

7. NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD:

7.1 Objectives of the award:

- a. To motivate young persons (aged between 15 – 29 years) to achieve excellence in the field of national development or social service.
- b. To encourage young people to develop a sense of responsibility to the community and thus to improve their own personal potential as good citizens.
- c. To give recognition to the outstanding work done by voluntary organizations working with the youth for national development and / or social service.

7.2 Description of the award:

- a. The award shall be given for identifiable excellent work for youth in different fields of development activities and social service such as health, research and innovation, culture, promotion of human rights, art and literature, tourism, traditional medicine, active citizenship, community service, sports and academic excellence & smart learning.
- b. The number of awards given each year would ordinarily not exceed 20 for individual category and 5 for organization category. It may, however, vary at the discretion of the sanctioning authority in deserving case.
- c. Up to five youth organization award would be given to voluntary organizations engaged in involvement of youth in various programmes of national development as indicated in 7.2a.
- d. Award to individuals will comprise a medal, a certificate and Rs. 1,00,000/- cash. Award to voluntary youth organizations will comprise a medal, a certificate and Rs. 3,00,000/- cash. The individuals will receive the prizes in their traditional attire.

7.3 Conditions of Eligibility:

7.3.1 For individuals:

- a. He/She must be a citizen of India.
- b. He/She should be between the ages of 15 – 29 years as on 1st January of the current year at the time of nomination.
- c. He/She should have done extra-ordinary identifiable social work.
- d. The award will be conferred once in a lifetime.
- e. Persons employed in any government service i.e. with the Central/State Governments, PSUs/Universities, Colleges/Schools, etc. are not eligible for the award.

7.3.2 For Voluntary Organizations:

- a. Be registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (Act XXII of 1860) for the last three years or under corresponding State Act and have proper constitution or Articles of Association;
- b. Have a properly constituted managing body with its powers and duties clearly defined in its constitution;
- c. Be in a position to secure involvement on a voluntary basis, of knowledgeable persons for furtherance of its programmes;
- d. Should be a non-profit organization;
- e. Should not have discriminated against any person or group of persons on the ground of sex, religion, caste or creed;
- f. Have rendered extra-ordinary service involving the Youth in the relevant field for at least three years;
- g. Have a good reputation among the local community/area; and
- h. Should not have been conferred with this award earlier.

7.4 Submission of Proposals:

- a. The formats of application for National Youth Awards are given at Appendix-2 and Appendix3 to these guidelines.
- b. Universities / Colleges, local developmental departments, voluntary agencies, private bodies, public sector undertakings, Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme, etc. and the individual himself can submit their recommendation to the respective Secretary in the State Govt./Union Territory Administration who will forward the recommendation to the Ministry within clear 30 days of advertisement.
- c. The Selection Committee will be vested with powers to select *suo-moto* any candidate for being considered for the award.
- d. Individuals or organizations may also apply directly to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports if their application is recommended by the Head of the Institution (School/College/University)/Sub-Division Magistrate/District Magistrate/District Collector of the area/district or any officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary in the Government of India.
- e. Nomination along with supporting documents must be sent in the prescribed format, either in Hindi or English only. Nominations received in other language will not be entertained.

7.5 Selection of Awardees:

7.5.1 Screening Committee: Six member Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India will screen all the applications and propose the names of the awardees thrice the number of awards to be given.

7.5.2 Selection Committee: Eight member Central Selection Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India will scrutinize all the recommendations of the Screening Committee and make the final selection of the Youth Awards. The Central Selection Committee will also have powers to consider any other case based on the merits.

7.6 Presentation of the Award: Presentation of the award shall be made at a special ceremony on a convenient date and time to be announced every year.

- a. The awardees shall be invited to receive the award in persons.
- b. The awardees would be given TA / DA by AC 2-tier return rail fare and arrangements for their stay would be made by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Differently abled awardees are entitled to travel along with an escort. Escorts will also be given TA/DA at par with the awardees.
- c. Awardees from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, North-Eastern region (including Sikkim) and Jammu & Kashmir may be allowed air fare on both ways to the nearest airport of the venue of the award.

7.7 General: The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is competent to amend this code at its discretion without any prior notice whatsoever.

- a. Necessary funds for the awards and for all expenses incidental thereto as approved by the Government shall be provided by Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- b. In case of any dispute, the decision of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will be final and binding on all concerned.
- c. The secretariat for the award shall be provided by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.