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Viva Football

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Special Features



THE BEST

**FIFA WORLD XI
TEAM**



Viva Football

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Concept and Executive Editor*

Ashish Pendse
ashpen6@gmail.com
+91 9422502080

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Network Head

Shashank Tambe
+91 9921949421

Designed by

Anneel B Shiindey
+91 9970001924

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Ashish Pendse
Concept and
Executive Editor

Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project again pledges our commitment to play as India's very own football media platform. We are also committed to moving forward together along with all these stakeholders. At the moment though, new season is bringing lot's of new hopes!

Final Whistle

It's time to show faith!

The Covid Fiasco during the AFC Asian Women's Cup that hit the Indian women's football team had left Indian football fraternity shattered. The Blue Tigresses had a realistic chance to qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup. Indian football fraternity must know the factors and persons responsible for this Covid Fiasco. Also, strong steps must be taken to avoid such blunders in the future.

We all have appreciated the efforts of Indian football stakeholders for their relentless work in mission begin again during last few years. We got back Indian football on track facing many obstructions. Could the AFC Fiasco might have been avoided? We all must be given honest answers by the concerned stakeholders.

We assure that we all stand by strongly behind the Blue Tigresses and will have faith in them in achieving World Cup dream.

We host our second FIFA U 17 World Cup. We should make most of this opportunity.

We have been exploring the potential of Indian football network through Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project. We at Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project are proud and privileged to be associated with the football networks. Association of India Football Coaches (AIFC) going strength to strength. Association of Football Clubs and Academies in India (AFCAI), now have crossed 450 membership mark across the country. Indian Women's Football Alliance (IWFA), and Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) too working hard. The Mumbai Girls Football is the latest addition. Along with India Khelo Football (IKF), we will be reaching out to the schools across India.

Viva Football Show YouTube Channel is our latest digital Avatar. This is our honest step towards creating a pan India football

media platform.

One must applaud the football fans across the country. They have kept the morals high in the real sense. They are the ones not to lose hope and stand by with their favorite clubs, players during thick and fast. The resumption of Indian football activities post pandemic was only possible with the strong support by the Indian football fans. The most important thing is that the Indian football fans have not lost hope and kept their faith intact in the Indian football ecosystem.

We all must wholeheartedly welcome the projects like Grassroots and The Golden Baby League. Parents and schools' participation is the key. Viva Football holds the key in this regard with our football popularization projects. We plan to reach thousands of schools involving the kids, teachers and the parents.

The association structure must be revived to make it more vibrant. It lacks professionalism and passion. The AIFF must set a mechanism to take along all the state associations with the global pace.

We have been hit hard on the economic front during the pandemic. Obviously, the aftershocks are bound to affect the football ecosystem in the country. The government must play an important role in the revival mission of the Indians sports scenario. They must offer the patronage for a year or two.

We will move on post Covid third wave. Schools are expected to be reopened from June. Inter school sports too is expected to be back on track from June. Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project from India networks through schools and kids for popularization of football. It helps to inculcate sports culture. We hope to be back with a bang!

Let's gather ourselves for the FIFA u 17 Women's World Cup challenge now.

■■■

#BackTheBlue



India to play against Bahrain, Belarus

The Senior Indian Men's National Team will play two International Friendlies against Bahrain and Belarus on March 23, and March 26, 2022 respectively. Both the matches will be played in Manama, Bahrain from IST 9:30 pm onwards (7pm local time, Bahrain).

The matches are part of the preparation of the Indian Men's Senior National Team's campaign in the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 third round qualifiers, which is scheduled to be held in June 2022.

"Given the current circumstances, it was extremely difficult to find the kind of opponents we were looking for. But I am very happy that we have the two matches on our schedule," Head Coach Igor Stimac averred.

"We are doing our best to prepare well for the upcoming final qualifying round of the AFC Asian Cup China 2023, and these two matches will immensely facilitate our preparatory process," he added.

"Both Bahrain and Belarus are ranked higher than us, and if all goes well with the Hero ISL season with our boys putting in good performances, and playing competitive games we should be ready," the coach mentioned.

For the record, Bahrain are placed at 91 in the FIFA Rankings, while Belarus are on 94. India's current FIFA Ranking is 104.

The last time India played any UEFA Member Association was

more than a decade ago in February 2012 against Azerbaijan, a match which the rivals won 3-0.

"Playing against better teams is the best way to improve our own game, as that allows the boys the chance to mature playing against, and with better speed. Our youngsters need more exposure and time to play, and practice. Sometimes results may suffer, but if we follow the path, we will have a better future soon."

The Belarus contingent consists of many international players who ply their trade in the Russian Premier League (three players), and also the first league (three players), while a few more are also contracted with clubs in Hungary, Czech Republic and Cyprus.

Stimac, who coached Croatia to qualify for the FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014 also underlined the importance of taking "necessary precautions, and staying safe."

"We need to keep planning, and working as everything is fine and normal. But at the same time, we need to take precautions to keep as safe as possible in our endeavour to avoid unpleasant situations," he expressed.

With the broadcasting rights of matches lying with the Bahrain FA, the AIFF is already in discussion with them, and also with the Belarus FA for subsequent permissions about live telecasting the matches in India.

■■■

(AIFF Media Team)

#FootballKiBaat

'Crucial for goalkeepers to maintain the balance'



Soumo Ghosh

AIFF Media Team

Former Indian National Team captain and goalkeeper Brahmanand Sankhwalkar who was last week conferred the prestigious Padma Shri Award feels that the "art of goalkeeping has changed a lot in modern times."

"There have been a lot of improvement in goalkeepers over time since my playing days," averred Brahmanand in a chat with www.the-aiff.com "Nowadays you have taller goalkeepers who are extremely agile, and good with the ball at their feet," he added.

Brahmanand, who is eighth Indian footballer to be conferred with the Padma Shri title by the Government of India, joining the likes of Late Gostho Paul, Late Sailen Manna, Late Chuni Goswami, Late PK Banerjee, Bhaichung Bhutia, Sunil Chhetri, and Bembem Devi in the feat, was himself an extremely acrobatic keeper, whose reflexes earned him huge accolades.

"A goalkeeper has a completely different view of the game, and can really influence

the positioning of his teammates," opined Brahmanand. "But he also needs to maintain the balance. You can't be too much into what others are doing, and in the process completely forget what you are supposed to do yourself. One needs to keep focus, and instruct his teammates in the crucial areas. This comes with maturity," he maintained.

While there is improvement in keepers these days, the Padma Shri awardee feels that there are a few aspects of a goalkeeper's learning process that has remained unchanged.

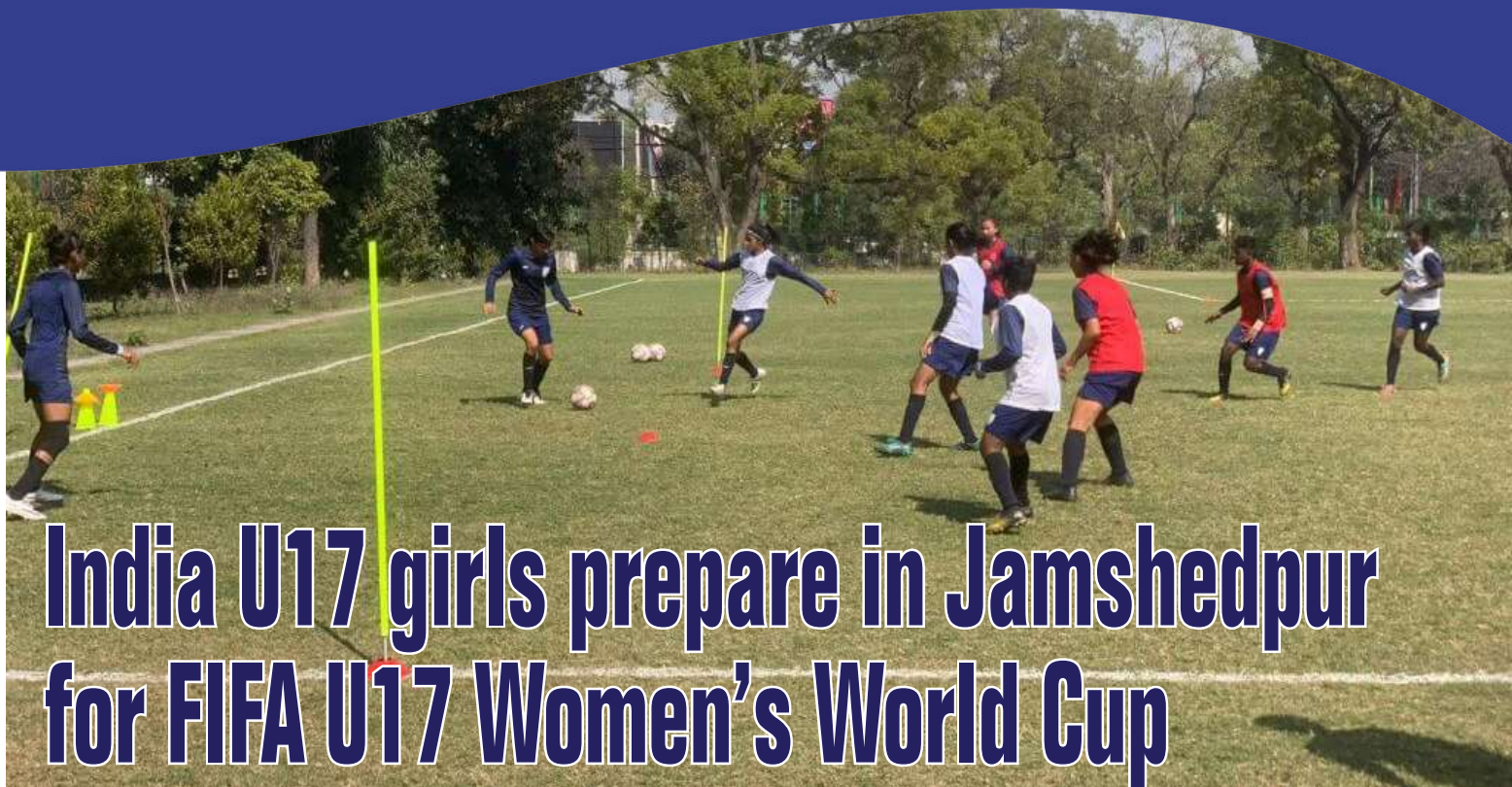
"One thing that holds true even now is that keepers need to be constantly encouraged, and need to be given match time to mature as footballers. It's important to build that competitive mindset," he explained.

At the end, however, the 67-year-old feels that it all comes down to the passion of the individuals to keep improving themselves.

"No matter all the facilities that one gets, passion and self-discipline are two of the most important things for not just goalkeepers, but any footballer," the Padma Shri awardee expressed. "If you have passion for the game, you won't get tired, no matter how hard you are working. It's always important to have that mentality."



#FootballKiBaat



India U17 girls prepare in Jamshedpur for FIFA U17 Women's World Cup

The Indian U-17 Women's Team are gearing up currently in Jamshedpur as part of their preparatory process for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 which is slated to kick-off from October 11-30, 2022.

A total of 35 girls are currently in camp in Jamshedpur, with more waiting on the wings for a call-up, as per the coach's discretion. Among the 35 players summoned, Shilky Devi has already been a part of the Senior National Women's team squad for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022, while Astam Oraon, Nitu Linda and Lynda Kom was part of the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship 2021 which was held in Bangladesh in December, 2021.

The girls are currently training under Suren Chettri while Head Coach Thomas Dennerby and Assistant Coach Alex Ambrose will join them soon.

Alex who was also in charge of the scouting process stated: "The scouting part was the toughest. It was an experience in itself. I want to record the efforts and help which came in from the State Associations."

"Scouting is a continuous process, and we are working to build a team for the future."

The camp in Jamshedpur has been set up with the support from the Government of Jharkhand. Earlier, the Senior National

Women's team had also camped for several months in Jamshedpur ahead of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 with infrastructural and logistical help coming in from the State Government.

"I am very happy and thankful to the Jharkhand Government for hosting us here. They have been staunch supporters of Indian Football, and have facilitated a safe environment for us all throughout," Alex mentioned.

The 35-member squad (as of February 7, 2022) is as follows:

GOALKEEPERS:

Keisham Melody Chanu, Hempriya Seram, Anjanli Munda

DEFENDERS:

Yanglem Julia Devi, Kajal, Naketa,

Astam Oraon, Salina Kumari, Sudha Ankita Tirkey, Hemam Shilky Devi, Purnima Kumari, Payal, Kamasani. Durga, Kalpna Azad Zingh.

MIDFIELDERS:

R.Vinothini, Neha Rani, Thakor Shilpaben Devabhai, Madhumathi R, Dharshini Devi R, Lavanya Verma, Khushbu, Laishram Rejiya Devi, Ngashepam Pinku Devi, Varshika, Shailja, Lisham Babina Devi, Nitu Linda, Anita Kumari, Bhumiika Bharat Mane.

FORWARDS:

Sridevi Hansdah, Shubhangi Singh, Serto Lynda Kom, Loktongbam Sheila Devi, Reshma, Moirangthem Ambika Devi.



(AIFF Media Team)



Come back Queens!



- **China PR fight back to claim amazing ninth title**
- **Heartbreak for Koreans**



China won their 9th AFC title. Their victories were at 2022, 2006, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1993, 1991, 1989 and 1986 championship. Along with the #WAC2022 championship, China won two coveted awards. This was the amazing display of football skills and more importantly, the mental and physical strength. We relive the final game...

China PR came from two goals down to defeat Korea Republic 3-2 in a pulsating AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ final at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

Korea Republic looked to be cruising to their first crown after taking a 2-0 lead at half-time but China PR fought back after the break through goals from Tang Jiali, Zhang Linyan and Xiao Yuyi - who netted the winner deep into added time to seal her side a record-extending ninth title.

China PR head coach Shui Qingxia hailed her players' performance in capturing their historic ninth title.

"This is the most critical moment for China PR women's football," said Shui. "Despite trailing 2-0 my players showed determination to fight back. I like to thank all the players for winning the title but they also won it for themselves."

Korea Republic head coach Colin Bell was proud of his players despite missing out on their first title.

"I'm proud of the players, I told them that after the match," said Bell. "We need to keep improving and not let this defeat diminish our spirit. We're bitterly disappointed. We need to be stronger mentally. The penalty

against us, took our concentration away."

China PR entered the final chasing their first title since 2006 against a Korea Republic side who had never laid their hands on the coveted trophy.

China PR, unbeaten in seven previous meetings with Korea Republic, started the game brightly and had the first look at goal within seconds when Wu Chengshu played the ball to Tang Jiali just above the area, but the midfielder's effort was easily dealt with by Korea Republic goalkeeper Kim Jung-mi.

China PR continued to press with Zhang Xin trying from 35 yards out while Wang Shuang saw her effort in the 10th minute saved by Kim.

Korea Republic began to see more of the ball as the half progressed and were rewarded with their first look at goal in the 27th minute, with Lee Geum-min breaking into the box before sending a cross to Choe Yu-Ri to score the 100th goal of the tournament.

With Korea Republic in the ascendancy, China PR survived a scare at the half-hour mark, goalkeeper Zhou Yu pulling off a point-blank save to deny Lim Seon-Joo's header off a free-kick.



