

Wazir, Shaina, Bornil & Rishika emerge champions

HERALD PIC



The champions along with Goa Badminton Association President Manoj Patil, Secretary Praveen Shenoy, Treasurer Sanjay Bhohe, organising secretary of the tournament Wayne Fernandes, tournament directors Navneet Nasnodkar, Samir Sangodkar and other dignitaries at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Sunday

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PANJIM: Punjab's Wazir Singh, Karnataka's top-seeded Shaina Manimuthu Assam's Bornil Akash Changmai and Delhi's Rishika Nandi emerged champions stamping their authority in the U-15 Boys, U-15 Girls, U-17 Boys and U-17 Girls finals respectively of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament 2025 organised by the Goa Badminton Association under the aegis of Badminton Association of India and the Sports Authority of Goa, at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Sunday.

U-15 Boys Singles, defeating Delhi's Harshit Khatri 21-18, 21-17 in the final after earlier ousting top seed Pushkar Sai.

Karnataka's top-seeded Shaina Manimuthu proved too strong in the U-15 Girls final, overcoming Aryama Chakraborty of West Bengal 21-9, 21-13.

In U-15 Boys Doubles, Haryana's Jaivardhan Hoo-

ga Ramkumar and Neha S (21-23, 21-12, 21-15) and teaming up with Andhra Pradesh's Hemanth Sri Sammetla to take the U-15 Mixed Doubles crown over Punjab's Zorawar Singh and Inayat Gulati 21-16, 21-10.

In U-17 Boys Singles, Assam's Bornil Akash Changmai stunned top seed Dev Ruparelia of Maharashtra with a commanding 21-10, 21-13.

The U-17 Girls Doubles title went to Karnataka's Aditi Deepak Raj and Vriddhi Ponnamma B V, who edged out fellow State players Suhina Roy and Aikya Shetty 21-16, 21-19. Aditi then partnered Punith S to secure the U-17 Mixed Doubles title, coming from behind to defeat Tamil Nadu's Taranraj Raja and Krithya Siva Sankar 19-21, 21-18, 21-13.

The prize distribution was graced by Manoj Patil, president of the Goa Badminton Association, alongside Secretary Praveen Shenoy and Treasurer Sanjay Bhohe. Also present were organising secretary of the tournament Wayne Fernandes, tournament directors Navneet Nasnodkar and Samir Sangodkar among others.

ALL INDIA SUB JUNIOR RANKING BADMINTON

da and Delhi's Harshit Khatri rallied to beat the second-seeded Delhi duo of Vivaan Bisht and Chinmay Krishna Nimmagadda 19-21, 21-11, 21-18. Maharashtra's Sharayu Ranjane clinched two titles - partnering Soyara Shelar to win the U-15 Girls Doubles over Tamil Nadu's Bhavanthi-

21-8 victory. Delhi's Rishika Nandi emerged champion in the U-17 Girls Singles, defeating Tamil Nadu's Mohitha Polavaram 21-18, 21-11. In U-17 Boys Doubles, Karnataka's Pavan S and Punith S beat Rishav Ngangom and Mangsuan Vemai Kyoveio of Manipur 21-14, 21-18.

India, Kyrgyz Republic play out a goalless draw

AIFF MEDIA



AGENCIES, NEW DELHI: The India U-23 national team played a goalless draw against Kyrgyz Republic at the Hisor Central Stadium, in Hisor, Tajikistan.

The Blue Colts had travelled to Tajikistan to play two friendly matches, the first of which they lost 2-3 against the hosts, as part of their preparations for the AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers later this year, and the Asian Games in 2026.

FRIENDLY

Head Coach Naushad Moosa made eight changes to his starting XI from the game against Tajikistan, with only defenders Pramveer, Bikash Yunnam, and Abhishek Singh Tekcham retaining their place.

Despite the changes, Kyrgyz Republic looked the livelier of the two teams for a good part of the first half an hour, while India tried to create the off-chances through their quick wingers.

