

## LIFE HISTORY OF MAJOR DHYAN CHAND

Major Dhyan Chand (29 August 1905 – 3 December 1979) was an Indian hockey player widely regarded as the greatest hockey player in the history of the sport

He was known for his extraordinary goal-scoring feats, in addition to earning three Olympic gold medals, in 1928, 1932 and 1936, during an era where India dominated field hockey. His influence extended beyond these victories, as India won the field hockey event in

seven out of eight Olympics from 1928 to 1964.

Major

Dhyan Chand



Dhyan Chand

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Birth name | Dhyan Singh |
|------------|-------------|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Nickname(s)</b>  | <b>The Wizard, The Magician</b>  |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>29 August 1905</b> <sup>[1]</sup><br><u>Allahabad, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, British India</u>   |
| <b>Died</b>   | <b>3 December 1979 (aged 74)</b> <sup>[2]</sup><br><u>Delhi, India</u>   |
| <b>Allegiance</b>   |  <u>India</u><br> <u>India</u>                     |
| <b>Service/branch</b>   |  <u>British Indian Army</u><br> <u>Indian Army</u> |
| <b>Years of service</b>   | <b>1922–1956</b>   |
| <b>Rank</b>   |  <u>Major</u>   |
| <b>Unit</b>   | <u>1st Brahmans</u><br><u>14th Punjab Regiment</u><br><u>Punjab Regiment</u>   |
| <b>Field hockey career</b>  |  |
| <b>Playing position</b>   | <u>Centre forward</u>  |
| <b>National team</b>  |  |
| <b>Years</b>  | <b>Team</b> <b>Apps</b> <b>(Gls)</b>   |
| <b>1926–1949</b>  | <u>British India</u> <b>185</b> <b>(570)</b>   |
| <b>Medal record</b>   |  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> |  |

| Men's <u>field hockey</u>   |                                   |             |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Representing  <u>India</u> |                                   |             |
| <u>Olympic Games</u>  |                                   |             |
|                            | <u>1928</u><br><u>Amsterdam</u>   | <u>Team</u> |
|                            | <u>1932 Los</u><br><u>Angeles</u> | <u>Team</u> |
|                            | <u>1936 Berlin</u>                | <u>Team</u> |

Known as *The Wizard* or *The Magician of hockey* for his superb ball control, Chand played internationally from 1926 to 1949; he scored 570 goals in 185 matches according to his autobiography,

*Goal* The Government of India awarded Chand India's third highest civilian honour of Padma Bhushan in 1956.

His birthday, 29 August, is celebrated as National Sports Day in India every year.

### Early life

Dhyan Chand was born in Allahabad on August 29, 1905 in a Rajput family.<sup>[11]</sup> He was the elder brother of another hockey player Roop Singh, and the son of Sharadha Singh<sup>*[citation needed]*</sup> and Sameshwar Singh.<sup>[12]</sup> Dhyan Chand's father was enlisted in the British Indian Army, and he played hockey for the army. Dhyan Chand had two brothers – Mool Singh and Roop Singh. Because of his father's numerous army transfers, the family had to move to different cities and as such Chand had to terminate his education after only six years of schooling. The family finally settled in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Dhyan Chand graduated from Victoria College, Gwalior in 1932. Being in the military, his father got a small piece of land for a house.

Young Chand had no serious inclination towards sports, though he loved wrestling. He stated that he did not remember whether he played any hockey worth mentioning before he joined the Army, though he said that he occasionally indulged in casual games in Jhansi with his friends

The Hindi word *Chand* literally means the moon. Since Dhyan Singh used to practice a lot during the night after his duty hours, he used to wait for the moon to come out so that the visibility in the field (during his era there were no flood lights) improved. He was hence called "Chand", by his fellow players, as his practice sessions at night invariably coincided with the coming out of the moon.<sup>1</sup>