

Snapshots-2008-Awards

Oscar Awards

80th Academy Awards: Major winners

- ❖ Best picture: No Country for Old Men
- ❖ Best director: Joel and Ethan Coen, No Country for Old Men
- ❖ Best actor: Daniel Day-Lewis, There Will Be Blood
- ❖ Best actress: Marion Cotillard, La Vie en Rose
- ❖ Best supporting actress: Tilda Swinton, Michael Clayton
- ❖ Best supporting actor: Javier Bardem, No Country for Old Men
- ❖ Best foreign language film: The Counterfeiters (Austria)
- ❖ Best animated feature film: Ratatouille
- ❖ Best adapted screenplay: No Country for Old Men
- ❖ Best original screenplay: Juno
- ❖ Best music (score): Atonement
- ❖ Best visual effects: The Golden Compass
- ❖ Best cinematography: There Will Be Blood
- ❖ Best costume design: Elizabeth: The Golden Age
- ❖ Best film editing: The Bourne Ultimatum
- ❖ Lifetime achievement: Robert Boyle

Europeans swept the acting categories at the Oscars. British actor Daniel Day-Lewis and France's Marion Cotillard were best lead actor and actress. The supporting actor and actress prizes went to Spain's Javier Bardem and British actress Tilda Swinton. Marion Cotillard's best actress victory made hers the first non-English language performance to win the best actress Oscar since Sophia Loren's in 1962.

Best foreign language film award went to "The Counterfeiters" from Austria. The film is the remarkable story of Jewish prisoners, all expert forgers or printers, who were forced to take part in a Nazi operation to produce hundreds of millions of fake dollars and pounds. In an audacious attempt to win the war, the Nazis planned to flood Britain and the U.S. with phony currency to weaken their economies and also help the German Reich's cash-strapped treasury. In exchange for helping to print the fake money, the inmates lived a luxurious life in the heart of the Sachsenhausen camp, while some of them used delaying tactics to forestall the plan.

Golden Globe Awards

British romantic drama Atonement has won the best film at this year's Golden Globe awards. The movie, starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy, is Christopher Hampton's adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel "Atonement" and is directed by Joe Wright.

Other winners included Daniel Day-Lewis who won best actor for the role of an oil tycoon in "There Will Be Blood". The honours were announced at a low-key media event at the Beverly Hilton Hotel without any of the stars being present because of the writers' strike.

Golden Globes 2008: The winners

- ❖ Best film (drama): Atonement
- ❖ Best film (musical or comedy): Sweeney Todd

- ❖ Best director: Julian Schnabel for "The Diving Bell" and the "Butterfly"
- ❖ Best actor (drama): Daniel Day Lewis for "There Will Be Blood"
- ❖ Best actress (drama): Julie Christie for "Away from Her"
- ❖ Best actor (musical or comedy): Johnny Depp for "Sweeney Todd"
- ❖ Best actress (musical or comedy): Marion Cotillard for "La Vie en Rose"
- ❖ Best foreign language film: The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (France)
- ❖ Best animated feature film: Ratatouille
- ❖ Best screenplay: Ethan Coen and Joel Coen for "No Country for Old Men"
- ❖ Best original score: Dario Marianelli for "Atonement"
- ❖ Best original song: Guaranteed - Into the Wild .

Pulitzer prizes 2008

The Pulitzer Prize is an American award regarded as the highest national honour in print journalism, literary achievements and musical composition. It is administered by Columbia University in New York City. Each winner receives a certificate and a \$10,000 cash reward. The prize was established by Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American journalist and newspaper publisher, who left money to Columbia University upon his death in 1911.

