indian literature and inspire young writers.

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is a highly respected prize given by India's National Academy of Letters, the Sahitya Akademi, which recognizes exceptional literary contributions in any of India's 24 recognized languages. This is a lifelong achievement award bestowed upon writers who have produced remarkable literary works.

Regarded as one of the most prestigious honours in the realm of literature in India, the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship consists of a cash prize, a citation, and a shawl. The cash prize amount is periodically revised and currently stands at Rs. 5 lakhs.

The writers who have substantially contributed to their respective fields of literature and have enriched India's literary heritage are honoured with an award. The award selection process is rigorous and involves several rounds of screening and evaluation.

The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship has been given to numerous notable individuals, such as Mahasweta Devi, Amrita Pritam, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, and Girish Karnad. This award is exclusively bestowed upon deserving writers, and it is not conferred annually.

Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation

The National Academy of Letters, also known as the Sahitya Akademi, presents the Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation annually in India. The award is given to a translator who has done exceptional work in translation and recognizes the translator's noteworthy contribution to Indian literature. It also acknowledges the promotion of Indian culture on a global scale. The prize is considered one of the most prestigious literary awards in India and consists of a cash award and a citation.

Bhasha Samman

The Bhasha Samman Award is presented annually by the National Academy of Letters in India, known as the Sahitya Akademi, to Indian writers who have played a significant role in enriching Indian languages other than Hindi. This award was established in the year 1996 and carries a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000. The primary aim of this award is to encourage and promote the use of Indian languages while also acknowledging and honouring the contributions made by the writers in preserving and promoting Indian languages.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Award

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is the most prestigious recognition awarded by Sangeet Natak Akademi, regardless of nationality, race, caste, religion, creed, or gender. The criteria specify that individuals under the age of 50 are not typically eligible for the award. The selection process involves recommendations from the current fellows and members of the General Council of the Akademi.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna Sadasyata) is the most prestigious and rare honour, available to only 30 eminent persons at any given time until 2008. However, the General Council amended the Rules and Regulations in their meeting on 29 January 2010, increasing the number of Akademi Fellows by ten (10) seats, to be filled up gradually over five years, at a rate of two seats per year. The first Fellow of the Akademi was elected in 1954, and to date, 153 eminent personalities have been honoured as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). The Akademi Fellowship comes with a purse money of Rs. 3.00 lakhs, a Tamrapatra and an Angavastram.

The recognition ceremony of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards has been honouring practitioners, gurus, and scholars in the performing arts for more than seventy years. The multitude of awardees in music, dance, and drama represents the highest level of achievement in the nation. The awards in Hindustani and Carnatic music were established in 1951, even before the Akademi's formation and were initially known as Presidential awards. When the Akademi came into existence, they were renamed Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards and became the Akademi's responsibility. The Presidential awards for 1952 and 1953 were later incorporated into the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards list. The current number of awards to be presented annually is 41, and to date, over 1298 artists have been honoured with the Akademi Awards. The awards carry a purse of Rs. 1.00 lakh, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

The Sangeet Natak Akademi has made a decision to create a new award called the "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar." This award will be given to artists who have displayed exceptional talent in the areas of music, dance, and drama. The Yuva Puraskar will be awarded to young and outstanding performers who are under the age of 40, every year. The age of the nominees will be determined on the basis of their age on the date of nomination, starting from the 1st of April of that year.

The annual award of Yuva Puraskar will not exceed 33 in number.

Yuva Puraskar can be awarded in five fields of activity, which include Music, Dance, Theatre, Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal/Dance/Music/Theatre, and Puppetry & Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts.

Bharatiya Jnanpith

Bharatiya Jnanpith has been nurturing literature and culture in India through literary initiatives such as Awards, Publication, Fellowship and Research for several decades. The organization was founded in 1944 by industrialist Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain of the Sahu Jain family as a research and cultural institute. In May 1961, the idea to start a scheme "commanding national prestige and of international standard"

to “select the best book out of the publications in Indian languages” was conceived. Later in November, Rama Jain, the Founder President of the Bharatiya Jnanpith, invited a few literary experts to discuss various aspects of the scheme. Rama Jain, along with Kaka Kalelkar, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Jainendra Kumar, Jagdish Chandra Mathur, Prabhakar Machwe, Akshaya Kumar Jain, and Lakshmi Chandra Jain, presented the initial draft to the then President of India Rajendra Prasad who had shown interest in the scheme’s implementation.

In 1962, the All-India Gujarati Sahitya Parishad and the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad discussed an idea. Dharamvir Bharati conducted two sessions in Delhi on 2 April 1962, inviting around 300 writers of various Indian languages to finalize a draft, which was later presented to Prasad. A request was made to Dr. Rajendra Prasad to head the Selection Board (Pravara Parishad) of the Jnanpith Award, and he fixed 16 March 1963 for the first meeting of the Pravara Parishad, which he would have presided over. Unfortunately, he passed away before the meeting, and Kaka Kalelkar chaired the meeting instead. Dr. Sampurnanand headed the Pravara Parishad thereafter. The first Selection Board was chaired by Sampurnanand and consisted of Kalelkar, Niharranjan Ray, Karan Singh, R. R. Diwakar, V. Raghavan, B. Gopal Reddy, Harekrushna Mahatab, Rama Jain, and Lakshmi Chandra Jain. Works published between 1921 and 1951 were considered for the first award. Nine language committees were formed and were required to submit nominations to the board along with translations of the work into Hindi or English.

Kazi Nazrul Islam (Bengali), D. V. Gundappa (Kannada), Viswanatha Satyanarayana (Telugu), and G. Sankara Kurup (Malayalam) were the four authors who made it to the final round. On 19th November 1966, Kurup was awarded the Jnanpith Award, which consisted of a citation, a statue of Saraswati, and a cheque for a prize of ₹1 lakh. The Jnanpith Award has gained recognition as the highest literary award in the country and has been presented by Presidents, Prime Ministers, and international celebrities, including Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Mr. Nelson Mandela, Sir V. S. Naipaul, and H.R.H. Princess of Thailand Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The Selection Board has been chaired by eminent scholars and writers such as Kaka Kalelkar, Dr. Sampurnanand, Dr. B. Gopala Reddy, Dr. Karan Singh, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Acharya Hajari Prasad Dwivedi, Dr. R.K. Dasgupta, Dr. V.K. Gokak, Dr. Uma Shankar Joshi, Dr. Masud Hussain, Prof. M.V. Rajadhyaksha, Dr. Aditya Nath Jha, Shri Jagdish Chandra Mathur, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, and Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra.

