

K-15012/4/2025-SP-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 29th September, 2025

To

As per list attached

Subject: Inviting applications for Dronacharya Award and Dronacharya Awards (Lifetime) 2025- reg

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to invite the applications for Dronacharya Awards and Dronacharya Awards (Lifetime) 2025 for outstanding coaches in sports and games.

2. To be eligible for the award, coach at Grassroot/Development/Elite level whether he/she works full time or part time as coach, he/she should have produced outstanding achievement over a period of four years immediately preceding the year in which the award is to be given. Accordingly, achievements for the period from 1st January, 2021 and upto 31st December, 2024 of the sportspersons imparted coaching by the coach will be taken into consideration. For 02 awards earmarked for lifetime contribution in coaching, achievements of the coach including Grassroot/Development level should have been associated with an athlete for more than 5 (five) years.

3. Applications are being invited only online through a dedicated Portal i.e **www.dbtyas-sports.gov.in**. Sportspersons eligible in accordance with the award guidelines need to self- apply through online Portal **www.dbtyas-sports.gov.in** only. In case any issue is faced in online application form, the applicant may contact the Department of Sports at email **sportsawards-moyas@gov.in**, Tel. No. 011-23387432 from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm on any working day or Toll Free No. 1800-202-5155, 1800-258-5155 (any working day between 8.00 am to 8.00 pm).

4. A copy of the latest scheme for the Dronacharya Award for Outstanding coaches in Sports and Games (amended as on 14.10.2024) is attached at Annexure - I.

5. Submission of vigilance clearance is mandatory for all Government servants. If the applicant is unable to submit the same while filling the form, he/she may submit it at email **sportsawards-moyas@gov.in** before the last date. Application of Government employees without vigilance clearance will not be considered.

Net 29/9/25

6. It should be noted by all that canvassing in any form for/by an entry will render it liable to disqualification.

7. The applications of the eligible sportspersons for the award must be submitted online at the dedicated portal www.dbtyas-sports.gov.in by 11:59 pm on 28th October, 2025 (i.e. Tuesday).

Yours sincerely,



(Raj K. Gupta)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Phone No: 011-23386416

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of States for Youth Affairs & Sports
3. PPS to Secretary (Sports)
4. PPS to Secretary (Youth Affairs)
5. PPS to Joint Secretary (K), PSO to Joint Secretary (SJ), PPS to Joint Secretary (VS), PPS to Joint Secretary (YA)
6. All Directors/Deputy Secretaries in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

To:

1. Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, (All States and UTs)
2. President/ Secretary General (All recognized National Sports Federations).
3. President/Secretary General, Indian Olympic Association, B-29, Olympic Bhawan, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi 110016
4. President /Secretary, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) 4th Floor, Cricket Centre Wankhede Stadium 'D' Road, Churchgate Mumbai- 400020.
5. Secretary, Services Sports Control Board, Room No.97 , G Block, Armed Forces, Headquarters, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi 110011
6. Secretary, Railway Sports Promotion Board Room no. 452, 4th Floor, Ministry of Railways, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001.
7. Secretary, All India Police Sports Control Board Hall No. 002(Ground Floor), IBCTS Building, Gate No. 4 , 35 Sardar Patel Marg, Near Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi-110021
8. Secretary, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, 1012, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110001
9. Secretary, Air India Sports Promotion Board 1st Floor, Vayudoot Building, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi 110003
10. Secretary, SAIL, Sports Promotion Board, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Corporate Office, Ispat Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110003
11. Secretary, Central Civil Services Cultural & Sports Board, 36 -B Wing, 3rd Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan New Delhi- 110003
12. ED (Teams)/CEO TOPS/Dy CEO, TAGG, Sports Authority of India, East Gate, JLN Stadium, Lodhi Road New Delhi – With a request to upload on SAI's website for wide publicity.

SCHEME FOR DRONACHARYA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COACHES IN SPORTS AND GAMES (As amended on 14.10.2024)

1. PREAMBLE

The scheme may be called the "Scheme for Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games".

2. OBJECTIVES

The Award is intended to:

- (i) Honour coaches who have done outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabled sportspersons to excel in international events; and
- (ii) Motivate coaches to dedicate themselves with a singularity of purpose of raising the standard of sportspersons to highest performance in international events and thus bring glory to the country.

