

Stars missing as 38th National Games begin today

'Mauli', inspired by Uttarakhand's State bird 'Monal', is the Games mascot, symbolising the region's unique natural beauty, diversity and cultural heritage

PTI, DEHRADUN: Most of the established stars will be missing in action but thousands of other athletes, including the up and coming ones, will get the platform to make a mark in 32 disciplines when the 38th National Games, spread over seven venues in the hill state, begin here on Tuesday with the official opening ceremony.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will declare the Games open at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium here to kick-start the 18-day national showpiece, which will see participation of around 10,000 athletes and officials from 38 teams.

In terms of sheer number of athletes, the event is among the biggest in the world, though its relevance in the country's interna-

tional success has been debatable. This time, the Games will be held in seven cities of Uttarakhand with Dehradun being the main venue.

The other venues of the Games, which will continue till February 14, are Haridwar, Nainital, Haldwani, Rudrapur, Shivpuri and New Tehri.

The last edition in Goa in 2023 saw competitions being held in five cities.

Hosting the National Game holds a special significance for Uttarakhand as the state is celebrating the 25th year of its creation.

'Mauli', inspired by Uttarakhand's state bird 'Monal', is the Games mascot, symbolising the region's unique natural

beauty, diversity and cultural heritage.

The Games will feature all the top Olympic sports like athletics, swimming, shooting, wrestling, badminton, hockey, boxing,



weightlifting, football, tennis and table tennis. Alongside, some traditional games like kabaddi and kho kho will also be making an appearance.

Four sports -- kalaripayattu, yogasana, malakhambh and rafting -- will be demonstration (non-medal) sports.

Except for shooting, a major Olympic sport, most of the top stars in other disciplines are skipping the National Games due to various reasons.

All the shooters, who competed in the Paris Games last year, with the exception of double-medallist Manu Bhaker and Esha Singh, are set to be seen in action in the National Games.

Swapnil Kusale, Sarabjot Singh and Vijay Kumar will be among the Olympic medallists in action while former air rifle world champion Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil will represent his home state of Maharashtra.

In total, 364 shooters will represent 29 teams at the National Games, making shooting the star attraction of the Games.

World Champion and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain and national record holder in 100m hurdles Jyoti Yarraji are among the other big names who will compete at the Games.

However, top track and field athletes, including double Olympic-medallist Neeraj Chopra, are set to miss the Games as it's early in the season and they need to peak during the World Championships in Japan in September.

Maharashtra topped the medals tally in the last edition held in Goa in 2023, and they have named a huge athletes' contingent of over 600, hoping to retain the top spot this time as well.

Liston on target as Mohun Bagan SG extend lead atop

Colaco's sensational volley in 74th minute helped hosts bag 3 points from crucial clash; MBSG take 7-point lead

ISL MEDIA



Mohun Bagan Super Giant's Liston Colaco and Subhashish Bose vie for the ball against Bengaluru FC's Nikhil Poojary at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium, Kolkata, on Monday

PTI, KOLKATA: Mohun Bagan Super Giant edged out Bengaluru FC 1-0 to extend their lead at the top of the Indian Super League points table, here, on Monday.

It was an extremely cagey affair with both teams not getting enough openings in front of the goal.

However, Liston Colaco's sensational volley in the 74th minute helped the hosts bag all three points from the crucial clash.

With this win, the Mariners have taken a seven-point lead (40) over FC Goa (33), who have played a game less (17) than the Mariners (18).

Bengaluru FC looked the brighter side going forward with their quick passes in an attempt to unlock the Mariners' backline.

The hosts opted for a route one approach with the forwards aiming to hold the ball up the field, allowing Colaco and Manvir Singh to make runs down the flanks. The game's first chance

fell to Bengaluru FC in the 28th minute when Alberto Noguera released Ryan Williams with a brilliant ball from midfield. The Australian hammered it towards goal but Vishal Kaith had it covered all along.

In the 35th minute, Greg Stewart had a brilliant opening for the Mariners but the Scottish midfielder handled the ball in the box before taking his goal attempt.

Right at the stroke of half-time, Sunil Chhetri had the best chance of the first half when he combined with Noguera before waltzing his way past three Mohun Bagan defenders in the penalty area.

However, with only the goalkeeper to beat, the 40-year-old's eventual effort struck the side netting.