Jnanpith Award

The Bhartiya Jnanpith Trust was established in 1961 by the Sahu Jain family, who are well-known philanthropists and publishers of the Times of India newspaper. The Jnanpith Award, an esteemed literary prize in India, was instituted in 1961 and first

presented in 1965. The award is given annually to an Indian citizen who has made a significant contribution to Indian literature. The award is named after the Sanskrit term 'Jnanpith', which means 'Seat of knowledge'. Until 1982, the award was presented for a specific work, but it has since been given for a writer's overall contribution to literature. Typically, the award is given every year to one author, although in some years, it has been jointly offered to two. The Jnanpith Award is the highest literary award in India and is given annually for the best creative literary writing to writers in any of the 22 "scheduled languages" recognized in the Indian Constitution and, from 2013, in the English language.

The most prestigious literary recognition in India is the Jnanpith Award, which is often referred to as the 'Indian Nobel Prize.' This award comprises a cash prize of Rs. 11 lakhs, a citation, and a bronze statue of Saraswati, the Hindu deity of knowledge and wisdom.

The Jnanpith Award was first given to Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup in 1965 for his book of poems, *Odakkuzhal* (The Bamboo Flute), which was published in 1950. Sumitranandan Pant was the first Hindi author to receive the award in 1968 for his work *Chidambara*. The award was given to Bengali novelist Ashapurna Devi in 1976 for her book *Prothom Protishruti* (The First Promise), the first in a trilogy, making her the first woman to win the award. In 2018, Amitav Ghosh became the first English language writer to receive the Jnanpith Award for his distinguished works such as *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, *The Glass Palace*, *The Hungry Tide* and the *Ibis* trilogy that includes 'Sea of Poppies', 'River of Smoke', and 'Flood of Fire'. The latest recipients of the award are Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan and Konkani writer Damodar Mauzo, who were awarded for the years 2021 and 2022, respectively. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya (1979) and Mamoni (Indira) Raisom Goswami (2000) are the other two Assamese to have received the award before Nilmani Phookan. Some of Nilmani Phookan's notable works include *Phuli Thoka Suryamukhi Phulor Phale* (To a Sunflower in Bloom), *Golapi Jamur Lagna* (The Raspberry Moment), *Kobita* (Poems) and *Nrityarata Prithivi* (Dancing Earth), which have made a significant contribution to Assamese literature.

Mauzo has been awarded the highest literary award, presented annually by Bhartiya Jnanpith, making him the second Konkani writer to achieve this feat. Previously, Litterateur Ravindra Kelekar had won the 42nd Jnanpith award in 2006, becoming the first-ever author writing in Konkani to receive this award, which was presented in July 2010. Mauzo is the author of popular works like *Karmelin*, *Sood*, *Tsunami Simon*, and *Sapon Mogi*.

The Jnanpith Award has been awarded to several prominent Indian writers, including Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan, Bhalchandra Nemade, Mahasweta Devi, Girish Karnad,

and Amitav Ghosh, among others, over the years. The selection of the award winner is made by a panel of literary professionals appointed by the Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust.

The Jnanpith Award not only recognizes the author's talent but also honours the language and culture they represent. It is a way of acknowledging India's rich literary heritage and promoting the growth and development of Indian literature.

The process of selection includes the following:

- Choosing the best work or writer for an award is a challenging task, especially considering the number of languages and submissions. The first seventeen awards followed the rule of selecting the most exceptional work, while the revised rule since the eighteenth award focuses on choosing the best writer.
- Choosing from a limited variety of options within a single language can lead to difficulties and frequently results in disagreements and negative feedback.
- However, experience over the years has shown that, given goodwill and an objective approach, remarkable results are possible even in such a challenging task.
- The process of selecting the winner of the award starts by receiving submissions of proposals from a large number of individuals including litterateurs, teachers, critics, and avid readers. In addition to these, proposals are also accepted from various universities, literary and language associations, and other similar organizations. The rules of the award state that once a language wins the award, it cannot be considered for the next two years, which means that two languages become ineligible for the award every year.
- Each language is supported by an Advisory Committee, composed of three distinguished literary critics and scholars.
- The reconstitution of these committees occurs every three years.
- The Language Advisory Committee reviews and examines the submitted proposals.
- The Language Advisory Committee has the freedom to make recommendations based on proposals other than these.
- Considering other writers is free of charge before making a recommendation for the award.
- A committee responsible for language advisory is anticipated to guarantee that all deserving writers of the respective language are included in its consideration.
- A committee is anticipated to assess the author's complete literary output and analyze it in the context of modern writing.
- The 18th Award led to a slight revision of the rule. To be considered for the award, an author's entire contributions to Indian Literature are now considered. Since

the 49th Jnanpith Award, English has been added to the list of languages that are considered for the award, alongside other Indian languages. The Jnanpith Award is only open to Indian citizens.

Moortidevi Award

The Bharatiya Jnanpith decided in 1982 to establish an annual award in memory of Smt. Moorti Devi, who was the mother of Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain, the founder of Bharatiya Jnanpith. The award is given to a “contemplative or intellectual work” created by any living author who writes in any of the languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Bharatiya Jnanpith has also created the Moortidevi Award, which is presented annually for a contemplative and perceptive work written in any form of literature that expresses, underscores, and illuminates human values rooted in the broad vision of Indian philosophy and cultural heritage. The objective of this award is to promote social and individual commitment to higher values of life through the medium of literature in its broader sense. The award is given specifically to those writings that emphasize and express Indian philosophy and cultural heritage based on broader ideals and human values. The award includes a Saraswati Statue, a Citation Plaque, and a Cash Award. The first recipient of the award was Kannada writer C. K. Nagaraja Rao, who was honoured in 1983 for his novel, Pattamahadevi Shantala Devi, which was published in four volumes.

