

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4194
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2026

INSPIRE SCHEME

4194. SHRI KARAN BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized under the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scheme during the last five years, separately for awards, internships, scholarships, fellowships and faculty programmes;**
- (b) the number of schools registered on the e-MIAS (e-Management of INSPIRE Awards Scheme) portal, State/UT-wise and particularly the number of Government schools registered in Uttar Pradesh;**
- (c) the number of Government school students who have received INSPIRE- Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK) awards across the country with specific details relating to Uttar Pradesh during the last five years;**
- (d) the number of ideas or projects from students of Uttar Pradesh under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme that have been recommended for patent filing, filed for patents and granted patents respectively; and**
- (e) whether any steps are being taken to increase participation of Government schools, particularly in educationally backward or rural districts, under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme and if so, the details of such initiatives?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) The Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scheme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India is a national initiative aimed at attracting talented youth to study basic and natural sciences and pursue research careers in areas such as engineering, medicine, agriculture, and veterinary sciences, thereby strengthening the country's research and development base. The scheme

operates through multiple components across different educational stages. **INSPIRE-MANAK** (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) targets students aged 10-17 studying in Classes VI–XII by encouraging innovative ideas and scientific curiosity; schools can nominate up to five students annually through the E-MIAS portal, and selected students receive ₹10,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer to develop and present their projects at district, state, and national exhibitions. **INSPIRE Internship** provides five-day residential science camps for about 50,000 top 1% students at the Class X board level, allowing them to interact with leading scientists and Nobel Laureates and motivating them to pursue science. **Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)** supports talented students aged 17-22 with 12,000 scholarships each year worth ₹80,000 per annum to pursue bachelor’s and master’s degrees in basic and natural sciences along with mentoring opportunities. At the research level, the **INSPIRE Fellowship** supports outstanding students pursuing PhD programs for up to five years with fellowships equivalent to CSIR-UGC NET (₹37,000 per month as JRF and ₹42,000 as SRF plus HRA and contingency grant of ₹20,000 per annum). Additionally, the **INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship** offers early-career post-doctoral researchers aged 27–32 a five-year fellowship with ₹1,25,000 per month, annual increments, and a research grant of ₹35 lakh to establish independent research careers in basic and applied sciences. Together, these components create a continuous pipeline to nurture scientific talent from school level to advanced research. The details of funds allocated/ released/utilized under the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (**INSPIRE**) scheme during the last five years are given below:

(Rs. in Cr.)

Program/Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (As on 12.03.2026)
INSPIRE-MANAK	56.10	51.50	53.72	58.29	64.65
INSPIRE-Internship	-	-	0.34	1.75	0.78
INSPIRE-SHE	196.63	245.44	216.12	218.67	227.48
INSPIRE Fellowship	160.05	109.00	140.36	129.01	223.21
INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship	86.57	47.44	47.17	35.31	76.06

(b) the number of schools registered on the e-MIAS (e-Management of INSPIRE Awards Scheme) portal, State/UT-wise are given below:

Sr. No.	States/UTs	Total no of school registered on E-MIAS
1	Andaman and Nicobar	247
2	Andhra Pradesh	21343
3	Arunachal Pradesh	251
4	Assam	6067
5	Bihar	45479
6	Chandigarh	227
7	Chhattisgarh	34692
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	367
9	Delhi	2914
10	Goa	573
11	Gujarat	35843
12	Haryana	12842
13	Himachal Pradesh	7436
14	Jammu and Kashmir	16797
15	Jharkhand	32242
16	Karnataka	78072
17	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan	1237
18	Kerala	6712
19	Ladakh	500
20	Lakshadweep	67
21	Madhya Pradesh	71671
22	Maharashtra	24682
23	Manipur	280
24	Meghalaya	1641
25	Mizoram	2738
26	Nagaland	1372
27	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti	617
28	Odisha	43821
29	Puducherry	3093
30	Punjab	22663
31	Rajasthan	57418
32	Sikkim	3025
33	Tamil Nadu	35801

Sr. No.	States/UTs	Total no of school registered on E-MIAS
34	Telangana	19720
35	Tripura	5993
36	Uttar Pradesh	88842
37	Uttarakhand	7441
38	West Bengal	3659
	Total	698385

Out of the total registered schools in Uttar Pradesh, 73,873 are Government schools.

(c) During the last five years, a total of 1,82,430 students from Government schools across the country have received awards under the INSPIRE-Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK) scheme. Among these beneficiaries, 10,988 students belong to Government schools in Uttar Pradesh, who have received financial assistance under the scheme for developing and showcasing their innovative ideas and projects.

(d) Under the INSPIRE-MANAK Scheme, 93 student ideas/projects from Uttar Pradesh have been supported with prototype development funding. Out of these innovations, 10 ideas/ projects have been recommended and filed for patent applications, and 3 of these patent applications have been successfully granted patents.

(e) The Department has undertaken several initiatives to enhance participation of Government schools, particularly in rural and educationally backward districts, under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme. These include organization of online orientation meetings and training programmes for teachers, District Nodal Officers and other stakeholders across districts. To further strengthen awareness and participation, the Department has organized orientation workshops, disseminated audio-visual promotional materials and brochures to schools, and operationalized a cloud-based web portal and mobile application for seamless nomination and evaluation. In addition, a structured mentoring and capacity-building ecosystem has been developed wherein State-level awardees receive mentorship at premier institutions such as IITs, NITs, IISERs and Central Universities in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF).
