

Athletes promised jobs

Ekalavya awards presented to State's achievers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, Pramod Madhwaraj announced government employment for players bringing the country laurels during the presentation of Ekalavya Awards to State athletes here on Wednesday.

Speaking prior to the felicitation, the Minister said: "Olympic medallists will be given Group A level appointments in the State Government while medallists from CWG and Asian Games will be given Group 'B' level jobs."

"Under me, this Guru Nanak Bhavan premises was retrieved. When the file to extend the lease came to me, we decided to get this Rs 300-crore worth property back and we achieved it," he added.

Among the 13 athletes who received the prestigious award were Karnataka kabaddi team mainstay Sukesh Hegde, skipper of the volleyball side Karthik A and swimming sensation Malavika Vishwanath.

Athletics coach VR Beedu and the vastly experienced swimming trainer Manohar Mohite were felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Awards. Reacting after accepting the award, Beedu expressed his delight at being chosen for the award. "It is a great honour for me. The work that I have put in for 45 years has paid off," said the 71-year-old. The septuagenarian also vowed to keep going until his body permitted him.

"As long as I am fit, I will continue to work. I know age is not on my side but I'd like to continue what I am doing till my last breath."



RECOGNITION AT LAST: Senior coaches M R Mohite (left) and V R Beedu with their life-time achievement awards in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO



PROUD MOMENT High Jumper Harshith S receives the Ekalavya Award from Sports Minister Pramod Madhwaraj. **RIGHT:** Volleyball player Karthik A, shooter Mayur D Bhanu, para-swimmer Reevathi Nayak M and badminton player Poorvika S Ram (clockwise from above, left) were among the other awardees. DH PHOTOS