Resolute not to give up, the Blue Colts clawed their way back and slowly found the momentum they were looking for as half-time ticked closer. Calmer and more composed on the ball, India finally began to create chances.

Parthib Sundar Gogoi had a vicious shot saved in the 38th minute, and six minutes later, worried the Kyrgyz defence once again, when he swung a low free-kick at the near post, which made Kyrgyz Republic keeper Chomoev Sultan produce a diving save. Another opportunity

went begging just a minute before the break, when Viben Mohanan found an unmarked Pramveer at the far post. The centre-back's header, however, went over the crossbar.

As the match restarted, India coach Moosa made a number of changes in the second half. However, Kyrgyz Republic started the better team again, while India took time to find their old momentum again.

As time wore on, substitute Macarton Louis Nickson began to dictate terms in the middle, and his link-up play with Suhail Ahmad

Bhat seemed to have the Kyrgyz Republic defence on the back foot.

Bhat thought he had put India in the lead in the 69th minute, when he was put through behind the defence by Macarton. While the former expertly cut past the keeper and found the back of the net, he had been flagged offside.

A minute later, Kyrgyz Republic Ermekov Baibol tested Sahil with a long-range effort, but the India goalkeeper collected it with ease.

Macarton and Suhail combined again with 12 minutes of regulation time left. A one-two at the edge of the box created some space for the former to shoot, but he shot over the crossbar.

Sahil produced a last-ditch diving save to keep Toktonaliev Nursultan out. Chingangbam Shivaldo had India's last chance of the match after Macarton played him into the box. However, it was saved.

After 2022 heartbreak, Indian women eye fresh start in Asian Cup Qualifiers

PTI, CHIANG MAI (Thailand): More than three years after a COVID outbreak in the team derailed their campaign in the last AFC Women's Asian Cup, India will make a fresh bid for a place in the continental showpiece, with Mongolia being their first test in the Qualifiers, at the 70th Anniversary of Chiang Mai Stadium, here, on Monday.

The upcoming edition of the premier tournament will be held in Australia next year.

It wouldn't be wrong to say that the continent's top competition has been somewhat ill-fated for the Blue Tigresses in the last few decades.

India last made it to the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2003. And when they hosted the tournament in 2022, a COVID outbreak in the side meant that India had to withdraw after only the first game and the results were declared void.

While India do have three podium finishes in the erstwhile Asian Women's Championship (runners-up in 1980 and 1983, and third place in 1981), they have not achieved anything for more than 40 years.

Besides the opener against Mongolia, India (ranked 70th) will face Timor Leste (ranked 158th) on July 2, Iraq (ranked 173rd) on July 5 and hosts Thailand (ranked 46th) on July 5, at the Chiang Mai Stadium.

Only the group winners will qualify for the final tournament in Australia in March 2026, which will also serve as a qualifier for the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027.

Apart from Thailand, India have never faced the other three Group B opponents before.

"We don't have much in-

SQUAD
Goalkeepers: Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Moirangthem Monalisha Devi, Payal Basude
Defenders: Hemam Shikky Devi, Kiran Pisdia, Martina Thokchom, Ngangbam Sweety Devi, Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, Purnima Kumari, Sanju, Sorokhaibam Ranjana Chanu
Midfielders: Anju Tamang, Grace Dangmei, Karthika Angamuthu, Nongmaitthem Ratanbala Devi, Priyadarshini Selladurai, Sangita Basfore
Forwards: Lynda Kom Serto, Malavika P, Manisha Kalyan, Pyari Xaxa, Rimpa Haldar, Soumya Guguloth
Coach: Crispin Chettri. **Assistant coach:** Priya PV.
Assistant coach: Nivetha Ramadoss. **Goalkeeper coach:** Mario Luis Aguiar. **Strength and conditioning coach:** Chelston Pinto

ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2026 QUALIFIERS GROUP B SCHEDULE
June 23: Mongolia vs India (2:30 IST)
June 29: India vs Timor Leste (2:30 IST)
July 2: India vs Iraq (2:30 IST)
July 5: Thailand vs India (6:00 IST)

formation about Mongolia, Timor Leste and Iraq. They haven't played any matches recently. We do know a bit about Thailand. They played two games against Nepal in the last window, and one of them was closed doors," said Head Coach Crispin Chettri.

