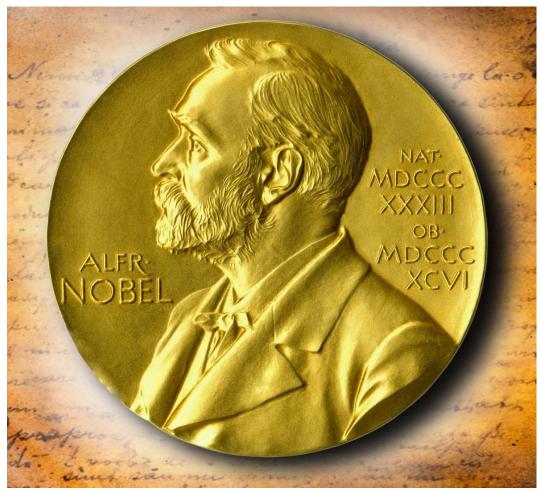
## **Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry & Medicine**



#### **Context:**

• The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden has recently announced the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun, in Physics to John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton and in Chemistry to David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper.

## 1. Enlist Nobel prize winners for 2024 in Physics, Chemistry & Medicine?

• The Nobel Prize 2024 announcements are being made from October 7 to 14, celebrating exceptional achievements across various fields.

Stream	Winner	Contribution
Chemistry	<ul> <li>David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper.</li> <li>THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2024</li> <li>David Baker is an American biochemist and computational biologist who has pioneered methods to design proteins and predict their three- dimensional structures.</li> <li>Sir Demis Hassabis is a</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Baker was recognized for his work in computational protein design, while Hassabis and Jumper were honored for protein structure prediction.</li> <li>Protein structure prediction is the inference of the three-dimensional structure of a protein from its amino acid sequence, i.e, the prediction of its secondary and tertiary structure.</li> <li>Structure prediction is</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>British computer scientist, artificial intelligence researcher and entrepreneur, Nobel laureate and chess player.</li> <li>In his early career, he was a video game AI programmer and designer, and an expert board games player.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>different from the inverse problem of protein design.</li> <li>It is one of the most important goals pursued by computational biology.</li> <li>It is important in medicine (for example, in drug design) and biotechnology (for example, in novel enzyme design).</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>John Michael Jumper is an American chemist and computer scientist.</li> <li>He currently serves as director at DeepMind Technologies.</li> <li>Jumper and his colleagues created AlphaFold, an artificial intelligence model to predict protein structures from their amino acid sequence with high accuracy</li> </ul>	
Physics	<ul> <li>John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton</li> <li>Image: Constraint of the standard of</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks.</li> <li>Their foundational discoveries have not only transformed the landscape of artificial intelligence but also opened new avenues for research and applications across various scientific disciplines.</li> <li>A computer system that mimics the information processing of the human brain is called an artificial neural network, or ANN.</li> <li>ANNs are composed of artificial neurons arranged in input, hidden, and</li> </ul>

	computer scientist, cognitive scientist, cognitive psychologist, known for his work on artificial neural networks which earned him the title as the ''Godfather of AI''.	<ul> <li>output layers, employing a connectionist approach to computation.</li> <li>Neural networks can solve complex problems by finding relationships between inputs and outputs.</li> <li>They are suitable for a range of applications like weather prediction, pattern recognition, and recommendation systems.</li> </ul>
Physiolog y/Medicin e	<ul> <li>Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun.</li> <li>Impersion of the NOBEL PRIZE Impersion of the NOBEL PRIZE Impersion of the Prize 2024</li> <li>Victor R. Ambros is an American developmental biologist and Nobel Laureate who discovered the first known microRNA.</li> <li>He is a professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.</li> <li>Gary Bruce Ruvkun is an American molecular biologist and Nobel laureate at Massachusetts</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Discovery of microRNA and its role in post- transcriptional gene regulation.</li> <li>MicroRNAs, or miRNAs, are small, non-coding molecules of RNA.</li> <li>These microRNAs act as molecular switches, fine- tuning the expression of genes in different cell types and under varying conditions.</li> <li>Their work continues to influence research in genetics and therapeutic strategies today.</li> <li>It is now known that the human genome codes for over one thousand microRNAs.</li> </ul>

	General Hospital and professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School in Boston.	<ul> <li>The discovery of microRNAs has provided scientists with new tools to investigate gene regulation and has significantly expanded our understanding of how genetic information is processed and utilized in living organisms.</li> </ul>
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Literature	• Author Han Kang	<ul> <li>The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to 53-year-old South Korean novelist Han Kang for her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life"</li> </ul>

• The Nobel prize for Peace and Economics will be announced later on 11th and 14th October respectively.

