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**Nation's Endeavour to
Foster Science Leaders of
Tomorrow**



INSPIRE AWARD SCHEME

**Implementation during
12th Five Year Plan**

**Guidelines for
Submission of Proposals by
States / UTs
for the year 2012-13**

**Government of India
Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology
INSPIRE AWARD Cell**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 **Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)** is a national programme implemented by the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India for attraction of talent amongst the students to study Science and pursue career with research.

INSPIRE scheme has 3 components:-

- (a) Scheme for early attraction of talents for Science (SEATs), which has two sub-components (i) INSPIRE Award of Rs. 5000/- and (ii) Mentorship through global Science leaders at a science camp;
- (b) Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) at the rate of Rs. 80, 000 for continuing education at B. Sc and M. Sc levels and
- (c) Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC) for young researchers which also has two sub-components (i) INSPIRE Fellowship and (ii) INSPIRE Faculty .

Hence the INSPIRE programme has 5 sub-schemes/components.

- 1.2 While the first component of the Scheme i.e. INSPIRE Award is being implemented centrally through the States / UTs, the other components of the Scheme are being implemented centrally by Department of Science & Technology (DST) through the concerned academic/research institutes & Universities etc.

2. Salient Features of INSPIRE Award component:-

- 2.1 Under this scheme, as approved for the 11th Five Year Plan, 2 students were eligible from each school of the country (from class 6th to 10th) during the Five Year Plan period for an INSPIRE Award of Rs. 5000 each for preparing a science project/model. INSPIRE Award Warrant was issued directly in the name of selected student and sent to him/her through State/school authorities. Award amount includes cost of making a science project / model as well as cost of bringing the project / model at District level Centre for Exhibition / Display Competition
- 2.2 All Awardees under the scheme are required to participate in the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC). Best 5 to 10 per cent entries from the district are selected for

participation in a State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC). Best 5 per cent entries from the State/UT, subject to a minimum of 5, are selected to participate at the National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC). At all levels, the projects are evaluated by a Jury of experts. Participation/merit certificates are issued to the selected awardees of DLEPC, SLEPC and NLEPC, as well as, mentor / teachers who guided them for the preparation of the projects. The entire cost of organizing exhibitions at district, state and national level is borne by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

- 2.3 Merit based selection of the students for INSPIRE awardees is done by Head Master/Head Mistress/ Principal of each school, who is required to send nomination of best children having aptitude for science, with requisite details giving also the criteria adopted by the school for nomination and selection. District education authorities compile details of the schools in their jurisdiction in the prescribed format and send the proposal to DST through the State education authorities.
- 2.4 All schools in the country, recognized by the District / State Education authorities, whether Government or private, added or un-aided, run by Central Government or State Government or local bodies, and having classes 6 to 10 are eligible to participate in the scheme.
- 2.5 Proposals so received from the State authorities are processed in DST in accordance with the norms of the scheme and the list of the selected students is sent to the banker of DST for preparation of Award Warrants in the name of selected students. The Award Warrants so received from the bank are sent to State authorities for onward delivery to the selected awardees through district education authorities.

3. Present Status of Implementation of Scheme.

- 3.1 The scheme envisaged selection of one million (10 lakh) students during the Five Year Plan period @ of 2 lakh awardees per year. There are about 4.5 to 5 lakh schools in the country which would have classes 6 to 10. The scheme was launched during December, 2008. However, implementation could start only in 2009-10, and 1.26 lakh Awards were sanctioned during that year. In addition, 2.50 lakh Awards were sanctioned during 2010-11. As on date more than 6 lakh Awards have been sanctioned. (State wise list at **Annexure-I**)
- 3.2 Since the inception of the scheme, more than 2.5 lakh Awardees have participated in DLEPCs, about 20 thousand selected Awardees of DLEPCs have participated in SLEPCs, and recently about 700 awardees participated in the first ever NLEPC held at Delhi during August 14-16, 2011. All the 35 States/UTs are participating in the scheme.
- 3.3 Funds to meet the expenditure in connection with DLEPC, SLEPC are released to the State Nodal Officer through electronic fund transfer to their notified bank account. As on date, an amount of Rs. 75.40 Crores has been released to the States/UTs to meet the expenditure in connection with DLEPC / SLEPC/ NLEPC.

4. Continuation of Scheme During the 12th Five Year Plan.

Scheme will continue during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017), may be with an extended coverage, under which a proposal to sanction one Award per school per year is under consideration

of the Government. **If approved, this would mean 2 million (20 lakh) Awards to be sanctioned during the 5 year period @ of about 4 lakh Awards per year** (assuming participation of about 80 to 90 per cent of the 4.5 to 5 lakh schools in the country).

