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1. Boris Johnson gives Churchill Leadership Award to Ukraine's Zelenskyy (July 28, 2022)

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on July 26 honoured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky with the 'Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award' and compared the two leaders in times of crisis.

Important facts

- Zelensky accepted the award through video link during a ceremony at Johnson's London office.
- Johnson recalled how Zelensky had confirmed on February 24 that Russia had invaded Ukraine.
- He said, "In the hour of the greatest crisis, you faced the test of leadership in your own way as Churchill did in 1940."
- Zelensky thanked Johnson and Britain for their cooperation.
- Johnson was the first Western leader to visit Kyiv after Russia's invasion of the northeastern country Ukraine.

Churchill Leadership Award

- It was first introduced in 2006.
- Past recipients of the award include Prince Charles, former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major and former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Who was Winston Churchill?

- He was a statesman, writer, orator and leader who led Britain to victory in the Second World War.
- He served as Conservative Prime Minister of Britain twice from 1940 to 1945 and from 1951 to 1955.
- He was born on 30 November 1874, Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire.
- He died on 24 January 1965, London.

2. Global Energy Prize for the year 2022 (July 26, 2022)

Kaushik Rajasekhar, an Indian-origin professor at the University of Houston, has won the prestigious Global Energy Prize for the year 2022.

Important facts

- He has won the award for his outstanding contribution to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing energy generation emissions.
- Out of a record 119 nominations from 43 countries, only three people were selected for the honour, presented by the Global Energy Association.
- Rajashekhar has been announced as the 2022 prize winner by Viktor Orlov, chief expert at the Centre for Innovative Technologies (Rosatom in Russia) and a pioneer in thermonuclear physics.
- The award ceremony will be held during the Russian Energy Week in Moscow on 12-14 October 2022.

About Global Energy Prize

- It was founded in 2002 at the initiative of a Nobel Prize in Physics laureate Zhores Alferov.
- The media and the professional community consider it "the biggest Russian award" and "one of the biggest in the world".
- The prize is awarded by the President of Russia or "a person authorised by the president".
- This award was given for the first time in the year 2003.

3. 68th National Film Awards : Soorarai Pottru wins Best Film award (July 23, 2022)

Tamil movie "Soorarai Pottru" got national awards for the Best Feature Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Background Score and the Best Screenplay at the 68th National Film Awards-2020 announced on 22 July.

Important facts

- The movie also won the prize of Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.
- The film is inspired by the real-life story of GR Gopinath, the founder of India's first low-cost airline.
- The story of this film focuses on the dream of providing low cost air travel to common people.
- Soorarai Pottru is produced by Suriya and Guneet Monga under their 2D Entertainment and Sikhya Entertainment banners.
- Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn shared the best actor title with Suriya for his performance in the period drama 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'.
- This year, the winners were selected from 305 feature films in 30 languages and 148 non-feature films in 28 languages that were received as entries.
- The winners were selected by a 10-member jury headed by Hindi filmmaker Vipul Shah.
- The awards were announced by jury member Dharam Gulati.

All the notable awards are as follows-

- Best Feature Film 'Soorarai Pottru'
- **Best Actor (shared)** Suriya for 'Soorarai Pottru' Ajay Devgn for 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'
- Best Actress Aparna Balamurali for 'Soorarai Pottru'
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior'
- Best Director (posthumous award) KR Sachidanandan, better known as Sachy, for 'Ayyappanum Koshiyum'
- Best Supporting Actor Award Biju Menon for 'Ayyappanum Koshiyum'
- **Best Supporting Actress** Lakshmi Priyaa Chandramouli for 'Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum' (Tamil)
- Best Screenplay Shalini Usha Nair and Sudha Kongara for 'Soorarai Pottru'
- Best Music Direction (Background Score) GV Prakash Kumar for 'Soorarai Pottru'
- Best Action Direction (Stunt Choreography) 'Ayyappanum Koshiyum'
- Best Playback Female Singer Nanchamma for 'Ayyappanum Koshiyum'
- Best Playback Singer Male Rahul Deshpande for 'Mi Vasantrao' (Marathi)
- Best Editing Sreekar Prasad for 'Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengallum'
- Best Hindi Film 'Toolsidas Junior'
- **Best Music Direction (Songs)** Thaman S for 'Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo' (Telugu)
- **Best Lyrics** Manoj Muntashir for 'Saina' (Hindi)
- Best Make-up Artist TV Rambabu for 'Natyam' (Telugu)
- Best Choreography Sandhya Raju for 'Natyam'
- Indira Gandhi Award Best Debut Film of a Director Madonne Ashwin for 'Mandela' (Tamil)
- Best Dialogue Writer Madonne Ashwin for 'Mandela'
- **Best Cinematography** Supratim Bhol for 'Avijatrik' (Bengali)
- Most Film-Friendly State Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh
- Best Book on Cinema Kishwar Desai for 'The Longest Kiss'

