

Ferrao's strike helps Goa Veterans grab gold

HERALD PIC



Goa Veterans team displays their gold medal at the Commonwealth Games Stadium in Khelgaon, New Delhi, on Sunday

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RAIA: Philip Ferrao struck the lone goal of the match as Goa Veterans picked up the gold medal in football against Uttarakhand at the 4th Khelo Masters Games played at the Commonwealth Games Stadium in Khelgaon, New Delhi, on Sunday.

With the final heading towards the tie-breaker, the former Churchill Brothers midfielder maestro struck from well outside the area to beat the Uttarakhand goalkeeper hands down and seize the match-winner for Goa Veterans. Led by former Customs

defender Alberto Pinheiro, the Goa Veterans comprising players over 60 years played some delightful football before a sizeable crowd. The Goa Veterans defence of Maurice Fernandes, former MPT player Gill Soares, former Salgaoncar star Minguel Miranda and Pin-

4TH KHELO MASTERS GAMES

heiro doing a wonderful job while keeping former Goa Police goalkeeper Prakash Naik's goal intact.

The Goan midfield comprising former Vasco and MPT star Agnelo Fonseca, man-of-the-match Philip, Eddie Fernandes and Mahesh Karapurkar

worked like a well-oiled machine allowing Andrew Theodosio and Rubio Vaz to constantly threaten the Uttarakhand goal. Both, Theodosio and Ferrao were unlucky as they came close to scoring, only to see their efforts hit the crossbar on one occasion each.

Finally, Philip came to the rescue of the Goa Veterans when his snap shot from more than 25 yards in the 18th minute caught the Uttarakhand goalkeeper napping for what proved to be the match-winner.

The Khelo Masters Games Foundation is an emerging

Masters Games foundation that came into existence in 2018 with an intention of making the society and community aware of the benefits of sports for health and overall wellness of people still interested in sport.

The aim of the foundation is to keep the sporting spirit alive in all Master athletes, especially middle-aged sportspersons by sharing a platform where they can revive the golden moments of their lives through active participation in sports at different levels.

Nearly 2,300 athletes participated in the fourth edition of the Khelo Masters Games that concluded in New Delhi.

Mandar reigns supreme at all-Goa Rapid Chess

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PONDA: Mandar Lad from Bardez emerged unbeaten with a flawless 9/9 score to win the all-Goa Open Rapid Chess tournament 2025 organised by Serials Chess Academy and GVM's Chess in School, at the GVM's Higher Secondary School premises, Ponda, recently.

Saras Powar and Paarth Salvi followed in second and third places respectively, both finishing with 7 points.

Top 20 overall winners: Mandar Pradip Lad, Saras Powar, Paarth Salvi, Chaitanya Gaonkar, Bezstra-

khov Dmitry, Shubham Sawaikar, Mayuresh Desai, Hriday Morajkar, Aarth Shenvi Karapurkar, Joshua Telles, Rachel Pereira, Valanka Fernandes, K Suresh Navin, Atharva Sawal, Vihaan Tari, Kanishk Sawant, Adarsh Patekar, Avaneeshwar Guin, Hawal Shreyash, Mayank Kurtikar

Category winners: U-15 boys: Asarsh Naik, Chaitanya Patil, Manjunath Dessai. U-15 girls: Sayyed Maizah, Saejja Dessai, Desai Anvi. U-13 boys: Shlok Mesta, Atharva Borkar, Cardozo Nathan. U-13 girls: Terse Asmi, Tanisha Naik Dessai, Sawant Aarna. U-11 boys: Atharv Ghatwal, Advait

Prasanna, Aryan Naik. U-11 girls: Skyla Rodrigues, Tvi-sha Dessai, Redkar Shanvi. U-9 boys: Prayank Gaonkar, Naik Aarav, Sarthak Naik. U-9 girls: Dukle Vania, Rao Shivanya, Amira Borkar. U-7 boys: Evan Telles, Schaffer Antunes Viegas, Kadam Vivaan. U-7 girls: Adhvi Terse, Jigyasa Gawas. Barreto Eliaza Phacelia.

Special awards: Best Veteran: Kiran Chopdekar, Nitinchandra Dighe. Best Women: Arya Dabholkar, Shree Ghonsekhar. Best Ponda players: Swayam Kamat Bambolkar, Samruddh Borkar, Avnish Borker. Best GVM's players: Nishesh

Gaude, Aarya Amey Kamat Helekar, Avani Sawaikar. Best Serials Chess Academy players: Neevaan Mandlekar, Shivam Maharana, Anvay Borkar.

Dignitaries present at the prize ceremony included Krishna Shetye (chairman, GVM's), Vishwas Naik, Sanjay Kavlekar (SAG coach), Sagar Sakordekar (president, PTCA), Wilson Cruz (vice-president, PTCA) and Sandesh Naik (joint secretary, PTCA). Tournament Director Veena Naik was joined by Chief Arbitrator FA Tanishq Kavlekar and Deputy Chief Arbitrator SNA Anish Naik.



