# Summer Youth Olympic Games 2026 in Dakar, Senegal (31 Oct – 13 Nov) – the first Olympic event held in Africa

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## News

The 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG), 'Dakar 2026', opened on 31 Oct 2026 at the Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Diamniadio, Senegal, and run till 13 Nov across three zones – Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly. It is the first Olympic (IOC) event ever held on the African continent. About 2,700 athletes (aged up to 17) compete in 25 sports and 153 events. Wushu, Baseball5 and skateboarding make their Youth Olympic debut; breaking returns after Buenos Aires 2018. Mascot: 'Ayo' ('joy' in Yoruba); motto: 'Africa Welcomes, Dakar Celebrates'. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) named a 17-member Indian team in 11 sports on 26 Oct.

## Key facts

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| **Edition** | 4th Summer YOG; 31 Oct – 13 Nov 2026 (14 days) |
| **Venues** | Dakar, Diamniadio, Saly (Senegal); opening at Abdoulaye Wade Stadium |
| **Scale** | ≈ 2,700 athletes, 25 sports, 153 events |
| **Mascot / motto** | 'Ayo' (joy); 'Africa Welcomes, Dakar Celebrates' |
| **India** | 17 athletes, 11 sports (IOA, 26 Oct); IOA President P.T. Usha |

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| **Postponement** | Originally set for 2022; moved to 2026 in 2020 after the COVID-linked delay of the Tokyo Olympics |

## Background

- YOG history: the event for 15–18-year-olds was approved at the IOC's 119th Session (Guatemala City, 6 July 2007) and announced by IOC President Jacques Rogge. Summer: 2010 Singapore (first), 2014 Nanjing (China), 2018 Buenos Aires (Argentina), 2026 Dakar. Winter: 2012 Innsbruck (Austria – first), 2016 Lillehammer, 2020 Lausanne, 2024 Gangwon (South Korea); 2028 Dolomiti–Valtellina, Italy.
- India and the YOG: at Buenos Aires 2018 India won 13 medals (3 gold, 9 silver, 1 bronze) – its best. Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga (Mizoram, 62 kg) won India's first-ever YOG gold; Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary (10 m air pistol) won the others. Manu Bhaker and Jeremy were the flag-bearers.
- Geography: Senegal is a West African country with its capital Dakar on the Atlantic 'Cap-Vert' peninsula. Dakar's Pointe des Almadies is the westernmost point of mainland Africa. A former French colony, it became independent in 1960; its first President was the poet Léopold Sédar Senghor. Present President Bassirou Diomaye Faye is the official opener of the Games.

**Tamil Nadu link:** India's national youth meet, the 6th 'Khelo India Youth Games' (KIYG 2023), was held in Tamil Nadu – Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore – on 19–31 Jan 2024; its mascot 'Veera Mangai' honoured Rani Velu Nachiyar, and Silambam was a demonstration sport.


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