

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**(Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)****NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 18th January, 2013

Subject : 'Vayoshreshtha Sammans'—A Scheme of National Award for Senior Citizens

No. 15-39(30)/09-10-AG II.—Whereas in 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons and to promote the theme, "a society for all ages"; the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is observed every year, worldwide, on 1st October. This day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution, wisdom, dignity, and needs of our senior citizens and to rededicate our efforts to ensure their well-being.

And whereas, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as the Nodal Ministry for the cause of elderly, celebrates International Day of Older Persons every year on 1st October. Taking this as an opportune moment to promote the concept of active and productive ageing, it was decided in the year 2005 to confer Vayoshreshtha Sammans to eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition for their service towards the elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens

Now, therefore, In order to recognize the efforts made by eminent senior citizens and Institutions involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment) hereby announce the following Scheme for conferring National Awards on eminent Senior Citizens and Institutions, namely:-

1. Short title: This Scheme may be called the Scheme of National Award for Senior citizens.
2. Application: This Scheme shall be applicable to institutions and individuals who have rendered distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens.

3. Objectives

A. In the last decade the subject of Ageing and related issues has gained utmost importance and focused attention. 'Vayoshreshtha Sammans' – A Scheme of National Awards for Senior Citizens shall showcase the Government's concern for senior citizens

and its commitment towards senior citizens with the aim of strengthening their legitimate place in the society. It will also provide an opportunity to the younger generations to understand the contribution of the elderly in building of the society and the nation.

B. 'Vayoshreshtha Sammans' would be conferred on eminent senior citizens and Institutions involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens. The recipients would be drawn from diverse fields and nominations would be invited from Governmental and non governmental agencies. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (herein after referred to as "the Ministry") would invite nominations from the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, concerned Central Ministries, reputed Non Government Organisations working for the cause of elderly, members of National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC) and renowned Business associations like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry etc.

4. Description

(1) Vayoshreshtha Sammans shall be conferred every year in thirteen categories. The recipients of the Sammans shall be declared every year on the 1st September and will be conferred on the 1st October on the occasion of International Day of Older Persons (IDOP). The Award in each category shall carry a Citation, a Plaque and also cash award in some of the categories as decided from time to time. The award would be given to eminent or outstanding Institutions or organisations and individuals from any part of the country.

(2) The categories, description and nature of awards are given as under: B

| Sl. No. | Category | Description | Nature of Awards |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Institutional Category | | | |
| 1. | Best Institution for Research in the field of Ageing. | For institutions with a record of outstanding work in research and dissemination of knowledge in the field of ageing. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of five lakh Rupees. |
| 2. | Best Institution for providing Services to Senior Citizens and Awareness Generation. | For institutions with a record of providing services to the elderly, especially indigent senior citizens. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento (c) Cash award of five lakh Rupees. |
| 3. | Best District Panchayat in providing services and facilities to Senior | To the district Panchayats, which have done outstanding work for senior | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of ten lakh Rupees. |

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| | Citizens | citizens. | |
| 4. | Best Urban Local Body in providing services and facilities to Senior Citizens | To municipal bodies, which have done outstanding work for senior citizens. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of ten lakh Rupees. |
| 5. | Best State in implementing the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and providing services and facilities to Senior Citizens | To the State or Union Territories which has taken a lead in implementing various provisions of the Act and has highest percentage of settlement of claims of maintenance or best security programme for elderly. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento. |
| 6. | Best Private Sector Organisation in promoting the well being and welfare of senior citizens | Corporate Houses, addressing the problems of elderly either by providing them gainful employment, or utilising their skills and experience to the benefit of the society or creating infrastructure in geriatric medical care or any other similar step for the benefit of senior citizens as a community. The activities taken for benefit of senior citizens should be away from the mainline business of the organisation. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento. |
| 7. | Best Public Sector Organisation in promoting the well being and welfare of senior citizens | Public Sector Undertakings undertaking service to the community through activities under corporate social responsibility and also through programmes for retired employees. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento. |
| Individual Category | | | |
| 8 | Centenarian | For renowned individuals who are above ninety years and are still physically active, independent and | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees. |

