

# OUR TALENT CLUSTERS

INDIAN FOOTBALL'S HOTBEDS & HOW TO DEVELOP THEM

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# REPORT SUMMARY

## FOOTBALL TALENT CLUSTERS

**TALENT EMERGES IN EASILY IDENTIFIED GEOGRAPHIC CLUSTERS IN EVERY CORNER OF WORLD SPORTS AND FOOTBALL**

## INDIA HAS ITS OWN FOOTBALL TALENT CLUSTERS

**35 DISTRICTS WITH ONLY 7.4% OF NATIONAL POPULATION COMMAND 80% OF INDIA'S PROFESSIONAL MINUTES OVER THE LAST 11 SEASONS**

## WE HAVE A PLAY DEFICIT EVEN IN OUR CLUSTERS

**INDIAN CLUSTERS ARE FAR BEHIND GLOBAL NORMS WHERE THEY**

- ...INTRODUCE FOOTBALL AT AN EARLY AGE**
- ...ENGAGE REGULARLY WITH A CRITICAL MASS OF PLAYERS**
- ...ENABLE 40+ WEEKS OF FOOTBALL**
- ...PLAY 35–50 MATCHES PER YEAR**

## HIGHEST POTENTIAL IMPACT IN EXISTING CLUSTERS

**CLUSTERS FORM AND ACCELERATE STANDARDS WHEN CULTURE, ENGAGEMENT, AND PATHWAYS ALIGN IN CRITICAL GEOGRAPHIES**

## BOTTOM LINE ELEVATE INDIAN CLUSTERS

**INDIA'S CATCH-UP GAME WILL HAVE TO PLAY OUT CLUSTER BY CLUSTER, BY FIRST ADDRESSING THE "PLAY DEFICIT" INSIDE INDIA'S OWN TALENT CLUSTERS**



**This report is not a formal document nor does it represent any organization or individuals unless their contribution has been mentioned exclusively.**

**It has been created for the Indian football community and stakeholder to further highlight the birthplace (place of early development) effect in Indian football down to the district level.**

**The concept of the "birthplace effect" or "place of early development" suggests that the geographical location of an individual's birth and upbringing can significantly influence their chances of reaching elite status in their chosen career, in this case football.**

**The birthplace effect encompasses a range of environmental, social, and infrastructural factors, such as access to quality coaching, facilities, and competitive opportunities, as well as socio-economic and cultural aspects that may encourage or hinder sports participation and excellence.**

**No credit or commercial value is sought, and everyone is welcome to use the insights and data. Any lack of citations, references, or links is not deliberate, and best efforts have been made to ensure data accuracy.**

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## SECTION 1

# WHAT ARE TALENT CLUSTERS



# WHAT ARE TALENT CLUSTERS?



**ELITE TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
TAKES PLACE IN HYPER LOCAL  
CONTEXTS**

The story of talent is rarely linear. It begins not in elite academies but in regions, neighborhoods and communities where children first play.

Talent clusters show how excellence often emerges from specific pockets that consistently produce a disproportionate share of future elite players and professionals. These clusters result from layered social, cultural, and environmental influences shaping development.

The talent emerges when early exposure, aspirational role models, and regular play intersect. In these environments, children are not merely trained—they grow up in a culture that celebrates football.

And, when strong culture exists, children, coaches, and communities are aligned in their values, enabling consistent technical, psychological, and social growth that cannot be replicated by investment alone. Positive forces like family support, passionate communities, and a collective love for the game accelerate development beyond planned and prescribed training, creating motivation through both informal and formal play.

What matters is not facilities alone, but density and intensity of engagement. A child in a football-mad locality experiences more intense and frequent “play”, accelerating development through culture, access, and the social value placed on the sport.

**At the most basic level, the difference between a talent cluster and other regions reside in How and How Much the population experiences the game growing up.**

# TALENT CLUSTERS COMMON TRAITS

**Talent clusters take root in the soil of strong local culture and experiences.**

**THESE REGIONS USUALLY SHARE THREE TRAITS:**

## **STRONG CULTURAL TAILWINDS:**

**Football is a dominant part of the culture and is socially important in the region or neighbourhoods (such as localities in mega cities)**

## **ASPIRATIONAL LOCAL ROLE MODELS:**

**A history and strong track record of producing players at the highest domestic levels and for the national teams. These players in turn inspire the next generation.**

## **EARLY ENGAGEMENT & DEFINED PATHWAYS:**

**Kids get intense and frequent access to football starting at an early age and defined pathways that connect local participation to senior professional football.**

**When these factors come together, the regional environment supports development of players in large numbers.**

**Children are not just training; they are immersed in a living culture of the game. Role models, informal play, competitive leagues, and aspirational pride create a virtuous cycle that consistently produces talent.**












**Elite player development is never just about the individual. It is about the collective fabric of a place—the games played in the streets, the stories told, the rivalries that animate local competitions, and the known and unknown pathways that connect the grassroots to the highest levels.**

**No top-down intervention will bear fruit without strong local culture**

A stylized world map with green landmasses and blue oceans, featuring thick black outlines for continents and water bodies. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

**TALENT  
CLUSTERS  
EXIST  
EVERYWHERE.**

# TALENT CLUSTERS EXIST IN GLOBAL SPORTS



COUNTRY	COMPETITIONS	% OF ATHLETES	GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION
 KENYA	 DISTANCE RUNNING	<b>&gt;70%</b> OLYMPIC AND MARATHON TITLES	<b>1</b> PROVINCE AND TRIBE/SUB TRIBE
 CANADA	 NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE	<b>94%</b>	<b>3/12</b> PROVINCES
 USA	 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL	<b>73%</b>	<b>10/50</b> STATES
	 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE	<b>83%</b>	<b>10/50</b> STATES
	 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION	<b>78%</b>	<b>10/50</b> STATES
	 PRO BASKETBALL PLAYERS (M/F)	<b>68%</b>	<b>1</b> STATE SAO PAULO
 JAPAN	 NIPPON PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL	<b>60%</b>	<b>15/47</b> PREFECTURES

Across all examples, the clusters are further concentrated down to towns, villages and in many cases schools and clubs that have historically accounted for a disproportionate amount of elite talent outcomes.

# TALENT CLUSTERS EXIST IN INDIAN SPORTS

	REGION	DOMINATION	DESCRIPTION
 <b>RANJI TROPHY</b>	 MUMBAI CRICKET ASSOCIATION <b>MUMBAI CRICKET</b>	<b>42 TITLES</b>	<b>THE NEXT BEST TEAM KARNATAKA HAS WON THE TITLE 8 TIMES</b>
 <b>GRAND MASTERS</b>	 CHENNAI DISTRICT CHESS ASSN.	<b>100%</b>	<b>OF GRANDMASTERS PRODUCED IN TAMIL NADU + 31/85 OF INDIA'S GMS</b>
 <b>WRESTLING</b>	<b>HARYANA</b>	<b>100%</b>	 <b>INDIA'S OLYMPIC 7 MEDALS MEN AND WOMEN</b>
		<b>100%</b>	 <b>INDIA'S 2023 ASIAN GAMES MEDALS MEN AND WOMEN</b>
 <b>HOCKEY INDIA</b>	<b>PUNJAB</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	 <b>16/23 MEDALS AT THE WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010-2023</b>
		<b>&gt;50%</b>	<b>INDIAN HOCKEY SQUAD AT THE OLYMPICS 2016-2024</b>
 <b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>TAMIL NADU AND PUNJAB</b>	<b>&gt;80%</b>	<b>INDIAN MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER FIBA ASIAN CUP (15+ YEARS)</b>

# TALENT CLUSTERS EXIST IN TOP FOOTBALL LEAGUES

COUNTRY	COMPETITIONS	% OF PLAYERS	GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION
 ARGENTINA	 PRIMERA DIVISION	82%	6/23 PROVINCES
 SPAIN	 LA LIGA 1, 2	73%	7/17 REGIONS
 ENGLAND	 EPL AND EFL (1,2,3)	70%	18/48 COUNTIES
 FRANCE	 LIGUE 1 LIGUE 1	92%	3/18 REGIONS
 URUGUAY	 LIGA URUGUAYAN	54%	1/19 DEPARTMENTS
 NETHERLANDS	 EREDIVISIE	82%	3/12 PROVINCES
 JAPAN	 J-LEAGUE 1,2,3	74%	15/47 PREFECTURES
 USA	 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER	68%	10/50 STATES

# FOOTBALL TALENT HOTBEDS

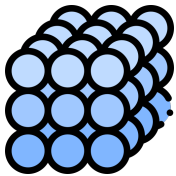
## WHEN, HOW AND HOW MUCH THEY PLAY



INTRODUCED TO THE SPORT AT AGES 3-6  
REGULAR ACCESS TO FREE AND ORGANISED PLAY  
ALL THROUGH THE YEAR IN THEIR HOMES,  
NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

START BY AGE 4-6

EARLY INTRODUCTION  
THE GAME "AT HOME"



1 IN 5-20 KIDS OF THE POPULATION IS ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED IN EACH AGE GROUP DIVIDED BY ABILITY  
AND REGION

CRITICAL MASS  
ENGAGED : 8-20%  
OF THE POPULATION

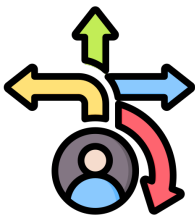
DENSE PARTICIPATION



CHILDREN TRAIN AND COMPETE WEEKLY  
40+ WEEKS A YEAR (1-2 GAMES A WEEK)  
4-10 HOURS OF FOOTBALL EVERY WEEK

TRAIN : COMPETE  
40+  
WEEKS  
OF THE YEAR

INTENSE ENGAGEMENT



TALENTED PLAYERS PROGRESS INTO STRUCTURED  
DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS WITH HIGHER DEMANDS  
AND SUPPORT

INCREASED HOURS WITH  
HIGHER DEMANDS IN  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
COMPETITION

ESTABLISHED  
PATHWAYS



- DISTINCT PLAYING STYLES WITH DEEP CULTURAL IDENTITY IN HOW FOOTBALL IS PLAYED
- FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SUSTAINS PARTICIPATION

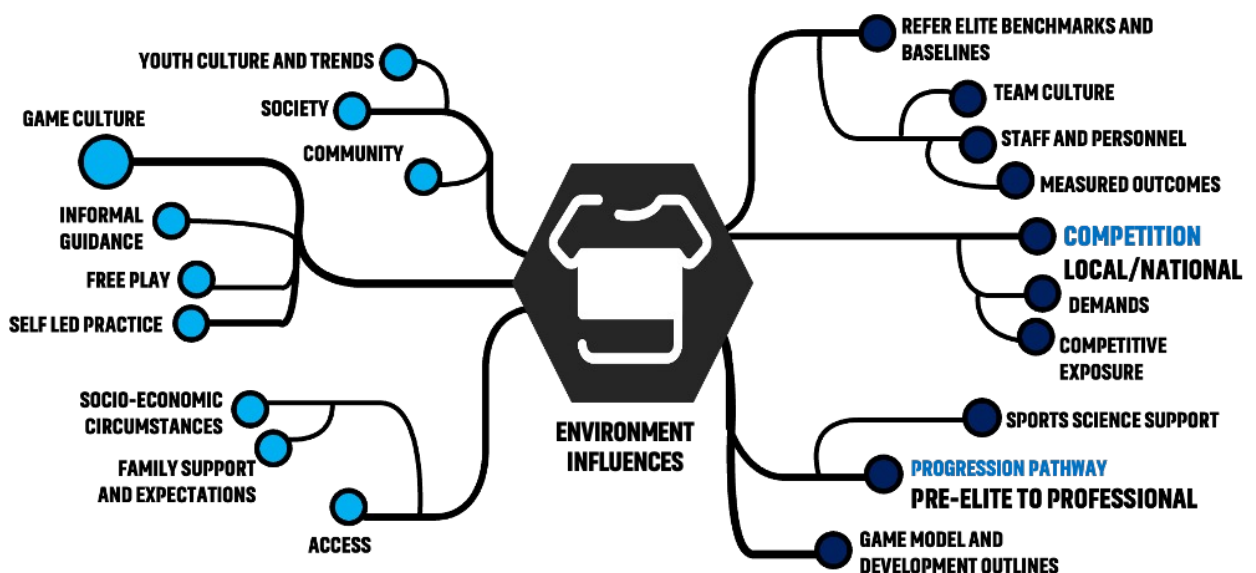
PRIMED TOWARDS  
EXCELLENCE AND  
RETENTION

UNIQUE CULTURES

# ENVIRONMENTS THAT SHAPE CLUSTERS

## NO SHORT CUTS

- There are no shortcuts—expertise demands volume, variety, and intensity of training and optimally challenging experiences in game like environments across many years.
- Varied repetition and purposeful engagement strengthen neural pathways by demanding fast and precise responses in game situations.
- These pathways form superior game reading skills: pattern recognition, anticipation, rapid decision-making, and efficient technical execution at high speeds.



Expertise is the cumulative result of years of meaningful interaction with the game, where the player's internal environment (inherent traits: mind and body) meets the external environment (ball, surface, opponents, culture, and opportunities). Constant and frequent interaction and exposure to new challenges layer into the player's growing database of experiences.

Repetition of experiences strengthens neural pathways through myelination—the insulation of nerve fibres that accelerates communication between brain and body. Purposeful repetition increases the thickness of this myelin, leading to faster, stronger, and more precise execution of skills. **Over time, the expert player's body and brain are not only conditioned to perform effectively but are primed to perceive, process, and act in the flow of the game at high speeds.**

**At its core, expertise is the product of deep commitment, continual adaptation, and the accumulation of interactions with the game.**

**Prof. Joe Baker, Author, Tyranny of Talent, references Richard Lewontin's bucket metaphor to describe talent development:**

**"Genes (potential) determine the size of the bucket, while the environment determines the contents"**

**Genetic factors establish an athlete's potential capacity (the bucket's size), but environmental influences—including coaching quality, family support, training opportunities, cultural context, and practice conditions—ultimately determine how much of that genetic potential gets filled and realised.**

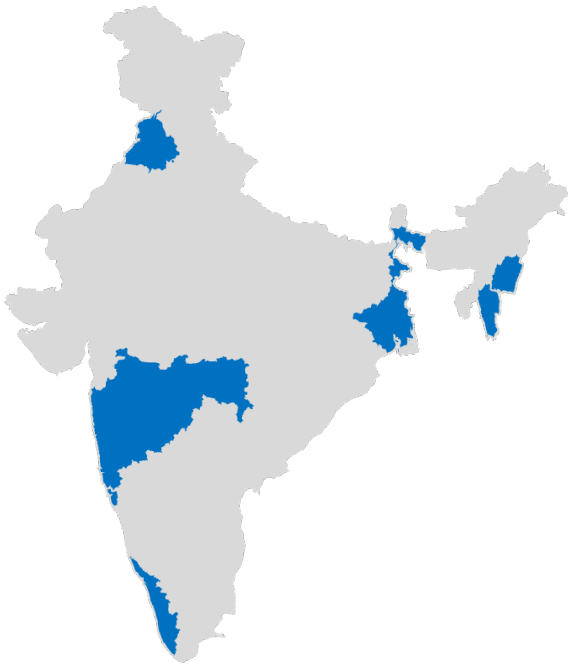
**While athletes may start with different genetic capacities, it's the richness and quality of their developmental environment that shapes whether they reach elite performance levels, making nurture as critical as nature in athletic development.**

