



# India Wins Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025

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India emerged as the champions of the **inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025**, clinching both the **men's and women's Kho Kho World champions titles** by defeating Nepal in the finals.

- **Kho Kho World Cup 2025:** The tournament was backed by the [Indian Olympic Association \(IOA\)](#), it included group stages and knockouts for both divisions (men's and women's).
- **Kho Kho's Historical Significance:** It is one of India's oldest **traditional tag games**, believed to have evolved from the **Chakravyuha, a war formation** in the [Mahabharata](#), resembling a defensive tactic similar to Kho Kho's ring play.
  - Experts believe that Kho Kho originated in **Maharashtra**, and was initially played on chariots. The modern foot version emerged in [1914 during World War I](#), with **Pune's Deccan Gymkhana Club** formalizing its rules and structure.
  - A Kho Kho team consists of **9 active players**, with 3 substitutes available. Players alternate between **chasing, defending, and tagging opponents**.
  - Kho Kho was demonstrated at the **Berlin 1936 Olympics**, alongside other indigenous Indian sports like [kabaddi](#) and [mallakhamb](#).
- **Growing Popularity:** Kho Kho's global reach has grown from **6 countries in 2020 to 55 in 2025**. The **International Kho Kho Federation (IKKF)** aims to expand to 90 countries, targeting [Olympic inclusion by 2036](#).

**Read more:** [India Bids to Host the 2036 Olympics](#)

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