

Congressional Gold Medal

August 16, 2021

In news- A lawmaker reintroduced a **resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi**(first Indian to receive) in recognition of his promotion of peace and nonviolence.

About Congressional Gold Medal-

- It is the **highest civilian award in the United States.**
- In every **session of the Congress, the legislation** to award Congressional Gold Medals **are introduced.**
- It is necessary that all Congressional Gold Medal legislations **be co-sponsored by at least two-thirds of the Members of the House.**
- **Since the American revolution, Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression** of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.
- Each medal honors a particular individual, institution, or event.
- **The first recipients of the medal were participants of the American Revolution,** the War of 1812 and the Mexican War.
- However, **Congress subsequently broadened the scope of the medal to include** actors, authors, entertainers, musicians, explorers, athletes, humanitarians and foreign recipients among pioneers in some other fields.
- **Important personalities who received this medal** include George Washington, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks.
- Most recently, the medal was awarded to the US Capitol Police and those who protected the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, the day of the siege.