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## **AWARDS & PRIZES**

### **Russian mathematician receives the 2014 Abel Prize**

- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has decided to award the Abel Prize for 2014 to Yakov G. Sinai (78) of Princeton University, USA, and the Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences, "for his fundamental contributions to dynamical systems, ergodic theory, and mathematical physics". The President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Nils Chr. Stenseth, announced the winner of the 2014 Abel Prize at the Academy in Oslo today, 26 March. Yakov G. Sinai will receive the Abel Prize from His Royal Highness The Crown Prince at an award ceremony in Oslo.
- The Abel Prize recognizes contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences and has been awarded annually since 2003. It carries a cash award of NOK 6,000,000 (about EUR 750,000 or USD 1 million).
- Yakov Sinai is one of the most influential mathematicians of the twentieth century. He has achieved numerous groundbreaking results in the theory of dynamical systems, in mathematical physics and in probability theory. Many mathematical results are named after him, including Kolmogorov-Sinai entropy, Sinai's billiards, Sinai's random walk, Sinai-Ruelle-Bowen measures, and Pirogov-Sinai theory.

### **Salman Rushdie wins the 2014 Pen / Pinter Prize**

- Salman Rushdie has been awarded the 2014 Pen / Pinter Prize. Established in 2009 by English Pen, the worldwide writers' association and freedom of expression charity, it celebrates the memory of the playwright and Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter and is awarded annually to a British writer of outstanding literary merit who casts an "unflinching, unswerving" gaze upon the world and shows a "fierce intellectual determination to define the real truth of our lives and our societies".
- Rushdie is best known for his acclaimed novels such as *Midnight's Children*, *Shame* and *The Satanic Verses*. Much of his fiction is set in India and Pakistan, and combines magical realism with historical fiction to explore the relationship between East and West.
- He has received the Booker Prize (with *Midnight's Children* also winning the one-off Best of Booker prize in 2008) and the Whitbread Prize for Best Novel (twice) among many other accolades.

### **Booktrust Best Book Awards 2014 winners announced**

- John Green's YA novel 'The Fault In Our Stars' has been chosen as one of the winning titles in the first ever Booktrust Best Book Awards. The novel, which has

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been made into a successful Hollywood film starring Nat Wolff, Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort, is a moving tale about teenagers with cancer.

- Green beat a strong shortlist that included CJ Skuse for Dead Romantic, Phil Earle for Heroic and Sophia Bennett for You Don't Know Me. The Booktrust Awards with Amazon Kindle are part of Children's Book Week 2014. A shortlist for several categories was selected by judges and then 12,000 schoolchildren nationwide voted in a poll for their favourite books.

### **Krishi Karman Awards**

- The awards were presented in two categories. In the Total food grain production category, the awards were presented to Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Manipur states.
- In the excellence in the Individual food grains crops category, the awards were presented to Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar States. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura got commendation prizes for total food grain production.
- Maharashtra got commendation prize for rice, Assam for pulses and Punjab and Haryana for rice and wheat. Krishi Karman awards were instituted in 2010-11 by the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture. Krishi Karman awards are given to States for their effort and contribution towards raising the country's food grain production.

### **Golden Conch Award :**

- Bangladesh's 'Are You Listening' bags Golden Conch Award for Best Documentary at MIFF: Bangladesh's film maker Kamar Ahmad Simon's 90-minutes documentary, 'Are You Listening', has

bagged the Golden Conch Award for the Best Documentary Film at the Mumbai International Film Festival, for Documentary, Short and Animation Films. The Golden Conch for Best Documentary Film up to 60 minutes went to Germany's Maria Stodtmeier's 'In Between: Isang Yun in North and South Korea'. While, FTII production 'Black Rock' directed by Vikrant Janardhan Pawar was adjudged the Best Short Fiction film in International Competition; Kashmiri film 'Tamaash' won the Golden Conch award for the Best Short Fiction Film in the National Competition.

### **Vyas Samman:**

- Vishwanath Tripathi, the eminent Hindi writer has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman for the year 2013. He has been chosen for his memoir 'Vyomkesh Darvesh' that is a biography of the noted Hindi scholar Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi.

