

sports **popup****Arunachal to host SAFF U-19 Championship**

**ITANAGAR:** Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded the hosting rights for the SAFF U-19 Championship, marking the State's first-ever international football tournament, which will take place at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia from May 8 to 17. The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF), comprising seven member nations -- India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- organises the annual youth competition to promote emerging football talent in the region. The 2025 edition will see six teams vying for the title. The allotment letter was officially handed over to Arunachal Pradesh Football Association (APFA) Secretary Kipa Ajay by All India Football Federation (AIFF) Secretary General Anil Prabhakaran. Further details regarding the participating teams, fixtures, and ticketing information will be announced in due course.

**Had 'fruitful' meet with I-League, IWL clubs over contentious issues: AIFF**

**NEW DELHI:** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Thursday claimed it had a "fruitful" meeting with owners and representatives of I-League and IWL clubs to discuss some contentious issues including broadcasting of matches and release of players for national duty. The club owners/representatives met with AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and his team of senior officials in the capital. Besides, Chaubey, AIFF Secretary General Anil Kumar, Treasurer Kipa Ajay and Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan were present in the meeting from the federation side. The meetings were attended by nine I-League and four IWL (Indian Women's League) clubs. The meeting discussed at length next season's fixtures, calendar, promotion of the leagues, broadcasting and release of national team men and women players for longer camps. After detailed discussion, the clubs and the AIFF unanimously agreed that all efforts should be made to enhance the standard of the I-League and the IWL and release of players for national duty, the federation said.

HERALD PIC



Dhaani Karishetty, Class IV student of Our Lady of the Rosary High School, Dona Paula, bagged three gold medals in the Sub-Junior Individual Event, 35kg weight category at the 3rd Open National Taekwondo Championship 2025 held in Pune

**Newcastle sweep aside Arsenal to reach League Cup final**

**NEWCASTLE:** Newcastle swept into the League Cup final for the second time in three seasons with a vibrant 2-0 win against Arsenal in the semi-final second leg on Wednesday. Eddie Howe's side took the lead through Jacob Murphy's first half strike at raucous St James' Park. Anthony Gordon sealed Newcastle's 4-0 aggregate victory as Arsenal paid the price for some unusually slack defending. Newcastle, who have beaten Arsenal three times this season, will face Liverpool or Tottenham in the final at Wembley on March 16. English League Cup results: Semi-finals: Newcastle 2 (Murphy 19, Gordon 52) Arsenal 0. Newcastle won 4-0 on aggregate. COPA DEL REY RESULT: Quarter-finals: Leganes 2 (Cruz 39-pen, 59) Real Madrid 3 (Modric 18, Endrick 25, Gonzalo 90+3). Atletico Madrid 5 (Simeone 8, 17, Lino 42, Correa 78, Sorloth 86) Getafe 0

**Real great Marcelo announces retirement**

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Former Real Madrid left-back Marcelo announced his retirement from professional football on Thursday after a trophy-laden career. The 36-year-old spent 16 years at Spanish giants Madrid, winning six La Liga titles and five Champions League trophies. "At 18, Real Madrid came knocking on my door and I arrived here," Marcelo said in a video posted on social media. "Now, I can proudly say that I am a true 'Madrideno'." "What a journey. Real Madrid is a unique club." He also won the Copa del Rey twice and the Club World Cup four times during his time with Los Blancos, for whom he made 546 appearances, scoring 38 goals. Marcelo made 58 appearances for the Brazil national team, playing at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups and winning the 2013 Confederations Cup. He was part of the teams that won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics and bronze in Beijing in 2008.

**Sunrisers to buy Yorkshire Hundred franchise for reported £100m**

**LONDON:** Indian Premier League side Sunrisers Hyderabad are set to become the first 100 percent owners of an English cricket Hundred franchise after agreeing to buy Yorkshire's Northern Superchargers for a reported £100 million (\$125 million). The Sun Group are the third investors into the eight-team Hundred from the IPL, following the Ambani family.

**Nuvem SC in last four**

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**RAIA:** Nuvem Sports Club march into semi-finals outplaying Guiridolim Club 2-1 in the 17th All Goa Inter-Village Seraulim Panchayat Cup football tournament organised by United Sports Club of Seraulim at Seraulim panchayat ground, on Thursday.

Nuvem SC scored their first goal through Shubert Colaco in the 29th minute of the first half when he smartly chipped the ball

over the outrushing goalkeeper under the Guiridolim crossbar.

At half time, Nuvem SC were leading 1-0.

Guiridolim Club equalised in the second half when Silton Peixoto scored from a close range in the 42nd minute to level the score, 1-1.

Nuvem SC bounced back and came with the winning goal through Inacio Colaco in the 52nd minute of play.

Moses D'Sa from Guiridolim Club was awarded the man-of-the-match by former footballer of USC Seraulim Pascoal Fernandes.

# Goa win bronze medal in beach volleyball

INACIO NORONHA



Bronze medalists Rama Dhawaskar and Nitin Sawant along with Pralhad Dhawaskar (Goa Police volleyball team coach) and Surya sawant (SAG coach)

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**PANJIM:** Goa bagged the bronze medal in beach volleyball championship at the ongoing 38th National Games, Uttarakhand, on Thursday.

In a tough and competitive match, the Goan team consisting Rama Dhawaskar and Nitin Sawant outplayed Telangana by fighting back after losing the first set 22-20. They won the next two sets 21-19, 15-13 to win the medal from the defending champions.

Post match, Coach Pralhad Dhawaskar said, "It was a very tough match with both the teams playing very well. It is great to have beaten the former champions. Our boys kept their nerve and won the match."

This result was due to the hard practice the team had undergone for 21 days in Panjim. We had three sessions with each session lasting 2.5 hours. The boys worked very hard."

