

PARLIAMENT QUESTION: INSPIRE SCHEME

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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. 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 number of students supported under various components of the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scheme during the last three years, State/UT-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh including Palnadu district, Odisha including Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency, Uttar Pradesh including Bulandshahr district and including Rajasthan are given below:

State & UTs	INSPIRE-MANAK			INSPIRE-SHE			INSPIRE-Fellowship			INSPIRE-Faculty Fellowship	
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25
Andaman and Nicobar	8	20	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	4530	3693	3424	0	2	0	35	7	22	1	0

State & UTs	INSPIRE-MANAK			INSPIRE-SHE			INSPIRE-Fellowship			INSPIRE-Fellowship	
Arunachal Pradesh	5	16	5	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Assam	212	100	48	51	48	22	43	11	42	2	3
Bihar	2076	1988	2041	125	137	195	4	1	10	2	0
Chandigarh	163	69	61	5	1	1	15	4	12	0	0
Chhattisgarh	3157	2962	2165	271	365	256	10	7	11	2	0
Dadra Nagar Haveli	24	20	26	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	119	248	321	40	49	38	48	26	69	7	8
Goa	63	56	53	1	3	1	14	4	16	3	0
Gujarat	1109	1282	1244	61	62	20	26	12	28	2	0
Haryana	716	814	1249	54	37	32	11	8	11	2	0
Himachal Pradesh	437	498	513	115	105	77	10	8	12	1	1
Jammu and Kashmir	942	992	1033	28	2	1	25	6	33	2	2
Jharkhand	1937	1817	1160	20	16	3	11	4	4	3	3
Karnataka	7493	6264	7758	23	16	7	46	26	79	14	11
Kerala	479	315	339	294	299	130	45	17	48	4	2
Ladakh	25	21	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	5	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	1506	2672	1421	400	464	596	30	10	48	3	2

State & UTs	INSPIRE-MANAK			INSPIRE-SHE			INSPIRE-Fellowship			INSPIRE-Fellowship	
Maharashtra	2149	2581	2303	142	120	38	61	17	57	8	7
Manipur	3	8	5	70	83	56	2	2	0	0	1
Meghalaya	8	21	11	26	33	12	2	1	4	0	0
Mizoram	5	7	7	0	12	3	4	2	4	0	0
Nagaland	3	5	2	7	6	6	1	1	0	0	0
Odisha	3823	3409	3755	57	46	46	28	6	34	3	2
Puducherry	35	77	71	1	2	0	2	3	2	0	0
Punjab	566	421	345	49	38	43	33	14	40	2	4
Rajasthan	6830	6599	5720	1992	2155	1541	14	1	25	4	0
Sikkim	15	28	28	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0
Tamil Nadu	991	1197	2336	16	9	7	63	39	65	5	5
Telangana	3054	3311	2557	4	24	10	55	16	56	6	1
Tripura	23	66	97	0	1	0	3	0	6	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	1940	5834	7173	3297	4812	5474	56	18	64	11	2
Uttarakhand	2140	1844	1386	290	331	248	20	10	30	3	0
West Bengal	27	18	31	537	216	182	76	20	87	10	4
Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan	247	521	898	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti	61	210	183	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The details of number of students supported under INSPIRE-MANAK and INSPIRE-SHE components of INSPIRE Scheme from Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh, Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency of Odisha and Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh are given below:

State & UTs	INSPIRE-MANAK			INSPIRE-SHE		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Palnadu district (AP)	111	139	163	0	0	0
Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency, Odisha	149	116	72	0	0	0
Bulandshahr district (UP)	20	110	140	13	14	7

The Ministry has expanded its efforts to promote innovation and research among school students through initiatives like INSPIRE-MANAK. This programme targets students from Classes 6 to 12, encouraging them to submit original and creative ideas. Selected students receive financial assistance of ₹10,000 to develop prototypes of their ideas. The scheme has been broadened to include a larger number of schools across the country, with a special focus on rural and government institutions to ensure wider access. It provides a well-structured platform where students can showcase their ideas at district, state, and national levels. Additionally, mentoring support is offered throughout the process to help nurture scientific thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities among students.

The number of students, schools and districts covered across the country under the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme are given below:

Financial Year	No. of students participated	No. of schools participated	No. of districts covered
2023-24	854553	224283	719
2024-25	1013229	253459	723
2025-26	1147343	274528	729

The number of schools and districts covered under the INSPIRE-MANAK in Andhra Pradesh including Palnadu district are given below:

Financial Year	No. of students participated	No. of schools participated	Districts Covered	No. of students participated from Palnadu district	No. of schools participated from Palnadu district
2023-24	40365	9259	26	1224	266
2024-25	39444	9084	26	1357	303

2025-26	46285	10588	26	1821	417
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The details of number of students selected or benefited under INSPIRE-MANAK from Andhra Pradesh, district-wise including Palnadu district are given below:

District	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Alluri Sitarama Raju	27	23	14
Anakapalli	126	135	125
Ananthapuramu	141	114	131
Annamayya	294	238	276
Bapatla	81	90	76
Chittoor	407	313	263
East Godavari	137	108	81
Eluru	111	144	101
Guntur	131	88	121
Kakinada	148	116	107
Konaseema	104	77	90
Krishna	178	144	115
Kurnool	234	221	169
N.T.R	171	184	163
Nandyal	153	126	124
Nellore	260	264	174
Palnadu	111	139	163
Parvathipuram Manyam	61	65	89
Prakasam	141	130	123

District	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Srikakulam	265	167	197
Sri Sathya Sai	122	71	90
Tirupati	304	214	200
Visakhapatnam	173	107	93
Vizianagaram	269	167	141
West Godavari	126	83	71
YSR	255	165	127

The details of number of schools and districts covered under INSPIRE-MANAK from the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency, Odisha are given below:

Financial Year	No. of students participated	No. of schools participated
2023-24	2511	711
2024-25	2125	555
2025-26	1564	386

The Ministry has implemented several targeted measures to increase the participation of students from rural areas and under-represented groups in scientific research programmes such as INSPIRE-MANAK. To expand outreach, awareness meetings are regularly conducted with State and District Nodal Officers, along with teacher training workshops to sensitize and encourage schools to participate. A comprehensive multimedia campaign using videos, posters, social media, and email communication has also been launched to reach a wider audience, particularly in remote areas. These efforts have led to a steady rise in participation, with notable growth from rural regions. In addition to outreach, the Ministry has strengthened support mechanisms for selected students. Each shortlisted student receives ₹10,000 to develop a prototype of their idea. They are also provided access to mentoring and technical support through Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). Student's progress through structured district, state, and national-level competitions, ensuring continued engagement and exposure. Further, mentoring workshops are organized in collaboration with premier institutions such as IITs and NITs for students selected at advanced stages. State-level winners receive financial assistance to refine their prototypes for national-level presentation. At the national level, students are supported with incubation facilities, including patent filing assistance and technical guidance, enabling them to transform their ideas into scalable and socially relevant innovations.

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology & Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

NKR/FT/NM

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