

# Awards & Honours

## Current Affairs for OAS Prelims 2020

### January 2020

- Dubai-based Indian girl **Sucheta Satish** has won the **100 Global Child Prodigy Award** for singing in most languages during one concert and the longest live singing concert by a child.
- **Aayushi Dholakia** has bagged the title of **Miss Teen International 2019**. She also won the title of Best in National Costume Award and Best in Speech Award.
- **Jasbinder Bilan** has won the **UK based Costa Children's Award 2019** for her debut novel 'Asha and the Spirit Bird'.
- Famous Agricultural Scientist **Dr M S Swaminathan** was honoured as the first recipients '**Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence**' for his distinguished contribution to the field of agriculture.
- A 10-year-old British Indian yoga boy **Ishwar Sharma** wins **Global Child Prodigy Award**.
- **Puri, Odisha** has been awarded for its initiatives for plastic waste management with the **Swachhata Darpan Awards 2019**.
- A senior scientist Sakya Singha Sen from National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL) Pune, has been awarded "Merck Young Scientist Award 2019" for doing remarkable research in chemical science.
- 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF): 'Castle of Dreams' directed by Reza Mirakarimi won the Best Film Award in Asian Competition section, Indian film 'Finally Love' directed by Anjan Dutt bagged Best Audience Award in Cinema of the World Category; Sri Lankan director Prasanna Vithanage's film 'Children of the Sun' won Special Jury Award.
- Health Set Go CEO Priya Prakash wins Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award 2019 for her school health program that provides healthcare support to children.
- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the 14th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards in New Delhi, to honour journalists across the country from print, broadcast and digital media.
- Uttarakhand, **Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre** (in the institution category) and **Kumar Munnan Singh** (individual category) have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020**.
- **Dr N Kumar**, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has been conferred '**Harit Ratna Award 2019**'.
- Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee conferred the honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by Calcutta University at its annual convocation in Kolkata.

- **Sanjana Kapoor** received the prestigious French honour of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (**Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters**) for her outstanding contribution to the field of theatre.
- Piyuus Jaiswal was awarded the Global Bihar Excellence Award 2019.

### February 2020

- The President of India has presented the **International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy** for the year 2019 to **Dr N.S. Dharmashaktu** in New Delhi.
- Vinod Kumar Shukla has won the inaugural Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award for his translated book "Blue Is Like Blue".
- The Veteran actor Waheeda Rehman will be honoured the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Samman.
- The Reserve Bank of India governor **Shaktikanta Das** has been named the '**Central Banker of the Year 2020**' for the Asia-Pacific region by financial intelligence magazine The Banker.
- Madhya Pradesh Minister for Women and Child Development Imarti Devi and Principal Secretary Anupam Rajan have been awarded for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Chief National coach for the Indian Badminton team Pullela Gopichand honour with Coaches lifetime achievement award by International Olympic Committee's (IOC).
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented 'President's Colour' to the INS Shivaji at a ceremony in Lonavala, Maharashtra.
- South Indian Bank has bagged two awards at the Banking Technology 2019 awards instituted by the Indian Banks' Association. This event was held in Indian Bank Association's 15th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo and Awards held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The South Indian Bank emerged the winner in the 'Most Customer-Centric Bank Using Technology' category and runner up in the 'Best Payments Initiative' category amongst small Banks'.
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has awarded Indian men's hockey team captain & midfielder Manpreet Singh with "Player of the Year for 2019" award. India's another midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad has also won the "FIH Male Rising Star of the Year" award.
- Bio Asia 2020 has announced the Genome Valley Excellence Award. American immunologist and oncologist Dr. Carl H June and Novartis CEO Dr. Vasant Narsimhan will be presented this award for their contributions to life sciences.
- Indian feminist scholar, activist **Gita Sen** has won the prestigious **Dan David Prize 2020** under "present" category.
- Dr Niti Kumar, a Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow will be honoured with the SERB Women Excellence Award-2020.
- Veteran actor Manoj Kumar has been honoured by the World Book of Records, London with the WBR Golden Era of Bollywood.