## SECTION 2

# INDIA'S TALENT CLUSTERS



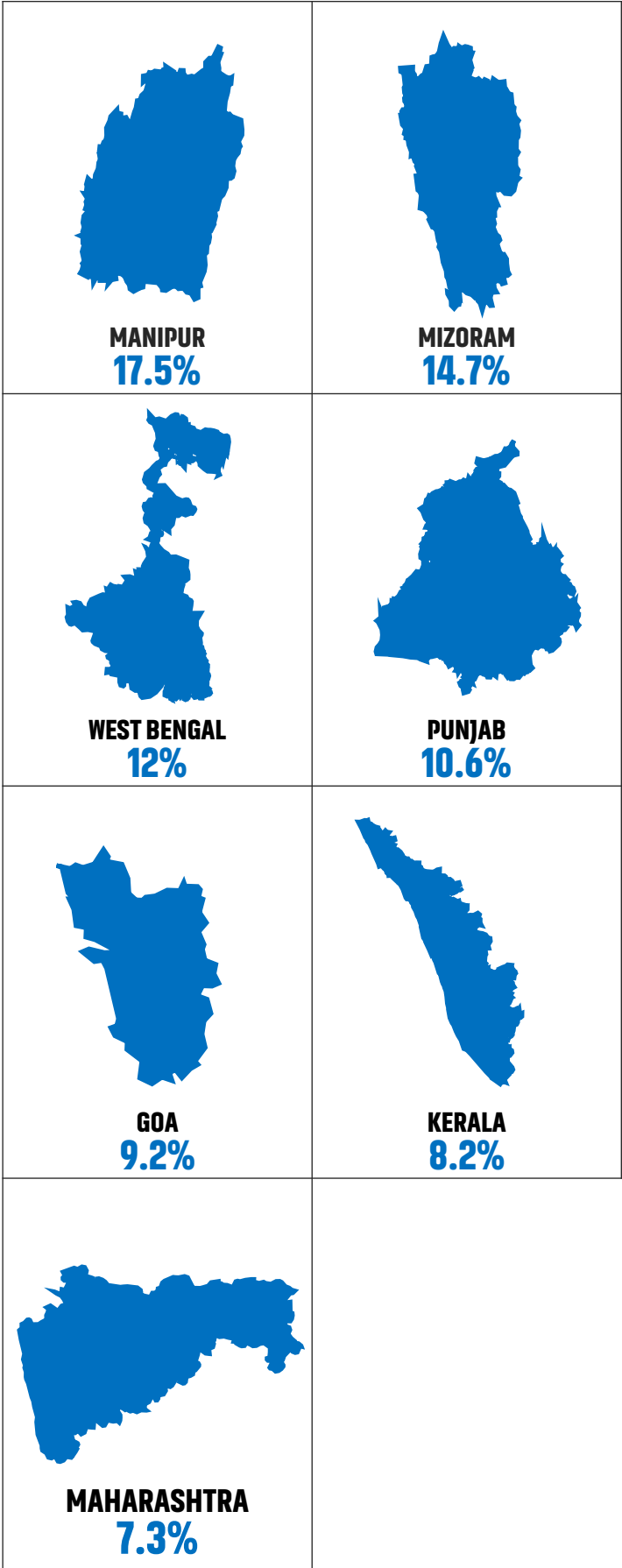
# WHAT OUR STATE LEVEL BIRTHPLACE REPORT REVEALED



**80%**  
OF OUR MINUTES  
COMES FROM

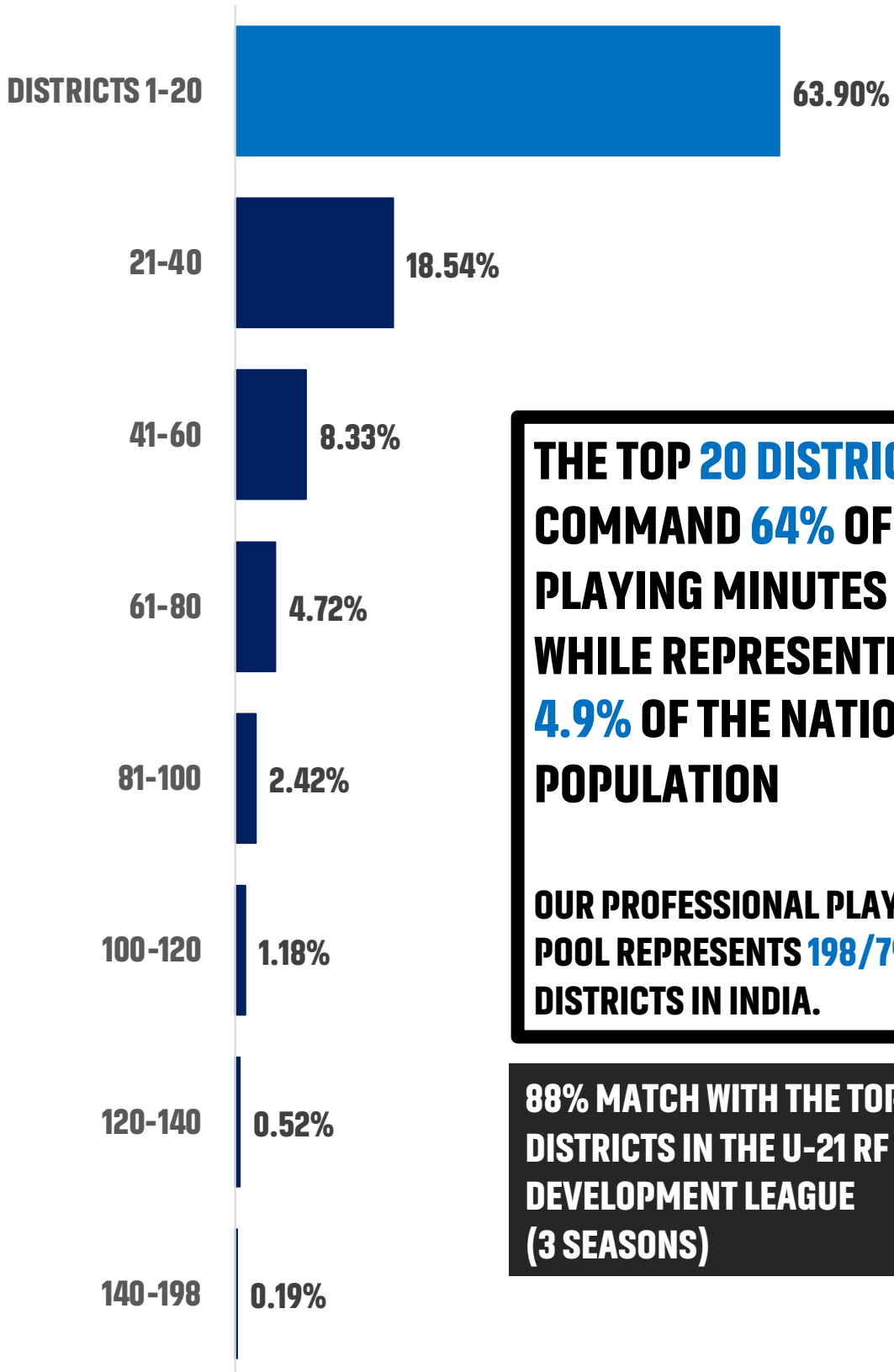
**7**  
STATES

**13.7%**  
OF OUR POPULATION



# ZOOMING IN ON TOP DISTRICTS

(% MINUTES SHARE)

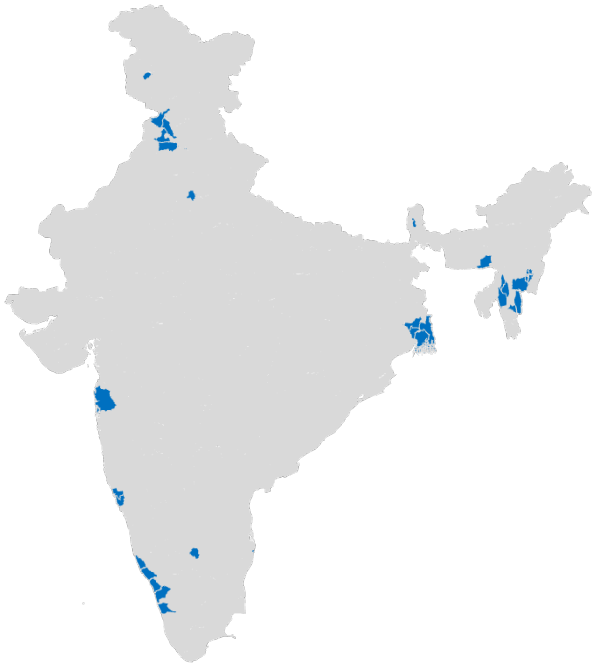


**THE TOP 20 DISTRICTS  
COMMAND 64% OF THE  
PLAYING MINUTES  
WHILE REPRESENTING  
4.9% OF THE NATIONAL  
POPULATION**

**OUR PROFESSIONAL PLAYER  
POOL REPRESENTS 198/790  
DISTRICTS IN INDIA.**

**88% MATCH WITH THE TOP 40  
DISTRICTS IN THE U-21 RF  
DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE  
(3 SEASONS)**

# 80% PRO MINUTES COMES FROM 7.4% OF OUR POPULATION



**80%**

OF OUR MINUTES  
COMES FROM

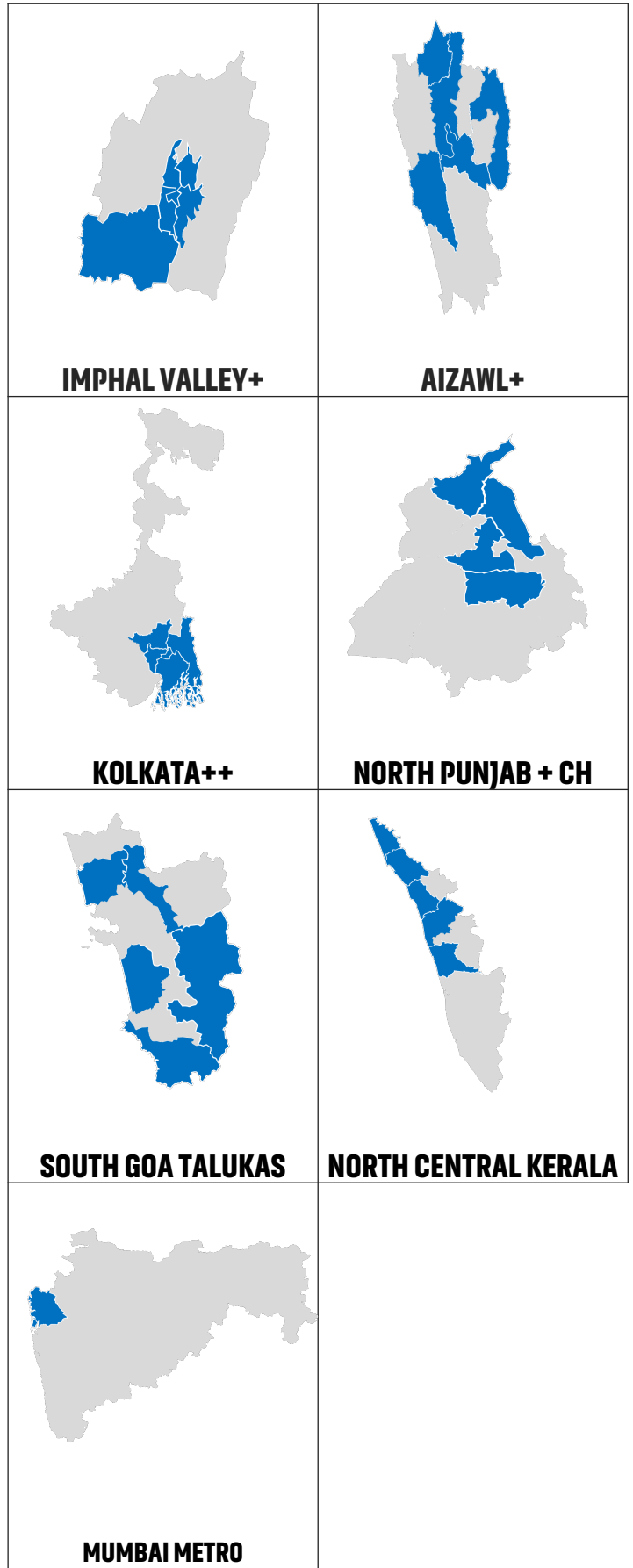
**35**

CONCENTRATED  
DISTRICTS

**7.4%**

OF OUR POPULATION

OUR CLUSTERS  
ARE  
**DEEPLY**  
CONCENTRATED



# OVERVIEW OF CLUSTERS

## HOW DID WE IDENTIFY THE CLUSTERS?

Player districts of birth or early development were collected and corrected.

The dataset was refined into three bands—Top 20%, Next 20%, and Bottom 60% of the player pool.

Across all three measures, the same seven clusters and their key districts consistently emerged as dominant.

For the super-elite level, defined as national team minutes, we examined squads across Senior, U23, U20, and U17 categories.

(NOTE: Age-group snapshots reveal momentary development strength, while stability and consolidation are visible at the senior professional level)

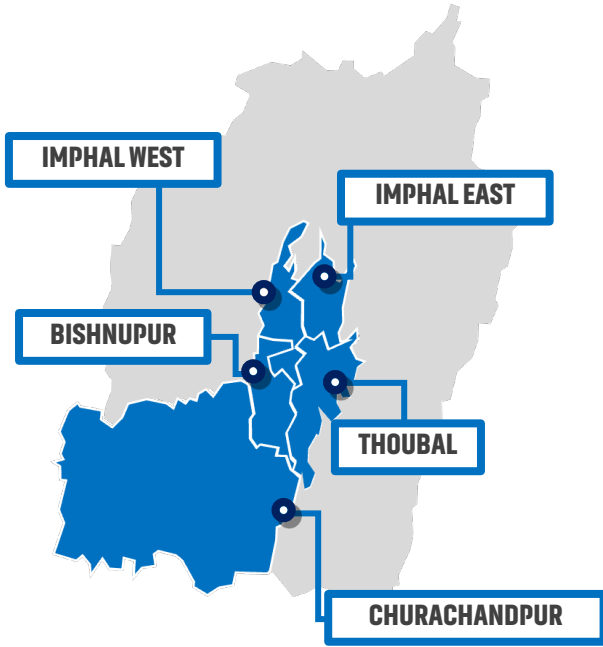
## FUTURE PIPELINE ANALYSIS

To project the future of talent, we studied the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL), which over three seasons has featured 54+ teams and 2,529+ players each year. From this, we prioritized indicators of development strength in each cluster, including:

- % of cluster players in ISL/I-League reserve teams
- % of players fielded by clubs operating within the region
- % representation in the RFDL National Group Stage (**Top 30%**)
- % representation in the RFDL National Championship (**Top 5%**)

# IMPHAL VALLEY +

POPULATION: 2.85 MILLION (0.23% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)



## MINUTE SPREAD

<b>I-LEAGUE</b> 59.4%	<b>ISL</b> 40.6%
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## 5 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR > 92% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	IMPHAL EAST	63	4.46%	26.06%	0.03%
2	IMPHAL WEST	49	3.58%	20.90%	0.04%
3	THOUBAL	40	2.95%	17.26%	0.03%
4	BISHNUPUR	32	2.38%	13.90%	0.02%
5	CHURACHANDPUR	19	2.25%	13.14%	0.02%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	NT SQUAD	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
3	INDIA SENIOR	24	13.03%	3
4	INDIA U-23	17	14.8%	1
5	INDIA U-20	20	21.3%	1
6	INDIA U-17	31	39.2%	1

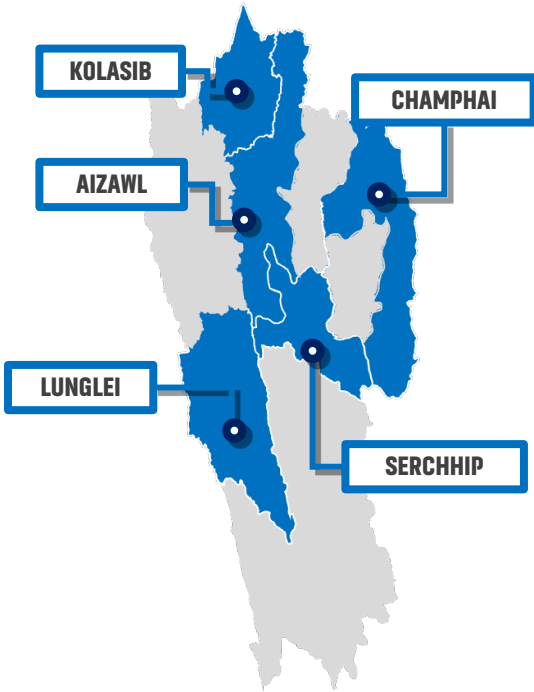
## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	MANIPURI CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
<b>21%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>42.6%</b>
RANK 1	LOCAL TALENT FIELDED	RANK 2	RANK 1

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# AIZAWL+

POPULATION: 1.2 MILLION (0.09% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)



## MINUTES SPREAD



## 5 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR > 90% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	AIZAWL	96	7.51%	51.19%	0.03%
2	LUNGLEI	29	2.47%	16.82%	0.01%
3	CHAMPHAI	16	1.48%	10.07%	0.009%
4	KOLASIB	19	0.95%	6.49%	0.006%
5	SERCHHIP	11	0.81%	5.51%	0.004%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	NT SQUAD	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
3	INDIA SENIOR	11	5.5%	8
4	INDIA U-23	11	10.6%	4
5	INDIA U-20	14	18.6%	2
6	INDIA U-17	12	7.5%	4

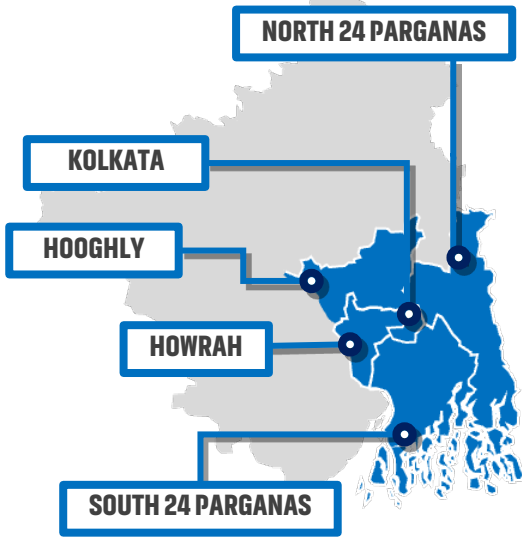
## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	MIZO CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
<b>7.5%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>5%</b>
RANK 5	LOCAL TALENT FIELDIED	RANK 3	RANK 5

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# KOLKATA++

POPULATION: 100 MILLION (7% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)



## MINUTES SPREAD

<b>I-LEAGUE</b> 51.2%	<b>ISL</b> 48.8%
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## 5 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR > 85% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	HOOGHLY	29	3.62%	30.15%	0.38%
2	NORTH 24 PARGANAS	27	3.57%	29.75%	0.68%
3	SOUTH 24 PARGANAS	13	1.22%	10.13%	0.56%
4	KOLKATA	34	1.14%	9.48%	0.31%
5	HOWRAH	10	0.61%	5.11%	0.33%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	NT SQUAD	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
1	INDIA SENIOR	22	15.8%	2
2	INDIA U-23	13	13.1%	2
3	INDIA U-20	17	12%	4
4	INDIA U-17	10	12.4%	2

## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	WEST BENGAL CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
<b>7.5%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
RANK 5	REGIONAL TALENT FIELDIED	RANK 5	RANK 4

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# NORTH WEST PUNJAB + CH

POPULATION: 31 MILLION (2.2% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)



## MINUTE SPREAD



## 5 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR > 81% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	HOSHIARPUR	18	3.62%	25.81%	0.11%
2	CHANDIGARH	15	3.57%	17.13%	0.07%
3	GURDASPUR	13	1.22%	14.82%	0.16%
4	JALANDHAR	12	1.14%	14.80%	0.15%
5	LUDHIANA	15	0.61%	8.29%	0.24%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	TEAM	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
1	INDIA SENIOR	20	16%	1
2	INDIA U-23	16	12.9%	3
3	INDIA U-20	15	13.4%	3
4	INDIA U-17	12	11.7%	3

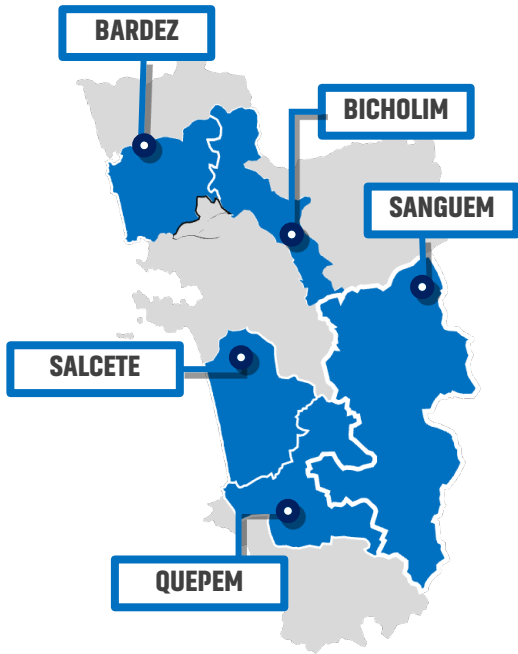
## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	PUNJAB BASED CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
<b>2.6%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
RANK 10	REGIONAL TALENT FIELDED	RANK 13	RANK 12

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# SOUTH GOA TALUKAS

POPULATION: 31 MILLION (2.2% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)



## MINUTES SPREAD

<b>I-LEAGUE</b> 48.9%	<b>ISL</b> 51.1%
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## 5 TALUKAS ACCOUNT FOR > 89% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	SALCETE	53	4%	43.8%	0.02%
2	SANGUEM	17	1.7%	18.3%	0.005%
3	BARDEZ	23	1.4%	15.6%	0.02%
4	QUEPEM	8	0.6%	6.9%	0.006%
5	BICHOLIM	9	0.4%	4.4%	0.007%

1	SOUTH GOA	95	6.99%	76.49%	0.04%
2	NORTH GOA	44	2.15%	23.51%	0.06%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	NT SQUAD	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
1	INDIA SENIOR	21	12.9%	4
2	INDIA U-23	4	2.68%	12
3	INDIA U-20	2	1.65%	13
4	INDIA U-17	3	1.09%	16

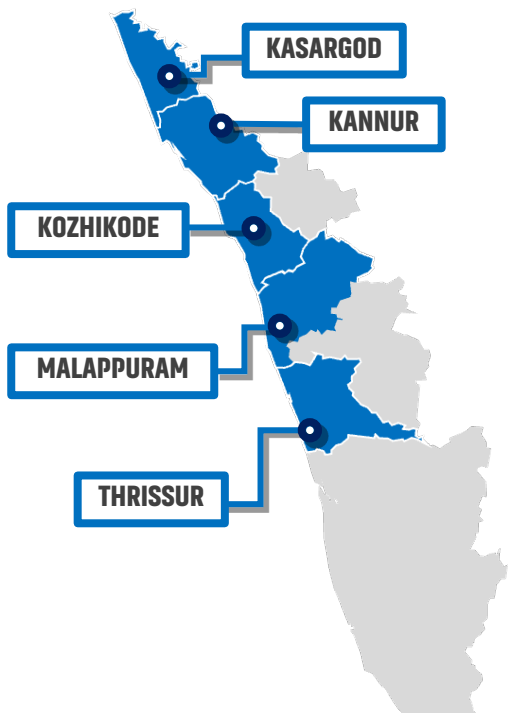
## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	GOAN CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
<b>11.2%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
RANK 3	REGIONAL TALENT FIELDIED	RANK 4	RANK 12

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# NORTH CENTRAL KERALA

POPULATION: 36 MILLION (2.5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)



## MINUTES SPREAD



## 5 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR > 89% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	MALAPPURAM	38	2.67%	32.87%	0.28%
2	THRISSUR	19	1.32%	16.20%	0.21%
3	KOZHIKODE	15	1.22%	14.99%	0.21%
4	KASARGOD	5	0.70%	8.63%	0.09%
5	KANNUR	7	0.67%	8.25%	0.17%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	NT SQUAD	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
1	INDIA SENIOR	15	8.9%	5
2	INDIA U-23	10	10.6%	5
3	INDIA U-20	4	2.5%	10
4	INDIA U-17	2	0.8%	17

## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	KERALA BASED CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
<b>12.4%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
RANK 2	REGIONAL TALENT FIELDIED	RANK 1	RANK 2

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# MUMBAI METRO

POPULATION: 26 MILLION (1.78% OF NATIONAL POPULATION)

## MINUTES SPREAD

I-LEAGUE 53.4%	ISL 46.6%
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## 2 DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR > 84% MINUTES

NO	TOP 5 DISTRICTS	#	% PRO PLAYING MINS	% STATE MINS	% INDIA POP.
1	MUMBAI	64	3.28%	45.13%	0.85%
2	THANE	17	2.76%	37.89%	0.75%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25



## PLAYING MINUTES ACROSS NATIONAL TEAMS

NO	NT SQUAD	# PLAYERS	% MINUTES	STATE RANK
1	INDIA SENIOR	12	6.5%	6
2	INDIA U-23	7	6.1%	6
3	INDIA U-20	3	3.9%	7
4	INDIA U-17	3	4.1%	5

## RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

ISL AND I-LEAGUE RESERVE TEAM MINUTES	MUMBAI BASED CLUBS	NATIONAL GROUP STAGE MINUTES	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MINUTES
3.7%	56.2% 68% W/O RF YOUNG CHAMPS	5.2%	1.3%
RANK 7	REGIONAL TALENT FIELDIED	RANK 6	RANK 11

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE: 2022-23 TO 2024-25

# SOLO DISTRICTS

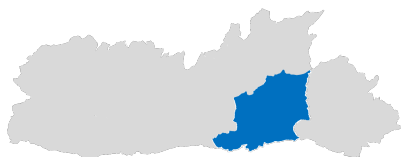
## TOP STANDALONE DISTRICTS OUTSIDE OF THE 7 CLUSTERS

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

MEGHALAYA

**EAST KHASI HILLS – RANK 9**

**3% OF PRO MINUTES**



MINUTES SPREAD



DELHI

**DELHI – RANK 14**

**2.4% OF PRO MINUTES**



MINUTES SPREAD



JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**SRINAGAR - RANK 21**

**1.5% OF PRO MINUTES**



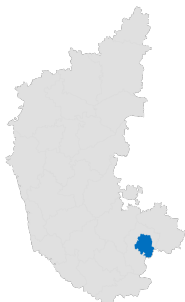
MINUTES SPREAD



KARNATAKA

**BENGALURU URBAN - RANK 28**

**1.05% OF PRO MINUTES**



MINUTES SPREAD



SIKKIM

**NAMCHI – RANK 30**

**0.85% OF PRO MINUTES**



MINUTES SPREAD



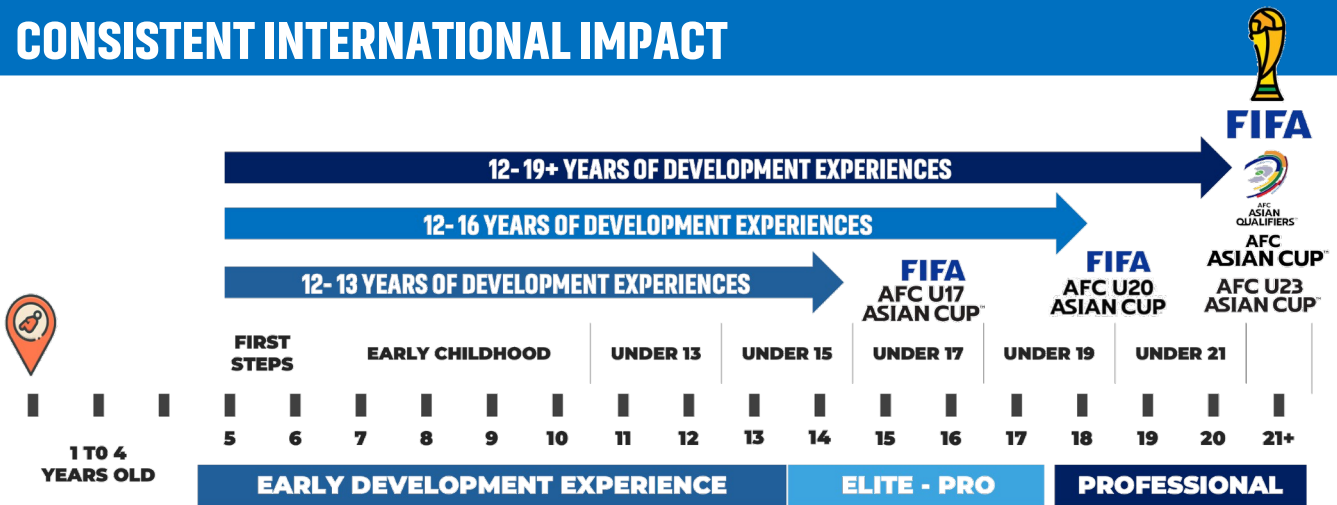
## SECTION 2

# ARE OUR CLUSTERS PRODUCTIVE?



# WHAT PRODUCTIVE TALENT CLUSTERS IMPACT

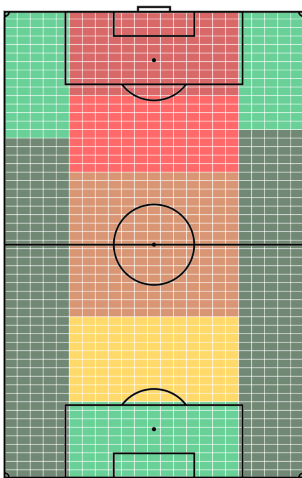
## CONSISTENT INTERNATIONAL IMPACT



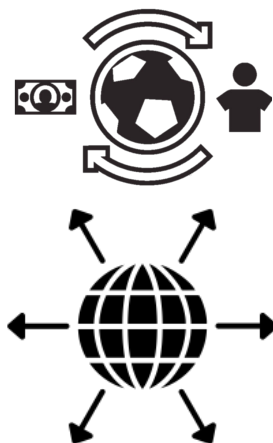
A national team program serves as a report card of a productive cluster—a showcase of the best of the best who have come through years of playing experiences and opportunities provided by their development environments.

At each age group (U-17, U-20, U-23, Senior), these squads serve as a snapshot of how efficiently the top performers at that moment in time have emerged to be further selected and prepared as a team. Over repeated cycles, the constant churn and consistent production of high performing generations feed the senior national team and professional player pool with high standard of players.

## HIGHER STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS



DOMESTIC TALENT ACROSS ALL PARTS OF THE PITCH CHALLENGING THE STANDARD OF IMPORTS



INCREASE IN EXPORT OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS TO IMPACT COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES AND STANDARDS OF PLAY



TALENT DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS CAMPAIGNS AND CONTINENTAL COMPETITIONS

# ARE OUR CLUSTERS PRODUCTIVE ENOUGH?

## COMPARISON : INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

% OF POINTS SECURED (SAME TIME LINE FOR ALL TEAMS)

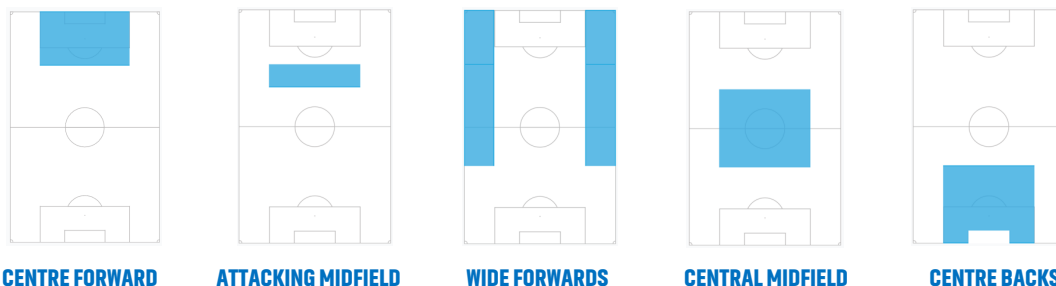
	AFC ASIAN CUP QL	AFC ASIAN CUP	FIFA QL	FIFA WC OLYMPICS (U-23)
<b>SENIOR</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>-</b>
	37 MATCHES 2019, 2023, 2027 (TBD) (AS OF: SEPTEMBER 2025)	9 MATCHES 2011, 2019, 2023	28 MATCHES 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2026	
JAPAN	94%	77.1%	76.2%	36.4%
SOUTH KOREA	88.5%	70.6%	70.8%	28.6%
IRAN	76.5%	75%	76.5%	29.6%
UZBEKISTAN	75.2%	62.7%	64.5%	QL: 2026
<b>UNDER 23</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	21 MATCHES 7 EDITIONS			
JAPAN	96.5%	71%		59%
SOUTH KOREA	90.9%	72%		58.3%
IRAN	81.2%	41% (4/7 EDITIONS)		DNQ
UZBEKISTAN	77.8%	60%		11% (2024)
<b>UNDER 20</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	33 MATCHES 9 EDITIONS 2006 TO 2025	10 MATCHES 2002, 2004, 2006 DNQ: 2006-2025		
JAPAN	91%	67.5%		51.8%
SOUTH KOREA	90%	71.6%		51.5%
IRAN	70.3%	50.6%		33.3% (2017)
UZBEKISTAN	84%	60.8%		35.3%
<b>UNDER 17</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
	40 MATCHES 12 EDITIONS 2002 - 2025	23 MATCHES 7 EDITIONS 2002 - 2025		3 MATCHES 2017
JAPAN	92.6%	70%		51.3%
SOUTH KOREA	80%	70.7%		42% (6 EDITIONS)
IRAN	95.2%	61.5%		60.8% (4 EDITIONS)
UZBEKISTAN	87.5%	63.6%		54.8% (3 EDITIONS)

# ARE OUR CLUSTERS PRODUCTIVE ENOUGH?

## COMPARISON : PROFESSIONAL PLAYER POOL

### PERCENTAGE PROFESSIONAL MINUTES SECURED BY DOMESTIC PLAYER POOL

## ACROSS POSITIONS



	CENTRE FORWARD	ATTACKING MIDFIELD	WIDE FORWARDS	CENTRAL MIDFIELD	CENTRE BACKS
INDIA	7.1%	29.4%	75.4%	61.5%	49.3
JAPAN	67.8%	87.4%	79.5%	94%	77.5%
SOUTH KOREA	59.3%	48.6%	81.3%	81%	76.8%
UZBEKISTAN	49.3%	77.5%	78.2%	84.5%	65.3%

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE (2024-25), J1-LEAGUE, K1-LEAGUE, UZBEKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE (2024)

### PLAYERS EXPORTED (TOP 5 LEAGUES)

INDIA	9 PLAYERS
JAPAN	469 PLAYERS (20)
SOUTH KOREA	222 PLAYERS (10)
IRAN	81 PLAYERS (1)
UZBEKISTAN	67 PLAYERS (2)

PLAYERS PLAYING ABROAD AS OFF END OF 2024-25 SEASON

**81% correlation between players exported to Top 5 leagues and non Top 5 League.**

**INDICATOR:** super-elite talent cannot be produced in isolation; it requires developing a much larger pool of players across all quality levels.

