

## **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched major projects for cricket development in the State**

- Announced the redevelopment project of the Barabati Cricket stadium to create a world-class sports complex, while conserving the iconic Clock Tower as a heritage structure.
- Lays the Foundation Stone for the redevelopment of the VSS Cricket Stadium in Sambalpur
- Inaugurates the major cricket facilities at Puri, Berhampur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, 41 cricket academies (Developed by OCA) at various locations and lays foundation for the cricket facilities in Bargarh. Women Cricket Academy in Puri launched;
- Announces the development of Integrated Sports Complex at Sitalapalli in Berhampur; The Cricket Stadium in Berhampur to be named after Mahatma Gandhi
- Inaugurates Ganjam Weightlifting Academy along with 200 seated hostel - India's largest weightlifting training facility
- Lays foundation stone for the Integrated Sports complex at Dhenkanal and Bargarh

Bhubaneswar, 24 February 2024:

In a major boost for cricket development in Odisha, Chief Minister, Odisha, Sh Naveen Patnaik, announced the redevelopment of the historic Barabati Cricket Stadium and laid foundation stone for the redevelopment of the VSS cricket stadium in Sambalpur.

He said that the Barabati stadium will be redeveloped into a World-class sports complex with all the modern facilities, in partnership with BCCI, OCA and Corporates. At the same time, considering the legacy of the stadium, the iconic clock tower will be conserved as a heritage structure. The VSS stadium in Sambalpur will be expanded and developed with the best cricket facilities for the cricketers in the region.

He also inaugurated cricket facilities at Berhampur Sports Complex, Shree Jagannath Cricket Stadium & Women's Cricket Academy, Puri, Sports Complex, Jajpur, Cricket Ground, Jharsuguda, and 41 cricket Academies developed across state by Odisha Cricket Association. He announced that the stadium in Berhampur will be named as Mahatma Gandhi Cricket Stadium, in memory of Gandhiji's visit to this place during the Freedom movement.

He also announced that an Integrated Sports complex will be created at Sitalapalli, Berhampur which will include facilities for athletics, football, cricket, indoor stadium etc to cater to the needs of the sportspersons in the region.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Ganjam Weightlifting Academy along with the 200-seated hostel making it the largest weightlifting training facility in the country. He said it's a tribute to the popularity of weightlifting in Ganjam, which produced so many weightlifters.

Several sports infrastructure in Jajpur namely Kusuma Complex Swimming Pool, Hockey Training Centre, a multipurpose indoor stadium, athletic track, football ground etc were inaugurated. While foundation stone was laid for the Rugby ground and cricket grounds along with the hostel.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for Integrated Sports Complexes at Bargarh and Dhenkanal, which includes various facilities like athletic tracks, swimming pools, football grounds, cricket ground etc.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that the focus on Cricket by the State government and OCA, will help in creating a good eco system for emergence of champions from the state in the coming years. He further said that sports is a priority area for the government to enable youth empowerment and Odisha is now recognised as a major destination for sports in the country. He hoped that all the sports infrastructure and training facilities being created will attract more children towards sports.

The program was conducted across 50 venues over video conferencing and a large number of Cricketers, sports persons participated in the program. The OCA members including President Sh Pranab Prakash Das, Minister for Sports and Youth Services Sh Tushar Kanti Behera and a huge number of cricketers participated in the program from Barabati stadium.