



## INSPIRE Awards

### Why in News?

Recently, the 9<sup>th</sup> **National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC)** for the **INSPIRE Awards - MANAK** (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), has commenced.

### What is the INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) Award?

#### ▪ About:

- It is aligned with the **'Start-up India'** initiative and is being executed by **DST** (Department of Science and Technology) with **National Innovation Foundation** - India (NIF), an autonomous body of DST.
- Under this, the **students are invited from all government or private schools throughout the country**, irrespective of their educational boards (national and state).
- Financial support of Rs 10,000 each would be provided so that they could develop prototypes of the ideas which they submitted for the scheme.
- As a next step, they competed at respective **District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC)** and **State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC)** and finally **National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC)**.

#### ▪ Aim:

- To **motivate students** to become future **innovators and critical thinkers**.

#### ▪ Objectives:

- To target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications **to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking** among school children.
- To address the **societal needs through science and technology and nurture them to become sensitive and responsible citizens** and innovation leaders of tomorrow.

#### ▪ INSPIRE Awards 2022:

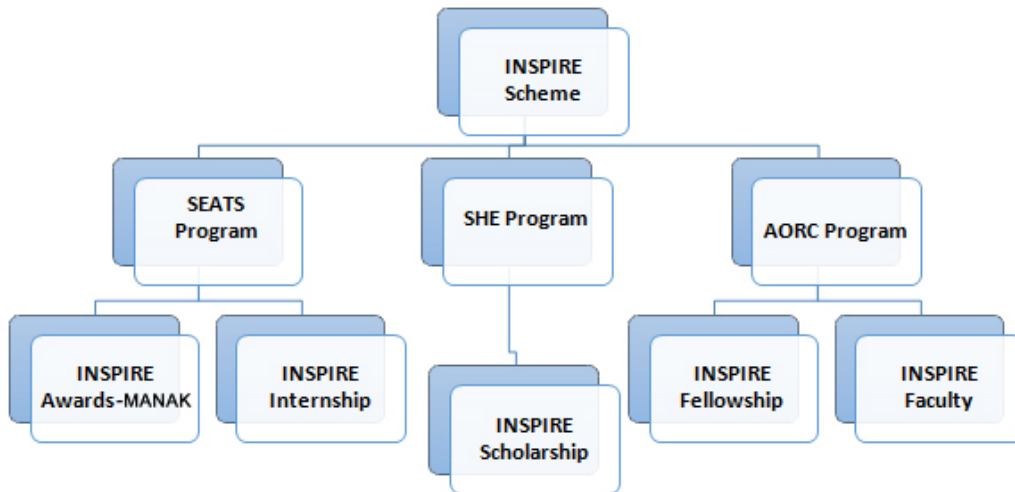
- The INSPIRE Awards were presented to 60 Start-Ups and financial support was provided to 53,021 students.
- It touched an **unparalleled level of inclusivity by representing ideas and innovations** of 702 districts of the country (96%) including 123 out of 124 aspirational districts, **with 51% representation from girls, 84% participation from schools located in rural areas of the country** and 71% of the schools run by the State / UT Governments.

### What do we Know about INSPIRE Scheme?

- The INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) scheme is **one of the flagship programmes** of the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- Its **objective is to communicate to the youth population** of the country the creative pursuit of science and attract talent to the **study of science at an early stage** and build the **required critical human resource pool** for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and Research & Development base.
- The Government of India has successfully implemented the INSPIRE scheme **since 2010**. The scheme **covers students in the age group of 10-32 years** and has five components.

- The **INSPIRE Awards- MANAK** is one of its components.

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## What are the Other Related Initiatives?

- **Draft National Science Technology and Innovation Policy, 2020:**
  - Its aim is to identify and **address strengths and weaknesses of the Indian Science Technology and Innovation (STI)** ecosystem to catalyse socio-economic development of the country and also make the Indian STI ecosystem globally competitive.
- **SERB-POWER Scheme:**
  - It is a scheme designed **exclusively for women scientists** to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various science and technology (S&T) programmes in Indian academic institutions and **Research and Development (R&D)** laboratories.
- **Swarna Jayanti Fellowship:**
  - It provides **special assistance** and support to a selected number of **young scientists** with a proven track record to enable them to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017? (2017)**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.
3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 and 3 only  
 (b) 2 only  
 (c) 3 only  
 (d) 2 and 3 only

**Ans: (b)**

**Exp:**

- Smart India Hackathon, 2017 was a 36 hour non-stop digital product development competition during which teams of thousands of technology **students tried to build innovative digital solutions for the problems identified by 29 different Ministries/ Departments of Govt.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct and 1, 3 are not correct.**
- For the first time, government departments directly engaged with students, challenging them to build digital solutions to improve their efficiency, plug revenue leakages and corruption.
- The 'Grand Finale' of Smart India Hackathon, 2017 was organized, simultaneously across 26 different cities and the winners got support for converting their ideas into startups apart from cash prizes. **Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Source: PIB**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/inspire-awards-1>

