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### **1. NMDC Receives Two Prestigious Awards at ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 ( July 6, 2023 )**

SSOCHAM-Business-Excellence-Awards-2023

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) was honored with two prestigious awards at the ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 in Kolkata.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- The awards received by NMDC were the '**Mineral Development Award**' and the '**Employer Brand of the Year Award**.'
- These awards recognize NMDC's significant contributions to the mining sector and its exemplary human resources practices.
- The awards were presented by **Anurag Srivastava, IAS, Secretary of the Industry, Commerce, and Enterprise Department, Government of West Bengal.**
- **NMDC is the largest producer of iron ore in India and the sixth largest in the world**, playing a pivotal role in the country's mineral development.
- The company's **state-of-the-art Research and Development (R&D) Centre focuses on enhancing productivity, promoting sustainable mining practices, and developing advanced beneficiation technologies.**
- NMDC is committed to zero-waste mining and continuous innovation, contributing to the growth and advancement of the mining industry.

#### **National Mineral Development Corporation:**

- It is a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise.
- It comes under the Ministry of Steel.
- Chairman & Managing Director - **Sumit Deb**
- Headquarters - **Hyderabad**

### **2. British writer Michael Rosen honored with Pen Pinter Prize, 2023 ( July 6, 2023 )**

British-writer-Michael-Rosen

Renowned British poet and author **Michael Rosen** has been awarded the prestigious **PEN Pinter Prize, 2023** for his literary contribution.

#### **An Overview of the news:-**

- Michael Rosen is known for making poetry accessible to children through his work and performances.
- The subjects of Rosen's writings are often social, political, and moral.

**Pen Pinter Award:**

- It was established in the year 2009 by PEN Institute of UK.
- It is the founding center of a global literary network.
- This institution promotes literature and human rights.
- It is awarded annually to a writer living in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the Commonwealth or a former Commonwealth.
- The winner must be an author of plays, poems, essays or fiction of literary excellence written in English.
- **Lemon Sissey, Hanif Qureshi, Mallory Blackman** etc. are the main ones among the former recipients of this award.

**3. Rajinder Singh Dhatt honoured with Points of Light Award ( July 4, 2023 )**

Rajinder-Singh-Dhatt-honoured-with-Points-of-Light-Award

101-year-old man Rajinder Singh Dhatt was awarded the Points of Light award by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

**An Overview of the News**

- The award ceremony took place during the **UK-India Week reception at 10 Downing Street.**
- Rajinder Singh Dhatt was recognized for his outstanding service and unwavering commitment to uniting veterans of the British Indian War.
- He played an important role as the driving force behind the "**Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen Association**".
- Rajinder Singh Dhatt served in the **British Indian Army during World War II**, which highlights his devotion to his country.

**About United Kingdom:**

- It is an island nation located in northwestern Europe. It consists of four countries: **England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.**
- Capital - **London**
- Prime Minister - **Rishi Sunak**
- Emperor - **Charles III**

**4. Priya A.S. Received Sahitya Akademi Children's Literature Award 2023 ( June 28, 2023 )**

Priya-A.S.-Received-Sahitya-Akademi-Children's-Literature-Award-2023

Priya A.S. Received the Sahitya Akademi Children's Literature Award 2023 in the Malayalam language for his novel "Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal" (The Children Who Were Never Withered).

## **An Overview of the News**

- This prestigious award recognizes the talent and creativity of Priya A. S. in the field of children's literature.
- In 2020, Priya A. S. also won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature for the same novel, "Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal".
- The Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 reaffirms Priya A. S.'s ability to connect with young readers and inspire a love of reading and storytelling.

