



From Humble Beginnings to IIT Roorkee: How Bihar's Ved Arya's Grit Led Him to Success

Ved Arya's journey from Jamui, Bihar is testimony to the power of hard work, sacrifice, and hope. Raised in a modest home with limited resources, he found inspiration in the most unexpected place: a neighbour who was an IIT graduate. His neighbour's story ignited a spark in Ved, the belief that education could be a pathway to a better life. After finishing Class 10, Ved knew he had to move to Kota for better coaching for the JEE exam if he was to have any chance of getting into an IIT. But the cost of coaching and living expenses in Kota were a challenge, leading his parents to turn to relatives for help. After months of hard work, Ved finally secured admission to IIT Roorkee, one of the most respected institutes in the country. While it was a moment of celebration, the financial burden of paying the first semester fees became another hurdle.

That is when his college informed him about the Bharti Airtel Scholarship Program. The scholarship would not only provide him with a laptop but also cover his entire fees, allowing him to continue his education without financial stress. For Ved, this scholarship was more than just financial help. It gave him the confidence and motivation to push forward, knowing his hard work wasn't in vain. As Ved continues his B. Tech. in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, his focus is on the future. After completing his degree, he plans to get a job in his field to support his family. His aspiration is to become an IAS officer so that he can create positive change in his community, helping others overcome the barriers that limit their dreams.

The Bharti Airtel Scholarship, designed to support meritorious students from underprivileged backgrounds, covers tuition fees, provides laptops, and offers mentorship opportunities to help Bharti Scholars excel academically and professionally. By easing financial burdens and fostering a culture of learning, the program empowers students to pursue higher education, develop critical skills, and become future leaders in their respective fields.

About Bharti Airtel Foundation

Bharti Airtel Foundation was set up in the year 2000 as the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises with a vision, 'To help underprivileged children and youth of our country realise their potential'. The Foundation works in the space of holistic quality education in rural India with a special focus on the girl child; and also supports Higher Education programs in partnership with premier institutions. Since 2006, the flagship Satya Bharti School Program has been providing free quality education to thousands of underprivileged children in 164 schools of rural India across four states. At present over 37,000 children are enrolled in Satya Bharti Schools of which over 50% are girls. The impact of quality education has been widened by transferring the learning and good practices of this program to more than 4 lakh students studying in 1,000 partner government schools across 12 States/UTs, through the Quality Support Program (QSP), since 2013. In addition, Bharti Airtel Foundation was invited by several education officers at district and state levels to scale up some of the initiatives through QSP State Partnerships. The Foundation's recently launched initiative, TheTeacherApp, is one of the most innovative technology solutions for teachers and educators in the country. Satya Bharti Abhiyan, the sanitation initiative, from 2014 till 2021, has benefitted over 2 lakh beneficiaries by improving sanitation conditions in the districts of Punjab, providing access to toilets and by fostering behavioural change in communities. The Foundation has been able to impact over 3 million children in a meaningful manner through its education programs since inception.

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