Concept of Sports City in India: A Review

Nigel Varghese Sam [1] under Mrs. Anupama Sharma [2]

[1]Student of Department of Architecture, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology
[2]Faculty of Department of Architecture, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology

----

ABSTRACT:
In recent years, several cities have constructed new sports facilities in concentrated areas or supplemented existing facilities to create a themed sport zone. Some have branded these areas as "sports cities" to give them visibility and coherence.

A sports city is a planned community or district that is designed and developed with a focus on sports and physical activity. It is an urban area that includes state-of-the-art sports facilities, training centers, and sports academies, among other sports-related amenities. The concept of a sports city is to create a hub for sports enthusiasts, athletes, and sports-related businesses to flourish.

Sports cities are becoming increasingly popular around the world as countries recognize the benefits of investing in sports infrastructure to promote public health, economic growth, and cultural identity. Sports cities can be designed to accommodate a range of sports, including football, cricket, basketball, swimming, and athletics, among others. They can also include residential areas, hotels, shopping centers, and other recreational facilities to provide a complete sports and entertainment experience for residents and visitors alike.

This research paper will give a detailed analysis of a sports city and how it can be designed in the Indian economy and help India's sports industry, economy, and public health, making it a valuable investment for the country's future.

I.   INTRODUCTION:

Sports cities are urban areas that are designed to promote a healthy and active lifestyle by providing a wide range of sports facilities, infrastructure, and amenities. The need for sports cities arises from the growing recognition of the importance of sports in promoting physical and mental health, social inclusion, community building, and economic growth.

Sports cities offer a range of benefits to individuals and the community as a whole. They provide opportunities for people to engage in physical activity, promoting a healthy lifestyle and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. They also offer opportunities for people to connect with others, form social networks, and build relationships, promoting a sense of community and shared identity. In addition, sports cities can generate significant economic benefits, including increased tourism, job creation, and revenue from ticket sales, sponsorships, and merchandise.

To meet the needs of fans and athletes, sports cities need to provide accessible and safe transportation, comfortable seating and amenities, exciting game-day experiences, opportunities for interaction, access to technology, and affordable ticket prices. By doing so, sports cities can build a strong and passionate fan base, promoting the success and growth of local teams and sporting events.

Problem:
Not having dedicated sport cities or infrastructure can be a problem in India for several reasons:
1. Lack of proper training facilities: Without dedicated sport cities or infrastructure, athletes in India may not have access to proper training facilities, which can affect their performance and potential.
2. Inadequate equipment: Adequate sports equipment is crucial for athletes to perform at their best. Without dedicated sport cities or infrastructure, it can be difficult to provide athletes with the necessary equipment.
3. Limited opportunities for athletes: Sport cities can provide more opportunities for athletes to train, compete, and showcase their skills, leading to greater chances of success and recognition. Without these opportunities, it may be challenging for Indian athletes to succeed on the world stage.
4. Poor spectator experience: Sport cities not only benefit athletes but also provide a better experience for spectators. Without dedicated infrastructure, it can be difficult to provide proper seating, parking, and other amenities

for spectators, which can impact the overall popularity and appeal of sports events.

Hence, not having dedicated sports cities or infrastructure in India can limit the opportunities and potential for athletes, as well as the overall experience for spectators.

Sports Cities:

Sport cities are urban areas that have a strong focus on sports, recreation, and fitness. These cities are designed to cater to the needs of sports enthusiasts and athletes, with facilities and infrastructure that support a healthy and active lifestyle. The concept of a sports city has gained popularity in recent years, with many cities around the world aiming to become a hub for sports and fitness.

Sport cities typically have a wide range of facilities, including world-class stadiums, arenas, sports complexes, and recreational parks. These facilities are designed to cater to both amateur and professional athletes, with specialized training programs, coaching, and access to the latest sports equipment and technology.

In addition to sports facilities, sports cities also have a strong focus on active transportation, with cycling and pedestrian paths that encourage people to walk, jog, or bike around the city. Many sports cities also have a variety of fitness and wellness programs, including yoga studios, fitness centers, and health clubs.

