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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Date: 16 October 2023**

## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2023

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Nobel Peace Prize 2023". This topic has relevance in the "Awards and Recognitions" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*What is Nobel Peace Prize?*

*Winners of Nobel Peace Prizes*

### **For Mains:**

*Essay: Women Centered Issues*

### **Why in the news?**

**Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi** was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize for her unwavering commitment to challenging the oppression of women in Iran and her relentless advocacy for human rights and freedom.

### **About Narges Mohammadi**

#### • **Early Life and Roots of Activism**

- Born in Iran in 1972, Narges Mohammadi hails from a family with a deep-rooted history of political activism.
- Their involvement in the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which led to the establishing an Islamic republic, set the stage for her activism.
- Two pivotal childhood experiences deeply influenced Mohammadi's journey: her mother's regular visits to her imprisoned brother and daily television reports of executed prisoners.

#### • **Path to Activism**

- From an early age, Narges Mohammadi actively engaged in various causes, including advocating for women's rights in Iran and protesting against the death penalty and severe sentences for political demonstrators.
- She worked as an engineer in Tehran but was eventually dismissed due to government directives.

#### • **Champion of Human Rights**

- In the 2000s, she joined the Center for Human Rights Defenders in Iran, founded by the renowned Iranian lawyer Shirin Ebadi, with a mission to abolish the death penalty.

#### ○ **Shirin Ebadi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her human rights advocacy in Iran.**

#### • **Multiple Confrontations with the Law**

- Narges Mohammadi's path was fraught with arrests and imprisonments. She faced her first arrest in 2011 and encountered the Iranian judiciary multiple times.
- She has been convicted five times, arrested 13 times, sentenced to 31 years in prison, and subjected to 154 lashes.
- In 2023, additional judicial cases were initiated against her, potentially resulting in more convictions.
- Even while incarcerated, she organised protests with fellow women prisoners, taking a bold stand against the Iranian government.
- In 2022, she authored a book, 'White Torture,' chronicling her experiences in solitary confinement and featuring interviews with other Iranian women who had endured similar ordeals.

- **Recognition and Awards**

- Narges Mohammadi received notable accolades in the West for her activism, including the 2023 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award and the 2023 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- In 2022, she was featured in the BBC's list of 100 inspiring and influential women worldwide.

**About the Nobel Peace Prize 2023**

- Established in the will of Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Peace Prize is one of five esteemed Nobel Prizes.
- Since its inception in 1901, it has been awarded annually (with occasional exceptions) to individuals or organisations that have made significant **contributions to peace, international fraternity, and the reduction or elimination of standing armies.**
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a five-member committee chosen by the Norwegian Parliament.

**Recent Nobel Peace Prizes**



Year	Laureate(s)	Country	Reason
2023	Narges Mohammadi	Iran	For her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.
2022	Ales Bialiatski, Memorial, and Center for Civil Liberties	Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine	For their promotion of the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens.
2021	Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov	Philippines and Russia	For their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and peace.
2020	World Food Programme	International	For its efforts to combat hunger and improve food security.
2019	Abiy Ahmed Ali	Ethiopia	For his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, particularly for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with Eritrea.

**Sources: Nobel Prize for Peace: Who is Narges Mohammadi, the Iranian woman awarded this year?**

**Q1. With reference to the Nobel Peace Prize, consider the following statements:**

1. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded annually.
2. The Swedish Government awards it in memory of Alfred Nobel.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

**Answer: (a)**

**Q2. Consider the following with reference to Nobel Peace Prize:**

1. Narges Mohammadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her fight against the oppression of women in Iraq and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.
2. For its efforts to combat hunger and improve food security, the World Food Programme was awarded a Nobel Peace in 2020.
3. Abiy Ahmed Ali has been lauded for his initiative to resolve the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

**How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (b)**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**



**Yojna IAS**  
योजना है तो सफलता है