

K-15012/1/2023-SP-IV(i)
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

A Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 4th October, 2023

To,

As per list attached.

Subject: Inviting applications for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2023 - reg.

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to invite the applications for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

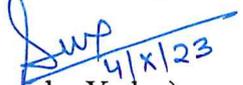
2. To be eligible for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given will be considered for Major Dhyan Chand Ratna Award for excellence in Sports & Games at International level i.e. Olympic/ Paralympics/ Asian/ Commonwealth Games/ Championships/World Cup/World Championship and equivalent recognized international tournaments. Accordingly, sports achievements for the period from 1st January 2019 upto the conclusion of Asian Games/Para Asian Games, 2022 will be taken into consideration.
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 achievement during the said suspension/ punishment would not be considered. However, a sportsperson against whom enquiry is pending/ ongoing will not be considered.
4. Applications are being invited only online through a dedicated Portal. Sportspersons eligible in accordance with the award guidelines are permitted to self-apply without the recommendation of the authorities/persons 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*** or Tel. No. 011-23387432 from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm on any working day or Toll Free No. 1800-202-5155, 1800258-5155 (any working day between 8.00 am to 8.00 pm).
5. A copy of scheme for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (amended as on 06.08.2021) is attached at Annexure – I.
6. A copy of circular dated 27.08.2020 regarding enhancement of Cash Prize for various Sports Awards viz. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (earlier Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Award), Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award (Regular/Lifetime), Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games is attached at Annexure – II.

7. 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 (latest by 9th November, 2023). Application of Government employees without vigilance clearance (to be sent latest by 09/11/2023) will not be considered.

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

9. The applications of the eligible sportspersons for the award must be submitted online at the dedicated portal dbtyas-sports.gov.in by 11.59 pm on 2nd November, 2023.

Yours sincerely,


(Surendra Yadav)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No. 011-2338 5046

Copy to:

1. PS to Minister for YA&S
2. PS to Minister of States for YA&S
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary (Sports)
4. PSO to Joint Secretary (Development)
5. PS to Joint Secretary (SP)

To:

1. Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, (All States and UTs)
2. President/Secretary General, (All recognized National Sports Federation 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 25, Akbar Road, New Delhi
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, Sat darjung Airport, New Delhi.
10. Secretary, SAIL, ports 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. Director General, Sports Authority of India, East Gate, JLN Stadium, Lodhi Road New Delhi.

**SCHEME FOR THE MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD
(Amended as on 06.08.2021)**

1. DEFINITION OF RULES

The Scheme may be called the "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games".

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the award is to recognize the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which the award is to be given. During the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, achievements of the sportspersons upto conclusion of these Games will also be considered.

3. DEFINITIONS

In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,

(a) "Scheme" means the scheme for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games.

(b) "Committee" means the Selection Committee constituted under the Scheme.

(c) "Award" means the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

(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 The spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given shall be honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for excellence in Sports & Games at international level i.e. Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth/World Games/Championships/World Cup and equivalent recognized international tournaments. During the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, achievements of the sportspersons in these Games and other abovementioned tournaments upto the conclusion of the Olympic Games/Commonwealth Games/Asian Games, as the case may be, will also be considered.

4.2 Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing 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, will not be eligible for the Award.

5. NOMINATIONS

5.1 The nominations for the Award will be invited by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from all recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) recognized by the Government of India, Indian Olympic Association, Sports Promotion and Control Boards and State/UT Government in the month of January/February each year. The National Sports Federations recognized by the Government of India, the Indian Olympic Association, Sports Promotion and Control Boards and the State/UT Governments may nominate upto two names in a particular discipline/sport in a particular year. In case of cricket, for which no National Sports Federation has been recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, nominations from the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) will be invited. For the NSFs de-recognized or under suspension, Sports Authority of India (SAI) will exercise the quota of nominations and make nominations upto a maximum of two eligible sportspersons for each sports discipline with the approval of Director General, SAI. Nominations beyond maximum two will not be considered. Only the first two nominations sent by NSFs will be considered. Last date for the receipt of nominations will be 30th April or last working day of April. During the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, last date will be 10 days after conclusion of these Games.

5.2 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardees of the previous years can also nominate one eligible sportsperson each for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for the sports discipline for which they themselves were awarded Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna. Further, Director General, Sports Authority of India can also nominate upto two eligible sportspersons for this award, in addition to the quota to be exercised by it in respect of de-recognized/suspended NSFs.

5.3 Notwithstanding the above, Government reserves the right to nominate upto two sportspersons in deserving cases where no such nominations have been received from the agencies mentioned under the Scheme.

5.4 The authorized signatory for sending nominations will be as follows:-

- (i) Indian Olympic Association – President/Secretary General
- (ii) National Sports Federations – President/Secretary General [In the case of Cricket, there is no federation recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Nominations for cricket will need to be sent by President/ Secretary General of the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI)].
- (iii) State/UT Governments/ Sports Control/Promotion Boards – An officer of not less than the rank of Secretary or Director (Sports) of the organization after taking due approval of the competent authority.

5.5 Nominations forwarded by any office bearer other than those mentioned in para 5.4 above will not be considered.

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

5.7 The nominations will be sent to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in the prescribed proforma giving the past performance of the nominated sportspersons in International competitions.

5.8 Nomination agencies are expected to send nominations of most deserving sportsperson(s) irrespective of whether sportspersons have applied to them for awards.

