



NEWSLETTER

2026

STRONGER TOGETHER FASTER FORWARD



ONE STROKE. ONE TEAM. ONE NATION.

INDIA TEAM TRAINING AT HAZEWINKEL — BELGIUM

POWERED BY
UNITY

DRIVEN BY
PASSION

FUELED BY
EXCELLENCE



BUILDING
HEALTHIER ATHLETES



EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES



UPHOLDING
INTEGRITY



CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE



BY ROWING FEDERATION OF INDIA



EVENT CALENDAR

CELEBRATING EVERY STROKE.

A look back at the races, camps and milestones that kept our oars moving and our spirit high.



	1	AUG 21 – 23 2025	Khelo India Water Festival Dal Lake, Srinagar
	2	OCT 16 – 19 2025	2025 Asian Rowing Championship Hai Phong, Vietnam
	3	NOV 14 – 18 2025	45th Junior National Rowing Championship Upper Lake, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
	4	DECEMBER 2025	Training in Australia By IIS @ Melbourne
	5	JAN 21 – 31 2026	43rd Senior Rowing National Championship Army Rowing Node, Pune
	6	APRIL 8 – 11 2026	12th All India Indoor Rowing Championship 2026 Cuttack, Odisha
	7	MAY 12 – 17 2026	Asmita Women's League Ramagav Tal Lake, Gorakhpur, UP
	8	FEB 25 – 28 2026	1st Beach Sprint National Rowing Championship India
	9	MAY 2026	NATIIONAL CAMP FOR BEACH SPRINT Andaman
	10	JUNE 4 – 7 2026	2026 Asian Rowing Beach Sprint Championship Pattaya, Thailand
	11	MAY 17 – 21 2026	46th Junior National Rowing Championship 2026 Ramgarh Tal, Gorakhpur, UP
	12	JUNE 2026	Bled International Slovenia Slovenia and Amsterdam - Women's team
	13	JUNE 26 – 28 2026	World Rowing III Lucerne, Switzerland
	14	JUNE 24 – 27 2026	First Junior Nationals & U23 National Rowing Championship 2026 Army Rowing Node, Pune

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we look toward the future, I take immense pride in how far the Rowing Federation of India has come. This progress has been possible because of the dedicated efforts of our previous Presidents, Secretaries, Executive Committees, coaches, athletes, and every individual who has contributed to the growth of Indian rowing. It is now our collective responsibility to build on this strong foundation and take the sport to even greater heights.



Our primary focus is on strengthening grassroots development by expanding rowing opportunities across the country. Alongside increasing the number of rowing centres, we are equally committed to enhancing the quality of coaching through education and sports science.



To achieve this, the **Rowing Federation of India** will soon launch the RFI Level 1 Coaching Certification Programme. The course has been carefully designed with three days of practical coaching and two days of sports science, covering areas such as sports physiology, sports psychology, biomechanics, and sports nutrition. The inaugural programme is planned to be held in Chennai, in collaboration with the renowned Ramachandra Sports Science Centre, providing coaches with valuable scientific knowledge to support athlete development.



I would also like to acknowledge the unwavering support of the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**, whose support continues to play a vital role in the growth of rowing nationwide. Together, we have mapped rowing activities across India and identified key regions for expansion. I extend my sincere gratitude to Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS, Director General of SAI and Secretary Sports, Government of India, for his continued encouragement and commitment to the development of our sport. Thanks to MOW and Brig Sports Sandeep Chahal VSM.



Several new rowing centres are now being established across the country, including Imphal (Manipur), Barapani (Meghalaya), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh), and the iconic Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand, with additional centres currently under consideration. These initiatives represent a significant step towards making rowing more accessible to talented athletes across India. We are also pleased to announce that centres are now added in Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu).



Infrastructure development has also received a major boost. Jagatpur has been equipped with a new fleet of boats and blades, significantly enhancing its training capabilities. Likewise, Andaman has expanded beyond flat water rowing into coastal rowing, with the arrival of coast rowing boats, creating new opportunities for athlete development in the region. The first National Camp for Coast Rowing was conducted at Andaman.



Beyond infrastructure, we are also actively exploring international collaborations. I recently had the privilege of being part of the Indian delegation that met with the New Zealand Minister, where we discussed future cooperation in rowing. We have also initiated productive discussions with the Australian rowing community, exploring opportunities for knowledge exchange and long-term partnerships. We are optimistic that these collaborations will soon translate into meaningful programs that benefit Indian Rowing. Thanks to SAI for these initiatives.



