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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\+ W.P.(C) 12082/2025

VIRENDER SINGH AND ORS .....Petitioners

Through: Mr. Ajay Verma, Ms. Smriti S. Nair and Ms. Sneha Sejwal, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Premtosh K. Mishra, CGSC, Mr. Prarabdh Tiwari and Mr. Anurag Tiwari, Adv., UOI.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA

O R D E R

% **03.11.2025**

CM APPL.68222/2025 (for condonation of delay in filing counter-affidavit on behalf of respondent / UOI)

1. This is an application filed by the applicant/ Union of India (UOI) seeking condonation of delay of 50 days in filing the counter-affidavit.

2. Considering the averments made in the application, the same is allowed.

3. The delay of 50 days in filing the counter-affidavit stands condoned.

4. The application is disposed of.

CM APPL.66888/2025 (filed on behalf of petitioner no.1 for urgent directions)

5. By way of the present petition, the petitioners essentially seeks parity between Deaf sportspersons and Para sportspersons.

6. Learned counsel for the petitioner no.1/applicant submits that the 'Scheme of Cash Awards for Medal Winners' in International Sports Events,

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as amended on 01.02.2025, discriminates against deaf sportspersons *vis-a-vis* para sportspersons. It is contended that the scheme is arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

7. By way of the present application, the petitioner no. 1 has drawn attention to the fact that on 29.09.2025, the respondents had invited application for 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025'. The said communication dated 29.09.2025 reads as under:

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

ANNEXURE A1

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 29th September, 2025

To

As per list attached

Subject: Inviting applications for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025 - reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite the applications for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025 for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

2. To be eligible for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025, the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given will be considered for Award for excellence in Sports & Games at International level i.e. Olympic/ Paralympics/ Asian/ Commonwealth Games/ Championships/World Cup/World Championship and equivalent recognized international tournaments. Accordingly, sports achievements for the period from 1st January, 2021 and upto 31st December, 2024 will be taken into consideration.

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. 011-233-87432 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 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awards for Outstanding performance in Sports and Games (as amended 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.

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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,

29/9/25

(Raj K. Gupta)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No: 011-23386416

Copy to:

8. Attention is drawn to the fact that while framing the criteria under the aforesaid scheme for conferring 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025' to sportspersons, no dispensation is created for deaf sportspersons. The relevant criteria, is as under:

"***Criteria for giving Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna to Sportspersons***

1. 80% weightage will be given for the medals won in various International championships and sports events of the disciplines covered in Olympic Games (Summer, Winter and Paralympics), Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Points for winning medals will be given to each eligible sportsperson for his/her performance 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*	*7*	*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,*

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proportionate makes 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:
(i) A team of 2 parsons: 1.5x 'A'/number of persons in the team
(ii) A team of 3 or 4 persons: 2x 'A'/number of persons in the team
(iii) A team of 5 to 10 persons: 3x 'A'/number of persons in the team
(iv) A team of more than 10 persons: 5x 'A'/number of persons in the team

4. 80 marks will be given to the sportsperson getting maximum points as computed in the table above. Rest of the sportspersons will be given marks proportionately to the said sportsperson. For example, if a sportsperson 'A' has got highest points, say 85 points as per the table above and another sportsperson 'B' has got 80 points as per the table above, than 'A' will get 80 marks and 'B' will get (80 x 80/85)=75.30 marks.

5. 20% weightage will be given to the marks given by the Selection Committee for assessment of the eligible sportsperson 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, not included in Olympic/Asian Games/ Commonwealth Games disciplines, the Selection Committee will take into consideration their individuals performances.

7. There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson. This condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances to be recorded in writing.

8. In a particular sports discipline, names of not more than 2 sportspersons (1 male and 1 female) with the highest marks as per the criteria brought out in the table above will he considered by the Selection Committee.

9. Sometimes, the Selection Committee may feel that as per the given criteria, a very deserving sportsperson in a team game may not get Major

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Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna. In such a situation, it may recommend such name giving full justification in writing.

10. Selection Committee will recommend the final list of sportsperson(s) for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna as per the marks obtained in terms of the criteria indicated above.

11. Selection Committee may not mechanically recommend Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna 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.

12. The recommendations of Selection Committee will be placed before the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports for the final decision."

9. A bare perusal of the above reveals that there is no scope for deaf sportspersons to even apply / being considered for conferment of 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025'.

10. In the above conspectus, there is merit in the contentions of the petitioner/applicant that the aforesaid criteria discriminates against deaf sportspersons *vis-a-vis* para sportspersons.

11. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 read with Schedule thereto, leaves no scope of discrimination between persons having hearing impairment *vis-a-vis* those having physical/locomoter disability. However, in the context of the aforesaid scheme, the lack of opportunity for deaf sportspersons has the impact of creating a discriminatory regime.

12. In the circumstances, the respondents are directed to consider framing an appropriate criteria for considering conferring of 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, 2025' to deaf sportspersons. Let the same be done expeditiously and so as to enable the deaf sportspersons to submit applications for the purpose of 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award,

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2025'. Let the deadline/s for submission of the necessary application/s be extended suitably.

13. The application is disposed of in the above terms.

14. Order *dasti*.

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15. List on 19.01.2026.

16. In the meantime, the petitioners are at liberty to file a rejoinder to the short affidavit, filed on behalf of the respondents within a period of four weeks from today.

SACHIN DATTA, J

NOVEMBER 3, 2025/cl

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