

# FC Goa set for semi-final clash against Bengaluru FC today

AGENCIES, BENGALURU: FC Goa will take on Bengaluru FC in the first leg of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 Cup semi-finals at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. With a place in the grand finale at stake, an intense battle awaits, before the action shifts to Nehru stadium, Fatorda on April 6 for the return leg.

For FC Goa, this is more than just another knockout fixture. The Men in Orange are one of the most dominant sides in ISL history, holding records for most points won, most goals scored and most semi-final appearances. This will be their eighth semi-final in

## THE GAURS

- 8th semi-final in 11 seasons (Most in ISL history)
- League record (2024-25): 24 matches | 14 wins | 6 draws | 4 losses
- Points earned: 48 (club record, 2nd place finish)
- Notable past encounter: 3-0 win vs Bengaluru FC (Nov 2024, Fatorda)
- Head coach: Manolo Márquez

11 seasons, a testament to their consistency and excellence.

Under Manolo Márquez, Goa enjoyed a stellar league campaign, finishing sec-

## ISL PREVIEW

ond with a club-record 48 points from 24 matches. With 14 wins, six draws, and just four defeats, they remained in contention for the League Winners' Shield until the final matchweeks. Though the Shield eluded them, their focus is now firmly on the ISL Cup.

However, standing in their way is a resurgent Bengaluru FC, who stormed into the semi-finals with a commanding 5-0 win over Mumbai City FC in the play-offs. With five different goal scorers and a clean sheet in that match, Gerard Zaragoza's side came into this clash full of confidence.

## BENGALURU FC

- Stormed into semis: 5-0 win vs Mumbai City FC (playoffs)
- 5 Different goal scorers in playoff win
- Past knockout battle: Defeated Goa in 2018-19 ISL final (1-0, extra time)
- Notable past encounter: 2-2 draw vs Goa (2024)
- Head coach: Gerard Zaragoza

Past encounters suggest a tight contest. The two teams played out a 2-2 draw at the Kanteerava earlier this season, with Goa surrendering a 2-0 lead. However, the Gaurs

also recall their 3-0 triumph at Fatorda in November, a result that shifted their season's momentum.

There are past demons to overcome as well. The last time these two teams met in a knockout match, the 2018-19 ISL final, it was Bengaluru FC who triumphed, with Rahul Bheke's extra-time header sealing heartbreak for Goa. Six years later, FC Goa have the perfect chance to rewrite history.

With the second leg at Fatorda looming, the Gaurs will be determined to seize the advantage in Bengaluru. A thrilling battle of grit, skill, and determination awaits.

# FC Goa back in contention with Jamshedpur FC win

AGENCIES, MUMBAI: FC Goa thrashed Group A table-toppers Jamshedpur FC 4-0 in their Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) 2024-25 National Group Stage clash at the Reliance Corporate Park in Mumbai on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Diamond Harbour FC and NorthEast United FC played out the first goalless draw of the RFDL National Group Stage.

## RFDL 2024-25 NAT GROUP STAGE

NorthEast United FC came agonisingly close to securing all three points against Diamond Harbour, with Huidrom Thoi Singh hitting the woodwork on two occasions. The Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) graduate was a livewire in the Highlanders' attack throughout the game. His closest chance came in the 64th minute when he rattled the crossbar with a flying header following an aerial delivery from the right flank by Aditya Kalloli. However, the scoreline remained unchanged until the final whistle, with both sides settling for a point each.

Later in the afternoon, FC Goa put four past early high-flyers Jamshedpur FC to produce a remarkable turnaround in their RFDL National Group Stage campaign. The young Gaurs dominated proceedings and secured a crucial result that keeps them firmly in the race for National Championship qualification.

