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India's Pramod Bhagat Makes History at BWF Para World Championships

Published On: 17-02-2026



India's para-badminton star Pramod Bhagat won the men's SL3 gold medal at the BWF Para World Championships 2026, marking his fourth consecutive singles gold and a record sixth overall world title in the SL3 category. The event was held in Manama, Bahrain.

Historic Victory

Bhagat defeated Muhammad Al Imran (Indonesia) 21-12, 21-18 in the final to clinch the men's singles SL3 gold.

This triumph was his fourth straight world title and sixth overall in SL3 singles — spanning victories in 2009, 2015, 2019, 2022, 2024, and 2026.

He surpassed Lin Dan (China), who has five world championship singles titles in able-bodied badminton, becoming the most decorated singles champion in world championship history across badminton formats.

SL3 Classification: The SL3 category in para-badminton is for standing players with significant lower-limb impairment, where athletes compete on a modified half-court.

Redemption and Comeback: Bhagat, who contracted polio at age five, faced an 18-month suspension for anti-doping whereabouts failures, which caused him to miss the 2024 Paris Paralympics. After returning to competition, he regained form and dominated the world championships again.

Additional Achievements: In the same championships, Bhagat also secured gold in the men's doubles SL3-SL4 category with partner Sukant Kadam, showcasing India's growing strength in para-badminton.

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