India Abroad Person of the Year 2007 Award: India-born internationally acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair has been honoured with the ‘Person of the Year’ award by the ‘India Abroad’ newspaper in recognition of her work. The award was presented to Ms. Nair by Pepsi Company CEO Indra Nooyi at New York.

J.C. Daniel Award: P. Ramdas, director and producer of the first neo-realistic malayalam film ‘News Paper Boy’ was selected for the J.C. Daniel Award for 2007.

Punyabhushan Puraskar 2008: Former CSIR Director RA Mashelkar has been chosen for the Punyabhushan Puraskar 2008 for his contribution to the field of science and technology. The award is instituted by Tridal in the memory of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh and citation.

Golden Key Award: Internationally acclaimed pop singer Remo Fernandes has been conferred with the ‘Golden Key to Alexandra’ Award by the Egyptian government. The singer is on forefront to preach social message through music.

Pritzker Architecture Prize 2008: Jean Nouvel, the French architect has won the Pritzker Architecture prize 2008, for his “courageous pursuit, exuberance and insatiable urge for creative experimentation”.

The prize, instituted by the Hyatt Foundation carries a $100,000 grant and a bronze medallion. It is considered to be the Nobel Prize equivalent for architecture.

Jit Gill Memorial Award: Social activist Anna Hazare has been awarded the World Bank’s Jit Gill Memorial Award for his contribution in public service.

Abel Prize: American John Griggs Thompson and Belgian-born Jacques Tits won the 6 million Kroner ($1.2 million) Abel Prize for Mathematics for their contributions to the group theory of Algebra. Professor Thompson teaches at the University of Florida, while Dr. Tits is a professor emeritus at College de France in Paris and became a French Citizen in 1974.

Pulitzer Prizes: ‘The Washington Post’ has won six Pulitzer Prizes, including the public service award for its reporting on conditions of U.S. war veterans at America’s flagship military hospital.

Doctorate by IIT Kanpur: Tata Group Chairman Mr. Ratan Tata was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by IIT Kharagpur on March 18, 2008. The award was given in recognition of his outstanding leadership in globalising India and transforming the Tata Group into a formidable corporate entity.

Saraswati Samman: Urdu writer Naiyer Masud has been selected for the 17th ‘Saraswati Samman’ for his collection of stories in the language. Masud has chosen for the award for the year 2007 for his collection of short stories Taoos Chaman Ki Myna.

Golden Bear: A police political thriller by Brazilian director Jose Padilha won the coveted Golden Bear for best film in the Berlin Film Festival.

Vachaspati Puraskar: Swami Rambhadracharya was given the Vachaspati Puraskar for 2007 for his work Srijargavaranaghavyiyan (Mahakavyam). The Rs. 1 lakh award is given for work in Sanskrit and it was instituted by K.K. Birla Foundation.

JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award: Bharati Enterprises Chairman and Group CEO Sunil Bharti Mittal was awarded the JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award for his outstanding contribution to Indian industry.

Special lifetime Achievement Award: The Music Academy in Chennai, on the occasion of its 80th anniversary conferred a special ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ on Violin maestro Lalgudi G. Jayaraman in reception of his ‘monumental’ contribution to Carnatic music.

Swaralaya national Award: Music director Bombay Ravi won the Swaralaya National Award instituted in memory of G. Devarajan. The award constitutes a cash prize of Rs. 5000, a sculpture and a citation.

Guptan Nair Puraskaram: Noted teacher Ambalapuzha Ramavarma has been awarded the Professor S. Guptan Nair Puraskaram. It carries a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and a citation.

Pandalam Kavitha Puraskaram: Poet Sugathakumari has won the Mahakavi Pandalam Kerala Varma Kavita Puraskaram for the collection of poems ‘Manalezhuthu’. The award carries a purse of Rs. 10,001, a plaque and a citation.

Kerala Lalithakala Akademi Award: Yusuf Arakkal, artist, and K.P. Soman, sculptor, have been selected for the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi fellowship for 2008.

Paris Viswanathan, artist, had been selected for the first K.C.S. Panicker award of the Akademi and Arpana Caur artist, for the T.K. Padmavati award.
Padmashree's Award: President Pratibha Patil approved the conferment of 13 Padma Vibhushan, 35 Padma Bhushan and 71 Padma Shri Awards. For the seventh consecutive year, nobody was named for the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. It was last conferred jointly on Lata Mangeshkar and Bismillah Khan. The Padma Bhushan, the second highest civilian award were given to (1) Pranab Mukherjee, (2) Ratan Tata, (3) Sachin Tendulkar, (4) Viswana-than Anand, (5) Narayana murthy, (6) R.K. Pachauri, (7) E. Sreedharan, (8) L.N. Mittal, (9) Justice A.S. Anand, (10) P.N. Dhar (former Bureaucrat), (11) P.R.S. Oberoi (Trade and Industry), (12) Asha Bhosle, (13) Edmund Hillary (posthumously).

D. Litt by Delhi University: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was conferred the honorary degree of D.Litt. by Delhi University in recognition of his achievements in the field of academics and public service at a special convocation.