China PR, however, suffered more woe in the closing stages of the first half when a VAR review saw Korea Republic awarded a penalty for Yao Lingwei's handball, with Ji So-yun converting from the spot.

China PR head coach Shui sent on Xiao Yuyi and Zhang Rui at the start of the second half to force their way back into the game but Korea Republic gave them little room to operate in the early stages.

China PR, however, received a lifeline when they were awarded a penalty for Lee Young-ju's handball, with Tang Jiali netting from the spot in the 68th minute.

Boosted by the goal, China PR began to dictate play and drew level four minutes later thanks to some poor defending by Korea Republic.

Goalscorer Tang did well to beat two Korea Republic defenders before sending a delightful cross into the six-yard-box for an unmarked Zhang Linyan to nod home the equaliser.

Korea Republic could have then won it at the death with Zhou Yu pulling off a one handed save before defender Wang Xiaoxue blocked Son Hwa-Yeon's effort.

Having escaped, China PR broke Korea Republic's hearts in added time with Xiao Yuyi stunningly finishing off Wang Shanshan's pass as a record-extending ninth title was sealed.

■■■

AFC Women's Asian Cup India - most engaging ever

The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ has left an indelible digital footprint, with the engagement and coverage of the showpiece surpassing the previous edition and soaring to an all-time high record.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC)'s digital channels witnessed unprecedented growth during the campaign as the statistics grew by a staggering 5,324% as compared to the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018™.

During the tournament, that was played from January 20 to February 6, the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ received more than 270 million impressions, 17 million engagements and 74 million video views across its channels.

By continuously delivering the latest news, the AFC reached more fans by producing coverage in Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Farsi and Indonesian – in addition to its coverage in English.

The AFC's General Secretary Datuk Seri Windsor John said: "The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ has achieved many milestones, on and off the pitch, with our talented football teams and officials creating history while our digital platforms continue to rise in record numbers and engaging with more fans than ever before.

"Our digital channels continue to be Asia's leading content provider and it is wonderful to see a peak in engagement as more

fans from around the world show their interest and support for our world-class football teams and competitions."

In addition to the unprecedented digital coverage, the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ achieved some outstanding television broadcast coverage across the region.

In particular, an average of 31 million live viewers on CCTV-5 in China PR watched their country defeat Korea Republic 3-2 in an exciting final to lift a record ninth AFC Women's Asian Cup™ title. It is estimated that 86 million people watched at least a minute of the final on the free-to-air CCTV-5 channel.

The coverage in China PR attracted 47% female viewership as well as a younger audience below the age of 35, showcasing the increasing popularity of women's football in the country and across the Continent.

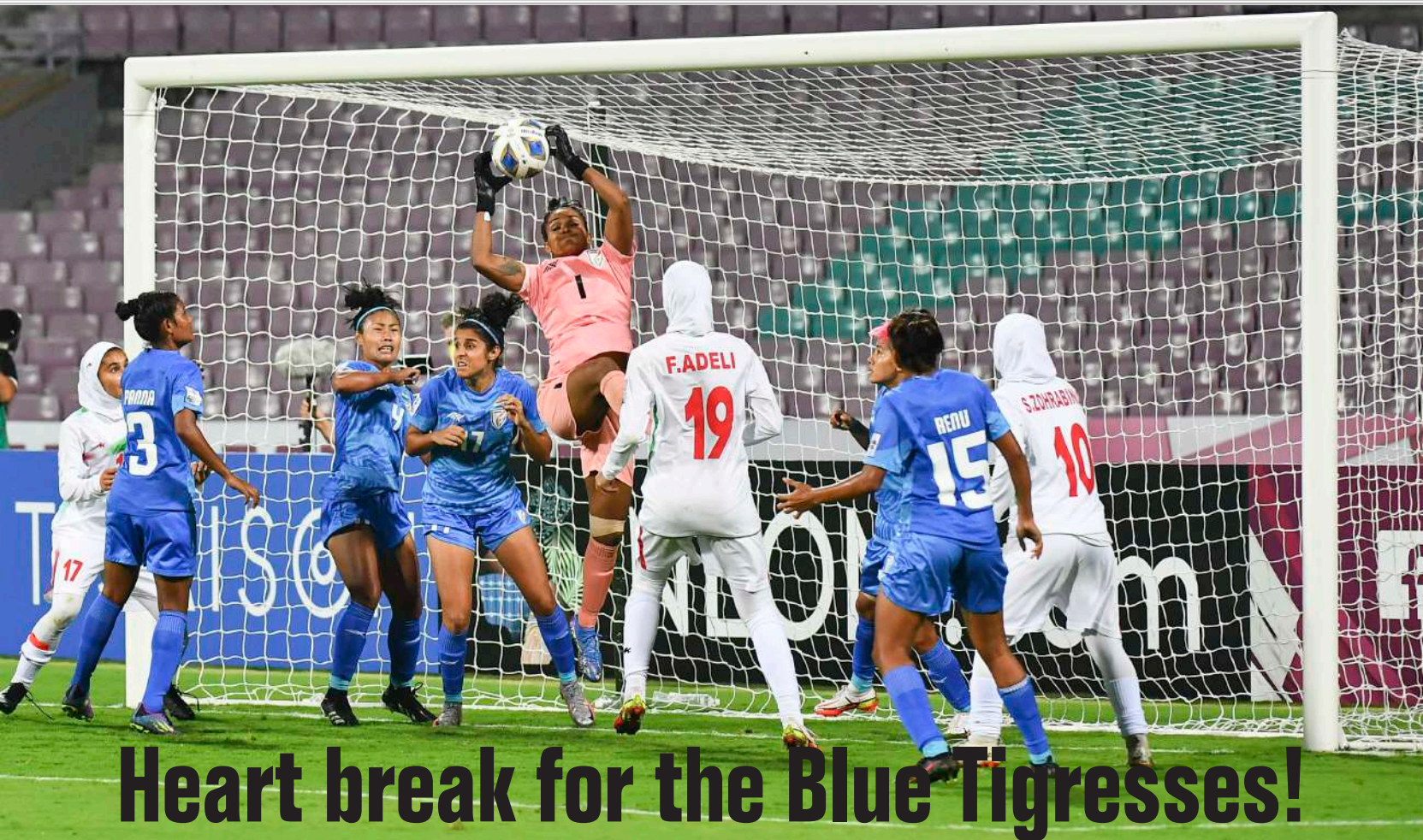
In Korea Republic, an average of 354,000 viewers tuned in for the live final coverage on television, adding to a total of 6.17 million

unique views watching the matches aired across TVN.

Meanwhile, 22.47 million Vietnamese fans watched their team's progress in the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ on television, averaging 2.42 million viewers per match as their national team made history by qualifying to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 for the first time.

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Heart break for the Blue Tigresses!

The Covid fiasco during the AFC Women's Cup left not only the Blue Tigresses heart broken, but the entire Indian football community devastated. Indian girls were not supposed to conquer the Asia. But, had a realistic chance to qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup to be organised next year in Australia and New Zealand.

Unfortunately for them, the Covid ruined it all.

Who to blame for it? AIFF for not protecting its own players? AFC as the tournament organiser? Or the team management for the gross neglect?

India head coach Thomas Dennerby openly put forward many arguments which were reported in Indian media. Dennerby had said - the players, staff and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) were not at fault for the debacle that was the hosts' exit from the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 due to Covid-19 outbreak. Dennerby said there was nothing more that the players or the federation could have done to stay safe and careful and detailed the chain of events that led to the incident that rocked Indian football.

Dennerby said throughout the six months of staying together and training, there was never a hint of positive case in

the team.

After training in Kochi, they arrived in Mumbai on 13th and went to their respective rooms after giving their first tests. He said all of them tested negative when the tests arrived the next day.

The first case of positive case, however, came in the team following their first training session right after they had stepped out of the quarantine. "That's strange, how is that even possible, we thought. The first feeling was it is someone within the bubble," Dennerby said.

The physio, the strength and conditioning (who were both close to the hotel staff for setting up the gym) and a player tested positive in the first cases within the team.

Dennerby revealed that the hotel staff was tested on January 17 and in their results, which came back on January 18, seven staff members tested positive. He, however, said that AFC did not share the report till January 19, leaving the team possible to infection.

"Did they understand this was not good? Probably, but not action at this time. AFC should have called the hotel directly, and asked the (positive cases) to immediately leave the hotel and have no contact with the players whatsoever. But they did not.

This was a big mistake.

Why were they not tested every third day as a team? No test for the hotel staff done between the 11th and 17th, what we know anyway. I think that was an unprofessional way to handle it in an AFC bubble, a championship, a WC qualification," he said.

Following more tests, India had only 11 players available on the morning of the match. 10 had tested positive and two had fractures and were in a cast.

Dennerby further said that seven and a half hours before the start of the match, the AFC Tournament Director said that it was the team's decision whether they want to field the available 11 plus two injured players to go ahead with the match.

"From my side, the biggest problem is that the AFC were not at all interested in having a discussion, how to handle this embarrassing situation. No emotion for the players, no understanding about human beings."

AFC hasn't issued any clarification over this Covid fiasco. But, certainly it is a learning lesson for all the stakeholders.

Come on the Blue Tigresses... We all stand together in your support!

Viva Football...!!!

History, records, upsets and memorable moments



The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ came to a thrilling end on Sunday with China PR winning the prestigious trophy for the 9th time, defeating Korea Republic 3-2 in an instant classic at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. It was a night of twists and turns that truly fitted the momentous occasion of the final of AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ that gave football fans across Asia and the world, a number of unforgettable moments.

As the tournament bids farewell to India (for now), here is a look back at some of the most memorable moments from AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™, including the records that were broken, the technological advancements that were made, the upsets that were caused and the history that was created.

Records

- For the first time in India, the VAR technology was used at the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ from the knockout stages. The Quarterfinal matches between Japan and Thailand, and Australia vs

Korea Republic saw the usage of VAR for the first time in the country.

- Australia defeated Indonesia in the Group B match by 18-0, picking up the biggest win in the history of competition in 20 years.

- China PR won the trophy for record-extending 9th time.

- Shui Qingxia became the first person to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ both as player and head coach when China PR defeated Korea Republic on Sunday 6th February. In fact, she is undefeated in the tournament having won as a player in 1986, 1989, 1991, 1995, 1997 and now in 2022 as a head coach.

Upsets



- Korea Republic's 1-0 win over Australia in the Quarterfinal match was deemed as the biggest upset of the tournament. Coincidentally, it was also the match in which VAR played a key role - for the first time in a football match in India.

- China PR knocked out defending champions Japan with a 2-2 (4-3 pen) win in the semifinal match, stopping Japan's bid for a hat-trick of title wins.

The Underdogs stories

- Philippines, who were placed at the 64th position in FIFA World Rankings at the start of the tournament, stunned the football fans in Asia as they went on to reach the semifinals, and book a spot for



the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup set to take place in Australia and New Zealand.

- Vietnam qualified for the Women's World Cup for the first time in history defeating Chinese Taipei to confirm their berth at the quadrennial event at Australia/New Zealand.

Best Players/Team

- China PR captain Wang Shanshan won the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament award.

- China PR's Zhu Yu was named as the Goalkeeper of the tournament, conceding just 5 goals in the tournament

- Australia's Sam Kerr won the top scorer of the tournament award.

- Korea Republic were awarded the Fair Play award.

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Incredible one of a kind experience for Volunteers



The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ has been running successfully within a bio-bubble across three venues - the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, the Mumbai Football Arena in Mumbai, and the Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune. Amid the footballing action, the volunteers working behind the scenes for this prestigious tournament are garnering massive praise from all corners for their diligence and hardwork.

The volunteers who are a part of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) come from various management colleges across India and the volunteer program of the LOC is aimed at creating a strong pool of young leaders in the sports domain.



One of the volunteers, Vaishali Pandey, who is currently pursuing an MBA in Sports Management from Symbiosis School of Sports Sciences, received the opportunity to volunteer at the event through her college placement cell.

"I am in the Marketing and Infotainment department. The takeaway from both the cells is that no matter what the situation is we need to come up

with a workable solution. I am working as an Announcer in the matches where timing is everything, hence, accuracy with efficiency is mandatory here," Vaishali said, speaking about her experience.

"This experience has made me realize that I can work beyond my potential. Be genuine to the assigned work and give more than 100 percent to whatever work we are assigned to," she added.

Giving opportunities to people at a time when sports events have been halted or postponed by the pandemic for more than two years has served as a blessing for the young enthusiasts looking to enter this industry.

Vedant Gupta, a second-year MBA student who is pursuing Sports Business Management from the DY Patil School of Management said that the tournament, his first sports event, has been an incredible learning experience for him.



"The overall experience throughout the tournament for me has been wonderful as this was my first sports event and I got to learn many new things. Starting from the process, to the detailed bifurcation of the department's and their roles and

responsibilities - the whole run-through of the event and many other things," he said.

Another volunteer, Harleen Kohli, who is working in Media Operations at the event, talked about the challenges they faced, and how they learned to overcome those situations.

"Because the tournament was taking place during COVID, learning and implementing the various protocols so early in our career is a feather in our collective caps. That we were able to handle everything in a calm and professional manner is a testament to everyone's unified effort towards a common goal," she said.



"AFC has been an incredible and one-of-a-kind experience. When it's over, I am going to miss going to the stadium every day because it was the best part of my day. However, in addition to providing an exceptional learning experience, volunteering for the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 has given me the opportunity to network, become more confident, as well as to forge new friendships," she added. ■■■

'Inspirational platform for all'



Volunteers are the backbone of any event. AFC Asia Women's Football Cup was no exception. On the other hand, Sports management students get a vital on the ground experience and exposure through such events. Viva Football Magazine acts as a media platform for these volunteers to share their experiences...

Asian Women's Football has its biggest event in 2022 as India hosted the AFC Women's Asian Cup. Leading women's national teams from Asia competed for the prestigious trophy. This platform continues to inspire and ensure a platform for the next generation of Asian stars.

The tournament expanded to 12 teams and numerous SOP's in place due to Covid-19. The pandemic was not over, so we had a lot of work to do, but it was well worth it.

To deliver a tournament of this magnitude, Local organising committee, volunteers, and all the stakeholders have contributed relentlessly to ensure this event was a success.

During my time as an Operations coordinator for the LOC team, my main responsibility was



Ujwal Dhone

Operation Coordinator, AIFF Masters

overseeing overlays and accreditation. I was on the outside bubble team, where I had to speak with 30-40 people a day to ensure the deliverables were met on time.

The AFC inspections occur every day from Match Day-6 from 4pm to 8pm, which means all the service providers need to be outside the venue during this time, so it was a challenge to complete all the work and meet the deadlines.

Despite taking necessary precautions, I was tested positive before the tournament began. During my quarantine time at home, I worked with the accreditation team to make things run more efficiently.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone at the LOC, all stakeholders, and volunteers who have made the tournament such a great success. I would like to extend my gratitude to AIFF Masters for their support and cooperation.]

