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1. Etihad Airways named Environmental Airline of the Year 2023 (June 2, 2023)

Etihad Airways, the **national airline of the UAE**, has been named the **Environmental Airline of the Year 2023** for the second year in a row at the **Airline Rating Awards**.

An Overview of the News

- The prestigious award acknowledges the airline's commitment to **sustainable aviation through innovation and collaboration**.
- **Etihad is ranked third in the 'Top 10 Airlines' category**, which evaluates comfort, innovation, value and safety in economy, business and first class.
- Etihad's sustainability strategy focuses on emissions reduction, industry alignment, collaboration with the UAE ecosystem and proactive transparency.
- Key initiatives of the airline include the **Greenliner program** using Boeing 787 Dreamliners and the deployment of Sustainable50 A350-1000 aircraft.
- **Antonaldo Neves**, Group CEO, Etihad Aviation Group
- **Geoffrey Thomas**, Editor-in-Chief, AirlineRatings.com

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **Location:** It is located in Western Asia.
- **Geographical Boundaries:** It shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- **Maritime Borders:** It also has maritime borders with Qatar and Iran in the Persian Gulf.
- **Religion:** Islam is the dominant religion in the UAE, with the majority of the population being Sunni Muslim.

Capital - **Abu Dhabi**

Official language - **Arabic**

Government - **Federal Islamic parliamentary elective semi-constitutional monarchy**

President/Crown Prince - **Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Vice President - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

2. 57th Jnanpith Award was given to Goan writer Damodar Maujo (May 29, 2023)

Damodar-Maujo

Goan writer Damodar Maujo has been honoured with the **57th Jnanpith Award**, India's highest literary honour.

An Overview of the News

- He is a renowned short story writer, novelist, critic and screenwriter in **Konkani language**.
- **Damodar Maujo** is the second **Goan** to receive the **Jnanpith Award after Ravindra Kelekar** in 2008.
- He has written 25 books in Konkani and one in English, many of which have been translated into various languages.
- Maujo's famous novel 'Karmelin' received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983.
- The award ceremony took place at the Raj Bhavan near Panaji, the capital of Goa.

Jnanpith Awards:

- It is the oldest and highest Indian literary award presented annually by Bharatiya Jnanpith.
- It recognizes outstanding contributions to literature by Indian authors writing in English as well as in the Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
- The first award was given on 19 November 1966 to G.K. Shankar Kurup was awarded.
- The award was established in 1961 and is not given posthumously.
- Ashapurna Devi became the first woman recipient in 1976 for her novel "Prothom Protishruti" (The First Promise).

About Goa

It is a state located on the west coast of India, bordering the Arabian Sea.

It is the smallest state of India by area.

Formation (as a state) - **30 May 1987**

Capital - **Panaji**

Official Animal - **Gaur**

Official Bird - **Yellow Throated Bulbul**

Official Tree - **Terminalia elliptica**

Rajya Sabha - **1 seat**

Lok Sabha - **2 seats**

Governor - **PS Sreedharan Pillai**

Chief Minister - **Pramod Sawant**

3. 4th National Water Award 2023 Selection of 41 winners (May 28, 2023)

The **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti** will organize the **4th National Water Awards Distribution Ceremony** on June 17, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, **New Delhi**.

An Overview of the News:

- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has been requested to be the chief guest at the function. 41 winners including joint winners have been selected for the **4th National Water Awards, 2022**.
- The awards include 11 categories including '**Best State**', '**Best District**', '**Best Gram Panchayat**', '**Best Urban Local Body**'.
- The award winners will be awarded a citation, trophy and cash prize.
- An amount of Rs **2 lakh has been kept for the first prize, Rs 1.5 lakh for the second prize and Rs one lakh for the third prize**.

Significance of National Water Awards:

- These awards will help in increasing public awareness about the importance of water and motivate them to adopt and promote best water use practices.
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** is the nodal ministry responsible for laying down policy guidelines and programs for water development, conservation and management as a national resource.
- The first National Water Awards was organized by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in the year 2018.

