

# East Bengal seek govt intervention over ISL 'step-motherly treatment', 'refugees club' tag

**PTI, KOLKATA:** Alleging 'step-motherly treatment' by the Indian Super League organisers, century-old East Bengal club has sought Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's intervention, claiming that systemic bias, the outdated 'refugees club' tag, and refereeing controversies have stalled their progress in the top-tier football competition.

The incident occurred during the 'Kolkata Derby' in Guwahati on Saturday where East Bengal lost to arch-rivals Mohun Bagan by a solitary goal.

The club claimed the match was marred by biased officiating, including the denial of a clear penalty and a controversial yellow card issued to midfielder Souvik Chakrabarti, which led to his red card and team being reduced 10 players.

In an emotional plea to the sports minister, East Bengal highlighted

how the 'refugees club' tag has led to their ongoing marginalisation in Indian football.

"Fight, Fight and Fight -- this has been the perennial motto of East Bengal club for the last 150 years. This club and its supporters have endured the tumultuous period pre and post-partition only through its fighting spirit.

"While the displaced people fought tooth and nail for their substance, the club had to fight the stigma and the tag of a 'Refugees Club' to establish itself as the leading football club of the country," East Bengal general secretary Rupak Saha wrote in a statement.

"We are surprised that even 75 years after independence, we are in a situation where East Bengal Club has been victimised in almost every match of the ISL.

"We are forced to think why all this is happening to us it is because

we are still considered the 'Refugees Club'. Throughout the last 10-12 years, we had to bear the brunt of biased refereeing, be it in the I-League and more so in the ISL.

"During this period, we must have sent close to 50 complaint letters to all the concerned authorities but to no avail and the standard of refereeing has only gone from bad to worse to the worst.

"Even in the last ISL derby on January 11, we were denied a genuine penalty and one of our vital players, Souvik Chakrabarti, was unnecessarily shown a first yellow, which paved the way for a red card and suspension in the 2nd half."

Saha alleged that those who run Indian football establishment do not want the red and gold brigade to shine.

"It is now crystal clear that the powers that be would never allow us to flourish and prosper in the

ISL. It is pertinent to mention here that our only two victories over our arch-rivals in the last 5 years have both been in non-ISL tournaments - the Durand Cup and the Super Cup.

"The step-motherly treatment in ISL has made us wonder whether the ISL is still being run in the spirit of one city, one club with which it was envisaged originally."

Calling for government intervention, it further states: "Football has always been the key unifier of people. It's a simple sport which, by its nature, is inclusive. Football as a game has always broken the barriers between the rich and the poor, colour, caste, religion and creed.

"We would soon be seeking an appointment with the Honourable Union Sports Minister to appraise him of the sorry state of affairs in Indian football and demand his intervention," it concluded.

## Clube de Salgaocar outclass Calangute Association

**Team Herald**  
sports@herald-goa.com

**MAPUSA:** Newcomers Clube de Salgaocar triumphed over Calangute Association SC with a commanding 3-0 victory, in the Goa Professional League match, held at Duler Stadium, on Wednesday.

Both teams were playing their eleventh league match, with Clube de Salgaocar moving to 21 points on the table, while Calangute Association remained at 10 points.

Denil Rebello opened the scoring for Salgaocar, with Isac Zomuanpuia netting a brace to seal the win.

Clube de Salgaocar dominated proceedings from the outset but found the net only in stoppage time of the first half. Denil Rebello produced a brilliant diving header from Omang Gaikwad's precise cross from the left flank, giving his team a 1-0 lead.

Earlier in the match, Isac Zomuanpuia came close to scoring, with a rasping

### GOA PRO LEAGUE

shot that sailed inches over the crossbar, while skipper Pratesh Shirodkar's powerful strike was cleared off the line by Calangute defender Sanjay Venguelekar after the goalkeeper had been beaten.

Salgaocar continued their relentless attack in the second half and added two more goals.

