GOVT. OF GOA

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, GOVT. OF GOA

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This annual report is under the norms of universal design.

CONTENT

1.	Messages	3
2.	Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities : Mission, Vision	8
3.	Organisation Structure	9
4.	Annual Report 2023-2024	11
5.	International Purple Fest Goa 2024	52
6.	Gist of Grievances (2022-24)	82
7.	Accessibility Initiatives in Goa	104
8.	Proud Moment	118
9.	Grattitude Letter	122
10.	Media Coverage	131



MESSAGE



Dr. Pramod Sawant
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

It is with great pleasure that I present this message for the annual report 2023-2024 of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. Since its inception in 2022, the office has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities in our state.

The array of events, workshops, and initiatives undertaken to raise awareness and foster inclusion in society is truly commendable. These efforts not only reflect a deep sense of purpose but also a genuine dedication to creating a society where individuals with disabilities can thrive and reach their full potential.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Commissioner Secretary and the entire team for their exceptional work. Through your tireless dedication, you are paving the way for a more inclusive and accessible Goa.

As we continue to progress, let us remain steadfast in our mission to support and uplift our fellow citizens with disabilities. Together, we can build a state that celebrates diversity and offers equal opportunities to all.

MESSAGE



Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai

Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister of Goa

It is my privilege to present the annual report of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2023-2024. This report highlights the unwavering commitment of our office to promote, protect, and ensure the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities in the state of Goa.

The past year has been a time of progress and innovation. Our initiatives have focused on creating an inclusive and accessible environment for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. Through collaborative efforts with stakeholders, advocacy groups, and the community, we have made significant strides in implementing programs and policies that empower persons with disabilities.

Key achievements over the past year include such new policies, improved accessibility, increased employment opportunities, successful awareness campaigns etc.These milestones represent our dedication to creating a state that embraces diversity and inclusion at its core.

Despite these accomplishments, there is still much work to be done. We remain committed to ensuring that every person with a disability can lead a life of dignity and opportunity. We will continue to work tirelessly to break down barriers and create pathways for full participation in all aspects of society. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the entire team for their dedication and hard work. Together, we are building a brighter future for persons with disabilities in Goa.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we strive towards a more inclusive Goa.

MESSAGE



Shri. Subhash Chandra
IAS
Secretary, Social Welfare, Govt of Goa

It is my privilege to address you in the annual report for the year 2023-2024 on behalf of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa. This year has been pivotal in our mission to advocate for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities across our beautiful state.

Our commitment to improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities remains unwavering. We have made significant strides in expanding accessibility, providing equitable opportunities, and fostering an inclusive society where every person, regardless of ability, can thrive. Together with our dedicated team and the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, we have achieved meaningful progress in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, and social welfare for persons with disabilities. As we reflect on the progress made, we also recognize the work ahead. Our commitment to inclusivity and the well-being of persons with disabilities drives us forward. We look forward to the continued support and cooperation of all stakeholders as we strive to create a more equitable society for everyone.

On behalf of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Social Welfare, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, advocates, and citizens for their unwavering support. Together, we can continue to build a state where every person has the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life.

I would also like to congratulate the Commissioner, Secretary and the entire staff for their dedication towards inclusive Goa.

Thank you for your trust and commitment.

MESSAGE



Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar

Goa State Commissioner for
Persons with Disabilities

It is my privilege to present the annual report for the year 2023-2024 of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa. This year has been one of remarkable progress, as we have continued our mission to promote accessibility, inclusivity, and equality for all persons with disabilities across the state.

Our efforts over the past year have centered on implementing policies and initiatives that empower persons with disabilities and ensure they have equal opportunities in all areas of life. Through our various programs and events, we have aimed to raise awareness, foster understanding, and provide the support necessary to make our community a more inclusive and supportive one.

One of the highlights of the past year has been the organization of the International Purple Fest Goa 2024. This landmark event brought together individuals, organizations, and experts from around the world to celebrate diversity, exchange ideas, and advocate for the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The festival showcased the immense talent and potential within our community and highlighted the importance of creating accessible environments that allow everyone to thrive. In addition to the Purple Fest, our office has successfully conducted various events throughout the year, including workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns on topics such as accessibility, employment opportunities, and inclusive education. We have also worked closely with local businesses, institutions, and government agencies to promote best practices in accessibility and inclusion.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders who have contributed to our success this year. Together, we are making significant strides towards a more equitable society for persons with disabilities in Goa. As we move forward into the coming year, our commitment to advancing the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities remains unwavering. We look forward to continuing our work and achieving even greater progress in the years ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

MESSAGE



Shri. Taha Haaziq

Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa

It is with great pride and a sense of accomplishment that I present the Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023-2024 on behalf of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. This year has been a testament to the dedication and resilience of our team as we worked diligently to uphold the rights and improve the lives of persons with disabilities across our state.

Our accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our dedicated staff and the unwavering support of various departments and partners. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of them for their commitment to our mission. Together, we have strived to break down barriers, foster inclusivity, and ensure equal opportunities for all.

Throughout the year, we have implemented numerous initiatives and programs aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and promoting their full and active participation in society. Our collaborative approach with other government departments, NGOs, and private sector entities has led to meaningful changes in accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, and social inclusion.

We remain committed to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and building a more inclusive community. Our office will continue to work tirelessly to address the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and advocate for policies that support their well-being and potential.

As we look ahead to the future, I am confident that our combined efforts will lead to even greater achievements and progress. Let us continue to strive for a society that embraces diversity and provides equal opportunities for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

About Us

T he Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is a statutory body constituted under the Central Act of Persons with Disabilities, 1995. The main function of the Commission is monitoring the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 in the state of Goa.

Mission

To empower persons with disabilities through its various acts/rules/ institution, organization and schemes for rehabilitation and to create an enabling environment that provides such persons with equal opportunities, protection of their Rights and enables them to participate as independent and productive members of society.

Vision

To build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of persons with disabilities so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.



Organisation Structure



Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar
State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities



Shri. Taha Haaziq
Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa



Ms. Durga U. Naik
Administrative Officer



Shri. Ratnakant Cumbarjuenkar
Upper Division Clerk



Smt. Ninette R. Silveira
Jr. Stenographer



Shri. Prashant Raut
Lower Division Clerk



Smt. Sushanti Sawant
Lower Division Clerk



Shri. Prashant Gaonkar
Driver



Shri. Narayan Kubal
Multi Tasking Staff



Shri. Mithin Gaonkar
Multi Tasking Staff



The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Goa has dedicated its efforts to building an inclusive society, empowering persons with disabilities and creating enabling environment for them. The current commission body started its service in January 2022. In the one-year duration, the Commission has made great strides in upholding its mission and vision. The Commission has notably worked on five broad categories : Awareness and Sensitisation, Accessibility of public infrastructure, Inclusive Education, Disability Certification and UDID registrations and Employment initiatives.

Visit the 'Wazzar' model in Amravati

3rd March 2023

Here are a few snippets from the visit of Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, the state commissioner for Persons with disabilities, to the famous 'Wazzar' model of Dr. Shankar Baba Papalka, in Amravati, Maharashtra. Shankar Baba Papalkar's 'Balgruha' in wazzar village of Amaravti district is known place for philanthropists and social workers across central India, for taking care of adults with intellectual disabilities






गोवा सरक
प्रतिनिधि मंड
करीत



Women's Day Celebration 'SPURTI'

11th March 2023

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Celebrated Women's Day on 11th March 2023. Preethi Srinivasan Founder, Soulfree was the key speaker of the event. She is a award-winning disability-rights activist working to create an inclusive India, a public speaker, writer, agent of change and currently a PhD scholar at IIT Madras. Preethi suffered a spinal cord injury at the age of 18 which left her paralysed below the neck. Currently she is the founder of "Soulfree", an organisation that is working to improve the quality of life of persons living with Spinal Cord Injury in India. Smt. Sulakshana Sawant was the Chief Guest for the event.



Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, the State Commissioner for Pw while addressing the audience at the annual programme 'Spurthi' as part of the celebration of International Women's Day.

Here are some powerful lines from Preeti Srinivasan's keynote speech as part of the Women's Day celebration organised by the State Commission for PwDs.



We aren't disabled. it's the environment that disable us.

I was a champion, I am a champion and i will die as champion.

I wan't take 'No' for an answer. Make it happen for me.

Preethi Sriniwasan
Founder, Soulfree

Orientation Programme for Therapists on Orthotic Prescription for CwDs

28th March 2023



Training-cum-orientation programme for therapists on Orthotic prescription for CwDs organised by Goa State Commission for PwDs in collaboration with SCERT & The Indian Association of Physiotherapists Women Cell-Goa on 28th March 2023.



Launch of Online Dispute Resolution Forum

20th March 2023

Online Dispute resolution (#ODR) forum set up by the Goa SCPwD with the support of 'Sama' & 'EnAble India' to effectively implement the RPwD Act, 2016 was launched by Hon'ble CM Dr.Pramod Sawant. Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister Shri.Subhash Phal Dessai,Smt.Sandhya Kamat, Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Guruprasad Pawaskar, the state commissioner for PwDs, Taha Haaziq,the State Commissioner for PwDs and developer team Sama were present.



Assurance of Creation of Department for Empowerment of Persons With Disabilities

29th March 2023



Hon'ble CM Dr. Pramod Sawant made a historic decision to set up a Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Distribution of latest Brain Controlled Myoelectric Hands

06th April 2023





To make PwDs self-reliant the Goa State Commission for PwDs & Raj Bhavan, Goa in association with Bharat Petroleum hosted a program to distribute the latest Brain Controlled Myoelectric Hands at Sakhali Ravindra Bhavan. Through this initiative 25 PwDs got prosthetic limbs worth 1.5 lakhs each at the hands of Hon'ble Governor of Goa Shri. P. S. Sridharan Pillai, the Hon'ble CM Dr. Pramod Sawant & the Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai.

Opening Minds to Universal Design and Accessibility

17th April 2023



'Opening Minds to Universal Design & Accessibility', a two day technical training workshop organized by the Goa State Commission for PwDs & Design Bridge Diversity & Inclusion Foundation, is aimed at introducing engineers from different govt dept to Universal Design.

Principal Trainers Dr. Kavita Murugkar, Access Auditor empanelled with the Dept of Empowerment of PwDs, Govt of India, Abhijit Murugkar, Design Bridge Diversity & Inclusion Foundation & Architect Arundati Gupta present at the workshop.

On the 2nd day of the 'Opening Minds to Universal Design & Accessibility' workshop : PWD community represented by Vishant Nagvekar, Patrick D'Souza & Mahadev Sawant highlighted the difficulties they face in accessing public infrastructures.

Opening Minds to Universal Design and Accessibility

17th April 2023



Dr. Kavita Murugkar, Access Auditor empanelled with the Dept of Empowerment of PwDs, Govt of India while introducing the concept of Universal Design which means designing for 'ALL' at the workshop held for the engineers from the various govt dept.



Environment Education Program for children with Disabilities

22th April 2023

As a part of the Wipro Earthian Program, the Goa State commission for Person with Disabilities and Arannya Environment Research Organization (AERO) held a special session with 26 special educators across Goa to design an Environment Education Program for children with disabilities.

Smt. Harshda Gauns and Sagar Naik from AERO conducted the session. This program will be piloted across special schools of Goa in the upcoming academic year by AERO and Wipro Foundation and will develop a replicable model to be used throughout the country.



Flag off of Wheelchair Accessible E-Rickshaws

24th April 2023

Hon'ble CM Dr.Pramod Sawant Flags off Wheelchair Accessible E-rickshaws as part of the "Seva, Sushasan, Jan Kalyan'' initiative in the presence of Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister Shri.Subhash Pal Dessai and Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, the state commissioner for PwDs.

As a part of its efforts to improve accessibility for PwDs in Goa, the Goa state commission for People with disabilities is starting wheelchair accessible e-rickshaw services. This will be managed by Mov,a pioneer in wheelchair taxi services.



Felicitation by Hon'ble Governor Shri. P. S. Sridharan Pillai

30th April 2023



Hon'ble Governor Shri. P. S. Sridharan Pillai felicitated Taha Haaziq, Secretary, Goa State Commission for PwDs on the occasion of 100th 'Mann Ki Baat' episode in appreciation of the Purple Fest initiative which was lauded by Hon'ble PM Narendra Modiji in Mann Ki Baat program.



Policy consultation on disability and employment

11th May 2023





Policy consultation on disability and employment

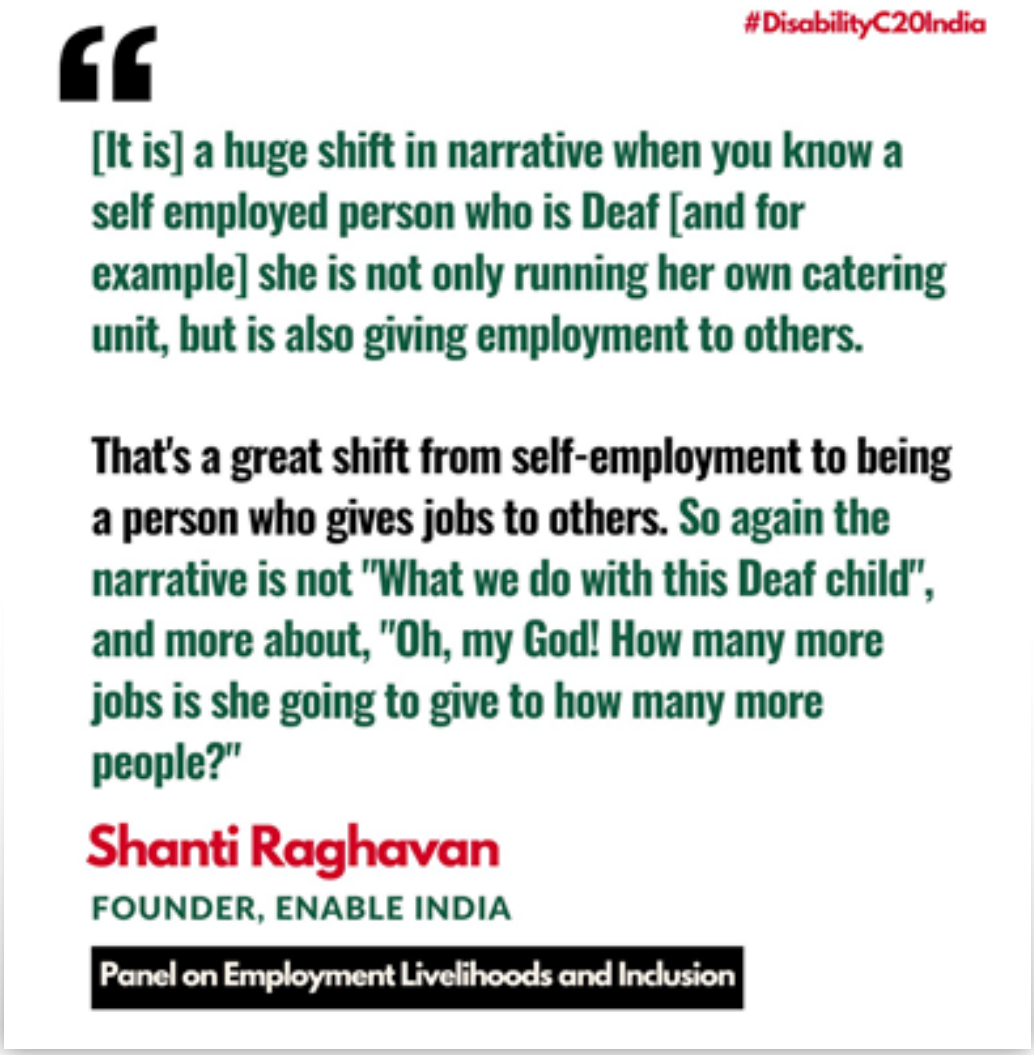
11th May 2023

Thoughts expressed by the panellists at the policy consultation on disability & employment in the panel discussion titled Employment livelihoods & inclusion.



Policy consultation on disability and employment

11th May 2023



Policy consultation on disability and employment

11th May 2023

#DisabilityC20India

"It's not just about getting neurodiverse people through the door, we also need to focus on what happens after it in terms of organisational and work culture. We need to bring experienced partner organisations to sensitise employees and leaders who will be working with neurodiverse employees.

We need to rethink strategies, like filtering by academic scores. It's time to really focus on what the person can bring to the workplace rather than some traditional marker [and] the company should get to see them in action.