The winners along with Krishna Shetye (chairman, GVM's), Vishwas Naik, Sanjay Kavlekar (SAG coach), Ponda Taluka Chess Association President Sagar Sakordekar, Vice-President Wilson Cruz and Joint Secretary Sandesh Naik, Tournament Director Veena Naik, Chief Arbitrator FA Tanishq Kavlekar and Deputy Chief Arbitrator SNA Anish Naik at the GVM's Higher Secondary School premises, Ponda, recently

Mandar, Taaj classical chess champs

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PANJIM: Mandar Lad secured the top position, followed by Manvith Kanajalu and Saras Summer Powar in the Rated Players category at the All Goa Classical Chess Tournament 2025, a twin tournament featuring both rated and unrated

categories - organised by the Celestial Minds USA in collaboration with the Centenary Chess Club at Baina-Vasco, recently.

Fourth place was bagged by Atharva Sawal, while fifth place was won by Rishikesh Parab.

In the Unrated players category, Taaj Gharse

emerged as the winner, with Atharva Singh taking second place and Sanika Naik securing the third position. Fourth place was bagged by Aaron D'Souza, while fifth place was won by Joash Cardozo.

The tournament drew an impressive participation of 192 players from across Goa and showcased intense

competition in both the categories.

The prize distribution function was graced by chief guest businessman Sanjay Satardekar, SAG Coach IA Sanjay Kavlekar, Mormugao Taluka Chess Association (MTCA) President Kishor Bandekar and Centenary Chess Club CEO Rajiv Arondekar.



The winners along with the dignitaries at the Centenary Chess Club, Baina-Vasco, recently

Goa, Odisha play goalless draw

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MAPUSA: Goa were held by Odisha to a goalless draw in their opening match of the Swami Vivekananda National U-20 Football Championship played at Chhattisgarh, on Friday.

Goa had better of ball possession and strikes at the rival goal but failed to find the back of the nylons.

Preston Castanha, Garrison Fernandes and Nakul Gawas missed open sitters. In the 83rd minute, Odisha defender Nirmal Oram was sent off for

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA NAT U-20 FOOTBALL C'SHIP

double caution for rough play. Goa will now take on Assam in their next group match. Speaking to O Herald, Goa's

Head Coach Umer Mutawalli said, "My boys played well as one unit though being our first match, the energy level and mood in the team was also great. We are defini-

tely looking for a good victory against Assam." In the morning match, SAI drubbed Assam by 4-0 margin.

ISL Emerging Player Brison lights up the season with a series of stellar performances

Since breaking into the senior team, the Loutolim-born midfielder has gone on to make 56 appearances in FC Goa jersey, scoring 11 goals and providing four assists - with the promise of much more to come

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RAIA: FC Goa Midfielder Brison Fernandes has been crowned the Emerging Player of the Season for the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 - a fitting recognition for a campaign that firmly established him as one of Indian football's brightest young stars.

A Gaur through and through, the 23-year-old first joined the Club in 2016 as part of the U-16 squad and has since risen through the ranks, making his senior debut in 2021.

"I've always said he's one of the best players I've coached in my five years in India. The previous season didn't offer him many chances, but his commitment never dipped. His growth over the past year has been phenomenal, and this award is a just reward for all the hard work he's put in. This is just the beginning for him - Manolo Marquez, FC Goa head coach

Fast forward to the present, and Brison has lit up the ISL this season with a series of stellar performances that have combined flair with maturity beyond his years.

Across 24 appearances, he scored seven goals and registered two assists, while also creating 27 chances, completing 25 key passes and winning 74 duels - numbers that underline his impact in the heart of midfield.



With Brison pulling the strings, FC Goa recorded one of their best-ever league stage finishes, racking up 48 points to secure second place on the table. The Gaurs' journey ended narrowly in the semi-finals, edged out 3-2 on aggregate by Bengaluru FC.

Reacting to the accolade, FC Goa Head Coach Manolo Marquez was all praise for his midfield dynamo. "I've always said he's one of the best players I've coached in my five years in India.

The previous season didn't offer him many chances, but his commitment never dipped. His growth over the past year has been phenomenal, and this award is a just reward for all the hard work he's put in. This is just the beginning for him."

Brison's rise is also a shining example of FC Goa's belief in youth development. Before stepping onto the big stage, he played a key role in the club's development team across competitions such as the AIFF Elite League, GFA Professional League, Goa Police Cup, the RFDL and more - consistently making his mark and proving he was ready for the next step.

Since breaking into the senior team, the Loutolim-born midfielder has gone on to make 56 appearances in FC Goa colours, scoring 11 goals and providing four assists - with the promise of much more to come.

