

Nobel Peace Prize 2021

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Maria Ressa of the Philippines and **Dmitry Muratov** of Russia have won the Nobel Peace Prize 2021.



[Ref. The Hindu]

Key Highlights:

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the peace prize for **defending the freedom of expression**.
- The committee expressed that **Free, Independent and Fact-based journalism** serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda, which is instrumental in promoting peace.

Contribution of the Recipients:

- **Muratov** has been a founding member of one of the most the independent Russian newspapers **Novaya Gazeta** since and has a fundamentally critical attitude towards power.
- **Ms Ressa** in 2012 co-founded **Rappler**, a news website which documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse.
- Both of their works have been recognized for **fact-based journalism** and **professional integrity**.

Facts about the Nobel Peace Prize:

- All Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, except for the Nobel Peace Prize, which is awarded in **Oslo**, Norway.

- The founder of the Nobel Prize, **Alfred Nobel**, was a Swedish cosmopolitan.
- In his will, he declared that the Nobel Peace Prize should be awarded by a Norwegian committee.
- **According to statutes of the Nobel Foundation:**
 - Prize cannot be awarded to more than 3 persons.
 - If prize is given to separate works, the prize money has to be divided equally.
 - After 1974, a prize cannot be awarded posthumously, unless death has occurred after the announcement of the Nobel Prize.
- Youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate is **Malala Yousafzai**, who was 17 years old when awarded the 2014 peace prize.
- **Mahatma Gandhi**, was nominated in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1947 and in 1948 for Nobel prize, but was not awarded the prize.

Freedom of Speech and Expression (Art. 19) in Indian Constitution

- The **Article 19(1)** is a Fundamental Right of the Indian Constitution which guarantees the citizens the right to freedom in certain areas. It guarantees **all and only the citizens of India** their freedom to speech and expression.
- **Article 19(1)** provides citizens with the following rights:
 - Freedom of **speech and expression**
 - Freedom **to assemble peaceably and without arms**
 - Freedom **to form associations or unions**
 - Freedom to **move freely** throughout the territory of India
 - Freedom to **reside and settle** in any part of the territory of India
 - Freedom to **practice any profession**, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- Freedom of Speech and Expression **is not an absolute right**.
 - Restrictions were placed on it **following Romesh Thapar v. State of Madras (1950)** judgement, by the First **Amendment Bill 1951**.
- The exercise of this right is **subject to** the following:
 - Security, Sovereignty and integrity of the state
 - International relations
 - Public Order, Defamation, Incitement of offence or immoral display
 - Suspension of rights under Article 19 when emergency is proclaimed under Article 352.
- **Freedom of Press** is not explicitly mentioned in the constitution, but in the landmark case of **Maneka Gandhi vs Union of India**, Supreme Court has stated that the Freedom of Expression is inclusive of Freedom of Press.