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| | | contributing to the society. | |
| 9 | Iconic Mother | For women senior citizens who in the face of great odds, brought up their children and supported them in being high achievers in field of their choice. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees. |
| 10 | Lifetime Achievement | To senior citizens, preferably above seventy years, who have worked in the field of aging and made significant contribution in the field. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees. |
| 11 | Creative Art | For winners of National/ international acclaim for their contribution to literature, theatre, cinema, music, dance, painting, sculpture, photography, etc. and who continue to be active in their field well into their old age. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees. |
| 12 | Sports and Adventure (one each for Male and Female) | To senior citizens who have won international acclaim and who continue to contribute in the field of sports and adventure. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees. |
| 13 | Courage & Bravery (one each for Male and Female) | To senior citizens who have displayed extra ordinary courage in the face of grave danger. | (a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of two lakh and fifty thousand Rupees. |

(2) Normally the Sammans shall not be presented posthumously: Provided that death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the jury in the manner stipulated in this Code, then the Samman may be presented posthumously.

(3) A Screening Committee and Selection Committee would be constituted for the purpose which shall consider the achievement of the Organisations and the Individuals nominated or recommended for the Sammans by the prescribed authority. The

outstanding contribution in the field shall be the primary consideration in identifying the recipient of Sammans.

Explanation: For the purposes of this sub-paragraph the expression "prescribed authority" means the authority mentioned in paragraph 6.

5. Eligibility Criteria for Nomination

(1) The Sammans are open to all Indian Institutions, organisations and individuals without any distinction or discrimination on grounds of race, sex, caste or creed.

(2) To be eligible for the Sammans, it would ordinarily be necessary that the nominee is recommended in writing by an agency or individual mentioned in Section 5. However, in exceptional cases, the Selection Committee may also, suo moto, recommend a person or institution for the award, with justification.

(3) Self nominations for the Sammans shall not be considered by the Screening Committee and the Selection Committee.

(4) The eligibility criteria for each of the Category of Awards shall be as follows:

A. Best Institution for Research and dissemination of Knowledge in the field of Ageing:-

(1) The award shall be given to the institutions which are generating and spreading knowledge in the field of ageing.

(2) To claim the award the following requirements shall be fulfilled, namely:-

- (a) The Institution or Organisation should be a registered body and should have minimum five years of experience in the field of ageing and related issues;
- (b) The institution should have remarkable achievements in research or publication and spread of knowledge in the field of elderly in India;
- (c) Outstanding achievements in the area of education or training etc. in the field of Ageing or Geriatric care;
- (d) The Institution should have been instrumental in developing and formulating Policies and programmes for Senior Citizens either at the State or National level;
- (e) Dissemination of knowledge and creating awareness on the issues relating to elderly through conferences, seminars, workshops and other means;
- (f) Participatory leadership in the community and civil society at large in the field of ageing as prime concern.

B. Best Institution for providing Services to Senior Citizens:

(1) The award shall be given to the institutions which are providing outstanding services to the elderly.

(2) To claim the award, the following requirements shall be fulfilled, namely:-

- (a) The institution should be providing comprehensive services for the elderly preferably in rural or hilly areas of India especially to indigent senior citizens;
- (b) The Institution or Organisation should be a registered body and should have minimum five years experience in the field of service to elderly;
- (c) The Institution should have made outstanding contribution and has wide recognition;
- (d) The institution has undertaken specialised or innovative services and programme for the betterment of life of elderly in the society;
- (e) Outstanding achievement to provide new and effective outreach strategy or programmes for the betterment of elderly in the society.

