

Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

**Tour Report of Shri Injeti Srinivas Union Sports Secretary-cum-DG SAI's visit to
Bhubaneswar on 19.03.2017**

I visited Bhubaneswar on 19th March 2017 to discuss with the State Government the possibility of hosting the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship-2017 at Bhubaneswar. This was necessitated due to last minute withdrawal of Jharkhand, which was to host it at Ranchi in June 2017. Based on the request of President, Athletics Federation of India (AFI), Government of Odisha was approached to host the event, which they agreed to in principle subject to feasibility given the short lead time.

2. In the forenoon attended a meeting with Shri Vishal Kumar Dev, State Sports Secretary, Shri N. Pradhan, Works Secretary, Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, CMD, IDCO, Shri Adille J Sumariwalla, President AFI, and Shri C K Valsan, Secretary General AFI. We inspected the proposed competition venue at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. The major works involved are replacement of the athletic track in the main competition arena, which is fully worn out; installation of flood lights in the main arena; and laying of a warm-up track. Apart from this, small repair works in the stadium were also identified. After detailed discussion, it was concluded that the above mentioned works can be executed by mid June, 2017 with close oversight. The President and the Secretary General of AFI stated that, that would leave sufficient time for making necessary preparation for holding the event.

3. Thereafter, I met with Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha. He conveyed in principle willingness of the State Government, but wanted some more time to comprehensively evaluate the feasibility of holding the event. He informed that State Government was going ahead with creation of the requisite infrastructure at a cost of around Rs 25 crore, as they are keen to make Bhubaneswar a major international sporting destination. Govt. of Odisha has agreed in principle to spend another Rs 15 crore for the conduct of the event. However, the main concern was on account of the extremely short

lead time for preparation. Nonetheless, he indicated that the State would go ahead if everything was found to be under control after detailed evaluation. He also sought full cooperation of Government of India, which I readily assured him.

4. The Chief Secretary mentioned that the State Government was keen to set up an Athletics Academy at Kalinga Stadium because Odisha has produced many top athletes in sprints, 400m relay etc. I assured him full support in this regard under Khelo India. It was also agreed that a complete set of Athletics equipment costing around Rs 1.50 crore would be provided under Khelo India, which can be used for the proposed Athletics Academy after the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship is held at Bhubaneswar.

5. Returned to Delhi on the same day evening.



(INJETI SRINIVAS)
Secretary (Sports)-cum-DG SAI
15.04.2017

To

1. CS, Govt. of Odisha
2. JS(Development), D/o Sports, Govt. of India
3. Secretary(Sports), Govt. of Odisha
4. CMD IDCO
5. President AFI
6. Secretary General, AFI
7. Secretary, SAI
8. ED(SP), SAI

CC: PS to MoS(IC)YAS, Govt. of India