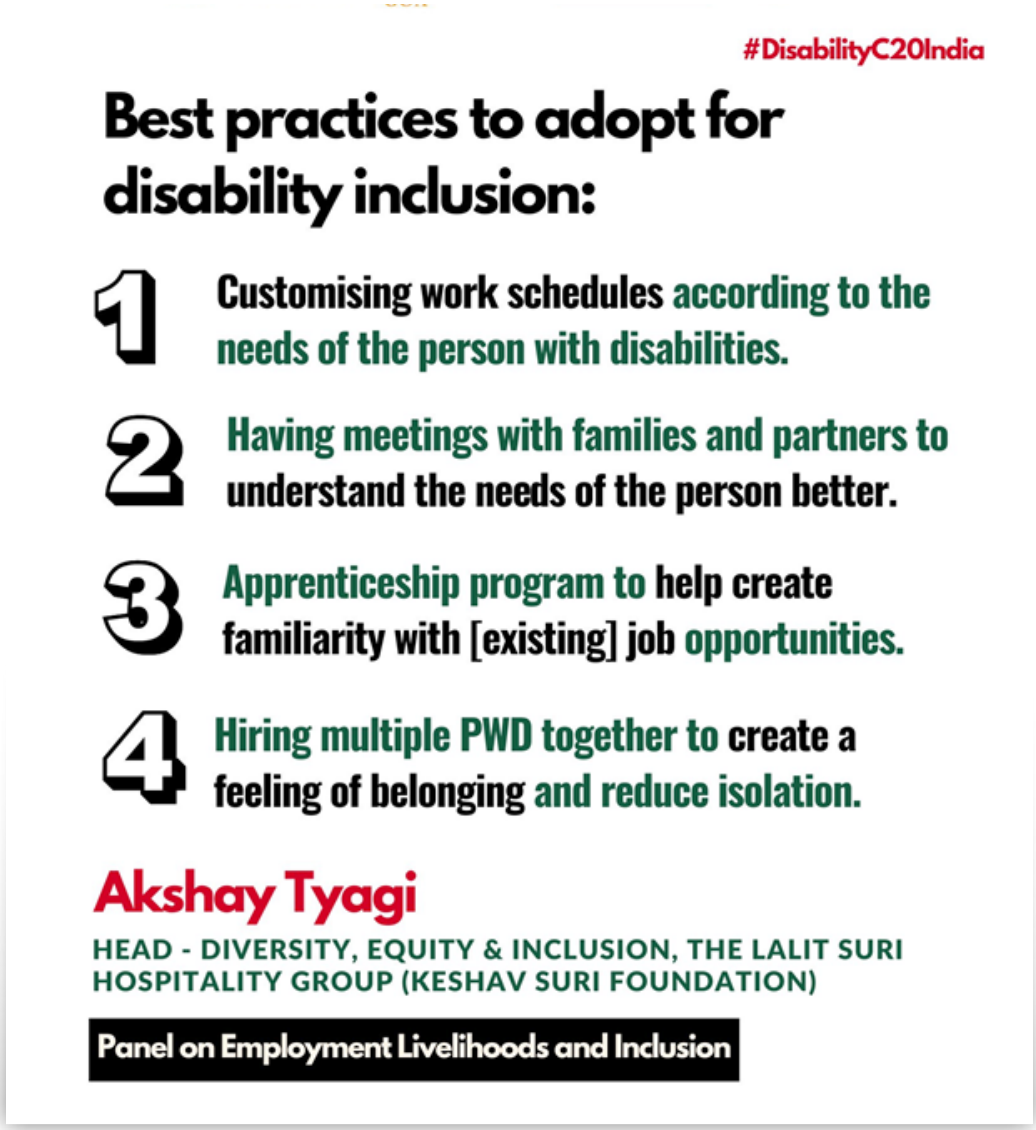
Deepika Ghosh

LEAD – EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CHANGEINKK FOUNDATION

Panel on Employment Livelihoods and Inclusion

Policy consultation on disability and employment

11th May 2023



'Training on ICT accessibility' as part of Global Accessibility Awareness Day.

18th May 2023



The ICT accessibility training conducted by Adv. Amar Jain, Co-Founder, Mission Accessibility, was well received by developers of various govt depts. Over 45 participants gained practical insight into creating accessible digital world through hands-on experience.





Sensitisation workshop for Mopa Airport ground staff

23rd May 2023



Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, the State Commissioner for PwDs inaugurates'Sensitisation workshop for Mopa Airport ground staff in the presence of Shri. Taha Haazia, Secretary, SCPwDs, Shri. Nitish Raj Victor, HOD-HR & Shri. Rohan Thorat, HOD- Terminal Operations. Total 1500 ground staff in batches of 50 to 100 will be sensitised through these training sessions. The massive sensitisation workshop is being held with the help of trainers with disabilities.

Trainers Smt. Zamila Haazia, a person with visual impairment, Shri. Mahadev Sawant, a person with low vision, Shri. Vishant Nagvekar, a person with physical disability & Shri. Prasad Joshi, a Deaf individual.



West Consultation on the Status of the RPWD 'Act, 2016'

26th May 2023



Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister inaugurates 'West Consultation on the Status of the RPWD Act, 2016' is being held at Fortune Miramar by the Goa State Commission for PwDs together with NCPEDP.

'Sensitisation Workshop on Universal Design' for engineers, consultants & contractors working on the Panaji Smart City

27th May 2023



Goa State Commission for PwDs with the help of Accessibility Consultant Shri. Abhijit Murugkar, held a 'Sensitisation Workshop on Universal Design' for engineers, consultants & contractors working on the Panaji Smart City project to make the Smart City initiative inclusive.

Employment for Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector

28th June 2023



Mr. Taha Haaziq, Secretary State of Commission for Persons with Disablities, also addressed the session on creating employment opportunities for Perons with Disablities in the private sector.



The State Commission of Persons with Disabilities, along with the Directorate of Industries, Trade and Commerce, joined hands to organize an empowering session titled "Employment for Persons with Disabilities in the Private Sector.

Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023

6th July 2023

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Government of Goa celebrated and honored the extraordinary achievements of our Goan Contingent at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 by Felicitating all the Athletes and Coaches at the hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.



Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023

6th July 2023



Victor Vaz, National Sports Director (Special Olympics Bharat) along with the 8 coaches from Goa - Varsha Naik, Prakash Velip, Gautami Dessai, Samantha D'Costa, Saffira D'Costa, Kazmiro Fernandes, Sr. Monica Coelho and Prashant Tari.



MOU with Enable India

12th July 2023



Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Enable India to collaborate on generating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PwDs).

Uniting for a brighter future! The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa (SCPD), and Enable India stand together to empower persons with disabilities. With this monumental MOU, we're unlocking employment opportunities and equipping PwDs with industry



The MOU was signed by Shri.Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Shri.Dipesh Sutariya, Chairman & MD- Enable India in the presence of Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa and Shri.Subhash Phal Desai, Minister of Social Welfare, River Navigation, Archives and Archeology, Government of Goa.

Promoting Inclusivity in Education!

1st August 2023

Director of Social welfare, in collaboration with the Office of the State Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities organized a ground- breaking orientation session on school accessibility. Field Assistants and Field workers are now equipped to conduct accessibility surveys in 450+ Schools, ensuring compliances with the National Education Policy guidelines. Graced by esteemed dignitaries, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar , Director of Social welfare Shri.Ajit Panchawadkar, Deputy Director Shri. Sudesh Gaude, event marked momentous step towards equal acess to education for all.





Wheelchair accessibility in The Goa Legislative Assembly

2nd August 2023



Celebrating inclusivity! The Goa Legislative Assembly in Porvorim is now made accessible to Persons with Disabilities (PwD) . Wheelchair-accessible EV Vehicles and newly built ramps now provide smooth entry to the viewing galleries, ensuring PwD's easy access to witness the assembly proceedings.





Wheelchair accessibility in The Goa Legislative Assembly

2nd August 2023



Arrangements made to allow differently-abled visitors to watch Goa assembly proceedings



विधानसभा अधिवेशनासाठी आता दिव्यांगांनाही प्रवेश

व्हीलचेअरयुक्त इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनाची सोय : अवघ्या चार दिवसात उभारला रॅम्प : विधानसभा प्रवेश झाला सुलभ



Manthan - a worshop for Torch Bearers

26th August 2023

The Office of the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities in association with Enable india, organised a workshop, "Manthan- a workshop for torch bearers of disability" on the 25th of August 2023 Sanjay Centre for Special Education.This workshop was organised For Persons with Disabilities and people working for Persons with Disabilities.

The guests for the workshop were Honble Minister for Social Welfare Shri. Subhash Phaldesai, Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,Taha Haazia, Secretary of the Office in the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Shanti Raghavan, the Founder of Enable India, Anirudh Dempo, President of Goa State Industries Association, Mayuresh Khaunte, Pratiksha Khalap, President of Young Indian, Sanjay Amonkar, Goa Chamber of Commerce and Prakash Kamat, Member of State Advisory board



Manthan - a worshop for Torch Bearers

26th August 2023





Manthan - a worshop for Torch Bearers

26th August 2023





Industrial Visit for Children with Disabilities

2nd September 2023

Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Panaji Riviera hosted a transformative industrial visit. 21 special students from Lokvishwas Pratishthan's Special School explored DHOOP Agrawal Renewable Energy Pvt Ltd. The visit, guided by Denzil Xavier & Tanvi Doshi Samant from Rotary Club of Panaji Riviera alongwith Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, aimed to ignite curiosity, offering a glimpse into potential career paths and environmental sustainability.



Industrial Visit for Children with Disabilities

2nd September 2023







Felicitation of Kargil War Heroes

9th September 2023

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of India's triumph in the Kargil War, the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Lakshya Foundation-Pune and Department of information and Publicity paid a poignant tribute to army veterans who fought the Kargil war and honour their courage and serve as a reminder of the indomitable spirit of our armed forces. A felicitation programme was held at Bits Pilani Campus, Goa wherein 9 army veterans Naib Subedar Ramdas Shyamji Pawar (Rtd), Daya Ram (Rtd), Hav. Muni Lal (Rtd), Jogender Singh (Rtd), Hav. Yash Paul (Rtd), Hav. Mehar Singh, HC/GD Janardan Sonawane, Ajitnath Namdev Shirsat and Hav Jaihind Singh were felicitated on the occasion.



Felicitation of Kargil War Heroes

9th September 2023







Awareness on RPwD Act 2016

1st October 2023

Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities conducted a session on the RPwD Act 2016 at an Workshop held by District Legal Services Authority, North Goa. Also present were Aruna P. Fernandes, Secretary, North Goa District Legal Services Authority, Panaji-Goa, Sabino Braganza, Civil Judge Junior Division and JMFC 'D' Court, Panaji-Goa and Priyanka Naique (Advocate), Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel.





Built Environment Accessibility and Safety for PwD Engineers.

7th December 2023

The Public Works Department in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare with the support of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Designbridge Diversity and Inclusion Foundation organised a Workshop on Built Environment Accessibility and Safety for PwD Engineers.





The Spinal Cord Rehab Centre in Bambolim

18st February 2024

The Spinal Cord Rehab Centre in Bambolim, Goa, is now open to provide comprehensive rehabilitation for individuals with spinal cord injuries as a result of collaboration between the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Rugnashraya and Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi. With state-of-the-art equipment and a team of internationally recognized specialists, we're dedicated to facilitating patients' recovery.

- Centre dedicated to the comprehensive rehabilitation of individuals with Spinal Cord injuries.
- State-of-the-art diagnostics and surgical equipments with highly qualified team of specialists trained in leading institutes of India and abroad.
- Spinal Cord Rehab Centre accommodates patients with an aim to facilitate their early recovery.
- A team of specialists from Delhi is actively engaged in the centre, working alongside local physiotherapists to provide expert guidance and support.
- The positive impact of the International Purple Fest, Goa 2024 provides much-needed relief to Goans who would otherwise have to seek treatment outside the state.

Those interested in these facilities can contact
Rugnashraya Bambolim **9834376962**

The Spinal Cord Rehab Centre in Bambolim

18st February 2024





Pradhan Mantri Divyansh Kendra

The inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri Divyansha Kendra at GMC, Bambolim, Goa, by Hon'ble CM Dr. Pramod Sawant marks a significant step towards the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Established by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa and the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), this center aims to enhance the provision of assistive devices to PwDs and senior citizens, free of cost. With a focus on improving accessibility and quality of life, the center is poised to bring substantial relief and support to individuals with disabilities across the state, fostering empowerment within the community.



Installation of Ramps under RampMyCity

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in order to ensure that all buildings - public and private - in Panaji and Goa state are accessible (Barrier Free) to persons with disabilities as mandated in Section 40 of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 carried out a pilot project of providing ramps to various establishments (private and Government) in Panaji city by the NGO Ramp My City.



INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA-2024















Inaugural of Purple Fest



Illuminating the spirit of solidarity, the ceremonial lamp at the inauguration of International Purple Fest Goa 2024 was gracefully lit by a distinguished assembly of delegates, showcasing a spectrum of leadership and commitment to inclusivity.

Among the esteemed Luminaries were Dr. Promod Sawant the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Ramdas Athawale, the Hon'able Minister of State forSocial Justice and Empowerment, Shri Shripad Naik, the Hon'ble Ministry of State of Tourism, Ports,Shipping and Waterways, Shri Subash Phal Dessai, the Hon;able Social welfare, Dr. Puneeet Goyal the chief Secretary, Govt of Goa, Shri Subash Chandra, IAS,the secretary social welfare, Govt od Goa, Shri Rajesh Agarwal,IAS, from the department of Empowerment of Perwsons with Disbilities, Government of India, Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, the Commissioner from the Office of State Commmission for Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Goa, Shri Taha Haaziq, the Secretary form the Office of the State Commmission for the Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Goa, Shri ajit Panchwadkar, the Director Social Welfare, Goa, Shri. Prakash Kamat, Member State Advisory board, Dr. Karen the of Specially Bled People, and Shri Patrik.

Purple Convention



Conferences (28) :

Championing Inclusivity : sharing Experiences in Employing Persons with Disabilities, curated by Sangath and Keystone Institute during International Purplr Fest 2024 at the Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The purple convention has emerged as a catalyst for positive change, inspiring attendees to champion diversity and redefine societal perceptions surrounding disability in the professional realm. In the presence of the Hon;ble Minister for Social Welfare, Archives & Archeology, River Navigation Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Commmissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Keystone Institute Executive Director Ms. Elizabeth Neuville, Sangath Chairperson Ms. Monica Bariya, GCCI Vice President Ms. Pratima Dhond and other dignitaries.

Purple Convention



Date : 8-13 January, 2024

- **Invisible Visibility :** A national gathering that shared insights on invisiblity.
- Purple Eye way conversations Conventions
- Purple people
- **Deaf Education Convention :** South Asian Conference on Inclusive education took center stage at the Purple Convention.
- National Conclave on Deaf blindness



Purple Experience Zone



Experience the Invisible Disabilities

Inclusive Classroom

Embark on a journey of true inclusion with our inclusive Classroom! Be part of sessions where skilled educators demonstrate inclusive teaching methods, seamlessly involving students with disabilities. Witness firsthand how participation is ensured fir every student, creating an environment where everyone thrives.

Purple Experience Zone



Antarchakshu

Date: 8-13 Jan,2024

Introducing Antarchakshu- an immersive experience zone spanning a child's entire educational journey, from kinder garden to Postgraduate. Explore practical solutions to inclusive education challenges, crafted through diligent hard work and innovative thinking.

Purple Think Tank



Education :

The Purple Think Tank's Day 1 brought together influential voices and thought leaders in the field of disability sector. The focus was on fostering new leadership, leveraging assistive technology, and addressing the challenges faced by individuals with Deafblindness. The sessions were designed to promote collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and pave the way for meaningful systemic changes in policy and inclusion.

Purple Rain



Music Concert

Entertainment for ALL

At the heart of the International Purple Fest, was a groundbreaking commitment to accessible entertainment, exemplified by the unwavering support of inclusion partners - EnAble India, ISLIA, and Design Bridge Foundation. The festival redefined the landscape, proving that entertainment is truly for all. Design Bridge Foundation championed physical accessibility, ISLIA facilitated Deaf People's inclusion through Indian and International Sign Language Interpretation, and the EnAble India team ensured overall inclusion for individuals with different disabilities, providing visual descriptions via WhatsApp groups for those with blindness. The collaborative efforts of these inclusion partners brought to life the vision of #SabkaEntertainment, fostering an inclusive and accessible space for all festival-goers.



Purple Rain



Musal Dance by Goan Artists with Disabilities



Alice



Ananya Halankar



Hema Sardesai

Purple Rain



Akshar Band



Vinod Thakur



Avdhoot Gupte

Purple Rain



Pehli Baarish Band



Diwakar Sharma



Vikas Sawant

Purple Rain



Sudesh Bhosale and Goan Children with Disabilities



Victory Dance Group

Purple Rain



Nav Utthan Group



Flowing Karma Band

Purple Rain



Kamlesh Patel



Karthik Kumar Krishnamurthy



Sushant Divgikar



Kai Kodukum Kai Mallakhamb Group

Purple Rain



Victory Dance Group with Goan Children with Disabilities



Kailash Kher

Purple Fun



Bird Trail



Drum Circle

Purple Fun



Tandem Cycling : Mumbai to Goa 600km, Tandem cycle ride finished



Purple Bioscope

Purple Fun



Inclusive Car Rally



Cruise Ride : Purple Fun's epic Cruise Ride on Mandovi River

Purple Fun



Yoga for All



Purple Spectrum



Matrimony Meet

All India 12th Matrimony Meet, in collaboration with Voice Vision India, brought individuals together at the vibrant International Purple Fest making celebrations of connections and beginnings.

West Zone Abilympics

The artful touch of embroidery to the beauty of floral arrangements, precise tailoring, captivating dressmaking and the tech world of IT courses.

Purple Kaleidoscope



Art Exhibition

Purple Kaleioscope presented '' Purple Expression'', a dance and movement therapy session, alongside music-infused impact art workshops curated by access for All at the International Purple Fest Goa. Participants danced enthusiastically, embracing the fun-filled atmosphere.

Purple Sports



Paralympic Games



Blind Football Tournament

Purple Sports



International chess championship for blind and visually impaired



Boccia

Purple Sports



Goalball



Blind Lawn Tennis

Purple Sports



Wheelchair Basketball Tournament



Wheelchair Cricket Invitational Tournament

Purple Sports



Paralympic Games







Purple Exhibition



The Purple Exhibition Zone, held from January 8th to January 13th, showcased the remarkable skills and abilities of people with disabilities. It featured innovative assistive devices, highlighted the work of national institutes dedicated to the disability sector, and offered a variety of food stalls and more. The Purple Bazaar zone celebrated the talents of disabled artisans, while the Purple Sarkar zone focused on national institutes engaged in human resource development and research efforts in disability. Additionally, the exhibition included the Divya Kala Mela, an initiative by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, which spotlighted the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals with disabilities.

Purple Exhibition





Purple Street



Live painting, dance, music and art by the incredibly talented students from special schools at Purple Street.