The process of selection includes the following:

- The Bharatiya Jnanpith Award is given annually for a reflective and insightful literary work, regardless of genre. The work should convey, emphasize, and elucidate certain themes in a meaningful way.
- The purpose of the Award is to encourage people to embrace higher values in life by using literature in a broader sense.
- Writing that is analytical, reflective, and perceptive at a higher level would qualify for the Award, according to that viewpoint.
- The Award only considers the work of an author who is alive and whose publication has been made available for at least a year and at most ten years prior to the year of the Award.
- It is possible to submit proposals for the Award either by the publisher or by an individual or organization.
- Visit Bharatiya Jnanpith’s website to obtain proposal forms. The Selection Committee has the liberty to evaluate any additional works in addition to the proposals that are submitted to them.

- The selection process will only consider the proposal forms that are received by the due date.
- If the Selection Committee does not find any work that meets the necessary standard during an Award year, no Award will be announced for that particular year.
- “The process of nomination, evaluation, and selection is fully under the authority of the Selection Committee, which has the power to make all decisions regarding these matters.”
- Books written in the language that won will not be considered for competition in the year following their receipt of the award.
- After a writer has been chosen to receive the Award, none of their other literary works will be taken into consideration for any future Awards.

Saraswati Samman

The Saraswati Samman is awarded annually in India by the K.K. Birla Foundation to recognize exceptional literary works that have been published in any Indian language within the past decade. This award has been established since 1991 and is named after Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge. The K.K. Birla Foundation, a literary and cultural organization, has also instituted two other awards – the Vyas Samman (for Hindi works by Indian citizens) and Bihari Puraskar (for Hindi/Rajasthani works by Rajasthani writers). The award is presented to an author whose book significantly contributes to Indian literature and promotes Indian culture globally. The first award was given in 1991 to Harivansh Rai Bachchan for his four-volume autobiography, *Kya Bhooloon Kya Yaad Karoon, Needa Ka Nirman Phir, Basere Se Door and Dashdwar se Sopan Tak*. Tamil writer Sivasankari was recently honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2022 for her memoir, *Surya Vamsam*. Sivasankari has authored 36 novels, 48 novellas, 150 short stories, 15 travelogues, seven collections of essays, and three biographies. Her memoir, *Surya Vamsam*, published in 2019, is divided into two volumes. The first volume captures the transformation from a child to a young writer, while the second volume describes the life and times of an acclaimed author spreading her wings. The volumes document the societal transformation journey while also showcasing its progression. It includes a citation, plaque, and prize money of 15 lakh rupees.

Vyas Samman

The Vyas Samman award is named after the renowned Sanskrit poet, Veda Vyas. This prestigious literary award is the second highest honour in Indian literature, following the Jnanpith Award, which recognizes contributions to Indian literature.

The K.K. Birla Foundation established the Vyas Samman Award in 1991 to recognize exceptional literary works in Hindi literature by Indian citizens published within the last 10 years. In the event that no Hindi writer or literature is nominated for the award by the committee of Vyas Samman, the award is not distributed for that year. Awards are given for various types of literary achievements, including fine essays, autobiographies, reviews and criticisms, and histories of literature and language, among others. The Vyas Samman is presented annually to an exceptional literary work written in Hindi, with the goal of promoting and recognizing the Hindi language and literature. It is important to note that the honour is not bestowed posthumously. However, if the author of the proposed work dies while the selection committee is discussing their work, it can still be considered for the award. The first Vyas Samman was awarded in 1991 to Ram Vilas Sharma for his work, “The Ancient Language Family of India and Hindi”. In 2007, no work was deemed suitable for the award. The award comprises a cash prize of ₹4 lakh, a citation, and a plaque. Many accomplished Hindi writers, such as Ram Vilas Sharma, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and Nirmal Verma, among others, have been awarded the Vyas Samman over the years. Noted Hindi writer Pushpa Bharati’s memoir, *Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein*, has been selected for the 33rd Vyas Samman for the year 2023.

Bihari Puraskar

The KK Birla Foundation instituted three literary awards in 1991, one of which is the Bihari Puraskar. The award, named after the renowned poet Bihari, is given to Rajasthani authors every year for an exceptional work published in the last decade in Hindi or Rajasthani. The recipient of the Bihari Puraskar receives a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque, and a citation. Dr Jai Singh Neeraj was the first recipient of the Bihari Puraskar in 1991 for his poem ‘Dhani ka Admi.’ Along with the Bihari Puraskar, the KK Birla Foundation has instituted two more literary awards, the Saraswati Samman and Vyas Samman. On Wednesday, Madhu Kankariya and Dr Madhav Hada were awarded the 31st and 32nd Bihari Puraskar, respectively. Kankariya won the Puraskar for her novel ‘Hum Yahan the,’ published in 2018, while Hada won for his literary criticism book ‘Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri,’ published in 2015. Kankariya is a prolific writer of prose, poetry, and books. Her novel ‘Hum Yahan the’ is based on the struggles of the tribal people in Jharkhand and offers an insight into the culture, society, and economic conditions of Kolkata. Kankariya has previously been awarded the Kathakram Puruskar, Hemchandra Smriti Sahitya Samman, Vijay Verma Katha Samman, and Pratham Vidya Sahitya Samman. Hada, on the other hand, is a literary critic and academic who was awarded the Bihari Puraskar 2022 for his extensive work in literature, media, culture, and history. He has also served as a member of the general counsel of the Sahitya Akademi and the Hindi Advisory Board.

Shakti Bhatt Prize

The Shakti Bhatt Prize, a literary award, was founded in 2007 to honour Indian publisher Shakti Bhatt. The prize was presented between 2008 and 2019 to the first-time authors of any age in India who had published works in the genres of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and drama. Starting in 2020, the prize has been awarded to recognize an author's body of work instead of their first book. The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize was created by a foundation named after Shakti Bhatt, an Indian publisher who passed away in 2007 after an illness. Bhatt was the editor of the Indian publishing house, Bracket Books.

