CURRENT EVENTS 07 October 2026

Nobel Chemistry Prize 2026 to Kagan, Soai

The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry recognizes outstanding contributions in chemistry, awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** was awarded to **Henri B. Kagan** and **Kenso Soai**.
- They were recognized for their discovery of **non-linear effects** and **autocatalysis** in **asymmetric organic synthesis**.
- Their work helped explain how **chemical reactions** produce molecules with a particular **handedness**, or **chirality**.
- **Henri B. Kagan** demonstrated that **chiral catalyst** amount and molecule handedness do not always have a simple **linear relationship**.
- **Kenso Soai** discovered **asymmetric autocatalysis**, where a produced molecule helps create more of itself.
- The **Soai reaction** shows how a small initial imbalance between **mirror-image forms** can be greatly **amplified**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Nobel Prize** was established by the will of Swedish inventor **Alfred Nobel**, first awarded in **1901**.

It is awarded annually in **Physics**, **Chemistry**, **Physiology or Medicine**, **Literature**, and **Peace**.

The **Sveriges Riksbank Prize** in **Economic Sciences** in Memory of Alfred Nobel was established in **1968**.

The **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** awards the Nobel Prizes in **Physics** and **Chemistry**.

Chirality is a property of **asymmetry**, important in chemistry, especially in **drug development**.

Catalysis is the process of increasing the rate of a **chemical reaction** by adding a substance called a **catalyst**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Chemistry Prize for non-linear effects and autocatalysis.

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