The government of Madhya Pradesh has showed intent to conduct the 2027 Asian Championships.



The journey ahead is exciting. By investing in grassroots development, coach education, modern infrastructure, and international partnerships, we are laying the foundation for the next generation of Indian rowers. Together, let us continue rowing forward—with purpose, passion, and the shared vision of taking Indian rowing to greater national and international success. Jai Hind!



Thanks to Honorable Prime Minister of India **Sri Narendra Modi**, for increasing the funding to ₹36,441 crores + a major chunk of CSR funds to be allocated for sports from Public sector Undertakings.



Balaji Maradapa
President
Rowing Federation of India



STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

Expanding rowing opportunities and building grassroots talent.



BETTER COACHING

RFI Level 1 Coaching Certification Programme with sports science integration.



GLOBAL VISION

International collaborations and world-class partnerships for future success.

Inauguration of IIS (Women Training) and Collaboration



IIS has inaugurated (Women Training) Program, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to improve women rowing through skill development, education, and capacity building. The initiative is designed to equip women with practical knowledge, technical skills, and confidence, enabling them to pursue meaningful opportunities and to win Laurels for the country. The president of RFI was present for the inauguration.



A noteworthy feature of the IIS initiative is its growing international presence. The IIS Women Training Program has also been successfully conducted in Australia, extending its reach beyond national boundaries and creating opportunities for women to benefit from globally relevant training and cross-cultural learning experiences. This international event offers high-quality exposure and empowering women on a global platform.



The event also celebrated a new collaboration with partner organizations to showcase the commitment to promoting excellence in training, innovation, and community development. This partnership will facilitate knowledge sharing, resource exchange, and the implementation of high-quality training programs that address the evolving needs of women Rowers



The event concluded on a positive note, reinforcing RFI's dedication to creating opportunities for women and fostering collaborations that drive sustainable growth and social impact. The IIS (Women Training) Program stands as another step toward building high-skilled, confident, and empowered community through education, innovation, and global partnerships.



The inauguration ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, industry experts, faculty members, and participants. The JSW family along with several international delegates were present.



Inaugurated by Manisha Malhotra (President of IIS) in the presence of Gary Hall (Director of IIS) and Balaji Mardapa, (the President of Rowing Federation of India).



INDIAN ROWERS SHINE AT BLED INTERNATIONAL REGATTA BLED IN SLOVENIA & AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS



The Indian Women contingent delivered an encouraging performance at the **Bled International Regatta**, one of Europe's most prestigious rowing competitions. Competing against strong international crews from across Europe and other rowing nations, Indian athletes demonstrated determination, technical skill, and growth competitiveness on the global stage.



The highlight of the campaign came from the women's events, where our girls secured **Silver and a gold medals** in the **Women's Double Sculls**, **Broze in Coxless 4** and **Gold** in the **Junior Women's Single Sculls in Holland Beker, Regatta, Bosbaan, Netherlands** underlining the steady progress of Indian women rowers in international competition. The regatta also provided valuable racing experience for several young athletes who competed in senior and junior categories against highly experienced international opponents.



Beyond the medal finishes, Indian crews registered strong performances across multiple events, advancing closely with established rowing programs. The exposure to high-level international racing conditions at Lake Bled will play a crucial role in the preparation of athletes for upcoming continental and world-level competitions.



The **Rowing Federation of India** congratulates all athletes, coaches, and support staff for their efforts and commitment. The result from Bled reflect the positive momentum of Indian rowing and reinforce the federation's vision of building a stronger presence in international rowing arenas.



With promising performances in **Slovenia and** , the Indian team has taken another confident step toward achieving greater success at future international championships.



GOLD & BRONZE MEDALS
Women's Double Sculls &
Women's Single Sculls



GLOBAL EXPOSURE
Competed against strong
international crews in Europe
and beyond



**STEPPING TOWARDS
GREATER SUCCESS**
Building a stronger presence
in international rowing arenas

Empowering Excellence:

A Landmark Year for Women's Rowing



The 2025-2026 season has been a defining chapter for women's rowing in India. Through exceptional performances at national and international competitions, Indian women rowers have demonstrated resilience, determination, and sporting excellence, further strengthening the nation's presence on the global rowing stage. They returned with a creditable performance at World Cup 3 with our women pair finishing 3rd best timing amongst Asian Countries only behind China and Japan. The time difference only being 0.29 second.



Asian Rowing Cup – Korea



India's women rowers delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Rowing Cup in Korea, securing **two bronze medals** and once again proving their ability to compete with the best in Asia.



