

Nischal, Anil & Trijoy star as Churchill Bros regain top spot

The Red Machines have 22 points in their kitty from 11 matches with seven wins, one draw and three defeats

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RAIA: Churchill Brothers returned to winning ways as they thrashed Real Kashmir FC 3-1 in an I-League 2024-25 match to regain the top position in the table standings at the Raia ground, on Thursday.

The hosts delivered an assertive performance to move past Namdhari FC, with goals from Nischal Chandan, Anil Rama Gaonkar and Trijoy Savio Dias, while Paulo Cezar scored for the visiting Snow Leopards.

Churchill Brothers now have 22 points in their kitty from 11 matches with seven wins, one draw and three defeats. Real Kashmir remained in the fifth spot with 16 points from 11 matches.

Following a rather surprising defeat to Rajasthan FC in their previous fixture, Churchill Brothers, under the guidance of coach Dimitris Dimitriou, showed character and intent from the outset. They played in a dynamic style which was characterised by rapid, precise passing that consistently breached the Real Kashmir defence.

Real Kashmir, on the other hand, tried to disrupt Churchill Brothers' rhythm by slowing down the tempo but struggled to gain control over the pace of the encounter. Churchill Brothers dominated possession and

HERALD PIC



Churchill Brothers and Real Kashmir FC players in action at the Raia ground, on Thursday

effectively won midfield battles which also showed their determination to bounce back strongly.

The action started quickly with Churchill Brothers opening the scoring in the seventh minute. Chandan connected with a precisely delivered corner to head the ball past the Real Kashmir goalkeeper Mohamad Arbaz.

The first goal helped instill early momentum for the home side. And with wind in their sails, Churchill Brothers soon doubled their advantage in the 21st minute. Dias, after a swift move down the left

flank, cut back for Gaonkar, who made no mistake in finding the net despite Real Kashmir's desperate defensive efforts.

The visitors managed a brief comeback when they were awarded a penalty in the 25th minute after Chandan fouled Abdou Karim Samb in the area. Cezar took the responsibility and successfully converted the penalty, igniting hopes of a turnaround for Real Kashmir.

However, Churchill Brothers maintained their offensive pressure. They continually tested Arbaz under the crossbar,

who was instrumental in keeping the scoreline the same. The goalkeeper was also aided by the crossbar which denied Wayde Lekay twice in the second half.

Churchill Brothers finally killed off the game in the 79th minute from another set-piece. Lalremruata's corner found Dias, who rose highest in the crowd to head the ball into the net and ensure a critical victory.

RESULT

Churchill Brothers 3 (Nischal Chandan 7', Anil Rama Gaonkar 21', Trijoy Savio Dias 79')
Real Kashmir 1 (Paulo Cezar P, 25')

Korou scripts history as Kerala Blasters triumph

AGENCIES, CHENNAI: Kerala Blasters FC edged past Chennaiyin FC 3-1 in the Indian Super League match played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, on Thursday.

At 18 years and 58 days, Korou Singh entered the ISL history books as the second-youngest goal-scorer in the competition - only behind Komal Thatal who was 18 years and 43 days when he scored against Bengaluru FC in October 2018.

Apart from his heroics, this was also the first time the Kerala Blasters FC registered an away win against Chennaiyin FC in the competition. They took an early lead courtesy of goals from Jesus Jimenez and Korou. Later, Kwame Peprah scored the third strike in the second half to secure their seventh win of the ongoing season. Vincy Barretto's late goal for the hosts remained as a mere consolation.

Chennaiyin FC will face East Bengal FC on February 8, while Kerala Blasters FC will play Mohun Bagan Super Giant on February 15.

RESULT

Chennaiyin FC 1 (Vincy Barretto 90+1')
Kerala Blasters FC 3 (Jesus Jimenez 3', Korou Singh 45+3', Kwame Peprah 56').

ISL FIXTURE

Mumbai City FC vs East Bengal FC at the Mumbai Football Arena, Mumbai, at 7.30 pm

Goa go down fighting to Assam

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PANJIM/MAPUSA: Goa went down fighting to Assam by 3-2 margin in the opening Group A match of the 38th National Football Championship played at Indira Gandhi International Sports Complex, Haldwani, on Thursday.

