

FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC seal National Championship berths

Team Herald
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PANJIM: FC Goa and Jamshedpur FC became the first two teams in the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) 2024-25 season to book their place in the National Championship at the Reliance Corporate Park, Mumbai, on Friday.

FC Goa started their National Group Stage campaign with back-to-back losses against Diamond Harbour FC and NorthEast United FC. However, they made a remarkable turnaround in the third game, defeating Jamshedpur FC 3-0 and following it up with another convincing win over East Bengal FC.

Coming into the game against Kickstart FC, the Gaurs direly needed three points to ensure qualification to the next stage of the competition.

They started the game on the front foot and broke the deadlock in the 11th minute. Malsawmtluanga's corner was improperly cleared by the Kickstart FC defence and Prachit Gaonkar drove it inside the box first time as the ball landed in Wellington Fernandes' feet and the midfielder made no mistake in scoring from close range.

FC Goa received a much-needed boost in the game with the lead and

HERALD PIC



FC Goa players celebrate after reaching the Reliance Foundation Development League National Championship at the Reliance Corporate Park, Mumbai, on Friday

RELIANCE FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE NATIONAL GROUP STAGE

RESULT

FC Goa 2 (Wellington Fernandes 10', Lalthagliana 90+6') Kickstart FC 0

East Bengal FC 0 NorthEast United FC 2 (Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam 68', Fredy Chawngthansanga 90')

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Mumbai City FC vs Sreenidi Deccan FC, 8 am
Dempo Sports Club vs Muthoot FA, 4 pm
Classic FA vs Mohun Bagan Super Giant, 7 pm

showed more intent going forward. On the other hand, Kickstart FC pushed for an equaliser but couldn't quite find a proper breakthrough.

FC Goa received a much-needed boost in the game with the lead and

The scoreline remained as FC Goa looked all set to pick up the three points and in came Lalthagliana to seal the deal for his side

with a second goal in the dying seconds of the game.

The midfielder was left unmarked in the attacking third and he went on to dribble and score with a clean strike to make it 2-0, marking a superb comeback from the Gaurs in the competition.

FC Goa's win also meant Jamshedpur FC, at 9 points, made the cut for the National Championship, regardless of their result against Diamond Harbour, as the two sides now await their semi-final opponents from Group B.

In the other match, NorthEast United FC ended their campaign with a 2-0 win over East Bengal FC.

Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam opened the scoring for the Highlanders with an acrobatic effort off the rebound, after the East Bengal goalkeeper spilled Huidrom Thoi Singh's attempt from outside the box. The Red and Gold Brigade had a fair share of chances to level the scores but lacked finishing in the final third. In the end, Fredy Chawngthansanga put the game to bed in the 90th minute scoring NorthEast United's second goal.

The midfielder was left unmarked inside the box and he made the most out of a perfectly-lobbed pass from Gunleiba, to latch the ball into the bottom right corner.

Ghanttimorod in quarters

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RAIA: Ghanttimorod Aquem defeated Friends Circle, Curtorim, 4-1 to reach the quarter-finals of 18th Rebello Pandal All-Goa football tournament played at St Rita Church ground, Maina-Curtorim.

Ghanttimorod Aquem netted through Meliston, Bonny Niasso and a brace by Ronaldo, while Friends Circle netted through an own by defence error of Ghanttimorod Aquem. Bonny Niasso of Ghanttimorod Aquem was awarded the man-of-the-match by Anusha Soares.

Goan Hockey down Uttarakhand

HERALD PIC



The Goan team captain Swapnil Haldankar war declared the player of the match

PANJIM: Goan Hockey men got the better of Hockey Uttarakhand 3-0 in the All India 15th Hockey Senior Men Championship 2025 being played at the Jhansi Parso Truf ground, in Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

Both teams played cautious during the first quarter but the Goan team had an upper hand putting pressure right from the start of the game.

Trishul Ganapath put the Goan Hockey team ahead in the second quarter and the

nil Haldankar and in the last quarter, the final goal was scored by Issub Sayed to make it 3-0 in favour of Goan Hockey by combining well with Swapnil Haldankar.

The trio of captain Swapnil, Trishul and Issub played like a well oiled machine, putting the defence of Uttarakhand team in dismay.

Goans Hockey President Abhay Bhamaiakar and Secretary Farrel Furtado e Gracias applauded the team. Goans Hockey will be playing against Andhra Pradesh on April 5, at 4.30 pm.

team went for the lemon break leading 1-0.

On resumption of play, the second goal was scored by Captain Swap-

IWL 2: Garhwal Utd, Krida Prabodhini and Surchi Sangha set to qualify

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MAPUSA: From Group A cluster, Garhwal United FC, Krida Prabodhini and Surchi Sangha are all set to qualify for the final of Indian Women's League 2. Garhwal United FC, New Delhi, having won all the three league matches with nine points

have already qualified.

