

# India seek third successive win over Thailand in friendly clash

**PTI, PATHUM THANI (Thailand):** India will look to draw confidence from their recent victories and the form of veteran striker Sunil Chhetri as they face Thailand in an international friendly at Thammamat Stadium on Wednesday, at 6 pm.

Thailand are one of India's most frequent continental opponents outside South Asia, with a rivalry stretching across major tournaments including the Asian Games, Asian Cup, King's Cup, and Nehru Cup.

Since their first meeting at the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta—won 4-1 by India—the sides have clashed 26 times. Thailand have won 12, India seven, and seven

matches have ended in draws.

India, however, claimed the spoils in their last two encounters in 2019: a stunning 4-1 triumph in the AFC Asian Cup in Abu Dhabi and a 1-0 win in the King's Cup on Thai soil.

Chhetri, who netted twice in the Asian Cup fixture, recalled the significance of that result.

"That was a long time ago, but I remember how outstanding the team was that day," he said via an AIFF press release. "It showed what we can achieve when we work hard. Thailand were probably better than us on paper, but we dominated."

The 40-year-old striker is

## PREVIEW

among seven players from India's 2019 Asian Cup squad in the current line-up, alongside Amrinder Singh, Vishal Kaith, Sandesh Jhingan, Subhasish Bose, Ashique Kuruniyan and Udanta Singh. Thailand, by contrast, retain only two players from that match—captain Chanathip Songkrasin and forward Supachai Chaided.

A win would be a significant morale boost for India ahead of their crucial AFC Asian Cup qualifying match against Hong Kong on 10 June in Kowloon. Thailand are also preparing for their final-round

qualifier against Turkmenistan.

"It's a good game for both teams as we're in a similar position," said India head coach Manolo Marquez at the pre-match press conference. "But the context is very different from 2019. Both sides have changed significantly since then."

Marquez added, "We're here to win. If we can repeat that scoreline, it would be great."

India are currently ranked 127th in the FIFA standings, while Thailand sit at 99th, having risen 14 spots since Japanese coach Masatada Ishii took charge in December 2023. Under Ishii, they reached the round of 16 at the Asian Cup, won the King's Cup,

and finished runners-up in the ASEAN Championship.

"We lost the last two games against India, but that was a different team with a different coach," said Ishii. "Now, we're focused on winning and using this game as preparation for Turkmenistan."

Thailand boast several overseas-based players including midfielders Jaroensak Wonggorn (Cerezo Osaka) and Ekanit Panya (Ehime FC), and defender Elias Dolah (Bali United). Other notable names include experienced playmaker Chanathip Songkrasin (70 caps), forward Supachai Chaided, midfielder Ben Davis, and towering defender Marco Ballini.

# Vagator PYSC edge past Pomburpa

**Team Herald**  
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**MAPUSA:** Hosts Vagator PYSC edged past Augustias Sporting Club Pomburpa with a 2-1 victory in the 24th Vagator Soccer 2025, played at the Vagator football ground, on Tuesday.

In a thrilling encounter, the match sparked into life in the 20th minute when Raju of Vagator PYSC made a promising run into the opposition box, only to be denied by an excellent save from the rival goalkeeper.

Five minutes later, Raju found redemption as he latched onto a precise through ball from Rohan Kamble and calmly slotted it past the keeper to hand Vagator PYSC a 1-0 lead.

Pomburpa almost found the equaliser in the 43rd minute through Pawan Devsekar, but Vagator goalkeeper Floyd Lobo managed to parry the ball to safety.

The second half started brightly for Vagator, as



Prabhat Satardekar doubled his team's lead in the 52nd minute with a solo effort, making it 2-0.

Pomburpa responded swiftly in the 57th minute when Akash Parwar unleashed a screamer from outside the box to bring the score to 2-1.

In the closing stages of the match, Pomburpa repeatedly attacked the rival citadel but their strikers failed to convert their chances.

Rohan Kamble was adjudged man-of-the-match.

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# Camarxet advance to next round



Anselm Fernandes of SFX Camarxet receives man-of-the-match trophy from Conceicao Castanha

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**RAIA:** SFX Camarxet secured a place in the next round of the Silver Jubilee Cup 2025, 9-a-side inter-ward football tournament, with a 2-0 victory

over Paldem SC, organised by Sporting Club Virabhat and played at the St Alex Church ground, Curtorim.

