



Nobel Peace Prize 2021

Why in News

Recently, the **2021 Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to journalists **Maria Ressa of the Philippines** and **Dmitry Muratov of Russia** for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.

- In 2020, the award was given to the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#), a [United Nations](#) (UN) agency.
- Other 2021 Nobel Prizes for [Literature](#), [Chemistry](#), [Physics](#) and [Medicine](#) have already been announced.

Key Points

▪ Maria Ressa:

- She is an investigative journalist, in **2012 she co-founded Rappler, a digital media platform for investigative journalism**, which she continues to head.
- Rappler has **focused critical attention** on President Rodrigo Duterte's regime's **controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign**.
 - In the 2021 [World Press Freedom Index](#), the Philippines ranked 138 of 180 nations (India was ranked lower, at 142).
- She has also **authored** *Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center*, and *From Bin Laden to Facebook: 10 Days of Abduction, 10 Years of Terrorism*.

▪ Dmitry Muratov:

- Muratov has for decades **defended freedom of speech in Russia under increasingly challenging conditions**.
 - Russia has ranked **150 in the 2021 World Freedom Index**.
- He along with around 50 colleagues **started Novaya Gazeta (Newspaper) in 1993**, as one of its founders. He has served as the newspaper's editor-in-chief since 1995.
 - Committee to Protect Journalists, a US-based non-profit, had felicitated Muratov as one of its **International Press Freedom awardees in 2007**.
- Six of Muratov's colleagues have been killed since the newspaper started, which has often faced harassment, threats, violence and murder from its opponents.
 - Despite the killings and threats, **editor-in-chief Muratov has refused to abandon the newspaper's independent policy**.

▪ Significance:

- **Free, independent and fact-based journalism** serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda.
- Without **freedom of expression and freedom of the press**, it will be difficult to successfully promote fraternity between nations, disarmament and a better world order to

succeed in our time.

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