

# Kabaddi World Cup set for high-octane action



Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Vijay Goel (2nd from right), formally unveiled the logo of the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup in New Delhi on Wednesday. On the dais with him are Charu Sharma (from left), president International Kabaddi Federation, JS Gehlot, and India International Anup Kumar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Not many know this but India are seven-time kabaddi world champions. In fact, ever since the inception of the Kabaddi World Cup in 2004, India has gone on to win all the seven editions of the event. Now, India has the opportunity to better its own record and go for another title when the eighth edition of the Kabaddi World Cup gets underway in Ahmedabad next month on October 7.

Twelve teams will participate in the event which will be held at Ahmedabad's brand new stadium, The Arena. India has been placed in Group A alongside Bangladesh, South Korea, Australia, England and Argentina, while Group B consists of Iran, Thailand, Japan, USA, Poland and Kenya.

The semifinals of the tournament will be held on October 21 with the summit clash slated for the next day.

Union sports minister Vijay Goel announced the schedule and also unveiled the logo of the tournament – the Asiatic Lion, during an event held in the Capital on Wednesday.

Goel used the occasion to congratulate the Indian paralympians who have put up a stellar show and already won four medals in the ongoing Rio Paralympic Games.

## NUMBERS GAME

**12** Number of teams that will participate  
Teams: India, USA, UK, Australia, Iran, Poland, Thailand, Bangladesh, South Korea, Japan, Argentina and Kenya

**5** It'll be the biggest kabaddi extravaganza with representation from all five Olympic geographies. All its matches will be held in Ahmedabad

**6** The number of teams in each of the two groups who will play on a round robin league basis followed by semifinals on October 21 and the final on October 22

### Groups

**Group A:** India, Bangladesh, South Korea, Australia, England, Argentina  
**Group B:** Iran, Thailand, Japan, USA, Kenya, Poland

### India's fixtures

October 7 | vs South Korea  
October 8 | vs Australia  
October 11 | vs Bangladesh  
October 15 | vs Argentina  
October 18 | vs England

"This announcement could not have come on a better day. We are winning a number of medals at the Paralympic Games. When the Rio Games were going on, I used to be a bit scared coming on to the stage. Our Olympians did well and gave their best at the Rio Olympics, but luck wasn't on our side. Sending a contingent of 119 athletes is itself an achievement. But in the Paralympics we are doing very well. It's a matter of pride that we have already won four medals. We will felicitate our paralympians once they return," Goel said on Wednesday.

International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) president Janardan Singh Gehlot, meanwhile, said their aim now was to take the sport to the Olympics. "We already took kabaddi to Asiad, but now we want to take it to the Olympics. We want people to play kabaddi all across the world," he said.

**“As Pro Kabaddi League rules will be applied in the World Cup, I think it is going to be an advantage for India as our players are well aware of them and many have been playing under those rules.”**

— Bahwan Singh  
HEAD COACH, INDIA