

# FC Goa target a win to strengthen the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot

AGENCIES, NEW DELHI: FC Goa will face Punjab FC in the Indian Super League on February 27, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, here, at 7.30 pm.

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## ISL PREVIEW

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Punjab FC have garnered 24 points from 21 games and the scenarios that could see them qualify for

The Gaurs have 42 points in 21 games and are in promising form with four victories in their last five encounters. Their target would be to secure the second spot, currently leading the third-placed Jamshedpur FC (37) by five points, since a top-two finish guarantees a semi-final place

the playoffs are as follows.

The Panagiotis Dilmpieris-coached side needs to win all of their remaining encounters, and hope that NorthEast United FC lose their two matches or Mumbai City FC win no more than one point.

Punjab FC will also need Odisha FC and East Bengal FC to drop points in at least one of the games that they are to play now.

Punjab FC need to ensure that they have a superior goal difference to Kerala

Blasters FC and Chennaiyin FC, who can finish at the same points as them.

FC Goa have been unbeaten against Punjab FC in the ISL, winning twice in their last three matches including a 2-1 triumph in the reverse fixture earlier in the campaign.

A victorious outing here will equal their best-ever tally of four league doubles in a single ISL season, a feat they previously scaled in 2019-20 and 2023-24.

Punjab FC's struggles reflect in the fact that they

have not kept a clean sheet against FC Goa thus far.

FC Goa Head Coach Manolo Marquez outlined that his side has their eyes set on three points.

"We are targeting the three points. We need to be thinking only about the coming game, and we know that we need to win at least two games to be in the second position," he said.

Punjab FC Head Coach Panagiotis Dilmpieris said that his side will provide a formidable fight to the visiting Gaurs.

"Our players were really focused during the training session and they have understood everything pretty well. We will see a team that will be an equal opponent to FC Goa," he said.

# Sridora Caculo College, Don Bosco emerge men, women hockey champs

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PANJIM: Sridora Caculo College of Commerce and Management Studies, Mapusa, and Don Bosco College, Panjim, won the Men and Women Inter-Collegiate Hockey Championship 2024-25 organised by Goa University at Hockey Turf, Dayanand Bandodkar Krida Sankool, Peddem, recently.

In the well-contested hockey men's final, Sridora Caculo College downed Sant Sohrobanath Ambie's Government College of Arts and Commerce, Pernem, 3-0.

In the men's semi-final, Government College, Pernem, outsmarted Government College, Quepem, 4-1 and SV's Sridora Caculo College of Commerce and Management Studies, Mapusa, defeated St Xavier's College, 4-2.

In the well-contested hockey women's final, Don Bosco College, Panjim, outplayed St Xavier's College, Mapusa, 7-1.

In the women's semi-finals, St Xavier's College outplayed DM's College, Assagao, 2-1 and Don Bosco College, Panjim, defeated Rosary College, Navelim, 6-0.

In total 11 men and 4 women teams participated.

Best Player Men was awarded to Vivek Naik of Government College, Pernem, and Best Player Women was awarded to Pearl Almeida from Don Bosco College, Panjim.

Associate Prof Smriti Borkar, vice-principal of Sridora Caculo College, Mapusa, and guest of honour Victor Albuquerque, hockey coach, Sports Authority of Goa and Dr Clifton Fernandes, college director of physical education and sports, Nirmala Institute, Altinho-Panjim, and Dr Sam Braganza, college director of physical education and sports, Government College, Pernem, along with Balachandra Jadar, assistant director of physical education and sports, Goa University, presented medals and trophies to the winners and runners-up.

Sridora Caculo College Men's hockey team: Nishit Hegde, Mahadev Naik, Ab-



Winners Sridora Caculo College of Commerce and Management Studies, Mapusa



Runners-up Sant Sohrobanath Ambie's Government College of Arts and Commerce, Pernem



Winners Don Bosco College, Panjim



Runners-up St Xavier's College, Mapusa

## GOA UNIVERSITY MEN & WOMEN INTER-COLLEGIATE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

bas Khatib, Soum Naik, Shodhan Naik, Tushal Haldankar, Gaurav Shetgaonkar, Mukesh Naik, Manjunath Bangar, Vighnesh Phondekar, Maharsh Sawant, Sumit Shetgaonkar, Prashant Agharia, Prajal

Shet, Shubham Sharma, Suyesh Mayekar, Dilkash Aroskar, Sahil Khajnekar.

