President presents National Sports Awards 2025, Adventure Awards

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News

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Sports Awards 2025 and the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on 13 November 2026. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had announced the awardees on 18 August 2026; a committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Kumar Mishra selected them. No one received the top award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, this year. Seventeen were named for the Arjuna Award (badminton pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand missed the ceremony as they were playing the Japan Masters); hockey player Lalremsiami is the first from Mizoram to win it. I. Arumainayagam, a member of India's 1962 Asian Games football gold team, got the Arjuna Award (Lifetime); Parveer Singh (athletics), Chhote Lal Yadav (boxing) and Neha Chavan (shooting) got the Dronacharya Award, and Dharmendra Singh Yadav and Virendra Kumar the lifetime Dronacharya. The Army Paralympic Node, Pune, won the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar. Adventure awards: land – Baljeet Kaur and Skalzang Rigzin; water – Rimo Saha; lifetime – mountaineer Shiv Prasad Chamoli. The ceremony was over a year late. Full Arjuna list (17): athletics – Tejaswin Shankar, Muhammed Ajmal, Priyanka Goswami; badminton – Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand; boxing – Narender; chess – Vidit Gujrathi, Divya Deshmukh; deaf shooting – Dhanush Srikanth; hockey – Lalremsiami, Rajkumar Pal; kabaddi – Surjeet, Pooja; para-shooting – Rudransh Khandelwal; para-athletics – Ekta Bhyan; rowing – Arvind Singh; shooting – Akhil Sheoran.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Ceremony	13 Nov 2026, Rashtrapati Bhavan
Announced	18 Aug 2026 – Youth Affairs & Sports Ministry
Committee chair	Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (retd)
Khel Ratna 2025	Not awarded
Arjuna	17; Lifetime – I. Arumainayagam (football)
Dronacharya	3 regular + 2 lifetime
RKPP	Army Paralympic Node, Pune
Tenzing Norgay 2024	Land – Baljeet Kaur, Skalzang Rigzin; Water – Rimo Saha
Lifetime (adventure)	Shiv Prasad Chamoli (Uttarakhand)
Adventure award prize	₹15 lakh, bronze statuette, certificate

Background

- History: the Arjuna Award began in 1961; the Dronacharya Award for coaches in 1985; the top honour, the Khel Ratna, began in 1991–92 and was renamed the 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna' in 2021. The Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar goes to organisations promoting sport; the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) rolling trophy, since 1956–57, goes to the top university in inter-university sport – after a 2024 amendment the Khelo India University Games winner gets ₹15 lakh. Today's reports do not name a MAKA winner for 2025.
- Ceremony date: under the Ministry's scheme the awards are ordinarily given on 29 August – the birthday of hockey great Major Dhyan Chand (National Sports Day); in Olympic, Commonwealth or Asian Games years the date is fixed with the President's Secretariat. Dhyan Chand helped India win hockey gold at the 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympics.
- Adventure award: named after Tenzing Norgay, who with Edmund Hillary first climbed Everest in 1953, it is given by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry in four categories – land, water and air adventure and lifetime achievement – with ₹15 lakh. No air-adventure awardee was named for 2024. Lifetime awardee Shiv Prasad Chamoli is a Mussoorie mountaineer and former Deputy Inspector General of the ITBP.

Tamil Nadu link: Lifetime Arjuna awardee I. Arumainayagam played the Santosh Trophy for Madras/Tamil Nadu, Bengal and Railways between 1958 and 1971, and for Southern Railway in 1969 and 1970 (AIFF). A speedy winger in India's 1962 Jakarta Asian Games football gold team, he won 18 caps with 3 goals and scored 56 goals for Mohun Bagan. Reports name no other Tamil Nadu awardee this year.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had announced the awardees on 18 August 2026; a committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Kumar Mishra selected them.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Ceremony: 13 Nov 2026, Rashtrapati Bhavan; Announced: 18 Aug 2026 – Youth Affairs & Sports Ministry; Committee chair: Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (retd); Khel Ratna 2025: Not awarded.

What is the background to this news?

History: the Arjuna Award began in 1961; the Dronacharya Award for coaches in 1985; the top honour, the Khel Ratna, began in 1991–92 and was renamed the 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna' in 2021.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which top honour was not given to anyone in the National Sports Awards 2025?

A) Arjuna Award

B) Dronacharya Award

C) Khel Ratna

D) Khel Protsahan

Answer: C – Explanation: The Khel Ratna had no awardee for 2025. 17 got the Arjuna; the panel was led by Justice Arun Kumar Mishra.

2. National Sports Awards are usually given on 29 August. Whose birthday is it, among these hockey greats?

A) Balbir Singh Sr

B) K.D. Singh 'Babu'

C) Leslie Claudius

D) Dhyan Chand

Answer: D – Explanation: Major Dhyan Chand (born 1905, Allahabad) – Olympic gold in 1928, 1932 and 1936; the day is National Sports Day.

3. I. Arumainayagam, Lifetime Arjuna awardee who played the Santosh Trophy for Madras/TN, won football gold at which Asian Games?

A) 1958 Tokyo

B) 1966 Bangkok

C) 1974 Tehran

D) 1962 Jakarta

Answer: D – Explanation: 1962 Jakarta – a speedy winger; he also played for Mohun Bagan (1961–68) and Southern Railway.

4. Which Union Ministry gives the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in land, water, air and lifetime categories?

A) Youth Affairs & Sports

B) Defence

C) Tourism

D) Culture

Answer: A – Explanation: The Youth Affairs & Sports Ministry; prize ₹15 lakh. The 2024 lifetime award went to mountaineer Shiv Prasad Chamoli.

5. To whom is the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, given since 1956–57, awarded?

A) Best State

B) Top university

C) Best journalist

D) Best company

Answer: B – Explanation: The top university in inter-university sport; a rolling trophy. Organisations promoting sport get the RKPP.

Sources: Rashtrapati Bhavan / PIB (13 Nov 2026); News On AIR – newsonair.gov.in (18 Aug 2026); Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports – yas.nic.in (award schemes, MAKA); AIFF – the-aiff.com (Arumainayagam); ETV Bharat (13 Nov 2026); ThePrint – PTI (18 Aug 2026). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.