NAT GAMES

The teams were locked in a 2-2 draw at the breather. Goa started earnestly and

were leading by two goals scored by Clencio Pinto.

However, Goa suffered a setback as Clencio suffered head injury and had to be taken to the hospital.

Assam came back strongly and not only equalised but scored the winning goal through Dey in the second half, 3-2.

In the next match, Uttarakhand and Mizoram were locked in a 1-1 draw.

Head coach Charles Dias said, "The team paid the price for poor defending. The team will have

to focus and get its act together for the match against Mizoram to be played on Friday."

He also said that the defence looked very tired in the last 10 minutes. The loss of Clencio was big for the team but there were other players who could take his place.

He said, "Clencio had been advised complete rest and would not say anything about him being part of the next game, saying the next 24 hours would be important."

FC Goa hold Sesa FA to 2-2 draw

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MAPUSA: FC Goa came from a goal down to hold Sesa FA to a 2-2 draw in the All India Football Federation U-17 League match played at Field of Dreams, Guirim, on Thursday.

The teams were locked in a 1-1 draw at the breather.

AIFF U-17 I-LEAGUE

Josley Gomes gave Young Guars the lead with a well-taken header from outside the 6-yard box, 1-0.

Just nine minutes later, Sesa FA hit back from a goalkeeping error saw Leo Sonam, Sesa FA's forward

score with a simple tap into the goal, 1-1

Sesa FA took the lead early in the second half with Aniket Terane running through the defence and placed the ball at the bottom corner of the goal, 2-1.

However, Tanish Simoe curled in a free-kick for the Guars to level the score 2-2 and share a point each.

Portais SC collect full points

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PANJIM: Portais Sporting Club registered a 5-1 win over Nauxim Sports Club in the Goa Football Association Division II League Ilhas Zone match played at Agassaim ground, on Thursday.

At half time, Portais Sporting Club were leading 1-0.

Aadarsh Mardolkar was the star for Portais SC scoring a brace, while Babash Shirvoikar. Rohit Mardolkar

GFA DIV II LEAGUE

and Mahendra Shirvoikar netted one each.

For Portais, Nitish Kunkalekar, Mukesh Kunkalekar, Babash Shirvoikar and Ayush Mardolkar were outstanding in defence, while Vishal Adkonkar, Antonio D'Costa and Rohit Mardolkar were excellent in the midfield.

For Nauxim Sports Club, Tushar Gurgaonkar scored

the lone goal and Sagar Pereira, Tejas Vernekar and Raj Mardolkar were outstanding for Nauxim Sports Club in the midfield.

Krishna Shirodkar was excellent under the crossbar as he saved two sure goals for Portais SC of Sagar Pereira and Raj Mardolkar's try.

With this win, Portais Sporting Club are placed second on the table standings, while Agacaim Youth Club are topping with 19 points.

GFA directs clubs to obtain new cards for players

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PANJIM: The Goa Football Association on Thursday announced that the revised private inter-village football tournament rules have come into force with effect from January 2025.

All the clubs should direct their players to obtain new inter-village cards by submitting an application form along with their old inter-village cards and following mandatory documents - birth certificate, passport copy or driving licence copy also accepted.

A copy of the ration card along with the original ration card (to be returned after verification) or a Residence Certificate from the Mamlatdar, the GFA stated in a press release.

The identity card issued by the Election Commission of India (election card) is compulsory. For players below the age of 18, identity card issued by the Election Commission of India (election card) of any of the parents/grandparents/siblings is to be produced. Players attaining 18 years of age will have to produce an election card issued by

the Election Commission of India within six months of attaining his/her 18th birthday and one recent coloured passport sized photograph, the release further stated.

The GFA mentioned that after verification of the above documents, it will take a minimum of five working days to issue a player's licence based on the address mentioned in the election card. The process to issue the new inter-village card will begin with immediate effect and the last date for the same is May 31.

