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MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Subject: "Nari Shakti Puruskars"- National Award for Women-Guidelines.

The year 1975, was celebrated as the International Women's Year, but the United Nations began to celebrate 8th March as the International Women's Day every year. It is a day that provides an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of women for the nation and recognize their contributions to the society.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, celebrates International Women's Day every year on 8th March as it is the nodal Ministry for the issues related to women. Taking this as an opportune moment to acknowledge Women's achievements, it has been decided by the Ministry in the year 2015, to confer Nari Shakti Puruskars to eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment.

2. Now, therefore, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in order to recognize the efforts made by women & institutions in rendering distinguished services for the cause of women, especially vulnerable and marginalized women, hereby announce national level awards for conferring on eminent women, organisations and institutions. These awards may be called "**Nari Shakti Puruskars**". The award shall be applicable to institutions and individuals who have rendered distinguished services to the cause of women.

3. Objectives:

3.1 In the last decade, there has been concerted effort by the Government to recognise and encourage women as reflected through a National Policy for Empowerment of Women in 2001. The issues related to women has gained utmost importance and focussed attention. "Nari Shakti Puruskars" shall showcase the Government's commitment towards women with the aim of strengthening their legitimate place in the society. It will also provide an opportunity to the current generation to understand the contribution of women in building of society and the nation.

3.2 "Nari Shakti Puruskars" would be conferred on eminent women and institutions rendering distinguished service to the cause of women especially belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society. The recipients would be drawn from institutions and individuals. The Ministry of Women & Child Development (herein after referred to as " the Ministry) would invite nominations from the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, concerned Central Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Universities, Institutions, private and public sector undertakings (PSUs) working for empowerment of women.

4. Description

4.1 20 Nari Shakti Puruskars shall be conferred every year. The recipients of the Puruskars shall be declared every year on 20th February and awards will be conferred on 8th March on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD). The Award in each category shall carry a Certificate and a cash amount. The award would be given to eminent or outstanding Institutions or organisations and individuals from any part of the country.

4.2 The categories, description and nature of awards are given below:

Sl. No.	Category	Description	Nature of award
Institutional Category			
1-4.	Rani Rudramma Devi Awards for two District Panchayats and two Gram Panchayats	To the District/Gram Panchayats which have done outstanding work for women welfare especially on areas related to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP). It may be through Panchayat's own initiatives or through the Government flagship programme	(1) Certificate; (2) Cash award of two lakh Rupees each
5-6.	Mata Jijabai Award for Best Urban Local body for providing services and facilities to women	To municipal bodies/corporations, which have done outstanding work for women welfare. It may be through urban local body's own initiatives or through the Government flagship programme	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of two lakh Rupees each
7.	Kannagi Devi Award for Best State which has appreciably improved Child Sex Ratio (CSR)	To the State or Union Territories which has impacted the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) by highest point which will contribute to improvement in Child Sex Ratio (CSR)	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of two lakh Rupees
8-9.	Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang award for Best Civil Society organization (CSO) doing outstanding work for the welfare and well-being of women	For CSOs doing exemplary work in the various fields such as awareness generation on issues relating to laws, health, work education etc. for women empowerment	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of two lakh Rupees each
10.	Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award for Best Private Sector organization/Public sector undertaking in	Corporate Houses/PSUs addressing the problem of women either by providing gainful employment (women	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of two lakh Rupees

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	promoting the well-being and welfare of women	farmers/ enterprises), good health, education, providing enabling environment/safe spaces for women	
11.	Rani Lakshmbai Award for Best Institution for Research & Development in the field of women empowerment	For institutions with a record of outstanding contribution for women causes including work in the research and development (technology) and dissemination of knowledge in the various issues related to women	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of two lakh Rupees
Individual Category			
12-13	Award for Courage & Bravery	Award for woman who has shown exemplary courage and has set an example and achieved laurels in the face of diversity	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of One lakh Rupees each
14-20	Seven Awards for making outstanding contributions to women's endeavour/community work/making a difference/women empowerment	For women who have made exceptional contributions for women's socio-economic empowerment, effective implementation of women related legislation, media, environment protection, art, culture, sports, Science & Technology, and Indian heritage.	(1) Certificate (2) Cash award of One lakh Rupees each

4.3 Normally the Puruskars shall not be presented posthumously; provided that death occurred subsequent to a proposal having been submitted to the Ministry in the manner as stipulated in this guidelines, then Puruskars may be presented posthumously.

4.4 A Screening Committee and a Selection Committee would be constituted for the purpose which shall consider the achievement of the organizations and individuals nominated or recommended for the Puruskars by the prescribed authority. The outstanding contributions in the field shall be of primary consideration in identifying the recipients of Puruskars.

