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PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS' CHIEF EXECUTIVE DAVID GILL AND AIFF PRESIDENT PRAFUL PATEL FORMALLY LAUNCH THE PROJECT AT COOPERAGE

# Man United to open Soccer School in city

DNA Correspondent • MUMBAI

The popularity of European football has induced a number of their big clubs to target the Indian market over the years. The English giants Manchester United have decided to make their presence felt in a big way by launching a Soccer School in the city. The Premier League club, in association with Western India Football Association (WIFA), announced the launch of the non-residential coaching programme for children between the ages of eight and 17 years at the

Cooperage ground on Thursday.

The launch was attended by David Gill, CEO Manchester United, who had come to the country especially for the event, as well as some top officials of Indian football like AIFF & WIFA president Praful Patel, AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and WIFA CEO Henry Menezes.

Patel said, "Football has been traditionally strong in certain pockets such as West Bengal, Goa, Kerala and Maharashtra but the sport will have to be played throughout the country before the country becomes a force at the international stage.



Manchester United CEO David Gill (C), AIFF and WIFA president Praful Patel and WIFA CEO Henry Menezes at Cooperage football ground on Thursday —Rajendra Gawankar DNA

## Shot in the arm

Manchester United Soccer Schools will be based at the Cooperage football ground

It will provide skills developing programme for children between the ages of eight and 17

WIFA and the Soccer School will provide an annual scholarship to 100 youngsters and 100 coaches, who will be selected from talent identification drives across the state

"In order to achieve down approach we have to have a good the grassroots. And like these — clubs like United providing us expertise in order to will help us create the FIFA president Sepp had once told me that tions are crucial to ture of football."

Gill said, "The success of our initiatives. How be able to spread in of the country in the