Krida Prabodhini, Pune, and Surchi Sangha, West Bengal, both with six points are all focused as they play each other in the morning match at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, at 9, to secure the second spot and qualify for the final IWL2 League.

FC Tuem, Goa and SAG Football Academy, Gu-

jarat are out of the contest.

GOA DIARY

Six-a-side hockey tournament for boys, girls on April 5 at Peddem sport complex

PANJIM: The Goa Mavericks Sports Club, Mapusa, as part of its endeavour to promote hockey at the grassroots level in the State, will hold 2nd All-Goa six-a-side hockey tournament for boys and girls on April 5, at the astro turf pitch at the Peddem sport complex, Mapusa, from 8.30 am.

Inter-school boys football tournament at Don Bosco ground Panjim

PANJIM: The Don Bosco High School, Panjim, in collaboration with Don Bosco Past Pupils Association, Panjim, will organise a U-12 inter-school boys football tournament on league-cum-knock out basis on April 5, at Don Bosco ground, Panjim, from 8.30 am till 12 noon.

GFA application form for renewal of club affiliation for the season

PANJIM: The Goa Football Association has informed that the application form for renewal of club affiliation and participation in official competitions along with the forms for nominating office-bearer and specimen signature card for the season 2025-26 has been dispatched through speed post to all the registered clubs to the address provided by clubs in the last entry forms. The association has requested to submit the same duly filled in and signed with all the details required to the office as per the deadline mentioned on the form, stated a press release.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA Division I League (Group A): Clube Sao de Taleigao vs Candolim SC, at Santa Cruz ground, 3.30 pm

GFA Division I League (Group B): Sao Jose de Areal vs Albert Developers SC, at Benaulim ground, 4 pm

GFA U-19 Division I League: Sporting Clube de Goa vs FC Goa, at Santa Cruz ground, 8.15 am

Arlem Youth Association football (inaugural): Margao SC vs St Sebastian SC, Mapusa, at Raia panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

21st Flame of Unity Veterans football: Joe Cookies Veterans, Loutolim, vs Mitra Veterans, Candolim, at Mabai ground, Per Seraulim, 4.30 pm

17th London Trophy Inter-Village football tournament 2025: Guardian Angel Sports Club vs Varca Sports Club, at Goa Velha Sports Club ground, Goa Velha, 4.30 pm

All Goa inter-village United Trophy football: Parish Youth Nuvem vs Dicarpale Sports Club, at Rosary ground, Navelim, 4.30 pm

Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup: Calangute Veterans vs Siolim Veterans, Santa Cruz ground, 4.30 pm

SCC Cavelossim gain 3 points

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RAIA: Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim reached the top of the Goa Football Association Division I League Group A table after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Nuvem SC at the SAG ground, Benaulim, on Friday.

A tightly contested affair saw both sides struggle to break the deadlock, but

it was Sowell Fernandes who delivered the decisive moment in the 73rd minute, slotting home to hand Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim their fourth win of the campaign.

GFA DIV I LEAGUE

The game saw its fair share of physical battles, with Velroy Fernandes picking up a booking for Santa

Cruz Club of Cavelossim in the 55th minute, while Nuvem SC's Hudson Dias (59') and Shubert Colaco (90+1') also found their names in the referee's book.

The victory propelled Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim to the top of the table with 12 points from five matches, while Nuvem SC remain rooted to the bottom, yet to open their account after four outings.

Fatorda Veterans book final berth

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RAIA: Fatorda Veterans moved past Vasco Veterans 5-4 via tie-breaker to move into the final of 21st Flame of Unity Veterans football tournament played at Mabai ground, Per Seraulim, on Friday.

At full time, the score remained goalless draw. In the resultant tie-breaker, Camil, Anthony, Remy, Pressley and Joaquim scored for Fatorda Veterans, while Shaik, Ramesh, Rocky and Mario netted for Vasco SC.

In the earlier matches, Vasco Veterans defeated Calangute Veterans 4-3 via tie-breaker.

Fatorda Veterans moved past Siolim Veterans 5-3 via tie-breaker. The match was drawn 2-2 in the full time.

In the resultant tie-breaker, Fatorda Veterans proved to be the better shooters.

Cuncolim Union in semi-finals

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RAIA: Cuncolim Union entered into the semi-finals of United Trophy defeating Betalbatim Sports Club 5-4 via tie-breaker at the Rosary Church ground, Navelim, on Friday.

