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# India to Host 2028 World Indoor Athletics Championships at Bhubaneswar

20 March 2026

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# India to Host 2028 World Indoor Athletics Championships at Bhubaneswar

20 March 2026 · 4 min read

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## ✎ WHY IN NEWS

The World Athletics Council, meeting in Torun, Poland (on the sidelines of the 2026 World Indoor Athletics Championships), awarded India hosting rights for the 2028 edition. Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium complex will become the first Indian venue to host this global athletics championship.

## ABOUT THE WORLD INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **World Indoor Athletics Championships** is the premier global competition for track and field events held on an **indoor athletics track**. It is governed by **World Athletics** (formerly International Association of Athletics Federations — IAAF), the sport's global governing body headquartered in Monaco.

### Format:

**26 events** — 13 men's + 13 women's

Held over **3 days**

Athletes compete on a **200m indoor banked track** (standard indoor specification)

Indoor events include: 60m sprint, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 60m hurdles, high jump, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put, pentathlon/heptathlon, and the 4×400m relay

**2026 Torun, Poland** was notable for introducing the **4×400m mixed relay** for the first time

**History:** The inaugural edition was held as the **World Indoor Games in 1985 in Paris** (Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy). It was renamed the **IAAF World Indoor Championships** from the 1987 edition (Indianapolis). Held every **two years** (odd years from 1985–2003; since 2004 held in even years). The 2028 Bhubaneswar edition will be the **22nd edition**.

**Asian hosts so far:** Japan (Maebashi, 1999), Qatar (Doha, 2010), China (Nanjing, 2025). India will be the **4th Asian nation** to host.

**2028 dates:** March 3–5, 2028.

## WHY BHUBANESWAR? — INDIA'S SPORTING CAPITAL

Bhubaneswar, Odisha has emerged as India's most prolific sports event host over the past decade:

Year	Event	Venue
2018	Men's Hockey World Cup	Kalinga Stadium
2022	Men's Hockey World Cup (co-host with Rourkela)	Kalinga + Birsa Munda, Rourkela
2023	FIH Hockey World Cup	Kalinga Stadium
2025	Asian Athletics Championships (bid)	Kalinga
2028	World Indoor Athletics Championships	Kalinga Indoor Arena

**Kalinga Stadium:** A multi-sport complex managed by the **Odisha government**; features a hockey stadium (capacity ~15,000), athletics track, and a state-of-the-art indoor athletics hall. The Odisha government under former Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik (BJD, 2000–2024)** made sports investment a flagship governance initiative. The current Chief Minister is **Mohan Charan Majhi (BJP, since June 2024)** — the first person from the Santal tribe to lead Odisha.

**Odisha Sports Policy:** Odisha was the first state in India to adopt a dedicated sports sponsorship model — sponsoring national hockey teams (Odisha became the title sponsor of India's Men's Hockey Team jersey in 2018).

## ATHLETICS FEDERATION OF INDIA (AFI)

**Full name:** Athletics Federation of India

**Estd.:** 1946

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**President:** Bahadur Singh Sagoo (former shot putter; Asian Games 2002 gold medallist; Padma Shri awardee; served in Punjab Armed Police)

**Affiliated to:** World Athletics + Asian Athletics Association (AAA)

**India at World Indoor Athletics:** India's best performances have been in middle-distance events; **Dutee Chand** (100m) and **Hima Das** (400m) have represented India at global athletics events

### India's recent athletics milestones:

**Neeraj Chopra:** Gold at Tokyo 2020 Olympics (javelin throw, 87.58m) — first Indian track & field gold

**Neeraj Chopra:** Silver at Paris 2024 Olympics (javelin throw, 89.45m)

**Parul Chaudhary:** World Athletics Championships 2023 (Budapest) — 3000m steeplechase finalist (11th place); set national record of 9:15.31 and qualified for Paris 2024 Olympics

## GOVERNANCE — WORLD ATHLETICS & IAAF TRANSITION

**World Athletics** rebranded from **IAAF** (International Amateur Athletics Federation, later International Association of Athletics Federations) in **2019**.

**HQ:** Monaco

**President:** Sebastian Coe (UK, since 2015; re-elected 2019, 2023)

**Members:** 214 national federations

Governs athletics across **track and field, road running, cross country, race walking, mountain running, ultra running**

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Host city (Bhubaneswar, Odisha), venue (Kalinga Stadium), dates (March 3–5, 2028), 22nd edition, awarding body (World Athletics Council), AFI President (Bahadur Singh Sagoo), India = 4th Asian host, World Athletics HQ (Monaco), first WIC year (1985, Paris as World Indoor Games).

### MAINS GS2:

Governance — sports infrastructure policy, role of state governments (Odisha model), Khelo India mission, India as a global sporting hub.

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### 2028 WORLD INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Host city: Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Venue: Kalinga Stadium complex

Dates: March 3–5, 2028

Edition: 22nd

Awarded by: World Athletics Council (meeting in Torun, Poland, March 2026)

India's first time hosting; 4th Asian nation (after Japan 1999, Qatar 2010, China 2025)

Events: 26 (13M + 13W); Duration: 3 days; Track: 200m indoor banked

### WORLD ATHLETICS:

Former name: IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations)

Rebranded: 2019

HQ: Monaco

President: Sebastian Coe (since 2015)

First edition: 1985, Paris (as World Indoor Games); renamed World Indoor Championships from 1987 (Indianapolis)

### ATHLETICS FEDERATION OF INDIA (AFI):

Estd.: 1946

HQ: New Delhi

President: Bahadur Singh Sagoo (former shot putter; Asian Games 2002 gold; Padma Shri)

### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Neeraj Chopra: India's first track & field Olympic gold (Tokyo 2020, javelin, 87.58m)

Odisha CM who built Bhubaneswar as sports hub: Naveen Patnaik (BJD, 2000–2024)

Current Odisha CM (2026): Mohan Charan Majhi (BJP, since June 2024) — first Santal tribal CM

Kalinga Stadium previously hosted: Hockey World Cup 2018 and 2023

Previous Asian hosts of World Indoor Athletics: Japan (Maebashi, 1999), Qatar (Doha, 2010), China (Nanjing, 2025)

Khelo India Mission launched: 2018 under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

India's National Sports Policy: 2001 (current policy framework under revision)

Sources: [World Athletics](#), [GKToday](#), [PIB](#)

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