



GFA GOALPOST



SUCCESSFUL OCTOBER

Goa qualify for Santosh
Trophy final Round

Goa Junior Girls Excel

Goa clinch silver: N-Games

INDIAN FORWARD



GOALPOST

GOA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October has been a month of resounding success for Goan football, and I am thrilled to share some of the fantastic news with all of you through our esteemed GFA newsletter, "GoalPost."

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our talented Goa Junior Women's team, who have brought immense honor to our football community. Their extraordinary performance, culminating in the Tier-2 national title displays tireless efforts, and undying passion for the beautiful game. This triumph serves as a source of immense pride and inspiration for all of us, emphasizing the potential and promise that our state holds.

Our beach football team has also been a shining example of sportsmanship. They showcased their exceptional commitment during the 37th National Games, securing a silver medal. .

But the success stories do not end there. Our senior men's team topped Group A and earned qualification for the Santosh Trophy final round. Their relentless commitment to the sport has positioned them as formidable contenders.

In addition to these accomplishments, I am delighted to share promising news regarding our football infrastructure. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of a dedicated organization, we are on the verge of expanding our facilities in North Goa. This collaboration promises not only a new football ground but also the prospect of a stadium that will provide an ideal platform for our talented players to hone their skills and shine on the pitch.



As we celebrate these achievements, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated coaches who have played an integral role in guiding our teams to excellence. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Junior Girls' team coach, Jonathan Faleiro; the Beach Football team coach, Bruno Coutinho; and the Men's team coach, Derrick Pereira. Their guidance, expertise, and commitment to the development of our players have been instrumental in achieving these remarkable feats.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the entire GFA community, including our players, coaches, and ardent supporters, whose passion and dedication to Goan football are the driving force behind our success.

--Dr. Caitano Fernandes

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GOA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GOALPOST

Goa secure silver medal at 37th National Games

Goa's beach football team put up a valiant effort at the 37th National Games in their quest for gold but had to settle for silver. In a thrilling final showdown at Colva beach, Goa faced off against a strong Kerala side and despite leading for the majority of the game, they succumbed to a 5-7 defeat.

The match started with Kerala taking an early lead, but Goa managed to equalize through the remarkable efforts of Pedro Gonsalves, who delivered a stunning hattrick in just four minutes, propelling Goa ahead 3-1. Goa's resilience was evident, but Kerala staged a comeback with quick goals. However, Richard ensured that Goa retained their lead, making it 4-3. In the final quarter, Kerala once again turned the tide by scoring three quick goals, taking a 6-4 lead. Goa fought back valiantly, with Richard scoring his brace and narrowing the deficit to 5-6. In the closing minutes, Goa made persistent efforts to equalize, but luck was not on their side as the Kerala goalpost denied them the much-needed goal. With Goa committing more players to their attack, Kerala managed to score the final goal in the dying moments.



While the gold medal eluded them, Goa's beach football team showcased their determination and sportsmanship, earning the respect and admiration of the fans and supporters who witnessed their impressive journey in the National Games.

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SILVER LINING

GOA BEACH FOOTBALL TEAM



Pedro Gonsalves emerged as the undisputed top scorer of the tournament with a staggering 18 goals, showcasing his prolific goal-scoring ability and instrumental role in Goa's campaign. Kashinath Rathod and Musheer TKB weren't far behind, each contributing 11 goals to their respective teams. Richard Cardoz and Satish Naik also made significant goal-scoring contributions to their squads, with 10 goals apiece.

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Rank	Players	Match	Goals
1	PEDRO GONSALVES (GOA)	5	18
2	KASHINATH RATHOD (GOA)	5	11
3	MUSHEER TKB (KERALA)	5	11
4	RICHARD CARDOZ (GOA)	5	10
5	SATISH NAIK (GOA)	5	10

TEAM STATS:

In the five matches that Goa played, they set the tournament ablaze with a total of 61 goals, resulting in an astonishing average of 12.2 goals per game. This statistic highlights the attacking prowess and dominance of the Goan beach football team, reflecting their thrilling and high-scoring performances throughout the competition.

