

Media Release/08 Nov, 2025

India name record 111-member contingent for Deaflympics 2025 in Tokyo

The Indian national squad will have 73 athletes across 11 disciplines for the Deaflympics from November 15-26

New Delhi, Nov. 8: India have named a 111-member contingent for the upcoming Deaflympics from November 15 to November 26 in Tokyo, Japan. The contingent consists of 73 athletes and 38 coaches among others. This is the biggest ever Indian contingent at the Deaflympics.

The Union sports ministry has approved the contingent at cost-to-government basis. India will take part in 11 disciplines – athletics, badminton, golf, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, wrestling and tennis.

The Deaflympics are conducted by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD). Recognised by the International Olympic Committee, ICSD has been functioning independently since August 1924. ICSD is not involved with the International Paralympic Committee. The Deaflympics, under the patronage of the IOC, are the second oldest international multi-sporting event in the world.

The ICSD members now include affiliated national sports organisations from 117 different countries. The IOC Executive Board in its decision of 16 May 2001, renamed the World Games of the Deaf as the Deaflympics, thereby, eliminating the contradiction between the title of the Games and their status.

The first Deaflympics, known as the "International Silent Games", were held in the summer of 1924 in Paris, and later on, these Deaf Games were held every four years with a break during World War Two.

From 1924 to the present day, the ICSD has organized 24 Summer and 18 Winter Deaflympics in a year following the year of the Olympic Games. In addition, every four (4) years are held the World Championships and Regional Championships in different sports. At the recent 24th Summer Deaflympics held in Caxias do Sul, Brazil more than 2,400 athletes took part.

India have been participating in the International Deaf Games since 1965. Seven male athletes and five officials took part in India's maiden appearance in Washington. In 1985, three female athletes took part for the first time. In the last Deaflympics 2021 held in Caxias Do Sul in Brazil in May 2022, India were represented by 39 male and 26 female athletes. India won a best-ever 16

medals – eight gold, 1 silver and seven bronze to finish 9th among 77 participating nations.

Overall, India have won 26 gold medals, 9 silver and 17 bronze. In the last Summer Games in Brazil where India had sent 65 athletes to compete in 11 sports, some standout performances were achieved. In badminton, Jerlin Jayaratchagan won three gold medals. Dhanush Srikanth won two gold medals, setting a new world record in the 10m air rifle shooting event with a score of 247.5. And in tennis Prithvi Sekhar won three medals. In wrestling, Virender Singh secured his fifth consecutive Deaflympics medal, a bronze. Tokyo Olympian golfer Diksha Dagar claimed silver.

India's previous best came at Sofia 1993 when they bagged seven medals, including five gold and two bronze. India also won seven medals each at Copenhagen 1997 (3 gold, 3 silvers, 1 bronze) and at Melbourne 2005 (3 golds, 1 silver, 3 bronze).

(eom)

MEDIA INVITE

The Sports Authority of India and the All-India Sports Council of the Deaf will be organizing a kit unveiling and send-off ceremony for the Indian contingent to participate in the Deaflympics from November 15 to November 26 in Tokyo. This will be India's biggest-ever contingent at these Games. You are requested to cover the event and participate in media interaction sessions with the top athletes as per schedule below:

Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 5 PM (media is requested to be seated by 4:45 PM)

Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, VIP Lounge area (entry through Gate No. 1)

The media briefing will be followed by High Tea.

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