

K-15/2/2024-SP-IV  
Government of India  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports  
Department of Sports

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

To

As per list attached.

**Subject: Inviting applications for Arjuna Awards, 2024-reg**

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to invite the applications for the Arjuna Awards and Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) 2024 for outstanding achievements of sportspersons in the field of sports at international level.

2. (i) To be eligible for Arjuna award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance over the previous four years at the international level but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline. Accordingly, sports achievements for the period from 1st January 2020 upto the conclusion of Olympic/ Paralympic Games, 2024 will be taken into consideration.

(ii) To be eligible for Arjuna Awards (Lifetime), a sportsperson should have had not only good performance at international level but also should have continued to contribute to promotion of sports in his or her individual capacity even after his career as a sportsperson is over. A sportsperson should also have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and sense of discipline.

3. Applications are being invited only online through a dedicated Portal i.e **dbtyas-sports.gov.in**. Sportspersons eligible in accordance with the award guidelines need to self- apply through online Portal **dbtyas-sports.gov.in** only. In case any issue is faced in online application form, the applicant may contact the Department of Sports at [sportsawards-moyas@gov.in](mailto:sportsawards-moyas@gov.in), Tel. No. 011-233-87432 from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm on any working day or Toll Free No. 1800- 202-5155, 1800-258-5155 (any working day between 8.00 am to 8.00 pm).

4. A copy of the latest scheme for the Arjuna Awards for Outstanding performance in Sports and Games (as amended on **14.10.2024**) is attached at Annexure - I.

5. Submission of vigilance clearance is mandatory for all Government servants. If the applicant is unable to submit the same while filling the form, he/she may submit it at [sportsawards-moyas@gov.in](mailto:sportsawards-moyas@gov.in) before the last date. Application of Government employees without vigilance clearance will not be considered.

6. It should be noted by all that canvassing in any form for/by an entry will render it liable to disqualification.

7. The applications of the eligible sportspersons for the award must be submitted online at the dedicated portal [dbtyas-sports.gov.in](http://dbtyas-sports.gov.in) by 11.59 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 (Thursday).

Yours sincerely,

(Raj K. Gupta)

Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Phone No: 011-23386416

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of States for Youth Affairs & Sports
3. PPS to Secretary (Sports)
4. PPS to Secretary (Youth Affairs)
5. PSO to Joint Secretary (Development)
6. PS to Joint Secretary (SP)
7. PS to Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs)
8. All Directors/Deputy Secretaries in the Department of Sports and Department of Youth Affairs

To:

1. Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, (All States and UTs)
2. President/Secretary General, (All recognized National Sports Federations).
3. President/Secretary General, Indian Olympic Association, B-29, Olympic Bhawan, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi.
4. President /Secretary, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) 4th Floor, Cricket Centre Wankhede Stadium 'D' Road, Churchgate Mumbai- 400020.
5. Secretary, Services Sports Control Board, Room No.97, G Block, Armed Forces, Headquarters, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Secretary Railway Sports Promotion Board Room no. 452, 4th Floor, Ministry of Railways, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001.
7. Secretary All India Police Sports Control Board Hall No. 002(Ground Floor), IBCTS Building, Gate No. 4 , 35 Sardar Patel Marg, Near Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi-110021
8. Secretary, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, 1012, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110001
9. Secretary, Air India Sports Promotion Board 1st Floor, Vayudoot Building, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi.
10. Secretary, SAIL, Sports Promotion Board, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Corporate Office, Ispat Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110003
11. Secretary, Central Civil Services Cultural & Sports Board, 36 -B Wing, 3rd Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan New Delhi- 110003
12. ED (Teams) CEO, TOPS, Sports Authority of India, East Gate, JLN Stadium, Lodhi Road New Delhi- With the request to upload on SAI's website for wide publicity

**SCHEME FOR THE ARJUNA AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN  
SPORTS AND GAMES**

(Amended as on 14.10.2024)

**1. PREAMBLE**

The Scheme may be called the "Scheme for Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games".

**2. OBJECTIVE**

(i) The objective of the Awards is to recognize outstanding achievements of sportspersons in the field of sports at international level.

(ii) To honour and motivate those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) "Scheme" means the scheme for the Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games.
- (b) "Committee" means the Selection Committee constituted under the Scheme.
- (c) "Award" means the Arjuna Awards.
- (d) "Chairperson" means Chairperson of the Selection Committee under the Scheme.
- (e) "Government" means the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- (f) "Sports Administrator" means a person who is engaged in management/ administration of national/international sports events, sports organizations including private sports academies, sports programmes and delivery of sports services.
- (g) "Sports journalist/expert/commentator" means a person who is associated with sports journalism including freelancing in print or electronic media, or a person who writes extensively on sports issues or has written books on sports, or a person who gives live commentary during sports events.
- (h) "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee" means a person who has been conferred with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna by the Government of India.
- (i) "Arjuna Awardee" means a person who has been awarded an Arjuna Award by the Government of India.
- (j) "Olympian" means a sports person who participated in the Olympic Games as a member of the Indian contingent approved by the Government of India.

