

Current Affairs search results for: "nobel prize"

### **1. 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.
- Rajasekhar 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.

### **2. International Nelson Mandela Day ( July 18, 2022 )**

International Nelson Mandela Day is celebrated across the world on 18 July every year to mark the birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former President of South Africa.

#### **Important facts**

- The observance of this day seeks to celebrate the idea that every individual has the power to change the world, the ability to make an impact.
- It aims to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better.
- In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared 18 July as "International Nelson Mandela Day" in honour of the former President of South Africa's contribution to a culture of peace and freedom.

- It also reflects the anti-apartheid icon's commitment to promoting the values of democracy, racial justice and human rights in the field of racial relations, and his dedication to serving humanity.

### **About Nelson Mandela**

- Nelson Mandela was born on 18 July 1918 in Mvezo, Eastern Cape, South Africa.
- On 5 August 1962, he was arrested for inciting the workers to strike and leaving the country without permission.
- He was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment on 12 July 1964.
- He was released on 11 February 1990 after spending 27 years in prison.
- On 10 May 1994, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa.
- Nelson Mandela is called the Gandhi of South Africa.

### **Prize**

- Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 jointly with Frederick Willem de Klerk, former President of South Africa
- order of lenin
- Bharat Ratna (1990)
- Nishan-e-Pakistan
- Gandhi Peace Prize (2008)

## **3. United Nations Malala Day ( July 12, 2022 )**

Malala Day is celebrated by the United Nations on 12 July to honour the rights of women and children around the world.

### **• About Malala Yousafzai**

- Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist.
- Malala Yousafzai was born on 12 July 1997 in Swat district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.
- In 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after advocating for girls' education.
- She soon recovered and continued her advocacy for girls' rights despite the attack.
- Malala began writing for the BBC in 2009.
- She was 11 when she shared her regular school life during an era when girls were banned from school.

- Malala founded the Malala Fund. It is an NGO that helps young girls to go to school.
- He has also co-authored the book "I Am Malala".
- **Prize**
- She was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize (2013), Mexico's Equality Award (2013), United Nations Human Rights Award (2013), Pakistan's National Youth Peace Prize (2011) etc.
- Malala became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Prize in 2014 at the age of 17.
- Time magazine also named Malala one of the 100 most influential people.

#### **4. Ukrainian mathematician becomes second woman to win Fields Medal ( July 6, 2022 )**

On July 5, a jury of the International Mathematical Union awarded the prestigious Fields Medal to four mathematicians, including Ukraine's Marya Vyazovska.

- **Marya Vyazovska**
  - Wiazowska is the head of number theory at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne.
  - Wiazowska is the second woman to win the award in its 80-year history.
  - She is known to be an expert in solving spherical packing problems.
  - She was awarded the prize for solving a version of a centuries-old mathematical problem where she proved the densest packing of equal regions in eight dimensions.
  - Wiazowska was born in 1984 in Ukraine, which was part of the Soviet Union, and has been a professor at the cole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland since 2017.
  - **The other three winners are -**
1. **James Maynard** - number theorist at the University of Oxford, UK
  2. **June Huh** - specialist in combinatorics at Princeton University in New Jersey
  3. **Hugo Duminil Copin** - studies statistical physics at the Institute of Advanced Scientific Studies (IHES) near Paris.
- 35-year-old James Maynard was presented this award for his contribution to "**analytical number theory**".
  - June Huh, 39, was awarded the prize for "**changing**" the field of geometric combinatorics.
  - Duminil-Coppin was awarded for solving "**long-standing problems in the probabilistic theory of phase transitions**".

**First women winner**

- The first woman to win the prize was Mariam Mirzakhani in 2014, an Iranian-born mathematician who died of cancer three years later in 2017.

**Indian-origin winners**

- Two of the winners are of Indian origin.
- Akshay Venkatesh of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton – was awarded the award in 2018.
- Manjul Bhargava of the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University was honored in 2014.

**About Fields Medal**

- Fields Medal is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.
- This highest honours in mathematics is conventionally awarded to people aged under 40.
- The medal, along with \$15,000 Canadian dollars (\$11,600), is awarded every four years to between two to four candidates for “outstanding mathematical achievement”.
- Of the 60 mathematicians who won the Fields Medal earlier this year, 59 were men.
- The prizes are normally announced at the opening of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM).
- This year’s congress was scheduled to begin on 6 July in St. Petersburg, Russia, but the plan was scrapped following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- The award ceremony was held in Helsinki and the Congress concluded as a virtual event.

**International Mathematical Union**

- It is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization.
- Its purpose is to promote international cooperation in mathematics.
- It is a member of the International Science Council (ISC).
- founded - in 1920 and has existed in its current form since 1951
- Location - Berlin, Germany
- President - Carlos E. Kenig

**5. Royal Gold Medal awarded to architect Balkrishna Doshi ( May 11, 2022 )**

Famous architect Balkrishna Doshi was conferred the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022, one of the world’s highest honours for architecture.