3. DEFINITIONS

In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) "Scheme" means the Scheme for the Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in sports and games.
- (b) "Committee" means the Selection Committee constituted under the Scheme.
- (c) "Award" means the Dronacharya Award.
- (d) "Chairperson" means chairperson of the Selection Committee under the Scheme.
- (e) "Government" means the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- (f) "Olympian" means a sportsperson who participated in the Olympic Games as a Member of Indian Contingent approved by the Government of India.
- (g) "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee" means a person who has been conferred with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award by the Government of India.
- (h) "Arjuna Awardee" means a person who has been awarded an Arjuna Award by Government of India.
- (i) "Sports Administrator" means a person who is engaged in management/ administration of national/international sports events, sports organizations including private sports academies, sports programmes and delivery of sports services.
- (j) "Sports Journalist/expert/commentator" means a person who is associated with sports journalism including freelancing in print or electronic media, or a person who writes extensively on sports issues or has written books on sports, or a person who gives live commentary during sports events.

4. SPORTS DISCIPLINES COVERED BY DRONACHARYA AWARD

The Dronacharya Awards shall be given to eligible coaches who produce outstanding results in:

- a) Different Olympic sports disciplines
- b) Such non-Olympic sports disciplines as are recognized by the Government of India in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and
- c) Such Indigenous sports as are recognized by Government under extant rules.

5. ELIGIBILITY

5.1 To be eligible for the award, coach at Grassroot/Development/Elite level, whether he/she works full time or part time as coach, he/she should have produced outstanding achievement over a period of four years immediately preceding the year in which the award is to be given. During the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, achievements of the sportspersons, who have been imparted coaching, upto conclusion of these Games will also be considered. The coach will have to submit details of periods for which he/she coached the disciple(s) in question against whose performance he/she is seeking the Award. The Ministry reserves the right to seek affidavit from the sportsperson concerned where it is found that more than one coach is claiming credit for achievements of a sportsperson.

5.2 For 2 awards earmarked for lifetime contribution in coaching, achievements of the coach (including coach at Grassroot/Development/Elite level) in producing outstanding sportspersons over a period of 20 years or more will be taken into account. The coach at Grassroot/Development level should have been associated with an athlete for more than 5 (five) years out of these 20 years.

5.3 A coach found encouraging the use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, by a sportsperson whom he/she coaching, will be eligible for the Dronacharya Award after completion sentence/penalty/suspension/ban period. The achievement during the said suspension/ punishment would not be considered. However, if enquiry is pending/ongoing against coach and the sportsperson whom he/she is giving coaching will not be considered.

5.4 Sportspersons who have already been conferred with Arjuna Award (Lifetime) (erstwhile known as Dhyan Chand Award) will not be eligible to apply for Dronacharya Award.

6. APPLICATIONS

6.1 Applications for the award will be invited through online portal. Sportspersons eligible in accordance with award guidelines will be permitted to self apply without the recommendation of the authorities/persons.

6.2 Notwithstanding the above, Government reserves the right to nominate upto two nominations in deserving cases.

6.3 The Award will be made in respect of the calendar year for which the applications are invited.

6.4 In case of sportspersons employed with Central Government/State Governments/PSUs or in private organizations, the applicant should obtain a requisite report from the concerned employer that the sportsperson is clear from vigilance/disciplinary angle and is not involved in any act of criminal or moral turpitude nature. Details of chargesheet/disciplinary action taken/pending, if any, should also be mentioned by the employer. Copy of the report/certificate obtained from the employer of the sportsperson should be enclosed with the application. The applicants who are not working/self employed are required to submit an undertaking that he/she is not involved in any act of criminal and moral turpitude nature.

7. RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE APPLICATIONS:

7.1 After successful application a unique registration number will be generated which can be used by the applicant for future communications.

8. SCRUTINY OF APPLICATIONS

8.1 All applications received from the applicants mentioned in para 5 above will be sent to Sports Authority of India who will verify and confirm from official records the achievements/performance of all coaches within a maximum period of one month of the receipt of the applications from the Ministry.

