

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS -2018

National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year, Arjuna Award is given for consistency outstanding performance for four years, Dronacharya Award for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events, Dhyan Chand Award for life time contribution to sports development and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development. Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given MaulanaAbulKalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

A large number of nominations were received for these awards this year, which were considered by the Selection Committees consisting of former Olympian, Arjuna Awardees, Dronacharya Awardees, Dhyan Chand Awardees, Sport Journalists/ Experts/ Commentators and sports administrators. Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by Justice (Ms.) Indermeet Kaur Kochhar (Former Judge of High Court of Delhi High Court). Selection Committee for Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards was headed by Justice Mr. Mukul Mudgal (Former Chief Justice High Court of Punjab & Haryana High Court). Selection Committee for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar was headed by Shri Rahul Bhatnagar, Secretary (Sports). Selection Committee for MAKA Trophy was headed by Shri Ashok Kumar, former Olympian.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, the Government has decided to confer awards upon the following sportspersons, coaches and entities:

(i) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2018

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Ms. S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
2.	Shri Virat Kohli	Cricket

(ii) Dronacharya Awards 2018

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Subedar Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa	Boxing
2.	Shri Vijay Sharma	Weightlifting
3.	Shri A. Srinivasa Rao	Table Tennis

4.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Pannu	Athletics
5.	Shri Clarence Lobo	Hockey (Life Time)
6.	Shri Tarak Sinha	Cricket (Life Time)
7.	Shri Jiwan Kumar Sharma	Judo (Life Time)
8.	Shri V.R. Beedu	Athletics (Life Time)

(iii) Arjuna Awards 2018

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
2.	Naib Subedar Jinson Johnson	Athletics
3.	Ms. Hima Das	Athletics
4.	Ms. Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy	Badminton
5.	Subedar Satish Kumar	Boxing
6.	Ms. Smriti Mandhana	Cricket
7.	Shri Shubhankar Sharma	Golf
8.	Shri Manpreet Singh	Hockey
9.	Ms. Savita	Hockey
10.	Col. Ravi Rathore	Polo
11.	Ms. Rahi Sarnobat	Shooting
12.	Shri Ankur Mittal	Shooting
13.	Ms. Shreyasi Singh	Shooting
14.	Ms. Manika Batra	Table Tennis
15.	Shri G. Sathiyam	Table Tennis
16.	Shri Rohan Bopanna	Tennis
17.	Shri Sumit	Wrestling
18.	Ms. Pooja Kadian	Wushu
19.	Shri Ankur Dhama	Para-Athletics
20.	Shri Manoj Sarkar	Para-Badminton

(iv) Dhyan Chand Award 2018

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Satyadev Prasad	Archery
2.	Shri Bharat Kumar Chetri	Hockey
3.	Ms. Bobby Aloysius	Athletics
4.	Shri Chougale Dadu Dattatray	Wrestling

(vi) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2018

S. No.	Category	Name of the entity
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding & Young Talent	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited
2.	Encouragement to Sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	JSW Sports
3.	Sports for Development	Isha Outreach

(vii) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2017-18:

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 25th September, 2018.

Apart from a medal and a citation, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh each. A trophy and citation is given to the entity in the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, 2018. Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies and certificates. Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments will be given MAKA Trophy, award money of Rs. 10 lakh and certificate.