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SILVER LINING

GOA BEACH FOOTBALL TEAM

QUOTE ROOM

As a coach, it's heartbreaking to see our Goa Beach Football Team narrowly miss the gold in the final against Kerala. Our players were best throughout the tournament. Although we fell short in the final moments, I couldn't be prouder of their performance. We will use this experience as motivation to come back stronger, work harder, and strive for glory in the future. The journey doesn't end here; we will continue to chase our dreams and make our beautiful Goa proud." – Bruno Coutinho, Coach, Goa Beach Football Team

**--Bruno Coutinho
Coach Goa Beach Football**

We wanted gold, but sometimes things don't work out the way we want. I'm happy for our coach Bruno and the boys, as they came a long way and gave their best throughout. Today's final was great, it had an end-to-end game, and both teams had fair chances. The fans played an amazing role in supporting us, and we are truly sorry we couldn't win gold for them –Laximan Hadfadkar, Team Manger Goa Beach Football



Team Manager Laximan Hadfadkar and coach Bruno Coutinho interacting with the players



TECHNICAL TEAM

Team Manager Laximan Hadfadkar, Goalkeeper coach Mario Aguiar, coach Bruno Coutinho, Asst. coach Fausto Lobo, Physio Priyanka Varak

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GOA CLINCH GROUP A TRIUMPH AND SANTOSH TROPHY BERTH



Goa emerged Group A winners in a thrilling showdown against formidable opponents Kerala, clinching a hard-fought 1-0 victory that not only secured their place at the top of the group but also granted them a coveted qualification for the prestigious 77th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy. The electrifying match unfolded at the SAG ground in Benaulim, and it was a nail-biting encounter that had football enthusiasts on the edge of their seats. The hero of the match was Trijoy Dias. With composure under immense pressure, Trijoy delivered the decisive blow, finding the back of the net just before the hour mark. It was a moment of sheer brilliance that sent the Goan supporters into wild celebrations, and it would ultimately prove to be the goal that set Goa on the path to victory.

Right from the opening whistle, Coach Derrick's side displayed a remarkable determination to dominate the match. They maintained maximum possession and pressed their opponents relentlessly, creating an atmosphere charged with excitement. Deeshank Kunkalikal set the tone with the first significant attempt for Goa, underlining their relentless offensive intent. The second half witnessed Goa's persistence paying off as Trijoy Dias seized a golden opportunity. With an awe-inspiring curling effort from the edge of the box, Trijoy found the back of the net and ignited jubilant celebrations among the Goan faithful. This exceptional goal would stand as the match decider, highlighting Trijoy's extraordinary talents and his ability to shine when it mattered the most.

KEY STATS

- Goa emerged as the victors of Group A in a thrilling football encounter against Kerala, securing a crucial 1-0 win.
- This victory not only topped the group but also earned Goa a qualification for the prestigious 77th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy, adding to their storied football legacy.
- Trijoy Dias was the standout hero of the match, scoring the decisive goal just before the hour mark, demonstrating exceptional skill and composure under intense pressure.

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TRIJOY DIAS: GOA'S SANTOSH TROPHY SENSATION AND HEROIC MATCH-WINNER

In Goa's thrilling Santosh Trophy Group phase campaign, one name has shone brighter than the Goan sun itself – Trijoy Dias. The young striker has left an indelible mark on this prestigious tournament, earning not one but two coveted "Man of the Match" awards, and captivating the hearts of Goan football enthusiasts.

Trijoy's standout moment came in the high-stakes match against formidable Kerala, where he scored match-winning goal. It was this stunning strike that secured Goa's qualification for the final round of the Santosh Trophy, and Trijoy's words after the game summed up the moment perfectly: "I couldn't have asked for a better stage to shine. This win means the world to me and my team."

His prowess on the field is not limited to a single moment of brilliance. Trijoy's performances throughout the Group phase have consistently set him apart as the linchpin of Goa's campaign. GFA President Dr. Caitano Fernandes, couldn't be prouder of the star player, stating, "Trijoy Dias is a gem we are fortunate to have. His dedication and performance have been unparalleled. He's the kind of player any team dreams of."

Trijoy's journey to becoming Goa's standout player is a story of relentless perseverance. "Every training session, every match, I give it my all. The Santosh Trophy is a platform to showcase the passion I have for the sport, and I couldn't have done it without the support of my teammates and our passionate supporters," he revealed.

But Trijoy isn't just about goals and awards; he's also a team player through and through. His ability to create opportunities for his fellow teammates is equally remarkable, as he humbly states, "Football is a team sport. Scoring is just one part of it. The real joy comes from contributing to the team's success, and that's what motivates me every day."