Likson Rebelo opened the scoring for FC Goa in the 13th minute after a piercing through ball from Lalthangliana. The Gaurs never looked back after taking the lead. Just before the first-half water break, they doubled their advan-



FC Goa players celebrate after scoring against Jamshedpur FC

## BRIEF SCORES

**FC Goa 4 (13', 42' Likson Rebelo, 27' Lalthangliana, 82' Wellington Fernandes) Jamshedpur FC 0;** Diamond Harbour FC 0 NorthEast United FC 0

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

**Mohun Bagan Super Giant vs Dempo SC, at 8 am; Mumbai City FC vs Classic FA, at 4 pm; Muthoot FA vs Sreenidi Deccan FC, at 7 pm**

tage. Lalthangliana cut in from the left flank and, spotting an opportunity, lashed a shot towards the near post. The Jamshedpur FC goalkeeper failed to gather it cleanly, and the ball found its way into the back of the net.

To make matters worse for the Red Miners, FC Goa tripled their lead in the 42nd minute. Skipper Prachit Gaonkar orchestrated the attack from the middle of the park and set up Likson Rebelo, who made no mistake in beating the goalkeeper one-on-one to complete his brace. Already in complete control, FC Goa added the finishing touch in the second half to seal an emphatic 4-0 win. Vel-

lington Fernandes dribbled past three Jamshedpur FC players before striking with precision from outside the box, beating the goalkeeper and rounding off a dominant performance in a must-win game.

FC Goa Reserves Team Head Coach Israil Gurung was full of praise for his players following the victory. He said, "It was a must-win game for us, and the entire team, including the players and the staff, gave their everything to achieve this result. Whatever we had planned before the game, the players executed to perfection. The boys' tactical understanding is great, and I think they have a bright future."

## St Anthony's Marna drubs Goa Velha

Team Herald

sports@herald-go-a.com

MAPUSA: St Anthony's Marna-Siolim drubbed Goa Velha SC by 5-1 margin in the GFA's First Division league, played at Vagator ground, on Tuesday.

## GFA'S FIRST DIV LEAGUE

Goa Velha took the lead in the 14th minute with a goal from Supurva Kundaikar.

St Anthony's not only levelled terms through Dalesh Pednekar in 22nd minute but saw the latter pump in three more goals on crossing ends. Pushparaj Mandrekar added his name to St Anthony's fifth goal.

# Nathan and Marolif emerge champs

Team Herald

sports@herald-go-a.com

RAIA: Nathan Vales and Marolif Fernandes emerged victorious in the Inter-Seraulim Badminton Tournament 2025, organised by the United Sports Club of Seraulim at the Seraulim Church court.

## INTER-SERAULIM BADMINTON

Defending champion Nathan Vales secured his fourth consecutive Men's Singles title, while Marolif Fernandes retained the Ladies' Singles crown for the second year.

Other results include: Veterans' singles: winner - Savio Vales; runner-up - Vinod Naik. Mixed doubles: winners -



Conroy Rodrigues and Sneha Fernandes. runners-up - Grayson Fernandes & Saroni Rodrigues.

Men's doubles: winners - Austin & Grayson Fernandes and runners-up - Nathan Vales & Rayner Dias Junior boys' singles: win-

ner - Alton Fernandes and runner-up - Alrich Fernandes.

Rev Fr Jose Gomes, Parish Priest of Seraulim, was the chief guest, accompanied by guest of honour Fr John Gonsalves, Assistant Parish Priest.

United Sports Club of Seraulim President Policarpo Cruz welcomed the guests, while Kevin D'Souza compered the event. The tournament was organised by Conroy Rodrigues and Nelly Fernandes.

# PY Nuvem cruise into semis

Team Herald

sports@herald-go-a.com

RAIA: Parish Youth, Nuvem secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Navelim Villagers Union to book their place in the semi-finals of the 17th London Trophy inter-village football tournament 2025, organised by Goa Velha Sports Club.

Shenoy Colaco opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, slotting past Navelim goalkeeper Selwin Gomes. Just four minutes later, Joywin Costa doubled the lead, ensuring a 2-0 advantage at half-time.

The result was sealed in the 39th minute when Nicolau Colaco found the net, cementing Parish Youth, Nuvem's dominance.

