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1. Kerala Health Minister rejected the Ramon Magsaysay Award as it was against the communists (Sept. 4, 2022)

Former Kerala Health Minister **KK Shailaja** has rejected the <u>Ramon Magsaysay award</u> for her commitment and service towards ensuring an accessible public health system and effectively leading from the front to manage the Nipah and Covid-19 outbreaks in the state. However after she declined it the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation decided not to announce her name in the final list.

- Her handling of the health crisis was praised nationally and internationally.
- KK Shailaja who is a central committee member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said that the party decided not to accept the award.
- She said that cannot accept the award as it was given to an individual while her work as a health minister was a collective work.
- Also the award which is given in the name of the former Philippines President, was anticommunist and ruthlessly crushed the communist guerrilla movement in the country.
- If she had accepted the award she would be the fifth Keralite to get the honour after Verghese Kurien, M S Swaminathan, B G Verghese and T N Seshan.
- Till date 55 Indians have won the award. First being **Vinoba Bhave in 1958** and the last being **Ravish Kumar 2019**.

2. 64th Ramon Magsaysay award 2022 announced (Sept. 3, 2022)

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF), Manila, Philippines has announced the winners of the 64th Ramon Magsaysay award 2022 on 31 August 2022.

It is given to Individuals and organisation for providing solutions to some of the most challenging problems of human development in Asia or the world.

The award which is considered to be equivalent to the '**Asian Nobel Prize'** will be given to Tadashi Hattori, Gary Bencheghib, Sotheara Chhim, and Bernadette J. Madrid on 30 November 2022.

Awardee of 2022

Sotheara Chhim

He is from Cambodia. He has been honoured for his role as an Psychiatrist and mental health advocate who has played a key role in providing treatment of thousands of traumatized survivors of the Khmer Rouge's brutal rule and other patients in his country

Tadashi Hattori

He is from Japan. He is an ophthalmologist and humanitarian who has been honoured for his commitment in providing free eye surgeries in Vietnam.

Bernadette J.Madrid

She is a paediatrician from the Philippines. She has been honoured for her work as championing the Filipino child's right to protection by creating safe spaces for abused children nationwide.

Gary Bencheghib

He is from France. He has been honoured for his work in eradicating marine plastic pollution in Bali, Indonesia.

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award was founded in 1957 in memory of the Philippines President Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash in 1957.
- The award was established by the American philanthropist Rockfellers Brothers fund.
- The first award was given on 31 August 1958 and **Vinoba Bhave** of India was amongst the first five awardee.
- It was till 2008 given in 6 categories annually. They were Community Leadership, Public Service, Government Service, Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts, Peace and International Understanding, Emergent Leadership.
- Starting in 2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is no longer being given in fixed Award categories, except for Emergent Leadership.

3. Barack Obama : President, Nobel laureate, and now an Emmy winner (Sept. 4, 2022)

The Television Academy on September 3 honoured Hollywood newcomer **Barack Obama** with an Emmy Award for his narration of his Netflix documentary series "**Our Great National Parks**".

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Former US President Obama has already won Grammy Awards for audio versions of his memoirs "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams from My Father".
- Barack Obama, one of the world's popular leaders, who has been two-time President of America, has also received the **Nobel Peace Prize.**
- He has also received the **Grammy**, the biggest award in the music world, twice.
- This time he has also got an **Emmy**, the most prestigious award in the television world.
- Out of the four prestigious awards in the world of entertainment, two awards Oscar and Tony are yet to be received.
- These four awards are called **EGOT**, which means achievement of having won all four of the major American entertainment awards.
- If he wins two more awards, he will join the EGOT club.
- Before this, another US President, **D. Eisenhower,** received an Emmy in 1956.

4. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Honoured with Capital Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award (Sept. 4, 2022)

Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** was conferred with the **Capital Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award**. The award was presented by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice N.V. Ramana at India International Centre, New Delhi, on September 4, 2022

Naveen Patnaik of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) party has been the chief minister of Odisha since 5 March 2000 - till date.

The foundation in a statement said that in recognition of his distinctive and outstanding leadership qualities Naveen Patnaik is being conferred Capital Foundation Lifetime Achievement.

