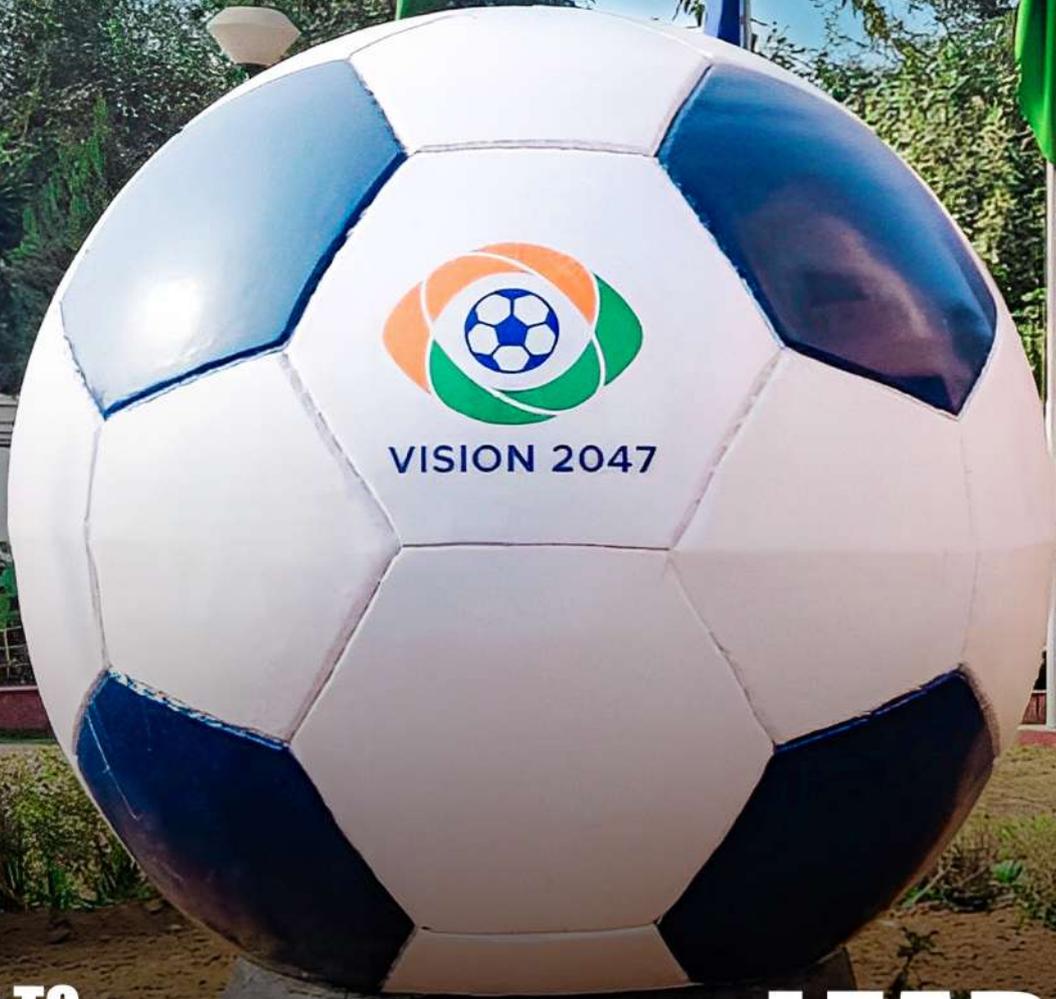




Jan 16, 2023

VISION 2047

T A R G E T 2 0 2 6



**“WE DARE TO
DREAM WITH
A VISION”**

-Kalyan Chaubey
President, AIFF

LEADERS

**Carving a new path for
Women's Football**

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President's Note

Mr. Kalyan Chaubey

Qatar's successful conduct of the 2022 World Cup and Argentina's brilliant victory over France in what was one of the greatest final matches has given us hope.

A tiny desert country proved to the footballing giants, that despite all the criticism by a section of the football fraternity, by organising a World Cup that will be a benchmark.

India's contribution has been huge both in build-up and construction of facilities and with the IT prowess of hundreds of professionals ensuring smooth conduct of the biggest sporting event on the planet.

Back home almost every state saw banter between supporters of the American and European giants. We also witnessed some unfortunate fatalities. In Doha our AIFF team was involved in a series of meetings with AFC and FIFA officials and industry experts.

On the field, the final showed how skill takes on and neutralises power. Proof of that was in the Messi show. It was evident that skill matters more than physicality as the puny, slightly built Messi weaved his magic against predominantly strong and physical French players of African origin.

Here in India, and in Football House, the Qatar World Cup and before that, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup we hosted, did affect and delay our announcement of the Road Map and Vision document, it also helped us to dream and plan big.



The success of skill over power floods us with the confidence to state that even India can dream to produce star players who can compete at the highest level.

The raw talent is there. Our players' skills need to be fine-tuned with systematic training and a planned effort to achieving both short term and long term targets. Some may feel that 2047 is a long way off and are impatient, but we have also set periodical targets.

There are many targets that we hope to reach as we set out on this long and arduous task. The focus has been on restructuring many areas. State competitions, national competitions for both states as well as clubs, a renewed focus on women's football, achievable targets in various other allied activities like producing required number of coaches, referee development, grassroots football and empowering administration at state and district level are on the agenda. The six strategic plans chalked out are for the



periods 2023-26; 2027-30; 2031-34; 2035-39; 2040-43 and 2043 to 2047.

Many states' potential in football lies untapped. Empowering states to organise and give more game time at both the junior and senior level, as well as creating and organising more competitions will help football in India rise to a new high. Building capacity at the grassroots is key to our future.

We have seen the passion for football as our masses follow other teams and imagine what kind of response our successful Indian teams can trigger.

India has a lot to contribute to world football both on and off the field. The role of technology gives our skilled IT professionals a huge role to play, while Indian footballers can be nudged to higher levels with a focused approach.

The success of Japan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia can be emulated by us as we do have the skills.

Our Vision and Road Map for Indian football is the result of studying inputs from all the states and then interacting with officials from AFC and FIFA.

The AIFF's XI focus areas are:

Governance, Infrastructure, Digital Transformation, Refereeing, Clubs, Grassroots, Talent Development and Identification, Coach Education, Competitions, National Teams and Marketing and Commercialisation.

It is a dream that we want to realise and we have set out on that path. We all promise to put in an honest, sincere effort, and hard work should get us the desired results.

Our work has begun.

The revolution has arrived

Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran
Secretary General, AIFF

January 7 was a historic day in Indian Football. The vision for the next 25 years was laid in front of the Indian Football community in the form of the Strategic Roadmap, where the new management of the Federation has put in a number of short and long term targets, the opportunities and challenges in our path as we aim to be one of the top footballing countries in Asia.

It was important for us to put all our plans in front of the entire community to convey Vision 2047 to everyone. We want all our stakeholders align themselves as we work together as a team to take Indian Football forward together. The Federation and its Secretariat is fully prepared to develop and execute all aspects of this plan and put in a governance model where we become an example for everyone in India.

India has a lot of potential, and Vision 2047 is a challenge that was worth taking; I must admit that there is no fun in life without any challenges. Of course these are not just empty promises - we are very serious about reaching each of these targets by 2047, the work for which, has already begun.

We have specific teams for every target, and are building our own capacity as a team. We believe in each other, support each other - all State FAs, clubs, and the Federation working hand in hand as a unit with support from FIFA and AFC.

There have been strategic plans previously as well, but we don't want to go back discussing why we haven't achieved these goals. But we are ready to take responsibility for the targets that we have set out to achieve. These have been carefully formulated and we are confident about them.



Indian Football is at a stage where it can burst forth and grow exponentially if the correct steps are taken. Building the capacity of the Member Associations and the clubs is one of the most important things that we need to ensure in order to ensure the growth of Indian Football. Making the beautiful game a sustainable business is high on our priority list.

If the State FAs and clubs become sustainable, they would automatically grow faster; hence, the strategic approach is to increase the commercial value of Indian Football, which would in turn ensure that players get a larger share of the pie, and that coaches get more opportunities.

Through our flagship Grassroots project, we plan to create more opportunities and engage more partners and stakeholders. We want to see a situation where football would shine in India, at least at the base level at first, and that we are able to provide talents for India and the world.

