

State shuttlers surge ahead in qualification rounds

HERALD PIC



The players in action at the Peddem Indoor Stadium, Mapusa, on Sunday

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PANJIM: Local players excelled on the opening day with Sahil Bhutani and Mihir Desai securing a hard-fought victory in the Men's Doubles 35+ category overcoming Nikhil Mansukhani and Aditya Swami 15-12, 5-15, 18-16 in a gripping contest of the 47th Indian Masters National Badminton Championship 2025 qualification rounds at the Peddem Indoor Stadium, Mapusa, on Sunday.

In the Men's Doubles 45+ category, Goa's Parag Chauhan and Govind Navelkar dominated their match against Ananda Ku-

mar J and Ramesh Kumar Antony, winning comfortably 15-5, 15-10.

Another Goan pair, Arnaldo Rodrigues and Praveen Shenoy, also impressed, defeating Lenin Madhu and Anand NP 15-8, 15-9 to advance to the next round.

47TH INDIAN MASTERS NATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP

Among other vital results, Upendra Fadnis and former India international player Nikhil Kanitkar (MAH/RBI) showcased their class in the Men's Doubles 45+ category overcoming Madhu K and Amel Dev S 15-10, 15-11.

Fadnis later teamed

up with Anika Lele in the Mixed Doubles 45+ event registering a commanding 15-3, 15-6 win over Anurag Shukla and Diana Reuben.

The Men's Doubles 50+ category also witnessed exciting matches, with top players Amrishi Shinde and

Jaison Xavier defeating Nehru G and Elangeswaran P 15-11, 15-6, while Gurdeep Singh Arora and Manish Bhati battled past A Aravind and A Govindan-kutty Nambiar in a thrilling three-setter 13-15, 15-11, 15-12.

In the Mixed Doubles 40+

category, the duo of M Behal and R Ingalhalikar edged out Manish Rawat and Nupura Gadgil in a nail-biting match 15-13, 15-17, 16-14.

On Sunday, 504 matches were held across 18 courts as veterans and former international stars began their battles for national honours.

With the tournament gaining momentum, fans can expect even more high-octane matches in the coming days as top-seeded players and former national champions enter the fray.

The main draw matches are set to begin on March 17, promising exciting action as the road to the BWF World Seniors Championship selection continues.

USC Seraulim crowned Vaidya Family football champions

INACIO NORONHA



The winners along with chief guest Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao, New India Assurance Company Limited Managers Hitesh Patil and Harshit Sengar, Cuncolim Municipal Council Chairperson Landry Mascarenhas, Sanjay Shetkar, Santosh Fal Dessai, Sandeep Dessai and other dignitaries at the Cuncolim school playground, on Sunday

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INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

First scorer of the final: Nayab Khan (USC Seraulim)

Best striker: Ajay Raj (SC Davorlim)

Best midfielder: Alent Colaco (SC Davorlim)

Best defender: Ashley Fernandes (USC Seraulim)

Best goalkeeper: Joywin Braganza (USC Seraulim)

Best promising player: Sakshan Shanke (USC Seraulim)

Player of the final: Savan Lotlikar (USC Seraulim)

Best disciplined team: Carmona SC

RAIA: United Sports Club of Seraulim scrapped past Sporting Club of Davorlim 2-1 to emerge champions in the Vaidya Family inter-village football tournament organised by Cuncolim Union at the Cuncolim school playground, on Sunday.

Both the teams were tied at goalless in the first session. Substitute Nayab Khan opened the scoring for USC Seraulim in the 54th minute from a cross from Sakshan Shanke. The lead was short-lived as Ajay Raj equalised for Sporting Club of Davorlim in the next

minute. The all-important goal for USC Seraulim was scored by Sakshan Shanke off a pass from Savan Lotlikar in the 59th minute.

The winners United Sports Club of Seraulim were richer by Rs 75,000 plus Vaidya trophy, while Sporting Club of

Davorlim had to be content with Rs 50,000 plus trophy.

Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao was the chief guest and handed over the prizes in the presence of Hitesh Patil and Harshit Sengar - managers of New India Assurance Company

Limited, Landry Mascarenhas - chairperson of Cuncolim Municipal Council, Sanjay Shetkar, Santosh Fal Dessai and Sandeep Dessai.

Goa Police find difficult to tame young Gaurs

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PANJIM: FC Goa came strongly into match to fire 3-0 on Goa Police SC in the Goa Professional Super League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Sunday.

FC Goa went into the breather from Goa Police Deepak Naik scoring a self goal. After win FC Goa now have 24 points, while Goa Police stay on 19 points.

Goa Police under the guidance of their new coach Swananand Naik managed to hold FC Goa to just one goal in the first session of play when in the 47th minute of play Goa Police medio Deepak in the process of clearing the ball from inside the 18-yard box saw him toe the ball into his own goal, 1-0.

On crossing ends, Young Gaurs medio Lalthangliana

who worked tirelessly saw his team pumped in two more goals from his assist.

In the 69th minute, he did the spade work to find his partner Malsawmtluanga send the ball past Goa Police custodian, 2-0.

Once again, Lalthangliana was the provider to find defender U-21 Asher Rodrigues finish clinically 3-0.

Dempo SC secure a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Geno FC

GOA PROFESSIONAL SUPER LEAGUE

In another match, Dempo SC secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Geno FC at Ella ground, Old Goa, on Sunday.

Dempo SC came out firing and nearly found an early breakthrough when Mohammed Rafi fouled Salgeo Dias in midfield, conceding a free-kick.