#### 2. What is the history of the Nobel prize?

• The Nobel Prize was set up when businessman and entrepreneur Alfred Nobel died and left the majority of his fortune to the

establishment of **prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.** 

- Alfred Nobel was an inventor, entrepreneur, scientist and businessman who also wrote poetry and drama.
- His varied interests are reflected in the Nobel Prizes which he laid the foundation for in **1895 in his last will and testament.**
- His will stated that the prizes should be awarded to "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind."
- The **first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901** and they have been awarded annually since then.
- There have been years in that time when the Nobel Prizes have not been awarded mostly during World War I (1914–1918) and II (1939–1945).

#### **3.** What are the Nobel Prize categories?

Nobel Prize / Categories



- The Nobel Prize is awarded for outstanding efforts in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Economics, and Peace.
- As per the **will of Alfred Nobe**l the Nobel Prize categories are **physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.**
- In **1968, Sveriges Riksbank** (Sweden's central bank) **established** the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in **Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.**

- The Swedish Academy gives the prize for literature, the Karolinska Institute for Physiology or Medicine, and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for Physics, Chemistry, and Economics.
- The Nobel Peace Prize has been given out by the Oslo-based Norwegian Nobel Committee.
- The **prize money for** the awards comes from a **will made by Alfred Nobel,** a Swedish scientist who founded the award.

#### 4. How many people can share the same Nobel Prize?

- A Nobel Prize can be shared by up to three individuals, or in the case of the peace prize, it can also be awarded to an organization.
- The rule that a prize can only be awarded to three people comes from the statutes of the Nobel Foundation, which is responsible for fulfilling the intentions of Nobel's will.
- It specifically states that in **no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons**.

#### **5.** Can a Nobel prize be awarded posthumously?

- No, a Nobel Prize cannot be awarded posthumously.
- However, since 1974, if the recipient dies after the prize has been announced they can still be awarded it.
- Previously, a **person could be awarded a prize posthumously** if they had already been **nominated before 1 February of the same year.**
- Following the **2011 announcement** of the **Nobel Prize in Physiology** or Medicine, it was discovered that one of the medicine laureates, **Ralph Steinman, had passed away three days earlier**.
- The **Board of the Nobel Foundation** examined the statutes, and came to the conclusion that **Ralph Steinman should continue to remain a Nobel Prize laureate**, as the **Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet had announced the 2011 Nobel Prize** laureates in physiology or medicine without knowing of his death.

#### 6. Who selects the Nobel Prize laureates?

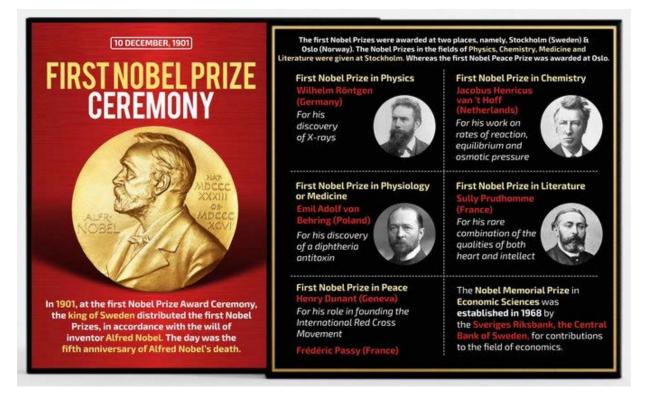
- In his **last will and testament, Alfred Nobel** specifically **designated the institutions** responsible for the prizes he wished to be established.
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is responsible for the Nobel Prize in Physics and Chemistry
- Karolinska Institutet (now The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet) is responsible for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- The Swedish Academy is responsible for the Nobel Prize in Literature
- A committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Parliament (Storting) for selecting the candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel was instituted in 1968, on the tercentenary of the bank and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences was given the task of selecting the economic sciences laureates.



#### 7. What does the Nobel Prize consist of?

- The awardee of the Nobel Prize is conferred with three things- a medal, a diploma and award money.
- The Nobel Prize insignia are made of 24 karat gold plated with green gold.
- They are about 65 millimeters in diameter and weigh about 175 grams.
- The medals are awarded to the laureates at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.
- The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901 and carried a cash award of SEK 150,782, equivalent to SEK 8.8 million in 2022, which was roughly \$900,000. The 2023 Nobel Prizes were worth SEK 11 million, which is about the same amount as 1901, adjusted for inflation.