The golden era of Indian Football was in the 1950s and 1960s, but we believe that that can be recreated. We have to reach there whatever we do. We are an incredible country, and we intend to make the beautiful game an incredible state of affairs in India by the time our country celebrates its 100th year of independence.



VISION 2047

The Key Features

'Vision 2047' hopes that in the country's hundredth year of independence, India will be among the top four footballing nations in Asia, host one of the top leagues in Asia, and have a vibrant footballing ecosystem. It has sought and incorporated inputs from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA. The roadmap has been broken down, for diligent implementation, into six four-year strategic plans. The first of these will look to cover the period till 2026

COMPETITIONS

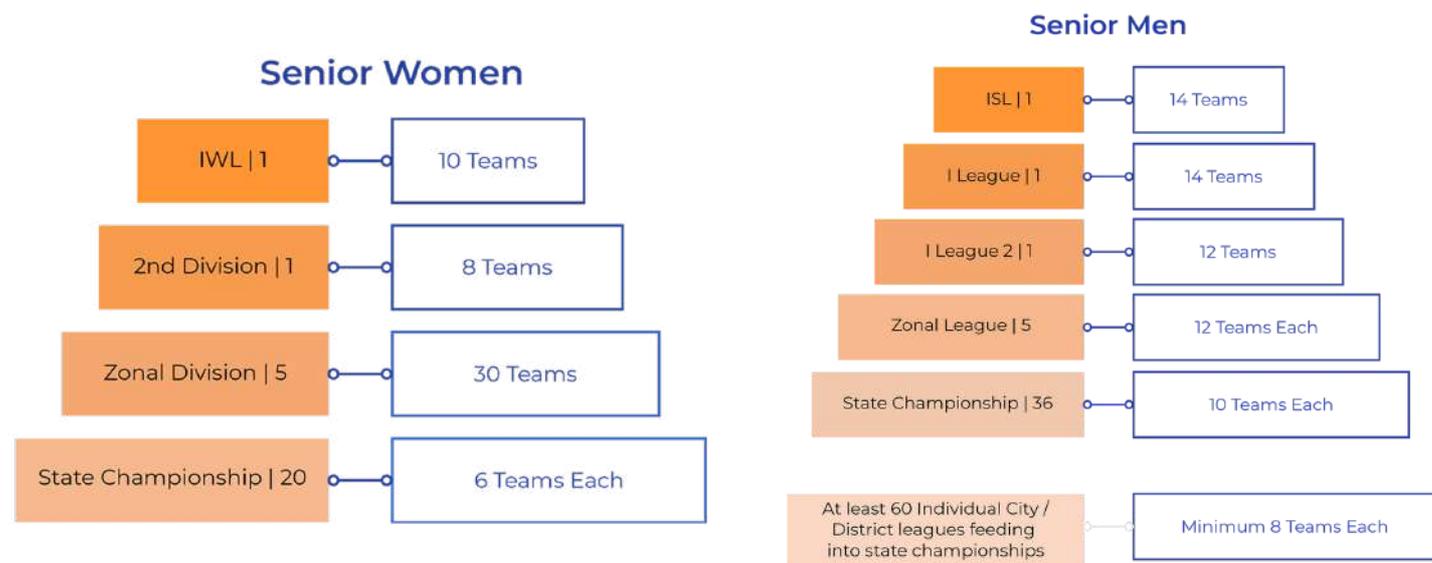
By 2047, the Federation wants to ensure players will be able to play at least 55 matches across different competitions every season. To enable this, the current structures of league competition, for men and women will be reevaluated and more clubs encouraged to join the fray.

The Federation will ensure that in the women's game, a four-level league table pyramid is in place by 2026 – the period of the first strategic plan. The top of the pyramid will be occupied by the Indian Women's League (featuring 10 teams), followed by the 2nd Division (8 teams). In addition, there will be five zonal leagues with eight teams each.

A new women's youth league structure will see players across different age groups play a minimum of 14 matches. The Federation will ensure that a minimum of 20 states implement the new women's youth structures by 2027.

On the men's side, the current strategic plan will ensure the creation of a three-tier national league pyramid with 40 teams. The Hero Indian Super League and Hero I-League will boast 14 teams each while the Hero I-League 2nd Division will consist of 12 teams. A state championship structure will see city and district leagues feed into the state championships.

A revamped men's youth league structure will see the local state youth league and elite youth leagues run simultaneously. Clubs and academies will participate in both with the winners of the state youth leagues qualifying for the Elite Youth League.



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

The Federation recognised that while women's football has been growing rapidly across the world, it has received very little attention in India. The weak ecosystem needs specific solutions to help increase participation and competency across the pyramid.

Some of the proposed solutions include better adoption of women's football by clubs across different levels, incentivising the role of coaches, referees and match commissioners for women, as well as providing a minimum salary for women's players. The Federation also wants to ensure more inclusivity for women in football administration.



GRASSROOTS

The Federation observed that the beautiful game, currently, has low participation relative to its size and population at the grassroots. There is a huge gender disparity in participation, and a lack of facilities and playfields in urban areas where children can come out and play. Significant gaps in funding also exist.

The 2026 target is to reach 35 million children through grassroots programmes and implement such programmes across 100 villages across India. The flagship grassroots project will also aim to register 1 million registered players and provide football education to 25 million children through Football for Schools. To facilitate better coaching the Federation will launch elite grassroots development coaching modules and hopes to train 100,000 school PE teachers in this period.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

The current talent development ecosystem is informal, with clubs and Federation bodies all largely working in silos without a systematic or uniform approach. The creation of a data-driven scouting structure from the Elite Youth League System for its National Teams will change this. The Federation wants to make clubs a focal point of talent identification and drive development at the grassroots and youth levels.

The 2026 target is to ensure youth players are guaranteed 35 matches per season across elite and state youth leagues. Furthermore, it envisions the creation of 100 teams in each elite youth league category and a talent pool that has 100,000 registered players across youth categories.

NATIONAL TEAM

One of the cornerstones of the roadmap is the creation of a national playing philosophy, which will be developed over time after consultation, observation and exploration. An increased focus will be put on utilising the FIFA windows across age groups to provide exposure to players in the national teams, with mega camps (two or more age groups) scheduled at least twice a year. Qualification for the FIFA U-17 World Cups for both men and women on merit is a key part of the agenda.

The Federation observed that a lack of competitive matches is detrimental to players' development.

A new national team set up will see sports science professionals, recovery and performance experts, nutritionists and sports psychologists employed full-time. The aim is to reach the top eight in Asia in the Women's rankings and the top 10 in Asia in the Men's rankings by 2026. A renewed focus will be put on providing more competitive matches during preparation camps.

TARGET 2026

- Qualification for FIFA U17 World Cups for Both Men and Women on merit
- Top 8 in Asia in Women's Football
- Top 10 in Asia in Men's Football



COACH EDUCATION

The 'Coach Education Program' structure will be developed in line with our 'Indian National Football Philosophy'. The improvement of footballing quality at all levels of the ecosystem demands better coaching and with that in mind, the roadmap targets creating 50,000 active coaches – almost 4,500 with a minimum AIFF C License – across the country.

