

Press Statement

New Delhi, June 3, 2020: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri. Kiren Rijiju, said on Wednesday it has been decided that nominations for the Arjuna Award 2020, can be filed either by self application or through prescribed authority, keeping in mind the difficulty being faced by several athletes in getting recommendations for their nominations, due to the nationwide lockdown on account of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Speaking of the decision the Sports Minister said, “The country is faced with an unusual situation and the need of the hour is to tweak the nomination rules of the National Sports Awards to ensure that athletes are not disadvantaged in any way. The nationwide lockdown has made it very difficult for most of them to reach out and seek recommendations for nomination from competent authorities/persons. Therefore it has been decided that for this year, athletes can self-nominate themselves, even if they are unable to get a recommendation. Their applications will be considered even without the prescribed recommendations.”

To ensure that athletes have enough time to submit their applications to the Sports Ministry in view of the changed rule, the deadline for submission of applications has also been extended from June 3, 2020 to June 22, 2020. “In keeping with the Government’s guidelines to minimise the use of paper during the times of Covid 19, we have also decided that this year all nominations will be filed digitally, through email. There is no need to submit a hardcopy of the application either. I am sure the extension of deadline will ensure that more athletes can participate in the nomination process. The government is committed to creating a convenient and conducive atmosphere for athletes at all times,” the Sports Minister said.

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