- Adline Castelino has been crowned as the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition. Aavriti Choudhary of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh crowned as LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020.
- Sreekar Prasad, a veteran editor has entered the Limca Book of Records for 'films edited in the most number of languages'. Sreekar Prasad has received the certification from the Limca Records for editing films in 17 languages. The 17 languages includes: English, Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Odia, Sinhalese, Bengali, Assamese, Nepali, Pangchenpa, Karbi, Mishing, Bodo, and Marathi.
- The **Raja Ravi Varma State Award** was conferred on veteran painter from Kalaburagi, **Prof. J.S. Khanderao** (for the year 2019) and senior artist from Mumbai, Vasudev Kamath (2020). **Prof. J.S. Khanderao** was awarded for his art that defines the history of human culture as the art is a form of human expression. The painting dates back to the ages of primitive times. The art form has undergone rapid transformations over centuries. Vasudev Kamath was awarded for his more expressive form of art.
- Forest Man of India **Jadav Payeng** will be awarded **Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020** in New Delhi.

### March 2020

- Women Entrepreneurship Platform of the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) will organize the Women Transforming India Awards 2019 on the occasion of International Women's Day i.e. on 8 March 2020.
- Assam's Environmental activist **Jadav Payeng** who is popularly called the 'Forest Man of India' has been named the winner of **128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award** for his exceptional voluntary service to environmental conservation.
- Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor **V Praveen Rao** has won the **7th Dr MS Swaminathan Award**. He has won the award for the period 2017-2019.
- **PV Sindhu** has won the inaugural edition of **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award for 2019**. BBC has also conferred former Indian sprinter PT Usha with the Lifetime Achievement award.
- **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** has been named as the "**Greatest Leader of All Time**" in a poll conducted by 'BBC World Histories Magazine'. He was the 19th century ruler of the Sikh Empire in India.
- Arfa Khanum Sherwani of "The Wire" and Bengaluru-based freelancer Rohini Mohan have been jointly awarded Chameli Devi Jain Award for outstanding woman journalist.
- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters named Hillel Furstenberg from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and Gregory Margulis from Yale University, the USA as winners of the Abel Prize 2020. They share the prize & the amount of Norwegian Krone 7.5 Million (USD 8.3400).
- Critically-acclaimed debut novelist Ruchika Tomar is the winner of the 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, for "A Prayer for Travelers".

- Indian filmmaker Zoya Akhtar has been honoured with IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020 for her outstanding contribution to world tourism through her cinema. She has promoted tourism through her films like 2011 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' which was shot in Spain, and 2015 comedy-drama 'DilDhadakne Do' shot in Turkey. Asia's largest film tourism event, 8th India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC) was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### April 2020

- Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik** has been conferred with '**Hero to Animals Award**' by animal rights body PETA India for allocating funds to feed community animals in Odisha during the lockdown over the novel coronavirus pandemic.
- Adam Higginbotham's book "Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster" wins the William E. Colby Award.
- **Ram Prasad Kadel** of Nepal has been selected for the **Nikkei Asia Prize 2020** in the category of Culture and Community.
- Anthony Tan (Malaysia) & Tan Hooi Ling (Malaysia) has been selected for the Nikkei Asia Prize 2020 in the category of Economic and Business Innovation.

#### May 2020

- Manipuri doctor, **Thangjam Dhabali Singh** has been conferred with '**Order of Rising Sun**' by Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.
- Shobhana Narasimhan has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for her distinguished work in the field of sciences.
- **Joseph J Landsberg, Richard H Waring and Nicholas C Coops**, share the **2020 Marcus Wallenberg Prize** for forest sector' for 3-PG (Physiological Principles Predicting Growth), a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate. The prize 2020 will be presented by King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden during a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has awarded North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un a commemorative war medal marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.
- IIT Bombay Professor Saurabh Lodha has been honoured with the Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology for the year 2020.
- Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar has been awarded the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020.
- The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has won the SKYTRAX Award 2020 for being the Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia. Changi Airport, Singapore was voted the World's Best Airport; Tokyo Haneda Airport was voted the World's Cleanest Airport; Paris Orly Airport was voted the World's Most Improved Airport; Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai was voted as Best Airport Staff in India & Central Asia.