The Spinal Cord Injury Rehab Center at Rugbashray Bambolim, was Inaugrated by the compassionate hands of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, marking a significant movement at the International Purple Fest Goa 2024.





Purple Street





Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

CASE No. 07/SCPwD/2023-24/514 Date of Order: 09/11/2023

Name of the Parties : **Shri. Ankush Y. Parab**

V/s

The Assistant Director of Transport, North, Mapusa-Goa & The Medical Superintendent, North Goa District Hospital (ASILO) Peddem, Mapusa-Goa

Facts of the Case

The Complainant Shri. Ankush Y. Parab a Person with 57% Physical Impairment Disability, filed a Complaint dated 19/07/2023 regards to injustice meted out to the Person with Disability, when concern authorities denied the Complainant to issue adapted vehicle driving license.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

The Court recommended the Respondent-I, The Assistant Director of Transport, North, Mapusa-Goa to implement the guideline of the Draft Amendment of **Automotive Industry Standard-169 (AIS)-169,** and Respondent-II, The Medical Superintendent, North Goa District Hospital (ASILO) Peddem, Mapusa-Goa to consider the eligibility of the complainant to drive an adapted vehicle as per the **Draft Amendment to Automotive Industry Standard-169 (AIS)-169,** the Guidelines on provision for Adapted Vehicle of categories M1, N1 and M2.

Further recommended Respondent- II the Medical Superintendent, North Goa District Hospital (ASILO) Peddem, Mapusa-Goa to submit the medical board test report of Shri. Ankush Y. Parab, to the Respondent –I The Assistant Director of Transport, North, Mapusa-Goa, and Respondent-I, on receipt of report received from Respondent- II, if favorable to the complainant, should immediately issue the adapted vehicle driving license to the Complainant and submit compliance report on the recommendation made herein above, to this office within the period of 15 days on receipt of this order.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case no. Case No.06/SCPWDS/2022-23/437 Date of Order: 16/10/2022

Name of the Parties : **Shri. Gopal P. Naik**

V/s

The Assistant Engineer O/o the Assistant Engineer SD-III, W.D.I (bldgs) P.W.D. Altinno Panaji Goa.

Facts of the Case

The Complainant Shri. Gopal P. Naik a Person with 40% Locomotor Disability, R/o, C-5-D Govt Qtrs, Altinho Panaji Goa, filed a Complaint dated 07/07/2022 before this Commission, requested to make provision for reserved car parking slot with reserved notified board for Persons with Disability at Govt Qtrs C-5-D, Altinho Panaji Goa.

Observation and Recommendations/ Decision of SCPwDs

Considering the urgent need of the complainant, it is hereby recommended by this Court that the **Respondent** shall provide a garage for car parking with notified reserved car parking signage board, dedicated for Persons with Disability, close to the residence of Person with Disability.

The Court recommended Respondent to carry out work of fixing of railing / handle bars along with the steps at the earliest so as to make it accessible for Persons with Disabilities residing at the second floor of the Govt Qtrs building C-5-D.

The Court recommends Complainant Shri. Gopal P. Naik to cooperate with the Respondent and the Contractor till the work gets completed and recommends the Respondent to submit positive compliance report on the recommendation made herein above, to this office within the period of three months on receipt of this order.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

CPwD NO: GRIEV/93/2022 Date of order: 26/05/2022

Name of the Parties : **Dr. Chandrashekhar Kelkar**

V/s

M/s Indus Towers limited, Bldg No. 10 Tower-A, Gurugram 122002 (Haryana) .....Resp. No. 1

The Executive Engineer, WD.XIII(R), P.W.D. Mapusa Goa .....Resp No. 2

Facts of the Case

Dr. Chandrashekhar Kelkar Secretary, Aastha's Anand Niketan, Khorlim Mapusa filed a complaint before the Commission vide Ref. no AN/Gen/2022-23/25 Date: 04.05.2022 that a mobile phone tower erection work is carried within 100 mtrs range of Aastha Anand Niketan special school Khorlim, Mapusa imparting education to the children with various disabilities such as intellectual Disability, Mental illness, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, chronic Neurological Condition, Specific learning disabilities and other disabilities for past several years.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

1. The students of special school inherit low immunity and are prone to various ailments and the radiations of Mobile Phone Tower which may cause harm to Special Students.
2. The Respondent No 2 is directed to take note that the ongoing erection work of Mobile tower is within 100mtrs of Special school premises is health hazardous to the students.
3. In light of the above the sanctioning authority (PWD) shall identify the modalities, relocate/move the said tower to any other place so that the peaceful functioning of the school is not disturbed.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

SCPwD NO: GRIEV/807/2022 Date of order: 03/06/2022

Name of the Parties : **Akshaya Narvekar, Siolim, Bardez Goa**

V/s

The Sub Registrar, 2nd floor, Essar Trade Centre, Morod Mapusa Goa.

Facts of the Case

Ms. Akshaya Narvekar, R/o Siolim Bardez Goa had filed a complaint regarding Non-Functioning of the Lift/Elevator in the premises of Sub Registrar building at Essar Trade centre Mapusa causing inconvenience to the Persons with Disabilities.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

1. It is hereby directed to ensure that the lift is operational for the use of Persons with Disabilities within a period of 10 days.
2. Reply was received from the Civil Registrar stating that the Lift/Elevator installed in the Office building has been operational for general public, advocates and all other citizens.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No. 31/SCPwDs/2021-22/638 Date of order: 06/06/2022

Name of the Parties : **Mr. Apurv V. Sail,H no. 84/1(3), Vishwakut, Ganeshwadi Zuarinagar, Sancoale Goa**

V/s

The Chief General Manager,Human Resource & Administration, Goa Shipyard Ltd, Vasco Da Gama Goa.

Facts of the Case

Mr. Apurv V. Sail complainant, a person with Benchmark Disability (41%) filed a complaint before this Commission seeking orders from this commission directing respondent to comply with the guidelines with respect to the grievance against the authority of Goa Shipyard Ltd for ignoring the request to grant "PwD" status to seek the facilities available to the disabled candidates in service.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

1. It is enjoined upon Goa Shipyard Limited to give the "Persons with Disability status" to Shri. Apurv V. Sail, W-6 Grade Store Assistant and shall ensure the deserving justice and the action of extending the facilities, concessions and other service benefits available to Persons with Disabilities.
2. The Respondent is recommended to transfer the complainant to any other section within the same premises to avoid the hardships faced by him at his current work place.
3. The respondent shall hereby adhere to mandatorily attend to the grievances of the complainant and all other Persons with Disabilities employed in the organization on priority.
4. The present petition is accordingly disposed off with a direction to the respondent to strictly follow provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and follow reasonable accommodation as defined in section 2(h) & 2(y) in letter and in spirit. The Respondent shall always treat the Complainant with Dignity and is directed to expedite the implementation of "PwD status" to the complainant to avoid further strictures and penalties as laid down in Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

SCPwD NO: GRIEV/242/2022 Date of order: 11/07/2022

Name of the Parties : **The Manager, Disha School for Special Children, Behind Directorate of Education, Dr. Atmaram Borkar road, Panaji Goa**

V/s

The Director, Directorate of Education, Porvorim Goa.

Facts of the Case

Smt. Sandhya Kalokhe Manager, Disha School for Special Children has filed the present complaint regarding violation of rights of Intellectually Disabled under New CwSN Scheme and RPwD Act 2016.Complainant stated that they had requested the Directorate of Education for NOC to fill up the Posts of Special Educator and Ayah/Helper.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

The State Commissioner has considered averments of both the parties and after going through the CwSN scheme published by Directorate of Education, Government of Goa, and considering the material on record has analyzed as follows.

1. The Respondent is directed to consider students between the age of 21-35 who have the above mentioned disabilities, while assessing the staff to pupil teacher ratio as per the CwSN scheme, Directorate of Education, Government of Goa.
2. The Respondent is further directed to ensure that all special schools and resource rooms recognized by Directorate of Education should be entitled for special educators, non teaching staff, special faculty and support staff as per pupil teacher ratio as mandated in the provisions of the CwSN scheme laid down by the Directorate of Education, Government of Goa.

3. The respondent shall hereby adhere to mandatorily attend to the NOC's of special schools and resource rooms within 7 days of receiving the request from special schools, regular schools & resource rooms with respect to CwSN Scheme.
4. Therefore it is enjoined upon the Directorate of Education to issue revised NOC to Disha School for special Children and all other pending NOC's if any as per CwSN Scheme within 7 days for the purpose of appointment of special educators, non teaching staff, special faculty and support staff and submit the compliance report to this office.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

SCPwD NO: GRIEV/558/ Date of Order: 08/08/2022

Name of the Parties : **Suo Motu**

V/s

Goa State Election Commission, Altinho Panaji, Goa.

Facts of the Case

This court has taken SUO MOTO COGNIZANCE for the present complaint after receiving the reply from Goa State Election Commission with respect to the complaint filed by Shri. Vishant Nagvekar.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

The justification given in the reply by the respondent is not acceptable to this court as it is in violation of Section 11 read with Section 3 of RPwD Act 2016 and 29 of UN CRPD 2007.

It is now enjoined upon the Goa State Election Commission to ensure accessible electoral facilitations for upcoming Goa General Panchayat elections 2022 to all persons with disabilities with dignity in lines with the statutes and procedures followed by the Election Commission of India. In this regard, and thereby, adhere to the National legal mandates on accessible elections as provided by RPwD Act 2016 and UN CRPD.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

SCPwD NO: GRIEV/336/2022 Date of order: 24/08/2022

Name of the Parties : **Mrs. Priya & Mr. Prabhanjan A. Kinjavadekar, H.no 63, Vithalapur, Sankhali Goa**

V/s

Mr. Jayant Budkule, The Chairman, Atmodhdhar Sangh's Progress High school Sankhali Goa ……. Respondent No. 1

Mrs. Surekha Desai, The Headmistress, AtmodhdharSangh's Progress High school, Sankhali Goa …… Respondent No. 2

Mr. Rajan Shetye, Committee Member, AtmodharSangh's Progress High School Sankhali Goa …….Respondent No. 3

Facts of the Case

Mrs. Priya & Mr. Prabhanjan A. Kinjavadekar made a representation/ complaint to this Commission with regard to proper arrangements in school (like disable friendly access to school, toilets, gathering hall, Resource room).It is the case of the complainant that their son Master Piyush P. Kinjavadekar is with Cerebral Palsy, Locomotor Disability which makes his physical movements difficult.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

During the site inspection following recommendations were made :

a) Disable friendly access with proper ramps for children with Disabilities.

b) Accessible toilet facilities for children with Disabilities.

1. By this order we direct Respondents to make school accessible for children with disabilities as recommended during the site inspection.
2. The Respondents are directed to appoint Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) recognized Special Educators.

3. Respondents are recommended to set up a resource center in school or for a cluster of closely located schools, where all teaching learning material/ resources including the Special Education Teachers is made available for children with disabilities.
4. Respondents are directed to ensure that proper accessibility standards are implemented to ensure that every child with any disability is provided with quality education on equal basis with others. Moreover reasonable accommodation should be given with full dignity and empathy to any student with Disabilities.
5. Respondents are further recommended to focus on making the School environment more conductive for addressing the needs of students with Disabilities.
6. The respondents are directed to mandatorily attend to the grievances of the complainant and parents of such other students with Disabilities on priority.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

SCPwD NO: GRIEV/539/2022/ Date of order: 19/04/2023

Name of the Parties : **Vishant S. Nagvekar, C-49, Govt Qtrs, Altinho Panaji**

V/s

The Director, Directorate of Education, Porvorim Goa - Respondent No. 1

The Directorate of Higher Education, SCERT Building, Alto- Porvorim Goa - Respondent No. 2

The Director, Directorate of Technical Education, DTE Building, Alto Porvorim, Bardez Goa -Respondent No. 3

The Director, Directorate of Social Welfare18th June Road Panaji Goa - Respondent No. 4

Facts of the Case

This office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities received a petition from Shri. Vishant S Nagvekar persons with 89% Disability, R/o C-49, Govt Qtrs, Altinho Panaji Goa in regards to Reservation in Employment for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities in all Educational Institutions in Goa.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

1. It is hereby recommended that Respondent No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall issue necessary orders directing all the Minority Institutions in the State to mandatorily maintain 4% reservation to the Persons with Disabilities in their institutions in fresh recruitment as well as promotion.
2. It is hereby recommended that all the minority institutions shall maintain and submit their verified Roster copy of Persons with Disabilities to the Respondent No 4.
3. All the Minority Institutions shall submit the action plan to the Respondent No.4 to fill in the vacancies of Persons with Disabilities within a period of 3 months and submit compliance to this Commission. Non compliance of the same will be dealt as per section 89 of RPwD Act 2016.
4. The respondents shall hereby adhere to follow the provisions laid down as per the RPwD Act 2016.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

SCPwD NO: GRIEV/830/2022 Date of order: 08/09/2022

Name of the Parties : **Shri. Joseph Nelson D' Souza, Disaster Management Cell, O/o The Collectorate, North, Panaji Goa**

V/s

The District Collector (North) O/o The Collectorate, Disaster Management Cell, Panaji Goa.

Facts of the Case

The case of Shri. Joseph Nelson D' Souza in hand concerns denial of promotion to the post of Upper Division Clerk (UDC) in the Office of the Collectorate (North), Disaster Management cell, Panaji Goa. He is a person with Disability (84%).He was appointed to the post of Peon/MTS under reserved category of Persons with Disabilities vide order dated 26/04/2010 in the O/o The Collectorate (North), Disaster Management cell, Panaji Goa. He was promoted to the post of LDC on 05/11/2012 as per seniority and has not availed any benefits as per the roster in PH category.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

The State Commissioner having considered the averments of both the parties and after considering the material on record and prevailing law, has analyzed as follows.

1. The Circulars, Notifications and Office Memorandum issued by the appropriate Government in dealing with the 4% reservation in Promotions to the Persons with Disabilities are clear; however the same are seen to be interpreted incorrectly by the various Government Departments.
2. The denial of Reservation in Promotion for the Persons with Disabilities shall reduce the scope for development and social upliftment of the Persons with Disabilities and shall go against the spirit of the RPwD Act.

3. The action of the Respondent does not show provision for reservation in promotion of persons with Disabilities. It appears that the same lacks empathy towards Persons with Disabilities. This is a clear violation of the provisions as laid down under RPwD Act 2016.
4. The Respondent is recommended to consider the request of the Complainant as laid down in the RPwD Act 2016 and as per the instructions in the OM No. 3/3-2022-23-EPwD/Reservation/1737 dated 14.05.2022 issued by Directorate of Social Welfare Government of Goa for grant of reservation in Promotion to Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBDs) and review the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings to consider the complainant for promotion to the post of Upper Division Clerk (UDC).
5. Complainant being eligible for the promotion, the Respondent is directed to grant the complainant all consequential benefits from the date of entitlement of such promotion.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

CPwD/2022-23/ Date of order: 27/09/2023

Name of the Parties : **Suo Motu**

V/s

The Chief Secretary, Secretariat Porvorim

Facts of the Case

This commission has taken Sou Moto cognizance of recent tragic death of Person with Disability Mr. Sydney Rodrigues who fell from the second floor of old SCERT building located opposite to Directorate of Education while visiting Aadhar card center located on second floor of the said building which is in dilapidated and hazardous condition. This incident has not only shocked the community but has also raised serious concerns about the safety of government buildings, particularly in relation to the well-being of persons with disabilities.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

Ensuring the safety of persons with disabilities is a critical aspect of creating an inclusive and accessible society. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act) of 2016 in India is a landmark legislation that recognizes the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. One of the key provisions of the RPwD Act pertains to safety, and safety audits of all government buildings play a pivotal role in upholding these rights.

Persons with disabilities are often more vulnerable in emergency situations due to mobility, communication, and sensory impairments. Therefore, ensuring their safety is not just a matter of convenience but a matter of necessity. The RPwD Act, with its focus on safety, calls for the thorough examination of government buildings through safety audits to ensure that they are accessible and secure for persons with disabilities.

Verify that all government buildings are equipped with ramps, handrails, elevators, tactile, Braille Signage and accessible restroom facilities to facilitate the entry and movement of persons with disabilities.

Examine the structural integrity of these buildings, especially older ones, to identify any potential hazards or areas in need of repair or reinforcement.

Assess the readiness of government buildings for emergency evacuations, including the availability of accessible evacuation routes, refuge areas, and communication systems that cater to the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.

Ensure that safety equipment such as fire alarms, smoke detectors, and sprinkler systems are functioning properly and that they consider the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

Confirm that government buildings comply with the accessibility standards outlined in the RPwD Act 2016, and take immediate corrective measures where necessary.

You are recommended to treat this matter with the utmost urgency, as the safety and well-being of our citizens, especially persons with disabilities, must be our top priority.

By taking proactive measures to ensure the safety at government buildings, we can prevent further tragedies and demonstrate our commitment to upholding the rights of persons with disabilities as outlined in the RPwD Act 2016.

A comprehensive Structural Safety, Fire Safety, Accessibility and Emergency Evacuation Audit plan for all public buildings in Goa State is strongly recommended to be planned and rolled out immediately , considering the urgency and importance of the issue.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

CPwD NO: GRIEV/406/2023 Date of order: 12 /10/2023

Name of the Parties : **Shri. Prabhakar Dhargalkar, Goa State Central Library, Directorate of Art & Culture**

V/s

The Curator, Goa State Central Library, Directorate of Art & Culture, Panaji Goa.