## **About the novel "Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal"**

- Priya A. S.'s novel "Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal" has received recognition and acclaim since its publication in 2018.
- The novel takes inspiration from the devastating floods in Kerala in 2018.
- Priya AS worked in the relief camps set up by the Department of **Instrumentation of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) in Kochi during the floods.**

## **Awards: Sahitya Akademi Translation Award (2014)**

- Priya A. S. received the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award in 2014.
- The award was given for the Malayalam translation of **Arundhati Roy's novel "The God of Small Things"**.
- **"The God of Small Things" is a Booker Prize winning novel.**

## **About Sahitya Akademi Children's Literature Award**

- Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar is a prestigious literary award.
- It is awarded by the Sahitya Akademi in recognition of excellence in children's literature.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque.
- A three-member panel is responsible for selecting the winners in each language.
- For Malayalam, the jury members were **Dr. Paul Manalil, BS Rajeev and Mundoor Sethumadhavan.**
- The winner is selected from among ten recommended books considered for the award.

## **5. Alappuzha doctor K Venugopal selected for IMA award ( June 27, 2023 )**

Dr K Venugopal, a doctor at Alappuzha's General Hospital, has been honored by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for his contribution to the medical field.

## **An Overview of the News**

- The award was instituted by the IMA on the occasion of **National Doctor's Day**.
- Dr K Venugopal has been selected for the award in the category of community service.
- He is Chief Consultant in Respiratory **Medicine at General Hospital, Alappuzha (city in Kerala)**.
- The award ceremony will be held on **July 1, 2023 at the IMA Headquarters in New Delhi**.

### **About National Doctor's Day**

- National Doctor's Day has been celebrated on **1st July** in India for the **last 32 years**.
- It is celebrated in the honour of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician, politician, freedom fighter and education advocate**.
- The theme for National Doctor's Day 2022 was "**Family Doctors on the Front Line**".

### **Indian Medical Association:**

- Establishment - **1928**
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- President - **Sahajanand Prasad Singh**

## **6. PM Modi conferred Egypt's highest state honour ( June 26, 2023 )**

PM-Modi-conferred-Egypt's-highest-state-honour

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded the '**Order of the Nile**,' Egypt's highest honor, by President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** during a ceremony at the Presidential palace in Cairo on 25th June.

### **An overview of the news**

- The '**Order of the Nile**' was established in **1915** and is bestowed upon **heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents** who have rendered invaluable services to Egypt or humanity.
- This is the **13th highest state honor** conferred upon Prime Minister Modi.
- During the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in 26 years, India and Egypt elevated their relationship to a 'Strategic Partnership' following extensive discussions between Modi and El-Sisi.

### **Political and security cooperation**

- The talks focused on enhancing **political and security cooperation**.

- Modi and El-Sisi signed a **strategic partnership document**, which encompassed various areas of collaboration such as political and security cooperation, defense collaboration, trade and investment ties, scientific and academic exchanges, and strengthening people-to-people contacts.
- The two countries signed three more pacts covering agriculture and allied sectors, **protection and preservation of monuments and archaeological sites, and competition law**.
- Modi and El-Sisi also discussed further cooperation within the G-20 framework, emphasizing issues such as **food and energy insecurity, climate change**, and the need for the **Global South** to have a unified voice.
- Modi extended an invitation to El-Sisi to attend the **G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September**.

### **Egypt's historic Al-Hakim Mosque**

- Before returning to India, Modi visited Egypt's historic **Al-Hakim Mosque** in Cairo, which dates back to the **11th century**.
- The mosque has been restored with the assistance of India's **Dawoodi Bohra community**.
- Modi admired the intricate carved inscriptions on the walls and doorways of the mosque, which was **constructed in 1012**.
- Al-Hakim Mosque is the **fourth oldest mosque** in Cairo and the **second Fatimid mosque built in the city**.

