



RUCHIKA SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION

Regd. Under Societies Registration Act.

No. 7658-626/97-98

Regd. Under F.C.R.A.

3731-A, Sriram Nagar, Samantarapur, Old Town

Bhubaneswar - 751 002, Odisha, India

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Date: 19/9/26

Ref.: R.S.O. 12/2

Invitation for Nominations for the 7th Inderjit Khurana National Award-2026

Madam/Sir,

Ruchika Social Service Organisation, is pleased to invite nominations for the 7th Inderjit Khurana National Award-2026, to be presented on 24 November 2026 to an individual or organisation that has demonstrated exceptional commitment, innovation and measurable impact in transforming the lives of underprivileged children.

Instituted in 2015 in memory of Late Mrs. Inderjit Khurana, Founder Secretary of Ruchika Social Service Organisation, the Award celebrates her lifelong commitment to education, dignity, care and opportunities for disadvantaged children. Fondly remembered as "Mama" and recognised as the "Mother of Pre-Schools in Odisha," she pioneered the Platform School movement in 1985, taking education to children living and working around railway stations. She firmly believed that poverty must never deprive a child of education, dignity or hope.

The Award carries forward this inspiring legacy by recognising individuals/organisations creating meaningful and sustainable change for children and vulnerable communities.

Nominations are invited for outstanding contributions in areas including education and mainstreaming; protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable and street-connected children; child health, nutrition and psychosocial well-being; prevention of child labour, trafficking, child marriage and exploitation; innovative community-based interventions; and restoration of children's rights, dignity and opportunities.

NGOs, Government departments, CSR foundations, universities, social-work institutions, development organisations and other stakeholders are especially encouraged to nominate deserving changemakers. The Individuals / organisations can be self-nominated.

The Award carries a Cash Prize of ₹1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh only) and a Citation of Honour. This Award is an opportunity to bring their inspiring work into the national spotlight and celebrate those who are changing lives, one child at a time.

Nominations, along with supporting documents and testimonials, may be sent to Ruchika Social Service Organisation, 3731-A, Sriram Nagar, Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002, and intimated by email at rssobbs@hotmail.com. For assistance, please contact Mr. H. K. Sahu, Coordinator, Mob.: 9437044657.

The detailed Award Brochure, including eligibility criteria, nomination guidelines and application form, is available at www.ruchika.ind.in.

With warm regards,

Uma Sankar Sarangi
(Uma Sankar Sarangi)
Secretary

**THE
RUCHIKA
MISSION**

- ❖ Provide all children with a joyful and creative school atmosphere that incorporates the education and skill relevant to a meaningful and dignified existence.
- ❖ Equip children with the knowledge necessary to become active participants and positive contributors to their communities.
- ❖ Create a society free of child labour, destitution, exploitation and abandonment.

7 TH INDERJIT KHURANA NATIONAL AWARD-2026
CELEBRATING COMPASSION • COURAGE • INNOVATION • TRANSFORMATION

"Every child is important to me irrespective of their economic and social milieu. They are the future. Education for me is the only catalyst which will lead to upward socio-economic mobility."

— Late Mrs. Inderjit Khurana



24 NOVEMBER 1936 – 26 OCTOBER 2010

To honour individuals and organisations that dedicate to change
the lives of underprivileged children



RUCHIKA SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION
3731-A, SRI RAM NAGAR, SAMANTARAPUR,
OLD TOWN, BHUBANESWAR-2, ODISHA, INDIA
EMAIL: rssobbs@hotmail.com
WEBSITE: www.ruchika.ind.in

DATE OF AWARD CEREMONY	: 24 NOVEMBER 2026
VENUE	: BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA
AWARD	: ₹1,00,000/- (RUPEES ONE LAKH ONLY) + CITATION
INSTITUTED BY	: RUCHIKA SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION
ADMINISTERED BY	: IDERJIT KHURANA NATIONAL AWARD ADJUDICATING COMMITTEE

A LEGACY THAT BEGAN WITH A BELIEF

The Inderjit Khurana National Award was instituted in 2015 to honour and carry forward the extraordinary legacy of Late Mrs. Inderjit Khurana, Founder of Ruchika Social Service Organisation and a pioneering educationist, visionary social worker and passionate advocate for children living in poverty and exclusion.

