



Report on
State Nodal Officers Meeting for Implementation of
INSPIRE Awards-MANAK
million minds augmenting national aspiration and knowledge

6th April 2018
India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi

A one day national workshop of State Nodal Officers (SNOs) for the implementation of INSPIRE Awards – MANAK, was held at India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi on 6th April 2018 where 31 SNOs and in a couple of cases their representatives participated.

Background

INSPIRE Awards – MANAK scheme is targeting One Million ideas of school students from all parts of the country. Of the total nominations received, 100,000 ideas will be shortlisted for the INSPIRE Award of INR 10000 each for making prototypes, models or charts on their ideas. These 100,000 awardees will compete at the District Level Exhibition & Project Competition (DLEPC) where 10,000 will be selected for participation in the State Level Exhibition & Project Competition (SLEPC). Of these 1000 projects will qualify for the National Level Exhibition & Project Competition (NLEPC). An investment of Rs 50000 is envisioned in the projects shortlisted for the NLEPC. Finally, the top 60 projects will be selected for National Awards and Incubation support from NIF. The value added products based on these innovative technologies will also find place in Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Inaugural session

Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, Shri R Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, Shri HK Mittal, Advisor, DST, Dr Sanjay Mishra, Director DST and Dr. Vipin Kumar, Director, National Innovation Foundation – India shared the dais.



Dr Vipin Kumar started the session with a brief on the purpose of the workshop. In his address Shri HK Mittal welcomed the SNOs from all parts of the country and mentioned all of them were the extended arms of the Government in the respective states, with

whose support success of the program can be guaranteed. He looked forward to the interaction and welcomed the idea of linking the scheme with the Atal Tinkering Labs being established under the Atal Innovation Mission.

In his inaugural address Prof. Ashutosh Sharma explained the difference between the earlier INSPIRE scheme and the present one, highlighting the importance on originality of the idea, novelty, and relevance to the society in the present scheme. He explained that the scheme encourages the children to look around for problems, gives them freedom to ideate, encourages independent thinking and helps them improve their problem solving ability. He added that any good idea can be converted into a prototype but first that idea has to be conceived hence it is important to allow children to identify problems, think about possible solutions and then develop those.

He informed the audience that India stands third in the world in terms of number of startups. However, most startups are from higher education. Through this scheme, he mentioned, an attempt is being made to expand or broaden the pyramid of innovation by working at its base i.e. children.

Prof Sharma explained the commitment to the cause on part of all the stake holders will yield very good results for the future. He urged the SNOs to explain the District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of their great responsibility to engage with schools, teachers and students at the district level to make this program a great success. He laid utmost importance to the role played by SNOs and DNOs in the scheme. He added that it was our role to promote the gospel of innovation to the children in the schools, especially those in the rural areas. The school children are young and impressionable and they can be guided to solve a challenge, he added. He urged the SNOs to own the program and motivate DNOs to do the same.

He added that learning is a lifelong process and it is understood that by participating in the scheme not everyone will become an innovator or an entrepreneur. However, he hoped even if 5 per cent of the children choose these as a career path, it would still be great. Prof Sharma suggested organising district and state level workshops across the country for sensitising schools, teachers and students towards the scheme. He mentioned that the initial years of any scheme are more challenging and hence require an extra effort however, with time, things roll out properly and get streamlined.

He concluded by thanking the participants for being part of the new process and mentioned that with the involvement of National Innovation Foundation (NIF), a minimum quality of ideas can be ensured, considering their long experience in the field.

In his address Shri Ramanan informed about the focal areas of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) viz. promotion of innovation and nurturing the ecosystem of entrepreneurship. He mentioned that under the AIM, Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are planned in every district of the country, which will be made accessible to students of the district. He informed that in 655 districts of the country, ATLs have already been established and before the end of

the year, the target is to cover all the 715 districts and establish about 5000 ATLS. All schools of the country cannot have ATLS but all students in the country should have access to one or the other ATL, he informed. He added that 70 per cent of ATLS are in government/ girls schools.

He mentioned that children are inherently creative, they question the status quo and come up with creative ideas. The purpose behind establishing the ATLS is to provide them with the tools, knowledge and technology to convert these ideas into prototypes and produce results. Then scheme like INSPIRE Awards – MANAK can recognise them for their efforts.