8.2 The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will seek a report from NADA about each of the applicants, who has been shortlisted, for verifying if any one of them/ sportsperson coached by them has ever been found positive for doping.

9. SCREENING COMMITTEE TO SCRUTINIZE ALL THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

9.1 A Screening Committee consisting of Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports, Secretary, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Director (Sports)/Deputy Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports and Executive Director (TEAMS)/Director (TEAMS), SAI will meet for the scrutiny of the applications. Applications of the coaches and reports of NSFs/SAI will be

placed before the screening committee. Valid applications, which are clear from vigilance, disciplinary and doping angles, will be placed before the Selection Committee as per the prescribed eligibility prescribed.

10. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

10.1 The Awards will be decided by a Selection Committee constituted by the Government of India as under:

1.	Chairperson	To be nominated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
2.	Sportspersons of eminence (Olympians or previous Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardees or Arjuna Awardees)	2 members
3.	Previous Dronacharya Awardees from different disciplines	3 members
4.	Sports Journalists/Experts/ Commentators	2 members
5.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme Secretariat	Ex-officio member
6.	Executive Director (TEAMS)/Officer in-charge of TEAMS Division, Sports Authority of India	Ex-officio member
7.	Joint Secretary (Sports), Department of Sports	Member Secretary

10.2 There should be a minimum two years gap before a member other than ex-officio is re-nominated as chairperson or member in the Selection Committee.

10.3 Not more than one sportsperson of eminence or previous Dronacharya Awardee from a particular sports discipline shall be a member of the Selection Committee to avoid any bias in favour of a particular discipline.

10.4 A statement of achievements of all those coaches, who fulfil eligibility criteria and whose applications have been received before last date, will be sent to the members of the Selection Committee at least a week in advance before the meeting of the Selection Committee.

10.5 The Chairperson, in consultation with Member Secretary, may constitute panels from amongst the members of the Committee to assist the Committee.

10.6 The Chairperson may seek advice of experts in specific sports disciplines wherever necessary.

10.7 Shortlisted applications from team games may be sent to experts at least a week in advance for their views. The experts may also be asked to attend Selection Committee meetings to clarify the doubts of members. The evaluation criteria may include international recognition, goals scored, player of the match/player of the tournament award, etc of the trainees of the coach.

10.8 Any person directly or indirectly related to a coach for the Awards shall not be eligible to participate in deliberations of the Selection Committee, concerning that sportsperson.

10.9 The Committee will determine its own work procedure and will keep in view the guidelines/criteria, if any, framed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Members of the Selection Committee will give their recommendations as per the provisions of the scheme and the marks criteria of the Scheme.

10.10 The quorum for the meeting of the Committee shall be 75% of the members of the Committee and the Chairperson.

10.11 The Committee shall select the Award winners by consensus failing which by a majority decision and give its report to the Government of India within 1 month of reference.

10.12 The Executive Director (TEAMS)/Director (TEAMS), Sports Authority of India will be present at the time of deliberations of the Committee in order to provide information/clarifications, if any, required by the Committee.

10.13 All the selection proceedings will be treated as "Confidential". The Chairperson may take necessary steps in consultation with the Member Secretary to maintain strict confidentiality of the deliberations and selection made by the Committee.

11. NUMBER OF DRONACHARYA AWARDS TO BE GIVEN IN A YEAR

11.1 Ordinarily not more than 5 awards could be given in any calendar year. Out of these, 2 will be earmarked for lifetime contribution in coaching.

12. GENERAL

12.1 The Award shall comprise of a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten lakh) for Dronacharya Award (Regular) and Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh) Dronacharya Award (Lifetime) which will be presented to the winners at the function for the presentation of the Award to be held at a place and on a date to be decided by the Government.

12.2 No Award will be made for a second time to the same person.

12.3 The award may be given posthumously if such an occasion arises.

12.4 In order to ensure due diligence in the selection of awardees, the Ministry will make necessary character verification prior to finalizing the names of the awardees through the regional centres of SAI, if need be, by taking help of concerned police authorities.

12.5 The Awards will be conferred in a ceremony by the President of India, ordinarily on 29th August, birth anniversary of Late Major Dhyan Chand. However, during the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, the date of award ceremony will be finalized keeping in view the closing dates of these Games and in consultation with the Secretariat of the President of India.