The Capital Foundation Society, established in 1987 is one of the most prestigious voluntary organisations in India which has been engaged in providing a platform for policy dialogue and debate on issues of national and international importance.

Odisha State:

- In ancient times it was called Kalinga.
- Its name was changed to Odisha from Orissa in 2011.
- The **96th constitutional amendment 2011** changed the name of language of the state from Oriya to **Odia** in the 8th schedule of the constitution.
- The State of Orissa was founded on 1 April 1936 after it was separated from the Bengal presidency.
- 1 April is celebrated as Utkal Dibas or Odisha divas in Odisha.
- It has 30 districts.

Governor of Odisha: Professor Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Its capital was at Cuttack but it was shifted to Bhubaneswar on 19 August 1949.

5. Canadian student wins 2022 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (Sept. 2, 2022)

Annabelle M. Rayson, a Canadian student, has won the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize for the year 2022 for her research on ways to treat and prevent harmful algae blooms.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, who is the official patron of the award, announced the winner during a ceremony at World Water Week in Stockholm.
- Harmful algae bloom (HAB) refers to the uncontrolled growth of algae.
- This causes toxic or harmful effects on organisms such as fish, sheep, marine mammals and birds.

About Stockholm Junior Water Prize:

- It is an international competition in which students aged 15 to 20 submit solutions to major water challenges.
- It has been organised annually since 1997 by the **Stockholm International Water Institute** in collaboration with Xylem, an American water technology provider.
- The award is a part of World Water Week.

6. Filmfare Awards 2022: Ranveer Singh bags Best Actor, Kriti Sanon wins Best Actress (Aug. 31, 2022)

The 67th Filmfare Awards for 2022 were given out on 30 August in Mumbai.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh won the Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male) award for his
 cricket drama 83, while Kriti Sanon won the Best Actress in a Lead Role (Female) award
 for Mimi.
- Before Filmfare, Ranveer was awarded the Best Actor award for his performance in 83 at The Indian **Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2022.**
- The story of Kabir Khan's film 83 is based on India's historic 1983 Cricket World Cup victory.
- In the film, Ranveer plays the role of **Kapil Dev,** the captain of the World Cup winning team.
- Kriti Sanon was awarded for her performance in Mimi, which was released in 2021.
- In Mimi, Kriti plays a **surrogate mother.** The film is directed by Laxman Utekar.
- Kriti won the first Best Actress award of her career at the 22nd International Indian Film Academy Awards in Abu Dhabi in May 2022.

List of winners:

- **Best Actor** Ranveer Singh for 83
- Best Actress Kriti Sanon for Mimi
- Best Actor (Critics Choice) Vicky Kaushal for Sardar Udham
- Best Actress (Critics Choice) Vidya Balan for Sherni
- **Best Director**: Vishnuvardhan for Shershaah
- Best Film (Popular Category) Shershaah
- Best Film (Critics Choice) Sardar Udham
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) Pankaj Tripathi for Mimi

- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Female) Sai Tamhankar for Mimi
- **Best Story** Abhishek Kapoor, Supratik Sen and Tushar Paranjape for Chandigarh Kare Aashigui
- Best Dialogue Dibakar Banerjee and Varun Grover for Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar
- Best Screenplay Shubhendu Bhattacharya and Ritesh Shah for Sardar Udham
- Best Original Story Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui
- Best Debut Male Ehan Bhat for 99 songs
- Best Debut Female Sharwari Wagh for Bunty Aur Babli 2
- Best Debut Director Seema Pahwa for Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi
- **Best Music Album -** Tanishk Bagchi, B Praak, Jaani, Jasleen Royal, Javed-Mohsin, Vikram Montrose for Shershaah
- **Best Lyrics** Kausar Munir for Lehra Do ('83)
- Best Playback Singer (Male) B Praak for Mann Bharryaa 2.0 (Shershaah)
- Best Playback Singer (Female) Asees Kaur for Raataan Lambiyan (Shershaah)
- **Best Action** Shershaah (Stefan Richter and Suniel Rodrigues)

7. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel wins UNESCO Peace Prize 2022 (Aug. 27, 2022)

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the 2022 UNESCO Peace Prize for her efforts to welcome refugees.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- All jurors, including jury chairman and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner Denis Mukwege, have been impressed by Merkel's courageous decision to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea in 2015.
- Additionally, the jury awarded an honorable mention to Julian Lusanz for his commitment to women victims of sexual violence.

