Five selected as Indian Rhodes Scholars for 2027

NEW DELHI (17/11/26) – Five Indian students have won the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships for India this year. This marks the culmination of a selection process that spans several months, multiple rounds, and picks 5 Scholars from a pool of about 850 applicants. This year's final selection panel was chaired by journalist, news anchor and author, Rajdeep Sardesai.

The newly selected Indian Scholars will be heading to the University of Oxford in October 2027 to join a cohort of more than a hundred Scholars from around the world to undertake post-graduate studies and become part of a strong community of people determined to make a positive difference in the world.



The Rhodes Scholarship is the world's preeminent and oldest graduate fellowship, based at the University of Oxford since 1903. The Scholarships for India began in 1947 and have been awarded to a total of 261 Scholars so far.

Many students who apply for a Rhodes Scholarship find that taking part in our rigorous selection is a profoundly positive experience which leaves them well placed for the most competitive opportunities worldwide.

The Rhodes selection process aims to choose young people with proven academic excellence who also show exceptional character, leadership, the energy to use their talents to the full and a commitment to solving humanity's challenges. The selection process

includes a rigorous review process before the finalists' interview with a selection committee composed of renowned experts and leaders in diverse fields.

Rhodes Scholars form a lifelong community of people in many fields and careers, united by a commitment to having a positive impact on the world. Scholars from India have gone on to pursue careers ranging from medicine, law, literature, economics to physics.

Chrystia Freeland, Warden and CEO of the Rhodes Trust, said:

"For more than a century, the Rhodes Trust has brought exceptional individuals to Oxford and fostered a vibrant global community. We are delighted to introduce the 2027 Class of Rhodes Scholars Elect who are exceptional young people with the energy and determination to effect real change. I look forward to meeting them and seeing the positive contributions they will make."

The applications for the 2028 Rhodes Scholarships will open in June 2027. More information about the Scholarship application be found at: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/apply.

Contact Information

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About the Rhodes Trust

The Rhodes Trust, based at the University of Oxford, is an educational charity that creates brighter futures for individuals and the world.

The Rhodes Scholarship began in 1903 and is the world's pre-eminent graduate fellowship, bringing postgraduate students to the University of Oxford. Over 8,000 Rhodes Scholars, from more than 50 countries, have gone on to serve at the forefront of education, business, science, medicine, the arts, politics and beyond. All this is made possible by the generosity of our Second Century Founders, John McCall MacBain and the Atlantic Philanthropies, as well as over 3,000 other benefactors from around the world.

We are based at Rhodes House in Oxford, which has been transformed into a world-class facility for gathering, learning and collaborating. Rhodes House is home to most of our staff team.

Biographies of the Scholars



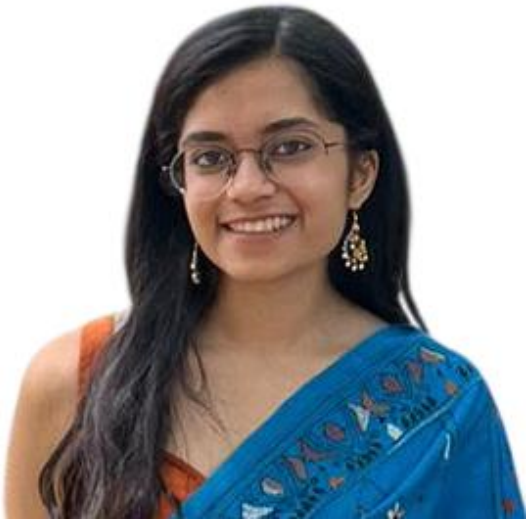
Achintya Mathur, is pursuing a BS Research with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Biology at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on a Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) Fellowship. His research interests focus on developing nanomaterial based diagnostic technologies. Beyond academics, Achintya is actively involved with SPIC MACAY, an international movement that brings Indian classical music and other traditional art forms to students through educational institutions. He has helped organise the SPIC MACAY International School Convention, as well as other cultural performances across Bengaluru. A keen dancer himself, he enjoys contemporary and hip-hop dance, as well as reading science fiction and fantasy. At Oxford, Achintya hopes to pursue a DPhil in Engineering Science, building on his research interests in nanomaterials to develop sensitive, affordable and accessible healthcare technologies, particularly for communities in low-resource settings.



Dhruv Singhal is a final-year student at National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ), with an academic interest in constitutional law and socio-legal research. As Convenor of the NLUJ Legal Aid and Awareness Committee, he has led grassroots initiatives in Rajasthan addressing the right to education, juvenile justice, and the rights of undertrial prisoners. He founded Project Saahas, an institutional initiative to improve transgender persons' access to legal services in Jodhpur. He is interested in data-driven approaches to access to justice, particularly how empirical research on institutional gaps and lived experiences can inform policy advocacy and strategic litigation. Beyond law, he enjoys learning French and reading fiction across genres. At Oxford, he hopes to pursue the Bachelor of Civil Law, followed by the MPhil in Socio-Legal Research



Saniya Mahreen is pursuing an MTech in Biomedical Engineering, specialising in Medical Sensing, Analytics and Simulation, at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Her research interests lie at the intersection of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), medical physics and computational imaging, with a particular focus on MRI acquisition techniques, pulse-sequence design and quantitative imaging. She is a researcher at the Applied MRI Technology (aMRIt) Lab at IIT Hyderabad, where she works on quantitative MRI approaches to investigate disease-related changes in patients, particularly in sickle cell disease. Saniya also enjoys quizzing, public speaking and engaging in discussions on issues she feels strongly about. At Oxford, Saniya hopes to pursue doctoral research in MRI physics and technology, exploring innovative acquisition strategies and computational methods to advance quantitative imaging.



Jyotika Tomar is a final year LL.B. (Hons.) student at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru. She holds a B.A. (Hons.) degree in History from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, where she was awarded the Faculty Prize for all-round excellence. She holds an interdisciplinary research interest in criminal law and modern South Asian history, with a focus on issues of punishment, sentencing, and violence. She plans to study the histories and social lives of criminal law, to reflect on the design and operation of contemporary legal institutions. She is committed to public-facing academic work and has served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Socio-Legal Review journal at NLSIU and the History Department Journal at LSR. At Oxford, she hopes to read for courses that will help her acquire advanced conceptual and methodological training across both law and history, in preparation for future academic work. She enjoys reading across genres, writing, and swimming, and is learning Western vocal music.



Vivek is a final-year undergraduate student at the Indian Institute of Science(IISc), where he studies physics. He has done research in solar physics at New York University Abu Dhabi and developed ATHARV, a tool for visualising the magnetic field structure within coronal mass ejections, at the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology. He is now using pulsars to study interstellar turbulence with the Australian National University, and he has been a teaching assistant for an astronomy and astrophotography course at IISc. He is a Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) Scholar and an National Initiative on Undergraduate Science (NIUS) Scholar. He convened Astrae, the IISc astronomy club, and founded Cabbage Meteors, its musical theatre group. A lyricist whose parodies include a *Hamilton* spoof that explains the Hamiltonian, he is also an astrophotographer, a total solar eclipse chaser, a devotee of musicals and Jasper Fforde's novels. Vivek hopes to pursue a DPhil in Astrophysics at Oxford.