#### 8. Enlist the first Nobel prize winners?

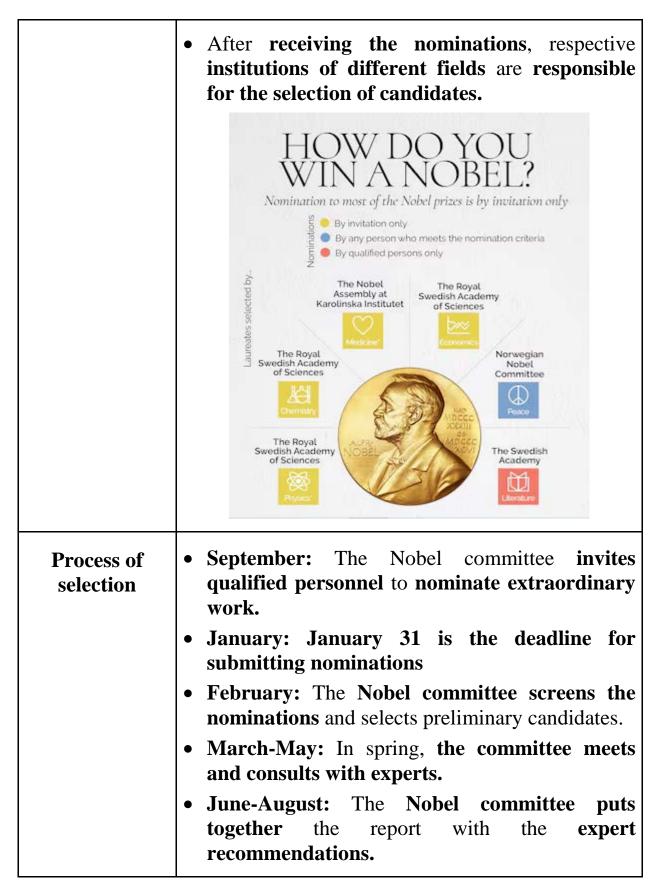


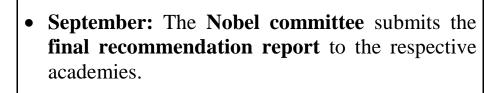
#### 9. How are Nobel Laureates selected?



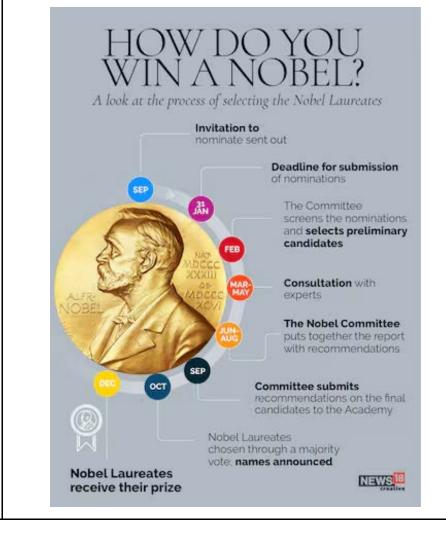
- A nomination for the Nobel Prize may be submitted by any person who meets the nominating criteria.
- The **nominees' names and other information** about the nominations **cannot be revealed until 50 years later.**

Procedure	Analysis
Who can nominate?	• Nominations to most of the Nobel prizes are by invitation only.
	• However, anyone who meets the nominating criteria can nominate the candidate.
	• Each year, thousands of University professors, members of academies, and previous Nobel Laureates, and members of parliamentary assemblies are asked to submit candidates for the Nobel Prize for the coming year.





- October: The Nobel Laureates are chosen through a majority of votes.
- The decision is final and without appeal.
- The names of the **Nobel Peace Prize Laureates** are then announced.
- December: The Nobel Laureates receive their prizes.



#### **10.What are the criteria for becoming a nominator?**

• Only people who fulfill the criteria set out by the prize awarding institutions are allowed to nominate candidates for the Nobel Prize.

Criteria for Nominator	Description
Physics	The right to submit proposals for the award of a Nobel Prize in Physics shall, by statute, be enjoyed by:
	• Swedish and foreign members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
	• Members of the Nobel Committee for Physics.
	• Nobel Prize laureates in physics.
	• Tenured professors in the Physical sciences at the universities and institutes of technology of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway, and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm.
	• Holders of corresponding chairs in at least six universities or university colleges (normally, hundreds of universities) selected by the Academy of Sciences with a view to ensuring the appropriate distribution over the different countries and their seats of learning.
	• Other scientists from whom the Academy may see fit to invite proposals.