Rama, the veteran player, who was also involved in the Gujarat Games, said that the match was tough but it was good.

He said, "We played the

**NATIONAL GAMES**

mind games. We lost the first set and decided to start attacking while taking care of our defence. We were nervous in the first set and then we attacked like I said. It caught them slightly off guard. By the time they recovered their posture we had won the second set.

In the third set we were confident. We were 10 all but from there we pushed ahead and won the match."

Nitin said, "It was very helpful to have somebody like Rama in your team. He guided me and changed the strategy based on the conditions of the match. Winning the medal is great. After losing the first set we changed the strategy and it helped us."

Irvin Soares, former president of the association said, "It is absolutely great our Goan team won a medal. I was hoping for the gold and silver. We have the beach which is given by nature and our talent and hard work did the rest. The boys can expect to get Rs 1 lakh each for the bronze medal from the State government."

## Churchill Bros look to regain top spot at home

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**PANJIM:** Hosts Churchill Brothers FC will face Gokulam Kerala, at Raia panchayat ground, at 3.30 pm.

The Red Machines will try their best to bank on home advantage to regain top position in the I-League table standings.

**I-LEAGUE PREVIEW**

In another match, Dempo Sports Club will be eager to bounce back when they take on Inter Kashi in an away fixture of the I-League 2024-25 at

**Dempo SC eager to bounce back**

Kalyani Stadium, West Bengal, on Friday, at 7 pm.

The Golden Eagles suffered a tough 0-4 defeat against Rajasthan United FC in their previous outing, where second-half goals from Gerard Artigas, Lucas Rodriguez, Naoba, and Alain Oyarzon sealed the win for their opponents. However, head coach Samir Naik remains confident in his squad's ability to turn things around.

Meanwhile, Inter Kashi will have the backing of their home crowd after edging

past Gokulam Kerala 3-2 in a closely contested encounter. Domi Berlanga's brace and a penalty from Nikola Stojanovic secured the victory, while Gokulam responded through Abhijith Kurungoden and Sinisa Stanisavic.

Addressing Dempo Sports Club's defensive performance, Naik brushed aside concerns despite the previous loss.

"Only in the last game, maybe some individual errors led to goals. Overall, if you look at the defensive aspect of the team, it's been great. So, there

are no issues defensively. The only challenge has been in the attacking areas. But I have full confidence in the boys. They are giving their best and creating chances," he asserted.

Looking ahead to the match, Naik emphasised the team's readiness. "It will be a similar game, I guess. The boys are pumped up and ready. I could see the positive vibes in the team this morning during training. There's a lot of positive energy. So, we are ready. I could see it. I could feel it. I could sense that positivity in the team," he signed off.

## Dempo SC, FC Goa win

**Sesa FA, RFYC share spoils in RFDL Zonal Group Stage Goa**

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**MAPUSA:** On the penultimate match day of Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) 2024-25 Zonal Group Stage in Goa, Dempo SC cruised past Mumbai City FC 3-0 to maintain their stance at the top of the standings, on Thursday.

**RELIANCE LEAGUE**

Second-placed FC Goa, too, kept up with their momentum with a resounding 4-1 win over Maharashtra Oranje FC.

Meanwhile, Sesa FA and Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) played out a 1-1 draw, at the Sirsaim ground.

For Dempo SC, Salgeo Dias scored a brace, while Shreyash Gajanan Naik also registered a goal to hand their side a convincing 3-0 victory at the Dul-

HERALD PIC



FC Goa and Maharashtra Oranje FC players vie for the ball during the Reliance Foundation Development League match

er Stadium, here.

FC Goa caught up close with the Golden Eagles, maintaining a one-point gap with a late win over Maharashtra Oranje FC.

Substitutes reigned supreme for the Gaurs as Vellington Fernandes, Lalthangliana and Jovial Dias all came off the bench to cancel out Pratham Ghatnur's opening strike for Maharashtra

Oranje FC and register a big victory at the FC Goa training ground, Guirim.

In the third match of the day at Sirsaim ground, Sesa FA shared points with Reliance Foundation Young Champs in a 1-1 draw as Thokchom Beckham Singh and Heikrujam Sanathoi Singh both got onto the scorer's sheet for the teams respectively.

## FC Goa secure 2-1 win to reignite top-2 race

ISL MEDIA

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**FATORDA:** FC Goa edged past Odisha FC 2-1 in the Indian Super League match played at the Nehru Stadium, here, on Thursday.

The Gaurs jumped to the second spot, replacing Jamshedpur FC (34), as a result of this triumph, having 36 points to their kitty. The Manolo Marquez-coached side took six shots on target as opposed to the two of Odisha FC, also making 15 interceptions vis-a-vis the seven by the juggernauts, reflecting their superiority in both ends of the field.

Odisha FC had a brilliant chance to take the lead on the back of a fantastic free-kick effort by Ahmed Jahouh, who was making his 150th ISL appearance, in the 28th minute.

Stepping up to lead the set-piece wide down the left flank, Jahouh's accuracy and the weight on the ball meant that his kick took the entire FC Goa backline by surprise. The ball rattled off the crossbar, but the home team quickly overturned this momentum with a patient build-up. FC Goa will play their next game against Mumbai City FC on February 12, whereas Odisha FC are set to feature against Punjab FC on February 10.

**RESULT**

**FC Goa 2 (Brisson Fernandes 29', Lalthangliana Khawhling OG 47')**

**Odisha FC 1 (Rahul KP 54')**

**ISL FIXTURE**

**NorthEast United FC vs Mumbai City FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Shillong, at 7.30 pm**



FC Goa's Brisson Fernandes dribbling with the ball against Odisha FC Thoiba Moirangthem and Mourtada Sergine Fall at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Thursday

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