Reliance Foundation

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# SPORTS

## NAUPANG LEAGUE WINS AFC BEST GRASSROOTS COMPETITION AWARD




**RFYS**
EXPANDING ACCESS TO COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL

**RFYC**
Developing Talent, Creating Pathways

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# NAUPANG LEAGUE WINS AFC BEST GRASSROOTS COMPETITION AWARD

The Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) Naupang League in Mizoram has been named the Best Grassroots Competition at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Special Grassroots and Elite Youth Football Awards 2026, with the awards ceremony scheduled to take place in December 2026. The recognition acknowledges the programme's contribution to strengthening grassroots football through sustained player participation, structured competition and investment in local football development.

This recognition reflects the long-term vision of Reliance Foundation and its Founder-Chairperson, Mrs Nita M. Ambani, to build a sporting ecosystem where every child in India has the opportunity to participate, learn and excel through sport.

The recognition celebrates the collective efforts of young players, coaches, referees, the Mizoram Football Association and local communities in building a vibrant grassroots football ecosystem. Through Naupang and Mini Mizo, Reliance Foundation continues to strengthen the foundations of the sport and create opportunities for the next generation of footballers













# RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE SEASON 6 IS UNDERWAY!

Season 6 of the RFDL kicked off in Mumbai on 24 October 2026, with matches rolling out across nine hotspot regions in phases.

RFDL provides a competitive platform for Under-21 players aspiring to progress to senior club and national-team football. A total of 54 youth teams, including Bengaluru FC, FC Goa, Punjab FC and Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC), will compete through nine regional qualifiers, followed by the zonal and national stages, culminating in an expanded National Championship.

The pathway is already delivering results. More than 250 players who have featured in RFDL have gone on to compete in the ISL, IFL, I-League 2 and I-League 3. In September 2026, India qualified for the AFC U20 Asian Cup for the first time in 20 years, with 22 members of the 23-player squad having featured in RFDL.

# RELIANCE FOUNDATION YOUTH SPORTS: EXPANDING ACCESS TO COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL



Entering its ninth season, RFYS provides structured football competitions for young players, with opportunities for both boys and girls across age groups. More than 500 teams will compete across 11 centres in six categories: U-14, U-16 and U-18 for boys and girls. More than 2,220 matches are planned for the season, which begins in Shillong on 28 October 2026, with other centres launching in phases through November and December.

By providing regular match exposure and structured competition, RFYS helps young players develop their skills, build confidence and progress through the football development pathway.



## RFYS U8-U12: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

The RFYS Football Championship for U-8, U-10 and U-12 continues to gather momentum, with leagues spanning 13 centres across India, of which 9 are already active. Since its launch in late August 2026, the competition has recorded over 1648 matches, providing young footballers with regular game time and valuable competitive experience.

From established footballing hubs to emerging regions, RFYS is creating more opportunities for children to play, learn and grow through football. As the league expands to more centres and matchdays unfold, it continues to strengthen the grassroots football ecosystem and nurture the next generation of Indian football talent.



# RELIANCE FOUNDATION YOUNG CHAMPS: DEVELOPING TALENT, CREATING PATHWAYS

RFYC continues to strengthen its grassroots football ecosystem in Mizoram with the introduction of the Tleirawl League, an U16 across the four districts (Aizawl,Champhai, Kolasib and Lunglei). Building on the foundation of the RFYC Naupang League, this initiative extends structured competitive opportunities to older age groups, ensuring young footballers have continued access to regular matches as they progress through their developmental years. The league represents another step towards creating a more comprehensive grassroots pathway, allowing players to remain engaged in competitive football beyond the younger age categories.

Meanwhile, with the Indian Super League season underway, over 17 RFYC graduates are expected to feature across clubs in India's top flight, reflecting the academy's growing contribution to professional football and the continued progression of Young Champs beyond their academy years.



# OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIP: FUELLING DREAMS, BUILDING CHAMPIONS




**Senior World Championships 2026, Astana Kazakhstan (24 October - 1 November 2026) - Wrestling**

Silver - Neelam (Women's Wrestling 50kg)

**U23 World Wrestling Championships 2026, USA (12 - 18 October 2026) - Wrestling**

Bronze - Jaskaran Singh (FS 65kg)
Bronze - Chandermohan (FS 79kg)

**U19 World Boxing Championships 2026, Astana, Kazakhstan (14-28 October2026 ) - Boxing**

Gold - Aditya (55kg)



**Indonesia Masters 2026 (20-25 October 2026) - Badminton**

Bronze - Rounak Chouhan (Men's Singles)

**46th Junior National Archery Championship 2026, Jaipur (21-28 October 2026) - Archery**

Gold - Goldi Mishra (Recurve Men)

**RF Athletes Selected for Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games (31 October - 13 November 2026)**

Gatha Anandrao Khadake (Archery - Recurve Women)

Gunjan (Boxing - Women's 48kg)