The 2008 award winners are:

Journalism

- ❖ Public service: The Washington Post
- ❖ Breaking news reporting: The Washington Post Staff
- ❖ Investigative reporting: Walt Bogdanich and Jake Hooker of The NY Times; The Chicago Tribune Staff
- ❖ Explanatory reporting: Amy Harmon of The New York Times
- ❖ Local reporting: David Umhoefer of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
- ❖ National reporting: Jo Becker and Barton Gellman of The Washington Post
- ❖ International reporting: Steve Fainaru of The Washington Post
- ❖ Feature reporting: Gene Weingarten of The Washington Post
- ❖ Commentary: Steven Pearlstein of The Washington Post
- ❖ Criticism: Mark Feeney of The Boston Globe
- ❖ Editorial cartooning: Michael Ramirez of Investor's Business Daily
- ❖ Breaking news photography: Adrees Latif of Reuters
- ❖ Feature photography: Preston Gannaway of the Concord Monitor

Letters, Drama and Music Awards

- ❖ Fiction: "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz (Riverhead Books)
- ❖ Drama: "August: Osage County" by Tracy Letts
- ❖ History: "What Hath God Wrought" by Daniel Walker Howe (Oxford University Press)
- ❖ Biography: "Eden's Outcasts" by John Matteson (W W Norton)
- ❖ Poetry: "Time and Materials" by Robert Hass (Ecco/HarperCollins); "Failure" by Philip Schultz (Harcourt)
- ❖ General non-fiction: "The Years of Extermination" by Saul Friedlander (HarperCollins)
- ❖ Music: "The Little Match Girl Passion" by David Lang (G. Schirmer)

Special Citation

- ❖ ·Bob Dylan

Kyoto Prizes

- ❖ A California-based computer scientist, a Professor of philosophy and a molecular biologist will each receive \$460,000 after being selected as winners of this year's Kyoto Prizes for achievement in the arts and sciences. Japan's Inamori Foundation presented each with a gold medal and 50 million yen (\$460,000) in Kyoto in November 2008.
- ❖ Computer scientist Richard Karp, a Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, won the prize in **advanced technology** for his work in measuring how difficult certain computational problems are to solve — a fundamental step in designing computer algorithms.
- ❖ The award in **arts and philosophy** went to Canadian Professor Charles Taylor for developing a social philosophy that allows individuals from diverse backgrounds to keep their identities and still live peacefully together.
- ❖ Canadian molecular biologist Anthony Pawson was picked in the **basic sciences** category for research that deepened understanding of how cells communicate. The University of Toronto Professor's discoveries have spurred progress in a wide range of biomedical research and the development of anticancer drugs.

Berlinale International Film Festival Awards

"Tropa de Elite" (The Elite Squad), a violent tale of corrupt drug-squad officers in Brazil, has won the Golden Bear for the best film at the 58th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin. The movie is a portrayal of a police force willing to torture and kill unarmed suspects. UK's Sally Hawkins was best actress for "Happy-Go-Lucky" and Iran's Reza Naji won best actor for "The Song of Sparrows". US filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson took the prize for best director for "There Will Be Blood". Chinese director and screenwriter Wang Xiaoshuai won the Silver Bear for best screenplay for "Zuo You" (In Love We Trust).

The 50th annual Grammy Awards were presented in Los Angeles recently. Here is a selection of the key winners.

- ❖ Record of the year: Amy Winehouse, "Rehab"
- ❖ Album of the year: Herbie Hancock, "River: The Joni Letters"
- ❖ Song of the year: Amy Winehouse, "Rehab"
- ❖ Best new artist: Amy Winehouse
- ❖ Best female pop vocal performance: "Rehab", Amy Winehouse
- ❖ Best male pop vocal performance: Justin Timberlake, "What Goes Around...Comes Around"
- ❖ Best pop performance by a duo or group with vocals: Maroon 5, "Makes Me Wonder"
- ❖ Best pop vocal album: Amy Winehouse, "Back to Black"
- ❖ Best dance recording: Justin Timberlake, "Love Stoned", "I Think She Knows"
- ❖ Best rock song: Bruce Springsteen, "Radio Nowhere"
- ❖ Best rock album: Foo Fighters, "Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace"

'Best of Booker' for Rushdie

- ❖ Novelist Salman Rushdie won the "Best of the Booker" prize given to mark the 40th anniversary of one of the world's most prestigious literary awards for his book 'Midnight's Children' which had earlier won the annual Booker Prize in 1981.

