



PM to Inaugurate Sports Facilities in Varanasi

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Modi is set to inaugurate new sports facilities in [Varanasi](#), enhancing opportunities for athletes.

Key Points

- PM Modi will inaugurate phases 2 and 3 of the [National Center of Excellence](#) at Dr. Sampurnanand Stadium, Varanasi.
 - The upgrade cost **Rs 325.65 crore**, enhancing infrastructure for over 20 sports disciplines.
 - The complex includes multi-level courts, swimming pools, athletic tracks, and spaces for indoor/outdoor sports, [para-sports](#), and recovery zones.
 - PM Modi will also launch development projects worth over **Rs 1,000 crore**

Varanasi

- Varanasi is in southeastern Uttar Pradesh state. It is located on the left bank of the [Ganges \(Ganga\) River](#) and is one of the seven sacred cities of Hinduism.
- It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Its early history is that of the first Aryan settlement in the middle [Ganges valley](#).
- Varanasi was the capital of the kingdom of Kashi during the time of the Buddha (6th century BCE), who gave his first sermon nearby at Sarnath.
- The city remained a **centre of religious, educational, and artistic activities as attested by the celebrated Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Xuanzang**, who visited it in about 635 CE.
- Varanasi subsequently declined during three centuries of Muslim occupation, beginning in 1194.
- Varanasi became an independent kingdom in the 18th century, and under subsequent British rule it remained a commercial and religious centre.
- In 1910, the British made Varanasi a new Indian state, with **Ramnagar (on the opposite bank) as headquarters but with no jurisdiction over the city of Varanasi**.

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