



Scholarships

PART-I

Scholarship Name 1:	LIC Golden Jubilee Scholarship 2026-27
Description:	The LIC Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme 2026 is being offered by the LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation. The scholarship is a financial award designed to support meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections, providing them with better opportunities for higher education and employment.
Eligibility:	The application is open to meritorious students who have secured at least 60% marks or an equivalent CGPA in Class 10th or 12th/equivalent examinations during the academic years 2023–24 to 2025–26. For the General Scholarship, applicants must have taken admission in the first year of one of the listed academic programmes in 2026–27. For the Special Scholarship, applicants must have taken admission in the first year of Intermediate/10+2, vocational or diploma courses. The annual family income for both the categories must not exceed ₹4.5 lakh.
Prizes & Rewards:	An award of up to ₹50,000.
Last Date to Apply:	30-09-2026
Application mode:	Online Application Only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/LICCI
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/lic-golden-jubilee-scholarship-2026-271788792351.png
Scholarship Name 2:	IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship Programme 2026-30
Description:	A promising engineering career should not be limited by financial constraints. The IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship Programme 2026-30, an initiative by IDFC FIRST Bank, supports deserving first-year B.E. and B.Tech. students from modest family backgrounds with financial assistance of up to ₹1 lakh per year for four years. The scholarship aims to ease the cost of engineering education and help students continue their studies and pursue their career aspirations with confidence.
Eligibility:	• Must be an Indian citizen. • Open to students enrolled in the first year (academic year 2026-27) of their B.Tech or B.E. program. • Must have secured admission to one of the FIRST IMPACT empanelled colleges. • The gross annual family income from all sources must be less than or equal to INR 6 lakh. • Applicants must have a valid mobile number linked to their Aadhaar number. • IDFC FIRST Bank employees and their family members are not eligible to apply.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 1,00,000 per year for up to four years.
Last Date to Apply:	20-09-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IFBES2
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-2026-301787580725.png
Scholarship Name 3:	OakNorth Scholarship and Mentorship Programme 2026-27
Description:	The OakNorth Scholarship and Mentorship Programme 2026-27 supports underprivileged women pursuing STEM degrees. It is available to female students from Jharkhand and Bihar who have completed Class 12 and are enrolled in a STEM undergraduate program at government institutions.
Eligibility:	• Open to domiciled students of Jharkhand or Bihar. • Only female students are eligible to apply. • Applicants must be pursuing the 1st-year of a graduation degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects at a government university or college in India. • Applicants must have scored a minimum of 75% marks in Class 12. • Annual parental income must not exceed INR 3,00,000 from all sources.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 30,000 (one-time, fixed amount)
Last Date to Apply:	20-09-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/ONSS5
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/oaknorth-2026-271787580810.png
Scholarship Name 4:	SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2026
Description:	The SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2026-27, an initiative of SBI Foundation, supports meritorious students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds across India. It covers students from Classes 9 to 12 to undergraduate, postgraduate, medical, IIT, IIM and eligible overseas programmes.
Eligibility:	• Open to Indian nationals studying in Classes 9 to 12, undergraduate, postgraduate, MBBS, IIT or IIM programmes. Overseas Studies is open only to SC/ST Indian nationals. • Applicants must have at least 75% marks or 7.0 CGPA; SC/ST applicants receive a 10% relaxation. Annual family income must not exceed INR 3 lakh for school students and INR 6 lakh for other categories. • General UG/PG institutions must have NAAC Grade 'A' or above or be among the Top 300 in NIRF Overall 2025-26. Medical applicants must study at AIIMS or a Top 50 NIRF medical institution. • Overseas applicants must study at a Top 200 QS/THE-ranked institution and have a valid offer or acceptance letter. Category-specific entrance or proficiency scores may apply.
Prizes & Rewards:	Scholarships ranging from INR 15,000 to INR 20,00,000 per academic year will be awarded depending on the scholarship category. (*T&C Applied)
Last Date to Apply:	19-09-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/SBISF20
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sbi-platinum-jubilee-asha-scholarship-20261786449537.png

AI and its integration with education: Building a future for students

DR ATUL CHAUHAN

India is entering a period of significant change in education as Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into industries, governance, healthcare and other areas of society. For higher education institutions, this shift brings the responsibility of preparing students to work with AI while also understanding its limitations, ethical implications and impact on society.

According to the 2024 Advancing India's AI Skills: Interventions and Programmes Needed report by NASSCOM and Deloitte India, India's AI talent pool is projected to grow from 600,000–650,000 to more than 1.25 million between 2022 and 2027. The broader AI market, particularly software and services, is also projected to grow at a 25–35 per cent compound annual growth rate through 2027.

For universities, these developments underline the need to integrate AI education into academic programmes. Used thoughtfully, AI can support personalised learning, assist teachers, expand access to educational resources and help students develop skills relevant to emerging careers.

Supporting personalised learning

AI-based systems can analyse aspects of student performance and recommend lessons, exercises or practice material. Students who require additional support can receive further explanations and practice, while those progressing faster can be given more challenging tasks.

However, such systems should complement rather than replace teacher judgement. Educators remain important in understanding students' individual circumstances and providing academic and personal guidance.