- ❖ When voting closed at midday on July 8, 7801 had voted (via online and SMS) for the six short-listed Best of the Booker prize titles with 36 per cent voting for 61-year-old Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, which was published 27 years ago. Votes poured in from all around the world with 37 per cent of online votes coming from the UK followed closely by 27 per cent of online voters from North America.
- ❖ The 61-year-old, whose 1988 novel 'The Satanic Verses' outraged many and prompted death threats against him, had also won the 25th anniversary Booker prize in 1993.

Costa book award

- ❖ Scottish author AL Kennedy won the £25,000 Costa Book of the Year award for her novel "Day".
- ❖ Historian Simon Sebag Montefiore, poet Jean Sprackland, Catherine O'Flynn and children's author Ann Kelley were also up for the prize. The writers each won individual categories earlier and were competing for the main award.
- ❖ Kennedy won "top novel", Sebag Montefiore had "**best biography**" and O'Flynn's book was named "top first novel". Sprackland won for "poetry" and Kelley for "children's books".
- ❖ "Day", the story of a World War II veteran who confronts his past while working as an extra in a prisoner of war film, was hailed by the judges as a "masterpiece".
- ❖ Sebag Montefiore had won for his **biography** "Young Stalin—the prequel and companion to Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar."
- ❖ "What Was Lost" by O'Flynn, which won the "**top first novel**" award, is the story of a security guard who spots a child on CCTV 20 years after she disappeared.
- ❖ Kelley's "The Bower Bird" which won the "**children's book**" award follows a 12-year-old girl awaiting a heart transplant, who rebels when her family moves house.
- ❖ Sprackland won the "**poetry award**" for his collection of poems, "Tilt", which describes a world in free fall.

Magsaysay Awards

A doctor-couple from India who built a hospital and a school for a remote tribe, and a woman Philippine provincial Governor who dislodged a local political clan, were among the winners of the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Awards, the announced by the Philippines government.

The award, named for a popular Philippine President who died in a plane crash in 1957, is considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize and is given by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

- ❖ **Government service:** Governor Grace Padaca, 44, won the award for government service, for having empowered voters in the northern province of Isabela in Philippines to "reclaim their democratic right to elect leaders of their own choosing."
- ❖ **Community leadership:** Prakash and Mandakini Amte, a husband-and-wife team of doctors, were cited for community leadership for enhancing the ability of the Madia Gonds tribe in eastern Maharashtra to adapt to modern society through their healing and teaching work.

- ❖ **Public service:** The Philippines' Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development and Therdchai Jivacate of Thailand shared the award for public service. Jivacate won for his work to provide artificial limbs for poor amputees through mobile workshops, including several in Malaysia, Laos and Myanmar, where victims lose their legs to land mines, diabetes and snake bites. The Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development was recognised for successfully adapting microfinance modelled after Bangladesh's Grameen Bank to the Philippines to provide financial services to half a million poor women.
- ❖ **Creative arts:** Akio Ishii, 67, head of the Akashi Shoten publishing house in Japan, won the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts for publication of works that focus on discrimination, human rights and other "difficult subjects" in Japanese society.
- ❖ **Peace and international understanding:** The award for peace and international understanding went to Indonesia's Ahmad Syafii Maarif, a 73-year-old Muslim intellectual recognised for guiding fellow Muslims to embrace tolerance and pluralism as the basis for justice and harmony.
- ❖ **Emergent Leadership:** Ananda Galappatti, a 33-year-old British-trained psychologist from Sri Lanka, will receive the award for emergent leadership for his "spirited personal commitment" to provide effective services to victims of trauma from war and other disasters in different areas.

