

Synthetic turf brings respite for hockey players

Transport Minister K.N.Nehru inaugurates the Rs. 3-crore facility established by the SDAT

Staff Reporter

TIRUCHI: The inviting sight of synthetic turf on the hockey ground at the Anna Stadium here holds promise to popularise the game even further.

The Rs. 3 crore-facility established by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) with State government funding is the fourth of its kind in Tamil Nadu.

"The new facility established to match international standards can also be utilised by hockey players in the neighbouring districts. An indoor stadium is also coming up at the Anna Stadium complex and efforts will be made to create more facilities," Transport Minister K.N. Nehru said, after inaugurating the synthetic turf facility on Monday.

Collector Mahesan Kasi-
rajan urged the young hockey players to achieve well by effectively using the facility.

"Indian hockey team was once a force to reckon with in the international arena.

- Craig Dove, a English sports installer, and a technical team from Mumbai, laid the turf
- An indoor stadium is coming up at the Anna Stadium complex

Young hockey players should work hard and give their best to revive the past glory," he said.

Planning and execution

Substantial planning and execution had gone into establishment of the facility. Works pertaining to construction of peripheral drain and storage sump, surface levelling, and blacktopping of the hockey ground were completed prior to commencement of the laying of turf in mid-January.

Two weeks

Craig Dove, a professional sports installer from England along with a technical team from Mumbai, had laid the turf in two weeks. The turf was imported from The Netherlands.

"A long-time dream has

come true. We have plans to conduct national-level tournaments on the newly-laid turf," said P. Kalaiselvan, District Sports Officer, appreciating the role of R.Mohan, former General Manager, SDAT, in facilitating the task.

K.N. Ramajayam, industrialist and patron, Unified Tiruchi District Hockey; S. Sujatha, Mayor; M. Anbazhagan, Deputy Mayor; K.N. Sekaran, Anbil Periyasamy, A. Soundarapandian and R. Rani, MLAs; Sangeetha Vasanthakumar, chairperson, district panchayat; T.T. Balsamy, Corporation Commissioner; K. Petchiammal, District Revenue Officer; S. Panneerselvam, Regional Senior Manager, Tiruchi-unit of SDAT, and others senior officials took part in the inaugural function.



STRIKING IT RIGHT: Transport Minister K.N. Nehru taking a shot at the hockey ball at the synthetic turf at Anna stadium in Tiruchi on Monday. — PHOTO:R.M. RAJARATHINAM