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NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

- Belgian scientist Francis Halzen (82) has been honoured with a prestigious international award for his pioneering work in the study of neutrinos.
- The award recognises his contributions to the discovery and study of "astroneutrinos", extremely tiny fundamental particles, and his major role in the IceCube Neutrino Observatory located at the South Pole in Antarctica.
- Francis Halzen led an international team of scientists and engineers in building the remarkable IceCube Neutrino Observatory, overcoming severe technical and environmental challenges.
- Halzen was born in Belgium and later migrated to the United States. He is a professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- Neutrinos are extremely light subatomic particles. These mysterious particles are produced by the Sun, other stars and various cosmic phenomena and are found throughout the universe.
- Halzen carried out extensive research on rare groups of neutrinos that can provide important clues about how the universe evolved.
- He said that he had not expected to receive the prize. The award carries prize money of about US\$1.2 million (approximately Rs.11.56 crore).
- The Nobel Prize in Medicine for the current year was announced last Monday for three scientists.
- The Nobel Prizes for Chemistry, Literature, Peace and Economics are scheduled to be announced subsequently.