5. **E-management of the INSPIRE Award Scheme.**

Under the Scheme, large number of nominations, running into lakhs, have to be processed for selection of the students for INSPIRE Award. At present proposals/data is received from the State authorities in the prescribed format in the simple MS Excel file and in-house processing of data is done by DST to make selections. Considering the obvious limitations of such a process, DST plans to e-manage the entire INSPIRE Award Scheme by using State-of-Art latest Information Technology and engaging a competent e-management agency, which would have the responsibility to develop an appropriate application software, which would enable e-filing of nominations by the schools across the country, its processing by the District and State authorities as well as DST in accordance with the norms of the scheme, transmission of data of selected students to the banks, credit of Award amount to the bank accounts of selected Awardees (wherever notified) or preparation of INSPIRE Award Warrants by the bank and their dispatch to the selected Awardees and all such related activities concerning implementation of the scheme, management of the data, generation of various MIS returns etc. However, this may take time and may become operational in next financial year only i.e. w.e.f. 1.4.2013. Hence, it is proposed to continue the existing system of sanctions based on proposals received from the States/UTs.

Accordingly following detailed guidelines are issued for submission of proposals by the States/UTs for the year 2012-13:

6. **Implementation of the INSPIRE Award Scheme during the 12th Five Year Plan period – Guidelines for Submission of Proposals by State / UTs for the Year 2012-13**

6.1 **Format and process for submission of proposals**

Keeping in view the past experience, format for submission of proposals has been slightly modified. Revised format is given at **Annexure-II**. All the schools must submit complete and correct details in this format only duly observing the instructions for filling this format as given in **Annexure-II A**. **In particular, it must be ensured that complete name of the school, nominated student and father's name etc are entered in the format.** District Nodal Officers (DNOs) Incharge of INSPIRE will compile proposals of all the schools in their jurisdiction in MS-Excel format, and after due verification and certification, send the same to State Nodal Officer (SNO) Incharge INSPIRE of their respective State/UT. SNO would, in turn, compile proposals of all the districts in his/her State/UT in MS-Excel format, and after due verification and certification, **send the same to Sh.Rajiv Malik, US (INSPIRE), along with one hard copy and one soft copy (on email: us.inspire-dst@nic.in or to Sh. Sandeep Bansal, Scientist 'C' on his email: sandeep.bansal@nic.in) from the official email of SNO/his authorized officer.** DST would process the proposals so received from various States/UTs in accordance with the norms of the scheme and issue requisite sanctions. Copy of sanction along with list in soft copy will be sent to the bank (on authorized email notified by the bank). The bank will prepare the warrants as per

existing system and deliver the same to DST within 15 days of receipt of sanction from DST. DST will, within 7 days of receipt of award warrants from bank, send the same to SNOs for onward delivery to selected awardees through respective DNOs and schools. SNOs will ensure that award warrants reach the selected awardees within a maximum of 30 days.

6.2 Organization of DLEPCs

All the selected awardees are required to participate in DLEPCs. DNOs should organize such DLEPCs for the selected awardees of their districts within 30 to 60 days of receipt of award warrants and send a list of best 5 to 10% awardees to their SNO. DLEPCs of awards sanctioned till March 31, 2012 should be organized latest by May 31, 2012.

6.3 Organization of SLEPCs

Best 5 to 10% awardees of DLEPCs are to participate in SLEPCs. SNOs should organize such SLEPCs within a maximum of 60 days of conclusion of DLEPCs and send a list of best 5% awardees, subject to a minimum of 5, to DST. SLEPCs of awards sanctioned till March 31, 2012 should be organized latest by July 31, 2012.

6.4 Organization of NLEPCs

Responsibility for organizing NLEPCs rests with DST. As soon as DST receives sufficient nominations from various States/UTs, it would announce a schedule for conduct of NLEPCs. 1st NLEPC was organized by DST during August 2011. **IInd NLEPC is likely to be organized by DST at Delhi during August 2012. Hence all the States / UTs are requested to ensure the SLEPCs of all the awardees sanctioned till March 31, 2012 is completed by July 31, 2012 positively.** List of selected awardees of SLEPC for participation in the IInd NLEPC should reach DST latest by 10th August 2012 alongwith brief write-up of the project in the format at Annexure-VII.

