

RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Bajrang Punia (Born in February, 1994) is one of the most outstanding wrestlers of the country.

He won:

- Gold Medal in Commonwealth Games, 2018
- Gold Medal in Asian Games, 2018
- Silver Medal in World Wrestling Championship, 2018
- Bronze Medal in Asian Championship, 2018
- Gold Medal in Commonwealth Championship in 2016 & 2017

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport of wrestling, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the year 2019 is conferred upon **Shri Bajrang Punia**.



RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD, 2019

Ms. Deepa Malik (Born in September, 1970) is one of the most outstanding Para Athletes of the country.

Her main achievements are:

- Bronze Medal (Javelin Throw) in Asian Para Games 2018
- Bronze Medal (Discus Throw) in Asian Para Games 2018
- Silver Medal (Shot Put) in Paralympic Games 2016

She was conferred Arjuna Award in 2012.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in the sport of Para-Athletics, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the year 2019 is conferred upon **Ms. Deepa Malik**.



DRONACHARYA AWARD, 2019

Shri Vimal Kumar (Born in November, 1961) is a Badminton coach. He has trained many outstanding badminton players who have won medals in International competitions. Prominent among them are Saina Nehwal, Ajay Jayram, Ashwini Ponappa, P. Kashyap, Dipankar Bhattacharjee, Nikhil Kanetkar, Aparna Popat and Lakshya Sen.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of coaching, the Dronacharya Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Vimal Kumar**.



DRONACHARYA AWARD, 2019

Shri Sandeep Gupta (Born in January, 1972) is a Table Tennis coach. He has trained many outstanding table tennis players who have won medals in International competitions. Prominent among them are Manika Batra, Antony A. Amalraj, Neha Aggarwal, Sabhya Virmani and Riti Shanker.

In recognition of his outstanding achievement in the field of coaching, the Dronacharya Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Sandeep Gupta**.



DRONACHARYA AWARD, 2019

Shri Mohinder Singh Dhillon (Born in July, 1954) is an Athletics coach. He has trained many outstanding athletes who have won medals in National/International competitions. Prominent among them are Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, Om Prakash Karhana and Jagdish Kumar Bishnoi.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of coaching, the Dronacharya Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Mohinder Singh Dhillon**.



DRONACHARYA AWARD, 2019

Shri Merzban Patel (Born in April, 1950) is a Hockey coach. He has trained many outstanding hockey players who have won medals in National/International competitions. Prominent among them are Gavin Ferreira, Jude Menezes, Viren Rasquinha, Adrian D'Souza, Devindar Walmiki, Yuvraj Walmiki and Nasir Khan

In recognition of his outstanding achievement in the field of coaching, the Dronacharya Award (Life Time) for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Merzban Patel**.



DRONACHARYA AWARD, 2019

Shri Rambir Singh Khokhar (Born in February, 1954) is a Kabaddi coach. He has trained many outstanding kabaddi players who have won medals in National/International competitions. Prominent among them are Shamsher Singh, Ajay Thakur, Tirath Raj, Om Praksh Narwal, Anil Kumar, and Surender Singh.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of coaching, the Dronacharya Award (Life Time) for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Rambir Singh Khokhar**.



DRONACHARYA AWARD, 2019

Shri Sanjay Bhardwaj (Born in June, 1966) is a Cricket coach. He has trained many outstanding Cricket players who have participated and won in National/International competitions. Prominent among them are Gautam Gambir, Amit Mishra, Joginder Sharma, Reema Malhotra, Rumeli Dhar, Nitish Rana, Unmukt Chand, Manjot Kalra and Aryan Juyal.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of coaching, the Dronacharya Award (Life Time) for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Sanjay Bhardwaj**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Born in November, 1994) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Athletics.

He won :

- Gold Medal (Shot Put) in Asian Games 2018
- Silver Medal (Shot Put) in Asian Athletics Championship 2017

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Athletics, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Tajinderpal Singh Toor**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Mohammed Anas Yahiya (born in September, 1994) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Athletics.

