



Bharti Airtel
Foundation

MONTHLY CONNECT

September 2026



Monthly Spotlight

Celebrating 10 Years of Transforming Education: Bharti Airtel Foundation and Army Goodwill Schools (AGS) celebrated a decade-long partnership, marking 10 years of strengthening quality education and future-ready learning across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. What began in 2016 with support for 14 schools has now expanded to all 43 AGS institutions, driving systemic improvements in school leadership, governance, teaching practices, and student outcomes. The milestone event, held at Army Goodwill Public School, Pahalgam, was attended by Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command and Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Airtel Foundation. Over the years, the collaboration has empowered educators through continuous professional development and expanded opportunities for students through scholarships, exposure visits, and innovation programs. With more than 160 student-led projects supported through Innovation Clubs and global recognition for schools such as AGS Wuzur, the renewed partnership reaffirms a shared commitment to nurturing future-ready learners. Members of the Bharti Airtel Foundation Governing Board also attended the event and visited AGS Hanzik and AGS Wuzur and interacted with students, teachers, and school leaders.



Inspiring Young Minds: During a visit to Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Sherpur Kalan, Ludhiana, Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal interacted with students, teachers, and community members, gaining firsthand insight into the school's learning environment and its impact on young learners. Engaging with students across classrooms and innovation spaces, including the robotics lab, Mr. Mittal witnessed the curiosity, enthusiasm, and aspirations that define the school community. Addressing the students, he emphasised the importance of joyful learning, encouraging them to "smile more and laugh louder."

Creating Early Pathways to Careers in Design, Fashion, Footwear, and Retail: Bharti Airtel Foundation signed an MoU with the Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, to provide students from Satya Bharti Schools and partner government schools with opportunities for career exploration, experiential learning, and skill development. Aligned with the vision of NEP 2020, the partnership will offer exposure through projects, competitions, internships, and interactions with FDDI's academic and industry ecosystem. Through this collaboration, thousands of students across multiple states will gain exposure to emerging opportunities in design, fashion, footwear, and retail while building creativity, innovation, and design-thinking skills that can support future career and higher education pathways.



HIGHLIGHTS

Satya Bharti Schools

Satya Bharti Schools Shine at National Critical Thinking Championship

2026: Students from Satya Bharti Schools achieved a remarkable milestone at the AM/NS India Times Critical Thinking Championship (TCTC) 2026, one of India's largest critical thinking competitions for students from Classes III to XII. Designed to assess essential 21st-century skills such as logical reasoning, problem-solving, analysis, and independent thinking, the championship attracted participation from over 10 lakh students representing more than 20,000 schools across the country. Among the 140 students selected for the National Semi-Final stage, six students from Satya Bharti Schools earned a place, including two from Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary Schools, Chogawan and Fattubhila, three from Rajasthan, and one from Uttar Pradesh. This noteworthy achievement is made even more significant by the fact that all six are girls from rural communities. Their success reflects the impact of quality education in building confidence, critical thinking, and leadership skills among young learners. The achievement also underscores Satya Bharti Schools' commitment to nurturing future-ready students who are equipped to question, analyse, and succeed in an increasingly complex world.



Secondary Education Scholarships Recognise Academic Excellence: The Bharti Airtel Foundation selected 106 Secondary Education Scholarship recipients from among meritorious students graduating from Satya Bharti Elementary Schools. Selection was based on a centrally administered entrance test covering quantitative aptitude, logical reasoning, English language, and general awareness. Among the selected scholars, 68% were from Rajasthan and 32% from Punjab.

Young Author Turns Creativity into Success: A remarkable achievement by Harkeerat Kaur, a Class VII student of Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Jhaneri, showcases the power of perseverance and creativity. After participating in a book-writing competition last year, Harkeerat returned with renewed determination and authored six books, of which four have been published. Her work has not only earned recognition but also generated ₹4,000 in earnings, along with an additional Amazon reward offer. Harkeerat's inspiring journey highlights how persistence, imagination, and hard work can transform ideas into meaningful accomplishments.



Sporting Excellence Brings Recognition Across Satya Bharti Schools: Students from Satya Bharti Schools continued to excel in sports, with over 30 students participating in various state-level championships across multiple sports disciplines. A notable achievement came at the State-Level Rugby Tournament held in Barnala, where three students from Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Jhaneri delivered an exceptional performance while representing the Sangrur team. Their outstanding efforts earned them a gold medal in the U-19 Boys category.