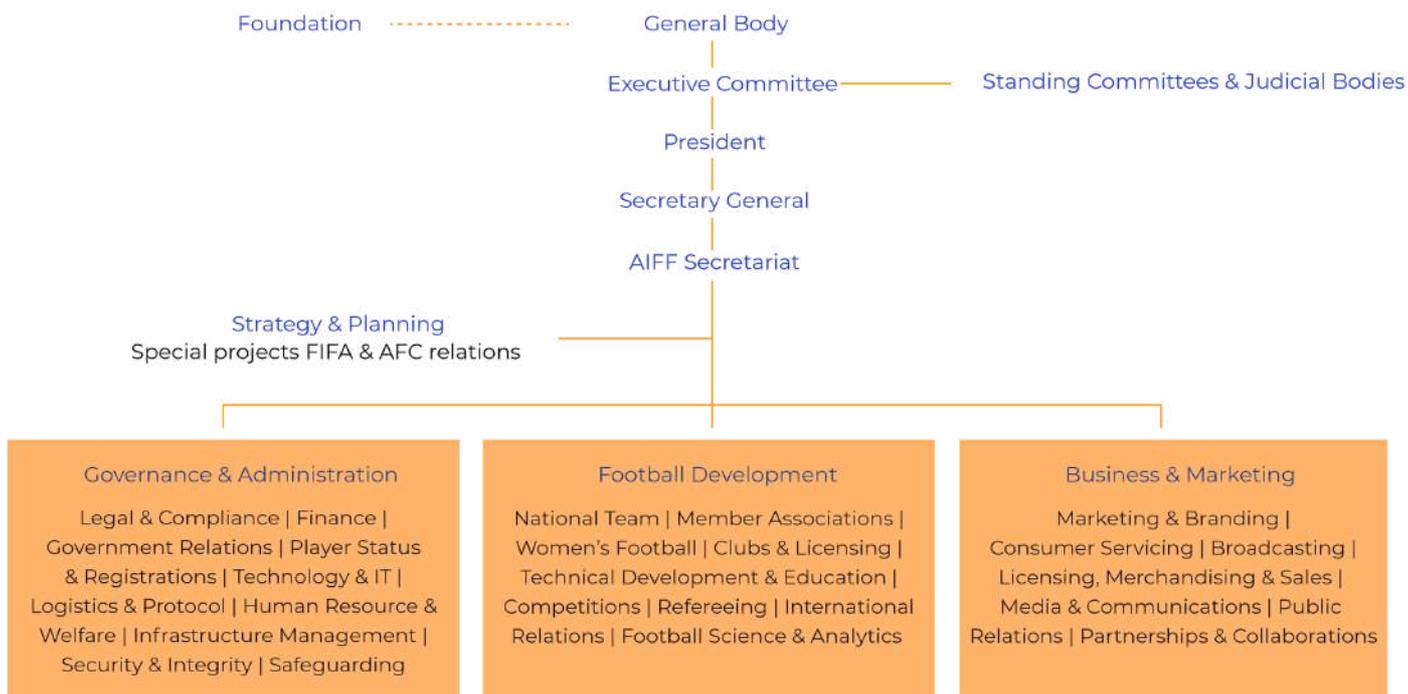
	Tutors	Target 2026	Coaches	Target 2026
Pro Diploma	0	1	17	72
A Diploma	1	5	201	565
B Diploma	7	13	326	839
C Diploma	14	28	1433	3023
D Diploma	40	100	6185	21142
E Diploma/Grassroots	58	200	324	25000

REFEREEING

The 2026 target is to create five Centres for Refereeing Excellence (CORE) to train youth referees. The Federation wants to encourage and incentivise refereeing as a full-time career among elite match officials and provide them with more games, competitions and better feedback mechanisms to hone their skills. The first batch of elite match officials (eight referees and eight assistant referees) have been inducted into the system with full-time contracts (*page 12*).

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

By 2026, the Federation wants to put in place an 'Innovation Hub' in collaboration with its technology partners. They will also pilot and develop revenue streams through digital mediums, which will include a streaming platform that offers football content for fans. A centralised database will be created to help technical development as well as improve stakeholder communication.



MARKETING & COMMERCIALISATION

Any development will rely on increasing the Federation's revenue and expanding streams to generate it. Financial sustainability is a huge concern, with almost all clubs posting major losses every season. The Federation wants to maximise existing brand value and also create new assets – in football, futsal and beach soccer – that will improve it.

The 2026 target is to increase AIFF's revenue – currently Rs 80 crore – by 500% and launch three flagship television properties. Over the next six strategic cycles, the Federation hopes to achieve an average 20% CAGR growth in Indian Football.

GOVERNANCE

The Federation will create mechanisms that aid Member state associations with capacity building across different areas to ensure they are sustainable by 2027. A restructuring exercise is currently underway, with an aim to streamline operations and ensure transparency and integrity. Recognising the need to better market and commercialise Indian Football, the Federation has created a new wing in its organisational structure, that of Business and Marketing.

To ensure good governance, the Federation will create effective feedback mechanisms that will ensure they are among the best-governed sports organisations in the country.



"I found the 'Vision 2047', a document that is practical. It has set a definite target for everyone in the football fraternity. What I liked most of it is that the target was to be achieved in the centenary year of India's Independence. I understand the 'Vision 2047' has been unveiled by the present committee. But whosoever runs the National Federation in the next 25 years, should strictly follow this path breaking document to reach the goal. I know a huge financial backing is needed to make it a success. But I am sure it could be achieved if all of us work together. All we have to do is to implement this project wholly and give our boys and girls the right kind of exposure at the right age. In that case, I am confident, India will figure among the best 10 in Asia soon," said former India captain, Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee **Brahmanand Sankhwalkar**

"The 'Vision 2047' is definitely a good project because it gives us a clear picture of what should be done in the next 25 years. Previously, we had similar projects and some of them were really good. But they often dealt with short-term aims. Football is a kind of game where nothing can be achieved overnight. To flourish in football, one needs time. I have been a footballer and then became a coach. I can say that implementation remains the key of 'Vision 2047'. And the onus is not on the National Federation alone. All stakeholders, including the state associations and the clubs, will have to work in tandem to make the project a success. It is good that the 'Vision 2047' has done the reality check – let us concentrate at the Asian level first before aiming to reach the World Cup," said former India captain and coach **Shanmugam Venkatesh**



"There is no doubt that 'Vision 2047' is a well-researched document. I really appreciate the efforts of whosoever has done it. It has set a practical target for Indian football. The game of football is itself target oriented – those who are at the top of world football currently didn't achieve it overnight. They worked hard for many years to reach the goal. However, the 'Vision 2047' can't be achieved alone by the National Federation. The document should be the handbook of Indian football right from the local level. The implementation of it must start from the local clubs and come up through district, state and then to the national arena. Actually, efforts should be made to make every parent in the country to read it – they will realise how fruitful the project could be and will feel encouraged to send their children to play football. I want to see India reach the top 40 of world football by 2047," said former India captain **Subrata Paul**

"The roadmap's focus on the grassroots is long overdue and very welcome. There was a severe need to rethink the way we look at grassroots development of players and empower states, clubs and academies to do so. It is good to see that 'Vision 2047' has observed our deficiencies in this area and has planned and ideated strategies that will correct them. The key to all of this of course implementation. The Federation cannot work in a silo and correct everything everywhere. State associations, clubs and other stakeholders have to pull their socks up and get their hands dirty. It's the only way we will see real progress. I look forward to the work," said former India captain **Renedy Singh**





"Vision 2047 is indeed a visionary document that clarifies a whole lot of questions that have remained long overdue in Indian Football. I must give credit to those who envisioned this document and created a pathway for taking football in the right direction. However, implementation of this visionary document calls for substantial budget and I am confident all stakeholders of Indian Football will come together to make it a success. The execution should start with immediate effect. We have a task in hand – AFC Asian Cup 2023 – and I am sure everyone connected with Indian Football will work in tandem with the 'Vision 2047' to see India come out with their heads held high," said India Senior Men's National Team Coach **Igor Stimac**

"This is a plan that has been drawn in consultation with FIFA and the AFC, and I am certain every single aspect - big and small - has been taken into consideration by the world and continental governing bodies when drawing this up. While there are so many aspects that have been outlined in the plan, the fact that being among the 'best in Asia' is at the heart of every conversation, goal, and plan is the best approach. It's something I've been saying rather frequently - our measure and benchmark has to be Asia for now. The plan covers grassroots development, infrastructure, women's football, coaches and officials, and even areas off the pitch that have always been on the back burner over the years, which is encouraging. I wish the AIFF nothing but the best. Let's all walk the talk now," said India Senior Men's National Team Captain **Sunil Chhetri**



"The most encouraging thing that has happened in Indian Football at the very start of this year is the strategic roadmap launch 'Vision 2047'. It opens up so many doors for our boys and girls who aims to be football player someday. With all the changes the most important change that I can witness is the target to reach 35 million children through grassroots programmes. This will be the pioneering movement going forward and I hope people will come to support us in every possible way," said former India International and Padma Shri **Oinam Bembem Devi**

"The 'Vision 2047' is a pathbreaking area for Indian Football. It will only encourage more players to pursue their dreams going forward. The strategic plan which has an intensive increase in number of matches in domestic football of women's football will only see proper growth ahead which is a much necessary change," said India Senior Women's National Team Captain **Ashalata Devi**





Referees given the professional card

In a first for Indian Football, the first batch of elite match officials (referees and assistant referees) have been inducted into the system with full-time contracts

A joint investment of the AIFF and the FSDL, the Elite Refereeing Development Plan (ERDP), in keeping with the outlines of 'Vision 2047', aims to make refereeing a viable career pathway in the Indian Football ecosystem. The first batch appointed consists of eight referees and eight assistant referees. The next batch of professional match officials will be announced in 2024.

