

Goa clinch western zone title at Sri Sathya Sai Cricket League

Team Herald
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AJMER: Goa, competing as Sai Coastal Fighter Goa, emerged champions of the Western Zone Sri Sathya Sai National Cricket League held at Presidency School, Ajmer, from June 27 to 29.

The league, part of the centenary celebrations of revered spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba, aims to promote values of teamwork, discipline and selfless service through sport. Six teams from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, and Maharashtra participated in the Western Zone tournament, with Goa now set to represent the region at the national finals at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh, from August 14 to 17.



HERALD PIC

Goa's campaign was marked by commanding all-round performances. In the Super Six, they chased down 154 set by Sai Gujarat, reaching 157/7 in 19.3 overs. Rajat Shet top-scored with a rapid 46 off 24 balls, while Veer Yadav added 30. Mithil Karekar starred with

the ball, taking 4/24.

In another group match, Goa posted a formidable 222/6, powered by a blistering unbeaten 75 off 30 from Yadav. Sanath Nevagi (54) and Yash Gadekar (36) offered solid support, and Aditya Suryawanshi (3/29) led the bowling to seal a

comfortable win.

In the final, Goa piled up 230/3 after being put in to bat by Rajasthan. Ayush Verlekar led the assault with a sensational unbeaten 103 off 45 balls, while Yadav contributed 72* off 43. Rajasthan were bowled out for 173, handing Goa a

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR GOA

- Best batsman: Veer Yadav – 177 runs in 3 matches
- Best bowler: Mithil Karekar – 8 wickets in 3 matches
- Man-of-the-match (vs Gujarat): Rajat Shet
- Man-of-the-match (vs Maharashtra West): Aditya Suryawanshi
- Man-of-the-match (final): Ayush Verlekar

comprehensive victory.

The tournament commenced with a colourful march-past, Vedic chanting and devotional singing, reflecting the spirit and values of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

India a step away from qualification after blanking Iraq

AGENCIES, CHIANG MAI (THAILAND): The Indian women's football team produced another commanding performance in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, dismantling Iraq 5-0 at the 700th Anniversary of Chiang Mai Stadium on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. India led 2-0 at half-time.

WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

First-half goals from Sangita Basfore and Manisha set the tone before a dominant second half saw Karthika Angamuthu, Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, and Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi add to the scoreline, taking India's goal tally to an impressive 22 from three games, all without conceding a single goal.

With this result, the Blue Tigresses remain unbeaten, having now claimed three wins in as many matches.

India are currently atop Group B with nine points and a goal difference of +22. With Thailand, currently second in the group, set to face Mongolia later in the day, the stage is perfectly set for a high-stakes showdown between India and Thailand on July 5. With only the group winner progressing, it will be a winner-takes-all affair.

On Wednesday, India, coming off thumping wins against Mongolia (13-0) and Timor-Leste (4-0), were high on confidence and wasted no time in asserting their authority.

Betalbatim Sporting move into quarters

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RAIA: Betalbatim Sporting Club secured a narrow 1-0 win over Varca SC to move into the quarter-finals of the Benaulim Villagers Cup football tournament, organised by Dando Boys Club Benaulim and played at the St John de Baptist ground, Benaulim, on Wednesday.

The decisive moment came in the second half when Colomaban Noronha of Varca SC inadvertently put the ball into his own net, handing Betalbatim Sporting the advantage and ultimately, the win.

Calangute Assn march into final

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MAPUSA: Calangute Association booked their place in the final of the 1st Vedanta Trophy with a commanding 2-0 victory over BAFF, at the Siquerim Sports Club ground, on Wednesday.

VEDANTA TROPHY

day. The tournament is being organised by Siquerim Sports Club.

The breakthrough came in the 22nd minute when young and prolific striker Jovito Fernandes put Calangute ahead. They maintained their one-goal lead



Pedro Gonsalves receives man-of-the-match award from Franklin Roncon

going into the lemon break.

The result was sealed in the 53rd minute when former state player Pedro Gonsalves doubled the advantage with a well-taken goal, ensuring a comfortable win

for Calangute Association.

Pedro Gonsalves was adjudged man-of-the-match for his standout performance and was presented with the award by GFDC official Franklin Roncon.

Sinquerim SC down Augustias

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MAPUSA: Sinquerim SC edged out Augustias SC Pomburpa, 7-6, in sudden death to progress in the 1st Siolim Villagers Cup 2025, organised by FC Siolim and played at the Siolim ground, on Wednesday.

In a tightly contested affair, both sides failed to find the back of the net during regulation time, with the match ending in a goalless draw.

The tie was eventually decided in a nerve-wracking sudden death shootout, where Sinquerim emerged the better side



Sahil Parwar receives man-of-the-match award from Pushparaj Mandrekar

from the spot.

Sahil Parwar was named man-of-the-match and received the award from Pushparaj Mandrekar, treasurer of FC Siolim.

Rosary, Our Lady of Succour, Mount Mary's, St Joseph's triumph

SAO JOSE DE AREAL: The Next Gen League 3.0 witnessed an action-packed day in the U15 Boys Group Stage, with thrilling Round 2 encounters held across Groups C and D.

NEXT GEN LEAGUE U-15

In Group C, Rosary High School, Navelim continued their strong run with a win over St. Anthony's High School, Cuncolim. Aldrich Costa was adjudged Player of the Match for his commanding presence

on the field.

