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The Nobel Prize

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Nobel Prize 2026

Nobel Prize in Physics 2026



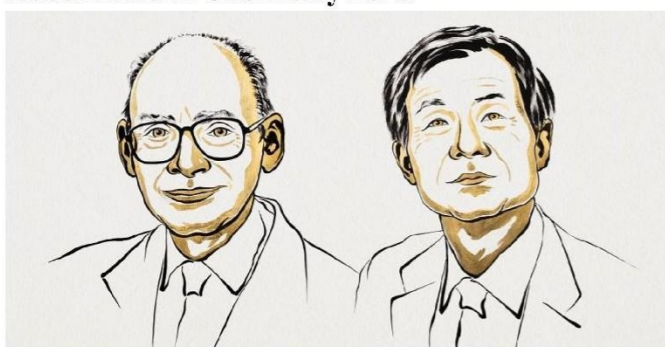
To: Francis Halzen

For: Made important contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory, which helped scientists discover high-energy neutrinos coming from outer space. These tiny particles provide clues about powerful cosmic events and the universe.

Elusive particles from the universe captured at the South Pole

Francis Halzen realised that the ice at the South Pole could be used to detect tiny particles called neutrinos. His scientific vision and leadership helped develop the IceCube Neutrino Observatory, which uses light sensors placed deep inside a huge block of ice covering one cubic kilometre. This observatory helps scientists detect high-energy neutrinos coming from powerful events in distant parts of the universe and understand their origins.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026



To: Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai

For: The discovery of how chemical reactions can influence and speed up one another, and how a reaction can produce substances that help create more of the same substance, during the production of mirror-image forms of organic molecules.

They made chemistry choose a mirror image

Some molecules, such as amino acids, can exist in two forms that are mirror images of each other, just like our left and right hands. However, living organisms generally use only one of these forms. For a long time, scientists did not know how this difference developed. Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai were awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their discoveries that helped explain how one mirror-image form of a molecule can become dominant over the other during chemical reactions.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026



To: Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel

For: Their discoveries showed how light can be used to control the activity of nerve cells, helping scientists study how the brain works and how nerve cells communicate with each other. This technique is called optogenetics.

Light-seeking algae gave us a switch for nerve cells

Understanding how the brain creates memories, emotions, and behaviours has long been a major goal of scientists. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel were awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries that made optogenetics possible. This technique uses light to switch specific nerve cells in the brain on or off, allowing scientists to study how they work and how they influence brain functions. It is now widely used in laboratories to better understand the brain.

Nobel Prize in Literature 2026



To: Anne Carson

For: Her creative and imaginative body of work, which brings a fresh and playful approach to classical literary traditions and introduces new styles and forms of writing for modern literature.

Anne Carson

The Canadian author Anne Carson combines ideas from classical literature with modern styles to create new forms of writing.

Throughout her career, Anne Carson has worked as a poet, translator, and university teacher. Her work explores the connection between the meanings and origins of words and the new ideas they can express. She often begins her writing by studying the origins and historical development of words, a process known as etymology.

Nobel Peace Prize 2026



To: Navi Pillay

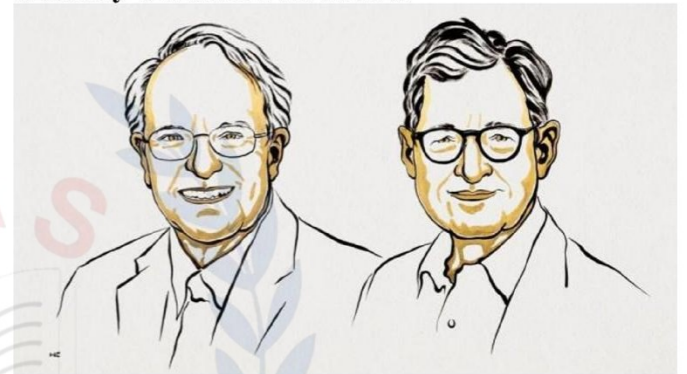
For: Her work to encourage peace among countries and promote the use of international law to resolve disputes fairly and peacefully.

Peace requires justice

At a time when the world is facing many wars and conflicts, international law has become essential for maintaining peace and security.

Navi Pillay has played an important role in major international court cases, showing how legal action can help prevent war, violence, and human rights abuses. She has also worked to strengthen international legal institutions. Her independence, knowledge, and firm commitment to justice have made her one of the most respected legal experts in the world.

Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2026



To: Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford

For: Understanding how the decisions of individuals, households, and businesses influence the overall economy and help maintain economic stability, such as controlling inflation, unemployment, and economic growth.

