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1. Alappuzha doctor K Venugopal selected for IMA award (June 27, 2023)

Dr K Venugopal, a doctor at Alappuzha's General Hospital, has been honored by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for his contribution to the medical field.

An Overview of the News

- The award was instituted by the IMA on the occasion of **National Doctor's Day**.
- Dr K Venugopal has been selected for the award in the category of community service.
- He is Chief Consultant in Respiratory **Medicine at General Hospital, Alappuzha (city in Kerala)**.
- The award ceremony will be held on **July 1, 2023 at the IMA Headquarters in New Delhi**.

About National Doctor's Day

- National Doctor's Day has been celebrated on **1st July** in India for the **last 32 years**.
- It is celebrated in the honour of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned physician, politician, freedom fighter and education advocate**.
- The theme for National Doctor's Day 2022 was "**Family Doctors on the Front Line**".

Indian Medical Association:

- Establishment - **1928**
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- President - **Sahajanand Prasad Singh**

2. PM Modi conferred Egypt's highest state honour (June 26, 2023)

PM-Modi-conferred-Egypt's-highest-state-honour

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded the '**Order of the Nile**,' Egypt's highest honor, by President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** during a ceremony at the Presidential palace in Cairo on 25th June.

An overview of the news

- The '**Order of the Nile**' was established in **1915** and is bestowed upon **heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents** who have rendered invaluable services to Egypt or humanity.
- This is the **13th highest state honor** conferred upon Prime Minister Modi.

- During the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in 26 years, India and Egypt elevated their relationship to a 'Strategic Partnership' following extensive discussions between Modi and El-Sisi.

Political and security cooperation

- The talks focused on enhancing **political and security cooperation**.
- Modi and El-Sisi signed a **strategic partnership document**, which encompassed various areas of collaboration such as political and security cooperation, defense collaboration, trade and investment ties, scientific and academic exchanges, and strengthening people-to-people contacts.
- The two countries signed three more pacts covering agriculture and allied sectors, **protection and preservation of monuments and archaeological sites, and competition law**.
- Modi and El-Sisi also discussed further cooperation within the G-20 framework, emphasizing issues such as **food and energy insecurity, climate change**, and the need for the **Global South** to have a unified voice.
- Modi extended an invitation to El-Sisi to attend the **G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September**.

Egypt's historic Al-Hakim Mosque

- Before returning to India, Modi visited Egypt's historic **Al-Hakim Mosque** in Cairo, which dates back to the **11th century**.
- The mosque has been restored with the assistance of India's **Dawoodi Bohra community**.
- Modi admired the intricate carved inscriptions on the walls and doorways of the mosque, which was **constructed in 1012**.
- Al-Hakim Mosque is the **fourth oldest mosque** in Cairo and the **second Fatimid mosque built in the city**.

About Egypt

- Egypt is a country located in **North Africa**.
- Egypt is home to famous monuments such as the **Giza Pyramid Complex**. One of the **Seven Wonders of the World**, the Pyramids of Giza are located on the banks of the **Nile River**. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built in **2560 BC**.
- Capital - **Cairo**
- President - **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**
- Currency - **Egyptian pound**

3. Sahitya Akademi announces winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar (June 24, 2023)

Sahitya-Akademi-announces-winners-of-Bal-Sahitya-Puraskar

The **Sahitya Akademi** has announced the recipients of the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar for this year.**

An overview of the news

- The announcement was made at a meeting of the **Sahitya Akademi's Executive Board**, chaired by President **Madhav Kaushik**.
- The winners of both awards will receive an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of **Rs 50,000** each at a ceremony to be held later.
- **Sudha Murty**, a renowned children's author, has been selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for her collection of stories titled '**Grandparents' Bag of Stories**'.
- **Suryanath Singh** has been chosen for the **Hindi language category** of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories called '**Kotuk App**'.
- **Anirudh Kanisetti** will receive the Yuva Puraskar for his work '**Lords Of The Deccan: Southern India From Chalukyas To Cholas**', while **Atul Kumar Rai** will be awarded in the **Hindi language category** for his novel '**Chandpur ki Chanda**'.
- The recipients for **Manipuri, Maithili, and Sanskrit** categories of Yuva Puraskar, as well as the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for **Manipuri**, will be announced later.
- No Yuva Puraskar winner was announced for **Odia**, and no Bal Sahitya Puraskar winner was announced for **Kashmiri**.

Winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar

- The remaining winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar are listed as Rothindranath Goswami (Assamese), Shyamalkanti Das (Bengali), Pratima Nandi Narzaree (Bodo), Balwan Singh Jamoria (Dogri), Rakshababen Prahladrao Dave (Gujarati), Vijayashree Haladi (Kannada), Tukaram Rama Shet (Konkani), Akshay Anand 'Sunny' (Maithili), Priya AS (Malayalam), Eknath Avhad (Marathi), Madhusudan Bisht (Nepali), Jugal Kishore Sarangi (Odia), Gurmeet Karyalvi (Punjabi), Kiran Badal (Rajasthani), Radhavallabh Tripathi (Sanskrit), Mansing Majhi (Santali), Dholan Rahi (Sindhi), Udhayasankar (Tamil), DK Chaduvula Babu (Telugu), and Mateen Achalपुरी.