The first half ended goalless despite chances on both sides.

Camarxet broke the deadlock in the 30th minute of the second half through Anselm Fernandes. They extended their lead to 2-0 in the 40th minute, courtesy of Rohit Shetty.

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# Davorlim down Varca to enter quarters

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**RAIA:** Sporting Club Davorlim clinched a thrilling 6-4 tiebreaker win over Varca Sporting Club, to storm into the quarter-finals of the Cana Benaulim Panchayat Cup, hosted by St Sebastian Union Club, at St John the Baptist panchayat ground, Benaulim.

Varca Sporting Club controlled the early exchanges, with Aaron and Elvis dominating the midfield and dictating the tempo of the game. However, despite their command, the first half concluded goalless.

The breakthrough came

in the 36th minute when Dylan Lima found the back of the net to put Varca ahead. Davorlim quickly responded as Ajay scored within minutes to level the match.

Varca's goalkeeper Mohammed kept his side in the contest with a series of crucial saves.

Davorlim took the lead in the 55th minute through Nevil Mascarenhas, but Varca refused to relent and Aron Barretto netted a late equaliser to force a tie-breaker.

In the ensuing shootout, Davorlim held their nerve and converted their chances to seal a 6-4 victory, thus booking their place in the quarterfinals.

# Kaykee YC clinch Friendship Cup

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**MARGAO:** Hosts Kaykee Youth Club, Dongorim Majorda, lifted the Friendship Cup 2025 after defeating Rising Star 5-2 in the final. The tournament, organised by Kaykee Youth Club, aimed to promote youth engagement and grassroots development in football for boys under 15 years of age.

Rising Star opened the scoring in the 7th minute through Aman Kumar. However, the hosts responded quickly, with Elroy D'Silva netting the equaliser in the 12th minute. The teams went into the half-time break with the score tied at 1-1.

Both goalkeepers im-



pressed with their sharp reflexes. Cristiano Colaco made notable saves for Kaykee Youth Club, denying efforts from Arbin Ram and Sahil Mheslekar, while the Rising Star keeper kept out shots from Alex Fernandes and Puran Thopil.

The second half saw Kay-

kee Youth Club dominate proceedings. Puran Thopil and Alex Fernandes combined to devastating effect, scoring two goals each in the 62nd and 64th minutes to make it 5-1. Aman Kumar added a consolation goal for Rising Star in the 66th minute, concluding

the match at 5-2 in favour of the hosts.

The chief guest for the final was Patricia Rego, who distributed prizes to the teams in the presence of Edana Braganza and Alisha Pereira. Anjulo P Fernandes proposed the vote of thanks.

# Don Bosco Oratory take home Campeones De Futsal title



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**RAIA:** Don Bosco Oratory (DBO) of Fatorda emerged champions of the Campeones De Futsal tournament defeating Underdogs of Moira in the final, held at Campo Futsal turf, Fatorda. The tournament was organised by Lazy Boys FC and The Sports Hustle Goa. The victorious Don Bos-

co Oratory side received a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with the winners' trophy, while Underdogs Moira had to settle for the runners-up trophy and a cash award of Rs 30,000.

Foot Fighters of Canacona and Fr Agnel Team of Quepem secured third and fourth places respectively, receiving cash prizes of Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000.

Individual awards were

presented as follows: Jordan Borges (DBO) was adjudged best player of the tournament, Hanslum Furtado received the golden boot, and Ozen Silva was awarded the golden glove.

Fatorda MLA Vijay Sardesai was the chief guest for the occasion and handed over the prizes in the presence of former MLA Avertano Furtado.

# Sao Jose de Areal triumph in 3-a-side jr football tournament

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**RAIA:** Sao Jose de Areal defeated Black Arrow Boys, Agxem-Curtorim, 3-2, in the finals of the 1st All 3-a-side junior tie-breaker football tournament, held at Four Junction ground, Agxem-Curtorim. The event was organised by Black Arrow Boys Agxem and saw participation from 16 teams across Goa.