The husband of Indian poet Jeet Thayil, along with other friends and family, established the Shakti Bhatt Foundation in her memory. The foundation manages and funds the award. The cash prize was initially ₹100,000, but in 2014, it was increased to ₹200,000.

Pampa Award

The Pampa Award, which is a literary award in the Indian state of Karnataka, is conferred by the Department of Kannada and Culture every year to those who have rendered unique service in the field of literature. This award is named after the first Kannada poet Adikavi Pampa and includes a plaque, shawl, garland and a cash reward of Rs. 5 lakhs. It is the highest literary honour given by the Government of Karnataka State and recognizes works written in the Kannada language, which is one of the 22 official languages of India. The award was established in 1987 and originally included a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a shawl, a citation and a memento. However, the cash prize was increased to ₹3 lakh in 2008. Prior to 1996, the awards were given to Kannada writers for their best single work. Since then, the award has been given for a writer's lifetime contribution to Kannada literature. The Pampa Prashasti is presented during the Kadambotsava, a cultural festival held annually in Pampa's hometown of Banavasi in Uttara Kannada district. The award has been given to a total of 31 individuals since its inception in 1987. Kuvempu was the first recipient of the award in 1987, for his work Sri Ramayana Darshanam (1949), a modern rendition of the Indian epic Ramayana. In 2015, Chandrashekhara Patil returned his award as a sign of protest against the assassination of the scholar M.M. Kalburgi. The most recent recipient of the award is Siddalingaiah, who was awarded in 2019 for his lifetime contribution.

Tagore Award

The 150th birth anniversary of Gurudeva Rabindranath Tagore will be commemorated by the Government of India from 7 May 2011, to recognize his contribution and rekindle interest in his life and works. As a part of the celebration, the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony will be instituted from 2012 to promote cultural harmony, and the award will be given for promoting values of cultural harmony. The award shall

be given to one person each year and will carry an amount of rupees one crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque, as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft or handloom item. The award may be divided between two equally deserving persons or institutions. The award cannot be given posthumously, except if the proposal for the award was submitted before the person's death. Anyone, regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed, or sex, can be eligible for the award. To be considered for the award, a person needs to be recommended in writing by someone competent, in accordance with Chapter IV of this code. Personal applications for the award shall not be considered. The award presentation shall take place annually, starting from 2012, and every year thereafter. If none of the proposals submitted merit recognition, the jury may choose to withhold the award for that year. The award considers only the work achieved within ten years immediately preceding the nomination, but older work may be considered if its significance has not become apparent until recently. The president of India shall present the award in a special ceremony at New Delhi. The Ministry of Culture will pay the award amount at the time and place requested by the awardee. If the awardee passes away before receiving the award, their next of kin will be entitled to receive it.

Name of National Awards/Honours	Year of Establishment	Cash Prize (In Rs.)	Area	First/Current Prize Winner
Given by MP Government:				
Mahatma Gandhi Samman	1995	20 Lakhs	Gandhi's philosophy (for the organization)	
Kabir Samman	1986	5 Lakhs	For poetry in Indian languages	
Tansen Samman	1980	5 Lakhs	Hindustani Classical Music	
Kalidas Samman (Classical Music)	1983	5 Lakhs	Classical Music	
Kalidas Samman	1981	5 Lakhs		
Kalidas Award (Theater)	1982	5 Lakhs	Theatre	
Kalidas Samman (Classical Dance)	1983	5 Lakhs	Classical Dance	
Tulsi Samman	1983	5 Lakhs	For Tribal Folk and Traditional Arts, Male Artists (2 years for performing and 1 year for figurative arts)	

List of National Awards of India

(Continued)

List of National Awards of India (Continued)

Name of National Awards/Honours	Year of Establishment	Cash Prize (In Rs.)	Area	First/Current Prize Winner
Lata Mangeshkar Award	1984	5 Lakhs	Music direction and playback singing.	
Iqbal Samman	1986	5 Lakhs	For Urdu literature	
Maithili Sharan Gupta Award	1987	5 Lakhs	For Hindi literature	
Devi Ahilyabai Award	1996	5 Lakhs	For tribal folk and traditional arts (women artists).	
Kishore Kumar Samman	1997	5 Lakhs	Acting, Screenplay, Songwriting, Direction	
Sharad Joshi Award	1992	5 Lakhs	Hindi satire, fine essays, reports, diaries, letters etc.	
Kavi Pradip Samman	2012	5 lakhs	For stage poetry	
Nanaji Deshmukh Samman	2012	5 Lakhs	For individual (man or woman) and organization for social, cultural harmony, upliftment, refinement, spirituality, tradition, society and development and culture.	
Kumar Gandharwa Award	1992	2.51 Lakhs	Young artist for singing, playing and dancing in the field of classical music.	
Raja Man Singh Tomar Samman	2011	5 Lakhs	For an organization working in the preservation of music, culture and art.	

List of National Awards of India (Continued)

Name of National Awards/Honours	Year of Establishment	Cash Prize (In Rs.)	Area	First/Current Prize Winner
Nirmal Verma Samman	2015	5 Lakhs	Being an Indian immigrant, he made an invaluable contribution to the development of Hindi abroad.	
Father Kamil Bulke Samman	2015	5 Lakhs	Excellent contribution of a person of foreign origin in the development of Hindi language and its dialects.	
Gunnakar Mulle Samman	2015	5 Lakhs	Scientific and technical writing in Hindi and writing for textbooks.	
Hindi Bhasha Samman	2015	5 Lakhs	Contribution of non-Hindi speaking writers and litterateurs to the prosperity of Hindi through writing and creation.	
Given by UP Government:				
Yash Bharti Award	1994	Rupees 11 lacs and a pension of 50,000 rupees per month to the recipients.	those personalities whose contribution is remarkable in the field of education, literature, journalism, culture etc.	
Bharat Bharati Award	1982	8 Lakhs	This award is given through Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan, Lucknow for outstanding contribution in the field of literature.	First (1982) – Mahadevi Verma Current (2021) – Dr. Ramanath Tripathi

International Gandhi Peace Prize

The International Gandhi Peace Prize, named after Mahatma Gandhi, is awarded annually by the Government of India.

Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India in 1995, on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. This is an annual award given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods. The award carries ₹1 crore (US\$130,000) in cash, convertible in any currency in the world, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. It is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, creed or gender.

Normally, proposals received from eligible persons are considered. However, the fact that a proposal has not been submitted by an eligible person does not make it invalid. If the jury determines that none of the proposals are deserving of recognition, they may choose not to award the prize for that year. This has happened from 2006 to 2012. Only works that were completed within the last ten years before the nomination are considered for the prize. However, older works can be taken into account if their significance has only recently been recognized. To be eligible, a written work must have been published.

Name	Area	Year
Gita Press, Gorakhpur	For recognizes the important and unparalleled contribution of Gita Press, in contributing to collective upliftment of humanity, which personifies Gandhian living in true sense.	2021
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman	For his contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.	2020
Qaboos bin Said Al Said	For contributions for social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.	2019
Yōhei Sasakawa	For his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.	2018
Ekal Abhiyan Trust	Contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender and Social Equality.	2017

List of Award International Gandhi Peace Prize Winners

List of Award International Gandhi Peace Prize Winners (*Continued*)

Name	Area	Year
Akshaypatra Foundation	A non-profit organisation in India that runs school lunch programme across India	2016
Sulabh International	A social service organization that works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, non-conventional sources of energy, waste management and social reforms through education.	2016
Vivekananda Kendra	A Hindu spiritual organisation based on the principles preached by Swami Vivekananda	2015
ISRO	Space agency of the Indian Govt. Objective is to advance space technology and deliver the applications of it.	2014
Chandi Prasad Bhatt	Environmentalist, social activist and pioneer of the Chipko movement	2013
Desmond Tutu	South African cleric and activist	2005
Mrs. Coretta Scott King	The widow of Martin Luther King	2004
Mr. Vaclav Havel	Former President of Czechoslovakia and first President of the Czech Republic	2003
Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan	Educational Trust that emphasized Indian culture	2002
Mr. John Hume	Northern Irish Politician	2001
Grameen Bank (co-recipient)	Founded by Muhammad Yunus	2000
Dr. Nelson Mandela	Former President of South Africa	2000
Shri Murlidhar Devidas Amte (Baba Amte), India		1999
Ramakrishna Mission, India		1998
Dr. Gerhard Fischer	Former German Diplomat	1997
Dr. A. T. Ariyaratane	President, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka	1996
Dr. Julius K. Nyerere	Former President of Tanzania	1995

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding

In memory of the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his lifelong dedication to the cause of promoting international understanding, goodwill and friendship among peoples of the world, the Government of India established the

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding in 1965. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is responsible for administering the award annually, which is granted to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in promoting international understanding. The award is not available to associations, institutions, or organizations. A seven-member jury appointed by the Government of India is responsible for awarding the prize. The Vice President of India leads the jury, and the Chief Justice of India is a member of the jury. The jury's other members include one Chief Justice of a State High Court, one Vice Chancellor of a University, one person representing the Press, and two eminent individuals from public life.

- The Jury's term lasts for three years.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Award includes a trophy, a citation, and a prize of Rs. 25 lakhs.
- The Trophy's design features an image of the globe surrounded by lotus petals. The globe is created using only four linear elements that represent the axis and three major latitudes.
- The blue-green colour of the Trophy represents the earth's colour when seen from outer space and reminds us that our planet is the only green one in the solar system.
- The Trophy's vertical axis, along with the top and bottom latitudes, resembles a human figure, emphasized by a hollow dot on the top.
- The lotus form has a significant place in Indian cosmology. Primarily, it symbolizes human consciousness unfolding from the darkness of ignorance to the radiance of inner awakening and universal understanding.

U. Thant (1965) was the first person to receive the Award. Martin Luther King Jr. (1966) was presented with the Award posthumously. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1967) and Yehudi Menuhin (1968) were also recipients. Mother Teresa (1969) and Kenneth D. Kaunda (1970) were awarded next. Josip Broz Tito (1971), Andre Malarux (1972), and Julius C. Nyerere (1973) were also recognized. Raul Prebisch (1974), Jonas Salk (1975), and Giuseppe Tucci (1976) were among the recipients. Tulsi Meherji Shrestha (1977), Nichidatsu Fujii (1978), and Nelson Mandela (1979) were awarded next. Barbara Ward (1980), Alva and Gunnar Myrdal (1981), and Leopold Sedar Senghor (1982) were also honoured. Bruno Kreisky (1983), Indira Gandhi (1984), and Olof Palme (1985) were recipients. Javier Perez de Cuellar (1987), Yassir Arafat (1988), and Robert Gabriel Mugabe (1989) were also awarded. Helmut Kohl (1990), Aruna Asaf Ali (1991), and Maurice F. Strong (1992) received the Award. Aung San Su Kyi (1993), Mahathir Bin Mohamad (1994), and Hosny Mobarak (1995) were also recognized. The Award was not given in 1986, 1996-2002, 2008, and since

2010. Goh Chok Tong (2003), Sultan Qaboos (2004), Wangari Maathai (2005), Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (2006), Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson (2007), and Angela Merkel (2009) were the most recent recipients.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace Disarmament And Development

The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is an esteemed award named after the former Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi. Since 1986, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust has conferred it annually. The award comes with a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakhs and a citation.

Individuals or organizations that strive for global peace and development, utilize scientific breakthroughs to advance freedom and improve society, and establish a modern worldwide economic arrangement are eligible to receive the award.

Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad were recently announced as joint recipients of the 2023 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development. This is in recognition of their commendable efforts to bring together the youth and peoples of Israel and the Arab World for a peaceful resolution of the long-standing Israel-Palestine conflict without resorting to violence.