6.5 Norms for conduct of DLEPCs and SLEPCs

There is no change in the norms for conduct of DLEPCs and SLEPCs as issued vide letter No. 12011/46/2010/INSPIRE dated 14.12.2010 (copy at **Annexure- III**). All the DNOs and SNOs are requested to strictly observe these norms.

6.6 Format of Summary Report (SR) and Utilisation Certificates (UCs)

There is no change in instructions and format with respect to submission of SRs and UCs as issued vide letter No. 12011-44/2010-INSPIRE dated 14.12.2010 (copy at **Annexure-IV**). All the DNOs and SNOs are requested to ensure timely submission of SRs and UCs in accordance with these instructions. Further release of funds to SNOs for DLEPCs and SLEPCs would be made only on receipt of SRs for DLEPCs and SLEPCs already organized/ UCs for funds released till March 31, 2012.

6.7 Timelines for submission of proposals

Proposals from States/UTs for the year 2012-13, in the prescribed format (**Annexure-II**), complete

in all respects and conforming to these guidelines, should reach DST **latest by June 30, 2012**. SNOs may issue suitable instructions to DNOs to obtain requisite proposals from all the schools in their jurisdiction and compile and send the same to SNOs well in time to enable SNOs to send proposals to DST within the prescribed time limits.

6.8 Release of funds for DLEPCs and SLEPCs

There is no change in the norms and instructions for release of funds by DST to States/ UTs for DLEPCs/ SLEPCs as issued vide letter No. A-12011/01/2010-INSPIRE dated 23rd September 2010 (copy at Annexure V-A) and SNOs are requested to send **timely proposals for release of funds for DLEPCs and SLEPCs along with requisite confirmation from Secretary/ Principal Secretary Incharge of INSPIRE Scheme about the bank account of the SNOs in which funds are to be transferred electronically (as per format given in Annexure-V-B). Please note that even if bank account details of SNO has remained same, for release of funds for the year 2012-13 onwards, the same need to be revalidated and sent again in Annexure-V-B format duly countersigned by the Education Secretary in charge of INSPIRE Award Scheme.**

6.9 Submission of complete list of Schools under the jurisdiction of each District Nodal Officer (INSPIRE)

Under the scheme, all schools in the country, which are recognized by the District / State Education authorities, whether private (both aided and unaided) or Government (run by Central Government or State Government or Local Bodies) which have any of the classes from 6th standard to 10th standard (whether all or only some) are eligible to participate in the scheme. Hence, it is essential to have a complete list of all the schools under the jurisdiction of each District Nodal Officer (DNO) in the country. Such list would also be required for registration of the schools under the E-management project referred to in para 5. **Accordingly, all the District Nodal Officers are requested to prepare a complete list of all the schools under their jurisdiction, (including Private Schools, schools run by Central Government, Local bodies, etc.) which have classes 6th to 10th (whether all or only some) and send it to State Nodal Officer (SNO) latest by 31st May 2012. State Nodal Officer in turn, will send list of all the District Nodal Officer (covering all the revenue district of the State) to Department of Science & Technology (DST) by 15th June 2012 to enable us to compile list of all the Districts in the software for registration of schools and for sanctioning of the proposals during the current year as well as remaining period of the 12th Five Year Plan. This list needs to be prepared in the MS-Excel form only in the enclosed format (Annexure-VI) and need to be sent to DST through SNO, both in hard copy, **duly authenticated by DNO(s)** as well as in soft copy (either e-mail or CD).**

6.10 Other important instructions to be kept in mind while sending the proposals

- 6.10.1 Generally, the children who have been nominated / selected under other similar schemes of Central Government or State Government (for example, Jawaharlal Nehru National Science Exhibition for Children, a Scheme of NCERT) should not be nominated under this scheme so that more and more children get a chance to participate in different schemes of the Government.

