



## National Sports Day 2025

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**National Sports Day** is observed annually on **29th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of one of the **greatest field hockey players of India, Major Dhyan Chand**.

### National Sports Day

- **About:** This day was declared a **national observance in 2012**. In **2019**, the **Fit India Movement** was launched on this day, marking a milestone in **India's fitness and sports journey**.
- **Theme 2025:** Under the **Fit India Mission**, it will be celebrated with the theme "**Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main**", encouraging citizens to devote **60 minutes daily** to **physical activity**.
- **Key National Sports Awards:** Annual award presented on **29th August** by **President of India** includes:

Award	Description
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award	<b>Highest sporting honour</b> in India. Instituted in <b>1991-92</b> , earlier known as the <b>Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award</b> & renamed in <b>2021</b> to honour hockey legend <b>Major Dhyan Chand</b> .
Arjuna Award	<b>Second</b> highest sporting honour.
Dronacharya Award	Highest honour for <b>coaches</b>
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar	For <b>organisations</b> promoting sports in the last three years.

### Major Dhyan Chand (1905-1979)

- **Achievements:** Known as the **Hockey Wizard**.
- **Legacy:** Even after his retirement, India's hockey supremacy continued with Olympic golds in **1948, 1952, 1956, and 1964**, and a silver in **1960**.
  - Retiring as a **Major in the Army in 1956**, he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**.

## ... DHYAN CHAND

Born	<b>1905</b>
Birthplace	<b>Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh</b>
Sport	<b>Hockey</b>
Position	<b>Centre forward</b>
Notable Awards	<b>Olympic gold (1928, 1932, 1936); Padma Bhushan (1956)</b>
Died	<b>Dec. 3, 1979</b>



► Joined the British Army – Punjab Regiment Services – at the age of 17; retired from the army as a Major.

► Scored over 400 international goals in a career spanning 22 years – from 1926 to 1948.

► Was offered German citizenship and a position in the German military by Adolf Hitler, after his impressive showing in the 1936 Berlin Olympics; he declined.

► The title of 'Chand' was given by the people of India because he shone like the moon; was also nicknamed 'The Wizard' and 'The Magician'.

**Read More:** [Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award](#)

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