'Honour to be part of the AFC event'



Vansh Chawla

IISM - International Institute of Sports Management

I am Vansh Chawla. I am a student at IISM - International Institute of Sports Management pursuing Bachelor's in Sports Management. I have always been a sports buff and knew that I wanted to do something related to it. Sports Management is a very broad field and is very different from other Management sectors. I applied for this opportunity at

the AFC Women's Asia Cup through my college which is based in Mumbai. I was selected in the Infotainment department as the Stadium announcer. My main job was to give commands and keep the crowd engaged and at the same time make announcements related to Substitutions, Infringements, Goals etc. I was tested positive a day before the tournament started and thus had to drop out. Once I returned back to the stadium after a negative report, I was shifted to the Media Department wherein I was regulating and managing the movement of Media persons in and around the stadium. The LOC team was very supportive and I would like to give credit especially to Gagan Shetty Sir and Sidak Bhattal Sir for their guidance in such a high profile tournament. AFC officials had regular checkups at the Stadium to

ensure everything was in place. This was my first large scale event as a volunteer and I experienced a lot of key management aspects involved in such a huge event. The matches played were full of quality and I am pretty happy that all volunteers could make arrangements in and around the stadium to keep the tournament running inspite of some lows. I loved the way Korea Republic played the tournament.

■■■■



'Great Learning Experience'



Avi Kumar Thakur

SSSS - Symbiosis School of Sports Sciences

I Avi Kumar Thakur from Symbiosis School of Sports got selected in the competition department as a volunteer in AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 which was led by Nandan Waghmare in the Pune site. He gave me chance to increase my knowledge of the football field and how the event work on the practical basics sports industry.

It's great to be part of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022. It is great learning from this tournament as it allowed us to perform and learn on the same platform. It's my pleasure to be part of this international tournament and get great heads who lead us in different ways.

I work on training sites and the main stadium. During the training of teams, I have to work to fulfill their requirements and check the pitch if there is a problem on the ground. Check the training site is fully sanitized and clean. Even when the team arrives I have to give time to media persons so that teams practice will not face any effect.

On match days as of for starting match days we get some trouble because we don't have the experience to do this thing so my head led me to close the gaps coming in matches. I was working on the ground to make sure that the pitch is perfect as per rules given by AFC.

My Work is to see if AFC sees any issue with a pitch when they came for inspection like nets, line marking of pitch, and dugout position. Even I have to work under the competition areas which are the referee room, player medical room, anti-doping room, and dressing room. My duty was to make sure the dressings room and referee rooms are clean and there is proper water bottles, ice for the match, and fruits.

These duties are when there is no bubble time but when bubble time starts

I have to see watering for the ground and pitch maintenance should be done after warm-ups and further half time. It gave us less pressure and great experience because we have two matches to be played in one day at our venue.

As a volunteer, I never felt that we were left out and not getting any experience to make it forward in the future. Even after the first matchday, our LOC member taught us where we were lacking and should work to make it smooth. After the first matchday, we improved and perform well to make the next match days smooth with fewer errors in our work.

These are official things where my manager helped me and teach but there are some more places where Nandan sir and Gagan Shetty helped me to handle pressure in tournaments and increase learning in football and also tournaments. They sit with me and teach me how I can improve and should work to gain the experience due to which I have all over tournament experience.

This learning will we can take forward in future but the enjoy we do after the match and after work on rest days are great. They sit with me and teach me what I can do to get into the football industry to make my career in this industry.

They share their experience with me and teach me like the brother I have never seen any senior in this tournament



gave us this much freedom to say and give advice. Nandan sir and Gagan sir enjoy with me and take me with them to lunch to make me learn through when they are talking

I would like to thank Nandan Sir, Gagan Sir, and Sagar More Sir for providing me this much freedom to talk between them and tell their experiences and guide me towards my career in this sports industry and enjoyment with them to make this first international tournament successful and memorable with great experience in my career.

■■■



Maharashtra Government to distribute AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ match balls among youth female footballers

'Could enhance sport management skills'



Parth Durve

SSSS - Symbiosis School of Sports Sciences

My name is Parth Durve and I am a 2nd-year student pursuing my MBA in Sports Management from Symbiosis School of Sports Sciences. I am grateful to SSSS for giving me this opportunity to volunteer for AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022. I volunteered as an Event Services Volunteer at Balewadi Stadium, Pune.

This volunteering experience was a great opportunity for me to explore and learn in the events vertical of the sports industry. My biggest learning was to manage, coordinate and work in a professional setting along with experienced and highly qualified individuals. This was my first exposure as a volunteer in an international sports event and it was engaging and interesting.

I worked in two departments, one under F&B as the F&B Coordinator and the other under competitions as the training site coordinator. The majority of my work pertained to the training site well before the actual tournament commenced. My



key responsibilities under F&B on training days was to coordinate with the ice vendor and deliver ice to the teams before sessions. The matchday duties included coordinating and distributing meals and water to VIP, VVIP guests, medical staff, Police and the Fire department. Along with it, I had to coordinate and deliver Ice and fruits to the players dressing rooms and the referee room as well.

The training site duties included assisting teams in smooth and safe training sessions, getting their on-ground training equipment sanitized, coordinating, and managing housekeeping of the entire training venue, securing the training site and making sure all the AFC Security and safety Protocols and rules are being followed and discipline is observed during sessions. One of the most interesting and

new experiences I had was to set up the team dugouts on the field of play. I stayed on the ground along with my competitions department team till 12 midnight on the ground to get the setup right along with the correct measurements provided by AFC.

It was fun as well as challenging to manage 4 training sessions of different teams on a single training day. All the arrangements had to be done right on time so that the timings don't clash. My team was put into situations where we had to make quick and spontaneous yet important decisions. There were also some challenging situations we faced during these sessions where we had to deal with difficult people. The training sessions were strictly held behind closed doors and inside the bubble for the safety of the players and still, some people tried to breach these protocols. It was challenging yet a learning experience for me to handle such situations calmly and effectively.

Working in 2 departments helped me enhance my time management and coordination skills. Being a part of the training site coordination team, I always had to be on my toes and be alert. I got to learn so much every day in such a short period. I would like to sincerely thank Nandan Waghmare, Gagan Shetty, Tanika mam, Siddharth Taware sir and Shalu Wadhwa mam from the LOC team for constantly guiding me and giving me valuable insights during the event.



Technical Study Group, appointed by the AFC for this tournament. it was a dynamic group under the leadership of the AFC Women's Football Head, Bai Lilli.





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Fans from across the globe enjoy everything Qatar has to offer during the FIFA Arab Cup™

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) invited 44 football fanatics from 28 countries to sample the atmosphere at the FIFA Arab Cup™. The guests, who are all members of the SC's Qatar Fan Leader Network, enjoyed a four-day trip which included attending the inauguration of Al Bayt Stadium, visiting tourist attractions and meeting some legendary football stars.

The delegation included fans based in Qatar, who interacted with international fans to help them learn more about football in the region. The group attended the opening ceremony at Al Bayt, which preceded Qatar's 1-0 victory over Bahrain in front of a packed crowd. The fans were also given a behind-the-scenes look at tournament preparations, visited Khalifa International Stadium and had a chance to have their photo taken with the FIFA Arab Cup Trophy™.

The objective of the trip, which began on the eve of the tournament and ran until 1 December, was to introduce fans from across the globe to Qatar's rich culture and offer a glimpse of what to expect at next year's FIFA World Cup™.

Vincent Okumagba, 57, from Nigeria, said: "It was my first time in Qatar and I must confess I was blown away by what I saw. The airport, roads, restaurants and culture are unbelievable. It's a lovely

FIFA World Cup in Qatar is expected to be the most fan friendly event ever! Fans world over will have a gala time during the world cup. FIFA World Cup has recently launched the countdown campaign. Selected fans across the globe were fortunate to experience this fantastic fanfare !



Countdown

country with beautiful people. I will tell people back home that they cannot afford to miss the World Cup in Qatar. People in Nigeria need to start preparing to travel in the hope we qualify. I think Qatar 2022 will be the best World Cup ever."

Iraq fan Nabaa Al-Dabbagh, 31, said: "The stadium designs tell an amazing story about Qatar. Uniting Arab nations here was the highlight for me, as it is something that hasn't happened in years. It was very emotional to be here with so

many Arab nationals and to celebrate football in Qatar."

She continued: "I've made so many friends during this trip. It was amazing – despite the cultural and language differences, we united through football. Meeting so many football legends was a dream come true, as was stepping foot on a pitch that will host matches during next year's World Cup."

Qatar Fan Leader Network Al Thumama Stadium

Jamir Vallyamannil, an accountant from India, said: "Qatar is ready for the upcoming World Cup. I enjoyed meeting local people and the welcoming hospitality. It is going to be a very accessible World Cup as everything is close together. The infrastructure and facilities are very impressive. Qatar has maintained its traditions and is one of the safest countries in the world."

Arjun Wara, a university lecturer from the UK, said: "The Arab Cup was full of

Football Pilgrimage to venture Qatar

Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project from India along with Viva Football Show YouTube Channel will venture for this year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Football Pilgrimage takes football fans to Europe to watch European league games, stadium-club visits and city tourism. Also, we take football kids to Europe for coaching camp tours. These are the most affordable football tours. **Special tours for the sports management and management students**

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too a big attraction. Understanding the football with the most experienced football professionals too is helpful for the sports management students.

Qatar on the cards..!

FIFA World Cup is the main attraction of the year for the football fans world over. Indian football fans will have a realistic chance to experience FIFA World Cup frenzy. Football Pilgrimage will conduct tours to Qatar along with the FIFA World Cup tickets. The packages will be announced soon. Stay tuned to Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project social media and keep reading Viva Football Magazine for the details.

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excitement and it was great to meet fans from across the region. The energy and passion were a pleasure to see and I look forward to more of this during next year's World Cup."

As well as visiting tourist hotspots such as Souq Waqif and the National Museum of Qatar, the delegation was also treated to a desert safari, dhow boat ride and an exclusive dinner with a host of Qatar Legacy Ambassadors, including Cafu, Samuel Eto'o, Tim Cahill, Ali Al Habsi, Ibrahim Khalfan and Mohammed Saadon Al Kuwari.

Fatma Al Nuaimi, the SC's Communications Executive Director, said: "We were delighted to welcome Fan Leaders to Qatar for the FIFA Arab Cup. It was a golden opportunity to introduce our country to fans from across the globe and give them answers on a range of topics, including travel and accommodation,

public transport and ticketing, among others. These fans have already started sharing their experience with their networks, as we build up to hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2022."

The Qatar Fan Leader Network was launched in collaboration with the Qatar Football Association earlier this year with the aim of uniting fans from around the world to discuss the FIFA World Cup™, Qatar as a host country and

the visitor experience. The SC is collaborating with supporters to prepare for and respond to fan group requirements, while also creating tailored content in the lead-up to the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup™. In addition, members take part in research projects to help shape the fan experience in 2022. There are currently 410 Fan Leaders from 51 countries with the network, representing fanbases from many different regions, cultures and backgrounds.



'Golden Opportunity for Indian Football Fans to experience FIFA World Cup Frenzy'



Indian football fans really have a realistic chance to experience the FIFA World Cup during Qatar event.

Pradyumna Tembhekar, Fan Leader for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. Currently 50 of FIFA's member nations across the world are represented in the fan leadership programme instituted by Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) - the local organisers of the FIFA World Cup. He takes us through the mesmerising Qatar experience in this exclusive interview with **Viva Football Magazine**

What is it being FIFA World Cup brand ambassador?

My role is that of a Fan Leader for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. Currently 50 of FIFA's member nations across the world are represented in the fan leadership programme instituted by Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) -- the local organisers of the first FIFA World Cup hosted by the Arab world and the second by Asia --- and I represent India.

It is a matter of utmost pride that I am getting to represent my nation, which is the world's youngest nation with a median age of about 28, in the world's biggest single sport event and that too hosted in a country where Indian nationals constitute the single biggest resident expatriate group.

I have been a football fan all my life and the honour bestowed by SC comes as recognition not just for my love of the sport but also of thousands of Indian youngsters who have stuck by football despite it being a very distant second to cricket in terms of national popularity.

What message do you carry to Doha as the representative of Indian football fans' fraternity?

As the flag-bearer of India and as a football fan, my message to the global football community is that India is no longer the sleeping giants of football. If the Indian Super League viewership

on host broadcaster Star Sports is any indication, India has a bigger domestic football audience than the English Premier League has in the UK.

Even when it comes to attending the FIFA World Cup, Indian fans have been making their presence felt progressively over the last decade with every single edition. In Russia 2018, almost 20,000 tickets were sold to Indian nationals which was the third biggest in number for those nationalities whose national teams had not qualified for the FIFA WC.

The domestic broadcast viewership of the world's most popular single-sport competition has also been growing. Russia 2018 had a cumulative reach of 260 million viewers in India on the then India territory host broadcaster's network.

In terms of performances on the field, got to mention that some talented Indian youngsters have recently made heads turn in the Indian Super League and in the senior Blue Tigers set-up as well. The best example is that of future of Indian football Apuia who, I am sure, will surprise West Asian fans and clubs later this year when his ISL club Mumbai City FC takes the field as the Indian representative of this year's AFC Champions League West Zone group stages.



Undoubtedly, there is still some way to go for India to emerge among the top 10 footballing countries in Asia which should be India's immediate goal as it means we will be able to mount a serious challenge for a berth in the expanded FIFA WC from 2026.

But I will brief the global football community using my platform that India has made some progress in this direction as can be seen from that historic draw at Al Sadd Stadium against Asian champions Qatar in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup and 2022 FIFA World Cup Combined Qualifiers – a result that has been labelled by many Indian football experts to be on par with the country's Asian Games gold medal win

of 1962.

What should Indian fans expect from 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar?

Qatar 2022 will be a FIFA WC like no other previous editions for Indian fans. For people on the West coast of India – the huge belt stretching from Gujarat downwards to Kerala that includes financial and entertainment capital Mumbai, Pune, Goa and even tech capital Bengaluru – the 2022 WC host nation is just a three-to-four-hour flight in a westerly direction. It would take a resident of Mumbai around the same time to reach India's football capital Kolkata but flying in a north-easterly direction.

Besides this there is amazing connectivity between Indian cities and Doha. Qatar Airways alone flies to 13 different Indian destinations, the most to any country after the United States of America. Indian tourists topped international arrivals in Doha in 2019, the last full year of uninterrupted international tourism prior to the onset of COVID in 2020.

Qatar is also a nation with a massive resident expatriate Indian population, who have played a huge role in the country's emergence as a modern nation. Indian football fans planning to visit Qatar for the 2022 WC will find no dearth of good quality Indian food – both south Indian as well as Mughlai -- at a range of diverse price points.

Local organisers SC are planning a variety of accommodation options for varying budgets such as hotels, serviced apartments, fan villages, desert camps and cruise ship hotels. There will be also additional hotel inventory from the private sector that is released in the form of short stay holiday homes. Then of course there will be the option of staying with friends and family which Indian fans can potentially avail of in Doha because of the substantial presence of the Indian community.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to advise Indian football fans to travel to Doha even if they have missed out on the tournament tickets. It is not every other day that Indians will be able to make a quick entry to a FIFA WC host nation to partake of the sights, sounds and the buzz of the tournament like the fan zones etc.

Ticket buyers will have the unique experience of watching the FIFA WC from eight state-of-the-art 2022 venues, one of



which, Ahmad Ali Stadium, has been built by an Indian company for the first time in the tournament's 72-year-old history.

How can Indian fans fulfill their dream of watching FIFA World Cup games live in Qatar? How are the organisers and Qatar gearing up for it?