He also informed about the tinkering challenges where best idea, best school and best prototypes are selected for recognition every month. He added that Innovation Tinkering Marathon was organised where over 35000 students of over 350 schools participated generating about 6000 innovative ideas. The projects developed are showcased before the parents and community to sensitise them as well. This is done because the mental barrier preventing innovation is high and mindsets need to be changed. He added that top 100 projects were linked with mentors and corporates (over 5000 mentors are already associated). The corporates have adopted schools as well.

He also informed about the Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) being established/ strengthened in Universities/ Institutions to provide focus and support for start ups. The idea for ATLS and AICs is to induct the students (school and college) into innovation so that when they grow up, they are already familiar with innovations and related processes. He also informed about the Atal New India Challenges where grant of Rs 1 crore is given to develop products with social impact.

Session 1

In this session Dr. Sanjay Mishra detailed the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK scheme before the participants. INSPIRE award scheme for school children (from class 6th to 10th) has



been revamped as INSPIRE awards- MANAK. The changes have been undertaken to eliminate/reduce the possibility of children buying readymade models from market and to ensure continued relation between awardees and the DST after the completion of award ceremony. He informed that the scheme has been revised to fulfill the objectives of *Startup India*. He also explained the objectives, target group, timelines etc of the MANAK scheme to the participants.

Dr Vipin Kumar mentioned that to make the scheme successful, schools have to be involved and workshops for the same may be organised. He also mentioned that advertisement in popular (national/regional) newspaper(s) would also be given in addition to the advertisement in Door Darshan and other media. Posters will also be sent to all the schools across the country.

He identified and detailed the three challenges being faced in the implementation of the scheme as below

- a) Financial: These included unavailability of funds for DLEPC and SLEPC and students not receiving the money transferred to them through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme.
- b) Technological: These include the issues related to internet, online submission using E-MIAS, login ids/passwords, non-maintenance of records at school/DNO/SNO level.
- c) Communication: These included gaps related with communication channels, information not being received timely or lack of clarity, sometimes due to the transfer of DNOs.

He further informed that 86170 schools and 11 per cent districts especially in Arunachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep are not registered on the portal.

For the FY 2017-18 he informed that pending DLEPC/SLEPC may be organised during April – June so that NLEPC may be organised in July 2018. NLEPC of FY 2018-19 will be organised in December 2018. Together, the awardees of NLEPC 2017-18 and 2018-19 (60+60 projects) would be invited for participation in the FINE 2019 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Session 2

The discussions on state specific problems/ issues were started where each SNO/representative shared their issues/concerns. The common issues and response of DST/NIF is being mentioned below along with state/region specific issues.

Issues raised by participants

1. Non-receipt of funds for organising DLEPC/SLEPC/ delay in release of funds

2. Non-receipt of funds through DBT by students (previous years/current year)
3. Problem in submitting submissions online through E-MIAS
4. Lack of awareness among DNOs/schools
5. Lack of continuity due to transfer of DNOs
6. Loss of User Id/ password for logging in E-MIAS
7. Period of submission falling in summer vacations
8. NLEPC dates during annual exams
9. Board/annual exams in March due to which participation in FINE difficult
10. Multiple activities like INSPIRE MANAK in a calendar year which disturbs academic calendar
11. Separate funds required for organising awareness workshops at District/State level
12. Circulars not available in local languages
13. Revision of per student under the scheme for DLEPC/SLEPC as expenditure/costs have risen
14. Fund receiving and executing authorities different in the state
15. Method of utilisation of unspent money
16. Discrepancy in the number of students shared in email and on E-MIAS
17. Timely reimbursement of expenses already undertaken for DLEPC/SLEPC
18. Having one standard evaluation sheet
19. Proper communication channel to be followed



Suggestions by the participants

1. Organising district and state level awareness workshops
2. Giving teachers/ DNOs/Schools appreciation; including efforts of teachers for the INSPIRE Awards MANAK at points in already ongoing teacher award scheme(s)
3. Integrating the scheme with Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan/ Integrated School Scheme of NCERT/ MHRD or similar schemes

Issues shared by DST/NIF

1. Non-receipt of UCs from the states resulting in delay of release of funds
2. Non-receipt of proposal from the states

3. The bank account details of students incorrect or bank account inoperative
4. Schools/ districts not registered on E-MIAS