The second half started with Mohun Bagan pushing for the goal. Firstly, Manvir delivered a telling cross across the goal intending to find Jamie Maclaren. However, Rahul Bheke cleared away the danger.

In the 74th minute, the home team eventually broke the deadlock courtesy of a goal from Colaco from outside the box. The attack was initiated by Stewart's cross which Bheke headed away.

However, Colaco was in the correct spot to latch onto the stray ball before cannoning it into the top left corner leaving Gurpreet off-guard in goal.

Now, Mohun Bagan Super Giant will lock horns against Mohammedan SC on February 1, whereas Bengaluru FC will travel to New Delhi to face Punjab FC on the same day.

RESULT
Mohun Bagan SG 1 (Liston Colaco 74') Bengaluru FC 0

ISL FIXTURE
Punjab FC vs Jamshedpur FC, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, 7.30 pm



The Goa shooting team consisting - ace shooter Yash Padloskar, Aditya Sawant, Schneider Colaco, Omkar Prabhudesai, Abhinav Kamble and Vedanti Chevli, trained under guidance of coach Bhageshri Yogeshwar Padloskar along with Sports Minister Govind Gaude and other officials

Goa football team all geared up to put up good show

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MAPUSA: Goa football team led by Head Coach Charles Dias (Sesa FA), assistant coach Levino Anthony Pereira (Sporting Clube de Goa - Head of Youth Development), Manager Custodio Fernandes (GFA's Executive Member and Goalkeeper Coach Jason D'Mello have worked out tirelessly with the team to put up a good show for the 38th National Games scheduled at Uttarakhand, at Navelim ground, recently.

In the last National Games held in the State, the team failed to enter the knock out stage.

Speaking to **O Herald**, Head Coach Charles, under whose leadership Goa had secured runners-up spot having lost to Services at the

HERALD PIC



Head Coach Carles Dias gives instructions to his players during a training session at Navelim ground

recently concluded Santosh Trophy, said, "His team is a mixture

SQUAD
Sanji Bugde, Mackenzie Fernandes, Joseph Clemente, Sarineo Fernandes, Umang Gaikwad, Omkar Shetgaonkar, Clencio Pinto, Brian Faria, Faheez Mohammad, Clive Miranda, Kirtikesh Gadekar, Shridharnath Gawas, Denil Rebello, Chaitan Dabholkar, Akshat Hadkonkar, Prathmesh Gaonkar, Sachidanand Satelkar, Jobern Cardozo, Krishna Gawas, Myrick Hilario, Pushkar Prabhu, Mevan Dias. Team Manager Custodio Fernandes, Head Coach Charles Dias, Physiotherapist Saiel Naik, Goalkeeper Coach Jason D'Melo, Assistant Coach Levino Pereira

of young and old talent. But with little competitive experience, the players need to understand the style of play very quickly and also adjust to cold weather conditions and about the matches they are going to play. There are only 4 to 5 players in the squad from the last Santosh Trophy (2024)."

The Goa squad at present have played three practice matches

where they lost to Cortalim Villagers (1-0), drew with Geno FC (2-2) and defeated Vasco SC (2-1).

Charles, who is positive about the boys' preparation, said that the team will not disappoint Goans and return home with some good result.

Goa will play Assam, Mizoram and hosts Uttarakhand in the qualifying round.

Goa wushu team all set to make its mark at Games

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PANJIM: The Goa wushu team is all set to make its mark at the prestigious 38th National Games being held in Dehradun from January 28 to February 14. Representing Goa are talented athletes Siya Pednekar, Nurjohoon Ahmed, Janiwa Fernandes, and Junita Ekka, under the able guidance of their coach, Jorvalinn Fernandes.

Adding to Goa's pride, Paulo Killman Fernandes has

HERALD PIC



been appointed as the official representative for the sport of Wushu at the Games.

The Association of Goa Wushu has expressed confidence in the team's preparation and determination to deliver stellar performances at this esteemed The Goa wushu team's participation underlines the growing recognition of the sport and the talent emerging from the State.

The entire Goan community wishes the team and officials the very best for the Games.

GOA returns grant-in-aid cheque to SAG

Says amount sanctioned was much less to the proposed expenses

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PANJIM: The Goa Olympic Association (GOA) has returned back to Sports Authority of Goa (SAG), the cheque of Rs 25.25 lakh issued towards grant-in-aid for the 38th National Games to be held at Uttarakhand, pointing out that the amount sanctioned was much less to the proposed expenses.