Chemistry	<ul> <li>The right to submit proposals for the award of a Nobel Prize in Chemistry shall, by statute, be enjoyed by:</li> <li>Swedish and foreign members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.</li> <li>Members of the Nobel Committees</li> </ul>
	for Chemistry and Physics.
	• Nobel Prize laureates in chemistry and physics.
	<ul> <li>Permanent professors in the sciences of Chemistry at the universities and institutes of technology of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway, and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm.</li> </ul>
	• Holders of corresponding chairs in at least six universities or university colleges selected by the Academy of Sciences with a view to ensuring the appropriate distribution over the different countries and their centers of learning.
	• Other scientists from whom the Academy may see fit to invite proposals.
Medicine	• The right to submit proposals for the award of a Nobel Prize in Medicine shall, by statute, be enjoyed by:
	• Members of the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm.

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	•	Swedish and foreign members of the Medicine and Biology classes of the Boyel Swedish Academy of
		the <b>Royal Swedish Academy of</b> Sciences.
	•	<b>Nobel Prize laureates</b> in physiology or <b>medicine and chemistry.</b>
	•	Holders of established posts as full professors at the faculties of medicine in Sweden and holders of similar posts at the faculties of medicine or similar institutions in Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway.
	•	Holders of similar posts at no fewer than six other faculties of medicine at universities around the world, selected by the Nobel Assembly, with a view to ensuring the appropriate distribution of the task among various countries.
	•	Scientists whom the <b>Nobel</b> Assembly may otherwise see fit to approach.
	•	No self-nominations are considered.
Literature	•	The right to submit proposals for the award of a Nobel Prize in Literature shall, by statute, be enjoyed by:
	•	Members of the Swedish Academy and of other academies, institutions and societies which are similar to it

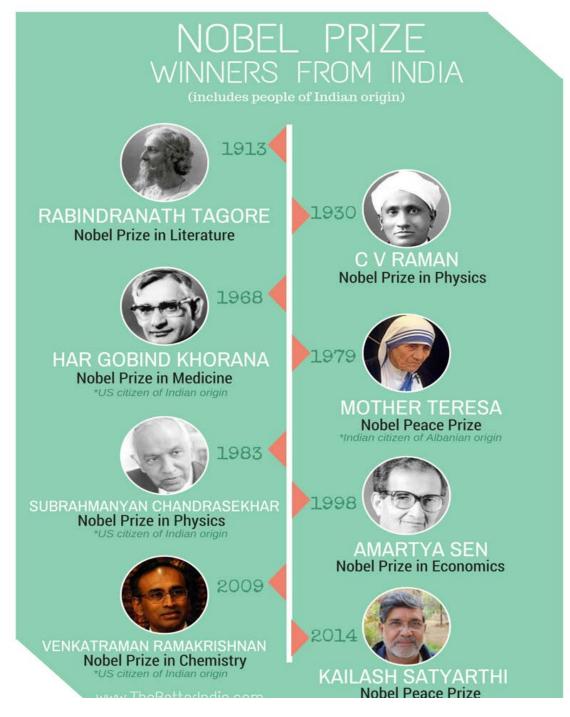
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	•	<ul> <li>in construction and purpose.</li> <li>Professors of literature and of linguistics at universities and university colleges.</li> <li>Previous Nobel Prize laureates in literature.</li> <li>Presidents of those societies of authors that are representative of the literary production in their respective countries.</li> </ul>
Peace	•	According to the statutes of the Nobel Foundation, a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize is considered valid if it is submitted by a person who falls within one of the following categories:
	•	Members of national assemblies and national governments (cabinet members/ministers) of sovereign states as well as current heads of state.
	•	Members of The International Court of Justice in The Hague and The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.
	•	Members of <b>l'Institut de Droit</b> International.
	•	Members of the International Board of the Women's International League for Peace

