The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has launched the ‘Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)’ programme in 2008. The programme aims to attract talent for study of science and careers with research. INSPIRE includes many components. The importance of Assured Career Opportunity in R&D sector has been recognized. INSPIRE Faculty Scheme opens up an ‘Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC)’ for young researchers in the age group of 27-32 years. The upper age limit as on 1 July 2012 should be 32 years for considering support for a period of 5 years. However, for SC and ST candidates upper age limit will be 35 years. It offers contractual research awards to young achievers and an opportunity for independent research in short term and to emerge as a leader in long term.

- Each selected INSPIRE Faculty shall be eligible to receive a consolidated amount equivalent to that of an Assistant Professor of an IIT as Fellowship amount, in addition to a Research Grant of Rs 7 lakhs per year. The INSPIRE Faculty Award is tenable for a maximum period of 5 (five) years.

- Three routes, i.e. Direct (A), Nomination (B) and Institution mode are available for applying by the eligible candidates.

- Under ‘Institute Mode’, candidates may directly approach reputed academic institutes and the host academic Institute shall be required to adopt its own internal process and mechanism as available before forwarding names of short-listed candidates for final selection by the Apex Committee.

- Eligible candidates, who wish to be considered in ‘Direct (A)’ and ‘Nominated (B)’ routes, may send applications directly to the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi for consideration.

- Nominations from academic institutions or industry R&D through Vice-Chancellors/Directors of Institutions/Heads of Institutions/Presidents and Fellows of Science Academies or Eminent Scientists from India and Abroad based on personal knowledge, to be sent to the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi.

- Eligible candidates choosing ‘Direct Mode (A) and Nominated Mode (B)’ must apply in the prescribed format to The Executive Director, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002 on or before 5 October 2012.

[For details, please visit website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in]