



India's 1st Gold at Speed Skating World Championships

Why in News?

Anandkumar Velkumar made history by becoming India's **first-ever World Champion** in skating, winning Gold in the **Senior Men's 1000m Sprint** at the Speed Skating World Championships 2025.

Key Points

- **About:** The Speed Skating World Championships is being held from 13th to 21st September 2025 in Beidaihe, China, where Anandkumar Velkumar **won gold** with a time of 1:24.924.
- **Additional Medals:** Velkumar also **earned a Bronze** in the 500m Sprint event, marking **India's first-ever senior world championship medal** in speed skating.
- **Junior Competition Success:** The championships also saw **Krish Sharma** winning **Gold in the Junior Men's 1000m Sprint**, contributing to India's outstanding performance.



Speed Skating World Championships

- **About:** Since 1891, the ISU Speed Skating World Championships have been the sport's premier event, alternating between Single Distances and Allround & Sprint formats.
- **Single Distances Format (introduced in 1996):** Held in pre- and post-Olympic years, skaters compete for **16 World titles**, including Men's 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m and 10,000m, Women's 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 3000m and 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit, and Team Sprint.

- **Allround Format:** The Allround format, a cornerstone of Speed Skating tradition, has been contested by men since 1891 and women since 1936.
- **Sprint Format:** Introduced in 1970, the Sprint Champion event tests speed and precision, with skaters racing the 500m and 1000m twice, and the combined results of these sprints determine the champion.

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