Qatar 2022 will be unique in that it will be the only compact FIFA WC in the tournament's modern history. The distance between the two farthest among the eight 2022 FIFA WC stadiums is just 75 kilometres by car. This is ideal for ticket-holders to watch two matches a day from the stadium and a third one in the fanzone during the group stages. In short, the 2022 FIFA WC hosting concept offers value for time and money for an international tourist who normally in previous FIFA World Cups would have had to travel by air or rail between matches.

Many football fans, including Indians residing in Doha, have successfully watched multiple matches a day during the 2021 FIFA Arab Cup held in December.

I have already dwelt on the connectivity, cuisine and accommodation aspects in response to your earlier query. For diverse reasons, I can assure you that Qatar 2022 will be a game changer for Indian football fans.

'Football is my life!'

What does it mean to you to have won the vote for The Best FIFA Men's Player 2021?

"I have to say that is a huge honour and I'm very proud of this award. Because everything that I did and that I'm doing makes me proud. I'm very happy to win these kinds of awards. Because these awards also belong to the team, because we are all together as one player."

Does winning this award motivate you even more and bring out the best in you?

"If you love this sport, if you love this game like I do, it's always easier to be motivated for the next step. It doesn't matter how many games you won or how many awards you won. For me, it's more important how many games are still to win, or how many titles are still to win. And this is the difference. And even after awards, even after the next title, it makes me more motivated for the next win."

How important do you think this title is for the Bundesliga as a league?



"I think that every award means a lot for the league – for the team as well. Because we are playing as a team during the game and throughout the season. And all these individual awards also are important for the club. Winning titles with your team is always special – because they are the most important – but also individual awards are important, because it means that you consistently did good work. And so many people are talking about these awards, talking about these titles, so it is good not only for me but for the club and all the league as well."

Manuel Neuer was also shortlisted for the World XI. How important is Manuel's backing for the team?

"Yeah, he's a great goalkeeper. Not only goalkeeper but he's a great man. It doesn't matter how old he is, he still shows that he's the best. Even during training sessions, for me he's the competition, I see it as a challenge to score goals against him. And also because of him I can be better. Because if you have the best goalkeeper in front of you in training sessions, the next challenge, the next step is to find the solution"

On Instagram you gave us a nice insight into your family life at the weekend. You made your daughter a pigtail with a Hoover. How did that come about?

"I saw some video a few months ago, on the internet of course, and I know sometimes in the morning I don't have much time to do my daughters hair. I asked her if she will be happy if we can try doing like this. At the beginning, she was like: 'okay, but I'm not sure'. But after





we tried it, she loved it. She was so happy because of this technique, this style. And for me this was an easy job I can repeat regularly. It was also great to spend time together as well.”

One more thing about your family. You once told me that you used to have to do many sports because your parents wanted you to. Describe that again. Why did they want you to play more than football?

“Yeah, my parents were teachers of physical education. My father taught my class so every time when I did physical education, I expected to play football. But that wasn’t always the case. At that time I didn’t understand why we were playing other sports like basketball, handball, or volleyball, because I just wanted to play football. But later I’ve understood that other sports make me more flexible – they teach you different movements as well. Not only the typical movements of football players, and I see even now the difference between me and other players because my body is more flexible. That’s why I did a lot of other sports. Now I can be thankful. I want to say thank you to my dad for making sure I didn’t play just football.”

One of the highlights of the last Bundesliga season was certainly your 41st goal of the season, which broke the Bundesliga goal scoring record. Do you still have it in your mind’s eye, and can you tell us again what happened before and after the goal was scored?

“Of course I still have this moment, this whole game, in my head. Because I



remember exactly that during the whole game I couldn’t score this last goal, the 41st goal. I tried to score with the left, right, again left, again right and I couldn’t score. But other players scored easily. In that moment, the last minute, the last seconds, I knew that I had to be ready, that the situation was coming. I think Leroy Sané tried to score from distance, from 20 metres, something like that. And I felt that the moment is now. I knew I was not offside, that the goalkeeper made a small mistake, and I have to be in the right place in the right moment. And after that, when I scored this goal, I didn’t exactly know what it meant but I was so happy. That impossible is possible. A legendary record – to do it means a lot for me and I was so, so happy after this goal. I couldn’t believe that I had done it!”

Has anything changed in the way you are perceived since then? From whom, perhaps outside football, have you

received recognition for this?

“I dedicate this new record to Gerd Müller. In 49 years, nobody was close to breaking this record. And because of him, I could set the new record. He showed the heights you can achieve in the Bundesliga. But a few years ago, I thought that it’s impossible to do it like he did it, but after 49 years, I did it. And this record is so amazing and it’s something special because of him as well. Even now, it makes me proud, makes me happy, because I didn’t dream about breaking such a huge record in the Bundesliga. And I did it. All the support I got this season and the last year as well means a lot to me. Because I knew it would not be easy after my injury. I thought maybe it was impossible to score so many goals, to break this record. But when I came back, I knew that I had to work hard and still believe that it’s possible.”

300 Goals. A new milestone. You are the 2nd player ever to break the 300 goals mark. What does that mean to you?

“I heard for the first time after the game that I scored 300 goals in the Bundesliga. It’s always better to get this information after the game, not before, because then you don’t have to think too much about it. But these kinds of numbers make me proud. 300 is something amazing, something special. Only two players have scored so many goals and I am one of them. Patience is also very important in this record. But for sure, it’s easier if the team plays well and you have lots of situations to score goals.” ■■■

(Content Courtesy : Bundesliga Media)



I think It's much harder to score goals at international level these days," said Ronaldo in 1997. "You can't expect to score against Saudi Arabia or Australia or any other national team in the modern era. That record is not something I think about."

Those were the words of Ronaldo in 1997. 'O Fenômeno' was 21, an out-and-out striker and had 20 goals in 30 caps to his name, but was trying to extinguish talk of whether he'd one day break Pele's 77-goal Brazil record. Ronaldo went on to retire as one of the greatest marksmen in football history and with 62 goals for his country.

If the masses speculated over whether Ronaldo could become the highest-scoring male in international football history back then, nobody did the same over another Ronaldo when he was 21. The latter had netted 12 goals in 40 appearances for Portugal and was a winger.

Cristiano Ronaldo was, however, a freak of nature. Indeed, 49 goals in his last 47 internationals catapulted Cristiano past

Ali Daei, on to 110 overall and made him the highest-scoring male of all time.

"A very special award for a unique player," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino as he handed over The Best FIFA Special Award to Ronaldo at The Best FIFA Football Awards™ in Zurich.

- Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the FIFA Special The Best Award
- Recognised for becoming the highest-scoring male in international football history
- The Portuguese expressed his delight

"[It's] very beautiful," said the recipient, gazing at the award. "It was a dream. I never thought about beating that record, of scoring 115. The record was 109,

right? So I'm six ahead. I'm so proud [to receive] a Special Award from FIFA, an organisation that I respect a lot."

"I'm very happy," he said. "It's a special award for me to be the best goalscorer ever. It's a great achievement. I'm so proud. I never thought that one day I would be the number one. It's a great honour for me. It's great to be the [record] goalscorer of all time."

"I have to say thank you to my old teammates from 2004, when I started to play for the national team, until now. And, of course, I have to say thank you to my family: my wife, my kids."

So, to what does Ronaldo attribute his capacity to keep on breaking records and winning trophies?

"Sacrifice," he said. "Without sacrifice you can't achieve anything. I started to play at the top level when I was 18 and I've been at the top for 15, 16 years. It's down to my dedication, my passion, my ambition and working hard all the time. This is why I've continued to be at the

top of the world in terms of performance, trophies, goals, records.

"I still have the passion for the game. Not just to score goals. It's to entertain myself because I've played football since I was five, six years old. When I go out on the pitch, even in training, I'm still enjoying it and my motivation is still there. Even though I'm going to be 37 soon, I feel good, I feel motivated, I have been working hard since I was 18 years old and I continue to.

"I love the game. I still have that passion. I want to continue. People ask me sometimes how many more years I'm going to play and I say I hope to play another four, five years. It's all mental because I think that if you treat your body [well], when you need your body it's going to give it back.

The patriot also dedicated his prize to his country.

"I know I make the Portuguese people proud," said the Manchester United forward. "This award is for them and the country as well. I have appreciated the motivation they give me since I started to play for the national team.

"It's always a pleasure to play for your country, for your flag,

for your family. It's unbelievable. Every time I put the Portuguese shirt on I feel so emotional, so happy. It's a great feeling."

Ronaldo, who helped Portugal conquer the UEFA EURO in 2016 and the UEFA Nations League three years later, now wants to lead them to one of few trophies missing from his extraordinary collection: the FIFA World Cup™.

First, though, Portugal must make it through the European play-offs, where they have been drawn in a very tough bracket including European champions Italy.

"We know we have a difficult two games – I hope we will have two. It will be tough. Everything is possible. We know the draw was difficult but it's part of the business, part of football. Football is a challenge. I hope we will be ready for the battles."

Another milestone Ronaldo achieved was being voted into the FIFA FIFPro World XI for the 17th year in succession. So, why does he get such consistent recognition from his fellow professionals?

"They know," said the Funchal native. "They know because they also play football, they know what it takes to be at the top level, and they know what I do on the pitch. The results show what I do.

"I have to say thank you to all of them for voting for me to be there, and it's great motivation for me to continue and to make people happy, especially the fans around the world and my family. And I will continue because I'm still capable and happy to keep pleasing people."

(Content Courtesy : FIFA Media)



FIFA

Happy New Footballing Year!

- A busy year that will end in style
- 2022 promises to be an enthralling year

2022 promises to be the grand football year with the FIFA World Cup at Qatar. India will experience it's second FIFA World Cup as we gear up to host FIFA U 17 Women's World Cup. Women's Euro Cup too will be highlight of the year along with other club competitions across Europe.

Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project from India gives you the best opportunity to witness live action of the many international football events. FIFA World Cup at Qatar would be the highlight of these tours. Stay tuned for our packages announcement and next tour plan in April and May 2022



2022 is set to be a very eventful year, so to ensure you do not miss any of the action and can start filling in your diaries, FIFA.com presents an overview of all the main dates and events.

Draw for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™

Dates: Early 1 April 2022

The draw for the group stage of the tournament is set to take place on 1 April 2022 in Doha. At that stage, not all of the 32 participants will be known, as the intercontinental play-offs will only take place in June, having been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022™

Dates: 10 - 28 August

After the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2014, Costa Rica are hosting a major women's event once again, this time the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2022. The tournament was originally planned for 2020, with Panama as co-hosts, but this was also postponed due to the pandemic. Costa Rica was then named as sole hosts of the new global tournament.

Reigning champions Japan will be there, as will the previous winners from 2016, Korea DPR. Europe's representatives have already booked

their places (Germany, Spain, France and the Netherlands), as well as those from Asia (Korea DPR, Japan and Korea Republic) and Oceania (New Zealand), along with hosts Costa Rica. Qualifying in the other confederations will be taking place over the coming months.



The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022™

Dates: 11 - 30 October

After successfully hosting the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017™, India is looking forward to their second World Cup in 2022, and the hosts will be joined by Japan and Korea DPR as the Asian representatives. The tournament was originally planned for 2020 but had to be postponed because

of the pandemic.

Along with the hosts, the European representatives (Spain, Germany and England) have already booked their spots, as well as New Zealand (OFC) and the two Asian qualifiers (Japan and Korea DPR). Qualifying in the other confederations will be taking place over the coming months.

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™

Dates: 21 November - 18 December

Will France be able to defend their title or will we have a new world champion in 2022? 32 teams will be fighting it out to hoist the FIFA World Cup trophy aloft!

The opening match will kick off on 21 November 2022, and the tournament in Qatar will feature the best footballing talent from around the world. It is set to be a unique event, giving fans the opportunity to discover the culture of Qatar. Moreover, during the group stage, the proximity of the venues will make it possible to attend more than one match in a day.

"We will enjoy being all together in one place," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino. "Fans will be treated to top-class football in eight state-of-the-art stadiums. We are looking forward to the opportunity to bring people from different backgrounds together. What I see here is a country that is preparing to welcome the whole world, and every fan, but also looking into where improvements are needed and taking real steps to do so in many different areas, particularly in relation to human rights and workers' welfare."

■■■

(Content Courtesy : FIFA Media)



Three as in... Will Belgium break this jinx?

3 - The number of European countries that occupied top spot in the FIFA/Coca-Cola Ranking before Belgium. Germany led the standings in 1993 and 2014, France did likewise in 2001, as did Spain from 2008 to 2013.

3 - The number of years you have to go back to find an official match in which the Red Devils did not score at least one goal. The last time they were kept scoreless was the semi-final of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, when they went down 1-0 to France. Since that 10 July disappointment in St Petersburg, Roberto Martinez' men have found the net in 42 consecutive matches.

3 - The number of goalkeepers who started games for Martinez in 2021: Simon Mignolet, Koen Casteels and Thibaut Courtois. The latter, who has been impressive for Real Madrid this season, remains the Spaniard's first choice and is one of the national team's top assets.

3 - Though dominant in the Ranking, Belgium are still looking for their first major tournament victory. Leaving aside the 2018/19 UEFA Nations League, where they failed to survive the group stage, the Red Devils have been eliminated three times in a row by the eventual winners of a competition: France at the aforementioned 2018 World Cup, Italy in the quarter-finals of UEFA EURO 2021, and France again in the semi-finals of the Nations League 2020/21.

3 - The number of defenders almost always used by Martinez in his formations over the last three years. The coach is more flexible when it comes to attacking formations, opting for 3-5-2 or 3-4-3 depending on the opponent.





- Belgium top the FIFA/Coca-Cola Rankings for the fourth consecutive year

AS OF 10 FEB 2022

RANK	TEAM	POINTS	+/-	POSITION
1	BELGIUM	1828.45	0	◆
2	BRAZIL	1823.42	0	◆
3	FRANCE	1786.15	0	◆
4	ARGENTINA	1766.99	+1	▲
5	ENGLAND	1755.52	-1	▼
6	ITALY	1740.77	0	◆
7	SPAIN	1704.75	0	◆
8	PORTUGAL	1660.25	0	◆
9	DENMARK	1654.54	0	◆
10	NETHERLANDS	1653.73	0	◆

f /fifa /fifaworldcup @FIFAcom



Belgium and Canada take 2021 honours

- This year's 'Most Improved Side' are Canada with a 130.32-point gain
- Qatar in Top 50 as we head into 2022

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, only 352 full internationals were played in 2020. Not since 1987 (323 matches) had so few games been played in a calendar year. By contrast, planet football made up for lost time in 2021 with a record breaking 1116 matches played.

And while the quantity of games changed radically from one year to the next, the top ranked team in the FIFA/ Coca-Cola World Ranking has remained the same! For the fourth year in a row, Belgium (1st) end the calendar year in pole position, albeit only just ahead of Brazil (2nd) by 2.1 points. France (3rd) complete the podium for 2021.

For their part, Canada (40th) are the year's 'Most Improved Side' having picked up no fewer than 130.32 points over the last 12 months. Their journey to the semi-finals of the 2021 Gold Cup as well as impressive results in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ qualifying have been major factors in their rise.

Winners of UEFA EURO 2020 and the Copa America 2021 respectively, Italy (6th + 115.77 points compared to December 2020) and Argentina (5th +108.51 points compared to December 2020), have also seen their points tally increase dramatically this year.

