



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Govt jobs for multi-discipline medallists

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** With the Election Commission of India's Model Code of Conduct set to come into force soon, the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports on Wednesday gave away in excess of 90 awards in various categories. The focus, however, was on the prestigious Ekalavya awards for sporting excellence and the lifetime achievement award to two prominent coaches.

Veteran coaches VR Beedu (athletics) and MR Mohite (swimming) received their awards to thunderous applause as many of their wards were in attendance. After that, 11 sportspersons were felicitated with the Ekalavya award, while eight others were rewarded with the Kreeda Ratna, instituted to encourage indigenous sports.

While chief minister Siddaramaiah and a host of other chief guests were conspicuous by their absence, sports minister Pramod Madhwaraj made promises yet again. With employment being a major concern for athletes, Madhwaraj said: "Olympic medallists will be given Group 'A' level appointments in the state government while Commonwealth Games and Asian Games medal winners will be given Group 'B' level jobs."



Photos: Syed Asif

**MOMENT TO CHERISH:** (Clockwise from above) Badminton player Poorvisha S Ram and veteran coaches VR Beedu and MR Mohite during the awards function in Bengaluru on Wednesday