Their achievement reflects the growing standard of women's rowing in the country and the effectiveness of the **high-performance training programmes** supported by the IIS and Rowing Federation of India.



The medals stand as a testament to the **dedication, discipline, and perseverance** of the athletes, coaches, and support staff who continue to raise the bar for Indian rowing.



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Bronze Medals
Asian Rowing Cup – Korea



Stronger Together

Athletes, Coaches & Support Staff



Rising Standards

Building a Stronger Future for Indian Rowing

KHELO INDIA WATER FESTIVAL - SRINAGAR



The Khelo India ASMITA Festival held in Srinagar emerged as a significant platform for encouraging greater participation of women in rowing. Thanks to Khelo India Program Initiated by The Sports Ministry, Government of India.



The event brought together talented athletes across the country, providing them with an opportunity to compete, learn, and showcase their abilities.



Beyond competition, the festival celebrated women's empowerment through sport and reinforced RFI's commitment to developing the next generation of female rowers.



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VISIT OF THE ASIAN ROWING FEDERATION DELIGATES



The secretary General of Asian Rowing federation Mr. Liu Dehai, China and Technical Director Mr.Kay, Korea visited the Army Rowing Node to assess the facilities for the conduct of the Asian U-19 and U-23 Championships at ARN, in December 2026, Pune.



Col.Ramakrishnan took them on a guided tour and presented on the infrastructure to the delegates.They were very happy with the infrastructure and after assessment of the venue, they have given a go ahead for the conduct of the Asian U-19 and U-23 Championships at ARN, Pune.

Happy to inform that the Rowing Federation of India has got a NOC from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to conduct the championship.



Festival Platform

Encouraging Women's Participation



Empowerment

Strength Through Sport



Global Presence

Rising Strong on the International Stage



Stronger Future

Inspiring the Next Generation



PRIME MINISTERS' MUSEUM, NEW DELHI

Rowing Finds Its Place in the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya



It is a proud moment for the Indian Rowing fraternity to find its memoranda in the prestigious Prime Ministers' Museum (Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya), New Delhi. It was presented to our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi by our medal winning athletes of the previous Asian Games.



The museum showcases significant artefacts that reflect the nation's sporting journey and inspire future generations.



The display features memorabilia associated with India's rowing achievements, highlighting the sport's steady rise on the international stage.



The inclusion of rowing in this distinguished collection is a matter of immense pride for the Rowing Federation of India and the entire nation. Founded in the 1960s, the Rowing Federation was founded by the dedication of Indian rowers, coaches, and support staff who have consistently contributed to the growth of the sport.



This honour reinforces rowing's place among India's emerging high-performance sports and serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes.



As visitors from across the country explore the Prime Ministers' Museum, the presence of rowing in this national collection celebrates the sport's journey and its contribution to India's sporting legacy.

Indian team at World Rowing Cup 3



Indian rowing proudly took its place among the world's best at the World Rowing Cup 3 2026 in Lucerne, Switzerland, delivering a strong and memorable performance on the international stage.



Representing India with determination and pride, the Indian team demonstrated strength, discipline, teamwork and competitive spirit, showcasing the growing standards of Indian rowing at one of the sport's premier international events.



For RFI, being part of the World Rowing Cup is itself an important milestone. Every race, every stroke and every challenge faced at this level contributes to the development of Indian rowing and strengthens our pathway towards future international competitions.



The competition provided a valuable opportunity for the Indian contingent to compete alongside leading rowing nations and gain crucial international experience. The team's performance reflects the commitment of our athletes, coaches, support staff and the Rowing Federation of India towards building a stronger and more competitive national programme.



The journey continues—with greater experience, greater ambition and a clear vision for the future. India is proud to be at the World Rowing Cup. The team has done a great job, carrying the Tricolour with pride and representing India on the world stage.

Venue: Rotsee – “Lake of Gods”, Lucerne, Switzerland

Event: World Rowing Cup 2026

Coach: Antony Paterson

Rowing Federation of India

Proudly Rowing forward for India.

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS ON THE COAST

1ST NATIONAL BEACH ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP GOA 2025-26



The **1st National Beach Sprint Rowing Championship 2025-26**, held in February, marked a significant milestone in the journey of Indian rowing. As the nation's inaugural championship dedicated to Beach Sprint Rowing, the event introduced a dynamic and fast-paced format that is rapidly gaining popularity across the world.



Athletes from various state associations and institutional teams came together to compete in this exciting discipline, which combines a beach sprint, a high-intensity rowing course, and a final run to the finish. The championship witnessed remarkable achievements during the competition, the championship provided valuable exposure to athletes, coaches, and officials, helping to build a strong foundation for future national and international participation.



