



Anjali Scholarship 2026-27

The scholarships, spanning 23 years, recognize, support, and nurture meritorious students with disabilities, enabling them to pursue higher education and professional careers despite systemic barriers of poverty, social stigma, and accessibility. The scholarship has evolved from a small, donor-supported initiative into a flagship empowerment program for youth with disabilities in Odisha, creating ripple effects across India.

Vision

To advance equitable opportunities for meritorious students with disabilities by supporting their pursuit of higher education and professional careers.

Mission

To provide scholarships, mentorship, and holistic support that enable students with disabilities to access higher education and professional opportunities.



REFLECTIONS FROM DR. SRUTI MOHAPATRA'S DAIRY

Anjali Scholarship 2026-27: Twenty Three Years of Believing in Dreams

On 6 September, we interviewed applicants for the 2026 27 Anjali Scholarships. For me, it was much more than a selection process. It took me back to 2003, when we began with one simple belief: disability should never decide how far a young person can go.

I have always believed education is more than a degree or a job. It is about discovering potential, gaining confidence, living with dignity and expanding one's world.

Over the years, I have seen this transformation in our scholars.

Purna Chandra Das once told us that the scholarship allowed him to focus on music and studies instead of worrying about his mess bills. Today, he is a music teacher in a Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Babai Nandi lost his sight after a severe reaction to medication. He learnt Braille within a month, completed his post graduation, pursued a PhD and cleared UGC NET JRF on his first attempt. Today, he is Asst. Professor Political Science in a government college, trains teachers in Braille and teaches economically weaker students for free.

Lokanath Das lost his father in Class 10 and struggled financially to continue his education. Anjali supported his college and hostel expenses. Today, he is a teacher at Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya and has used his knowledge of rights to secure a fair posting through an RTI.

This year, more than 300 young people applied. After rigorous scrutiny, 103 were called for interviews and 79 appeared. We formed eight boards with disability experts, subject specialists, professionals, psychologists, governing body members, former volunteers and sign language interpreters.

We gave each applicant time to overcome nervousness and speak about their dreams.

Finally, 40 scholars have been shortlisted, with 18 on the waiting list. Among them are young people like Baraja Kumar Das, who has a 90% locomotor disability, qualified NEET and, after being denied medical admission because of disability related policies, redirected his dream towards science and medical research. He is now pursuing an M.Sc. in Physics and preparing for the civil services.

The orientation will be held on 29 September.

The greatest reward of Anjali is not the number of scholarships we give. It is seeing young people who once needed someone to believe in them become people who believe in themselves and in others.

The journey that began in 2003 continues, nurturing confidence, dignity, possibility and the courage to dream.

That, to me, is the true meaning of education.



(Dr. Sruti Mohapatra)
Founder & CEO, Swabhimani
Festival Director, Anjali

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Outreach

- Information leaflets were designed and shared across various colleges and on social media platforms.
- Interested students were invited to apply through a Google Form.

2. Shortlisting

- Step 1
 - Incomplete applications after discussion with candidates are discarded on the basis of unsatisfactory or fraudulent responses.
- Step 2
 - Rest applications were screened based on predefined criteria, including:
 - Income background (ensuring support for those with financial need).
 - Academic merit (performance in previous examinations).
 - Disability percentage (students with disabilities across diverse categories).

3. Interview Process

- Shortlisted candidates were invited for interviews.
- Assessment was done on understanding of their own disability, their aims, aspiration; how they faced their educational challenges and sorted their path; and dreams.
- Interview boards comprising experts from diverse fields evaluated the candidates.
- Each jury member independently scored the candidates, with final selection based on cumulative scores.

4. Final Selection

- Out of 302 applicants, 40 scholars were selected for the 2026-27 cohort.
- The selection ensured diversity across disabilities, gender, academic interests, and socio-economic backgrounds.

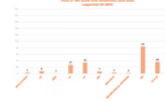
IMPACT | ABOUT US | OUR PROGRAMMES | GET INVOLVED | REACH OUT
 ANJALI FESTIVAL | SAKSHAM | RURAL SAKSHAM | COVID-19 RESPONSE

Anjali Festival, Anjali Scholarships for College Students, Teacher Support to Special Schools, Saksham Educational Support for School Students from Slums, Audio Books Production and Braille Books Printing are some of the components of this program.

Project Highlights.