5. Eligibility Criteria for Nomination

5.1 The Puruskars are open to all Indian Institutions, organisations and individuals without any distinction or discrimination on ground of race, caste or creed.

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5.2 In case of Individual category, the awardee must be above 30 years of age on 1st January of the year for which the award is to be given. The applicant should have worked in the relevant field for at least last 5 years. She should not have been a recipient earlier of the award (including Stree Shakti Puruskars).

5.3 The eligibility criteria for each of the category of Awards shall be as follows:

5.3.1 Rani Rudramma Devi Award for Best Panchayat /Village Community

- (1) The award shall be given to the District /Gram Panchayat / village community, which has done outstanding work for women empowerment in different areas* (**Annexure I**).
- (2) To claim the award the following condition shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Exemplary contribution in the field of Health, Counselling, Legal aid, awareness, education, Institutional and non- institutional programmes for the women;
 - (b) Significant role in the empowerment of women at the village level;
 - (c) Outstanding achievement in the involvement and participation of local people or community in the promotion of women;
 - (d) Promotion of enabling environment/safety in the public buildings for women in Panchayat area.

5.3.2 Mata Jijabai Award for Best Urban Local body for providing services and facilities to women

- (1) The award shall be given to the Municipal Bodies /Corporations or Cantonment Boards or other Statutory Urban Bodies, which have done outstanding work for women empowerment in different areas* (**Annexure I**).
- (2) To claim the award the following conditions shall be fulfilled, namely:-
 - (a) Exemplary contribution in the field of Health, Counselling , Legal aid, awareness, Education, Institutional and non- institutional programmes for the women;
 - (b) Significant role in the empowerment of women at the municipality level;
 - (c) Outstanding achievement in the involvement and participation of local people or community in the promotion of care for women;
 - (d) Promotion of enabling environment/safety in the public buildings for women in municipality area.

5.3.3 Kannagi Devi Award for Best State which has appreciably improved Child Sex Ratio (CSR)

- (1) The award shall be given to the State or Union Territory, which has shown significant improvement of Child Sex Ratio (CSR)

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

- (a) To the State or Union Territory which has impacted the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) by highest point that will contribute to improvement of Child Sex Ratio (CSR)
- (b) Promotion of access to healthcare for women including mental health, empowerment through information regarding health, sexuality - institutional deliveries, preventive care for diseases etc.
- (c) Curbing violence/ discrimination against women – sexual, communal or sectarian - at homes, work places and public place.
- (d) Promoting value of girl child: improving child sex ratio.
- (e) Promotion of education of girls and women at all levels – bridging gender gaps.
- (f) Dissemination of women's issues to make a positive impact on lives of women and girls, curtailing harmful effects of T.V on women's lives through gender – informed media policy promoting – message of gender equity through positive programming and information dissemination on laws and schemes.
- (g) Working towards up-liftment of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, zero tolerance for discrimination against SC/ST women. Reaching out to marginalized and vulnerable women including minority women, women with disabilities and internally displaced women due to social strife.
- (h) Encourage women to hold leadership roles and promote women in decision making.
- (i) Have demonstrated ability to work with women and girls and men and boys as a team to work towards betterment of the society.

5.3.4. Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang Award for Best Civil Society Organization (CSO) doing outstanding work for the welfare and well-being of women

(1) The award shall be given to the CSOs which are providing outstanding services to the women empowerment in different areas* (**Annexure I**)

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

(a) The institution should be providing comprehensive services for the women preferably in rural or hilly area of India especially to the vulnerable and marginalized women.

(b) The institution or Organisation should have been a registered body and should have minimum five years' experience in the concerns related to women

(c) The institution should have made outstanding contribution and has wide recognition by the state or otherwise;

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- (d) The institution has undertaken specialised or innovative services/practices and programme for the well-being of women /empowerment in the society;
 - (e) Outstanding achievement to provide new and effective outreach strategy or programmes for the advancement of women in the society.

5.3.5 Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Award for Best Private Sector Organization/Public Sector Undertaking in promoting the well-being and welfare of women

(1) The award shall be given to the Private Sector/Public Sector Undertaking for providing outstanding services towards women empowerment in different areas* (Annexure I).