- The Gold Medal was presented by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

- Doshi is the only Indian to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize, which is often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture.
- He is credited with designing some of the most iconic structures in Ahmedabad.
- Some of his major projects include Shreyas Comprehensive School Campus, Ahmedabad, Atira Guest House, Ahmedabad, The Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad School of Architecture, Tagore Hall and Memorial Theatre, Ahmedabad, Premabhai Hall, Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, Kanoria Centre.
- In 2020, he was also awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India, for his contribution to the field of architecture.
- He is also the recipient of the French 'Global Award for Lifetime Achievement for Sustainable Architecture' by the Institut Francais d'architecture, Paris.

- **About Royal Gold Medal**

- The Royal Gold Medal for architecture is awarded annually by the Royal Institute of British Architects on behalf of the British monarch for contribution to international architecture.
- The medal was first awarded in 1848 to Charles Robert Cockerell.
- Its second recipient was the Italian Luigi Canina in 1849.

## **6. On Birth Anniversary, PM Pays Tribute To Rabindranath Tagore ( May 9, 2022 )**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th May paid tributes to Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary.

- **About Rabindranath Tagore**

- He was born on 7 May 1861 in Calcutta.
- He is also known as 'Gurudev', 'Kabiguru' and 'Biswakabi'.
- Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet, novelist, and painter.
- He was a good friend of Mahatma Gandhi and is said to have bestowed upon him the title of Mahatma.
- He had always emphasised that unity in diversity is the only possible way for the national unity of India.
- He spoke at the World Parliament of Religions in the years 1929 and 1937.
- His notable works include Gitanjali, Ghare-Bair, Gora, Mansi, Balak, Sonar Tori.
- He is also remembered for his song 'Ekla Chalo Re'.
- He published his first poems at the age of 16 under the name 'Bhanusimha'.
- He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his work Gitanjali.
- He was the first non-European person to receive the Nobel Prize.

• He died on 7 August 1941 in Calcutta.

## **7. World Red Cross Day ( May 9, 2022 )**

World Red Cross Day also known as Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8 every year.

- The day marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- He is also a Nobel Peace Prize winner. He was born on May 8, 1828.
- This day is celebrated by the Red Cross Society in all countries.
- It works for the welfare of people.
- The World Red Cross Society provides food and other aid to people in natural disasters, wars, as well as diseases and epidemics.
- **Theme : 2022 - 'BeHumanKind'**
- **History of the day**
  - The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on 8 May 1948.
  - In 1946, during the Second World War, the Tokyo Resolution was implemented.
  - The resolution to celebrate World Red Cross Day annually was adopted on 8 May 1948, the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross.
  - In 1984 it was officially named "World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day".
- **Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**
  - To stop and end suffering for every human being
  - Impartiality
  - Neutrality
  - Independence
  - Voluntary Service
  - Unity and Universality

## **8. NASA Climate Research Scientist Cynthia Rosenzweig Wins World Food Prize 2022 ( May 9, 2022 )**

Recently the World Food Prize Foundation announced the name of Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig from the United States of America as the winner of the World Food Prize 2022.

- Rosenzweig was awarded this prize for his research 'Understanding the relationship between climate and food systems and how both will change and forecast in the future'.

- The purpose of the World Food Prize is to recognize the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.
- In the year 2021, the award was won by Dr. Shakuntala Harak Singh Thilstad, a leading nutritionist and in the year 2020, the award was won by Dr. Ratan Lal, an Indian American soil scientist.

- **About World Food Prize**

- The World Food Prize was conceived in 1970 by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Norman E. Borlaug for his work in global agriculture.
- The World Food Prize was instituted in 1986.
- It is also known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture".
- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan who is known as the father of Green Revolution in India was the first person to receive this award in the year 1987.
- The award is presented each year in October on or around United Nations World Food Day (16 October).
- The prize winner is presented with a sculpture designed by renowned artist and designer, Saul Bass, in addition to a cash prize of US\$ 250,000.
- The World Food Prize Foundation is located in Des Moines, USA.

## **9. Myanmar court sentences Suu Kyi to 5 years in jail for corruption ( April 27, 2022 )**

A court in military-ruled Myanmar found deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi guilty of corruption and sentenced her to five years in jail.

- The case was the first of 11 corruption charges against the Nobel laureate, each carrying a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.
- A Myanmar junta court accused the 76-year-old leader of accepting a bribe of \$600,000 cash and gold bars.
- He has already been sentenced to six years in prison in other cases and is facing 10 more corruption charges.
- Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since February 2021, when a military coup toppled her elected government.

- **About Aung San Suu Kyi**

- Aung San Suu Kyi born on June 19, 1945, Rangoon, Burma is politician and opposition leader of Myanmar.
- She was the winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991.
- She has held several government positions since 2016, including that of state counsellor, which essentially made her the de facto leader of the country.

• She was sidelined when the military seized power in February 2021.

### **10. Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022 ( March 25, 2022 )**

Diebedo Francis Kere of Burkina Faso has become the first African and the first black person to be awarded architecture's highest international honour, the 2022 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

- The Pritzker Architecture prize is considered the Nobel Prize of architecture.
- The award consists of \$100,000 (US) and a bronze medallion.
- In 2018, Indian architect Balkrishna Vithaldas won this award.

### **About the Pritzker Prize**

- Founded in 1979 by Jay A. Pritzker and his wife Cindy, the award is funded by the Pritzker family and sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation.
- It is given every year.