Clarifications/ suggestions from DST/NIF

1. The implementation schedule has been worked out considering the academic schedule of students throughout the country where care has been taken to ensure interests of all states to the best extent possible. However, being a national scheme, it may not be possible to shift dates as per various state specific academic calendars.
2. Receipt of Utilisation Certificate (UC) in the desired format along with a report is MUST for the release of any further grant by the DST to the state authorities.
3. No unspent balance from a previous grant can be utilised for any activity (DLEPC/SLEPC/workshops or any other) in subsequent years. It is desired that State Authorities may submit UC with report and proposal for the next year as early as possible. DST will ensure timely release of balance funds minus the amount already available/unspent.
4. It has to be ensured that students' accounts are operational so that money can be transferred quickly. Instead of zero balance accounts, nominal amounts say Rs 100, Rs 500 may be retained in the account to keep it operational.
5. The processing of offline entries from North East states and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is being undertaken and information will be shared soon.
6. The release of grants to states who have submitted proper UC and report will be undertaken at the earliest.
7. The last date for submission of entries is June 30, 2018 however if required in phases of 15 days, it may extended till July 31, 2018.
8. DST will not be able to issue circulars in regional languages hence this responsibility has to be taken by the SNOs/ state authorities.
9. Wherever fund receiving and executing institutions are different, meetings of both institutions and DST/NIF may be organised to smoothen the process/ communication channel.
10. Certificates are being provided to all schools/DNOs whose students get selected in the NLEPC. In case of the top sixty projects, trophy for school and certificates signed by Secretary, DST will be given.

11. Physical visit to Districts from where response has not been there will have to be made by SNOs/DST/NIF.

Action points

1. District/ State level workshops will be organised by NIF in all the states in coordination with the State Authorities, who may share a tentative plan along with a budget.
2. DST is planning a meeting with Principal Secretary/Secretary Education of all the states
3. The names of regional/popular newspaper were shared by all SNOs with NIF for giving advertisements. NIF will draft the advertisement, get it approved and published through DAVP.
4. SNOs to inform NIF, the numbers and language of promotional material (posters/booklets/CDs) required by them for distribution in their states. NIF will then dispatch the same to the state authorities.
5. Existing Whatsapp group of SNOs may be updated with recent mobile numbers of all officials and information shared periodically with them.
6. DST and NIF will plan a visit to all the states before June 2018. All SNOs may share four –five tentative visit dates for planning at DST/NIF level. A Google sheet may be shared with all the SNOs for the same. Presentation on INSPIRE may also be emailed to all SNOs.
7. NIF will compile and publish stories of INSPIRE Awardees. An Alumni network of all INSPIRE Awardees may also be created
8. For login id and password related issues, a common email id, which may be departmental/school email id (and not personal email id) may be used so that continuity is maintained and information is not lost due to transfer of individuals. FAQ section on INSPIRE website may also be referred to.
9. All State Authorities will submit pending UCs/report at the earliest along with new proposal to ensure timely release of funds.

Conclusion

The workshop ended on a positive note where everyone agreed to work closely to make the scheme a grand success. Shri HK Mittal thanked all the participants for taking out time from their busy schedules, which itself indicated the commitment towards scheme.



List of State Nodal Officers

S.No	State Name	Nodal Officer Name	Designation	Address
1	Andhra Pradesh	M.S.S.Lakshmi Watts	Professor, HOD of Department of Maths & Science	SCERT,Andhra Pradesh 2nd Floor, B-Block, Anjaneya Towers Ibrahimpattam, Krishna (dist), Andhra Pradesh
2	Andaman Nicobar Island	Shara Chandran . G	Deputy Director Education (Science)	Shiksha Sadan, Port Blair, A & N Islands
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Smt.Milonti.Pertin	Depty Director of Secandary Education	Directorate Of Secondary Education, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
4	Bihar	Kiran Kumari	State Programme Officer	Bihar Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad, 8th Floor, Inter Council Building, Budha Marg, Patna - 800001
5	Chandigarh	Dr. Surender Singh Dahiya	Director	SCERT Sector - 32 UT Chandigarh - 160031
6	Chhattisgarh	Harish Varu	Assistant Director, Directorate Of Public Instruction Chhattisgarh	Frist Floor, Block 3, Indrawati Bhawan Naya Raipur,C.G.
		Amit Ghosh	Assistant Director	District Education Office, Durg, Chattisgarh
7	Daman and Diu	Harendra Kumar C. Pathak	Asstt.Nodal Officer	G.H.S.S. Zari, Moti Daman
8	Delhi	Madhu Singh	Dy Director Of Education	Dy Dir of Science, Old Gargi College Building (II nd Floor) Laipat Nagar, New Delhi - 110024
		Bhim Singh	D.A Inspire	Science Of Delhi, 2nd Floor Old Large College Building, Laipur Nagar IV, New Delhi
9	Goa	Shri. Jaywant W. Naik	Vocational Education Officer	Directorate Of Education Alto - Porvorim, Goa
10	Haryana	Dr Madhup Kumar	Co-ordinator, INSPIRE	SCERT Floor, Gurugram
11	Gujarat	Dr Vijay S. Patel	Asst Nodal Officer	GCERT - Gujarat Council Of Educational Research and Training, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

