

# RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR

## 1. Introduction

Science and Technology are essential tools for development of the society. Scientists play a very important role in selflessly driving the systematic quest for truth and development of new knowledge. They are the backbones of the nation who contribute tirelessly for the development of the society. The exemplary and outstanding contributions of scientists need to be recognised so that they can serve as an inspiration to others.

## 2. Objective

The objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) is to recognise the notable and inspiring contribution made by the scientists, technologists and innovators individually or in teams in various fields of science, technology and technology-led innovation.

## 3. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be one of the highest recognition in the field of science, technology and innovation in India. Scientists/ technologists / innovators working in government, private sector organizations or individuals working outside any organisation, who have made distinguished contributions in terms of path-breaking research or innovation or discovery in any fields of science, technology or technology- led innovation shall be eligible for the awards. People of Indian origin staying abroad with exceptional contributions benefiting the Indian communities or society shall also be eligible for the awards. The awards shall be given in following four categories :-

- a. **Vigyan Ratna (VR)** award to be awarded to recognize lifetime achievements & contributions made in any field of science and technology.
- b. **Vigyan Shri (VS)** award to be awarded to recognize distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- c. **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB)** award to be awarded to recognize & encourage young scientists who made an exceptional contribution in any field of science and technology.
- d. **Vigyan Team (VT)** award to be awarded to a team comprising of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in any field of science and technology.

The RVP awards for People of Indian Origin should have a maximum limit in each category, (VR -1; VS – 3; VY-SSB – 3; VT – 0) to encourage India based scientists, innovators and teams.

(\* All the internal awards have been dispensed with except for DAE, who will have one internal award in the name of Homi Jehangir Bhabha and maximum 30 recipients to be recognized in the form of certificates.)

## 4. Conditions of Eligibility

4.1 All scientists, technologists and innovators working in any field of science in government or private organizations who have contributed or done path breaking research, technology led innovation or discovery in any fields of

science or development of innovative technologies/ products having significant societal impact shall be eligible for the award.

4.2 Scientists, technologists and innovators of Indian origin abroad with exceptional contributions benefitting the Indian communities or society at large shall also be eligible.

## 5. Age Limit and Annual Number of Awards

The age limits for the awards shall be as under:

Name of the Award	Eligibility conditions	Age Limit	Max. No. of awards annually
Vigyan Ratna	Lifetime contributions along with excellence made in any field of science.	No age limit	3
Vigyan Shri	Distinguished contribution in any field of science	No age limit	25
Vigyan Yuva - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar	Exceptional contribution by young scientists	up to 45 yrs	25
Vigyan Team	A team comprising of three or more researchers/technocrats/innovators who have made an exceptional contribution as a team.	No age limit	3

## 6. Domain/ Fields for Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar shall be given in the following 13 domains, namely *Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and Others*. It may be ensured that each domain/field is represented. Adequate representation of Women may also be ensured.

## 7. Nominations

Nominations for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar may start from **14<sup>th</sup> January** and will be open till **28<sup>th</sup> February (National Science Day)** every year. The nominations shall be received online on the centralized Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>). The nomination shall be open to all including self-nomination.

## 8. Who Can Nominate?

8.1 Any individual/institution may nominate scientists/Team of scientists from the Government or Private Sector

8.2 Scientists can also nominate themselves (Self Nominations)

8.3 Recommendations shall also be invited from State Governments/ UT Administrations; Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government; Heads of National Science Academies/ Laboratories/ Institutions/ Professional Science and Engineering Societies; Vice Chancellors/ Registrars of the Academic Institutions; Heads of Scientific Organizations/ S & T based Voluntary Organizations, etc.

## 9. Posthumous cases

As a rule, the award shall not be conferred posthumously. However, if the person proposed to be honoured, has passed away recently (say within a year), the Government may consider giving an award posthumously. However, this will be done rarely and only in highly deserving cases.

## 10. Selection procedure

10.1 All nominations received for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards shall be placed before the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC)** to be constituted by the Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology every year. The Chairman of the Committee shall be the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to Government of India. The members of the RVPC will not be eligible for the Awards during their tenure. The RVPC shall have the following as members:

- (a) **Secretaries of the six Science Ministries/ Departments (DST, DBT, DSIR/CSIR, MoES, DoS and DAE)**
- (b) **Upto 4 select Presidents of the Science and Engineering Academies**
- (c) **Six distinguished scientists and technologists from different fields of Science and Technology.**

10.2 The committee shall be constituted every year.

10.3 The secretariat assistance for entire process starting nomination for the award till the holding of Award Ceremony shall be with CSIR to begin with for the first two years and then with NRF so as to maintain continuity and neutrality.

10.4 The secretariat assistance shall include setting up of an Award Cell to manage the entire process to be headed by a senior level scientist, who shall also act as the Member Secretary of the RVPC.

10.5 No award shall be conferred except on the recommendation of the RVPC.

10.6 As these awards are very prestigious, the RVPC is expected to apply the highest standards while recommending a person for the award. Credibility of the awards depend on careful selection of deserving scientists, technologists or innovators. The RVPC must look into the exceptional and distinguished achievements of an individual or team along with their benefits, as applicable, to the society. The Rashtriya Vigyan Ratna award should be given for excellence and exceptional contributions and not merely routine lifetime contributions.

10.7 The names of the persons recommended by the RVPC shall be submitted to Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology for approval.

## 11. Announcement of Award and the Award Ceremony

11.1 These awards shall be announced on the **National Technology Day (11<sup>th</sup> May)** every year.

11.12 The Award Ceremony for all categories of awards shall be held every year on the **National Space Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> August**.

11.3 Hon'ble President of India may be requested to confer the Awards in the Award Ceremony. In case Hon'ble President is not available, Hon'ble Vice President of India may be invited to confer the Awards.

11.4 The Award Ceremony may be organised every year in Vigyan Bhavan or at an alternative suitable venue.

11.5 All these awards would commence from the year 2024.

## 12. Decoration

12.1 In the Award Ceremony on the National Space Day every year, the Awardees shall be presented a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President of India & a medallion. A commemorative brochure, containing the citation and photograph of the awardees shall also be released on the day of the ceremony.

12.2 In case of posthumous award, the decoration of the award shall be received by the 'next of kin' of such awardee.

12.3 The decoration to such persons who are not able to attend the award ceremony due to personal reasons (including indisposition, preoccupation, etc.) the award shall be deemed to have been conferred on such a person. No other person (including the spouse/next of kind) should be allowed to receive the award on behalf of the absentee awards except in posthumous cases.

## 13. General policy & procedures

The process of the Awards shall be reviewed every 5 years for course correction & improvement.

## 14. Awards are not 'titles'

In terms of the directions of the Supreme Court of India, "the National Awards do not amount to "titles" within the meaning of Article 18(1) of the Constitution", and they should not be used as a suffix or prefix to the name of the recipient in any manner whatsoever. In case of any misuse, the defaulter will forfeit the award.

However, should an awardee consider it necessary, he /she may use the following expression in their bio-data/ letterhead / visiting card etc. to indicate that he/she is a recipient of the award:-

Name of awardee

i. .... (name of award) awardee

or

ii. "Awarded ..... (name of the award) by the President.