

City to mount India's 1st civilian equestrian cross-country course

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Bhopal: The city is likely to get India's first dedicated civilian equestrian cross-country course. The facility is being developed by the state govt at Nathu Barkheda, near the Sports Authority of India Centre in Bhopal and its construction is set to begin next year and is likely to be completed by the year end.

Once operational, the equestrian course will serve as a major hub for professional training and competitive equestrian events.

MP sports minister Vish-

INDOOR FACILITY UNDER RENOVATION, TO HELP RIDERS PRACTICE ALL YEAR



The under-construction indoor equestrian facility at MP Equestrian Academy

was Sarang described the project as a landmark step for the state's sports infrastruc-

ture. "This new facility marks a major milestone for Madhya Pradesh. It will bene-

fit our riders and attract talent from across the country, much like the MP Shooting A-

The MP Equestrian Academy is undertaking a major renovation to develop a state-of-the-art indoor training facility, ensuring riders can practise consistently throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions. A key addition will be mechanised horse walkers, designed to provide essential exercise & conditioning for the horses



cademy has done. Once completed, we will be ready to host national and international equestrian championships," Sarang said.

The course will be managed by the Madhya Pradesh Equestrian Academy, which functions under the state's sports department. "This is the first time a state govt is developing an equestrian course independently. Normally the equestrian cross-country courses in India are operated by the Army.

It will feature a blend of natural and artificial obstacles — including water jumps, ditches, and mounds

— designed to test both rider and horse. During events, horses can reach speeds up to 50 kilometers per hour," said one of the academy's senior coaches. Cross-country is one among the three disciplines in Olympic equestrian competitions, positioned between dressage and show jumping. Riders must guide their horses through a series of solid obstacles over varied terrain, testing strength, control and endurance.

Features such as angled fences, narrow jumps and water hazards demand precision, speed and trust between rider and horse.