

President Confers 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' to Eminent Senior Citizens and Institutions in Recognition of Their Services Towards The Cause of Elderly Persons

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The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the "Vayoshreshtha Samman" to eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of elderly persons at a function organized by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment here today. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot presided over the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that there is a healthy tradition of respecting and taking care of elders in our country. He added according to the last census, the population of senior citizens in our country was approximately 10.5 crore, which was about 8.5% of our total population. The average life expectancy has increased in recent decades due to improvement in health services and other reasons. It is estimated that by the year 2050, the number of senior citizens will be approximately 19% of our total population.

The President said that he was happy to note that the Government of India has taken several steps for the welfare of elderly persons. These include the National Programme for Healthcare of the Elderly wherein specialised services will be provided for their treatment. Under the National Health Insurance Scheme implemented with the help of State Governments, additional health insurance is being provided.

In his address, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot said that the National Award 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' will help to motivate younger generations to understand the contribution of the elderly persons in building of the society and the nation. He called upon people to give due respect and regard to elderly persons in their families as it is the Indian tradition. He opined that the old Indian tradition of Joint Family should continue for the betterment of our society. He invited suggestions from the people for the welfare of senior citizens. He called upon more and more eligible senior citizens to apply for these awards against the advertisements issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the nodal ministry for the cause of senior citizens, has been celebrating the International day of Older Persons since 2005 by conferring Vayoshreshtha Sammans to eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens. In 2013, the Vayoshreshtha Sammans have been upgraded as a "National Award".

The National Award 'Vayoshreshtha Samman' is given in thirteen categories. The applications had been invited from NGOs, institutions, individuals to apply for the awards in different categories. This year Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment honoured 22 awardees under 11 categories

LIST OF AWARDEES FOR (NATIONAL AWARDS) VAYOSHRESTHA SAMMAN 2017

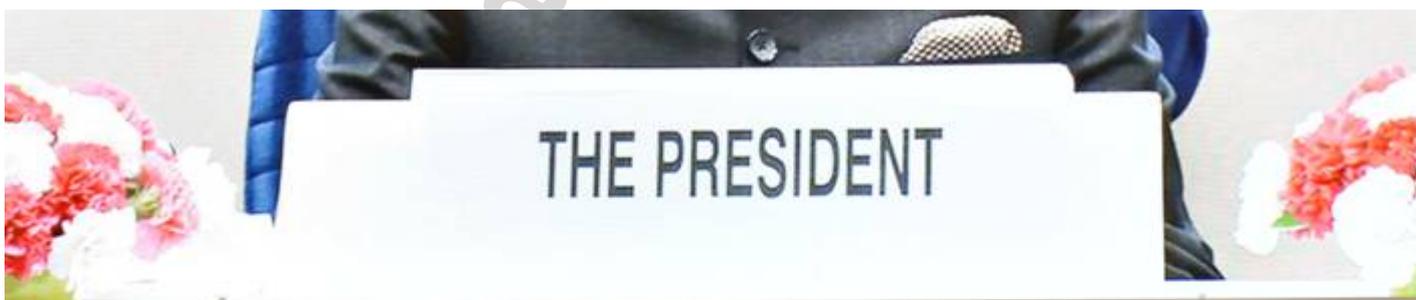
INDIVIDUALS

S.No	Category & Name	Name	Place
1	Centenarian	Sh. Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair	Kozhikode, Kerala

2	Centenarian	Mrs. Arvinda Vishnukant Dave "Akshat"	VADODARA, Gujarat
3	Centenarian	Sh. Thanga Darlong	Kailashahar, Unakoti Tripura
4	Centenarian	Late Shri Kishan Chand Garg (Posthumous)	Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Received by Dr. V.K. Garg on behalf of his Late father
5	Iconic Mother	Smt. Kaushalya Joshi	Jalandhar, Punjab
6	Lifetime Achievement	Dr. Parvatidevi Patil	Gulbarga, Karnataka
7	Lifetime Achievement	Dr. Mahadeorao Jyotiramji Meshram,	Nagpur, Maharashtra
8	Creative Art	Shri Yumnam Rajendra Singh,	Imphal, Manipur
9	Creative Art	Sh. B.Shankara Rao,	Bangalore, Karnataka
10	Creative Art	Shri S. Thippeswamy	Mysuru, Karnataka
11	Creative Art	Smt. Mangal Ramchandra Bansode	Satara, Karawadi, Maharashtra
12	Creative Art	Dr. Dolly Das,	Dibrugarh, Assam
13	Sports and Adventure	Sh. G.S. Sandhu,	Patiala, Punjab
14	Sports and Adventure	Sh. Yogendra Vaidya	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
15	Sports and Adventure	Mrs. Manorama M. Kulkarni (Female)	Kolhapur, Maharashtra
16	Courage and Bravery	Dr. Aabha Verma	Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
17	Courage and Bravery	Shri Padmashri Shambu Nath Khajuria	Poonch, J&K
<u>INSTITUTIONS</u>			
18	Best Institution for providing Services to Senior Citizens and Awareness	Varishth Nagrik Kesari Club, Delhi	Received by Ms. Kiran Chopra, Chairperson, Delhi

	Generation		
19	Best District Panchayat in providing Services and Facilities to Senior Citizens	Ujjain(O/o Zila Panchayat)	Received by Shri Sandeep G.R., CEO, Zila Panchayat, Ujjain,MP
20	Best Urban Local Body in providing Services and Facilities to Senior Citizens	Nagar Palika, Nagda	Received by Shri Bhavishaya Kumar Khobraghade, Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Council, Nagda, Madhya Pradesh
21	Best State in implementing the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. 2007 and providing Services and Facilities to Senior Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Kerala 	Received by Shri Biju Prabhakar, Secretary, Dept. of Social Justice, Govt. Secretariat, Trivandrum, Kerala
22	Best Public Sector Organisation in promoting the well being and welfare of Senior Citizens.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	Received by CMD and General Manager (HR), BHEL





Sanjay Kumar/jk/MoSJ&E/09.10.2017

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