4. First Bulgarian author to win International Booker Prize 2023 (May 25, 2023)

First-Bulgarian-author-to-win-International-Booker-Prize-2023

Bulgarian author **Georgi Gospodinov** won the **2023 International Booker Prize** for his novel "**Time Shelter**".

An Overview of the News

- The novel was translated into English by **Angela Rodel** and is the **first Bulgarian novel** to win the International Booker Prize.
- "Time Shelter" is a captivating and remarkable literary work that explores themes of time, identity, and the human experience.

International Booker Prize:

- It is an **international literary award** held in the **United Kingdom**.
- It was introduced in **June 2004** as a complement to the **Man Booker Prize**.
- The award recognizes outstanding works of fiction translated into English.
- It provides global exposure and appreciation to authors and their translated works.

Establishment - **June 2004**

First Prize - **2005**

Presenter - **Booker Prize Foundation**

Bulgaria:

It is a Balkan nation located in **Southeastern Europe**.

President - **Rumen Radev**

Vice President - **Ileana Iotova**

Prime Minister - **Galab Donev**

5. PM Modi conferred with highest civilian honours by Fiji, Papua New Guinea (May 22, 2023)

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **highest honor by Fiji and Papua New Guinea** on 21 May.

An overview of the news

- PM Modi was honored with the island nation's highest civilian award during his visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the **3rd India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit**.
- PM Modi was awarded "**The Companion of the Order of Fiji**" by his Fijian counterpart **Sitweni Rabuka** for his global leadership, a rare honor for a non-Fijian.
- Papua New Guinea conferred its highest civilian honour, **Grand Companion of the Order of Loghu (GCL)** on PM Modi for his efforts towards unity of the Pacific island nation.

Republic of Fiji

- It is an archipelago consisting of around **300 islands in the South Pacific Ocean**.
- Capital: **Suva**
- Currency: **Fijian Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Sitiveni Rabuka**

Papua New Guinea

- Prime Minister: **James Marape**
- Capital: **Port Moresby**
- Currency: **kina (K)**

6. Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships awarded to 300 students in Sri Lanka (May 21, 2023)

Recently **three hundred school students** from all **25 districts of Sri Lanka** have received the prestigious **Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship**.

An overview of the news

- Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka **Gopal Baglay**, Sri Lankan Education Minister **Dr. Sushil Premjayantha** and Minister of State for Education **A.K. Arvind Kumar** provided scholarships to the students.
- The scholarship provides **2500 Sri Lankan Rupees per student per month** to the top six students from each district based on merit.
- This year, two batches of scholarships were awarded simultaneously to compensate for the disruptions caused by **COVID-19** during the period 2021-2022.
- During the ceremony, the High Commissioner emphasized the importance of bilateral cooperation in the education sector for the bright future of the youth in Sri Lanka and India.
- Drawing parallels between the philosophies of **Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha**, he said Gandhi's ideals remain relevant even in a rapidly changing world.

Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship

- Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship plays a vital role in **promoting educational opportunities for students in Sri Lanka**.
- By providing financial support, these scholarships enable students to pursue their **academic aspirations and fulfill their potential**.
- In addition to the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship, the Government of India offers about **210 scholarships annually to Sri Lankan students** in fields such as **engineering, technology, arts, science and indigenous medicine**.
- The **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme** offers over **400 scholarships** to Sri Lankan government officials to enhance their domain knowledge.
- Furthermore, there are thousands of seats available for Sri Lankan students in India under the Study in India program.

7. Cochin Port bags Sagar Shreshta award 2023 (May 13, 2023)

Cochin Port has been awarded the **prestigious Sagar Shreshta award** for the **year 2023** by the **Ministry of Shipping** in recognition of its **outstanding performance in the maritime sector**.

