

## **RIJIJU INAUGURATES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF NATIONAL GAMES**

Panaji: [January 19](#), 2020

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs(Ind), Shri Kiren Rijiju in the presence of Chief Minister, Shri Pramod Sawant; Dy. CM and Minister for Sports, Shri Manohar Ajgaonkar inaugurated National Games infrastructure projects in the State [yesterday](#).

At the inaugural ceremony of Navelim indoor stadium other projects which include indoor stadiums at Panaji, Ponda, Sawalwada and Fatorda were also inaugurated digitally. These indoor stadiums will host various sports events during the national games.

In total, the construction and refurbishment cost for all the five stadiums is estimated to be around Rs. 120 Crores. Navelim stadium is named as Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium.

While speaking on the occasion Shri Kiren Rijiju said, by looking at the preparations going on in the Goa regarding 36th National Games I am very much sure that this games will be the one of the best games held across country till [today](#) and will be a big success. He applauded the efforts and the interest of CM Shri Sawant who is personally reviewing and taking assessments of the preparations of the games. Goa may be a small State but it is a organised State Shri Rijiju said. Goa is known for organising big national events successfully and no one can have a doubt on it. Union and State Government is working together to organise the 36th National Games in a befitting manner and make it a big success, he added.

Government is trying to create sports culture in the country. India has a great potential for sports but we don't have sports culture which needs to be created. Sports must be a part and way of life. Government is trying to work out certain mechanism to ensure India becomes a sporting power hub.

Union sports ministry has taken various decisions, major changes and reforms, result of which will be seen in the times to come. But for that we have to ensure that government alone cannot do much. Government can support by creating infrastructure but to make sports as a culture it requires people's participation. It is the people who will create

sports culture, government can only create a platform and perform as a catalyst. People of the country must decide that we will become a sporting power hub. It is not easy to produce champion overnight - it takes years. In average from identifying talents to full training and then make him champion it takes 8 to 12 years. Government is doing some immediate reforms, result of which will be seen after some years. Government has set a target that by 2024 and 2028 country must reach to a certain level in sports field, he pointed.

India has 20% young population of the world, every 5th youth is an Indian. By winning one or two medals in the Olympic we cannot feel proud, we cannot accept this situation. India is known as the youngest nation and youngest young force in the world. One fifth of the global youth population is Indian and that is why government has prepared a road map, he said.

For Tokio 2020 India is ready but we have limitations. Shri Rijiju hoped that this Tokio 2020 will be the best ever Olympic for India but beyond that the actual target is the Los Angeles Olympic in 2028 in United States. India will be in top 10 countries and for that preparations are going on step by step. This year Union Sports Ministry will ask all States and Union Territories of the country to identify the sports of their potential and choice. Union Ministry will fund 100 % for development of that sport. Besides that states and union territories can develop different kinds of sports as per the requirements.

Shri Rijiju said State Government should have their own agenda for development of the sports. Central government will identify certain sports for certain states and union territories so that Union Sports Ministry can pull all the resources at its command and by 2028 India can fulfill its dream in sports. Shri Rijiju assured state government that union government will come out with certain support to make 36th Nation Games a success. Mascot of this Games will be unveiled soon he said.

The infrastructure created for the National games would go a long way in helping the sportspersons in the State to compete nationally and globally Shri Rijiju said.

CM Shri Sawant said, it is important that one should support the development of the State by keeping all the differences aside. For the 36th National Games Goa 2020 Rs. 500 crores have been spent to create infrastructure and Rs. 250 crores will be spent of its organization. 37 types of sports will be held in this games.

He said Goan players should participate in maximum type of games without thinking of the success then only the purpose of organising these games in the State will be fulfilled. Government is providing all the facilities in the sports field irrespective of caste and creed. State is ready for the next 50 years. Goans should be healthy and fit. Healthy life is more important than life span. He said last five years Rs. 15 thousand crores have been spent to provide various types of infrastructure in the State. He said entire sports complex of Panjim will be named after late CM Manohar Parrikar. With all major infrastructure work completed well in advance, State government is now assured of delivering the best national games ever he said.

Shri Manohar Azgaonkar said dreams come true with the world class sports infrastructure in the State and added that credit for all this goes to late CM Manohar Parrikar. Government is ready to face any challenges. He said education and sports are equally important for any student. He appealed to the students, youths and sports lovers to take benefit of the world class sports infrastructure provided by government. Infrastructure facilities like these are the need of the hour if we have to encourage youngsters to take up sports professionally Shri Azgaonkar said.

MLA's, Shri Luizinho Faleiro and Shri Churchill Alemao also spoke on the occasion.

MLA, Shri Ravi Naik; Mayor, Corporation of City of Panaji, Shri Uday Madkaikar; Chairperson, Margao Municipal Council, Miss Pooja Naik; office bearers of Goa Olympic Association, Shri Gurudatta Bhakta; Joint Secretary, Youth Affairs Ministry, Shri Ajit Singh and others were present on the occasion.

Secretary, Sports and CEO, National Games, Goa 2020, Shri Ashok Kumar welcomed while Executive Director, Sports Authority of Goa, Shri V M Prabhudessai proposed the vote of thanks. Smt Siddhi Upadhey compered the programme.

The national games will be held from [October 20](#), 2020 to [November 4](#), 2020 at 24 different sports facilities across the State.

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