



President confers Padma awards to Mammooty, Satish Shah, Rohit Sharma



NEW DELHI, JUN 24: Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, actors Mammooty and Satish Shah, cricketer Rohit Sharma, and playback singer Alka Yagnik were among eminent personalities conferred with the coveted Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

In the second civil investiture ceremony at the Ganatantra Mandap of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president presented Padma Vibhushan to former Supreme Court judge K T Thomas for public affairs and eminent Malayalam journalist P Narayanan for contribution in literature and education.

Alka Yagnik, Mammooty, American oncologist Dattatreya Nuri, tennis player Vijay Amritraj, industrialist S K M Maelanandhan and social worker and educationist Vellappally Natesan received Padma Bhushan from the president during the ceremony.

Rupi Soren, wife of JMM founder Shibu Soren, received the Padma Bhushan on behalf of the late leader.

The president conferred Padma Shri to cricketer Rohit Sharma, who led India to victory in the last T20 World Cup, and hockey player Savita Punia.

Vladimir Mestvirishvili, the Georgian coach who mentored Indian Olympic medallists like Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt, Ravi Dahiya was awarded Padma Shri posthumously. His wife received the award on his behalf.

The function was attended by Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Home Minister Amit Shah among other dignitaries.

The arrival of 83-year-old folk artist and cultural guardian from Nagaland, Guru Sangyusang Pongener, added a dash of vibrant cultural touch to the ceremony. Dressed in traditional Naga attire, his spirited entry drew a huge round of applause from the audience, including Prime Minister Modi. He received the Padma Shri.

Social worker Budhri Tati, who worked in the field of education and women empowerment in the previously naxal-affected Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, also received Padma Shri. She, too, preferred her traditional dress and received warm applause as she walked up to accept the honour.

The president also conferred Padma Shri to actor

Satish Shah posthumously. The actor was known for essaying prominent roles in the country's first sitcom *Ye Jo Hai Zindagi*, *Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai* and cult movie *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*. His brother received the award on his behalf.

Former CEO of Prasar Bharati Shashi Shekhar Vempati who is now the CBFC Chairman was also awarded Padma Shri by the president.

In the ceremony, the president conferred 65 Padma Awards, including two Padma Vibhushan, seven Padma Bhushan and 56 Padma Shri.

Actor R Madhavan, Indian aerospace scientist in Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Chandramouli Gadamanu, who led the Akash Missile system from development to deployment during Operation Sindoor, former MHA under secretary RVS Mani and a self-made entrepreneur from a Dalit cobbler family Ashok Khade who established a cutting-edge offshore fabrication company were awarded Padma Shri.

Dalit author Asok Kumar Halder, who wrote inspiring literature while being a railway guard, Ranjani and Gayatri (counted as one award) for Carnatic music,

famous actor Anil Kumar Rastogi and chemistry professor Mahendra Nath Roy were also conferred Padma Shri.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Modi said the Padma Awards celebrate exceptional service and dedication across diverse fields.

"Each awardee represents the best of our commitment to society. Their life journeys inspire countless citizens and remind everyone of the power of hard work and service," he posted on X.

On Republic Day eve, the government had announced 131 Padma awards including two duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one). The awards included five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri.

The president had conferred 65 Padma Awards -- two Padma Vibhushan, six Padma Bhushan and 57 Padma Shri in the first civil investiture ceremony held on May 25. The remaining 65 awards (including a duo) were presented during the ceremony on Tuesday.

The Padma Awards -- one of the highest civilian awards of the country, are conferred in three categories -- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

The awards are given in various disciplines of activities -- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field. (PTI)

Zone Gundna wins Kho-Kho title; Bhagwah champions Chess at inter-zonal tournament in Doda



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 24

The Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament organised by Youth Services & Sports Doda continued under the overall supervision of DYSSO Doda Ashok Ku-

mar, with more than 180 girls from across the district competing in the U/19 Girls Kho-Kho and Chess competitions.

Zone Gundna clinched the Kho-Kho championship title with a dominant dis-

play of teamwork, speed and tactical play, while Zone Ghat finished as runners-up. In Chess, Zone Bhagwah emerged champion and Zone Doda secured the runner-up position.

The DYSSO appreciated

the efforts of players, technical officials and organising committee members. Certificates and trophies were presented to the winning and runner-up teams at the conclusion of the competitions.

54th KVS Regional Sports Meet held

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 24

The KVS 54th Regional Sports Meet (Girls) 2026, which commenced on 23rd June in different Kendriya Vidyalayas of the Jammu Region, concluded successfully today with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 Jammu hosted events including swimming, diving, boxing, skating, archery, and shooting for categories U-14, U-17, and U-19.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various Kendriya Vidyalayas across the Jammu Region along with their escorts. Throughout the meet, participants



displayed remarkable talent, dedication, discipline, and team spirit.

The successful comple-

tion of all events marked the grand culmination of the Regional Sports Meet. The programme concluded

smoothly under the able guidance and leadership of Venue Principal Shri Akash Gupta.

55th Regional Sports Meet 2026 concludes at PM SHRI KV Nagrota

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 24

The 55th Regional Sports Meet 2026 of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Jammu Region, concluded successfully at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya Nagrota on 24 June 2026. The two-day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various Kendriya Vidyalayas in Girls' Handball and Yoga competitions.

A notable achievement for the host school was PM SHRI KV Nagrota securing First Position in the Under-17 Girls' Handball Competition.

In Yoga (Traditional Category), the first positions were secured by Ananta Va-



sudev (U-14, PM SHRI KV No. 1 Udampur), Bagisha (U-17, KV Jyotipuram), and Bhumika Devi (U-19, KV Jyotipuram), who were selected for the KVS National

Sports Meet 2026.

The meet showcased excellence in sportsmanship, discipline, and teamwork. Dr. Ram Kishan Dahiya, Principal, PM SHRI KV Na-

grota, congratulated the winners and appreciated the efforts of all participants, coaches, escort teachers, and officials for making the event a grand success.

Sports activities, wild bhung destruction drives held under Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan in Shopian

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JUNE 24

Ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan today witnessed multiple activities across Shopian district through a series of awareness, outreach, educational, and sports-based activities aimed at fostering a drug-free society.

As part of the campaign, various departments, educational institutions, and community stakeholders organized programmes to raise awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote healthy lifestyle choices among the public, particularly the youth.

Government Degree College Shopian actively participated in the campaign by organizing awareness activities, including pledge-taking ceremonies and sensitization programmes on drug abuse prevention. The institution also promoted constructive youth engagement through sports and other co-curricular activities, reinforcing the message of responsible living and social responsibility among students.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports Shopian continued its efforts under



the campaign by organizing sports events and competitions across the district. These activities witnessed enthusiastic participation from young athletes and highlighted the role of sports in promoting discipline, teamwork, physical fitness, and positive engagement while encouraging youth to stay away from

substance abuse.

As part of the ongoing efforts under the Abhiyan, a special drive for the identification and destruction of wild Bhung (wild cannabis) was also carried out across various areas of Sub-Division Zainapora.

The initiative aims to curb the illegal growth of narcotic plants and

strengthen preventive measures against substance abuse.

Awareness sessions, community outreach programmes, and interactive engagements were also conducted at various locations, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing the issue of drug abuse.