**Ability to export talent also correlates 55% with the ranking of the nation (excluding FIFA top 20)**

### CLUB PROGRESSION IN AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE

#### FINALISTS AND CHAMPIONS PROGRESSIONS (SAMPLED NATIONS)

CLUB (COUNTRY)	SEASON	PROGRESSION	% DOMESTIC PLAYER MINUTES
PERSEPOLIS (IRAN)	2020	RUNNERS UP	92.6%
POHANG STEELERS (S KOREA)	2021	RUNNERS UP	84%
URAWA REDS (JAPAN)	2022	CHAMPIONS	78.1
KAWASAKI FRONTALE (JAPAN)	2024-25	RUNNERS UP	74.5%

# GROWING UP IN A TOP 20 FIFA RANKED NATION

AGE	SEASON DURATION	NO OF MATCHES PER SEASON OFFICIAL AND FRIENDLY	TRAINING SESSIONS PER WEEK	REGISTRATIONS PLAYERS/POPULATION %
AGE 05	<b>40</b> WEEKS	<b>+38</b> MATCHES PER SEASON	<b>3-4</b> TEAM SESSIONS <small>FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES</small> + INDIVIDUAL FOCUSED SESSIONS	<b>15-18%</b>
AGE 06				
AGE 07				
AGE 08				
AGE 09				
AGE 10				
AGE 11	<b>42</b> WEEKS	<b>+44</b> MATCHES PER SEASON	<b>5-6</b> TEAM SESSIONS + INDIVIDUAL	<b>12-15%</b>
AGE 12				
AGE 13				
AGE 14				
AGE 15	<b>44</b> WEEKS	<b>+42</b> MATCHES PER SEASON	<b>5-7</b> TEAM SESSIONS + INDIVIDUAL	<b>10-12%</b>
AGE 16				
AGE 17				
AGE 18				
AGE 19				
AGE 20				

**198**  
TEAM SESSIONS AT U-16

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Access and abundance of playing opportunities through games programs that engage club youth teams, stand alone youth teams, schools and community clubs.
- A full season comprises of competitions that are age appropriate and provides access to futsal and regular play – accommodating all abilities, logistics and levels of seriousness.
- Age, ability and maturity appropriate training programs supported by advanced inputs in sports science, psychology and lifestyle.
- Informal and free play away from formal environments are seen as a complimentary aspect of upbringing.

EXAMPLES : OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY

# LEADING REGIONS IN WORLD FOOTBALL



## PORTO, PORTUGAL

AGE	CATEGORY	TEAMS	MATCHES
AGE 05	SUB 6	330 TEAM	30 MATCHES
AGE 06	SUB 7		34 MATCHES
AGE 07	SUB 8		34 MATCHES
AGE 08	SUB 9		40 MATCHES
AGE 09	SUB 10	612 TEAMS	41 MATCHES
AGE 10	SUB 11		37 MATCHES
AGE 11	SUB 12		42 MATCHES
AGE 12	SUB 13		39 MATCHES
AGE 13	SUB 15		152 TEAMS
AGE 14			48 MATCHES
AGE 15	SUB 17	128 TEAMS	48 MATCHES
AGE 16			48 MATCHES
AGE 17	SUB 19	100 TEAMS	30 MATCHES
AGE 18			47 MATCHES
AGE 19	SUB 23	8 TEAMS	14 MATCHES
AGE 20			
SENIOR REGIONAL LEAGUES	OPEN	146 TEAMS	+30 MATCHES



## GNK DINAMO, ZAGREB, CROATIA

AGE	CATEGORY	COMPETITION	MATCHES
AGE 05			
AGE 06	ZAGIĆI III	ZAGREB FEDERATION LEAGUE	55+ MATCHES
AGE 07	ZAGIĆI II		
AGE 08	ZAGIĆI		
AGE 09	MLADI LIMAČI		
AGE 10	STARJI LIMAČI		
AGE 11	MLADI PIONIRI II		30+ FOR OTHER TEAMS
AGE 12	MLADI PIONIRI		
AGE 13	PIONIRI II	REGIONAL LEAGUE	
AGE 14	PIONIRI		50+ MATCHES
AGE 15	KADETI II	REGIONAL AND NATIONAL	
AGE 16	KADETI		40+ FOR OTHER TEAMS
AGE 17	JUNIORI	NATIONAL LEAGUE + INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS	
AGE 18	B TEAM RESERVES		
AGE 19			
AGE 20		3 TIER LOCAL LEAGUE SYSTEM	



## MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

AGE	CATEGORY	TEAMS	MATCHES
AGE 05			35 MATCHES
AGE 06	BABY FUTBOL	+600 CLUBS EACH WITH 9 AGE CATEGORIES ACTIVE	35 MATCHES
AGE 07			35 MATCHES
AGE 08	67 LEAGUES THAT ENGAGE 9 AGE GROUPS		35 MATCHES
AGE 09			35 MATCHES
AGE 10			35 MATCHES
AGE 11			35 MATCHES
AGE 12			35 MATCHES
AGE 13	SUB 14	B - 22 CLUBS A - 20 CLUBS	35 MATCHES
AGE 14	SUB 15	B - 22 CLUBS A - 20 CLUBS	35 MATCHES
AGE 15	SUB 16	B - 22 CLUBS A - 20 CLUBS	35 MATCHES
AGE 16	SUB 17	B - 22 CLUBS A - 20 CLUBS	35 MATCHES
AGE 17	SUB 19	B - 22 CLUBS	35 MATCHES
AGE 18		A - 20 CLUBS	
AGE 19			
AGE 20	4 DIVISIONS OF NATIONAL LEAGUE	TIER 1-4 16 CLUBS	
SENIOR REGIONAL LEAGUES	>85% CLUBS IN MONTEVIDEO	14 CLUBS 24 CLUBS 13 CLUBS	+30 MATCHES



## CATALUNYA, SPAIN

AGE	CATEGORY	TEAMS	MATCHES
AGE 05	DEBUTANT	41	
AGE 06	PRE BENJAMIN	670+ TEAMS	40+
AGE 07	PRE BENJAMIN		40+
AGE 08	BENJAMIN	1500+ TEAMS	40+
AGE 09	BENJAMIN		40+
AGE 10	ALEVIN	1900+ TEAMS	40+
AGE 11	ALEVIN		40+
AGE 12	INFANTIL	1100+ TEAMS	40+
AGE 13	INFANTIL		40+
AGE 14	CADETE	900+ TEAMS	40+
AGE 15	CADETE		40+
AGE 16	JUVENIL	300+ TEAMS	40+
AGE 17	JUVENIL		40+
AGE 18	JUVENIL		40+
AGE 19			40+
AGE 20	'B'		40+

EXAMPLES : OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY

# LEADING INDIAN FOOTBALL CLUSTERS

## 2024-25 : LEADING INDIAN CLUSTER 'A'

AGE	CATEGORY	NO OF TEAMS	MAX MATCHES	NATIONAL LEVEL
AGE 05	U6	8 TEAMS	14 MATCHES	
AGE 06	U8	10 TEAMS	18 MATCHES	
AGE 07				
AGE 08	U10	11 TEAMS	20 MATCHES	
AGE 09				
AGE 10	U12	13 TEAMS	24 MATCHES	
AGE 11				
AGE 12	U13	17 TEAMS	16 MATCHES	
AGE 13	U14	16 TEAMS	15 MATCHES	5 MATCHES
AGE 14				
AGE 15	U17	6 TEAMS	10 MATCHES	10 MATCHES
AGE 16				
AGE 17	U19	5 TEAMS	8 MATCHES	10 MATCHES
AGE 18				
AGE 19	U21	6 TEAMS	5 MATCHES	3 TEAMS
AGE 20				
SENIOR LEAGUE	38% OF PLAYERS REGISTERED ARE U-21		13 MATCHES	

## 2024-25 : LEADING INDIAN CLUSTER 'B'

AGE	CATEGORY	NO OF TEAMS	MAX MATCHES	NATIONAL LEVEL
AGE 05	U6			
AGE 06	U8	12 TEAMS	33 MATCHES	
AGE 07				
AGE 08	U10	12 TEAMS	33 MATCHES	
AGE 09				
AGE 10	U12	12 TEAMS	33 MATCHES	1 TEAM
AGE 11				
AGE 12	U13			5 MATCHES
AGE 13	U14	12 TEAMS	33 MATCHES	1 TEAM
AGE 14				
AGE 15	U15	8 TEAMS	9 MATCHES	4 MATCHES
AGE 16				
AGE 17	U17	-	-	1 TEAM
AGE 18				
AGE 19	U19	6 TEAMS	5 MATCHES	10 MATCHES
AGE 20				
SENIOR LEAGUE	>50% OF PLAYERS REGISTERED ARE U-21		14 MATCHES	

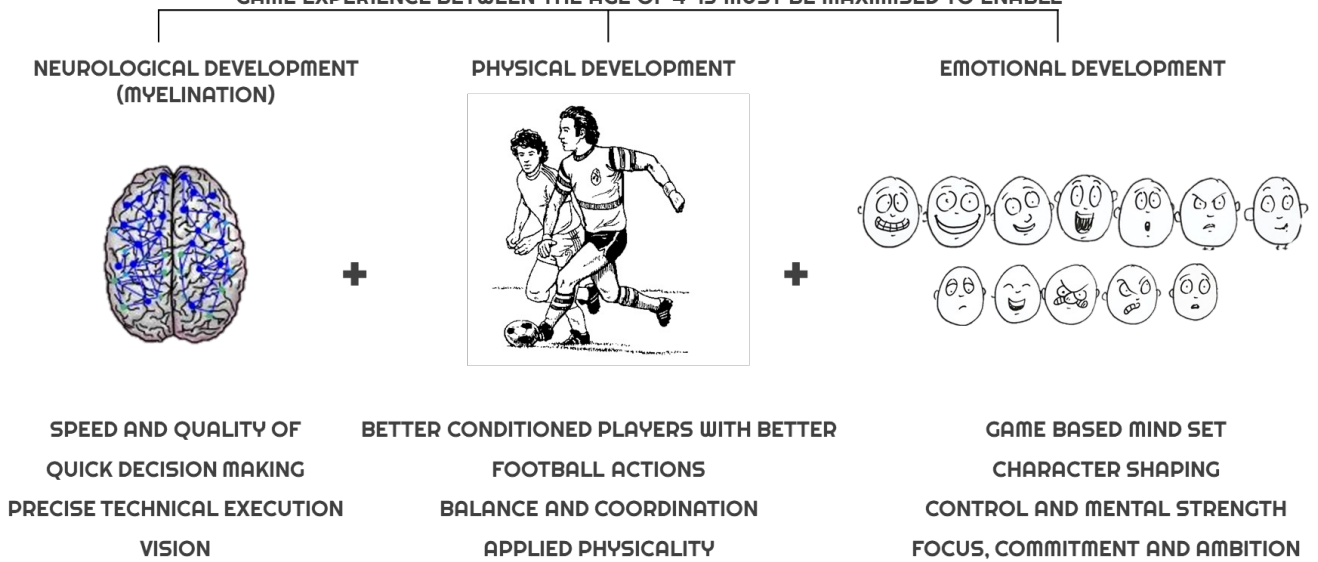
**EVEN IN OUR LEADING CLUSTERS**

**NOT ENOUGH OF US PLAY**

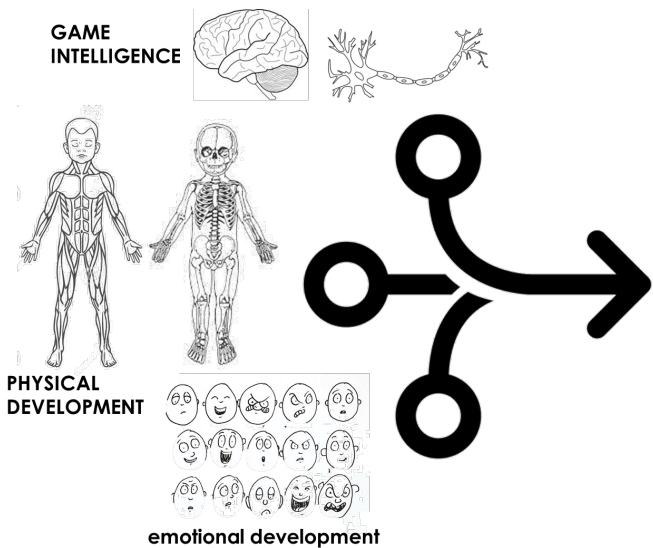
**WE DON'T PLAY ENOUGH**

# WHAT THESE GAME EXPERIENCES MEAN

GAME EXPERIENCE BETWEEN THE AGE OF 4-13 MUST BE MAXIMISED TO ENABLE



# THE MTM LOOP!



The **MTM (Match–Training–Match)** loop formulates a cycle of training sandwiched between two matches.

Each loop tempers and directs development—through trial, error, and adaptation.

This strengthens connections not only in technical execution but also in applied physicality and regulating emotions through the course of the development journey.

Through this players build self-awareness, learning their strengths and limitations through the game. While the training between matches converges and narrows attention onto these insights, converting experience gained into focused development.

**IT IS THE CUMULATION OF THESE EXPERIENCES THAT**

- Delivers consistent progress at the international level
- Meets the demands of the domestic and international transfer market at the highest level
- Continental success at club level is built on

# SECTION 4

# SOLVING OUR PLAY DEFICIT



# OUR PLAY DEFICIT

**In the top leagues and clubs in the world, we have players come from all corners of the globe. Each player is a unique and valuable outcome of the opportunities and experiences they were presented with to develop their ability to play.**

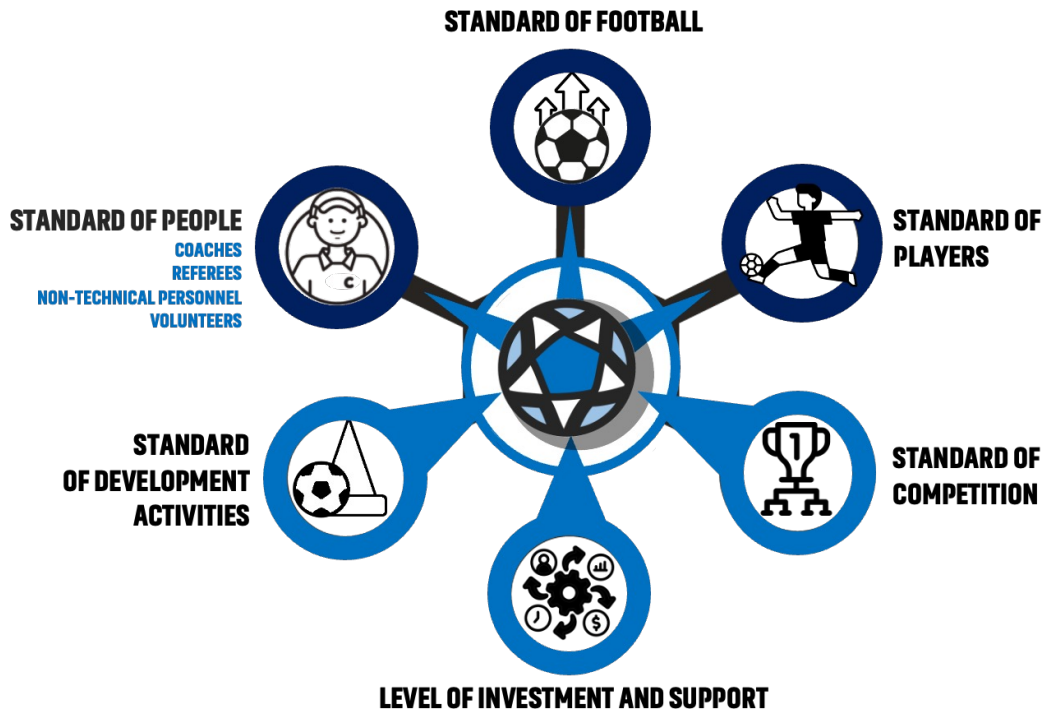
**Each opportunity being a rich mix of unique influences and circumstances throughout their upbringing such as their regional culture, economics, family/society and the footballing standards. As the game progresses and rapidly evolves towards the future, we will see highly capable players that are able to adapt to the demands of their competitive environment, players who process what they perceive unfolding in a game and make decisions with speed and accuracy, and have an efficient skills tool box and physical capacity to execute their intent with high reliability.**

**For any player development program to succeed, it has been identified that the environment we enable should provide players with a rich, wide and deep range of game experiences, which include free play, supervised training, accumulating supplementary training hours independently, and the crucial missing link of regular competitive engagement.**

**The current inability of our player pool to operate as players in clubs and compete as a national team at the very highest levels is reflective of a domestic game culture and engagement levels which is not primed to challenge the players to reach their maximum potential.**



# ACCELERATING IMPROVEMENT



## IMPACTING THE STANDARD OF FOOTBALL

**The primary aim is to raise the standard of football being played in our existing talent clusters.**

**This can only be achieved by delivering proper structures and benchmarks of competition and development activities to every child and stakeholder involved.**

### **BY MATCHING THE GLOBAL LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT**

- **PLAYERS ARE CONSISTENTLY CHALLENGED AND NURTURED. RAISING THE STANDARD OF PLAY.**
- **PEOPLE (COACHES, REFEREES, VOLUNTEERS, ADMINISTRATORS) UPSKILL AND ELEVATE THE ENVIRONMENT. RAISING THE STANDARD OF GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT.**

# CHEAT SHEET

## TARGET THE EXISTING CLUSTERS TO MATCH GLOBAL STANDARDS

**MAKE FOOTBALL EASILY AND ABUNDANTLY  
AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE.**

**WORK TOWARDS ENGAGING A CRITICAL  
MASS AND GENERATE DENSE  
PARTICIPATION**

**ENSURE THE INTERVENTIONS ARE  
SOCIALY VALUED AND IMPORTANT.**

## OUR CATCH-UP GAME

# CLUSTER v CLUSTER, NOT NATION v NATION.

India's catch-up game in football will be won or lost at the district, taluka and neighbourhood level, not in nation-vs-nation narratives; the priority is to recreate, inside India's own "birthplace" hotbeds, the dense game experiences and easy access that top nations' players receive where they grow up, instead of stretching thin, pan-India, one-size-fits-all programs that dilute resources and development outcomes.

The evidence in our report maps India's talent supply down to clusters—and in some cases talukas and neighbourhoods—showing that the decisive gap is in the density, frequency, and quality of game experiences.

