

# O-Connect

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## O-Hi!

We welcome you all to “O-Connect” our quarterly newsletter to share more about the sport, highlight the development, events, clubs and achievements of our own Indian Orienteers at national and international platforms. Do read and share your thoughts with us. Team has worked hard to curate something that you all will be proud off. Join us on next event or a meet-up and learn more about this “Thinking Sport”.

## O Clubs India: Expanding the Orienteering Community Across Cities

**Find your O-FAMILY now!**

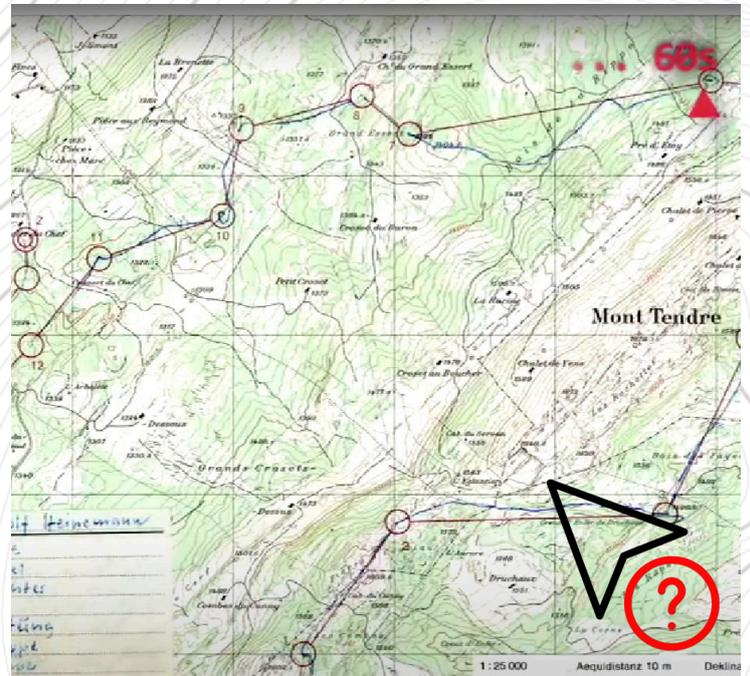
NthAdventure launched the year with introduction of orienteering clubs across different cities of the country, laying the foundation for a strong, connected national orienteering ecosystem. With ambassadors stepping forward from different cities, this initiative aims to take the sport to communities across India, making orienteering accessible, inclusive, and sustainable, while shaping a strong future for the sport through community-led growth.

## Did you know?

Orienteering began in Scandinavia in the **late 19th century** as a military navigation exercise before becoming a competitive sport.

Orienteering is part of **THE WORLD GAMES** recognised by International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Orienteering is a sport played by age groups ranging from just **7 years to 100+ years** under different categories globally.



# Driving the “O” Sport

NOC conducted **India’s FIRST EVER Mall Maze Orienteering** event on **January 18, 2026**, transforming the mall into a dynamic orienteering arena for an entire day. The event was open to all ages and included 7 categories from kids to Elite along with team of two & relay. The course planner designed multiple courses on separate maps, with varying levels of technical and navigational complexity to suit every competition category.

For many, this was their first introduction to orienteering, and the maze format proved to be the perfect gateway, compact, engaging, and visually intriguing. The Elite athletes’ showdown in the evening became a true showstopper, drawing the full attention of the mall crowd. Spectators gathered along the corridors, cheering passionately, turning the competition into a high-energy face off that brought the sport of orienteering to life.

Designed to be inclusive and engaging, the event allowed participants to take turns running the maze, collecting checkpoints, and experiencing the fundamentals of orienteering firsthand. The Mall Maze Orienteering event had not only delivered thrilling competition but also sparked curiosity, conversation, and excitement around orienteering.



## From tiny Kids to Elite athletes,

Everyone walked into the maze thinking one thing: **“This looks easy.”**

Everyone walked out saying: **“That was harder than I thought!”**

That’s the beauty of orienteering. It challenges your mind. It tests your decisions. It teaches you to slow down, think, and then move smartly. So next time you see a maze map... Don’t judge it. Step in. Try it. Give your best. Because in Maze Orienteering, the real race is happening inside your head.



# Team India in International Races

## Jakarta International Orienteering Championship 25 - 26 Oct 2025

We are proud to share that 7 Athletes from NthAdventure Orienteering Club (NOC) represented India in this World Ranking Event gaining significant ranking points.

This championship is an international-scale orienteering event that has been included in the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) World Ranking Event (WRE) calendar. While athletes from many countries benefit from structured training systems in schools and universities, and specialised coaching at dedicated training centres, Indian orienteers approached the event with a strong focus on learning through performance.