"I tried different variations in our friendlies (against Uzbekistan). I tested many combinations in midfield, involving Sangita (Basfore), Karthika (Angamuthu), Ratanbala (Nongmaitthem), Grace (Dangmei) and Anju (Tamang)."

While India lost both friendlies 0-1 against Uzbekistan on May 30 and June 3, it was significant preparation for the all-important qualifiers.

The Blue Tigresses, who had trained in Bengaluru since the start of May, travelled to Chiang Mai a week before the first game, and have had four full training sessions so far, including an intra-squad match.

"I think coming to Chiang Mai earlier has helped us

to acclimatise to the weather conditions and adjust to time difference. The weather here is more humid than in Bengaluru. The training ground is great and we're shaping up well for the forthcoming matches. We also played a full 90-minute match among ourselves on

Thursday," said Chettri.

With an average age of 23.6 years, Chettri has named a fairly young squad consisting of a lot of newcomers. But that's not to say there's a dearth of experience.

For a Malavika, there's a Dangmei Grace, for a Priyadarshini, there's an Anju Tamang, for a Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, there's a Ngangbam Sweety Devi.

"We have a very good mix of youth and experience. We had 18-year-old goalkeeper Monalisha (Moirangthem) debut against Uzbekistan. I'm not scared to play with youngsters because this is how they are going to gain experience. And playing such important AFC matches will help us grow," said Chettri.

"Staying and working together for more than 45 days has done a great deal of good for their chemistry, and now what matters is executing it on the pitch. The focus on the training pitch has shifted more to tactical details."

Assonora United clinch Vagator Soccer Trophy

HERALD PIC



The winners along with chief guest Siolim MLA Delilah Lobo, guests of honour Shivshankar Mayekar of Shivani Developers, Anjuna-Caisua Sarpanch Laxmidas Chimulkar, Panch member Dinesh Patel, special invitees Vagator PYSOC founder member Fr Herculano Corria, Goa Football Association's Executive Committee members, Comunidade of Anjuna members, other village panchayat members and other dignitaries the Vagator ground, on Sunday

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MAPUSA: Assonora United FC delivered a commanding performance to clinch the 24th Vagator Soccer 2025 Trophy with a resounding 5-0 win over YSC Colvale in the final played at Vagator ground, on Sunday.

Assonora United opened their floodgates in the 9th minute when Kunal Salgaonkar fired a stiff grounder from outside the penalty box to give his team an early 1-0 lead. In the 17th minute, Assonora United were awarded a penalty, which Kunal calmly converted, taking the score to 2-0.

Assonora United continued their attacking display, when Kunal completed his hat-trick following a goal-keeping blunder, giving Assonora United a comfortable 3-0 advantage at half-time.

The second half saw more dominance from Assonora United. In the 39th minute, Kunal netted his fourth goal of the match after capitalising on a defensive error. Prajot Arabekar

added the fifth goal in the 54th minute with a header from a well-placed cross, sealing the game at 5-0.

At the start of the match, chief guest Siolim MLA Delilah Lobo, guests of honour Shivshankar Mayekar of Shivani Developers, Anjuna-Caisua Sarpanch Laxmidas Chimulkar, Panch member Dinesh Patel, special invitees Vagator PYSOC founder member Fr

Herculano Corria, Goa Football Association's Executive Committee members, Comunidade of Anjuna members, other village panchayat members and other dignitaries were introduced to the players and match officials by Vagator PYSOC Committee members. Assonora United received the winners' cash prize of Rs 80,000 plus trophy from chief guest Delilah Lobo, while YSC Colvale received the runners-up cash prize of Rs 60,000 plus trophy from guest of honour Shivshankar Mayekar. Later, President of Vagator PYSOC Joaquim Fernandes proposed a vote of thanks.

