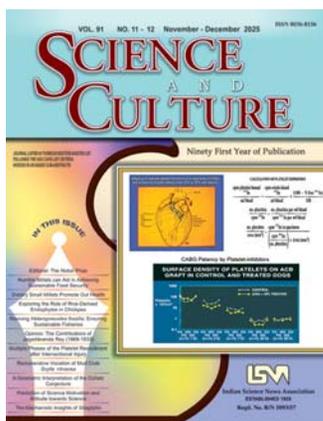


SCIENCE AND CULTURE

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EDITORIAL

THE NOBEL PRIZE



The issue November and December (Vol. 91 Nos. 11-12, 2025) of Science and Culture is being released for our readers. November and December months are most significant not only for the advancement of science and technology but also culturally at the international level. This period reflects

the birth of so many Nobel laureates, celebrated distinguished scientists and other intellectuals from India. It is noteworthy to mention that some Nobel Prize winners were born in November including Amartya Sen (Nov 3), C.V. Raman (Nov 7), Marie Curie (Nov 7), Patrick Blackett (Nov 18), Earl Sutherland Jr. (Nov 29), Henry Taube (Nov 30), etc. Several notable Nobel laureates were also born in December includes George Richards Minot (Dec 2), Richard Kuhn (Dec 3), Alfred Hershey (Dec 4), Werner Heisenberg (Dec 5), Geoffrey Hinton (Dec 6), Rudyard Kipling (Dec 30), etc. Some famous people were born in November from India i.e. Jawaharlal Nehru (Nov 14), Indira Gandhi (Nov 19), Tipu Sultan (Nov 20), Harivansh Rai Bachchan (Nov 27), Abul Kalam Azad (Nov 11), Salim Ali (Nov 12), Birbal Sahni (Nov 14), Romila Thapar (Nov 30), Chittaranjan Das (Nov 05), Nirad C. Chaudhuri (Nov 23), Scientists like Jagadish Chandra Bose (Nov 30), Yash Pal (Nov 26) and the December born celebrities like Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Dec 25), Pranab Mukherjee (Dec 11), Srinivasa Ramanujan (Dec 22), Ratan tata (Dec 28), etc.

The Nobel Prize is the world's most celebrated honour, highly prestigious, highly respected and it grants the winners instant celebrity status and acclaim for



Chemistry, Physiology/Medicine, Literature and Peace. The Prize in Economic Sciences was instituted by the SverigesRiksbank (Bank of Sweden) in 1968 in memory of Alfred Nobel. The prize consists of a gold medal, a personal diploma and a prize amount (SEK 7.5 million/ about Rs. 7 crore) for each full prize.

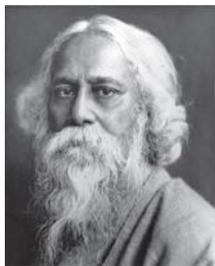


The Man Behind the Prize

In his last will, Alfred Nobel specified that the bulk of his fortune should be used for prizes to "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind."

Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-96), Stockholm, Sweden, was a wealthy Swedish industrialist and the inventor of Dynamite in 1866, built companies and laboratories in more than 20 countries having 350 patents. Alfred signed final will on 27 November 1895 to award the prizes in his name as Nobel Prize to recognize the groundbreaking achievements that have significant impact on society and the world at large. The prize announcements are being made every year in the first fortnight of October and finally awarded annually on 10 December, the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel.

Indian Nobel Prize Winners:



Rabindra Nath Tagore (Literature, 1913) – One of India’s greatest poets and composer of independent India’s National Anthem, a multifaceted genius, awarded Nobel Prize for *Gitanjali*, a collection of poems, described as “profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautifully crafted verse” that blended Indian and Western literary traditions. Tagore was nominated for the Nobel Prize just for one time, in 1913, and won the Prize in Literature that same year. He was the first non-European Nobel Laureate and also first from Asia and Africa.



Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (Physics, 1930) – The great Indian Physicist “for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him” i.e. “Raman Effect”. He was the first Asian awarded the Nobel Prize in Science. The day of his

discovery was 28th February 1928, which is celebrated as National Science Day. Raman was nominated two times in 1929 and 1930 by 12 foreign scientists and won the Prize in 1930.



Hargobind Khorana (Physiology or Medicine, 1968)- *For interpreting the Genetic Code and its function in protein synthesis.* He showed how RNA specifies the structure of proteins and develop methods for investigating nucleic acid structure and deciphering the genetic code.

He was nominated 15 times for the Nobel Prize across the years 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and in 1974 in Chemistry but finally received in 1968 in Physiology or Medicine.



Mother Teresa (Peace, 1979) – *Dedicated her life to the sick and hungry people. Her message was “the poor must know that we love them”.* Her followers regarded her as saint, but Mother Teresa believed she was only doing God’s work. Yugoslavia born Nun (named Agnes

Gonxha Bojaxhiu) made Kolkata, India her home.



