

**CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE “BINODE GOPAL BANERJEE MEMORIAL PRIZE” (To be reviewed/amended as necessary at intervals, not exceeding 5 years)**

**REF NO: BGB/IMU-KC/CRIT-AWARD/CLASS-IV/DGS/2023, dated 01.03.24(to be quoted for all correspondences)**

1. The candidate must be a graduate of the IMU-Kolkata (IMU-KC) campus.
2. As will be seen in the following paragraphs, the sole purpose of the prize is to encourage the **MEO Class IV candidates who graduated from the IMU-KC**, to qualify for this Certificate of Competency, creditably and quickly. The prize shall be named, the, “BINODE GOPAL BANERJEE MEMORIAL PRIZE” and would comprise a medal and a cash prize. The amount of the cash prize shall be decided by the donor in the year of giving away the prize, but usually, should not be less than Rs. 10,000/-, in total {i.e., singularly or severally, considering the recipient(s)}.

**The medal and the cash prize shall be awarded to an ex-cadet (referred to as “candidate” or “applicant” hereinafter) pertaining to a batch, which graduated in a particular year. Those graduating in 2024, would be the FIRST batch to whom this award would be open.**

3. The candidate must have passed **all** the MEO Class IV examination (as conducted by the D-G Shipping, Government of India) Functions within a **maximum-period of 6 continuous months** i.e., **to be counted without any break**, from the **date** of making the “**first attempt**” in an oral and / or a written-paper, of **any** Function.
4. The written and oral component for **all** the functions, as applicable for qualifying the MEO Class IV examination, as stated above, **must have been passed in the first attempt**, i.e. no written or oral component of any function should have been repeated for the purpose of qualifying the same. **Self-attested photo-copy of the EXN-45 shall be appended by the claimant for the prize, along with the Form-A** (see below)
5. Over and above, the candidate must have passed **all** the MEO Class IV examination Functions (i.e., Written & Oral, **both**) as referred to in “3” & “4” above, **within a maximum-period of 12 continuous months**, i.e., **to be counted without any break, from the date of her/his having signed-off the ship, immediately prior to appearing the first (as decided by the candidate), oral and/or written component, of any function**, as per records in the Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC). **Self-attested photo-copy of the relevant pages of the CDC shall be appended by the claimant for the prize, along with the Form-A** (see below).

In other words, the candidate must be **fully entitled** to be issued with the MEO Class IV Certificate of Competency, as contained in the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) Rules, 1998, as amended, at the time of her/his claiming the prize, **in having fulfilled the above criteria, in toto.**

**Note 1:** Counting the periods of, 6 and 12 months as mentioned at “3” and “5” above, are not necessarily confined for any particular calendar year.

Just in order to illustrate, if a **candidate-A** makes her/his first attempt say in November 2024 and clears all the functions (Writtens & Orals), **in the first attempts for all the functions**, by say **April 2025**, she/he would be considered for the prize to be given for the batch which graduated in **2024**, provided there is no other candidate of the same batch who has fulfilled all the criteria, before the date on which **candidate-A** became eligible.

In other words, if another **candidate-B** pertaining to the same batch, as that of **candidate-A**, i.e., who also graduated in **2024**, fulfils all the criteria, by say **March 2025(i.e., one month before candidate-A became eligible)**, the said **candidate-B** would be eligible for the award, **in lieu of candidate-A**.

In a rare case, if both the above **candidates A & B**, fulfil all the criteria, say in **March 2025**, each of them would be entitled to the medal. The cash award would however be equitably shared between them.

**Note 2:**

As stated above, the Committee, as stated in “6” below, shall consider all the applications (i.e. Form-A as mentioned below), pertaining to **a single and same graduating batch**. The first such graduating batch, therefore, which could be considered, is **2024**.

The Committee, as stated in “6” below, will convene in the month of **October (every year), 2025, to start with**, on a date as proposed by the Director, IMU-KC, of the year in which the award will be given.

The standard **cut-off date** for reckoning eligibility of an applicant for the prize shall be **1<sup>st</sup> of September** of the year in which the Committee, as stated in “6” below, would convene to select the awardee.

Therefore, for considering the applications from candidates pertaining to the batch which graduated in **2024**, the Committee would examine in **October, 2025**, which candidate would become eligible for the award, **before 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2025**. Similarly, for the batch which will graduate in **2025**, the Committee would examine in **October, 2026**, which candidate would become eligible for the award, **before 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2026**.

Subject to the convenience of all (primarily the Director, IMU-KC, and the awardee) concerned, the award can be given away during the College Day celebrations in **December or such other similar annual event.**

It shall be the responsibility of the candidate, i.e. the claimant for the prize, to submit the **appended Form-A, within 2-weeks of fulfilling the aforesaid eligibility criteria, i.e., in having fulfilled all the criteria as laid down in the foregoing, to the Director, IMU-KC.**

6. The final decision as to which candidate would be selected for the prize shall be taken by the **Committee**, comprising of all of the following: (i) incumbent Director, IMU, Kolkata or his/her authorised representative, as Chairperson of the Committee; (ii) Engineer & Ship Surveyor, MMD, Kolkata, in-charge of engineering examinations, with the consent of the incumbent Principal Officer; and, (iii) A representative of the donor. On-line processing of approvals ought to be encouraged, for transparency and speed of decision-making, unless such processing leads to improprieties.

The Committee shall **convene in the month of October** of the year in which the award will be given away, at the instance of the Director, IMU-KC, to decide on the selection of the awardee from the **immediate previous year of the graduation batch**. The Director, IMU-KC, shall be the custodian of the award, as necessary. Once the Committee, approves the selection of the awardee, the donor shall expeditiously make necessary arrangements, in consultation with the Director, IMU-KC, to make the funds available for the award.

7. The **Form-A** may be filled-up by the candidate, who stakes a claim for the prize and submit to the Director, IMU-KC, who may issue a receipted copy to the candidate, unless the submission is made on-line.
8. In case the Director, IMU-KC and/or the Principal Officer, MMD, Kolkata makes any adverse observation with respect to the candidate's integrity and/or discipline and/or sobriety, while considering the selection, her/his eligibility for the award as stated at "2" above, shall be cancelled. In that case, the candidate who had fulfilled the laid down criteria, "next-earliest", shall be considered by the Committee.

P.S. (1): Following emails may be used by any of the persons actively and directly involved with this prize, including the claimant of the prize, as need be: **(i) Director, IMU-KC:** director.kolkata@imu.ac.in

**(ii) Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), Kolkata:** pommd.kol-wb@gov.in;

**(iii) For Donor:** amitban001@gmail.com, failing which, abanerjee1606@gmail.com, failing which, devaash88@gmail.com

P.S. (2) No portion of this document or the appended Form-A may be reproduced, without the express permission of the donor of this prize.