5th Asian Para Games open in Aichi–Nagoya, Japan on 18 Oct (18–24 Oct)

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News

The 5th Asian Para Games open on 18 Oct 2026 at Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, in Aichi–Nagoya, Japan (18–24 Oct), with 18 sports across Aichi and Shizuoka prefectures and about 45 nations. Motto: 'Imagine One Heart'; mascot: 'Uzumin'. India sends 168 athletes (112 men, 56 women) in 11 sports; Pramod Bhagat (para badminton) and Simran Sharma (para athletics) carry the flag at the opening (Bhavina Patel, named earlier, was replaced due to her match schedule). Chef de Mission: Rahul Swami.

Key facts

Edition	5th Asian Para Games; 18–24 Oct 2026
Venue	Aichi–Nagoya, Japan; opening at Paloma Mizuho Stadium
Scale	18 sports, 508 events, about 45 nations
India team	168 athletes, 11 sports; flag-bearers: Pramod Bhagat, Simran Sharma
Last edition	Hangzhou 2022 (held Oct 2023) – India 111 medals (29 G, 31 S, 51 B) – best ever
PCI	President Devendra Jhajharia; Chef de Mission Rahul Swami

Background

- History: the first Asian Para Games were held at Guangzhou, China, in 2010; then Incheon (2014), Jakarta (2018) and Hangzhou (2022 edition, held in 2023). They are run by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC), headquartered in Dubai, UAE.
- The 20th Asian Games were held in the same cities from 19 Sep to 4 Oct 2026. Para sport worldwide is governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) – Bonn, Germany.
- Polity–law: the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 recognises 21 disabilities; 'sports' is a State List subject (Entry 33). The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports supports athletes through TOPS.

Tamil Nadu link: India's para badminton squad includes Tamil Nadu's Thulasimathi Murugesan (SU5 – Paris 2024 silver), Manisha Ramadass (SU5 – Paris bronze), Nithya Sre Sivan (SH6 – Paris bronze) and Sivarajan Solaimalai (SH6). High jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu of Periyavadagampatti, Salem (Rio 2016 gold, Tokyo silver, Paris bronze) is not in this squad.

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