Even within these high-yield clusters, players face a play deficit compared to their peers abroad. Children in global football hubs often play 40+ weeks a year and 35–50 matches per season—benchmarks that Indian clusters rarely meet.

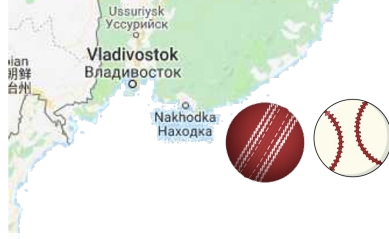
India's developmental shortfall lies not in passion or talent but in opportunity. Young players lack access to regular, structured, and varied competition. The Match–Training–Match (MTM) loop that drives development globally is fragmented locally. As a result, players accumulate fewer than 200 competitive games by age 20—less than half the exposure of counterparts in Europe or Japan.

Closing this gap requires aligning club calendars, school programs, and community leagues into a year-round ecosystem. When the culture of play becomes dense and continuous, players mature faster—technically, physically, and emotionally.

To catch up, India must close this "game experience gap" one cluster at a time by ensuring early engagement and sustained year-round participation.

**By age 20, elite players across Europe, South America, and Japan will have played 550+ age specific competitive matches across multiple formats right in their hometowns.**

**Indian players average <200 games by that age.**



In mega-cities like Mumbai and Tokyo, where cricket and baseball dominate, Tokyo's ecosystem surges ahead in by engaging a critical mass of players from an early age in an intense, competitive, and developmental season—giving them the experiences and opportunities to grow into global elite talents.

"It's a pathway because **Japanese high schools specialise in football from when the kids join**. These schools and universities train and probably play more games than a professional club does. Japanese culture allows that when a six-year-old boy or girl joins the football club, they train at a minimum of four times a week, sometimes two hours to three hours per session. **The season lasts basically 45 weeks a year.**"

TOM BYER, Author of "Football Starts at Home" in The Athletic

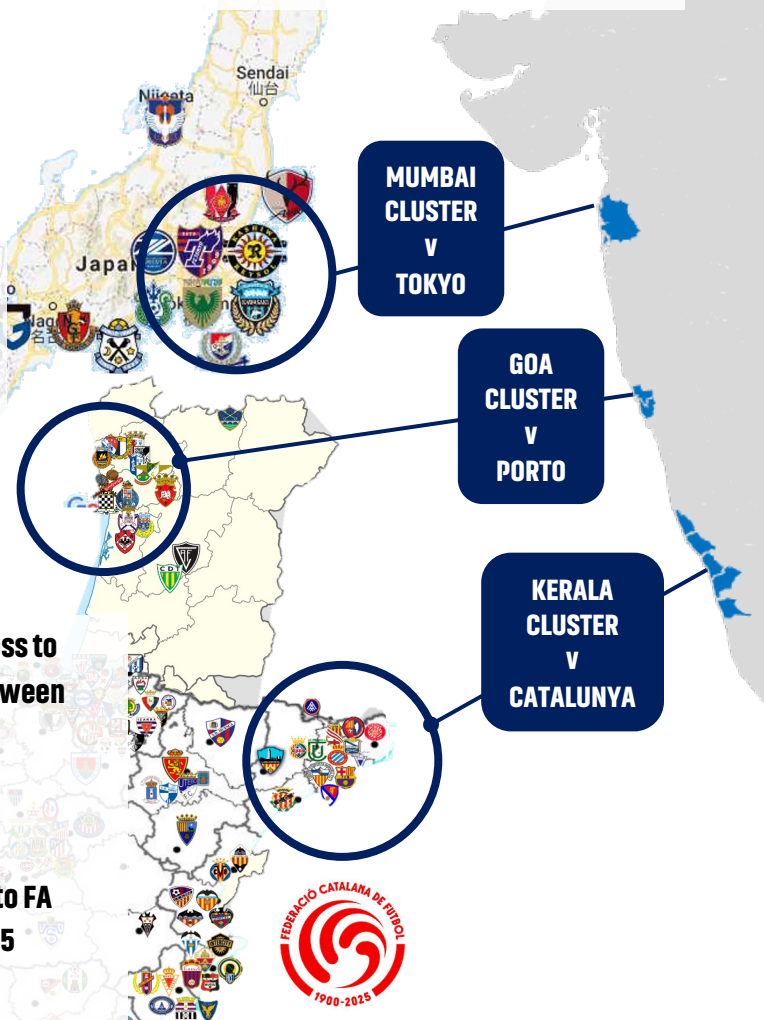


Growing up in Porto a player has access to **570+ age appropriate games** between their 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> birthday

**LAST SEASON:**

With a similar population as Goa, Porto FA engaged **19,600+ players** from age 5 onwards.

**25,600+ matches** organised across age groups within the district.



Growing up in Catalan gives a player access to **500+ age appropriate games** between their 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> birthday

**LAST SEASON:**

**120,000+ players** from age 5 onwards.

**65,000+ matches** organised across age groups within the district.

**THE TECHNICAL OR PHYSICAL GAPS WON'T BE ADDRESSED WITHOUT FIXING THE STRUCTURAL GAPS.**

# **FIXING THE STRUCTURAL GAPS**

**1. SOLVE FOR ACCESS**

**2. OPTIMISE EXISTING PATHWAYS**

**3. ESTABLISH PROGRESSION PLATFORM**

**4. DEVELOPMENT BEYOND PLAYERS**

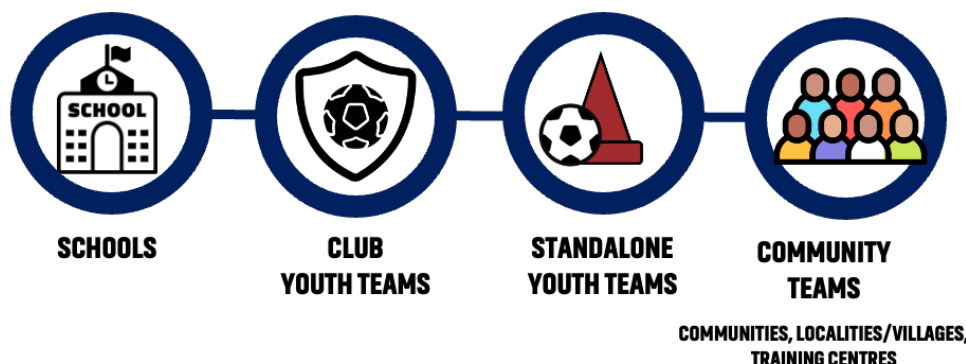


# 1

# SOLVE FOR ACCESS

## DENSITY: ENGAGE ALL PLATFORMS TO TRIGGER A CRITICAL MASS

Interventions must begin locally, targeting and building on platforms within the clusters with a proven record of producing elite players. Most elite athletes emerge not from national academies or central projects but from local “hotspots”—towns, neighbourhoods, or schools or community teams that consistently outperform in talent production. In these hotspots, to make the sport easily and abundantly available, socially valued, and important, we must ensure that football is not confined to one platform but thrives across all spaces and platforms possible.



“Fish where the fish are”

## INTENSITY: FREQUENCY AND DURATION

Ensure access to 12-15 year journey that is designed to deliver the very essence of the game experience – which is to “play” in competitions supported by intentional and purposeful preparation throughout the year.

The intent is enable a competition calendar, optimise operations, enlarge the player pool by expanding the age groups to ensure maximum age appropriate continuity from the age of 5 to 20.

PHASE 1	5-9 Y/O	30 GAMES PER SEASON (SCALED FORMAT)	120+ GAMES
PHASE 2	9-13 Y/O	30 GAMES PER SEASON (SCALED FORMAT)	240+ GAMES
PHASE 3	13-16 Y/O	35 GAMES PER SEASON (11 A SIDE)	380+ GAMES
PHASE 4	16-20 Y/O	40 GAMES PER SEASON (11 A SIDE)	540+ GAMES

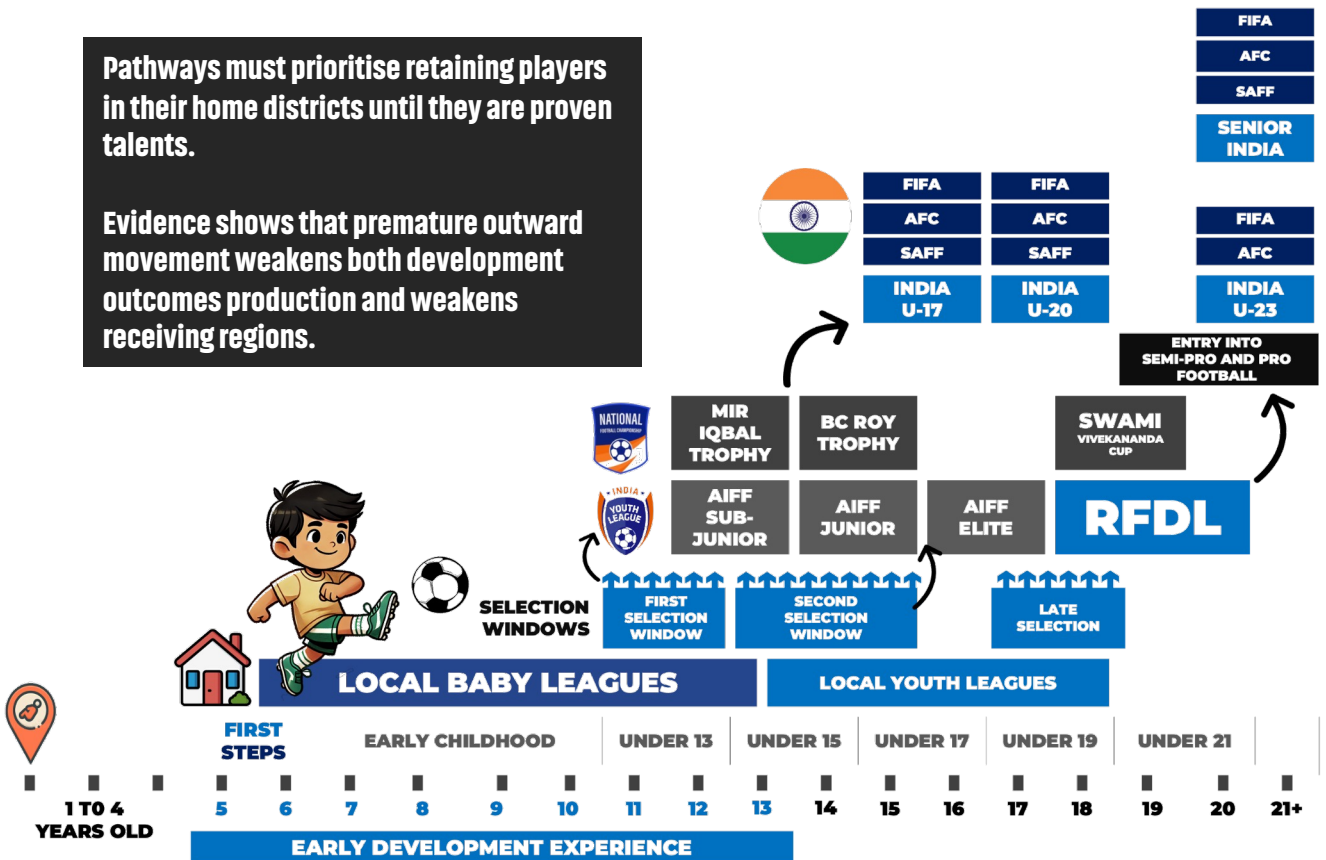
**540+** GAMES COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEIR 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY

# 2

# OPTIMISE PATHWAYS

Pathways must prioritise retaining players in their home districts until they are proven talents.

Evidence shows that premature outward movement weakens both development outcomes production and weakens receiving regions.



## LONG-TERM, STRUCTURED, AND LOCALLY ROOTED

Establishing and strengthening existing football pathways is vital for sustained excellence and equity within regional and national ecosystems. **Robust pathways enable regions to become self-sustaining talent generators, with high representation of locally developed players at elite levels.** This fosters strong club and community identity, preserves indigenous playing cultures and habits, and ensures regional leagues reflect local priorities.

In contrast, some regions, Manipur especially, experience “talent drain,” where peak players leave early for teams in weaker or dependent talent pools.

**This outward flow also perpetuates a dependence among importing regions, leading to short-term fixes rather than sustained improvement in domestic talent creation. Ultimately, the cumulative effect is uneven football standards—some regions become production hubs, while others stagnate due to a lack of local development.**

# 3

# PROGRESSION PLATFORMS

## DE-CENTRALISED TRAINING CENTRES FOR BEST PERFORMING AND HIGHEST POTENTIAL PLAYERS

- Decentralised centres bring together top-performing and high-potential players from across participating teams under a unified regional program that builds technical skill, tactical awareness, and physical application.
- The players return to their clubs after each cycle, remaining key players and leaders in their home environments.
- Training time at the centres offers targeted support and additional challenges, complementing club sessions.
- Selection is ongoing, based on recent performance and potential, keeping opportunities open and competitive where they form a regional representative team capable of facing other regions.



FRANCE

16

TRAINING CENTRES



JAPAN

47

TRAINING CENTRES



IRELAND

13

TRAINING CENTRES



GEORGIA

4

TRAINING CENTRES



URUGUAY

2

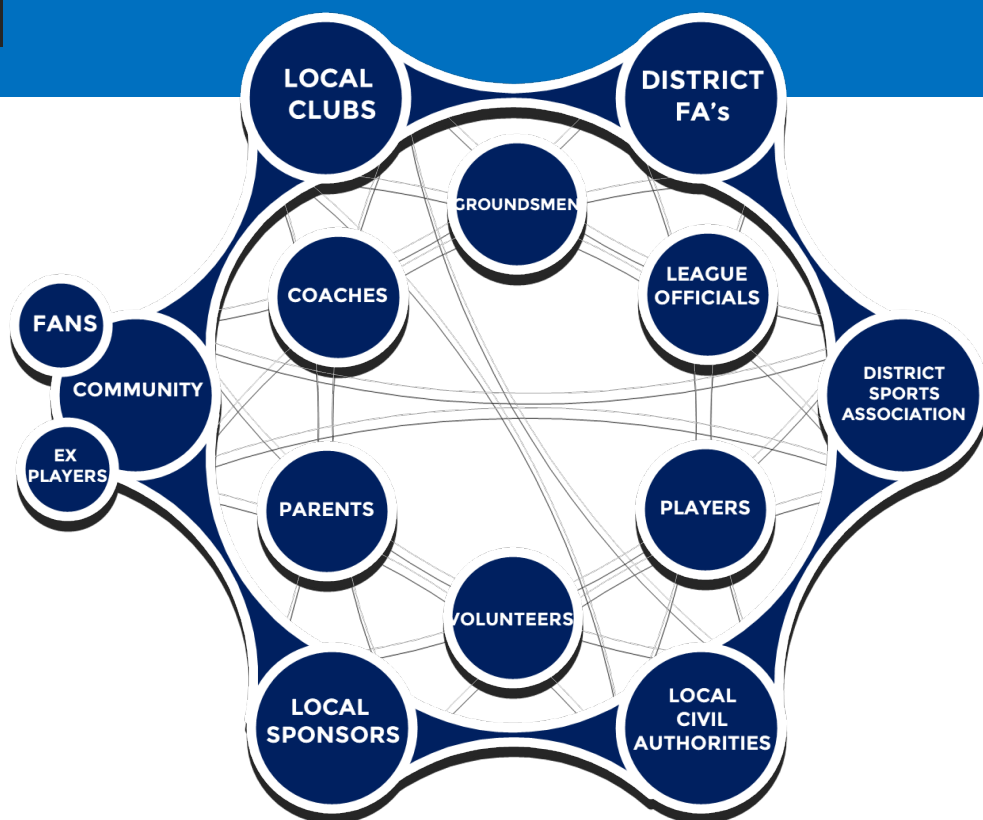
TRAINING CENTRES

## INDIVIDUAL PLAYER PROGRESSIONS THAT WORK TOWARDS INCREASING AND IMPACTING

1. NO OF PLAYERS IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR STATE TEAM EMERGING FROM THE CLUSTER.
2. NO OF PLAYERS IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS FROM THE CLUSTER
3. NO OF PLAYERS MOVING ON TO PLAY IN THE LOCAL TOP LEAGUE AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TIER.
4. NO OF PLAYERS SIGNED BY CLUBS IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> TIER OF NATIONAL COMPETITION.
5. NO OF PLAYERS PROGRESSING TO SUPERIOR DEVL. - COMPETITIVE PLATFORMS OVERSEAS

# 4

# EVERYONE GROWS



## BUILDING A GAME COMMUNITY ONE MATCHDAY AT A TIME

### DEVELOPMENT BEYOND PLAYERS

A year-round football calendar is not just a fixture list for teams; it is a powerful engine for holistic development across all facets of a thriving football community. While players are the most visible beneficiaries, **coaches**, **referees**, and **volunteers** also experience significant growth within such a continuous system through their own MTM Loop and Development Activities in the form of courses and upskilling interactions.

**COACHES:** gain match and competitive experience as they learn, adapt, and improve through constant practice and feedback, quickly building the skills needed for leadership and on ground coaching.

**REFEREES:** progress as they handle more matches, boosting their confidence, consistency and decision-making ability.

**VOLUNTEERS:** also gain practical communication and leadership experience by organizing activities and solving real problems and delivering solutions together.