The development of sports cities is often seen as a way to promote a healthy and active lifestyle, boost the local economy, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents. By attracting major sporting events and competitions, sport cities can also generate tourism and provide opportunities for local businesses to thrive.

Overall, sport cities are an exciting development in urban planning, offering a range of benefits for sports enthusiasts, athletes, and the wider community.

Types of Sports Cities:

From research and desk appraisals, there are two main types of sports cities that can be accepted, they include examples such as-

1. One where the whole city has all types of Sports Complexes like the city of Manchester.
2. Another where a zone of the city is developed with all facilities of sport. An example would be the Dubai Sports City.

Role of Sports in a City:

Sports play a significant role in a city, providing various benefits to both individuals and the community as a whole. Here are some of the key roles that sports play in a city:

1. Promoting a healthy lifestyle: Sports offer opportunities for people to engage in physical activity, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. This can help to reduce the risk of chronic diseases, improve mental health and well-being, and increase overall quality of life.
2. Building a sense of community: Sports bring people together, creating a sense of community and shared identity. They provide opportunities for people to connect with others, form social networks, and build relationships.
3. Boosting the economy: Major sporting events and facilities can generate significant economic benefits for a city, including increased tourism, job creation, and revenue from ticket sales, sponsorships, and merchandise.
4. Fostering social inclusion: Sports can promote social inclusion by providing opportunities for people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds to participate and compete. They can also help to break down social barriers and reduce discrimination.
5. Enhancing the city's image: Sports can enhance a city's image, promoting it as a dynamic, vibrant, and active place to live, work, and visit. This can attract investment, businesses, and talented individuals to the city.

Overall, sports play a crucial role in promoting health, community, economic growth, social inclusion, and the overall image of a city. By investing in sports facilities, programs, and events, cities can reap the benefits of a healthy, active, and engaged population.

What do the fans need and prefer in a Sports City?

Fans are an important part of any sports city, and creating an environment that meets their needs is essential for building a strong and passionate fan base. Here are some of the key things that fans need in a sports city:

1. Accessible and safe transportation: Fans need easy access to sports facilities, with safe and reliable transportation options such as public transport, ride-sharing services, or bike-sharing programs.
2. Comfortable seating and amenities: Fans require comfortable seating and amenities such as clean restrooms, concessions, and merchandise stores. These amenities should be

conveniently located and easily accessible for all fans.

3. Exciting game-day atmosphere: Fans want an exciting game-day atmosphere, with entertainment and activities that create a sense of anticipation and excitement. This can include pre-game festivities, halftime shows, and post-game celebrations.

4. Opportunities for interaction: Fans want opportunities to interact with their favorite teams and players, including meet-and-greets, autograph signings, and other fan engagement activities.

5. Access to technology: Fans expect access to the latest technology, including high-speed Wi-Fi, mobile apps, and interactive displays. These technologies can enhance the fan experience and provide real-time information and updates.

6. Affordable ticket prices: Fans want affordable ticket prices that provide good value for their money. Sports cities should offer a range of ticket options to suit different budgets and needs.

Overall, sports cities need to create an environment that caters to the needs of fans, providing easy access, comfortable amenities, exciting game-day experiences, opportunities for interaction, access to technology, and affordable pricing. By doing so, sports cities can build a strong and passionate fan base, promoting the success and growth of their local teams and sporting events.

Aspects in a Sports City:
A sports city typically encompasses various aspects related to sports and physical activity. Some of these aspects may include:

1. Sports facilities: A sports city usually has top-quality sports facilities like stadiums, arenas, courts, tracks, and pitches for different sports.

2. Training facilities: In addition to playing facilities, a sports city may also have training facilities for athletes and coaches, including gyms, weight rooms, and specialized training centers.

3. Sports events: A sports city hosts a variety of sports events, from local competitions to international tournaments, which attract athletes, fans, and media from around the world.

4. Sports academies: Many sports cities have academies or institutes for training and grooming young athletes, providing them with the right guidance and facilities to excel in their respective sports.