Facts of the Case

Shri. Prabhakar Dhargalkar person with 75% Disability, employed as peon at Directorate of Art & Culture, Central Library Presently posted in Children Section/ Internet section had filed a complaint in regards to Mental Harassment at Work place.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

1. After going through the submissions made by both the parties, this appears to be a case of insensitivity on the part of the Department in handling the Complainant and should have been more sensitive enough to address the concerns proactively.
2. The Respondent is recommended to ensure that the complainant is given duties considering his disability during General working hours only.
3. Complainant is also instructed to perform his duties diligently and ensure that no inconvenience is caused to his superiors and support staff.
4. Respondent is recommended to follow provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 in letter and spirit and shall at all times treat the complainant with dignity.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No. 10/2022-23/ Date of order: 22 /11/2023

Name of the Parties : **Sneha Kotta, Multi tasking Staff, S.V.S Sridora Caculo College of Commerce & Management studies, Khorlim Mapusa Goa**

V/s

Henrique D' Souza, Assistant Professor, S.V.S Sridora Caculo College of Commerce & Management Studies, Khorlim Mapusa …Respondent No. 1

The Principal, S.V.S Sridora Caculo College of Commerce & Management Studies, Khorlim Mapusa, Goa …Respondent No. 2

Facts of the Case

This Commission was in receipt of Complaint Dated 29/08/2022 from Ms. Sneha Kotta, a person with 50% Permanent Disability resident of A-3-8, GRP Otrs, Opp. Architecture College Altinho Panaji Goa with regards to misbehavior while on duty. Complainant stated that she is employed as a Multitasking staff attached to the S.V.S Sridora Caculo College of Commerce & Management studies, Khorlim Mapusa. Complainant mentions that while she was performing her duty at the said work place the Assistant Professor namely Henrique D' Souza has rudely behaved with her.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

1. After going through the submissions made by both the parties, so also report of the Headmaster, this appears to be a case of insensitivity on the part of the College Principal in handling the Complainant and should have been more sensitive enough to address the concerns proactively.
2. The Commission considers that the S.V.S College Principal needs to be more careful and sensitive in future towards employees with Disability and handle them with extreme care, caution and empathy and to be more clear in imparting instructions to all the staff about do's and don'ts so that such untoward incident don't happen in future.
3. Complainant is also instructed to perform her duties diligently and ensure that no inconvenience is caused to her superiors and support staff.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No. Grive/94/2022 Date of order: 08/06/2022

Name of the Parties : **Laxmikant Mhalagi**

V/s

The Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Haveli, Curti, Ponda Goa

Facts of the Case

Mr. Laxmikant Mhalagi, a single parent with a son having Autism Spectrum Disorder, filed a complaint regarding denial of admission for his son Vedant in Kendriya Vidyalaya Ponda. Vedant secured high marks in his previous school and qualified for admission under the Right to Education Act's 3% reservation for children with disabilities. Despite this, the school denied admission citing full capacity and limitations within their admission guidelines.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

In reviewing the case, the Commission found that Kendriya Vidyalaya Ponda's admission policy for Persons with Disabilities was outdated, referencing the repealed Act of 1995 instead of the current Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016. This act emphasizes the right to education for children with disabilities and prohibits discrimination. Denying admission to Vedant based on capacity limitations violated these rights.

The Commission directed Kendriya Vidyalaya Ponda to update their policy, acknowledge Vedant's right to attend the school of his choice, and grant him immediate admission. The school was further instructed to avoid discriminatory practices and provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Finally, the order emphasized the principle of inclusion, stating that children with disabilities should have the opportunity to attend mainstream schools and that schools have a responsibility to create inclusive environments.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No. Griev/679/2022 Dated: 24/05/2022

Name of the Parties : **Ms. Vijaya Sawant**

V/s

The Principal, Government Polytechnic, Panaji Goa

Facts of the Case

Ms. Vijaya Sawant, a person with a disability, filed a complaint alleging that her employer denied her request to work from home under COVID-19 guidelines and questioned the validity of her disability certificate. She claims the employer discriminated against her and misused terminology regarding disabilities.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

In this case, Ms. Sawant, a person with a disability as defined by the RPWD Act, filed a complaint regarding denial of work-from-home privileges as outlined in a government Office Memorandum (OM) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission acknowledged a lack of sensitivity by the College Principal in handling Ms. Sawant's request.

The Commission highlighted Sections 3 and 4 of the RPWD Act, emphasizing the right to equality, dignity, and respect for persons with disabilities. Supreme Court rulings were cited to support these rights and the government's obligation to uphold them.

While the College Principal lacked the authority to overrule the government's directive to protect vulnerable populations from COVID-19, the Commission stressed the need for greater sensitivity towards employees with disabilities moving forward. The Commission directed the College Principal to comply with the RPWD Act and treat Ms. Sawant with dignity. The complaint itself was dismissed.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No: SCPwD/Griev/126/2022 Dated: 02/06/2022

Name of the Parties : **Suo Motu**

V/s

Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited,
Alto Porvorim Goa

Facts of the Case

The Commission identified the use of the outdated term "Handicapped" on some Kadamba buses, violating a government directive promoting the use of "Persons with Disabilities" and "Divyang Sathi." The Kadamba Transport Corporation acknowledged the error and reported that they had addressed the issue by working with the electric vehicle operator to replace all the old stickers on their electric buses.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

The Commission acknowledges the violation of the 2020 Circular issued by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa. This directive bans the use of the term "Handicapped" as it undermines the dignity of Persons with Disabilities and goes against the spirit of the Indian Constitution. The Commission discourages terms like "Differently Abled" as well, emphasizing the need for equality-focused language.

Therefore, the complaint is settled with instructions for Kadamba Transport Corporation. With further direction to comply with the aforementioned Circular and redesign their buses to be more accessible for Persons with Disabilities. This includes replacing signage using "Handicapped" with "Persons with Disabilities" at designated seating areas, ensuring all new buses meet accessibility standards, and retrofitting existing buses for improved accessibility.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No. 30/CPwDs/2021-22/636 Dated: 18/07/2022

Name of the Parties : **Mr. Suresh Laxman Naik**

V/s

The Manager, Management of Saraswat Vidyalaya Society, Telang Nagar, Khorlim Mapusa, Goa

Facts of the Case

Mr. Suresh Naik, a person with a disability, filed a complaint alleging he was forced to resign from his job at Saraswat Vidyalaya Society due to harassment and pressure from management. He requested reinstatement or benefits under the voluntary pension scheme. The Society contends he was negligent in his duties and resigned twice, with the second resignation being accepted. They deny any harassment.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

This order considers the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act) 2016, which protects the rights of disabled individuals. The Act aims to empower them and ensure their inclusion in society.

While the Commission acknowledges the RPwD Act, the facts presented show Mr. Naik resigned twice. The Society allowed him to withdraw his first resignation but accepted the second one. The Society also initiated the process to release his employment benefits. There's no evidence to support Mr. Naik's claims of harassment.

Therefore, the Commission did not intervene in the reinstatement but recommended the Society to consider Mr. Naik's request for compassionate re-employment due to his dependent family.

Gist of Grievances (2022-24)

Case No. CPwD/ 22/ComPwDs/2020 Dated: 20/09/2022

Name of the Parties : **Subhaschandrashekar S. Dessai**

V/s

The Commissioner, O/o Commissioner of Excise, Panaji Goa

Facts of the Case

Mr. Subhashchandrashekar S. Desai, a person with visual impairment, was appointed as an Assistant Excise Guard in the disability quota. He alleges his services were terminated illegally without proper inquiry. He claims extended absences were due to medical reasons and accidents. The department states he was absent without notice on multiple occasions and failed to complete training. Both sides agree the department did not hold a Departmental Promotion Committee meeting to confirm his appointment.

Observation and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

The Commission recommended the Respondent to consider the request of the Complainant and reinstate him in the services and to conduct inquiry into the matter of the complainant giving him fair opportunity to defend himself against the charge.

The Respondent department was directed to submit the compliance report to this office within a period of 03 months in accordance with Section 81 of RPwD Act 2016.

Accessibility Initiatives in Goa

Making the Venue Accessible

During the International Purple Fest, Design Bridge Foundation implemented a multifaceted approach to ensure that the venue was fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. This encompassed a wide range of initiatives aimed at addressing the diverse needs of attendees and removing barriers to participation. Practical measures such as the installation of ramps and railings facilitated seamless navigation throughout the venue, while the provision of lifts ensured vertical accessibility to diferent levels of the event space. Additionally, the availability of unisex accessible toilets equipped with essential features like grab bars and ample space further enhanced the overall accessibility of the venue. Beyond physical accommodations, our team implemented innovative solutions such as visual descriptions, live captioning, and sign language interpretation to cater to attendees with sensory impairments.

Furthermore, the establishment of sensory rooms provided a calming retreat for individuals experiencing sensory overload, while digital accessibility measures and indoor navigation systems facilitated smooth interaction with event resources. With the dedicated support of volunteers and help desks stationed throughout the venue, attendees were able to access assistance and information as needed, fostering an inclusive and supportive atmosphere for all participants.

Making Goa and Hotels Accessible

In collaboration with various NGOs and initiatives, Design Bridge Foundation undertook significant e□orts to extend accessibility beyond the confines of the event venue, making parts of Goa and partner hotels accessible for Purple Fest participants. Leveraging cutting-edge technology, collaborations with entities such as Iwayplus from IIT Delhi enabled the integration of innovative accessibility solutions into the local infrastructure, enhancing the overall accessibility of key areas in Goa. Additionally, initiatives like RampMyCity played a crucial role in ensuring that pathways and facilities in Goa were designed and constructed with accessibility in mind, providing a more inclusive environment for visitors. By spearheading such initiatives, Design Bridge Foundation aimed to create a lasting impact on accessibility in Goa, fostering a culture of inclusivity and equity for individuals of all abilities.

Glimpses of Purple Fest









Workshops, Training Programs, and Sensitization Initiatives

Joint Inspection of Smart City Work

A joint inspection of Smart City work was carried out by Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Accessibility Consultant Shri. Abhijit Murugkar, and Smart City Engineer Shri. Sameer Sheikh. This collaborative efort aimed to ensure that the Smart City projects in Goa incorporate accessibility features to cater to the needs of persons with disabilities. The inspection focused on evaluating the design and implementation of infrastructure projects to guarantee inclusivity and accessibility for all residents, aligning with the vision of creating barrier-free environments in urban spaces.




CHISEL



Access Audits

1. Railway Stations

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting accessibility, we conducted comprehensive audits of major railway stations in Goa. Our focus was to identify areas for improvement and enhance the overall experience for all commuters, with a special emphasis on those with disabilities. The following stations were audited:

- **Margao Railway Station**
- **Vasco da Gama Railway Station**
- **Thivim Railway Station**
- **Karmali Railway Station**

Throughout the audit process, our team meticulously evaluated various aspects of each station's infrastructure and facilities to pinpoint areas where enhancements could be made to better accommodate individuals with diverse needs. This comprehensive assessment encompassed a range of factors, including signage, ramps, tactile guidance, seating arrangements, restroom facilities, and overall ease of navigation. By conducting detailed site inspections and engaging with relevant stakeholders, we aimed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the existing accessibility landscape at each station.

Across the audited railway stations, several common findings emerged, highlighting areas in need of urgent attention and improvement. Issues such as inadequate signage, insufficient or poorly maintained ramps, lack of tactile guidance for visually impaired individuals, and limited accessibility features within restroom facilities were among the key concerns identified. These findings underscored the critical need for enhancements to ensure that railway stations in Goa are fully accessible and inclusive environments for all passengers, regardless of their abilities.

2. Government Colleges

Government Colleges Accessibility Audits

In our endeavor to promote inclusivity in education, we conducted accessibility audits at seven government colleges across Goa. These audits aimed to assess the existing infrastructure and identify barriers that hindered accessibility for students with disabilities. Our team meticulously examined classrooms, libraries, administrative areas, and outdoor spaces to ensure a comprehensive evaluation. The colleges audited included prominent educational institutions

- Registrar ,Goa University ,Taleigao,Plateau -Goa
- Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce,Sanquelim -Goa
- Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Marcela -Goa
- Goa College of Home Science.Campal,Panaji- Goa
- Sant Sohirobanath Ambiye Government Collgege of Art & Commerce, Pernem -Goa
- Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem-Goa
- Government College of Commerence ,Bonda Margao -Goa
- Goa College of Music, Altinho Panaji Goa
- Vidyaprobodhini College
- Bambolim ITI

Common Findings and Proposed Solutions

During the audits, several common accessibility challenges were identified across the government colleges. These included inadequate ramps or staircases without handrails, inaccessible restrooms, lack of Braille signage, and limited seating arrangements for students with mobility impairments. To address these issues, we proposed solutions such as installing additional ramps with handrails, retrofitting restrooms to make them wheelchair accessible, incorporating Braille signage for navigation, and providing adjustable desks or seating options to accommodate students with diverse needs.

Implementation of these solutions would significantly enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of government colleges in Goa, ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students.

3. Government Buildings

As part of our commitment to fostering inclusivity, we undertook a thorough audit of various government buildings across Goa. This comprehensive assessment aimed to identify existing accessibility gaps and formulate recommendations for enhancing the overall accessibility of these structures. Our team meticulously examined aspects such as entrances, pathways, restrooms, elevators, and signage to pinpoint areas where improvements were needed to ensure accessibility for all individuals, including those with disabilities. The audit process involved detailed documentation of barriers and challenges faced by people with diverse mobility and sensory needs when accessing government buildings.

Audited Buildings :

- Bicholim Muncipal Council
- Government Complex Bicholim
- ITI Bicholim
- PHC Bicholim
- Muncipal Council Mapusa
- Asilo HospitalMapusa
- Government Complex Mapusa
- Muncipal Council Pernem
- Electricity Board Pernem
- Police station Pernem
- Government Complex Ponda
- ICDS Ponda
- Municipal Council Ponda
- Rajiv Kala Mandir
- Sub District Hospital Ponda
- Govt Sec High School Valpoi
- Govt Complex Valpoi
- CHC Valpoi
- Polic Station valpoi
- CHC vasco

Following the audit, we have initiated collaborative eforts with relevant authorities and stakeholders to address the identified accessibility issues efectively. By working closely with government agencies, architects, urban planners, and disability advocacy groups, we aim to develop tailored solutions that prioritize accessibility and create welcoming environments for all members of the community. These initiatives include retrofitting existing infrastructure to meet accessibility standards, implementing universal design principles in new construction projects, and enhancing communication and awareness regarding accessibility rights and best practices. Through these concerted eforts, we are committed to transforming government buildings into inclusive spaces that refect the diverse needs and abilities of all individuals in the community.

4. Government Primary Schools

The access audit of government primary schools in Goa commenced on July 1st, 2023, as part of the initiative led by the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. Each school underwent a comprehensive audit, with teachers and staff interviewed to assess unique needs, strengths, and weaknesses in making education accessible. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar, emphasized the importance of interventions in physical space, learning tools, aids, devices, and technology to align educational institutes with the National Education Policy (NEP) and the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016.

Following the audit, various changes were expected to be implemented, including the establishment of accessible pathways, ramps, railings, toilets, tactile paths, Braille, and multilingual tactile signs.

Additionally, teacher training programs were recommended to sensitize educators to the needs of students with disabilities.

Representatives from the office of the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities or their empanelled agency conducted visits to educational institutions, with the heads of all educational institutions in Goa directed to extend full cooperation. Teams were constituted in every taluka by the PWD, assisted by the social welfare department, to facilitate the survey using Google Forms and input voluminous data on deficiencies in each building.

Furthermore, 150 social workers were trained over a week by experts including Mr. Abhijit Murugkar, Dr. Sudesh Guade, and Ar. Arundhati Gupta to conduct the audit for approximately 800 schools. Their expertise and dedication were instrumental in ensuring a thorough assessment of accessibility in government primary schools across the state.


Samsung Quad Camera





5. Joint Inspection of Public Toilets in Panjim

In a significant stride towards fostering inclusivity and accessibility in Panjim, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) collaborated with the technical team of the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, for a joint inspection of public toilets on July 22, 2023. This collaborative efort aimed to assess the accessibility features of public toilets in Panjim, ensuring that they cater to the needs of persons with disabilities. Abhijit Murugkar and Ar. Arundhati Gupta were instrumental in facilitating this joint inspection. This initiative refects the ongoing commitment of both governmental and non-governmental bodies to create a more inclusive environment in Goa, aligning with the broader efforts outlined in the Annual Report on Accessibility Initiatives. Such collaborations pave the way for tangible improvements in infrastructure and services, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for all residents, including those with disabilities.

