

“The Rhodes Scholarship”



Weekly Learnings 26 / 2025

Archana Dutta invited me to the Rhodes event yesterday. it was a lovely evening that spurred me to learn about the Rhodes Scholarship in the #26 learning note.

1. The Rhodes Scholarship is one of the most prestigious in the world. They gave 104 scholarships in 2025 across 25 countries and 29 nationalities. One can get a Scholarship across 31 disciplines. India has 6, China 4 and the USA 30 in this list of 2025.
2. Academic excellence coupled with leadership abilities are the key to getting through.
3. The scholarship started in 1903 thanks to Cecil Rhodes.
4. Cecil Rhodes was a British south African citizen. He was the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony between 1890 and 1896. He dreamt of a Cape to Cairo railway network. He owned the De Beers diamond company. His apartheid record was poor. His estate funds the scholarship.
5. Many eminent people have been Rhodes scholars incl President Clinton.
6. "Fighting the world's fight " is the motto
7. It takes about 5 million pounds to get one scholarship. India got the 6 th thanks to Mukund Rajan and his wife Soumya. Rhodes now gives naming rights and this 6 th india Scholarship is called " The Dr Radhakrishnan Rajan " Scholarship. Kudos to them.
8. Arghya Sengupta moderated an erudite panel comprising Menaka Guruswamy, Sanjeev Sanyal, Atishi Marlena and Anish Gawande. They spoke on India culture and symbolism. The conversation was broad and India focused and cut across party ideology.
9. Sir Rick Trainor , ex Rhodes scholar and current Warden of the Rhodes House and CEO Rhodes Trust hosted the event.

Pictures attached with Sir Rick and Archana, panel discussion.

Maybe someone you know could be the next Rhodes Scholar!!

Shiv

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The Right Honourable
Cecil Rhodes



Rhodes in 1900





