



THE KOHIMA DECLARATION

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Athletics Federation of India, Kohima, Nagaland | 15th April 2026

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI), at its Annual General Meeting convened in 2026 in the historic city of Kohima, hereby records with pride and purpose this landmark occasion-the first instance of a National Sports Federation of India holding its Annual General Meeting in the State of Nagaland.

This momentous gathering assumes deeper significance as it is hosted in a city that occupies a distinguished place in world history, having stood as a defining theatre during the Battle of Kohima - a turning point in the course of the Second World War and a symbol of resilience, courage and the triumph of human spirit.

Acknowledgment

The AFI places on record its profound appreciation to the Government of Nagaland and the People of Nagaland for their exemplary hospitality, meticulous organisation and unwavering support, which have contributed to the resounding success of this Assembly.

Declaration of Commitment

Through this Declaration, the AFI solemnly affirms its enduring commitment to:

- **The Advancement of Athletics in India**
To promote, develop and elevate the sport of athletics across all regions of the nation through structured, inclusive and forward-looking initiatives.
- **National Integration through Sport**
To harness the unifying power of athletics as a force for national cohesion, mutual respect and shared identity, transcending geographical, cultural and social boundaries.
- **Empowerment of Youth and Talent Development**
To create pathways, platforms and opportunities that enable young athletes of India to realise their fullest potential and compete with distinction at national and international levels.
- **Adherence to Olympic Ideals**
To uphold and embody the timeless values of the Olympic Movement-Citius, Altius, Fortius - Communiter (Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together)-as guiding principles in all endeavours.



Strategic Focus on the North Eastern Region

Recognising the extraordinary reservoir of talent within Nagaland and the wider North Eastern region, the AFI hereby resolves to:

- Undertake focused and strategic interventions for the development of athletics in the region;
- Strengthen institutional collaboration with State Governments, State Athletics Associations and allied stakeholders;
- Facilitate infrastructure development, capacity building and high-performance pathways to nurture emerging talent;
- Promote the region as a vibrant hub of athletic excellence by organizing more national and international competitions and bring the region into the national sporting ecosystem.

A Historic Resolve

In adopting this Declaration in Kohima, the AFI not only marks a significant milestone in its institutional journey but also reaffirms its vision of a truly inclusive and nationally integrated sporting framework - one that recognises and celebrates the diversity, strength and potential of every region of India.

Adopted and proclaimed by the Annual General Meeting of the Athletics Federation of India on this 15th day of April, 2026 in Kohima, Nagaland, India.

Signatories

Dr. Lalit K. Bhanot

President, South Asian Athletics Federation & Chairman, AFI Planning Committee

Mr. Bahadur Singh Sagoo

President, Athletics Federation of India

Dr. Adille J. Sumariwalla

Vice President, World Athletics

Mr. Abu Metha

President, Nagaland Athletics & Vice President, Athletics Federation of India