Photos of Access Audits



Photos of Access Audits






टिकिट घर BOOKING OFFICE


GPS Map Camera
Panaji, Goa, India
Despomont Building, St. Inez, Santa Inez, Panaji, Goa 403001, India
Lat 15.494866°
Long 73.821137°
21/06/23 11:55 AM GMT +05:30
Google


GPS Map Camera
Panaji, Goa, India
Despomont Building, St. Inez, Santa Inez, Panaji, Goa 403001, India
Lat 15.494866°
Long 73.821137°
21/06/23 12:03 PM GMT +05:30
Google


पुरुष प्रतीक्षालय
GENTS WAITING HALL


KADAMBA
TOURIST
HOME



Findings and Recommendations

Our findings underscore the need for continued eforts to create a truly inclusive environment in Goa. We recommend:

- Regular training for educators and staff on disability awareness and inclusive practices.
- Infrastructure upgrades, including accessible pathways, ramps, and restrooms, to enhance accessibility in public spaces.
- Collaboration with local communities and stakeholders to raise awareness and promote inclusivity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the State Disability Commissioner's Office, in collaboration with Design Bridge Diversity & Inclusion Foundation and other stakeholders, remains committed to advancing accessibility and inclusivity initiatives in Goa. Through workshops, audits, and advocacy eforts, we strive to create a more accessible and inclusive environment for all individuals, ensuring that Goa sets an example for other regions in prioritizing accessibility and promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

Proud Moment

For The Office Of The State Commissioner For Persons With Disabilities Goa

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar and Secretary, O/o State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri. Taha I. Haaziq awarded the Pretigious National Award for Pioneering Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities



State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri Guruprasad R. Pawaskar while receiving the National Award for the Empowerment of PwDs for the year 2023, under the category Divyangjano Ke Adhikar Adhiniyam 2016, Ke Apne Rajya Mein Karyanvayan Mein Sarvashreshtha Rajya Aayukta Divyangjan by the hands of Hon'ble President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Secretary, O/o State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri Taha Haaziq while receiving the National Award for the Empowerment of PwDs for the year 2023, under the category Sarvashreshtha Divyangjan by the hands of Hon'ble President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Certificate of Commendation by Hon'ble Governor, 2024



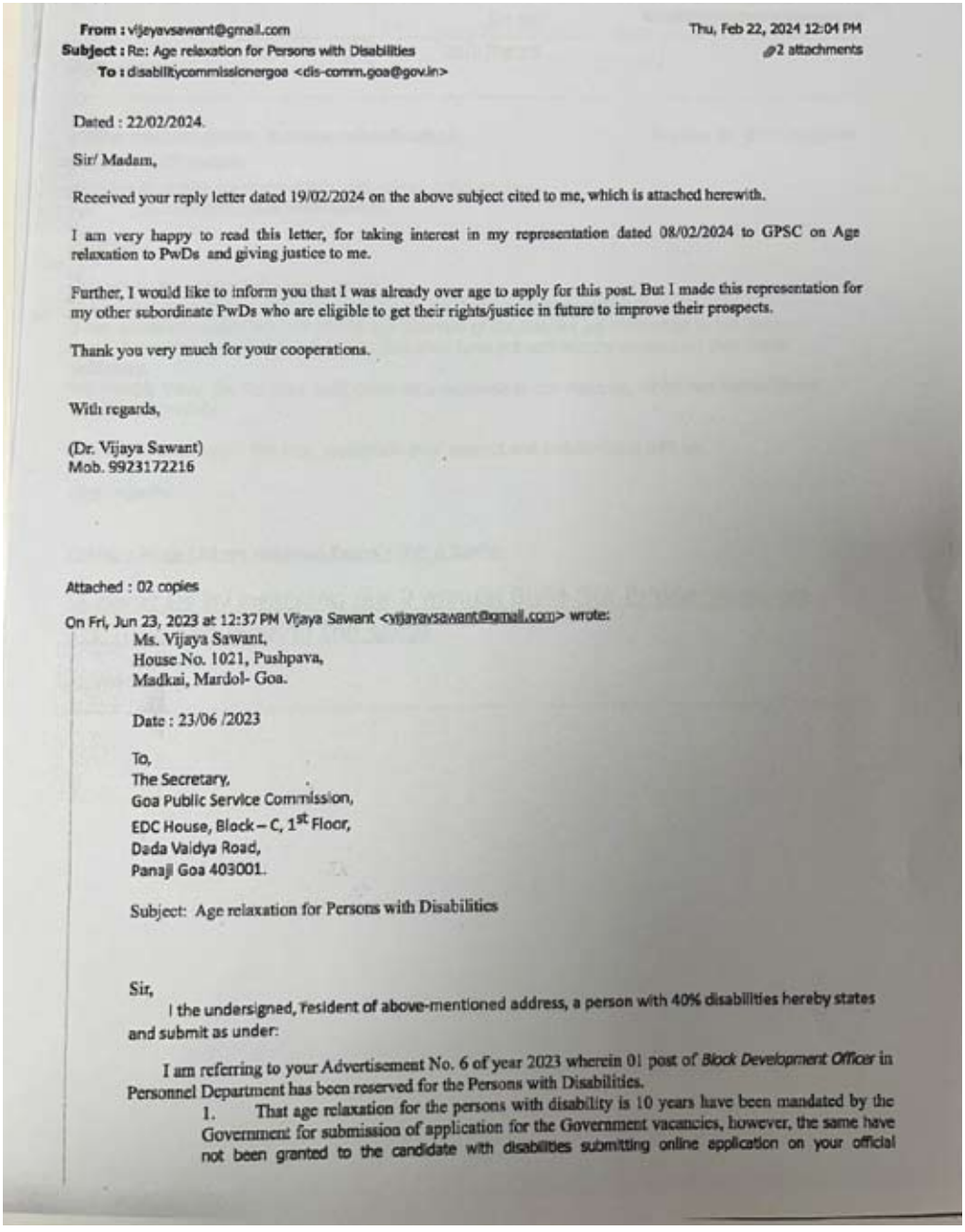
State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar honoured with Certificate of Commendation by Hon'ble Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai. Saluting their remarkable contributions, especially during the International Purple Fest Goa 2024.

Certificate of Commendation by Hon'ble Governor, 2024



Secretary, O/o State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Taha I. Haaziq honoured with Certificate of Commendation by Hon'ble Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai. Saluting their remarkable contributions, especially during the International Purple Fest Goa 2024.

Grattitude Letter



From : vijayavsawant@gmail.com
Subject : Re: Age relaxation for Persons with Disabilities
To : disabilitycommissionergoa <dis-comm.goa@gov.in>

Thu, Feb 22, 2024 12:04 PM
2 attachments

Dated : 22/02/2024.

Sir/ Madam,

Received your reply letter dated 19/02/2024 on the above subject cited to me, which is attached herewith.

I am very happy to read this letter, for taking interest in my representation dated 08/02/2024 to GPSC on Age relaxation to PwDs and giving justice to me.

Further, I would like to inform you that I was already over age to apply for this post. But I made this representation for my other subordinate PwDs who are eligible to get their rights/justice in future to improve their prospects.

Thank you very much for your cooperations.

With regards,

(Dr. Vijaya Sawant)
Mob. 9923172216

Attached : 02 copies

On Fri, Jun 23, 2023 at 12:37 PM Vijaya Sawant <vijayavsawant@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Vijaya Sawant,
House No. 1021, Pushpava,
Madkai, Mardol- Goa.

Date : 23/06 /2023

To,
The Secretary,
Goa Public Service Commission,
EDC House, Block – C, 1st Floor,
Dada Vaidya Road,
Panaji Goa 403001.

Subject: Age relaxation for Persons with Disabilities

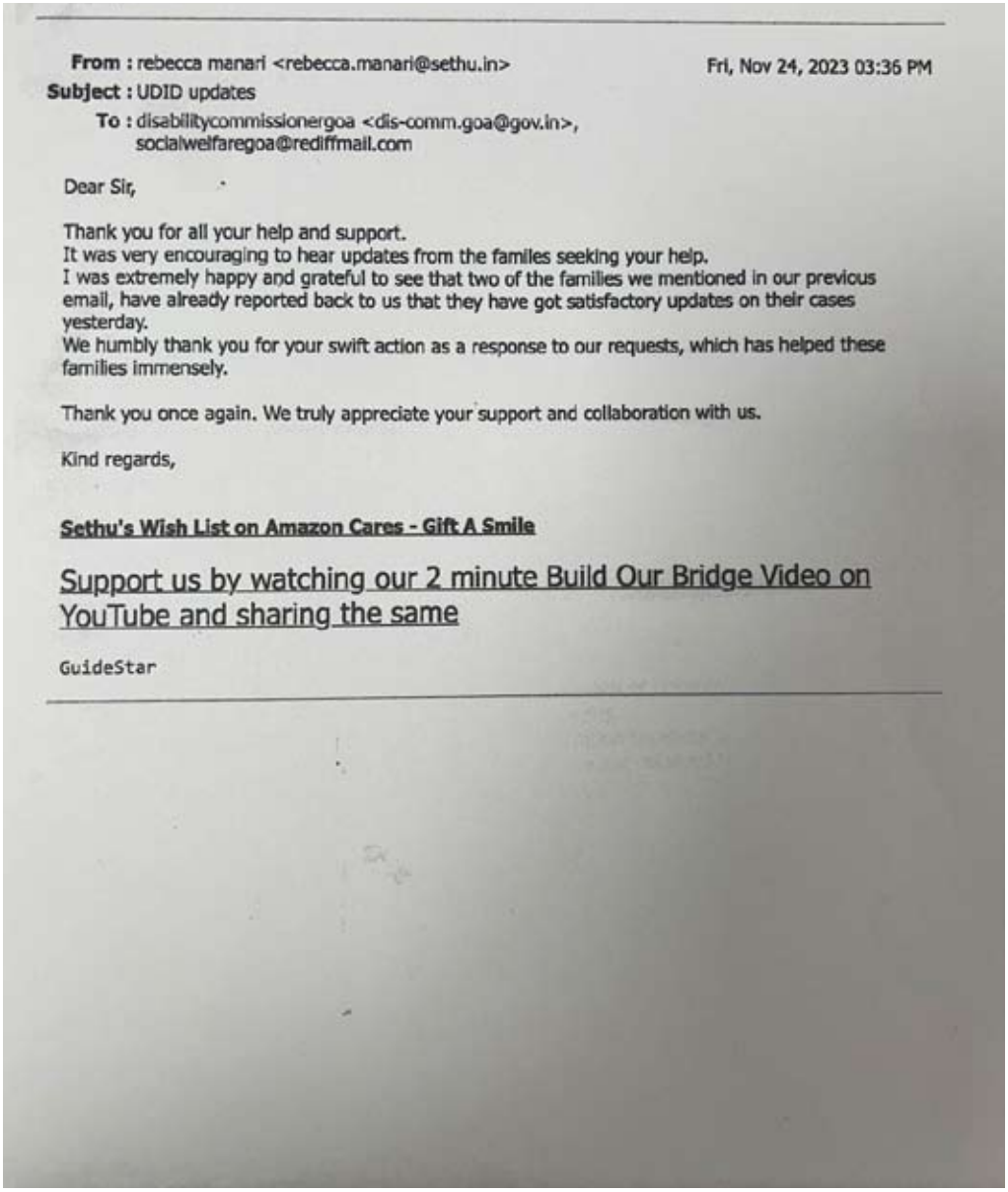
Sir,

I the undersigned, resident of above-mentioned address, a person with 40% disabilities hereby states and submit as under:

I am referring to your Advertisement No. 6 of year 2023 wherein 01 post of *Block Development Officer* in Personnel Department has been reserved for the Persons with Disabilities.

1. That age relaxation for the persons with disability is 10 years have been mandated by the Government for submission of application for the Government vacancies, however, the same have not been granted to the candidate with disabilities submitting online application on your official

Grattitude Letter



From : rebecca manari <rebecca.manari@sethu.in> Fri, Nov 24, 2023 03:36 PM
Subject : UDID updates
To : disabilitycommissionergoa <dis-comm.goa@gov.in>, socialwelfaregoa@rediffmail.com

Dear Sir,

Thank you for all your help and support.
It was very encouraging to hear updates from the familes seeking your help.
I was extremely happy and grateful to see that two of the families we mentioned in our previous email, have already reported back to us that they have got satisfactory updates on their cases yesterday.
We humbly thank you for your swift action as a response to our requests, which has helped these families immensely.

Thank you once again. We truly appreciate your support and collaboration with us.

Kind regards,

Sethu's Wish List on Amazon Cares - Gift A Smile

Support us by watching our 2 minute Build Our Bridge Video on YouTube and sharing the same

GuideStar

Grattitude Letter

From : connect2george@rediffmail.com
Tue, Mar 19, 2024 12:58 PM
Sender : connect2george@rediffmail.com
1 attachment
Subject : Re: Problems caused by Vespa Aprilla showroom // registration of bike under MP Fund.
To : disabilitycommissionergoa <dis-comm.goa@gov.in>
Cc : grpawaskar@gmail.com, tahahaaziq@gmail.com, connect2george@rediffmail.com

19/Mar/20204.

To,
The Office of
The State Commissioner for persons with disabilities.

Respected Sir,

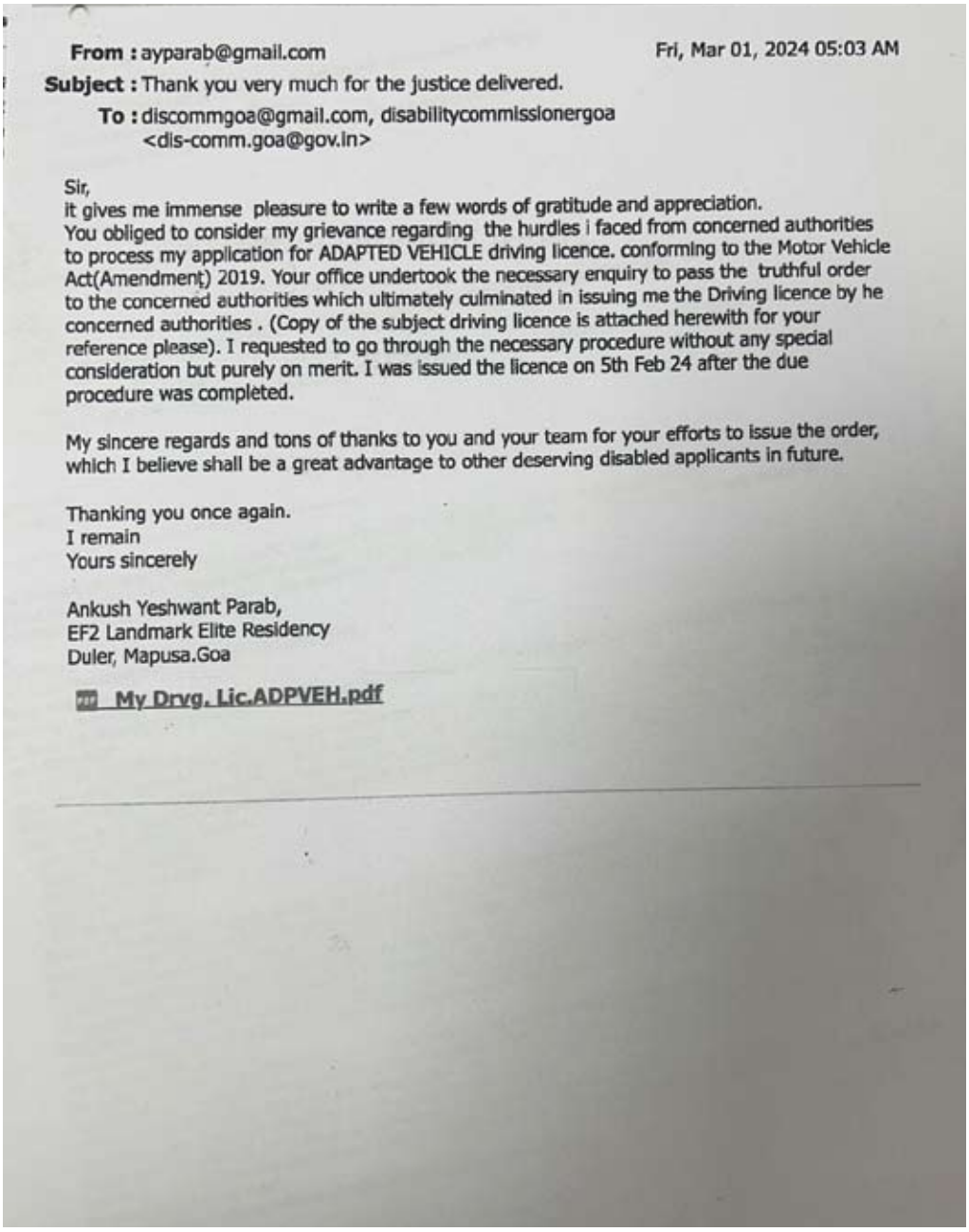
Greetings of the day.
This is to bring to your kind information that I just rec'd the hard copy of the Vehicle Registration Certificate (RC book) for my vehicle.
Once again many thanks for your help.
Attached with this e-mail is the copy of my vehicle RC book you may upload it with my feedback on your social media account.

Yours sincerely,
Churchill George Rebello.

From: connect2george@rediffmail.com Sent: Mon, 11 Mar 2024 13:26:10 To: <dis-comm.goa@gov.in> Cc: <grpawaskar@gmail.com>,<tahahaaziq@gmail.com>,<connect2george@rediffmail.com> Subject: Re: Problems caused by Vespa Aprilla showroom // registration of bike under MP Fund. 11/Mar/20204.
To,
The Office of
The State Commissioner for persons with disabilities.
Respected Sir,
Greetings of the day.
I, Mr. Churchill George Rebello, would like to share my experience with "The office of the state Commissioner for persons with disabilities".
On the 24th Dec 2023, I was issued a bike for persons with different abilities through the MP fund. However the bike was only temporary registered by Vespa Aprilla showroom. On 21st Dec 2023, I had visited the showroom for the payment of the bike insurance & other payments. I was assured by Ms. Nisha (sales executive) that the bike would be registered on the 22nd Dec 2023. Despite my several reminders still the showroom neglected to do the permanent registration. Ms. Nisha mentioned the following reasons.
- Staff will do tomorrow.
- R.T.O delaying the work.
- Staff has resigned.
- Will be done soon.

Fed-up of the excuses, I visited the showroom for inquiry. Ms. Nisha spoke rudely and mentioned that I would have to pay agency charges as they would do it through agents. I explained that I had reminded several times & that it was negligence from the showroom hence I will not pay any charges for the agent. To this Ms. Nisha replied with an arrogant speech that if I don't pay fees for agent they will not process by registration work.
Disheartened by the showroom negligence, I approached "The office of the state Commissioner for persons with disabilities". On the 19th Feb I rec'd call from the showroom regarding OTP for the permanent registration and finally the permanent registration was completed after the showroom rec'd notice from "The office of the state Commissioner for persons with disabilities".
My sincere thanks to "The office of the state Commissioner for persons with disabilities" without whose help the permanent registration wouldn't have been completed without fraudulent agency charges. I recommend that people like me who are categorised as "Differently Abled Persons" should look forward to the office of the state Commissioner for persons with disabilities when they are harassed by people misusing their Authority.
Thank you "The office of the state Commissioner for persons with disabilities" for your help and support.
I sincerely apologise for the delay in providing my feedback due to some personal health problems as I was hospitalized due to enlargement of my heart.
Kindly post/share this experience of mine on your social media accounts.
Yours sincerely,
Churchill George Rebello.