About National Film Awards

• It was established in 1954.

- This Awards is one of the most prestigious and much looked-forward-to events in the
- country.
- Awards are given in three categories Feature, Non-Features and Best Writing on Cinema.
- The winners of the awards are decided by a jury consisting of eminent persons in the fields of cinema, other allied arts and humanities.

4. Maharashtra Govt presents Mother Teresa Memorial Award to Dia Mirza and Afroz Shah (July 18, 2022)

Ms. Dia Mirza, National Goodwill Ambassador of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Mr. Afroz Shah, environmental activist, have been honoured with the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021.

Important facts

- The award was given by the Governor of Maharashtra, Hon'ble Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.
- Both have been honoured for their commendable and remarkable achievements in environmental sustainability.
- Dia Mirza was honoured as UNEP, India's Goodwill Ambassador for her astonishing and remarkable efforts in major environmental campaigns across India.
- Afroz Shah was honoured for his impeccable and original efforts to lead one of the world's largest beach cleanup movements in India, which has inspired people across the globe.
- This annual award was instituted by the Harmony Foundation in the year 2005.
- Harmony Foundation is an international non-governmental organisation working in the field of social justice.

5. Japan awards Ex-PM Shinzo Abe country's highest order posthumously (July 14, 2022)

The Japanese government has decided to posthumously honour former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the 'Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum'.

Important facts

- Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving prime minister of Japan.
- He is the fourth former prime minister to receive the Supreme Order of Japan under the post-war constitution.
- Shinzo Abe was assassinated on July 8, 2022, while he was campaigning in the city of Nara.
- Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, fired two shots at her from a distance of 10 metres.

His condition deteriorated on the way to the hospital due to cardiac and pulmonary

• arrest. He was later declared dead at Nara Medical University Hospital.

Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum

- It is the highest order in Japan.
- The Grand Cordon of the Order was established in 1876 by Emperor Meiji of Japan.
- Later, on January 4, 1888, the Collar of the Order was added.
- Unlike European orders, this order can also be awarded posthumously.
- So far, apart from the Imperial family, only 7 Japanese citizens have been given this order.
- In 1928 the final order was given to former Prime Minister Sayenji Kinmochi.

6. UK Parliament honours Tanuja Nesari with Ayurveda Ratna award (July 5, 2022)

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Director Tanuja Nesri has been conferred with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.

- The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science (ITSappg) presented the award in recognition of his contribution to promoting the development of Ayurveda in India and abroad.
- The award was presented on the occasion of International Day of Yoga (June 21).
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science was formed in 2014 with the aim of spreading the knowledge of Ayurveda, Yoga, Astrology, Vastu, Unani and Sangeet to the United Kingdom and abroad.
- About All India Institute of Ayurveda (AllA)
- Establishment 2017
- Headquarters New Delhi

7. Karnataka's Sini Shetty is Femina Miss India World 2022 (July 4, 2022)

Sini Shetty from Karnataka was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 at the grand finale of VLCC Femina Miss India on July 3.

- First runner-up
- In the ceremony held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Rubal Shekhawat from Rajasthan became the Femina Miss India 2022 first runner-up.
- Second runner-up

Shinata Chauhan from Uttar Pradesh was declared Femina Miss India 2022 second runner-up.

