

WOMAN OF THE YEAR ANJU BOBBY GEORGE



AFI
NOVEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER

ANJU BOBBY GEORGE MORE DETERMINED TO SUSTAIN GOOD WORK IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

World Athletics honoured India's legendary Long Jumper Anju Bobby George with the Woman of the Year at the World Athletics Awards on December 1. The award is given to a woman who has dedicated her life to athletics, recognising her contribution to develop, encourage and strengthen the participation of women and girls at all levels of athletics.

She earned her place in Indian Athletics Hall of Fame by becoming India's first medallist at the World Athletics Championships when she won the Long Jump bronze in Paris in 2003. She also won gold in the World Athletics Finals in Monte Carlo in 2005. She secured a personal best of 6.83m in finishing fifth in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

"Having retired as India's only World Championships medallist, she quickly turned her attention to passing on her knowledge to others, many from backgrounds who ordinarily would not

have had the opportunity to discover athletics," World Athletics said at the Awards ceremony.

"She opened her academy in 2016 and three years later expanded its operation, having secured funding from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Academy has already produced a World U20 silver medallist (Shaili Singh)," it said.

"Anju Bobby George is a constant voice for gender equality in her role as Senior Vice President of the Athletics Federation of India. She mentors schoolgirls to be future administrative and leadership positions within the sport, all while chairing the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association," World Athletics.

In her acceptance speech at the virtual ceremony, Anju Bobby George recalled that it was a hard journey as an athlete. "Now it is my turn to give back to our sport. At my Foundation, we are nurturing 13 women athletes, some of whom

have already started their journey on the world stage. I thank everyone who stood with me in my journey," she said.

Anju Bobby George said on Twitter that there is no better feeling than to wake up every day and give back to the sport, allowing it to empower girls. "The honour makes me more determined to promote gender equality in sport, especially in India. The award is not the culmination of a journey but a reminder that more work needs to be done ahead," she told AFI.

The previous winners of the Woman of the Year Award were Polyxeni Argeitaki (Greece) in 2016, Cherry Alexander (United Kingdom) in 2017, Evelyn Claudio Lopez (Puerto Rico) in 2018 and 1992 and 2000 Olympic Games 1000m gold medallist Derarta Tulu (Ethiopia) in 2019.

AFI SECURES EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR KLAUS, GALINA

Athletics Federation of India has secured the services of Olympic Games Javelin Throw gold medallist Neeraj Chopra's coach Dr. Klaus Bartonietz till the 2024 Paris Games. And it has ensured that Galina Bukharina will remain with the Indian quarter-miles till the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, next year.

AFI recently presented the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and it was unanimously agreed that Dr. Klaus Bartonietz and Galina Bukharina's contracts would be extended. It would ensure that the athletes they have been training could continue without having to adapt to changed systems in the new Olympic cycle.



DR. KLAUS BARTONIETZ

It is well known that Dr. Klaus Bartonietz took over as Neeraj Chopra's coach during the Javelin Thrower's rehabilitation and recovery process after an elbow surgery in 2018. Neeraj Chopra, who won Olympic gold with a throw of 87.58m, himself indicated that he wanted to continue to work with the coach during the new Olympic cycle.

Under Galina Bukharina's watch, the men's 4x400m relay team of Mohammed Anas Yahiya, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob broke the Asian Record in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. With an exciting bunch of quartermilers in the men and women's sections, AFI backed Galina Bukharina to raise the performance of the relay teams in the Asian Games.

AFI has also secured the extension of contracts of masseur Dmitri Buldov and masseuse Elmira Kiseleva till the end of next year. It is persuading the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India to let it retain four more coaching and support staff from overseas as it pushes to build on the gains of Neeraj Chopra's gold medal in Tokyo2020.



GALINA BUKHARINA

J&K AMATEUR ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION ELECTS OFFICE BEARERS



General body meeting of J&K Amateur Athletics Association was held on 5 December 2021 under the chairmanship of President Suneel Mahajan. Members from J&K UT and all districts were present during the meeting.

Raj Kumar Mittan, Bhupinder Singh Tirthi and Musabat Ismail from Athletics Federation of India, J&K Olympic Association and J&K Sports Council also attended the meeting as observers. Returning Officer Ajay Vaid Senior Advocate appointed by the President J&K Amateur Athletics Association announced the names of the newly elected office bearers for the next term of four years.

Suneel Mahajan has been elected as President, Ravinder Singh (Bubby) as Senior Vice-President, Sarwant Singh Gill and Tufail Ramzan Bhat as Vice-Presidents, Sharat Chander Singh as General Secretary, Vinod K Bhatia as Associate Secretary, Reyaz Ahmed and Varinder Kour as Joint Secretaries. Sarabjeet Singh, Nirmal Singh, Ajay Sharma, Tanveer Ahmed, Insha Wadoo and Mandeep Kour were elected as Executive Members.