Microfoundations deliver macro insights

Economic development naturally goes through periods of growth and slowdown. Governments and central banks can help maintain stability by boosting the economy when it slows down and controlling it when inflation rises too quickly. This can help prevent long recessions and very high inflation.

Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford's research significantly changed how economists understand and manage economic stability. Their work contributed to the development of New Keynesian models, which help explain how government policies and central bank decisions affect economic growth, inflation, and business cycles. These models are now used by central banks and finance ministries worldwide to make better economic policy decisions.

Nobel Prize facts

On 27 November 1895, Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament, giving the largest share of his fortune to a series of prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace – the Nobel Prizes. In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank) established The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

639 Nobel Prizes

Nobel Prize	Number of Prizes	Number of Laureates	Awarded to One Laureate	Shared by Two Laureates	Shared by Three Laureates
Physics	120	231	48	33	39
Chemistry	118	202	63	26	29
Medicine	117	235	40	36	41
Literature	119	123	115	4	0
Peace	107	113+31	73	31	3
Economic	58	101	26	21	11

Science					
Total	639	1,036	365	151	123

Years without Nobel Prizes

Since the start, in 1901, there are some years when the Nobel Prizes have not been awarded. The total number of times are 49. Most of them during World War I (1914-1918) and II (1939-1945). In the statutes of the Nobel Foundation it says: "If none of the works under consideration is found to be of the importance indicated in the first paragraph, the prize money shall be reserved until the following year. If, even then, the prize cannot be awarded, the amount shall be added to the Foundation's restricted funds."

1. Physics: 1916, 1931, 1934, 1940, 1941, 1942
2. Chemistry: 1916, 1917, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1940, 1941, 1942
3. Physiology or medicine: 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1921, 1925, 1940, 1941, 1942
4. Literature: 1914, 1918, 1935, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943
5. Peace: 1914, 1915, 1916, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1948, 1955, 1956, 1966, 1967, 1972
6. Economic sciences: –

Youngest Laureate awarded the Nobel Prize

Nobel Prize Category	Youngest Laureate	Award Year	Age at Award	Contribution
Physics	Lawrence Bragg	1915	25	Analysis of crystal structures using X-rays
Chemistry	Frédéric Joliot	1935	35	Synthesis of new radioactive elements
Physiology or Medicine	Frederick G. Banting	1923	32	Discovery of insulin
Literature	Rudyard Kipling	1907	41	Original imagination and remarkable storytelling
Peace	Malala Yousafzai	2014	17	Fight for children's rights and education
Economic Sciences	Esther Duflo	2019	46	Experimental approach to alleviating global poverty

Oldest Laureate awarded the Nobel Prize

Nobel Prize Category	Oldest Laureate	Award Year	Age at Award	Contribution
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Physics	Arthur Ashkin	2018	96	Development of optical tweezers and their application to biological systems
Chemistry	John B. Goodenough	2019	97	Development of lithium-ion batteries
Physiology or Medicine	Peyton Rous	1966	87	Discovery of tumour-inducing viruses
Literature	Doris Lessing	2007	87	Literary work examining human experiences and divided societies
Peace	Joseph Rotblat	1995	86	Efforts to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in international politics and work towards their elimination
Economic Sciences	Leonid Hurwicz	2007	90	Foundations of mechanism design theory

70 Nobel Prizes to women

Between 1901 and 2026 the Nobel Prize and prize in economic sciences have been awarded 70 times to women.

Two Nobel Prize laureates declined the prize

Jean-Paul Sartre, awarded the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature, declined the prize because he had consistently declined all official honours.

Le Duc Tho, awarded the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. They were awarded the prize for negotiating the Vietnam peace accord. Le Duc Tho said that he was not in a position to accept the Nobel Peace Prize, citing the situation in Vietnam as his reason.

Forced to decline the Nobel Prize

Four Nobel Prize laureates have been forced by authorities to decline the Nobel Prize. Adolf Hitler forbade three German Nobel Prize laureates, Richard Kuhn, Adolf Butenandt and Gerhard Domagk, from accepting the Nobel Prize. All of them could later receive the Nobel Prize diploma and medal, but not the prize amount.

