INTRODUCTION

A Brief History of World Football

The ‘association football’ which is more commonly known as only ‘football’ which is also known as ‘Soccer’ is one of the most popular games in the world. If we see the etymology of the word football, it is widely assumed that the word "football" (or "foot ball") references the action of the foot kicking a ball. There is a alternative explanation, which is that football originally referred to a variety of games in medieval Europe, which were played on foot. There are a number of references to traditional, ancient, or prehistoric ball games, played by indigenous peoples in many different parts of the world. The Ancient Greeks and Romans are known to have played many ball games, some of which involved the use of the feet. Various forms of "football" can be identified in history, often as popular peasant games.

The early forms of football played in England, sometimes referred to as "mob football", would be played between neighbouring towns and villages, involving an unlimited number of players on opposing teams who would clash in masses. English "public" schools played an important role in taking football away from its "mob" form and turning it into an organised team sport. Contemporary codes of football can be traced back to the codification of these games at English public schools in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Each school drafted its own rules, which varied widely between different schools and were changed over time with each new intake of pupils. Two schools of thought developed regarding rules. It was difficult for schools to play each other at football, as each school played by its own rules. The solution to this problem was usually that the match be divided into two halves, one half played by the rules of the host "home" school, and the other half by the visiting "away" school. The modern rules of many football codes were formulated during the mid- or late- 19th century. The influence and power of the British Empire allowed these rules of football to spread. The Middle Ages saw a huge rise in popularity of annual Shrovetide football matches throughout Europe, particularly in England. The Football League was founded in England, becoming the first of many professional football competitions.
History of Indian football:

Pre-independent phase:

Football was introduced to India by British soldiers in the mid-nineteenth century. As per the records and data available, the first ever game on Indian soil was played between ‘Calcutta Club of Civilians’ and the ‘Gentlemen of Barrackpore’ in 1854. The first official football club of India, ‘Calcutta Football Club’, was established in 1872. Many of us might be unaware of the fact that Asia’s oldest football tournament, which is also the world’s third oldest football competition, has its roots in India. Branded as the “Durand Cup”, named after the then Foreign Secretary of India, Sir Mortimer Durand. Several football clubs like Calcutta FC, Sovabazar and Aryan Club were established in Calcutta during the 1890s. During first half of the 20th century actual Indian Football started to take place. Several clubs were founded, more Cup competitions were introduced and Indian players became more common.

The very first notable achievement for Indians in football was Mohun Bagan winning the IFA Shield Trophy on 29th July, 1911, defeating East York Regiment by 2-1 victory margin. Mohun Bagan’s victory over the British sovereign had then become an issue of political nationalist upsurge; football had turned out to be an outlet of aggression for the young generation. As a result of that victory, new football tournaments and football clubs grew rapidly in the country, mostly in Calcutta. With an increasing number of activities in the football arena, the need for a regulatory body arose and thus the “All India Football Federation” (AIFF) came to existence in 1937. Indian teams started touring Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand in the late 1930s. AIFF got recognized by FIFA in the year 1948.

Post-independent phase:

The Golden Era:

The 1948 London Olympics was India's first major international tournament, where a predominately barefooted Indian team lost 2–1 to France in the opening match, failing to convert two penalties. Sarangapani Raman scored the only goal for India in that match and thus the first Indian international goal ever in the Olympics. India qualified by default for the 1950 FIFA World Cup finals as a result of the withdrawal of all of their scheduled opponents. But the governing body AIFF decided against going to the World Cup, being unable to understand the importance of the event at that time. Reason shown by AIFF was that there was the cost of travel,
although FIFA agreed to bear a major part of the travel expenses, lack of practice time, team selection issues and valuing Olympics over FIFA World cup.

The period from 1948 to 1962 is considered the golden era in Indian football. India became the best team in Asia. The Indian footballers brought glory to the country by winning the Gold medal in the 1951 Asian Games held in New Delhi. In 1952, India continued their form by winning the Colombo Quadrangular Cup held in Sri Lanka. Later that year they went on to participate in the 1952 Olympics. Then in 1956, India became the first Asian nation to register a semi-final appearance in Melbourne Olympic Games. India further established itself as the most dominating force to reckon with in the Asian sector with another Gold medal in the 1962 Asian Games held in Jakarta.

