Strengthening Academic and Research Opportunities through National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students

Rajesh Kumar from Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, Pursue Ph.D. under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students

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Access to higher education and research opportunities plays a significant role in promoting academic excellence, professional advancement and socio-economic empowerment, particularly among students belonging to Scheduled Caste communities.

Mr. Rajesh Kumar **(name changed)**, a 30-year-old research scholar from Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand, is pursuing his Ph.D. with financial assistance under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

With a keen interest in academics and research, Rajesh aspires to become an Assistant Professor and contribute to the higher education sector. His academic aspirations reflect his commitment towards educational advancement and professional growth.

In 2020, Rajesh began receiving financial assistance under the NFSC Scheme, which includes fellowship assistance, House Rent Allowance (HRA) and contingency support. The assistance has helped him address the financial requirements associated with doctoral studies and research activities.

For scholars pursuing doctoral studies, access to sustained financial assistance is an important enabler of academic advancement. The fellowship provides financial stability, while the House Rent Allowance supports accommodation-related expenses and contingency assistance facilitates research-related expenditure.



Since receiving support under the Scheme, Rajesh has reported an improvement in his financial position and positive changes in his life. The assistance has enabled him to focus on his academic pursuits while continuing to work towards his professional aspiration of becoming an Assistant Professor.

Beyond providing financial assistance, the NFSC Scheme seeks to encourage academic excellence, research capabilities and professional development among students belonging to Scheduled Caste communities, thereby strengthening their participation in higher education.

Rajesh's academic journey highlights the significance of targeted educational interventions in nurturing talent, strengthening research opportunities and enabling scholars to realise their academic and professional aspirations.

The initiative reflects the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's sustained commitment towards educational empowerment, inclusive socio-economic development and equitable access to higher education and research opportunities, contributing to the larger vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

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