- Indian tennis player **Sania Mirza** becomes 1st Indian to win **Fed Cup Heart Award 2020** for Asia/Oceania zone. Other winners are: Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia (wins Qualifiers award), Estonian Anett Kontaveit (Europe/Africa I zone) and Mexico's Fernanda Contreras Gomez (Americas I zone).
- India's Chief Hydrographer of Indian Naval Hydrographic, Vice Admiral **Vinay Badhwar** has been awarded the **Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019**. This award is given to him for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the broader Indian Ocean region. The award was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence.
- South African HIV researcher, **Quarraisha Abdool Karim** has been awarded **Christophe Merieux Prize** for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA).
- Indian-American IBM scientist, **Rajiv Joshi** has bagged the prestigious NYIPLA "**Inventor of the Year award**" for the year 2020 for his contribution to advance the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities.
- Indian Army officer Major Suman Gawani is going to be awarded the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2019. This will be the first time that an Indian Peace Guard will receive this award. Brazilian military officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo will also receive this award.

#### June 2020

- Indian writer, Kritika Pandey has been honoured with Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2020 for the Asia region. She won the prize for her story "The Great Indian Tee and Snakes".
- Indian Musician & founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia, **Shobha Sekhar** will be conferred the "**Medal of the Order of Australia**" for her service to the community and the country.
- Indian Aerospace entrepreneur, **Renjith Kumar** has been honoured with "**NASA Distinguished Service Medal**" for his administration to NASA through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence and consumer loyalty.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been named EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2020.
- **Javed Akhtar** has become 1st Indian to be honoured with the **Richard Dawkins Award 2020** for critical thinking, holding religious dogma up to scrutiny, advancing human progress and humanist values.
- Indian-American soil scientist, **Rattan Lal** has won the prestigious **World Food Prize 2020** for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increase food production that conserves natural resources and mitigate climate change.
- Chef Angad **Singh Rana** has won **Quality NZ Culinary Cup 2020**.
- Hyderabad-based Deccan Development Society has won the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award.
- The German Book Trade has chosen Indian Nobel prize-winning economist and philosopher **Amartya Sen** for its prestigious **2020 Peace Prize**. He has been chosen for

his pioneering work addressing issues of global justice, social inequality in education and healthcare.

- Maharashtra government has declared the Vithabai Narayangaokar lifetime achievement award to folk artist Gulabbai Sangamnerkar.
- The Annasaheb Kirloskar award will be presented upon veteran theatre on-screen character artist Madhuvanti Dandekar.
- **Himachal Pradesh state Panchayati raj department** has won 1st prize under **e-Panchayat Puraskar- 2020**. This prize was given by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- Kerala Health Minister K.K Shailaja was honoured by the United Nations for her efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic in her state.
- Popstar Beyonce has been honored with the BET 2020 Humanitarian Award for her longstanding philanthropic work with her BeyGOOD Foundation, including her recent COVID-19 relief efforts such as #IDIDMYPART, a mobile testing initiative.

### July 2020

- Kerala Health Minister K.K Shailaja was honoured by the United Nations for her efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic in her state.
- Former Reserve Bank of India Governor **C. Rangarajan** has been conferred the **P.C. Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his contribution to official statistics.
- Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty have been included in the list of 38 immigrants named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as '2020 Great Immigrants' honourees for their contribution in mitigating the COVID-19 health crisis.
- A 13-year-old student of the British School New Delhi, Freya Thakral has received the 2020 Diana Award for her "Recycler App" which Was developed to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi.
- International Olympic Committee has announced that its new headquarters in Lausanne has been awarded the European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award.
- Indian battalion (INDBATT) has stationed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has won an environment award for a project that aims to decrease waste generation, reuse plastic, build greenhouses and compost pits.
- NTPC Ltd has been awarded with the prestigious CIITC Sustainability Award 2019 under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category. It has also secured Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate social responsibility (CSR) category.
- Arunachal Pradesh filmmaker Kezang D Thongdok has bagged the Dada Saheb Phalke Award 2020 for a short documentary "Chi Lupo". Chi Lupo is a short documentary on honey hunting.
- Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami has been honoured with Paul Harris Fellow recognition by Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, Chicago.



