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Navi Pillay wins 2026 Nobel Peace Prize as Nobel week wraps

The peace prize went to a champion of international law, a pointed message while the rules-based order is under strain.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 9, 2026



The peace prize went to a champion of international law, a pointed message while the rules-based order is under strain. It caps a week of science and literature awards.

Key details: The Norwegian Nobel Committee gave the 2026 Peace Prize to South African jurist Navi Pillay for her work promoting peace and international law. Pillay is a former UN human rights chief and now sits as a judge on the International Court of Justice. Committee chair Jørgen Watne Frydnes said the choice signals that international law and its institutions are central to a more peaceful world. Israel's foreign ministry criticised the award. Earlier this week:

- **Medicine:** Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel
- **Physics:** Francis Halzen, for IceCube and astrophysical neutrinos
- **Chemistry:** Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai
- **Literature:** Anne Carson

Economics will be announced on Monday, 12 Oct. Each prize carries SEK 12M (~\$1.2M).

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