The competition served both as a test of skill and an opportunity for growth, allowing Indian athletes to measure themselves against international benchmarks, adapt to elite-level race conditions, and refine their technical and physical capabilities.

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**Manoj Sundaram**  
Fitness Coach

"I'm Manoj Sundaram, a fitness coach from Bangalore, India. This was my first international Orienteering event in Jakarta. I really enjoyed it. It was a two-day event. Day one I really sucked. Day two, there was a lot of learning. Orienteering is a totally different sport and most of us don't know what it is. This is my first time being introduced to the sport. It's not always about winning and losing. The sport is about inclusivity. If there's nobody participating, there can be no winners and losers. So I think more people should participate. And there is a lot of scope. I saw a lot of young athletes. Youth in India has lot of potential to compete and be in the top five if trained properly."



# Driving the O-Clubs

## BLR East O-Club



Bengaluru East Orienteering Club introduced the sport of Orienteering to the residents of East Bengaluru by hosting its very first event within a residential apartment complex. What is usually a familiar everyday space was transformed into an exciting navigation arena, where narrow alleys, gardens, playgrounds, stairways, and open courtyards became part of a thoughtfully designed Orienteering course.

Curiosity quickly turned into excitement as children and adults paced from one control to another, proudly collecting checkpoints, clocking impressive times while learning the basics of map reading on the move. The event not only made Orienteering accessible to beginners of all ages but also demonstrated how the sport can thrive even in urban environments.

- Rahul Verma (BLR East O-Club Ambassador)

## Manipal O-Club

The Manipal O club hosted their first community meet up on 24th January. It marked the official kickstart of the NOC's Manipal Orienteering chapter. Our very own Ajita ma'am, one of the very few women orienteering athletes in India along with Dr. Shobha the First Gold Medallist in International Orienteering joined us in the community meet up. Both addressed a dynamic and excited group of participants ranging from youths to professionals, and students to professors.

Manipal chapter looks forward to the upcoming days of engagement, the community with over 90 interested members in orienteering workshops, brainstorming orienteering sessions and several more.

- Ishita Pal (Manipal O-Club Ambassador)



## O-Mistakes

- ▶ *Running fast but in wrong direction.*
- ▶ *Failing to Orient the map before starting the race.*
- ▶ *Following other Orienteers without realizing they have another map & different control points to visit.*

**OOPS!**

“”

*Read the map,  
not the terrain.*

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 22nd – Orienteering Challenge (BLR)
- Feb 22nd - Meet up (BLR)
- Feb 28th – O Meet-up (CBT)
- Mar 1st – Urban Orienteering (BLR)
- Mar 8th – Maze O (CBT)
- Mar 15th - Urban O (BLR)
- Mar 15th - O Meet-up & Run (CBT)
- Apr 12th – Kayak Orienteering (BLR)
- Apr 12th - O Meet-up (CBT)
- Apr 19th – Foot O (CBT)

*Where getting lost is half the fun!*

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## O-News International

- ▶ The Ski Orienteering World Cup Round 1 2026 took place in Batak, Bulgaria, from January 21–25, 2026, marking the start of the 2025-2026 international season.
- ▶ Orienteering star Yannick Michiels from Belgium is officially nominated as a candidate for The World Games Athlete of the Year (AotY) Award.
- ▶ Joseph Lynch Claims Double Gold at Oceania Sprint Championships, January 2026.



## Hear what people say

**Sravani:** *We had great time at our apartment. My kid had to team up with me, and he was shocked that I can even run. The sport was very engaging and solving the check points in map and running inside the apartment was really exciting. The team has put all efforts to introduce this sport to as many people as possible. The best part of this sport is there is no age limit starting with kids, parents and grandparents, everyone can play.*

**Kabita:** *I was recently part of an orienteering event organised in our society. This was first of its kind events and I was not sure what exactly is this sport. I thought why an event like some treasure hunt is so hyped. But but but ... I must say the hype is real. I played it along with my 6 years young son and I was running behind him. My son was more excited than me. He was saying, “mumma run fast we must finish it before my friends.” The best part was it's not just running fast. First you understand the map. Find the check points and cover it in a particular sequence. So, it's a brain exercise which I felt to be very good for kids. Entertaining as well as thinking.*

## Orienteering for all

Schools | Universities | Institutions | Kids & Adults  
Maze O | Foot O | Trail O | Forest O | Urban O | MTB O | Kayak O

Connect with us now: [orienteering@nthadventure.com](mailto:orienteering@nthadventure.com)

## Editor's Note

We hope you enjoyed this first edition of O-Connect, our quarterly space to share the joy of Orienteering and celebrate our athletes and the community. We're here and listening, so feel free to share your thoughts, feedback, or ideas. Together, let's inspire more people to discover Orienteering in India.