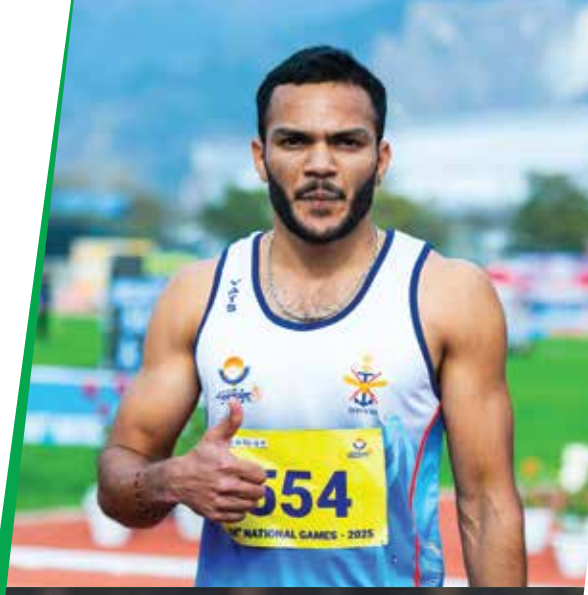
Ambekar Meetei (Boxing - Men's 50kg)

Anuj (Beach Wrestling - Men's 70kg)

# RF ATHLETICS: FROM THE TRACK TO THE PODIUM

**RF Athletes at 65th National Open Athletics Championships**

RF athletes secured 17 medals at the Open Nationals 2026, comprising 9 Gold, 7 Silver and 1 Bronze across track and field events. The campaign also featured one new meet record, achieved by Anushka Yadav in the Hammer Throw.





Gold- Shivaji Parashuram Madappagoudra – 10,000m (30:30.54s)

Gold - Manikanta H – 100m (10.25s)

Gold - Moumita Mondal – 100m Hurdles (13.48s)

Gold - Baranica Elagovan – Pole Vault (4.10m)

Gold - Anushka Yadav – Hammer Throw (66.53m, New Meet Record)

Gold - Sonia Baishya – 4×400m Mixed Relay (Railways) (3:21.60s)





Gold - Murad Kalubhai Sirman – 400m Hurdles (49.86s, Personal Best)

Gold - Jishnu Prasad PK – 200m (20.62s, New Meet Record)

Gold - Lili Das – 800m (2:05.4)

Silver - Reegan Ganeshan – Pole Vault (5.25m)

Silver - Lalu Prasad Bhoi – 100m (10.43s)

Silver - Lili Das – 1500m (4:19.05)

Silver - Shivaji Parashuram Madappagoudra – 5000m (14:02.81s)

Silver - Anand Singh – Javelin Throw (77.77m)

Silver - Sarun Payasingh – Long Jump (7.79m)

Silver - Astik Pradhan – 4×400m Relay (3:06.59s)

Bronze - Manav Rajanarayanan – 110m Hurdles (13.97s)






## RF Athletes at the 6th Indian U23 Athletics Competition

RF athletes secured 13 medals at the 6th Indian U23 Athletics Competition, comprising 4 Gold, 6 Silver and 3 Bronze medals across track and field events.The competition also saw two meet records, while Unnathi Ayyapa was recognised as Best Athlete – Women, scoring 1,068 points.

Gold - Unnathi Ayyapa – Women's 100m (11.62s)

Gold - Bharatpreet Singh – Men's Discus Throw (54.70m)

Gold - Sabita Toppo – Women's 100m Hurdles (13.66s)

Gold - Mary Mukta – Women's Triple Jump (12.57m)

Silver - Sandeep Vinodkumar Gond – Men's 110m Hurdles (14.18s)

Silver - Atul – Men's Shot Put (17.34m)







Silver - Aditya – Men's Javelin Throw (75.48m)

Silver - D M Jayaram – Men's 200m (21.04s)

Silver - Laxmipriya – Women's 800m (2:08.34)

Silver - Susmita Tigga – Women's 3000m Steeplechase (10:36.08s)

Bronze - D M Jayaram – Men's 100m (10.46s)

Bronze - Astik Pradhan – Men's 400m (46.52s)

Bronze - Sakshi Chavan – Women's 200m (24.11s)

**Meet Records**

Unnathi Ayyapa – Women's 100m Semifinals (11.55s)

Bharatpreet Singh – Men's Discus Throw (54.70m)

**RF Athletes at the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships 2026**

RF athletes secured 13 medals — 8 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze at the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships 2026, across the Under - 18 and Under - 20 categories.



Gold - Neil Samraj R – Men's U18 100m (10.45s; **equalled National Record and set Meet Record**)

Gold - Neil Samraj R – Men's U18 200m (21.03s; **National Record**)



Gold - Abinaya Rajarajan – Women's U20 100m (11.49s; **National Record**)

Gold - Chiranth P – Men's U20 100m (10.46s; Meet Record)

Gold - Savin Thingalaya – Men's U20 200m (21.26s)



Gold - Devansh Jagga – Men's U20 Discus Throw (55.35m)

Gold - Fasalul Haque – Men's U20 110m Hurdles (13.69s)

Gold - Oshin – Women's U18 Discus Throw (43.81m)

Silver- Nived Krishna – Men's U18 100m (10.67s)
Silver- Adhithya Aji – Women's U20 100m Hurdles (14.24s)



Silver - Surya P – Men's U20 110m Hurdles (13.84s)
Bronze - Usman Ali Khan – Men's U20 Discus Throw (53.74m)

Bronze - Kiran K – Men's U20 110m Hurdles (13.85s)

**Individual Recognitions**

Best Athlete – Men U18: Neil Samraj R

Best Athlete – Women U20: Abinaya Rajarajan

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

31 October
13 November 2026

**Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games**

16 - 21 November
2026 - Table Tennis

**WTT Star Contender Muscat 2026**

# IN MEMORIAM

Honouring the lives, journeys and lasting contributions of our athletes to sport. Their legacy will continue to inspire us.

