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1. Entrepreneur of the Year 2022: Sajjan Jindal (Feb. 27, 2023)

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri honoured Indian industrialist Sajjan Jindal with the Best Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the year 2022.

An overview of the news

- At the same function, the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to KP Singh, Chairman, DLF Group.
- KP Singh is especially known for setting up DLF City in Gurgaon.
- **Pratapaneni** (Co-founder of **MedGenome**) was awarded in the startup category at the same event.
- Similarly, **Mahendra Shah**, MD & CEO, IndusInd First Bank was also awarded in the Financial Services category.

Sajjan Jindal:

- Sajjan Jindal is the Chairman and Managing Director of the J**SW Group of Companies.** It is because of his vision and foresight that the group has gained a distinct place in the business from steel to mining, energy, sports, infrastructure and software.
- Jindal, who has served as the **President of the World Steel Association from 2021 to 2022**, is a mechanical engineer from the Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.
- He has been instrumental in setting up the Indian Steel Association in 2014.

2. Hari Balakrishnan wins 2023 Marconi Prize (Feb. 26, 2023)

Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan has been awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize. Dr. Balakrishnan is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

An overview of the news

 The award is given in recognition of the broad impact on society of his fundamental discoveries in wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing and distributed systems.

About Hari Balakrishnan

- Hari Balakrishnan is the Fujitsu Professor of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- He is also the Founder, Chief Technology Officer, and Chairman of Cambridge Mobile Telematics (CMT).
- Balakrishnan holds a **BTech degree from IIT Madras and a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley.**
- He has won the ACM SIGCOMM Award, IEEE Koji Kobayashi Award, Infosys Prize and has been inducted into the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

About the Marconi Prize

- The Marconi Prize is the flagship award of the Marconi Society.
- The award is given annually to innovators who have made a significant contribution to enhancing digital inclusion through the advancement of information and communication technology.
- The award is recommended by an independent selection committee of **Marconi Prize** recipients and approved by the Marconi Society Board.

3. President Droupadi Murmu confers Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards (Feb. 23, 2023)

President **Droupadi Murmu** on 23 February conferred the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards** for the **years 2019, 2020 and 2021** at a function in New Delhi.

An overview of the news

- Eight eminent personalities in the field of performing arts were given the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, while 128 artistes from the fields of music, dance, theatre, traditional, folk and puppetry were honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards.
- The Akademi's Fellowship (Akademi Ratna) carries of **Rs 3,00,000 and Akademi Awards carry of Rs 1,00,000.**
- The award also carries a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
- The Fellows and awardees not only represent India as a whole, but also the diverse forms of creative expression and our heritage.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

- It was created in **1952** by a resolution of the (then) Ministry of Education, Government of India, with **Dr. PV Rajamannar** as its first chairman.
- It was set up for the preservation and promotion of the vast **intangible heritage** of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance and drama.
- The chairman of the Academy is appointed by the **President of India for a term of five years.**

4. Sansad Ratna award, 2023 (Feb. 22, 2023)

names for the **Sansad Ratna Awards 2023** were released on 21 February.

An overview of the news

- A total of thirteen Members of Parliament and two Parliamentary Committees have been honoured with this award.
- The Jury Committee of eminent Parliamentarians and civil society, chaired by Arjun Ram Meghwal (State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs) and Co-Chaired by T S Krishnamurthy (Former Chief Election Commissioner of India) has nominated eight MPs from Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2023.
- Prominent CPI-M leader **T K Rangarajan** nominated for the lifetime achievement award.
- These nominations are based on cumulative performance in questions, private members' bills and members' debates from the beginning of the **17th Lok Sabha** till the end of the Winter Session 2022.

Sansad Ratna Awards 2023 from Lok Sabha

- 1. Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP, Jharkhand),
- 2. Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (BJP, West Bengal),
- 3. Kuldeep Rai Sharma (INC, Andaman Nicobar Islands),
- 4. Dr Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (BJP, Maharashtra),
- 5. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC, West Bengal),
- 6. Gopal Chinayya Shetty (BJP, Maharashtra),
- 7. Sudhir Gupta (BJP, Madhya Pradesh) and
- 8. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe (NCP, Maharashtra)

Sansad Ratna Awards 2023 from Rajya Sabha

- Dr. John Brittas (CPI-M, Kerala),
- Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD, Bihar),
- Smt Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan (NCP, Maharashtra) Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (Samajwadi Party, UP) and
- Smt Chhaya Verma (INC, Chhattisgarh)

Two Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha nominated for Sansad Ratna Award 2023

- 1. Lok Sabha's Parliamentary Committee on Finance, chaired by **Jayant Sinha**
- 2. Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Tourism, Transport, and Culture, chaired by **Vijay**Sai Reddy

Lifetime Achievement Award

• Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award - **T K Rangarajan**, (Former Rajya Sabha MP for two terms and a Senior CPIM Leader).

