



INSPIRE Awards-MANAK

Why in News

Recently, the 8th **National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC)** for the **INSPIRE Awards - MANAK** (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), has commenced.

Key Points

▪ 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 the scheme the **students are invited from all government or private schools throughout the country**, irrespective of their educational boards (national and state).
- It covers the students in the **age group of 10-15** years and studying in **classes 6 to 10**, to pursue Science and a career in Research.
- An award of Rs.10,000 is disbursed into bank accounts of winning students under **Direct Benefit Transfer scheme**.
- It **does not believe in conducting competitive exams** for identification of talent at any level. It **believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure** for identification of talent.

▪ Aim:

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

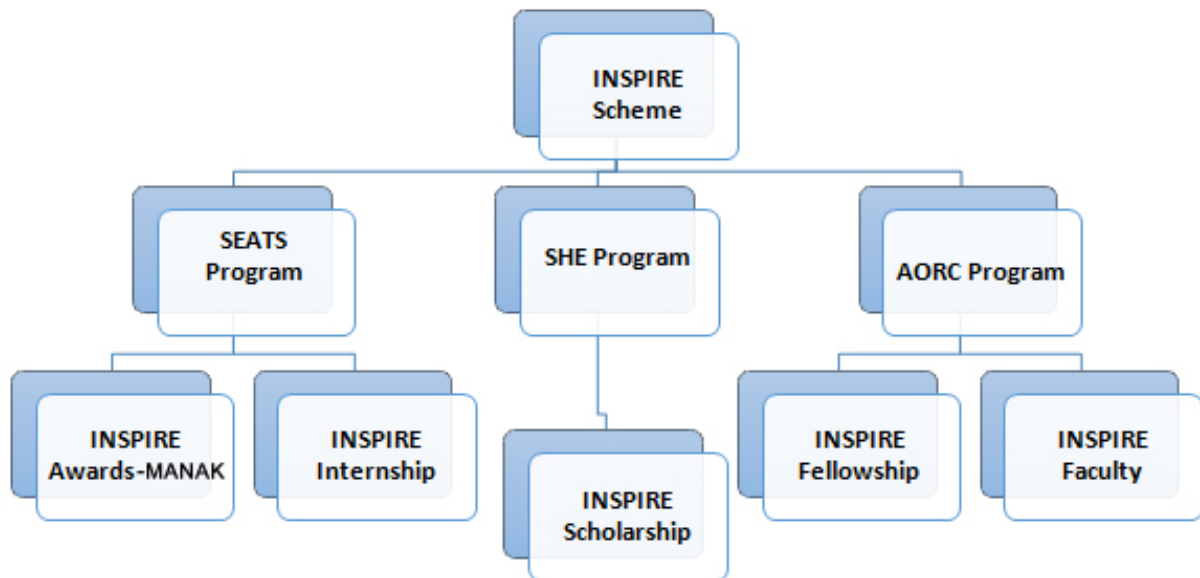
▪ Objectives:

- 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 Scheme:

- The INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) scheme is **one of the flagship programmes** of the **Ministry of Science and Technology & Earth Sciences**.
- 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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▪ **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.

Source: PIB

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