Quality Support Program (QSP)

Win at the ARISE Excellence Awards Marks a Proud Milestone: At the ARISE School Excellence Awards 2026, organised by FICCI, over 400 schools participated, including around 200 government schools. Of the 28 national awards presented, 12 were won by government schools supported by the Bharti Airtel Foundation's Quality Support Program (QSP). QSP-supported schools secured nine major recognitions, including six category awards and three Special Jury Awards, across areas such as Experiential Learning, Sports, Digital Transformation, Sustainable Development Goals, and Visual & Performing Arts. National winners included schools from Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan.



Building Life Skills Capacity Across Jammu & Kashmir: Bharti Airtel Foundation, in partnership with SCERT Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded a five-day Life Skills Curriculum Capacity Building Program across all 20 districts of J&K. The initiative brought together 1,602 educators and education functionaries, including 841 participants from the Jammu Division and 761 from the Kashmir Division, in a concerted effort to strengthen the integration of life skills in school education. The program equipped teachers to serve as Key Resource Persons, enabling them to further support educators through a cascade model of training. Focusing on experiential learning, classroom integration and the 10 core life skills, the sessions reinforced practical approaches to fostering students' social, emotional and life competencies.



Math & Spell Wizard Competitions Celebrate Student Achievement

Across States: Bharti Airtel Foundation successfully concluded the Math & Spell Wizard Competitions across Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya, providing students with opportunities to strengthen their numeracy, language, and problem-solving skills. The competitions celebrated academic excellence, confidence-building, and joyful learning, while also showcasing the strong performance of government schools supported under the Quality Support Program. Highlights included the first-ever Wizard Series in Sikkim, where 97 students from 15 schools participated in the Pakyong block-level competition; over 1,300 students participated across nine blocks in Assam; and more than 100 students in Malihabad block, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In Shimla, the competition engaged 2,475 Class VIII students from 99 schools, culminating in district-level finals featuring 196 students from 50 schools. In Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya, 94 block-level winners from 34 schools competed at the district level. Together, these events provided a platform for students to showcase their abilities, build confidence, and develop critical thinking and communication skills.





Students Explore Learning Beyond the Classroom: Students from government schools supported under QSP continue to demonstrate the value of experiential learning through outdoor, leadership, and enrichment activities. In Jharkhand, NCC cadets of R. Mitra District CM School of Excellence, Deoghar successfully scaled one of the state's highest peaks, testing their endurance, teamwork, and perseverance.

In Himachal Pradesh, students at GSSS Adwani participated in an NSS camp featuring a sky-gazing session, where many observed the Moon and its craters through a telescope for the first time, along with life skills and career guidance sessions. Together, these experiences encouraged students to build confidence and develop skills that extend beyond the classroom.

Also, young learners in Punjab and Delhi embarked on an exciting journey into the world of astronomy with the launch of new Astronomy Clubs. From sky-watching sessions through telescopes and tracking stars using mobile apps to engaging quizzes and documentary screenings, students explored the wonders of the universe while nurturing curiosity, scientific temperament, and a love for discovery.

TheTeacherApp

TheTeacherApp Reaches 300,000+ Educators Nationwide: Building on a growing community of over 300,000 educators and 100,000 monthly active users, Bharti Airtel Foundation continued to expand the reach of TheTeacherApp across states. In collaboration with district administrations, education departments, and NITI Aayog, the platform was expanded to Ri Bhoi (Meghalaya), Ferozepur (Punjab), and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Launched in the presence of district and education authorities, these initiatives introduced educators to TheTeacherApp's AI-powered tools, expert-led content, innovative pedagogical resources, and continuous professional development opportunities. Reflecting the platform's growing reach and engagement, TheTeacherApp's YouTube channel also crossed 200,000+ subscribers, further strengthening its role as a trusted learning and professional development resource for educators across the country.



Bharti Airtel Foundation and Pratham Education Foundation Partner to Strengthen Teacher Support: Bharti Airtel Foundation has partnered with Pratham to expand access to high-quality teaching and learning resources through TheTeacherApp, reinforcing its commitment to strengthening teacher development across the country. The collaboration will make Pratham's curated content in Mathematics, Science, English, and General Studies available to educators nationwide, enabling teachers to access practical, classroom-ready resources with greater ease.



