



India women and men's kabaddi teams celebrate after clinching gold at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya on Saturday. (ANI)

India defeat Iran for golden double in kabaddi

AGENCIES

NAGOYA (JAPAN)

INDIA'S men's kabaddi team beat Iran 40-34 to win their second consecutive Asian Games gold at the Tokai Citizen Gymnasium on Saturday.

The victory also completed a golden kabaddi double after the women's team had been crowned champions earlier in the day.

Coached by Balwant Singh and led by captain Sunil Kumar, India trailed 18-17 at half-time. India's score was comprised of 11 out points, 3 bonus, 1 technical point and 2 super tackles to bring the score to a 1-point deficit.

Iran tried to maintain the momentum in the second half but the Indian squad made a remarkable recovery and steadily gained command of the game.

India established an important 34-27 advantage, applying pressure on Iran, and in the dying moments further extended its lead to 40-34, ultimately winning the gold medal by six points.

India's Pawan Kumar said: "Iran are a very good team. We knew it would be a tough match but we had complete confidence in our raiders, our defense and the entire team."

Earlier, India's women's kabaddi team won a closely fought contest, beating Iran 37-34 to win their second consecutive gold medal at the Asian Games.

India captain Rana Pushpa said: "It feels great to win a gold medal, especially against a team such as Iran, who played exceptionally well."