**The Post Golden Era:**

The period between 1960 and 2000 can be called the post golden era. India played in the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok but were eliminated in first round. India then took third place in the 1970 Asian Games, beating Japan 1–0 in the third place. In 1984 India qualified for the 1984 Asian Cup. The team were placed in Group B but ended in last place after losing all but 1 match (which was a draw). India also failed to score during the Asian Cup as well which brought up questions about team selection.

**The Rebirth of Indian Football:**

The period between 2000 and 2010 can be called the period of the rebirth of Indian Football. Although India failed to qualify for the 2004 Asian Cup, the senior team gained the silver medal in the inaugural Afro Asian Games, with victories over Rwanda and Zimbabwe (then 85 places ahead of India in the world rankings), losing the final 1–0 to Uzbekistan. As a result, Indian football has steadily earned greater recognition and respect, both within the country and abroad. India lost to Pakistan and Bangladesh in the 2003 SAFF Cup, and defeats in the 2006 World Cup qualifiers meant Stephen Constantine was sacked. The LG Cup win in Vietnam under Stephen Constantine was one of the few bright spots in early part of 2000s. It was India's first victory in a football tournament outside the subcontinent since 1974. India defeated hosts Vietnam 3–2 in the final despite trailing 2–0 after 30 minutes. Club wise Indian Football took a turn for the better as the National Football League folded in 2006 and in 2007 the brand new I-
League was started. Indian national football team came out victorious in 2007 and 2009 Nehru Cup Football Tournament. The team also bagged the honors of winning AFC Challenge Cup in 2008 and qualified for the first time in 27 years for 2011 AFC Asia Cup held in Qatar.

**Football in Maharashtra:**

Unlike several other states of India, Maharashtra also has not any particular regional sports. After cricket the most famous sports in Maharashtra is Football. The FIFA World Cup is watched with huge enthusiasm. Despite of this there are numourous clubs and Academies providing coaching of football.

Western India Football Association (WIFA) is the state governing body for football in Maharashtra, India. It is affiliated with the All India Football Federation, the sports national governing body. The Western India Football Association began on 12 July 1911. The objective of WIFA was to improve the standard of football in the Indian state of Maharashtra. There was already history though in Maharashtra as the Rovers Cup, which is India's second oldest football tournament was started in 1891. Then in 2011, after seeing a sudden increase in Football in India, WIFA decided to revamp the Maharashtra Football System. The first thing they decided to do was renovate Mumbai’s only national football stadium, the Cooperage Ground. After that they will work on starting the first ever state wide football league in Maharashtra known as The Maha League. They also announced plans to revive the Rovers Cup which had its last tournament in 2001.

Kolhapur has been famous for some sport kinds, such as Wrestling, Swimming, Kabaddi, Chess, Athletics, Table tennis, Weight lifting, Rifle shooting etc. Kolhapur, so far, has produced some sport persons of international fame who placed it on the global map. However, no other sport has been so popular and loved as ‘Football’ and ‘Wrestling’.

**Football in Kolhapur:** In most of the cities of Maharashtra cricket is more popular than football but in Kolhapur Wrestling, football and cricket are equally popular. Kolhapur football has very rich history. Before the first World cup(1930 at Uruguay) there was a football team of Jamdar Football Club, Kolhapur. Honourable Chh. Ra Jaram Maharaj supported this game in thirties. Honourable Chh. Shahji Raje of Devas who came to Kolhapur for the education had an intense attraction for football. He also played a significant role in making it popular among the common people. The game and the players were encouraged and got sustantial support from the royal families. During the period 1940 to 1950 many football teams like ‘Shivaji’, Bara Imam’,
Balgopal’ and ‘Practice’ etc came into existence and still some of them have been producing talented footballers.

The Kolhapur Sports Association: The Kolhapur Sports Association was established in 1940 under the patronage of Chh. Rajaram Maharaj. The founder members took immense efforts for the development of this game. This was the first association of Football established in the South Maharashtra.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The purpose of the study will be to study the “Development of Football in Kolhapur District: An Exploratory Study”.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

The game of football has been played in Kolhapur since pre-independence period. It has started at the beginning of 20th century in Kolhapur. But still it is played quite traditionally and at the fewer level amongst the different ‘pethas’ (specific areas of the city). Its popularity is growing day by day. But the standard has not been improved. So the researcher has decided to undertake a project for proper guidance and suggestions for achieving expected standards and quality. He would like to provide some help to change the traditional face of football in Kolhapur and reach the stage of International standards.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has a large scope for different stages, age groups, genders, games etc. It has, therefore, been decided to delimit study as follows:
1. This study is to be restricted for the male football players who belongs to Kolhapur District Football Association only.
2. The geographical area of the study is to be confined within the Kolhapur District only.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study is restricted to the football played in Kolhapur District. It is limited to some places in Kolhapur District. Though the game of football spread all over the state and the nation, the study is limited to the Kolhapur District. The researcher has decided to study and examine
critically the associations, players, coaches, experts and the referees of male football teams registered under Kolhapur Sports Association.

