



**ENGINEERING COLLEGE**

**Non-Tech Seminar Presentation**

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# **Nobel Prize**

The Nobel Prizes are separate prizes that, according to Alfred Nobel's will of 1895, are awarded to those "who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind." Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer and industrialist most famously known for the invention of dynamite. He died in 1896. In his will, he bequeathed all of his "remaining realizable assets" to be used to establish prizes which became known as "Noble Prizes". Nobel Prizes were first awarded in 1901.

The prize ceremonies take place annually. Each recipient receives a gold medal, a diploma and a monetary award. In 2021, the Nobel prize monetary award is 10,000,000 SEK which is 8,00,82,000 in Indian rupees.

Nobel wrote several wills during his lifetime. He composed the last over a year before he died, signing it at the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris on 27 November 1895. His last will specified that his fortune be used to create a series of prizes for those who confer the "greatest benefit on mankind" in various fields.

## **Nobel Foundation**

According to his will and testament read in Stockholm, a foundation established by Alfred Nobel would reward those who serve humanity. The Nobel Prize was funded by Alfred Nobel's personal fortune. According to the official sources, Alfred Nobel bequeathed most of his fortune to the Nobel Foundation that now forms the economic base of the Nobel Prize.

## **Inaugural Nobel Prizes**

The Nobel Committee's Physics prize shortlist cited Wilhelm Rontgen's discovery of X-rays and Philipp Lenard's work on cathode rays. Jacobus Van't Hoff was awarded the prize for his contributions in chemical thermodynamics. They chose poet Sully Prudhomme for the first Nobel Prize in Literature. The first Physiology or Medicine prize went to the German physiologist and microbiologist Emil von Behring. The first Nobel peace prize went to the Swiss Jean Henri Dunant for his role in founding the International Red Cross Movement, jointly given to Frederic Passy, founder of Peace League

## **Award process:**

### **Nominations**

Nomination forms are sent by the Nobel Committee to about 3000 individuals, usually in September the year before the prizes are awarded. These people are generally prominent academics working in a relevant area. In case of Peace prize, inquiries are also sent to governments, former peace prize laureates, and current or former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. The deadline for the return of the nomination forms is 31 January of the year of the award. The Nobel Committee nominates about 300 potential laureates from these forms and additional names. All nominations records for a prize are sealed for 50 years from the awarding of the prize.

## **Selection**

The nobel committee then prepares report reflecting the advice of the experts in the relevant fields. This, along with the list of preliminary candidates, submitted to the prize-awarding institutions. There are four awarding institutions for the six prizes awarded

- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute
- Swedish Academy
- Norwegian Nobel Committee

The institutions meet to choose the laureate in each field by a majority vote. Their decision, which cannot be appealed, is announced immediately after the vote. A maximum of three laureates and two different works may be selected per award. Except for the peace prize, which can be awarded to institutions, the awards can only be given to individuals.

## **Award ceremonies**

The Nobel prizes are presented in Stockholm, Sweden, at the annual prize award ceremony on 10 December, the anniversary of nobel's death. The recipients' lectures are normally held in the days prior to the award ceremony. The peace prize and its recipients' lectures are presented at the annual prize award ceremony.

## **Nobel Lecture**

According to the law of nobel foundation, each laureate is required to give a public lecture on a subject related to the topic of their prize. The laureate is only obliged to give the lecture within six months of receiving the prize, but some have happened even later. For example, US president Theodore Roosevelt received the peace prize in 1906 but gave his lecture in 1910, after his term in office. The lectures are organized by the same association which selected the laureates.

## **Prizes**

## **Medals**

Each medal features an image of Alfred Nobel in left profile. They show his years of birth and death. All medals made before 1980 were struck in 23 carat gold. Since then, they have been struck in 18 carat green gold plated with 24 carat gold.

## **Diplomas**

Nobel laureates receive a diploma directly from the hands of the King of Sweden, or in the case of the peace prize, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. Each diploma is uniquely designed by the prize-awarding institutions. The diploma contains a picture and text in Swedish which states the name of the laureate and normally a citation of why they received the prize. None of the nobel peace prize laureates has ever had citation on their diplomas.

**Award money**

The laureates are given a sum of money when they receive their prizes, in the form of a document confirming the amount awarded. The amount of prize money depends upon how much money they can award each year. If two laureates share the prize in a category, the award grant is divided equally between the recipients. If there are three, the awarding committee has the option of dividing the grant equally, or awarding one-half to one recipient and one-quarter to each of the others. It is common for recipients to donate prize money to benefit scientific, cultural or humanitarian causes.