Rights Livelihood Awards

- ❖ An activist-couple from Tamil Nadu, an American journalist, a Swiss-born doctor and an activist from Somalia were named on Wednesday as this year's winners of the **Rights Livelihood Award**, also known as the "alternative Nobel." They will share a 2 million kronor (about Rs. 1.34 crore) cash award that will be split in four parts.
- ❖ A Swedish-German philanthropist **Jakob von Uexkull** founded the awards in 1980 to recognise work he felt was being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.
- ❖ American reporter **Amy Goodman**, founder and host of the syndicated radio and television programme **Democracy Now!**, was honoured for "truly independent political journalism that brings to millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by mainstream media,".
- ❖ The jury also honoured the founder of **medica mondiale**, gynaecologist **Monika Hauser**, for her work to help sexually abused women in world crisis zones.
- ❖ Somali lawmaker **Asha Hagi**, chairperson of **Save Somali Women and Children**, was honoured for her efforts to promote peace in her homeland by "continuing to lead at great personal risk the female participation in the peace and reconciliation process".
- ❖ The last part of the prize was shared by **Krishnammal and Sankaralingam Jagannathan** for their efforts to promote social justice through their non-profit organisation **Land for the Tillers' Freedom (LAFTI)**.
- ❖ The awards will be presented in a ceremony at the Swedish Parliament on December 8, two days before the Nobel Prizes are handed out.

Putin is Time's "Person of the Year"

Russian President Vladimir Putin was named as Time Magazine's "Person of the Year" for 2007. The title was awarded to Putin for his "extraordinary feat of leadership" in bringing stability to Russia, said Time's managing editor. Last year, the award was given to all members of the public who had created or downloaded content on the internet.

The magazine has given out its Person of the Year award every year since 1927. Previous recipients have included US Presidents George W Bush and Bill Clinton, and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. The title is “not an honour”, but is given as “a clear-eyed recognition of the world as it is and of the most powerful individuals and forces shaping that world—for better or for worse”, according to the magazine.

CSIR Awards

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has announced the winners of its prestigious **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology for 2008**. The prize comprises a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh, a citation and a plaque. The winners are:
- ❖ **Biological sciences:** G.P.S. Raghava, Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh; and L.S.Shashidara, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology.
- ❖ **Chemical sciences:** Pradeep Thalappil, IIT, Madras; and Jarugu Narasimha Moorthy, IIT, Kanpur.
- ❖ **Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences:** P.N.Vinayachandran, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- ❖ **Engineering Sciences:** Ranjan Kumar Mallik, IIT, Delhi. Mathematical Sciences – Jaikumar Radhakrishnan, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
- ❖ **Medical Sciences:** Ravinder Goswami, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.
- ❖ **Physical Sciences:** Raghunathan Srianand, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune; and Srikanth Sastry, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Bangalore.
- ❖ **Rural development:** Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, and the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar.

Economic Times Awards 2008

- ❖ **Business Leader Of The Year:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) chairman A M Naik
- ❖ **Company Of The Year:** Tata Steel
- ❖ **Fastest growing company of the year:** Gujarat Welspun Stahl Rohren
- ❖ **Businesswoman Of The Year:** Shikha Sharma of ICICI Prudential,
- ❖ **Corporate Citizen of the Year:** Dr Reddy's Foundation (DRF)
- ❖ **Entrepreneur of the Year:** Sun Pharma founder Dilip Shanghvi
- ❖ **Lifetime achievement:** Former Hindustan Lever Chairman Dr AS Ganguly
- ❖ **Business Reformer of the Year:** Union Commerce and Industry minister Kamal Nath
- ❖ **Policy change agent of the Year:** The architect of Konkan Railways and Delhi Metro, Elattuvalapil Sreedharan

Marico awards

Marico Innovation Foundation Awards 2008 winners:

- ❖ Bosch India (MICO Industries Co): Created a next generation pump for diesel engines
- ❖ Titan: Fabricated the world's slimmest watch beating the famed Swiss watch industry.
- ❖ Pune-based Kirloskar Brothers: For innovative approach in Siphon Action Creation and Siphon Breaking Arrangement used in Sardar Sarovar Project at Saurashtra Branch Canal, to raise the level of the river.
- ❖ Faridabad-based Maharani Paints: Created a process to convert spray paint sludge into usable industrial primer.

- ❖ Tata Motors: For its Nano wonder car.
- ❖ Bhing Brothers: Created plastic treadle pumps that require no electricity to operate.
- ❖ Inverter company Su-Kam: For its cost effective inverters
- ❖ Gurgaon-based Evalueserve: For unbundling some core and knowledge intensive processes and outsourcing them, thereby, literally creating the Knowledge Processing Outsourcing industry.