The successful conduct of the event reflects the growing interest in coastal rowing in India and aligns with the global expansion of Beach Sprint Rowing as an emerging international venue. Beyond the competition, the championship provided valuable exposure to athletes, coaches, and officials, helping to build a strong foundation for future national and international participation.



The **Rowing Federation of India** congratulates all medal winners, participants, officials, and organizers for making this historic championship a memorable success. Their collective efforts have paved the way for the development of Beach Sprint Rowing in the country, which has become one of the Indian rowers to excel on the global stage.



With the successful completion of the first edition, the championship has set the course for an exciting future, inspiring a new generation of athletes to embrace the challenge of rowing beyond traditional waters.



INNOVATIVE FORMAT

A unique blend of beach sprint, rowing, and a final run.



NATIONAL MILESTONE

India's first-ever championship dedicated to Beach Sprint Rowing.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

Laying the foundation for global success and inspiring new talent.

A DAY WITH OUR ATHLETES: RFI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS THE NATIONAL ROWING TEAM IN PUNE



In a first-of-its-kind initiative for an Indian sports federation, the Rowing Federation of India (RFI) Executive Committee spent an entire day alongside its athletes at the Army Rowing Node, Pune, experiencing their training, preparation and daily routine firsthand.



The day began at the Training Centre, where the Executive Committee observed the athletes' morning training and shared breakfast with them. Rather than limiting their interaction to meetings and formal discussions, the members spent the day understanding what life looks like for athletes beyond competition.



The athletes then moved into their afternoon training programme, including gym and strength-conditioning sessions. The committee also attended a presentation and training session led by Coach Gurudharshan and the Commanding Officer of the Army Rowing Node, Colonel Ramakrishnan.



The visit also highlighted the multidisciplinary support system behind high-performance rowing. Sports psychologists, nutritionists, biomechanical experts and yoga and wellness practices form an important part of the athletes' preparation, alongside training and recovery.



In the evening, the Executive Committee observed the Indian team's training session before concluding the day with an Executive Committee meeting. From breakfast through training, interaction, observation and finally dinner, the initiative created an opportunity for the federation's leadership to experience the athletes' world from the ground up.



BUILDING TOWARDS THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ASIAN GAMES

The visit comes at an important stage in India's high-performance rowing journey. RFI is working towards establishing a training programme in Belgium, where Indian rowers will prepare alongside the national teams of Belgium, Germany and Canada.

The initiative is part of a broader high-performance strategy focused on creating stronger international exposure, raising training standards and preparing the Indian team for major targets ahead—including the World Championships and the Asian Games.



ONE DAY. ONE TEAM. ONE PURPOSE — BUILDING INDIAN ROWING FOR THE WORLD STAGE.



ATHLETE-CENTRIC APPROACH

Understanding. Observing.
Supporting.



HIGH-PERFORMANCE FOCUS

Strength, science, support —
built for champions.



GLOBAL PREPARATION

Belgium training programme
with world-class partners.

A NEW CHAPTER IN INDIAN ROWING UMPIRING



FISA/WORLD ROWING UMPIRES EXAMINATION RETURNS TO INDIA

For the first time in nearly two decades, the Rowing Federation of India successfully conducted the FISA/World Rowing Umpires Examination in India, marking an important milestone in the development of officiating standards in the country.



The examination was conducted with the presence and guidance of Nick Hunter from the FISA Umpiring Commission, bringing international expertise and standards to Indian rowing. The RFI President also attended and felicitated the officials involved in the examination.



A key part of this achievement was the dedicated preparation undertaken by the Umpires Commission, under the leadership of Naren Kothari, Chair of the Umpires Commission. The commission and its team conducted online preparation classes for umpires, helping candidates strengthen their knowledge and confidently prepare for the international examination.



A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR WOMEN IN OFFICIATING

The examination also marked a significant milestone for gender representation in Indian rowing officiating. After nearly decades, two women umpires have successfully qualified, opening a new chapter for women in rowing officiating and creating greater opportunities for future generations.



This achievement reflects RFI's continued commitment to developing qualified officials, strengthening technical standards and creating pathways for Indian umpires to participate at the international level.



MR AZHAR, MR NICK HUNTER, MS SHAMBAVI KOTHARI & MS NEHA BAVISKAR



A MILESTONE AFTER TWO DECADES. A BREAKTHROUGH AFTER THIRTY YEARS. A STRONGER FUTURE FOR INDIAN ROWING.