Don Bosco College Panjim women's hockey team: Chaitali Gawas, Shaina Almeida, Rhea Pires, Juella Fernandes, Diksha

Chawdhari, Prajakta Gaonkar, Nikita Naik, Blessita Rodrigues, Sushmita Jadhav, Aaroshi Govekar, Kunika Harmalkar, Rashi Halarnakar, Yukta Mahato, Anoshka Dsouza, Alpita Harishchandra Khedekar, Pearl Ruby de Almeida, Ridhi Rohidas Priolkar, Kalpita Velkaskar.



The newly elected President of Betalbatim Sporting Club Melvin Cota along with the new Executive Committee - Vice-President Pobres Pereira, General Secretary Franky Rogtao, Assistant General Secretary Bernard Ferrao, Treasurer Minino Cota, Assistant Treasurer Gustavo Afonso, Sports Secretary Steven Fernandes and Assistant Sport Secretary Milton

# Cricket: Vimson Panjim Powerplay crush Madgaon Royals' semis hopes

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MARGAO: Vimson Panjim Powerplay secured a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Ultracon Madgaon Royals, at Arlem cricket ground, ending the Royals' hopes of reaching the semi-finals of Sarsangan Super Series 2024-25.

Opting to bat first in a must-win match, Ultracon Madgaon Royals lost opener Megh Netravalkar for a duck in the first over. Captain Da-

modar Pai Patnekar (35) and Sarvesh Prabhugaonkar (28) stabilised the innings with a 41-run stand, followed by a crucial 54-run partnership between Damodar and Mahendra Audi (33), taking the score to 98 in the 11th over. However, the lower order collapsed, with six batsmen falling for single-digit scores, as the Royals were bowled out for 144.

For Vimson Panjim Powerplay, Raunak Nargundker and Vardhan Prabhu Misquin claimed two wickets

each, while Rasik Pai Khot, Vrushabh Kuncolienkar, Shardul Kenkre, Pranav Kamat, and Anurag Borker picked up one apiece.

To qualify for the semi-finals, the Royals needed to restrict Powerplay to 90 runs. However, their hopes were dashed as Vimson Panjim Powerplay comfortably chased the target, finishing on 145-3 in 16 overs.

Despite losing Mahendra Pai Kuchelkar (9) and Shiraj Pai Khot (17) early, a commanding knock from

Vardhan Prabhu Misquin (37), alongside contributions from Rasik Pai Khot (26) and Arsh Sardesai (40), ensured an easy win. Sanket Prabhudesai (6\*) and Pranav Kamat (5\*) remained unbeaten. Megh Netravalkar (2-21) was the only successful bowler for the Royals.

Individual awards: Man-of-the-Match: Vardhan Prabhu Misquin (Drogaria Colvalcar); Best batter: Arsh Sardesai (Priority Konstrukcs); Best bowler: Raunak Nargundker (Wakao).

# For Sesa FA Goalkeeper Ashika sky is the limit

## Puts up a brilliant performance at the recently concluded Goa Football Association-Vedanta Women's Football League

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MAPUSA: Sesa Football Academy Goalkeeper Ashika Gadekar put up a brilliant performance at the recently concluded Goa Football Association-Vedanta Women's Football League.

Goalkeeping task looks easy, if a goalkeeper brings numerous saves but commits a silly error and concedes a goal, all his/her heroics are forgotten if the team loses.

Twenty-three-old Ashika, hailing from Anjuna, holds Bachelor's Degree in Arts from St Xavier's College, Mapusa.

For Ashika, football has been an integral part of her life, as she had the privilege of representing the National team in the U-14, U-15, U-18 and the Senior National team. At the international level, she has represented India in the U-14 and U-15 categories in Nepal and Sri Lanka during the 2015-16 season.

Throughout her football career, she has played for various prestigious clubs, including Sesa Football Academy (two years), Tuem Football Club, Churchill Brothers FC, Kemp Football Club, Bidesh XI Sports Club, Panjim Footballers and Sporting Club de Goa.

Ashika has also played in the Indian Women's League (IWL) representing Panjim Footballers, Bidesh XI Sports Club, Churchill Brothers FC and Tuem Football Club (twice).

She also ventured into coaching, with three years of experience. As the head coach of



Peddem Bomm SC, she led the team to victory in the Goa Football Association Division III League, and is currently coaching at Revora.