About Sansad Ratna Award

- Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted on the suggestion of **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam** to honour top performing Parliamentarians.
- He himself inaugurated the first edition of the award ceremony in **2010 in Chennai.**
- So far, 90 top performing parliamentarians have been honoured and all of them have received the award individually.
- The **13th edition of the award** ceremony will be held on 25 March 2023 in New Delhi.
- K. Srinivasan is the Founder Chairman of the Sansad Ratna Award Committee and Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul is the Chairman.

5. The Kashmir Files wins best film at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards (Feb. 21, 2023)

The **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival awards** were announced on 20 February with **The Kashmir Files** winning the **Best Film award.**

An overview of the news

- Alia Bhatt also won the Best Actress award for Gangubai Kathiawadi and husband Ranbir Kapoor won the Best Actor award for Brahmastra.
- Anupam Kher received the Most Versatile Actor of the Year award for The Kashmir Files.

- Actor-filmmaker Rishab Shetty won the Most Promising Actor award for his
- Kannada film Kantara.
- Varun Dhawan also won the Critics Best Actor Award for his film Bhediya.
- In the television category, **Rupali Ganguly**-starrer Anupama won the **Television**Series of the Year award.

Winners list of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Awards - 2023

- Best Film: The Kashmir Files
- Best Director: R Balki for Chup: Revenge of The Artist
- Best Actor: Ranbir Kapoor for Brahmastra: Part 1
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
- Most Promising Actor: Rishab Shetty for Kantara
- Best Actor In A Supporting Role: Manish Paul for Jugjugg Jeeyo
- Outstanding Contribution In The Film Industry: Rekha
- Best Web Series: Rudra: The Edge of Darkness
- Critics Best Actor: Varun Dhawan for Bhediya
- Film of The Year: RRR
- Television Series of The Year: Anupamaa
- Most Versatile Actor Of The Year: Anupam Kher for The Kashmir Files
- Best Actor In A Television Series: Zain Imam for Fanaa- Ishq Mein Marjawaan
- Best Actress In A Television Series: Tejasswi Prakash for Naagin
- Best Male Singer: Sachet Tandon for Maiyya Mainu
- Best Female Singer: Neeti Mohan for Meri Jaan
- Best Cinematographer: PS Vinod for Vikram Vedha
- Outstanding Contribution In The Music Industry: Hariharan

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema.
- Rajinikanth was honoured with this award in 2019.
- The award is given in the memory of **Dadasaheb Phalke**, who is regarded as the 'Father of Indian Cinema'.

He made the first Hindi movie, Raja Harishchandra.

6. BAFTA Awards for 2023 announced (Feb. 20, 2023)

The **76th British Academy Film Awards, BAFTA** (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Awards, were announced at an event held in **London's Royal Festival Hall** on 19 February.

An overview of the news

- A German anti-war drama 'All Quiet on the Western Front', a screen adaptation of the 1928 novel by Erich Maria Remarque, won the most, including Best Picture and Best Director, with seven.
- 'The Banshees of Inisherin' and 'Elvis' both movies won four BAFTA awards.

BAFTA 2023 Winners List

Best film

- "All Quiet on the Western Front" -WINNER
- "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- "Everything Everywhere All At Once"
- "Elvis"
- "'TÁR"

Outstanding British film

- "Aftersun"
- "The Banshees of Inisherin" -WINNER
- · "Brian and Charles"
- "Empire of Light"
- "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande"
- "Living"
- "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical"
- "See How They Run"
- "The Swimmers"
- "The Wonder"

Best documentary

- "All That Breathes"
- "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed"
- "Fire of Love"
- "Moonage Daydream"
- "Navalny" *WINNER

Best animated film

- "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio" *WINNER
- "Marcel the Shell with Shoes On"
- "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish"
- "Turning Red"

Best lead actress

- Ana de Armas, "Blonde"
- Cate Blanchett, "TÁR" *WINNER
- Viola Davis, "The Woman King"
- Danielle Deadwyler, "Till"
- Emma Thompson, "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande"
- Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All At Once"

Best lead actor

- Austin Butler, "Elvis" *WINNER
- Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
- Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Daryl McCormack, "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande"
- Paul Mescal, "Aftersun"
- Bill Nighy, "Living"

7. Indian origin Karthik Subramaniam wins National Geographic's 'pictures of the year' contest (Feb. 19, 2023)

Indian-origin engineer cum photographer **Karthik Subramaniam's** beautiful photo has topped **National Geographic's 'Photo of the Year**' contest 2023 beating over 5000 entries.