A number of individual awards were presented at the conclusion of the tournament: First Goal of the tournament: Gladson Rocha (RA United); Best defender: Ashler (Black Arrow Boys); Best finisher: Macklan (RA United); Best sensible player:



Vallen (RA United); Best passing player: Roysen (Thunder Strike FC); Best skilful player: Elnor (Sao Jose de Areal); Highest scorer: Sonal (Sao Jose de Areal); Youngest player: Asher Fernandes (Black

Arrow Boys); Upcoming player of the tournament: Zylen Castanha (Jack of All); Man-of-the-match (final): Elnor (Sao Jose de Areal). The winning team was guided by Joaquim Crasto.

# RCC Fatorda swimmers bag 11 medals at all-Goa meet

**RAIA:** RCC Fatorda swimmers shone brightly at the 8th all-Goa swimming competition for children, organised by the Rotary Club of Ponda New Generation, held at the Swimming Pool Sports Complex, Ponda.

The team claimed a total of 11 medals across various age categories: Under-14 boys: Deep Naik Dessai (14), from Mahila & Nutan English High School, Margao, won bronze in the 100 metres breaststroke.

Under-13 girls: Shreeja Shailash Naik (11), from Perpetual Succour Convent High School, Navelim, secured silver in the 100 metres butterfly.

Under-11 boys: Reuben Rocha

(10), from Bethany Convent High School, Sao Jose de Areal, delivered a standout performance, winning gold in both 50 metres butterfly and freestyle, and silver in the 50 metres backstroke and breaststroke.

Under-9 girls: Aradhya Pradeep Borkar (7), from Vidhya Bharti Primary School, Margao, earned three silver medals in 50 metres breaststroke, freestyle, and butterfly, and a bronze in backstroke.

Raizel Rocha (7), from Bethany Convent High School, Sao Jose de Areal, claimed a bronze medal in 50 metres butterfly.

All five swimmers are trained under RCC Fatorda Margao's swimming coach, Inacio Netty Raposo.



Raj Raviv Kunkolienkar, a 15-year-old student of GVM's AJ de Almeida High School, Ponda, has achieved an International FIDE Rapid Rating of 1496. He is trained under FIDE Instructor Wilson Cruz at Champions Chess Academy



Joseph School of Football, Caranzalem, has partnered with Bangalore-based K3 Sports Management Company, which manages teams across football, basketball, shooting and cricket. K3 trains children aged 6 to 15, focusing on sportsmanship and skill development. The partnership aims to enhance grassroots football in Goa through a joint training and talent identification system. Seen in the picture are Joseph Fernandes, Director of Joseph School of Football, Upasana Gupta, CEO of K3 Sports Management Company, Bangalore and Technical Director Deepak William

# Football: Indian women lose again to Uzbekistan

**PTI, BENGALURU:** Indian women's football team on Tuesday suffered a second narrow defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan, going down 0-1 in the second of two FIFA Women's International Friendlies here.

Despite an improved and spirited performance, the Blue Tigresses were undone by a moment of

brilliance from Nilufar Kudratova early in the second half.

Tuesday's encounter, following the 0-1 loss in the first friendly, offered hope for redemption. And while India showed marked improvement — especially in their in-

tensity and intent — the scoreline, unfortunately, remained the same.

In the end, they fell short but the performance was anything but disheartening.

The Blue Tigresses displayed resilience, tactical awareness, and attacking hunger, qualities they had been criticised for lacking in the previous outing.

## TODAY'S SPORTS

- Benaulim Panchayat Cup:** Navelim Villagers Union vs St Anthony Club Colva, St John de Baptist ground, Dando-Benaulim, at 4.30 pm
- Silver Jubilee Cup 2025:** Unjirim FC vs Sinaibhag FC, St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, at 5 pm
- 5th all-Goa 8-a-side football tournament (2nd semi-final):** Daddy Boys Guiridolim vs Rebello Pandel Maina, at Layamati ground, Davorlim, at 4.30 pm
- 24th Vagator Soccer 2025:** St Savio Sports Club Calangute vs Pilerne Sports Club, at Vagator ground, at 4.30 pm
- Xetrapal Cup:** Dunes SC vs BAFF Bicholim, at Oxel ground, at 4.30 pm