Jury panel

• Actors Neha Dhupia, Dino Morea and Malaika Arora, designers Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna, choreographer Shiamak Davar and former cricketer Mithali Raj were member of the jury panel.

Sini Shetty

- The 21-years old Sini Shetty was born in Mumbai and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance.
- At present, she is pursuing a professional course called Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).
- She is also a trained Bharatnatyam dancer.
- Sini Shetty will now present India at the prestigious 71st Miss World pageant.
- She was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 by her predecessor Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi from Telangana.

Femina Miss India

- Miss India or Femina Miss India is a national beauty pageant in India that selects representatives to participate in Miss World every year.
- It is organized by Femina, a women's magazine published by The Times Group.
- Since 2013, Femina has also organized Miss Diva as a separate contest, with its representatives competing in Miss Universe.
- In addition to Miss Diva, the organization organizes a contest every two years to select an Indian representative for Mr. World.
- The first Miss India was Pramila (Esther Victoria Abraham) of Calcutta, who won in 1947.

8. Ramdarash Mishra received 31st Saraswati Samman 2021 (June 29, 2022)

Senior Hindi poet and writer Prof. Ramdarash Mishra has been honoured with the 31st Saraswati Samman for the year 2021.

- He was given this honour for his poetry collection "Main Toh Yahan Hoon".
- This book was published in the year 2015.
- Earlier, the 30th Saraswati Samman, 2020 was given to the famous Marathi writer Dr. Sharankumar Limbale for his novel 'Sanatan'.
- Ramdarash Mishra is the third litterateur to receive this honour in the Hindi language. Prior to this, Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan was conferred this honour in the year 1991 and Govind Mishra in 2013.

- Prof. Ramdarash Mishra was born on 15 August 1924 in Dumri village of Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- In a career spanning decades, Mishra has written 32 poetry collections, 15 novels, 30 short-story collections, 15 books of literary criticism, four collections of essays, travelogues and several memoirs.

About Saraswati Samman -

- Saraswati Samman was instituted in the year 1991 by the KK Birla Foundation.
- This award is given every year to the outstanding literary work of Indian writers published in the last 10 years in any of the Indian languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.
- The award carries a citation, a memento and a prize money of Rs 15 lakh.
- The recipient is selected by a selection committee, currently headed by Dr Subhash C Kashyap, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- The first Saraswati Samman was given to Hindi litterateur Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan for his four-volume autobiography.

9. First 'Kempegowda International Award' (June 28, 2022)

Former Karnataka Chief Minister S. M. Krishna, Infosys founder and IT industry veteran N. R. Narayana Murthy, and former badminton player Prakash Padukone have been selected for the 'Kempegowda International Award'.

- Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai presented the awards to the recipients during a grand ceremony on the 513th birth anniversary of Bengaluru city architect Kempegowda.
- The award has been instituted by the state government in honour of Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru, earlier this year.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a memento.
- The government had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Prashant Prakash, head of the start-up vision group, to nominate candidates for the award.
- The award will be presented to achievers in different fields

Who was Kempegowda?

- Kempegowda was noted as an intelligent and art-loving king during the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Kempegowda ruled for about 56 years from 1513 while his father Kempnanje Gowda ruled for 70 years.
- He decided to make Bangalore his capital in 1537 and redesigned Bengaluru.
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is also named after him.

His 108 feet high statue has been installed at Bangalore airport.

10. Golden Achievement Award 2021 (June 27, 2022)

Vijay Amritraj of India has been honoured with the Golden Achievement Award for 2021.

- The award is presented annually by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Tennis Federation.
- The award is given to a person in tennis who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of tennis in the field of administration, promotion and education at the international level and has rendered long and outstanding service to the sport.
- The award was given at a special ceremony in London in the honour of Amritraj.
- Amritraj is known among the important players of tennis in the world.
- Amritraj was an Indian player who converted professional tennis into the ATP Tour.