



## From the GS' Desk



*It was extremely satisfying to finally sign Mr. Rob Baan as the Technical Director of the AIFF. Mr. Baan brings with himself a 46-year Coaching and Technical experience which is perfectly suited to script, oversee and direct the Masterplan which I believe, will take Indian football to next level. Mr. Baan joins from Nov. 1, 2011 and is equally keen and enthusiastic to work closely with the Federation's vision.*

*The appointment of Mr. Baan coincides with confirmation of FIFA's support that all the Regional Academies and the Elite Academy stay on track and would be operational by April 2012.*

*The performance of the U-16 boys in Tashkent where they qualified for the AFC Final Phase is heartening. The YDP is on right track and I would like to congratulate Mr. Colm Toal for making it a success.*

*The month also saw a Team of Club and AIFF Officials travelling to Japan to study the J-League model. Their experience will serve us in right stead, I stay confident. Back home, the domestic season has kicked-off. May the best team win the I-League.*

*Lastly Mr. Ajay Maken complimenting the AIFF is only an inspiration for us to do better. Mr. Maken's comments on AIFF being 'very pro-active and well structured' in a public forum speaks volumes about our concentrated effort to usher in a new era under the able guidance of our President.*

Warm regards

Kusbhal Das



## 'Football is not all about big - bodies'

Rob Baan's appointment as the Technical Director is the most talked about subject in Indian football at the moment. **In his first exclusive interview on Indian football**, the Football Guru talks at length to [www.the-aiff.com](http://www.the-aiff.com) about his role, plans, challenges and much more.

### Excerpts :

**Q What brings you to India?**

Challenges are what life is all about. This assignment is a new challenge for me -- the challenge to assist and develop football in India and take it to a higher level

**Q What would your primary role as the Technical Director of the AIFF be?**

My primary role is to write a Masterplan and a curriculum for the National Youth Development and to assist in establishing the Elite Academy and the Regional Academies all over the country.

**Q Do you have any knowledge about the domestic footballing structure of India or any input about any specific Indian footballer?**

When I was the Technical Director of Australia, I did gather some knowledge about the same. From the moment I join I will do my best to gather all the necessary information and I can only do that when I land in India. Obviously I will travel to watch I-League matches and talk to Coaches to gain first-hand practical knowledge.

**Q How much are you confident of turning the fortunes of Indian football?**

I cannot do it on my own. It's a team game and I'd need the help of all stakeholders to create the right structure. We need to chalk out and implement realistic plans as that will be the base for future success.

**Q One of the primary concerns raised by many a pundit is the short stature of Indian footballers? What's your take on that?**

Well, we cannot change that. But the game is not entirely about big-bodied players. Ghana-- for example, also have some short-statured players but they did make it to the quarterfinals of the World Cup in South Africa.

**Q Not very long back India were seen as one of the giants in Asia. Where do you see Indian football two years from now?**

It's too premature to talk about it at present. I'd be in a better position to answer it after completing a year of my stint in India.

**Q India is a country where infrastructure still stays in its infancy compared to the powerful European Footballing Powerhouses. How much of that is a pain?**

It's useless thinking about it and sitting idle as we have to cope up with the present situation. The scenario just cannot be changed in a short term. As long as it is being addressed in the long run, it's OK. We need to improvise

**Q Explain the Dutch School of Football to us.**

It's a vast subject which I'd love to talk about when we meet. The Netherlands is a small country and we are ranked No. 2 in the FIFA ladder at the moment. The success of that achievement can be attributed to the Youth Development System where we are doing well.

**Q What do you believe will be your major challenges?**

My primary objective would be to understand the Indian culture and respecting the moral values, I'd like to introduce Indian Football to a new vision so that it becomes a respected Football Nation in Asia as well as the World.



Pics Courtesy: Chris Daniel



# U-16 BOYS CREATE HISTORY



## India qualify for AFC Final Phase

India's U-16 boys qualified for the final phase of the AFC Qualifiers scheduled to be held next year. Pitted in Group C against hosts Uzbekistan and strong contenders Bahrain, Tajikistan and Krygyzstan, India finished second in the group to finish on 9 points to make it to the second round.

India defeated Krygyzstan 7-0 in the first match and followed it up with a 2-1 victory against Bahrain; and then beat Tajikistan 4-1 in a do-or-die match to register three victories. This is the third time India have made it to the final phase.

The All India Football Federation has announced a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000 each for the U-16 boys and the support staff.