5.9 The nominating authorities are required to certify in the nomination form itself that the nominees are clear from vigilance/disciplinary angles and are not involved in acts of criminal and moral turpitude nature. In case of sportspersons employed with Central Government/State Governments/PSUs or in private organizations, nominating authorities should obtain a requisite report from the concerned employers before certifying that the sportsperson being nominated is clear from vigilance/disciplinary angle and is not involved in any act of criminal or moral turpitude nature. While seeking report from the employer, details of chargesheet/disciplinary action taken/pending, if any, should also be obtained. Copy of the report/certificate obtained from the employer of the sportsperson should be enclosed with the application of the sportsperson being nominated.

5.10 Copies of the nominations received from organizations other than the National Sports Federations (NSFs) will be sent to the concerned NSF for verification of the details and the achievements and for checking if the nominated sportsperson has ever been warned/penalized for any unfair practice like age fraud/sexual harassment, doping etc. All details in this regard, if any, alongwith verification report should be sent by the concerned NSF within a week of the receipt of letter from the Ministry.

6. RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS:

6.1 The applications for nomination should be addressed to Director (Sports)/Deputy Secretary (Sports)/Under Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports only and date of receipt in his/her office will be the date of receipt of nomination by the government.

6.2 Received applications are to be duly stamped and recorded in a register. In addition, all application received within time will be duly acknowledged to the recommending authority.

7. SCRUTINY OF NOMINATIONS

7.1 All nominations received from the organizations mentioned in para 5.1 and 5.2 will be sent to the Executive Director (Teams)/Director (TEAMS), Sports Authority of India who will verify and confirm from official records the achievements/performance of all nominated sportspersons within a maximum period of one month of the receipt of the nominations from the Ministry.

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

8. SCREENING COMMITTEE TO SCRUTINIZE ALL THE NOMINATIONS 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 nominations. Applications of the nominated sportspersons and reports of NSFs/SAI will be placed before the screening committee. Valid nominations, which are clear from vigilance, disciplinary and doping angles, will be placed before the Selection Committee as per the prescribed eligibility criteria.

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	To be nominated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
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 a minimum two years 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 nominations 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 Member Secretary, may constitute panels from amongst the members of the Committee to assist the Committee.

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

9.7 Shortlisted nominations 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 nominated for the Awards shall not be eligible to participate in deliberations of the Selection Committee, concerning that 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 MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD TO BE GIVEN IN A YEAR

10.1 There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson. This condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances.

11. GENERAL

11.1 The award will consist of the following:

- (i) A cash amount of Rs. 7.50 lakh exempt from Income Tax and Wealth Tax in the year in which it is disbursed. The Award will be presented to the winners at the function for the presentation of the Award to be held at a place and on a date to be determined by the Government.
- (ii) A Certificate of honour to each sportsperson.
- (iii) One medal to each sportsperson.

11.2 This Award will be in addition to any other award of the Department or otherwise, which may be available to sportspersons for the same achievements.

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

11.4 The award may be given posthumously if such an occasion arises.

11.5 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. Ministry may ask Sports Authority of India to carry out verification of character and antecedents of the recommended awardees through its regional centres, if need be, by taking help of concerned police authorities.

11.6 The Awards will be conferred in a ceremony by the President of India, ordinarily on 29th 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.

11.7. 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 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.

11.8 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 medal and the certificate of honour, but it shall be competent for the Government of India to restore the Award once the cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.

11.9 The decision of the Government of India in respect of matters covered by the scheme and of the interpretation of the provisions of the scheme shall be final and no appeal shall lie against such decision.

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

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

11.12 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.

Criteria for giving Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna to Sportspersons

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:

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. 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 85 points as per the table above and another sportsperson 'B' has got 80 points as per the table above, then 'A' will get 80 marks and 'B' will get $(80 \times 80 / 85) = 75.30$ 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.

6. For cricket and indigenous games, not included in Olympic / Asian Games / Commonwealth Games disciplines, the Selection Committee will take into consideration their individuals performances.

7. There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson. This condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing.

8. In a particular sports discipline, names of not more than 2 sportspersons (1 male and 1 female) with the highest marks as per the criteria brought out in the table above will be considered by the Selection Committee.
9. Sometimes, the Selection Committee may feel that as per the given criteria, a very deserving sportsperson in a team game may not get Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna. In such a situation, it may recommend such name giving full justification in writing.
10. Selection Committee will recommend the final list of sportsperson(s) for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna as per the marks obtained in terms of the criteria indicated above.
11. Selection Committee may not mechanically recommend Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna 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.
12. The recommendations of Selection Committee will be placed before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision.

Annexure-1

F. No. K-15012/04/2018-SP-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 27th August, 2020

To
The list attached

Subject: Enhancement of Cash Prize for National Sports Awards 2020 - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to inform that Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has enhanced the Cash Prize of the awardees for National Sports Awards 2020. The details are given in the table below:

S. No	Name of the Award	Existing Prize money (in Rs.)	Revised Prize money (in Rs.)
1.	Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	7,50,000/-	25,00,000/-
2.	Arjuna Award	5,00,000/-	15,00,000/-
3.	Dronacharya Award (Regular)	5,00,000/-	10,00,000/-
	Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)	5,00,000/-	15,00,000/-
4.	Dhyanchand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games	5,00,000/-	10,00,000/-

Yours Sincerely,


(S. Karmakar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tele: 24368245

To :

1. The Secretary,
Department of Youth Affairs &
Sports, (All States and UTs)
2. The President/Secretary General,
(All recognized National Sports
Federations).
3. The 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
25, Akbar Road,
New Delhi
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,
361-B Wing, 3rd Floor,
Lok Nayak Bhawan
New Delhi-110 003
12. Director General,
Sports Authority of India,
East Gate, JLN Stadium,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

