

**MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR  
VISITOR'S AWARDS - 2019**  
on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 1530 hrs

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION**

The first meeting of the Selection Committee for Visitor's Awards-2019 was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary to the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The members who attended the meeting are listed in **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, Secretary to the President welcomed all the members. A presentation was made by OSD (PS) which covered the background of Visitor's Awards, the method of selection, flow of events, application formats and preview of new Visitor's Awards website (copy of the presentation enclosed).

3. The Committee was apprised about the following changes in the format of the Visitor's Awards:

- i. Online Applications are being called directly from the applicants, while earlier it was required to be routed through Vice-Chancellors of concerned Central Universities.
- ii. Earlier there were two sub-categories in the Visitor's Award for Research i.e. Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences and Basic & Applied Sciences. However, now there are three sub-categories under the Research category i.e., Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences.
- iii. The cash reward, which was earlier Rs. 1 Lakh, has been increased this year to Rs. 2.5 Lakhs (maximum).

4. During discussions after the presentation, the following observations were made regarding the format of applications :

- (a) It was thought desirable that an explanatory note accompanies the Innovation category to distinguish it from technology development.
- (b) Applicants, while applying under Research Category, should mention the area of work and their papers submitted should pertain to that specific area.
- (c) Provision should be made in the application form to include H-index and I-10 index.
- (d) Information on Patents received / applied should be included in all the three categories.
- (e) A provision for optional web-link for each category may be provided.
- (f) Date of birth may be included in the format.

5. The following other issues were also discussed :

- (a) Whether research over a life-time or a specific research is to be recognized: It was decided that specific research done in the last 10 years, primarily in the Central Universities, will be considered.
- (b) Whether submission of the applications need to be routed through Deans / VCs: After detailed discussion, the Committee noted that as the objective of this award is to promote the research culture in the Central Universities, it would suffice if an email is sent notifying the administrative heads regarding submission of application. Detailed verification will only be done for short-listed applications.
- (c) To give wider publicity to the awards : JS (CU), MHRD and Secretary, DBT offered to publicize it through their channels as well.

6. It was decided that a Sub-Committee be constituted for scrutiny and shortlisting of the online applications received. The following composition of the Sub-Committee was approved :

**Convenor**

Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Additional Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD

**Members**

- i. Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT-Delhi
- ii. Prof. Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc-Bangalore
- iii. Prof. Seyed Ehtesham Hasnain, VC, Jamia Hamdard
- iv. Dr. Kiran Kalia, Director, NIPER, Ahmedabad
- v. Prof. Virendra Kumar Malhotra, Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi
- vi. Shri Girish C. Hosur, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, MHRD

**Member Secretary**

Shri P. Praveen Siddharth, OSD, President's Secretariat

The Sub-Committee may co-opt other technical experts for scrutiny and short-listing of the applications, if required.

7. It was agreed by the members that the following timeline would be followed:

Sl.No.	Work details	Time-line
1	Inviting Online applications for various categories of Visitor's Awards, 2019	From 1 <sup>st</sup> April to 31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2019.
2	Scrutiny and shortlisting of all the online applications by Sub-Committee	In June, 2019
3	Submission of Recommendations by the Sub-Committee	By 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
4	Convening Selection Committee Meeting for submission of final recommendations to the President of India	By 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019.
5	Announcement / Presentation of Visitor's Awards, 2019	In July / August, 2019.

8. The following other issues were also flagged during discussions:
  - a) Issue of having separate awards in central institutes, IITs, NITs etc.
  - b) Whether we can have a running trophy for each category of award to be given to the University.
  - c) Issue of promoting alumni association in universities / institutes

It was decided that these issues would be taken up again during the final meeting of the Selection Committee.

9. The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

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