

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## Game for it: Sports city near Jewar to power India's Olympic dream?

### Blueprint With A Timeline Of 12-15 Years Presented To UP Govt Recently

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New Delhi: India has never hosted an Olympics, but now a state-run company has proposed building a new city near the upcoming Jewar international airport close to the national capital to enable the world's sixth largest economy to make a serious bid for the mega sports event.

Sources said a blueprint for the city, expected to be built in the next 12-15 years, was presented to the Uttar Pradesh government recently. It said the huge land parcels available with the government and private players in and around Jewar could be an ideal location for a greenfield city.

Creating adequate sports facilities would be one of the thrust areas in this city with a capacity to accommodate one million people, according to a concept proposal made by the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).

India had hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010, which was one of the last major sporting events held in the country. It had earlier hosted two editions of the Asian Games. Earlier this year, the Indian Olympic Association had said it would bid for the 2026 Youth Olympics, the 2030 Asian Games and the 2032 Olympics.

The proposed city will be located about 60 km from the upcoming Dedicated Freight Corridor, which is being developed as a Golden Quadrilateral connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The Yamuna river, which flows along the planned location, can be developed for water sports. The proximity to Taj Mahal, one of the biggest tourist attractions for global visitors, will be an added advantage.

"Since work for the airport

### 'HOST' OF ISSUES NEED SORTING OUT

**WHY A NEW CITY**  
World class sports infrastructure to host global events



- ▶ A new finance hub in the NCR region with offices of major banks and financial institutions
- ▶ Hub for small-scale units focussed on sports goods

- ▶ Boost for tourism for neighbouring areas like Agra, Mathura
- ▶ Help decongest Delhi
- ▶ Reduce spending on constant redevelopment and renovation of infrastructure in Delhi



Smart industries to act as feeder to the industrial zones in Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad region

Expected investment ₹6 lakhcr (Approx)

Timeline for development 12-15 yrs

**EMPLOYMENT GENERATION**  
2.5 lakh (direct & indirect) in various sectors such as industry, hospitality, tourism, finance, sports, commercial & services

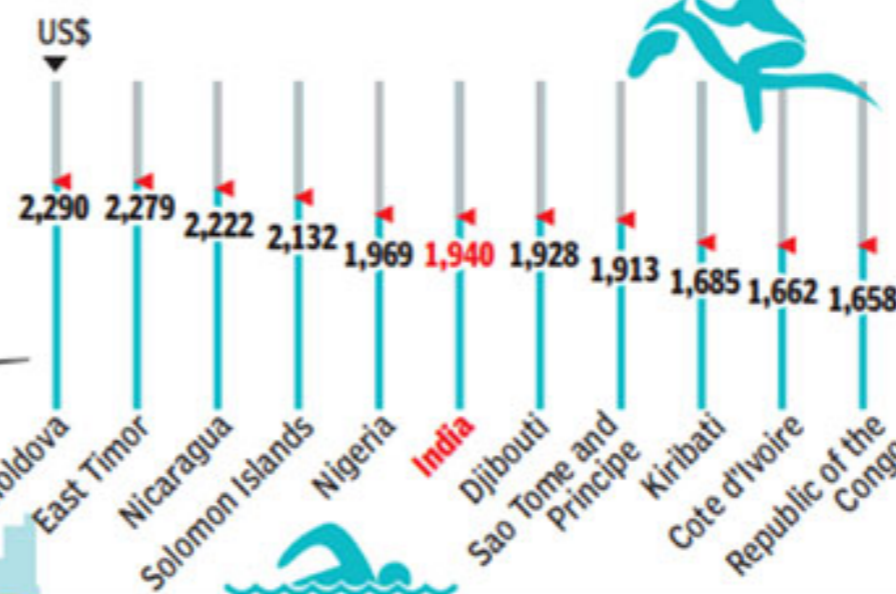
**WHAT IT REQUIRES**  
40 sporting venues, 60-70 training sites, stadium with 1 lakh seating capacity, indoor stadium for 25k, other allied facilities

Upscaling existing sports facilities in vicinity

Of the 15 largest economies, only India has not hosted the Summer Olympics

Rank	Economy	GDP (trillion \$)	Hosted in
1	US	19.4	1904, 1932, 1984, 1996
2	China	12.2	2008
3	Japan	4.9	1964
4	Germany	3.7	1936, 1972
5	UK	2.6	1908, 1948, 2012
6	India	2.6	Never
7	France	2.6	1900, 1924
8	Brazil	2.1	2016
9	Italy	1.9	1960
10	Canada	1.7	1976
11	Russia	1.6	1980
12	South Korea	1.5	1988
13	Australia	1.3	1956, 2000
14	Spain	1.3	1992
15	Mexico	1.1	1968

No country with a per capita GDP of India's level has hosted the Games



has started, it's the right time to start planning for the new city. The location is ideal considering it has connectivity to the six-lane Yamuna Express-

way and the Eastern Peripheral Expressway. Jewar airport will be the biggest draw, which will push development activities including hotels and other

facilities" a central government official said.

The proposal includes upscaling existing sports and allied infrastructure available in

the vicinity. For example, the Greater Noida Sport Complex ground has a cricket stadium that can accommodate one lakh spectators, a 12-lane bowling alley, a tennis complex including basketball and volleyball courts. It also has a football ground and a 400 metre running track.

The 2,500 acre Jaypee Sports Complex with the spanning new Formula 1 racing circuit, a hockey ground and other sports infrastructure can also be used to host some events of the world's biggest sporting spectacle, sources said.

"The need is to interlink and integrate the existing infrastructure as well as upgrade them to host world class mega events such as the Olympics," NBCC's new city proposal says. Sources said the government would need to set up a separate entity with participation from the government-owned company and the UP government to plan and execute this proposal. Such a massive project would require about Rs 6 lakh crore.

"The first phase may comprise building the entire trunk infrastructure. Ten to 15% of the seed capital has to come from the government and the rest from private players. However, after that, the project will be self-sustaining. About 20% of the land shall be dedicated to industry for mixed use development and generation of funds," the concept note says.

Besides generating employment during the largescale construction activities, after completion it would create opportunities for about 2.5 lakh jobs in various sectors. Officials said the new city can be a hub for economic activity and the government can implement its plan of moving some central offices to help decongest Delhi.