The world's best referees are now as professional as the best players. Strength, stamina, endurance, agility are just the physical aspect of refereeing. Add to that is the immense mental pressures referees face when officiating a match at the highest level. They not only have to keep up with some of the fastest athletes in the world, but also possess the psychological skills to control the players' temperament.

The development of referees is as significant as that of players in modern day football. No matter how skilled the 22 players on the pitch are, it's the man in the middle who has the final say. In contemporary football, the quality of refereeing cannot be compromised.

Fair play, unbiased decisions and orderly play without controversy are essential in truly labelling football as the beautiful game. So, professionalisation of the refereeing arena is a critical step towards enabling Indian referees to match those at the world and elite level.

AIFF President **Mr Kalyan Chaubey** said, "Refereeing is a core area of focus for us. By employing referees full time, we will make sure they get the right kind of training, attention, support and also have financial security.

"A measure like this will incentivise the profession, hopefully make refereeing an attractive proposition and draw more of them into the system, especially at the grassroots. This would help our competition structure hugely. At the end of the day, in line with the strategic roadmap, we want to see our referees officiate at the World Cup in the future," he added.

Secretary General **Dr Shaji Prabhakaran** said, "Our target is to employ 50 match officials full time. Refereeing is a very important facet of the footballing pyramid and our goals towards doing more in this regard are detailed in the recently unveiled roadmap. The immediate target for 2026 is to engage more referees and create an exciting and viable pathway for referee development in India."

The professional match official organisation will also be bolstered by a coaching system that supports match officials operating in the ISL and I-League and those selected for the Elite Talent Pool from 2023-24 season. High level technical training will be shared with the Heads of Referees within Member Associations. This will ensure that the gap in law interpretation is minimised and best practices shared with every referee who desires to develop their skills.

"This is a very exciting period for Indian referees," **Trevor Kettle**, Chief Refereeing Officer (CRO) said. "These selected match officials will act as role models to inspire the talent for tomorrow and can expect to take charge of more games in the future. We must aspire to reach a minimum of 20 games within their core role per season to enable real progress. Professional match officials will be mandated to undertake self-evaluation and technical training every week.

"Transparency is key, and we will ensure that to gain credibility with our stakeholders. While professionalising referees will not totally eradicate human error, it will help achieve high standards and ensure consistency in major decision making. In the future we will explore how we can explain how and why decisions were made, albeit in a safe and controlled environment. I encourage match officials at all levels to professionalise their own approach, and learn and grow constantly."

First batch of elite match officials on full-time contracts-

Referees :

R Venkatesh, M Pratik, P Aditya, Crystal John, Rahul Gupta, M Jamal, N Senthil and Harish Kundu.

Assistant Referees :

J Tony, Sumanta Dutta, Samar Pal, Ujjal Halder, Kennedy Sapam, B Nagoorkani, P Vairamuthu and Abhishek Dey.





Of trophies, goals and logbooks

Inder Singh recalls his glorious Santosh Trophy days

VAIBHAV RAGHUNANDAN

"It was so long ago," Inder Singh recalls softly and then falls silent. A few moments pass before he continues, or tries to. "It is difficult to remember," he adds, pausing, taking time. "But..." another long pause. "It was never about one goal, or one player. Football is not like that.

"When I was playing, I knew," he says eventually, "I knew exactly which goal I scored when, and how I scored it. When I was a player, I knew..."

The legend of Indian football, on Friday, December 23, 2022, turned 79. It wasn't easy to lead him down the memory lane; but he eventually did and as he did, it opened a box of magical skills that dazzled thousands during his playing days.

As a youngster Inder had built a habit. In the evenings after games, he'd sit and list the goals he'd scored into a diary. Part historian, part analyst, this was his introspection. The practice lasted a few years, then the sheer number of the goals outran his log-booking. It became tough to keep count. *"In my 25-year career, I must have scored 500 goals,"* he says. That's a lot of meticulous record keeping, perhaps worthy more of a historian than a footballer.

Not just any footballer either. He was an unbelievable goal scorer who scored barely believable goals, and at a rate unsurpassed. In the 1974-75 Santosh Trophy season alone he scored a record 23 goals in only seven outings – a hat-trick against Bengal in the final against Bengal in the final – leading the line and leading a rout as Punjab powered to the title. "Punjab scored 44 goals and my share was more than half of them", he says.



The eager youngster is now a respected, retired, fabled sage, yet the timidity and the hesitation to talk about himself remains intact. He never talks about his goals, preferring instead to focus on what they, the teams he was a part of, achieved while he was with them. *"We were coached by the legendary Jarnail Singh, a hard taskmaster, who had us in camp for a month before the tournament," he says. "There was a good feeling all around."*

Goal scoring is not an individual pursuit," Inder says. "In our time there was no one logging passes, assists and all that, but when you scored a goal, you knew it was just the end of something that had taken a lot of work prior also. There were always a lot of people involved. Everyone did their jobs, and mine was to score goals."

Yes, sure, but goalscoring is an art form, and goalscorers superstars. In the rock band that is a football team, the goal scorer is the lead singer, the frontman, Mick Jagger, John Lennon, Jim Morrison rolled in one. Outspoken, brash, flamboyant, swashbuckling... words that exist in a dimension that Inder does not inhabit. He is humble, reticent, and, even now, reluctant to talk about his own brilliance and all those years at the top of the game.

This simplicity has passed through generations. Inder's own father was a farmer and his mother a homemaker. There was no root for football and yet when he went to school, he played it, his talent obvious to everyone around. He ended up the top-scorer in the All India School Games in 1960 and '61, while also doubling up as a sprinter at state-level competitions – something, he says, that helped him as a striker. He started playing for Leaders Club in school, before earning a professional contract with them at 19.

Inder's brilliance on the pitch predated his exploits in the Santosh Trophy of course. He made his India debut against South Korea at the AFC Asian Cup in Tel Aviv on the day Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru passed away, the match thrown into jeopardy because of what had happened. As it was though, the game went on, and Inder scored India's second in a 2-0 win. He was feted at the tournament, finishing as the joint top scorer as India lost out on the title to hosts Israel.

Inder's quick feet, natural stamina and uncanny ability to find the goal won him many admirers, even offers from abroad. For him, not those allures. He stayed home, where he loved to play, and where they loved him playing. *"Mohun Bagan and East Bengal would always send people to Phagwara to convince me to join them," he says. "I sent them back politely."*

With the Santosh Trophy geared to kick off – on his 79th birthday no less – Inder's record will stand up to scrutiny again, if not to be broken, then at the very least to be paid homage to. The tournament itself was a huge success in Malappuram last time out, huge crowds gracing the stage as Kerala, the hosts, ran out champions. In a manner not seen too often, a lot of those players became legends, cult heroes at the very least.

"The Santosh trophy does that," Inder says. "Many of us also went on to cement our names in folklore. I may have got the goals, but without Manjit Singh and Harjinder Singh we would not have been so dominant. It was a team of personality, of character."

The Hero of Santosh Trophy who broke boundaries

Osman Jan: the first man to win the trophy for two different states

SRUTI CHAKRABORTY



There is hardly a top player in the country who hasn't gone through the grind of the Hero Santosh Trophy at some stage of his career in the last eight decades. Starting from Talimeren Ao, the first captain of Independent India to present day icon Sunil Chhetri, all had made their presence felt in the National Football Championship at an early age before moving onto the next phase of footballing life.

The influence and impact of Hero Santosh Trophy, however, hasn't remained restricted to India – it has travelled beyond its boundaries from its very inception. So much so, when the newly-born nation Pakistan played their first official international tie – a friendly match against Iran – the team was led by the redoubtable Osman Jan, the celebrated custodian, who was actually known for his fabulous exploits in the Santosh Trophy.