12.6 At the time of the presentation ceremony, the awards will be conferred upon the selected awardees, who are present. No person other than the awardees will collect the award and prize money at the presentation ceremony. The awardees who are not able to come to receive the award during the presentation ceremony, may later receive the same from the Minister-in-Charge for Youth Affairs and Sports.

12.7 The Government of India may cancel, annul the Award of any recipient for specific reasons including doping and thereupon the recipient shall be required to surrender the medal and the certificate of honour, but it shall be competent for the Government of India to restore the Award once the cancellation and annulment has been withdrawn.

12.8 The decision of the Government of India in respect of matters covered by the scheme and interpretation of the provisions of this scheme shall be final and no appeal shall lie against them.

12.9 A person who is applying for the Award shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of the scheme.

12.10 Canvassing in any form in respect of any applicant will render that applicant liable to disqualification.

12.11 Minister-in-charge for Youth Affairs & Sports will be competent authority for relaxation of any clause, provided there are sufficient reasons (to be recorded in writing) for doing so.

Criteria for giving Dronacharya awards to coaches

1. 80% weightage will be given for the medals won in various International championships by the sportspersons, trained by the coach for at least 180 days immediately preceding the tournament. The International Championships and sports events will be in respect of the discipline covered in Olympic Games (Summer, Winter and Paralympics), Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Points for winning medals by trainees will be given to each eligible coach during the last 4 years and upto conclusion of Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games during those years when these Games are held as per marks given in the table below.

S. No.	Event	Medal		
		Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	Olympic Games/Paralympics	80	70	55
2.	World Championship/World Cup (once in 4 years)*	40	30	20
3.	Asian Games	30	25	20
4.	Commonwealth Games	25	20	15

*For World Championship/World Cup of different periodicities, proportionate marks will be given.

2. Equivalence of any other sports discipline/tournament, not listed above, will be decided by the Selection Committee with reference to above-mentioned categories of sports tournaments and the points will be allotted accordingly.

3. For team events, marks will be computed taking into consideration strength of the team. If prescribed marks for an individual event are "A", in the case of team event, the marks will be computed as follows:

- (1) A team of 2 persons: $1.5 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (ii) A team of 3 or 4 persons: $2 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (iii) A team of 5 to 10 persons: $3 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$
- (iv) A team of more than 10 persons: $5 \times 'A' / \text{number of persons in the team}$

4. 80 marks will be given to the coach getting maximum points as computed in the table above. Rest of the coaches will be given marks proportionately to the said coach. For example, if a coach 'A' has got highest points, say 45 points as per the table above in his/her sports discipline and coach 'B' has got 40 points as per the table above, then 'A' will get 80 marks and 'B' will get $(80 \times 40/45) = 71.11$ marks.

5. 20% weightage will be given to the marks given by the Selection Committee for assessment of the eligible coach keeping in view factors like profile and standard of the sports events in which he or she has won medals.

6. For cricket and indigenous games, which are not Olympic/Asian Games/ Commonwealth Games disciplines, the Selection Committee will recommend the coach(es) taking into consideration the performance of the sportspersons, coached by them.
7. Normally not more than 5 awards could be given in any calendar year. Out of these, 2 will be earmarked for lifetime contribution in coaching. This condition can be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing. Further, not more than 1 award will be given in each discipline in either of the two categories of Dronacharya Award.
8. In a particular sports discipline, names of not more than 2 coaches with the highest marks as per the criteria brought out in the table above will be considered by the Selection Committee.
9. Selection Committee will recommend the final list of coaches for the awards as per the marks obtained in terms of the criteria indicated above.
10. Selection Committee may not mechanically recommend Dronacharya Award to the recipient of the highest marks across disciplines. But in a particular sports discipline, award will be recommended only for the recipient of the highest aggregate marks.
11. The making criteria will not apply to coaches to be selected on the basis of lifetime contribution in coaching. Selection Committee will give its recommendations for such two coaches taking into consideration the contribution made by them over a period of 20 years or more in terms of producing outstanding sportspersons.
12. The recommendations of Selection Committee will be placed before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision.
