



President of India Presents Sports and Adventure Awards 2023

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Why in News?

Recently, the [President of India](#) presided over a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan to bestow the prestigious [National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023](#).

- The awards are administered by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India**.

What Awards Were Included in the Ceremony?

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:**
 - India's highest sporting honor established in **1991-92**.
 - Named after hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand**.
 - Given for outstanding performances over **4 years**.
 - Notable awardees include **MC Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Sachin Tendulkar, and Virat Kohli**.
 - **2023: Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton)**.
- **Arjuna Award:**
 - Instituted in **1961**, it was India's highest sporting honor before the Khel Ratna came into being.
 - Named after the **Mahabharata character Arjuna**.
 - Awarded for consistent good performance over 4 years.
 - Winners receive a statuette of Arjuna, a certificate, and a cash prize.
 - First awarded to football **Olympian PK Banerjee in 1961**.
 - First woman awardee: **Hockey player Anna Lumsden**.
 - **2023:** Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), among others.
- **Dronacharya Award:**
 - India's highest sports honor for coaches, instituted in **1985**.
 - Named after **Dronacharya**, Arjuna's coach in Mahabharata.
 - Awardees receive a bronze statue of Dronacharya, a certificate, and a cash prize.
 - First woman awardee: **Athletics coach Renu Kohli in 2002**.
 - Given for both recent accomplishments and lifetime contributions.
 - **2023:**
 - **Regular Category:** Lalit Kumar (wrestling), RB Ramesh (chess) among others.
 - **Lifetime Category:** Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), Bhaskaran E (kabaddi) among others.
- **Major Dhyan Chand Award:**
 - Instituted in **2002**, honors lifetime achievements in sports.
 - Recognizes contributions to the promotion of sports in an individual capacity.
 - First awardees include **Olympian boxer Shahuraj Birajdar and hockey player Ashok**

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- **2023:** Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

▪ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy (MAKA):

- Oldest National Sports Award in India, instituted in 1956-1957.
- Given to an **institution or university for top performance** in inter-university tournaments.
- Award comprises a rolling **MAKA Trophy and a cash prize.**
- First awarded to **Bombay University in 1956-57.**
 - **2023:** Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (overall winner university); Lovely Professional University, Punjab (first runner -up); Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (second runner-up).

▪ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar:**

- Instituted in **2009.**
- Awarded to organizations and individuals for sports promotion and development.
- Categories include talent identification, corporate social responsibility, employment of sportspersons, and sports for development.
 - **2023:** JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University), Odisha Mining Corporation Limited.

▪ **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award:**

- It has been presented since 1993-1994 and is named after **Tenzing Norgay**, one of the first two individuals to reach the summit of **Mount Everest** along with Edmund Hillary in 1953.
- The recipients are honored for their "outstanding achievement in the field of adventure activities on **land, sea and air**" **over the last three years.**
- The status of this award is considered to be equivalent to the Arjuna Award conferred in the field of sport.
 - **2022:** Late Ms. Savita Kanswal (land), Shri Tulsi Chaitanya Mothukuri(water), Shri Anshu Kumar Tiwari (air).



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question: (2023)

Q. Consider the following pairs with regard to sports awards:

1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award- For the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over period of last four years
2. Arjuna Award- For the lifetime achievement by sportsperson
3. Dronacharya Award- To honor eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams
4. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar- To recognize the contribution made by sports persons even after their retirement

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two

- (c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: (b)

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