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

- (a) The institution or Organisation should be a registered body and should have minimum five years' experience in the field of service to women;
- (b) The institution should have made outstanding contribution and have wide recognition by the State or other wise
- (c) The institution has undertaken specialised or innovative services/practices and programme for the well-being of women /empowerment in the society; for example addressing the problems of women either by providing them gainful employment, or utilising their skills and experience for the benefit of the society;
- (d) Outstanding achievement to provide new and effective outreach strategy or programmes for the betterment of women in the society.
- (e) Creating infrastructure for providing enabling environment for women to work or steps for the benefit of women health/education

5.3.6 Rani Lakshmi Bai Award for Best Institution for Research & Development in the field of women empowerment

(1) The award shall be given to the institutions which are generating and spreading knowledge on the issues related to women.

(2) To claim the award the following requirement 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 women and related issues ;
- (b) the institution should have remarkable achievements in research or publication and spread of knowledge on issues related to women in India ;
- (c) outstanding achievements in the Research & Development (R&D) in the area of education and training, health, technologies, skill building in the field of women ;
- (d) The institution should have been instrumental in developing and formulating policies and programmes for women either at the State or National Level;

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(e) dissemination of knowledge and creating awareness on the issues relating to women through conferences, seminars, workshops and other means;

(f) Participatory leadership in the community and civil society at large in the field of women should be of prime concern.

5.3.7 Award for Courage & Bravery - 2 Nos.

(1) The two awards shall be given to a woman who has displayed exemplary courage against any atrocities / violence / harassment against women or girls in the face of grave danger/unfavourable circumstances and has set an example by achieving laurels in the adverse situation.

5.3.8 Awards for making outstanding contributions to women's endeavour/community work/making a difference/women empowerment - 7 Nos.

(1) The seven awards shall be given to women who have made outstanding contributions to women empowerment in different areas* (**Annexure I**).

6. Nominations

6.1 Nominations for the Puruskars 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) working for empowerment of women through the State Govt./Central Ministry/Department concerned.

(c) However, in exceptional cases, the Selection Committee may also, *suomoto*, recommend a person or institution for the award, with justification.

(d) Normally, self-nominations for the Puruskars shall not be considered. However, it may be considered by the Screening Committee and the Selection Committee as a special case.

6.2 The Nominations would be sent to the Ministry of Women and Child Development with details as per application form (Annexure-II) alongwith supporting documents as mentioned in the Application form.

6.3 The entities at para 6.1 recommending the nominations should clearly and specifically certify the work carried out by the nominees for which the award is being recommended.

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7. Mode of calling the nominations

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

7.2 The information will be simultaneously placed on Ministry's website along with the prescribed format and other social media platforms.

7.3 The applications (in the prescribed format) will be received by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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.

8.2 The Screening Committee shall consist of :

a. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	-Chairperson, ex-officio
b. Domain expert in the field of women issues/gender expert, Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	-Member
c. Concerned Director/DS level officer , Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	-Member
d. Director/DS level officer , Ministry of Urban Development/Rural Development/Health/Panchayati Raj/Home Affairs/NITI Aayog and any other relevant Ministry* (if required)		-Member
e. Representative of CII/FICCI	-	Member for nominations to Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Award for best Public/Private Sector Organisation.

*In the event of large number of applications view of the relevant Ministry will be taken for screening.

9. Selection of Awardees by the Selection Committee

9.1. The final selection of the Awardees shall be made on the basis of recommendation of the Screening Committee, by a Selection Committee to be constituted by the Ministry of Women and Development.

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The Selection Committee shall consist of:

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|--------|--|---|------------------------------|
| (i) | Union Minister for Women and Child Development | - | Chairperson, ex-officio |
| (ii) | Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development | - | Vice Chairperson, ex-officio |
| (iii) | Special or Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development | - | Member, ex-officio |
| (iv) | Secretary or his nominee from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment | - | Member, ex-officio |
| (v) | Secretary or his nominee from Ministry of Rural Development | - | Member, ex-officio |
| (vi) | Chairperson or Nominee, National Commission for Women (NCW) | - | Member, ex-officio |
| (vii) | Chairperson, or Nominee, Central Social Welfare Board(CSWB) | - | Member, ex-officio |
| (viii) | Two National level eminent NGOs/individuals | - | Co-opted members |
| (ix) | Joint Secretary (Women Awards), | - | Member-Secretary |

9.2 The National Selection Committee may at its discretion also consider individuals other than those recommended by the State Governments/Central Ministries.

9.3 Disqualified – The proposed awardee will be disqualified at any stage, in case of any pending criminal or police case at any stage.

10. Presentation of Award

10.1 The Award shall be presented at New Delhi at a special ceremony/function to be 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 return fare, by shortest route, for the awardee to and from Delhi, by Air India 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 Puruskar ceremony) shall be arranged by the Ministry.