Navelim Villagers Union struggled with discipline, as Francis Colaco and Rich-



Francis Colaco receives man-of-the-match award from Joy Gonsalves

ard Colaco received cautions, while Rovon Pereira was sent off for violent conduct.

Parish Youth, Nuvem will now face the winner of Peddem Bomm Sports Club vs Sinquerim Sports Club in

the semi-final on April 6.

Francis Colaco was named man-of-the-match and received the award from Joy Gonsalves, a player and member of Goa Velha Sports Club in the United Kingdom.

# Aviators and Royals secure crucial wins

Team Herald

sports@herald-go-a.com

MARGAO: The third day of the Sarsangan Priority Veterans Cricket Series 2025 saw Antruz Aviators crush Delite Titans by 100 runs, while Ultracon Madgaon Royals edged past Mapusa Dream Crushers by 14 runs, played at Arlem cricket ground.

In the first match, batting first, Antruz Aviators set a tournament-high total of 231-4 in 20 overs. Prasad Bhende (35) and Sarvesh Kamat (35) gave a solid start with a 52-run opening stand, supported by Anoop Borkar (28), Mahendra Pai Kuchelkar (23), Yogesh Naik (33), and Jayesh Timblo (18)\*. Sandip Audi, Sid-desh Pai, and Vishnu Namshikar picked a wicket each.

In response, Delite Titans started strong with Sandip Thali (37) and Shiraj Pai Khot



Sandeep Phaldesai best bowler, Prasad Bhende man-of-the-match, Sandip Thali best batter receiving trophies from Ashesh Dukle, Dr Mahendra Kudchadkar and Shiraj Pai Khot

## SARSANGAN PRIORITY VETERANS CRICKET SERIES

(15) putting up 52 runs. However, Gomakant Mahambrey's spin attack (2 wickets, 1 run-out) dismantled the middle order: Titans collapsed to 131 all out, handing Aviators a 100-run win.

Individual Awards: Man of the Match: Prasad Bhende; best bowler: Sandip

Thali; best bowler: Sandeep Phaldesai

Antruz Aviators lead the points table with 6 points (3 wins in 3 matches), followed by Ultracon Madgaon Royals (4 points). Mapusa Dream Crushers and Delite Titans share third place with 1 point each.



Deep Bhende best bowler, Rakesh Mallya man-of-the-match, Vishwesh Kamat best batter receiving trophies from Aditya Prabhuagankar, Yogesh Naik and Vallabh Pai

In the second match, opting to bat, Ultracon Madgaon Royals posted 180-3 in 20 overs, with contributions from Vishwesh Kamat (38), Sandeep Dalal (38), Ashish Dukle (17), and Rakesh Mallya (35). Shailesh Mahajan took the only wicket.

Chasing 181, Mapusa Dream Crushers made a promising start with Rajesh Colvalcar (28) and Balkrishna Hodarkar (20). How-

ever, Deep Bhende's crucial spell turned the tide, reducing them to 53-3 in the 8th over. Despite efforts from Dr. Sagar Salgaocar (15), Amith Kamat (22), Avinash Kos-sambe (34), and Laxmikant Kurade (20), they fell short by 14 runs, all out for 166.

Individual Awards: Man of the Match: Rakesh Mallya; best batter: Vishwesh Kamat; best bowler: Deep Bhende.

## GOA DIARY

### DEMPO SC TO CONDUCT U-17 SELECTION TRIALS ON APRIL 4 & 5

PANJIM: Dempo Sports Club will hold U-17 selection trials on April 4 and 5, at Dempo Academy, Ella, Old Goa. The trials will commence at 8 am on both days. Young footballers born between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010, are eligible to participate.

