

# India all set for SAFF U-19 summit clash against Bangladesh today

Team Herald sports@herald-go.com

**YUPIA (Arunachal Pradesh):** Aiming to win their record-extending 10th SAFF age-group men's tournament, India will take on Bangladesh in the SAFF U-19 Championship 2025 final on May 18, at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, here, at 7 pm.

India have won the U-15, U-16, and U-17 tournaments twice each, and the U-18, U-19 and U-20 once each. Head coach Bibiano Fernandes has won three of them and is looking for his fourth on Sunday. Bangladesh are familiar opponents for the Blue Colts. The two nations have met in four SAFF men's age-group finals, and India have won all four, including last year's SAFF U-17 final by 2-0, with goals from Md Arbash and Mohammed Kaif, both of whom are part of the current U-19 squad.

India have showcased utter dominance in front of a roaring Arunachal Pradesh crowd so far, winning 8-0 and 4-0 against Sri Lanka and Nepal, respectively, in the group stage, and 3-0 against Maldives in the semi-final on Friday.

Fernandes and Captain Singamayam Shami had plenty of praise for the local crowd who have come in increasing numbers in every India match, especially during the semi-final under pouring rain.

"Friday, we saw so many fans under such heavy rain and nobody moved out of the stands. They were still there supporting till the end of the game and that was amazing. I would like to call the fans to come back on Sunday as well. We will give our best on the pitch and make sure that we don't leave anything behind. I promise that it will be a good game and we will entertain the crowd the

SAFF MEDIA



India Head Coach Bibiano Fernandes and Bangladesh Head Coach Golam Robbani Choton and captains with the trophy at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, on Saturday

same way we have entertained them in the last three games," said Fernandes.

Midfielder Shami, who was named the player of the match against Maldives,

said, "The Arunachal people love football so much. We're very happy to see so many people coming and supporting us. As players, we feel proud playing in

front of them. We're ready for the final and will give our best on Sunday."

Bangladesh beat Nepal 2-1 in the semi-final. After a cagey opening 74 minutes,

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- Bibiano Fernandes, India head coach

Ashikur Rahman broke the deadlock with a header from a corner before captain Nazmul Huda Faysal scored the second. Nepal halved the deficit but Bangladesh saw off the victory.

"We didn't play Bangladesh in the tournament, but have seen them play and know how good they are. They have shown good character in the tournament, especially in the semi-finals, beating Nepal. We respect that, and we will

prepare and get ourselves ready and make sure we give our best efforts in the finals," said Fernandes.

Bangladesh head coach Golam Robbani Choton said, "Our boys have played good football in all the matches so far, they've learnt a lot, and now are quite confident in their abilities. We are ready for the final." The match will be streamed live on the Sportzworkz YouTube channel.

## Goan player Jodric ready for the challenge

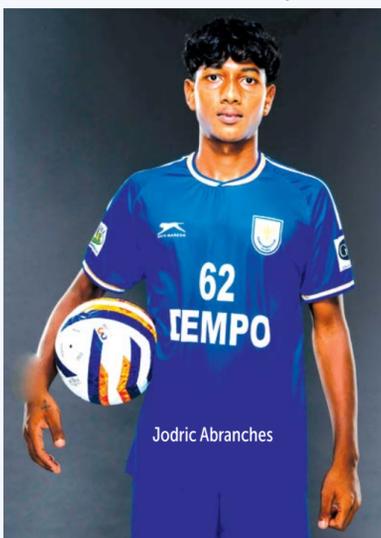
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**MAPUSA:** Jodric Abranches hailing from Verna is representing India U-19 team for SAFF Championship 2025, which will face Bangladesh on May 18, at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, Arunachal Pradesh.

Jodric started his football career with Dempo Sports Club at an early age of 13 in the U-13 team and then he was promoted to U-15 team and currently with Dempo SC residential academy U-17 team.

He is proud of being instrumental in his team's success wherein in 2024 the unbeaten Dempo SC won the Goa Football Association U-17 League, GFA U-19 League Champions to remain unbeaten, All India Football Federation U-17 Youth League Champion again to remain unbeaten and reached the Dream Sports Champions National Final Phase round. In all these tournaments, Jodric played a major role as the central defender.