Few are aware that Osman, who once guarded the citadel of Kolkata's great Mohammedan Sporting in the 1930s, was perhaps the first footballer to win the Santosh Trophy for two different states. While his triumph as part of the mighty Bengal team in the inaugural edition in 1941 didn't come as a surprise to any, it made people to sit up and take notice the second time when Osman captained hosts Delhi to win the 1944 Santosh Trophy beating all-conquering Bengal in the final.

If the old timers are to be believed, it was a fascinating battle in 1944 that saw underdogs Delhi win the prestigious National Football Championship for the only time in history. Osman, by then, had returned to his hometown Delhi after successful stints with Mohammedan Sporting and Aryans in Kolkata. Having joined the Crescent Football Club in Old Delhi, he was said to be instrumental in raising the Delhi state team that went on to beat stat-studded Bengal 2-0 in the final. He didn't allow any interference in selection of the team and picked the best possible side, which included two British citizens from the Royal Indian Air Force, then stationed in Delhi. The move proved correct as one of them, English, scored one of the two goals for Delhi in the final (Bhabani Banerjee was the other marksman).

The Delhi squad in 1944 was a true advertisement of unity in diversity – the hallmark of Hero Santosh Trophy right from the beginning. In the later years, two of the team members returned to England, some went over to Pakistan and some left Delhi to settle elsewhere. Osman went over to Pakistan and in October 1950, when the Pakistan National Team made their first ever tour of Iran and Iraq, he was made the captain. After his death, a tournament in his memory was started in Karachi.



Ladakh and its fledgling love for football

Ladakh, one of India's newest union territories, sandwiched between the Karakoram Mountain range and the Himalayas, has always been known for its surreal landscapes, unique Buddhist monasteries, high mountain passes, and vibrant culture. And now, football too

AKHIL RAWAT

On December 23, 2022, the Ladakh football team created history at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, playing out a 2-2 draw against Uttarakhand in their first-ever match at the Hero Santosh Trophy. Twenty-five-year-old Chinba Tharchin scored twice in the first nine minutes to send Ladakh into dreamland. Although their fellow mountainous visitors got back on level terms, the 22 men of Ladakh, who experienced the biggest day of their lives, made one thing clear to the rest of the nation – they were not here to make up the numbers.

No one expected Ladakh to score two goals. It was a fantastic result for us," said coach **Harpreet Bedi**, who has spent the last two years in Ladakh working in the youth setup and as the technical director of the Ladakh Football Association (LFA).

For **Tharchin**, scoring the brace felt easier than finding words to describe his emotions from the big day. *"Scoring Ladakh's first goal was my dream come true,"* said the man from Bodh Kharboo, a small village in the Kargil district. *"Representing Ladakh was not just my dream, but also that of each and every member of our squad, and of so many youngsters back home,"* Tharchin added with immense pride.

Coach Bedi opined that the match has proved to be the single biggest advertisement for football in Ladakh. "After the news of our result from the first game reached Ladakh, we received a lot of support, good wishes, and prayers from the people. *"It means a lot to us because now people don't just think of football as a sport, but as a sport played by Ladakhis – and not only in towns like Leh and Kargil, but also in remote villages as well. They now know that there exists a Ladakh football team that is participating in the Santosh Trophy,"* revealed Bedi.

Geographically, Ladakh is huge. It is the 17th-largest state/union territory by area, but the second lowest in terms of population, making it by far the least densely populated region of India. *"Spreading awareness about the game to every nook and cranny of Ladakh was never going to be easy. But now, we're seeing that not just the younger generation, but their parents are also starting to take interest,"* Bedi said.

After being granted affiliation by the AIFF in February this year, the Ladakh Football Association has already made notable progress. Within four months, the union territory participated in its first tournament at the national level, the Hero U-17 Women's National Football Championship held in Assam, also led by coach Bedi. In September, Ladakh witnessed its first coaching course, the AIFF E Certificate, conducted by the LFA and sponsored under the FIFA LOC U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 Coach Education Scholarship Programme.

India's newest football association has made strides in the arena of futsal as well. Ladakh's inaugural club championship was won by Dzawo 11 FC, who will take the honour of representing the union territory at the Hero Futsal Club Championship in New Delhi next year. However, there is still a lot of groundwork to be done in order to put a proper structure in place. The lack of football tournaments meant that open trials were the only way to pick players for the Hero Santosh Trophy squad. *"We conducted separate trials in the two districts of Ladakh – Leh and Kargil. The best players from both places were then brought together for a final trial,"* explained Bedi.

The trials, assisted by former Indian women's team coach Sajid Dar, were met with a great response, with over 200 aspirants attending. Ultimately, the field was narrowed down to the final 22, each of whom has worn the Ladakh shirt with pure passion, according to Bedi. In their second match a couple of days later, Ladakh, reduced to 10 men for most of the contest, were handed a 0-7 drubbing by hosts Delhi at the Ambedkar Stadium. However, Bedi didn't let that affect his team's high spirits. *"We know that results like these happen, yeah. But we were quick to move on. Our game plan was set, and we wanted to see improvements with every match."*

And they did improve in the next one. Mohamad Ilyas and Stanzin Gilik added their names to the scoresheet as Ladakh gave last season's semi-finalists Karnataka a real run for their money in a narrow 2-3 defeat. *"We are still searching for our first win,"* said an adamant Tharchin, who could only play 45 minutes since the opening match due to an injury. The forward is trying his best to return to full fitness ahead of his side's two remaining fixtures against Gujarat and Tripura.

Arguably the most satisfying feature of this Ladakh team for Bedi is that the entire squad is made up of Ladakh-origin players. *"Not a single one of them, representing us in the Santosh Trophy for the first time, is from outside Ladakh,"* he stated emphatically. *"All these proud Ladakhis are highly motivated to play in a prestigious tournament like this. The younger ones are not under any pressure. They are eager to participate, to grow and to learn what actual professional football is. Our entire team is enjoying every single minute of each game. As a coach, I don't just want them to learn, but have fun too,"* Bedi added.

While a groundbreaking year for Ladakh football draws to an end, plans for the future are already in place. Ladakh's participation in the current Santosh Trophy is also their preparation for next year's tournament. *"We want to progress game by game, tournament by tournament, and climb the Indian Football ladder. From the bottom to the top. I can guarantee that in three years, we will see a lot of Ladakhis on the Indian Football map,"* Bedi concluded.



Women's Football: Marching Ahead

The roadmap will place a renewed focus on expanding the women's game in the country and hopes to increase participation and competition at the grassroots

Women's football is of paramount importance to the Federation, and it believes that increasing participation of young girls in the beautiful game is the way forward. To initiate the process, the Federation has introduced the AIFF Women's Football Week, which was celebrated between January 1 to 7 across various states in India. The occasion was graced by a number of states, with even regions like Ladakh hosting events for young girls who played the game in front of the beautiful landscapes that is famous for.



"Women football in India is in a nascent stage of development right now. Young Indian footballers have a great chance to take the game forward. We must encourage and motivate young players so that, in the future, they go on to represent the country and make us proud," said former India International **Oinam Bembem Devi**

"Women's football is growing in the country. The country has massive potential to achieve significant success on the global stage. We must encourage youngsters to play the game and help Indian Football scale new heights," said India Senior Women's National Team Captain **Ashalata Devi**



"We want to see more girls playing football. Even today many parents across the country do not want to see their daughters play football. This is a culture we need to change. Girls are strong and capable leaders and I hope this event helps spread that message across the country," said India Senior Women's National Team player **Dangmei Grace**

"The FIFA Men's World Cup was followed and watched massively in India. That's the kind of support we need to show towards women's football in India too. The Federation is doing their bit and I hope more stakeholders join in to aid and develop the women's game," said India Senior Women's National Team goalkeeper **Aditi Chauhan**



"Women's football has been growing steadily for a few years, and now we hope there will be opportunities for budding footballers to pursue it professionally. Continuous support, encouragement and participation, will ensure growth and ensure that girls have a platform to grow not just as footballers but as strong individuals too," said India Senior Women's National Team player **Dalima Chhibber**



Creating a Vision for Women's Football in India

The four-day UEFA Assist Football for Women seminar hosted by the All India Football Federation from January 10-13, 2023 in New Delhi was a joint venture between the national Federation, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and UEFA to enable stakeholders within the game improve their leadership skills and help create a better culture for women's sport

The well-attended seminar was customised for different stakeholders within women's football in the country. The first day catered almost exclusively to current players and focused on building leadership on-pitch and translating it outside as well. The second day's session focused on building a culture that supports football for women within the country's footballing ecosystem.