- Chief Minister Darpan website and mobile app prepared for monitoring Chhattisgarh Government's ambitious Suraji Gaon Scheme and other flagship schemes, has been awarded "Elites Excellence Awards-2020" at the national level.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief, Kailasavadivoo Sivan has been named for Von Karman Award 2020 by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).
- According to ATK-Mohun Bagan club, Hockey legend Gurbux Singh and former first-class cricketer Palash Nandi will receive this year's Mohun Bagan Ratna.
- Sachin Awasthi has been honoured with the "Top Publicist" award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020.
- Rail Infra and Mobility Business Digital Awards (RIMBDA) has awarded Ved Parkash Dudeja with the coveted 'Infra Business Leader of the Year' award for 2020. He is the vice chairman of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).
- Tata group chairman, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, and CEO and President of Lockheed Martin, Jim Taiclet will receive the US-India Business Council (USIBC) Global Leadership Award 2020.
- The 22-year-old England football player, Marcus Rashford becomes the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester.
- Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has announced the recipients of the International Press Freedom Awards 2020 which includes Shahidul Alam from Bangladesh, Mohammad Mosaed from Iran, Dapo Olorunyomi from Nigeria and Svetlana Prokopyeva from Russia. In addition to them, lawyer Amal Clooney will be honoured with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.
- Guinean doctor Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece are the winners of the 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize.
- The 'Legend of Animation' award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020 – Digital Edition will be posthumously conferred to the legendary animation director Arnab Chaudhuri.
- The 17 year old climate activist from Sweden, Greta Thunberg has been named winner of the inaugural Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity. She has been awarded for her efforts to mobilise younger generations to tackle climate change.
- The founder of SS Motivation, Sunil ydv SS was honoured with "Karamveer Chakra Award" by Global Fellowship Award instituted by United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO).
- India's first solar-powered ferry, Aditya has won the prestigious Gustave Troupe Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating. The ferry was adjudged the world's best electric boat in the category of ferries designed for paid passenger service.
- Indian-origin nurse, Kala Narayanasamy in Singapore has been conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other award winning nurses are: Tay Yee Kian, Patricia Yong Yueh Li, Alice Chua Foong Sin, Chin Soh Mun.

**August 2020**

- SKOCH Gold Award has been awarded to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) for its “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes” project. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was held with name “INDIA RESPONDS TO COVID THROUGH DIGITAL GOVERNANCE”.
- Journalist Nitin Sethi has won the Asian College of Journalism’s (ACJ) Award 2019 for Investigative Journalism for his six-part series titled “Paisa Politics” published by The Huffington Post India.
- Journalist Shiv Sahay Singh has won the K. P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism for his story titled “Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public distribution system in Jharkhand” published in The Hindu.
- A total of 121 Police personnel have been awarded the “Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation” for the year 2020.
- Government of India Navratna, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has bagged the “Swachhta Hi Seva award” for transforming Neyveli Township into a plastic-free, clean and green campus.
- Hyderabad’s, Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda has bagged the first-ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations World Cup (MCWC) by Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO).
- Dutch Author, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld has won the International Booker Prize 2020 for her debut novel ‘The Discomfort of Evening’. The book was in Dutch in 2018 and was translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.
- Ms. Sudha Painuli has been selected for National Award to Teachers 2020. She is the first NAT Awardee from the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) established under Ministry of Tribal Affairs. She is among the 47 outstanding teachers selected for the award.

**September 2020**

- Hyderabad International Airport or GMR led Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has won the ‘National Energy Leader’ and ‘Excellent Energy Efficient Unit’ awards at the 21st National Awards for ‘Excellence in Energy Management’.
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited-Vizag Steel Plant (RINL-VSP) has also been awarded ‘Excellent Energy Efficient Unit’ award by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC) in national award competition for excellence in energy management.
- Team of NTPC Limited, Vallur, Tamil Nadu has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020.
- Sir David Attenborough was conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019. He is an English broadcaster and a historian. He is popular for writing



and presenting the BBC Natural History Unit. He worked to make aware to preserve and protect the biodiversity of the planet.