Fondly remembered as "Mama," Mrs. Khurana dedicated her life to one simple but powerful belief: Every child deserves a chance. At a time when children living and working around railway stations were largely invisible to society, she chose to reach out to them rather than look away.

In 1985, she pioneered non-formal education centres on railway platforms in Odisha, creating what came to be known as Platform Schools. These child-friendly spaces brought education, care, dignity and hope to children who were begging, collecting discarded food and bottles, or otherwise living in extremely vulnerable circumstances.

Her innovative approach, warmth, determination and extraordinary ability to connect with people inspired countless individuals to join her mission. Her work transformed the lives of children and demonstrated that education can become the most powerful pathway from deprivation to dignity and opportunity.

Her contribution to the cause of underprivileged children received wide national and international recognition.

THE PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The Inderjit Khurana National Award seeks to recognise, encourage and celebrate exceptional individuals and organisations that have made a sustained and meaningful contribution to the education, welfare, protection and empowerment of underprivileged children and other marginalised communities.

The Award is a tribute to those who work where the need is greatest—often with limited resources, but with extraordinary courage, compassion and commitment. It seeks to honour work that advances the rights and dignity of deprived children irrespective of gender, caste, religion, nationality, language, social status or economic circumstances. The Award celebrates those who turn concern into action and action into lasting change.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

The Award is open to an individual or organisation that:

- a) Has rendered meritorious and sustained service for at least 10 years in the relevant field anywhere in India.
- b) Has made an exceptional contribution towards the education, welfare, protection or empowerment of underprivileged children.
- c) Has worked to address issues that undermine children's fundamental rights, including illiteracy, child labour, trafficking, hunger, child abuse and other forms of exploitation and deprivation.
- d) Has demonstrated commitment, innovation, integrity and measurable impact in improving the lives of children and disadvantaged communities.

The Award particularly seeks to recognise initiatives that have gone beyond conventional approaches and have created hope, opportunity, dignity and sustainable change.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

Nominations/recommendations may be made by:

- * Departments of the State Governments
- * Departments of the Government of India
- * Government institutions working for children and women
- * Non-Governmental Organisations and other institutions working in the field of child and women welfare
- * Vice-Chancellors of Universities
- * Other eligible institutions/authorities as prescribed in the official nomination process
- * Self Nomination an individual / organisation can be self nominated for this award.

Nominations must be submitted in the prescribed format along with relevant supporting documents and testimonials.

NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS

The nominee's contribution will be carefully assessed by the Inderjit Khurana National Award Adjudicating Committee, with particular attention to:

- a) The nature and duration of the nominee's work
- b) Impact on underprivileged children
- c) Innovation and uniqueness of the intervention
- d) Sustainability and community participation
- e) Achievements and recognitions
- f) Contribution to protecting children's rights and dignity
- g) Overall commitment to social transformation

The Adjudicating Committee may seek additional documents, clarification or an interview as part of the scrutiny process.

All information submitted by the nominee must be accurate and authentic. Any material misrepresentation or distortion of facts may result in rejection of the nomination or cancellation of the Award.

The Awardee is expected to attend the Award Ceremony and associated events.

THE AWARD

The distinguished Awardee will receive:

1. A cash prize of ₹1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) by cheque
2. Citation of Honour

The Award is intended not only to recognise achievement but also to strengthen the spirit of service and inspire others to work for children who are most vulnerable and excluded.

THE INDERJIT KHURANA NATIONAL AWARD ADJUDICATING COMMITTEE

The Award is administered by an independent five-member Adjudicating Committee, comprising:

1. Secretary of the sponsoring organisation
2. A retired State Government administrator of the rank of Addl. Secretary
3. A retired Government of India Administrative Officer
4. A retired member of the Judiciary not below the rank of an Hon'ble High Court Justice
5. A retired Registrar/Controller of Examinations/Vice-Chancellor of a University

This distinguished composition is intended to ensure a transparent, credible and rigorous assessment of nominations.