Earlier, the Verna lad has represented India U-17 team - where they have won the SAFF Cup in Bhutan -, India U-17 team for Asian Cup qualifiers in Thailand, India U-20 team for Mandiri U-20



Challenge Cup in Indonesia and presently part of India U-19 team for SAFF Cup. "Jodric is a good player and understand the

demands of 'The Beautiful Game'. He is brave and fearless and a leader on the field, who sets the example for his teammates with his consistent performances in the training session and in the matches. He stays focus on his game and prepares mentally and physically well for the training session and matches. He has an excellent work rate during the training sessions and in the matches and listens to the coaches' instructions and always eager to learn," informed U-17 and U-19 Head Coach Pradip Chopdekar.

"Good thing about Jodric is, every day after training session he asks review of his performance in training session. He is the only Goan player in India U-17 team and if he continues with same dedication and determination and if he keeps his feet on ground and work on his weaker areas I am sure one day he will wear senior India team jersey," said Pradip.

"We at Dempo Sports Club believe in the long term player development and want to thank our club president Shrinivas Dempo for constant support. Also like to thank the admin staff, coaching staff, physios, managers, support staff and media for helping our players to grow as good footballers and good human beings. This is a collective success of Dempo Sports Club," he concluded.

## Varca Veterans face USC Seraulim in final

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**RAIA:** Varca Veterans and USC Seraulim Veterans enter the final of Benaulim Veterans football tournament at SAG ground, Benaulim, on Saturday.

### BENAULIM VETERANS

In the first semis, Varca defeated Colva Veter-

ans by 2-1 goals. Elvis Fernandes scored a brace, while Rocky Goes reduced the margin for Colva Veterans.

In the second semis, USC Seraulim defeated Benaulim 6-5 via tie-breaker. Angelo Fernandes gave lead to Benaulim while Jess Cardozo equalised for USC Seraulim.

In the ensuing tie-breaker, USC Seraulim proved to be the better shooters.

## Margao SC in semis

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**RAIA:** Sports Club entered the semi-finals of 1st late Antonio Colaco memorial football tournament organised by Mandopa SC defeating Sporting Club of Davorlim 6-5 via tie-breaker in the quarter-final match played at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, on Friday.

Rahul Sharma scored for Margao SC in the 14th minute while William Niasso

equalised for SC Davorlim in the 55th minute of play and remained 1-1 draw at full time.

In decisive penalty shootout, Margao Sports Club proved to be the better shooters.

### MANDOPA SC FOOTBALL

William Niasso of Sporting Club of Davorlim was awarded the man-of-the-match for his outstanding performance.

## SFX Chicalim edge past Papa Boys

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**RAIA:** SFX Chicalim secured a 3-2 win over Papa Boys, Sao Jose de Areal to book their place in the last eight of the 5th all-Goa 8-a-side football tournament organised by Davorlim Sports and Cultural Club at Laymati ground, Davorlim.

SFX Chicalim began with urgency and struck twice early on, with Edson Souza opening the scoring in the 5th min-

ute, followed by Sidney Luis in the 10th. The side maintained a 2-0 lead at the lemon break.

On resumption, Papa Boys took control of the game and responded through goals from Alistar Fernandes in the 35th minute and Clifford in the 40th to level the score.

However, Sidney sealed the victory for SFX Chicalim with a close-range finish in the 56th minute, completing his brace and securing the match-winning goal.

## Sao Jose de Areal storm in semis

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**RAIA:** Sao Jose de Areal scored a solitary goal victory over Margao SC to enter the semi-finals of Cavelossim Villagers UK Cup organised by Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim at Fr Druston and Wellington ground, Cavelossim, on Saturday.

In a well-contested match, both teams fought tooth and nail creating plenty of scoring opportunities. In the very 4th minute, Margao SC had a corner kick taken by Presley Pinto which surprisingly went across Sao Jose de Areal goal mouth with no Margao SC forward to tap in.

Margao SC came very close to scoring but Edgar Noronha was timely tack-

INACIO NORONHA



Anthony Cardozo, manager of Santa Cruz Club Hall and Executive Committee Member of Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim presents the Food Court Man-of-the-Match award to Ashney Gomes of San Jose de Areal

### CAVELOSSIM VILLAGERS UK CUP

led by reliable Bersal Viagas of Sao Jose de Areal.

The deadlock was broken when Clifford Soares of Sao Jose de Areal gave a long

pass to Priston Gomedes, who squared the ball to Ashney Gomes whose first time rasping shot hit the crossbar and entered Mar-

gao SC goal beating Glen Fernandes to lead Sao Jose de Areal 1-0 at lemon time.

