

Gilli-danda

Lippa, **S-Cianco**, **Gilli-danda** (Devanagari: गलिली डण्डा), or **Guli Danda** is an amateur sport, popular among rural youth in southern Europe^{[1] [2] [3] [4]} and the Indian subcontinent. It is called *dānggūli* in Bangla, *chinni-dandu* in Kannada, *kuttiyum kolum* in Malayalam, *viti-dandu* वट्टी दंडू in Marathi, *kitti-pullu* in Tamil, *Gooti-Billa* or "Karra-Billa" or "Billam-Godu" in Telugu, *Gulli-Danda* گولی ڈانڈا in Urdu, and *Lappa-Duggi* لپا ډگي in Pashto. This sport is generally played in the rural and small towns of the Indian subcontinent. It is widely played in Punjab and rural areas of the North-West Frontier Province and Sindh (Pakistan) and Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh (north India).

Origin

There are no records of the game's origin in the south Asian subcontinent or of its existence before the arrival of Europeans. However a similar game known as Lippa has a history of being played in Italy and southern Europe and Tip-cat which was played in the UK.

Equipment

Gulli-danda have no official requirements for equipment. The game is played with a *gilli* or *guli* and *danda*, which are both wooden sticks. The *danda* is longer and handmade by the player, who can swing it easily. The *gilli* is smaller and is tapered on both sides so that the ends are conical. The *gilli* is analogous to a cricket ball and the *danda* is analogous to a cricket bat.

There is no standard length defined for the *danda* or *gilli*. Usually, however, the *gilli* is 3 to 6 inches long and the *danda* is 12 to 18 inches.

Rules

The objective of the sport is to use the *danda* to strike the *gilli*. For this purpose, a circle is drawn in the ground in which a small, oblong- or spindle-shaped hole is dug (the overall shape looks like a traditional boat). This hole is smaller than the *gilli* but as the play progresses the size may increase due to wear. The *gilli* is inserted into the hole either orthogonally, or at an angle. Many times, especially with children, no hole is used. The *danda* is then swung downward onto the end of the *gilli*, causing the *gilli* to jump upward. The striker then strikes the *gilli* outward, away from him. Another variation is when the *danda* lifts or pries the *gilli* out of the hole at a high speed. As it is quite similar to cricket, many people believe that cricket originated from it.

Scoring and outs

There are many regional variations to scoring.

The *gilli* becomes airborne after it is struck. If a fielder from the opposing team catches the *gilli*, the striker is out. If the *gilli* lands on the ground, the fielder closest to the *gilli* has one chance to hit the *danda* (which has to be placed on top of the hole used) with a throw (similar to a run out in cricket). If the fielder is successful, the striker is out; if not, the striker scores one score and gets another opportunity to strike. The team (or individual) with the most points wins the game. If the striker fails to hit *gilli* in three tries, the striker is out (*similar to a **strikeout** in baseball*).

Teams

There is no official maximum number of players or teams. Gilli-danda can be played where each individual plays for themselves, or between two teams.

Champions

So far, very few International tournaments played between India & Pakistan. Pakistan defeated India in three out of five; two ended in a draw. The Pakistani Champions were: Noor Khan, Abdul Hameed Qureshi, Omar El Duraie, Nadeem Jameel, Iftikhar Hashmi, and Qaseem Siddiqui.

The Indian Champions: Deepali Gode from Kalyan, Varun, Ajay Kaushik, Rohit Mishra (Allahabad), Vijay Choudhary of Darbhanga, Somendra Kumar of Patna, Vivek Baranwal of Varanasi, Upender Kumar, Satyendra Tripathi, and Sandeep Prakash of Lucknow, Sudhanshu Yadav from Jaipur

Variations

As an amateur youth sport, gilli-danda has many variations. A common variation is where the striker is allowed to hit the gilli twice, once initially, and then while the gilli is in the air.

In some versions, the points a striker scores is dependent on the distance the gilli falls from the striking point. The distance is measured in terms of the length of the danda, or in some cases the length of the gilli. Scoring also depends on how many times the gilli was hit in the air in one strike. If it travels a certain distance with two mid-air strikes, the total point is doubled.

In the Philippines, a game known as *syatong* is similar to gilli-danda.

In Italy a similar game known as "Lippa", "Lipe", "Tirolo", or "S-cianco" is shown in the movie *Watch Out We Are Mad*.^[5] ^[6] ^[7]

In the United States, a similar game is called pee-wee.^[8]

Cultural significance

The Bollywood movie *Lagaan* mentions the traditional sport of Gilli-danda as similar to the British import of cricket.

Premchand, the famous Hindi literary figure, wrote a short story named "Gilli-danda" in which he compares old simple times and emotions to modern values and also hints at caste inequalities in India.

External links

- How to Play Gilli-Danda ^[9]
- Gilli-Danda Guidelines ^[10]
- Lippa ^[11] (Italian)
- S-cianco ^[12] (Italian)
- A Brief Introduction to "Guli Danda" ^[13]

References

- [1] Lippa (<http://www.intelligiochi.it/nonni/lippa.htm>)
 - [2] S-cianco (<http://www.agaverona.it/s-cianco/lippa.php>)
 - [3] palio mazza e pivezo cesa (CE) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CmUA8CWo2c)
 - [4] Bud Spencer, Terence Hill e a Billarda (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9A4NvJ_ozU)
 - [5] Bud Spencer, Terence Hill e a Billarda (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9A4NvJ_ozU)
 - [6] Y si no , nos enfadamos (2/10) - Juntos son dinamita (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5eDhhjMssI>)
 - [7] <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0069697/>
 - [8] <http://books.google.de/books?id=i33BWgxbvXgC&pg=PA83#PPA83,M1>
 - [9] <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/2001/06/09/stories/1309110a.htm>
 - [10] http://sports.indianetzone.com/traditional_games/1/gilli_danda.htm
 - [11] <http://www.intelligiochi.it/nonni/lippa.htm>
 - [12] <http://www.agaverona.it/s-cianco/lippa.php>
 - [13] http://www.punjabilok.com/heritage/rural_toys_punjab.htm
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