He won :

- Silver Medal (400m) in Asian Games 2018
- Silver Medal (4x400m) in Asian Games 2018
- Silver Medal (4x400m Mixed) in Asian Games 2018
- Gold Medal (400m) in Asian Athletics Championship 2017.
- Gold Medal (4x400m) in Asian Athletics Championship 2017

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Athletics, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Mohammed Anas Yahiya**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Ms. Swapna Barman (Born in October, 1996) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Athletics.

She won :

- Gold Medal (Heptathlon) in Asian Games 2018
- Gold Medal Asian Athletics Championship 2017
- Silver Medal in SAF Games 2016

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in the sports of Athletics, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Ms. Swapna Barman**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (Born in August, 1992) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Badminton.

He won:

- Bronze Medal in BWF World Tour Super 300 in 2018
- Gold Medal in BWF World Grand Prix in 2017
- Gold Medal in Singapore Open 2017

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Badminton, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri S. Bhaskaran (Born in May, 1978) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Body building.

He won :

- Gold Medal in World Body Building Championship, 2018
- Gold Medal in Asian Body Building Championship 2018

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Body Building, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri S. Bhaskaran**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Ms. Sonia Lather (Born in February, 1992) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Boxing.

She won:

- Silver Medal in Asian Boxing Championship, 2017
- Silver Medal in World Boxing Championship, 2016

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in the sports of Boxing, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Ms. Sonia Lather.**



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Ravindra Jadeja (Born in December, 1988) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Cricket.

His achievements are :

- First player in test history to score a fifty, take ten wickets and four catches in a test match
- Only third player ever with 500+ runs and 50+ wickets in a single season of test cricket in 2017
- Picked his 150th test wicket in his 32nd test match and become the quickest left arm bowler to get to the mark.
- Picked his 71 wickets in season 2016 – 2017, the third most in a single season in international cricket

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Cricket, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Ravindra Jadeja**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Ms. Poonam Yadav (Born in August, 1991) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Cricket.

Her achievements are :

- Member of women cricket team winning Silver medal in ICC women's cricket world cup 2017
- She took ten wickets in Women's Asia Cup T-20 – the most by an Indian women in T-20 series/tournaments
- Completed 50 wickets in T-20 fastest by an Indian woman in 38 matches
- She took 35 wickets in T-20 in 2018

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in the sports of Cricket, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Ms. Poonam Yadav**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Fouaad Mirza (Born in March, 1992) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Equestrian.

He won:

- Two Silver Medals in Individual and Team Event in Asian Games 2018
- Gold Medal in CIC2 (Eventing), 2018 in Netherland
- Silver Medal in CCI1 (Eventing), 2018 in Germany

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Equestrian, the Arjuna Award for the year, 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Fouaad Mirza**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (Born in February, 1992) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Football.

His achievements are :

- Winner in Intercontinental Cup 2018.
- Only Indian to play in UEFA Europa league

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Football, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Gurpreet Singh Sandhu**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (Born in December, 1991) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Hockey.

His achievements are :

- Member of men's Hockey Team winning Gold Medal in Asia Cup, 2017
- Member of men's Hockey Team winning Bronze Medal in Asian Games, 2018
- Member of men's Hockey Team winning Silver medal in 2016 and Bronze medals in 2015 and 2017 in Azlan Shah Cup

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Hockey, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Chinglensana Singh Kangujam**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Ajay Thakur (Born in May, 1986) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Kabaddi.

His achievements are :

- Captain of men's Kabaddi Team winning Bronze Medal in Asian Games, 2018
- Captain of men's Kabaddi Team winning Gold Medal in Asian Championship, 2017
- Member of men's Kabaddi Team winning Gold Medal in Kabaddi World Cup 2016 and was awarded with best raider of the tournament

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Kabaddi, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Ajay Thakur**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Gaurav Singh Gill (Born in December, 1981) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Motor Sports.

He won:

- FIA World Rally Championship, 2018
- FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship, 2017
- FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship, 2016
- 3rd Position in FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship, 2015

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in Motor Sports, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Gaurav Singh Gill**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Simran Singh Shergill (Born in May, 1983) is one of the most outstanding player in the discipline of Polo.