Participants for the four-day workshop included many current and former players, coaches, and administrators within the women's game in the country. Indian captain Ashalata Devi and players Bala Devi, Aditi Chauhan, Dangmei Grace and Dalima Chhibber were among the attendees.

The first session of the seminar was inaugurated by the AIFF President Mr Kalyan Chaubey in presence of Secretary General Dr Shaji Prabhakran and UEFA Head of International relations Ms Eva Pasquier.



Addressing the seminar, **Mr Kalyan Chaubey** highlighted the important role of women in human life and how their role needed to be integrated into our sports culture too. "Half of the population on this planet is women. Any development programme must place an emphasis on women's development to have any chance of progress. Our recently revealed roadmap, 'Vision 2047', places a huge amount of focus on women's football," he said. "We want to improve not just the competitive structure for women's football, but also create a system which can increase participation at the grassroots."

Speaking during the closing ceremony, AIFF Secretary General **Dr Shaji Prabhakaran** said, "With UEFA's support, we have initiated capacity building exercises for women, for the growth of women's football in India."

"We would like to continue to work closely with UEFA in this area, to boost our women's football structure as well as develop a capacity by which we'll be able to achieve our target from 2026 and also our Vision 2047," he added.

India legend Padmashri **Oinam Bembem Devi** was also among the participants.

"It is a good opportunity for many of us who work in the women's game to learn about new practices, burnish our leadership skills and explore ways to expand participation among girls in the country," Bembem said. "I commend the Federation and UEFA for organising it and look forward to learning from the experience."



When Calcutta had the 'privilege' of hosting Pele

India legends pay tribute to the man they called 'the king'

SOU MO GHOSH

The year was 1977. It was a different world, yet it was the same. The world was largely an analogue one – computers were in their infancy, television had just started to make its headway into the common household, there were no little square tablets in the palms of everyone’s hands, nor did people have easy access to videos of great athletes and their magnificent performances. But the love for the beautiful game, and indeed for the global superstars that made the green plot of land their very own canvas, remained the same.

The Dum Dum Airport (now known as the Netaji Subhash Chandra International Airport) in Calcutta (now Kolkata) felt like a stadium around midnight of September 22, 1977; Pele was coming to town – along with his teammates from the New York Cosmos, who were to play an exhibition match against Mohun Bagan towards the end of a goodwill tour of Asia. For the City of Joy, it was a little matter of entertaining a galaxy of superstars like World Cup-winning Brazilian Carlos Alberto Torres and Italian player Giorgio Chinaglia. The sole spotlight, however, was on one man – the King, the Emperor.

Former India international **Subrata Bhattacharya**, who led Mohun Bagan that fateful afternoon on September 24, 1977, recalled all the excitement around that match. *“The entire credit (for Pele’s visit) should go to Dhiren De (Mohun Bagan official). He was the one who took the initiative to bring Cosmos and Pele to India, When we first came to know that we’d play against Pele, we were all very excited. Cosmos were a very good team, and they even had other World Cuppers like Carlos Alberto too. We were so overwhelmed that we even stopped our warm-up before the match just so that we could watch him”* said Bhattacharya. *“When we first came to know that we’d play against Pele, we were all very excited. Cosmos were a very good team, and they even had other World Cuppers like Carlos Alberto too. We were so overwhelmed that we stopped our warm-up before the match just so that we could watch him.”*



The late **Subhas Bhowmick**, the former India striker, was also on the pitch that day against New York Cosmos and was completely awestruck.

"I never thought we were competent enough to play against him. He was the King, and we were ordinary subjects of the game. It was a privilege that I, at least, didn't deserve. His ball control, heading, right footers and ability to bring down any defence on its knees was absolutely extraordinary. Time and again, he rewrote the grammar of football. We just watched in awe," Bhowmick had said in an earlier interview.

The match itself almost never happened if some reports are to be believed. First, there was the matter of around Rs 17 lakhs which the organisers doled out to have the King come to India and play. To make things more uncertain, Pele himself was reportedly not too pleased with the ground, which had taken some battering in the Bengal monsoon. However, the mass hysteria that ensued once the Emperor set foot in the City of Joy was enthralling, to say the least.

The quality of the match may not have reached the expected heights, as many fans in the city recall, with a young Mohun Bagan side earning a 2-2 draw against a far more experienced New York Cosmos. Though Pele did not score a goal, some of his touches and a free-kick that was saved by Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee, amply displayed the greatness of the man.

"I've played at the top level for more than a decade for clubs like Mohun Bagan and Tata Sports Club and was fortunate enough to captain the nation as well. But that day, when I played against Pele, remains the greatest moment in my football career. It was like I was meeting God. I was too overwhelmed," said **Pradeep Chowdhury**, one of the players that had the unenviable task of man-marking the Brazilian legend. *"Gautam Sarkar and I were tasked with marking Pele by coach PK Banerjee. Maybe the spectators present that day can say whether we succeeded in our mission. I would say, however, that the ground condition was not ideal for good football,"* he said.

However, as a famous Bengali proverb goes – 'ratan e ratan chene' (diamonds can identify one another) – Chowdhury was all praises for Pele. *"Pele's greatest quality, in my opinion, was to foresee at least four passes ahead of the ball being played. It made him extremely unpredictable on the pitch. There probably won't be another like him in the next thousand years,"* said Chowdhury.

Chowdhury's partner in marking Pele, midfielder **Gautam Sarkar** even earned plaudits from the great man himself. *"He smiled at me and said, 'So you are that number 14 who did not let me move.' I was awestruck,"* Sarkar recalled. *"Chuni da (Chuni Goswami) was standing by my side on the podium and overheard this. After that, he told me to give up football,"* Sarkar laughed. *"What else was left to achieve after such praise from Pele? This really was the biggest achievement of my football career. Not to boast about myself, but I've seen a newspaper report that my photo still hung in the New York Cosmos club. Pele was so impressed by our play that he wanted to meet the players first. Perhaps he never thought a club side from India could play the way we did,"* he said.

Now, as Pele sets sail for greener pastures in the heavenly abode, the entire footballing world joins in to mourn the loss of one of the greatest footballers the planet has ever seen, of a man, a King, or perhaps a God, who not only won three out of the four World Cups in which he played but also reportedly stopped a vicious war with his mere presence – because friends and foes alike, all wanted to watch him play.



A Deccan trailblazer

Sreenidi Deccan's young winger, Rosenberg Gabriel, has fired his side to the top of the Hero I-League with assists and skills galore

"I couldn't have asked for a better start to my professional career," revealed Rosenberg Gabriel, who is having a breakthrough Hero I-League 2022-23 season for league leaders Sreenidi Deccan. Topping the charts with five assists to his name, the winger has been one of the most important players for the Deccan Warriors this season.

Bombing down the wings and delivering pin-point crosses are two things Gabriel loves doing the most on the pitch. His electric pace and dribbling prowess make his task easy, helping him make his name as one of the most creative players in the Hero I-League.

The promising young winger signed with Sreenidi Deccan in 2021 after a successful trial with the club. In his first season, which was also the Deccans' debut Hero I-League campaign, Gabriel racked up 11 appearances, although most of them were from the bench. The quality was evident and was only a precursor to what was to come.



This season, Gabriel quickly gained the confidence of new head coach Carlos Vaz Pinto, starting in all but one of Sreenidi Deccan's nine matches before the winter break. *"The environment in the club is very professional, and the coaching staff have shown their trust in me. I feel that the team's system this season is more suited to my style and characteristics, which is benefiting me and helping me deliver good performances,"* said Gabriel.

