As an important step to catalyse a cultural shift in youth for entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has instituted the National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) to recognize and honour outstanding young first generation entrepreneurs and their Ecosystem Builders for their outstanding contribution in entrepreneurship development.

A total of 43 Awards under NEA2018 have been carefully considered to enable participation of young entrepreneurs below the age of 40 years and their ecosystem builders across sectors, geographies and socio-economic background through the process of nomination. The purpose is to highlight models of excellence for others to emulate and improve upon.

Winners will receive a Trophy, Certificate and a Cash Prize of ₹ 5 lakh (enterprises/individuals) and ₹ 10 lakh (organizations/institutes), in a high profile Award Ceremony proposed to be held towards the end of December 2018.

1. Awards: Awards will be presented under the following Award Categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Types of Awards under each Category</th>
<th>No. of Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Enterprise Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1 Initial investment up to ₹ 1 L</td>
<td>Sector Awards</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Category Awards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 Initial investment above ₹ 1 L to ₹ 10 L</td>
<td>Sector Awards</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Category Awards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3 Initial investment above ₹ 10 L to ₹ 1 Cr</td>
<td>Sector Awards</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Category Awards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Eco-system Builders Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Award Category A: Enterprise Awards - 39 Awards

Award Types under Category A1 i.e. initial investment up to ₹ 1 L:

- Textile, textile articles, leather and related goods
- Agriculture, food processing and forestry - also includes vegetable products, vegetable fats, prepared foodstuffs and agri-tech
- Chemicals, pharma, bio and others
- Retail Trade
- Renewable energy and waste management
- Handicrafts
- Healthcare
- Hospitality, Tourism & Travel
- Logistics, transports, e-commerce & other services

Special Category Award with investment up to ₹ 1 L (4 Nos.)

1. Women Entrepreneur
2. Entrepreneur from SC/ST Category
3. Entrepreneur from PwDs Category
4. Entrepreneur from Difficult Areas

Award Types under Categories A2 and A3 i.e. initial investment above ₹ 1 L to ₹ 10 L and Initial investment above ₹ 10 L to ₹ 1 Cr:

- Sector Awards with investment above ₹ 1 L to ₹ 10 L (9 Nos.) and above ₹ 10 L to ₹ 1 Cr (9 Nos.)
  1. Textile, textile articles, leather and related goods
  2. Agriculture, food processing and forestry - also includes vegetable products, vegetable fats, prepared foodstuffs and agri-tech
  3. Chemicals, pharma, bio and others
  4. Engineering systems, base metals & articles, machinery & mechanical appliances and medical devices
  5. Renewable energy and waste management
  6. Handicrafts
  7. Healthcare
  8. Hospitality, Tourism & Travel
  9. Logistics, transports, e-commerce & other services

Award Category B: Ecosystem Builders Award- 4 Awards

Award types under Ecosystem Builders Category:

1. Entrepreneurship Development Institutes/ Organisations
2. Incubation Centres
3. Mentors
4. Promoters Rural Producer Group Enterprise

2. Implementation Mechanism

Candidates will be mobilised through nomination, and undergo a three-level rigorous evaluation process, wherein, in the last step the National Jury of eminent persons drawn from academia/research, industry, social sector, banking etc., selects the winners. To ensure excellence of the National Award, the Jury has the power to not award any applicant in a given category, if applications are found unsatisfactory.

3. Call for Nomination

The call for nomination to open from 12.10.2018 to 11.11.2018. Please visit www.neas.gov.in to nominate deserving candidates.