- Managing Director of HDFC Bank, AdityaPuri has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020. He has been awarded for his skills in building a world-class bank in India at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence.
- The Fiumicino International Airport (FCO) in Rome, Italy, has become the first airport in the world to be certified with “COVID-19 5-star airport rating” from Skytrax, a U.K.-based airport and airline review firm. FCO, also known as the Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport, is the busiest airport in Italy.
- Chef VikasKhanna has been chosen to be honoured with the prestigious Asia Game Changer Award 2020. This award is given to him for feeding millions of people across India in the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive ‘FeedIndia’.
- Margaret Atwood has won the 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize's lifetime achievement award. The award celebrates literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.
- Kerala has won the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases Awards 2020 for its “outstanding contribution” towards the noncommunicable diseases-related sustainable development goals. Kerala has been awarded for the tireless service of the state in the health sector.
- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education. He has been awarded the prestigious award for “using the COVID-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can”.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) awards 2019-20 has announced. Indian men’s team Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has won the 2019-’20 AIFF Player of the year awards in men’s category. The women’s squad’s midfielder Sanju Yadav from Haryana has won the 2019-’20 AIFF Player of the year awards in women’s category.
- The Maharashtra government has announced the Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for the year 2020-21 to veteran female playback singer Usha Mangeshkar.
- Bollywood actor, Sonu Sood has been conferred the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 28 September 2020 during a virtual ceremony.
- Kerala Tourism’s ‘Human by Nature Print Campaign’ bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing.

#### October 2020

- The Right Livelihood Award Foundation has announced the four winners of the 2020 Right Livelihood Award 2020 which is also known as the alternative Nobel Prize in Stockholm. The four activists Ales Bialiatski of Belarus, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States(US) and Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua shared the 2020 award for their contribution towards equality, democracy, justice and freedom.

- The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon Ratan Tata for his pioneering role in the Business Relations of India-USA and for his lifetime achievement in Global Leadership. This award was announced in the virtual event of IACC "COVID Crusader Award-2020".
- Noted Odia poet, **Nityanand Nayak** will be conferred the prestigious **Sarala Puraskar** for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba', published in 2017.
- Britain's Prince William and Naturalist David Attenborough have launched an "Earthshot Prize", with an aim to encourage change and support to repair the planet. The Earthshot Prize aims to "incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years," and "turn pessimism into optimism" by rewarding innovative solutions to environmental problems.
- "Bank of Ghana" has won the Central bank of the year award 2020. Apart from this, Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) has won the Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award 2020.
- A 23-year-old, Mumbai based girl, Aishwarya Sridhar became the first Indian woman to win the 2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award. It is the 56th year of the prestigious award. Her image titled 'Lights of passion', won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world.
- UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, Dr Jajini Varghese has been named an 'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020' by a non-profit NGO for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.
- India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan has been awarded the Brunel Medal- 2020, an award conferred by the UK's top engineering body, Institute of Civil Engineers.
- The National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) has selected the Principal Scientist, Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, (CSIRCDRI)-Lucknow, Dr Satish Mishra for "Dr.Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020". He is awarded for his research work on Malaria parasite's life cycle which is a complex process involving two hosts and three invasive stages.
- A six-year-old Bangladeshi boy, Anzar Mustaeen Ali won a special prize of USD 1000 for his artwork in the global art competition organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Late Indian actor, Om Puri was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the third edition of the India International Film Festival of Boston (IIFFB 2020). The award was received by his wife Nandita Puri. The three-day film festival, based in Boston USA. Another highlight of the festival was a conversation with chef Vikas Khanna, recipient of the "Pride of India Award".

### November 2020

- Noted Malayalam writer, Paul Zacharia has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the Kerala government's highest literary honour. Zacharia was chosen for his contribution to Malayalam literature during the past five decades.

- Noted filmmaker Hariharan has been selected for the JC Daniel Award, the state government's highest honour for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. The award carries a purse of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a sculpture.
- Malayalam author, S Hareesh has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel Moustache. It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India.
- Ruskin Bond, one of India's most cherished authors was conferred Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020. He has a substantial body of work, close to 100 books – across genres for children and adults.
- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has presented the National Water Awards (NWAs) for 2019. This is the second edition of the award. Among the states category, Tamil Nadu bagged the Best State Award, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- Sadat Rahman from Bangladesh has been awarded the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize 2020. He was awarded the prize for his involvement in setting up his social organization and mobile app 'Cyber Teens' to stop cyberbullying. The award was presented to 17-year-old Sadat by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, during a ceremony in the Netherlands. He was selected out of 142 applicants from 42 countries.
- Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI) was honoured with "Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020" by Society of Biological Chemists (India), Bengaluru. The award is given to him for his contribution towards defining the survival tactics of Leishmania Donovanii.
- Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' will be conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award. This award will be conferred to the Minister for writing, poetry and other literary works.
- Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction. He has been awarded for his debut novel, "Shuggie Bain". The 44-year-old Stuart is only the second Scot to have won the prestigious literary prize.
- The North Police Station in Kohima was awarded ISO 9001:2015 certification for Quality Management System. It is the first government agency of the state that has received such recognition. The ISO certificate helps to ensure that the police personnel routinely evaluates its working and implement remedial measures, as and when required.
- Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has been honoured with the 2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar at annual Sangit Kala Kendra Awards. Alongside, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics – Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars. "Theatre" is the central theme, for this year's awards.
- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman K Sivan. The Visvesvaraya Technological University has conferred the doctorate to him.

