**Interesting things about indian football**

Association Football or soccer is a team sport played outdoors with 11 players. This sport was invented in England. You all know that Pele is considered the king of world football, but do you know, who is called the father of Indian football? It’s Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhakari. Nagendra Prasad is an Indian football personality who founded the first Indian football organization in India. He along with his royal friend, Nagendra Mullick, formed a string of sporting club in Calcutta in the 1800s. The first club was the Wellington Club which was founded in the year 1884. West Bengal is therefore said to be the home of Indian football.

**Inspiration for Indian football**

The major event, that contributed to the rise in Indian football is, when Mohan Bagan AC defeated East Yorkshire Regiment 2 - 1 in the final of the IFA Shield. There are few regions like Kerala, Kolkata, Goa and Northeast part of India where people are crazy for football than for any other sports. Mohan Bagan, East Bengal, Dempo SC and Mahindra United India are some of the major football clubs in India. Buy [football online](https://thetidkes.com/product-category/football/) in india from Thetidkes. Thetidkes having best quality of all sports products at best price.

In the year 1950, India qualified for the first time to play in the World Cup in Brazil, but they were banned for a very strange reason. Indians wouldn’t be wearing the traditional football boots but were to play football barefoot. They were actually scheduled to play Sweden, Italy and Paraguay.

**Position of football in India**

Football is among the top three most popular sport in India. India holds 106th position in FIFA ranking. The Indian football was at its peak from 1948 to 1964 as India played in four Olympics and secured two gold medals in the Asian Games. The period between 1950 and 1960 is called the golden era of Indian football. India finished fourth in 1956 Olympics. India got gold medal in the year 1962, Jakarta Asian Games. In the year 1964, India was the runners-up in Asian Games, football.

**Legends of Indian football**

Players like PK Banerjee, Chuni Goswami and Tulsidas Balaram played an important role in securing gold medal for India in 1962. Jarnail Singh, Bhaichung Bhutia are stalwarts who contributed to the popularity of football in India. Sunil Chhetri is the most successful professional footballer in India. He is the present captain of the Indian national team as well as the Indian Super League club Bangalore. He is the country’s all-time top goal scorer and most capped player with 84 goals in 131 official international appearances. Messi’s tally is 90 and Ronaldo’s tally is 117 goals. FIFA has honoured Sunil Chhetri, the Indian football captain with releasing a three-part series on his life and career.

**Rise of Indian football**

India who ranked 162 in the FIFA world earlier, is now ranked106th position in FIFA ranking 2023. We are progressing slowly but steadily in the field of football. Football is the second most viewed sport in India. This sport is rapidly gaining popularity and it is mainly due to the success of Indian Super League and I League. The ISL is a top-tier Indian Football League. It is the 5th biggest football league, in terms of attendance in the stadium as well as viewership. ISL is the 4th biggest football league measured by Instagram engagements. The I-League is the second-tier men’s professional football competition of the Indian football league system. It is currently contested by 12 teams in India. Italian club opened its first academy in Kerala in partnership with Calicut Sports City. Their main mission is to contribute to the development of Indian football as a whole.

**Future of Indian football**

India being the fifth largest economy and the largest democracy should be able to build a better sports culture through better infrastructure, more corporate investment and Government promotions. This will not only open up a lot of business opportunities in sports like marketing, sponsoring, manufacturing of sports goods accessories and apparels but also encourage young Indians to take up sports as career.

Focus on grassroots level sports, youth development, infrastructure development, use of technology and providing more opportunities for women, would be the key to propel up Indian football.

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