Tanvi Patri makes history – first Indian to reach the girls' singles badminton final at the Youth Olympic Games (BAI)

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News

At the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, 15-year-old Tanvi Patri of Odisha beat Japan's second seed Yuzuno Watanabe 21-14, 11-21, 21-19 in 54 minutes in the semi-final on 4 Nov 2026 (Wednesday). She became the first Indian to reach the YOG girls' singles badminton final (Badminton Association of India – BAI). This assured India's first girls' singles medal at the YOG (at least silver). In the final on the night of 5 Nov (about 11 pm IST) she meets China's Zhang Yi Xin, the recent World Junior champion; the result was not out when this handbook was prepared.

Key facts

Player	Tanvi Patri, 15, Odisha
Semi-final	4 Nov 2026 – beat Yuzuno Watanabe (Japan) 21-14, 11-21, 21-19
Final	5 Nov 2026 – vs Zhang Yi Xin (China); medal assured
Earlier titles	Asian U-15 girls' singles (Chengdu, Aug 2024); Asian U-17 (Chengdu, Sept 2026)
Indians in YOG badminton SF	H.S. Prannoy (2010), Aditya Joshi (2014), Lakshya Sen (2018), Tanvi (2026)

Background

- India's YOG badminton record: H.S. Prannoy won boys' singles silver at Singapore 2010; Lakshya Sen won singles silver and gold in the mixed team event (international mixed team) at Buenos Aires 2018; Aditya Joshi reached the semi-final at Nanjing 2014.
- Tanvi trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Bengaluru (as of 2024). In Aug 2024 at Chengdu, China, she won the Asian U-15 title, beating a Vietnamese player in the final.
- History: badminton is named after 'Badminton House', the Duke of Beaufort's estate in Gloucestershire, England; British officers in India played an early form called 'Poona'.
- World team events: Thomas Cup (men), Uber Cup (women), Sudirman Cup (mixed). India won the Thomas Cup for the first time in 2022 at Bangkok.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai-trained Sankar Muthusamy won boys' U-19 singles silver at the 2022 BWF World Junior Championships (Santander, Spain). Kancheepuram's Thulasimathi Murugesan won SU5 para-badminton silver at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

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