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA CUP FROM APRIL 6

MARGAO: Our Lady of Fatima Sports and Cultural Club, Baida-Chinchinnim will be organising their annual Our Lady of Fatima Cup 2025 all-Goa 11-a-side open football tournament, starting from April 6, with finals slated on May 13. The entry fees will be Rs 3000. The winners will be richer by Rs 40,000 + trophy and runners up Rs 30,000 + trophy. The teams participating include Camron Brothers, Little Hearts Nuvem, Naughty Boys Padrihat, Tyson Brothers, Friends Forever Cuncolim, Papa Boys, Rebello Pandal Maina, Zoriwaddo Boys Davorlim, OL Fatima SC Baida, Varca Boys, Three Kings Boys, Portugal Boys Akamol, La Grace Benaulim, Davorlim Boys, SFX Chicalim, and DX Boys. The inaugural match will be played between Camron Boys and Little Hearts Nuvem.

## Ambelim Quepem win over JK Caterers Maina



Ivon Fernandes receives man-of-the-match award from Ivonna Rebello

Team Herald

sports@herald-go-a.com

RAIA: Ambelim Quepem secured a 3-1 victory over JK Caterers Maina in the opening match of the 18th Rebello Pandal all-Goa football tournament, played at St Rita Church ground, Maina, on Tuesday.

Ambelim dominated the game with goals from Shelton Fernandes, Dylon Fernandes, and Bradley Fernandes. JK Caterers managed to pull one back through Joywin, but it wasn't enough to change the outcome.

Ivon Fernandes, goalkeeper of Ambelim, was named man-of-the-match, an award presented by Ivonna Rebello.

## TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA First Division League (Group B): Dempo SC (Jrs) vs Albert Developers SC, Duler stadium, Mapusa, at 4 pm; Chapora Yuvak Sangh vs Sao Jose de Areal, Poriat ground, at 4 pm

17th London Trophy inter-village football tournament 2025 (quarterfinal 3): Varca Sports Club vs Chandor Club, at Goa Velha Sports Club ground, at 4.30 pm

21st Flame of Unity Veterans football tournament: Bardez Veterans vs Joe Cookies Fulsabhat Naqelim, at Mabai ground, Per Seraulim, at 4.30 pm

All Goa United Trophy football tournament: Navelim Villagers Union vs CAC Cansaulim, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, at 4.30 pm

18th Rebello Pandal football tournament: Carmel Curtorim vs St Sebastian Manora, at St Rita Church ground, Maina-Curtorim, at 4.45 pm

# Dicarpali SC move into quarters

Team Herald

sports@herald-go-a.com

RAIA: Dicarpali Sports Club secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Ambelim Sports Club to book their place in the quarter-finals of the United Trophy, organised by United Club Telaulim, at Rosary Church ground, on Tuesday.

Both teams started with a strong defensive approach, making it difficult to break



Prince Figueredo of Dicarpali Sports Club receives man-of-the-match award from Dr Francis Lobo

the deadlock in the first half.

The decisive goal came in the 49th minute from Prince Figueredo, sealing the win for Dicarpali SC in a tightly contested match.

Ambelim SC fought hard to find an equaliser but Dicarpali's defence held strong.

Prince Figueredo of Dicarpali Sports Club was awarded man-of-the-match award from Dr Francis Lobo.

## Vilroy D'Souza strikes gold at State Judo Championship



MAPUSA: Vilroy D'Souza from Vasco emerged victorious in the Senior Men's category, clinching the gold medal at the State Judo Championship held at Peddem Sports Complex, Mapusa.

D'Souza, a lawyer by profession, displayed remarkable skill and determination, outclassing his opponents to secure the top spot. His perfor-

mance stood out as he dominated the competition, earning well-deserved recognition. In the same category, Gauresh Sawant finished as the runner-up, securing the silver medal.

The championship, organised by the Goa Judo Association, witnessed intense competition, with athletes showcasing their prowess in the sport.

**9th April 7:30 pm**  
**Dando Hall Candolim**  
**14th April 3:30 pm**  
**Pai Hall Margao**  
(Holiday - Last Show)  
**TIATR SILVER SCREEN TIATR**  
**WILLY SILVEIRA'S 5TH TRIAT**  
**PANCH ANI DON BABA**  
MUSIC BY THEO ALVARO & NORMAN CAROZZO  
FOR VILLAGE SHOWS CALL 9921448516