

*“When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to  
be heard in the purity of the silence.”  
— Sri Aurobindo*

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# KNOWLEDGE DAILY

7-10-21

Two scientists, Benjamin List and David MacMillan have won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. They won the award for their development of asymmetric organocatalysis. This is a scientific process that involves building molecules that are mirror images of one another. Benjamin List is a German scientist while David MacMillan is from Scotland, UK.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences selects the awardees of the Nobel Prizes. They said that List and MacMillan's work involved organic catalysts that can be used to drive multitudes (many) of chemical

## 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry goes to Benjamin List

reactions. These catalysts are also environmentally friendly and cheap to produce.

What is a catalyst?

A catalyst is a substance that makes a chemical reaction happen faster.

The two scientists' research has made it much easier to produce asymmetric molecules. These chemicals exist in two versions, where one is a mirror image of the other. These molecules are very useful to create medicines

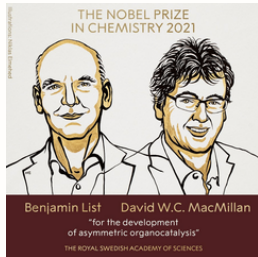
but are hard to produce.

List and MacMillan's work is also helpful in making molecules that can capture light in solar cells.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

While the Nobel Prizes are generally presented in December in Stockholm, Sweden, this year, they will receive them in their home countries. Last year, in a historic first, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry went to two women scientists.

## and David MacMillan



## Research shows Facebook knew of Instagram harm to teens

Instagram is a very popular social media app today. Owned by Facebook, Instagram has roughly about 1 billion users worldwide.

Recently, the Wall Street Journal newspaper reported that Facebook knew Instagram was causing harm to teenagers, especially teen girls. Before this, Facebook had been planning to launch Instagram Kids, an app aimed at pre-teens. But it has put the plan on hold.

Senators of the US Congress

called officials of Facebook for a hearing on the issue. At the hearing, Antigone Davis, Facebook's global head of safety, said that the research was not correct. And the company was working to be more transparent about its findings.

Many senators criticised Facebook saying that it hid the knowledge of the harm it was causing. The senators also said that Facebook focused more on profits rather than protecting children from harm.

They also questioned Davis on different issues, such as, what data Facebook collects on its young users.

Moreover, at the hearing, a former Facebook employee also told US senators that the company's sites and apps "harm children, stoke division and weaken our democracy".

What does the research say?

32% of teenage girls said that when they felt bad about their bodies

Instagram made them feel worse. They also said that Instagram caused rising rates of anxiety and depression in them.

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, said the research into Instagram was not entirely correct. And that many young people had positive experiences of using it.

## WORD OF THE DAY

Today's Word of the Day is "latent" and its adjective meaning (of a quality or state) existing but not yet developed or manifest; hidden or concealed.

**Pronunciation** : /'leɪt(ə)nt/

**Usage**: 'they have a huge reserve of latent talent'

### SYNONYMS

dormant, quiescent, inactive, untapped, unused, undiscovered, hidden, unrevealed, unexpressed, concealed, unapparent, indiscernible, imperceptible, invisible, inert, covert, unseen, veiled, masked, lurking, undeveloped, unrealized, unfulfilled, potential, not activated, inoperative, in abeyance, sup absolute, unqualified, unconditional, categorical, complete, total, thoroughgoing, downright, outright, utter, out-and-out, unadulterated, unalloyed,

**Antonym**: manifest, obvious, active

**Origin** : Late Middle English from Latin latent- 'being hidden', from the verb latere.

### Hindi Meaning

LATENT = अव्यक्त [pr. {avyakt} ]  
(Adjective)

**उदाहरण** : संपूर्ण चराचर भूतगण ब्रह्मा के दिन के प्रवेश काल में अव्यक्त से अर्थात् ब्रह्मा के सूक्ष्म शरीर से उत्पन्न होते हैं और ब्रह्मा की रात्रि के प्रवेशकाल में उस अव्यक्त नामक ब्रह्मा के सूक्ष्म शरीर में ही लीन हो जाते हैं !

## ENGLISH CLUB

**Phrasal Verb-** take apart

**Meaning:** If you take apart something, you separate it into the pieces it's made of.

**Usage:** I took my bicycle apart so that I could clean each part.

## Today's Idiom

pull someone's leg

**Meaning:** If you pull someone's leg, you play a joke on them by saying something that isn't true.

**Usage:** Joe was just pulling your leg when he said he was going spaghetti picking. Spaghetti doesn't really grow on trees, Sally.

## Saying of the Day

No news is good news

Possible interpretation:

If we are waiting for news about someone, it's probably good if we hear nothing because "bad news" would arrive quickly.

Note: This reminds us of the proverb "Bad news travels fast."