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

- Best striker of final:** Kunal Salgaonkar (Assonora United)
- Best goalkeeper of final:** Vishant Asnodkar (Assonora United)
- Best defender of final:** Punaji Kalangutkar (Assonora United)
- Best midfielder of final:** Gauresh Bugde (Assonora United)
- Man-of-the-match:** Kunal Salgaonkar (Assonora United)

Navelim SC move ahead

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RAIA: Navelim Sporting Club staged a dramatic second-half comeback to stun Betalbatim SC goalkeeper in the 19th and 32nd minute.

After the break, Navelim SC returned with purpose. Joysun Coutinho brought the team on level terms with a precise 10-yard free-kick in the 37th minute. Building on the momentum, Navelim SC launched a relentless attack in the final stretch.

Venito Costa came close in the 12th minute and Ronaldo Pereira forced two crucial saves from the Betalbatim SC goalkeeper in the 19th and 32nd minute.

After the break, Navelim SC returned with purpose. Joysun Coutinho brought the team on level terms with a precise 10-yard free-kick in the 37th minute. Building on the momentum, Navelim SC launched a relentless attack in the final stretch.

Venito Costa struck in the 42nd minute to put his side ahead, followed by Prestley Gomes in the 43rd and Velon Rebello in the 50th, sealing a remarkable turnaround.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Anil Kamat Trophy inter-village football: Sao Jose de Areal vs United Boys of Ambaulim, at Our Lady of Hope Church ground, Chinchinim, 4.30 pm

19th Super Soccer: USC Seraulim vs Navelim Villagers Union, at St John de Baptist ground, Dando-Benaullim, 4.30 pm

1st Vedanta Trophy: Calangute Association vs Arpora Sporting, at Sinqerim ground, 4.30 pm

Anil Kamat memorial football (1st quarter-final): San Jose de Areal vs United Boys of Ambaulim, at the Chinchinim Church ground, 4.30 pm

SC Davorlim in semis

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RAIA: Sporting Club Davorlim ousted a fighting Carmona Sports Club 5-3 via a tie-breaker in the quarter-final to enter the semi-finals of 19th Super Soccer football tournament organised by United Club Benaullim at St John de Baptist ground, Dando-Benaullim, on Sunday.

SC Davorlim made a bright start with striker M Ajay Raj and Vellroy Colaco harassing the Carmona SC defenders.

SC Davorlim expectedly took the lead through Vellroy Colaco, who was in the right place to flick a teasing cross of Ajay Raj in the



Darren Estibeiro of Carmona SC receives the man-of-the-match award from Pele Fernandes

20th minute. After the restart, Carmona SC showed lots of enterprise but striker Ronan Ferrao's effort struck the post and the rebound was cleared away by SC

Davorlim defender Piedade Colaco. Carmona SC again got a chance but Ronan Ferrao blazed over the crossbar. Carmona

SC's persistent efforts got the reward when playmaker Darren Estibeiro found Ashley Pinto to get the equaliser with two minutes remaining for the final whistle.

At the end of regulation time, both teams settled for a 1-1 draw. In the ensuing tie-breaker, Sporting Club Davorlim scored through Prince Figueiredo, M Ajay Raj, Aaren Figueiredo and Milton Colaco, while only Darren Estibeiro and Stanford Fernandes scored for Carmona SC.

TODAY HOUSEFUL 23RD JUNE
3.30 P.M. G.V.N MARGAO
28TH JUNE 3.30 P.M. G.V.N MARGAO
(TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER)
(SUNDAY)
29TH JUNE 3.30 P.M.
R.B.VASCO
(TICKETS WITH RODRIGUES TAILOR)
LAST & FINAL SHOW
30TH JUNE 3.30 PM
K.A PANJIM
(TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER)

30TH JUNE 7.30 PM
KALA ACADEMY PANJIM
AIR.M.ASA. Production
TIATR
SMILE PLEASE
1ST JULY 3.30PM
G.V.N MARGAO