**OBJECTIVES:**
The following are the objectives of the present study:

1. To review the various attempts of the different associations and institutions for the development of football in Kolhapur District.
2. To study the professionalism in the game of football in Kolhapur District.
3. To study the standards of facilities provided to the football teams in Kolhapur District.
4. To study the standards of coaches of football in Kolhapur District.
5. To study the approach of football players towards the game football in Kolhapur District.
6. To study the approach of coaches towards the game of football in Kolhapur District.

**ASSUMPTIONS:**

For the purpose of this study the researcher has kept the following assumptions in his mind.

1. Various associations and institutions of football in Kolhapur District did not properly attempt for the development of football.
2. There is a need of professionalism in the game of football in Kolhapur District.
3. The facilities provided to the football teams in Kolhapur District are of lower standard.
4. There is a need to reform the standards of coaching of football in Kolhapur District.

**DEFINITIONS:**
The researcher has defined the following terms related to the present study in order to frame the research

**Football:**
Football refers to a number of sports that involve, to varying degrees, kicking a ball with the foot to score a goal. The most popular of these sports worldwide is association football, more commonly known as just "football" or "soccer" (primarily United States and Canada).

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Development:
Development is a noun derived from the verb 'to develop'
Development is a gradual growth or formation of something.

Development describes the growth of humans throughout the lifespan, from conception to death. This includes all aspects of human growth, including physical, emotional, intellectual, social, perceptual, and personality development. Development does not just involve the biological and physical aspects of growth, but also the cognitive and social aspects associated with development throughout life.

Development is a process of making a basic design gradually better and more advanced

The scientific study of development seeks to understand and explain why and how does it happen.

The third definition of the word is taken in to consideration for the present study
Synonyms: -growth- increase - increment - accretion – rise

Exploratory:
An adjective derived from the verb ‘ to explore’
To act in order to discover something to learn the truth about something

Kolhapur district:
Kolhapur district is located in South-Western Maharashtra on Karnataka border. The nearest cities are Belgaum in the south, Satara in the north, Sangli in the East and Kankavali (Konkon) in the West.

For the present study the district is limited to the places where the game of football is played.
The Significance of the Study:

Football has been the most popular game at international level. It is played almost in all the countries. It is known for its prominent characteristics such as pace, agility, thrilling and sensation. It makes spectators’ expectations reach the zenith point every moment. This game being extremely heart-bewitching, compels the spectators stickup to their seats for the whole 90 minutes.

To be a good football player, one must have certain inevitable qualities, such as, perseverance, endurance, resolution, the spirit of winning, self control and the most important of all, the sportiveness. A football player, if he wants to achieve the skill and the techniques of the game, must learn how to control his body and mind extra-ordinarily which in other words in known as one’s own body technique.

It needs, therefore, to consider seriously in what conditions football in India is, in what kind of situation it is played; what is the place of Indian football on global level and what efforts are required to improve it to give it the world class quality? These are the vital matters which must be primarily considered at their roots.

If we really intend to bring about revolutionary changes in Indian football, a special attention is to be provided for enabling the football associations like Kolhapur Sports Association under the Indian Football Federation, at rural and urban levels. Only then, the future of Indian football would be bright. Organizing only the big competitions is not going to help any way. Hence, the associations of football working at rural and urban levels require to be strengthened by satisfying their acute necessities.

The popularity of football is greater than any other city in Maharashtra. There is a vast potential in this city. A number of the tournaments during the football season are greater than that of any other city in India. A number of teams and footballers participating in these tournaments is also considerably higher than the other cities in India. Inspite of this fact the game and the players have not achieved international standard. The researcher has proposed to study the reasons behind them and suggest the possible remedies to achieve the international standard.