### **About Egypt**

- Egypt is a country located in **North Africa**.
- Egypt is home to famous monuments such as the **Giza Pyramid Complex**. One of the **Seven Wonders of the World**, the Pyramids of Giza are located on the banks of the **Nile River**. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built in **2560 BC**.
- Capital - **Cairo**
- President - **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**
- Currency - **Egyptian pound**

### **7. Sahitya Akademi announces winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar ( June 24, 2023 )**

Sahitya-Akademi-announces-winners-of-Bal-Sahitya-Puraskar

The **Sahitya Akademi** has announced the recipients of the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar for this year**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The announcement was made at a meeting of the **Sahitya Akademi's Executive Board**, chaired by President **Madhav Kaushik**.
- The winners of both awards will receive an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of **Rs 50,000** each at a ceremony to be held later.
- **Sudha Murty**, a renowned children's author, has been selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for her collection of stories titled '**Grandparents' Bag of Stories**'.
- **Suryanath Singh** has been chosen for the **Hindi language category** of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories called '**Kotuk App**'.
- **Anirudh Kanisetti** will receive the Yuva Puraskar for his work '**Lords Of The Deccan: Southern India From Chalukyas To Cholas**', while **Atul Kumar Rai** will be awarded in the **Hindi language category** for his novel '**Chandpur ki Chanda**'.
- The recipients for **Manipuri, Maithili, and Sanskrit** categories of Yuva Puraskar, as well as the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for **Manipuri**, will be announced later.
- No Yuva Puraskar winner was announced for **Odia**, and no Bal Sahitya Puraskar winner was announced for **Kashmiri**.

### Winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar

- The remaining winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar are listed as Rothindranath Goswami (Assamese), Shyamalkanti Das (Bengali), Pratima Nandi Narzaree (Bodo), Balwan Singh Jamoria (Dogri), Rakshababen Prahladrao Dave (Gujarati), Vijayashree Haladi (Kannada), Tukaram Rama Shet (Konkani), Akshay Anand 'Sunny' (Maithili), Priya AS (Malayalam), Eknath Avhad (Marathi), Madhusudan Bisht (Nepali), Jugal Kishore Sarangi (Odia), Gurmeet Karyalvi (Punjabi), Kiran Badal (Rajasthani), Radhavallabh Tripathi (Sanskrit), Mansing Majhi (Santali), Dholan Rahi (Sindhi), Udhayasankar (Tamil), DK Chaduvula Babu (Telugu), and Mateen Achalpur.

### Winners of Yuva Puraskar

- The other recipients of the Yuva Puraskar include Jintu Gitartha (Assamese), Hamiruddin Middy (Bengali), Mainaosri Daimary (Bodo), Sagar Shah (Gujarati), Manjunayak Challur (Kannada), Nighat Nasreen (Kashmiri), Tanvi Kamat Bambolkar (Konkani), Ganesh Puthu (Malayalam), Vishakha Vishwanath (Marathi), Naina Adhikari (Nepali), Sandeep (Punjabi), Devilal Mahiya (Rajasthani), Bapi Tudu (Santali), Monika J Panjwani (Sindhi), Ram Thangam (Tamil), Johny Takkedasila (Telugu), Dheeraj Bismil (Dogri), and Tauseef Bareilvi for Urdu.

## 8. WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus awarded Olympic Order by IOC ( June 22, 2023 )

WHO-Director-General-Tedros-Ghebreyesus-awarded-Olympic-Order-by-IOC  
The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the Olympic Order to Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

### An Overview of the News

- The award was given to Dr. Tedros for his efforts in holding the **Olympic Games Tokyo 2020** despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Olympic Order was presented by **IOC President Thomas Bach at the Olympic House.**
- Dr. Tedros has been invited by President Bach to be the Guest of Honor at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- The award recognizes Dr. Tedros' support in promoting cooperation between the IOC and WHO, in **particular the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2020.**
- The IOC and WHO have collaborated on various initiatives, including the **Let's Move campaign for Olympic Day.**

### **About the Let's Move campaign**

- It stresses the importance of **physical activity and regular exercise.**
- It highlights the benefits associated with regular exercise, such as improved physical fitness and mental health.
- The campaign is in line with the **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Olympism365 strategy**, which aims to increase access to sporting opportunities.
- The Let's Move campaign supports the IOC's aim **of increasing access to sport for people of all ages and backgrounds.**

