



Arjuna Awards: Divya, Tejaswin, Gayatri among 17 named for sports honours

NEW DELHI, AUG 18: World Cup winning chess player Divya Deshmukh, decathlete and high jumper Tejaswin Shankar and shuttler Gayatri Gopichand were among the 17 sportspersons named for the prestigious Arjuna Award on Tuesday.

The Sports Ministry, however, did not name any athlete for the Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna Award this year.

Also on the Arjuna Award nomination list are Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi, Gayatri Gopichand's women's doubles partner Treesa Jolly, Glasgow Commonwealth Games silver-medallist boxer Narendra, and young deaf rifle shooter Dhanush Srikanth.

1962 Asian Games gold medallist footballer I Arumainayagam was conferred the Arjuna Award for 'Lifetime Achievement'.

Divya, India's fourth female chess Grandmaster, earned the title after winning the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 in Batumi, Georgia. Tejaswin

Shankar recently won a historic decathlon bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games, becoming the first Indian to do so in the quadrennial event.



India thrash South Africa 6-1 to register biggest-ever FIH Women's Hockey World Cup win

AMSTELVEEN, AUGUST 18: India produced a commanding performance to thrash South Africa 6-1 and moved to the top of Pool D at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026 here on Tuesday, recording their biggest-ever victory in the tournament's history.

India dominated from the outset at the Wagener Stadium and took the lead in the 11th minute. A flowing passing move down the left created the opening, with Sakshi Rana's effort finding Sunelita Toppo at the far post, who made no mistake from close range, as per ESPN.

Navneet Kaur doubled India's advantage into the second quarter, unleashing a powerful slap from a penalty corner for her second goal of the tournament. India continued to apply pressure and extended their lead in the 25th minute. Deepika Sehrawat's drag-flick deflected into the path of Sushila Chanu, who guided the ball past the South African goalkeeper to make it 3-0.

India went into the half-time break three goals ahead, but head coach Sjoerd Marijne demanded greater intensity from his side.

The Indian players responded immediately after the restart. Deepika produced a fierce tomahawk in the 38th minute to score her second goal of the competition before Lalremsiami and Sakshi Rana struck in the final minutes of the third quarter. History Lalremsiami found the net in the 44th minute before Sakshi added another a minute later, both goals coming from powerful tomahawks as India surged to a 6-0 lead.



Aahana wins girls J&K U-17 Chess title

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 18

Aahana Gupta won the girls J&K UT Under-17 Chess Championship, which was organized by the All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA) at Hotel Nek, here today.

Alankrita Sharma and Ashwiina Raina remained second and third respectively in this day-long competition, which was also part of the selections for the upcoming national event in Jammu.

Earlier, Kiana Gupta bagged the Under-13 girls trophy while Anandita Sharma remained second. In Under-13 boys category, promising Pazhany Kohli won the title while Rajawardhan Singh remained second.

In today's event, DySP, Swati Sharma was the chief guest, who along with president AJKCA, Meenal Gupta presented the title trophies and other individual prizes.

Also present were Atul Kumar Gupta, chairman planning and development commission of AICF; former president AJKCA, Baldev Raj; Ravi Kumar; chief Arbiter Bindu Pathania and Arbiter Ritish.

The chief guest appreciated the efforts of the Chess Association in providing continuous platform to aspiring players.

Meanwhile, the final round of the boys under-17 event group shall be played tomorrow at the same venue.

"Top three in Under-17 boys and girls will play in forthcoming Nationals at Jammu while others also can play as special entry by registering themselves at www.aicf.in," informed AJKCA president, Meenal Gupta.



Jammu's Vinay Completes AFF License Course

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 18

Vinay Kumar of Jammu and Kashmir has successfully completed AFC C License Diploma (Coaching) Course which was conducted by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) in Punjab July last.

Vinay Kumar has competitive playing career, representing several prominent football clubs across India. During his playing days, he represented Lone Star FC, Mohammedan Sporting FC, Mumbai Tiger FC and Downtown FC, gaining valuable experience at different levels of the game. His journey also included representing J&K in the prestigious Santosh Trophy. Apart from the Santosh Trophy, Vinay has represented his state in various All India level tournaments, competing against some of the country's best footballing talent.