Jordan Borges delivered a pinpoint ball into the box, where Pratik Naik rose above the Geno defense to connect with a powerful header, only to be denied by the woodwork.

The Golden Eagles continued to press and came close again when Jordan Borges played a short corner to Asmon Viegas, who whipped in a first-time cross. Stenis met it with a well-directed header, but

Geno FC goalkeeper Savio pulled off a stunning save to keep his side in the contest.

Geno FC struggled to break through Dempo SC's disciplined backline, with Sairon Albuquerque standing tall to cut out dangerous through balls and nullify their attacking threats.

The breakthrough finally

arrived early in the second half. Asmon Viegas split the Geno defence with a perfectly weighted pass to Salgeo Dias, who controlled it brilliantly, weaved past his marker, and slotted a low shot past the keeper to put Dempo SC in front.

Geno FC responded with urgency and thought they had equalised when Sheldon Pereira bundled the ball into the net after a scramble with goalkeeper Myrick Hilario, but the referee ruled it out for a foul.

Jachi nearly rescued a point for Geno FC late in the game with a low drive inside the box, but Hilario produced a sharp save. Suraj Gurung pounced on the rebound and fired from close range, only for Hilario to come up clutch once again, diving to smother the ball and secure Dempo SC's narrow win.

Ambelim SC, Ponda Footballers collect three points

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RAIA: Ambelim SC got the better of Verna Cultural and Sports Association 7-1 in the Goa Football Association Futsal League match

GFA FUTSAL LEAGUE

played at Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium, Navelim, on Sunday.

Fredson Marshall scored

a hat-trick, substitute Ronaldo Pereira scored a brace, while Velon Rebello and Savan Lotlikar scored a goal each for Ambelim SC.

Milroy Fernandes scored the only goal for Verna CSA.

In another match, Ponda Footballers defeated United Club of Verna 4-3 via tie-breaker after the match ended in 2-2 draw.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League (Super League): Cortalim Villagers SWSC vs Sesa FA, at Nagoa panchayat ground, 4 pm

14th Wilred Leisure Cup: Raia Sporting Club vs Velsao Sports and Culture Club, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, 4.45 pm

We took calculated risks and that helped us: Harmanpreet
Says our bowlers made target of 150 look like 180

PTI, MUMBAI: An ecstatic Mumbai Indians skipper Harmanpreet Kaur credited her bowlers for robustly defending a modest target of 150 in the Women's Premier League (WPL) final against Delhi Capitals, saying they made it look like 180 with their superb efforts.

Harmanpreet scored a fine 66 off 44 balls in MI's total of 149 for 7 and then made some fine bowling changes in pressure situations to restrict DC to 141 for 9 with three wickets from Nat Sciver-Brunt, and breakthroughs from Amelia Kerr and Shabnim Ismail.

"We took calculated risks and that helped us. 150 (149) was not a decent total, but in matches like that, pressure games, it always looks like 180 and credit goes to our bowlers," Harmanpreet said at the post-tournament presentation ceremony.

"They (bowlers) had that belief they could give us breakthroughs in the powerplay. They (Ismail and Sciver-Brunt) created that opportunity for us and got us the game. Really happy the way everyone bowled in the team today. We made things very clear for everyone, had one-to-one meetings to clear their roles."

The key to the success was keeping things simple while doing the right things again and again, Harmanpreet said after guiding his team to second WPL title.

"It is all about being there and doing the right things again and again. We wanted to keep things simple and as a team, we did that."

On her batting, she said: "It was not easy when I went in. But I had that belief that if I stayed there and kept rotating strike, and with Nat (Sciver-Brunt) there, I did not need to take risks. Just wanted to support her."

Gomanchal Warriors are Goa Veteran Cricket League 2 champions

INACIO NORONHA



The champions along with chief guest Anup Kudchadkar, Vinod Phadke, Pravin Blagon and Nitin Chopdekar at the MCC ground, Margao, on Sunday

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RAIA: Gomanchal Warriors defeated Dessert n More Avengers by 19 runs in the final to emerge champions in the Goa Veteran Cricket League played at the MCC ground, Margao, on Sunday.

Dessert n More won the

toss and elected to field. Gomanchal Warriors were 124 all out in 19.2 overs. Krishna Volvoikar 31, Prasad Patil 22 and Suraj Sawal 20 top scored. Naresh Parsekar 3/19, Tushar Sawant 1/11, Ayub Khan 1/13, Rajdeep Naik 1/22 and Vinod Wilson 1/22 bowled well for Dessert n More.

In reply, Dessert n More Avengers were 105 all out in 17 overs. Shishir Divkar scored half century with 52, Vikas Desai 13. For Gomanchal Warriors Lokesh Sharma 4/13, Prasad Patil 3/19 and Zahir Sadekar 1/20 did the demolishing job.

The winners took home cash prize of Rs 2 lakh,

while the runners-up had to be content with Rs 1 lakh. Prasad Patil was awarded the man-of-the-match, Shishir Divkar best batsman and Mrunmay Das best bowler.

For the presentation ceremony Anup Kudchadkar was the chief guest and gave away the prizes.

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE LAST SHOW AT MARGAO



20th MAR. 2025 AT 7.30 P.M. AT PAI T. HALL
RUSH FOR YOUR TICKETS

50th Kala Academy's Tiatr Competition ('A' Group)

Kala Mogi Candolim presents

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17 MARCH 2025 at 7.00 pm

Venue: Kala Academy, Panjim - Goa

Supported by: Tiatr Academy Goa & Village Panchayat, Candolim