Ashika's efforts have been recognised with two Golden Glove Awards - the first at GFA-Vedanta's Women's League in 2017 and the second in 2025. Additionally, she has the honour of representing Goa at the 35th National Games.

Speaking to O Herald O, her Head Coach Severino D'Souza, who has been coaching Sesa FA Women's team for the last two seasons had nothing but praises for Ashika.

"Ashika has always been punctual at practices or matches, guiding her team from the back. As senior member in the team, she encourages her team to give in the best," Severino stated.

"In the current 8th GFA-Vedanta Women's Football League, where Sesa FA were the champions, Ashika maintained six clean sheets and was instrumental in ensuring her team stay unbeaten in the entire tournament where eventually she was rewarded the best goalkeeper of the tournament," the coach added.

Ashika said, "All this would have not been possible without the guidance and support from my mentor Sandeep Sir, whose motivation has been a driving force in my journey. I am truly grateful for his presence in my life."

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- Ashika Gadekar, Sesa Football Academy goalkeeper

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- Severino D'Souza, head coach

## E Bengal keep play-offs dream alive

AGENCIES, KOLKATA: East Bengal FC downed Hyderabad FC 2-0 in the Indian Super League match played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kriangan Stadium, here, on Wednesday.

The Red and Gold Brigade have thus won thrice in a row for the first time in the ISL. Their two late goals came off only after couple of chances they took on target. East Bengal FC are now at the eighth spot with 27 points from 22 games.

**RESULT**  
East Bengal FC 2 (Manoj Mohammed OG 86', Raphael Messi Bouli 90+4') Hyderabad FC 0

## GOA DIARY

### Veterans football tournament at Fatorda from today

MARGAO: Goa Police will face Nuvem Veterans in the inaugural match of 10th all-Goa veterans football tournament organised by Fatorda Veterans from February 27, at Don Bosco ground, Fatorda. All together 12 teams are participating which include Siolim Veterans, Calangute Veterans, Vasco Veterans, Bardez Veterans, Murida-Fatorda Veterans, Football Mogi, Benaulim Veterans, Lavina Veterans, Mitra Veterans and hosts Fatorda Veterans. The winners will be richer by Rs 45,000 plus trophy and runners-up Rs 35,000 plus trophy. Final is slated for March 16.

## TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League (Religat League): Pax of Nagoa SC vs Guardian Angel SC, at Nagoa ground. Kick off 4 pm

10th All Goa Fatorda Veterans football (inaugural): Goa Police vs Nuvem Veterans, at Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, 4.30 pm

Vaidya Family Memorial Cup: Cuncolim Union vs Sporting Club of Davorlim, at Cuncolim ground, 4.45 pm

Mapusa. Vagator Parish Youth SC vs Vasco City SCC, at Guirim ground. Kick off 4 pm

## Fr Agnelo YSC lay hands on Lourdes Soccer Trophy

INACIO NORONHA



The winners along with Fr Clifford Cardoso, Fr Shawn D'Silva, Fr Camilo Dias and other dignitaries at Ambelim ground, recently

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RAIA: Reagan Costa's strike in the 14th minute helped Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, to clinch the Lourdes Soccer Trophy football tournament organised by Ambelim Sports Club, at Ambelim ground, recently.

The match watched by huge crowd saw both teams dishing good brand of football from the start.

In the 2nd minute, goalkeeper Prakash Joshi came to Maina Sports Club's rescue after he dived full length to put away Naresh Gaonkar's placement for a corner.

At the other end, Benju Clement effected a timely clearance after Joysten Rebello was well placed in the goal area. The play was mainly confined in the mid-

field. In the 14th minute, Reagan after dribbling past a couple of defenders coolly placed over onrushing goalkeeper, what turned out to be the match winner. Maina Sports Club went all out for the equaliser but Leevan and Clement in the Fr Agnelo YSC defence were outstanding.

Fr Clifford Cardoso and Fr Shawn D'Silva along with Fr Camilo Dias other dignitaries gave away the prizes.

Later, Benjamin Silva, proposed a vote of thanks.

## INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

Best goalkeeper: Pravesh Gaonkar

Best striker: Reagan Costa (Fr Agnelo YSC)

Best defender: Aliston Fernandes

Best midfielder: Milagres Fernandes (Maina SC)

## NEW KONKANI MOVIE



PANJIM SHOW  
28th Feb at ESG theatre at 6:30 pm  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE ESG COUNTER  
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