

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 <u>2022, Nobel Peace Prize</u> 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, <u>Chemistry</u>, <u>Physics</u> and <u>Medicine</u> 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:

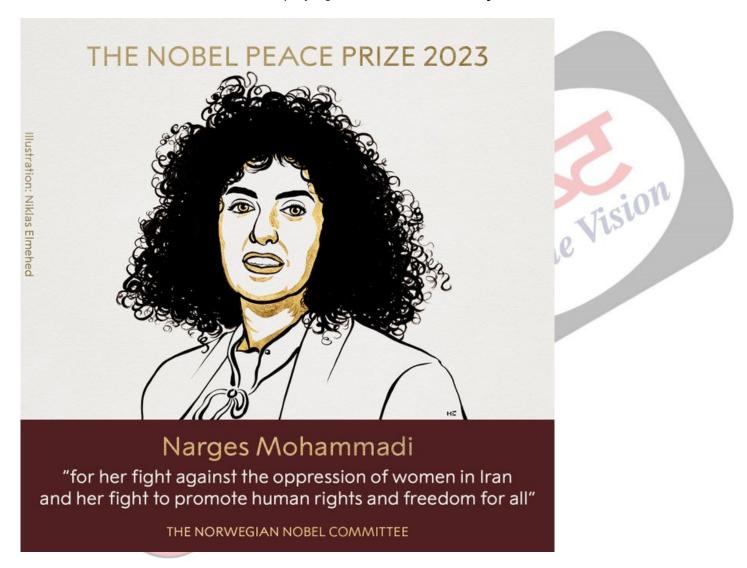
- While in prison, she began opposing the regime's systematic use of torture and sexualised violence against political prisoners, especially women, that is practised in Iranian prisons.
- During Mahsa Amini Protests (Iranian Hijab Movement), she expressed support from the prison for the demonstrators 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."



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