

# MotoGP Bharat expected to rewrite speed records

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**Greater Noida:** India's first-ever tryst with fast bikes and flamboyant bikers is all set to be a riveting one with the big guns of motorcycle racing like Francesco Bagnaia (current World Championship leader), Marc Marquez, Jorge Martin and Marco Bezzecchi expected to line up for the MotoGP Bharat at the Buddh International Circuit from September 22-24.

The Buddh circuit played host to three Formula One races from 2011 to 2013, but a tax dispute with the government meant F1's stay in India was all too brief.

Now, for motorsports fans in India, and across the globe, the circuit has been homologated to make it suitable for motorcycle racing. In motorsports, homologa-

tion is the 'type approval' or conformity process through which a vehicle, a race track, or a standardised part is required to go for certification to host races in a given league or series.

It may be preposterous but organisers of MotoGP Bharat are expecting the race to shatter speed records in motorsports history. In the ongoing MotoGP season, South African Brad Binder, representing Red Bull KTM, became the fastest rider ever by clocking 366.1 km per hour at the Italian GP in Mugello. Binder beat Spaniard Jorge Martin's previous record of 363.6 kmph, again set at Mugello (in 2022).

"The Buddh International Circuit is a fast, flowing track. We can expect the bikes to hit highest speeds here. The long back straight, which measures 1006 metres, will

give the riders an opportunity to reach speeds of around 370 kmph," Amit Sandill, the director of racing, MotoGP Bharat, told TOI.

"This straight stretch is divided into two parts. The first segment is downhill, that will allow the riders to achieve maximum acceleration, while the latter part, which is uphill, will enable them to brake late and maintain top speed."

Sandill added, "The parabola or the stadium section on turn 9 and 10 is the perfect camber for riders to slingshot out of the turns and permits them to push their bikes to the limit. The track's surface gives exceptional grip to the tires, offering riders complete control over their machines."

"Safety measures have also been bolstered with the installation of 1,800 metres of new safety bar-

ricading," he said.

For the last 30 years, Dorna Sports has been managing MotoGP across the world. According to Carlos Ezpeleta, the chief sporting officer of Dorna, the MotoGP Bharat this year will be "special".

"The changes made to the Buddh International Circuit are truly remarkable. This track now stands witness to India's commitment to hosting world class motorsport events. We believe the circuit has the potential to register speed that could rewrite the record books," Ezpeleta said.

In MotoGP's history, nine out of the top-10 fastest speed figures have been achieved at the Mugello track in Italy. With its track customizations in place, the Buddh International Circuit has the potential to zoom into the fast lane.



**READY FOR ACTION:** The new-look Buddh International Circuit will host the MotoGP Bharat later this month