

Guidelines for selection of Handicraft Awards

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) confers Handicraft Awards to outstanding master craftspersons in recognition of their contribution towards the growth & development of handicraft sector. This award is amongst the highest awards for handicrafts artisans. It is a once in a life time award to encourage them to preserve excellence in craftsmanship and keep our old craft traditions flourishing. The awards are given in the following two categories.

1. Shilp Guru Award: Maximum 10 awardee.
2. National Award: (including national award for design innovation): Maximum 33 awardee.

Shilp Guru Award: The Shilp Guru Award was instituted in the year 2002 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee year of handicraft resurgence in India. The award is given to 10 master craftspersons for an exceptional piece of craftwork to promote the handicraft and disseminate their skill level to the next generation of artisans. This is the highest award in handicraft sector in India conferred without any segmentation of either craft category or any other criteria.

Any master craftsperson who is either a National Awardee or a State Awardee of exceptional repute or possess extraordinary skills and has made an immense contribution to the handicrafts sector and is of age not below 50 years & having 20 years of experience in the field, is eligible for this Award. The applicant must be a citizen of India residing in the country. Each Award consists of a cash prize of Rs. 2.00 lakhs, one mounted gold coin, one shawl, a certificate and a Tamrapatra.

National Award: The National Award was instituted in 1965 and is conferred to 33 craftspersons in recognition of their outstanding contribution for the development of handicrafts. It is given for an excellent piece of craftwork made by the craftsperson to promote & encourage the craft. A craftsperson, a citizen of India residing in the country and one who is above the age of 30 years, having 10 years' experience in their field of handicrafts can apply for the national award. Each Award consists of cash prize of Rs.1.00 lakh, one shawl, a certificate and a Tamrapatra.

National Award for Design Innovation is a subcategory of national award and is given to a group of designers & artisans on a co-creation basis. A group of empaneled designers and registered crafts persons of India, having age not below 30 years are eligible to submit their entries. The Design Innovation Award consists of cash prizes of Rs. 5.00 lakhs, Rs. 4.00 lakhs and Rs. 3.00 lakhs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd category respectively to be shared equally between the concerned designer and artisan.

Out of the 33 National Awards, 20 awards are conferred to artisans in 19 craft categories; 05 National Awards are conferred to female artisans and 05 National Awards are conferred for promotion, development & preservation of endangered crafts (over & above the 20 National Awards under 19 craft categories), 3 National Awards are given for Design Innovation.

The list of 19 craft categories and respective number of awards is as under:

S.No	Craft Categories for National Award	Awards
1	Metal ware including Bidri work	1
2	Wood work	1
3	Cane & Bamboo and other forest based products	1
4	Stoneware	1
5	Pottery, Ceramics and Terracotta	1
6	Paintings	1
7	Jewellery & Precious Metalwork	1
8	Paper Machie Crafts and Paper craft	1
9	Leather Craft	1
10	Textiles including Hand Block printing, Tie & Dye , Applique work, Quilting and Patch work	1
11	Embroideries and Zari/Zardozi work	1
12	Lace work, Corcheted Goods and Braiding	1
13	Handmade Carpets/Floor Coverings	1
14	Rugs and Durries	1
15	Glass work	1
16	Toys and Dolls, Puppet, Games and Kites	1
17	Bone, Conch and Shell	1
18	Musical Instruments	1
19	Miscellaneous Crafts	2
Total		20

Selection Procedure: The selection procedure consists of 3 tier Committee system at three different levels.

Level-1: At first stage, selection is done through the Regional Level Selection Committee. The composition of the Committee is as under:

S.No	Committee Member	Role
1.	Director Handicrafts / Cottage Industries	Chairman
2.	Regional Director, O/o. DC(H)	Convener
3.	Eminent Craft Experts from NIFT	Member
4.	Eminent Craft Experts from NID	Member

Level-2: The second stage of the selection is done through the Hqrs. Level Selection Committee. The composition of the Committee is as under:

S.No	Committee Member	Role
1.	Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)	Chairman
2.	ADC(HC)/Director/Sr. Director (Handicrafts) or equivalent	Convener
3.	Representative from NIFT	Member
4.	Representative from NID	Member
5.	Sr. Director, NHHM	Member

Level 3: The third and final level selection committee is the Central Level Selection Committee consisting of 12 members (6 official & 6 non-official) as detailed below:

S.No	Committee Member	Role
1.	Secretary (Textiles)	Chairman
2.	Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)	Convener
3.	Development Commissioner (Handlooms)	Member
4.	Managing Director, CCIC, New Delhi	Member
5.	Representative from NIFT	Member
6.	Director General, NIFT, New Delhi	Member
7.	Six non- officials' experts from Handicrafts sector	Member

The official members are permanent members representing different stakeholders of handicrafts sector. The non-official members are nominated every year by HMOT from amongst eminent persons like Padamshree awardees, Shilp Guru Awardees and Experts in the field of handicrafts. Entire process for selection is summarized as under:

- Application are invited by individual artisans by publishing advertisement in major national newspapers requesting artisans to submit their award items along with supporting documents to their nearest field office.
- All the entries received at field office are sent to Regional Office for scrutiny and evaluation by Regional Level Selection Committee where the committee evaluates the entries by giving marks and based on merit recommends entries to HQ level selection committee.
- The HQ level Committee scrutinize & evaluates the entries recommended by Regional level and based on merit recommends them for next level.
- The Central level selection committee is apex committee which evaluates the received entries and select them for awards. The selection is based on category wise merit as well as common merit.
- The award is conferred on selected candidates in a formal ceremony by auspicious hands of Hon'ble President of India/ Union Ministry of Textiles.

