ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये
प्रो. श्यामा रथ
सचिव
Prof. Shyama Rath
Secretary

सत्यमेव जयते

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

D. No. 5-7/2026(MMTTP/NAT-2026)

19 ज्येष्ठ, 1948 /9th June, 2026

Subject: "National Award to Teachers (NAT) 2026"- Reg

आदरणीय महोदया/महोदय,

Greetings from UGC!

Ministry of Education, GoI has recently announced **National Awards to Teachers 2026,** to felicitate exceptional and exemplary work of the teachers in higher educational institutions.

It is my immense pleasure to share that National Award to Teachers portal is **LIVE** now.

You are requested to disseminate information about the award among your faculty members and also nominate distinguished faculty for this prestigious award.

The scheme document and the flyer for **'National Award to Teachers 2026'** is enclosed herewith for kind perusal. The nomination for this award needs to be uploaded on Rashtriya Puraskar portal i.e. **https://awards.gov.in/**.The selected teachers will be felicitated by Hon'ble President of India on 5th September 2026 in New Delhi.

The last date for nomination and receipt of duly filled application on the award portal is **5th July, 2026.**

I deeply appreciate your engagement and cooperation.

सादर ,

भवदीया,

श्यामा रथ

(श्यामा रथ)

Encl:As above

To,
The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities
The Principals of all Colleges

अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद्
All India Council for Technical Education
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Government of India
विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
National Award to Teachers - 2026
(For Higher Educational Institutions /Polytechnic Teachers)
Celebrating Excellence in Teaching, Research & Innovation.....
Call for Nominations!
Last Date: 5th July, 2026
Scheme Document
Register here:
www.awards.gov.in

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षक पुरस्कार 2026
National Award to Teachers 2026
(HEIs and Polytechnics)

1. SCOPE

The National Education Policy, 2020, has underlined the importance of motivated and energized faculty members to meet the expectations of high-quality education. For cultivating a culture of excellence in higher education, there is a need to develop a systematized mechanism to incentivize the outstanding and creative work of faculty members of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) including Polytechnics and recognize its impact not only on their students but on the communities around them, through appropriate rewards and recognition mechanisms.

The purpose of the ***National Award to Teachers 2026 in Higher Educational Institutions*** is to recognize the distinctive contributions of some of the finest faculty members in the country and honour them for their dedication and hard work, particularly teaching and pedagogy and its impact which have not only improved the quality of higher education but also enriched the lives of their students. The Award seeks to recognize and honour the unique and path breaking achievements of faculty members in teaching-learning, community outreach, institutional service, research, and novelty of work in the field of higher education.

The selected awardees will be felicitated on 5th September (Teachers Day) to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India and a remarkable teacher.

2. NAME OF THE AWARD

हिंदी: **राष्ट्रीय शिक्षक पुरस्कार 2026**

English: **National Award to Teachers 2026 (HEIs and Polytechnics)**

CATEGORIES

Category I: Teachers of Higher Educational Institutions : 25 Awards

This award will be conferred on the exemplary teachers/faculty members of technical and non-technical higher education institutions. There shall be **three** sub-categories based on the following broad disciplines:

Sub-category (i) : Engineering & Technology, Architecture etc.

Sub-category (ii) : Pure Sciences including Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy etc.

Sub-category (iii) : Arts and Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Legal Studies, Commerce, Management etc.

Note : The list of disciplines/subjects is indicative only and will also include any other discipline / subject / emerging knowledge domain pertaining to higher education.

Category II : Teachers of Polytechnic Institutions: Total 10 Awards

This award will be conferred on the exemplary teachers/faculty members of Polytechnic institutions.

3. NUMBER OF AWARDS

A total of **Thirty-Five Awards (25 in Category-I and 10 in Category-II)** shall be conferred every year.

4. DECORATIONS

Each awardee shall be presented with the following:

- A medal
- A certificate
- Cash Prize of Rs 50,000/-

5. ELIGIBILITY

The award is open to all the faculty members of colleges / universities / higher educational institutions / polytechnics in India, satisfying the following conditions :

- The Nominee should be a regular faculty member,
- Should have at least **five** years of full-time teaching experience at the Polytechnic and/or Undergraduate and/or Post-graduate level,
- Should **NOT** be above 55 years of age as on the last date of receiving application for the awards,
- Vice-Chancellor / Director / Principal (regular or officiating) are **NOT** eligible to apply. However, individuals who have held such positions earlier, but are below 55 years of age and still in active service are eligible,
- Earlier NAT Awardees are not eligible to apply.

6. NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- Self-nomination (Singular basis)
- Former or existing Vice-Chancellor / Director / Principal / Faculty Member / Colleague of the same University / Institute / College / Polytechnic, where the nominee holds regular employment. Earlier nominee / nomination is eligible for re-nomination.