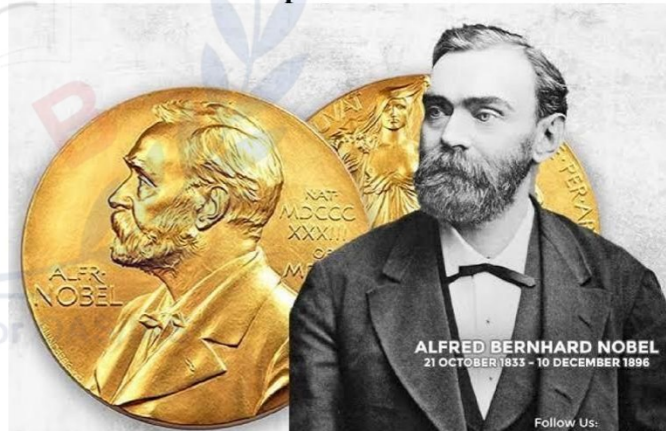
Boris Pasternak, the 1958 Nobel Prize laureate in literature, initially accepted the Nobel Prize but was later coerced by the authorities of the Soviet Union, his native country, to decline the Nobel Prize.

Nobel Prize laureates under arrest at the time of the award

Five Nobel Prize laureates were under arrest at the time of the award of the Nobel Prize, all of them Nobel Peace Prize laureates:

1. German pacifist and journalist Carl von Ossietzky
2. Burmese politician Aung San Suu Kyi
3. Chinese human rights activist Liu Xiaobo
4. Belarus human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski
5. Iranian human rights advocate and freedom fighter Narges Mohammadi

The man behind the prize – Alfred Nobel



Alfred Nobel was an inventor, entrepreneur, scientist and businessman who also wrote poetry and drama. His varied interests are reflected in the prize he established and which he lay the foundation for in 1895 when he wrote his last will, leaving much of his wealth to the establishment of the prize.

Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been honouring men and women from around the world for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and for work in peace.

Question Bank

Statement-Based Questions (10 Questions)

1. Consider the following statements regarding the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics:

1. Francis Halzen was awarded the prize for contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory.
 2. The IceCube Observatory is located at the South Pole.
 3. It detects high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: D

2. Consider the following statements regarding neutrinos:

1. Neutrinos are subatomic particles.
2. High-energy neutrinos can provide information about powerful cosmic events.
3. Neutrinos are easily stopped by ordinary matter.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: A

3. Consider the following statements regarding the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry:

1. Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai were jointly awarded the prize.

2. Their work relates to mirror-image forms of organic molecules.

3. Their research showed that chemical reactions cannot influence one another.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: A

4. Consider the following statements regarding amino acids:

1. Some amino acids can exist in two mirror-image forms.
 2. Living organisms generally use only one of these forms.
 3. The two mirror-image forms are chemically identical in all respects.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: A

5. Consider the following statements regarding optogenetics:

1. It uses light to control the activity of specific nerve cells.
2. It was made possible by the discoveries of Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel.
3. It is used only for treating neurological diseases.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: A

6. Consider the following statements regarding the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature:

1. Anne Carson is a Canadian author.
 2. She has worked as a poet, translator and university teacher.
 3. Etymology is the study of the origins and historical development of words.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: D

7. Consider the following statements regarding Navi Pillay:

1. She was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.
 2. She served as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014.
 3. She served as President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: D

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences:

1. It was established in 1968 by Sweden's central bank.

2. It was first awarded in 1969.
 3. It was originally created through Alfred Nobel's will.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: A

9. Consider the following statements regarding New Keynesian models:

1. They help explain the impact of government policies on economic growth and inflation.
 2. They help explain the impact of central bank decisions on business cycles.
 3. They are used by central banks and finance ministries worldwide.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: D

10. Consider the following statements regarding Nobel Prizes:

1. Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament in 1895.
 2. The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901.
 3. Nobel Prizes have never been withheld in any year since their inception.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3
 E. None of the above

Answer: A

Match the Following (10 Questions)

11. Match the 2026 Nobel Prize categories with their laureates:

List-I	List-II
A. Physics	1. Francis Halzen
B. Chemistry	2. Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai
C. Physiology or Medicine	3. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel
D. Literature	4. Anne Carson
E. Peace	5. Navi Pillay

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
 B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
 C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
 D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
 E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

12. Match the laureates with their fields of work:

List-I	List-II
A. Francis Halzen	1. Neutrino astronomy
B. Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai	2. Mirror-image molecules
C. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel	3. Optogenetics
D. Anne Carson	4. Literature and etymology
E. Navi Pillay	5. International law

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
 B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
 C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
 D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
 E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

13. Match the concepts with their descriptions:

List-I	List-II
A. Neutrino	1. Tiny particle from space

List-I	List-II
B. Optogenetics	2. Light-based control of nerve cells
C. Etymology	3. Study of word origins
D. Microfoundations	4. Individual-level basis of macroeconomic analysis
E. Apartheid	5. System of racial segregation

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
 B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
 C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
 D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
 E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

