

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5495
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026**

INSPIRE SCHEME IN NASHIK DISTRICT

5495. SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE:

Will the Minister of Science and Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the implementation status of the INSPIRE scheme in Nashik district, Maharashtra including the number of schools, colleges and students covered during the last five years and district-wise;**
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the low participation of rural, tribal and Government schools of Nashik in submitting “original ideas” under INSPIRE and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of number of INSPIRE awards and total funds sanctioned to Nashik-based students; and**
- (d) the specific steps proposed to strengthen mentoring, incubation, laboratory access and industry linkages in Nashik so that INSPIRE awardees can convert their innovations into scalable, socially relevant solutions?**

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. The details of the implementation status of the INSPIRE scheme in Nashik district, Maharashtra, including the number of schools, colleges and students covered during the last five years are given below:

Financial Year	INSPIRE-MANAK		INSPIRE-SHE	
	Total number of schools participated	Total number of students participated	Total number of colleges participated	Total number of students participated
2021-22	681	2339	7	16
2022-23	572	1928	3	7
2023-24	572	1981	5	8
2024-25	881	3454	5	7
2025-26 (As on 20.03.2026)	838	3188	5	6

(b) The Government has reviewed the extent of participation by students and schools from rural, tribal, and Government institutions in Nashik district in submitting “original ideas” under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme. Details of this participation are as follows:

Financial Year	Total number of schools participated	Total number of students participated	Total number of students participated from rural area	Total number of schools participated from rural area
2021-22	681	2339	1854	537
2022-23	572	1928	1531	463
2023-24	572	1981	1507	442
2024-25	881	3454	2618	669
2025-26 (As on 20.03.2026)	838	3188	2368	630

Details of category-wise number of participated schools from Nashik district is as follow:

School Category/ Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (As on 20.03.2026)
Central Govt.	2	4	4	1	3
State Govt	87	71	49	99	98
Local Body	73	70	42	67	51
Private Aided	439	353	395	596	574
Private Unaided	73	69	74	110	105
Others	7	5	8	8	7

(c) The details of number of INSPIRE awards and total funds sanctioned to Nashik-based students are as follows:

Financial Year	Total number of selected INSPIRE awards	Total Funds Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
2021-22	378	37.80
2022-23	133	13.30
2023-24	179	17.90
2024-25	317	31.70
2025-26 (As on 20.03.2026)	270	27.00

(d) To ensure that INSPIRE-MANAK awardees across the country including Nashik district are able to transform their ideas into scalable and socially relevant innovations, a series of targeted steps are in place. Each selected student receives ₹10,000 to develop a prototype of the submitted idea, Students can access Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) for mentorship and prototype development support. Further, mentoring workshops are organised for students selected for the National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) in collaboration with premier institutions such as IITs and NITs. Financial support is also provided to State-level winners to further refine their prototypes for presentation at the national level. Students selected at the national level are provided incubation support including patent filing assistance and technical value addition, enabling them to further develop their innovations into scalable and socially relevant solutions.