Despite showing flashes of brilliance, Calangute's forwards struggled to breach

Salgaocar's disciplined defence and were given little room to manoeuvre.

Isac Zomuanpuia, who missed a couple of chances in the first half, redeemed himself by scoring twice in quick succession. Both goals were set up by skipper Pratesh Shirodkar, whose perfectly floated passes in the 69th and 72nd minutes were expertly controlled by Isac. On both occasions, Isac dribbled past Calangute goalkeeper Akash Singh and finished with clinical precision to make it 3-0.

## Mohammedan SC hold Chennaiyin

**AGENCIES, KOLKATA:** Mohammedan SC came from behind to hold Chennaiyin FC to a 2-2 draw at the Kishore Bharati Stadium in Kolkata in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season, on Wednesday.

### ISL

Laldinpuia Pachua opened the scoring for Chennaiyin FC in the 10th minute before Lukas Brambilla doubled the lead in the 49th minute. Manvir Singh brought Mohammedan SC back into the game in added time (90+5') before Remsanga found the equaliser (90+12') late in the game. However, Connor Shields with two sensational assists, now leads the assists charts this season (8).

**TODAY'S FIXTURE**  
Punjab FC vs Mumbai City FC, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, at 7.30 pm

## SC Davorlim storm into semis

**RAIA:** Sporting Club of Davorlim defeated a youthful Santa Cruz Society of Poitomado, 4-1, to secure a place in the semi-finals of the Cavellossim Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament, organised by Santa Cruz Club of Cavellossim and played at Fr Druston and Wellington ground.

In the 21st minute, William Niassounleashed a curling shot that beat goalkeeper Franay Velip, giving Davorlim a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, Niasso's cross found an unmarked Neville Mascarenhas, whose pinpoint header doubled the lead. A powerful long-range strike by Milton Colaco made it 3-0 after a fumble by the Poitomado goalkeeper.

Substitute Shankar Gaunder pulled one back for Poitomado, but Milton Colaco sealed the win with a late goal, completing a 4-1 rout. Davorlim will face Navelim Villagers Union in the semi-finals on January 17.

Neville Mascarenhas of Davorlim was awarded the man-of-the-Match by Amit Malhotra.

## Fr Agnelo YSC Paroda advance into finals

**RAIA:** Hosts Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, secured their place in the finals after defeating Navelim Villagers Union, 7-6, in a tense tie-breaker, during the Fr Agnelo YSC soccer tournament, on Wednesday.

The match showcased an attacking and fast-paced brand of football, with both teams locked in a 1-1 draw at the interval.

Savio Vales opened the scoring for Fr Agnelo YSC in the 12th minute, giving the hosts an early lead. However, Navelim Villagers Union responded in the 24th minute when Nash Pereira equalised with a well-taken goal.

In the decisive tie-breaker, Fr Agnelo YSC converted their penalties through Omkar Gaonkar, Alister Menezes, Livon Clement, Prinson Costa, Praves Borkar and Dalson Fernandes. Navelim Villagers Union also showed composure, with successful strikes from Nash Pereira, Noah Luis, Terrance Miranda, Aden Pereira and Meliston Dias.

The thrilling encounter culminated in a sudden-death shootout, where Fr Agnelo YSC Paroda clinched the victory, earning their spot in the final.

## Bidesh XI win over Dunes SC

**MAPUSA:** Bidesh XI registered a fluent 3-1 win over Dunes SC, in the GFA's Second Division league, Bardez Zone, played at Parra ground, on Wednesday.

Bidesh XI fired the goals through Gaurish Bugde, Durgesh Mandrekar and Krish Naroji, while Myson Britto scored for Dunes SC.

