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Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development

Guidelines for "Nari Shakti Puraskars" – National Award for Women

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8th March. The Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrates this day to acknowledge the achievements of women for the nation and recognize their contributions to the society.

Therefore, it has been decided by the Ministry to confer 'Nari Shakti Puraskars' every year to individuals and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment, especially vulnerable and marginalized women.

2. Objectives

21 In the past few years, there have been concerted efforts by the Government to recognize and encourage women to participate in all spheres and issues related to women have gained utmost importance and focused attention. "Nari Shakti Puraskars" shall showcase the Government's commitment towards women with the aim of strengthening their position in the society.

22 Nari Shakti Puraskar will also provide an opportunity to Young Indians to understand the contribution of women in building of society and the nation.

23 The awards will inspire the individuals & institutions to follow the league of awardees.

3. Description

3.1 The recipients of the Nari Shakti Puraskars shall be declared every year by 20th February and awards will be conferred on 8th March on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD).

3.2 The maximum number of awards (including individual and institutional) would be 15. However, any relaxation to this maximum number may be permitted at the discretion of the selection committee. The Award in each category shall carry a certificate and a cash amount of rupees Two lakh per awardee.

4. Eligibility Criteria for Nomination

4.1 The awards are open to all individuals and institutions.

4.2 In case of individual category, the awardee must be at least 25 years of age on 1st July of the award year (e.g. for the year 2020 awards to be distributed on 08.03.2021, the age should be as on 01.07.2020 and so on).

4.3 If the applicant is an institution, it should have worked in the relevant field for at least 5 years.

4.4 The applicant should not be a recipient of the same award earlier (including Stree Shakti Puraskars as were awarded by the Ministry earlier).

4.5 The Nari Shakti Puruskar may be awarded for outstanding work, preferably in exceptional circumstances, to - individuals/ groups / institutions / NGOs, etc. in the areas of: economic and social empowerment of women or pertaining to this theme or incidental thereto.

The Nari Shakti Puruskar may be awarded to individuals/ groups/ NGOs/ institutions etc. who encouraged women to participate in decision making roles; encouraged women's skill development in traditional and non-traditional sectors; facilitated basic amenities for rural women; promoted women in non-traditional sectors like science and technology, sports, art, culture, concretely and significantly towards safety and security, health and wellness, education, skill development, life skills, respect and dignity of women etc.

4.6 An award may also be given to a State or Union Territory, which has appreciably improved Child Sex Ratio (CSR).

4.7 Normally the awards shall not be presented posthumously; excepting in cases where death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the Ministry in the manner as stipulated in these guidelines.

5 Nominations

5.1 Nominations for the award shall be invited from:

(a) State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, concerned Central Ministries/ Departments.

(b) Non-Governmental Organizations, Universities/ Institutions, Private and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

(c) The Selection Committee may also, suo moto, recommend an individual/ institution for the award with sufficient justification.

(d) Self-nominations & recommendations for the awards, both, shall be considered.

5.2 The Nominations would be submitted to the Ministry of Women and Child Development with details as per online application form alongwith supporting documents as mentioned in the application form.

5.3 The entities at para 5.1 recommending the nominations should clearly certify the work carried out by the nominees for which the award is being recommended.



6. Mode of calling the nominations

6.1 For inviting the applications for the awards, an advertisement will be published by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India in leading Newspapers across the country. The Ministry will also write to all the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Central Ministries/ Departments.

6.2 The information will be simultaneously placed on Ministry's website and other social media platforms as well as any other medium of communication as may be decided, along with relevant details.

6.3 The last date of the submission of the application will be mentioned in the advertisement. The applications received after the last date will not be considered.

7. Procedure for sending nominations:

7.1. Nominations will be received only through designated website i.e. www.narishaktipuraskar.wcd.gov.in. The link of this website will also be available on the official website of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (www.wcd.nic.in). Applications received other than online mode will not be entertained.

7.2 Applications received by the due date will be sent to the State/UT and District Collector/District Magistrate, other government/appropriate agencies/organizations for verification of the claims and achievements mentioned in the applications.

8. Screening of Nominations

8.1 A Screening Committee shall be constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to scrutinize and short list the nominations received for the Awards considering the achievements of the applying/ recommended individuals and institutions.

8.2 The Screening Committee shall consist of:

(i)	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	Chairperson, ex-officio
(ii)	Domain expert in the field of women issues/gender expert, Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	Member
(iii)	Concerned Director/ DS level officer, Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	Member
(iv)	Director/ DS level officer, Ministry of Urban Development, Rural Development, Health, Panchayati Raj, Home Affairs, NITI Aayog		Member
(v)	Representative of CII and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)	-	Member
(vi)	Concerned Under Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	Member Secretary

9. Selection of Awardees by the Selection Committee

9.1 A Selection Committee shall be constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to select the awardees on the basis of recommendation of the Screening Committee.

9.2 The Selection Committee shall consist of:

(i)	Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development	-	Chairperson, ex-officio
(ii)	Hon'ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development		Member, ex-officio
(iii)	Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development	-	Member, ex-officio
(iv)	Special or Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development	-	Member, ex-officio
(v)	Secretary or his nominee from Ministry of Rural Development	-	Member, ex-officio
(vi)	Five National level eminent NGOs/Individuals/ Institutions	-	Co-opted members
(vii)	Joint Secretary (Women Awards),	-	Member-Secretary

9.3 The Selection Committee may at its discretion also consider individuals/ institutions/ organizations other than those who have got nominated/ recommended before the last date of receipt of nominations/ recommendations.

10. Presentation of the Award

10.1 The Award shall be presented at New Delhi at a special ceremony/ function held on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8th March every year.

10.2 The Ministry will reimburse travel expenses by economy class by shortest route, for the awardees to and from Delhi, by Air India or any other airline as specifically permitted and local travelling allowance on production of bills and air tickets. Apart from this, boarding and lodging arrangements for the awardees for three days (one day prior and one day after the date of Award ceremony) shall be arranged by the Ministry.

11 Recall of Awards

If subsequent to the presentation of awards, it is found that false declaration has been made by the applicant in the application to claim the award or the conduct of an awardee is found to be unbecoming by way of any anti-national, anti-social, unethical, immoral, illegal activities including indulging in crime against women, economic offences etc. or conviction by a court of law, the Ministry reserves the right to withdraw the awards and in such event the name of the awardee shall be deleted from the list of awardees and they would be required to refund the award money to Consolidated Fund of India in such manner, as may be prescribed.

12 Miscellaneous Provisions Governing the Awards

12.1 The Ministry reserves the right to reject any entry without assigning and/ or disclosing any reason.

12.2 The decision of the Government with regard to selection of awardees shall be final and binding and no person including the applicant will have the right to question the decision of the Government or to challenge the validity of such decision.


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(Daya Shankar)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India