

19th August 2024

70th National Film Awards

The winners of the 70th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi. Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, were eligible for contention.



Key Points

- Rahul Rawail was the Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Nila Madhab Panda was the Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury, and Gangadhar Mudalair was the Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.
- The award ceremonies were delayed by two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 69th National Film Awards, held in 2023, honored the best Indian films certified in the calendar year 2021.

Category	Winner	Film
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Best Feature Film	Aattam	Aattam
Best Actor	Rishab Shetty	Kantara
Best Actress	Nithya Menen, Manasi Parekh	Tiruchitrabala, Kutch Express
Best Director	Sooraj Barjatya	Uunchai
Best Supporting Actress	Neena Gupta	Uunchai
Best Supporting Actor	Pawan Malhotra	Fouja

- In 2023, the Best Actor honor was won by Allu Arjun for Pushpa: The Rise, and the Best Actress award was won by Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi, respectively. Rocketry: The Nambi Effect won the award for Best Feature Film.

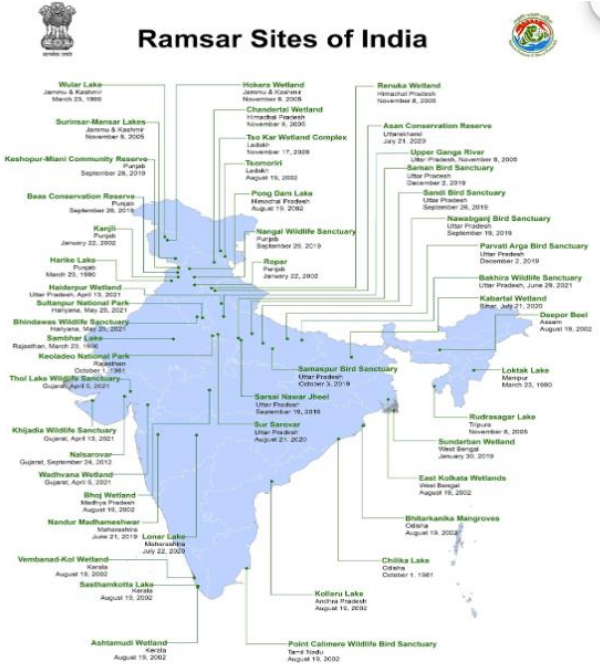
❖ At the 68th National Film Awards, the Tamil film *Soorarai Pottru* won the top prize, while late filmmaker Sathy won the Best Director honor for *Ayyappanum Koshiyum*. Ajay Devgn and Suriya shared the Best Actor award, while Aparna Balamurali won the Best Actress award.

About National Film Awards

- ❖ Established in 1954, the National Film Awards are overseen by the Directorate of Film Festivals.
- ❖ The first-ever Best Feature Film winner was the Marathi movie *Shyamchi Aai*.
- ❖ The most awarded film in the history of the awards remains Ashutosh Gowariker's *Lagaan*, which received eight honours in 2002.

India adds 3 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) announced that three wetlands in India, *Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary* and *Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary* in Tamil Nadu (TN), and *Tawa Reservoir* in Madhya Pradesh (MP), have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance, also known as Ramsar Sites.



Key Points

- ❖ With this addition, India now has 85 Ramsar sites, encompassing a total of 1,358,068 hectares.
- ❖ TN has the most Ramsar sites (18), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).
- ❖ Globally, 2520 wetlands are tagged as Ramsar sites.

About Ramsar Convention

- ❖ It is an international intergovernmental agreement that promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to achieve sustainable global development.
- ❖ The Convention on Wetlands was signed in 1971 in the small Iranian town of Ramsar, and it became effective in 1975.
- ❖ India signed the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1982, and between

2014 and 2024, it added 59 additional sites.

Newly Added 3 Ramsar Sites of India:

Name of the Wetland	Location	Area (in hectares)
Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	Tiruppur District, TN	125.865
Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary	Villupuram District, TN	5151.600
Tawa Reservoir	Itarsi town, MP	20050.000
Total Area of the 3 Wetlands		25,327.465

Tawa Reservoir:

- ❖ The Tawa Reservoir was built at the confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers

near Itarsi, Madhya Pradesh.