ICC Awards

- ❖ Sri Lanka's new spin sensation **Ajantha Mendis** was named as the International Cricket Council (ICC) emerging player of the year. **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** was named the ICC ODI player of the year 2008. **Yuvraj Singh** walked away with the ICC award for best performance in the Twenty20 World Cup.
- ❖ **Sachin Tendulkar** and **Dhoni** were included in the 12-man ICC World ODI team of the year with Australian **Ricky Ponting** as captain. **Virender Sehwag** the only Indian in the 12-man ICC World Test team of the year.
- ❖ It was five-in-a-row for Australia's **Simon Taufel** when he won umpire of the year award. Others in the awards list included the **Sri Lanka team** (Spirit of Cricket award for second year in a row), **Ryan ten Doeschate** of the Netherlands (Associate player of the year award), West Indian **Shivnarine Chandernaul** (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for cricketer of the year).

Other Awards

- ❖ The Assam government has decided to confer the **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award for national integration** to veteran actor and social activist **Shabana Azmi**, for 2007, and **Editor-in-Chief of Indian Express Sekhar Gupta**, for 2006.
- ❖ Germany's **Harald zur Hausen** and French researchers **Francoise Barre-Sinoussi** and **Luc Montagnier** shared the **2008 Nobel Prize for medicine**.
- ❖ **W. Selvamurthy**, Chief Controller, R&D (Life Sciences and Human Resources), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been conferred the **lifetime achievement award** of the **World Congress on Clinical, Preventive and Geriatric Cardiology-2008** in recognition of his contribution in preventive cardiology.
- ❖ The Union government has decided to confer the **Kabir Puraskar for 2008** on **Abdul Gani Abdullahai Qureshi** of Gujarat and **Ghulam Ahmed Bhat** of Jammu and Kashmir for their courageous acts during communal violence. The award carries a cash amount of Rs. 50,000.
- ❖ **Pankaj Advani** beat Devendra Joshi to win the crown in the **ONGC IBSF World billiards championship** in Bangalore.
- ❖ Eminent filmmaker and pioneer of alternative cinema **Mrinal Sen** was felicitated with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 10th edition of the **Osian's Cinefest Film Festival 2008** recently. Sen is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. The French government has decorated him with the Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters.
- ❖ 'Gulabi Talkies', a movie directed by **Girish Kasaravalli** was honoured with the **best film award** in Indian film section at the 10th **Osians-Cinefan Film Festival** of Asian and Arab Cinema in New Delhi recently.
- ❖ Veteran film director **Tapan Sinha** was selected for the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke award** for the year 2006 recently. Sinha would be given a Swarna Kamal, cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a shawl by the President Pratibha

Patil. Sinha started his career as a sound engineer in Kolkata's New Theatre in 1946. He has directed well known films like 'Kabuliwala', 'Khudito Pashaan', 'Atithi, Upahar', 'Haatey Bazarey', 'Sagina Mahato', 'Hansuli Baker Upakatha', 'Adalat O Ekti Meye', 'Ek Doctor Ki Maut', 'Bancharamer Bagan' and 'Shatabdir Kanya', among others.