C Best District Panchayat:

- (1) The award shall be given to the District Panchayats, which have done outstanding work for senior citizens.
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Exemplary contribution in the field of Health, Counselling, Legal aid, awareness, institutional and non institutional programmes for the elderly;
 - (b) Significant role in the empowerment of elder people at the village level;
 - (c) Outstanding achievement in the involvement and participation of local people or community in the promotion of care for elderly;
 - (d) Promotion of barrier free environment in the public buildings in panchayat area.

D Best Urban Local Body:

- (1) The award shall be given to Municipal Bodies or Cantonment Boards or Other Statutory Urban Local Bodies, which have done outstanding work for senior citizens.
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Exemplary contribution in the field of Health, Counselling, Legal aid, awareness, institutional and non institutional programmes for the elderly;
 - (b) Significant role in the empowerment of elder people at the municipality level;
 - (c) Outstanding achievement in the involvement and participation of local people or community in the promotion of care for elderly;
 - (d) Promotion of barrier free environment in the public buildings in the municipality area.

E Best State in Implementing the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 and providing services and facilities to Senior Citizens:

- (1) The award shall be given to the State or Union Territory which has taken lead in the implementation of various provisions of the Act.

(2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-

- (a) Notified the Act, framed the Rules, appointed Maintenance Officers, constituted Maintenance and Appellate Tribunals;
- (b) High level of settlement of claims of maintenance;
- (c) Constituted a State Council for Senior Citizens and held meeting at regular intervals;
- (d) Prepared and executed comprehensive action plan for providing protection to life and property of senior citizens;
- (e) Institutionalised arrangements for medical support to Senior citizens and created infrastructure and facilities for geriatric health care;
- (f) Promoted research work in treatment of chronic, terminal and degenerative diseases common among elderly;
- (g) Established a network of old age homes, service centres, help-lines or Volunteer bureaux.

F Best Private Sector Organisation in promoting the well being and welfare of senior citizens:

- (1) The award shall be given to a Private Sector Organisation who have done work for the welfare of senior citizens.
- (2) To claim the award, the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-

- (a) Addressing the problems of elderly either by providing them gainful employment, or utilising their skills and experience for the benefit of the society;
- (b) Creating infrastructure in geriatric medical care or any other similar step for the benefit of elderly as a community;
- (c) Having made arrangements towards care of its former (superannuated) employees;
- (d) Providing barrier free for senior citizens at the work place.

G Best Public Sector Organisation in promoting the well being and welfare of senior citizens:

- (1) The award shall be given to the Best Public Sector Undertaking who have done work in promoting the welfare of senior citizens.
- (2) To claim the award, the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-

- (a) Formulating Post retirement career policy for its employees;
- (b) Creating infrastructure in geriatric medical care or any other similar step for the benefit of elderly as a community;
- (c) Having made arrangements towards healthy and productive ageing of its employees;
- (d) Providing barrier free for senior citizens at the work place.

H Centenarian Award:

- (1) The award shall be given to renowned individuals who are above ninety years of age and are still physically active, independent and contributing to the society.
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) The individual should be above the age of ninety years;
 - (b) Should have rendered exemplary services for the betterment of the community and society at large;
 - (c) Individual who fought against the social evils and for freedom of the Nation;
 - (d) *Ongoing commitment* especially for the cause of elderly or other marginalised sections of the society;
 - (e) His or her Contribution should have wide recognition from the society;
 - (f) Possessing reasonable good health and still actively participating for social causes;
 - (g) Participation on various State and National level platforms.

I Iconic Mother Award:

- (1) The award shall be given to senior citizen women who in the face of great odds, brought up their children and supported them in being high achievers.
- (2) To claim the award, the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Unwavering devotion and inculcation of good values and ethics in the children in highly testing circumstances;
 - (b) Because of her dedication, vision and hard work, children should have made remarkable achievement in the society;
 - (c) Mother who fought for protection, promotion and empowerment of girl child;
 - (d) Her contribution commands wide recognition from the society;
 - (e) Should be of age of sixty years or above.