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	University professors, professors emeriti and associate professors of history, social sciences, law, philosophy, theology, and religion; university rectors and university directors (or their equivalents).
•	<b>Directors of peace research</b> <b>institutes</b> and foreign policy institutes.
•	Persons who have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
•	Members of the main board of directors or its equivalent of organizations that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
•	<b>Current and former members of</b> <b>the Norwegian Nobel Committee</b> (proposals by current members of the Committee to be submitted no later than at the first meeting of the Committee after 1 February)
•	Former advisers to the Norwegian Nobel Committee.
Economics	The right to submit proposals for the award of a Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel shall, by statute, be enjoyed by: Swedish and foreign members of

	the <b>Royal Swedish Academy of</b> Sciences.
•	Members of the Prize Committee for the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
	Persons who have been awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
•	Permanent professors in relevant subjects at the universities and colleges in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway.
	Holders of corresponding chairs in at least six universities or colleges, selected for the relevant year by the Academy of Sciences with a view to ensuring the appropriate distribution between different countries and their seats of learning.
•	Other scientists from whom the Academy may see fit to invite proposals.

## **11. Enlist the Nobel prize winners from India?**



#### **Rabindranath Tagore**

• Rabindranath Tagore was conferred with the Nobel Prize in the category of literacy in 1913 for his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse.

- Often called **Bard of Bengal and Gurudev**, **Tagore is one of India's most dignified figures**.
- Rabindranath Tagore was the **first Indian to be awarded the Nobel Prize.**

#### **CV** Raman

- Sir Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman or CV Raman is recognised for the Nobel Prize in 1930 in the field of Physics for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him.
- His discovery is also referred to as the "Raman Effect".
- Dr.Har Govind Khurana:
- Dr. Har Govind Khurana was awarded the Nobel Prize in the field of Physiology or Medicine in 1968 along with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley for their interpretation of the genetic code and its function in protein synthesis.
- His research work related to the **synthesis of functional genes outside the living organism.**

#### **Mother Teresa**

- Mother Teresa was the first Indian woman to be conferred with the Nobel Prize in the category of Peace in 1979.
- She was born in the **Republic of Macedonia.**
- At the age of 19, **she moved to India** and spent the **rest of her life in India as a Roman Catholic nun** and as a missionary **serving the "poorest of the poor" in slums** in the city.
- Her humanitarian work led to the establishment of Missionaries of Charity.

#### Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

- Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar was awarded the Nobel Prize in the field of Physics in 1983 for his theoretical studies of the physical processes of importance to the structure and evolution of the stars.
- He is an Indo-American mathematician.

#### Amartya Sen

- Amartya Sen was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1998 in the field of Economic Sciences for his contributions to welfare economics.
- He was born in Manikganj (British India).
- He studied economics and taught the subject in many reputed institutions in both the US and the United Kingdom.
- Venkatraman Ramakrishnan:
- Venkatraman Ramakrishnan was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2009 in the field of Chemistry for his work in studies of the structure and function of the ribosome.
- The Nobel Prize is given by the **Royal Swedish Academy of** Services.

#### Kailash Satyarthi

- Kailash Satyarthi was born in Madhya Pradesh and was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2014 in the field of Peace for his struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.
- He is an activist who has dedicated his whole life to children's rights and education.

#### 12. Enlist a few controversies surrounding the Nobel prize?

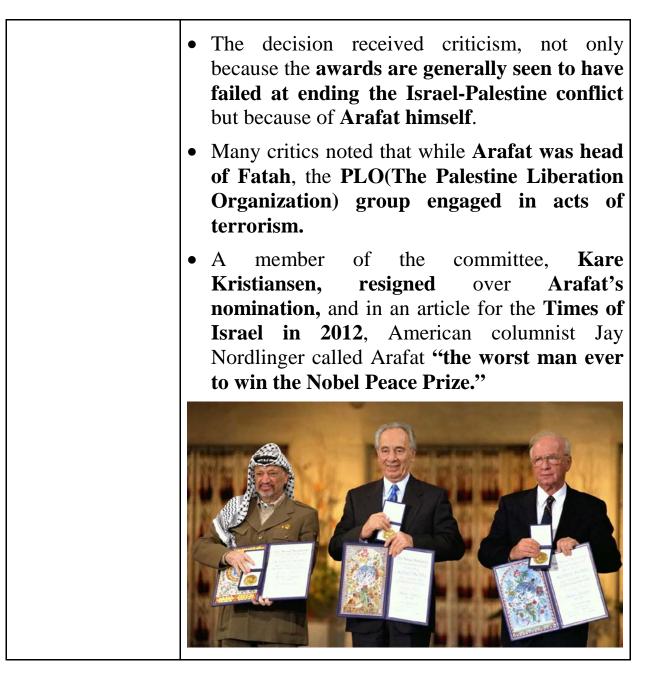
• The Nobel Prize has been involved in several controversies, including:

