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The senior Pune FC team figures in the second division of the I-League and the club has a vibrant junior programme too. Rohan stressed that they would be striving to do well to earn promotion to the premier division, “which means we would be competing with clubs like Mohamadean Sporting and East Bengal.”

Cricket ranks notwithstanding, football is the fastest growing sport in India in terms of appreciation. “Football is increasingly looked at as the negatives and positives,” Rohan pointed out. “The infrastructure for domestic football needs improvement. Though grounds are not conducive to good football, we keep producing footballers much to the credit of the players. But things are looking up and with a lot of kids taking to the sport. India has become a big football market. This is not what I feel, but what the world feels. You had Bayern Munich playing here recently and there’s talk of Manchester United coming over,” said Rohan.

Next, next time you see Rohan Gavaskar whizzing past on the expressway, you would know what brought about his presence. Some like to call it the Beautiful Game.

The infrastructure for domestic football needs improvement. Though grounds are not conducive to good football, we keep producing footballers

— Rohan Gavaskar

Supportive dad Rohan had the complete support of his batting genius father Sunil for the Pune FC project. “He was excited when I told him about our plans. He knows how passionate I am about football,” Rohan said. Rohan is a Manchester United fan, but it is not easy being one, especially when your partners are all Liverpool supporters. “There is big club rivalry within the club. It’s crazy when it’s United vs Liverpool,” Rohan said.