## **4. ELIGIBILITY**

### **4.1 Arjuna Awards**

4.1.1 To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance over the previous four years at the International level but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

4.1.2 During the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, achievements of the sportspersons in these Games and other international tournaments upto the conclusion of the Olympic Games/Commonwealth Games/Asian Games, as the case may be, will also be considered.

4.1.3 The Government will only consider conferring Arjuna Award in the disciplines falling under following categories:-

- a) Olympic Games/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/ World Cup/ World Championship disciplines and cricket or any equivalent recognized International Tournament.
- b) Indigenous Games.
- c) Sports for physically challenged.

### **4.2 Arjuna Awards (Life Time)**

4.2.1 To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance at international level but also should have continued to contribute to promotion of sports in his individual capacity even after his career as a sportsperson is over. A sportsperson should also have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and sense of discipline.

4.3 Sportspersons who have been penalized for use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, shall be eligible to be considered for the award after completion of their sentence/penalty/suspension/ban period. The achievements during the said suspension/ punishment would not be considered. However a sportsperson against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing will not be considered.

## **5. APPLICATION**

5.1 Applications for the award will be invited through online portal. Sportspersons eligible in accordance with award guidelines will be permitted to self apply without the recommendation of the authorities/persons.

5.2 Notwithstanding the above, Government reserves the right to nominate upto three nominations in deserving cases.

5.3 The Award will be made in respect of the calendar year for which the applications are invited.

5.4 In case of sportspersons employed with Central Government/State Governments/PSUs or in private organizations, the applicant should obtain a requisite report from the concerned employer that the sportsperson is clear from vigilance/disciplinary angle and is not involved in any act of criminal or moral turpitude nature. Details of chargesheet/disciplinary action taken/pending, if any, should also be mentioned by the employer. Copy of the report/certificate obtained from the employer of the sportsperson should be enclosed with the application. The applicants who are not working/self employed are required to submit an undertaking that he/she is not involved in any act of criminal and moral turpitude nature.

## **6. RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE APPLICATIONS:**

6.1 After successful application a unique registration number will be generated which can be used by the applicant for future communications.

## **7. SCRUTINY OF APPLICATIONS**

7.1 All applications received from the applicants mentioned in para 5 above will be sent to Sports Authority of India who will verify and confirm from official records the achievements/performance of all sportspersons within a maximum period of one month of the receipt of the applications from the Ministry.

7.2 The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will seek a report from NADA about each of the sportspersons, who has been shortlisted, for verifying if any one of them has ever been found positive for doping.

## **8. SCREENING COMMITTEE TO SCRUTINIZE ALL THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

A Screening Committee consisting of Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports, Secretary, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Director (Sports)/Deputy Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports and Executive Director (TEAMS)/Director (TEAMS), SAI will meet for the scrutiny of the applications. Applications of the nominated sportspersons, reports of NSFs/SAI will be placed before the screening committee. Valid applications which are clear from vigilance, disciplinary and doping angles will be placed before the Selection Committee as per the eligibility criteria prescribed.

## **9. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION**

9.1 The Award will be decided by a Selection Committee constituted by the Government of India as under:-

1.	Chairperson	A retired judge of Supreme Court/High Court
2.	Sportspersons of eminence (Olympians or previous Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna or Arjuna Awardees)	4 members
3.	Sports Journalists/Experts/Commentators	3 members
4.	A sportsperson of eminence/sports administrator/sports expert belonging to para sports	1 member
5.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme Secretariat	Ex-officio member
6.	Executive Director (TEAMS)/Officer in-charge of TEAMS Division , Sports Authority of India	Ex-officio member
7.	Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports	Member Secretary

9.2 There should be minimum two years of gap before a member other than ex-officio is re-nominated as chairperson or member in the Selection Committee.

9.3 Not more than one sportsperson of eminence from a particular sports discipline shall be a member of the Selection Committee to avoid any bias in favour of a particular discipline.

9.4 A statement of achievements of all those sportspersons, who fulfil eligibility criteria and whose applications have been received before last date, will be sent to the members of the Selection Committee at least a week in advance before the meeting of the Selection Committee.

9.5 The Chairperson, in consultation with the Member Secretary, may constitute panels from amongst the members of the Committee to assist the Committee.

9.6 The Chairperson may seek the advice of experts in specific sports disciplines, wherever necessary.

9.7 Shortlisted applications from team games may be sent to experts at least a week in advance for their views. The experts may also be asked to attend Selection Committee meetings to clarify the doubts of members. The evaluation criteria may include international recognition, goals scored, player of the match/player of the tournament award, etc.

