

# INSPIRE Awards – MANAK

September 8, 2021

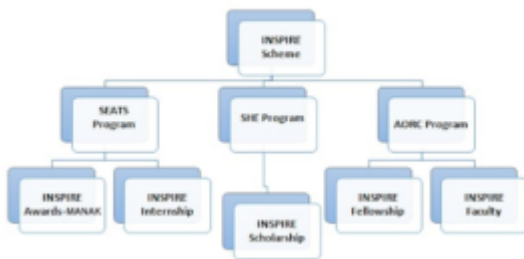
**In news**– The award ceremony of the 8th NLEPC (National Level Exhibition and Project Competition) of the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK was held in a virtual mode on 8th September 2021.

## **About The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge)-**

- The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK is **executed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) with National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF)**, an autonomous body of DST.
- The objective of the scheme **INSPIRE Awards – MANAK** is 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.
- **Individual students (not groups) of class 6 to 10 (Aged 10-15 years) from all recognized schools, government or private, aided or unaided, from any National or State Education Board, may submit their original and innovative ideas** in any one of the **22 languages** from the 8th schedule of Constitution to their school.
- Under this scheme, schools can nominate 5 best original ideas/innovations of students.
- It is **aligned with the Start-up India initiative** launched by the Government of India and is **one of the five components of the INSPIRE scheme**.
- DST has been implementing the INSPIRE scheme **since 2010**.
- The INSPIRE scheme **covers students in the age group of 10-32 years and has five components – INSPIRE Awards MANAK, INSPIRE Internship, INSPIRE Scholarship, INSPIRE Fellowship and INSPIRE Faculty**.
- **The basic objective of INSPIRE MANAK is:**
  - To motivate students at an early age.
  - To attract talent, have them exposed to science at an

early age and foster a culture of creative and innovative thinking among school children to address the societal need through S&T. Technology.

- To help towards building a critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the science and technology system and increase the research and development base.



### **National Innovation Foundation-**

- The NIF–India was set up in March 2000 as an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge with a mission to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators.
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