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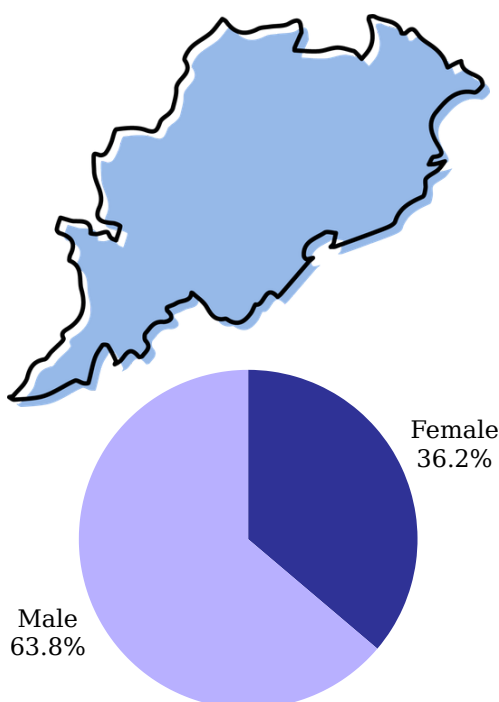
Scholarships



Scholarships are awarded to meritorious students with disabilities who are unable to support their college education. Scholarship amount enables the purchase of books, payment of mess fees, transport expenses and such expenses which are necessary but not provided by college authorities. A total of 316 youth with disabilities have been supported till 2020.

Apply Now

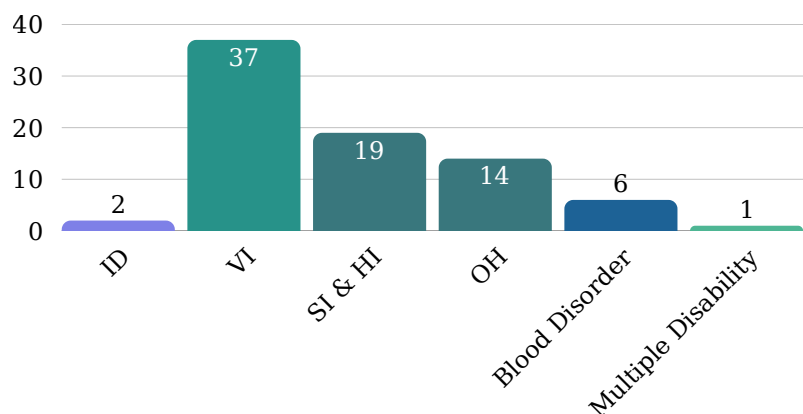
ANJALI SCHOLAR 2024-2025



302 meritorious students

Applied from all **30** districts of Odisha

Attended Interview



INTERVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

Eight Interview Boards were constituted.

Interview Board 1	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Shri Kamal Kanta Rath (Chairperson)	Eminent Odia Cartoonist President of Paralympic Odisha
Shri Krupasindhu Barik	Lect.in Ceramics, BK College of Art & Crafts
Interview Board 2	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Smt Dipti Mohanty (Chairperson)	Founder & Head Whiz Kidz Pre School
Shri Swadhin Kumar Khatua	Tata Steel Employee Social Worker
Dr. Ashutosh Mallick	Asst. Prof. Odia, BJB College
Smt Tarini Prava	Child Psychologist
Interview Board 3	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Dr. Sangita Gosain (Chairperson)	Renowned Odishi Vocalist and Scholar
Sri Purna Chandra Das	Music Teacher Kendriya Vidyalaya 1
Smt Madhulita Parida	Renowned Odishi Singer
Interview Board 4	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Shri Sarthak Patnaik (Chairperson)	Scientist, Exide Energy Solutions Ltd
Ms Meera Prusty	JKBK Govt. College
Smt Gayatri Kar	Teacher, Mothers Public School



INTERVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

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Interview Board 5	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Smt Sridutta Bhol (Chairperson)	Professional Odishi Dancer and Guru
Shri Pabita Kumar Pradhan	Professional Odishi Dancer and Guru
Interview Board 6	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Shri Asit Behera (Chairperson)	Consultant, Sightsavers India
Ms Anwasha Ambaly	Senior Manager, Jindal Stainless
Shri Devasish	Faculty Computer Science (HI) Member Swabhimani
Interview Board 7	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Dr. Tapas Das (Chairperson)	Doctor & Educator
Commodore Ajay Kumar Patnaik	Retired Indian Navy Officer Member Swabhimani
Dr. Soma Mishra	Guest Faculty, XIMB
Sushree Sudipta Mishra	Special Educator, OLS Member Swabhimani
Interview Board 8	
Name & Designation	Present Occupation
Dr. Sruti Mohapatra	Founder & CEO, Swabhimani
Shri Partha Sarathi Samal	Scaled Contract Manager, HubSpot, Hyderabad



Sponsorships Needed for 2026-27
40 scholarships @30000 per student per annum

GLIMPSES OF THE INTERVIEW



Scholar Enrichment Sessions

As part of the program, Enrichment Sessions are conducted throughout the year (approximately 1-2 per month). These sessions aim at preparing Anjali scholars for competitive examinations and guiding them toward meaningful career goals.