The same goes for the USA (11th + 103.51 points compared

to December 2020) and England (4th + 85.52 points compared to December 2020). Equatorial Guinea (114th + 59.78 points compared to December 2020) made the most impressive progress among African teams, while Saudi Arabia (51st + 81.71 points compared to December 2020) did the same in Asia.

However, just in terms of last month, the most improved Asian team are Indonesia (164th + 11.13 points). Winners of the FIFA Arab Cup 2021™, Algeria (29th +3) jointly made the best progress in terms of places, along with Qatar (48th + 3), who finished third at the tournament, and Thailand (115th +3).

Leader	Belgium (unchanged)
Countries entering the Top 10	None
Countries exiting the Top 10	None
Total matches played	58
Most matches played	Algeria, Egypt, Qatar, Tunisia (6 matches)
Biggest increase in points	Indonesia (up 11.13 points)
Biggest increase in places	Algeria, Qatar, Thailand (plus 3 places)
Biggest drop in points	Myanmar (minus 8.01 points)
Biggest drop in places	Myanmar (minus 4 places)
Countries joining the Ranking	None
Countries leaving the Ranking	None
Unranked inactive teams	Cook Islands

Senegal hit new highs!



Senegal and Gambia progress after Cup of Nations After winning their first CAF Africa Cup of Nations title last weekend, Senegal continued their ascent into the upper echelons of world football. In fact, the Lions of Teranga have climbed to 18th in this February's edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking, their highest ever position. Unsurprisingly, the Cup of Nations generated most the movement seen in the year's first edition of the Ranking.



Aside from Senegal, the highest ranked African nation in the standings, Cameroon (38, + 12), who finished third at the African Cup, and runners-up Egypt (34, + 11) have made the most significant moves within the TOP 50. Other notable movers were Canada (33, + 7) - a new high

for the Canucks - and Costa Rica (42, + 7), with both enjoying strong performances during Qatar 2022 qualifiers in the CONCACAF zone.

However, the biggest jump of all this month was by Gambia (125, + 25), the Scorpions ascending 25 places courtesy of their run to the quarter-finals at the African Cup. Equatorial Guinea, who also reached the last eight at the tournament, climb 15 places and are now in the Top 100. Other notable rises were those of Malawi (119, + 10) and Gabon (82, + 7). For their part, Mali (48, + 5) made more modest gains but nonetheless broke in to the Top 50.

With eight of its teams now in the Top 50 (up 1 this edition), CAF has consolidated its third place in terms of confederation ranking, to the detriment of the AFC (4 teams in the Top 50, a fall of 1). The other confederations have the same number of representatives as in the December 2021 Ranking: 26 for UEFA, 8 for CONMEBOL, 4 for CONCACAF and none for OFC.





IKF dribbles national...!



Vani Mahajan

Volunteer IKF

India Khelo Football (IKF) is the platform for young players to showcase their talent. Also, further going ahead to provide them proper training and exposure. It is the grassroots 2.0.

Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project from

India has always been supportive for such football initiatives. Also, we reach out to the parents as they play a very crucial role in developing a sports kid.

Girls football is the buzzword today. We wil also give ample opportunities to budding girl footballers. The special coaching camps overseas will give these kids a world of exposure.

We are very happy to collaborate with IKF and looking forward for very fruitful endeavours...

Recently India Khelo Football organized Under 14 tournament in the multiple cities namely Imphal, Ghaziabad, Patna, Trivandrum, Gayeshpur, Harinavi, Madhyamgram in the months of October, November and December. The footfall in all the tournaments were amazing. The excitement of the kids could be sensed from the registration counts which crossed 800+. All the tournaments were done in association with local partners. In Imphal the tournament was carried out under the aegis AMFA, Ghaziabad: The Goal Plaza, Patna: Alpha Sports Academy and Bihar Football Association, Trivandrum: Sportown and KSBC. For Gayeshpur, Madhyamgram and Harinavi the partner was Future Stars Soccer Foundation.

The registration for the tournament had begun two weeks prior which received huge response from the kids but keeping the COVID-19

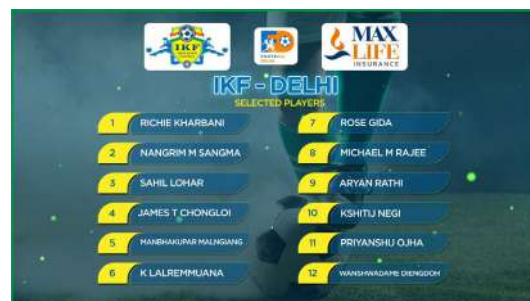
restrictions in mind the registration had to be closed early as it has reached the intake limit. It was absolutely wonderful to see such young buds show such amazing talent and passion for football. All the tournaments were carried out keeping the COVID restrictions in mind.

'This is a great and well-organized initiative from IKF where the kids can reach every corner by their regional and city tournaments to pick up and scout talent.' Says parent of one of the participants. "The entire initiative by IKF is commendable and we hope that they are able to spot amazing talent here in Imphal. It's a great opportunity for the young kids of Manipur to showcase their talent and get the platform that will bring them closer to being a professional football player."

Says one of the participant's parent.

"It goes without saying that the talent that we were able to unearth in this short span of time was amazing. The kids here have lots of potential and with the help of such tournaments we are able to harness the raw talent and provide a platform that they rightfully deserve.", says PFSA Scout, Volunteer India Khelo Football.

Near about 70 talents were scouted from all the cities and now they will be representing their cities in the different zones. IKF is scheduled to conduct U-14 city level football event in Kolkata and Mumbai in the month of December post which the Zonal leg will begin. ■■■



Football kids and parents have given overwhelming response for IKF nationwide scouting mission. It was a breathtaking display of talent, passion and commitment for football. Kudos to each one of you! Here are the selected kids for the regional finals. Let's go for it and achieve your dream of flying to Europe!

IKF - GAYESHPUR
SELECTED PLAYERS

1 MASUM RAJA SHAIKH	8 ARINDAM MONDAL
2 SAJID SK	9 SUBHADIP SARDAR
3 BARUN SARKAR	10 JIT BISWAS
4 PROVASH MONDAL	11 SOUROV ROY
5 JEET MALD	12 DURGACHARAN MANDI
6 SUMIT MONDAL	13 RUPAM PAL
7 BAPAN MONDAL	14 SAHABUL MALLICK

IKF - GHAZIABAD
SELECTED PLAYERS

1 DIVYANSHU SINGH	6 ABHISHEK RATHI
2 SHASHWAT BINJOLA	7 AARAN PILOT
3 ABDUL NOOR HAMIR	8 RISHIK
4 ESHAAN RAWAT	9 AMAN KUMAR
5 GARVIT MISHRA	10 PARVESH

IKF - HYDERABAD
SELECTED PLAYERS

1 ABDULLAH
2 MOHAMMED ABDUL SUBOOR
3 MOHAMMED ABDUL AFFAN
4 BAASIM MUBEEN
5 SYED FARHAN
6 AASEM KHAN
7 SYED RIYAZ

IKF - MADHYAMGRAM
SELECTED PLAYERS

15 ARITRA BANERJEE	22 PINTU KUMAR MOHALI	29 LAXMAN DAS
16 KUBER MUKHERJEE	23 SUMONTO SARDAR	30 SWAPNANLI BOSE
17 SWAGATAM BISWAS	24 DEBAJIT GUHA THAKURATA	31 NIL TALUKDAR
18 SUBHAJIT DAS	25 VIKY PRASAD	
19 ANKIT MUKHERJEE	26 SUBHRA DUTTA BANIK	
20 SANDIP GHOSH	27 RAHUL MANNA	
21 TAPAS PAUL	28 BISWAJIT BARUI	



IKF - KOLKATA
SELECTED PLAYERS

29 RONIT MONDAL
30 DEBANJAN HAZRA

IKF - AHMEDABAD
SELECTED PLAYERS

1 PARVA THAKKAR
2 VEDANT GAJJAR
3 MANAV VAGHELA
4 HRIDAY SHETH

IKF - GAYESHPUR
SELECTED PLAYERS

29 DEB SAHA
30 PRALAY SARKAR
31 LOKESH MUNDA
32 ANIRUDDHA DEBNATH
33 SUMIT DURLOV

IKF - KARGIL
SELECTED PLAYERS

1 ABID ALI
2 KACHO HASSAN KHAN
3 SUHAIL ALI
4 IRFAN ALI ZEESHAN

IKF - HARINAVI
SELECTED PLAYERS

1 KUNAL DAS	8 RAHAMAT ALI KHAN	15 SHOHEL MONDAL	22 TANMAY SARDAR
2 TUSHAR SENGUPTA	9 RUPAM NASKAR	16 TUSHAR GHOSH	23 DEBJOY SARDAR
3 SHUVA NASKAR	10 SUKANT NASKAR	17 RANA SARDAR	
4 ARINDAM SARDAR	11 ERFAN ALI MONDAL	18 MILAN MANDI	
5 SURJYA BESRA	12 PARTHA DAS	19 SUBARNA MONDAL	
6 BARUN MURMU	13 SOUMIK DAS	20 SAYAN MONDAL	
7 RAJ NASKAR	14 RUPAM NASKAR	21 SUKANT NASKAR	



IKF - JAIPUR

SELECTED PLAYERS

YASH BANSAL	5	JAYATIWARDHAN SHARMA
DAKSH GYAN DHADHA (BACKUP)	6	SAHEJDEEP SINGH
DAKSH CHOUDHARY	7	CHIRAYU FAUZDAR
RAJVARDHAN SINGH (BACKUP)	8	UDAY CHORDIA



IKF - KANPUR

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 TANAY SHUKLA	6 SANGAM
2 EKAS SINGH	7 PRATEEK SRIVASTAVA
3 GAGAN SRIVASTAVA	8 KUSHAGRA AGARWAL
4 PARTH	9 KALAM SIDDIQUI
5 ANSHU	10 PIYUSH KANAUIJA



IKF - TRIVANDRUM

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 ADWAITH RENJITH	6 ROBIN R
2 ALBERT XAVIER	7 ROSHIN R
3 DEVANANDAN	8 SAJIN J
4 JOSHUA	9 SAMUEL DAS
5 REELIN JOSE	10 VINOD Y



IKF - KOLKATA

SELECTED PLAYERS

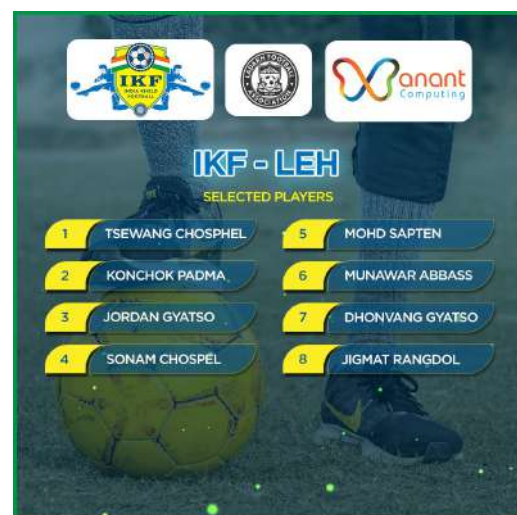
15 AMAN BARUA	22 GOURAB RAJBANSHI
16 SIREYON BANIK	23 SOUMYADEEP MONDAL
17 RISHI MODAK	24 SAUNAK KOLEY
18 DEB ROY	25 SRIJOY DAS
19 DIPANJAN NASKAR	26 DEEP CHATTERJEE
20 SUVAM SAHA	27 BHAWANESH NAKEL
21 HIMANGSHU KAHAR	28 ANKIT PATRA



IKF - KOLKATA

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 SAMYA MUKHERJEE	8 ISHAN PATRA
2 SURAJ RAJ BANSHI	9 SHOVAN SAMANTA
3 SAHEL BAR	10 TIRTHODAK GUHA
4 ABHISHEK TIWARY	11 ADITYA SARDAR
5 PRITAM MONDAL	12 SOEL CHOWDHURY
6 ANIKET MISTRY	13 SAHIL SHAW
7 DHRUBO SARDAR	14 SK. TANSIM NOORANI



IKF - LEH

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 TSEWANG CHOSPHEL	5 MOHD SAPTEN
2 KONCHOK PADMA	6 MUNAWAR ABBASS
3 JORDAN GYATSO	7 DHONVANG GYATSO
4 SONAM CHOSPHEL	8 JIGMAT RANGDOL



IKF - GAYESHPUR

SELECTED PLAYERS

15 MONOAR ALI SHAIKH	22 TAHIN SK
16 SALEMAN SK	23 RANIT SAREN
17 SAGAR ALI BISWAS	24 SANDIP SARKAR
18 MOHIT NANDI	25 TARAK ORANG
19 RAHIT NANDI	26 KARTICK GHOSH
20 RAFIK NAYEK	27 ABHIJIT DAS
21 TOUFIQUE HOSSEN SK	28 JIBAN DAS



IKF - GAYESHPUR

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 MASUM RAJA SHAIKH	8 ARINDAM MONDAL
2 SAJID SK	9 SUBHADIP SARDAR
3 BARUN SARKAR	10 JIT BISWAS
4 PROVASH MONDAL	11 SOUROV ROY
5 JEET MALD	12 DURGACHARAN MANDI
6 SUMIT MONDAL	13 RUPAM PAL
7 BAPAN MONDAL	14 SAHABUL MALLICK



IKF - IMPHAL

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 KAMEI LANGANGLING KABU	7 JAMSON MUTUM
2 SURAJ WANGKHEH	8 MONEX KONTHOLUAM
3 NINGTHOUJAM ABUNGTION SINGH	9 NINGTHOUJAM REMSON SINGH
4 LOURIBAM SUBASH SINGH	10 NINGANGOM DHAKESHWOR SINGH
5 WAHNGBAM JAMES MEETEI	11 VUMLENLAL HANGSHING
6 NINGOMBAM SAMATHOI MEETEI	



IKF - MUMBAI

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 KHUSHGATHARI
2 ALYASA AHMED'ANSARI
3 STEINER DSOUZA
4 HARSH KAPADIA
5 FARUQ HUSSAIN
6 PARTH GORI
7 OMKAR TALKAR



IKF - MUMBAI

SELECTED PLAYERS

1 KHUSHGATHARI
2 ALYASA AHMED'ANSARI
3 STEINER DSOUZA
4 HARSH KAPADIA
5 FARUQ HUSSAIN
6 PARTH GORI
7 OMKAR TALKAR

'Happy Birthday' LaLiga India!



- LaLiga celebrates fifth anniversary in India
- LaLiga's Social Audience in India Grows Over 2000% In Five Years
- As LaLiga celebrates five years in India, the Spanish topflight leagues initiatives have impacted 20,000+ youth across the country



JOSE ANTONIO CACHAZA

Managing Director,
LaLiga India

Spanish Fiesta



LaLiga, one of the most followed European football leagues in the world, celebrates its fifth anniversary since establishing local presence in India. The bid to increase accessibility for local fans has also led to numerous other success stories in these five years, including a 2000% increase in social audience, establishment of several grassroots development initiatives that have impacted more than 20,000 youth in the country, creation of strong relationships with local partners and strengthening ties with Indian fans. The five-year anniversary was celebrated in the presence of Mr. Jose Antonio Cachaza (Managing Director – LaLiga India) and Ms. Aakriti Vohra (LaLiga Delegate).

