

INDIA SET TO DEFEND KABADDI WC CROWN



Members of the Indian team with cricket legend Kapil Dev in Mumbai on Tuesday

CONFIDENT HOSTS UNVEIL SQUAD FOR 2016 WORLD CUP

Times News Network

Mumbai: Inspiration was not in short supply when two-time kabaddi World Cup champions India named their 14-member side at a city hotel here, on Tuesday. One of Indian cricket's biggest names, Kapil Dev was on stage as the squad, which is expected to get its hand around the coveted trophy for third time in a row, was announced with much fanfare.

On expected lines Anup Kumar was anointed skipper for the marquee event. The raider from Haryana will have his statesmate Manjot Chhillar as his deputy. A highly talented all-rounder, Chhillar, much like Kapil in 1983, will be the key for the hosts in the 12-team World Cup that gets underway at the state-of-art The

Arena TransStadia, in Ahmedabad from October 7-22. India are placed in Pool A along with another strong contender South Korea and according to head coach Balwan Singh, his boys are training as hard as ever to further tighten their grip on the trophy that has stayed at home for years now.

"The camp hosted in Ahmedabad involved rigorous training that helped us select the right set of players for the Indian squad. Our aim is to have a balanced team composition for the upcoming World Cup," said Balwan. "We are expecting the tournament to be more competitive than ever this year. It will be the biggest challenge that the Indian team has faced in recent times," the Dronacharya award winner added.

The team has been training at the SAI facility in Gandhinagar since August 22

2

Number of World Cups India has won

12

Number of teams in the bid for the 2016 World Cup

and will go through another camp till October 5 before beginning their campaign against South Korea on October 7.

Kapil Dev, a known motivator who has been there and done that, unveiled the team jersey and presented it to each of the team members. The cricket icon also presented captain Anup an autographed T-shirt, which he had donned during India's successful campaign at the World Championship of Cricket in Australia in 1985.

Asked by Anup about how he handled pressure in tight situations as a captain, Kapil said: "Players don't feel pressure once they are involved with the team. Just enjoy the game and results will come. If a mistake is made during play the captain should take the blame and if the team does well he should credit the entire team for it," said Kapil in his own inimitable style.