



Marathi Vidnyan Parishad

मराठी विज्ञान परिषद, वि.ना. पुरव मार्ग, शीव-चुनाभट्टी, मुंबई 400022 दूरध्वनी (022) - 2405 4714 / 2405 7268.

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'Man Mohan Sharma Awards for Science and Technology' (for Teachers in Universities and Colleges situated in Maharashtra State)

Preamble:

Professor M.M. Sharma is a living legend in the field of research in chemical engineering and technology in independent India. He is unquestionably the most noted and decorated chemical engineer India has produced. His contributions to research in multi-phase reactions and reactors have opened up magnificent new vistas. His exposition of the role of fine particles (now called micro/ nano phase) in enhancing mass transfer rates and making reactions more selective is just one example of the range of themes he has explored. He has received innumerable honors for his path breaking research work, notable among them being Fellow of the Royal Society, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan from the President of India, Foreign Associate of US National Academy of Engineering, International Fellow of Royal Academy of Engineering, Fellowship of The Third World Academy of Sciences and President of Indian National Science Academy.

But the most distinctive feature of his research career is that, Professor Sharma has carried out this entire research exclusively in a State University. He joined University Department of Chemical Technology (UDCT) of the then Bombay University in 1964 as a full Professor at the age of 27; and his first Ph.D. student was out within three years of his date of joining, which is a record in itself. He subsequently worked as Director of UDCT for 8 years, until his retirement in 1997. But he always takes pride in the fact, that he was a teacher, and used to teach even undergraduate classes till his retirement.

With inexpensive equipment and scant monetary support, he pursued his quality research based only on innovative and original ideas and also encouraged his colleagues to do so. In the days when research in academic institutions was almost nonexistent, and research grants were scarce in India, he successfully converted UDCT (now known as ICT) into a research institute of international repute. He had to struggle those days for postage for sending research papers to foreign journals, and even had to reuse envelopes of journals arriving from abroad for want of money. He also collected old and discarded equipment from industries and put them to use after repairs.

Without any research grant from any Government agency throughout his career, or any special favours in his duty as a professor or later as a Director, Professor Sharma carried out research of a high quality. His quality of research was at the frontiers of global research. As a result, he received FRS, the highest honor any academician aspires for. He has shown by his own example the futility in an oft repeated argument that quality research could not, and cannot, be done in State Universities and affiliated colleges because of adverse working conditions, and for lack of funds. He has proved that the essential ingredients for successful quality research are innovative ideas, strong motivation, commitment and capacity of hard work.

Today, the importance of carrying out research in educational institutions is being widely acknowledged. Various schemes have been introduced by DST, UGC, CSIR and other Government bodies to support research in academic institutes. But the activity is still mainly confined to the Central Universities, and in Institutes of National Importance. The research activity in State Universities has been mostly sub-optimal, and is very rare in affiliated



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colleges. We feel that it is a high time to encourage quality research of international standard among colleges affiliated to state universities by recognizing and rewarding such efforts, wherever they exist. The present scheme is being introduced for this specific purpose in line with the existing coveted scheme of 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize' at the national level by CSIR.

1. Introduction:

1.1) The prizes will be named after the famous chemical engineer, and ex- Director of the then UDCT (now, ICT), Dr. (Professor) Man Mohan Sharma; and will be called 'Man Mohan Sharma (MMS) Award for Science and Technology'.

1.2) Two prizes will be given each year for quality research carried out in an academic institution located in the Maharashtra State (MS), by its teaching faculty. The prizes are specifically for the faculty in the universities situated in Maharashtra State, and faculty in colleges affiliated to state universities of Maharashtra State.

2. Nature of the Prize:

2.1) Two MMS prizes of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only) each, along with a memento and citation, will be awarded annually for applied or fundamental quality research in any branch of science, engineering and technology including (but not restricted to) the following disciplines:

(2.1.1) Biological, (2.1.2) Chemical, (2.1.3) Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary, (2.1.4) Engineering, (2.1.5) Mathematical, (2.1.6) Medical, (2.1.7) Physical Sciences and (2.1.8) Agriculture.

One prize is specifically for the category of faculty members in colleges affiliated to state universities situated of Maharashtra State; and the other one is specifically for the category of faculty members in University Departments of (State or Private) Universities situated in Maharashtra State.

3. Purpose:

3.1) Recognition of quality research work in science and technology, carried out in affiliated colleges, and in University Departments situated in Maharashtra State, by its teaching faculty.