The club congratulates Brison Fernandes on this richly deserved honour and looks forward to witnessing his continued journey in orange.

Ultracon Madgaon Royals, Mapusa Dream Crushers register wins

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PANJIM: Ultracon Madgaon Royals and Mapusa Dream Crushers registered victories in the Sarsangan Priority veterans cricket series played at Arlem cricket ground, recently.



Pratap Prabhugaokar best bowler, Rakesh Mallya man-of-match, Shiraj Pai/Khot best batter take trophies from Raghuvir Kuncolienkar, Abhay Karande and Parai Dubhashi

sa Dream Crushers put up a formidable 217-6 in 20 overs with all their batters coming to the party, runs flowing from the blades of Anant Chodnekhar (15), Nilesh Prabhudesai (25), Amith Kamat (17), Ganesh Vernekar (11), Vibhav Pai (26), Avinash Kossambe

of the bowlers with 3-15 while Vibhav Pai and Sanjiv Sukhtankar picked 2 wickets each and Balkrishna Hodarkar picked 1 wicket.

Vibhav Pai collected Drogoria Colvalcar man-of-the-match award, Avinash Kossambe was adjudged Priority Constructions best

hudesai, Sachin Neurekar, Siddesh Desai and Shiraj Pai Khot picked a wicket apiece.

In reply, Delite Titans got off to a disastrous start losing their top 3 batters with the score reading 17 in the 5th over: Vishnu Namshikar (21), skipper Shiraj Pai Khot (37) and Siddesh Desai (35) did



Sandip Phaldesai best batter, Vibhav Pai man-of-match, Rupesh Kossambe best bowler receive trophies from Balkrishna Kamat, Mahesh Kudchadkar and Nagnath Shanbhag

Put in to bat first, Ultracon Madgaon Royals posted 170/5 in 20 overs with contributions from Pratap Prabhugaonkar (18), Deep Bhende (35), Mahesh Churi (29), Rakesh Mallya (35), Anish Dharwadkar (17) and Rajendra Prabhudesai (12 no). For the Delite Titans, Abhay Karande, Raghuvir Kuncolienkar and Dr Mahendra Kudchadkar picked a wicket each.

In reply, Delite Titans got off to a decent start through Ashutosh Pai Angle (22) and Sandip Thali (25). Though the Titans skipper Shiraj Pai Khot (36) top scored for the third time in succession, none of the batters barring Pares Prabhudesai (18) could touch double figures as the Titans folded up for 143/7, giving a 27-run victory to the Royals.

Pratap Prabhugaonkar and Rakesh Mallya picked two wickets each, while Yatin Kaisare and Sudin Karmali picked a wicket each.

In the second match, electing to bat first, Mapu-

SARSANGAN PRIORITY VETERANS CRICKET SERIES

(36). Laxmikant Kurade (27 no) and Balkrishna Hodarkar (35). For the Antruz Aviators, Sudin Kamat, Balkrishna Kamat, Prashant Amonkar, Gomakant Mahabrey and Rasik Pai Khot picked a wicket each.

In reply, though Antruz Aviators lost Sarvesh Kamat on the very first ball, their batters, Sachin Kenkre (33) and Sandeep Phaldesai (37) put on 56 runs for the second wicket in only 26 balls to take the fight to the opposition. However, a middle order collapse, which saw three batters falling for single digits, pushed them on the backfoot. Though Rasik Pai Khot (23), Balkrishna Kamat (22) and Prashant Amonkar (13) tried their best, the Antruz Aviators were dismissed for 154, giving the Dream Crushers a 63 run win. Rupesh Kossambe was the pick

batter, while Rupesh Kossambe picked Wakao best bowler award.

Earlier, Ultracon Madgaon Royals defeated Delite Titans, while Mapusa Dream Crushers beat Antruz Aviators Put in to bat first, Ultracon Madgaon Royals started on a promising note through Pratap Prabhugaonkar (29) and Sandeep Dalal (35) putting up 44 runs in 4 overs. The total got further boost through Yatin Kaisare (21), Rakesh Mallya (32 no), Anish Dharwadkar (12) as they added 81 runs in 11 overs to reach 125-5 in the 16th over. Some lusty hitting at the end from Dr Sarvesh Kamat (22) and DySP Rajendra Prabhudesai (18 no) helped the Royals to post a formidable total of 188-6 in 20 overs.

Vishnu Namshikar with 2-26 was the pick of the bowlers while Pares Prabh-

the repair work to take the Titans to 124-4 in the 16th over, at par corresponding with the Royals score. However, none other than Siddesh Bodke (21) could make any further impact falling for single digits as the Titans folded up for 158, losing by 30 runs. Yatin Kaisare, Mahesh Churi and Deep Bhende picked 2 wickets apiece.

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