**Keeping football active all year means everyone involved keeps learning and improving—not just the players, but the entire community built around the game.**

# CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THAT INVOLVE

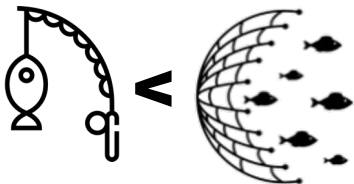
**AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE  
AS MANY AS POSSIBLE  
FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE  
IN THE BEST ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE**



**START WHERE THE REST OF THE WORLD  
STARTS WITH THEIR PLAYER ENGAGEMENT  
PATHWAY.**



**ENGAGED IN REAL COMPETITION WITH  
CONSEQUENCES AND REWARDS.**



**FISHING POLE (SINGULAR ACADEMY) v  
FISHING NET APPROACH (COMPETITION  
BASED ENVIRONMENT) ENGAGING YOUTH  
TEAMS**



**ACCESS TO SPACES FOR FREE PLAY,  
DELIBERATE PRACTICE AND ENGAGEMENT.**



**LOCALISED. CONTEXTUALISED. NOT A ONE  
SIZE FITS ALL APPROACH.**



# AGE FRAUD

Age fraud is rife in Indian youth football and it warps the talent picture, making true ability harder to gauge and its development harder to compare across age groups, regions, and competitions. It distorts games, inflates stats, and pollutes long-term records, which then drive flawed scouting calls, strategic consideration and pathway choices.

On paper the system or region that looks productive, often crumbles at senior levels because success was built on extra years of maturity rather than skill, decision-making, or resilience under the absence of real age-group pressure.

The possible result is corrupted datasets for growth curves, benchmarks, and cohort studies, inflated indicators of progress, and evaluations that overrate programs—while cross-sectional snapshots are skewed when overaged players soak up minutes and metrics, weakening the reliability of projections.

# KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Here are the key contributors who saved hours—and in some cases even days—by quickly confirming player origins without the long document checks, interviews, or calls we would otherwise have had to make. They are integral to their local football ecosystems and have a reputation for tracking both emerging and established talent. Their insights into player pathways run deep, encompassing knowledge of clubs, youth coaches, neighbourhoods, and, in many cases, even family backgrounds.

## GOA



Gavin Araujo is the Technical Director at Sesa Football Academy. He has coached senior teams like Vasco SC and Dempo SC, and was an integral part of youth development at FC Goa for several years, and is recognized as an experienced coach educator. He has a strong network of peers in Goa that follow the game and emerging talents across all levels.

## MIZORAM



Lalzarzova is a Mizo journalist who is currently the Joint Editor of Vanglaini. He was born in Aizawl and attended the same college as chess legend Viswanathan Anand. He has been with Vanglaini since 2013 and focuses on the Mizoram Premier League, I-League, and local football. He also acts as a football panellist on Zonet.



Hmingthangsangha is an Executive Committee Member with the Mizoram Football Association.

## KERALA



Deepak CM is a veteran coach and coach educator with 30 years in youth and grassroots development, serving as an AIFF Coach Educator, FIFA Football for Schools and EPL Primary Stars Educator, and currently is the Technical Director at Altius; while scouting for Reliance Young Champs and national teams.



Nikidesh KV is currently the senior team manager at Gokulam Kerala FC. Prior to which he worked as assistant manager at Churchill Brothers. His existing role and network proved to be a great resource in pinpointing the routes of Kerala players across all levels.

## MAHARASHTRA



Karan Amin is a Mumbai-born professional player who has played in the Indian Super League, notably with Jamshedpur FC and later Odisha FC. He developed through the intense inter school circuit with youth stints at Mahindra United, Air India, and Mumbai FC. He shared a deep working understanding of the Mumbai talent pathway.

## MEGHALAYA



Philarima Hynniewta is a Shillong-based football professional known for advancing women's football, event operations, and community support in the Northeast, including grassroots engagement, competition management roles at regional multi-sport events especially with the Meghalaya FA.

# **APPENDIX:**

**TOP 35 DISTRICTS PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES  
TOP 35 DISTRICTS RF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**

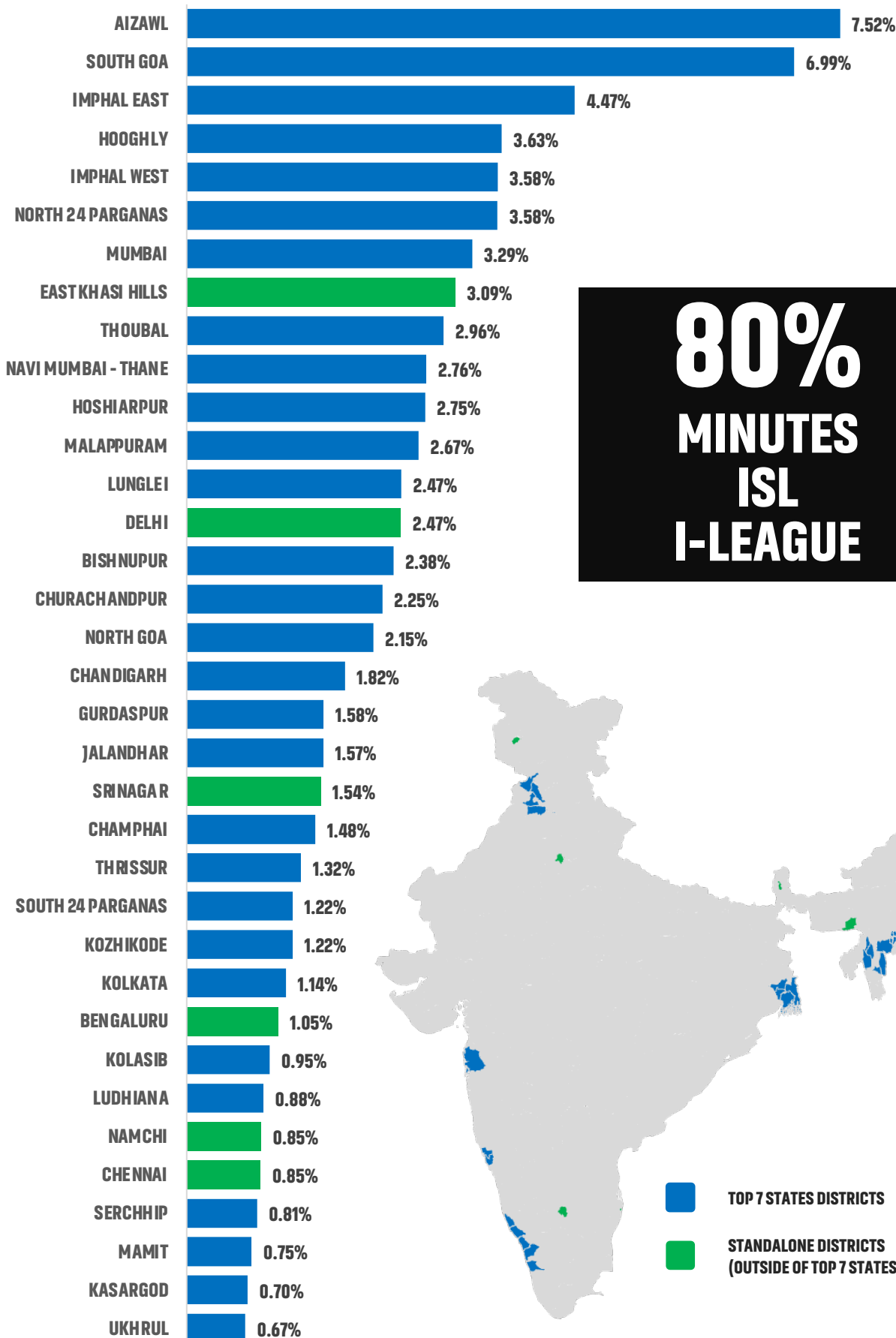
**CLUSTER BREAKDOWN:**

**SEASON BY SEASON TRENDS  
% MINUTES IN ISL AND I-LEAGUE**

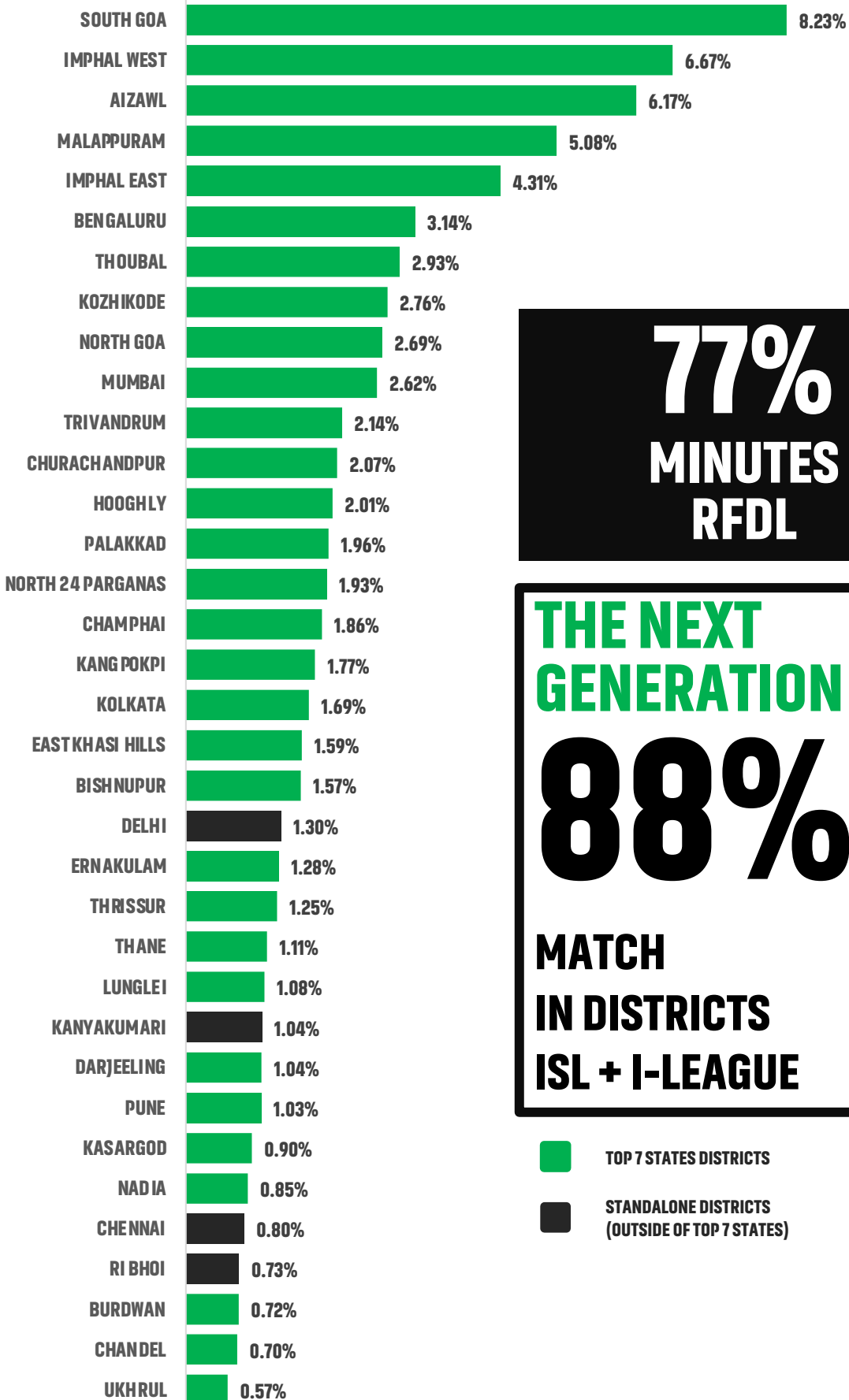
**CLUBS THAT RECRUITED THE PLAYERS FROM THE CLUSTERS**

**AGE BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT PLAYERS**

# TOP 35 DISTRICTS (MINUTES)



# TOP 35 DISTRICTS (MINUTES)



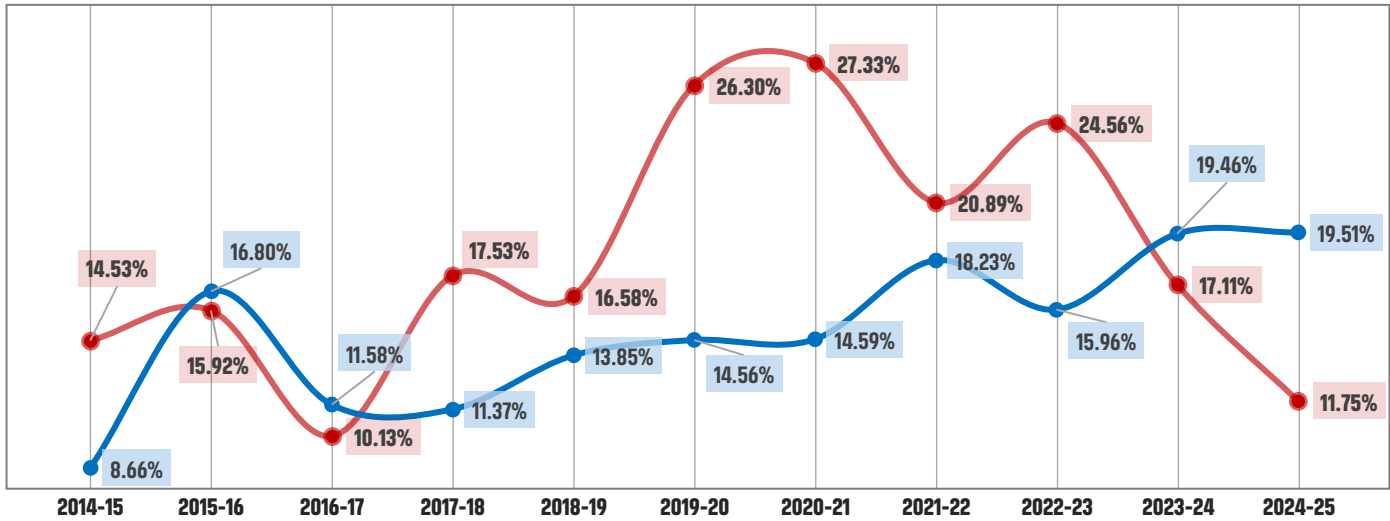
**77%**  
MINUTES  
RFDL

**THE NEXT  
GENERATION**  
**88%**  
**MATCH  
IN DISTRICTS  
ISL + I-LEAGUE**

 TOP 7 STATES DISTRICTS  
 STANDALONE DISTRICTS  
(OUTSIDE OF TOP 7 STATES)

# IMPHAL VALLEY +

● INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE ● I-LEAGUE

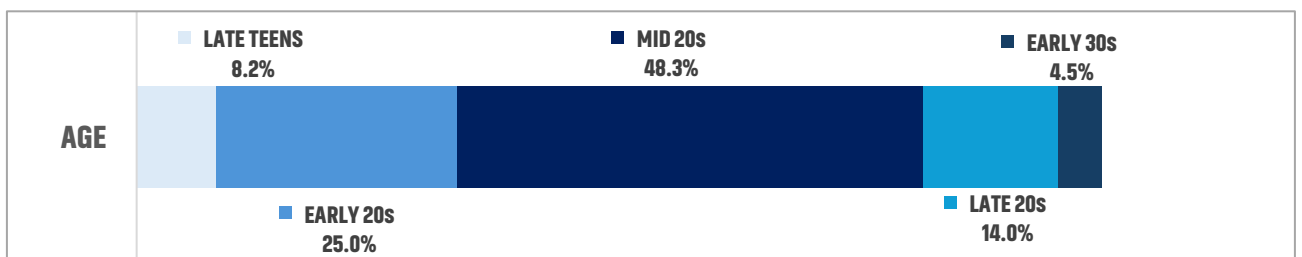


## TOP 15 CLUBS

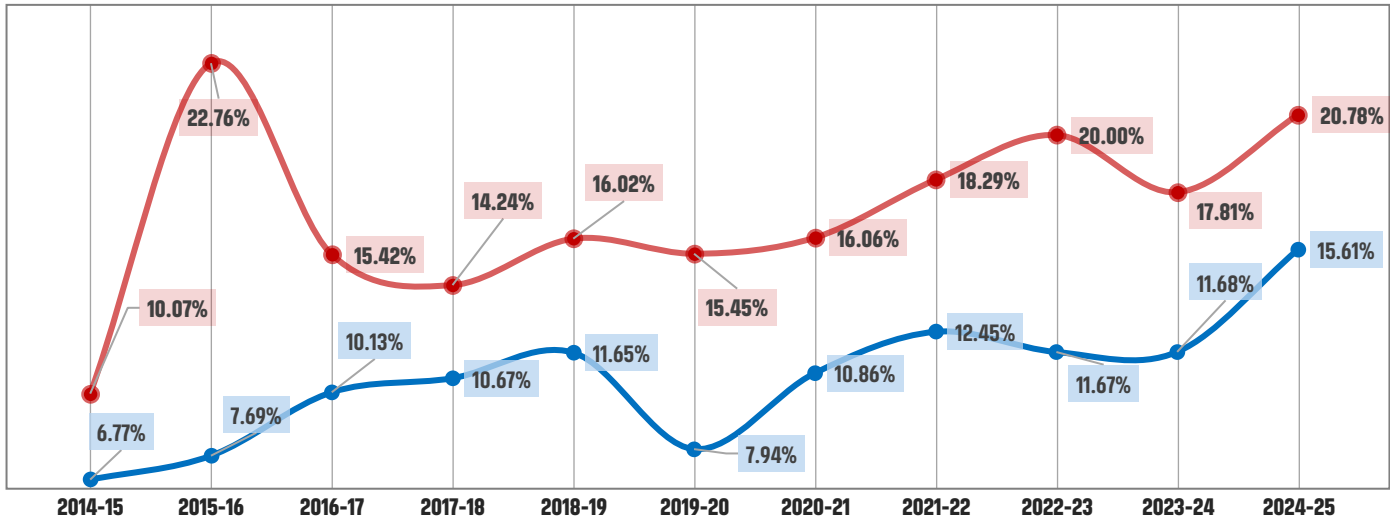
#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	NEROCA (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	7	85	14.22%	83.2%
2	TRAU (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	5	65	10.40%	79.45%
3	BENGALURU FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	23	6.42%	22.5%
4	PUNJAB FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	9	32	5.26%	24.4%
5	KERALA BLASTERS (ISL)	11	22	5.07%	21.8%
6	NEUFC (ISL)	11	22	4.95%	21.6%
7	FC GOA (ISL)	11	13	4.46%	18.4%
8	CHENNAIYN FC (ISL)	11	16	4.17%	17.4%
9	EAST BENGAL (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	26	3.58%	13.5%
10	INDIAN ARROWS (I-LEAGUE)	6	16	3.35%	20.3%
11	CHURCHILL BROTHERS (I-LEAGUE)	9	12	2.94%	13.3%
12	MUMBAI CITY FC (ISL)	11	16	2.88%	12.1%
13	SHILLONG LAJONG (I-LEAGUE)	7	12	2.79%	13.76%
14	JAMSHEDPUR FC (ISL)	8	12	2.59%	13.4%
15	RAJASTHAN UNITED (I-LEAGUE)	4	10	2.54%	20.23%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## CURRENT MANIPUR MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