HERALD PIC



Erich Mark D'Silva, who represented Goa Sub-Junior football team, is felicitated by chief guest Tiago Fernandes (Football Legend of Verna) during the final of Sao Minguel Festival Cup 2025 organised by Verna Sports Club, at Kings turf futsal ground, Verna, recently. In the men's exhibition match, Marc Caterers Veterans defeated Verna Veterans 4-2, while in the girls, Moonlanders girls outplayed Verna Sports Club by 3-1

Raia Sporting Club in last eight

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RAIA: Raia Sporting Club outplayed United Boys of Ambaulim 7-6 via tie-breaker to move into the quarter-finals of 1st Vauradencho Ixtt Trophy 2025 organised by Batora United, Curtorim, in association with Margao Sports Club, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, on Thursday.

Garrison Fernandes of Raia SC missed a chance to score in the 6th minute, while Alfino Fernandes of United Boys of Ambaulim missed a chance to score in the 10th minute.

At full time, the score re-



Chief guest Savio Vaz presents the man-of-the-match award to Jake Meideira of Raia Sporting Club.

mained goalless draw. In the resultant tie-breaker, Raia Sporting

Club proved to be better shooters.

Chief guest Savio Vaz presented the man-of-the-match award to Jake Meideira of Raia Sporting Club.

Fr Agnelo YSC in quarters

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RAIA: Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, downed Guardian Angel SC 2-0 to enter the quarter-finals of Lourdes Soccer organised by Ambelim SC, at Ambelim ground, on Thursday. Ashwan Fernando and Dolson D'Costa scored a goal each for Fr Agnelo YSC.

Vedanta Ultimate Badminton League concludes

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PANJIM: The Vedanta Ultimate Badminton League (UBL) came to a gripping conclusion after two days of electrifying matches and a showcase of stellar talent.

Organised by the Goa Sports Club and Goa Badminton Association, and proudly supported by Ve-



danta Sesa Goa 5th edition of the tournament cemented its place as a marquee event in Goa's sports calendar.

The final day featured two high-octane matches at the Peddem Indoor Stadium, Mapusa. The 3rd-place match saw Flying Gravity edge past Ace Raquetters in a nail-biting finish, clinching the victory at 150-148.

In an equally thrilling grand finale, Sparkling Stars outplayed Asher's Smashers with a narrow win of 150-147, lifting the championship trophy and etching their names in the league's history. Parth Joshi and Om Nandanwar of Sparkling Stars were named the "Pair of the Match" for their outstanding performance, which was instrumental in securing the championship title for their team.

The closing ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Manoj Patil, President of Goa Badminton Association; Narhar Thakur, Vice President of the Badminton Association of India; Mr. Praveen Shenoy, President of Goa Sports Club and Secretary of GBA; and executives from the title sponsors Vedanta Sesa Goa. Players from the top four teams were felicitated with medals, trophies, and mementos, and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh was awarded to the top-performing teams and owners.

Reflecting on the success of the event, Navin Jaju, CEO, Vedanta Sesa Goa, said, "Congratulations to all participants and organisers of the Vedanta UBL 2025. The League showcased the top Badminton talent in Goa. The high lev-

el of performance on display underscores the importance of providing our sportspersons the right platform and opportunity to hone their skills. We, at Vedanta Sesa Goa, are proud to have supported their sporting endeavours and to have contributed to the development of our sporting superstars."

Manoj Patil, President of Goa Badminton Association, remarked, "The Vedanta UBL has set a new benchmark in organising sporting events in Goa. The level of competition and enthusiasm displayed by the players has been phenomenal. This league is not just about competition; it's about nurturing talent and growing the sport in the state. We thank Vedanta Sesa Goa for their support, which has elevated the

tournament to unprecedented heights."

Narhar Thakur, Vice President of the Badminton Association of India, added, "The Vedanta UBL has become a shining example of how badminton leagues can encourage local talent and provide them with a competitive platform. Initiatives like these are crucial for the growth of badminton in India, and I am thrilled to see Goa emerging as a hub for the sport."

The league witnessed participation from six teams, comprising over 160 players, including 15 from outside Goa. With Vedanta Sesa Goa's support, the tournament has grown into an event that not only celebrates the spirit of badminton but also contributes to the holistic development of sports in the State.

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1st Feb 7.30pm

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