14. Match the youngest Nobel laureates with their categories:

List-I	List-II
A. Lawrence Bragg	1. Physics
B. Frédéric Joliot	2. Chemistry
C. Frederick G. Banting	3. Physiology or Medicine
D. Rudyard Kipling	4. Literature
E. Malala Yousafzai	5. Peace

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
 B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
 C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
 D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
 E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

15. Match the oldest Nobel laureates with their categories:

List-I	List-II
A. Arthur Ashkin	1. Physics
B. John B. Goodenough	2. Chemistry
C. Peyton Rous	3. Physiology or Medicine
D. Doris Lessing	4. Literature
E. Joseph Rotblat	5. Peace

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
 B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3

- C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

16. Match the Nobel Prize-related years with events:

List-I	List-II
A. 1895	1. Alfred Nobel signed his will
B. 1901	2. First Nobel Prizes awarded
C. 1968	3. Economics prize established
D. 1969	4. Economics prize first awarded
E. 2014	5. Malala Yousafzai awarded Peace Prize

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

17. Match the Nobel Prize categories with years in which no prize was awarded:

List-I	List-II
A. Physics	1. 1916
B. Chemistry	2. 1917
C. Physiology or Medicine	3. 1915
D. Literature	4. 1914
E. Economic Sciences	5. No year

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

18. Match the laureates with the circumstances relating to their Nobel Prizes:

List-I	List-II
A. Jean-Paul Sartre	1. Declined the Literature Prize

List-I	List-II
B. Le Duc Tho	2. Declined the Peace Prize
C. Boris Pasternak	3. Forced to decline the Literature Prize
D. Richard Kuhn	4. Forbidden by Nazi authorities to accept the prize
E. Carl von Ossietzky	5. Under arrest at the time of the award

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

19. Match the institutions with their roles:

List-I	List-II
A. Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	1. Awards Physics, Chemistry and Economic Sciences prizes
B. Sveriges Riksbank	2. Established the Economic Sciences prize
C. Nobel Foundation	3. Manages Nobel Prize assets and statutes
D. Norwegian Nobel Committee	4. Awards the Peace Prize
E. Karolinska Institute	5. Awards the Physiology or Medicine prize

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

20. Match the Nobel laureates with their principal contributions:

List-I	List-II
A. Francis Halzen	1. IceCube Neutrino Observatory

List-I	List-II
B. Karl Deisseroth	2. Optogenetics
C. Anne Carson	3. Classical literary traditions and new writing forms
D. Navi Pillay	4. International justice and human rights
E. Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford	5. Macroeconomic stabilisation

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5
 B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-5, E-3
 C. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, E-5
 D. A-4, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-3
 E. A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1, E-2

Answer: A

Multiple Choice Questions (5 Questions)

21. With reference to the 2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, consider the following:

The prize was awarded to Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford for their work on:

- A. Behavioural economics and poverty alleviation
 B. Microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation
 C. Development of lithium-ion batteries
 D. Experimental economics and mechanism design
 E. International trade and climate economics

Answer: B

22. Which of the following best describes optogenetics?

- A. A technique to detect neutrinos using Antarctic ice
 B. A technique to control nerve-cell activity using light
 C. A technique to produce mirror-image organic molecules
 D. A technique to study the origins of words
 E. A technique to measure inflation expectations

Answer: B

23. The IceCube Neutrino Observatory is primarily used to detect:

- A. Gravitational waves from black holes

- B. Cosmic microwave background radiation
 C. High-energy neutrinos from astrophysical sources
 D. Solar flares and geomagnetic storms
 E. Radio signals from distant galaxies

Answer: C

24. Who among the following declined the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in 1973?

- A. Jean-Paul Sartre
 B. Boris Pasternak
 C. Le Duc Tho
 D. Carl von Ossietzky
 E. Aung San Suu Kyi

Answer: C

25. Alfred Nobel is best known for inventing:

- A. The telephone
 B. Dynamite
 C. The X-ray machine
 D. The steam engine
 E. Vaccination

Answer: B





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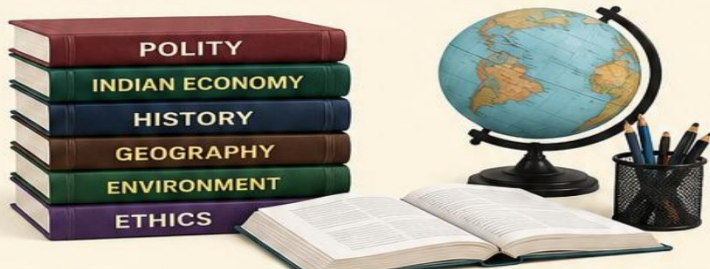
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