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- Members of the Search-cum-Screening Committees may also take *suo-moto* cognizance of an outstanding faculty member and may nominate exemplary teachers.
- Award Jury are **NOT** eligible to make any nomination for this award.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NAT

- The nomination shall be made in the prescribed format using the online portal, **Rashtriya Puraskar Portal @www.awards.gov.in** only.
- The nominator may ensure that the nomination form is duly completed online and information, as required by the Committee, is included.
- The system generated OTP will be used for submission and an email will also be sent to the head of the institution.
- **The nomination shall be supported by a CAREER PROFILE in accordance with below enlisted points i to x (maximum 800 words excluding spaces and paragraphs) enumerating the contributions and achievements of the nominee in the specified areas as given below. However, a citation of not more than 100 words should also be provided indicating achievements strictly with reference to the following parameters: -**

i. Creating an optimal learning environment for students through innovative curricular design, improved pedagogical approaches, promoting multidisciplinary and experiential learning and effective assessment of learning outcomes.

ii. Promoting educational technology to improve the quality of education including the development of digital educational resources.

iii. Providing support for physical and psychological well-being of students while also enhancing their cognitive abilities.

iv. Fostering gender, Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) sensitization and inclusivity on campus, community engagement, outreach and service etc.

v. Fostering environmental/climate sensitivity, multi-stakeholder adaptability and a strong sense of nationalism.

vi. Innovations/Initiatives/Start-ups contributing towards better communities and nation.

vii. Outcome of students' feedback (24x7) and steps taken to improve delivery and effectiveness of classroom teaching and evaluation.

viii. Efforts taken to make students independent of rote learning and original thinkers.

ix. Type of innovative questions (with open answers) and evaluation: online and offline.

x. Contribution towards implementation of NCrF and NEP 2020.

- Nominations received after the due date shall not be considered.
- Vigilance clearance and Integrity certificate are to be mandatorily provided by the HEI/ Polytechnic as per **Annexure-I.** This statement should be taken from the Head of the Institute and uploaded at the time of submission of the nomination. In case, such a certificate is not available at the time of submission of the nomination, the nominee must provide it within one month of date of submission of the nomination on the portal using the unique ID.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of meritorious teachers will be carried out through a rigorous screening process having the following parameters :-

Sl. No.	Parameter	Weightage	
		Diploma	UG/ PG/ Ph.D.
1*	Teaching Learning Effectiveness	90%	75%
2*	Outreach activities		
3**	Research and Innovation	5%	15%
4**	Sponsored Research/ Faculty Development Programs/ Consultancy	5%	10%
TOTAL		**100%**	**100%**

**Criteria 1 and 2 are the most important for the Teacher's Award. Since these two carry the maximum weightage (75% UG/PG/ (Ph.D. if any) teaching and 90% diploma teaching), it should be filled in properly with documentary proofs, if any.*

*** Criteria 3 and 4 will not carry more than 25 % weightage in the case of teachers working in institutes where PG and Ph. D. programmes are run. In the case of institutes with only UG programmes and Polytechnic and Diploma awarding institutes, this will be given less importance and carry only 10% weightage.*

8.1 Teaching Learning Effectiveness (UG/PG/Ph.D- 75%; Diploma- 90%)

a) Courses taught (Theory/Tutorial/Lab) and student strength.
b) Duration of courses taught at Diploma, UG and /or PG level.
c) Implementation of NCrF and NEP in curriculum
d) New courses developed/Content created including Open ware/MOOCs/NPTEL
e) New experiments or demonstration experiments introduced to explain fundamentals including new simulation tools.
f) In the case of online courses, number of students registered for the course and method of evaluation; revenue generated for the institute (proof is needed to be furnished).
g) Innovative curricular design/ improved pedagogical approaches/ promoting multidisciplinary & experiential learning/effective assessment of learning outcomes/teaching methodology (Online/Offline/Blended).

h) Students mentoring/handholding.
i) Participation in Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) or Quality Improvement Programmes (QIPs) and its implementation in own career
j) FDPs/Seminars/Conferences/Refresher Courses (As a Resource Person or as an Organizer)
k) Development of new apps / tools for effective teaching and learning.
l) Engagement in tutorials and individual problem solving for weak students.
m) Contribution towards developing of new laboratory experiments.
n) Contribution for student's internship and placement activities for students.
o) Lectures of industry experts arranged for new knowledge or career development.
p) Any innovation in teaching and learning which goes beyond regular classroom lectures.
q) 24x7 performance evaluation promoted through self-initiation if the institute does not have such a system in place.
r) Contribution as former Director/Principal/Head/Dean/Warden/ Head of Training & Placement/Program coordinators or during any other administrative duty performed/completed.
s) Incubation support for startups
t) Contribution to Co-curricular activity/Sports/NSS/NCC activities.
u) Contribution to NBA/NAAC/NIRF accreditation/Internal Committees.
v) Contribution to Community Outreach/Hackathons/ Students Clubs
w) Contribution towards Collaborative academia industries-interface for Research and Innovation/ Placement/ Technology transfer, etc.
x) Any other (please specify with proof)