The President of the All India Football

Federation Mr. Praful Patel congratulated the boys and the Head Coach Youth Development Mr. Colm Toal on the achievement. "There is clear indication the Indian Football is moving ahead. We beat some of the best teams in Asia to Qualify for the Final Phase," he said.

Mr. Kushal Das, the General Secretary of the All India Football Federation also lauded the boys. "I congratulate the boys and Colm Toal for the way he has been nurturing our Youth Development Teams which is now yielding results. I am very optimistic that our current initiative with FIFA for setting up Regional and Elite Academies will go a long way in taking Indian Football to the next level, he said.

## Sports Minister praises AIFF



Minister for Sports Mr. Ajay Maken praised the All India Football Federation's attitude and concern for the development of the sport while speaking at a special seminar at the FICCI Auditorium. Speaking at a special session which highlighted various aspects of the revised sports bill and the Ministry of Sports' vision relating to various sports and sporting bodies in the country, Mr. Maken complimented the AIFF for their 'pro-active nature.'

Mr. Maken said, "The AIFF are doing a very good job at the moment and the Ministry has hence entered into an agreement with the Federation to turn the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium into the Football Hub of the Country."

"We thought it was a very good idea because the AIFF is so much proactive these days. The Federation is structured and we want to utilise the Stadium for matches and we stay confident it would create a great legacy plan for the JN Stadium."

The SAFF Championship is slated to be held at the Stadium from December 2 to 11, 2011.



# Indian Delegation studies J-League Model



A 17-member delegation comprising of All India Football Federation Officials and I-League Club members visited Japan to study the J-League model as well as the infrastructure at their clubs and Training Centres from September 21 to 27, 2011. The delegation was led by Mr. Sunando Dhar, CEO, I-League.

League who offered help to AIFF on Training of Coaches during a brief presentation. The delegation also visited the Japan Football Museum (located in the Headquarters) where Japan winning the Women's World Cup has been prominently displayed and the 'Dream' of Japan becoming the World Champion in 2050 is been nurtured.

The delegation visited Japan Professional Football League Headquarters in Tokyo where they had an interaction with Mr. Yukio Nakano, Senior Managing Director of the

Among other activities, the team also had an opportunity to visit some J-League clubs and matches including those of Jef United and Yokohama F Marinos.



## Clubs get clearance to organise matches

The I-League Committee Meeting took place at All India Football Federation Headquarters, 'Football House' on October 14, 2011. The meeting was chaired by AIFF Senior Vice-President Mr. Subrata Dutta in the absence of AIFF President Mr. Praful Patel and Sajjan Jindal, Chairman I-League Committee.



The meeting which was attended by I-League members comprising of Club Representatives, Executive Committee members and CEO, I-League Mr. Sunando Dhar, reached upon the following decisions unanimously.

- i. It was decided that the Functional Committees will have representation from I-League Clubs.
- ii. The Committee stayed convinced on the decision earlier taken by the Executive Committee that AIFF's Developmental Team Pailan Arrows won't be relegated from the I-League.
- iii. The Committee clarified to the Clubs that it's their responsibility to organise their respective Home Matches. The Clubs stay free to tie-up with either an Event Management Company or the State Association.
- iv. The demand of the Clubs to enhance the organisational subsidy to Rs. 1 lakh would be circulated to the members of the Executive Committee whereupon a decision would be reached.
- v. Allowances towards Boarding and Lodging for the I-League Teams and Match Officials have been raised by 15 percent.
- vi. The Clubs also requested IMG Reliance (AIFF's Marketing Partners) to give them more Marketing Opportunities for the enhancement of their revenue earning.
- vii. The Clubs have been given the permission to take on ground sponsor activation rights, eg, presence of cheer leaders, fans meet and greet player before a match, etc. They have also been allowed branding of Bibs of

- ball-boys, stretcher bearers and photographers.
- viii. Some adjustments have been made in the I-League Calendar to accommodate the following matches:
  - (A) International Friendlies against Malaysia on Novmeber 13 and 16, 2011,
  - (B) International Friendly against Zambia on November 29, 2011,
  - (C) SAFF Cup from December 2 to 11, 2011,
  - (D) Match against South Africa in Johannesburg on January 7, 2012,
  - (E) Match against Bayern Munich in New Delhi on January 10, 2012.
- ix. It was decided that Clubs would be allowed to register players till the end of the second transfer window, February 15, 2012.
- x. It was also decided that a Core-Committee would be constituted by AIFF from the members of the I-League Committee with five representatives each from Clubs and Executive Committee members to address various issues of I-League as and when required during the course of the tournament.