Barenboim, a celebrated classical pianist, hails from Argentina. Awwad, on the other hand, is a prominent peace activist from Palestine, who has devoted himself to finding a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Recipient	Year	Country/ Organization	Description
Parliamentarians for Global Action	1986	–	International Organisation of Parliamentarians
Mikhail Gorbachev	1987	Soviet Union	Former Soviet Union Leader
Gro Harlem Brundtland	1988	Norway	Former Prime Minister of Norway
UNICEF	1989	United Nations	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
Sam Nujoma	1990	Namibia	First President of Namibia

List of Indira Gandhi Prize winners for Peace, Disarmament and Development

(Continued)

List of Indira Gandhi Prize winners for Peace, Disarmament and Development (*Continued*)

Recipient	Year	Country/ Organization	Description
Rajiv Gandhi	1991	India	Former Prime Minister of India (posthumous)
Saburo Okita	1992	Japan	Japanese Economist
Václav Havel	1993	Czech Republic	1st President of the Czech Republic
Trevor Huddleston	1994	United Kingdom	Anti-Apartheid Activist
Olusegun Obasanjo	1995	Nigeria	12th President of Nigeria
Ela Bhatt	2011	India	Founder of SEWA
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	2012	Liberia	President of Liberia
Angela Merkel	2013	Germany	Chancellor of Germany
Indian Space Research Organisation	2014	India	Indian Space Agency
UNHCR	2015	United Nations	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Manmohan Singh	2017	India	Former Prime Minister, Finance Minister, and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
Centre for Science and Environment	2018	India	Not-for-profit public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi, India.
Sir David Attenborough	2019	United Kingdom	World renowned English broadcaster and natural historian
Pratham	2021	India	Pratham is an innovative not-for-profit learning organization created to improve the quality of education based in India.
Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India	2022	India	As representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.

*No awards were given in 2016 and 2020.

Sports Awards

Arjuna Award

The Arjuna Award is the second-highest sporting honour in India, after the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, and is officially known as the Arjuna Award for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games. It is named after Arjuna, a character from the Sanskrit epic Mahabharata, who symbolizes hard work, dedication, and concentration in Hinduism. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports awards it annually to recognize outstanding sporting achievements at the national and international levels. Before the introduction of Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 1991–1992, the Arjuna Award was the highest sporting honour in India. Since its inception in 1961, the award has undergone a number of expansions, reviews, and rationalizations, with the objective of honouring the outstanding sportspersons of the country.

Eligibility:

- To be eligible for the Arjuna Award, a sportsperson must have performed well at the international level over the past four years while also exhibiting leadership qualities, sportsmanship, and a sense of discipline. The achievements of sportspersons in international tournaments, including the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games, will also be considered.
- Any sportsperson who has been penalized or is currently under investigation for using drugs or banned substances as per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will not be eligible for the award. This is based on a sample collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA, and tested by a WADA-accredited laboratory or the National Dope Testing Laboratory.
- The Indian government will only consider conferring the Arjuna Award in the following categories: Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Cup, World Championship disciplines, and cricket or any equivalent recognized international tournament. The award also covers Indigenous Games and sports for the physically challenged.
- As of 2020, the Arjuna Award comprises a bronze statuette of Arjuna, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. The award will be presented to the winners at a function that the Government of India will organize and decide on the date and location.
- No award will be given to the same person more than once. However, the award may be given posthumously if the circumstance arises.

No. of Awardees:

- In general, only one award will be presented in each discipline every year, provided deserving sportspersons are available. However, at least one award must be exclusively given for sports intended for the physically challenged. Additionally, the rule of one award per discipline may be relaxed in the case of team sports and across gender. This means that the Selection Committee may recommend, in deserving cases with proper justification, more than one sportsperson in respect of team sports and sportspersons of both genders.
- No more than 15 awards can typically be given in a single calendar year. However, if Indian sportspersons perform exceptionally well in the Commonwealth, Asian Games, and Olympic Games in a particular year, and for the reasons stated above, Arjuna Awards exceeding the limit of 15 may be allowed with proper justification and approval of the Minister-in-charge for Youth Affairs & Sports.
- The President of India will confer the Awards in a ceremony, which usually takes place on 29 August, the birth anniversary of the Late Major Dhyan Chand. In years when the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games are held, the date of the award ceremony will be determined in consultation with the Secretariat of the President of India, considering the closing dates of these Games.

Dhyanchand Award

The Major Dhyan Chand Award is the lifetime achievement sporting honour of the Republic of India, officially known as the Major Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games. This award is named after Major Dhyan Chand, the hockey wizard. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports awards it annually. The award was instituted in 2002 and is given only to the disciplines included in events like the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship, and World Cup, along with Cricket, Indigenous Games, and Parasports. Shahuraj Birajdar (Boxing), Ashok Diwan (Hockey), and Aparna Ghosh (Basketball) were the first recipients of the award who were honoured in 2002. As of 2020, the award includes a statuette, a certificate, a ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.

Eligibility:

- To be considered for the Award, a sportsperson must have performed well at the international level and continued to contribute to the promotion of sports in their individual capacity even after retiring from their career as a sportsperson. Additionally, the sportsperson must have demonstrated qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, and discipline.

- Any sportsperson who has been penalized or is being investigated for the use of drugs/substances that are banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) or any other WADA-authorized agency and tested by the National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA-accredited laboratory will not be eligible for the Award.
- Sportspersons who have already received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, or Dronacharya Award will not be eligible for the Dhyan Chand Award.
- The Award will include a statuette, a certificate, a ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, which will be presented to the winners at a function for the presentation of the Award. The date and location of the presentation will be determined by the Government of India.
- No individual will be eligible to receive the Award more than once.
- In the event of an individual's death, the Award may be given posthumously.

No. of Awardees:

- Each year, only up to three Awards will be granted if there are deserving athletes to receive them.

Dronacharya Award

The Dronacharya Award is a prestigious sports coaching honour of the Republic of India, officially known as the Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games. It is named after Drona, who is commonly referred to as “Dronacharya” or “Guru Drona,” a character from the ancient Sanskrit epic Mahabharata. Drona was a Master of Advanced Military Warfare and was appointed as the royal preceptor to the Kaurava and the Pandava princes for their training in military arts and astras (Divine weapons). The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports bestows the award annually. Instituted in 1985, the award is conferred only on coaches associated with disciplines that are part of events such as the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship, and World Cup, as well as Cricket, Indigenous Games, and Parasports. In 1985, the first recipients of the award were Bhalchandra Bhaskar Bhagwat (Wrestling), Om Prakash Bhardwaj (Boxing), and O. M. Nambiar (Athletics), who were honoured with the award.

