

Nobel Peace Prize 2026

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Why in News?

Navanethem “Navi” Pillay has been awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2026



	 Award	Nobel Peace Prize 2026
	 Laureate	Navanethem ‘Navi’ Pillay
	 Country	South Africa
	 Ancestry	Indian Tamil origin
	 Birthplace	Durban, South Africa
	 Main contribution	Promotion of international law and accountability for international crimes
	 Awarding body	Norwegian Nobel Committee
	 Core theme	Rule of law, justice, human dignity and peaceful conflict resolution

- **Awarded for** - Her efforts to promote peace, strengthen international law and ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Navi Pillay

- She was born into a family of **Indian Tamil origin in Durban, South Africa**, during the apartheid era.
- She became a lawyer and legal pioneer, actively challenging racial discrimination, segregation, and exclusion.
- She defended **Nelson Mandela** and other opponents of apartheid, as noted in the official announcement.
- She held several significant judicial and international human rights positions.
- **Important positions**

Institution	Role
South African High Court	Judge
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)	Judge
International Criminal Court (ICC)	Judge
United Nations	High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory	Former Chair
International Court of Justice (ICJ)	Judge

Major Contributions to International Law

- **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)**
 - The tribunal was established to prosecute those responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide and other serious breaches of international humanitarian law.
 - Pillay served as a judge for eight years, including four years as President.
 - Pillay contributed to several significant legal developments:
 - **Rape and sexual violence** - The ICTR's landmark Akayesu judgment (1998) established that rape and sexual violence can constitute acts of genocide when committed with the intent to destroy a protected group.
 - **Incitement to genocide** - The tribunal clarified criminal responsibility for direct and public incitement to commit genocide, including through propaganda.
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**
 - Served from 2008 to 2014.
 - Worked to promote and protect human rights, advance equality, and ensure accountability for serious violations.
- **International Criminal Court (ICC)** - Served as an ICC judge from 2003 to 2008 before becoming UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** - Served as an ad hoc judge in *The Gambia v. Myanmar*, a case involving alleged violations of the Genocide Convention.
- The case addresses allegations of genocide against the Rohingya people of Myanmar.

Reference

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