3.2) Eligibility: Any member of teaching faculty in a college affiliated to a State University in Maharashtra State; or in a department of a (state/private) university situated in Maharashtra State (excluding those educational/research institutions or universities which receive their salary grants from the Central Government), with a teaching experience of minimum 10 years is eligible. Age limit is 50 years for a university teacher and 55 years for a college teacher (as on 31st Dec. of the preceding year).

3.3) Two prizes are to be bestowed on members of teaching faculty in the two categories, as mentioned in clause 3.5, for their quality research primarily done in that college/ university department, in any of the disciplines listed above, where the word 'primarily' will mean 'for the most part'.

4. Award of the prize:



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The Governing Body of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad (MVP) will receive names of the Awardees from the Selection Committee constituted under clause 10.

5. Nominations:

5.1) A candidate can apply personally. Alternatively, names of candidates may be proposed by Vice-Chancellors, Deans of Science/ Engineering/ Technology faculties of the State Universities of Maharashtra State, Directors of Academic Institutes of National Importance, Principals of colleges affiliated to State Universities of Maharashtra State, S. S. Bhatnagar Prize awardees, fellows of Indian National Science Academy (INSA, New Delhi), fellows of Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS, Bangalore), fellows of National Academy of Sciences (NAS, Allahabad), or fellows of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE, New Delhi), or members of the Selection Committee of the present award scheme.

5.2) Each nomination, as per the prescribed format should be accompanied by a detailed statement of work and attainments of the nominee and a critical assessment report (not more than 500 words) bringing out the importance of significant research and development contributions of the nominee. Nominations not made as per the prescribed format are not acceptable.

5.3) Any member of the teaching faculty can receive the award only once. No recipient of 'MMS Prize for Science and Technology' can be re-nominated for the award in any one of the two categories mentioned in clause 3.5. Once such a nomination is received, the selection committee may correspond directly with the nominee, and may even call for an interview, if necessary. In case, a nominee does not continue to be a member of teaching faculty in an academic institute as specified in clause 5.1, by the time the prize winners are finalized, his/her nomination is treated as cancelled.

5.4) Nominations received in a year, shall be valid for that year only. However, a candidate can be re-nominated for subsequent years, provided he/she has not crossed the age limit, (clause 3.2), and is not a recipient of the award earlier (clause 5.3).

6. Selection Committee:

The selection committee for selecting award winners from the nominations received will be constituted by MVP. It will have nine members with the following constitution.

(I) Chairman: A scientist of great repute, who is a SSB awardee, or a fellow of any one of National Academies of Science / Engineering, or a scientist of repute from national research laboratories, having at least 25 years of experience of teaching/research.

(ii) Members (four): Scientists of great repute. (SSB awardees, fellows of National Academies of Science / Engineering, scientists of repute from national research laboratories etc.)

(iii) Members (four): Academicians of great repute who have done quality research in their disciplines (ex-VCs of state universities of MS, retired faculty from academic institutes located in Maharashtra State, or retired faculty from academic institutions of national importance etc.).

Members of the committee may, preferably, be chosen from diverse fields of Science & Technology so that its constitution represents a wide spectrum of specialization in these fields. Also, all members of selection committee be, preferably, well conversant with Marathi language and culture.



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(If necessary, the committee may invite considered opinions from experts in relevant fields regarding the quality of research work done, before finalizing the result.)

6.2) Each member (including chairman) will have a term of three years. Three members of the committee will retire each year, and three new members will be inducted in the committee keeping intact the constitution of the committee as given clause 10. (A retiring member can be re-inducted for a fresh term of three years.)

6.3) The selection committee will finalize two names (one from each category) from amongst the nominees, which will be handed over to MVP for further processing.

6.4) The award in a category may not be declared in a particular year, if in the opinion of the selection committee, no sufficiently meritorious candidate is found in that year.

7. Presentation:

7.1) The last date for receiving nominations each year by the MVP is the 31st August. Also, the selection committee will be constituted each year by that date. The selection committee will finalize and communicate the names of the awardees by October end to MVP, and the awardees will be informed accordingly at the earliest.

7.2) The prize will be awarded each year in the annual convention of MVP.

7.3) Each MMS awardee will give a presentation of about 15 minutes (preferably in Marathi) while receiving the award. Each awardee should also give at least three lectures on their award-winning work in academic institutions in three different districts of Maharashtra State, preferably from different parts of Maharashtra. MVP will look after the logistics of this.

7.4) AC III tire railway fare and accommodation expenditure incurred by the awardees for attending the ceremony and for giving lectures (as mentioned in clause 16) will be reimbursed

7.5) In all matters of MMS Awards, the decision of MVP is final.