Angela Merkel:

- Angela Merkel was born on 17 July 1954 in Hamburg, West Germany.
- In the 2005 national elections, Merkel became the first female chancellor of Germany, and is one of the leading figures in the European Union.
- She became the Chancellor of Germany for the fourth and last time on 14 March 2014.

Before joining politics, she was working as a research scientist.

About UNESCO Peace Prize :

- Officially it is called the Felix Houphouet-Bougain-UNESCO Peace Prize.
- The honour is named after the former President of Ivory Coast.
- UNESCO's Felix Houphouet-Bogen Peace Prize was created in 1989 to honour living individuals and active public or private bodies or institutions that have made significant contributions to peace.
- The award was established by a resolution supported by 120 countries

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About UNESCO:

- Establishment of UNESCO 16 November 1945
- UNESCO Headquarters Paris, France
- UNESCO members 193 countries
- UNESCO chief Audrey Azoulay

8. Bangladesh-born Fahmida Azim wins 2022 Pulitzer prize (Aug. 25, 2022)

Bangladesh-born illustrator and story writer Fahmida Azeem, who works for America's online magazine 'Insider', has been selected for the Pulitzer Prize for the year 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- He will be given this award for the category of Illustrated, Interpretive Reporting and Commentary.
- Fahmida Azeem has been selected to work on the persecution of Uighurs in China.
- Four journalists of Insider magazine including Fahmida Azeem have been selected for the award
 - o fahmida azeem
 - Anthony Dale Colonel
 - Josh Adams
 - Walt Hickey
- Fahmida Azeem was born in Bangladesh and later settled in America.

- His work has focused on themes of identity, culture and autonomy.
- His works are published in many international magazines like Glamour, Scientific American, The Intercept, Vice, The New York Times.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Pulitzer Prize:

- The award was established in the year 1917 by provisions written in the will of Joseph Pulitzer.
- Columbia University administers the award.
- The Pulitzer Prize is considered America's most prestigious honour in the field of journalism.
- The award is given in a total of 22 categories. In which 15 categories of journalism and 7 categories of book, drama, music etc. are included.
- In 21 categories, each winner receives USD 15,000 and a certificate. A gold medal is awarded to the winner in the Public Service category of the award.
- Govind Bihari Lal was the first Indian to receive the Pulitzer Prize in 1937.

9. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to be awarded the 'Liberty Medal' award for the year 2022 (Aug. 25, 2022)

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has been nominated for the 'Liberty Medal' for the year 2022 by the 'National Constitution Centre'.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- He has been chosen for this honour for his heroic defence of freedom in the face of Russian tyranny.
- He will be honoured in October 2022 at the National Constitution Centre (NCC), Philadelphia, USA.

Other awards given to Volodymyr Zelensky:

- Ronald Reagan Freedom Award 2022 It is given to those who have made a great contribution to the cause of freedom.
- John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022

About Liberty Medal Award:

- The 'Liberty Medal' award is an annual award given by the NCC of the United States of America.
- It was founded by the Philadelphia Foundation.

- The major winners of this award are Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan, Malala Yousafzai and Colin Powell.
- This award is given to a person of courage and conviction who has fought to protect the cause of freedom of the people.

10. UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022 (Aug. 17, 2022)

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar will be awarded the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022 for its 'Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Programme'.

Important facts

- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences is the world's largest residential institute for tribals.
- It started as a residential tribal school in 1993 and became a deemed-to-be-university in 2017.

UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize

- It was first given in 1989.
- It is funded by the government of the Republic of Korea.
- The winner receives a medal, a diploma and US\$20,000.
- It is given in honour of Sejong the Great who created Hangul, the Korean alphabet.
- It is given for significant contribution in the field of literacy.
- The award carries a silver medal, a diploma and a check of USD 20,000.

UNESCO effort for universal literacy

- UNESCO is striving for universal literacy by monitoring global and thematic indicators through the Global Coalition for Literacy within the framework of lifelong learning in 20 countries.
- UNESCO is working towards youth and adult literacy in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to achieve SDG 4.
- It supports the literacy efforts of Member States in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessment through a range of literacy projects.