

Recipients of Rhodes Scholarships for India 2016 announced

Mumbai, November 28, 2015: The five Rhodes Scholars-elect for India 2015 were selected over the weekend, marking the culmination of a rigorous national selection process. The selection committee included academicians **Dr. Mukund Thattai** and **Dr. Manjiri N. Kamat** as well as notable Indian Rhodes Scholar Alumni - **Ms. Rukmini Banerji**, **Mr. Mahesh Rangarajan**, **Mr. Malav Shroff** and **Ms. Dhvani Mehta**.

After a highly-competitive application and selection process, the shortlisted finalists were interviewed by the selection panel and quizzed individually on their interests, achievements and goals. The process culminated with the announcement of the five Scholars who would be given the opportunity to pursue their academic interests at the University of Oxford. The five Rhodes Scholars-elect for India 2016 are **Ms. Rishika Sahgal**, **Ms. Bahuli Sharma**, **Ms. Rene Verma**, **Mr. Arijit Patra** and **Mr. Suhas Mahesh**. A brief profile of each of the five winners is provided below.

Delighted at the prospect of announcing another batch of Rhodes Scholars-elect from India, Prof. Virander S. Chauhan, The Secretary, The Rhodes Scholarships in India, said, "It is always a challenging prospect choosing the five best candidates given the high quality of applications we receive year-after-year. I am very grateful for the rigour and dedication of the selection panel and am confident that all the five Rhodes Scholars-elect are exceptionally bright and are truly capable of making the most of the time they will spend at the University of Oxford."

The Rhodes Trust provides the Rhodes Scholarships in partnership with the Second Century Founder, John McCall MacBain and other generous benefactors. The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting outstanding all-round students and enable two to three years (depending on the academic route taken) of study at the University of Oxford, the oldest and amongst the most prestigious universities in the world. The Rhodes Scholarships aspire to create 'leaders for the world's future' and are achievement-based awards open to students with proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard who show exceptional character, leadership, achievement in extra-curricular activities and a commitment to service in the public good. Since Independence, there have been 207 Rhodes Scholars from India. This illustrious list includes prominent personalities such as Olympian Ranjit Bhatia, playwright Girish Karnad, and economist Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

Each year, five Indian Scholars are selected on the basis of their intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service, to join 84 other Rhodes Scholars from around the world at the University of Oxford. The Rhodes Scholarships, which were instituted under the will of Cecil Rhodes in 1902, include all university and college fees for two to three years (depending on the academic route taken), an annual stipend of approximately £13,658, health insurance and travel expenses to the University of Oxford before the start of the programme and a return ticket following the course of study. Studying at the University of Oxford will give the chosen Scholars access to world class academics in their field as well as an international alumni network that includes heads of state, Pulitzer Prize winning authors, Nobel Prize winners and Olympians.

More information about the Rhodes Scholarships and the Rhodes Scholarships for India 2016 can be found at <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/india>.

Brief profiles of the Rhodes Scholars-elect from India 2016:

Ms. Rishika Sahgal is a final year law student at the **National Law University, Delhi**. She intends to read for a B.C.L. at the University of Oxford.

Ms. Bahuli Sharma is a final year law student at the **Faculty of Law, University of Delhi**. She intends to read for a B.C.L. at the University of Oxford.

Ms. Rene Verma is a final year History student at **St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi**. She intends to read for an M.St. in Film Aesthetics and an M.St. in Women's Studies at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Arijit Patra is a final year (B.Tech/M.Tech - dual degree) student at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**. He intends to read for a M.Sc. in Environmental Change & Management at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Suhas Mahesh is a final year Physics student at **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**. He intends to pursue a D. Phil in Condensed Matter Physics at the University of Oxford.

For More Information:

Professor Virander Chauhan
The Secretary
The Rhodes Scholarships in India