

SSC SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT (IMD) EXAM 2026

TOPIC 1: AWARDS & HONORS – COMPREHENSIVE STUDY MATERIAL

EXAM FOCUS NOTE: This module covers high-yield awards and honors pertinent to the SSC Scientific Assistant (IMD) 2026 Examination. It synthesizes key achievements from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), national e-governance recognitions, and major global honors.

1. Accolades Awarded to Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra (DG, IMD)

Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at IMD and 3rd Vice-President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), widely known as the '*Cyclone Man of India*', has received numerous national and international awards for modernizing India's tropical cyclone forecasting and early warning infrastructure:

Award / Honor	Conferring Agency / Context	Key Significance & Achievements
UN Sasakawa Award 2025	United Nations (UNDRR)	Awarded for visionary leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and saving thousands of lives during severe tropical cyclones.
AMS STAC Outstanding Service Award 2025	American Meteorological Society (AMS)	Presented by AMS Scientific & Technological Activities Commission for extraordinary contributions to tropical cyclone forecasting.
Sir Gilbert Walker Gold Medal Award	Indian Meteorological Society (IMS)	Conferred jointly to Dr. M. Mohapatra and Dr. R. K. Datta (former Head, NCMRWF) for outstanding leadership in meteorology.
Ekamra Shree Award 2025	Government of Odisha	Presented by Hon'ble Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for exemplary public service in extreme weather forecasting.
Prananath Samman & Sir Radha Nath Sikdar Award	State & Academic Institutions	Honored in 2025 for pioneering contributions to atmospheric research, community resilience, and weather communications.

2. Recognitions for IMD & Regional Meteorological Centers

• **National Award for e-Governance 2025:** IMD secured this prestigious national award for implementing the '*Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System*', leveraging technology for rapid public safety response and digital transformation.

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- **ISO 9001:2015 Quality Certification:** Regional Meteorological Office Nagpur (RMO Nagpur) became the 1st center among IMD's 18 AMOs to achieve this international quality management certification.

- **Best Staff Award:** Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) Guwahati bagged the Best Staff Award at Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat.

• **Rajbhasha (Official Language) Excellence Awards:**

- **MC Chandigarh:** Won 1st Prize from TOLIC Chandigarh for official language implementation (2024-25).
- **MC Ahmedabad & MC Ranchi:** Secured 1st and 2nd positions respectively for successful execution of the Union Rajbhasha policy.

3. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Institutions & Scientists

Institution / Scientist	Award / Honor Conferred	Core Achievement / Domain
INCOIS (Hyderabad)	Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025	Institutional category award for excellence in ocean hazard early warning systems (Tsunami, High Waves, Storm Surges).
INCOIS (Hyderabad)	National Geospatial Award 2025	Recognized for innovative deployment of open-source spatial technology in coastal zone management.
Dr. Waliur Rahaman (NCPOR Goa)	Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar - Vigyan Yuva (SSB) 2025	Awarded Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in Earth Science for outstanding polar and paleoclimate research.
Dr. O. P. Mishra (NCS New Delhi)	IGU-Decennial Award 2025	Conferred by Indian Geophysical Union for landmark contributions to earthquake hazard assessment and seismology.
Dr. Suryachandra A. Rao (IITM Pune)	Dr. H. N. Siddique Memorial Lecture & Gold Medal	Honored for pathbreaking work in climate modeling and monsoon prediction dynamical systems.
Dr. V. Bala Naga Jyothi (NIOT Chennai)	Outstanding Women Researcher Award	Awarded in Underwater Robotics for developing deep-sea robotic systems under the Deep Ocean Mission.

4. 29th National Awards for e-Governance 2026 (NAeG 2026)

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) announced the prestigious NAeG 2026 awards for digital governance breakthroughs:

• **Gold Award (Cash Prize: ₹10 Lakhs):**

- **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI):** Developed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj under Category I (Data Analytics) for evidence-based rural development.

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AgriStack: Digital Agriculture Mission platform developed by Ministry of Agriculture for unified farmer service delivery.

• **Silver Award (Cash Prize: ₹5 Lakhs):**

- **e-Jagriti Platform:** AI-driven consumer dispute redressal portal developed by Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **eSanjeevani AI Clinical Decision Support System:** Developed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for telemedicine enhancement.

5. Key National & International Current Affairs Honors

- **UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2025:** Major Abhilasha Barak (serving in UNIFIL, Lebanon) received this top UN military honor. She is the 3rd Indian woman peacekeeper to receive it, after Major Suman Gawani (2019) and Major Radhika Sen (2023).
- **US Army CGSOC Honors:** Major Prabhat Mishra became the 1st Indian Army officer to simultaneously win both the prestigious *Birrer-Brookes Award* and the *General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Award* at US Army Command and General Staff Officer Course.
- **Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Slovakia's highest state civilian honor during his official visit.
- **Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026:** Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik became the first Indian to win this title for his sand sculpture on climate change and environmental conservation.
- **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports:** Football legend Lionel Messi became the first footballer to be awarded Spain's highest sporting honor.
- **EMBO Gold Medal 2026:** Indian-origin scientist Gautam Dey received this European Molecular Biology Organization medal for groundbreaking research on cell nuclear architecture.

6. High-Yield Practice Questions (SSC IMD Pattern)

Q1. Which international award was conferred upon Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra in 2025 by the United Nations for his leadership in disaster risk reduction?

- (a) UN Champions of the Earth
- (b) UN Sasakawa Award 2025
- (c) Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement
- (d) WMO Award for International Meteorology

Answer: (b) UN Sasakawa Award 2025

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- (a) IMD New Delhi
- (b) IITM Pune
- (c) INCOIS Hyderabad
- (d) NIOT Chennai

Answer: (c) INCOIS Hyderabad

Q3. Which Aerodrome Meteorological Office (AMO) became the first among IMD's 18 AMOs to receive ISO 9001:2015 certification?

- (a) AMO Delhi
- (b) AMO Mumbai
- (c) AMO Kolkata
- (d) AMO Nagpur

Answer: (d) AMO Nagpur

Q4. Which platform won the Gold Award in Data Analytics at the 29th National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG 2026)?

- (a) e-Jagriti Platform
- (b) Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)
- (c) PM-Kisan Portal
- (d) BHASHINI AI

Answer: (b) Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)

Q5. Who became the 3rd Indian woman peacekeeper to win the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in 2025?

- (a) Major Suman Gawani
- (b) Major Radhika Sen
- (c) Major Abhilasha Barak
- (d) Captain Shiva Chouhan

Answer: (c) Major Abhilasha Barak