

## WHAT MADE THE NOBEL PRIZES POSSIBLE?

S.No.

SENTENCES

**1** Thus, Alfred Nobel got a rare opportunity to know how the world would portray his life and his contributions after he was gone.

**2** The obituary ran thus: "Dr. Alfred Nobel, who became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before, died yesterday..."

**3** The French press mistook him for his younger brother Dr. Alfred Nobel, who was a famed Swedish entrepreneur and inventor and had amassed much wealth owing to his inventions, published an obituary titled: "The Merchant of death is Dead".

**4** In 1888, a humble Swede by the name of Ludwig Nobel (Alfred Nobel's brother) died.

**5** Alfred Nobel invented around 355 things, most notable was his invention of dynamite and ballistite (the precursor to several military grade explosives).

**6** And, that is how a piece of bad journalism led to the creation of a new prize for humanity that rewarded achievements that were in pursuit of "the greatest benefit to mankind."

Each recipient of a Nobel Prize receives a gold medal (18 carat green gold which is then plated with 24 carat gold), a certificate, and an amount of money which varies year to year. (In 2016, it was 8 million Swedish Krona per full prize. A prize could be shared to three awardees though.)

**7** Six years later, when Alfred's life did end, his heirs and peers were shocked to find that, he had dedicated his vast wealth (adjusted to inflation, would be worth about \$250 million today).

**8** He had decided to leave his enormous fortune to fund a set of prizes named after himself. The Nobel Prizes were created as awards for people who made the greatest contributions in subjects that interested Nobel, namely Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace.

**9** On November 27, 1895, he took action. He went to the Swedish Norwegian Club, sat down at a writing desk and wrote his last will and testament.



**10** He began to think of ways to improve his public image after his death.

*Options:*

*Answer:*