India Sports

## Sports in India

Sports in India refers to the large variety of games played in India, ranging from tribal games to more mainstream sports such as, cricket, football, field hockey, badminton and kabaddi. India's diversity of culture, people, and tribes are reflected in the wide variety of sporting disciplines in the country.

Cricket has been the most popular sport in India, the country has hosted and won the Cricket World Cup on multiple occasions. Field Hockey is the most successful sport for India at the Olympic Games; the Indian men's team have won twelve Olympic medals including eight gold medals. Other popular sports in India are football, badminton, Kabaddi, shooting, Wrestling, boxing, tennis, squash, weightlifting, gymnastics, athletics, table tennis, basketball, volleyball. Popular indigenous sports include Chess, kho-kho, Cycling, fighter kite, leg Cricket, polo, snooker, gillidanda and Rugby.

Kabaddi is an ancient sport and one of the fastest growing sports of India. India won many matches and seasons of Kabaddi at the Asian Games , Kabaddi at the South Asian Games , Asian Kabaddi Championship and all three seasons of the Kabaddi World Cup (Standard style) and Women's Kabaddi World Cup (Circle Style). India Men's team and Women's team both are the most successful of the Kabaddi sport.

India has hosted and co-hosted several international sporting events, most notably the 1951 and 1982 Asian Games, the 1987, 1995 and 2016 South Asian Games, the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the 2014 Lusofonia Games, the 1987, 1996 and 2011, 2023 Cricket World Cups, the 1978, 1997, 2013, 2025 Women's Cricket World Cups, the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup and the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

Domestic professional sports leagues in the country include the Indian Premier League (Twenty20 cricket), the Indian Super League and the I-League (football), the Pro Kabaddi League (kabaddi), the Hockey India League (hockey), Premier Badminton League (badminton), the Pro Wrestling League (wrestling), the Ultimate Table Tennis league (table tennis), and the Prime Volleyball League (volleyball), the Ultimate Kho-Kho League (Kho–Kho).

Major international sporting events annually held in India include the Maharashtra Open in tennis, the Indian Open in golf, the India Open in badminton, India Open (table tennis).

The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna is India's highest award for achievement in sports, while the Dronacharya Award is awarded for excellence in coaching.