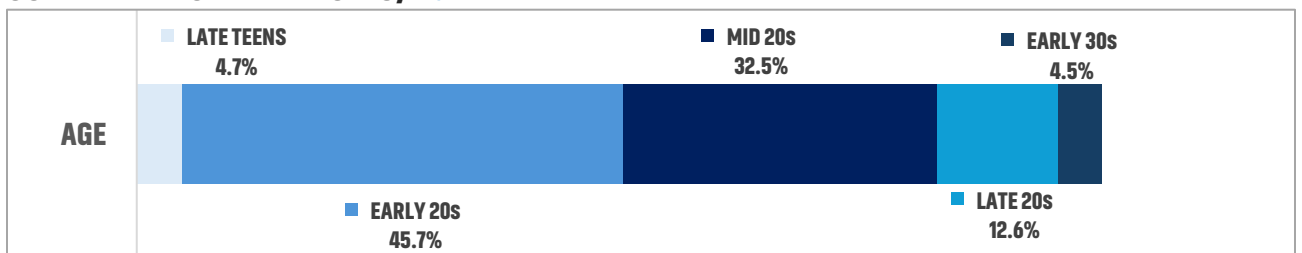


## TOP 15 CLUBS

#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	AIZAWL FC (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	10	125	29.86%	89.7%
2	ODISHA (ISL)	11	24	7.43%	8.8%
3	CHENNAIYIN FC (ISL)	11	11	5.72%	20.5%
4	EAST BENGAL (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	17	5.17%	16.8%
5	MOHAMMEDAN SC (I-LEAGUE)	5	19	4.61%	29.4%
6	MUMBAI CITY FC (ISL)	11	10	3.89%	14%
7	JAMSHEDPUR FC (ISL)	11	8	3.76%	16.8%
8	SREENIDI DECCAN (I-LEAGUE)	4	10	3.11%	22.8%
9	NEUFC (ISL)	11	15	3.00%	11.2%
10	REAL KASHMIR (I-LEAGUE)	7	8	2.92%	14.8%
11	SHILLONG LAJONG (I-LEAGUE)	7	9	2.79%	11.8%
12	MOHUN BAGAN (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	15	2.58%	5.7%
13	CHURCHILL BROTHERS (I-LEAGUE)	9	10	2.55%	10%
14	SUDEVA (I-LEAGUE)	3	11	2.37%	21.4%
15	BENGALURU FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	14	2.33%	7%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

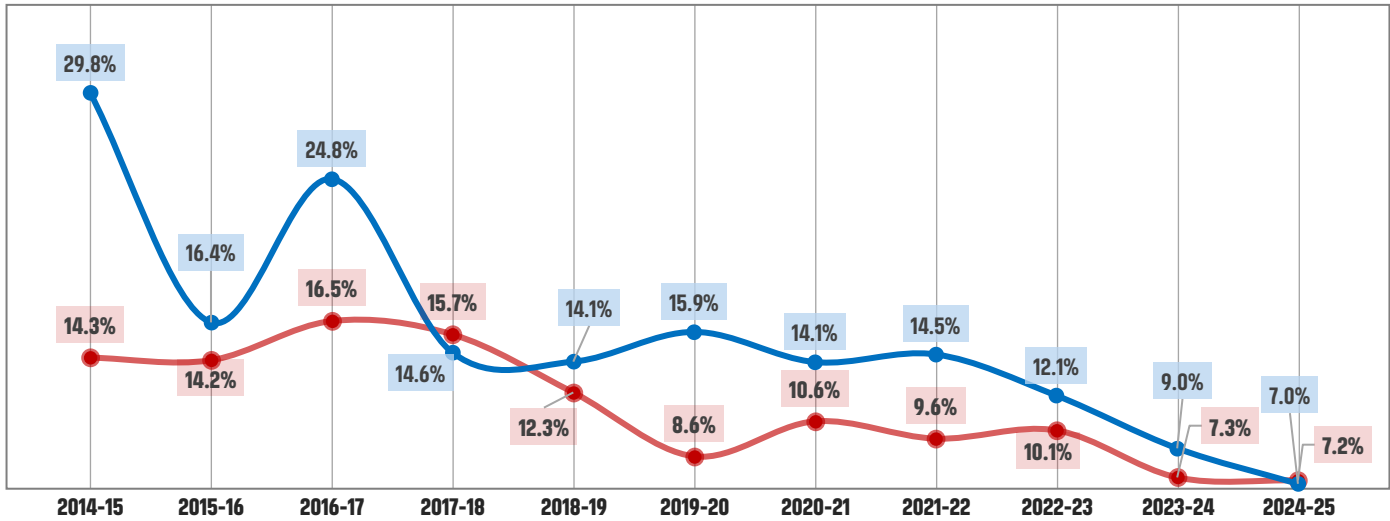
## CURRENT MIZORAM MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

# KOLKATA++

● INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE ● I-LEAGUE

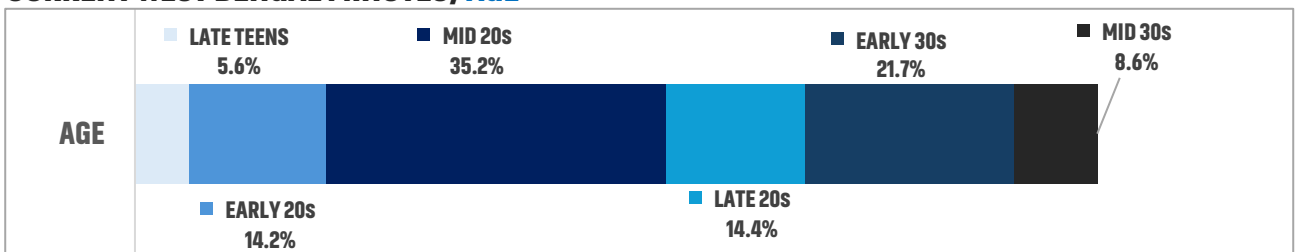


## TOP 15 CLUBS

#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	MOHUN BAGAN (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	51	22.56%	41%
2	EAST BENGAL (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	50	11.42%	30.4%
3	MOHAMMEDAN SC (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	5	40	5.59%	29.25%
4	JAMSHEDPUR FC (ISL)	11	19	5.37%	19.6%
5	CHENNAIYN FC (ISL)	11	17	4.81%	14%
6	MUMBAI CITY FC (ISL)	11	19	3.61%	10.6%
7	ODISHA (ISL)	11	11	3.52%	10.6%
8	CHURCHILL BROTHERS (I-LEAGUE)	9	12	3.39%	10.7%
9	KERALA BLASTERS (ISL)	11	10	3.00%	8.8%
10	INTER KASHI (ISL)	2	7	2.93%	31.2%
11	INDIAN ARROWS (I-LEAGUE)	6	11	2.73%	11.7%
12	NEUFC (ISL)	11	9	2.65%	8.1%
13	FC GOA (ISL)	11	7	2.49%	7.2%
14	GOKULAM KERALA (I-LEAGUE)	9	12	2.22%	7.8%
15	SUDEVA (I-LEAGUE)	3	8	2.17%	16%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

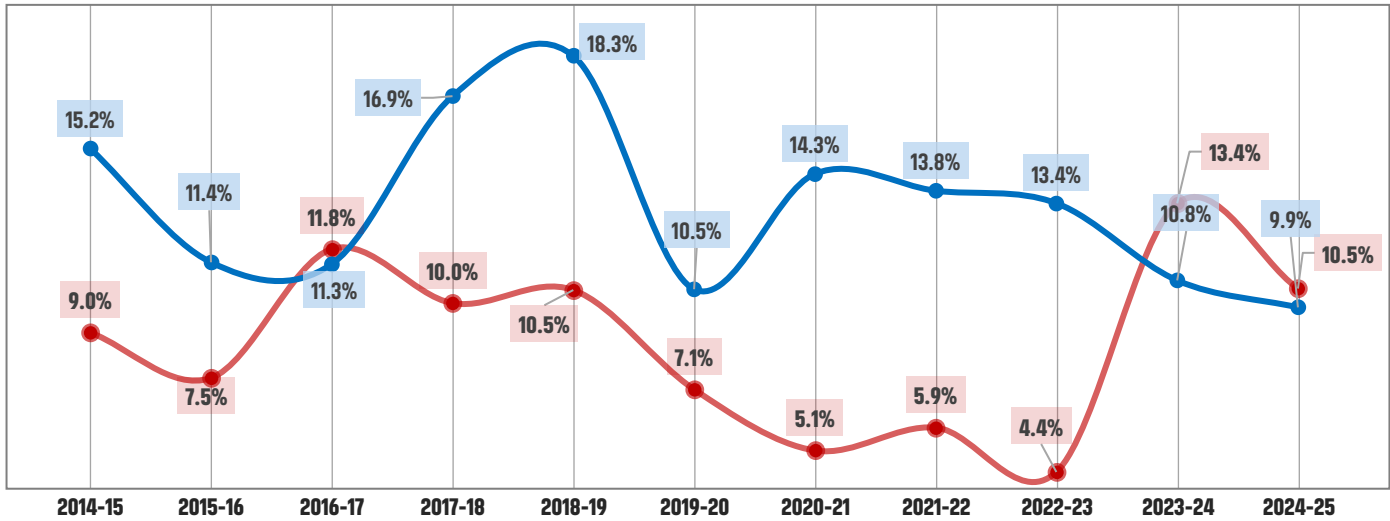
## CURRENT WEST BENGAL MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

# NORTH PUNJAB + CH

● INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE ● I-LEAGUE

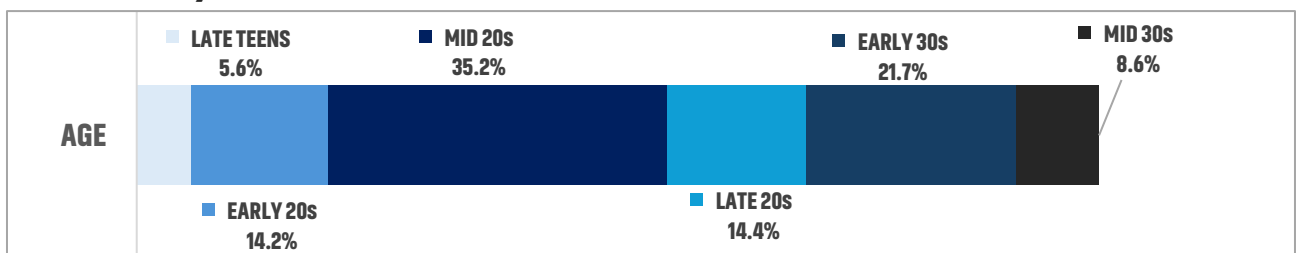


## TOP 15 CLUBS

#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	MOHUN BAGAN (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	20	11.10%	17.7%
2	NAMDHARI (LOCAL)(I-LEAGUE)	2	36	9.56%	81.5%
3	BENGALURU FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	11	8.64%	19%
4	MUMBAI CITY FC (ISL)	11	11	7.96%	20.7%
5	PUNJAB FC (LOCAL)(I-LEAGUE, ISL)	9	27	7.02%	20.2%
6	KERALA BLASTERS (ISL)	11	11	6.55%	17%
7	EAST BENGAL (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	19	5.33%	12.5%
8	CHENNAIYN FC (ISL)	11	13	4.73%	12.2%
9	ODISHA (ISL)	11	13	4.72%	12.6%
10	INDIAN ARROWS (I-LEAGUE)	6	11	4.32%	16.3%
11	FC GOA (ISL)	11	7	3.66%	9.4%
12	NEUFC (ISL)	11	9	2.46%	6.6%
13	SUDEVA (I-LEAGUE)	3	9	2.19%	14.3%
14	REAL KASHMIR (I-LEAGUE)	7	12	2.18%	8%
15	HYDERABAD FC (ISL)	6	6	2.09%	14.3%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## CURRENT PUNJAB MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

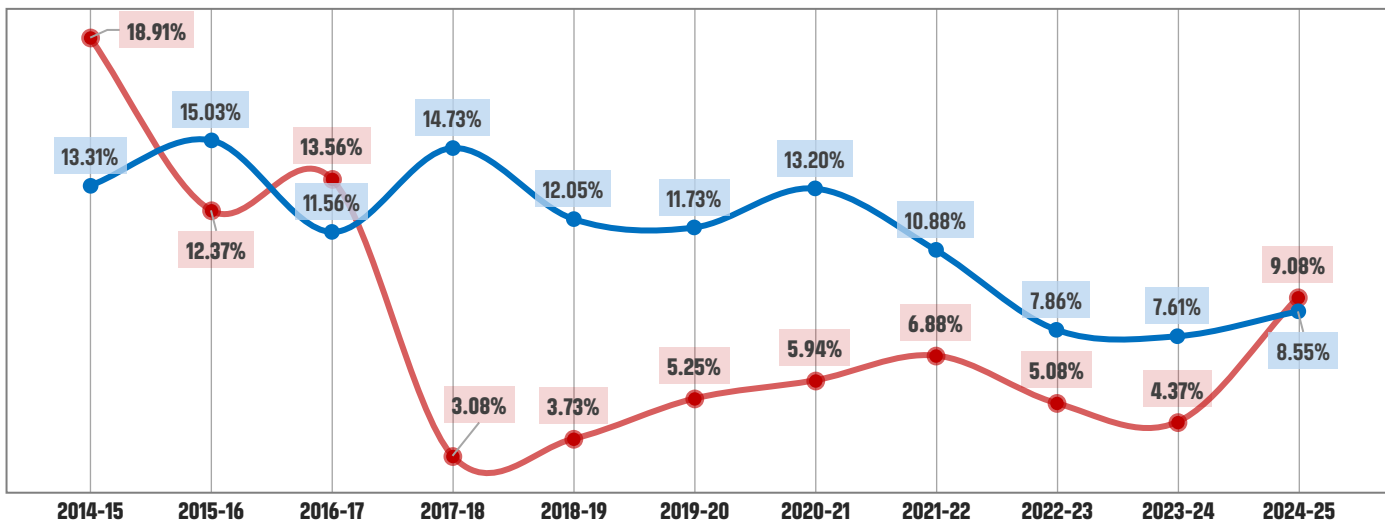
# SOUTH GOA TALUKAS



INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE



I-LEAGUE

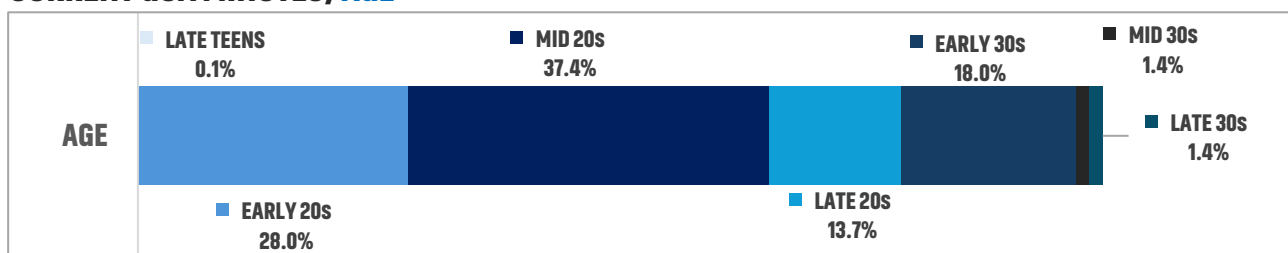


## TOP 15 CLUBS

#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	FC GOA (LOCAL) (ISL)	11	44	21.58%	47.4%
2	CHURCHILL BROTHERS (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	9	52	17.63%	42.5%
3	DEMPO SC (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	2	26	8.81%	64%
4	SCD GOA (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	2	22	5.48%	63.4%
5	MOHUN BAGAN (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	9	4.91%	6.7%
6	MUMBAI CITY FC (ISL)	11	11	4.41%	10%
7	HYDERABAD FC (ISL)	6	9	4.37%	14%
8	SALGAOCAR (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	2	14	3.55%	38.6%
9	KERALA BLASTERS (ISL)	11	9	3.43%	7.6%
10	CHENNAIYIN FC (ISL)	11	7	2.92%	6.5%
11	ODISHA (I-LEAGUE)	11	11	2.76%	6.3%
12	EAST BENGAL (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	11	2.27%	4.6%
13	FC PUNE CITY (ISL)	5	6	2.04%	14%
14	MUMBAI FC (I-LEAGUE)	3	8	1.79%	12%
15	INDIAN ARROWS (I-LEAGUE)	6	7	1.6%	5.2%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