### **President Bach's special tribute to WHO:**

- President Bach presented the **Olympic Cup in 2021 as a special honor to the WHO.**
- The award recognizes WHO's extraordinary efforts and important role in the success of the **Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.**
- The cooperation between the IOC and WHO emphasizes the importance of sport for physical and mental well-being.
- The Olympic Cup was established in **1906 by Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the IOC.**
- It is the **highest honor an organization** can receive for promoting the ideals of the Olympic Movement.

### **International Olympic Committee:**

- Founded - **23 June 1894, Paris, France**
- Founders - **Pierre de Coubertin and D. Bikélas**
- Headquarters - **Lausanne, Switzerland**

- President - **Thomas Bach**
- Director General - **Christophe De Kepper**

## **9. Salman Rushdie wins German Book Trade 2023 Peace Prize ( June 21, 2023 )**

The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023 has been awarded to **British-American author Salman Rushdie**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- **Birth and Background:** Salman Rushdie was born on **June 19, 1947 in Bombay (now Mumbai), India**.
- **The Satanic Verses:** Rushdie achieved **international recognition through his controversial 1988 novel, The Satanic Verses**.
- **Inspiration and controversy:** The novel attracted widespread attention and generated significant controversy in Muslim society for its portrayal inspired by the life of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.
- **Fatwa issued:** Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issues a fatwa against Salman Rushdie because of the publication of The Satanic Verses.

### **History of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade**

- It was **established in 1950** and the award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion of international understanding between nations and cultures through their literary works.
- The prize is **endowed with €25,000 (\$27,300)**.
- The award ceremony takes place in **October during the Frankfurt Book Fair**, one of the largest and most important book fairs in the world.
- The purpose of the award is **to encourage efforts to promote peace, dialogue and cooperation**.
- Past recipients of the award include **Margaret Atwood, Orhan Pamuk, Susan Sontag, Amos Oz, and Vaclav Havel**.
- Last year, the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade was **awarded to Ukrainian author Serhiy Zhadan**.

### **List of famous books by Salman Rushdie:**

- Midnight's Children
- Shame
- The Satanic Verses
- fury



- Shalimar The Clown
- The Golden House
- Quichotte
- Victory City

## **10. Acharya Gopi to be conferred with first Prof. Jayashankar Award ( June 21, 2023 )**

### **Acharya-Gopi-to-be-conferred-with-first-Prof.-Jayashankar-Award**

**Acharya N. Gopi**, a renowned poet and literary critic, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious **Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- This award is instituted by **Bharat Jagruthi**, a cultural organization affiliated with **Bharat Rashtra Samithi**, and aims to honor accomplished literary figures.
- Acharya Gopi's felicitation ceremony was held on 21 June at the Telangana Saraswat Parishad in Abids to remember his contribution to literature.

#### **Acharya Gopi's Literary Accomplishments**

- Acharya Gopi has an impressive literary career with a total of **56 books to his name**.
- His works encompass various genres, including **26 collections of poems, 7 compilations of essays, 5 translations, and 3 research books**.
- Acharya Gopi's literary works have garnered widespread acclaim, leading to translations into several Indian languages, as well as foreign languages such as **German, Persian, and Russian**. This showcases the global recognition of his writings.

#### **About Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar**

- Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar, popularly known as **Professor Jayashankar**, was an Indian **academic and social activist**.
- He played a crucial role as an ideologue in the **Telangana Movement**, advocating for a separate state.
- Prof. Jayashankar actively fought for a separate state for Telangana, starting from **1952**.
- He was a key figure in raising awareness about the **socio-political issues** faced by the region and advocating for its separate identity.
- Prof. Jayashankar served as the former **Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University** and remained an activist throughout his career, dedicated to the cause of the Separate Telangana Movement.