

# Mumbai football gets a Dutch flavour

Sports buffs can cheer as a new football turf by the Cruyff Foundation will open in Parel this Saturday

## new in the city

**KRUTIKA BEHRAWALA**

krutika.behrawala@mid-day.com

IF YOUR kid loves playing football, take him/her to the new football turf that opens in town on June 6. Said to be the first Cruyff court in India, it has been built by Cruyff Foundation that was started by the former Dutch iconic footballer, Johan Cruyff. As part of the ongoing edition of Holland Meets Mumbai, Lillianne Ploumen, minister for Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation, will inaugurate the turf.

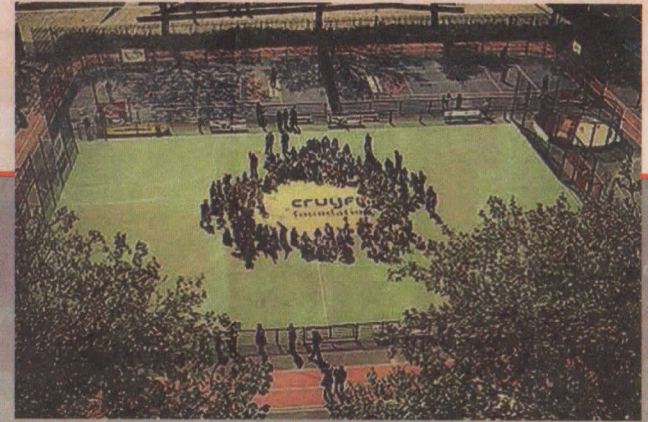
Niels Meijer, director of the Cruyff Foundation says, "The Cruyff Court is a result of the economic collaboration between the Mayors of the City of Amsterdam and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The Cruyff Court in Mumbai fulfills the desire to give back to the community and the corporate social responsibility aspect of this economic collaboration. Indian and Dutch companies, together with the City

of Amsterdam and the Johan Cruyff Foundation have raised funds to make the build of the Cruyff Court possible."

Adjacent to the St Xavier's Football Ground, the turf comprises a 20m x 30m pitch with a blue fence and orange goals and will be open on all days of the week. When asked about the reason to open such a turf, Meijer reasoned, "This court is a sport facility where children get the opportunity to play not just football, but also field hockey or any other sport. Having said that, football is a developing sport in India and all development starts at a grassroots level, where we believe children should have the possibility to play freely and safely. The 200 Cruyff Courts across the world have given thousands of children the opportunity to become active, play sports and develop their football skills."

**TIME** 7 am to 7 pm (daily)

**AT** Cruyff Court, next to St Xaviers Football Ground, Parel.



A bird's eye view of one of the international Cruyff Courts

## Also catch

**ART:** Dro by The Black Tulip art exhibition by Lita Cabellut, which is a tribute to the Dutch golden age.

**FROM** June 6-20 **AT** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Fort.

**FOOD:** Indulge in Dutch apple tarts and waffles, Stampott made out of mashed potatoes, chopped kale and carrots as well as Heksenkaas (a flavoured cream cheese or sandwich spread).

**TILL** June 6 (10.30 am to 10 pm) **AT** Foodhall, Level 3, Palladium, Lower Parel (W).

**MUSIC:** Enjoy performances by Jelle B and Rhinosax.

**ON** June 5 and June 6 **AT** Holland Village, Cross Maidan, Mahatma Gandhi Road, New Marine Lines.

**FILM:** Enjoy film screenings of Mister Twister: Class Of Fun, Soof and Uncle Hank. **ON** June 6, 4 pm onwards **AT** Little Theatre, NCPA, Nariman Point. **ENTRY** Free (on first-come-first-served basis)

**HOCKEY:** Sign up for free hockey master classes held by ex-Dutch hockey players like Floris Jan Bovelanders, Robert Tigges, and Wouter Jolie, among others.

**FROM** June 5 to June 7 **AT** Cross Maidan Gardens.

**EMAIL** hollandmeetsmumbai15@gmail.com (registration compulsory)

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Pd: Cruyff Court, Mumbai  
JUN 2015