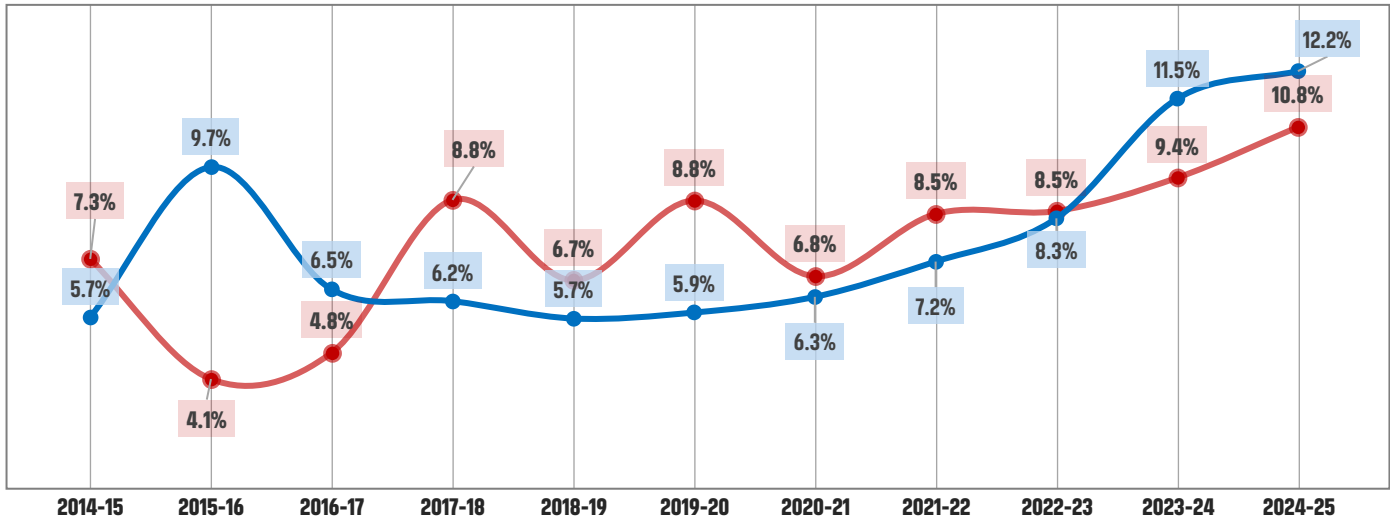
## CURRENT GOA MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

# NORTH CENTRAL KERALA

● INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE ● I-LEAGUE

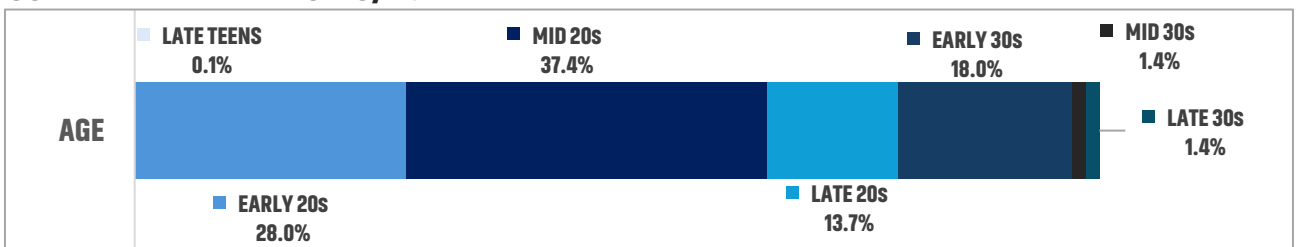


## TOP 15 CLUBS

#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	GOKULAM KERALA (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	9	51	25.94%	61.5%
2	KERALA BLASTERS (LOCAL) (ISL)	11	25	12.73%	23%
3	NEUFC (ISL)	11	15	8.91%	18.5%
4	JAMSHEDPUR FC (ISL)	11	14	5.70%	14%
5	MOHUN BAGAN (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	11	4.22%	5.2%
6	HYDERABAD FC (ISL)	6	9	4.15%	12%
7	EAST BENGAL (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	16	3.99%	7.2%
8	BENGALURU FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	6	3.94%	6.5%
9	CHENNAI CITY FC (I-LEAGUE)	11	15	3.42%	14.3%
10	SC BENGALURU (I-LEAGUE)	1	5	2.69%	30.8%
11	INDIAN ARROWS (I-LEAGUE)	6	4	2.67%	7.7%
12	PUNJAB FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	9	12	2.50%	5.5%
13	MOHAMMEDAN SC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	5	6	2.16%	7.6%
14	SREENIDI DECCAN (I-LEAGUE)	4	5	2%	7.9%
15	INDIAN ARROWS (I-LEAGUE)	6	4	1.8%	11%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

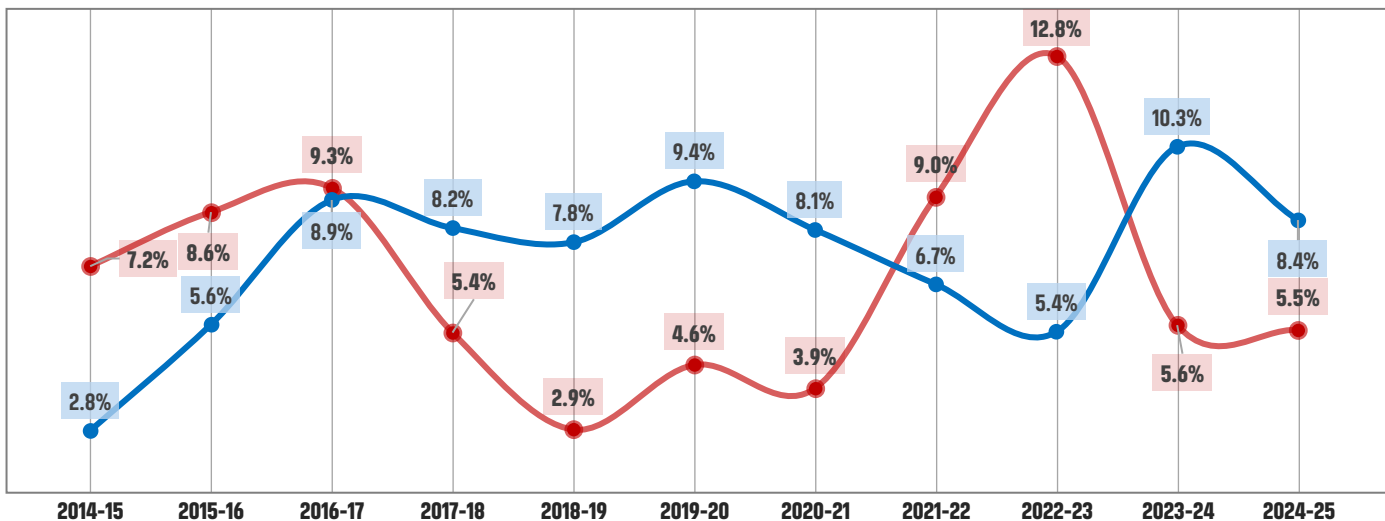
## CURRENT KERALA MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

# MUMBAI METRO

● INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE ● I-LEAGUE

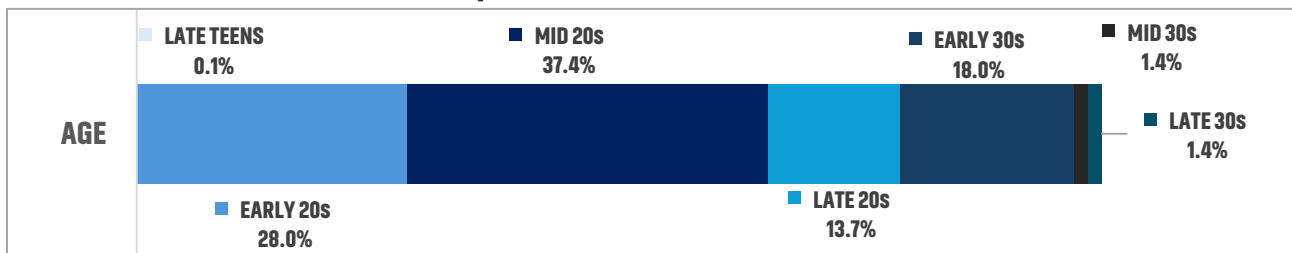


## TOP 15 CLUBS

#	CLUB (LOCAL) (LEVEL)	SEASONS	# PLAYERS	% STATE MINS	% CLUB MINUTES
1	BENGALURU FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	11	8.69%	13%
2	MUMBAI CITY FC (LOCAL) (ISL)	11	15	8.32%	14.8%
3	MUMBAI FC (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	3	20	7.66%	42%
4	KENKRE FC (LOCAL) (I-LEAGUE)	2	17	7.64%	49%
5	MOHUN BAGAN (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	12	7.38%	8%
6	JAMSHEDPUR FC (ISL)	11	8	5.93%	13%
7	RAJASTHAN UNITED (I-LEAGUE)	4	13	4.73%	16%
8	SREENIDI DECCAN (I-LEAGUE)	4	7	4.67%	17%
9	ODISHA (ISL)	11	10	4.10%	7.5%
10	HYDERABAD FC (ISL)	6	5	3.76%	9.8%
11	PUNJAB FC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	9	11	3.76%	7.4%
12	NEUFC (ISL)	11	6	3.34%	6.2%
13	MOHAMMEDAN SC (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	5	8	3.29%	10.4%
14	EAST BENGAL (I-LEAGUE, ISL)	11	7	3.10%	5%
15	CHURCHILL BROTHERS (I-LEAGUE)	9	8	2.88%	5.5%

I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2014-15 TO 2024-25

## CURRENT MAHARASHTRA MINUTES/AGE



I-LEAGUE AND INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE: 2024-25

## RESOURCES AND REFERENCES:

### **KENYAN RUNNERS**

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/11/06/africa/kenya-runners-win-marathons-trnd>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264745551\\_Analysis\\_of\\_the\\_Kenyan\\_Distance](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264745551_Analysis_of_the_Kenyan_Distance)

[Running\\_Phenomenon#:~:text=Conclusion:%20These%20data%20emphasize%20that%20the%20previously,tribe%20and%20in%20particular%20the%20Nandi%20subtribe.](#)

### **NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE, CANADIAN ATHLETES**

<https://www.sports-reference.com/>

<https://www.hockey-reference.com/>

### **MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL, USA**

<https://www.baseball-reference.com/>

### **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE, USA**

<https://www.pro-football-reference.com/>

### **NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, USA**

<https://www.basketball-reference.com/>

### **BRAZILIAN PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS**

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354873441\\_Inequality\\_in\\_Brazilian\\_basketball\\_the\\_birthplace\\_effect](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354873441_Inequality_in_Brazilian_basketball_the_birthplace_effect)

### **JAPANESE PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYERS**

<https://bayder.hatenadiary.jp/entry/2025/04/25/132609#4%E3%81%BE%E3%81%A8%E3%82%81>

### **MUMBAI RANJI TROPHY**

[https://i.imgur.com/link\\_to\\_database/NATIONAL/IND/RANJI\\_WINNERS.html](https://i.imgur.com/link_to_database/NATIONAL/IND/RANJI_WINNERS.html)

### **CHENNAI CHESS GRANDMASTERS**

<https://khelnow.com/chess/2023-12-chess-grandmasters-india>

### **HARYANA WRESTLERS**

### **PUNJAB HOCKEY PLAYERS**

### **TAMIL NADU AND PUNJAB BASKETBALL PLAYERS**

Various SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENTS IN DATABASE MENTIONED

### **ARGENTINA PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

[https://www.clarin.com/deportes/futbol/mapa-futbol-argentino-33-jugadores-ultima-superliga-buenos-aires-12-aportan-boca-river\\_0\\_NPNK4e7L4.html](https://www.clarin.com/deportes/futbol/mapa-futbol-argentino-33-jugadores-ultima-superliga-buenos-aires-12-aportan-boca-river_0_NPNK4e7L4.html)

### **SPAIN PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://elpais.com/especiales-branded/es-laliga/2019/busca-a-tus-vecinos-futbolistas/>

### **ENGLAND PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://www.olbg.com/blogs/football-hotbeds>

### **FRANCE PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://www.ligue1.fr/Articles/Analyses/2021/04/21/d-ou-viennent-les-joueurs-de-ligue-1-uber-eats>

### **URUGUAY PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://www.elpais.com.uy/ovacion/futbol/de-todas-partes-vienen-en-que-ciudades-nacieron-los-futbolistas-uruguayos-que-juegan-hoy-en-primera-division>

### **NETHERLANDS PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://www.tussendeliniies.nl/waar-zijn-voetballers-geboren/>

### **JAPANESE PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://www.soccerdigestweb.com/news/detail3/id=54694>

### **AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

<https://www.mlssoccer.com/news/players-by-birthplace-usa-canada-323345>

## RESOURCES AND REFERENCES:

### GROWING UP IN A TOP 20 FIFA RANKED NATION

#### FIFA: INCREASING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

<https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/7536bd565b7c83a/original/Increasing-global-competitiveness-An-analysis-of-the-talent-development-ecosystem.pdf>

#### FIFA SUMMARY REPORT : GIVE EVERY TALENT A CHANGE

<https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/64a5d5908a12cabd/original/FIFA-Talent-Development-Give-every-talent-a-chance.pdf>

### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROFILING

#### MONTEVIDEO

<https://auf.org.uy/home/>

<https://onfi.org.uy/>

<https://aufi.uy/>

#### ZAGREB:

<https://zns.hr/>

<https://hns.family/>

#### CATALUNYA

<https://www.fcf.cat/>

#### PORTO

<https://resultados.fpf.pt/Competition/GetCompetitionsByAssociation?associationId=2326seasonId=104>

#### TOM BYER QUOTE:

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5175044/2024/01/19/japan-korea-scouting/>

#### LINK TO FOOTBALL STARTS AT HOME:

<https://tomsan.com/books/football-starts-at-home.pdf>

#### ECA REPORT ON YOUTH ACADEMIES IN EUROPE

<https://www.ecaeurope.com/media/2730/eca-report-on-youth-academies.pdf>

#### THE IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICE PRINCIPLES TO INFORM PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING IN EUROPEAN YOUTH FOOTBALL

A literature review and expert interviews in Belgium, England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain in the performance pathway

[https://uefaacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/2014\\_RGP\\_North-Julian\\_Youth-Development-in-Seven-Countries\\_Final-Report.pdf](https://uefaacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/2014_RGP_North-Julian_Youth-Development-in-Seven-Countries_Final-Report.pdf)

#### THE DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF ELITE SOCCER PLAYERS AGED UNDER-16 YEARS FROM BRAZIL, ENGLAND, FRANCE, GHANA, MEXICO, PORTUGAL AND SWEDEN

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/229080017\\_The\\_developmental\\_activities\\_of\\_elite\\_soccer\\_players\\_aged\\_under-16\\_years\\_from\\_Brazil\\_England\\_France\\_Ghana\\_Mexico\\_Portugal\\_and\\_Sweden](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/229080017_The_developmental_activities_of_elite_soccer_players_aged_under-16_years_from_Brazil_England_France_Ghana_Mexico_Portugal_and_Sweden)

#### PRACTICE AND PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GERMAN TOP-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYERS

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269097430\\_Practice\\_and\\_play\\_in\\_the\\_development\\_of\\_German\\_top-level\\_professional\\_football\\_players](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269097430_Practice_and_play_in_the_development_of_German_top-level_professional_football_players)

#### DEVELOPMENTAL BIOGRAPHIES OF OLYMPIC SUPER-ELITE AND ELITE ATHLETES: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PATTERN RECOGNITION ANALYSIS

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341549119\\_Developmental\\_Biographies\\_of\\_Olympic\\_Super-Elite\\_and\\_Elite\\_Athletes\\_A\\_Multidisciplinary\\_Pattern\\_Recognition\\_Analysis](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341549119_Developmental_Biographies_of_Olympic_Super-Elite_and_Elite_Athletes_A_Multidisciplinary_Pattern_Recognition_Analysis)

**The Best : How Elite Athletes are Made, By Mark Williams, Tim Wigmore - 2020**

**The Gold Mine Effect: Crack the Secrets of High Performance, Rasmus Ankersen - 2012**

**Talent Identification and Development in Youth Soccer, Adam Kelly - 2023**

**Developing Sport Expertise: Damian Farrow, Joseph Baker, Clare MacMahon - 2023**

