

# PCA starts construction of Mullanpur stadium

**NEW TIDINGS** With the new facility set to be come up in 2018, PCA seeks a new and better hosting experience

**Ashutosh Sharma**

chdsportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

**CHANDIGARH:** Punjab Cricket Association will soon have a new home for international cricket, at least. If all goes according to plan, PCA's new stadium in Mullanpur, on the outskirts of Chandigarh, will be ready by 2018 and might host its first international match by 2019-2020.

The present venue in Mohali is far from ideal. With an entire city mushrooming around it over the years since its inception in 1992, the stadium has been squeezed for parking space and every match turns into a nightmare for the people living adjacent to stadium.

The new venue will give PCA a much needed breathing space.

RP Singla, who is heading the four-member adhoc committee which is administrating day-to-day working of the association, said that the work has been started on war-footing with the association focusing both on the infrastructure and the ground.

"Since 1992, a lot has changed and we feel that it was necessary to have a new venue. ICC guidelines for hosting international matches have changed and we now need more facilities both for the team and spectators. The new venue is slated to have a capacity of 35,000 with parking space for 5000 vehicles," he said.

Singla added that the dressing rooms will also have a gym



■ **Work in progress at the site of the new stadium of Punjab Cricket Association on the outskirts of Chandigarh.**

RAVI KUMAR/HT

attached as per the present norms and even the corporate boxes and other facilities have also been enhanced.

"The maps a ready and the plan on paper is also ready. The first phase worth ₹55 crore has started in which we will build pavilion and ground. The curator and his team are already working on the ground and the pitch. We will also have a club house there," he said.

## THE NEW STADIUM WILL GIVE PUNJAB CA A MUCH NEEDED BREATHING SPACE

"The present stadium has a capacity of 28,000 so the new one will surely have more capacity. Besides the total outlay budget for the first phase is ₹145 crore," he said.

## PCA TRIO NOT IN SCENE AS THEIR DREAM PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

While the dream project of the—IS Bindra, MP Pandove and GS Walia—is taking shape, the trio are nowhere in the picture. Ruled ineligible by the Supreme Court verdict in Lodha Committee report, the trio have vacated the official positions they held in the association transferring the power to a 4-member adhoc committee. There has also been opposition from the some

sections as to why the association is in such a hurry to start the construction and are not waiting for fresh elections and new body to take charge. As per reports and sources PCA has grand plans and wanted to construct three grounds at the new venue with a budget of over ₹300 crore. And the initial phase will see the international stadium being constructed.