The Tawa River, the Narmada River's longest tributary (172 kilometers), originates in the Mahadeo hills of

Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ The Tawa Reservoir has three major tributaries: the Malani, Sonbhadra, and Nagdwari rivers. The reservoir has a submerged area of 20,050 ha and a catchment area of 598,290 ha.
- ❖ Tawa Reservoir is administered by the Forest Department in the Narmadapuram district of MP. It is situated within the Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) and marks the western border of the Satpura National Park (SNP) and Bori Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS).

IRS Rahul Navin Appointed Full-time Director Of Enforcement Directorate

The government appointed acting Enforcement Directorate chief Rahul Navin as full-time director of the anti-money laundering agency for two years.



Key Points

- ❖ Rahul Navin, the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) interim Director, is a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer.

- ❖ Rahul Navin had served as ED's Special Director since November 2019.
- ❖ He was named acting Director when Sanjay Kumar Mishra's term expired on September 15, 2023.
- ❖ During his tenure as acting ED Director, saw the high-profile arrests of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in separate money laundering cases.
- ❖ **About Enforcement Directorate**
- ❖ Established- 1 May 1956
- ❖ Headquarters- New Delhi, India
- ❖ Parent agency- Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Odisha becomes third state to implement one-day paid menstrual leave for working women

The Odisha government announced one-day menstrual leave for the working women in both private and government sectors. "Earlier menstrual leave was not allowed. Now, it would be optional for the working women to avail leave on the first or second day of the menstrual cycle.



Key Points

- ❖ Odisha joins Kerala and Bihar as the third state to implement such a policy.
- ❖ Bihar introduced its policy in 1992, allowing women two days of paid menstrual leave each month.
- ❖ In 2023, Kerala extended menstrual leave to female students in all universities and institutions, along with up to 60 days of maternity leave for female students over 18.
- ❖ The announcement aligns with a recent Supreme Court directive urging the Centre to consider menstrual leave policies.

'Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal' & 'Haj Application 2025'

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), together with the Minister of State (MoS) George Kurian, MoMA launched the 'Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal' and 'Haj Applications(app) - 2025' at Manthan Hall in New Delhi.



Key Points

- ❖ Jiyo Parsi Scheme is a central sector scheme launched in 2013-14. It is implemented by the MoMA.
- ❖ Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal portal would enable Parsis to apply, check the status of their application, and get financial aid online through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- ❖ The objective of the scheme is to stabilise the Parsi population and reverse the trend of population decline by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions.
- ❖ **Haj App – 2025:**
- ❖ It is the first time that the applications have been invited on the Haj Suvidha App in addition to the website of the Haj Committee of India (HCI).
- ❖ This app will provides the pilgrims access to training content, accommodation and flight details, baggage information, an emergency helpline (SOS), grievance redressal, feedback, language translation, and miscellaneous information and services related to the pilgrimage.
- ❖ A quota of over 1.75 lakh has been allotted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to India for Haj 2025.
- ❖ **News Shorts**
- ❖ Thailand's Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra as their youngest Prime Minister, days after her father Thaksin Shinawatra was removed by a court order. On August 16, India observes the death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ India's urban unemployment rate slightly decreased to 6.6% in Q1 FY25 from 6.7% in Q4 FY24, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ❖ The government is launching the radio program 'Kisano Ki Baat' to make agricultural science more accessible to farmers.
- ❖ India is sending its largest-ever contingent of 84 athletes to the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- ❖ The CRPF received the highest number of police gallantry medals on Independence Day, totaling 52. DRDO and the Indian Army successfully tested the Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) at Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- ❖ Recently, the Union Minister for Jal Shakti launched version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application.
- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index (GEPI).

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which reservoir in Madhya Pradesh (MP) was recently designated as a Wetland of International Importance, also known as a Ramsar Site?
- (a) Gandhi Sagar
 - (b) Bansagar
 - (c) Tawa Reservoir
 - (d) Indira Sagar

Answer- (c)

2. Which state government recently announced a one-day menstrual leave policy for working women in both private and government sectors?
- (a) Maharashtra
 - (b) Karnataka
 - (c) Tamil Nadu
 - (d) Odisha

Answer- (d)



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