Six researchers win the Infosys Prize 2026

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News

The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the Infosys Prize 2026 in Bengaluru on 12 Nov 2026. Each of the six winners gets a gold medal, a citation and US$100,000 (about ₹88 lakh). The jury chairs include Kaushik Basu and Shrinivas Kulkarni.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Economics	Karthik Sastry, Princeton University – climate change, innovation, business cycles
Engineering & Computer Science	Swarun Kumar, Carnegie Mellon University – low-power wireless networks
Humanities & Social Sciences	Gautam Bhatia, Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global Law School, and Green Fellow, UNSW Sydney – constitutional law (five books)
Life Sciences	Isha Jain, Gladstone Institutes and UC San Francisco – oxygen biology: showed that some tissue damage in mitochondrial disease comes from excess oxygen, not energy failure
Mathematical Sciences	Riddhipratim Basu, ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru – probability and statistical physics; solved the "slow-bond problem"

Point	Details
Physical Sciences	Manoj Kumar Joshi, Singapore University of Technology and Design – trapped ions, quantum machines

Background

- ISF was set up in 2009 by Infosys and its founders; the prize honours research that has an impact on India.
- Since 2024 the prize is only for researchers under 40.
- Infosys was founded in 1981 in Pune by N.R. Narayana Murthy and six others; its headquarters is in Bengaluru.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Economics: Karthik Sastry, Princeton University – climate change, innovation, business cycles; Engineering & Computer Science: Swarun Kumar, Carnegie Mellon University – low-power wireless networks; Humanities & Social Sciences: Gautam Bhatia, Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global Law School, and Green Fellow, UNSW Sydney – constitutional law (five books); Life Sciences: Isha Jain, Gladstone Institutes and UC San Francisco – oxygen biology: showed that some tissue damage in mitochondrial disease comes from excess oxygen, not energy failure.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who won the Infosys Prize 2026 in Economics?

A) Karthik Sastry

B) Gautam Bhatia

C) Swarun Kumar

D) Riddhipratim Basu

Answer: A – Explanation: Karthik Sastry of Princeton University, for work on climate change, innovation and business cycles.

2. What prize money does each Infosys Prize winner receive?

A) US$50,000

B) US$75,000

C) US$100,000

D) US$250,000

Answer: C – Explanation: A gold medal, a citation and US$100,000 (or rupee equivalent).

3. In which year was the Infosys Science Foundation, which gives the prize, set up?

A) 2005

B) 2012

C) 2016

D) 2009

Answer: D – Explanation: The foundation was set up in 2009 and gives prizes in six fields; since 2024 only researchers under 40 are eligible.

4. Infosys Prize 2026: which pair is correct?

A) Isha Jain – Physics

B) Gautam Bhatia – Humanities & Social Sci.

C) Swarun Kumar – Mathematics

D) Manoj Joshi – Life Sciences

Answer: B – Explanation: Gautam Bhatia – constitutional law; Isha Jain – Life Sciences (oxygen biology); Swarun Kumar – Engineering & CS; Manoj Kumar Joshi – Physical Sciences (quantum); Riddhipratim Basu – Mathematics.

5. Since 2024, what is the age limit for the Infosys Prize?

A) Under 35

B) Under 45

C) Under 40

D) Under 50

Answer: C – Explanation: Since 2024 it goes only to researchers under 40, to back young talent.

Sources: ISF–Infosys press release (12 Nov 2026); Deccan Herald. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.