9.8 Any person, directly or indirectly related to a sportsperson (who applied for the Awards), shall not be eligible to participate in deliberations of the Selection Committee, concerning the sportsperson.

9.9 The Committee will determine its own work procedure and will keep in view the guidelines/criteria, if any, framed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Members of the Selection Committee will give their recommendations as per the provisions of the scheme and the marks criteria of the scheme.

9.10 The quorum for the meeting of the Committee shall be 75% of the members of the Committee and the Chairperson.

9.11 The Committee shall select the Award winners by consensus failing which by a majority decision and give its report to the Government of India within 15 days of reference.

9.12 The Executive Director (TEAMS)/Director (TEAMS), Sports Authority of India will be present at the time of deliberations of the Committee in order to provide information/clarifications, if any, required by the Committee.

9.13 All the selection proceedings will be treated as "Confidential". The Chairperson may take necessary steps in consultation with the Member Secretary to maintain strict confidentiality of the deliberations and selection made by the Committee.

## **10. NUMBER OF AWARDS TO BE GIVEN IN A YEAR**

### **10.1 ARJUNA AWARDS**

10.1.1 Ordinarily not more than one award will be given in each discipline in a particular year subject to deserving sportspersons being available. However, at least one award is to be given exclusively for sports for physically challenged. Further, the principle of one award per discipline may be relaxed in case of team sports and across gender. That is to say that, the Selection Committee may recommend, in deserving cases with proper justification, more than one sportsperson in respect of team sports and sportspersons of both the genders.

10.1.2 Normally not more than 15 awards could be given in any calendar year. However, keeping in view the performance of Indian sportspersons in the Commonwealth, Asian Games and Olympic Games during a particular year and for the reasons given in para 10.1 above, Arjuna Awards exceeding 15 in number may be allowed with proper justification and approval of Minister-in charge for Youth Affairs & sports.

### **10.2 ARJUNA AWARDS (LIFE TIME)**

10.2.1 Not more than three awards will be given in a particular year subject to deserving sportspersons being available.

## **11. GENERAL**

11.1 The Award consist of a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash Award of ₹15.00 lakh which will be presented to the winners in a function to be held at a place and on a date to be decided by the Government of India.

11.2 No Award will be made for a second time to the same person.

11.3 The Award may be given posthumously if such an occasion arises.

11.4 In order to ensure due diligence in the selection of awardees, the Ministry will make necessary character verification prior to finalizing the names of the awardees. This may be done through the regional centres of SAI, if need be, by taking help of concerned police authorities.

11.5 The Awards will be conferred in a ceremony by the President of India, ordinarily on 29<sup>th</sup> August, birth anniversary of Late Major Dhyan Chand. However, during the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, the date of award ceremony will be finalized keeping in view the closing dates of these Games and in consultation with the Secretariat of the President of India.

11.6 At the time of the presentation ceremony, the awards will be conferred upon the selected awardees, who are present. No person other than the awardees will collect the award and prize money at the presentation ceremony. The awardees who are not able to come to receive the award during the presentation ceremony may later receive the same from the Minister-in-Charge for Youth Affairs and Sports.

11.7 The Government of India may cancel, annul the Award of any recipient for specific reasons including doping and, thereupon, the recipient shall be required to surrender the statuette and the certificate of award but it shall be competent for the Government of India to restore the Award once the cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.

11.8 The decision of the Government of India in respect of matters covered by this Scheme and of the interpretation of the provisions of this scheme shall be final and no appeal shall lie against them.

11.9 A person who is nominated for the Award shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of the scheme.

11.10 Canvassing in any form in respect of any nominee will render that nominee liable to disqualification.

11.11 Minister-in-charge for Youth Affairs & Sports will be competent authority for relaxation of any clause, provided there are sufficient reasons (to be recorded in writing) for doing so.

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## **I. Criteria for giving Arjuna award to Sports persons**

1. 80 % weightage will be given for the medals won in various International championships and sports events of the disciplines covered in Olympic Games (Summer, Winter and Paralympics), Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Points for winning medals will be given to each eligible sportsperson for his/her performance during the last 4 years and upto conclusion of Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games during those years when these Games are held as per marks given in the table below:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Medal</b>		
		<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
1	World Championship/World Cup (once in 4 years)*	40	30	20
2	Asian Games	30	25	20
3	Commonwealth Games	25	20	15
4	Asian Championship (once in two years i.e. biennial)*	15	10	7
5	Commonwealth Championship (once in two years i.e. biennial)*	15	10	7

\* For World Championship/World Cup/Asian Championship/Commonwealth Championship of different periodicities, proportionate marks will be given.

2. Equivalence of any other sports discipline/tournament, not listed above, will be decided by the Selection Committee with reference to above-mentioned five categories of sports tournaments and the points will be allotted accordingly.