Crossing over, Margao SC went on the attack with Presley taking a long range short which was smartly punched over the crossbar by Sao Jose de Areal goalkeeper Denzi Oliveira. Referee Rohan Pereira controlled the match well and flashed yellow cards at Myron Fernandes and Edgar Noronha.

In the injury time, Margao SC got a free-kick at the edge of the penalty area but Hanslum Furtado, who took the shot straight at the goalkeeper and with that surrendered the match to Sao Jose de Areal.

Sao Jose de Areal will now clash in the semi-finals on 20.6.2025 with either USC Seraulim or Ambelim SC.

## SCC Cavelossim, Arlem YA in quarters

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**RAIA:** Santa Cruz Club of Cavelossim scored a hard-fought win over Goa Velha SC 2-1 to move ahead in the quarter-finals of Cipriano Silva inter-village football tournament played at SAG ground, Ambelim, on Saturday.

Darren Estibeiro and Fredvil Afonso scored a goal each for SCC Cavelossim, while Sairaj Kankonkar reduced the margin

for Goa Velha SC. Darren Estibeiro was adjudged as the man-of-the-match.

In the earlier match, down by a goal, Arlem Youth Association fought back to record a 4-1 victory over Agassaim YC to progress into the quarter-finals. Joy Pires gave the lead to Agassaim YC but Arlem YA responded with goals from Daniel Gomes, Velito D'Cruz, Mevon Vaz and Leron Dias. Velito D'Cruz's all-round performance earned him the man-of-the-match award.

## Verem Utd in next round

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**MAPUSA:** Verem United SC registered a 7-6 win over Sinquerim SC via a tie-breaker in the Xetrapal Cup organised by Xetrapal SC at Oxel ground, on Saturday.

The teams went into the breather with Sinquerim SC leading by 2-1 margin. Royce Gon-

salves of Verem United scored from the penalty but Sinquerim SC scored two goals through Rama Parwar and Krish Naraji.

However, on crossing ends, Verem United scored their equaliser through Anson Pereira 2-2.

In the tie-breaker, Verem United proved to be better shooters winning by 5-4 margin.

## Fondegal YC move up

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**RAIA:** Fondegal Youth Club defeated St Anthony Sports Club 5-1 to move into the next round of Fondegal Youth Club 9-a-side inter-ward football tournament played at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, on Thursday.

Both the teams were in an attacking mode from the start. In the 5th minute, Fondegal YC's Aleeward Mascarenhas scored a goal with a powerful shoot to give lead. In the 9th minute, St Anthony SC found the equaliser through the efforts of Mark. In the 10th minute, Aleeward scored another goal which gave Fondegal YC an advantage. Reuben Fernandes increased the tally with a brilliant goal.

At the end of first half, Fondegal YC were leading 3-1. In the second half, St

INACIO NORONHA



Aleeward Mascarenhas of Fondegal Youth Club receives the man-of-the-match award from a guest

Anthony SC created many chances but couldn't penetrate the Fondegal YC defence. Aleeward and Reuben of Fondegal YC tormented the rival defence time and again. Aleeward Mascarenhas scored the third goal in the 49th minute to complete his hat-trick.

In the dying minutes of the match, Super Sub Reon Colaco scored a goal in the 80th minute. Aleeward again netted to make it 5-1.

## Bidesh XI to face Dunes SC in semis

**MAPUSA:** Bidesh XI, Assnora, thrashed St Augustus SC by 5-0 margin to enter into the semi-finals of Candolim Panchayat Cup organised by Candolim SC at Dr Gustavo Monteiro ground, Candolim, on Friday.

Bidesh XI opened their account in the very 5th minute of play with Sahil Bugde scoring of a cross from Prajat Naik.

On crossing ends, Bidesh

XI pinned their opponents inside their own territory and pumped in four more goals. After Madhu Salgaokar scored the second goal, Prajat Naik scored the third goal of a solo effort. Aakash Kudnekar scored the fourth goal from the penalty spot. Finally, Kunal Salgaonkar hammered the final nail into St Augustus SC coffin. Bidesh XI will now meet Dunes SC in the semi-final.

