

Awards and Honors

Priyanka Chopra conferred Mother Teresa Memorial award for social justice

- Indian actor, Priyanka Chopra has been bestowed with the 2017 Mother Teresa Memorial Award for her contribution towards lending her support to social causes such as her recent visit to Syria where she met and interacted with refugee children.
- The 35-year-old is also UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador and is known for supporting various philanthropic activities. The award was received by her mother Madhu Chopra, on her behalf.
- The award has been conferred to several famous personalities in the past such as Malala Yousafzai, Anna Hazare, Kiran Bedi, Oscar Fernandes, Sudha Murty, Sushmita Sen and Bilquis Bano Edhi.

Hindi writer Mamta Kalia selected for Vyas Samman 2017

- Renowned Hindi writer Mamta Kalia was on 8 December 2017 selected for the Vyas Samman 2017 for her novel "Dukkhham Sukkham" published in 2009.
- She was chosen by a selection committee headed by Sahitya Akademi director and author Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
- She will receive Rs 3.5 lakh as the prize money of Vyas Samman.

India's Lakshmi Puri among six diplomats felicitated with Diwali 'Power of One' award at UN

- Six top diplomats including one Indian were felicitated with the inaugural Diwali 'Power of One' award at the UN headquarters in New York for their contribution to help form a more perfect, peaceful and secure world.
- The awards were presented on 11 December, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the issuance of a 'forever Diwali stamp' by the US Postal Services.

Following is the list of awardees:

1. Matthew Rycroft: The outgoing British Ambassador to the UN
2. Nawaf Salam: The Lebanese Ambassador to the UN. He was also elected to the International Court of Justice in November 2017.
3. Lakshmi Puri: She is the Indian head of the UN Women.
4. Maged Abdelaziz: The former Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN
5. Ion Botnaru: The former Permanent Representative of Moldova to the UN
6. Yuriy Sergeyev: The former Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN

Veteran actress Rekha awarded with Smita Patil Memorial Award

- Veteran actress Rekha was honoured with Smita Patil Memorial Award 2017. The award ceremony which began as an annual gala in 1984, is now held once in every two years.
- Mr. Anandji Virji Shah of musician duo Kalyanji-Anandji presented the award to the actress. The music maestro has composed musics for several hit films featuring Rekha and Amitabh Bachchan.

Educationist Dr. Gaurav Nigam awarded 'National Gaurav Award 2017'

- Dr. Gaurav Nigam, a well-known educationist, paediatrician, founder and CEO of iCare, an organization working in the area of new-age child health care; and intelligentsia, research based play school has been awarded 'National Gaurav Award 2017' for his contribution in the field of education and childcare.
- The award ceremony took place in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi with participation.

Satheesh Reddy to receive prestigious National Design Award

- Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred with the prestigious National Design Award for his contributions towards indigenous design and development of diversified missile systems.
- He will be receiving the Award during the Indian Engineering Congress on December 21, 2017 at Chennai.

Shilpa Shetty Wins PETA's 'Hero to Animals' Award

- Actress-entrepreneur Shilpa Shetty Kundra has been honored with a 'Hero to Animals' Award by animal rights organization PETA for speaking out against the cruelty of circuses; signing a petition asking the government to uphold the ban on jallikattu, bull races, and bullfights; and adopting a stray kitten.
- Shetty's compassion towards animals was recognized here on Dec. 16 night by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

A R Rahman's Qutub- E- Kripa's music shortlisted for Academy Awards

- Hollywood film "Lake of Fire" songs that have been composed by Qutub-E-Kripa, an ensemble of student musicians of AR Rahman's music academy KM Music Conservatory, have been shortlisted for the Best Original Song at the 2018 Academy Awards.
- Rahman, who himself won the Oscar in 2009 for "Slumdog Millionaire" in two categories-- Best Original Score and Best Original Song, congratulated the team for its success on Twitter in December.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2017

- India's national academy of letters Sahitya Akademi on 21 December 2017 announced its annual awards, recognising the literary works of 24 writers in 24 different Indian languages.

Awardees

- **English:** Mamang Dai was awarded in English language for his novel The Black Hill.
- **Hindi:** Ramesh Kuntal Megh won the award in Hindi for his literary criticism work Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar.
- **Sanskrit:** Niranjana Mishra was awarded for his Sanskrit novel Gangaputradanam
- **Malayalam:** KP Ramanunni won for Daivathinte Pusthakam in Malayalam
- **Punjabi:** Nachhattar was awarded for his Punjabi novel Slow Down.
- **Poets:** Udaya Narayana Singh (Maithili), Shrikant Deshmukh (Marathi), Bhujanga Tudu (Santali), Inqulab (Tamil) and Devipriya (Telugu). However, Tamilian poet Inqulab's family refused to accept the award for his collections of poems titled "Kaandhal Naatkal.
- **Short Stories:** Shiv Mehta (Dogri), Autar Krishen Rahbar (Kashmiri), Gajanan Jog (Konkani), Gayatri Saraf (Odia) and Baig Ehsas (Urdu).
- **Literary Criticism:** Ramesh Kuntal Megh (Hindi), TP Ashoka (Kannada), Urmi Ghanshyam Desai (Gujarati), Bina Hangkhim (Nepali) and Neeraj Daiya (Rajasthani).
- **Essay:** Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi) was awarded for his essays.

Priyanka Chopra to get honorary doctorate at Bareilly University

- Actor Priyanka Chopra will be honoured with a doctorate degree by the Bareilly International University.
- The international icon will be felicitated with the degree tomorrow by the University chancellor Keshav Kumar Agrawal in a ceremony to be attended by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan and Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Rajesh Agarwal.

Chola MS honoured with Golden Peacock Award for risk management

- Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited has been awarded the prestigious "Golden Peacock Award for Risk Management" for the year 2017.
- The Golden Peacock Awards were instituted in 1991 by the Institute of Directors (IOD), now regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide, are presented annually to recognise the best corporates through competition.