J Lifetime Achievement Award:

- (1) The award shall be given to senior citizens, preferably above seventy years, who have made significant contributions to society, especially for the elderly.
- (2) To claim the award, the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) The upliftment and betterment of the lives of elderly in society;
 - (b) Outstanding achievement in the field of education or research or publication and work performance etc;
 - (c) Provide pioneering or innovative programmes and services in the social welfare sector;
 - (d) Recognised as a role model for exemplary contribution to the community and society at large;
 - (e) Should be of age of seventy years or above.

K Award for Creative Art:

- (1) The award shall be given to winners of National or international acclaim for their contribution to literature, theatre, cinema, music, dance, painting, sculpture, photography, etc. and who continue to be active in their field well into their old age.
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Exemplary contribution in the field of Art;
 - (b) His or her art should be infused with social messages on contemporary issues;
 - (c) Outstanding achievement in the promotion and dissemination of Art;
 - (d) His or her art should have been recognised widely.

L Award for Sports and Adventure (Male and Female):

- (1) The award shall be given to senior citizens who have won international acclaim and who continue to contribute in the field of sport. One award each is proposed for male and female sportsperson as sub-categories.
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Exemplary contribution in the field of Sports;
 - (b) Recognition of his or her sportsmanship at State or National or International level;
 - (c) Bringing solidarity, commitment and collective efforts through the medium of sports;
 - (d) Outstanding achievement in the promotion and dissemination of sports to the younger generation;

M Courage and Bravery Award (Male and Female):

- (1) The award shall be given to a senior citizen who has displayed exemplary courage in the face of grave danger. One award each is proposed for male and female sportsperson as sub-categories.
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) The protection of human rights, national security or mitigation of social evils;
 - (b) Sustainable efforts for the protection of life of the people in society.

6. Agencies or Individuals which may nominate and procedure of inviting nominations

- (1). Nominations for the Sammans shall be invited from:
 - (a) The Ministries or Departments of the Government of India and their autonomous organisations.
 - (b) The State Governments or Union Territory Administrations.

- (c) Past recipients of Padma Award, Vayoshreshtha Samman and other National Awards in both individual and institution categories.
- (d) Members of the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSrC).
- (e) Renowned Apex Chambers like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Association of Software and Service Companies, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry etc.
- (f) Any other category of persons or institutions authorized by the Ministry from time to time.

(2) The nominations should be sent in the prescribed proforma at **Annexure I** (for Institutions) and **Annexure II** (for Individuals).

7. Calendar of Activities to be followed each year:

The calendar of activities to be followed each year with regard to the awards is given at **Annexure III**.

8. Screening of Nominations:

(1) A Screening Committee shall be constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to scrutinize and short list of the nominations received for the Award for consideration of the Selection Committee.

(2) The Screening Committee shall consist of:

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| (i) Joint Secretary (Social Defence), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | -Chairperson, exofficio |
| (ii) An expert or professional in the field of ageing | - Member |
| (iii) An eminent senior citizen working for the cause of elderly | - Member |
| (iv) Head of Regional and Resource Training Centre (By rotation) | - Member |
| (v) Director, National Institute of Social Defence | - Member, exofficio |
| (vi) Representative of Central Ministries for the concerned discipline | - Member, exofficio |
| (vii) Director (Social Defence), Ministry Of Social Justice and Empowerment | - Member Secretary |

(3) The non-official members of the Screening Committee shall be entitled to TA/DA in accordance with the Financial Rules and procedures as applicable in Government of India.