STATE CROSS COUNTRY RACES HELD AHEAD OF NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY 2021



TNAA STATE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Various AFI member state athletics associations organized their cross country competition for selection of the athletes who will be competition at the National Cross Country Championships to be held on 15 January 2022 at Kohima, Nagaland.



MPAA STATE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Tamil Nadu Athletics Association, Madhya Pradesh Athletics Association and Chandigarh Athletics Association organised the state cross country championships in the first two weeks of December 2021 while other state associations will be holding their competitions in the weeks before the national finals.



WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR TOUR TO EXPAND IN 2022



The World Athletics Indoor Tour will offer enhanced competition opportunities next year with its biggest calendar yet, comprising 38 meetings spread across 14 countries in Europe, North America and Asia.

The expanded tour will broaden the geographical spread of meetings around the world and incorporate additional area level competitions.

Heading into its seventh season, the World Athletics Indoor Tour will feature seven Gold level meetings in 2022, kicking off in Karlsruhe on 28 January and culminating in Madrid on 2 March.

With 50 days to go until the first Gold level meeting, athletes already announced include world pole vault record-holder Mondo Duplantis for the INIT Indoor Meeting Karlsruhe and the Müller Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham, with Olympic 800m silver medallist Keely Hodgkinson due to join him in Birmingham. The Millrose Games is set to star Olympic 800m champion Athing Mu, two-time world indoor 800m silver medallist Ajee Wilson, Olympic shot put champion Ryan Crouser, world shot put champion Joe Kovacs and US 1500m champions Elle Purrier St Pierre and Cole Hocker.

The scoring disciplines on the World Athletics Indoor Tour rotate each year. For 2022 the Gold level scoring disciplines will be:

Women: 400m, 1500m, 60m hurdles, high jump, long jump

Men: 60m, 800m, 3000m/5000m, pole vault, triple jump, shot put

Each athlete's best three results will count towards their overall point score. The athlete with the most points in each scoring discipline at the end of the tour will be declared the winner and will be awarded a USD\$10,000 bonus along with a wild card entry for the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade 22.

Each Gold meeting will offer at least USD\$7000 in prize money for each individual discipline on the programme, including USD\$3000 to the winner.

Silver meetings in the expanded tour will award at least USD\$30,000 (at least \$4000 per discipline and respecting gender equality) and Bronze meetings will offer at least USD\$12,000 (at least \$2500 per discipline and respecting gender equality).

Due to the pandemic, planned dates and venues could change as the season approaches. Broadcast details will be confirmed early in the new year.

Calendar World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold

28 Jan
INIT Indoor Meeting,
Karlsruhe, Germany

29 Jan
Millrose Games,
Manhattan NY, USA

6 Feb
New Balance Indoor Grand Prix,
Staten Island NY, USA

17 Feb
Meeting Hauts-de-France
Pas-de-Calais,
Lievain, France

19 Feb
Müller Indoor Grand Prix,
Birmingham, UK

22 Feb
Copernicus Cup,
Torun, Poland

2 Mar
World Indoor Tour Madrid 2022,
Madrid, Spain

(From www.worldathletics.org)

Quiz Corner

1. Who were named the Male and Female World Athletes of the Year on December 1, 2021 by the sport's global body, World Athletics?
2. Which athlete/s got the Inspiration Award at the World Athletics Awards 2021? Can you also state why the athlete/s secured the Award?
3. Where in Asia will the sixth edition of World Relays be held for the first time in 2023?
4. What will be the special feature of the new World Championships that will be held in Riga, Latvia, on September 30 and October 1, 2023.
5. Olympic Games Javelin Throw gold medallist Neeraj Chopra lent his voice to a global cause, asking the world to unite a team and work together. What was that cause?
6. Russian Athletics Federation was reinstated in World Athletics fold at its Congress on November 17 last? True or False?
7. What are the four pillars of World Plan 2022-2030 that World Athletics Congress approved on November 18?
8. Which of World Athletics initiatives comes at a time when experts around the world have expressed concern about the rising physical inactivity in children and its impact on their future health?
9. Which National Championships will herald 2022 in the Indian athletics calendar? And where will it be held?
10. Athletics Federation of India has introduced the gradation system for its national-level competitions from the year 2020? True or False?

• Send your replies to communications@indianathletics.in by 15th January 2022 & stand a chance to win an Exclusive AFI T-shirt for most number of correct answers