- The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) and the Uttar Pradesh Forest department have bagged the first ever international award, “TX2” for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years. TX2 stands for ‘Tigers times two’, signalling the goal to double wild tigers. In 2014, PTR had 25 tigers which went up to 65 in 2018.

### December 2020

- Ranjitsinh Disale, a government teacher from Zilla Parishad Primary School, in Paritewadi village, Solapur district of Maharashtra, has won the 2020 Global Teacher Prize. He is the first Indian to win this award, which carries prize money of \$1 million (Rs 7.4 crore).
- The Indian-American young scientist and inventor, Gitanjali Rao, has been named as the first-ever ‘Kid of the Year’ by the iconic TIME magazine. This is the first time that the TIME magazine has launched the Kid of The Year” award.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has won the prestigious International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award for 2020. The award was presented annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Journalist-author, Raj Kamal Jha has won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for his novel, “The City and The Sea”. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the winner of the \$5,000 prize was announced online in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The Geneva-based United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has awarded the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award to Invest India, the National Investment Promotion Agency of India. The Invest India was declared the winner from among the 180 global Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs).
- The year 2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians was awarded to Dr Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her work area focuses on birational geometry, which aims to classify and describe the structure of algebraic varieties.
- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the ‘ASSOCHAM Foundation Week 2020’ via video conferencing. The week-long Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) Foundation Week was organised from 15 to 19 December 2020. The theme of the programme was ‘India’s resilience: Atmanirbhar roadmap towards \$5 trillion economies.’ As a part of the celebration, PM Modi also presented the ‘ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award’ to Shri Ratan Tata, on behalf of the TATA Group, for his distinguished contributions to the country.
- US President Donald Trump has presented America’s highest military decoration, ‘The Legion of Merit’, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The prestigious Legion of Merit was given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in elevating strategic partnership of the two countries.
- Srinagar based Amar Singh College has been recognized with the ‘Award of Merit’ in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The restoration of the Amar Singh College brought back one of the most prominent institutional buildings in Kashmir to its former glory.

- The winners of the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation Book Prize 2020 for the best nonfiction book on contemporary/ modern India were announced. The Prize was given jointly to Amit Ahuja for his Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements (Oxford University Press) and to former Union minister Jairam Ramesh for his A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon (Penguin Random House), a biography of politician and diplomat VK Krishna Menon.
- Country's largest power producer, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has been conferred "Excellence" in the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain. NTPC has been honoured in the Corporate Excellence Category, Commendation for Significant Achievement.
- The Dr Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award for this year has been conferred upon Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani. The award was instituted in the memory of the Maharashtra-based rationalist Dabholkar.
- Senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey has been honoured with DRDO's "Scientist of the Year Award" for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin meant for the treatment of leucoderma.
- The chairman & CEO of Railway Board, Vinod Kumar Yadav has been conferred with the prestigious "Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020". This award is given by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms over Indian Railways.
- In Madhya Pradesh, 96th Tansen Music Festival began in Gwalior with strict COVID-19 guidelines in place. In the inaugural ceremony renowned santoor player, Pandit Satish Vyas was conferred upon the prestigious Tansen Samman.
- Harmony Foundation hosted the Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice. The Awards in its 16th year is the only award endorsed by Sister Prema, the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, the organization started by Mother Teresa. The theme for this year's awards was, 'Celebrating Compassion In Times Of Covid '. Awardees this year included Dr Anthony Fauci, Fr. Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Sanjay Pandey (IPS) KK Shailaja (Minister of Health Kerala), Vikas Khanna, Fr Fabio Stevenazzi etc.

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