This landmark achievement strengthens India's officiating ecosystem and reinforces our commitment to excellence, inclusivity and international recognition.



BUILDING OFFICIATING EXCELLENCE
Investing in training, education and global standards.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION
Creating opportunities for women and young officials.



GLOBAL PATHWAYS
Preparing Indian umpires for international arenas.

A NEW ERA OF INDOOR ROWING BEGINS

1ST ALL INDIA INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP CUTTAK, ODISSA



The **1st** All India Indoor Rowing Championship, held at Cuttak, Odissa. It was a grand success. Brig (retd) KP Singh Deo, Former President of Rowing Federation Of India was the guest of honour at the closing ceremony along with around 300 participants participated at the championships



Sri Veenil Krishnan, IAS, Joint Secretary of Union Sports Department, graced the occasion.



The championship highlighted the growing popularity of indoor rowing as both a performance benchmark and a training tool for rowers. It also served as an important opportunity for coaches and team management to refine their technical preparedness and identify emerging talent for future national and international events. Some of these Rowers were new to the sport and was never sat on a boat which makes it good pathway for the tapping new talent who can be inducted into the sport of Rowing.



With enthusiastic participation and impressive performances across categories, the 1st All India Indoor Rowing Championship has laid a strong foundation for the growth of indoor rowing. This competition is designed to become an important fixture in the national rowing calendar.



INDOOR EXCELLENCE

A platform that tests endurance, power, technique, and consistency.



NATIONAL PLATFORM

Rowers from across India competing with passion and sportsmanship.



A TOOL TO BUILD GRASSROOT ROWING

Strengthening indoor rowing for a stronger tomorrow.

NATIONAL COASTAL ROWING COASTAL ROWING CAMP – SAI ANDAMAN



The Coastal Rowing Camp at **SAI, Andaman** marks an important step in development of coastal rowing. Conducted amidst the unique maritime environment of the Andaman Islands, the camp brought together medal winners of first coastal rowing championship which was held in Goa.



The camp emphasized essential aspects of coastal rowing, including open-water handling, navigation techniques, beach starts and finishes, endurance training, and race strategy. Athletes had the opportunity to train in challenging sea conditions, helping them develop adaptability, confidence, and technical proficiency required for national and international competitions.



Beyond physical preparation, the camp also served as a learning experience to the coaches and the federation as this was the first ever national camp held to prepare the India team for the **Asian Beach Sprints Championship** that was held in Pattaya, Thailand.



The **Rowing Federation of India** acknowledges the support of the Sports Authority of India, coaches, officials, the Andaman Rowing Association and local organizers whose efforts contributed to the successful conduct of the camp.



With Beach Sprint Rowing set to make its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, RFI has already taken the first steps towards this historic opportunity, with the Olympics firmly in our vision and our journey towards LA 2028 underway.



SILVER MEDAL AT PATTAYA



OPEN WATER EXPERIENCE

Training in real sea conditions builds strength and confidence.



SKILL, STRATEGY, SUCCESS.

Mastering techniques for race-day excellence.



STRONGER TODAY, CHAMPIONS TOMORROW.

Building the future of coastal rowing in India.

OUR COMMISSIONS



The Rowing Federation of India is guided by a team of experienced and dedicated professionals across key commissions.



MEDICAL COMMISSION

- 1 Dr. Rehan M Sayeed**
Chair – National Medalist and Interventional Cardiologist
- 2 Dr. Burhan B Bazaz**
- 3 Dr. Laganjith Dash**
- 4 Dr. Arumugam S**
Sports Medicine and Arthroscopic Medicine Surgeon



WOMEN'S COMMISSION

- 1 Shakunthala Chanda**
Chair – National
- 2 Suravi Mitra**
National Medalist



ATHLETES COMMISSION

- 1 Manjeet Singh**
Chair
Olympian Asian Games Medalist
- 2 Rohith Maradapa**
Asian Games Athlete,
Asian Medalist - IOC Young Leader
- 3 Ms Manasa SM**
India Color, Beach Sprints.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1 Chiranjit Phukan**
Treasurer
- 2 Nababuddin Ahmed**



THESE ARE THREE OF THE SEVEN COMMISSIONS OF THE ROWING FEDERATION OF INDIA.
THE MEMBERS OF THE REMAINING COMMISSIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.



SHAPING CHAMPIONS

ON WATER & IN LIFE

Building character, commitment
and excellence through
education, discipline
and the sport of rowing.



EXCELLENCE



STRONGER



FOCUSED



DRIVEN

