

sportspopup

Suruchi combines with Saurabh to win mixed team pistol gold after individual glory

**LIMA (Peru):** It was double delight for Suruchi Inder Singh as the teenaged Indian shooter combined with Saurabh Chaudhary to win the 10m air pistol mixed team gold medal in the ISSF World Cup, here, on Wednesday, adding to her triumph in the individual competition. The duo of Suruchi and Saurabh shot 17 to finish ahead of China's Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu, who managed 9, in the gold medal match. In the bronze medal contest, India's Manu Bhakar and Ravinder Singh (6) missed out on a podium finish after losing to Chinese pair of Qianke Ma and Yifan Zhang (16). The duo of Suruchi and Saurabh made the gold medal match at the Las Palmas range with a combined 580 in qualification, with the former outscoring her more experienced partner by a couple of points. The Chinese pair of Yao Qianxun and Hu Ka topped the qualification with 585. Suruchi and Manu's podium finish meant that India collected one medal of each colour on the day, with men's 10m air pistol marksman Saurabh Chaudhary earlier winning a bronze. India's exploits in the women's 10m air pistol competition in the Peruvian capital has taken the country to the top of the standings with three medals, followed by China, which has won the men's air pistol gold.

Nitin Gupta wins 5000m race walk silver at Asian U-18 Youth Athletics C'ship

**NEW DELHI:** India's Nitin Gupta won the silver medal in the 5000m race walk competition of the sixth Asian Under-18 Athletics Championship in Dammam, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. Gupta clocked 20:21.51sec to finish second on the podium. The gold was claimed by China's Zhu Ninghao with a timing of 20:21.50sec. Chinese Taipei's Sheng Qin Lo won the bronze with 21:37.88sec. The 17-year-old Gupta had broken his own national record last month during the National Youth Athletics Championship in Patna by clocking a personal best of 19:24.48 sec. Indian athletes will also be seen in action in other events such as discus throw, long jump, 100m and 400m sprints for both boys and girls.

India face competition from Canada, Nigeria in bid to host 2030 CWG

**LONDON:** India will face competition from Canada, Nigeria and two other countries in its bid to host the centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030, Commonwealth Sport (CWS) announced on Wednesday. The confirmation from CWS comes less than a month after PTI, quoting a top sports ministry source, reported that India, also aiming to host the 2036 Olympics, submitted its bid to organise the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat. CWS said that it had received 'Expression of Interests' (EOIs) from Canada and Nigeria, besides two more unnamed countries, to host the 2030 edition of the Games. In all, seven countries have expressed interest in hosting future Commonwealth Games with five of those focused on staging the centenary edition. CWS also added that New Zealand are one of two nations that want to host the 2034 edition.

Defending champions Odisha FC relegated from IWL 2024-25

**BHUBANESWAR:** Sreebhumi FC put paid to defending champions Odisha FC's sojourn in the Indian Women's League with a 3-0 victory at the Kalinga Stadium, here, on Wednesday. Odisha needed to eke out a result to even stand a chance at staying up, and within the first half an hour their fate was sealed, courtesy of a Nongmeikapam Shibani Devi (10', 18', 32') hat trick. This was the first time in Indian women's football history that the defending champions of a league have been relegated. Despite the one-sided scoreline, it was Odisha who actually looked in the ascendancy in the first 10 minutes of the game, marshalling the ball neatly in midfield. In the 10th minute though, Sreebhumi's scoring spree kicked off, when Shibani picked up Anita Kumari's cross outside the box and unleashed a right footer towards the goal. The shot took a deflection before nestling in the back of the net. A double hammer blow in the 18th and 32nd minute effectively finished off the game and Odisha's chances of survival. For her second, Shibani displayed an unteachable poacher's instinct, to sneak in at the back post and volley in Anita's cross from inside the six yard box. The third goal came off a massive error at the back for Odisha FC. The combination of first defender and goalkeeper failed to deal with a routine cross from the right, the latter spilling it loose inside the six yard box. Shibani duly tapped it in.

Being a finisher is a tough job, as I count 30s and 40s as 50: RCB's Jitesh Sharma

**NEW DELHI:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru's designated finisher Jitesh Sharma said batting down the order has redesigned the value of his knocks, and he is now treating scores of 30s or 40s as equivalent to a 50. Jitesh has often strode out to bat at No 6 in IPL 2025 and his most significant contribution thus far has been a 40 off 19 balls in RCB's 12-run win over Mumbai Indians a few days back. "Now everyone seems to be a finisher. But it's a difficult job to bat at No 6, No 7 because ever since I started finishing, I haven't scored a fifty. I was an opener. Earlier I used to score fifties and centuries," Jitesh said in the latest episode of RCB Bold Diaries. However, the 31-year-old said he relishes a victory for the team more than a personal landmark. "I used to enjoy raising my bat when I reached a milestone. But ever since I became a finisher, I never got a chance to make a fifty. (It has mostly been) 10 balls, 30 runs, 20 balls, 40 runs. "These scores have become 50 for us. If you do 60-70 in 30 balls, it's like a 100. And I am happy, very happy doing, if the team wins," he added. But Jitesh said being a wicketkeeper offers him certain advantages during a match such as an opportunity to study the pitch and opposition batters.

