

Asian Games 2026

PIB Analysis

Asian Games 2026 at a Glance

- **Host and Dates** - The 20th Asian Games (*Asiad*) were hosted in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**, from September 19 to October 4, 2026.
- **Official Slogan** - *"Imagine One Asia."*
- **Host City History** - Marks Japan's 3rd time hosting the Asian Games (following Tokyo 1958 and Hiroshima 1994).
- **Event Scale** -
 - 16 days of competition featuring 45 participating countries/regions.
 - 43 sports and 71 disciplines across 469 events.
 - 1,407 total medals awarded.
- **Upcoming Asian Para Games** - Japan will also host the 5th Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya from October 18 to October 24, 2026 (first time hosting for Japan).

Cultural Identity - Emblem and Mascot

- **Official Emblem Design** - Represent liveliness and people advancing toward the bright red sun (official OCA symbol).
- **Color Symbolism** -
 - **Purple** - Represents Aichi's prefectural flower, the iris.
 - **Gold** - Symbolizes *Kinshachi* (golden tiger-fish roof ornaments of Nagoya Castle).
 - **Green** - Reflects environmental consciousness (EXPO 2005, COP10, UNESCO Conference).
- **Letterforms** - Incorporates stylized initials "A" (Asia/Aichi) and "N" (Nagoya).
- **Official Mascot ("HONOHON")** -
 - Derived from '*honoho*' (Japanese for flame), representing the athletes' fiery passion.
 - Inspired by the *Shachihoko*, a guarding deity of Aichi-Nagoya and icon of Nagoya Castle.



Historical Founding Role (New Delhi 1951)

- **Origins and Concept** - Conception credited to Prof. G.D. Sondhi (India's IOC member); first suggested at the 1947 Asian Countries conference in New Delhi to rebuild post-WWII regional unity.
- **Inaugural Games** - Held in New Delhi in March 1951, declared open by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad at the National Stadium.
- **Initial Participation** - Featured 489 athletes from 11 nations competing across 6 sports (India finished 2nd in the medal tally behind Japan).

India's Delegation at Aichi-Nagoya 2026

- **Contingent Size** - 501 athletes competing across 36 sporting disciplines (over 300 athletes made their Asian Games debut).
- **Send-Off Ceremony** - Held on September 8, 2026, in New Delhi; official jersey unveiled by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, IOA President Dr. P.T. Usha, and Chef de Mission Sahdev Yadav.
- **Opening Ceremony Flagbearers** - Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker (Shooting) and Pawan Sehrawat (Kabaddi) led the Indian parade on September 19, 2026.

India's Campaign Highlights and Gold Medals

- **Total Gold Medal Tally** - Secured 21 Gold Medals.

Key Discipline Gold Breakdown -

- **Archery** - 5 Gold titles (led the gold count).
- **Shooting and Boxing** - 3 Gold medals each.
- **Wrestling** - 2 Gold medals.
- **Athletics and Golf** - 1 Gold medal each.

Team Sports Sweep -

- **Cricket (2 Gold)** - Men's team defeated Pakistan by 19 runs in the final.
- **Hockey (2 Gold)** - Men's team retained their continental title with a 5-1 victory over Malaysia.
- **Kabaddi (2 Gold)** - Swept double gold victories across both Men's and Women's competitions.

India's Sport-Wise Medal Tally

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Athletics	1	9	14	24
Shooting	3	8	4	15
Archery	5	2	2	9
Boxing	3	0	3	6
Wrestling	2	2	2	6
Squash	0	2	3	5
Sailing	0	1	2	3
Cricket	2	0	0	2
Hockey	2	0	0	2
Kabaddi	2	0	0	2
Golf	1	1	0	2
Weightlifting	0	1	0	1
Wushu	0	1	0	1
Badminton	0	0	1	1
Kurash	0	0	1	1
Mixed Martial Arts	0	0	1	1
Rowing	0	0	1	1
Sepak Takraw	0	0	1	1
Soft Tennis	0	0	1	1
Table Tennis	0	0	1	1
GRAND TOTAL	21	27	37	85

Participation in Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games

- **Dates and Scope** - October 18-24, 2026; 3,000 athletes from 45 National Paralympic Committees competing across 18 Para sports.
- **Historical Context** - Marks India's 5th appearance at the Asian Para Games under the Paralympic Committee of India.

- **Past Performance Benchmark** - Follows a record 111-medal haul (29 Gold) at Hangzhou 2022, where female athletes won 40 medals (36%).

National Policy Push for Sports Development

- **Khelo Bharat Niti**
- Launched on July 1, 2025, as India's national sports policy targeting long-term excellence for the 2036 Olympics.
- Integrates sports with school education under NEP 2020 and bridges the rural-urban training gap.

Record Financial Allocations

- **Union Budget 2026-27** - Allocated a record Rs.4,479.88 crore to the Sports Ministry (up from Rs.1,219 crore in 2013-14)
- **Revamped Khelo India Scheme (2026-27 to 2030-31)** - Overall outlay of Rs.36,441 crore combined with National Sports Federations support (Rs.924.35 crore specifically for Khelo India in 2026-27).
- **Sports Goods Manufacturing** - Rs.500 crore earmarked to boost local sports gear production.

Grassroots Talent Identification

- **Khelo India Infrastructure** - Established 1,067 Khelo India Centres and approved 349 infrastructure projects worth Rs.3,176 crore.
- **Athlete Support** - Directly supports 2,745 Khelo India Athletes with stipend, coaching, and equipment.
- **KIRTI Initiative** - *Khelo India Rising Talent Identification* uses data tools across 174 Assessment Centres for kids aged 9-18.

Elite Athlete Support (TOPS)

- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** - Provides full foreign exposure, custom equipment, and monthly stipends (Rs.50,000 for Core Group; Rs.25,000 for Development Group).
- **Supported Pool (as of April 2026)** - 55 Core Athletes, 62 Para Core Athletes, 140 Development Athletes, and 67 Hockey core athletes.

Institutional and Legal Reforms

- **National Sports University (Imphal)** - Est. 2018 for sports science,

technology, and management.

- **National Sports Governance Bill (August 2025)** - Created a National Sports Board for federation recognition and a National Sports Tribunal for legal dispute resolution.

Reference

[PIB](#)

