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1. 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.

2. 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:** Tejaswi 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.**

3. 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”

4. 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

5. 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.

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

Indian-American schoolgirl **Natasha Periyanyagam** 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 Periyanyagam 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.

7. 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**

8. Dr Peggy Mohan wins 'Mathrubhumi Book of the Year' award (Feb. 7, 2023)

Author Dr Peggy Mohan has won the 'Mathrubhumi Book of the Year' award during the 4th edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023).

An overview of the news:

- He has been given this **award for his book 'Wanderers, Kings and Merchants'**, which portrays the development of language as a result of migration.
- In this award, he was given a statuette and two lakh rupees as a cash prize.
- The award was presented to Dr Peggy Mohan by Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah at the closing ceremony of MBIFL 2023.

Dr Peggy Mohan:

- She is a Trinidadian-born writer and a linguist.
- He holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Michigan, USA.
- He worked as Professor of Language Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.

Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL):

- Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters was started in the year 2018.
- MBIFL 2023 was inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- This was the 4th edition of MBIFL with the theme "Shadows of History, Light of the Future".

9. Grammy Awards 2023 (Feb. 6, 2023)

Grammy Awards 2023

The most prestigious **65th Grammy Awards** in the music world have been **organized on 5 February 2023 in Los Angeles.**

An overview of the news

- The 65th Grammy Awards were **hosted by Trevor Noah.**

India's Ricky Cage wins his third Grammy Award

- India's music composer **Ricky Kej along with rock legend Stewart Copeland has won the Grammy Award for Best Immersive Audio Album for the album Divine Tides.**
- Cage has become the only Indian to win three Grammy Awards.
- Ricky Cage won this award for the first time in the year 2015 for 'Winds of Samsara'.
- At the 64th Grammy Awards 2022, he won his second Grammy Award in the category 'Best New Age Album'.

Beyoncé became the most Grammy winning celebrity

- American pop star Beyoncé won 2 Grammys at the 65th Grammy Awards.
- Beyoncé has become the **only celebrity in the world to win the most Grammy Awards (32)** in her career.
- At the same time, the record of winning the most Grammy Awards in a single night is in the name of Late King of Pop Michael Jackson.

Grammy Award Winners 2023

Category	Winner	Album
Album of the Year	Harry Styles	Harry's House
Song Of The Year	Bonnie Raitt	Just Like That
Best Musica Urbana Album	Bad Bunny	Un Verano Sin Te
Best pop solo performance	Adele	Easy On Me
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	Sam Smith / Kim Petras	Unholy
Best dance/electronic album	Beyoncé	Renaissance
Best Rap Album	Kendrick Lamar	Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers
Best Country Album	Willie Nelson	A Beautiful Time
Record of the Year	Lizzo	About Damn Time

10. Former PM Manmohan Singh conferred Lifetime Achievement Honour in UK (Feb. 2, 2023)

Former prime minister of India **Dr Manmohan Singh** was conferred a **Lifetime Achievement Honour** by the **India-UK Achievers Honours** in **London** for his contribution to economic and political life.

An overview of the news

- The award will be handed over to Dr Singh in **New Delhi** by the **National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK**.
- The India-UK Achievers Honors is organised by the **National Association of Indian Students and Alumni UK** in partnership with the **British Council in India** and the **UK's Department for International Trade (DIT)**.
- The '**Life Time Achievement Honor**' recognizes Dr Manmohan Singh's contribution to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- **75 people** who have achieved achievements in various fields have been honoured with this honour while some people have been honoured with '**Outstanding Achievers**'.
- **Lord Karan Bilimoria**, a British citizen of Indian origin, was honoured with the '**Living Legend Honor**' at a ceremony held on 25 January.
- Britain's opposition Labor Party MP **Virendra Sharma** was also honoured with the '**Living Legend Honor**'.
- Dr. Manmohan Singh, a 90-year-old economist, served as the Prime Minister of India from **2004-2014**.