Winners of Yuva Puraskar

- The other recipients of the Yuva Puraskar include Jintu Gitartha (Assamese), Hamiruddin Middy (Bengali), Mainaosri Daimary (Bodo), Sagar Shah (Gujarati), Manjunayak Challur (Kannada), Nighat Nasreen (Kashmiri), Tanvi Kamat Bambolkar (Konkani), Ganesh Puthu (Malayalam), Vishakha Vishwanath (Marathi), Naina Adhikari (Nepali), Sandeep (Punjabi), Devilal Mahiya (Rajasthani), Bapi Tudu (Santali), Monika J Panjwani (Sindhi), Ram Thangam (Tamil), Johny Takkedasila (Telugu), Dheeraj Bismil (Dogri), and Tauseef Bareilvi for Urdu.

4. WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus awarded Olympic Order by IOC (June 22, 2023)

WHO-Director-General-Tedros-Ghebreyesus-awarded-Olympic-Order-by-IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the Olympic Order to Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

An Overview of the News

- The award was given to Dr. Tedros for his efforts in holding the **Olympic Games Tokyo 2020** despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Olympic Order was presented by **IOC President Thomas Bach at the Olympic House.**
- Dr. Tedros has been invited by President Bach to be the Guest of Honor at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- The award recognizes Dr. Tedros' support in promoting cooperation between the IOC and WHO, in **particular the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2020.**
- The IOC and WHO have collaborated on various initiatives, including the **Let's Move campaign for Olympic Day.**

About the Let's Move campaign

- It stresses the importance of **physical activity and regular exercise.**
- It highlights the benefits associated with regular exercise, such as improved physical fitness and mental health.
- The campaign is in line with the **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Olympism365 strategy**, which aims to increase access to sporting opportunities.
- The Let's Move campaign supports the IOC's aim **of increasing access to sport for people of all ages and backgrounds.**

President Bach's special tribute to WHO:

- President Bach presented the **Olympic Cup in 2021 as a special honor to the WHO.**
- The award recognizes WHO's extraordinary efforts and important role in the success of the **Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.**
- The cooperation between the IOC and WHO emphasizes the importance of sport for physical and mental well-being.
- The Olympic Cup was established in **1906 by Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the IOC.**
- It is the **highest honor an organization** can receive for promoting the ideals of the Olympic Movement.

International Olympic Committee:

- Founded - **23 June 1894, Paris, France**
- Founders - **Pierre de Coubertin and D. Bikélas**
- Headquarters - **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- President - **Thomas Bach**
- Director General - **Christophe De Kepper**

5. Salman Rushdie wins German Book Trade 2023 Peace Prize (June 21, 2023)

The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for 2023 has been awarded to **British-American author Salman Rushdie**.

An Overview of the News

- **Birth and Background:** Salman Rushdie was born on **June 19, 1947 in Bombay (now Mumbai), India**.
- **The Satanic Verses:** Rushdie achieved **international recognition through his controversial 1988 novel, The Satanic Verses**.
- **Inspiration and controversy:** The novel attracted widespread attention and generated significant controversy in Muslim society for its portrayal inspired by the life of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.
- **Fatwa issued:** Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issues a fatwa against Salman Rushdie because of the publication of The Satanic Verses.

History of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

- It was **established in 1950** and the award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion of international understanding between nations and cultures through their literary works.
- The prize is **endowed with €25,000 (\$27,300)**.
- The award ceremony takes place in **October during the Frankfurt Book Fair**, one of the largest and most important book fairs in the world.
- The purpose of the award is **to encourage efforts to promote peace, dialogue and cooperation**.
- Past recipients of the award include **Margaret Atwood, Orhan Pamuk, Susan Sontag, Amos Oz, and Vaclav Havel**.
- Last year, the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade was **awarded to Ukrainian author Serhiy Zhadan**.

List of famous books by Salman Rushdie:

- Midnight's Children
- Shame
- The Satanic Verses
- fury
- Shalimar The Clown
- The Golden House
- Quichotte
- Victory City

6. Acharya Gopi to be conferred with first Prof. Jayashankar Award (June 21, 2023)

Acharya-Gopi-to-be-conferred-with-first-Prof.-Jayashankar-Award

Acharya N. Gopi, a renowned poet and literary critic, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious **Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award**.

An overview of the news

- This award is instituted by **Bharat Jagruthi**, a cultural organization affiliated with **Bharat Rashtra Samithi**, and aims to honor accomplished literary figures.
- Acharya Gopi's felicitation ceremony was held on 21 June at the Telangana Saraswat Parishad in Abids to remember his contribution to literature.

Acharya Gopi's Literary Accomplishments

- Acharya Gopi has an impressive literary career with a total of **56 books to his name**.
- His works encompass various genres, including **26 collections of poems, 7 compilations of essays, 5 translations, and 3 research books**.
- Acharya Gopi's literary works have garnered widespread acclaim, leading to translations into several Indian languages, as well as foreign languages such as **German, Persian, and Russian**. This showcases the global recognition of his writings.

About Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar

- Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar, popularly known as **Professor Jayashankar**, was an Indian **academic and social activist**.
- He played a crucial role as an ideologue in the **Telangana Movement**, advocating for a separate state.
- Prof. Jayashankar actively fought for a separate state for Telangana, starting from **1952**.

- He was a key figure in raising awareness about the **socio-political issues** faced by the region and advocating for its separate identity.
- Prof. Jayashankar served as the former **Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University** and remained an activist throughout his career, dedicated to the cause of the Separate Telangana Movement.

7. Arundhati Roy receives European Essay Prize (June 20, 2023)

Arundhati-Roy-receives-European-Essay-Prize

Arundhati Roy received the 45th European Essay Prize for Lifetime Achievement and the award is presented by the Charles Whelan Foundation.

An Overview of the News

- Arundhati Roy's book of essays, '**Azadi**' (2021), especially the French translation, received acclaim.
- '**Azaadi**' explores the concept of freedom in an increasingly totalitarian world, with an emphasis on **fiction and alternative imaginations**.
- Roy is known for his notable works, including the **Booker Prize-winning novel The God of Small Things**.
- The award ceremony will be held on **September 12 in Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- Past recipients of the European Essay Prize include **Alexander Zinoviev, Amin Malouf and Siri Hustvedt**.

European Essay Prize:

- It is the **first literary award dedicated solely to the genre of the essay**.
- The award recognizes outstanding essays that criticise current societies, their practices and ideologies.
- It has been awarded since **1975** highlighting its long standing presence in the literary scene.
- Award-winning essays shed light on **social norms, political structures, cultural practices, and socioeconomic challenges**.

8. Gita Press, Gorakhpur, awarded Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 (June 19, 2023)

Gita-Press,-Gorakhpur

Gita Press, Gorakhpur, will be awarded the **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021** in recognition of its **exceptional contribution to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and Gandhian methods**.

An overview of the news

- The jury, headed by **Prime Minister Modi**, unanimously selected **Gita Press** as the recipient of the **Gandhi Peace Prize**.
- PM Modi highlighted Gita Press's efforts in promoting **Gandhian ideals of peace and social harmony**, emphasizing that the award signifies recognition of their community service after a century of establishment.

About Gita Press

- **Established in 1923**, Gita Press is renowned as one of the world's largest publishers, having **published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages**, including **16.21 crore copies** of the **Shrimad Bhagavad Gita**.

About Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Gandhi Peace Prize, **instituted in 1995** on the occasion of **Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary**, is an annual award that **pays tribute to Gandhi's ideals**.
- The award is open to individuals irrespective of **nationality, race, language, caste, creed, or gender**.
- The prize includes a monetary amount of **₹1 crore, a citation, a plaque, and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item**.
- Previous recipients of the Gandhi Peace Prize include **Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said of Oman in 2019** and Bangabandhu **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh in 2020**.

9. NTPC Barauni secures First Rank at 4th National Water Awards, in Best Industry Category (June 18, 2023)

NTPC Barauni has achieved a significant milestone by securing the **first rank in the Best Industry Category** at the **4th National Water Awards**.

An overview of the news

- The award was presented to CMD, NTPC **Gurdeep Singh**, and Head of Project, NTPC Barauni, **Rajeev Khanna** by the Vice President of India, **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.
- The award ceremony took place at **Vigyan Bhawan**, New Delhi, on June 17, 2023.
- The recognition was given by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Government of India, highlighting NTPC's commitment and efforts in conserving and managing water resources.
- NTPC has demonstrated its dedication to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship, which played a crucial role in this achievement.

- The company has implemented innovative initiatives to effectively conserve and manage water resources, resulting in significant **water savings and a reduced environmental footprint.**
- NTPC remains dedicated to its mission of contributing to the nation's growth while embracing environment-friendly practices.

10. National Water Awards: Madhya Pradesh tops in Best State category (June 17, 2023)

National-Water-Awards

Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** presented the **fourth National Water Awards** in **New Delhi** on June 17.

An overview of the news

- The awards, announced by the **Jal Shakti Ministry**, recognized **41 winners across 11 categories** for their outstanding contributions to water conservation in India in 2022.
- **Madhya Pradesh received the first prize** in the **best State category**, while the **best district award went to Ganjam District in Odisha.**
- The **Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat in Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana** was honored with the **best Village Panchayat award.**
- Each winner was presented with a **citation, a trophy, and cash prizes.**

National Water Awards

- The **National Water Awards** aim to acknowledge and encourage the efforts made by individuals and organizations in realizing the government's vision of a **water-prosperous India.**
- They also seek to create awareness about the importance of water and promote the adoption of best practices for its sustainable use.
- Vice-President stressed the significance of adopting the **three Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** - to revive ancient water harvesting systems such as ponds.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** shared that approximately **56,000 Amrit Sarovars** (sacred ponds) have been constructed in the country.