- ❖ One-day skipper **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** was chosen for the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award**.
- ❖ Veteran film director **Tapan Sinha** was presented the government of India's "**One Time Award for Life Time Achievement**" in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of India's Independence. The Government has also decided to confer the award on three other eminent personalities — actor **Dilip Kumar**, singer **Lata Mangeshkar** and actress **Saroja Devi**. It carries a cash component of Rs 10 lakh, a shawl and a citation.
- ❖ Steel Secretary **R.S. Pandey** was presented the prestigious **United Nations Public Service Award** in New York for conceptualising and implementing a unique programme of communitisation of public institutions and services in Nagaland during 2002-04 when he was State Chief Secretary.
- ❖ '**Laal Juto**' (Red Shoes), a short-film by the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, received the award for the **best creative idea** at the **11th Shanghai International Film Festival**.
- ❖ The **Srimanta Sankardeva Awards** were presented to journalist **B.G. Verghese** and Assamese scholar and Vaishnavite pundit **Keshavananda Dev Goswami** in Guwahati recently. The award, instituted by the Assam government, carries a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh, a citation and a gold medal. While Verghese was presented the award for the year 2005, Dr. Goswami received the award for 2006.
- ❖ The team of renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** and his student Jitendra Kishore Jagadev has won the first prize in at USF World Double Championship, an international competition on '**sculpture on global warming**' in Berlin, for their work – a polar bear on top of a globe praying 'save my family'.
- ❖ President Pratibha Patil presented the **B.C. Roy National Awards for Medicine** to eminent doctors for their contribution to medical research, teaching and development of specialities in various branches of medicine. Some of the eminent doctors who received the awards include cardiologists Naresh Trehan and K.K. Agrawal, gastroenterologist Ajay Kumar of Apollo hospital, AIIMS endocrinologist Anoop Misra and oncologist Lalit Kumar.
- ❖ **Anil Rana**, Director of Meerut based NGO **Janhit Foundation**, has won the prestigious **One World Award** for his efforts for conservation of biodiversity and nature in Western Uttar Pradesh. The One World Award has been instituted this year by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and Rapunzel, both German organisations
- ❖ Bollywood filmmaker **Yash Chopra** was decorated with the prestigious **Officier de la Legion d'Honneur (Officer of the Legion of Honour)** by the French Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont in recognition of his contribution to Indian cinema.
- ❖ The **16th Godfrey Phillips Bravery Awards**, which facilitate ordinary citizens for their acts of valour, were presented in Mumbai recently. In the **Physical Bravery** category, Anil Dhamankar from Maharashtra received the Gold award for saving 11 fishermen from drowning. Actress Sudha Chandran was conferred the **Mind-of-Steel Award** for overcoming a physical impairment.
- ❖ Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone were judged as the **best debutant actors** while 'Om Shanti Om' swept a number of technical awards at this year's **International Indian Film Awards** in Bangkok. Kapoor got the award

for his performance in 'Saawariya' while Deepika picked up her crown for her role in 'Om Shanti Om' which also won the honours for best special effects and best art direction. Akshay Kumar was presented with a **special achievement award**.

- ❖ Hyderabad-based **Natco Pharma Ltd** was conferred with the Technology Development Board's annual award 2008 for successful commercialisation of indigenous technology, for its indigenous development of life-saving anticancer drugs.
- ❖ Editor of **The Shillong Times**, **Patricia Mukihm**, was presented the fifth **Upendra Nath Brahma Soldier of Humanity Award** in Guwahati. The award, instituted by the Upendra Nath Brahma Trust, carries a citation, a memento and Rs.25,000 in cash.
- ❖ "**Aries Chundan**", the first ever snake boat made of steel, is all set to enter the **Guinness Book of World Records** for accommodating the largest canoe crew of 141. The boat, a design wonder crafted by Aries Marine and Engineering Services, performed the feat on May 1 in the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha district of Kerala.
- ❖ **Nirupama Subramanian**, The Hindu's correspondent in Pakistan, has been awarded the **Prem Bhatia Award** for the "**best political reporting**" for 2008 while the award for "**best reporting on environment**" has gone to **Keya Acharya**, a Bangalore-based freelance journalist.
- ❖ A team of seven IAS and other officials who showed "**extraordinary performance**" in carrying out relief and rehabilitation work during the devastating 2005 earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir was among those honoured with the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration** recently. **B B Vyas**, a senior IAS officer, received Rs. 5 lakh, a medal and a citation from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Civil Services Day (April 21).
- ❖ **J K Tripathy**, an IPS officer of the 1985 batch from the Tamil Nadu cadre, received the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration** for introducing in Tiruchi an innovative "**community policing module**," which caused the crime graph to dip considerably. The award included a medal, a scroll and a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh.
- ❖ The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) is the third winner of the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration** for bringing about a revolutionary change in the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of the railways through development and implementation of a computerised unreserved ticketing system.
- ❖ Civil rights activist **Binayak Sen**, who is in jail for the past one year for his alleged links with Naxalites, has become the first south Asian to win the prestigious **Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights** given by the Global Health Council, world's largest membership alliance of public health organisations and professionals working to improve health and save the lives of the poor.
- ❖ **Goldman Environmental Prize 2008**, dubbed the Nobel Prize for the environment and worth \$150,000 to each of the six winners, is awarded to the individual deemed to have made the greatest contribution to the local environment were awarded earlier this year. The winner from Africa was **Feliciano dos Santos**, in Russia, the prize was won by **Marina Rikhvanova**. In Europe, Belgian campaigner **Ignace Schops** won the prize. **Rosa Ramos** of Puerto Rico won the prize for North America. In Mexico, **Jesus Leon Santos**, won the prize while in Latin America, the Goldman Environmental Prize was jointly awarded to **Pablo Fajardo and Luis Yanza**.

