

India's first 'Nicklaus Design' 18 holes golf course to come in Sanand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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Spread over 175 acres area at Sanand is the swanky 'Kalhaar Blues & Greens', a world-class 18 hole Championship Golf Course, designed by the golf icon Jack Nicklaus' company 'Nicklaus Design'. The golf course will be launched on February 26.

Developed by Navratna Group, who has been in real estate development in Western India, the course is the first golfing facility in India to be designed and developed on the stringent standards of 'Nicklaus Design'.

The Golf Course is spread over 175 acres and has a length of 7,317 yards, making it one of the longest golf courses in India. It has 14 water bodies covering over 35 acres of the course. On the sidelines of the course there will be a clubhouse, hotel and a spa for the golf lovers.

Pranav Shah, the Managing Director, Navratna Group, said, "The vision started in 2006. We wanted to be close to the city. The Kalhaar Blues & Greens' complies with the United States Golf Association (USGA) specifications. The course is designed to have a distinct character and offers unique challenges such as sand and beach bunkers, water hazards, along with a scenic 'island green' on hole no. 7, which is the signature hole of the golf course."

The course has two varieties of grass such as 'miniverdi' for tees and greens and 'bermuda 419' for fairways and roughs. The grass varieties were imported from the US after studying local weather, water and soil.

"So far we have not started registration for membership. Out of 18 holes, still four holes are yet to be constructed. The work is likely to



A view of the golf course

finish in one-and-a-half years. About the golf course, there is a well equipped infrastructure under the course. All the water bodies are inter-connected," said Devang Shah, the Managing Director, Navratna Group.

The course will also offer accommodation to the golfers who will visit the place during weekends, as around 801 villas will soon come up all around the golf course. The entire golf course has been sand-capped to enable water harvesting and drainage systems to drain rain water and excess irrigation water to the lake.

'Kalhaar Blues & Greens' will also include in its campus a Golf Academy with a Practice Driving Range for the beginners and professional golfers, along with a 'golf shop' offering a comprehensive range of equipment, apparel and accessories for the sport.