



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

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Why in News

Recently, 32 children have been awarded the ‘**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**’ for their exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments.

The Awards are **given by the President of India** in the week **preceding Republic Day (26th January) every year.**

Key Points

- **Two Categories:** The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is given under **two categories:**
 - Bal Shakti Puraskar, and
 - Bal Kalyan Puraskar.
- **Bal Shakti Puraskar:**
 - **Recognition:**

It is given by the Government of India every year to recognize exceptional achievements of **children** in various fields i.e., **innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, sports and bravery.**
 - **Eligibility:**

A child who is an **Indian Citizen** and **residing in India** and is **between 5-18 years of age.**
 - **Award:**

A medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000, book vouchers worth Rs.10,000, a certificate and citation.
 - **Background:**

It was **instituted in 1996 as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement**, renamed from 2018 as Bal Shakti Puraskar.

- **Bal Kalyan Puraskar:**

- **Recognition:**

- It is given as recognition to **Individuals and Institutions**, who have made an outstanding contribution towards service for children in the field of **child development, child protection and child welfare**.

- **Eligibility:**

- An individual **who is an Indian Citizen and residing in India** and should have attained the **age of 18 years or above** (as on 31st August of respective year). S/he should have **worked for the cause of children for not less than 7 years**.
 - The **institution should not be entirely funded by the government** and should have been in the **field of child welfare for 10 years** and performing consistently in the field.

- **Award:**

- Three awards** are given in **each of the two categories** - Individual and Institution - along with **cash prizes** (Rs. 1,00, 000 and Rs. 5,00, 000 respectively).

- **Background:**

- It was **instituted in 1979 as the National Child Welfare Awards**, renamed from 2018 as Bal Kalyan Puraskar.

Source:TH