

HRD MINISTRY ANNOUNCES TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ON THE OCCASION OF CHILDRENS' DAY

New Delhi: November 11, 2005

On the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November, 2005, the Ministry of Human Resource Development announces '**Chacha Nehru Scholarships for Artistic and Innovative Excellence**' and '**Chacha Nehru Scholarships for Sports Talent**'. The details of these two scholarships are as below:

Chacha Nehru Scholarships for Artistic and Innovative Excellence

The National Bal Bhawan has instituted a system of honouring talented children in different age groups through the Bal Shree Schemes. The Bal Shree programme recognizes talent in the areas of Creative Performance, Creative Arts, Creative Scientific Innovations and Creative Writings. The National Bal Bhawan makes a selection of creative children through activities conducted at Local level by organizing two-day camps in which eight children (2 in each stream) are identified at local level; Zonal level by organizing three-day camps in which local experts, specialists from North, East, West, Central, South-I and South-II participate for selection of children; and National level by organizing four-day camps from six zones in the country. A panel of experts and resource persons representing the four streams are identified to observe and assess the creativity of children. On an average 150 children participate in the National level camp.

Under the new scheme of **Chacha Nehru Scholarships for Artistic & Innovative Excellence**, the **National Council for Educational Research and Training** will provide scholarships of Rs.500/- per month to all children above 14 years who have been selected for participation in the National Camps of the National Bal Bhawan under its Bal Shree Programme. These children will be provided the scholarships for four years of studies during class IX to XII For creative children in age group 9-14 selected for participation in National Camps, a one-time incentive of Rs. 5000/- will be provided by the **National Bal Bhawan**.

Chacha Nehru Scholarship for Sports Talent

The objective of Chacha Nehru Scholarships for Sports Talent will be to identify extraordinary talent among the students in sports and games. The scheme will be administered by Central Board of Secondary Education. The students studying in class VIII onwards will be in the eligible zone for consideration of their talent and the scholarship would be awarded to them from the commencement of class IX for a period of 4 years subject to fulfillment of other conditions. However, if under age category 16, some students are selected for their extraordinary performance in sports, they will be given scholarship for remaining period of their duration till the completion of class XII studies.

Scholarships of Rs.500 per month would be awarded by the Central Board of Secondary Education in 14 disciplines in which CBSE organizes Inter School Sports and Games Competitions under various age groups. Talented children will be identified at the CBSE National level Competitions. In individual sports like Athletics, Badminton, Chess etc., all the individual Champions would be eligible for Scholarships while in sports like Football, Basketball, Hockey etc., talent will be identified by a Core Committee of experienced sports persons. There will be 200 scholarships under this Scheme.

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