- ❖ Biotechnology student, **Simran Kaur Mundi**, 22, won the coveted title of Pantaloons Femina Miss India (PFMI) Universe 2008, while **Parvathy Omanakuttan**, 20, a student of English Literature, became PFMI World 2008 at a beauty pageant organised in Mumbai.
- ❖ The former Minister for Parliamentary Affairs **Priyaranjan Dasmunsi** was selected as the winner of the “**Best Parliamentarian of the Year**” Award for 2007 by a selection committee, headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee.
- ❖ **Rupashree Nanda** of the CNN-IBN has won the **Chameli Devi Award 2007-08** for outstanding woman journalist for her focussed reporting on the deprived and the dispossessed people of rural India.
- ❖ President Pratibha Patil gave away the **National Award for Women’s Development through Application of Science and Technology** to women scientists **Rani Bang** and **Vijaya Lakshmi** on International Women’s Day on March 8.
- ❖ **Rose Tremain** has won the £30,000 women-only **Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction** with ‘The Road Home’, a novel about immigration. The main character is Lev, an Eastern European who travels to Britain to seek work following the death of his wife. He arrives with no money and little English, and the story charts his struggle to adapt to life in an alien land, first in London and then in rural Suffolk. The Orange Prize was set up 16 years ago in the belief that women writers were being overlooked for major literary awards, and the judges have always been female.
- ❖ **Sean Penn** has been selected to receive the prestigious **Stanley Kubrick award** for excellence in film given by BAFTA. Penn has been nominated for a best actor Oscar four times, winning in 2004 for **Mystic River**.
- ❖ Rock group **Led Zeppelin** have won an outstanding achievement prize at the **GQ Men of the Year Awards**, while producer Mark Ronson was named top maverick. Among the other winners were ‘**No Country For Old Men**’ star **Josh Brolin**, who received the award for **international man of the year**.
- ❖ Artist **Steve McQueen** has won the **Gucci Group Award**—which honours film-makers from other fields at the **Venice Film Festival** for his film ‘**Hunger**’, about IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands’ final days in Maze prison. The film also won the Camera d’Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival in May.
- ❖ French architect **Jean Nouvel** has won the **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2008**, considered as the equivalent of Nobel Prize in architecture. The award instituted by the Hyatt Foundation carries a \$100,000 grant and a bronze medallion and is annually awarded to a living architect for his or her lifetime achievement.
- ❖ Political scientist and psephologist **Yogendra Singh Yadav** won this year’s **Malcolm Adiseshiah Award**, which has cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, for his contributions to the field of political science.
- ❖ The ISRO team, which successfully realised the PSLVC7 mission that launched Cartosat-2 and the team that deployed the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1), have been awarded the prestigious **Team Achievement Award** of the **International Academy of Astronautics**. The award created in 2001 has, in the past, been given to **Hubble Space Telescope’s** shuttle team, the **Solar Satellite Mission SOHO** team and the **Mir** space station team
- ❖ Music band **Led Zeppelin** won an **outstanding achievement prize** at the **GQ Men of the Year Awards** in London, while the producer **Mark Ronson** was named **top maverick**. The singer **Tony Bennett** took an award

for being an "inspiration", and **Primal Scream** was judged **band of the year**. **Steve Coogan** was **actor of the year** and **James Nesbitt** was named **best TV star**.

- ❖ **Dr S. Chandrasekhar**, Deputy Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), here has been selected for the **National Academy of Sciences-Reliance Industries Platinum Jubilee Award**. The award carries a memento and cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.