



Incredible India
www.incredibleindia.org

sampark

Monthly Newsletter

June 2026 / Issue 34



Scan Me to join this
newsletter

2 PM UPDATES
10 INDIA THIS MONTH
17 INDIA TAIWAN RELATIONS
19 ITA EVENTS
24 GLIMPSES OF DG's OUTREACH
29 INDIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

31 RABINDRANATH TAGORE
32 AYURVEDA TIPS
33 INTRODUCTION TO YOGA
34 ANCIENT INDIAN TALES
35 INDIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH
36 INDIA AND THE WORLD

Kabaddi in Taiwan: A Story of Grit and Determination

Dr. Manoj Kumar Panigrahi, Ph.D

Kabaddi is a game which originated from India and has been played in Taiwan for almost a decade now but has largely remained unnoticed. With multiple challenges and determination, Taiwanese players have showed their strong willingness to have a national team and contest at international games.



As per a recent report titled India and its Diaspora: Partners in Progress, there are about 35 million Indians who will live abroad by 2024 in over 200 countries. This number shows a significant rise from 20 million in 2021. The report further provides many details on the strategic goal the diaspora maintains and contributes to promote Indian culture and bridge the people-to-people connections. In Taiwan, there are about 10,000 Indians including the students, job holders and their families as well. Playing a small but engaging role in the local society. With growing India-Taiwan ties in economic and people-to-people connection, it is mutually beneficial for India to also engage sports as one of the tools to further them.

Accidental Discovery of Kabaddi in Taiwan

My discovery of Kabaddi in Taiwan occurred through a video watching the highlights of the Asian Games 2018. In one of the videos, it showed Taiwan's female team winning the bronze medal. That short video led to a curiosity and further search leading to the accidental discovery of the Kabaddi team of Taiwan. Then through multiple local friends I managed to visit the Taiwan's National Team's camp for Kabaddi and conducted a series of interviews and discussions with the coaches, players, and the federation. At that time, Taiwan's Sports teams were under the Ministry of Education; it recently got its own Ministry of Sports.

Origin and Growth of Kabaddi in Taiwan

It was Mr. Huang Chung-jeng, who in 2006 visited Doha, Qatar to participate in Asian Games as the Vice-President of the Chinese Taipei Athletes Association. There he was introduced to Sepakraskraw and Kabaddi games. And upon returning to Taiwan, tried to set up the Kabaddi team for Taiwan.

On 26 January 2008, the first Kabaddi Federation started in Taiwan. Mr. Huang approached the Asian and International Federation of Kabaddi, headed by two Indians then, who responded positively to his request of making Taiwan also participate in international games. Additionally, Mr. Huang attempted to include Kabaddi in every local

sports organization from Junior High to University level by conducting exhibition matches to attract more students to the sports.

Kabaddi is a contact sport, and largely unknown to the Taiwanese people. First, they were curious and saw it like a local game of an eagle catching the chicken. To nurture the early talents of the sports in Taiwan, some of the players were sent to India for their training to increase their talent pool.

Some of the early players which I had interacted with mentioned how they opted to YouTube and other online platforms to see and understand the game. From basics to high volatile games. They all learnt from scratch. As the sport was still anew, it was hard to bring in players dedicated to Kabaddi at first. Some of the Taiwanese players have been part of India's Pro-Kabaddi League since 2014. The current Women's National Coach David has been part of the Jaipur Pink Panther Team and was the first one from Taiwan to participate in the league. His brother Henry has also followed in his footsteps and is one of the players of Kabaddi and later moved to coach the men's team.

Till today there were five Taiwanese players who have taken part in the Pro-Kabaddi League. They are:

Name	Season and Teams
Tsai Wei-Yang (David)	1st & 3rd seasons Jaipur Pink Panthers
Lo Chia-Wei (Wei)	3rd & 4th seasons Dabang Delhi & Jaipur Pink Panthers
Lin Wei-Hung (Wei)	6th season Bengaluru Bulls
Chuang Chia-Ming (Evan)	10th & 11th seasons Bengal Warriors
Cheng Zheng-Wei (Wayne)	10th season Patna Pirates

Championships

In Taiwan there are two annual championships. One that is held every Chairman's cup (會長盃) happens every April-May, and President Cup 總統盃 happens every October-November and there is National Games held once every two years as well. Besides these big competitions, cities at the local level also conduct Kabaddi matches primarily in the major cities like Taipei, Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Tainan, Kaohsiung, and Hualien.

Besides the local annual championships, Taiwan also participates in international games through bilateral and multilateral contacts. It used to participate in Bangladesh's Bangabandhu tournament, but they have stopped getting invitations to participate since they played last in 2023 before the Asian Games were conducted in China.



What's there for India and Taiwan

For India and Taiwan, one of the opportunities can be for the industry-based support system. For the corporates who are investing mutually is to show their support to the Kabaddi games by sponsoring some of these games as it can bring in further mutual interests between Indian and Taiwanese audiences. Indian citizens in those cities can be made aware of the championships held and can be encouraged to participate in the audience, show their support. Second, even the Indian diaspora in Taiwan can come together to form a Kabaddi team and conduct friendly matches with the Taiwanese teams. This will make them more popular and move beyond Cricket which is widely played by the cricket playing diaspora communities in Taiwan. Third, is to start and promote annual India-Taiwan friendly Kabaddi tournaments from both city or state level teams from India to national teams with Taiwanese teams as a pilot project, it will give enough exposure to both sides and bring more friendly relations between the two sides. This can be further extended to other East Asian teams including Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea which also have their respective Kabaddi teams.

(Dr. Manoj Kumar Panigrahi, Ph.D is currently an Associate Professor and Director of Center for Northeast Asian Studies at Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, India. He is also a Non-Residential Fellow at Taiwan NextGen Foundation, Taipei. He got his Ph.D. from the Asia-Pacific Studies program at National Chengchi University in Taipei.)

स्मृतियों का होता है अपना भूगोल,
और
शहरों से जुड़ी होती हैं हमारी सामूहिक चेतनाएं।
जैसे ऋग्वैदिक आर्य याद करते थे कुभा, काबुल और स्वात को,
जैसे बुधगुप्त याद करता था ताम्रलिप्ति को,
जैसे नवांग याद करती थी तिब्बत को,
जैसे नसीब की यादों में था बखान,
जैसे हिमाद्री करती हैं माजुली का बखान,
और जैसे अम्मा याद करती हैं अपने नैहर को...
वैसे ही
तुम मुझे याद आती हो...
हर बारिश के बाद,
जब नानकांग (南港) के पहाड़ियों के ऊपर हल्का धुंधलका छा जाता है।
और
दिल्ली से तुम...
या फिर दिल्ली तुमसे।
- अखिलेश 荣智川