Grattitude Letter



From : ayparab@gmail.com Fri, Mar 01, 2024 05:03 AM

Subject : Thank you very much for the justice delivered.

To : discommgoa@gmail.com, disabilitycommissionergoa <dis-comm.goa@gov.in>

Sir,
it gives me immense pleasure to write a few words of gratitude and appreciation. You obliged to consider my grievance regarding the hurdles i faced from concerned authorities to process my application for ADAPTED VEHICLE driving licence. conforming to the Motor Vehicle Act(Amendment) 2019. Your office undertook the necessary enquiry to pass the truthful order to the concerned authorities which ultimately culminated in issuing me the Driving licence by he concerned authorities . (Copy of the subject driving licence is attached herewith for your reference please). I requested to go through the necessary procedure without any special consideration but purely on merit. I was issued the licence on 5th Feb 24 after the due procedure was completed.

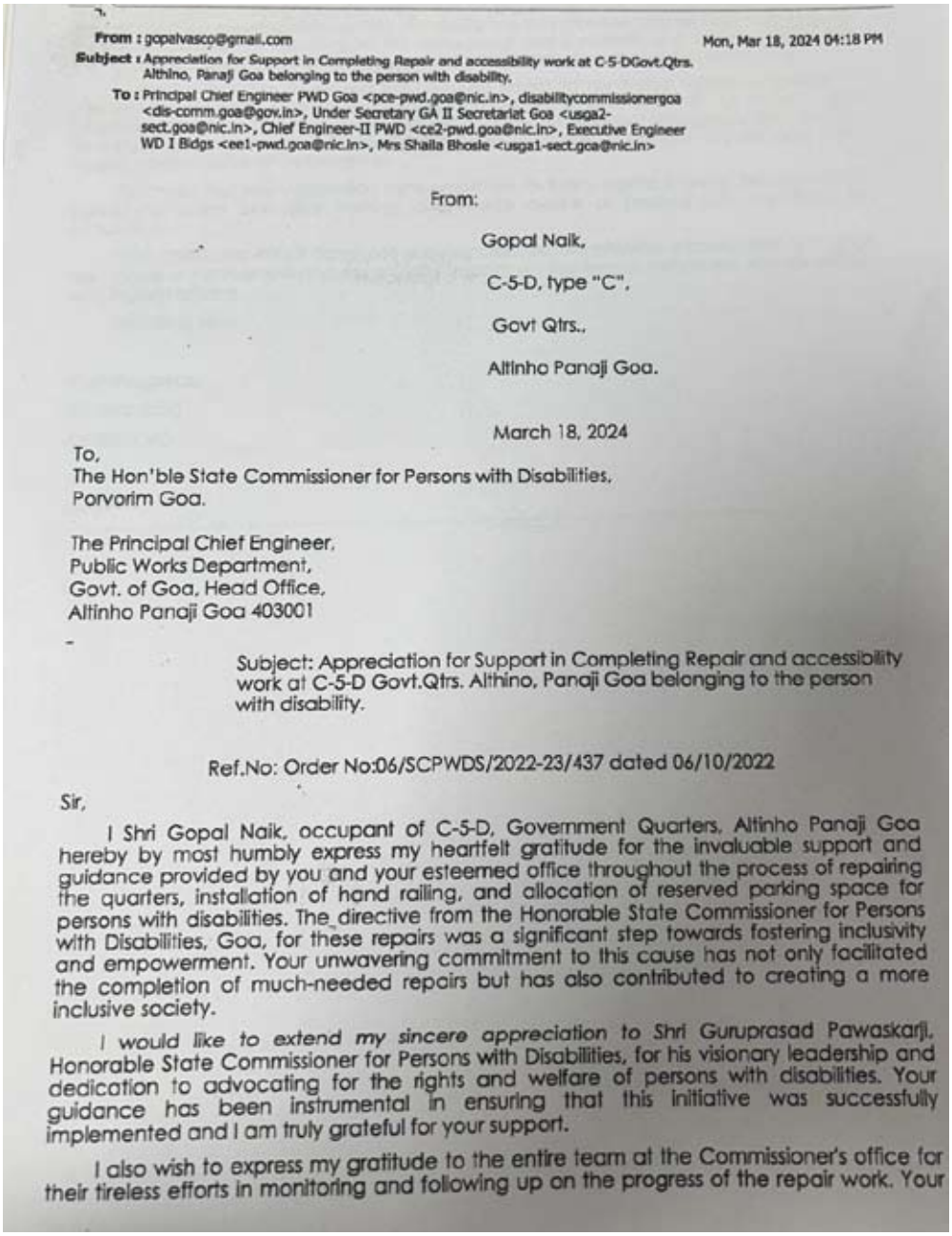
My sincere regards and tons of thanks to you and your team for your efforts to issue the order, which I believe shall be a great advantage to other deserving disabled applicants in future.

Thanking you once again.
I remain
Yours sincerely

Ankush Yeshwant Parab,
EF2 Landmark Elite Residency
Duler, Mapusa.Goa

My Drvg. Lic.ADPVEH.pdf

Grattitude Letter



From : gopalvasco@gmail.com Mon, Mar 18, 2024 04:18 PM

Subject : Appreciation for Support in Completing Repair and accessibility work at C-5-DGovt.Qtrs. Althino, Panaji Goa belonging to the person with disability.

To : Principal Chief Engineer PWD Goa <pce-pwd.goa@nic.in>, disabilitycommissionergoa <dis-comm.goa@gov.in>, Under Secretary GA II Secretariat Goa <usga2-sect.goa@nic.in>, Chief Engineer-II PWD <ce2-pwd.goa@nic.in>, Executive Engineer WD I Bldgs <ee1-pwd.goa@nic.in>, Mrs Shaila Bhosle <usga1-sect.goa@nic.in>

From:

Gopal Naik,

C-5-D, type "C",

Govt Qtrs.,

Altinho Panaji Goa.

March 18, 2024

To,
The Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,
Porvorim Goa.

The Principal Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department,
Govt. of Goa, Head Office,
Altinho Panaji Goa 403001

Subject: Appreciation for Support in Completing Repair and accessibility work at C-5-D Govt.Qtrs. Althino, Panaji Goa belonging to the person with disability.

Ref.No: Order No:06/SCPWDS/2022-23/437 dated 06/10/2022

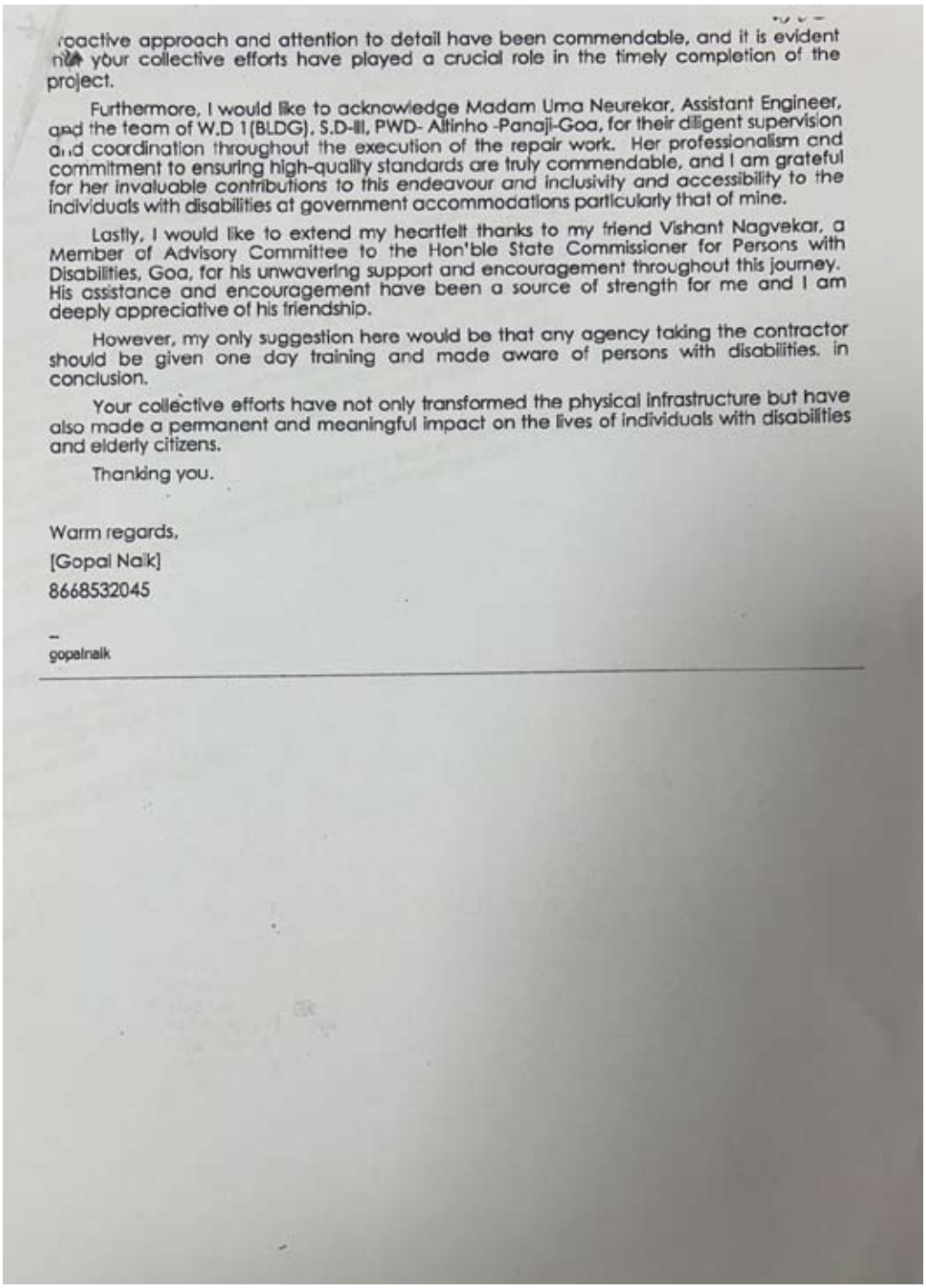
Sir,

I Shri Gopal Naik, occupant of C-5-D, Government Quarters, Altinho Panaji Goa hereby by most humbly express my heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable support and guidance provided by you and your esteemed office throughout the process of repairing the quarters, installation of hand railing, and allocation of reserved parking space for persons with disabilities. The directive from the Honorable State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, for these repairs was a significant step towards fostering inclusivity and empowerment. Your unwavering commitment to this cause has not only facilitated the completion of much-needed repairs but has also contributed to creating a more inclusive society.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Shri Guruprasad Pawaskarji, Honorable State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, for his visionary leadership and dedication to advocating for the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities. Your guidance has been instrumental in ensuring that this initiative was successfully implemented and I am truly grateful for your support.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the entire team at the Commissioner's office for their tireless efforts in monitoring and following up on the progress of the repair work. Your

Grattitude Letter



roactive approach and attention to detail have been commendable, and it is evident that your collective efforts have played a crucial role in the timely completion of the project.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge Madam Uma Neurekar, Assistant Engineer, and the team of W.D 1(BLDG), S.D-III, PWD- Altinho -Panaji-Goa, for their diligent supervision and coordination throughout the execution of the repair work. Her professionalism and commitment to ensuring high-quality standards are truly commendable, and I am grateful for her invaluable contributions to this endeavour and inclusivity and accessibility to the individuals with disabilities at government accommodations particularly that of mine.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my friend Vishant Nagvekar, a Member of Advisory Committee to the Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, for his unwavering support and encouragement throughout this journey. His assistance and encouragement have been a source of strength for me and I am deeply appreciative of his friendship.

However, my only suggestion here would be that any agency taking the contractor should be given one day training and made aware of persons with disabilities. in conclusion.

Your collective efforts have not only transformed the physical infrastructure but have also made a permanent and meaningful impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities and elderly citizens.

Thanking you.

Warm regards,

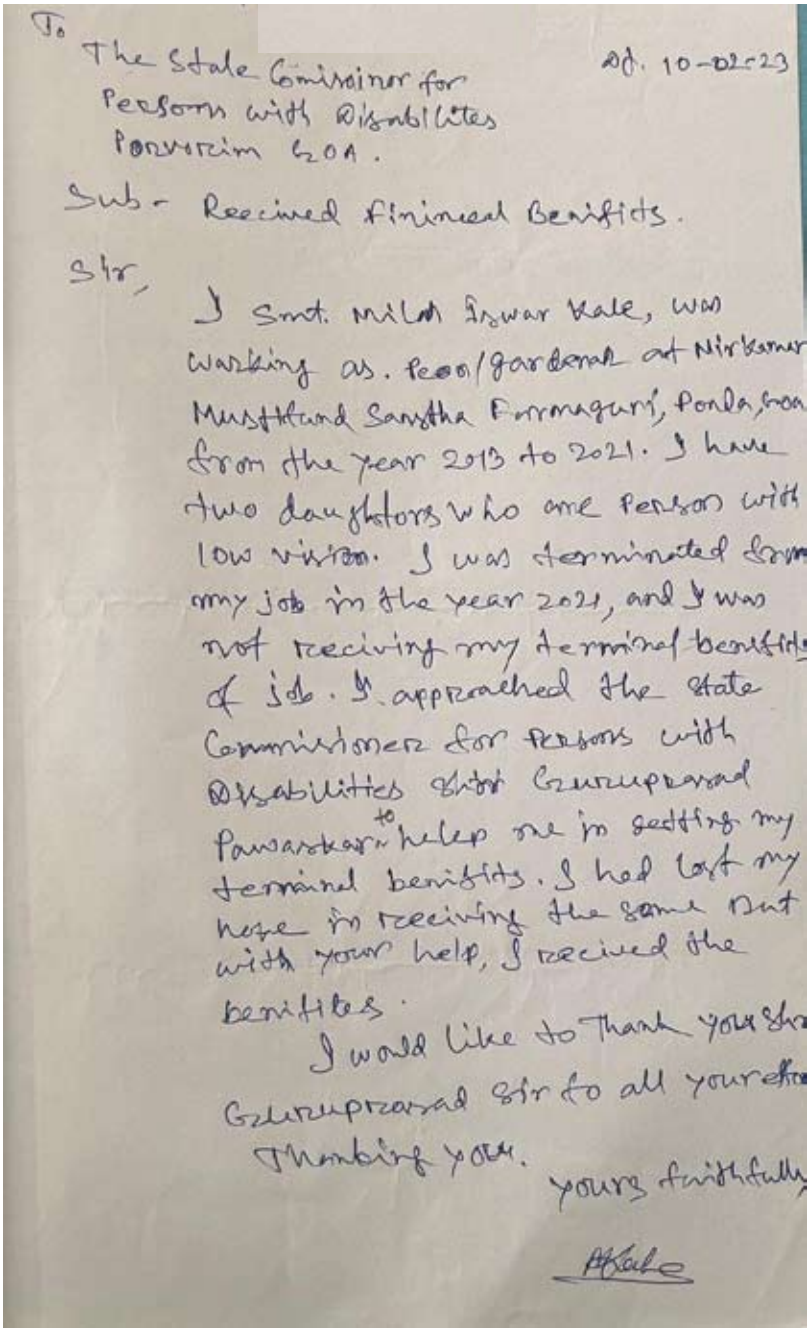
[Gopal Naik]

8668532045

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gopalnaik

Grattitude Letter



To
The State Comissioner for
Persons with Disabilities
Porvorim Goa.

Dt. 10-02-23

Sub - Received finincal Benifits.

Sir,

I Smt. Milan Iswar Kale, was working as. Peon/gardenar at Nirbanar Mursthand Sanstha Parmagurj, Ponda, Goa from the year 2013 to 2021. I have two daughters who are Person with low vision. I was terminated from my job in the year 2021, and I was not receiving my terminal benifits of job. I approached the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri Gurupprasad Pawaskar to help me in getting my terminal benifits. I had lost my hope in receiving the same but with your help, I recived the benifites.

I would like to thank you Shri Gurupprasad sir to all your efforts.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

AKale

Grattitude Letter

From: - Shri. Joseph Nelson D'Souza,
U.D.C.
Disaster Management Cell,
O/o. Collectorate North,
Panaji-Goa.

Dated: - 20/02/2023.

To,
The Commissioner,
O/o. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,
Ground Floor, Sanjay Centre for Special Education,
Pundaliknagar, Porvorim-Goa.