### TODAY'S SPORTS

**Reliance Foundation Development League (Group stage) - Goa Leg:** FC Goa vs Dempo SC, at Duler stadium, Mapusa, at 8.30 am

**Goa Professional League:** Pax of Nagoa SC vs Churchill Brothers SC, at Nagoa ground, at 3.45 pm; Panjim Footballers vs Sesa FA, at Duler stadium, Mapusa, at 3.45 pm

**GFA 2nd Div League (Bardez zone):** Goan Warriors FC vs Vagator Parish Youth SC, at Vagator ground, at 3.45 pm

**Ilhas zone:** Amaravati SC vs Portais SC, at Agassaim ground, at 3.45 pm; Nauxim SC vs Agassaim Youth Club, at Taleigao ground, at 3.45 pm

**Fernando Branches Memorial Trophy:** Curtorim Gymkhana vs Guardian Angel Sports Club, at Verna Panchayat ground, at 4.30 pm

**Cavellossim Panchayat Cup (semi-final):** Santa Cruz Club of Cavellossim vs Uguem Rising Club, at Fr Druston and Wellington ground Cavellossim, at 4.30 pm

**STANDING OVATION EVERYWHERE WITH DIALOGUES SCRIPT. RIB TICKLING COMEDY BY SUPREMO HUMBERT. GOOD MORAL SONGS.**

**ONLY ONE SHOW IN MARGAO**

**TOMORROW**

**17<sup>TH</sup> JAN - 3.30 P.M.**

**PAI HALL MARGAO**

**16/01-7.30 P.M. - BORIM**

**THE KING OF TRIPLE CENTURY MEMORIAL ANNUAL KING OF PATAK SONGS**

**NIMANNEA VELLAR**

**MUSIC BY: ROMAN FERNANDES. TICKETS: 500/1000/1500**

**CONTACT: 9822583218**

Galaxy Assolna, 9823244657

**SUNDAY**

**19<sup>th</sup> JAN. 3:30PM**

**PAI HALL MARGAO**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER**

**ACE COMEDIAN Sally**

**TANCHEM CHINTAT**

**WRI & DIR: COMA SALLY**

**CONT: 9822148953 / 9552666320**

**SUPER HIT SHOW IT'S A FAMILY SHOW**

**BY PUBLIC DEMAND - 3<sup>RD</sup> REPEAT SHOW**

**19<sup>TH</sup> JAN - SUNDAY - 10:30 AM**

**PAI HALL MARGAO**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER**

**AL-RIYA PRODUCTION**

**ROMA FERNANDES**

**ST. JUSEPHE, JAMES DE ANTONIO, PABLO, ANA, ANTON, DAKOTA APLO POLSCHKE**

**PANVDE NASLEEM GHOR**

**WRI & DIR: ROMA FERNANDES**

**MUSIC BY: NOLVERT COTA & ARIF THE GREAT**

**CONTACT: 8669384011 / 9689875727**

Galaxy Assolna, 9823244657

**Konkani Kala Kendr**

**Merxe - Goy**

**Today**

**Celebrating Opinion Poll Day as Goyche Osmityecho Dis**

**in memory of Dr. Jack De Sequeira, Father of Opinion Poll of Goa - 1967**

**Musical Show by Pio Agnelo and Troupe**

**Sound by: Messi Santa Cruz**

**Stage Set-up: Albi Events, Mercos**

**Music by Nolvart and Melroy**

**Organising Free Konkani Musical Show**

**UGDDASACHI SANZ**

**Chief Guest: Fr. Kevin D. Fernandes (Asst. Parish Priest, Our Lady of Mercos Church)**

**Special Invitee: Fr. Pio Furtado (Headmaster, Pilar High School)**

**Date:- 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm sharp upto 9.00pm**

**Venue:- Mercos Church Square, Mercos - Goa**

**Event Co-ordinator: Robert Rodrigues**

**Paul Fernandes (Secretary)**

**Mathew D'Souza (Treasurer)**

**Sebastiao Fernandes (President)**

**Com. Luis Bachan**

**Com. Brian**

**Compere Avito Pires de Menezes**