



From Financial Insecurity to Scientific Research: How NFSC Support Empowered Mallela Pruthvi Raju

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For students from economically marginalised families, pursuing advanced education and research can be difficult without a steady source of financial support. Timely fellowship assistance can provide the stability needed to continue academic work and progress towards a professional career.

Demonstrating the impact of support under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme, Shri Mallela Pruthvi Raju, a 34-year-old scholar belonging to the SC-III community, overcame severe financial hardship to complete his Ph.D. and advance towards a career in scientific research.

Coming from a very poor financial background, Shri Raju had no steady income to support his education. During his academic journey, he also faced administrative hesitancy and subtle discrimination from university authorities while seeking the signatures required for the monthly and half-yearly processing of his fellowship.

Despite these difficulties, Shri Raju remained committed to his academic and professional goals. He aspired to build a successful career as a research scientist and continued preparing himself for scientific positions.

Shri Raju received fellowship assistance under the NFSC Scheme from December 2019 to December 2024. The support comprised ₹37,000 per month during the Junior Research Fellowship stage and ₹42,000 per month during the Senior Research Fellowship stage.

The fellowship became his sole financial lifeline. It transformed his circumstances from absolute financial insecurity to steady financial independence by covering his academic, research and basic living expenses.

With this support, Shri Raju was able to overcome economic hardship, remain focused on his research and successfully complete his Ph.D.

Shri Raju is currently working as a Project Scientist at HCU. He continues to prepare for scientific positions and is progressing towards his long-term aspiration of establishing himself as a full-time research scientist.

The NFSC Scheme helped transform a period of severe financial strain into one of academic achievement and professional advancement. The fellowship enabled him to complete advanced education without abandoning his research ambitions.

SUCCESS STORY

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS (NFSC)

FROM FINANCIAL INSECURITY TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

SHRI MALLELA PRUTHVI RAJU

34 YEARS | SC-III | Ph.D.

**NFSC SUPPORT**

- JRF: ₹37,000 per month
- SRF: ₹42,000 per month
- Support: Dec 2019–Dec 2024



**MALLELA PRUTHVI RAJU**

**CHALLENGE**

Severe financial hardship and administrative hurdles.

**SCHEME SUPPORT**

Fellowship covered academic, research and basic living expenses.

**ACHIEVEMENT**

Completed Ph.D. and published three research papers.

**CURRENT ROLE**

Project Scientist at HCU, aspiring to become a research scientist.

“

The fellowship was my sole lifeline. It enabled me to overcome financial hardship, complete my Ph.D. and advance as a Project Scientist.

”

— SHRI MALLELA PRUTHVI RAJU

SUPPORTING RESEARCH.

ADVANCING ASPIRATIONS.

EMPOWERING SCHOLARS.

His academic perseverance also resulted in the publication of three research papers, reflecting his continued engagement with scientific research.

The published papers are available at the following links:

1. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-023-27100-3>.
2. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2025.1604055>.
3. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-025-14670-7>.

Shri Raju's journey demonstrates how sustained fellowship assistance can enable scholars from economically marginalised communities to overcome financial barriers, complete doctoral research and progress towards careers in science.

Reflecting on the impact of the fellowship, Shri Raju said,

“I come from a very poor financial background, and this fellowship was my sole lifeline. It allowed me to overcome severe economic hardships, successfully complete my Ph.D. and advance to my current Project Scientist position.”

Through determination and support under the NFSC Scheme, Shri Mallela Pruthvi Raju progressed from financial insecurity to doctoral achievement and a position in scientific research. His journey reflects the important role of educational support in strengthening research aspirations and expanding professional opportunities.

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