LaLiga has had a fan base in India since a couple decades, owing to the passionate fans who were keen to follow the best footballers and top clubs, many of which are a part of the Spanish top-flight league. Recognising that and the potential the Indian audience presents, LaLiga decided to open its second Asian office in New Delhi in 2016 and establish a team with local and Spanish football administrative experts. In the time period since, LaLiga has accomplished and surpassed several of its objectives, with the pioneering one being increasing the connection with fans in the country.

Major initiatives like LaLiga Football Schools, work with the Rural Development Trust (Vicente Ferrer Foundation) and more have created a substantial impact on the regions they operate in, with LaLiga's grassroots programs impacting 20,000+ youth. LaLiga has also established strong relationships with various Indian stakeholders including Dream11, BKT and HeroVired and works closely with influential Indian sportspeople like Rohit Sharma to create a holistic and impactful experience for the fans in the country. The association with Dream11 as LaLiga's official fantasy game partner in India was inked in 2019 and since then, LaLiga has become the fastest growing international football fantasy league on the platform.

Oscar Mayo, Executive Director, LaLiga, said, "Five years ago, we embarked on an ambitious mission to bring the entertainment and emotion of LaLiga to more fans around the world and to help grow football as a sport everywhere. We are very proud that LaLiga and its main protagonists, clubs, players, coaches, are closer today to more people around the world than ever before."

Speaking about the anniversary, Jose Antonio Cachaza, Managing Director, LaLiga India, said, "As we celebrate five years of being in India,

LaLiga has been able to increase the fan following on social media by 2000%, going from 300,000 when LaLiga started working in the country to 6,400,000+ in 2022. Another key objective has been to develop football at the grassroots level to work towards bringing India to the global stage in football.

we want to thank our fans and partners in the country for having helped us achieve so much more than we imagined. The 2000% growth in social audience is an exciting number, but a big outcome cannot be measured – how we have deepened our connection with local fans. For the future, we are looking forward to making more meaningful contributions towards improving grassroots football in the country and delivering the best possible experience for the Indian football fans."

2022 also marks five years of LaLiga's global fan engagement and international growth,



with the LaLiga Global Network program being launched in 2017. The league's ambitious international expansion strategy now covers 90 countries and has become one of the identifying traits of its growth; it is the main channel through which the passion of Spanish football has reached all corners of the planet, with more and more people falling in love with LaLiga and enjoying its spectacle week, week out. This growing interest in Spanish football and the greater visibility on the pitch has led to a 30% increase since 2015/16 in the global audiences for the broadcasts of LaLiga matches. This, in turn, has meant a rise of 247% in the value of the competition's international audiovisual rights since 2013/14 and a boost to the value of LaLiga's brand, with the number of sponsors growing fivefold in the same period. ■■■

Chelsea keep rewriting the history books!



Inside Premier League



With victory over Palmeiras tonight, Chelsea have etched yet another memorable chapter in the club's long and illustrious history. We have our hands on the solitary major trophy that has eluded us, the FIFA Club World Cup, a prize only on offer to those who have climbed Europe's highest peak.

In 2012, after the miracle of Munich, there was disappointment at the hands of Corinthians. Not so tonight, where an extra-time penalty from Kai Havertz – yes, him again! – secured a 2-1 success over their Sao Paulo rivals Palmeiras.

Havertz was the hero in Porto and he was the hero again tonight, crowning an enterprising performance in our attack with an ice-cold penalty five minutes from the end of extra-time.

Pressure? What pressure?

We have now joined Bayern Munich and Manchester United as the only clubs to complete a clean sweep of major UEFA trophies and the Club World Cup, and as the 11th different winner of this competition the Blues are only the third to achieve that feat from England. We just keep rewriting the history books!

At full-time, one Chelsea legend sunk to his knees. Cesar Azpilicueta is the first Blue to do the lot, further cementing his status as one of the greatest of all time. And of course it was his shot that was blocked by a handball allowing Havertz to coolly convert from 12 yards. What a way for the skipper to mark a decade of service.

Next to him, Thiago Silva also collapsed in ecstasy, a victor in a competition that means so much in South America. First the Champions League, and now the Club World Cup in barely

eight months for our Brazilian hero. He was deservedly named the tournament's best player at full-time.

And how wonderful to see Thomas Tuchel able to celebrate masterminding his third trophy in person, having only arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday. His tactical shuffling kept Palmeiras on the back foot throughout, and the victory, if hard fought, was thoroughly deserved.

As the players celebrated with the trophy in front of the loyal travelling support, one of our club anthems Blue Tomorrow rang around the stadium.

'We're gonna rule the universe because we're Chelsea, Chelsea, Chelsea!'

We have done just that. It's a Blue universe today. What a club. ■■■

(Content Courtesy : Chelsea Social Media)





Revolutionizing Football Coaching



Across the world, grassroots is the password for football development.

But, to put this development from concept paper on to the ground,

Coach Education is the key for football development. That is why the role of MBP academy is very vital. Viva Football Magazine and Football Pilgrimage tourism project's Spain tour takes an exclusive review at the MBP HQ at Barcelona.

Thomas Vandenbussche, business manager at the MBP school outlines this unique coach education platform

1 - How coach education is important for development of football?

Personally I think coaching education is key for the development of football, especially qualitative education. If we want to improve the game this not only implicated the players but everything that's surrounded as for example the coaches, analysts, ... Players are demanding better coaches and better environment. If we want to have better players we need to have well-educated coaches and professionals at all levels, from grassroots to first teams. Because our players and the game deserve this.

2 - Can you please introduce projects and courses offered at MBP?

MBP is a training School and Consultancy located in Barcelona. We've created an unique training method that we are using to offer the following services:

Coaching education: both On-Campus as Online

Individual Tactical Advisement: where we help individual players to improve their game understanding and performance

IPPM : club consultancy where we

collaborate the club in the process of making their own method and establish this within the whole club. Basically leaving a legacy within the club for the future.

Federation: we work together with several federations for the official licenses.

Regarding to our educational program. We have divided them into three categories. High Performance, Youth Football and Scouting & Game Analysis. Within every category we've several programs that are available mainly in Spanish, English and both On-Campus in Barcelona as online.

Professional and amateur coaches from all around the world have been following education with us. We are currently active in over 55 countries.

3 - What is the philosophy of MBP and how you bring value addition to quality development in football?

We give importance to what's the level of game understanding and not the biological age. When we started we noticed that biological age is not a correct parameter because it's not the same to get a 8 year-old kid from India, Spain,

USA and Brazil together. All of these kids have their characteristics and country context. This means that we had to create a method that is flexible to the level of the player. I think that's the main difference on the approach that we have.

4 - You work with coaches from round the world, including those from India. What are their feedback about the coaches education?

When coaches are doing our programs the general feedback is that the quality is from a high level and especially in the online programs the comments are that the content is given in a really dynamic



way.

This allows to them to get back to their daily context and start implement the knowledge having in mind their context.

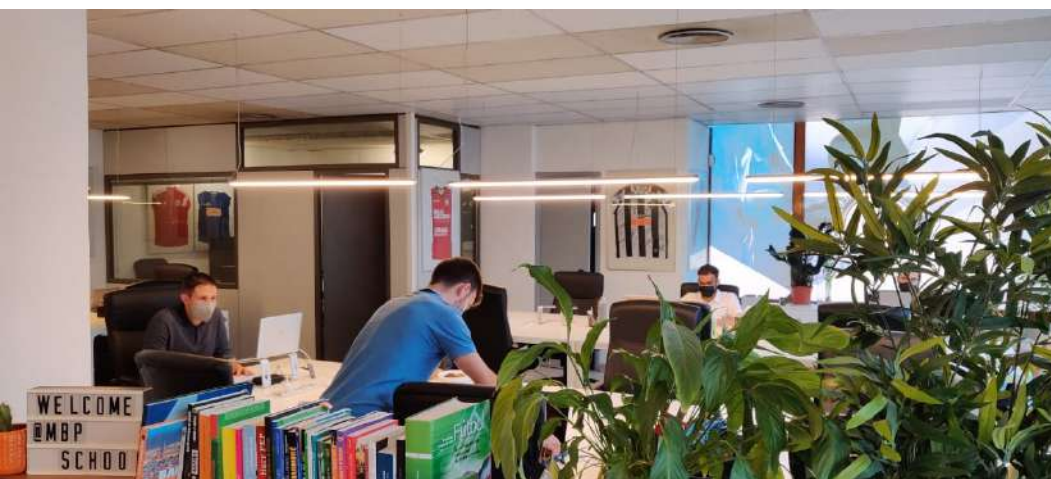
5 - How coaches education is the need of the hour for Indian football ecosystem?

As answered in the first question. If we want to prove football, we have to involve the coaches. We need the best coaches to create a good environment. This is also the case for Indian Football. India is a country with a huge potential, tons of football

believers and lovers so if everything is done in a right way, the level should increase and education is a key piece.

6 - India will be hosting AFC Asian Women's Championship and FIFA U 17 Women's World Cup in 2022. How women's football and coaching manpower should be developed according to you?

Everything should be done step by step. Rome wasn't build in a day and we're not able to create a whole football culture with



qualitative coaches and players out of nothing. This is a process that goes step by step. The woman's game is growing and gaining importance.

Within the education of coaches we have to be aware that there is a difference between coaching women and men, or boys and girls. Their learning process is different, their emotions, the management of a group is different and so on. It's really important to have that in mind that woman's football has his own characteristics.

SIMPLY
THE
BEST.

Robert Lewandowski's impressive record numbers

It is not just the Bundesliga where Lewandowski leads the way. The Bayern front man was Europe's top scorer in 2021, having come out on top over the course of the 2020-21 season. The Poland international is also topping the charts this season and is currently on 23 goals, five ahead of his closest challenger, Bayer 04 Leverkusen's Patrik Schick.

Lewandowski doesn't just perform for his club. He is also Poland's record scorer, having scored 74 goals since his debut in 2008. Poland's Sportsman of the Year has registered 11 goals in 12 appearances this year – including three at UEFA Euro 2020 – with the 2022 FIFA World Cup play-offs next on the agenda.

After taking his tally to 300 Bundesliga goals against 1. FC Köln on Saturday, Lewandowski's eyes must be trained on the all-time Bundesliga goal record. Only one man has more; Gerd Müller stands alone atop the scoring charts with 365 goals to his name.

Lewandowski at a glance:

- Bundesliga Appearances: 369
- Goals: 300
- Bundesliga Top Scorer Award: 6
- Bundesliga Titles: 9
- DFB Pokals: 4
- UEFA Champions League Titles: 1

• FIFA Best Men's Player Awards: 2

Lewandowski was also included in the FIFA FIFPRO Men's World 11, lining up alongside Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland and former Bayern teammate David Alaba.

Serge Gnabry on Lewandowski:



"I think for the last two years, he was probably the most consistently performing player. In my eyes - obviously, he is my teammate, but he has been the most consistent. He has scored so many goals which is incredible. He also broke a couple records, so I think he deserves it."

Julian Nagelsmann on Lewandowski:

"It is well deserved for him – as I have mentioned for all the other possible personal titles. It is always deserved for him because he did so well over the last couple of seasons in the Bundesliga. He is also doing it



this season and another three goals (against 1. FC Köln). He loves these situations when he can get the ball in the number 10, give it out to the wing, then follow the ball into the box. He is very dangerous, with both feet, with his head – at the end, it's three goals again – important for us and important for him."

Jürgen Klinsmann on Lewandowski:

"He's a fantastic goalscorer and deserves every compliment in the world. Beating the record from Gerd Müller says it all.



The titles he has won with Bayern, it's just insane! But one of the major characteristics we have seen from Robert Lewandowski over many years now is his hunger. When he scores his first one, he wants the second or third. This is what fascinates me – just his incredible desire to score again and again and again. It seems like he's never satisfied! That is the difference between a top striker, a great player, and another level where Lewandowski has catapulted himself over the last few years – it is fantastic to see."



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Game is on in UEFA Europa League

The draw for the 2021/22 UEFA Europa League round of 16 has been made at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland. Europa League round of 16 draw.

When are the round of 16 games?

First legs are scheduled for 10 March, though Porto and Betis will play their first legs at home on Wednesday 9 March (kick-off 18:45 CET) to avoid a clash with Braga and Sevilla, respectively. The second legs take place on 17 March. Fixtures will appear here when confirmed.

How did the Europa League last-16 draw work?

The UEFA Europa League group winners were seeded and drawn against the winners of the knockout round play-offs, with the seeded teams playing the second leg at home. Clubs from the same association could not be drawn against each other.

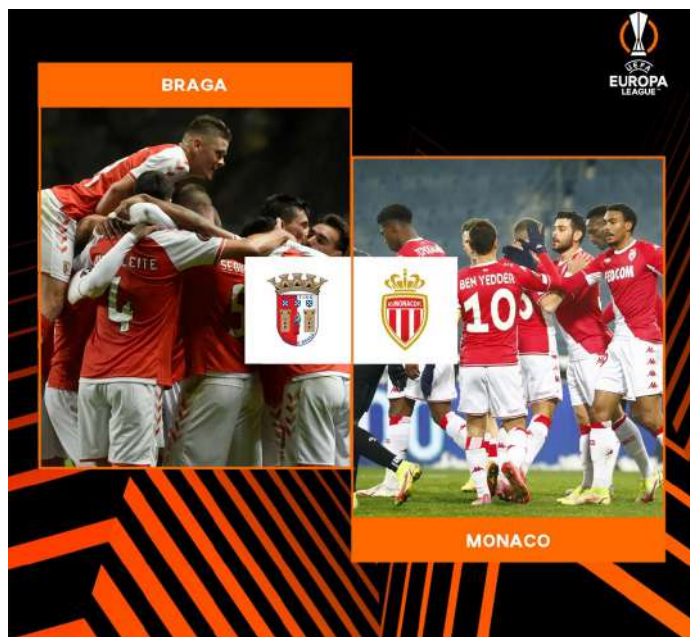
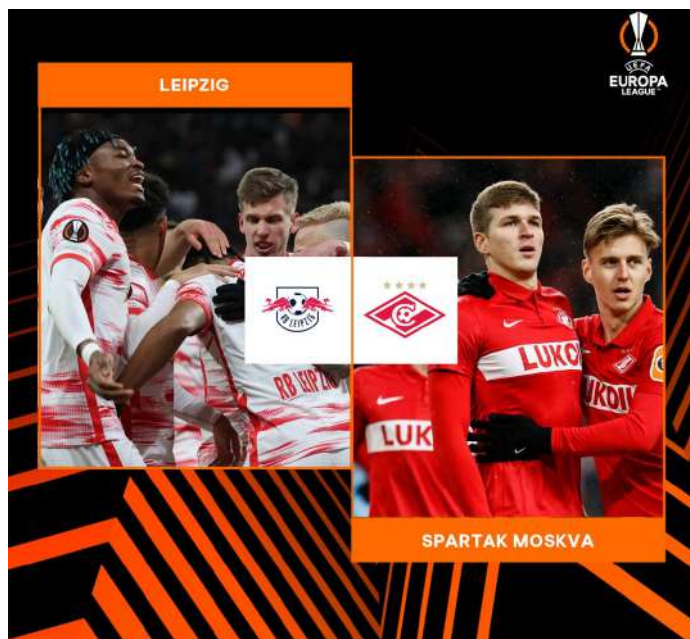
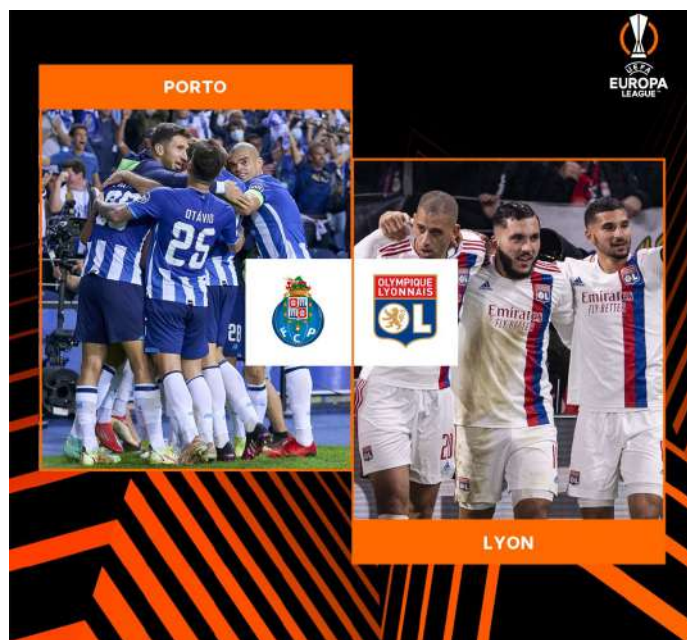
When is the next Europa League draw?