5. Sports education: A sports city may also have institutions that offer courses and degrees in sports-related subjects like sports management, sports medicine, and sports psychology.

6. Sports tourism: A sports city can be a hub for sports tourism, as it attracts sports enthusiasts and fans who want to experience the thrill of watching live games, attending sports events, and exploring sports-related attractions.

7. Sports culture: A sports city typically has a strong sports culture, with a significant portion of the population actively engaged in sports and physical activity, and a sense of pride and identity linked to the local sports teams and events.

8. Sports infrastructure: Apart from sports facilities, a sports city may also have a well-developed infrastructure that supports sports and physical activity, such as bike lanes, pedestrian paths, parks, and recreational spaces.

9. Sports economy: A sports city can generate significant revenue from sports-related activities, such as ticket sales, merchandise, sponsorships, and media rights, and can create job opportunities in various sectors of the sports industry.

10. Sports technology: With the increasing use of technology in sports, a sports city may also have cutting-edge sports technology like video analysis tools, wearable devices, and virtual reality training systems to enhance athlete performance and fan experience.

Why I think a Sports City will be beneficial in India:
A sports city could be very beneficial in India. Here are some reasons why:

1. Talent development: India has a large population, and a significant proportion of its youth are interested in sports. A sports city can provide the necessary infrastructure and training facilities to develop talented young athletes and help them compete at the national and international level.

2. Economic benefits: A sports city can create job opportunities and boost the local economy by attracting sports events, sports tourism, and sports-related businesses.

3. Health benefits: With rising health concerns, sports and physical activity have become more important than ever. A sports city can promote physical activity, improve public health, and reduce healthcare costs.

4. International recognition: India has a rich history of sports, and a sports city can help showcase the country's talent and attract international attention to its sports culture.

5. Improved sports infrastructure: India needs to improve its sports infrastructure to compete globally. A sports city can help bridge this gap by providing world-class facilities and encouraging investment in sports-related infrastructure.

6. Cultural significance: Sports are an integral part of India's cultural heritage. A sports city can help preserve and promote this cultural significance by creating opportunities for people to participate in sports and fostering a sense of pride and identity linked to sports.

Overall, a sports city could have a significant impact on India's sports industry, economy, and public health, making it a valuable investment for the country's future.

II. RESULTS:

In conclusion, the development of sports cities is essential for promoting a healthy and active lifestyle, fostering social inclusion, boosting the local economy, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. As such, the need for sports cities will continue to grow, with cities around the world recognizing the importance of sports in promoting health, community, and economic growth.

While sports cities have the potential to promote sports culture, create employment opportunities, and boost economic growth, they also require significant investment and resources. Ultimately, it is up to policymakers and local authorities to determine whether building sports cities is a priority and aligns with the long-term goals of the region or city, in this case the investment should align with the long-term goals of India.

REFERENCES:

[1]. Smith, A. (2014). The Development of "Sports-City" Zones and Their Potential Value as Tourism Resources for Urban Areas. Tourism Planning & Development, 11(1), 1-17.

[2]. Pye, P. N. (2013). The social benefits in sport city planning: a conceptual framework. Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability, 6(3), 225-246.

[3]. Kim, E. H. Y. (2018). Stadium City: A Modern Re-imagination of the Sports complex. Journal of Urban Design, 23(1), 1-17.

[4]. Valle, D. C. (2019). Sport in the City. Annals of Leisure Research, 22(4), 417-419.

[5]. Sajedi, A. (2019). Offering a Paradigmatic Model for a Sports City Designing Requirements. Journal of Sports Management and Marketing, 18(1), 1-14.

[6]. Chen, H. (2017). The impact of sports events on urban development in post-Mao China: A case study of Guangzhou. Journal of Sport and Tourism, 21(2), 79-95.

[7]. Chapin, T. S. (2010). Sports facilities as urban redevelopment catalysts. Journal of the American Planning Association, 76(1), 59-70.

[8]. Gao, T. (2019). Construction of New Urbanization Sports Leisure Industry Circles. Journal of Physical Education and Sport, 19(3), 1265-1273.