12	Himachal Pradesh	Shiv Kumar Sharma	Lecturer - Cum - State Nodal Officer INSPIRE	State Coouncil Of Educational Research & Training, SCERT Complex Rabon P.O Saproon, Solan H.P - 173211
13	Jammu and Kashmir	Sh.Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz	Nodal Officer (SED) J & K	Civil Secretariat, Jamma (J &K)
14	Jharkhand	A N Thakur	State Nodal Officer	Regional Dy.director Of Education, South Chhota nagpur Division, Kali babu Road, Katchari Chock, Ranchi - 834001
15	Karnataka	P.Bylanjanappa	Senior Assistant Director (SADPI)	Department Of State Education Research and Training(DSERT), No. 4, 100 Feet Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085
16	Kerala	Deepa Martin	Deputy Director Of Education (SNO, kerala)	Directorate Of Public Instruction, Jagathi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
17	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Dhirendra Chaturvedi	Joint Director	Directorate Of Public Instruction, Gautam Nagar, Chetak Bridge, Bopal M. P
18	Maharashtra	Dr. R.P.Awasare	Professor Cum H.O.D Inspire Award Dept.	State Institnte Of Science Education, Ravi Nagar Nagpur - 440001 (M.S.)
19	Manipur	R.K. Tenedy Singh	Additional Director Of Education [Schools]	Directorate of Education [schools], Lamphelpat, Imphal - 795001 Manipur
20	Nagaland	Daniel Thong Seb	Assi.Profesor (SNO)	State Coouncil Of Educational Research & Training, (SCERT) Nagaland, Kohima - 7970011
21	Odisha	Dr. Radha Mohan Panda	Depty Director, RMSA.	Odisha Mahyamik Mission, Odisha , BBSR
22	Puducherry	S.Murthy	Deputy Director (Elementary Education)	Directorate Of School Education Puducherry

23	Punjab	Jyoti Soni	Subject Expert (Punjab), SCERT, Punjab	Vidya Bhawan,Phase-8, 6th Floor, Punjab
24	Rajasthan	Sanjay Sengar	Assistant Director (Inspire)	AASHIYANA' Directorate of Secondary Education, Behind Head Post Office, Rajasthan, Bikaner - 334001
25	Sikkim	Dorjee Thinlay Bhutia	Addnl.Director	Department of Science Technology and Climate Change, Vigyan Bhawan, P.O. Deorali, East Sikkim - 737102
26	Tamil Nadu	Dr. S. Soundararajaperumal	Joint Director	Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Center, Gandhi Mandapam Road, Chennai 600025
27	Telangana	Dr.S. Suresh Babu	Professor ; Consultant	S.C.E.R.T. Opp. L.B.Stadium Gun Foundry, Hyderabad - 500036
28	Tripura	Mr. Brighto Saha	State Coordinator, INSPIRE, SCERT	Abhoy nagar, Agartala, West Tripura Pin 799005
29	Uttar Pradesh	Dr.C.S.Malviya	AD(Secondary edu)	ID - Park Road Directorate Lucknow - 226001
30	Uttrakhand	Manoj Kumar Shukla	Lecturer / State Inspire Incharge	SCERT, Uttarakhand RGNV Parisar, Nalapani Road, Tapovan, Dehradun - 248008
31	West Bengal	Alok Kumar Sarkar	Deputy Director Of School Education, W.B.	Bikash Bhavan,7th Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091 West Bengal