



# From Rural Aspirations to GeoAI Excellence: Dr. Panchanan Das's Journey through Higher Education

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Education and innovation can open new pathways for individuals with the determination to learn and excel. Timely fellowship assistance can provide scholars with the stability and resources required to pursue advanced research and translate their knowledge into meaningful professional achievement.

**Demonstrating the impact of fellowship support, Dr. Panchanan Das, a 36-year-old scholar from the Scheduled Caste community, successfully completed his Ph.D. in Remote Sensing and GIS and built a career in geospatial technology.** His journey reflects perseverance, continuous learning and the role of institutional support in enabling academic and professional advancement.

Dr. Das was raised in a rural family that valued education and hard work. His father worked as a daily wage labourer and supported the family's educational and household needs. Inspired by his family's resilience, Dr. Das remained focused on acquiring knowledge, developing specialised skills and creating better opportunities for his family.

During his academic journey, he had to manage the costs of higher education, research activities and technical resources. Delays in receiving fellowship payments during his Ph.D. added pressure and made it more difficult to maintain continuity in his studies and research work.

Growing up in a rural area also meant comparatively limited access to advanced educational facilities, professional exposure and modern technology. Opportunities for specialised training, career guidance and industry networks in emerging fields such as GIS, Remote Sensing, Artificial Intelligence and GeoAI were not readily available.

Despite these circumstances, Dr. Das remained committed to his goals. He continued to strengthen his capabilities through self-learning, research and sustained effort while balancing family responsibilities with the demands of higher education and professional development.

**SUCCESS STORY**

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS (NFSC)

**FROM RURAL ASPIRATIONS TO GEOAI EXCELLENCE**

**DR. PANCHANAN DAS**

36 YEARS | SOFTWARE ENGINEER  
Ph.D. IN REMOTE SENSING AND GIS

**NFSC SUPPORT**

- Financial and fellowship assistance
- Support for Ph.D. studies and research
- Skill development and career advancement



**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
Government of India

**CHALLENGE**  
Managing higher education and research costs, with limited access to advanced resources.

**FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT**  
Assistance enabled continuity in Ph.D. studies, research and technical learning.

**ACHIEVEMENT**  
Completed a Ph.D. and built expertise in GIS, Remote Sensing, AI and GeoAI.

**ASPIRATION**  
To develop people-centric geospatial solutions for wider public benefit.

“ Education, perseverance and fellowship support enabled Dr. Das to turn rural aspirations into GeoAI excellence. ”

**EDUCATION.** | **INNOVATION.** | **ACHIEVEMENT.**

The scheme intervention provided financial, academic and fellowship support during his higher education and research. The assistance helped him continue his Ph.D., meet research-related requirements and enhance his technical skills in GIS, Remote Sensing, Artificial Intelligence, GeoAI and software engineering.

With the support received and his sustained dedication, Dr. Das successfully completed his Ph.D. in Remote Sensing and GIS. He is currently working with Uncharted AI as a Software Engineer and GeoAI Expert in Mapping and GIS, contributing to projects involving geospatial technologies, LiDAR and route optimisation.

His professional employment has enabled him to attain financial stability and support his family while continuing to grow in a specialised technology field. The transition from a rural academic environment to a career in GeoAI demonstrates how education and appropriate institutional assistance can expand professional opportunities.

Looking ahead, Dr. Das aspires to further develop his expertise in GeoAI and software engineering. He also aims to contribute to research and innovation through people-centric technological solutions in remote sensing, drone technology and geospatial analytics for wider public benefit.

Dr. Panchanan Das's journey highlights the transformative role of education, fellowship support and continuous skill development. His achievement stands as an inspiring example of ambition and perseverance strengthened by institutional support and professional opportunity.

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