Sample Sessions Conducted:

- Sri. Sambit Das, visually impaired banker, provided insights into political, geographic and economic trends; and current events.
- Dr. Sruti Mohapatra focuses on disability rights, laws, facilities and entitlements; International events
- Sri. Sarthak Pattnaik guides on career opportunities Post-HSC and Graduation, tips for competitive exams, vocational training, and higher education.
- Dr. Tapas Das focus on career counselling; health, nutritional and well-being.
- These interactive classes build knowledge, mentorship, and empowerment, equipping scholars with confidence and clarity in making academic and professional choices.

Role of Sponsors

- The Anjali Scholarship Program is supported through generous sponsorships, which cover:
- Scholarships for deserving students.
- Resource person fee for enrichment classes.
- Assistive support like interpreters, accessible study material, and digital tools.
- Career guidance & mentorship programs.
- Sponsors not only provide financial support but also contribute to shaping a more inclusive and equitable educational ecosystem. Every month a flyer with progress report is sent to all sponsors.

LIST OF SELECTED ANJALI SCHOLARS 2025-26

SL NO	NAME	AGE	GENDER	DISABILITY CATEGORY	DISABILITY %	COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
1	Saipriya Patra	20	F	S&HI	76%	BK College of Art & Craft
2	Amita Bachan Naik	25	M	LD	60%	BK College of Art & Craft
3	Jaydev Samal	27	M	HI	100%	BK College of Art & Craft
4	Biswajit Roy	25	M	HI	100%	BK College of Art & Craft
5	Gorekhnath Dalai	23	M	LD	70%	Dhauri Art College
6	Binali Manjil Pradhan	17	F	Thalasemia	60%	BK College of Art & Craft
7	Sugyan Kumar Mahanty	21	M	VI	100%	RNIASE, Cuttack
8	Tulasi Sahoo	25	F	VI	100%	BJB Autonomous College
9	Dipa Tripathy	22	M	VI	100%	Ramadevi Womens University
10	Debajani Pahadasingh	21	F	LD	40%	SCS College, Puri
11	Kalpataru Das	24	M	VI	100%	BJB Autonomous College
12	Asit Mohapatra	18	M	VI	100%	BJB Autonomous College
13	Sarada Prasasanna Rout	21	M	ASD	60%	Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya
14	Gitanjali Nayak	24	F	VI	100%	BJB Autonomous College
15	Umakanta Das	18	M	VI	100%	Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya
16	Amit Mohapatra	18	M	HI	100%	BJB Autonomous College
17	Shreedhar Barik	26	M	LD	100%	Ph.D. Preparation
18	Baraj Kumar Das	26	M	LD	90%	Rajdhani College
19	Anuska Rout	20	F	LD	45%	BJB Autonomous College
20	Janmejaya Rana	17	M	LD	60%	Mahamaya Higher Secondary College
21	Liza Rani Das	22	F	HI	100%	Special ITI Jatani
22	Bunu Behera	23	M	HI	100%	Special ITI Jatani
23	Nayani Munda	16	F	HI	93%	Nrutya Upasana Pitha
24	Puspanjali Behera	21	M	HI	100%	Nrutya Upasana Pitha
25	Debasis Naik	19	M	VI	98%	Nrutya Upasana Pitha
26	Sonu Subham Mahanand	26	M	VI	100%	Nrutya Upasana Pitha
27	Anjali Kadraka	18	F	VI	90%	Nrutya Upasana Pitha
28	Abhinash Soura	21	M	VI	80%	Ravenshaw University
29	Akash Barik	22	M	VI	80%	Ravenshaw University
30	Binayak Patra	20	M	VI	70%	Ravenshaw University
31	Sunil Kumar Sahu	22	M	VI	100%	Ravenshaw University
32	Chandra Sekhar Das	24	M	VI	80%	College of Teacher Education, Balasore

LIST OF SELECTED ANJALI SCHOLARS 2026-27

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33	Prativa Pradhan	17	F	LD	65%	Gangapada Adyanta College, Khordha
34	Basudeba Naik	23	M	VI	80%	Ravenshaw University
35	Devpriya Badatya	21	F	VI	100%	Ravenshaw University
36	Sankar Sahu	21	M	VI	100%	Ravenshaw University
37	Raj Kumar Satpathy	18	M	VI	100%	SVM Autonomous College
38	Amita Sahoo	19	F	S&HI	100%	AYJNISHD(D)
39	Lipa Das	19	F	VI	100%	Ramadevi Womens University
40	Nitish Kumar Roul	20	M	LD	55%	Sri Sri University



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