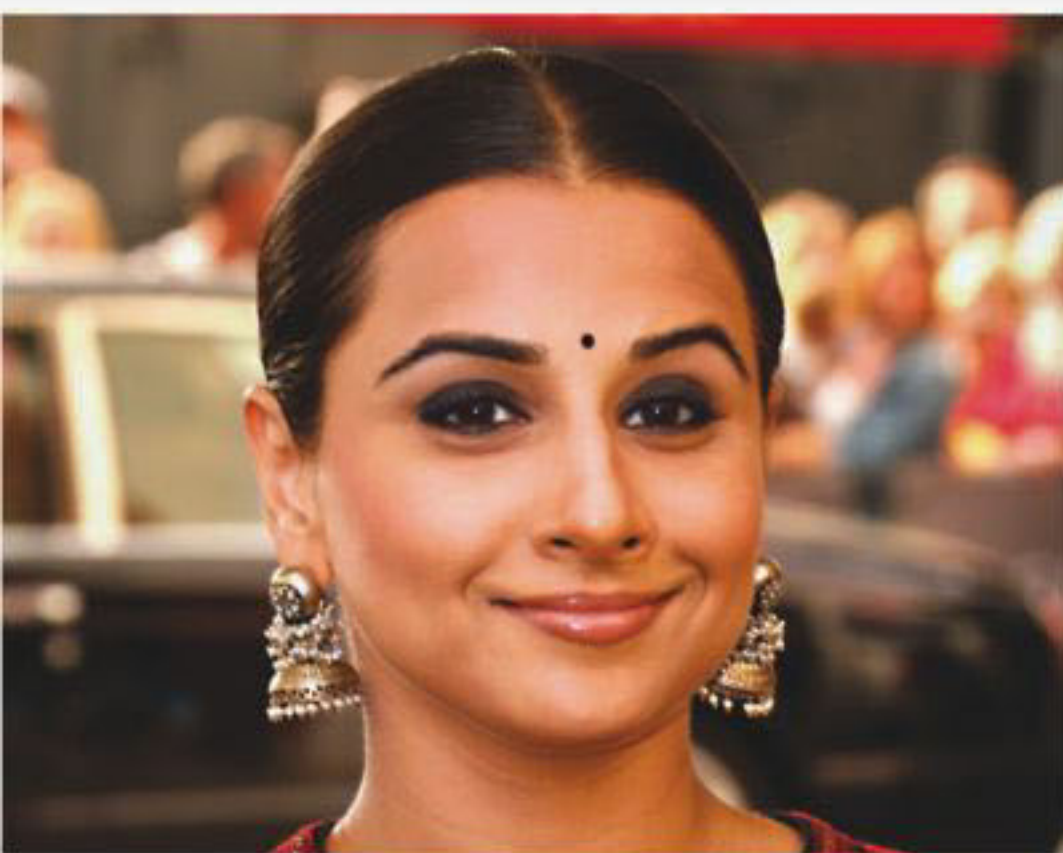


# Vidya Balan: The Pride of Kerala



National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan, who hails from Kerala, has been honoured with the Pride of Kerala award. The 'Kahaani' actress,

who has received the honour, has mesmerized audiences with her powerful performances in films like 'Parineeta', 'The Dirty Picture' and 'No One Killed Jessica'.

She was honoured by the non-sectarian, non-political community organisation World Malayalee Council and Kairali TV. "Proud to have received the Pride of Kerala award from the World Malayalee Council and Kairali TV," Vidya tweeted. She will be seen with megastar Amitabh Bachchan and actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui in 'TE3N' which is slated for release on May 20.

## I never went away Parineeti Chopra

The actress said she may not have been doing films, but was busy with other work commitments. "Speculation is bound to happen. Even though I was not shooting, I never went away. I was doing events, appearances and of course working on myself. I released my campaign 'Build That Way' in December last year. I made it very clear that I was reading lot of scripts and waiting for the right one," Parineeti said.

The actress is happy that she utilised the gap to focus on getting fit which has been her long standing goal. Her upcoming release 'Meri Pyaari Bindu', a Yash Raj project, is being produced by director Maneesh Sharma while Akshay Roy is making his directorial debut with the film. The story of an aspiring singer was perfect to channel Parineeti's passion for singing with the movie where she will be seen opposite Ayushmann Khurrana.

"I have been singing since childhood and I am a trained Hindustani classical singer. It is one of my biggest passions and hobbies. I was waiting for the right professional opportunity to be able to sing and that's exactly what happened. I am so glad that everything worked out and I got to sing." Parineeti said about the project that came her way about a month ago.

## Gautam Rode approached for Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat



Actor Gautam Rode, who is currently playing the title role in popular mythological show 'Suryaputra Karn', has been approached for another show, 'Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat'. Gautam, best known for his roles in shows like 'Saraswathichandra' and 'Mahakumbh', has been asked to play the lead role of

Ashoka in the show post leap.

"The production house and channel wanted to rope in a well known name as leaps are always a risk. Ashoka is one of the top rated shows on the channel and the young Ashoka, played by Siddharth Nigam, has quite a fan following. Hence, they wanted to take a name like Gautam who has a tremendous fan following and has also proved himself as a versatile actor on television," said an industry source.