**FINAL TODAY** **SILVER JUBILEE SOCCER CUP 2025** **FINAL TODAY**  
**ALL GOA 11-A-SIDE OPEN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
 ORG BY **OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHURCH DICARPALE NAVELIM SALCETE GOA**  
 18th May 25 at 4.30pm at Dicarpale Ground  
 Chief Guest: Shri. Cruz Silva  
 MLA, Velim Constituency  
 Guest of Honour: Siddeesh Bhagat  
 (Vice President AAP Youth wing & Ex Sarpanch V.P. Aquem Baião)  
 Special Invitees: Shri. Filipe Neri Rodrigues (Ex min for WRD)  
 Rev. Fr. George Rofos (Parish Priest O.L. Immaculate Conception Church Paroda),  
 Simon Carvalho (Parish of V.P. Davorlim Dicarpale) To Preside,  
 Manoj Dule (Social worker) Rev. Fr. Joaquim Fernandes  
 Vallabh Varak (Social worker) (Parish Priest Dicarpale)  
 COMMITTEE  
 Fr. Joaquim Fernandes Lawrence Carvalho Arcanjo Carvalho Tony Niasso Alarica Furtado  
 Costy's Ads, Clinckrinim, Navelim 9850473904

**ST. ROCK'S YOUTH CLUB - CALATA MAJORDA**  
 In Association with Sport Authority of Goa Invites You For The Finals Of  
**33rd St. Rock's Super Soccer**  
 between  
**Parish Youth of Nuvem** vs **Fr. Agnel Sports Club, Paroda**  
 On Sunday, 18th May 2025 at 4:00 p.m at St. Rock Ground Calata  
 Chief Guest: Mr. Lyndon Monteiro  
 (Social Worker, Verna)  
 Guest of Honour: Fr. Rameiro Luis - (Asst. Professor, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa)  
 Nelly Rodrigues - (Ex. Chairperson, ZP)  
 Vania Baptista - (ZP Member)  
 Manohar Akarkar - Social Worker Mardol, Ponda  
 Anthony Pango - Vice President GFA  
 And all Executive Members of GFA  
 Anthea Pereira - (Sarpanch, V.P. Majorda)  
 And all Panches of V.P. Majorda, Utorada, Calata  
 Jose M. Fernandes President Mikhail Goncalves Vice President Ramesh Lodhkar Gen. Secretary  
 John Goncalves Treasurer Dominic Carvalho Sports Secretary Lyond Dias Asst. Sports Secretary

**CALANGUTE ASSOCIATION**  
 Sports & Cultural Organisation  
 (Umta Vaddo, Calangute)  
**MEN'S GOA PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SELECTION TRIALS**  
 Calangute Association will be conducting Men's Goa Professional Football League Selection Trials for coming season 2025-26. Those interested, please report at Poriat ground, Calangute on 26th/27th/28th May, 2025 at 7.30 am. For details contact : 9823937746/ 9325970818.

**FINAL TODAY** **FINAL**  
**2nd All Goa 5 a side futsal tournament 2025**  
 Organised by **VERNA SPORTS CLUB**  
**Finals will be played at 8.00 pm**  
 Between **KEITH BOYS** vs **MACABBI JRS. or LINCOLN FC**  
 3rd place **LIMON FC VS MACABBI JRS. or LINCOLN FC** (will be played at 7 pm)  
 Venue:- Kings Turf, near Verna Church.  
 Felicitation of SSC toppers 2025 of Verna organised by Verna sports club.  
 Chief Guest: Shri. Aleixo F. Da costa (Secretary- Goa Rehabilitation Board)  
 Guest of Honour: Clifford Miranda (Asst. Coach Mumbai FC)  
 Special invitees: Fr Royal Raposo (Asst Parish Priest Holy cross church Verna)  
 Morrison Rodrigues (Congress Block President Nuvem Constituency)  
 Datilgo Fernandes (PHD in Earth Science and Researcher)  
 Adil Khan (Ex. India International Player)  
 Tiago Fernandes (Football Legend of Verna)  
 Isidore Rodrigues (Ex. MPT Player)  
 Sancon Fernandes (President) Agostinho Barreto (Vice President) Nolan D'Silva (General Secretary) Francisco Nazareth (Treasurer)  
 Noel D'Silva (Sports Secretary) Melisim Barreto (Asst Sports Secretary) Savio Fernandes (Organising Secretary) Cristiano Savio Dias (Youth Co-ordinator)