The winners of the eight ties earn a place in the draw for the UEFA Europa League quarter-finals and semi-finals on 18 March. A draw will also be made to determine the home team for the final, for procedural reasons.

- Rangers (SCO) vs Crvena zvezda (SRB)
- Braga (POR) vs Monaco (FRA)
- Porto (POR) vs Lyon (FRA)
- Atalanta (ITA) vs Leverkusen (GER)

- Sevilla (ESP) vs West Ham (ENG)
- Barcelona (ESP) vs Galatasaray (TUR)
- Leipzig (GER) vs Spartak Moskva (RUS)
- Real Betis (ESP) vs Eintracht Frankfurt (GER)







Indian young stars shine

With the tweak in the foreign player rule, more Indian players have got the opportunity to shine in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2021-22 campaign.

In what is a promising development for Indian football, U-23 players have led from the front when it comes to grabbing this chance.

A total of 110 U-23 players have already played in the first 55 matches of the ongoing tournament, with them being involved in 37 goals (18 strikes and 19 assists). This is the joint most number of goal contributions U-23 players have managed at this point in a season in its short history.

These numbers go along with 239 attempts on goal and out of which 62 were on target by the same age group.

We ought to see more tricks unravel from the younger lot.

But here are some of the top-performing U-23 players in Hero ISL this season.

Lalengmawia Ralte (Mumbai City FC)

It was no surprise when Mumbai City FC dished out a hefty sum for an Indian midfielder in the summer transfer window, especially after the power-packed show by Lalengmawia Ralte for NorthEast United FC in

the past season.

Justifying his hype, Apuia, as he popularly known, has been pivotal for the Islanders campaign so far. Apart from his eye-catching game, the footballer has formed a lethal partnership with Ahmed Jahouh and the heart of the midfield - the duo which pulls the strings for the defending champions.

Apuia leads the chart of most passes by an Indian player in the Hero ISL 2021-22 season, with a tally of 556 to his name, at a rate of 50.55%. The staggering 52 tackles, 20 interceptions, eight clearances and 17 blocks just ornaments his already glittering statistics this season.

Prabhsukhan Gill (Kerala Blasters FC)



Since we tend to talk less about goalkeepers, let's make an exception, cause Prabhsukhan Gill has been in some phenomenal form off late. In eight matches played this season, the custodian has kept four clean sheets, the most by any player in the league.

In the same time frame, the shotstopper has shipped in just five goals (out of 69 shots faced), while making 22 saves, maintaining a save percentage of 81.48. Kerala Blasters FC are currently on top of the league table with



20 points from 11 matches and are on a 10-match winning streak, with Gill's excellent work under the sticks playing a major role in the feat. It has been a smooth transition for the youngster, after making a switch from Bengaluru FC back in 2020.

Naorem Roshan Singh (Bengaluru FC)



Handed his first break by Bengaluru FC reserve side back in 2017, the side-back has thrived in their system ever-since, apart from a short stint with AIFF developmental side Indian Arrows.

Naorem Roshan Singh made his debut last season, but saw himself more in the sidelines, owing to the star-studded line-up the Blues already had at their disposal.

As the four-foreigner rule came into effect, Singh was right back into the scheme of things, having already made nine appearances this season. Apart from the awe-striking five assists, which is the highest by a Bengaluru FC player and just one short of topper Ahmed Jahouh, the footballer has been a livewire on the overlap.

Having said that, he has also maintained his all-round scores intact, by making regular duties in the defence as well, with 39 tackles, 15 interceptions, 23 clearances and 10 blocks to go along with.

Jeakson Singh (Kerala Blasters FC)



Storming into the scene with an appearance in the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, Jeakson Singh was destined for greater heights

and he has lived up to the expectations.

Following small stays at Minerva Punjab, Indian Arrows and a few appearances for the Kerala Blasters FC reserves, Singh has been a mainstay in the Hero ISL since 2019. Known for shouldering immense workload in the central midfield area, incoming coach Ivan Vukomanovic had no hesitation in keeping faith in him and it has clicked so far.

With 434 passes at a rate of almost 40 passes per game (87.09% accuracy), he is in the pole position for his side in the department. The Indian international has been like a shield to the defence as well, with 54 tackles, 30 interceptions, 15 clearances and 22 blocks to his name already.

Akash Mishra (Hyderabad FC)



It has been a season of side-backs, as another player from the position - Akash Mishra makes the list too. The footballer has played all the minutes of Hyderabad FC's campaign this season, which proves why he is such an important player for Manuel Marquez's side.

With 430 passes so far, at an average of almost 40 per game, the left-back has been on a roll this season and even provided a couple of assists.

Mishra's service in the defensive zone has been more than good, with 50 tackles, 19 interceptions, 25 clearances, 11 blocks to his name. Also a former starlet of the Indian Arrows setup, his trajectory changed after donning the Hyderabad FC colours, having also earned a national call-up last year.

■■■

MARCH 2022

MATCH	DATE	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	TIME (IST)	VENUE
63*	TUE, MAR 01, 2022	HYDERABAD FC	VS	JAMSHEDPUR FC	19:30	ATHLETIC STADIUM, BAMBOLIM
62*	WED, MAR 02, 2022	KERALA BLASTERS FC	VS	MUMBAI CITY FC	19:30	TILAK MAIDAN STADIUM
105	THU, MAR 03, 2022	CHENNAIYN FC	VS	ATK MOHUN BAGAN	19:30	PJN STADIUM, FATORDA
106	FRI, MAR 04, 2022	JAMSHEDPUR FC	VS	ODISHA FC	19:30	ATHLETIC STADIUM, BAMBOLIM
107	SAT, MAR 05, 2022	SC EAST BENGAL	VS	BENGALURU FC	19:30	TILAK MAIDAN STADIUM
108	SAT, MAR 05, 2022	HYDERABAD FC	VS	MUMBAI CITY FC	21:30	PJN STADIUM, FATORDA
109	SUN, MAR 06, 2022	FC GOA	VS	KERALA BLASTERS FC	19:30	ATHLETIC STADIUM, BAMBOLIM
110	MON, MAR 07, 2022	ATK MOHUN BAGAN	VS	JAMSHEDPUR FC	19:30	PJN STADIUM, FATORDA



RoundGlass Punjab FC is currently in the AIFF's bio-bubble as we count down to the restart of the I-League 2021-22 season, having resumed training earlier this month in Kolkata.

Head Coach Ashley Westwood, Football Director Nikolaos Topoliatis and captain Gurtej Singh are at the helm of the affairs

Hero I-League 2021-22 revised fixtures announced

The Hero I-League 2021-22 season is all set to resume on Thursday, March 3, 2022, with Sreenidi Deccan FC taking on TRAU FC at the Mohun Bagan Ground at 2 pm IST.

The Hero I-League will be played across three venues in West Bengal – Mohun Bagan Ground in Kolkata, the Naihati Stadium in Naihati, and the Kalyani Municipal Stadium in Kalyani.

The teams will play each other once in a round-robin format, in Phase 1 of the Hero I-League, after which the league will be broken into two groups with Group A consisting of the top seven, while the bottom six will make up Group B.

In Phase 2 of the league, the teams in Group A will play once against each other in a round-robin format to determine the



Hero I-League 2021-22 champion, while those in Group B will also play each other in a similar format to fight for relegation

(AIFF Media)



Aizawl FC



Gokulam Kerala FC



Tiddim Road Athletic Union



Mohammedan Sporting Club



NEROCA FC



RoundGlass Punjab Football Club



Real Kashmir FC



Sudeva Delhi FC



Churchill Brothers FC Goa



Indian Arrows



Rajasthan United Football Club



Sreenidi Deccan Football Club



Kenkre FC

'Practice Makes Perfect' for PIFA



Premier India Football Academy has won the WIFA Women's Football League. Thus qualifying for the IWL final round. Thane's S.P. Football Academy finished runners-up as they missed out on the title by just a point. Promising talent emerged through Mumbai's top-tier women's football league. **Viva Football Magazine** takes a glance at the PIFA's motivational journey

The "Invincibles" of Maharashtra Football had a spectacular WIFA Women's Football League campaign where they not only remained unbeaten throughout the league but also did not concede a single goal.

"It is the end product of four years of hard work and determination", acknowledged the co-founder, Mrs. Anjali Shah.

The Mumbai-based club kicked off its league campaign against Next Sports Academy and scored 19 goals. Over the course of the league, they scored 43 goals. Their key player in scoring so many goals was Sasmita Behera. The Odisha-born forward scored 10 goals for the club in 08 matches and won the Golden Boot for

being the top scorer in the tournament.

The Setup Behind Success:

The forward said, "Our coach Nirvan sir used to set up an attacking 4-4-2 formation. He advised me to switch positions with the other forward from time to time so that we could create confusion for the opposition defenders. This was a major factor behind my goals."

The head coach (also co-founder) Mr. Nirvan Shah, who has been with the club

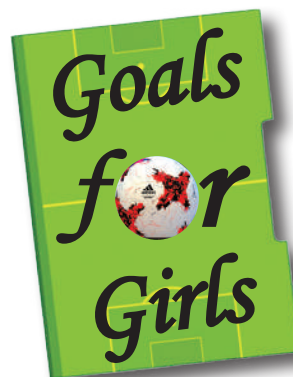
from the beginning, said, "Our pre-season preparation went really well and we put a lot of emphasis on the Sports Science. This helped with the recovery of the players and many other things as well. We Also used to do various workout sessions to keep ourselves fit."

Mrs. Shah added, "We hired a sports psychologist to inspire the girls with positive thoughts. We also had a nutritionist who took care of the girls' diet."

The journey so far:

PIFA has been participating in the IWL Qualifiers for the past four years and has faced several setbacks along the way.

"We have been unlucky a few times in the past. We missed out on qualifying for a point once. Last season, we were on the verge of qualifying but the league was canceled due to COVID-19. This season we decided that we would put a strong team in the league and qualify and we did", expressed a very happy co-founder.



She also admitted that they had to spend twice in a single financial year and it was difficult for a club with fewer sponsors.

Squad and its attitude:

Most of the PIFA team consists of players from Maharashtra. Only 5 players were from other states.

“This team has been practicing together for more than a year. They get each other very well and understand me very well too. We used to analyze every opponent before the game and set up accordingly. After the game, we used to sit together and discuss our mistakes. ‘Building from the back’ was our strategy. I always told my players to make room for our attackers so that they could open up the opposition defense and score goals, they did it in games, so we scored a lot of goals”, narrated a jubilant head coach.

Club Captain, Deepika Kumari lauded the resilience of her squad and said, “I love every minute of playing with this bunch. I love being associated with this club. But I would be lying if I say it was easy. In the past, we have missed the final round by a small margin. It takes a lot of courage to come back year after year, ready to give the best again.”

What it means for women's football in Mumbai

The financial capital of India recently hosted the AFC Women's Asia Cup and this title win of PIFA will surely provide a platform for the young girls of Mumbai to take up football as a career option.

“Here at PIFA, we believe in making stars”, stated Mrs. Shah.

“It has been in our ethos and motto that we scout potential players and we make them grow. Our focus has always been



on youth development. Along with this, we are very concerned about the fitness, wellbeing, and mental health of the players”, she added.

Mr. Shah said, “We organize Baby League every year and we also work in grassroots development. We are also spending a huge chunk on our youth sides. After this achievement, we are going to be more focused on women's football and we will try to create a footballing atmosphere for the budding women footballers of Mumbai.”

The Future ahead:

The club will soon start preparations for the National top tier. According to reports, the Indian Women's League (IWL) is set to kick off this summer.

Dipika, who is also the club's longest-serving player, thanked the head coach and the management and said, “I think a lot of credit goes to Mrs. and Mr. Shah for this win. They have always believed in us and pushed us to perform better both on and off the pitch. We as a team undoubtedly appreciate the time and

effort they put into each and every one of us.”

“We plan to continue training till the IWL dates are confirmed by the All India Football Federation. I am sure our coaches will take this time to work on our fitness along with the shortcomings seen in the IWL Qualifiers. Going forward, our aim is to do our best and give our 100%, as we have done so far,” she added.

Mrs. Shah said, “I, the head coach, the management, and the players are confident. I have faith in the team. We will be looking forward to fielding the majority of this team in the IWL as well. We have identified some key areas that need reinforcement so we are also looking at bringing in some new additions.”

The real work of PIFA begins here. In the IWL, they will be eager to replicate everything that helped them win the title in the WIFA Women's Football League. One thing is certain, if they are adding a few players to their roster, they will have gel-up quickly and start practicing together for a bigger prize. ■■■

(WIFA Media)



Sasmita Behera Wins Golden Boot

Odisha finds its new “Sasmita” in a WIFA Women's Football League Champion. Sasmita Behera, who won the IWL Qualifiers with PIFA Sports, bears a unique resemblance to former Blue Tigresses Captain, Sasmita Malik. The resemblance: Both of them are lethal in front of the goal.

Sasmita Malik needs no introduction and is a household name in women's football in Odisha. The forward has captained the women's national team on several occasions and is also India's second all-time top scorer with 40 goals in 38 matches. The 2016 AIFF Women's Player of the Year has been a true inspiration for many Odia girls.

Hailing from the same footballing hotbed of Odisha, Sasmita Behera is making a name for herself far away from her motherland. The 22-year-old forward was awarded the top goal scorer in the recently concluded WIFA Women's Football League. She scored 10 goals in 8 appearances for the club and helped them clinch their first title.

Shabbir Ali Football Academy celebrated its first anniversary



The Shabbir Ali Football Academy celebrated its first anniversary at its premises at S-2, MB Sports Arena, SAFA grounds, Yankapally, today. The SAFA also launched its residential academy on this auspicious occasion. The objective of the residential academy is to provide a comfortable and controlled environment wherein the trainees can focus on developing their game under expert guidance.