He won:

- Runner up in Polo World Cup play off in 2015
- Best player of the tournament in Argentina 2014
- He was best player and highest goal scorer in Jaipur in 2016
- He is considered as the longest hitter in the country

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Polo, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Simran Singh Shergill**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Ms. Anjum Moudgil (Born in January, 1994) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Shooting.

She won :

- Two Silver Medals in individual and team events in ISSF World Championship, 2018
- Silver Medal in Commonwealth Games, 2018
- One Silver and one Bronze Medal in Commonwealth Shooting Championship, 2017
- Silver Medal (Team Event) in 10th Asian Airgun Championship, 2017
- Silver Medal (Team event) in 9th Asian Airgun Championship, 2016

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in the sports of Shooting, the Arjuna Award for the year, 2019 is being conferred upon **Ms. Anjum Moudgil**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Harmeet Rajul Desai (Born in July, 1993) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Table Tennis.

He won :

- Bronze Medal in Men Team in Asian Games, 2018
- One Gold Medal in in Men's Team and one Bronze Medal in Men's Doubles in Commonwealth Games, 2018
- Two Gold Medals in Men Team and Men Doubles in Commonwealth Championship, 2015

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Table Tennis, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Harmeet Rajul Desai**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Ms. Pooja Dhanda (Born in January, 1994) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Wrestling.

She won:

- Silver Medal in Commonwealth Games, 2018
- Bronze Medal in Senior World Championship, 2018
- Gold Medal in Commonwealth Championship, 2017

In recognition of her outstanding achievements in the sports of Wrestling, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Ms. Pooja Dhanda**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Sundar Singh Gurjar (Born in January, 1996) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Para-Athletics.

He won :

- Silver Medal (Javelin) in Asian Para Games 2018
- Bronze Medal (Discus) in Asian Para Games 2018
- Gold Medal (Javelin) in World Para Athletics Championship 2017

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Para-Athletics, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Sundar Singh Gurjar**.



ARJUNA AWARD, 2019

Shri Pramod Bhagat (Born in June, 1988) is one of the most outstanding players in the discipline of Para-Badminton.

He won:

- Gold Medal (Single) in Asian Para Games 2018
- Bronze Medal (Doubles) in Asian Para Games 2018
- Bronze Medal (Single) in BWF Para World Championship 2017
- Bronze Medal (Singles) in BWF Asian Para Badminton Championship 2016
- Bronze Medal (Doubles) in BWF Asian Para Badminton Championship 2016
- Gold Medal (Singles) in BWF Para Badminton World Championship 2015
- Silver Medal (Doubles) in BWF Para Badminton World Championship 2015

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sports of Para Badminton, the Arjuna Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Pramod Bhagat**.



DHYANCHAND AWARD, 2019

Shri Manuel Fredricks (Born in January, 1947) has been one of the most outstanding Hockey players. He was the member of Hockey team winning bronze medal in Olympic Games 1972. He has participated in World Cup and National Championship. After retirement from active sports, he has coached many young hockey players.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contribution for the promotion of Hockey, the Dhyan Chand Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Manuel Fredricks**.



DHYANCHAND AWARD, 2019

Shri Arup Basak (Born in December, 1973) has been one of the most outstanding Table Tennis players of the country. He had won medals in Asian Championship, Commonwealth Championship, World Championship. After his retirement from active sports, he has been imparting coaching to young table tennis players.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contribution for promotion of Table Tennis, the Dhyan Chand Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Arup Basak**.



DHYANCHAND AWARD, 2019

Shri Manoj Kumar (Born in March, 1985) has been one of the most outstanding Wrestling players of the country. He has won medals in Commonwealth Games, Commonwealth Wrestling championship and Asian Wrestling Championship. After his retirement for active sports, he has been imparting coaching to young wrestlers.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions for the promotion of Wrestling, the Dhyan Chand Award for the year 2019 in coaching is being conferred upon **Shri Manoj Kumar**.



DHYANCHAND AWARD, 2019

Shri Nitten Kirrtane (Born in March, 1974) has been one of the most outstanding tennis player of the country. He has won medals in Asian Games, Asia Cup, South Asian Games and National Games. After retirement from active sports, he has been imparting training to young tennis players.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contribution for the promotion of Tennis, the Dhyan Chand Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri Nitten Kirrtane**.