# I-League off to a glittering start

The wait has ended as the I-League has kicked-off, and in style. The build-up, this time has been different. A new logo, promotions all over the country, and a National Broadcaster along with a Regional One has made this edition special. Add to it, the gala Opening ceremony, the buzz had kicked-off much to the kick-off.

The tableaux have been a big hit. In a country where such promotional activities on football are mostly restricted to Television viewing, that too from European footballing destinations, the fans got a chance to understand Indian football can also be marketed. The interaction with the fans was a promising venture, indeed.

On the field, the clubs have got down to business. It's early days and the Competition is getting intense. We will be bringing you all the updates.



# HAIL THE CHAMPIONS

## Salgaocar win Fed Cup



## East Bengal win Super Cup



# First of its kind in Asia

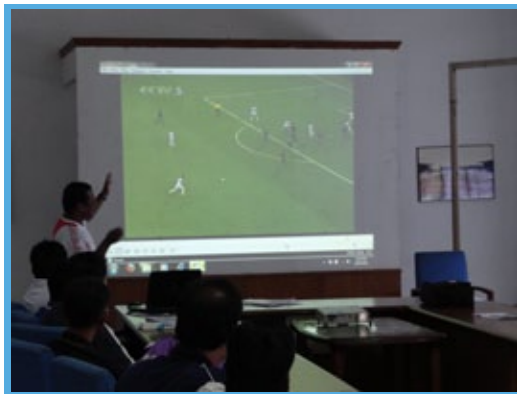
The All India Football Federation will never compromise when it comes to enlightening its referees. For the first time in Asia, a seminar was held for Assistant Referees on October 8 and 9, 2011 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur. In the past, there has been many a seminar organised for Indian Referees but an exclusive workshop for Assistant Referees had never been held.



Former FIFA World Cup Assistant Referee and AFC Referee Assessor K Sankar and former FIFA FIFA referee and FIFA Regional Fitness Instructor Binod Kumar Singh were the instructors.

Col (Retd.) Gautam Kar, Head of Referees Department, AIFF felt, "it was a right initiative."

"Every referee needs to assess and enlighten himself to support the sport. We will be more organising such events in the future."



## Bhaichung's Farewell Match on January 10

Team India's match against Bayern Munich will be Bhaichung Bhutia's Official Farewell Match, All India Football Federation General Secretary Mr. Kushal Das announced in the Capital on Saturday.

Speaking at a function organised by Bayern Munich at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium premises, Mr. Das said, "The Ministry of Sports is keen in turning the JN Stadium into a football hub and this match against Bayern Munich will only facilitate the process. Hopefully, it will be an occasion to remember for long." "I am grateful to Bayern Munich for

coming over to Delhi and playing a match against the Senior Indian National Team. The All India Football Federation will utilise the opportunity and the match will be the Official Farewell match for Bhaichung Bhutia," he added.

Bhaichung, who was also present said, "I'd always wanted to retire playing a match. I stay grateful to the AIFF for giving me an opportunity to play my last match."

The match is scheduled to be played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on January 10, 2012.

## 'D' Licence course held in Gurgaon

A 'D' Certificate Coaching Course was held at the heritage School, Gurgaon in association with Conscient Football from September 25 to 30, 2011. The course which stressed on theory as well as practical session had Charles GJ as its Instructor.

The curriculum included session planning, organised and individual coaching, football techniques and skills, age-group training, coaching methodology in order to hold the participants to take up Coaching as a profession. Besides, basic goalkeeping, sports safety, effective communication, video training and match analysis were also stressed upon. There was also a separate session on the Laws of the Game where former National Referee enlightened the 22 participants.

The list of participants stays as follows:

Harish Babu, Okafor Sunday Leonard, Devendar Singh, Jayavandan, Yesbir Singh, Sapna, Manoj Kumar Arya, Gur Prathap Singh, M Rajan, Amit Rathore, Gaurav Rawat, Neeraj Kumar Gaur, Preetham Singh, Sreejith Sivanandan, Kulbhushan, Rajesh Kumar, Kulbhushan, Swadesh Kumar, Jitender, Pradeep Gupta, Sadik Hussain and Rajesh Kumar.

### UPCOMING

- More from the I-League
- Pictures and reports from AFC U-19 Qualifiers
- SAFF Championship Draw

(All In our next Edition)

