



ATHLETICS FEDERATION OF INDIA

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AFI honours Dr. Batra

Athletics Federation of India became the first body to honour Indian Olympic Association President Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra for being elected as an International Olympic Committee member. AFI presented him a memento during its annual general meeting in Agra last month. He launched the new-look website of AFI. It has been re-designed for greater navigation comfort and easier access.

The Federation asked its members units from States and Union Territories to step up their activities to make track and field sport a more visible option for young athletes.



Track & Field legends Sriram Singh & Anju Bobby George unveil Indian Team uniform



Indian track and field legends, Sriram Singh and Anju Bobby George were the first to sport the new Team India uniforms at the Athletics Federation of India annual general meeting in Agra on July 18, 2019

Jabir, Dutee Chand secure most World ranking points

There can be no doubt that the IAAF World Athletics Championships 2019 in Doha is a key milestone, but the major target for the present lot of athletes is to do well in the Olympic Games and perhaps be among the first to win medals in the greatest celebration of sport. With the relentless support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as well as its field arm, Sports Authority of India, the Federation is confident that India's athletes will get the sustained training and support to reward the country with multiple medals in track and field sport in the Olympic Games in Tokyo next year.

The prolonged absence of ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games gold medallist, has resulted in his slipping out of the IAAF World Rankings but with a personal best throw of 82.51m at Kladno, Vipin Kasana rose to 58th in the javelin throw. Despite not being in the best form, Shivpal Singh is the best ranked Indian male athlete in any event. Similarly, the 26-year-old Annu Rani is the best ranked Indian female athlete in any event, pegged at 16th in the women's javelin throw. Of course, World University Games 100m champion Dutee Chand has the most ranking points by an Indian female athlete, one less than men's 400m hurdler MP Jabir.

Asian Games shot put gold medallist Tajinderpal Singh Toor's quest for a 20m throw bore result in Kladno Throws and Kladno Memorial Meet on July 13 when he heaved the iron ball 20.36m. He has been consistently getting past the 19.50m, securing 19.62m in Poznan in July and 19.73m in the Kamila Skolimowska Throwing Festival, Cetniewo, on August 3.

IAAF World Rankings: India Leaders

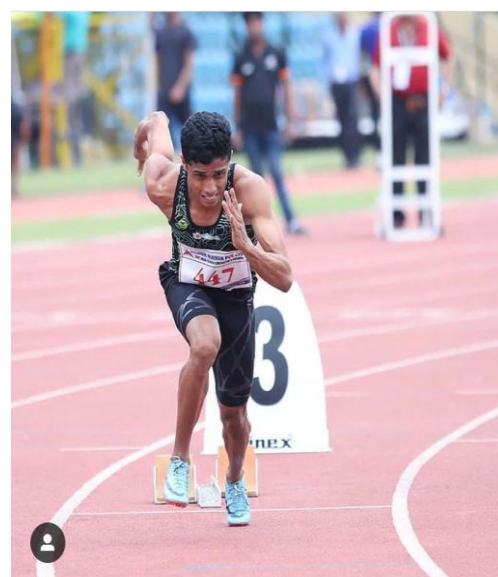
Athlete	Event	World Rank	Points
Men			
MP Jabir	400m Hurdles	#27	1199
Shivpal Singh	Javelin Throw	#15	1197
Muhammed Anas Yahiya	400m	#33	1194
Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Shot put	#31	1191
KT Irfan	20km walk	#29	1190
Ayyasamy Dharum	400m Hurdles	#38	1188
M Sreeshankar	Long Jump	#30	1186
Avinash Sable	3000m Steeplechase	#21	1182
Arpinder Singh	Triple Jump	#31	1181
Arokia Rajiv	400m	#45	1174
Tejaswin Shankar	High Jump	#34	1167
Siddhant Thingalaya	110 Hurdles	#75	1153
Sandeep Kumar	50km Walk	#63	1137
Jinson Johnson	800m, 1500m	#49	1137
Chandan Singh	50m Walk	#71	1128

Women			
Dutee Chand	100m	#36	1198
PU Chitra	1500m	#36	1172
Annu Rani	Javelin Throw	#16	1167
Swapna Barman	Heptathlon	#22	1162
Sanjivani Jadhav*	10000m	#67	1143
L Suriya	10000m	#82	1135
Hima Das	200m, 400m	#78	1133
MR Poovamma	400m	#83	1128
Saritaben Gayakwad	400m Hurdles	#74	1127
M Arpitha	400m Hurdles	#74	1127
M Gomathy*	800m	#89	1121
Parul Chaudhary	5000m	#62	1107
VK Vismaya	200m, 400m	#129	1105
Soumya Baby	20km walk	#41	1098
Sudha Singh	3000m SC	#103	1095

Other rankings: Dutee Chand #37 in 200m; Hima Das #206 in 200m ; Saritaben Gayakwad #169 in 400m; and, Parul Chaudhary #106 in 3000m Steeplechase.

(*Serving either a ban after ADRV or under provisional suspension after AAF)

Source: IAAF website



MP Jabir (Photo: Sojan Philip)



Dutee Chand

Anas strikes top form; Noah, Hima, Vismaya keep improving, raise hopes of relay squad

India's top 400m runner, Muhammad Anas Yahya touched peak form and clocked 45.21 seconds in the Kladno Throws and Memorial Meet on July 13 in Kladno, Czech Republic to qualify for the IAAF World Athletics Championships to be held in Doha from September 28 to October 6 this year. It also showed that he had rallied from the injury he suffered after the Asian Games last year.