Sub:- Letter of Gratitude.
Ref:- Order No. SCPwD NO: GRIEV/830/2022 dated 08/09/2022

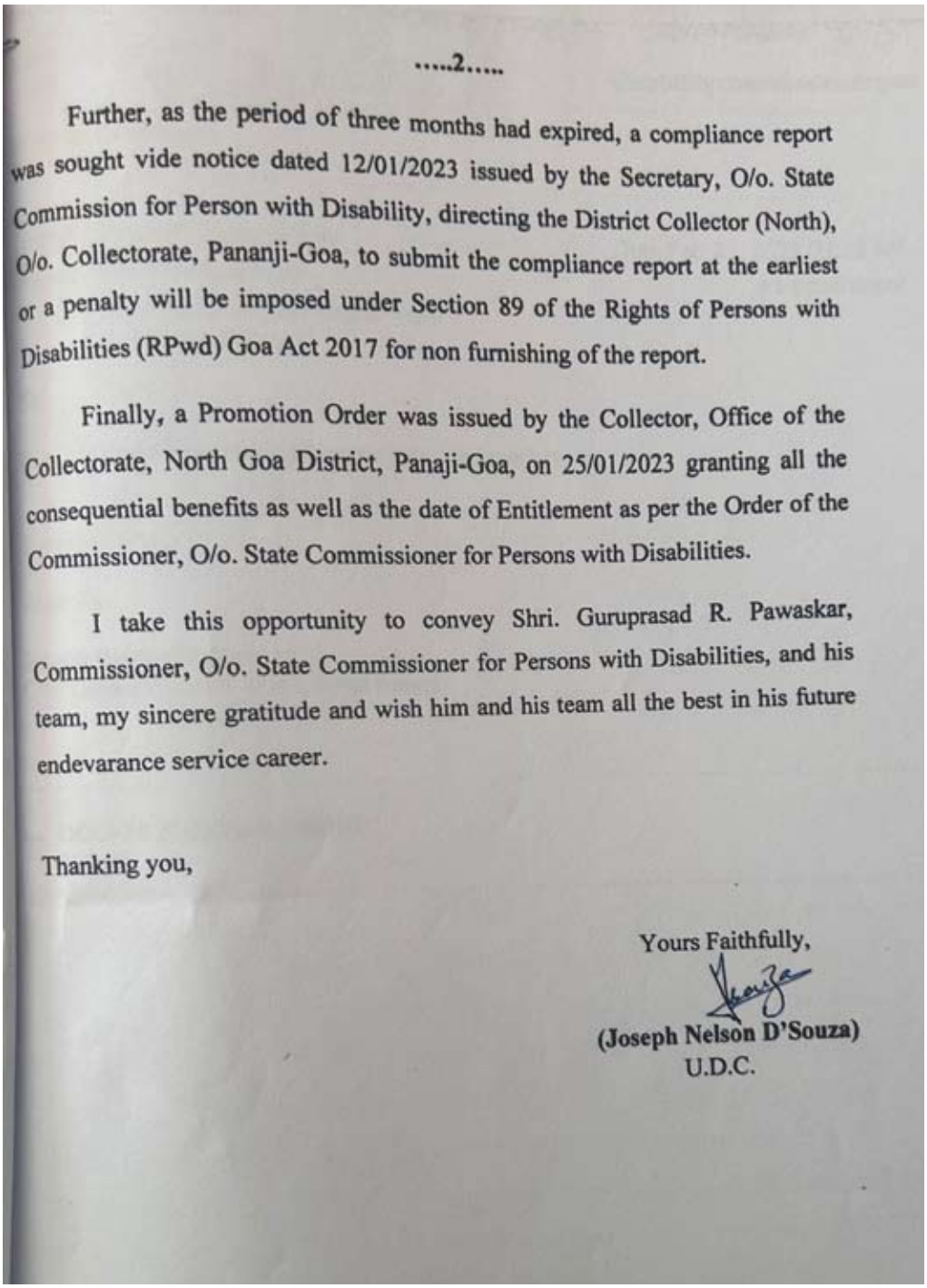
Sir,

I, the undersigned, would like to express my gratitude towards Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar, Commissioner, and his team of O/o. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, for passing an imperative Order in the favor of the undersigned to seek justice which was denied for several years, and finally getting the promotion for the post of U.D.C. as per the reservation quota in p.w.d. category since the year 2018 to till date.

Further, the undersigned had written to Collector, Office of the Collectorate, North Goa District, Panaji-Goa on several occasions, but no decision was taken regarding Reservation for promotion for the person with disability, and then finally in the year 2022, the undersigned approached to the O/o. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Porvorim-Goa. Wherein quick response was given by issuing a notice to seek explanation from Office of the Collectorate, Panaji-Goa, and after submission of the reply, the undersigned too submitted my clarifications and soon after, the Commissioner on 08/09/2022 issued an Order to review the Departmental Promotion Committee proceedings to consider the undersigned for the promotion for the post of Upper Division Clerk and also directed to grant all the consequential benefits from the date of the Entitlement (within 03 months period of time).

2...../-

Grattitude Letter



.....2.....

Further, as the period of three months had expired, a compliance report was sought vide notice dated 12/01/2023 issued by the Secretary, O/o. State Commission for Person with Disability, directing the District Collector (North), O/o. Collectorate, Pananji-Goa, to submit the compliance report at the earliest or a penalty will be imposed under Section 89 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwd) Goa Act 2017 for non furnishing of the report.

Finally, a Promotion Order was issued by the Collector, Office of the Collectorate, North Goa District, Panaji-Goa, on 25/01/2023 granting all the consequential benefits as well as the date of Entitlement as per the Order of the Commissioner, O/o. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

I take this opportunity to convey Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar, Commissioner, O/o. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and his team, my sincere gratitude and wish him and his team all the best in his future endevarance service career.

Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully,

(Joseph Nelson D'Souza)
U.D.C.

Media Coverage

Woman with disability gets motorised wheelchair

Staff Reporter
Panaji

The office of the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities in Goa, on the occasion of International Women's Day, gifted a motorised wheelchair to Raksha Dangui from Guirim, who has a spinal cord injury. Also present was the Saligao MLA Kedar Naik.

"Gifting Raksha Dangui, this motorised wheelchair on a special day for women, is to allow her to move around with ease at her home and around, independently, as she also works from home," said Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

Pawaskar, who had visited Dangui's residence some weeks ago, was requested by the mother of Raksha to assist the family in providing a wheelchair.

Dangui had in January 2018 in a road accident suffered a spinal cord injury that affected her movement waist downwards.

She managed to complete her graduation, and now works from home.



State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar, Saligao MLA Kedar Naik seen presenting a motorised wheelchair to Raksha Dangui of Guirim.

Govt to reward Goan medallists at World Special Games

Rs 5 lakh for Gold, Rs 3 lakh for Silver, Rs 1 lakh for Bronze

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant announced that the Government would provide cash awards for the Goan medal winners at the recently held Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin, with the gold medal winner getting Rs 5 lakhs, silver medallist Rs 3 lakhs and bronze medal winner Rs 1 lakh.

The Chief Minister hailed the extraordinary achievements and felicitated the successful Goan special athletes - 15 athletes and eight coaches - at a special felicitation function, Wednesday.

"Our special athletes have made us all proud with their medals. They have shown great courage, determination and skill in the Special Olympic Games. The prize money will be given within two months. Moreover, we will offer them a chance to work in the government sector in the future. They deserve this recognition and support," declared the Chief Minister.

Dr Sawant praised Social Welfare Minister, Subhash Phal Desai and Commissioner for Persons with disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar for having stayed with the athletes throughout the Games. They motivated them, cared for them and ensured that they felt at home in a foreign country, unlike other ministers who only attend the opening and closing ceremonies," thundered the Chief Minister.

The medal winners who were felicitated: Vennon Paes, Joel Rodrigues, Francis Parinapogu and Aman Nadaf (gold, 7-a-side football), Mazdi Ferrao (gold, basketball), Veena Naik (gold, volleyball unified), Geetanjali Nagvenkar (gold, 800 mts, silver, 400 mts), Adam Ganjanawar (silver, judo), Ayush Gadekar (silver, volleyball unified) Tanjya Usgaonkar (silver and bronze, skating) and Siya Sarode (gold, deadlift and squat, silver, combine lift, bronze, bench press), Gayhan Malla (bronze, mini javelin), Gayatri Patarpekar and Kajal Jadhav (bronze, 7-a-side football) and Asif Malani (4th place 4x400 m relay).

The eight coaches from Goa - Varsha Naik, Prakash Velip, Gautami Desai, Samantha D'Costa, Saffira D'Costa, Kazmira Fernandes, Sr. Monica Coelho and Prashant Tari.

Subhash Phal Desai, Guruprasad Pawaskar hailed the athletes for the splendid performance which made the country as well as Goa very proud. They congratulated National Sports Director of Special Olympics Bharat, Victor Vaz, President of Special Olympics Goa, Luis Fernandes, Vrushali Cardozo and others for their untiring efforts.

Victor stated that with 9 gold medals, 5 silver and 5 bronze, Goa had now crossed the three figure medal mark with the tally of 102 medals in the eight editions.

Thirteen athletes from Goa were part of the Indian team in unified football (male and female), futsal (male), athletics (male and female), roller skating (female), basketball (male and female), judo (male and female), powerlifting (female), unified volleyball (male and female) and handball.

Over 7,000 athletes representing 190 delegations participated in the Special Olympics World Games 2023.



CM announces cash awards for Goan medallists, govt jobs too

FETES CONTINGENT RETURNING FROM BERLIN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

AWARDS FOR MEDALLISTS IN TWO MONTHS

- Sawant said, "I am delighted to announce that we will reward each of them with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakhs for gold, Rs 3 lakhs for silver, and Rs 1 lakh for bronze. The prize money will be given to them within two months.
- Moreover, we will offer them a chance to work in the government sector in the future.
- The National Sports Director of Special Olympics Bharat, Victor Vaz claimed that this year's medal tally has been the best in Goa's history with nine gold medals, five silver and five bronze.
- "With this performance, Goa has now crossed the three-figure medal mark with a tally of 102 medals in the 8 editions of the games that we participated so far... It took months of accurate planning," he added.

Goa govt felicitates Goan Contingent returning from Special Olympics World Summer Games

- CM Sawant announces cash awards of Rupees 5 lakhs for gold, 3 lakhs for silver and 1 lakh for bronze medallists for the Goan medallists





स्पेशल ऑलिम्पिकमधील विजेत्या खेळाडूंसमवेत मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, सोयत मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई व इतर मान्यवर.

पाच लाखांसह खेळाडूंना नोकरी

मुख्यमंत्री : स्पेशल ऑलिम्पिकमधील विजेत्यांचा सन्मान

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : स्पेशल ऑलिम्पिकमधील सुवर्णपदक विजेत्यांना सरकारतर्फे ५ लाख व सरकारी नोकरी दिली जाणार आहे, तसेच रौप्य पदक विजेत्यांना ३ लाख व कांस्य पदक विजेत्यांना १ लाख रुपये दिले जाणार आहेत, असे मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत यांनी सांगितले.

खुशखबरी पणजीत एका कार्यक्रमात मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत यांच्या हस्ते नुकतेच बर्लिन येथे झालेल्या स्पेशल ऑलिम्पिकमधील गोव्यातील खेळाडूंचा सत्कार करण्यात आला. यात पदक विजेत्या खेळाडूंचे मुख्यमंत्र्यांनी अभिनंदन केले. याशिवाय समाजकल्याणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, ऑलिंपिक आयोगाचे (पान १५ वर)

सरकारी नोकरीची घोषणा : सुवर्ण विजेत्यांना ५ लाख, रौप्यपदक ३ लाख, तर कांस्यपदक विजेत्यांना १ लाखाचे बक्षीस

पदकविजेत्या खेळाडूंना मुख्यमंत्र्यांचे 'स्पेशल गिफ्ट'

विशेष ऑलिम्पिकवीरांना लाखांची बक्षिसे

मुख्यमंत्र्यांची घोषणा : भविष्यात सरकारी नोकरी देण्याचीही ग्वाही



विशेष ऑलिम्पिकमधील खेळाडूंसाठी भरघोस घोषणा



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OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & LAKSHYA FOUNDATION TO HOST FELICITATION PROGRAMME TO HONOUR SOLDIERS

August 5, 2023 0



The power of resilience

Siya Sarode, a powerlifter from Sanguem, won four medals, including two golds, at the 2023 Special Olympics World Games held in Berlin. The hardships in life keep coming, but she doesn't give up easily

RAMANDEEP KAUR
NT KURIOCITY

No matter who you are and where you come from, anything is possible if you have the will and desire to do it. Powerlifter Siya Sarode is one such example. Sarode recently won a record four medals — two gold medals (deadlift and squat), bronze in bench press and silver in combine lift – at the 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Berlin.

The Sanguem-based athlete's journey to the huge win is testament to her unwavering determination and the immense support she received from her family, coaches, community and the government.

From a young age, Sarode, a slow learner, faced a number of challenges due to her disabilities, but she never allowed them to define her. At first, she was enrolled at a regular school. But it was soon noticed that she needed special attention. Currently, a student of Sanjay Centre for Special Education, Curchorem, she lives with her uncle and his family. Despite the lack of proper transportation and the loss of her parents at a young age, Sarode's family, particularly her cousin Yogita Naik, stood by her side, ensuring that despite being from a remote area, she had the means to attend practices and pursue her dreams.

Sarode says, "Yogita has always been incredibly supportive. I am truly grateful to her. She used to accompany me for practices in Panaji every day, even though we had to wake up early and there were no proper buses available from Sanguem to Panaji. She made sure that I always reached on time."

Her coaches, she says, played a crucial role in her development as a powerlifter. Recognising her potential, they provided her with the necessary training, guidance, and inspiration. "I attribute my success to my coach Gautami Dessai and everyone who believed in me."

Even though there were setbacks such as denial of German Schengen visa application for the first time as she needed to present a certificate from a legal guardian, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, minister for social welfare Subhash Phal Desai, and state commissioner for persons with disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar, ensured she had the opportunity to compete in Berlin and got her the required visa just 24 hours before the World Games.

Sarode's performance and medal haul has truly been an inspiration, says Pawaskar. "Siya has made us believe that nothing is impossible. Despite various challenges, she stood out among the team that represented India, and she's won hearts here in Goa, across the country, and in Berlin too. We have to keep our para-athletes motivated and give them the accord that all other athletes get," he adds.

Special Olympics Bharat Goa Branch supported the athletes, keeping them motivated and assisting the team through their training and the competition. National sports director of Special Olympics Bharat, Victor Vaz says, "The athletes from Goa trained hard. To have someone like Siya in the team who brought us these medals boosted the morale of others. Special athletes and her friends have put her on a pedestal and rightly so. She deserves all the love and support she's been receiving."



Reflecting on her experience, Sarode says, "I had immense pride in repeseenting India at an international level. It was a great experience and I'm thankful for the opportunity I got to compete alongside other athletes from around the world."

The 17-year-old is now driven to inspire others through her journey, and so her advice to every individual facing any challenge is "to never give up". "I encourage them to move forward and pursue their goals without hesitation."



Special Olympics at Berlin: A Glimpse into a World of Inclusion and Empowerment

GURUPRASAD PAWASKAR



The Special Olympics Summer Games held in Berlin, Germany, were a remarkable display of inclusivity and empowerment for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The event showcased the city's unwavering commitment to accessibility, offering a plethora of accessible facilities and services for people with disabilities.

Moreover, the Games saw the participation of more than 7,000 athletes from over 170 countries, fostering a sense of global unity and community engagement. The dedication of the volunteers, some of whom were corporate professionals, further emphasized the event's impact and significance.

The history of the Special Olympics Summer Games traces back to the vision of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the sister of President John F. Kennedy, who believed in the transformative power of sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The inaugural Special Olympics Summer Games took place on July 20, 1968, at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The event was organised by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who sought to provide individuals with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities and talents on a grand stage.

The success and impact of the first Special Olympics Summer Games ignited a global movement. IAs a first-time attendee of the Special Olympics Summer Games in Berlin, Germany, I was left in awe of the city's unwavering commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

Having experienced the challenges we face in my home country regarding inclusivity and accessible infrastructure, witnessing the level of inclusion in Berlin was truly eye-opening. The city's dedication to creating a welcoming environment for people with disabilities was evident in every aspect of daily life, from public transportation to cultural institutions.

Berlin's public transportation system, including buses, trams, and trains, stood out as a model of accessibility. Equipped with elevators, ramps, tactile guidance systems, and designated spaces for wheelchair users, the city ensured that people with disabilities could move around effortlessly. Moreover, the drivers were meticulously trained to assist passengers with disabilities, making public transport truly inclusive. It made me proud of accessible rickshaws launched in Panaji which have proved successful till date. I look forward to creating such accessibility for PwD's throughout the state of Goa.

One aspect that particularly impressed me was the availability of wheelchair-accessible taxis. Berlin boasted a fleet of taxis specially designed to accommodate passengers using wheelchairs, with ramps or lifts for easy entry and exit. Additionally, hotels in the city offered accessible rooms with features like widened doorways, grab bars in bathrooms, and roll-in showers, ensuring that visitors with disabilities had comfortable accommodations.

Beyond transportation and accommodation, Berlin's commitment to inclusion extended to its museums, cultural institutions, parks, and gardens. Many of these places offered accessibility features, guided tours for visually impaired visitors, and sign language interpretation, making them truly inclusive tourist destinations.

The Games provided a life-changing opportunity for athletes from different countries to interact, share experiences, and build relationships. Through their impressive performances, the athletes challenged stereotypes and misconceptions about people with disabilities, promoting understanding, acceptance, and inclusion within society.

Notably, the Special Olympics event itself was incredibly well-organised, with multiple venues hosting a wide range of games, including horse racing, swimming, hockey, football, basketball, badminton, table tennis, and powerlifting. The accessibility of these venues was meticulously planned, with volunteers providing assistance, proper signages, and mobile updates for delegates. This level of preparation and execution left a lasting impression on me.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the Special Olympics in Berlin was the dedication of the volunteers. Some had booked their slots up to 6-8 months in advance, including corporate professionals like CFOs and sales heads, who selflessly offered their services for this important cause. Their commitment demonstrated the global impact and significance of the Special Olympics in fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

For athletes from my home state of Goa, this event provided a life-changing opportunity to travel outside the country and interact with athletes from over 170 nations. The confidence-building exercise and the sporting spirit displayed by these athletes were truly remarkable.

Personally, attending the Special Olympics Summer Games had a profound impact on me. It reinforced my belief that inclusion cannot be confined to just one aspect of life; it must encompass every facet of a person's journey. Witnessing the dedication, talent, and spirit of the athletes inspired me to work even harder for the cause of inclusion in my home country.