Vinay expressed his gratitude to everyone who have supported him through out his football journey. He extended special thanks to Arun Malhotra, former Indian footballer and Hilal Rasool, Pro license and Coach educator, for their valuable guidance, encouragement and constant support.



Inter-Zone Chess meet of Jammu begins

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 18

Organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), the annual inter-zone Under-14 boys Chess meet of district Jammu which got underway at Scouts and Guides Hall Gandhi Nagar, here today.

The competition is being organised under the supervision of District (DYSS) officer Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

Around 50 participants compete for the top positions in this competition.

The Results: Rajwardhan Singh of Zone Jammu beat Aditya of Zone Miran Sahib; Ayaan of Zone Jammu beat Arnav of Bhalwal Zone; Ishwam of Gandhi Nagar Zone beat Sofal of Zone Jammu; Nikhill of Zone Jammu beat Anmol of Zone RS Pura.



JU Inter-department Sports meet held

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 18

JAMMU, August 18: Organised by the Campus Sports Committee, annual inter-department sports meet of University of Jammu (JU) got underway today at Gymnasium Hall on the campus, here.

The opening day witnessed competition in Chess and Table Tennis in men section under the guidance of experts individuals under the coordinated efforts of Raj Kumar Bakshi, Incharge PTI, JU.

The Results: CHESS: MEN: SHTM Department beat Department of Geography 4-0; The Law School beat Department of Geology 3-1; Department of Law beat Department of Commerce via tie-breaker.

TABLE TENNIS: MEN: Department of Geography beat Department of Physical Education 3-0.

Today's competition officiated by the technical panel including Raj Kumar Bakshi, Ravish Vaid, Vikas Karlopiya, Gagan Kumar, Padam Dev Singh, Dr. Inderjeet Singh and Sakshi Dabgotra.



Pant, bowlers place India on verge of big win over Sri Lanka in 1st Test

GALLE, AUG 18: Backed by Rishabh Pant's quintessential 66, India's bowlers displayed ruthless efficiency to reduce Sri Lanka to 84 for four at stumps on the fourth day as the visitors positioned themselves for a massive victory in the first Test here on Tuesday.

Pant, Devdutt Padikkal (44) and KL Rahul (35) pulled in their combined weight to take India to 193 in their second innings, raising an improbable target of 372 in front of Sri Lanka, who are still 288 runs away from that mark.

For the hosts, skipper Dhananjaya de Silva (31) and first innings century-maker Sonal Dinusha (25) were manning the crease at close.

For a better understanding of the huge mountain in front of Sri Lanka, the highest ever successful chase in Test cricket at the Galle stadium is 344 by Pakistan in 2022, and a 200-plus target was surmounted only twice at this venue since 1998.

The weight of that unfavourable history on them was so evident when the Lankans came out to bat in the fourth innings after a brief rain delay.

They looked cagey, and the first wicket did not take too long to come.

Mohammed Siraj hurried Nishan Fernando into a pull, and the latter could not control the shot which was taken in the deep by Prasidh Krishna.

Prasidh himself had a moment of joy soon when he ousted Kamindu Mendis.

After setting Mendis up with three in-coming deliveries, Prasidh served one that went away and the left-hander nibbled it to Rahul in the cordon.

Between those two strikes, left-arm spinner Manav Suthar dislodged Pasindu Sooriyabandara, who came in as a concussion substitute for Dinesh Chandimal.

Chandimal sustained an injury while fielding during the first session of the day, hitting his shoulder and head hard on the ground.

Chandimal was cleared of any injury in the subsequent scan, but could not clear the concussion test.

However, that chancy entry into Test cricket lasted just one ball, as Sooriyabandara was trapped leg before by Suthar who later added the wicket of Lahiru Udara to his burgeoning kitty.

Earlier, the Lankan bowlers were suitably rewarded with regular wickets for using the pitch and conditions to good effect.

But Padikkal first and Pant later ensured that there would not be too many jitters in the Indian camp.