Podcast Episodes Spotlight Voices Shaping Education: September saw the release of two new episodes of TheTeacherApp Podcast, bringing together influential education leaders and practitioners to explore the opportunities and challenges shaping learning today. In one episode, Mr. Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Basic & Secondary Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, shared insights on improving learning outcomes at scale, highlighting the importance of foundational literacy and numeracy, school leadership, teacher well-being, and the vision of NEP 2020.

To mark Teachers' Day, TheTeacherApp also launched a special panel discussion featuring six educators from diverse backgrounds and experience levels. The conversation explored the evolving role of teachers in an AI-enabled world, the value of co-curricular learning, classroom practices that drive student engagement, and the often-unseen work educators undertake beyond the classroom. Together, the episodes highlighted the dedication, expertise, and impact of teachers while fostering meaningful dialogue on the future of education.



TheTeacherApp Orientation Expands Reach in Pakyong:

TheTeacherApp Orientation was conducted in Pakyong Block, Sikkim, bringing together 39 Heads of Institutions and teachers from both partner and non-partner schools. The session provided participants with a comprehensive overview of TheTeacherApp's features, including teaching resources, classroom strategies, expert-led video content, and professional development modules. Distinguished education officials attended the orientation, which also introduced CONVOKE 2026, generating significant interest among participants. Held at a non-partner school, the session underscored the Foundation's commitment to expanding access to quality teaching resources and encouraging wider adoption of TheTeacherApp across the education community.

Higher Education and Scholarships

Strengthening Connections Through Mentorship: The Bharti Scholars Future Leaders Program reached an important milestone with the successful completion of rapport-building and initial mentoring sessions, engaging 97 scholars through coach-facilitated interactions. Focused on building trust, understanding aspirations, and establishing meaningful mentor-mentee relationships, these sessions laid a strong foundation for the journey ahead. To further strengthen the program, the Foundation team engaged with the Airtel Digital leadership team to align on the mentoring framework and expectations. A mentor-coach workshop scheduled for the first week of October will further equip mentors and enrich the overall mentoring experience for scholars.



Learning with Leaders: Building Your Professional Brand

As part of the *Learning with Leaders* series, Bharti Scholars participated in an insightful session on “Personal Branding & LinkedIn Optimisation” led by Ms. Ranjini Chalam, Head – Corporate Communication & CSR, Indus Towers Ltd. The session equipped scholars with practical strategies to build a compelling professional identity, strengthen their digital presence, and leverage LinkedIn effectively for career growth, networking, and future opportunities. From creating impactful profiles to showcasing achievements authentically, the session inspired scholars to take charge of their professional journey and stand out in an increasingly connected world.



Cross-cutting

Launch of CONVOKE 2026 to Spotlight Educator-Led Innovation:

Bharti Airtel Foundation has launched CONVOKE 2026, a national platform designed to bring together educators and teacher trainees to share research, showcase classroom innovations, and contribute to shaping the future of learning. The initiative celebrates evidence-based practices and practitioner-led insights, creating opportunities for educators to learn from one another and drive meaningful improvements in teaching and learning. Reinforcing the belief that teachers are not merely implementers of change but also creators of it, the initiative invites educators from across the country to present their work, exchange knowledge, and inspire better learning outcomes for all. Applications are now open on TheTeacherApp, with submissions closing on 15 November 2026, followed by the evaluation round in December 2026 and the national round in January 2027.



AI and the Future of Learning: Ms. Nuriya Ansari, CEO, Bharti Airtel Foundation, participated in a panel discussion on “Tech, AI & the Future of Learning” at the Clear Cut Education Summit 2026 held in New Delhi. Speaking alongside leaders from the education and development sectors, she emphasised that technology delivers the greatest impact when it empowers teachers and strengthens learning outcomes rather than replacing human connections in the classroom. Drawing on the Foundation’s experience and the growing reach of TheTeacherApp, she highlighted the importance of inclusive, responsible AI adoption and reiterated that teachers must remain at the centre of the education transformation journey.

Bharti Airtel Foundation in News



About Bharti Airtel Foundation

Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, is committed to strengthening India's education ecosystem at scale. For over 25 years, it has built an integrated model spanning high-quality rural schools, systemic strengthening of government schools, national teacher development infrastructure, and fully funded access to premier higher education. Since inception, the Foundation has reached more than 7.8 million individuals, including 4.3 million students, reflecting Bharti's sustained commitment to nation-building through human capital development.



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