



## UP Boosts Football Development

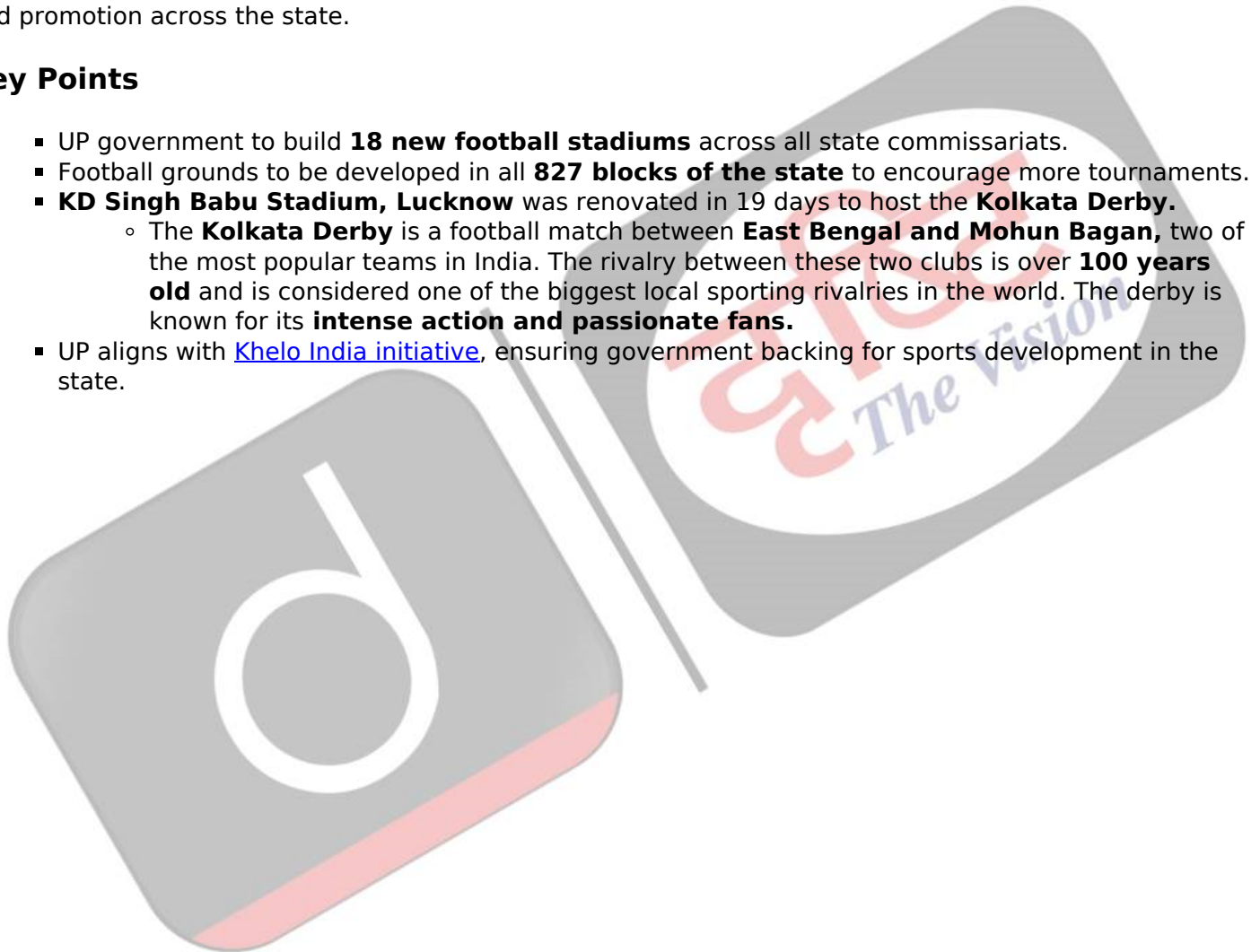
### Why in News?

Recently, the [Uttar Pradesh](#) government announced significant plans to [enhance football](#) infrastructure and promotion across the state.

### Key Points

- UP government to build **18 new football stadiums** across all state commissariats.
- Football grounds to be developed in all **827 blocks of the state** to encourage more tournaments.
- **KD Singh Babu Stadium, Lucknow** was renovated in 19 days to host the **Kolkata Derby**.
  - The **Kolkata Derby** is a football match between **East Bengal and Mohun Bagan**, two of the most popular teams in India. The rivalry between these two clubs is over **100 years old** and is considered one of the biggest local sporting rivalries in the world. The derby is known for its **intense action and passionate fans**.
- UP aligns with [Khelo India initiative](#), ensuring government backing for sports development in the state.

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## Khelo India Initiative

- Khelo India is a scheme envisioned by the Prime Minister in 2017-18 to give a platform to **grassroots athletes and build sports infrastructure** across India, resulting in turning India into a sporting nation.
- The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship **Central Sector Scheme** of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

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