South California's Pomona city to host cricket during LA 2028 Olympics

**DUBAI:** The South California city of Pomona will host the cricket competition during the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, the ICC has announced. Cricket, which is returning to the Olympics after 128 years, will feature six teams each in the men's and women's competitions and will be held at the Fairgrounds in Pomona. The city is located 48km from Los Angeles, which is the main venue of the Games. Fairgrounds or Fairplex, as it is more popularly known, is a facility that is used for conventions, and commercial, educational and sports (primarily motorsports) events through the year. There is no designated cricket ground at the venue. "We welcome the announcement of the venue for cricket at Los Angeles 2028 as it is a significant step towards the preparation for our sport's return to the Olympics," ICC chairman Jay Shah said in a release on Tuesday night. "Although cricket is a hugely popular sport, it will be a fantastic opportunity to expand traditional boundaries when it features in the Olympics in the fast-paced, exciting T20 format that should appeal to new audiences."

Geno FC down Goa Police

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**MAPUSA:** Geno FC registered a fluent 3-1 win over Goa Police SC in the Goa Professional Super League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Wednesday.

Kunal Salgaonkar opened the account for Goa Police, while before the breather Franky Oliveira pumped in two goals, Chaitan Dabholkar pumped in the third goal for Geno FC.

Early in the match, both the teams had a glorious chance to surge ahead.

Goa Police medio Mayuresh Naik moved dangerously inside the 6-yard box but failed to beat Geno FC's goalkeeper Savio Pereira in

mistake to open Goa Police account, 1-0.

As the match progressed, Franky Oliveira's header from inside the 18-yard box sailed just over the crossbar. However, in the 38th minute, Geno FC were awarded a penalty after Goa Police defender handled the ball inside the penalty box.

Franky Oliveira stepped forward and scored to level terms, 1-1.

In the 40th minute, Goa Police Gourav Kankonkar was once again unlucky as his power-packed ground-er was pushed for a corner with a full-stretched diving save by Geno FC's goalkeeper Savio Pereira.

In the very next minute, Franky scored a gem of a goal as his 30-yard shot

GOA PRO SUPER LEAGUE

one to one situation.

At the other end, a rasping left footer by Geno FC's Mohamad Rafi saw Goa Police custodian Saiesh Kunkolkar flung to his left and pair the ball for a corner.

In the 26th minute, Goa Police Shubham Shirwair's curling cross was handled by Geno FC's skipper Gourav Kankonkar inside the penalty box prompting Referee Tejas Nagvenkar to point to the dreaded spot. Kunal Salgaonkar made no

dipped into the top corner of the Goa Police goal, 2-1.

Geno FC should have further inflated their lead but Geno FC's goalkeeper Saiesh Kunkolkar brought a brilliant save to deny Arun Naik scoring from the penalty spot.

Goa Police custodian was back in action to save Meinam Musharaf strike, while substitute Chaitan Komarpant curling strike sneaked into the far corner of the goal, 3-1.

Punjab FC retain Dream Sports National C'ship Finals Trophy

First edition of C'ship saw 17 footballers earn places in India U-17 national camp

HERALD PIC



The champions along with distinguished guests former India footballers Subrata Paul and Bhaichung Bhutia, Minister for Tourism Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Transport Mauvin Godinho, Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, Goa Football Association President Caitano Fernandes and others at the Raia panchayat football grounds, recently

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**RAIA:** Defending champions Punjab FC retained their trophy in the Dream Sports Championship 2025 National Finals with a convincing 2-0 victory over Mohun Bagan Super Giant under floodlights at the Raia panchayat football grounds, recently.

In an extremely fast paced match, Punjab FC took an early lead through Subham Gurung in just the 10th minute of play, before doubling their advantage in the second half when defender Ashish Lohar struck

**Tournaments like these are key to shaping the future of football in our country, offering young girls and boys the competitive platform necessary for their development**

— Baichung Bhutia, former India football captain

in the 64th minute, effectively sealing the championship for his team.

Vishal Yadav, who scored five goals, was named the player of the tournament while Shubham Gurung was named the player of the Final.

"Our team remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, which shows how the months of dedicated training and preparation have paid off," said Punjab

FC captain, Aniket Yadav after his team's win.

Addressing the mediapersons, former India football captain, Baichung Bhutia, who was the guest of honour at the final said, "Tournaments like these are key to shaping the future of football in our country, offering young girls and boys the competitive platform necessary for their development."

The first edition of the

Dream Sports Championship which was held in 2024, saw 17 footballers earn places in the Indian U-17 national camp. This achievement proves the tournament's significance as a stepping stone for Indian football.

The final was graced by distinguished guests, which included former India footballers, Subrata Paul and Bhaichung Bhutia; Minister for Tourism Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Transport Mauvin Godinho, Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, Goa Football Association President Caitano Fernandes, among others.