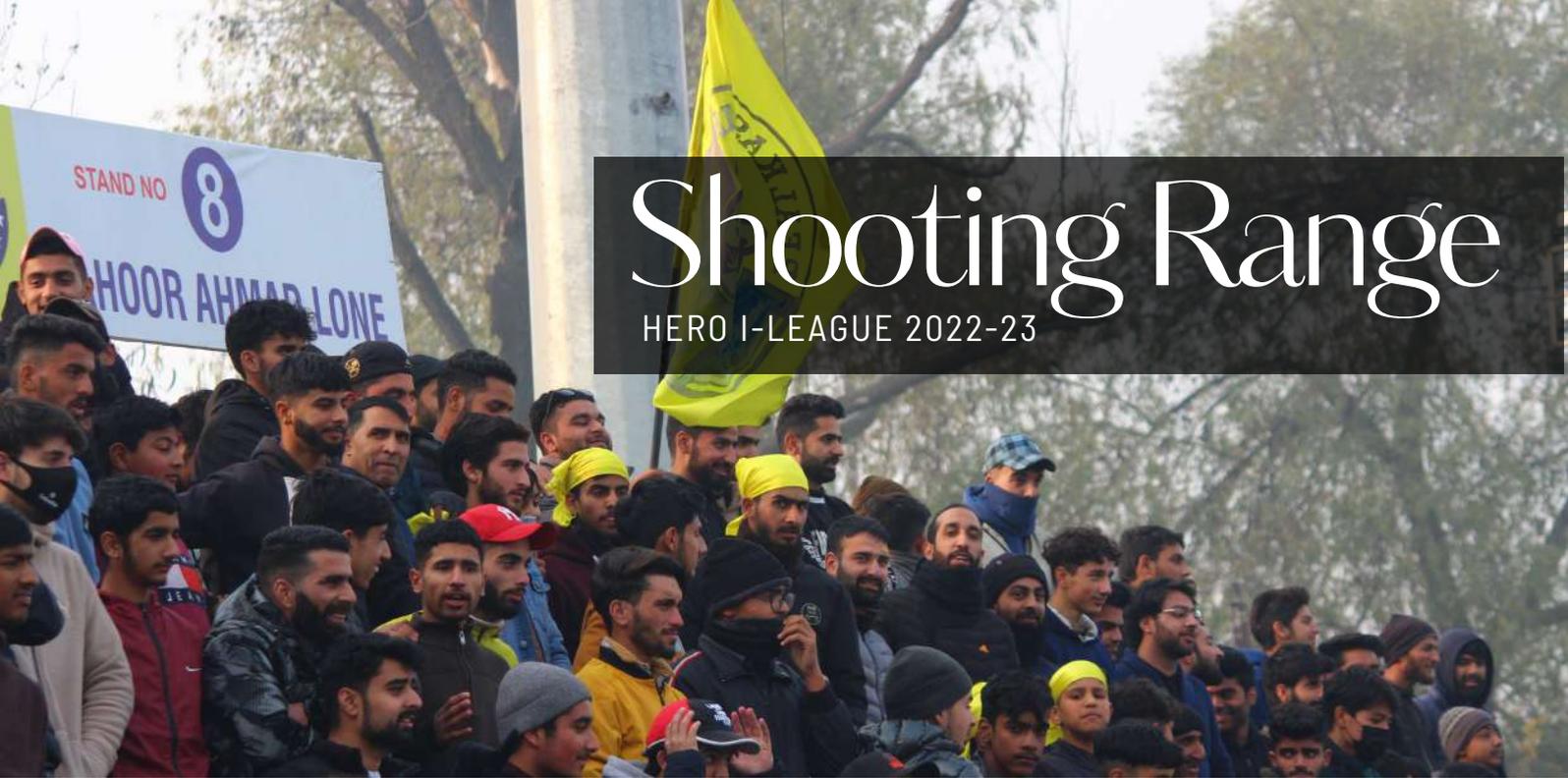
While usually a right winger, Gabriel has displayed his ambidexterity on a number of occasions this season, most notably in the 3-0 win away to Sudeva Delhi. Operating on the right flank in the first half, he switched to the left after the break, registering an assist in each period.

However, the 24-year-old picked the performance in the 3-2 win over Churchill Brothers in November as one of his best. *"If I have to pick one so far, it will be the game against Churchill, where I got my first assist in the Hero I-League."* And it was a textbook winger's assist as he rolled a smooth low cross for Louis Ogana to tap in from six yards out.

Hailing from Matunga in the heart of Mumbai, Gabriel has come through the ranks of the city's local football, representing teams like Mumbai Customs and Air India in the MFA Elite Division. In 2019, he was a crucial part of the Air India team, which lifted the century-old Nadkarni Cup, beating HDFC Bank 2-1 in the final.

Gabriel's passion for the game began at a very young age, and for that, he gives all the credit to his father. *"My father made me fall in love with football. It was his dream to see me become a professional football player. So, I have been working hard to achieve and live that dream. I'm grateful to the people who have been a part of this journey and helped me overcome all the challenges I have faced,"* said a lively Gabriel.

Having made it to the Hero I-League, Gabriel is now committed towards his club's big goal – winning promotion to the Hero Indian Super League. *"I want to contribute as much as I can to help Sreenidi Deccan win the I-League title and make it to the ISL."* Of course, the Mumbai lad also has his eyes set on the blue of India. *"I want to represent our country. It is something every footballer dreams of,"* he wished.



Shooting Range

HERO I-LEAGUE 2022-23





Hero U-17 Youth Cup kicks off on Jan 23

The Round of 16 Draw for the Hero U-17 Youth Cup was conducted at the Football House in New Delhi on Friday, January 6, 2023, after the end of all the Group Stage matches earlier the same day.

The draw was conducted by AIFF Secretary General Dr Shaji Prabhakaran, Treasurer Mr Kipa Ajay, and Deputy Secretary General Mr Sunando Dhar.

The Knockout Rounds of the Hero U-17 Youth Cup are set to be held at the Deccan Arena in Hyderabad, where 16 teams will fight it out for the top prize from January 23 onwards; the Final will be held on January 31.

A total of 49 teams had taken part in the Hero U-17 Youth Cup Group Stage, where they were split into 10 groups. Garhwal FC, Techtro Swades United FC, Sreenidi Deccan FC, Rajasthan United FC, Muthoot Football Academy, Minerva Punjab FC, Classic Football Academy, Punjab State FA U-17 Team, Sudeva Delhi FC, and Zinc Football Academy qualified as the 10 group winners. Meanwhile, KR Football Leaders Club.

Gandhinagar FC, Odisha FC, Corbett FC, Himalayan FC Kinnaur, and Chennaiyin FC have made it to the Round of 16 as the six best second-placed teams.

AIFF Secretary General **Dr Shaji Prabhakaran** said, "The Knockout Rounds of the Hero U-17 Youth Cup is upon us, and we have seen some really competitive games so far. All the teams have witnessed great competition and some great talents in this tournament.

"My best wishes to all the teams that will travel to Hyderabad for the Knockout rounds. With your great work, we will see a brighter future for Indian Football. We can't wait to see some elite level talent that will make India proud in the future," he said.



The poster features the Hero U-17 Youth Cup logo at the top center. Below it, the text reads "HERO U-17 YOUTH CUP 2022-23 FINAL ROUND FIXTURES" and "ROUND OF 16". The fixtures are listed in a table format with dates and team names. The match venue is specified as Deccan Arena, Hyderabad.

