



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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2026 Goldman Environmental Prize: Six Women Win World's Top Environmental Award

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For the first time in history, all six winners of the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize are women. The award is considered the world's top honour for grassroots environmental activists and is often called the "Green Nobel."

About the Goldman Environmental Prize:

Started in 1990 by philanthropists Richard and Rhoda Goldman

Given every year to environmental activists from the world's six inhabited continental regions

Recognises grassroots leadership in protecting nature, climate justice, and environmental rights

Each winner receives major international recognition and a cash prize of 200,000 US dollars (about ?1.7 crore approx.)

2026 Winners:

Irero Tanshi – Nigeria

Borim Kim – South Korea

Sarah Finch – United Kingdom

Theonila Roka Matbob – Papua New Guinea

Alannah Acaq Hurley – United States

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Yuvelis Morales Blanco – Colombia

Why They Were Honoured?

These women were recognised for:

Protecting forests and biodiversity

Fighting illegal mining and pollution

Climate litigation and legal action against harmful projects

Protecting Indigenous rights

Wildlife conservation

Opposing fossil fuel and extractive industries

Why This is Important?

This is the first all-women cohort in the prize's history, showing the growing role of women in global environmental leadership.

It highlights how local grassroots action can create major global environmental change.

Overall Significance:

The 2026 Goldman Prize sends a strong message that women-led environmental movements are playing a major role in climate action, biodiversity protection, and environmental justice across the world.