

National Sports Day 2025

Source: IE

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:

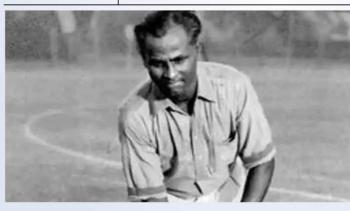
Award	Description
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award	Highest sporting honour in India. Instituted
	in 1991-92, earlier known as the Rajiv Gandhi
	Khel Ratna Award & renamed in 2021 to honour
	hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
Arjuna Award	Second highest sporting honour.
Dronacharya Award	Highest honour for coaches
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar	For organisations 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	1905
Birthplace	Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
Sport	Hockey
Position	Centre forward
Notable Awards	Olympic gold (1928, 1932, 1936); Padma Bhushan (1956)
Died	Dec. 3, 1979



- 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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