DHYANCHAND AWARD, 2019

Shri C. Lalremsanga (Born in February, 1976) has been one of the most outstanding Archer of the country. He has participated in Olympic Games, Asian Games, World Championship and Commonwealth Championship. After retirement from active sports, he has been imparting training to young archery players.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and contribution for the promotion of Archery, the Dhyan Chand Award for the year 2019 is being conferred upon **Shri C. Lalremsanga**.



TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD 2018

Born on 30th August, 1974, **Ms. Aparna Kumar** hails from Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh. She is the first Indian woman to climb Mt. Manaslu in 2017, the eighth highest peak in the world. She successfully scaled Mt. Everest from the north side in China-Tibet in May, 2016. Other than Asia, she has climbed the highest peaks of five other continents viz. Africa (2014), Australia (2014), South America (2015), Europe (2015) and Antarctica (2016). She is also the first IPS Officer to ski to the South Pole. She is the recipient of the Uttar Pradesh Rani Laxmibai Bravery Award 2015 and the Uttar Pradesh Yash Bharati Award 2016.

In recognition of her outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of adventure, **Ms. Aparna Kumar** is presented with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 for Land Adventure.



TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD 2018

Born on 15th August, 1965, **Late Shri Dipankar Ghosh** hailed from Howrah district of West Bengal. He is the only Indian civilian to have climbed seven peaks beyond 8000 meters. He summited Mt. Everest (2011), Mt. Kanchenjunga (2014), Mt. Lhotse (2012), Mt. Makalu (2013), Mt. Manaslu (2016), Mt. Dhaulagiri (2017) and Mt. Cho Oyu (2018). Risking his life, he rescued an ITBP Jawan from 8000 meters of Mt. Dhaulagiri in 2017 and lost his seven fingers and left great toe due to frostbite. Despite being handicapped, he climbed Mt. Cho Oyu peak (8201 m) in 2018. The accomplished mountaineer went missing while descending Mt. Makalu in May, 2019 and his mortal remains were recovered a few days later. He was conferred with various awards by the State Govt. of West Bengal for his excellence in Mountaineering.

In recognition of his outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of adventure, **Late Shri Dipankar Ghosh** is presented with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 posthumously for Land Adventure.



TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD 2018

Born on 28th February, 1986, **Shri Manikandan K.** hails from Bangalore, Karnataka. He is the first Indian ever to become a Para-Climbing World Champion at Paris in 2012. He is the only Indian Climber to win 3 Gold medals, 9 Silver medals and 2 Bronze medals in various Para Climbing Cup events organized under International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC). He has also won two Gold Medals in the USA National Championship at Boston in 2017 and the USA Adaptive National Championship at Ohio in 2018.

In recognition of his outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of adventure, **Shri Manikandan K.** is presented with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 for Land Adventure.



TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD 2018

Born on 27th July, 1999, **Shri Prabhat Raju Koli** hails from Mumbai, Maharashtra. His name has been included in LIMCA Book of National Records for 2019 for being youngest to swim Tsugaru Channel, Japan and for 2017 for completing six different water swims around Cape Town in less than a month's time. He has several other distinctions to his credit of being youngest male Triple Crown Achiever across English Channel, etc., 'Youngest & Fastest Asian' to swim Kaiwi Channel, Hawaii in 2017 and Gold Medal for setting a world record of fastest swimmer in the world in 2016 in South Africa.

In recognition of his outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of adventure, **Shri Prabhat Raju Koli** is presented with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 for Water Adventure.



TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD 2018

Born on 30th August, 1979, **Shri Rameshwer Jangra** hails from Pune, Maharashtra. He holds two Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) records (Asia) for Wingsuit Performance. In addition, he holds one Asian, one South Asian and two national records for formation sky diving. He was ranked best Wingsuit Pilot from Asia for 2018 as per FAI's ranking. He was part of FAI Wingsuit Committee for 2018 for promoting and regulating wingsuit competitions around the world.

In recognition of his outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of adventure, **Shri Rameshwer Jangra** is presented with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 for Air Adventure.



TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD 2018

Born on 8th February, 1965, **Subedar Major Wangchuk Sherpa** hails from Darjeeling district of West Bengal. He summited Mt. Everest twice with the distinction of having climbed it from both the Nepal and China sides in 1992 and 2006 respectively. He is the first Indian to scale the hazardous Mt. Kanchenjunga peak from the Nepal side in the year 2000. He is an outstanding Mountaineer of ITBP who has climbed more than 20 other peaks including Mt. Saser Kangri (1991), Mt. Nanda Devi (1995), Mt. Kabru (1987) and Mt. Kamet (1989).

He was awarded DG's Insignia and Commendation Roll 5 times. He has been an integral part of major mountaineering expeditions of ITBP and civil administration. He has also carried out several rescue and relief operations during mountaineering expeditions by putting his own life in danger at times.

In recognition of his sustained commitment, significant contribution and unmatched spirit of adventure, Subedar Major Wangchuk Sherpa is presented with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 for Life Time Achievement.



MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD TROPHY 2019

The prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, instituted in the year 1956-57, is a running Trophy which is awarded to the university which has shown the best all round performance in sports. The winner of the MAKA Trophy is given a cash award of Rs. 15 lakh and a small replica of the Rolling Trophy for retention by the University.

Based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee constituted to recommend the overall winner University, the Government is pleased to declare the Panjab University, Chandigarh as the winner of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the year 2019.

The MAKA Trophy for the year 2019 is being presented to Panjab University, Chandigarh.

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR, 2019

The Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation

Identification and Nurturing of Budding Talent

The Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation was founded in 2011 under the stewardship of Khel Ratna and Padma Shree Gagan Narang and Mr. Padam Singh, Joint Secretary General of National Rifle Association of India. The Foundation is devoted to the promotion and development of the Shooting sports and works with a mission of creating a vibrant and thriving shooting community in India and is committed to make shooting India's most accessible mainstream sport.

The Foundation believes that there is no dearth of talent in India in the sports of shooting and is committed to uplifting India's best talent by making world class infrastructure and training facilities available to them. The Foundation is operating 14 centers and is working with State Governments in creation as well as utilization of existing sports infrastructure.

In recognition of its contribution in the field of 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding Talent', the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for the year 2019 is being conferred upon the Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation.

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR, 2019

GoSports Foundation

Identification and Nurturing of Budding Talent

The GoSports Foundation which is a not-for-profit trust established in 2008, works towards the development of some of India's most talented, emerging and elite athletes competing in multiple sporting disciplines. Joined by India's only individual Olympic Gold medalist Mr. Abhinav Bindra, former Indian cricket captain Mr. Rahul Dravid and All England Badminton champion Mr. Pullela Gopichand on its board of advisors, the Foundation's vision of enabling sports excellence is premised on the belief that sporting champions are created when the right talent is provided with the right support at the right time.

The Foundation strives to work in tandem and collaborate with relevant authorities, stakeholders and federations to ensure that the Indian sports develops holistically.

In recognition of its contribution in the field of 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding Talent', the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for the year 2019 is being conferred upon the GoSports Foundation.

RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR, 2019

Rayalaseema Development Trust

Sports for Development

Rayalaseema Development Trust, an NGO founded in 1969, works to promote the integrated development of under privileged and marginalized community in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The Trust believes that rural children's participation in sports is necessary for their growth, self-esteem and confidence as well as to address the challenges being faced by them due to the prevailing discrimination and inequalities in rural regions. In the year 2000, the Trust initiated the Anantapur Sports Academy, a sports for development programme with a vision to utilize sports as a medium to create social change amongst rural children and youth in Anantapur, by aiding in their holistic development, breaking down gender barriers and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

Currently, Rayalaseema Development Trust- Anantapur Sports Academy runs programmes in seven sporting disciplines like hockey, football, cricket, judo, soft-ball, kho-kho and kabaddi through 90 centres across Anantapur district engaging about 11,000 children and youth with 45% being girls.

In recognition of its contribution in the field of 'Sports for Development' the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar for the year 2019 is being conferred upon the Rayalaseema Development Trust.