

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Shalon Joanne Pais**

**is**

**NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2015 Winner**

We are proud to announce Ms Shalon Joanne Pais as the winner of the NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2015.

The first-ever NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar has been instituted by Ms Mavis and Calvin Rodrigues in the name of 'Akash-Amulya', to mark the celebration of stepping into the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the publication of the Konkani monthly magazine (in Kannada script), Naman Bhallok Jesu (NBJ), to recognize, honour and encourage talented Catholic Youth and thereby inspire the younger generation to excel in their chosen fields.

The NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar, conceived as an annual feature, is aimed at identifying and recognizing talent Catholic youth in the age group of 18-30, who have made outstanding contributions and achievements in different fields such as Sports, Literature, Arts, Science, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Social Service, Environmental Protection etc. **This Award consists of Rs. 25,000 cash, a citation and a memento.**

The winner of NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar is 18-year-old Ms Shalon Joanne Pais, daughter of Mr John and Mrs Margaret Pais of Bajjodi - Mangaluru, who is now pursuing her B.A. LL.B at SDM Law College, Mangaluru.

An exceptionally talented youngster, Ms Shalon Joanne Pais has won laurels in Chess consistently winning top positions in National School Games since the last 6 years from the 54<sup>th</sup> National School Games in 2009 (third place), second place in 55<sup>th</sup>, third places in 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> and in the 60<sup>th</sup> National School Games in 2014. She has secured the Best Female Player award in the 2014 International FIDE Rated Open Tournament and also in the 2015

International FIDE Rated Open Tournament besides the 10<sup>th</sup> place in the National FIDE Rated Open Tournament last year.

She has also secured the 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Asian Youth Chess Championship 2005, secured the Silver Medal in 2010 National School Chess Championship, when she represented Karnataka as Captain, Bronze Medal in the National SGFI Chess Championship of 2015 and Karnataka State Women's Champion in 2012.

She has also excelled in music playing violin and piano besides singing, dancing and public speaking.

The Naman Bhallok Jesu magazine is proud to present her the NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2015 and extends the best wishes for this exceptionally talented youngster in her future endeavours and may she excel in her chosen fields, inspiring many other youngsters to emulate her example to accomplish greater heights in their talents and career paths so as to bring laurels and credit to society.

We are grateful to the following three eminent personalities for being the jury members, who selected the winner of this year's NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar: Prof Geo D'Silva, Director and Special Officer at VTU for Placement and a noted Konkani poet, writer, dramatist and social activist, Ms Nithisha Rodrigues, Physical Education Director, Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management, and Mr World Raymond D'Souza, Weightlifting Champion.

This year's NBJ Yuva Pratibha Puraskar will be conferred on the selected youth on December 20, 2015, at the Infant Jesus Shrine at Bikkarnakatta, Mangaluru, during the Anniversary Celebration of Naman Bhallok Jesu monthly magazine. The award presentation function will be presided over by Rev. Fr. Charles Serrao, OCD, Provincial, Karnataka and Goa Province. Noted Konkani and Kannada columnist and Director of Fatima Retreat House, Fr Prashant Madtha, SJ, and Rev. Fr. Denis D'Sa, PRO, Udupi Diocese, will be the chief guests.

Apart from the conferring of the awards, the Konkani website, [www.sokallik.com](http://www.sokallik.com), will be launched and four books will be released.

*Naman Ballok Jesu is a Konkani monthly magazine in Kannada script launched in the year 2009 and is being published by the Carmelite Fathers at the Infant Jesus Shrine in Mangaluru.*

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