Complete list of Bharat Ratna Awardees



Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian honour, given for exceptional service towards advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of Public Service of the highest order. The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954.

The first ever Indian to receive this award was the famous scientist, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. Since then, many people, each a whiz in varied aspects of their career, have received this coveted award.

**List of all Bharat Ratna awardees so far:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **Name** | **Birth / death** | **Awarded** | **Notes** | **Indian state or country** |
| 1. | Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan | 1888–1975 | 1954 | Second President, First Vice President, Philosopher. | [Tamil Nadu](http://currentgk.com/india/states/tamil_nadu.html) |
| 2. | Chakravarti Rajagopalachari | 1878–1972 | 1954 | Last Governor-General, Freedom Fighter. | Tamil Nadu |
| 3. | C. V. Raman | 1888–1970 | 1954 | Nobel-prize winning Physicist | Tamil Nadu |
| 4. | Bhagwan Das | 1869–1958 | 1955 | Philosopher, Freedom Fighter | [Uttar Pradesh](http://currentgk.com/india/states/uttar_pradesh.html) |
| 5. | Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya | 1861–1962 | 1955 | Civil Engineer | [Karnataka](http://currentgk.com/india/states/karnataka.html) |
| 6. | Jawaharlal Nehru | 1889–1964 | 1955 | First Prime Minister, Freedom Fighter, Author. | Uttar Pradesh |
| 7. | Govind Ballabh Pant | 1887–1961 | 1957 | Freedom Fighter, Home Minister | Uttar Pradesh |
| 8. | Dhondo Keshav Karve | 1858–1962 | 1958 | Educationist, Social Reformer | [Maharashtra](http://currentgk.com/india/states/maharashtra.html) |
| 9. | B. C. Roy | 1882–1962 | 1961 | Physician, Politician | [West Bengal](http://currentgk.com/india/states/west_bengal.html) |
| 10. | Purushottam Das Tandon | 1882–1962 | 1961 | Freedom Fighter, Educationalist. | Uttar Pradesh |
| 11. | Rajendra Prasad | 1884–1963 | 1962 | First President, Freedom Fighter, Jurist | [Bihar](http://currentgk.com/india/states/bihar.html) |
| 12. | Zakir Hussain | 1897–1969 | 1963 | Former President, Scholar. | [Andhra Pradesh](http://currentgk.com/india/states/andhra_pradesh.html) |
| 13. | Pandurang Vaman Kane | 1880–1972 | 1963 | Indologist and Sanskrit scholar | Maharashtra |
| 14. | Lal Bahadur Shastri | 1904–1966 | 1966 | Posthumous, Second Prime Minister, Freedom Fighter | Uttar Pradesh |
| 15. | Indira Gandhi | 1917–1984 | 1971 | Former Prime Minister | Uttar Pradesh |
| 16. | V. V. Giri | 1894–1980 | 1975 | Former President, Trade Unionist. | Andhra Pradesh |
| 17. | K. Kamaraj | 1903–1975 | 1976 | Posthumous, Freedom Fighter, Chief Minister-Tamil Nadu. | Tamil Nadu |
| 18. | Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu (Mother Teresa) | 1910–1997 | 1980 | Naturalized Indian citizen, Nobel Laureate (Peace, 1979). | West Bengal |
| 19. | Acharya Vinoba Bhave | 1895–1982 | 1983 | Posthumous, Social Reformer, Freedom Figher. | Maharashtra |
| 20. | Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan | 1890–1988 | 1987 | First non-citizen, Freedom Fighter. | Pakistan |
| 21. | M. G. Ramachandran | 1917–1987 | 1988 | Posthumous, Chief Minister-Tamil Nadu, Actor. | Tamil Nadu |
| 22. | B. R. Ambedkar | 1891–1956 | 1990 | Posthumous, Architect-Indian Constitution, Leader of Buddhist people of India | Maharashtra |
| 23. | Nelson Mandela | b. 1918 | 1990 | Second non-citizen and first non-Indian, Leader of Anti-Apartheid movement. | South Africa |
| 24. | Rajiv Gandhi | 1944–1991 | 1991 | Posthumous, Former Prime Minister | [New Delhi](http://currentgk.com/india/states/delhi.html) |
| 25. | Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel | 1875–1950 | 1991 | Posthumous, Freedom Fighter, First Home Minister of India. | [Gujarat](http://currentgk.com/india/states/gujarat.html) |
| 26. | Morarji Desai | 1896–1995 | 1991 | Former Prime Minister, Freedom Fighter. | Gujarat |
| 27. | Maulana Abul Kalam Azad | 1888–1958 | 1992 | Posthumous, Freedom Fighter, Educator. | West Bengal |
| 28. | J. R. D. Tata | 1904–1993 | 1992 | Industrialist and philanthropist. | Maharashtra |
| 29. | Satyajit Ray | 1922–1992 | 1992 | Legendary Indian Film Director | West Bengal |
| 30. | A.P.J. Abdul Kalam | b. 1931 | 1997 | Former President, Scientist. | Tamil Nadu |
| 31. | Gulzarilal Nanda | 1898–1998 | 1997 | Freedom Fighter, former Prime Minister. | [Punjab](http://currentgk.com/india/states/punjab.html) |
| 32. | Aruna Asaf Ali | 1908–1996 | 1997 | Posthumous, Freedom Fighter. | West Bengal |
| 33. | M. S. Subbulakshmi | 1916–2004 | 1998 | Classical singer. | Tamil Nadu |
| 34. | Chidambaram Subramaniam | 1910–2000 | 1998 | Freedom Fighter, Minister of Agriculture(Father of Green revolution). | Tamil Nadu |
| 35. | Jayaprakash Narayan | 1902–1979 | 1998 | Posthumous, Freedom Fighter, Social Reformer. | Uttar Pradesh |
| 36. | Ravi Shankar | b. 1920 | 1999 | Classical [sitar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sitar) player. | west Bengal |
| 37. | Amartya Sen | b. 1933 | 1999 | Nobel Laureate (Economics, 1998), Economist. | West Bengal |
| 38. | Gopinath Bordoloi | 1890–1950 | 1999 | Posthumous, freedom fighter | [Assam](http://currentgk.com/india/states/assam.html) |
| 39. | Lata Mangeshkar | b. 1929 | 2001 | Play back singer. | Maharashtra |
| 40. | Ustad Bismillah Khan | 1916-2006 | 2001 | Classical Maestro | Uttar Pradesh |
| 41. | Ustad Bismillah Khan | 1922–2011 | 2008 | Hindustani classical singer | Karnataka |

**Note :** No one was awarded the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007