The Award is intended to:

- Honour coaches who have consistently done exceptional and worthy work, enabling athletes to excel in international events.

- Motivate coaches to devote themselves to raising athletes' performance levels to the highest possible standard in international events, with the singular aim of bringing glory to their country.

Eligibility:

- To qualify for the Dronacharya Award, a coach must have delivered exceptional results over a four-year period prior to the year of the award. If the years in which the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games are held, the achievements of the athletes who have been coached will be considered up to the end of these Games.
- The nominated coach must provide details of the periods in which he or she coached the athlete(s) in question, against whose performance he or she is seeking the Award. The Ministry reserves the right to request an affidavit from the athlete in question if it is found that more than one coach is claiming credit for their achievements.
- For the two Awards designated for lifetime contribution to coaching, the coach's achievements in producing outstanding athletes over a period of 20 years or more will be considered.
- A coach who is found to have encouraged the use of drugs or substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by the National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA-accredited laboratory by an athlete whom he or she is coaching will not be eligible for the Dronacharya Award. A coach who is under investigation or has an ongoing case in this regard will also be ineligible.
- Athletes who have already received the Dhyan Chand Award are not eligible to apply for the Dronacharya Award.
- The Award includes a statuette, a certificate, a ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000 (Rupees ten lakhs) for Regular and Rs. 15,00,000 for Lifetime, which will be presented to the winners at the Award ceremony held at a place and date decided by the competent authority.
- The Award cannot be given to the same person twice.
- The Award may be presented posthumously if the occasion arises.

No. of Awardees:

- Typically, no more than 5 awards can be awarded in a single year, with 2 of these specifically designated for recognizing lifetime achievements in coaching.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

The highest sporting honour of India is the Khel Ratna Award, which is officially known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. This award is given annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, for the performance by a sportsperson in a year. It was instituted in 1991–1992 and was previously named after Rajiv Gandhi (1944–1991), the 6th Prime Minister of India. Major Dhyan Chand (1905–79), an Indian field hockey player widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time, who scored more than 1000 goals over a career that spanned over 20 years from 1926 to 1948, is now the name behind this award since August 6, 2021.

The award's inaugural recipient was Viswanathan Anand, a chess Grandmaster, who was recognized for his performance during the 1991–92 year. Abhinav Bindra, a sport shooter, became the youngest recipient of the award in 2001 at just 18 years old. To date, there have been 58 recipients across sixteen different sport disciplines, including athletics, badminton, billiards, boxing, chess, cricket, field hockey, football, gymnastics, para-athletics, para-badminton, para-shooting, shooting, snooker, table tennis, tennis, wrestling, weightlifting, and yacht racing. The award's objective is to celebrate the outstanding and most impressive performance of a sportsperson in their respective field over a four-year period leading up to the year in which the award is given. In years where the Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, a sportsperson's achievements up to the conclusion of these Games will also be considered.

Eligibility:

- The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for excellence in Sports and Games at the international level, i.e., Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth/World Games/Championships/World Cup and equivalent recognized international tournaments, to a sportsperson who delivers an outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years immediately preceding the year in which the award is to be given. The achievements of the sportspersons in these Games and other above-mentioned tournaments up to the conclusion of the Olympic Games/Commonwealth Games/Asian Games will also be considered during the years when the Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held.
- Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing for the use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory, or any other WADA accredited laboratory will not be considered for the award.

- The award includes a cash amount of Rs. 25 lakhs exempt from Income Tax and Wealth Tax in the year in which it is disbursed, a certificate of honour to each sportsperson, and one medal to each sportsperson. The Award will be presented to the winners at the function for the presentation of the Award to be held at a place and on a date to be determined by the Government.
- This Award will be in addition to any other award of the Department or otherwise, which may be available to sportspersons for the same achievements.
- No Award will be presented for a second time to the same person. The award may be given posthumously if such an occasion arises.

No. of Awardees:

- Only one award will be given each year to a single athlete, and this provision will only be altered under rare circumstances.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

The MAKA Trophy is a sports honour of India and is named after Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was a senior leader of Indian National Congress and the first Minister of Education in independent India. This award is given out annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to the university that has performed best in sports and promoting competitive sports in the preceding year. The MAKA Trophy is a rolling trophy and comes with a cash prize of ₹15 lakh for the university securing the first position. As of 2020, only the overall top-performing university is awarded with this prestigious trophy and cash prize.

- The universities that secure second and third place in the competition will be awarded cash prizes of ₹7.5 lakh and ₹4.5 lakh, respectively.
- The university that secures the first position will receive the MAKA Trophy, a rolling trophy accompanied by a cash reward of Rs. 15.0 Lakh.
- The universities securing second and third positions will receive cash awards of Rs. 7.5 Lakh and Rs. 4.5 Lakh, respectively.
- The Vice Chancellor and Director of Physical Education/Sports from the winning university may receive the award.
- To be eligible for marks under the scheme, at least 16 university teams (separate for men and women) must participate in a team sport, and 20 individuals (separate for men and women) must participate in an individual sport.
- The NADA anti-doping code will be applicable to universities participating in the MAKA Trophy Award.

- The Government of India established the ‘Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy’ Award in 1956–57.
- The overall top-performing university is awarded the MAKA Trophy, which is a rolling trophy.
- Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar is the most frequent winner of the trophy, having won it 23 times, most recently in the year 2022.
- Panjab University in Chandigarh has won the trophy 15 times, most recently in the year 2020.
- Delhi University in Delhi has won the trophy 14 times, most recently in the year 2000–2001.
- Other winners include Bombay University in Mumbai, which won the inaugural trophy, Punjabi University in Patiala, and Kurukshetra University in Kurukshetra.
- The scheme is referred to as the “Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy Scheme,” and the overall top-performing university of the preceding year is awarded a trophy.

The objective of the award is given below:

- Colleges and Universities should be encouraged to participate in competitive sports and games.

Those Universities which excel in sports and games should be acknowledged and honoured for their performance.

Sports should be promoted in colleges and Universities to achieve excellence in this area.

