

# Tech turf for GenZ

Green ground, international standards and more — budding players of The Newtown School get a new football complex to chase their dream...

A hi-tech football complex was thrown open to students of The Newtown School a year into its journey.

Ace cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar inaugurated the football complex. His message for the budding footballers was, "Watch good football and improve your skills. Take the fun out of the game and put your best foot forward in it."

Joydeep Karmakar, renowned rifle shooter and Olympian, Darryl Duffy, Mohun Bagan player, Malsawmtluanga Shylo, former East Bengal football player, and Kalyan Choubey, former Mohun Bagan goalkeeper, were also present on the occasion.

Sunil Agarwal and Sanjay Kumar Khemka, founder directors of the school, believe the new field creates an "international eco-system for sports" on the school campus. The football ground, spread over 14,000 square feet and a playable area of 9,000 square feet, complies with the size specified by Fifa for a six-a-side football match.

Powerful lights along a six-metre fence around the ground make it possible for the students to play the game even after sunset. The seating arena accommodates nearly 250 spectators during a match.

Thirty students of the school have already opted for football. Bobby Donald Gabriel, physical education teacher and football coach, said, "Prior to the inauguration of the football complex, students would share the basketball court to play football."

Post inauguration, Manjrekar dribbled a ball and greeted students from Don Bosco, Park Circus, and St. Lawrence High School, who played a nail-biting match. The latter thrashed their opponents 3-1.



The school building shows that the authorities try their best to make the students familiar with modern technologies. The football complex is not an exception. I want the school to also have a cricket pitch equipped with cutting-edge technology.

— **Sanjay Manjrekar**  
Former cricketer

We've noticed that students mostly play cricket. So, we came up with the football complex to promote the game. We plan to tie up with an international football association for coaching.



— **Sunil Agarwal**  
Founder director of the school

It's easy to dream but it is difficult to fulfil the dream. Our dream has come true. We are happy that students from two leading city schools played the maiden match here.



— **Satabdi Goswami Bhattacharjee**, principal

Playing on this new field was comfortable and I didn't hurt myself after falling down. Simply walking on the ground got me excited. The Newtown School students are really fortunate.



— **Ronald William**  
Class X, St. Lawrence High School and captain of the winning team

Nowadays, many students choose sports as a career. I was excited about the football ground right from the day the construction began. It meets international standards and can help us do well.



— **Aditya Vardhan Kedia**  
Class VIII and head boy, The Newtown School

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