INTRODUCTION

Modern Kabaddi is a synthesis of the game played in various forms under different names. Kabaddi received international exposure during the 1936 Berlin Olympics, demonstrated by Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal, Amaravati, Maharashtra. The game was introduced in the Indian Olympic Games at Calcutta in 1938. In 1950 the All India Kabaddi Federation came into existence and compiled standard rules. The Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) was founded in 1973. After formation of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, the first men's nationals were held in Madras (re-named Chennai), while the women's were in Calcutta (renamed Kolkata) in 1955. The AKFI has given new shape to the rules and has the right to modify them. The Asian Kabaddi Federation was founded under the chairmanship of Mr. Janardan Singh Gehlot.

The first men's kabaddi nationals’ championship on Mat and indoor Stadium were held in Pune and this championship Organiz by BADAMI HAUD SANGH Pune. Kabaddi was introduced and popularized in Japan in 1979. The Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation sent Prof. Sundar Ram of India to tour Japan for two months to introduce the game.

In 1979, a return test between Bangladesh and India was held at different places of India including Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Punjab. The Asian Kabaddi Championship was arranged in 1980 and India emerged as champion and Bangladesh runner-up. Bangladesh became runner-up again in 1985 in the Asian Kabaddi Championship held in Jaipur, India. The other teams in the tournament were Nepal, Malaysia and Japan. The game was included for the first time in the Asian Games in Beijing in 1990. India, China, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh took part. India won the gold medal and has also won gold at the following six Asian Games in Hiroshima in 1994, Bangkok in 1998, Busan in 2002, Doha in 2006 and Guangzhou in 2010.

Iran has turned out to be one of the emerging nations in all three forms of Kabaddi. They stand to be one of the few nations having transparency in selection of team along with world class infrastructure for development of this sport. Currently they are trained and coached by Ashan Kumar, former Indian National Team coach and Arjuna Awardee. It is estimated that the annual budget given by the Iranian Government for development of this sport is around 500,000
USD which is the highest among all nations. Prominent Non Resident Indian in Iran and leading businessmen in the Persian Gulf, P.S.Chandhok is one of the main initiator for development and has extended a great helping hand for development of various sports in Iran. Currently, the construction of a dedicated World Class Kabaddi Stadium is in progress at Tehran.

During the 16th Asian Games at Guangzhou Iranian Men’s bagged Silver Medal and Women’s bagged Bronze Medal. Amazing performance was showcased by Iranian’s during the semi-final match in women’s category against India.

Attempts to popularize kabaddi in Great Britain saw British TV network Channel 4 commission a programme dedicated to the sport. The show, Kabaddi, on Channel 4 in the early 1990s, failed to capture viewers despite fixtures such as West Bengal Police versus the Punjab. Kabaddi was axed in 1992, but not before its presenter Krishnan Guru-Murthy suffered a collapsed lung while participating in the sport.

In the 1998 Asian games the Indian Kabaddi team defeated Pakistan in a thrilling final match at Bangkok (Thailand). The chief coach of the team was former kabaddi player and coach Flt. Lt. S P Singh.

Kabaddi has become popular among the Sikh diaspora and teams often travel internationally to compete against each other.

The present study, therefore, will be of great significance in the following ways:

- This study will be helpful and eventually contribute to the literature of Indian sports and Indian Kabaddi field in totality.
- This study will be a great contribution to the field of talent search of players in the game of Kabaddi.
- This study will be helpful to Kabaddi coaches and physical education teachers for assessing and evaluating their players and getting feedback of improvements. This, in fact, will help for necessary modifications in their coaching and teaching strategies in preparing Kabaddi players.
- The present study will be proving beneficial for the selection committee members for objective
assessment and evaluation of performance ability of Kabaddi players.

- This study may be providing an opportunity and encouragement the sports talents in Kabaddi with a hope that their efficiency will be accurately judged by developed test and norms. The norms will help in distinguishing the players having excellent potential and talent.

**Statement of the Problem**

There is multiplicity in opinion about the assessing, evaluating and selecting talented Kabaddi players in India as follows:

- The decision of the selection committee, which is not always found accurate, is still considered as a general criterion for final selection of Kabaddi players in Inter University Competition.

- The Political involvement in sports influences selecting a player, overlooking the basic motor qualities, skill and other associated variables that may affect overall efficiency of a Kabaddi team.

- No specific performance factors (i.e. morphological, Physical fitness and skill) are assessed or evaluated prior to select a Kabaddi player. Moreover, selecting a player on the basis of a single a game situation is inaccurate.

- In Maharashtra, mere is no criteria available by which one can get at least a few guidelines of selecting talented players for Kabaddi.

Researcher, on the basis his experience, scientific discussion with experts, physical education, doctors and reviews of literature is found that there is and immanent need of research in this area. It will be thought desirable to undertake the research project entitled “Development and Standardization of a Test Battery for Selection of Kabaddi Players”.