REMEMBERING "MAMA" — A LIFE THAT INSPIRED A MOVEMENT

Mrs. Khurana was an educationist of exceptional vision and a pioneering social activist. She devoted her life to children and families living on the margins of society. Her pioneering Platform Schools, established in 1985, challenged the conventional understanding of education and demonstrated that education must reach the child—even when the child cannot reach the school.

Her child-friendly methodology, innovative thinking, dynamism and determination attracted people from diverse walks of life who became partners in her mission. Fondly called "Mama," she possessed a rare and magnetic personality. She earned the affection of children, communities, colleagues, supporters and even those who initially questioned her unconventional methods.

Her lifelong contribution was recognised through several prestigious honours, including:

1. National Award for Child Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India – 2004
2. Derozio Award, ICSE – 2005
3. World Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child (WCPRC) – 2006
4. World of Children Award for Human Enrichment – 2007
5. Shining World Leadership Award, Tji Hak-Soon Justice and Peace Foundation, USA – 2008
6. Recognition by the Nehru Children's Museum, Kolkata for her work with children
7. Recognition by Outlook Magazine among 50 personalities who contributed to social change
8. Lifetime Associate Membership of Ashoka – Innovators for the Public
9. A UNICEF film, "Blossoms in the Dust" (1986), on the Platform School initiative
10. American Public Broadcasting Service documentary "New Heroes" (2005) recognising her as one of the world's innovative social workers

Her legacy continues through the work of Ruchika Social Service Organisation and through every individual and organisation that believes that a child's circumstances should never determine the child's destiny.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

The Inderjit Khurana National Award has recognised organisations whose work has made a significant contribution to underprivileged children and communities, including:

1st Award – 2015

Institute of Social Work, Kolkata

2nd Award

Gania Unnayana Committee, Nayagarh, Odisha

3rd Award

Gandhi Balashram, Bhadrak, Odisha

4th Award

The Ashraya, Cuttack, Odisha

5th Award

Sanghamitra Development Association, Vidyanagaram, Visakhapatnam

6th Award

Basundhara, Cuttack, Odisha

NOMINATE A CHANGEMAKER

Across India, there are individuals and organisations working quietly and courageously to ensure that children who have been denied opportunity can reclaim their education, dignity, childhood and future.

They may work in railway stations, slums, villages, streets, institutions or communities.

They may not always seek recognition, but their work deserves to be seen, celebrated and supported.

If you know someone who is making a lasting difference in the life of a child, nominate them. Let us bring their stories of courage and compassion to the forefront. Let us celebrate those who do not merely speak about change—but create it.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION DETAILS

The prescribed nomination/application form should be completed in full and accompanied by relevant supporting documents, certificates, reports, photographs and testimonials.

Information required includes:

1. Name of Applicant/Organisation
2. Date of Birth/Registration Number
3. Complete Address
4. Contact Details – Phone, Mobile and Email
5. Details of the activities for which the Award is sought
6. Major achievements and innovations
7. What makes the work different or distinctive
8. Awards and recognitions received, if any
9. Proposed utilisation of the Award money
10. References, if any
11. Any other relevant information
12. Details of the Nominating Authority/Person, including designation and contact details

INDERJIT KHURANA SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD-2026

In keeping with the enduring vision and legacy of Late Mrs. Inderjit Khurana, Ruchika Social Service Organisation introduced the Inderjit Khurana Social Impact Award in 2025 to recognise and celebrate individuals and organisations whose dedicated efforts have created a meaningful and lasting impact in the lives of children.

Continuing this initiative in 2026, at least three individuals/organisations who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to serving children and have brought about tangible social change will be honoured with the Inderjit Khurana Social Impact Award-2026.

Each awardee will receive a cash prize of ₹5,000/-, and a memento as a mark of appreciation for their valuable contribution and selfless service.

The awardees will be selected from among the applicants/nominations received for the Inderjit Khurana National Award-2026. This initiative seeks to ensure that, alongside recognising outstanding organisations at the national level, the quiet dedication and impactful contributions of individuals and organisations working at the grassroots are also acknowledged and celebrated.

In case of any confusion, please contact Mr. H.K Sahu, Mob- 9437044657