The association in its letter to the Executive Director of SAG said that they are returning the cheque issued towards participation grant-in-aid for the 38th National Games as 80 per cent grant-in-aid for athletes and coaches.

The association said that the step has been taken after detailed review of financial support approved by the SAG, which falls short of requirements and benchmarks set in previous editions of National Games held in Goa and Gujarat.

The GOA returned the cheque issued by the SAG towards the participation of Goan athletes in the upcoming 38th National Games. This step has been taken after a detailed review of the financial support approved by the SAG, which falls short of the requirements and benchmarks set in previous editions of the National Games held in Goa and Gujarat.

According to GOA General Secretary Gurudatt Bhakta, the association had estimated an amount of Rs 7,200 per player to cover 3-tier AC train fares, a standard that ensures athletes travel comfortably and arrive in optimal condition to compete. However, the SAG's approval of Rs 6,000 per player falls short of this expectation, adding unnecessary financial strain on the participants. The TA and DA were decided based on what they received in the last two games. The Rs 500 was cleared by the Chief Minister during the games in Gujarat and now in these games it has been reduced to Rs 300.

Speaking to **O Herald**, Executive Director of SAG Dr Geeta Nagvekar, "I have seen the reasons for this action and will resubmit the file to the government to consider the matter. The Assistant Director (Programmes) has gone to Uttarakhand for the Games and will be back by the January 30 and by Monday, I will resubmit the file."

Few days back Sports Minister Govind Gaude had rebuked the sports associations in the State for allegedly not submitting the utilisation certificates of the funds released to them for 37th National Games, which were held in Goa in 2023.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Reliance Foundation Development League (Group Stage) - Goa leg: RF Young Champs vs Sesa FA, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 8.30 am. Mumbai City FC vs Dempo SC, at Guirim ground, 3.45 pm. MH Oranje FC vs FC Goa, at Sirsaim ground, 3.45 pm

GFA Vedanta Women's League: Patrong SC vs Maina SC, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 3.30 pm. Sesa FA vs Livlavs Sporting Association, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 6.30 pm

GFA Division II League (Bardez Zone): Benny XI SC vs Vagator Parish Youth Sports Club, at Vagator ground, 3.45 pm

1st Vauradeancho Ixtt Trophy (inaugural): USC Seraulim vs Wilred Leisure, Curtorim, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm. **Exhibition football match:** Pillars Fathers XI vs Curtorim XI, 3.45 pm

17th All Goa Inter-Village Seraulim Panchayat Cup football: United Club of Verma vs Carmona SC, at the Seraulim panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

Ambelil Sports Club inter-village Lourdes Soccer: PY Nuvem vs Navelim Sporting, at Ambelil ground, at 4.30 pm

Sanket scores brace in Sangolda Lightning win

Aster 'tricks for UYC Bogmalo; Vasco City SCC, BITS Pilani FC share spoils

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MAPUSA/RAIA: Sangolda Lightning SC drubbed Dunes SC, Mandrem, 4-0, in the Goa Football Association's Division II League match played at Parra ground, on Monday.

It was almost one-sided encounter where Sangolda Lightning went into the breather with a goal scored by Mohit Kankonkar in the 22nd minute of play with a neat placement, 1-0.

GFA DIV II LEAGUE

On crossing ends, Sanket Gaude netted a brace, while Gaurav Kavlekar added his name to the scorer's list.

In another match, United Youth Club of Bogmalo thrashed Mormugao United CSC 4-0 to register a win in the match played at Cansaulim sports complex ground.

Aster Thanamthara scored a hat-trick, while Ivan Fernandes was the

other scorer for UYC Bogmalo.

The match between Vasco City SCC and BITS Pilani FC ended in a 2-2 draw. Chandrakant Shedd and Sunar Bharat Damar scored a goal each for Vasco City, while Jef Barreto and substitute Dwayne Pereira were the scorers for BITS Pilani.

KALA ACADEMY GOA
10th TIATR 'B' GROUP COMPETITION - (2024-25)
TODAY'S TIATR
AIZ MHAKA, FALEA TUKA
Jess Fernandes
Institution:
Ami Daizi, Fatorda
Venue:
Ravindra Bhavan, Margao
Time: 7.00 p.m.

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