Physical fitness and sports should be an integral part of the curriculum in colleges and Universities.

Youth and students should be motivated to adopt a sports culture free from doping.

Eligibility:

Universities that have been recognized by the Government/UGC are the only ones that are eligible for nomination under this scheme.

The Trophy Award will be based on sports disciplines that meet the following conditions:

1. The sports disciplines should be recognized by MYAS.
2. The sports disciplines should be part of the Olympics/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games.

- In addition to the above, three sports disciplines are included based on their popularity/indignity: Chess, Kho-Kho, and Cricket.
- The university that secures the first position will be conferred with the MAKAT Trophy, which is a rolling trophy with a cash award of Rs. 15.0 Lakhs. Rs. 7.5 Lakhs and Rs. 4.5 Lakhs will be given to the universities that secure the second and third positions, respectively. The Award may be received by the Vice Chancellor and Director (Physical Education/Sports) of the winning University.
- The cash award money that the winning Universities receive under this Scheme should be spent to promote sports, including opening a Centre of Excellence, creating/upgrading infrastructure, training athletes, and awarding cash prizes to sportspersons.

No. of Awardees:

- The universities that secure the top three positions based on overall marks will be recognized and awarded.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is a sports honour of the Republic of India. The name of the award in Hindi translates to National Sports Promotion Award. It is awarded annually by the Ministry. The “involvement of corporates, voluntary organizations, and sports control boards in the promotion and development of sports in the country” over the previous three years is recognized by the award given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The award was initiated in 2009 and the guidelines were updated in 2015. The objective of the award is to promote and encourage the participation of corporates, voluntary organizations, and sports control boards in the promotion and development of sports in the country.

There will be the following four categories of awards under the Scheme:

- Recognizing and supporting emerging/young potential
- Promotion of sports programs as part of corporate social responsibility
- Hiring athletes and implementing measures for their welfare
- Utilizing sports as a tool for development

Eligibility:

- Any organization, whether public or private, including sports control boards and NGOs, that has played a significant role in promoting and developing sports is eligible for consideration for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.

- To qualify for the “Identification and Nurturing of Budding/Young Talent” category, the organization must have identified and nurtured a minimum of 50 young and budding sportspeople each year over the past three years.
- Entities eligible for the ‘Encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility’ category must have contributed of at least 5% of their gross profit or a minimum of Rs. 2 crores towards sports promotion and development in the preceding three financial years. Contributions made purely for commercial purposes will not be considered towards this contribution. Only non-commercial contributions made as part of corporate social responsibility will be considered for assessing a corporate’s contribution towards the promotion and development of sports in the country. Along with the application, copies of audited statements of accounts for the past three years should be submitted.
- For the category of ‘Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures’, the entity must have recruited a minimum of 50 sportspersons during the last three years.
- Non-governmental organizations that have been working to promote and develop sports for at least three years are eligible to apply for the ‘Sports for Development’ category. The applicant NGO should submit its Memorandum of Association, Rules & Regulations, Byelaws, and other documents that indicate the source of funds for its functioning and activities along with the application.
- The Sports Departments of the State and Central Governments, which are specifically mandated for promoting and developing sports, are not eligible for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.
- Each of the above-mentioned categories will receive an award consisting of a citation and a trophy. However, there will be no cash award.

No. of Awardees:

- Each category of the award will receive only one award every year.

Tenzin Norgay National Adventure Award

The highest adventure sports award in India is the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, previously known as the National Adventure Awards. It is named after Tenzing Norgay, who, along with Edmund Hillary, was one of the first two people to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports awards it annually. For their remarkable achievements in adventure activities on land, sea, and air during the last three years, the awardees are honoured. The award was instituted in 1993–1994, and the first awards were presented for the

year 1994. Chandraprabha Aitwal, who received the award once in 1994 for land adventure and a second time in 2009 for lifetime achievement, is the only person to have been honoured twice with the award.

The purpose of the prize is to achieve the following goals:

- It is important to acknowledge the accomplishments of individuals in the adventure field.
- It is crucial to motivate young individuals to cultivate traits such as resilience, risk-taking, teamwork, and quick and effective reflexes in challenging situations.
- It is essential to provide incentives to young people to participate in adventure activities.

Eligibility:

- Outstanding leadership qualities and exceptional performance are prerequisites for an individual to be considered.
- The individual should exhibit a sense of adventure and possess discipline in their approach towards it.
- The person should have a consistent track record of achievements in one of the three areas of adventure, namely, Land, Air, or Water (Sea).
- The award comprises of a bronze statuette, a certificate, and a blazer with a silken tie/saree, along with a prize money of Rs. 15 Lakhs.

No. of Awardees:

- Awards can be granted in four divisions, which are Land Adventure, Water Adventure (Sea), Air Adventure, and Lifetime Achievement for Adventure Activities Performed on Land, Sea, and Air.
- In general, only one Award will be given in each category.
- The Ministry holds the authority to extend the number of awards in a specific year with the endorsement of the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Laxman Award/Rani Laxmi Bai Award

The government of Uttar Pradesh operates a program that recognizes outstanding sports personalities of the state through the Laxman and Rani Laxmi Bai awards. Recipients of this award are presented with a Citation, a Bronze statue of Laxman/Rani Laxmi Bai/Scroll, and a cash prize of Rs. 3,11,000/-. Eligibility for this award requires the sportsperson to be a resident of Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, they must

have been a member of the state team for at least three years and must have participated in national competitions, with their sports performance being the best for the year of recommendation. Priority is given to sports persons who have also participated in any recognized international sports competition (Senior group). Furthermore, if a sportsperson has been a member of the state team for one year, they will still be eligible for this award.

Male sportspersons are eligible to receive the Laxman Award according to GO No. 1647/42-2020-126/S.P./75 T.C. dated 29 October 2020. Female sportspersons, on the other hand, are eligible to receive the Rani Laxmi Bai award in accordance with the provisions set forth in GO No. 1773/42-2018126/S.P./1975 T.C. dated 13.08.2018. The list of 30 sports covered under the two aforementioned GOs has undergone revision, and Wushu has been approved as the 31st sport to be included in this list.