In the other Group C fixture, Our Lady of Succour High School, Verna emerged victorious against St. Anne's Institute, Agonda. Joseph Desa delivered a standout performance and was awarded Player of the Match.

Group D also saw competitive fixtures. Mount Mary's High School, Chinchinim defeated St. Jude's High School, Betalbatim, with Ashroy Fernandes making a notable impact and earning the Player of

the Match title.

In another Group D clash, St. Joseph's Educational Institute, Chandor secured a win over Immaculate Conception High School, Paroda. Macklan Meneses impressed with his performance and was named Player of the Match.

The Next Gen League is an Inter-School Football and Futsal league organised by The King's Sports Academy, with The King's School, Sao Jose de Areal, serving as the venue partner.

Youth of Pidadigal cruise into quarters



Aliston Fernandes receives man-of-the-match award from Joel Paes

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RAIA: Youth of Pidadigal FC stormed into the quarter-finals with a dominant 4-0 victory over Corjem Youth Club in the 2nd Caniza Peixeto Memorial 9-a-side football tournament, organised by Black Arrow Boys Aggem Sports Club and played at the St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, on Wednesday.

Despite a rain-affected pitch, both teams displayed

competitive football early on. However, it was Youth of Pidadigal who took control, scoring four goals across both halves.

Aliston Fernandes led the charge with a brace in the 22nd and 35th minutes. He was well supported by Velroy Pais and Velrino Fernandes, who added to the tally with goals in the 30th and 44th minutes respectively.

Aliston Fernandes was awarded man-of-the-match by Joel Paes, member of Aggem Sports Club.

TODAY'S SPORTS

1st Vedanta Soccer Trophy: FC Siolim vs Assonora United FC at Siquerim ground, at 4.30 pm

Benaulim Villagers Cup 2025: United Club of Verna v Maina SC, at St John the Baptist panchayat ground, Benaulim, at 4.30 pm

Cipriano Silva Memorial football Tournament (1st semi-final): Arlem YA vs Fr Agnelo Paroda, at Our Lady of Hope Church ground, Chinchinim, at 4.30 pm

1st Siolim Villagers Cup: Dunes SC vs BAFF, at Siolim ground, at 4.45 pm

Assonora United Super Soccer Cup: Peddem Bomm Sports Club vs Candolim SC, at Assonora ground, at 4.30 pm

Michael strike sends Ambelim into last four

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RAIA: Ambelim Sports Club secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over SCC Loutolim to advance to the semi-finals of the Cipriano Silva Memorial football tournament, organised by Ambelim SC and played at the PL of Hope Church ground,



Michael Silva of Ambelim receives man-of-the-match award from Rev Fr Victor

Chinchinim, on Wednesday.

Michael Silva netted the all-important goal in the 36th minute of the match, sealing the win for his side. He was later named Man of the Match for his decisive contribution.

Michael Silva of Ambelim Sports Club was awarded man-of-the-match by Rev Fr Victor.

Chelsea sign Brazil striker Joao Pedro from Brighton

AFP, LONDON: Chelsea signed Brazil striker Joao Pedro from Brighton in a deal worth a reported \$79 million on Wednesday.

Pedro jetted to the United States, where Chelsea are playing in the Club World Cup, on Sunday after the terms of his eight-year contract were agreed.

With the transfer now confirmed following a medical, Pedro is available to play for Enzo Maresca's side in their Club World Cup quarter-final against Palmeiras in Philadelphia.

FIFA has given clubs involved in the Club World Cup knockout phase until July 3 to register new players for the tournament.

"Everyone knows this is a big club with a great history," Pedro said.

"They had brilliant players in the past and have brilliant players now, so I am excited to join and you know when you are a Chelsea player you must think one thing - win."

Pedro, who joined Brighton for £30 million from Watford two years ago, scored 30 goals in 70 appearances for the Seagulls and has been capped three times by Brazil.

The 23-year-old missed Brighton's final two matches of the season after being dropped due to a training ground altercation with teammate Jan Paul van Hecke.



TIATR ACADEMY OF GOA (A Division of the University) In Collaboration With Benaulim Villagers, Verna Goa			
3rd All Goa Inter School Tiatr Competition 2025-26			
Inaugural Function on 4th July 2025 at 3:15 pm at Ravindra Bhavan, Vasco			
Chief Guest: Shri. Maurvin Godinho, Minister for Transport, Panchayat Raj & Protocol			
SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCE Verna: Ravindra Bhavan, Vasco Goa Time: Daily 3:30 pm			
NAME OF THE GROUP	NAME OF THE TIA TR	DATE OF PERFORMANCE	
The Henry High School, Copra, Benaulim	Katha Zambila	04/07/2025	
Our Lady of Our Lady High School, Dona Paula	BO Nhal, EQ Zai	05/07/2025	
Villars Vilas High School, Tisane, Candolim Goa	Saba Nhal, EQ Zai	07/07/2025	
St. Xavier's High School, Verna, Benaulim	Covid	08/07/2025	
Our Lady of Our Lady High School, Candolim, Benaulim	Vai	09/07/2025	
St. Mark's High School, Tisane, Verna	A.I	11/07/2025	
Anthony Barbosa President of IAG		Rajesh Jadhav Chairman of PM Verna	