



Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

Why in News?

The **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** honoured **Olympians Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** with the [Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award](#) for the year 2023 .

Key Points

- **About Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:**
 - It is considered **India's highest sporting honour**.
 - It is given for the most outstanding performance by a sportsperson **in the field of sports during the last four years** .
 - In this, the winners are given a **medal, certificate and a prize money of Rs 25 lakh** .
 - **The award was** instituted in the year **1991-92**; it was earlier called **the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** , which was renamed as **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** in the year **2021** .
 - This award is given by **the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India**.

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Major Dhyan Chand

- Major Dhyan Chand was born on **29 August 1905 in Prayagraj**.
- He was a field hockey player who played international hockey **from the year 1926 to 1949** .
 - He was a **three-time Olympic gold medalist**, winning gold in the **1928, 1932, and 1936** Olympic editions.
- His exceptional skills in the game earned him the title of **'Hockey Wizard'**.
 - Dhyan Chand, along with his brother Roop Singh, contributed significantly to India's tally of 35 goals, leading to them being known as the **'Hockey Twins'**.
 - In **1934**, Dhyan Chand was honoured with the **captaincy of the Indian team**.
- Major Dhyan Chand retired from the Army as a Major in the year 1956 and was awarded the [Padma Bhushan](#).
- [National Sports Day](#) is celebrated every year on **29 August on the birth anniversary of**

Major Dhyan Chand to honour his contribution and promote sports culture.

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