9. Selection of Awardee by the Selection Committee:

(1) The final selection of the Awardees shall be made on the basis of recommendations of the Screening Committee by a Selection Committee to be constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(2) The Selection Committee shall consist of:

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| (i) Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment | - Chairperson, exofficio |
| (ii) Minister of State of Social Justice and Empowerment | -Vice Chairperson, exofficio |
| (iii) Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | - Member, exofficio |
| (iv) Special or Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | -Member, exofficio |
| (v) Representatives of the Ministries or Departments of Home Affairs, Urban Development, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, Panchayati Raj, Public Enterprises and Industrial Policy and Promotion | - Members, ex officio |
| (vi) Two members of National Council of Senior Citizens to be nominated by the Chairperson (Minister Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) | - Member, exofficio |
| (vii) Two representatives or heads of reputed Non Government Organisations of national level in the field of elderly | - Member, ex officio |
| (viii) Representatives of at least two Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry | - Member, exofficio |
| (ix) Joint Secretary (Social Defence), Ministry Of Social Justice and Empowerment | -Convener, exofficio |

12 The non-official members of the Selection Committee shall be entitled to TA/DA in accordance with the Financial Rules and procedures as applicable in Government of India.

13 The decisions of the Selection Committee shall be by a majority vote and in the event of the votes on both sides being equal, the Chairperson presiding over a particular meeting shall have a casting vote.

14 The decisions of the Selection Committee shall be final.

10. Presentation of Award

(1) The Award shall be presented at New Delhi at a special ceremony/function to be held on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons on the 1st October every

year. The Awards shall be presented by the President of India or the Prime Minister of India.

(2) The boarding and lodging expenses of the awardees including one companion for each awardee shall be borne by the Central Government.

(3) The to and fro travelling expenses and accommodation for up to one day prior and after the date of Samman ceremony (depending upon the actual arrival and departure dates) shall be arranged and the expenditure shall be reimbursed by the Central Government.

(4) The TA/ DA admissibility of the awardees and one companion shall be equivalent to that of Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

(5) Before the announcement of the Award, the concurrence of the prospective awardees or institutions would be suitably ascertained.

T. R. MEENA, Jt. Secy.

ANNEXURE I

FORMAT FOR RECOMMENDING INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS

1. Full Name, complete
Address. of the organization or Individual
2. Whether operating in own premises
or in rented premises
3. Other Communication devices:
 - (i) Landline Phone no.
 - (ii) Mobile No.
 - (iii) Fax no.
 - (iv) E-mail address:
4. Area of specialization
(If possible, please attach Memorandum
and Articles of Association
containing objects and bye-laws)
5. Name of the parent Organisation or
Registered Body (If possible, please attach
certified copy of the certificate of registration):
6. The details of Managing Committee
and qualification of their members:
7. Whether the NGO is working at
 - (a) Regional Level
 - (b) State Level
 - (c) National Level
 - (d) International Level

8. Total staff strength of the NGO
9. If possible, please attach the annual reports for the last three years:
10. Special or Outstanding achievements during last five years in the field of ageing and related issues:
11. Details of Awards or honours received, if any (attach citations)
12. Justification for the award.

ANNEXURE II

FORMAT FOR RECOMMENDING INDIVIDUALS FOR NATIONAL AWARD

1. Full name and complete address:
2. Designation
3. Other means of Communication:
 - (A) Landline Phone no.
 - (B) Mobile No.
 - (C) Fax no.
 - (D) E-mail address:
4. Academic Qualifications:
5. Subject of study or research:
6. Area of specialization:
7. Details of Professional experience
(Area and number of years in chronological order)

8. Please specify details of notable work during the last three years in the field:
9. Details of Awards or honours received, if any (attach citations)
10. Justification for the award.

ANNEXURE III**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FOLLOWED EACH YEAR**

| Sl. No. | Activities | Date and Month |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | Issue of letter inviting Nominations by the Ministry | 1 st November |
| 2. | Last date of receipt of Nominations | 31 st January |
| 3. | Short listing of Nominations by Screening Committees | 28 th February |
| 4. | Final selection by the Jury | 30 th April |
| 5. | Approval by the Minister | 31 st May |
| 6. | Vetting by IB | 15 th August |
| 7. | Announcement of the Awards | 1 st September |
| 8. | Presentation of the Awards | 1 st October |