

Kamala Awards for Craftspeople and Kamala Samman

Vision

Recognition as a powerful incentive to protect traditional craft.

Background

The craftspeople's success largely depends on pride in his vocation. Being commercially successful does not necessarily bring pride. Being noticed and acknowledged is what counts.

In the current environment where crafts and craftspeople are slowly being forgotten as they no longer seem relevant to society, it calls for tremendous courage and strength for a craftspeople to take pride in his work.

Realising the impact of recognition, the Crafts Council of India, in 2000, decided to honour craftspeople and instituted two awards to be given away every year – (1) Kamala for excellence in skill and (2) Kamala for contribution to craft and community. A third award, Kamala Samman, for service in the sector was instituted in 2004. So far 11 Kamala awards and 3 Kamala Samman have been given.

Objective

To encourage craftspeople to continue their traditional craft by recognizing excellence in work and contribution to the community.

The selection process for the awards

The Kamala awards for craftspeople carry a cash prize of Rs.25,000 (increased from Rs.5000), a citation and a shawl. The Kamala Samman carries a silver medal and citation.

The process of selection for the awards is as follows:

- Nominations with bio-data are invited from the affiliated Craft Councils a few months before the event.
- The Working Committee of CCI evaluates the merits of the nomination a month before the Kamala inauguration. The awardees are selected by consensus.
- The relevant state council is notified, and is responsible for bringing the person to the event. CCI reimburses the travel costs.

With the increasing interest among craftspeople to win the Kamala award, CCI plans to make the selection process more detailed.

Invitation

CCI invites donations toward the Kamala awards and the selection process of awardees. The components of the fund requirement are Rs.50,000 toward the awards and Rs.30,000 toward expenses of awardees for the awards ceremony.

For more details, please contact ...