An overview of the news

- His photograph, titled "Dance of the Eagles", was taken at the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in Alaska.
- The award was presented to him for a striking picture of an eagle struggling to settle on a tree branch.
- The title of the picture is inspired by **RRR Martin's popular novel 'A Dance with Dragons'.**
- Every November, hundreds of eagles gather at the **Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve near Haines, Alaska**, to feed on salmon.
- California-based software engineer Karthika started capturing wild images as a passion in 2020.
- His 'Dance of the Eagles' will be the cover page of the May edition of National Geographic.

Other Pictures that honoured by Magazine

- Nomadic Kazakh eagle hunter -by Eric Esterle
- Penguins crowd -by Rhez Solano
- The Austrian Alps -by Alex Berger
- Mount Rainier National Park, Washington -by W. Kent Williamson
- 'Legends of the Fog' -by Tihomir Trichkov
- Arizona's small desert owls by Bruce Taubert
- Maras in Peru -by An Li

8. Egyptian President bestows Global Best M-GOV Awards on IIT Indore students (Feb. 14, 2023)

award of AED (Emirates Dirham)

Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore won an award of AED (Emirates Dirham) 1 million along with a gold medal at the World Government Summit in Dubai on 13 February.

An overview of the news

- Niyati Totala and Neil Kalpeshkumar Parikh who are students of Indian Institute
 of Technology (IIT) Indore were awarded this prestigious medal by the President of
 Egypt, Abel Fattah El-Sisi.
- These students are the makers of the 'Blockbill' app.

'Blockbill' app

- BlockBill is a blockchain-based **receipt generation app** that generates digital receipts for all its users' transactions.
- This app solves many problems, transitioning from producing thermal paper to printing receipts.
- Thermal papers that are ubiquitous and found in most retail locations cannot be recycled due to the chemicals used to make them.
- Blockbills have been conceptualised to address this issue.

"M-Gov Award" and the "GovTech Award"

- These are annual awards organised by the **Government of the United Arab Emirates** as part of the **World Government Summit.**
- These awards are given to leading students, researchers, government agencies and institutions, private sector companies and startups for developing innovative solutions using the latest technologies.

World Government Summit 2023

- It was held under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments" at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 13 -15 February 2023.
- The participants of this summit reaffirm its important role as a unique platform for building a better future for humanity.

9. Indian-American student named as 'World's Brightest' student for second time (Feb. 8, 2023)

Indian-American schoolgirl **Natasha Periyanayagam** has been named in the **Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth's list** of "world's most talented" students for the second year in a row.

Who is Natasha Perianayagam?

- Natasha Periyanayagam is 13 years old and studying at Florence M Gaudiner Middle School in New Jersey, United States.
- She took the John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) exam in **2021**. At that time she was a **fifth grader**.

- Natasha's performance in the **Verbal and Quantitative Aptitude Test** was
- equivalent to achieving a **90 percentile** in grade eight, earning her a place on that year's honours list.
- The list is compiled based on the results of upper-grade-level tests of more than **15,000 students from 76 countries.**
- CTY uses grade level testing to identify advanced students around the world and present a clear picture of their academic abilities.
- Natatha's parents are from **Chennai**, she loves doodling and reading **JRR Tolkien** novels in her spare time.

10. NTPC bags 'ATD Best Awards 2023' for 6th consecutive year (Feb. 8, 2023)

NTPC bags 'ATD Best Awards 2023' for 6th consecutive year

Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.

An overview of the news

- NTPC Limited has won this award for the **sixth time** for showcasing enterprise success in the area of **talent development**.
- The foundation of NTPC's culture has always been employee involvement through creative techniques.
- This award is a testimony to the **contemporary HR practices** of NTPC.

About the awards

- The ATD Best Awards recognize organisations that demonstrate talent development across the enterprise.
- NTPC has been successful in creating an ecosystem, which empowers the employees to enhance their skills.
- The award includes small and large private, public and non-profit organizations from around the world.
- Association for Talent Development, USA is the world's largest association in the field of talent development and ATD's Best of Award is considered the most prestigious award in learning and development.

About NTPC

• The NTPC which was earlier known as **National Thermal Power Corporation** of India is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in **1975.**

- The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya
 Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.
- It is a coal-based power plant owned and operated by NTPC.
- The total installed commercial capacity of the company was **69454 MW** before the JPL deal.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh