



Nobel Peace Prize 2023

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Why in News?

Recently, **Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi** has been chosen by the Royal Swedish Academy for the coveted **Nobel Peace Prize, 2023** for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.

- The Prize recognizes their contribution for many years, **promoting the right to criticize arbitrary policies and protecting the fundamental rights of citizens.**
- In **2022, Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the **Russian human rights organization Memorial, and the Ukrainian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties.**
- Other 2023 Nobel Prizes for Literature, [Chemistry](#), [Physics](#) and [Medicine](#) have already been announced.

Who is Narges Mohammadi?

- **About:**
 - The **2023 Nobel Peace laureate Narges Mohammadi** is a woman, a human rights advocate, and a freedom fighter.
 - As per the Academy, this year's Nobel Peace Prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who have demonstrated against the theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women.
 - The motto adopted by the Iranian demonstrators - **"Woman - Life - Freedom"** - suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.
- **Contributions:**
 - Ms. Mohammadi advocates **against the death penalty in a country that reports most state executions.** A strong advocate of women's rights since her days as a college student.
 - She was **arrested for the first time in 2011** for her efforts to assist incarcerated activists and their families.
- **Fight for Human Rights:**
 - While in prison, she began opposing the regime's systematic use of torture and **sexualised violence against political prisoners, especially women,** that is practised in Iranian prisons.
 - **During Mahsa Amini Protests (Iranian Hijab Movement),** she expressed support from the prison for the demonstrators and organized solidarity actions among her fellow inmates.
 - **Other Award Received by Mohammadi are:**
 - Alexander Langer Award 2009
 - UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize and the Olof Palme Prize earlier in 2023.
 - Her book 'White Torture: Interviews with Iranian Women Prisoners' also won an award for reportage at the International Film Festival and Human Rights' Forum.

What is the Iranian Hijab Movement?

- The **Iranian law strictly recommends women to wear hijabs or headscarves** with their regular outfits. **Anyone not following this is recently being arrested, warned, or punished severely.**
 - **Mahsa Amini, a 22 years old youth**, was arrested for breaching the dress code of Iranian women.
- The arrest of Mahsa Amini **by the Iranian morality police**, followed by her death, led to the outbreak of a massive protest by the Iranian women demanding greater freedom.
 - This demand at present is no longer restricted to Iran but has taken the shape of a worldwide protest.
 - The other important western cities, including Auckland, London, Melbourne, New York, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Stockholm, Sydney, and Zurich, also saw demonstrations with banners displaying **“Women, life, liberty.”**