8.2 Outreach Activities

(Weightage combined with 8.1)

a) In-Charge of Incubation Center/Institute Industry Cell/Institution Innovation Cell/Start up Cell, etc.
b) Contribution towards UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs).
c) Contribution to Regional/Rural Development/Extension Services etc.
d) Contribution to policy making and advocacy for issues pertinent to the society and nation such as Unnat Bharat Abhiyan,
e) Membership of the Govt. of India Committees/initiatives, if any.
f) Recognition - Awards / Prizes at state or national or international level. (College level awards will not be considered.)
g) Creation of socially responsible academia impact through teaching and /or research.
h) Laboratory infrastructure development/Learning Projects/Fieldworks
i) Classroom Performance (academic result, talent shaping, encouraging learning, grooming & recognizing special needs)
j) Membership of institute committee for curricular and extra-curricular activities including preparation of documents and activities related to NAAC, NBA, NSS, NCC, CDTP etc.
k) Any Other (please specify with proof)

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8.3 Research & Innovation

(UG/PG/Ph.D- 15%; Diploma- 5%)

a) Numbers of Masters/PhD dissertations guided.
b) Fellowship of one of the four national academies of Science and Engineering, Humanities, etc.
c) Sr. Member/Member of Professional Bodies
d) Numbers of publications/Single author/Group member
e) Numbers of patents granted/Single author/Group member
f) Citation Index (Google scholar data)
g) Books/Chapters/Monographs/Project reports/laboratory manuals Prepared.
h) Editor/ Member of Editorial Board of Journals
i) Number of Technology transferred along with royalty received.
j) Number/details of startups created/supported along with valuation

8.4 Sponsored Research/Faculty Development Programs/Consultancy

(UG/PG/Ph.D- 10%; Diploma- 5%)

a) Consultancy/Projects/Industrial R&D (Completed/Under progress)
b) Consultancy funding (Routine testing not to be included)
c) Research funding/International or National Projects/Programs
d) Patents/IPR/Transfer of Technology/Product Innovation

Video Submission: *Apart from information requested above, every candidate will be requested to submit a 2-3 minutes video clip/link (uploaded on YouTube as private link) highlighting their outstanding achievements for the award.*

9. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Selection procedure for NAT-2026 will follow the below mentioned two-step process:

1) Preliminary Search-cum-Screening Committee for initial shortlisting of candidates
2) Committee of 'Jury' for final section of awardees from the shortlisted candidates by Preliminary Search-cum-Screening Committee

Step-1: Preliminary Search-cum-Screening Committee

There will be Category-wise, all-inclusive **Search-cum-Screening Committees** for initial screening and shortlisting of potential candidates. The Search-cum-Screening committees will have eminent experts (distinguished retired faculty members / experts from industry / domain experts / eminent personalities / educationalist / national award winners and experts from social sector).

These Search-cum-Screening Committees shall carefully and unbiasedly review the submitted nominations and shortlist nominees under each category. The shortlisted nominations shall be forwarded to the **Jury** for final selection.

Initial evaluation will be based on the **Career Profile of the nominee (maximum 800 words excluding spaces and paragraphs; only the first 800 words will be accepted by the system)** clearly bringing out nominee's distinguished and exceptional achievements/noteworthy teaching service in their respective discipline that make them worthy of the National Award followed by an interaction with the Jury members. A citation of not more than 100 words excluding spaces will be needed for preparation of the certificate of the winners.

Step-2: Committee of Jury for selection of awardees

There shall be a comprehensive **five-member Jury** comprising of academic leaders, eminent academicians, policy planners in the field of higher education. The Jury shall consider the recommendations of the Search-cum-Screening Committees and finalize the awardees under each Award Category after a personal interaction in online mode with the shortlisted candidates.

10. AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

	Timeline for Award
Inviting Nominations	25th May, 2026
Deadline for receiving Nominations	5th July, 2026
Felicitation of Award	**5th September, 2026**

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Annexure -I

On Letter-Head of the Institute
(Vice Chancellor/Director/Principal)
National Awards to Teachers 2026
Vigilance Clearance and Integrity Certificate

Ref. No. and Date

This is to certify that (Name of Nominee), (Designation), (Date of Birth) is a regular faculty member of the University/Institute since_____, (Employee ID). Applicant has been teaching Diploma/Undergraduate/Post Graduate courses since_____.

He/She is a dedicated faculty member who commands respect from his/her students and peers. There is no vigilance/departmental enquiry either pending or contemplated against (Name of Nominee).

The applicant has not been convicted by any court of law and/or there is no police case or court case pending against him/her to the best of my knowledge.

The applicant bears good character and antecedents and his/her integrity is beyond doubt.

Place

Date

(Signature and Name)

(Vice Chancellor/Director/Principal)
with official seal