

MEMO – August '2026

Focus Areas for August 2026

• Celebration of Independence Day
• INSPIRE Awards – MANAK Nominations
• Design for Change 2026
• IT Innovation Best Idea Competition Internal competition
• School Enterprise Challenge
• Establishment of Career Guidance Cells
• Continuous Teacher Professional Development through TheTeacherApp
• Study & Life Skills Workshops
• Green Schools Programme
• Scholarships 2026

Prestigious Competitions in Focus

1. INSPIRE MANAK AWARDS

'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) scheme is one of the flagship programmes of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK being executed by DST with 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 12th.

Important Days

- World Wide Web Day – 1 Aug
- National Handloom Day – 7 Aug
- Int. Youth Day – 12 Aug
- Independence Day – 15 Aug
- World Photography Day – 19 Aug
- National Space Day – 23 Aug
- World Equality Day – 26 Aug
- National Sports Day – 29 Aug

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.

To participate, use the link: <https://www.inspireawards-dst.gov.in/>

The online nominations for 2026-27 will resume from 15th June 2026. The schools will be able to submit their online nominations till 15th September 2026.

2. Green Schools Programme

The Green Schools Programme (GSP), an initiative of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), is an environmental education programme that empowers students to become environmentally conscious citizens through experiential learning and sustainability audits. The programme encourages schools to assess their consumption of natural resources and adopt eco-friendly practices that promote sustainable development.

Through student-led environmental audits covering Water, Air, Land, Energy, Waste, and Food, schools develop practical solutions to conserve resources, reduce waste, and build environmentally responsible campuses. The programme also nurtures leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills while fostering a culture of sustainability.

Objectives:

- Promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices among students.
- Encourage student-led environmental audits and resource conservation.
- Develop environmentally responsible school campuses.
- Foster leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking through practical learning.
- Contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Schools are encouraged to register and actively participate in the Green Schools Programme.

Official Website: <https://www.greenschoolsprogramme.org/>

3. Design for Change (DFC)

Design for Change (DFC) is a global movement that empowers children to become changemakers by identifying real-life challenges in their schools and communities and developing innovative solutions through the FIDS Framework – Feel, Imagine, Do, and Share.

The programme nurtures creativity, empathy, collaboration, critical thinking, and leadership while encouraging students to take ownership of positive social change. Schools are encouraged to form student teams and undertake meaningful projects that address issues related to education, environment, health, inclusion, and community development.

Objectives:

- Foster creativity, innovation, and problem-solving among students.
- Develop empathy and a sense of social responsibility.
- Encourage student-led initiatives for positive community impact.
- Promote collaboration, communication, and leadership skills.
- Provide students with a platform to showcase their solutions at national and global levels.

Schools are encouraged to participate actively and submit impactful projects under the Design for Change programme.

Official Website: <https://www.dfeworld.com/>

4. School Enterprise Challenge 2026

The School Enterprise Challenge is an international entrepreneurship programme that enables students to establish and manage a real school-based enterprise. Through this initiative, students learn business planning, market research, budgeting, financial literacy, teamwork, leadership, communication and problem-solving while generating funds for their school or community.

Objectives

- Develop entrepreneurial mindset among students.
- Promote financial literacy and business planning.
- Encourage innovation and teamwork.
- Build leadership and communication skills.
- Enable students to solve real-life problems through enterprise.

Schools can participate free of cost by registering on the official portal.

Registration: [School Enterprise Challenge 2026](#) . The programme is currently open for registrations.

5. HCL Jigsaw 2026–27

HCL Jigsaw is a national-level Project-Based Learning (PBL) competition for students of **Classes VI to IX**, designed to foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving skills in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Schools are encouraged to register interested students, form teams, and mentor them in developing innovative solutions to real-world challenges. Participation offers students an opportunity to showcase their ideas on a national platform while enhancing their research, design thinking, and presentation skills. All schools are requested to ensure maximum participation and complete the registration process before the stipulated deadline.

Registration Link: <https://hcljigsaw.com>

6. IT Innovation Best Idea Competition

Schools are encouraged to organize an IT Innovation Best Idea Competition as an internal platform to identify and nurture innovative ideas among students. This competition will help schools shortlist the most promising innovation ideas and projects, which can then be further refined and submitted for the INSPIRE Awards – MANAK 2026. It will also promote creativity, problem-solving, and scientific thinking among students while strengthening the culture of innovation in schools.

7. Continuous Teacher Professional Development (TheTeacherApp)

TheTeacherApp continues to serve as a professional learning platform for teachers, enabling continuous capacity building through self-paced learning modules, webinars, and collaborative learning opportunities. Teachers are encouraged to regularly complete assigned modules and actively

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participate in professional development activities to enhance classroom practices and improve student learning outcomes.

Download link on android and Apple store: <https://www.theteacherapp.org/en/auth/login>

8. Digital Literacy Programme

Bharti Airtel Foundation continues its Digital Literacy Programme to equip students with essential digital competencies, foster responsible technology use, and promote critical thinking in an increasingly digital world.

Schools are encouraged to ensure active participation of students in all scheduled sessions and activities under the programme.

9. Study & Life Skills Workshops

Selected teachers are requested to continue conducting Study & Life Skills Workshops using the modules shared by Bharti Airtel Foundation.

Suggested themes include:

- Stress Management
- Exam Writing
- Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking

10. Establishment of Career Guidance Cells

Schools whose teachers have successfully completed the Career Guidance Training Programme conducted by Bharti Airtel Foundation in collaboration with IDC are requested to establish **Career Guidance Cells** in their respective schools.

The Career Guidance Cell should support students in making informed academic and career decisions through regular counselling sessions, career awareness activities, scholarship guidance, and dissemination of information on higher education opportunities.

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Scholarship Opportunities

Schools are requested to ensure that all eligible students are informed about the following scholarship schemes and are provided necessary guidance to complete their applications within the stipulated timelines. Principals and educators should maintain a record of eligible students and applications submitted for future reporting.

1. **SC/ST Scholarship (National Scholarship Portal):** All eligible SC/ST students should be encouraged to apply for the relevant Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, and Higher Education scholarship schemes available through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).
Portal: [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#)
2. **PM-USP Scholarship (Prime Minister's Unified Scholarship Portal – Central Sector Scheme):** Eligible meritorious students should be encouraged to apply for the PM-USP Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students through the National Scholarship Portal.
Information: [PM-USP Scholarship Details](#)
Application Portal: [National Scholarship Portal \(NSP\)](#)
3. **Bharti Airtel Scholarship:** Students securing admission to eligible undergraduate professional programmes are encouraged to apply for the **Bharti Airtel Scholarship 2026–27**. The scholarship provides comprehensive financial support, including tuition fees and other academic assistance, to eligible students.
Scholarship Details & Registration: [Bharti Airtel Scholarship 2026–27](#)