The Games not only celebrate the abilities of individuals with intellectual disabilities but also raise awareness and challenge misconceptions about people with disabilities. The Special Olympics in Berlin was a testament to what a society can achieve when it prioritizes inclusion and accessibility.

As I return home, I carry with me a renewed commitment to advocate for inclusivity and to contribute towards building a more accepting and supportive society for people with disabilities in India. Witnessing the spirit of unity, camaraderie, and determination among the participants has left an indelible mark on my heart and reaffirmed the belief that inclusion knows no boundaries. We have much to learn and implement, and I am determined to be part of this journey towards a truly inclusive world.

(The veriter is the state commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa)

लक्ष्य फावंडेशन आनी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयोगा वतीन सैनीक भोवमान कार्यावळ

कारगील झुजाच्या 25 व्या वर्धापन दिसा निमतान कार्यावळ



पर्वाजी: कारगील झुजाच्या 25 व्या वर्धापन दिस निमतान पॅनिजा सिटी सेंटरा वेजार कारक राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय आनी लक्ष्य फावंडेशन फातीं कार्यावळ आयोजीत केल्ल.

पयेत राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरूप्रसाद पावसकार हांणी म्हणलें, देश रक्षणार्थ जिवीतवर दिल्ल्ल्या भारतीय सैन्याकडल्ल्या शूर, सेवेक आठिल्ल्यानी आनी सेवानिवृत्त अधिकारी तशेंच सैनिकांची दुसऱ्यांनी कायमा पुरी, स्मरणांत आनी कृतज्ञतायेचें प्रतीक म्हूण एकठे जमपाक मुखार हाडप आनी देशाकार्ता काजता प्राण अर्पिल्ल्यां, दिल्ल्यांत निश्चयाची दुसऱ्यांनी स्फूर्तिदायक होंवी सन्मान कार्यावळी खेद आपले कार्यालय करतां इत्लूक आस.

हे कार्यावळी मजाशें, रक्षण सिद्धार्थ आनी हेर उल्लेखित सर्वेसार रक्षणार प्रेरणात्मक संवादाचें आयोजीत केल्ल.

रक्षण फावंडेशनाची संस्थापिका अनुराधा प्रभु देसाय हांणी हालीच गोंयेचे मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत हांची भेट घेतली, सविस्तरांत जाणते वावरे मजशीं, सैन्यदलाक फाटावर दिवन आनी सैनिकांच्या कल्याणा रक्षणीं रक्षण फावंडेशन फाटलां 15 वर्सां पसून दुसऱ्यांच्या जिवीत उपक्रमांचेर, कार्यांचेर म्हायती तांचे मुखमंत्र्यांक दिली.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयोग कार्यालयाच्या म्हाकाराँन आपेजीत कार्यावळीत फातीन झुजांत प्राणांची आहुती दिल्ल्या शूर सैनिकांचे स्मरण करप आनी तांच्या कार्यांचे सन्मान करप हो उद्देश हेर आस.

हे कार्यावळी मजाकारपणान गोंयेचे मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरूप्रसाद पावसकार, दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचीव सह हार्दीक उपस्थीत आसले.

सैन्यदलाचे देशाच्या रक्षणीं आपल्या भावीक जवन करप आनी देश रक्षणी सर्वोच्च बलिदान दिल्ले सैनिक आनी ओरत रक्षणीं हो कार्यावळ आसलो.

Felicitation Program to Honour Soldiers on the 25th Anniversary of the Kargil War







कारगिल विजय युद्धातील विशेष सैनिकांचा होणार सन्मान

गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर : लक्ष्य फाउंडेशनच्याही पुढाकार

प्रेरणात्मक संवादसत्रही

अनुराधा प्रभुदेसाई यांची मुख्यमंत्र्यांशी सदिच्छा भेट

कारगिल युद्धाच्या पार्श्वभूमीवरील सैनिकांसाठी सन्मान कार्यक्रम

Push for hiring PwDs sees GSIA...



GSIA president Anirudh Dempo handing over appointment letters to persons with disabilities, who have been provided employment.

Continued from P 1

Meanwhile, NGO 'Enable India', in coordination with local panchayats such as Pilerne-Marra, is working to create a pool of potential candidates. Stating that mobility of PwDs from their residences to the industrial areas through accessible transport remains one of the biggest challenges for their employment, GSIA said that its efforts "can have a broader impact if this and some other minor glitches can be ironed out through government intervention".

Programme to honour soldiers

Staff Reporter
Panaji

Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa and Lakshya Foundation, Pune has announced that a special felicitation programme will be held on September 8 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Kargil war.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar has stated that his office would like to take this opportunity to bring to the fore and celebrate the resilience and talents of the gallant, serving and retired, officers and soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces who have sacrificed for the Nation and in doing so sustained a disability.

There will also be interactive sessions of nominated persons with the school children and other participants to motivate them. Anuradha Prabhu Desai, founder of Lakshya Foundation, paid courtesy visit to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

During the meeting held at the Secretariat, they apprised the Chief Minister about the various activities being carried out by Lakshya Foundation for over 15 years in support of the armed forces and their welfare. Prabhu Desai's dedication to the cause has been an inspiration and a driving force for the foundation's impactful initiatives.



Anuradha Prabhu Desai, founder of Lakshya Foundation seen with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and other dignitaries during her courtesy visit.

The felicitation programme, organised in collaboration with the Laksha Foundation will be a momentous occasion to remember and honour the courageous soldiers who laid down their lives during the Kargil war, states a press note issued here.

The event will stand as a testament to their bravery, valour, and unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation's integrity, adds the release.

Also present during the meetng were Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai, Gurprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, and Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Taha Haaziq.The felicitation programme will be a touching tribute to the indomitable spirit of our armed forces and promises to be a solemn yet heart-warming occasion as we pay our respects to the heroes, mentions the release.

Push for hiring PwDs sees GSIA providing jobs in MSME sector

Staff Reporter
Panaji

In an attempt to provide employment opportunities to persons with disabilities (PwDs), Goa State Industries Association (GSIA) on Thursday said it has identified 24 job roles across various sectors, of which around ten have been opened and six PwDs have been employed.

The six PwDs have been employed by Indus Cama, Mahavir Plastics, Surekleen and Jayashri Polymers.

Goa State Industries Association said it plans to extend its collaboration across its more than 500 members in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

The rest of the jobs are in the pipeline, said GSIA president Anirudh Dempo, adding that further efforts are on to increase employment opportunities.

"The four firms have set excellent examples of being inclusive and companies with conscience," said Dempo.

The GSIA extended its support for creating industrial employment opportunities for PwDs during a recent meeting held between various industry bodies across various sectors and state commissioner for PwDs Guruprasad Pawaskar and secretary Taha Idrees Haaziq.

"Opportunities and challenges on either side of the spectrum were studied leading to a detailed analysis for 24 job roles across sectors. Out of these, about 10 job roles were opened and six PwDs were employed," GSIA said.

> Continued on P 9

A beacon of hope for the world

A celebration of inclusivity and empowerment for Persons with Disabilities, the Goa hosted Purple Fest is set to go international in January 2024

NT NETWORK

The Purple Fest is all set to host the second edition in January 2024. The first-of-its-kind to be hosted in Goa for persons with disabilities (PwDs), the first edition garnered appreciation for how it has put Goa at the forefront of promoting inclusivity and accessibility. From providing a platform for persons with disabilities to showcase their talents, celebrate their unique abilities, and connect with others facing similar challenges through various programmes, it has shown that there is commitment from the Department of Social Welfare and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights, opportunities, and quality of life as everyone else.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, minister for social welfare, Subhash Phal Dessai and state commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, the event caught the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership in other states, who offered to host the subsequent editions of the fest.

What sets the Purple Fest apart is its diverse and engaging line-up of activities and events. From adaptive sports competitions, exhibitions, musical performances to interactive workshops, panel discussions and more, the festival in January 2023 catered to a wide range of interests and abilities. It was not merely an event for entertainment but an avenue for self-expression and personal growth.

For others, Purple Fest was a chance to challenge preconceived notions and prejudices while embracing the diversity and resilience of the persons with disabilities community. And thus it seems like there is a serious effort in making Goa an inclusive and accessible state through the many changes in infrastructure, like creating ramps, having lifts in the secretariat and special seating, and training programmes, etc.

Purple Fest in January 2024 is slated to expand its horizons. With plans for international participation, the festival will gain global recognition, attracting attendees and performers from around the world. This move signifies Goa's commitment to becoming a hub for promoting inclusivity not just nationally but on an international stage as well.

Moreover, Purple Fest served as an excellent opportunity for networking, sharing experiences, and finding support. It's a place where friendships are forged and valuable knowledge is exchanged, contributing to the overall well-being of persons with disabilities.

The expansion of the festival will draw a wider range of talents, experiences, and perspectives.

"I had a wonderful experience at Purple Fest last year. I'm a digital artist so I had a chance to do a live demonstration of how I paint and I got to see other artists' works as well as interact with some of them. Purple Fest is the perfect platform for inclusiveness of PwDs into the regular world. When I attended day one, it made a very positive impact on my mind. The entire ambience was amazing. As the next edition of Purple Fest approaches, I look forward to a higher level of inclusiveness, interacting with other PwD artists and having a blast!"



Frederika Menezes, *author, poet, and artist living with cerebral palsy, Panaji*

"Purple Fest was an unexpected surprise and one that definitely brought a smile to our faces. For me, interacting and meeting so many new people was the best part. It was really lovely to see not just people with disabilities, but people with no disabilities enjoying and celebrating together. This was where we could witness inclusivity, where people are having fun no matter how different you felt. This is important so an individual does not feel left out by society or feel like they don't fit in with the general crowd. For this year's edition, I would like to see a job fair day where individuals would have the chance to personally meet and interact with different types of companies who are willing to act on the idea of inclusive employment. A meet that would give them the chance to represent themselves to the companies after which they could decide on whose profile they would be willing to consider. This promotes equal opportunities and supports the idea of walk-in hiring."



Raksha Dangui,
employed, locomotive disability, Guirim

"I had the opportunity to make new friends and engage in different activities throughout the festival. On the first day, there was a performance of wheelchair golf dance by persons with disabilities (PwDs). The following day was the table tennis championship, in which I took part. Lastly, on the third day there was a wheelchair marathon. It was inspiring to see persons with disabilities confidently performing their daily tasks and embracing life."



Moises Rodrigues,
working at Vasco Municipality and has locomotor disability, Vasco

"Purple Fest Goa 2023 was one of the biggest platforms made available for persons with disabilities in Goa as well as all over India to celebrate our uniqueness and diversity and showcase inclusion under one roof. Hats off to Guruprasad Pawaskar and his team. The kaleidoscope of events curated were very informative, inspiring, insightful, and full of hope and possibilities. It was a complete package of meaningful discussions, knowledgeable and insightful experiences, and entertainment. As a deaf leader in Goa, I feel Purple Fest 2023 Goa has opened the gates for many opportunities for the deaf and I felt included in a celebration that took place with such grandeur because of the services of Indian sign language interpreters."



Prasad Joshi,
founder and general secretary, Goa Association of the Deaf

"Thanks to the organisers of Purple Fest, I was able to leave my house after spending five and a half years in one corner, unaware of what was happening outside. Purple Festival provided me with a vehicle, enabling me to attend and witness its impact on the lives of so many disabled individuals in Goa. I believe the fest should continue, helping others with disabilities, like myself, to experience the world outside their homes. Today, I work for Zomato and contribute as much as possible."



Gauresh Marathe,
spinal cord injury, Colvale

"It was wonderful to see everyone embrace and celebrate persons with disabilities at Purple Fest. The festival had many engaging activities including sporting activities. Participants from different states also joined in and it was a wonderful experience on so many levels. I participated in para table tennis, and won a silver medal. I am so looking forward to the festival in January."



Anupa Pelgaonkar,
working at Department of Tourism, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Bicholim

सर्वसमावेशक शिक्षणासाठी सरकार कटिबद्ध : फळदेसाई



Enhancing accessibility in Goa's schools

ST CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Social Welfare in association with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities recently organised an orientation session on school accessibility with the primary goal of empowering field assistants and field workers to conduct on-ground accessibility surveys in over 450 schools.

The core objective of the session was to ensure that schools within the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Education adhered to the accessibility guidelines outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP). Through this measure, the Directorate aims to identify areas for improvement and make schools more inclusive and accessible for all students, including those with disabilities.

Minister of Social Welfare, Subhash Phal Desai; state commissioner for disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar; director of social welfare, Ajit Panchawadkar; deputy director, Manish Kudav; and assistant professor in psychiatric social work, Sudesh Gaude were present at the inaugural. Following a brief introduction to the workshop, Phaldesai in his address urged field workers to go beyond their regular duties in order to translate policies and decisions into tangible improvements on the ground. "We are committed to making Goa a model state for inclusive education. Our field workers are the backbone of our efforts, and we appreciate their hardwork and dedication. We hope this orientation session will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct effective accessibility surveys in schools and ensure that no child is left behind," he said.

Pawaskar said that accessibility is not a privilege, but a right. "We want to ensure that every student in Goa has equal access to quality education, regardless of their ability or disabilities. This orientation session is a crucial step towards achieving this goal, and we are grateful to our field workers for their enthusiasm and participation. We look forward to seeing the results of their surveys and implementing the necessary changes effectively," he said.

Accessibility consultant, Abhijit Mangalkar highlighted the success of past initiatives such as the Purple Fest Goa 2023 and the recently announced International Purple Fest 24, underscoring the importance of accessibility initiatives in Goa.

The two-day session was conceptualised and conducted by Pune NGO Design Bridge Diversity and Inclusion Foundation and trainers Abhijeet Mangalkar and Arundhati Gupta guided the field workers, imparting knowledge and best practices to ensure effective accessibility surveys.

Gaude led the first session, educating participants on 21 types of disabilities. Mangalkar conducted the second session, introducing technical standards like tactile tiles and accessible toilets. An open dialogue allowed field workers to share their experiences and field data, fine-tuning the accessibility survey implementation. Sessions by disability rights activist Prakash Kamat and practical surveys at a school premises in Porvorim were also held.

Enhancing Accessibility in Goa's Schools: A Successful Orientation Session for Field Workers





PANAJI: Directorate of Social Welfare in association with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities took a step towards fostering inclusivity and equal access to education by organising an orientation session on school accessibility.

The event was held with the primary goal of empowering Field Assistants and Field Workers to conduct on-ground accessibility surveys in over 450 schools.

The core objective of the orientation session was to ensure that schools within the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Education adhered to the accessibility guidelines outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP). Through this measure, the Directorate aimed to identify areas for improvement and make schools more inclusive and accessible for all students, including those with disabilities.

Minister of Social Welfare, Subhash Phal Desai; State Commissioner for Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar; Director of Social Welfare, Ajit Panchawadkar; Deputy Director, Manish Kudav; and Assistant Professor in Psychiatric Social Work, Sudesh Gaude were present at the inaugural ceremony of the event. Also present were Sony Dsouza, Patrick D'Souza, Melvin Mendes, Moses Rodrigues, Rizki Ahmad and Vishant Nagvekar.

The inauguration began with a brief introduction to the workshop, followed by an address from Minister Subhash Phaldesai. He urged the field workers to go beyond their regular duties and work in order to translate policies and decisions into tangible improvements on the ground. "We are committed to making Goa a model state for inclusive education. Our field workers are the backbone of our efforts, and we appreciate their hard work and dedication. We hope that this orientation session will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct effective accessibility surveys in schools and ensure that no child is left behind," said Subhash Phal Desai, Minister for Social Welfare.

"Accessibility is not a privilege, but a right. We want to ensure that every student in Goa has equal access to quality education, regardless of their ability or disabilities. This orientation session is a crucial step towards achieving this goal, and we are grateful to our field workers for their enthusiasm and participation. We look forward to seeing the results of their surveys and implementing the necessary changes effectively," said Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

The Accessibility Consultant, Abhijit Mangalkar, appointed by the State Commissioner for Personal Disabilities, highlighted the success of past initiatives, such as the Purple Fest Goa 2023, and the recently announced International Purple Fest 24, underscoring the importance of accessibility initiatives in Goa.

The two-day session, conceptualised and conducted by the NGO 'Pune Bridge Diversity and Inclusion Foundation' from Pune, focused on equipping the participants with essential surveying skills. Trainers Abhijeet Mangalkar and Arundhati Gupta guided the field workers, imparting knowledge and best practices to ensure effective accessibility surveys.

During the orientation session, Sudesh Gaude led the first session, educating participants on 21 types of disabilities. Abhijit Mangalkar conducted the second session, introducing technical standards like tactile tiles and accessible toilets. The participants empathised with wheelchair users during a simulation exercise. An open dialogue allowed the field workers to share their experiences and field data, fine-tuning the accessibility survey implementation. Sessions by disability rights activist Prakash Kamat and practical surveys at a school premises in Porvorim were also held.

राज्यातील शाळा प्रवेश सुलभ बनविण्याचा सरकारचा ध्यास



दिव्यांगांसाठी शाळा प्रवेश सुलभ बनवूच!

NEP field staff get orientation for on-ground survey



दिव्यांगां खातीर शाळा चड समावेशक करतले

सुलभताय हो विशेशाधिकार नहय, तर एक हक्क, गोंयांतल्या दरेका विद्यार्थ्याक, ताचे शारिरीक तांकी कडेन पळयनासतना दर्जेदार शिक्षणाची समान संद मेळाची..

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EDUCATION LIFESTYLE

ORIENTATION SESSION ON 'ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY IN GOA'S SCHOOLS'

August 11, 2023 0

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The core objective of the orientation session was to ensure that schools within the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Education adhered to the accessibility guidelines outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP). Through this measure, the Directorate aimed to identify areas for improvement and make schools more inclusive and accessible for all students, including those with disabilities.

GOVT. OF GOA



State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

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