### **New category of State Award:**

- Union Ministry for Rural Development has introduced a new category of State Award for Effective Initiatives under MGNREGA. These are - Sustainable livelihood through Convergence, Social Inclusion and the third one for Transparency and Accountability.

### **Moorti Devi Award:**

- The 26th Moorti Devi Award was given to Renowned Odia poet and thinker Haraprasad Das. The award is given every year by the Bharatiya Jnanpith consists of a Citation and a cash prize of 4 Lakh rupees.

### **Amazing Indian Award:**

- Arunima Sinha received Amazing Indian Award for scaling Mount Everest despite

being physically challenged. The Amazing Indian Award was instituted by Times Now channel in September 2012.

### **Highest Israeli civilian award**

- For Merkel: German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded Israel's highest civilian honour, the "Medal of Distinction" for her unwavering commitment to the country.

### **Protein Science Young Investigator Award for 2014:**

- Madan Babu, an Indian-born scientist, won the Protein Science Young Investigator Award for 2014 at Cambridge, UK. Madan received the award for his contributions to the understanding of the principles of regulation in biological systems, especially in the fields of intrinsically disordered proteins and gene regulation. With this award, he became the first scientist of Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) to win the award.

### **International Gandhi Award 2013:**

- Dr. Vijaykumar Vinayak Dongre and Prof. Guocheng Zhang won International Gandhi Award 2013 for making outstanding contributions in the field of leprosy to eradicate the disease through treatment, training and research.

### **National Tourism Award:**

- Sikkim has been declared the best state in the country in implementation of Rural Tourism Projects by Ministry of Tourism, government of India. For this the state was presented the National Tourism Award 2012-13.

### **Pulitzer Prize**

- ◆ Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, already among the most popular and celebrated

novels of the past year, has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. One of the country's top colonial historians, Alan Taylor, has won his second Pulitzer, for *The Internal Enemy — Slavery and War In Virginia*.

- ◆ The Washington Post and the Guardian have won Pulitzer Prizes in public service for revealing the massive U.S. government surveillance effort.
- ◆ The newspapers' disclosures about the National Security Agency's spy programs show the U.S. government has collected information about millions of Americans' phone calls and emails based on its classified interpretations of laws passed after the Sept. 11 attacks.
- ◆ The Boston Globe has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize in breaking news, and The New York Times has won two Pulitzers in photography categories — Tyler Hicks was honoured in the breaking news category for documenting the Westgate mall terrorist attack in Kenya, and Josh Haner was cited for his essay on a Boston Marathon bomb blast victim who lost his legs.
- ◆ The Center for Public Integrity won the award for investigative reporting for reports on how some lawyers and doctors rigged a system to deny benefits to coal miners suffering from black lung disease.
- ◆ The Pulitzer for explanatory reporting was given to The Washington Post for reporting on the prevalence of food stamps in America.
- ◆ Annie Baker's *The Flick* won the Pulitzer Prize for drama, a play set in a movie theater that was called a "thoughtful drama with well-crafted characters" which created "lives rarely seen on the stage".
- ◆ The award for general nonfiction went to Dan Fagin's *Toms River*, an acclaimed

chronicle of industrial destruction in small New Jersey community. Megan Marshall's Margaret Fuller, about the 19th century transcendentalist, won for biography; and Vijay Seshadri's witty and philosophical 3 Sections received the poetry prize.

### **OSCARS, 2014**

- ◆ With seven Oscars including a history-making best director award for Alfonso Cuarón, the force of Gravity exerted itself at the 86th annual Academy Awards.
- ◆ The searing slavery drama "12 Years a Slave" has won the Academy Award for best picture.
- ◆ Jared Leto, a strong favourite, won the first trophy of the night for his role of a transgender AIDS patient in Dallas Buyers Club.
- ◆ Frozen defeated The Croods, Despicable Me 2, Ernest & Celestine and The Wind Rises to score in the animated category.
- ◆ Gravity which has maximum nominations with The American Hustle won its first award of the night in the best visual effects category while the best costume design went to The Great Gatsby.
- ◆ Dallas Buyers Club took home the best make-up and hairstyling trophy.
- ◆ Best animated short film Oscar went to Mr Hublot while Helium was named best live action short film.
- ◆ 20 Feet from Stardom was named the best documentary feature and best documentary short went to The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life.



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