



प्रो. आशुतोष शर्मा
Prof. Ashutosh Sharma

सचिव
भारत सरकार
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology

D.O. No.01/01/2019-IAM

Dated: May 22, 2019

Subject: Implementation of INSPIRE Awards - MANAK scheme 2019-20 - regarding

Dear Dr. Dhaliwal,

As you are aware that 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) scheme is one of the flagship programme of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge), being executed by DST and National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF), an autonomous body of DST, aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10. The scheme is aligned with the Action Plan for "Start-up India" with an intent to promote research and innovation among young students.

2. The objective of the scheme 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. This will help address the societal needs through science and technology and nurture them to become sensitive and responsible citizens and innovation leaders of tomorrow.

3. Under this scheme students may submit their innovative ideas / innovations through schools. The scheme targets school kids with an outreach to 10 lakh innovations from 5 lakh schools. Out of these one lakh ideas / innovations will receive Rs. 10,000/- per student to develop a prototype and get a chance to participate in the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC). Nearly 10,000 students will be shortlisted further to participate at State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC). Nearly 1,000 students will showcase their innovations at National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) and finally, sixty innovative projects will be incubated completely (patent filing, value addition in technology and product development etc.) by NIF and will be displayed at the annual Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE).

4. I request you to officially inform all your affiliated schools to actively participate in the INSPIRE Awards - MANAK program. The online nominations for the year 2019-20 will remain open till 31st July, 2019 through E-Management of Inspire Award Scheme (E-MIAS, www.inspireawards-dst.gov.in). For further details or query, please contact The Director, National Innovation Foundation - India, Grambharti Amrapur, Gandhinagar - Mahudi Road, Gandhinagar, Gujarat- 382650, E-mail: inspire@nifindia.org, Phone: 02764-261131/32/38/39, Mob.: 9638418605 / 9429873469.

5. I look forward to your kind cooperation and help us discover the Inspiring Innovators of tomorrow.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Ashutosh Sharma)

Dr. Tejinder Kaur Dhaliwal
Chairman,
Punjab School Education Board (PSEB)
Block E, 5th Floor, Phase-VIII
Vidya Bhawan, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) Punjab -160062

Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110016

Tel: 00 91 11 26511439 / 26510068 • Fax: 00 91 11 26863847 • E-mail: dstsec@nic.in • website: www.dst.gov.in