National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students Enables Research Scholar to Complete Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding

Financial Assistance of Approximately ₹11 Lakh Under NFSC Scheme Supports Doctoral Research and Higher Education

Ms. Anjali Kumari Completes Ph.D. and Pursues Professional Career at APMC, Kangra Himachal Pradesh

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The academic and professional journey of 29 year research scholar **Ms. Anjali Kumari (name changed)** demonstrates how access to educational support can contribute to individual achievement, family advancement and wider social progress.

Through initiatives such as the NFSC Scheme, the Government of India remains committed to expanding opportunities for students from Scheduled Caste communities and enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development.

The National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, continues to facilitate access to higher education and advanced research opportunities for students from Scheduled Caste communities.

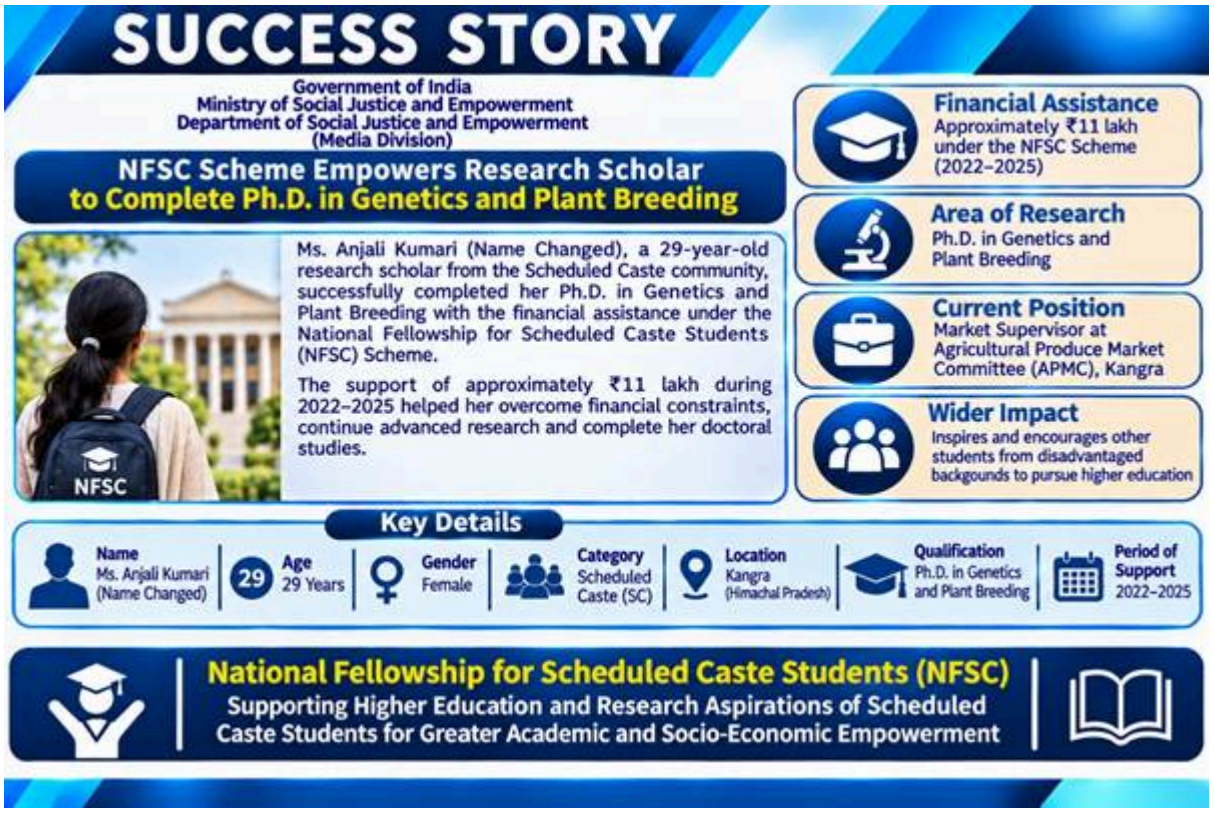
Demonstrating the positive impact of the Scheme, Ms. Anjali Kumari successfully completed her Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding with financial assistance of approximately ₹11 lakh received under the NFSC Scheme during 2022–2025.

Coming from a Scheduled Caste community, Ms. Anjali Kumari aspired to establish herself in the field of academics and scientific research. Despite her determination and academic commitment, financial constraints posed significant challenges in pursuing advanced studies. The substantial expenses associated with higher education and research, coupled with limited financial resources, created barriers to achieving her educational aspirations.

A significant turning point in her academic journey came through the financial assistance provided under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme. The support of approximately ₹11 lakh during 2022–2025 helped ease the financial burden

associated with her doctoral studies, enabling her to concentrate on academic learning, research activities and the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding.

Following the completion of her doctoral studies, Ms. Anjali Kumari is currently working as a Market Supervisor at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. Her academic achievement and professional progress reflect how targeted financial assistance can enable students from disadvantaged backgrounds to overcome economic barriers, develop specialised knowledge and pursue meaningful career opportunities.



The benefits of the Scheme have extended beyond her individual academic achievements. The financial assistance and subsequent professional opportunities have contributed to improving the socio-economic standing of her family, while strengthening her confidence and financial independence. Her journey highlights the importance of sustained institutional support in enabling students to realise their academic and professional potential.

Ms. Anjali Kumari has also been encouraging and supporting other students who aspire to pursue higher education but face financial difficulties. Drawing from her own experiences, she continues to motivate aspiring scholars to explore educational opportunities and pursue their academic goals with determination and confidence.

The National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students Scheme seeks to promote higher education among students belonging to Scheduled Caste communities by providing financial assistance for pursuing advanced studies and research. Through such interventions, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment continues to strengthen educational inclusion, promote academic excellence and create opportunities for socio-economic empowerment.

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