



भारत सरकार
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

अनीता चौहान

संयुक्त सचिव

Anita Chauhan

Joint Secretary

No.2/63/2016-IAD

Dated: 24th October 2016

To

Principal Secretary/ Secretary (Education) of concerned States/ UTs (*in Name covers*)

Subject: Implementation of INSPIRE Award-MANAK Scheme – regarding.

Sir/ Madam,

As you are aware, Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) scheme since 2010. INSPIRE Award, a sub-component of the scheme, is being implemented centrally through States/UTs. The scheme targets students of classes 6 to 10 in the age group of 10-15 years with objective to motivate them to study Science and pursue career in Research.

2. The INSPIRE Award scheme is now being revamped under the name INSPIRE AWARDS-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) to align it with the Action Plan for "Start-up India" initiative launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Some procedural changes have been made while retaining the basic objective and other parameters. Regional workshops have also been held by DST, in coordination with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), to sensitise all stakeholders in this regard.

3. The changes are necessitated in view of concerns that projects/models prepared by students under the existing INSPIRE Award Scheme, were standard repetition and readymade. Selection was being done by schools with no independent evaluation. Emphasis for selection was more on the finesse/presentation of the models rather than the power of idea, creativity or innovation. Also, there was no provision for mentoring or converting the best ideas into prototypes.

4. Thus, changes under the revamped scheme are as follows:

- Thrust will be on 'Original ideas' which aim to use technology to solve problems, rather than mere display of a clever idea for Exhibition.
- In a financial year, Ten (10) lakh ideas will be targeted from 5 lakh schools across the country.
- One lakh top ideas (based on originality and novelty) will be shortlisted for INSPIRE Award of Rs. 5,000/- each, for preparation of a project/model and participation in the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC). Selection will be based on the **concept** submitted by the student during the nomination stage and NIF, an autonomous institution under DST, will assist in the selection.
- 10,000 best projects will be shortlisted for State Level Exhibition and Project Competition(SLEPC)
- Top 1000 awardees shortlisted at State level will be provided Rs. 20,000/- each for development/improvisation of models for National level and Project Competition (NLEPC).

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Mentoring support to them will also be provided by NIF, in coordination with the reputed academic institutions of the country, such as, IITs, NITs, IISERs, Central Universities, for converting the ideas into prototypes.

- 60 top projects shortlisted for National Awards will be also be showcased at the Annual Festival of Innovation at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. NIF will provide support to them for prototype development, incubation, and intellectual property rights.

{Details of the revamped scheme is enclosed as Annexure-I and Timeline as Annexure-II.}

5. The scheme will be fully implemented w.e.f. 1st April 2017. The current financial year 2016-17 is termed as 'transition phase' under which, - student awardees who have already been given award money during the financial year 2015-16 and, those students who are likely to be given award money under the modified programme - both groups shall participate.

6. You are requested to kindly instruct the concerned State/ District Nodal Officers, dealing with the INSPIRE Award Scheme, to suitably orient all the schools.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Anita Chauhan)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

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Copy to:

1. All concerned State Nodal Officers, INSPIRE Awards MANAK.
2. Executive Director, TIFAC, Vishwakarma Bhawan, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi.
3. Dr. A. Mukopadhyaya, Scientist G & Head INSPIRE, DST.
4. Sh. Vipin Kumar, Director National Innovation Foundation, Satellite Complex Jodhpur Tekra, Near Mansi crossroads, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

INSPIRE Awards-MANAK

The programme shall target school kids with an outreach to 10 lakh innovations (2-3 best ideas from each school) from 5 lakh schools across the country. The programme shall cover students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6-10 of all recognized schools, whether Government or private aided or unaided, run by Central Govt., State Govt., or local bodies viz. District Boards, etc.

- (a) The nominations from schools will be received through District & State Authorities on existing E-MIAS (E-Management of INSPIRE Award Scheme) portal at National Authority i.e. Department of Science & Technology (DST). A synopsis of the Project that the student would prepare will be annexed with the nomination proposal. The selection criteria adopted would be based on the innovation / creativeness / novelty of the Project that the student proposes to undertake as given in the Project synopsis submitted. A window on E-MIAS platform will be given to National Innovation Foundation (NIF) to receive and shortlist nominations.
- (b) NIF will shortlist top 1 lakh projects for an INSPIRE Award of Rs.5,000/- per student and participation at District Level Competition. The INSPIRE Award of Rs. 5000/- would be transferred to the bank account of the student through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- (c) District Level Exhibition & Project Competition (DLEPC): The DLEPC will be held at District level which will be organized by the District/State Authorities. NIF will associate as Jury to shortlist 10% (around 10,000) projects. The shortlisted 10% students will further participate at State level Competition.
- (d) State Level Exhibition & Project Competition (SLEPC) : The SLEPC will be held at State level which will be organized preferably at State Headquarters by the District/State Authorities wherein NIF/DST will associate as Jury members to shortlist 10% (around 1,000) Projects/Models for participation at National Level.
- (e) Development of Prototype Models: The 10% (1000) Models/Projects shortlisted from the SLEPC will be given Rs. 20,000/- each for development of Prototype Model. **NIF will coordinate with NITs, IITs, and IISERs for holding of workshops and impart training to assist the students for development of prototype models.** Rs. 20,000/- would be transferred to the bank account of the student through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- (f) National Level Exhibition & Project Competition (NLEPC): 1000 Prototype Models/Projects will participate at the Annual National Level Competition to be organised by DST. Jury members from DST, NIF and TIFAC (for Patent) will associate in the jury process and shortlist top 60 Models/Projects for National Awards and future ideation.

(g) Annual Festival of Innovation: NIF will coordinate for participation of the selected 60 Models/Projects at the Annual Festival of Innovation in Rashtrapati Bhawan.

(h) Product Development: NIF will examine the feasibility of Product/Process development and to link the top 60 ideas with other schemes of DST for which NIF will prepare separate proposal.

(i) Patent: TIFAC will explore the possibility of filing the patents of shortlisted projects/models from the NLEPC.

(j). All other guidelines/norms relating to DLEPCs, SLEPCs and NLEPC etc. shall remain same as was in INSPIRE Awards Scheme.

Annexure-II**TIME LINES**

Sl. No.	Activity	Timelines
1.	Letter to all State Education Secretaries/SNOs for sending fresh nominations / proposals	By 7 th April
2.	Receipt of nominations along with project details	By 30 th June
3.	Shortlisting of nominations by NIF/DST	By 15 th July
4.	Sanction of Rs.5,000/- INSPIRE Award amount to students and funds to DLEPC and SLEPC for holding exhibitions	By 30 th August
5.	Sanction of Rs.20,000/- each to 1000 shortlisted students for prototype development and preparation of prototype models.	By 1 st November
6.	Holding of NLEPC	1 st week of December
7.	Participation at the Annual Festival of Innovation at Rashtrapati Bhawan	March