



## UP Tops in Inspire Award Manak Scheme

### Why in News?

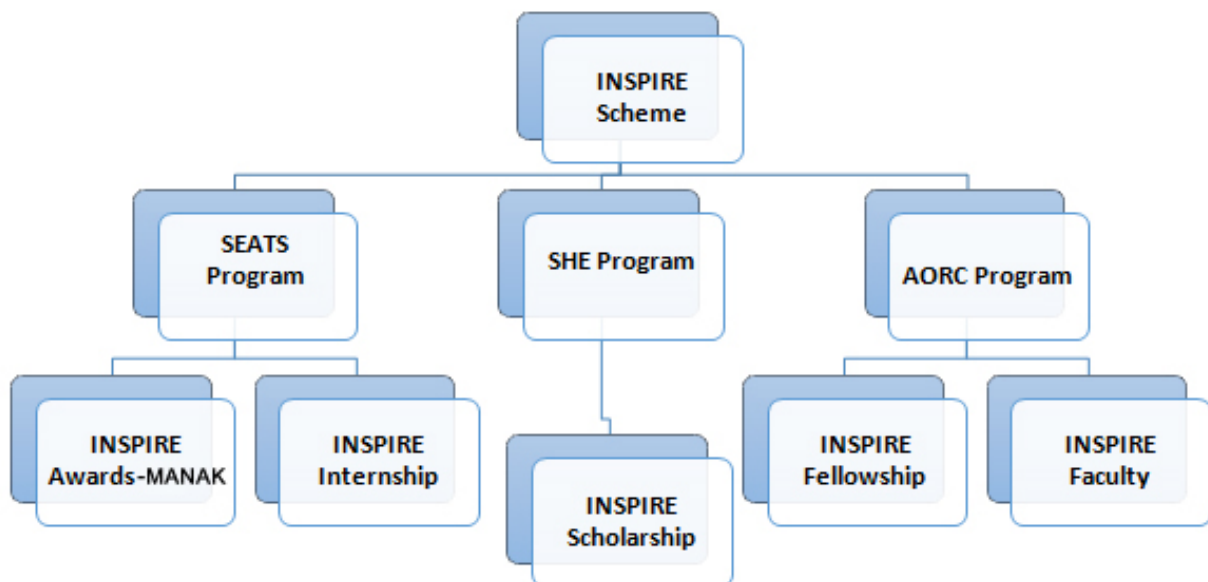
Uttar Pradesh has achieved the **highest number of nominations (2.8 lakh)** under the **INSPIRE Award MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) scheme**, setting a new national benchmark in student-led innovation.

### Key Points

- **Record Achievement:** UP recorded 2.8 lakh nominations this year, the **highest since the scheme began**, marking a 70,000 rise from last year's 2.1 lakh.
- **Inclusive Participation:** Active participation was witnessed with nominations from all 75 districts, involving students from Secondary, Junior High, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, Composite, and Sanskrit Schools.
- **Top Performing Districts:** Pratapgarh (7,085), Prayagraj (6,929), Lucknow (6,721), Hardoi (6,689), Jaunpur (5,930).
  - 22 districts of UP feature among the **top 50 districts nationwide** in nominations.
- **National Comparison:** Uttar Pradesh is followed by Rajasthan with 1.41 lakh nominations and Karnataka with 1.01 lakh nominations at the national level.
- **INSPIRE Award MANAK Scheme:**
  - **About:** It is a **flagship scheme jointly implemented** by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and the [\*\*National Innovation Foundation \(NIF\)\*\*](#) – India, an autonomous body of the DST.
  - **Target Group:** Students of Classes 6 to 12.
  - **Objective:** To foster **innovation, originality, and creative thinking** among school students.
  - **Process:** Students submit innovative ideas through **online nominations**.

### INSPIRE Scheme

- The **INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) scheme**, a flagship programme of the **Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences**, aims to attract youth towards science from an early stage and build a strong human resource base for strengthening India's Science, Technology, and R&D ecosystem.
- The Government of India has been implementing the **INSPIRE scheme since 2010, covering students aged 10-32 years** through five components, including the INSPIRE Awards-MANAK.



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