

INSPIRE Scheme

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INSPIRE Scheme Latest News

Research scholars across India have raised concerns over non-receipt of INSPIRE fellowships funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for periods ranging from 8 to 13 months.

About INSPIRE Scheme

- The **INSPIRE Scheme** (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) is a **flagship initiative** of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- It was launched in **2008** with a vision to **build a critical human resource base** that can strengthen **India's Science & Technology and R&D ecosystem**.
- Unlike competitive scholarship schemes, **INSPIRE does not conduct any entrance examinations**. It instead relies on **merit-based identification** through existing academic performance metrics.

What is the INSPIRE Fellowship?

- The **INSPIRE Fellowship** is a component of the DST's **INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research)** scheme, launched in **2008** to **promote research careers in basic sciences**.
- The scheme aims to **nurture talent** and attract top-performing students to **scientific research** rather than more lucrative careers in **engineering, IT, or finance**.
- Annually, about **1,000 scholars** are selected for the fellowship based on **academic merit** and the **quality of their research proposals**.

Eligibility for INSPIRE Fellowship

- Must be a **first-rank holder** in postgraduate courses in **science, applied sciences, or engineering**, OR
- An **INSPIRE scholar** with at least **70% aggregate** marks through UG and PG and previously in the **top 1% of Class XII board exams** or top performers in **national level exams** like **IIT-JEE**.
- A **screening committee** evaluates the **research proposal** before awarding the fellowship.

Key Features of the INSPIRE Scheme

- Implemented by **DST** with a **total outlay of ₹1,979 crore** in the 11th Plan and **₹2,200 crore in the 12th Plan**.
- Aims to build a **human resource base** in **basic and natural sciences**.
- Comprises **three components**:
 - **SEATS (Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent)** – For school students to foster interest in science.
 - **SHE (Scholarship for Higher Education)** – For undergraduate and postgraduate science students.
 - **AORC (Assured Opportunity for Research Careers)** – Includes INSPIRE Fellowships and Faculty Awards.

INSPIRE Scheme FAQs

Q1: What does INSPIRE stand for?

Ans: INSPIRE stands for “Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research”, a flagship scheme by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.

Q2: What is the objective of the INSPIRE Scheme?

Ans: The scheme aims to attract talented students to science from an early age and nurture future scientific manpower for research and innovation.

Q3: What are the major components of the INSPIRE Scheme?

Ans: The scheme has three components: (1) INSPIRE Award (for school students), (2) Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE), and (3) INSPIRE Fellowship (for doctoral studies).

Source: TH

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