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GOA WIN JUNIOR NATIONALS FOR GIRLS TIER-2



Goa emerged triumphant in the Junior National Football Championship for Girls (Tier-2) after a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Andhra Pradesh in Jaipur. This resounding victory secured their promotion to Tier-1 in the upcoming season, marking a significant milestone in their football journey.

The sole goal of the final was scored by the talented Pearl Fernandes, who showcased her goal-scoring prowess throughout the tournament, netting an impressive total of 12 goals in five games for Goa. Under the dedicated guidance of their coach, Jonathan Faleiro, the Goa team displayed exceptional performances from start to finish. Ria Rajesh, Geuel D'Souza, and their teammates demonstrated remarkable synergy on the field.

Their journey to the title was marked by dominant victories in the group stage, where they outclassed Karnataka FA with a resounding 4-0 win and defeated Ladakh convincingly with a scoreline of 5-0. Despite playing with a player sent off, Goa managed to secure a 3-0 victory over Assam, highlighting their resilience and determination.

GFA President Dr. Caitano Fernandes extended his warmest congratulations to the entire Junior National Football Team for their remarkable achievement. He lauded their talent, determination, and teamwork, emphasizing that their 1-0 victory in the final was a testament to their exceptional abilities. "This win is a great boost to the development of women's football in the state and we are proud of the achievement of our girls," he said.

Dr. Caitano Fernandes also acknowledged Pearl Fernandes' remarkable goal-scoring contributions and praised Coach Jonathan Faleiro for shaping the team's synergy and performance. He expressed his appreciation for the coaching staff, including Team Manager Leincy Peixoto, Assistant Coach Jeromina Colaco, and Physiotherapist Judrica Dias, for their invaluable support.

As a result of their victory, Goa secured a well-deserved place in Tier-1 for the next season, with Dr. Caitano Fernandes expressing his confidence in the team's ability to achieve greater heights and bring more glory to Goan football.

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GOA WIN JUNIOR NATIONALS FOR GIRLS TIER-2

Goa's Pearl shines bright

Pearl's remarkable journey in the Junior National Football Championship for Girls (Tier-2) has been nothing short of extraordinary. Scoring an impressive total of 12 goals for her team, she has been the driving force behind Goa's success in the competition. Her ability to find the net with precision and consistency has earned her the admiration of fans and teammates alike.

What sets Pearl apart is not just her goal-scoring prowess but also her incredible versatility on the field. Her four Player of the Match awards in the competition reflect her impact in all aspects of the game, from creating goal-scoring opportunities to her exceptional defensive contributions.

Pearl's dedication and skill have made her an inspiration to aspiring footballers, and her achievements on the pitch have brought pride and recognition to Goan football. With her remarkable talents and unwavering commitment, Pearl Fernandes is undoubtedly a shining star in the world of football, and her future in the sport looks incredibly promising.

As she continues to rise, we can only imagine the heights she will reach and the accolades she will add to her already impressive list of achievements.

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Rank	Players	Goals
1	PEARL FERNANDES (GOA)	12
2	KAJAL KUMARI (JHARKHAND)	12
3	KAVIYA (TAMIL NADU)	11



TECHNICAL TEAM

Head Coach: Jonathan Aron Faleiro; Asst. Coach: Jeromina Colaco; Manager: Leincy Peixoto; Physico: Judrica Dias

INTERESTING STAT!

- Goa has not only dominated the scoreboard with a whopping 16 goals but has also achieved a remarkable feat by being the sole team in the entire tournament to stand undefeated in their last four games.
- What's even more impressive is their goal-scoring prowess, with an astonishing average of 3.75 goals per game! Goa is not just a team; they're a powerhouse of talent, determination, and sportsmanship, setting the bar high for every aspiring team out there. Truly a remarkable spectacle on the football field

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AMBELIM SC WIN GFA FUTSAL LEAGUE



Chief guest Mulrajsinh Chudasama, Secretary of Gujarat State Football Association and GFA President Dr. Caitano Fernandes with champions Ambelim SC.

Ambelim Sports Club clinched the title in the thrilling Goa Football Association's Futsal League 2023-24, with a 3-2 victory over FC Tuem in the final held at Chowgule Futsal Court, Fatorda. This victory also earned Ambelim the prestigious opportunity to represent Goa at the upcoming National Futsal Championship.