Two exhibition football matches were organised to mark the twin celebrations. The teams which fought it out were teams from SAFA and Little Star Football Academy's Under 18 and Under 14 teams. The teams were given medals and new dresses and kits were also distributed on the occasion.

Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner, was the Chief Guest. He expressed satisfaction that



SAFA is working to develop football at the grassroots level. Mr. Shabbir Ali, Dhyan Chand awardee and former international footballer and

Indian captain as well as Mr. C. Shameel, Head Coach, Hyderabad FC reserve team, were the Guests of Honour. The latter appreciated the fact that SAFA was working to spot and develop talent from the bottom levels.

Mr. Wasim Baig, Managing Director, MB Sports, gave a detailed report on the achievements of the SAFA academy and its plans to open more branches.

Mr Shabbir Ali, co-founder of SAFA said: "Whatever I am is because of football. So I am trying to give an impetus to the sport. I am happy with the improvement of our trainees and their achievements so far. We are training young boys and hoping that some of them will play for the state and perhaps country also. Moreover we are giving free coaching to underprivileged

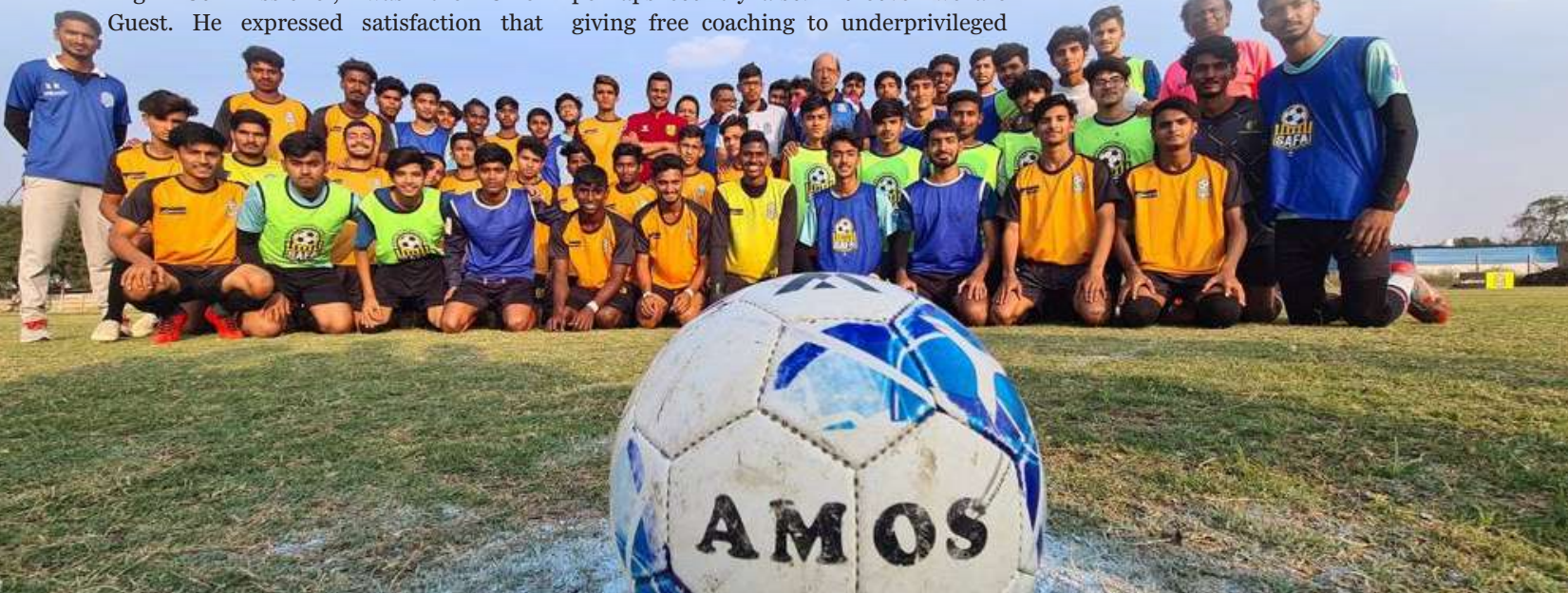


children as we had announced during the inauguration."

He also disclosed that SAFA has plans to register itself with the Telangana Football Association and the AIFF in order to be eligible to play in the age group I League.

Mr. Najib Baig, Managing Director, MB Sports, proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the well attended function.

■■■



Quiz


Win
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Guess who?

1. Which country won the AFCON cup?
2. Which women player won the highest goal scorer award in AFC Asian Women's Cup?
3. Which team won the Club World Cup?
4. Which women footballer won the FIFA Best Award?
5. Who is the player in the picture?

Read this issue carefully for the answers!

Send in your answers with your name, mobile no. and city name to

 **Ashish 9422502080**
and

lucky winners will be given some cool football gift hampers.





Bringing Coaches together



The Association of Indian Football Coaches is the premier association of coaches in India.

Indian football has been growing at a rapid rate and alongside this development has come professionalism. The impact of a coach is widespread; one coach can impact an entire team. Envision the impact that the AIFC can have on the development of football in India. Coaches in India have come together to exchange ideas, working in cohesive solidarity for the welfare and assurance of coaches and the improvement of the sport.

AIFC aims at -

Refresher courses, Assist in license courses, Trainings, workshops & seminars, Resource material, Exchange of ideas between coaches and other coach associations and Webinars

We at **Viva Football Magazine** aim to provide dedicated media platform for Indian football ecosystem. We need to create stars and icons out of Indian football. Strong media support is the key to it. We are committed to this mission of popularization of football in India.

Over the years, Indian coaches have done great work towards Indian football.

There is no second thought that association with AIFC will be a very effective step in reaching out to the Indian football World.



MR. DINESH NAIR
Director, AIFC

"The AIFC exists to advance and improve football coaching through coach education, exchange of ideas and welfare of coaches in India. The AIFC online education program is an opportunity for Indian football coaches to continue learning from the comforts of their homes.

During the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIFC conducted FREE online workshops through webinars, webtalks and panel discussions. Educators, industry experts and speakers conducted specific sessions for Pro, A, B and C license coaches and modules for coaches, PE teachers and people aspiring to become coaches. This was not just a refresh for existing coaches but it also created an interest and knowledge base for aspiring coaches.

4000+ Coaches from AFC Pro license to AIFC E license, school PE teachers and aspiring coaches from 28 states, 5 union territories across India, as well as international participants and speakers from England, Scotland, USA, South Africa, The Netherlands, Germany, France, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Morocco, Belgium, Ukraine, Spain, Kuwait, UAE and Australia registered and participated in the webinars, webtalks and panel discussions"

SPORTS FOR HEALTH & HAPPINESS



Dear Members,

PEFI strongly believes that apart from winning medals at the national and international level, we must strive hard to create sports culture. Sports is for health and happiness!

Warm Greetings from PEFI and Viva Football Magazine.

As new academic year kicks off, It gives me immense pleasure to announce tie up between PEFI and Viva Football Magazine. As you know Viva Football Magazine is only football magazine in print format and doing dedicated efforts for last 3 years to promote football n sports in schools and colleges.

They had participated through sports ministry program of mission 11 million ahead of FIFA U 17 World Cup that India successfully hosted. They are also instrumental in organizing sports expo during khelo India games.

Viva Football Magazine also was magazine partner for PEFI national conferences organised at New Delhi.

Viva Football Magazine is monthly magazine with annual subscription of only Rs 500 (12 issues). Only, about Rs 40 per month!

How PEFI and Viva Football Magazine tie up promote PEFI...

- Viva Football Magazine will give dedicated space for PEFI. It will publish news, photos of PEFI activities. Also, articles written by you, PEFI members on football, sports development, fitness, nutrition, career in sports and also parenting for sports.
- thus it will give nationwide publicity to PEFI into schools and colleges on yearlong basis
- Viva Football Magazine will help us raise sports development funds to boost PEFI's nationwide activities
- PEFI name and logo will appear on the front page as networking partner
- it will be PEFI own dedicated sports media
- we will organise various events, workshops and coaching n fitness camps
- we will associate with various other sports ventures
- Various other incentives for PEFI members round the year.

Offer to your school/collage

- Viva Football Magazine will publish news, photos, articles, principal, management photos advertisement for FREE of schools and collages from where more than 50 annual subscriptions done.
- if you subscribe more than 100 annual subscription, then every three month there will b free seminar, lecture or workshop in your school/college on diet/nutrition, injury prevention, career in sports.
- Even parents too can attend these activities for FREE!
- You and your school/collage would sale these subscriptions to kids. So, ultimately for school/college expenses is zero!

How to go about it...

- I humbly appeal you all to subscribe at least 3 Viva Football Magazine annual subscriptions. One for yourself and two for your school n collage library.
- pay the subscription amount via paytm/Google pay to **Shashank 9921949421**
- send what's app to Shashank with your name, city and write PEFI after your name. Eg - Ashish, Pune PEFI
- also send your postal address on what's app to **Shashank** where every month Viva Football Magazine copy will reach.
- **Contact - Ashish Pendse. Editor 9422502080**



It is important to create 360 degree sports culture in the country. With PEFI members efforts and various initiatives of the government, we are able to create buzz about sports in the schools. Now, through this project sports in schools, PEFI and Viva Football Magazine will kick-off nationwide movement of creating awareness and interest amongst kids for sports.

The success of this ambitious and first of its kind project will depend on your cooperation and active participation.

I am sure that to gather we will make this sports revolution!



Dr. Piyush Jain
National Secretary
Physical Education
Foundation of India
(PEFI)

Special offer to PEFI members...

- top 3 PEFI members, who will do maximum subscriptions through school/collages/academies and kids/players would travel for free to Spain or England to watch LaLiga/English premier league football match. (* Conditions apply)
- only visa, food n other personal expenses on Traveller. Rest all expenses (air ticket, hotel and match ticket) will be done by Viva Football Magazine.
- to apply this scheme need to get 10,000 annual subscription from all across the country.
- Viva Football Magazine will issue letter to PEFI members as network representative to show at your school/college.

Private academies and clubs are the integral part of the Indian football ecosystem. It was overdue to establish their network. Viva Football Magazine is committed for providing Indian football their own platform to share and care. We are privileged to collaborate with AFCAI. Looking forward for working for the betterment of Indian football with AFCAI



Networking is the key

The popularity of football in India has been growing faster by the day. There are some factors that have contributed to the garnering of viewership of this sport like the Indian Super League, FIFA U17 World Cup and the upcoming FIFA U17 Women's World Cup. It is also important to note that several initiatives at the grassroots level like the AIFF Golden Baby Leagues have also geared the participation among the little ones. At the administrative level, the Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC) has brought about a remarkable improvement in terms of the welfare, education and training development of Football Coaches. A lot was committed and being done for football players and coaches around the nation. However, what was missing and was probably much needed was a representation for football clubs in India. Unfortunately, there are several clubs in this nation which have kind of opened and shut due to several reasons. These clubs range from the cream layer of Indian Football to the last level known

in every district of India. The reasons are majorly attributed to administrative issues & financial issues at the highest level. At the lower level, there is a lack of knowledge in terms of running a football club and sustaining as one to reach higher levels. The same could be applied to academies all over the country.

To address these issues and bring about a humongous change in the way football clubs & stand alone academies have been run and perceived in India, the Association of Football Clubs & Academies in India (AFCAI) was launched on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of India. On 15th August 2020, Mr. Ranjit Bajaj, Founder of Minerva Punjab FC and Director of the AFCAI, announced the formation of the association and invited all clubs and academies to be a part of the body. Mr. Bajaj explained the importance of the association and how it would benefit any club or academy that would be a part of it.

A webinar was held to make the formal announcement of AFCAI's launch on 15th August 2020. Mr. Bajaj added that talks are on with some other influential figures of Indian football to come on the panel of directors. The association is formed with a view to help each club right from inception to reaching their long term goals in the football circuit. It aims to groom and help each club develop in terms of running operations to managing finances and also give a hand in managing and solving club and academy related issues.

"It is high time and very important that we address the issues of football clubs and academies in India. A club culture has to be developed and we will also help clubs reach out to communities which in turn would increase fan base. We want to help clubs develop and sustain in a manner that they reach their goals. There are associations and bodies meant for the

development of coaches and players, but coaches and players belong to clubs, and so the welfare of a football club or academy is also important. Many people are on course to join us and are convinced with the requirement of such a body", quoted Mr. Bajaj.

There are several bodies of similar nature that represent clubs in Europe and Australia and the US. There is a representation of top clubs like Barcelona, Juventus, Chelsea FC through the European Club Association (ECA) and in Australia, the Association of Australian Football Clubs (AAFC) perform the same function. In November last year, FIFA announced the formation of a World Football Clubs Association (WFCA). The newly formed association aims to be a platform for clubs from around the world to discuss issues with FIFA.

The Football Players Association of India (FPAI) which is a long running association of players has been doing well with respect to grievances of professional football players. The inception of the Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC) has gathered a lot of mileage among the football coaches in India. While the primary aim of the AIFC is the holistic development of coaches in the country, it also works in sync with the AIFF and has brought about a positive change in the coach education policies. Of late, an association addressing issues related to Indian Women's Football clubs has also been formed, which is a huge step towards women's football. With similar intentions, the AFCAI has been formed, but with a different methodology altogether and to help bridge the gap between the thousands of clubs in India and the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The AFCAI wishes to work in tandem with the AIFF and intends to help as many existing clubs and new clubs on their path to development. ■■■





Nutra Gmine C+

Glutamine

- Fuels white blood cells.
- Acts as a respiratory fuel

Zinc

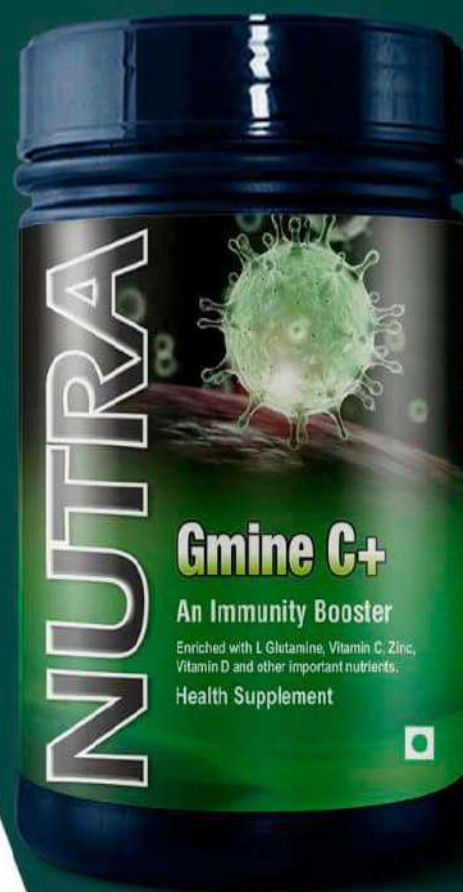
- It improves phagocytic capacity of monocytes.
- Promotes mucosal resistance to infections
- Acts as a respiratory fuel

Vitamin C

- Vit C supports the innate and adaptive immune systems.
- Increases absorption of iron important for RBC production.

Vitamin D

- It has both anti-inflammatory and immunoregulatory properties.
- It decreases inflammation, which helps promote an immune response.



immunity booster supplement