Supporting teachers and classrooms

AI can also assist educators with tasks such as lesson planning, organising learning materials and routine assessments. By reducing some



administrative responsibilities, technology could allow teachers to devote more time to mentoring, classroom discussion and creative learning.

The role of teachers remains central because education involves more than the delivery of information. Empathy, encouragement, ethical guidance and an understanding of students' social and emotional needs cannot be reduced to automated systems.

Expanding access to learning

India's linguistic and geographical diversity presents another area where AI could contribute. Digital platforms such as DIKSHA and SWAYAM have expanded access to educational resources. AI-enabled translation, speech recognition and text-to-speech technologies could further support students who learn in regional languages or require accessibility features.

Rural and remote learners could also benefit from AI tutors, digital laboratories and career-guidance tools. However, these possibilities depend on reliable electricity, affordable devices, internet access and systems capable of functioning in low-bandwidth or offline environments.

Preparing students for an AI-enabled workplace

Universities in different parts of the world

are experimenting with interdisciplinary approaches to AI education, combining technical learning with problem-solving, projects and applications across disciplines.

For students, technical knowledge alone may not be sufficient. They will also need to understand how to evaluate AI-generated information, identify limitations, verify outputs and apply human judgement. These skills will be relevant across sectors including healthcare, agriculture, finance, manufacturing, education and public services.

India's education system must therefore approach AI as a tool that works alongside human intelligence. Investment in computing infrastructure, teacher training, regional-language technologies, ethical safeguards and inclusive access will be important to ensure that AI reduces rather than widens educational inequalities.

The future of education will not be secured by AI alone. Its value will depend on how effectively institutions combine technological capabilities with human judgement, responsible use and meaningful learning. By taking this balanced approach, education can help students become capable and ethical participants in an increasingly AI-enabled world.

As Artificial Intelligence becomes part of education and the wider economy, universities face the task of preparing students for an AI-enabled future. Thoughtful integration of AI can support personalised learning, assist teachers and expand access to educational resources. At the same time, students need skills to evaluate AI-generated information, understand its limitations and apply human judgement. The future of education will depend on balancing technology with ethical safeguards, teacher guidance and inclusive access to ensure AI supports meaningful and equitable learning



UoH Professor Rajadurai Chandrasekar elected INSA Fellow

Prof. Rajadurai Chandrasekar of the School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad (UoH), has been elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), with the fellowship taking effect from January 2027. The recognition acknowledges his contributions to materials science, nanoscience and photonics research.

With the fellowship, Prof. Chandrasekar will become a Fellow of all three National Science Academies of India. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK. His research work has received recognition through several awards, including the SERB-STAR Research Award, the Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Medal and the YIM Boston Young Scientist Award.

Prof. Chandrasekar has also been listed among the top 2% of scientists globally in the field of Nanoscience and Technology in a Stanford University-based global ranking. He has an H-index of 47 and serves on international editorial boards of journals covering materials chemistry and science.

His research group works on miniature, all-organic photonic microsystems designed to guide, modulate, split and process light. The research has potential applica-

tions in areas such as optical communication, sensing, computation, robotics and space technologies.

Prof. Chandrasekar has also contributed to the development of the field of "Mechanophotonics", which combines mechanical micromanipulation with crystal photonics. His work in this area explores the development of all-organic photonic integrated circuits and new approaches to controlling light at the microscale.

His current research includes AI-driven soft materials for programmable optical communication devices, supported by the J. C. Bose Grant. The interdisciplinary research brings together artificial intelligence, soft materials and photonics to explore optical technologies with programmable functions.

The INSA fellowship adds to Prof. Chandrasekar's academic and research recognitions and highlights the role of interdisciplinary research in areas connecting chemistry, materials science, photonics and emerging technologies. His work also reflects the growing use of advanced materials and computational approaches in developing new technologies for communication, sensing and other applications.

TODAY IS LIBRARIES REMEMBER DAY

Spaces that inspire learning and discovery

Libraries have long been more than quiet places filled with books. They are spaces where people discover information, develop new interests and learn at their own pace. From school libraries to public and university libraries, these spaces continue to play an important role in supporting education and lifelong learning.

For students, a library can provide an environment away from everyday distractions. It offers access to textbooks, reference materials, newspapers, journals and digital resources that can support classroom learning. More importantly, spending time in a library can encourage students to explore subjects beyond their prescribed syllabus. A student researching a science project, reading about history or simply discovering a new author can begin to develop the habit of learning independently.

Libraries also help preserve knowledge. Books, manuscripts, newspapers and other records document ideas, experiences and discoveries across generations. Today, many libraries are combining traditional collections with digital archives, making information accessible in new formats while continuing to protect valuable physical resources.

Another important role of



libraries is bringing people together. Reading groups, workshops, exhibitions, lectures and community programmes can turn libraries into shared learning spaces. Such activities allow people of different ages and backgrounds to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

Technology has also changed the way libraries operate. Students can now use online catalogues, e-books, academic databases and digital archives alongside printed materials. Learning how to find reliable information, evaluate sources and use digital resources responsibly is becoming an important skill in education. Libraries can therefore contribute to more than academic performance. They can encourage curiosity, concentration, critical thinking and independent learning. They also provide an opportunity to slow down, read carefully and engage with ideas without the pressure of constant digital notifications.