His time was an improvement on the National record he set at 45.24 seconds in Nove Mesto nad Metuji on July 21 last year. It was only the second time this year that he was dipping in under 46 seconds, having clocked 45.89 in the Federation Cup final in Patiala. Four days after the Kladno performance, Anas clocked 45.40 seconds in Velká cena Tábora, Tábor, to show consistency.

There was more good news coming in from the Czech Republic where 24-year-old Noah Nirmal Tom came up with a series of times that augur well for the 4x400m relay team, given the prolonged absence of Arokia Rajiv owing to injury. Noah Nirmal Tom clocked 46.89 seconds in Kladno, 46.59 seconds in Tabor and 46.05 seconds in Nové Město nad Metují. Hima Das returned to the one-lapper after having pulled out of her heats in the Asian Athletics Championships in April in Doha with a back problem. After a series of 200m sprints in preparation, the 19-year-old showcased her prowess with a 52.09 seconds effort in Nové Město nad Metují. It was her best time in 2019, a significant improvement over 52.88 in the Federation Cup in Patiala. VR Vismaya who caught the eye with her personal best time of 52.48 seconds in 400m in Nové Město nad Metují. The 22-year-old has been gradually improving, constantly chipping away her personal best 53.30 in 2018 to 53.27 in the Federation Cup in March to dip under 53 seconds three times in July and July. With such positive developments, India can mount a good challenge in the relays in the World Championships.



Muhammed Anas
(Photo: Sojan Philips)

AFI gets set to offer financial support to 100 district associations across India

Maharashtra leads the way with seven district associations among the list of 100 identified by the Athletics Federation of India to be given financial support from this year. Bihar, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have six districts each in the list of 100 finalised by AFI. Five districts each from Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana are also among those picked by AFI.

In a landmark decision, aimed at galvanising track and field sport at the grass-roots level, AFI decided to provide grants to 100 Districts Athletics Associations in recognition of their consistent good work to promote athletics in their area and compete in the National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet (NIDJAM) each year.

AFI President Adille Sumariwalla said this would be a pilot project this year and would be extended to more districts in a couple of years. "We have always encouraged and recognised work at the grass-roots level, and we believe that this would be the first time a National Sports Federation is providing grants to district associations," he said.

Mr. Sumariwalla said the Federation was confident that the move to provide grants to district associations would come a fillip to track and field sport at the bottom of the pyramid. "We know that we have to broaden the base to be able to find the talent that can be nurtured to passionately pursue Olympic dreams," he said.

The AFI President said the idea had the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Khelo India programme.

AFI believes that this move will inspire the State Associations to streamline themselves better. At the recent annual general meeting of the Federation, officials State Associations were told in clear terms to shape up or ship out. AFI also encouraged youngsters from the districts to take up and complete the IAAF Coaches Education and Certification Level 1 programme.

All districts will conduct their championships on September 28 and 29 next ahead of the 17th NIDJAM for under-16 and under-14 boys and girls which will be held from November 24. The Federation is planning a meeting with the District officials to share details of the AFI development programme and motivate them to make athletics more popular in their respective districts.

It may be mentioned that some of India's brightest athletics stars like javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra (2012) and sprinter Dutee Chand (2011) as well as discus thrower Navjeet Kaur Dhillon (2010) and 400m runner V Subha (2014) are among those who cut their teeth in the earlier NIDJAMs.



Key decisions made at the Annual General Meeting in Agra on July 19 and 20

Governance

- Chhattisgarh State Unit has been suspended for three months for poor conduct of National Youth Athletics Championships in Raipur in February 2019.
- State units which did not attend the AGM are suspended for three months.
- All affiliated units were given three months to adopt the Model Constitution and will be disaffiliated for non-compliance after October 21, 2019.
- State units have been given six months in which to register themselves with the Registrar of Societies or their Charity Commission.
- All units must have their own website before October 21, 2019 failing which action will be taken.
- States units who are in the bad standing will become Associate Members with no voting rights for three years.
- No athlete can be added to or removed from team chosen by the Selection Committee. President or Secretary of the State Association must secure consent of Selection Committee

Conduct of meets

- Once the National Calendar is finalised, no request to change dates will be entertained.
- In case a State unit refused to conduct a meet as per the National Calendar, heavy fine and/or suspension will be imposed on that unit.
- All competitions must be held as per AFI Competition Manual approved in the annual general meeting.
- It was decided to resume the National Under-22 Athletics Meet. A committee has been formed to finalise the details.
- All State units will improve the technical conduct of their meets.
- All State units will ensure that all their district units conduct their meets and send teams to NIDJAM.
- It was decided to train judges for the Race Walks.
- It was decided that Technical Examination validity would be five years and officials will have to appear for the examination again.

Anti-Doping and Age-fraud

- All State units will have to make efforts to eradicate menace of doping by educating athletes and coaches.
- The dates of the State meets cannot be changed as NADA will send its team for dope testing.
- To stop participation of over-age athletes, State units have been made responsible. If more than two over-age athletes are found in a State team in a year, the respective State Association Secretary will be barred from office and can assume office only after a year.
- It was proposed that medal-winners not be allowed to compete in the same age-group again. A committee has been formed and will submit its report in three months.

Coaching

- AFI High Performance Director Herrmann Volker and Deputy Chief Coach P. Radhakrishanan Nair spoke about the issue of early specialisation by athletes and coaches. This and over-training become impediments to the athletes' development. Coaches would be educated through the affiliated units and AFI website to ensure no athlete over-trains or specialises early.
- All State units will instruct their districts units to encourage youngsters to appear in IAAF Level-1 Coaches course.

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