Controversies	Analysis
Lack of diversity	• The Nobel Prizes have been criticized for their lack of diversity, particularly among women and people from outside of Europe and the US.
	• For example, <b>in 2023, Carolyn Bertozzi was the only woman</b> to win a science prize.
	• So far, <b>109 individuals</b> have won the peace award but <b>only 18 were women, including</b> <b>Mother Teresa in 1979 and Aung San Suu</b> <b>Kyi in 1991.</b>
	red y to be laurates p to be
Political bias	<ul> <li>The peace and literature awards have been accused of being politicized, with some questioning whether winners are selected based on their work or their political views.</li> <li>For example, President Barack Obama won the peace prize in 2009, less than a year after taking office.</li> </ul>
Premature understanding of peace	• The award has been criticized for its

	<ul> <li>Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the prize in 2019 for ending the 20-year conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia by establishing a peace agreement.</li> <li>However, a conflict started in northern Ethiopia in November 2020, and Abiy has been criticized for human rights violations and war crimes committed by his forces in the Tigray region.</li> </ul>
<b>Controversial</b> winners	<ul> <li>Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 for his negotiations to end the Vietnam War.</li> <li>But Kissinger was also accused of several war crimes during the Cold War, including bombings in Cambodia in 1969 and 1970.</li> </ul>

Jocelyn Bell Burnell	• Burnell discovered pulsars in 1967, but only Antony Hewish and Martin Ryle were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1974.
Adolph Hitler	<text></text>
The European Union, Nobel Peace Prize:2012	<ul> <li>The Nobel peace prize in 2012 was given to the EU for over six decades contribution to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.</li> <li>However many complained about the choice, as the European Union was dealing with several pressing economic problems, including the Greek debt crisis, and because several European countries make and sell weapons.</li> </ul>

Mahatma Gandhi (by omission)	• In 2006, the former director of the Nobel Institute, Geir Lundestad, said the greatest omission in the prize's history was never awarding the peace prize to the Indian political activist Mahatma Gandhi.
	• According to Lundestad, Gandhi was shortlisted five times (twice before World War II, then in 1946, 1947 and 1948), but the committee's Euro-centric viewpoint and its failure to appreciate the struggle for freedom in colonies kept Gandhi from receiving the award.
	• "Gandhi could do without the Nobel Peace Prize. Whether the Nobel committee can do without Gandhi, is the question," said Lundestad.
1994 Nobel peace prize	• Nobel peace prize in 1994 was given to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for their work on the Oslo Peace Accords.



#### 13. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- For Prelims: Nobel Prize, Computational Protein Design, Machine Learning with Artificial Neural Networks,
- For Mains: Discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation.

#### 14. Some previous years prelims questions.

- 1. Who among the following discovered heavy water? (2008)
  - (a) Heinrich Hertz
  - (b) H.C. Urey
  - (c) G. Mendel
  - (d) Joseph Priestley

#### Answer: B

## **15.** Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

#### **Board Preeti Sudan mam:**

- A scientist of Indian origin won the Nobel prize for his work on ribosomes. Can you name him?
- Jennifer Daudna is a Nobel laureate. Can you tell me what has she worked on?
- Can you tell me how crispr-cas9 can help in the development of vaccines?

#### **Board Satyawati mam:**

- Why were Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee awarded with the Nobel Prize?
- Is Randomised Control Trials applicable only to medical sciences and not social sciences?

#### **Board Smita Nagaraj mam:**

- Name of the person who got Nobel prize both in chemistry and physics.
- Board Smita Nagaraj mam:
- Why did Einstein get the Nobel prize?
- Why not for his earlier work?

#### **Board Satyawati mam:**

- What was John Nash famous for?
- Tell me about Nash equilibrium, game theory and the Nobel prize in economics?

#### 16. Some questions for QUIZ.

- Q1. Consider the following Awardees:
  - 1. David Baker
  - 2. John Jumper
  - 3. Victor Ambros
  - 4. Gary Ruvkun
  - 5. Geoffrey E. Hinton

How many of the above scientists have been awarded the Nobel prize for medicine?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

#### Answer: A

#### **17. Some questions for POLL.**

- Q1. Do you think that the Nobel prize nomination process is biased?
  - (a) YES
  - (b) NO
  - (c) Can't say.
- Q2 Do you think that not awarding the Nobel prize to Gandhi was a mistake?
  - (a) YES
  - (b) NO
  - (c) Can't say.