An overview of the news

- The Sagar Shreshta award is given to Indian ports for achieving excellence in various categories, including **efficiency, productivity, and environmental sustainability**.
- Cochin Port was selected for the award based on its impressive track record of achieving **high standards of operational efficiency, safety, and environmental sustainability, as well as its contribution to the development of the maritime sector in India**.
- The port has implemented several innovative initiatives to enhance its operational capabilities and improve customer satisfaction, including the **introduction of digital platforms for cargo tracking and real-time vessel monitoring**.
- The port has also demonstrated its **commitment to environmental sustainability** through the adoption of green technologies, such as **shore power supply and solar power generation, and its efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote eco-friendly practices**.
- Cochin Port's receipt of the Sagar Shrestha award reflects its leadership in the maritime sector and its commitment to driving **innovation and excellence in the industry**.

8. Lionel Messi wins Laureus sportsman of the year (May 11, 2023)

Argentina's World Cup-winning captain Lionel Messi was named **Laureus Sportsman of the Year** at an award ceremony in Paris on 8 May.

An overview of the news

- Messi also received an award on behalf of the Argentina men's soccer team, who were named the **World Team of the Year** following their victory at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.
- **Paris Saint-Germain forward Messi, 35**, had previously won the award once in 2020, sharing it with **Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton**.
- Messi became the first athlete to receive **both the World Sportsman of the Year award and the World Team of the Year award** in the same year.
- **Sprint champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** bagged the **top women's honour** after an outstanding 2022, which included winning the **100m gold at the World Athletics Championships**.
- Tennis player **Carlos Alcaraz**, who won the **2022 U S Open** and rose to number one in the ATP rankings, was named the **Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year**.
- Christian Eriksen, who recovered from the cardiac arrest received the **Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award**.

Laureus World Sports Awards

- The nominees for the Laureus World Sports Awards are selected by the **global media**, while the winners are determined by the 71 members of the **Laureus World Sports Academy**.
- The award was instituted in the **year 2000** and is presented annually.

Awards List

- World Sportsman of the Year Award: **Lionel Messi**
- World Sportswoman of the Year Award: **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce**
- World Team of the Year Award: **Argentina Men's Football Team**
- World Breakthrough of the Year Award: **Carlos Alcaraz**
- World Comeback of the Year Award: **Christian Eriksen**
- World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: **Catherine Debrunner**
- World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award: **Eileen Gu**
- Laureus Sport for Good Award: **TeamUp**

9. President Droupadi Murmu confers 37 Gallantry awards (May 10, 2023)

President Droupadi Murmu confers 37 Gallantry awards

President **Draupadi Murmu**, who is the **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**, presented **eight Kirti Chakras** including **five posthumously** and **29 Shaurya Chakras** including **five posthumously** to Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State/UT personnel in New Delhi on May 9, 2023.

List of Winners

Shaurya Chakra (non posthumous)

1. Amit Kumar, Assistant Commandant, CRPF Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Satendra Singh, Assistant Commandant, 21 Battalion, CRPF Ministry of Home Affairs
3. 2693096F Havildar Ghanshyam (Now Naib Subedar), The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles Army
4. (i) Vicky Kumar Pandey, Deputy Commandant, 209 CoBRA, CRPF (ii) Vijay Oraon, Constable/GD, 209 Cobra, CRPF Ministry of Home Affairs
5. LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MRITUNJAY KUMAR (07456-W) NAVY
6. IC-78962W Major Amit Dahiya, Sena Medal, The 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) Army

