

1st GNDU scholar to bag PM's Fellowship aims at research to treat renal anemia in collaboration with Kwality Pharmaceuticals as Industry partner



Ms. Aanchal Khanna from Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) bagged the prestigious Prime Minister Fellowship for doctoral research for the 2024 session. The fellowship is a public-private partnership (PPP) initiative, jointly promoted by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India, New Delhi and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). The scheme aims at encouraging young, talented, enthusiastic, and result-orientated scholars to take up industry-relevant research.

Lauding the dedication of the student, Dr Palwinder Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, said, "It is an extraordinary moment for the GNDU to have PM fellowship in its kitty. Behind every student's great success, there is a devoted teacher who also must be given his due." This university has always maintained student-friendly environment and been a beacon of hope, stimulation and encouragement for the students." Dr Palwinder congratulated the fellowship recipient as well as her guide Prof. Preet Mohinder Singh Bedi on behalf of the GNDU fraternity for putting in hard work for writing a winning proposal and application. The scheme aims at encouraging young, talented and result-orientated scholars to take up industry-relevant research. This is the first time a scholar has won the PM's Fellowship for GNDU.

Dr Preet Mohinder Singh Bedi, Dean, Students' Welfare, shared that Aanchal had brought laurels to the university by winning the prestigious fellowship and urged the faculty to identify industry for further such associations and provide an amicable working environment to the awardees to conduct their research. "The Prime Minister's Research Fellow (PMRF) Scheme is designed to support the best talent in doctoral research in India with attractive fellowships. It aspires to build and nurture outstanding research ecosystems in the country and focus on extremely challenging and innovative research problems," Dr Bedi informed. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2018-19. Dr Bedi shared that Aanchal has been working in the field of developing anti-cancer and anti-microbial drugs. "But our subject for the scholarship, we submitted our work on developing biological similar for erythropoietin, which is a hormone produced by human kidney. This project was initiated under university industrial linkage programme where the research is supported by Kquality Pharmaceuticals as industry partner."

Prof. M L Singh, Director Research congratulated the research scholar and her supervisor for the award of PMRF. He further said that Iam very happy that our students have been awarded this prestigious fellowship. Iam hopeful of a greater number of nominations for this notable award in the next cycle.

Ms. Aanchal Khanna who works under the guidance of Prof. Bedi says, "achieving a PMRF fellowship is a prestigious and highly competitive accomplishment as it will boost my career as a researcher. Thanks to GNDU Amritsar and my research group for creating a wonderful research work environment." She believes that her works not only generates new scientific knowledge, and may create novel methods in the domain of pharmaceutical sciences.