- 6.10.2 It must be ensured that the nominations of all the schools is obtained and compiled only in the MS Excel format given in Annexure-II.
- 6.10.3 **It must be ensured that complete name of the school, nominated students and father's name etc. are correctly entered in the format.**
- 6.10.4 Only one child should be nominated from each of the classes 6th to 10th (i.e. 5 children from schools having all the classes 6th to 10th, only 3 children from schools having classes 6th to 8th, only 2 children from schools having classes 9th to 10th and so on).
- 6.10.5 The list will generally remain valid for 2 years. In case, towards the end of financial year 2012-13, sufficient funds are available and some other states have not sent their complete proposals, DST, may in its discretion, sanction more INSPIRE Awards out of list for 2012-13 to such schools / States which have submitted complete proposals in Annexure-II format.
- 6.10.6 It may be noted that all types of recognized schools, whether Government (Central Government / State Government) or Private (Aided or Unaided), or run by NGOs etc. are covered under the scheme.
- 6.10.7. While sending the proposals, it should be ensured that adequate number of students is included from SCs, STs and OBC categories, students belong to minority communities and maximum possible representation is given to girl students in proposals from co- educational schools.
- 6.10.8 All the INSPIRE awardees would get a Certificate. In addition, Merit Certificates would be given to the students whose projects / models are selected / adjudged best at the District / State / National Level Exhibition.
- 6.10.9 The award amount would be sanctioned in the name of selected students and award warrants in the name of selected students would be got prepared from the bank. All the award warrants of a particular State / UT would be handed over to State Nodal Officer / his representative for onward distribution to awardees through District / School authorities. As per the understandings with DST's bank issuing the award warrants, it is not compulsory for the awardees to open a bank account to en-cash his warrant. The Award / Warrant can be en-cashed at any branch of the bank (State Bank of India) at par.
- 6.10.10 Keeping in view the large number of schools and the students recommended from each school in each class, proposals can be processed by DST only if accompanied by Soft Copy (in MS Excel format in prescribed proforma duly filled in). **In the absence of Soft Copy, it will not be possible for Department of Science & Technology to process proposals and sanction the awards. Hence, to avoid any delay, states are requested to ensure that Hard Copy of the proposals is simultaneously accompanied by soft copy which can be sent either on CD or through e-mail of concerned officers of DST.**
- 6.10.11 (a) All awardees get an opportunities to display their project at the District Level Exhibition to be organized by District Level Authorities. Projects at District Level would be judged by a 3-member jury (2 locals- to be appointed by District / State authorities (from local college/ university / other reputed institutes faculty members) and 1 from DST panel – **INSPIRE**

Mentor list available at DST website), who would select best 5 to 10% of projects / models, for State level Exhibition.

- 6.10.11 (b) Selected projects at District level would get opportunity to participate in the State Level Exhibition, to be organized by State authorities. Projects at State level would be judged by a 3-member jury (1 local- to be appointed by State authorities and 2 from DST panel – **INSPIRE Mentor list available at DST website**) who would select best 5% projects / models, subject to a minimum of 5 for National level.
- 6.10.11 (c) Selected projects at State / UT level would get opportunity to participate in the National Level Exhibition, to be organized by DST Projects at National Level would be judged by jury appointed by DST.
- 6.11 Any selected INSPIRE Awardee, who fails to prepare the project and participate in the DLEPCs, is required to return the Award Warrant / Award amount to School authorities, who will, in turn, return the same to DNO (INSPIRE). DNO will return all such cases to DST through SNO (INSPIRE) on six monthly basis.

7. Revalidation of INSPIRE Award Warrants

- 7.1 INSPIRE Award Warrants are valid for a specified period generally for six months. Hence, it is essential that these are sent to the selected children without any delay, with instructions to encash the same within the validity period. If, due to some reasons, INSPIRE Award Warrants have expired, the same need not be sent back to DST or Bank. Only an intimation in this regard may be sent to DST. Generally, the Bank will issue general instructions with regard to revalidation of such INSPIRE Warrants for a specified period on the lines of instructions issued vide letter No. NDMB/C&I/INST/2010-11/1169 dated 3rd September 2011 (copy at **Annexure-VIII-A**) under which all expired warrants were revalidated upto 31st March 2012.
- 7.2 List of officers of SBI Main Branch to be contacted related to issues regarding INSPIRE Award Warrants is at **Annexure-VII-B**.
- 7.3 State Bank of India (SBI) has also issued general instructions to all its branches with regard to encashment of these warrants copy of which is available at **Annexure-VIII-C**.

8. Printing and dispatch of copies of these guidelines to all the schools

While sufficient copies of these guidelines are being printed by DST and sent to all SNOs and DNOs (through SNOs only), and a copy of same is available on the website of DST, it appears desirable that printed copies of these guidelines are sent to all the schools by respective DNOs by getting sufficient copies printed locally, using the soft copy available on the web. The cost towards this can be met from the funds released to DNOs (through SNOs) for conduct of DLEPCs. Or in the alternate, SNOs can get sufficient copies of these guidelines printed at State level and send to all the DNOs as per their requirement. The expenditure on this item can be debited to the funds released by DST for SLEPCs / DLEPCs.