Date	Team 1	VS	Team 2
23 JAN 2023	GANDHINAGAR FC	VS	TECHTRO SWADES UNITED FC
23 JAN 2023	HIMALAYAN FC KINNAUR	VS	RAJASTHAN UNITED FC
23 JAN 2023	KR FOOTBALL LEADERS FC	VS	PUNJAB STATE FA U17 TEAM
23 JAN 2023	CLASSIC FOOTBALL ACADEMY	VS	MINERVA ACADEMY FC
24 JAN 2023	SREENIDI DECCAN FC	VS	SUDEVA DELHI FC
24 JAN 2023	CORBETT FC	VS	ZINC FOOTBALL ACADEMY
24 JAN 2023	CHENNAIYIN FC	VS	GARHWAL FC
24 JAN 2023	ODISHA FC	VS	MUTHOOT FOOTBALL ACADEMY

MATCH VENUE : DECCAN ARENA, HYDERABAD

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																																		
		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE				
JAN'23	Senior Women	SENIOR WOMEN'S CAMP																																		
	Women's U20	U-20 WOMEN'S TRAINING CAMP																																		
	Women's U17	U-17 WOMEN'S CAMP																																		
	Men's U17	U-17 MEN'S CAMP - GOA							UAE - INT. FRIENDLY							U-17 MEN'S CAMP - GOA							UAE - INT. FRIENDLY							U-17 MEN'S CAMP - GOA						
	Men's U17	HERO U-17 YOUTH CUP - FINAL ROUND																																		
	Beach Soccer	NATIONAL BEACH SOCCER C'SHIP																																		
	Senior Men	HERO I LEAGUE																																		
Senior Men	SANTOSH TROPHY GROUP STAGE																																			

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																											
		WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
FEB'23	Senior Women	SENIOR WOMEN'S CAMP														FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (W)													
	Women's U20	SAFF U-20 WOMEN'S C'SHIP							U-20 WOMEN'S CAMP							ACCLEXP-U-20													
	Women's U17	U-17 WOMEN'S CAMP							JORDAN - INT. FRIENDLY - U-17							U-17 WOMEN'S CAMP													
	Men's U17	U-17 MEN'S CAMP							SPAIN - EXP							U-17 MEN'S CAMP													
	Men's U17	HERO U-17 YOUTH CUP - FINAL ROUND																											
	Futsal	HERO FUTSAL CLUB C'SHIP 2023																											
	Senior Men	HERO I LEAGUE																											
Senior Men	SANTOSH TROPHY FINAL ROUND																												

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																											
		WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
MARCH'23	Senior Women	SENIOR WOMEN'S CAMP														JORDAN - EXP + FRIENDLY							UZBEKISTAN - INT.FRIENDLY						
	Women's U20	AFC U-20 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2024 (Q) R 1																											
	Women's U17	U-17 WOMEN'S CAMP														UEFA U-17 WOMEN'S C'SHIP 2023 - BANGLADESH													
	Men's U17	U-17 MEN'S CAMP - GOA							CROATIA - EXP + FRIENDLY							U-17 MEN'S CAMP - GOA													
	Senior Men	HERO I LEAGUE																											
	Senior Men	HERO 2ND DIVISION LEAGUE																											
	Senior Men	SENIOR TEAM MEN'S CAMP														FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)													

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																											
		SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
APRIL'23	Senior Women	WOMEN OLYMPIC 2024 (Q) R 1																											
	Senior Women	FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (W)														HERO INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (IWL)													
	Senior Women	SUB. JUNIOR BOYS AFC																											
	Men's U16	U-17 WOMEN'S CAMP														EXP - U-17 WOMEN'S							AFC U-17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2024 (Q) R 1						
	Women's U17	U-17 MEN'S CAMP - GOA							SPAIN - EXP U-17 MEN'S																				
	Men's U17	HERO I LEAGUE 2																											
	Senior Men	HERO SUPER CUP																											

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																											
		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
MAY'23	Senior Women	HERO INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (IWL)																											
	Women's U20	EXP U-20 WOMEN'S - TBD																											
	Women's U16	SUB. JUNIOR GIRLS AFC																											
	Men's U17	AFC U-17 ASIAN CUP 2023 - THAILAND																											
	Men's U23	HERO SUPER CUP														ASIAN GAMES - U-23 MEN'S CAMP													
	Senior Men	SENIOR TEAM MEN'S CAMP																											
	Senior Men	HERO I LEAGUE 2																											

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																											
		THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
JUN'23	Women's U20	AFC U-20 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2024 (Q) R 2																											
	Senior Men	SENIOR TEAM MEN'S CAMP														FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)													
	Senior Men	HERO INTERCONTINENTAL CUP																											
	Men's U23	ASIAN GAMES - U-23 MEN'S CAMP														SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP													

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																											
		SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
JUL'23	Senior Women	SAFF CH																											
	Senior Women	SENIOR WOMEN'S CAMP														FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (W)													
	Women's U20	HERO WOMEN'S GOLD CUP														U-20 WOMEN'S CAMP													
	Women's U20	COTIF U-20 (W) TOURNAMENT																											
	Men's U 13	YOUTH LEAGUE - U13 ZONAL PHASE																											
	Men's U 15	YOUTH LEAGUE - U15 ZONAL PHASE																											
	Men's U 17	YOUTH LEAGUE - U17 ZONAL PHASE																											
Men's U 19	YOUTH LEAGUE - U19 ZONAL PHASE																												
Men's U 19	EXP							SAFF U-19 BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP - NEPAL																					

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																													
		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
AUG'23	Women's U20	COTIF TOURNAMENT U-20(W)																													
	Women's U17																					U-17 WOMEN'S CAMP									
	Women's U17	KHELO INDIA GIRLS LEAGUE (S)																													
	Men's U13	YOUTH LEAGUE - U13 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U15	YOUTH LEAGUE - U15 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U16	U-16 MEN'S CAMP										ACCL EXP - SAFF U-16(M)																			
	Men's U17	YOUTH LEAGUE - U17 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U19	JUNIOR BOYS NFC - GROUP STAGE																													
	Men's U19	YOUTH LEAGUE - U19 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U23											ASIAN GAMES - U-23 MEN'S CAMP																			
	Senior Men											SENIOR MEN'S CAMP																			
	Senior Men											SANTOSH TROPHY GROUP STAGE																			

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																													
		FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPT'23	Senior Women	SENIOR WOMEN'S CAMP - ASIAN GAMES PREP.															SENIOR WOMEN'S ACCL. EXP (ASIAN GAMES)														
	Women's U17	U-17 W CAMP					U-17 W ACCL. EXP										AFC U-17 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP 2024 Q R 2														
	Women's U17	KHELO INDIA GIRLS LEAGUE (S)																													
	Men's U13	YOUTH LEAGUE - U13 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U15	YOUTH LEAGUE - U15 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U16	SAFF U-16 BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP - BHUTAN																													
	Men's U17	YOUTH LEAGUE - U17 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U19											JUNIOR BOYS NFC - FINAL ROUND																			
	Men's U19	YOUTH LEAGUE - U19 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U19	U-19 EXP - TBD																													
	Senior Men	FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)										ASIAN GAMES MEN'S CAMP										19th ASIAN GAMES - HANGZHOU (M&W)									
	Men's U23	AFC U-23 ASIAN CUP 2024 QUALIFIERS																													

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																													
		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
OCT'23	Senior Women	19th ASIAN GAMES - HANGZHOU (M&W)							SENIOR WOMEN'S CAMP										WOMEN OLYMPIC 2024 (Q) R 2												
	Women's U17	KHELO INDIA GIRLS LEAGUE (S)																													
	Men's U13	YOUTH LEAGUE - U13 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U15	YOUTH LEAGUE - U15 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U17	YOUTH LEAGUE - U17 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U19	YOUTH LEAGUE - U19 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Senior Men	SENIOR MEN'S CAMP										FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)																			
	Senior Men											LEAGUES																			
	Senior Men	SANTOSH TROPHY FINAL ROUND																													
	Senior Men																														

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																													
		WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
NOV'23	Senior Women																												FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)		
	Senior Women	SENIOR WOMEN'S NFC																													
	Women's U17	KHELO INDIA GIRLS LEAGUE (S)																													
	Men's U13	YOUTH LEAGUE - U13 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U15	YOUTH LEAGUE - U15 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U17	YOUTH LEAGUE - U17 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U19	YOUTH LEAGUE - U19 ZONAL PHASE																													
	Men's U19											TBD - EXP U-19																			
	Senior Men											FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)																			
	Senior Men	LEAGUES																				LEAGUES									
Senior Men	HERO 2ND DIVISION LEAGUE																														

MONTH	CATEGORY	AIFF CALENDAR 2023																													
		FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DEC'23	Senior Women	FIFA INTERNATIONAL WINDOW (M)																													
	Women's U17	KHELO INDIA GIRLS LEAGUE (S)																													
	Women's U19	JUNIOR GIRLS NFC - GROUP STAGE																													
	Men's U19											YOUTH LEAGUE - U19 - FINAL ROUND																			
	Senior Men											SENIOR MEN CAMP										TBD EXP - SR, TEAM									
	Senior Men	LEAGUES																													
Senior Men	HERO 2ND DIVISION LEAGUE																														



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