The Nari Shakti Puruskar may be awarded for outstanding work preferably in exceptional circumstances to - individual men or women / groups / academic institutions / NGOs/ villages etc. in the broad / disaggregated areas/ activities coming under the promotion of economic empowerment, social empowerment, effective implementation of women related legislations and gender mainstreaming.

I. Economic Empowerment

- (i) Women in **agriculture** – ensuring land rights; inheritance / share in parental property; individual / group titles to women in all government land transfers; credit support to women to purchase or lease land; records and legal support for women inheritance rights.
- (ii) Women in **unorganized sector** – provision of social security, leave, wages, working conditions, pensions, health benefits, maternity benefits, housing childcare, safety and occupational health etc.
- (iii) Women in **services sector** where there is poor gender ratio, improving women's participation, special tax incentives for women headed enterprises, women employees, women entrepreneurial ventures etc.
- (iv) Promotion of **skill development** / vocational **training**/ training in traditional skills, and in other trades which promote employment of women especially in unorganized sector.
- (v) Construction/ Facilitating amenities for rural and urban poor women – toilets / housing / drinking water facilities.
- (vi) Work towards promoting young talent in particular young entrepreneurs.
- (vii) Working to promote women and girls in the field of science and technology
- (viii) Demonstrates work and dedication in elevating the status of women in the society.

II. Social Empowerment

- (i) Promotion of access to healthcare for women including mental health, empowerment through information regarding health, sexuality - institutional deliveries, preventive care for diseases etc.
 - (ii) Curbing violence/ discrimination against women – sexual, communal or sectarian - at homes, work places and public place.
 - (iii) Promoting value of girl child: improving child sex ratio.
 - (iv) Promotion of education of girls and women at all levels – bridging gender gaps.
 - (v) Women and Media – Dissemination of women's issues to make a positive impact on lives of women and girls, curtailing harmful effects of T.V on women's lives through gender – informed media policy promoting – message of gender equity through positive programming and information dissemination on laws and schemes.
 - (vi) Working towards up-liftment of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, zero tolerance for discrimination against SC/ST women. Reaching out to marginalized and vulnerable women including minority women, women with disabilities and internally displaced women due to social strife.
 - (vii) Encourage women to hold leadership roles and promote women in decision making.
 - (viii) Have demonstrated ability to work with women and girls and men and boys as a team to work towards betterment of the society.
- III. Effective implementation of women related legislations such as Dowry Prohibition Act, Domestic Violence Act, PC-PNDT Act and Immoral Traffic Act.
- IV. Contribution in Gender mainstreaming and strengthening delivery systems through State Commissions for Women, District Legal Service Authorities etc.
- V. Have made efforts towards environment protection, promotion of art, culture and Indian heritage.
- VI. Positive actions carried out by villages/groups in favour of women & girls.

Nomination Form**A. FORMAT FOR RECOMMENDING INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS**

1.	Full Name & Complete Address of the Organisation/Institution	
2.	Whether operating in own premises Or in rented premises	
3.	Other communication devices:	
	(i) Land line Phone No.	
	(ii) Mobile No.	
	(iii) Fax No.	
	(iv) E-mail Address:	
4.	Area of Specialization (please attach Memorandum and Articles of Association containing objects and bye-laws); (Wherever applicable)	
5.	Name of parent organization or Registered body (please attach certified copy of the certificate of registration):	
6.	The details of Managing Committee and qualifications of their members:	
7.	Whether the organisation is working at: (i) Regional level (ii) State level (iii) National level (iv) International level	
8.	Total Staff Strength :	
9.	If possible, please attach the annual reports of the last three years:	
10.	Special or outstanding achievements during last five years in service towards the cause of women empowerment (with timelines, impact and outcomes:	
11.	Details of Awards/Honours/ Recognitions received, if any (attach citation)	
12.	Justification for the Award (attach Separate sheets with details)	

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I hereby declare that above information regarding the institution/individual: -----
-----is true to the best of my
knowledge.

Place:

Date:

Recommending Agency
(Signatures with seal)

Nomination Form



B. FORMAT FOR RECOMMENDING INDIVIDUALS FOR AWARDS

1.	Full name Complete Address	
2.	Designation	
3.	Other means Communication:	
	(A) Land line 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.	Whether experience of working at: (i) Regional level (ii) State level (iii) National level (iv) International level	
9.	Please specify details of notable work during last three years for the empowerment of women:	
10.	Details of Awards/Honours/Recognitions received, if any (attach citation)	
11.	Justification for the Award (attach separate sheets with details)	

I hereby declare that above information regarding the institution/individual: -----
-----is true to the best of my knowledge.

Place:

Date:

Recommending Agency
(Signatures with seal)