



**Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the project for Development and Modernisation of Sigra Stadium, Varanasi at an estimated cost of Rs. 315.48 crore under Khelo India Scheme.**

With a view to achieving the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved the project for Development and Modernisation of Sigra Stadium in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 315.48 crore under Khelo India Scheme.

The stadium is located in the heart of Varanasi city with a total area of 64,650 square meters (approximately 16 acres). The project would be constructed in three phases viz. I, II and III. Phase I of the project involves creating an International Sports Competition venue, including an Olympic size swimming pool and a spectator capacity of 2000. Phase II and phase III of the project are intended to develop various indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

The project includes the design and construction Community and Competition Area with facilities for swimming, Gymnasium, Squash, Library, Sports Museum, a National Centre of Excellence for combat sports like Boxing, Wrestling, Fencing, Shooting, a sports hostel and open fields with facilities for Athletics, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Lawn Tennis, Cricket field, Football cum Hockey Field and Open Gym. The facility would serve as a venue for national and international sporting events and would utilize academies to promote sports/athletes across the nation. The development of the project will ensure that various sports are easily accessible to the general public specially the athletes of Uttar Pradesh.

The following will be the developmental pillars of Sigra Stadium:

- a) Inclusive: A sports complex that is inclusive to all sections of society: Persons with Disabilities, Women, Children, & Senior Citizens.
- b) Experimental: A place that enriches and deepens the sports experience for all athletes & spectators through state-of-art facilities, including retractable/ portable seating.
- c) Aesthetic: A complex which is aesthetically pleasing and culturally representative.
- d) Sustainable: All buildings and outdoor facilities comply with the 3Rs of sustainable development: Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse.
- e) Excellence: A place that exudes excellence in every facility.

The foundation stone of the project was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in an event on 07.07.2022 in Varanasi. The sports complex will adhere to the standards of International and National Sporting Bodies and will accommodate all essential needs and services.

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