GENERAL SCIENCE 11 October 2026

# 2026 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Healthcare Access in India

The Hindu published its 54th episode of Health Wrap discussing the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, optogenetics, and India's healthcare challenges.

A weekly review of major developments in global medical science, neuroscience research, and public health policy challenges in India.

## KEY EXAM POINTS

- The 54th episode of Health Wrap discussed the 2026 **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** on **October 11, 2026**.
- **Ramya Kannan**, Health Editor, and **Zubeda Hamid**, Senior Assistant Editor, hosted the discussion on neuroscience breakthroughs.
- The scientific discussion covered **optogenetics** and experimental studies involving **human brain tissue** implanted in mice.
- The episode also examined critical systemic challenges regarding public **healthcare access** across **India**.

## DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded annually by the **Karolinska Institute** in **Stockholm**, Sweden.

**Optogenetics** is a biological technique that uses light to control cells in living tissue, typically **neurons**, genetically modified to express light-sensitive ion channels.

**Article 21** of the Constitution of India guarantees the **Right to Health** as an integral part of the Right to Life.

The **National Health Policy 2017** aims to attain the highest possible level of good health and well-being through preventive and promotive healthcare.

**Ayushman Bharat** Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is India's flagship public health insurance scheme launched in **2018** providing coverage up to ₹**5 lakh** per family per year.

**Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program** (TNHSRP) is supported by the **World Bank** to improve the quality of and equity in healthcare services.

**REVISION FLASHCARD**

*The 2026 Nobel Prize in Medicine and advancements in optogenetics highlight breakthroughs in neuroscience and healthcare access.*

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for TNPSC Group 1 and 2 questions covering Nobel laureates, biotechnology, and public health welfare schemes.

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