3. For team events, marks will be computed taking into consideration strength of the team. If prescribed marks for an individual event are 'A', in the case of team event, the marks will be computed as follows:

- (i) A team of 2 persons:  $1.5 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (ii) A team of 3 or 4 persons:  $2 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (iii) A team of 5 to 10 persons:  $3 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (iv) A team of more than 10 persons:  $5 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$

4. 80 marks will be given to the sportsperson getting maximum points as computed in the table above. Rest of the sportspersons will be given marks proportionately to the said sportsperson. For example, if a sportsperson 'A' has got highest points say 45 points as per the table above and another sportsperson 'B' has got 40 points as per the table above, then 'A' will get 80 marks and 'B' will get  $( 80 \times 40 / 45 ) = 71.11$  marks.

5. 20 % weightage will be given to the marks given by the Selection Committee for assessment of the eligible sportsperson keeping in view factors like profile and standard of the

sports events in which he or she has won medals and qualities like leadership, sportsmanship, team spirit, fair play, sense of discipline.

## II. Criteria for giving Arjuna award (Life-time Achievement)

1. 70% weightage will be given for the medals won in various International championships and sports events of the disciplines covered in Olympic Games (Summer, Winter and Paralympics), Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Points for winning medals will be given to each eligible sportsperson for his/her performance during his entire sporting career as per marks given in the table below.

S. No.	Event	Medal		
		Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	Olympic Games/Paralympics	80	70	55
2.	World Championship World Cup (once in 4 years)	40	30	20
3.	Asian Games	30	25	20
4.	Commonwealth Games	25	20	15

\*For World Championship/World Cup of different periodicities, proportionate marks will be given

2. Equivalence of any other sports discipline/tournament, not listed above, will be decided by the Selection Committee with reference to above-mentioned categories of sports tournaments and the points will be allotted accordingly.

3. For team events, marks will be computed taking into consideration strength of the team. If prescribed marks for an individual event are "A", in the case of team event, the marks will be computed as follows:

- (i) A team of 2 persons:  $1.5 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (ii) A team of 3 or 4 persons:  $2 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (iii) A team of 5 to 10 persons:  $3 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (iv) A team of more than 10 persons:  $5 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$

4. 70 marks will be given to the sportsperson getting maximum points as computed in the table above. Rest of the sportspersons will be given marks proportionately to the said sportsperson. For example, if a sportsperson 'A' has got highest points, say 45 points as per the table above and another sportsperson 'B' has got 40 points as per the table above, then 'A' will get 80 marks and 'B' will get  $(70 \times 40/45) = 62.22$  marks.

5. 30% weightage will be given to the marks given by the Selection Committee for assessment of the eligible sportsperson for contribution made for promotion of sports after retirement from active sports career e.g. as a coach, sports manager, etc. and for qualities of sportsmanship, leadership and sense of discipline.

## General

1. Winners of medals in Olympics and Paralympics will automatically be considered for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna or Arjuna Awards, depending on the type of medal won, if they have already not been conferred with either of the two Awards. This provision will not be applicable in the case of Life-time Achievement category of Awards.
2. For cricket and indigenous games, not included in Olympic/ Asian Games/ Commonwealth Games disciplines, the Selection Committee will recommend the number of awards, (not exceeding two), to be given for Cricket/Indigenous Games and recommend the sportspersons taking into consideration their individuals performances and qualities of sportsman spirit, leadership, sense of discipline etc.
3. Ordinarily, not more than one award will be given in each discipline in a particular year subject to deserving sportspersons being available. Adequate representation would be insured for physically challenged and women.
4. The principle of one award per discipline will not be applicable in case of team sports and across gender. That is to say that, the Selection Committee may recommend, in deserving cases with proper justification, more than one sportsperson in respect of team sports and sportspersons of both the genders.
5. Normally not more than 15 awards could be given in any calendar year. However, keeping in view the performance of Indian sportspersons in the Commonwealth, Asian Games and Olympic Games during a particular year and for the reasons given in para 7 above, Selection Committee may recommend more than 15 sportspersons for Arjuna Award.
6. In a particular sports discipline, names of not more than 4 sportspersons (2 male and 2 female) with the highest marks as per the criteria brought out in the table above will be considered by the Selection Committee.
7. Sometimes, the Selection Committee may feel that as per the given criteria, a very deserving sportsperson may not get Arjuna Award. In such a situation, it may recommend such name giving full justification in writing.
8. Selection Committee will recommend the final list of sportspersons for Arjuna Awards as per the marks obtained in terms of the criteria indicated above.
9. Selection Committee may not mechanically recommend Arjuna Award to the recipient of the highest marks across disciplines. But in a particular sports discipline, award will be recommended only for the recipient of the highest aggregate marks.
10. The recommendations of Selection Committee will be placed before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision.

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