Officer of the Legion of Honour: Infosys mentor N.R. Narayananmurthy was conferred the officer of the Legion of Honor, the highest Civilian distinction of the Government of France.

Created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honour is the highest Civilian distinction that can be conferred in France regardless of the social status or the nationality of the recipients.

Officer of the order of arts and letters' title: Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan was conferred the prestigious ‘officer of the order of arts and letters’ title by the French Government. Khan was presented the award in recognition of his 15 year -career in the Hindi film industry.

Devarajan Award: Noted music director Bombay Ravi was selected for the Swaralaya Devarajan award instituted in memory of the late music director G. Devarajan. Mr. Ravi was selected by a seven member jury headed by Minister for Culture M.A. Baby.

Lifetime achievement Award: Renowned singer and music composer Bhumen Hazarika was given the Assam Sahitya Sabha Award for lifetime achievement in Music.

Kendra Sahitya Akadami Award: A. Sethumadhavan (Sethu) has won this year’s Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel Adayalangal. The work had already won him the Vayalar Rama Varma Award.

Swaralaya Award: Playback singer and music composer Shankar Mahadevan has been selected for the Swaralaya - Kaarali - Jesudas Award 2007. Music director V. Dakshinamoorthy has been selected for the award for lifetime contribution to Malayalam film music.

Honour by Lancaster University: Infosys chairman Narayana Moorthy has been conferred with an honorary doctorate by the Lancaster University of the UK in recognition of his lasting contribution to the field of business and business education.

International Children’s Peace Prize: A 16-year old girl Thandiwe Chama from Lusaka won the 2007 International Children’s Peace Prize for her efforts to help educate children in Zambia. The award includes a £100,000 grant.

Ranbaxy Foundation Award: Ashok Venkitaraman, a cancer scientist at the University of Cambridge was received the 2007 medical research award from the Ranbaxy Foundation.

IPI - India Award for Excellence: Vinod Mehta, Editor, Outlook received the International Press Institute India Award for Excellence (IPI - India Award) in Journalism.

Emeritus of AMU: Irfan Habib, the distinguished historian and retired professor of history from Aligarh Muslim University, has been appointed professor Emeritus in the department of history of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

Mar Gregorios Award: Poet Sugathakumari was awarded the 11th Benedict Mar Gregorios Award, instituted by the Association of Mar Ivmious College Old Students (AMICOS).

Knighthood on Ian Wilmut: Prof. Ian Wilmut, who revolutionised stem cell technology by creating Dolly, the sheep in 1996 was given a Knighthood for services to science by Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II.

C. V. Raman Award: M. Natarajan, Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister was awarded the Sir C.V. Raman Birth centenary award - 2008. Mr. Natarajan, who is also Secretary, Defence Research and Development, was selected for the award for his outstanding achievements in defence research and development, and strategic systems.

Simon de Beauvoir feminist Award: Bangladesh author Taslima Nasreen has been chosen for the prestigious Simon de Beauvoir feminist award in recognition of her writing on women’s rights.

Presidential Gold Medal Award: IGNOU Vice-Chancellor V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai has been conferred with the Presidential Gold Medal award for his contribution to the development of science and technology.

Asian Television Award: Television Journalist Karan Thapar was awarded the Asian Television Award for the ‘Best Current Affairs presenter’ in Asia. Mr. Thapar is the only South Asian anchor to have ever won the award, and he has done so four times. Thapar is known for his aggressive interviewing style, won it for his ‘Devil’s Advocate’ series on CNN - IBN.

E & Y Entrepreneur of the year 2007 Award: B. Ramalinga Raju, Chairman and founder, Satyam Computer Services, has been named the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the year 2007.

IPI - India Award: The weekly magazine ‘Outlook’ has been awarded the International Press Institute (IPI) - India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2007, for its Investigative Journalism during 2006.

Nano National Award: C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and honorary President of...
the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), was conferred the first Bangalore Nano National Award for his outstanding achievements and sustained work in the field of Nanotechnology.

**G.D. Jayalakshmi:** A U.K. based documentary maker from Karnataka, has won one of the top prizes in this year’s Commonwealth Vision Awards for her film on how India recycles paper.

**Sathyan Award:** Playback singer K.S. Chitra has been selected for the Sathyan National Award 2007 for the Sathyan Foundation.

**Balamaniyamma Puraskaram:** Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was awarded this year’s Balamaniyamma Puraskaram for comprehensive literary contribution.

**C.H. Journalism Award:** Eminent Journalist Rajdeep Sardesai has won the National C.H. Journalism Award, instituted by the C.H. Muhammed Koya Journalism Award Trust and Calicut Press Club. The award consists of a purse of Rs. 1,11,111 citation and a statuette.

**Kamukara Award:** Noted Music Director M.G. Radhakrishnan received the 11th Kamukara Award instituted by Kamukara Foundation on December 8. The award is given in honour of Mr. Radhakrishnan’s holistic contribution in the field of music. The award includes a cash prize of Rs. 25,000, a citation and a statuette designed by artist Bhattathiri.