Both the teams remained goalless draw 0-0 till the final whistle. In the tie-breaker that followed, Cuncolim Union netted through Wil-



Aryan Endro of Sao Jose de Areal was awarded the man-of-the-match by Carmo Ferrao, UCT member son Fernandes, Frazer Fernandes, Mathew Fernandes,

Ansh Patil and Shankar Gauncar, while Aniston Fernandes, Klusner Pereira, Gladson Braganza and Jesus Ferrao found the net.

Aniston Fernandes of Betalbatim SC was awarded the man-of-the-match by Jose Pereira, former president of Betalbatim SC.

In the earlier match, Sao Jose de Areal edge out Curtorim Gymkhana 2-1 to secure a place in the quarters-finals.

Goan football stalwarts wish Churchill Brothers FC all the best

AJIT JOHN
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A number of greats of Indian football have expressed their hope that Churchill Brothers FC triumph in their final match in Kashmir. Three of Goa's finest have wished the team all the very best.

Brahmanand Sankhwalker, one of India's finest goalkeepers and Padma Shri award winner, said that it was important to fight to finish and bounce back when required in the match.

He said, "Anything is possible. All the 11 players on the field would have to fight during the 90 minutes. They would have to fight till the last second to achieve success."

Speaking about a match from his career, Brahmanand said that he remembered Salgaocar Club face off against Mohun Bagan in 1985-86 and Derrick Pereira scoring a goal in extra time to push the match into a tie-breaker.

Mohun Bagan won, he said but his team put up a fantastic performance and that was very important.



Brahmanand Sankhwalker, one of India's finest goalkeepers



Bruno Coutinho, famed striker of the 90s



Climax Lawrence, famed mid-fielder of the past

He said, "It is important to fight, I will watch the match on the television, it will be an acid test for them and if they win it will be a great day for Goan football."

Famed striker of the 90s, Bruno Coutinho said, "It would all depend on the situation in the match."

He said, "Now Churchill Brothers need a draw which will put them in the Indian Super League. I want them in the ISL. Churchill Brothers is doing a good job, the only one who have stuck it out. Others withdrew from the I-League. This is the only way to establish the Goan name in the ISL."

Speaking about his days

as a player, he said, he won the Philips League with Salgaocar FC. It was a great feeling winning it.

He however bemoaned the fact that the game had become too commercial. However, he said that that was the way it was and one had to live with it. He hoped that it would be a very good Sunday and he was praying that Churchill Brothers win the match.

"They should go for a win because if they go for a draw the story will be different," he added.

Famed mid-fielder of the past, Climax Lawrence was confident that Churchill Brothers will go for a win on Sunday.

He said, "The second goal they scored in the last match showed it was a gift from God and they will take that form into the final match."

Speaking of his playing days, he mentioned that I-League was very good and a lot of people would watch the matches.

"I can say that the I-League was the best in our time. So when we went out of Goa there was a lot of pressure on us to win. Huge crowds would come to watch us. It was tough but it was fun. The pressure is incidental," Climax added.

One hopes the wishes of these three stalwarts will come true on Sunday.

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CANAONA DEANERY Presents
LENTEN MUSICAL DRAMA
NOVSORNNI
5ver April-ache 2025
Sanjechea 3.30 Vaztam
Venue: Ravindra Bhavan, Canacona
Canacona Deanery Presents a Powerful Story of Faith and Redemption
Under the leadership of Fr. Patrick Luis, Dean of Canacona Deanery, the Deanery proudly pre-sents "Novsornni," a poignant Konkani Lenten musical. On April 5th, at 3:30 pm, Ravindra Bhavan in Canacona, Chaudi, will host the staging of this powerful production, inspired by the life, sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
In the spirit of synodality, the Canacona Deanery has come together to bring this musical extravaganza to life. The talented cast of 80 drawn from all over the Deanery, comprising actors, singers, musicians, and choreographers, will unite on one stage to deliver a memorable performance.
A Musical Testament to Faith and Redemption
"Novsornni" invites audiences to embark on a profound journey of spiritual reflection and renewal. Through its powerful narrative, haunting melodies, and captivating choreography, this Lenten musical promises to inspire audiences to reflect on their values and embrace a more meaningful, hopeful, and renewed life.
Creative Team
- Script and Lyrics: Fr. Octaviano Cunha
- Director: Fr. Matheus Fernandes
- Music Composer and Director: Fr. Ryan D'Souza
- Coordinator: Fr. Baltazar Fernandes
Co-Coordinator
Fr. Freddy Lobo, Fr. Joseph Correia, Fr. Teo Fernandes, Fr. Dominic Sequeira, Fr. Socoro Colaco, Fr. Agnel Gomes, Sr. Sharon, SMI
Join the Experience
Join the Canacona Deanery at Ravindra Bhavan on April 5th for an unforgettable evening of music, drama, and faith

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