Having tasted defeat against Sporting Clube in the 2021 final, Ambelim SC was determined not to let their chance slip away this time. Right from the outset, they demonstrated their intent with early goals, asserting control over the game against a strong FC Tuem side comprising some of Goa's brightest talents. Sawan Lotlikar, Michael Dias, and Sadroy Costa played pivotal roles as they found the back of the net for Ambelim, while Mahammed Faheez and Jayesh Sutar managed to score for FC Tuem.

Ambelim's performance was nothing short of spectacular, with Sawan and Michael striking early, placing immense pressure on FC Tuem within the first ten minutes. FC Tuem made a commendable comeback in the 27th minute with Faheez's goal, narrowing the deficit. Nonetheless, Sadroy extended Ambelim's lead with another goal.

In the dying minutes of the game, FC Tuem managed to pull a goal back through Jayesh, but Ambelim held firm, defending their one-goal lead to secure a hard-fought 3-2 victory and claim the GFA State Futsal League Championship. Chief guest Mulrajsinh Chudasama, Secretary of Gujarat State Football Association and GFA President Dr. Caitano Fernandes honored the winners and runners-up in the presence of GFA executive members, club officials and other dignitaries.

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BAFF CLINCH GFA THIRD DIVISION TITLE, SECURES PROMOTION TO SECOND DIVISION



BAFF achieved a significant victory in the GFA's Third Division by defeating Sangolda Lightning SC with a commanding 5-0 score in the final match held at Duler Stadium. BAFF's remarkable performance in the final secured their promotion to the GFA's Second Division League for the 2023-24 season.

BAFF took a 2-0 lead into halftime, with Sanket Pal and Chandan Govenkar both finding the back of the net. Early in the match, both teams had opportunities to score, but BAFF's goalkeeper, Chetan Sakhalkar, made a crucial save, and Sangolda Lightning SC's defender blocked a shot by Gaurish Bugde. BAFF's Sanket Pal scored the opening goal in the 9th minute with a right-footer, and they could have doubled their lead shortly after, but Sangolda Lightning SC's custodian Anil Dessai stopped Sanket Jotkar in a one-on-one situation.

Sangolda Lightning SC also had their chances, but a brilliant save by BAFF's goalkeeper denied Arun Naik's 25-yard free-kick in the 19th minute. BAFF extended their lead in the 22nd minute with a well-constructed goal involving Sanket Pal, Gaurish, and Chandan Govenkar. In the latter part of the first half, BAFF continued to press, and they managed to score three more goals, bringing the final score to 5-0.

As a result of their victory, BAFF received a cash prize of Rs 20,000 and the prestigious rolling silver trophy, while Sangolda Lightning SC was awarded the runners-up cash prize of Rs 15,000. The prizes were presented by dignitaries including Goa Football Association President Dr. Caitano Fernandes, Bicholim Municipal Council Chairperson Kundan Falari, and GFA Co-Op member Maymol Rocky.

Individual awards were also presented, with Chandan Govenkar and Sanket Pal from BAFF sharing the title of Best Player of the Tournament. Additionally, emerging talents were recognized, with Chandrakant Shirodkar (Xetrapal SC), Soham Shetkar (United Ucassaim), Zaid Khan (Valpoi FC), and Nakul Gawas (Valpoi FC) acknowledged as upcoming players. Anil Dessai of Sangolda Lightning received the Best Goalkeeper award, while BAFF's Akshay Vengurlekar was honored as the Best Defender. The Top Scorer award went to Cyprian Rodrigues of Super Goans, and the Upcoming Team title was given to United Ucassaim SCC.

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BAFF CLINCH GFA THIRD DIVISION TITLE, SECURES PROMOTION TO SECOND DIVISION

AWARDS



Upcoming Player: Chandrakant Shirodkar



Upcoming Player: Soham Shetkar



Best Defender: Akshay Vengurlekar



Player of the tournament: Sanket Pal



Player of the final: Chandan Govekar

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BAFF CLINCH GFA THIRD DIVISION TITLE, SECURES PROMOTION TO SECOND DIVISION

AWARDS



Upcoming Player: Zaid Khan



Top scorer: Cyprian Rodrigues



Best goalkeeper: Anil Desai



Upcoming Team: United Uccasaim SCC



Upcoming Player: Nakul Gawas

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