



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

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Why in News?

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, organises **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** every year to celebrate the energy, determination, ability, zeal and enthusiasm of our children.

What is Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar?

- **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). She/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.

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