Marina English HS emerge champions in U-17 boys 7-a-side football tourney

HERALD PIC



Headmistress Eveleteane Antao, Manager Fr Dyrel Dais, PE Teacher Russel Fernandes, chief guest Mildred Monteiro, guest of honour Tiago Fernandes and other officials, at the Verna panchayat ground, recently

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**PANJIM:** Marina English High School, Verna, scrapped past Rosary High School, Navelim, 4-3 via tie-breaker in the final to emerge champions in the inaugural late sir Pais and late sir Redkar U-17 boys 7-a-side football tournament played at the Verna panchayat ground, recently.

With the score tied 2-2 at the end of regulation time, the match went into a tie-breaker, wherein Marina English High School

proved to be the better shooters.

With 14 teams participated in the football tournament showcasing thrilling display of talent and sportsmanship.

The victorious Marina English High School team was led by Johann Abranches, whose leadership played a key role in guiding the team to triumph. Infant Jesus High School, Colva, secured the third place after an impressive showing.

The opening ceremony was graced by chief guest Natalina Vaz (president of

Sporting Clube de Goa) and guest of honour Mario Furtado (proprietor of Furtado & Co. Custom Brokers, Mormugao Port Trust). Also present were Evelateanne Antao (headmistress) and Fr Dyrel Dias (manager). During the opening ceremony, Natalina delivered an inspiring speech to motivate the young players, encouraging them to pursue excellence both on and off the field.

The closing ceremony was attended by chief guest Mildred Monteiro, former chairperson PTA Marina English High School; guest

of honour Tiago Fernandes, former Santos Trophy player; Reggie Gomes, PTA chairperson Marina English High School;

Evelateane Antao, headmistress, Marina English High School; Fr Dyrel Dias, manager, Marina English High School; Aurora D'Souza, headmistress, Rosary High School; Vera Fernandes, retired branch manager, Central Bank; Caren Raposo, sales head, Artistry Suites, Candolim and Angelo Fernandes, retired superintendent, Customs and Central Excise.

Snow's FA pip DBO Fatorda

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**RAIA:** Snow's Football Academy, Raia, defeated Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, 2-1 to collect full points in the Goa Football Association U-17 Division II League match played at SAG ground, Benaulim, on Wednesday.

GFA U-17 DIV II

Anslan Colaco scored both the goals for Snow's FA, while Alton Lobo reduced the margin for DBO Fatorda.

In another match, Mandopa Sporting Club scored a solitary goal win over Nuvem SC in the Division I League match played at Curtorim ground. Substitute Achilles Fernandes scored the all-important goal for Mandopa Sporting in the 82nd minute.

Anand stars for Rebello Pandal

INACIO NORONHA



Anand of Rebello Pandal receives the man-of-the-match from Filip, football lover

scored a hat-trick for Re-

bello Pandal in the 10th, 26th and 55th minute, while Wellington and Edwin scored twice in the 15th, 30th, 44th and 50th minute and Joaquim in the 28th minute.

For CC Nuvem, Velrose scored a hat-trick in 30th, 48th and 58th minute and Larson and Vedant netted a goal each in 4th and 33rd minute. Anand of Rebello Pandal was given the man-of-the-match by Filip, football lover.

Cuncolim Union face Navelim Villagers in final

**RAIA:** Cuncolim Union set a date for title clash of United Trophy as they blanked Sao Jose de Areal SC 2-0 to enter into the final of United Club Telaulim tournament organised at the Rosary Church ground, Navelim, on Wednesday.

Cuncolim Union scored a goal each in both sessions of play. In the first session, Tushar Gaonkar scored due to Sao Jose de



Prakash Dessai presents the man-of-the-match award to Mathew Fernandes of Cuncolim Union

GFA president clarifies on housie statement

To submit the South Goa clubs' signed memorandum to the collector today

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**PANJIM:** Goa Football Association President Caitano Fernandes sought to clarify his statement regarding housie and condemned the twisting of facts by his detractors.

The president said that the Association stands by the clubs and will pursue all avenues with the government to protect the interest of the village clubs.

"I have clearly stated that I am against banning of housie during the inter-village tournaments. In fact, we have already met with all South Goa clubs and will be submitting a memorandum to the South Goa collector on Thursday (April 17). People are being misguided. If I am against the clubs and housie, why would I be at the forefront and arrange a meeting with the Collector?" Caitano questioned.

Fernandes further clarified that parties offering huge amounts in housie prize money needs to be investigated.

"I clearly stated that inter-village clubs offer a maximum of Ra 50,000 to 1 lakh as prize money and

ought to be allowed to continue. For this reason, we will submit a memorandum to the government on Thursday. However, the sudden spurt in huge prize money in non-footballing events is what is affecting the whole system. Housie was a game of enjoyment and fun during a football match, but these big agencies that have come outside

of football is causing harm to our traditional housie," he added.

"People still can't digest the fact that since I took over as president, football has improved by leaps and bounds. The football clubs have shown their trust in me and I will not let them down. Those twisting my statements and creating confusion in the minds of the people have vested interest," he added.

Meanwhile, the meeting with all South Goa clubs received a tremendous response with over 40 clubs attending the meeting and signing the memorandum. The signed memorandum will be submitted to the South Goa Collector on April 17, at 11.30 am, at the Matanhy Saldanha Administrative Complex, Margao, stated a press release.

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