- (i) Somay Vinayak Munde, IPS, Additional, Superintendent of Police (now Superintendent of Police), Maharashtra Police (ii) Ravindra Kashinath Naitam, Head Constable, Maharashtra Police (iii) Tikaram Sampatrao Katenge, Police Naik, Maharashtra Police MHA
8. IC-72252H Major Nitin Dhania, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), Army
9. 14941570X Lance Naik Raghavendra Singh, The Mechanized Infantry, The 9th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles Army
10. IC-80532L Major Sandeep Kumar, The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles Army
11. SS-47677W Major Abhishek Singh, Mechanized Infantry, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles Army
12. (i) Squadron Leader Sandeep Kumar Jhajharia, (33270) Accounts/Garuda (ii) Corporal (Now Sergeant) Anand Singh, (954576) Indian Air Force (Garuda) Air Force
13. IC-77164W Major Aditya Bhadauria, The Kumaon Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles Army
14. (i) Group Captain Yogeshwar Krishnaro Kandalkar, (27207) Flying (Pilot) (ii) Flight Lieutenant Tejpal, (36539) Meteorological/Garuda (III) Chief of Aircraft Sunil Kumar (990231) Indian Air Force (Security) air force (security) air force
15. SS-48529X CAPT (NOW MAJOR) YUDHVIR SINGH, THE MECHANISM INFANTRY, 9TH BATTALION, THE RASHTRAYA RIFLES ARMY
16. 16. SS-48830N CAPT RAKESH TR, 9TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES) ARMY
17. 13779485Y Lance Naik Vikas Choudhary, The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, The 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles Army
18. SS-48517H CAPT (NOW MAJOR) ARUN KUMAR, The Kumaon Regiment, 13th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles Army

Kirti Chakra (non posthumous)

1. 15486168N Naik Devendra Pratap Singh, Armored Corps, 55th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles Army
2. SS-46926X Major Shubhang, The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles Army
3. 3011334X Naik Jitendra Singh, The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles Army

Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous)

1. 9115892W Rifleman Aurangzab, The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles (posthumous) Army
2. 3017767L Sepoy Karan Vir Singh, The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous) Army

- 15240522P GUNNER JASBIR SINGH, THE REGIMENT OF ARTillery, 19th Bn, The Rashtriya Rifles (Posthumous) Army
4. 665/SPO Constable Mudassir Ahmad Shaikh, Jammu and Kashmir Police (Baramulla) (Posthumous) Army
5. 13773112P Naik Jasbir Singh, 6th Battalion The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (Posthumous)

Kirti Chakra (posthumous)

1. Sudeep Sarkar, Constable/GD, BSF (Posthumous) Ministry of Home Affairs
2. (i) Deepak Bhardwaj, Sub Inspector, State Government of Chhattisgarh (Posthumous) (ii) Sodhi Narayan, Head Constable, State Government of Chhattisgarh (Posthumous) (iii) Shravan Kashyap, Head Constable, State Government of Chhattisgarh (Posthumous) MHA
3. Rohit Kumar, SG Constable, Jammu and Kashmir Police (Posthumous) MHA

10. Three jailed Iranian women journalists win UN press freedom prizes (May 3, 2023)

Three jailed Iranian women journalists win UN press freedom prizes

The **United Nations** announced on 2nd May that its **premier prize for press freedom** has been awarded to **three imprisoned Iranian female journalists “for their commitment to truth and accountability.”**

An overview of the news

- Award winners include **Niloufer Hamidi, Elaheh Mohammadi and Nargis Mohammadi.**
- Neelofer had informed people about **22-year-old Mahsa Amini**, who had died in September last year, through a news item.
- Amini was arrested by the ethics police for not wearing a headscarf properly.
- **Elaheh wrote about Amini's funeral.**
- **Amini's death triggered months of protests in Iran's cities.**
- The **third winner, Nargis Mohammadi**, worked for many years as a journalist and is one of **Iran's most prominent activists.**

UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize

- This award was **started in 1997.**
- The award is given to a **person, organization or institution** who, at the **risk of life, has made an outstanding contribution to the defense and, or promotion of freedom of the press, anywhere in the world.**
- The award was established at the initiative of the **Executive Board of UNESCO.**

- The award is formally presented by UNESCO on the occasion of **World Press Freedom**
- **Day on 3 May.**
 - The award is named in honor of **Guillermo Cano Isaza**, a **Colombian journalist** who was **assassinated** on 17 December 1986 in front of the office of his newspaper **El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia.**