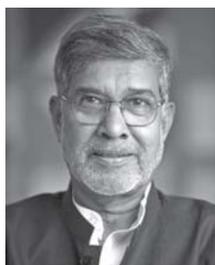
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (Physics, 1983) – *For his theoretical studies of the physical processes of importance to the structure and evolution of the stars.* Chandrasekhar being the most influential Astrophysicist he showed that when the hydrogen fuel of stars of a certain size begins to run out, it collapses into a compact, brilliant star known as white dwarf. Studied at the Presidency College, Madras and finally pursued higher studies at the University of Cambridge.



Amartya Sen (Economics, 1998) - *For Welfare Economics and human development theory – the underlying mechanisms of poverty and inequality,* First Asian born in Santiniketan, studied at the Tagore’s institution i.e. Visva-Bharati, then Presidency College, Calcutta University and finally at Cambridge University, UK, later at Harvard University, USA, received Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel in 1998.



Venkataraman Ramakrishnan (Chemistry, 2009) – *For mapping Ribosomes, the protein making sites within cells at the atomic level.* He was nominated for the Nobel Prize once and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009, affiliated to the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK.



Kailash Satyarthi (Peace, 2014) – *“For showing great personal courage and in their struggle against the suppression of children and for the right of all children to education”.* Satyarthi was nominated multiple times over several years and finally awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.



Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee (Economics, 2019). *“For their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”.* He was affiliated to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA at the time of the award. He was selected for the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2019 and

awarded in the same year.

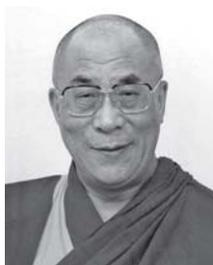
India born/Indian origin winners of Nobel Prize



Ronald Ross (Physiology or Medicine, 1902) – *For his work “on malaria”, laying the foundation for research on this disease and methods of combating it.* Ronald was born at Almora, UP, India on 13 May 1857.



Rudyard Kipling (Literature, 1907 – *For his great body of work which included ‘The Jungle Book’ and the poem “if”.* His poems and stories set in India during the period of British imperial rule. Rudyard was born in Bombay, India on 30 December 1865.



The 14th Dalai Lama [Tenzin Gyatso] (Peace, 1989) – *“For advocating peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people”.* Being the religious and political leader the Dalai Lama has since 1959

stood at the head of the nonviolent opposition to China’s occupation of Tibet. The award of the Peace Nobel Prize gave the Dalai Lama the opportunity to present a plan for the restoration of peace and human rights in Tibet.



Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul (Literature, 2001) – *“For having united perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories”.* British author Naipaul was born in Trinidad, with family roots in India. At the age of

18, he left Trinidad for studies in the United Kingdom where he ended up staying. He was nominated for the first time in 1973 and a strong contender for many years but finally awarded in 2001.

The Nobel Prizes and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in

Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel were awarded 633 times to 1026 people and organizations between 1901 and 2025. Considering some members receiving the Nobel Prize more than once making a total of 990 individuals and 28 organisations. Countrywise The United States top the list having the most Nobel Prize winners (423), followed by the United Kingdom (143), Germany (115) and France (76) having significant contributions to global progress. Subsequently other countries showed the numbers like Sweden (34), Japan (31), Russia (31), Canada (28), Switzerland (25) Austria (25) and for India it is only nine (09).

Recently from India Banaras Hindu University for the first time started Nobel Prize Lecture Series on 13th November 2025 and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi inaugurated and mentioned that the Nobel Prizes remind us of the essential unity of all disciplines and of the fact that true research is not merely about publishing in top journals. “Nobel Prizes are not awarded for long CV’s or numerous publications,” he said, “but for seminal ideas that fundamentally change the way we understand a subject.” He also mentioned that whether it is literature, economics, or the sciences, each Nobel Prize celebrates creativity and the power of original thought. Highlighting the importance of global critical review, he added that research is something that can be critiqued from anywhere across the globe. If ideas can survive such rigorous criticism, they truly deserve the recognition they receive.

India’s population is about 140 crores (male -72 and female -68 crores) becoming the world’s most populous country with only 9 Nobel prize winners. Although Indian researchers are working in about 1100 universities (central 55, deemed 125, state 475 and private 445) and about 200 institutes of National importance like IISC, IIT, NIIT, AIIMS and DST. CSIR, ICAR, ICMR, DBT, etc. but the output is not at par with other developed countries. Nobel Laureate Ramakrishnan has questioned India’s readiness to become a global science destination, despite its growing economy and pool of young talent and finally he said “I do not see India as a general magnet for international science”. □

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