

K-15012/4/2025-SP-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 29th September, 2025

To

As per list attached

Subject: Inviting applications for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025 - reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite the applications for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025 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 Award 2025, 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 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, 2021 and upto 31st December, 2024 will be taken into consideration.
3. Applications are being invited only online through a dedicated Portal i.e. **www.dbtyas-sports.gov.in**. Sportspersons eligible in accordance with the award guidelines need to self apply through online Portal **www.dbtyas-sports.gov.in** only. In case any issue is faced in online application form, the applicant may contact the Department of Sports at email **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 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna 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 email **sportsawards-moyas@gov.in** before the last date. Application of Government employees without vigilance clearance will not be considered.

ba 29/9/25

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 www.dbtyas-sports.gov.in by 11:59 PM on 28th October, 2025 (i.e. Tuesday).

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. PPS to Joint Secretary (K), PSO to Joint Secretary (SJ), PPS to Joint Secretary (VS), PPS to Joint Secretary (YA)
6. All Directors / Deputy Secretaries in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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 110016
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. - 716, 7th Floor, A-Block Defence Offices Complex, KG Marg, New Delhi - 110001.
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 Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi-110021
8. Secretary, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, OIDB Bhawan, 2nd floor, G+3 Block, Plot No.2 (B Block), Sector-73, Noida-201301 (Uttar Pradesh).
9. Secretary, Air India Sports Promotion Board 1st Floor, Vayudoot Building, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi 110003
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/Dy CEO, TAGG 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 MAJOR DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD
(Amended as on 14.10.2024)

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 & Sports
- (f) “Sports Administrator” means a person who is engaged in management/administration of national/international sports events, sports organization including private sports academies, sports programmes and delivery of sports service.
- (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 give 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 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. APPLICATIONS

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 two 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

8.1 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 sportspersons and 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 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 and Sports
2.	Sportspersons of eminence (Olympians or previous Major Dhya Chand Khel Ratna or Arjuna Awardees)	4 members
3.	Sports Journalists/Experts/ Commentators	3 members
4.	A sportspersons 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 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 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 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 has applied for the Award 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. 25 lakhs 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 scheme shall be final and no appeal shall lie against such decision.

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

11.11 Canvassing in any form in respect of any applicant will render that applicant 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: $1.5x$ 'A'/number of persons in the team
- (ii) A team of 3 or 4 persons: $2x$ 'A'/number of persons in the team
- (iii) A team of 5 to 10 persons: $3x$ 'A'/number of persons in the team
- (iv) A team of more than 10 persons: $5x$ 'A'/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.
